University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Of Note

A newsletter published twice a year for faculty and staff of the University

Fall 2003

Admissions

Judi McGuirk has been promoted to Admissions Counselor. She is a 1998 graduate of UPJ, with a bachelor of arts degree in business communication. She will be responsible for new student recruitment, hiring and training undergraduate staff members, and hosting campus reception programs.

Allied Health

The UPJ Surgical Technology program in conjunction with Memorial Medical Center has been recognized as an "Elite 20 Program" by the Accreditation Review Committee on Education in Surgical Technology. Median scores on the Program Assessment Exam were in the top 20 of the 320 programs that participated over the last two years. The clinical portion of the program is administered by Patty Pavlikowski, Program Director and Kim Gorman, Instructor.

Athletics

Scott Mamula was hired as Head Athletic Trainer. He is a 2003 University of Pittsburgh graduate. He holds a master's degree in science with an emphasis in sports medicine. He also is a 1997 Greater Johnstown High School graduate.

Candice Custer was hired as Intramural Director and Assistant Athletic Trainer. She earned a bachelor of science degree in 2002 from California University (Pa.). Prior to joining the staff at Pitt Johnstown, she was employed by Vantage Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation in Johnstown. She is a 1998 Rockwood Area High School graduate.

Chris Thomas was hired as Assistant Men's Basketball Coach. He graduated in 2003 from the University of Dayton with a degree in sports management and a minor in journalism. Prior to his arrival at Pitt Johnstown, he spent three seasons at the University of Dayton where he assisted the men's basketball coaching staff with individual workouts, rank video exchange, maintained the video library and wrote opponent scouting reports. In his time at Dayton, the men's basketball team amassed a 66-30 record, including a pair of trips to the National Tournament and a berth in the NCAA Tournament in 2003.

Bookstore

George Hancock was interviewed by the Johnstown *Tribune-Democrat* and the Johnstown YMCA for the Marathon Article section of the Johnstown Marathon YMCA website. The article describes his participation in the marathon and 10K since 1976. The event was first held in 1975. He is the only local runner to have run in these races every year since 1976. The Johnstown Marathon website address is www.gforcewebmall.com/ ymca/index.htm. The 28th Greater Johnstown YMCA Marathon and 10K races were held October 5. The *Streak Registry*, a quarterly running publication he helped to establish, continues to grow. The *Streak Registry* is the official publication of the United States Running Streak Association (USRSA). The USRSA group is devoted to daily running and the publication is in its third year. In addition, he has written an extensive article about Michael and Elizabeth Baumgardner that appears on the Cambria County Pennsylvania Genealogy website. The article describes the Baumgardner family, the Baumgardner Cemetery and how the cemetery site became overgrown and isolated. The Baumgardner Cemetery is located in a remote section of the UPJ campus. The website address is http://www.rootsweb.com/ ~ pacambri/cems/ RicBaumgardner.html.

Engineering Technology

Andy Rose has been selected by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Committee on Faculty Developments as recipient of the 2003 ExCEEd New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for Zone I. Zone I includes the New England states, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The award will be presented in November during ASCE's 2003 Annual Conference in Nashville. In June, he presented two papers at the Conference. One of these papers discussed a learning activity he uses in the "Soil Engineering" course to help students improve their awareness of the social and economic aspects of civil engineering projects in the community. The other paper discussed ways faculty can continue to teach during a prolonged absence with emphasis on how he kept his students learning last fall during a planned absence to adopt a baby girl from China.

Humanities

Merrily Swoboda received the President's 2003 Award for Excellence in Teaching. She is serving as a humanities scholar and group discussion leader for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council's program "Schools and Communities: New Visions and Partnerships for Rural Pennsylvania."

Brian E. Johnston is presenting research at the National Communication Association Convention in November in Miami Beach, Fla. He authored the panel proposal, "Perennial Philosophy and Popular Music: Outward Expressions of an Inward Journey."

Charles Clifton has published two poems in an anthology, *Larger than Life* and 20 of his poems in a chapbook, *Moth Angels*, from the Belvedere Press. He presented readings for the faculty forum, at the Bottleworks, with Eric Schwerer, at the Club Chiz in Pittsburgh and read for an American Association of University Women dinner in May.

Catherine S. Cox presented a paper, "The Space of Desire: Discursive Androgyny in/of the Hammer *Dracula* Films," at the Pennsylvania College English Association (PCEA) meeting March 15, in Pittsburgh. Her article "Eastward of the Garden: The Biblical Landscape of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*" has been accepted for publication in *Tennessee Studies in Literature*. She conducted a presentation in May, "D'var Torah: Emor," at Temple Beth Israel in Altoona.

Michael W. Cox has written entries on "Hanif Kureishi," "British Raj," "Colonialism," and "Eurocentrism" for *South Asian Literature in English: An Encyclopedia*, forthcoming from Greenwood Press and edited by Jaina Sanga of SMU. At the recent annual conference of the PCEA, he chaired a session on postcolonial literature and, in another session, delivered a paper entitled "Fragmentation and Subversion in Nathanael West's *Miss Lonelyhearts*."

Susan Dawkins was invited by the Cambria County Literacy Council to facilitate two training sessions for English as Second Language tutors in October; the sessions included information and discussion about cultural adjustment issues as well as second-language acquisition. She also presented at the annual conference of the Pennsylvania Association of Developmental Educators (PADE) on April 10 and 11; her session, "Collaborating with Residence Life to Foster Student Success," was based on academic support programs and initiatives she developed with Beth Whiteman.

Patty Derrick's article "Julia Marlowe's Ophelia: A Portrait of Resistance and Failure," appeared in *Theatre History Studies* this June, and her article "'The childhood of our joy': *Romeo and Juliet for Kids*," appeared in the Spring 2003 issue of *Shakespeare and the Classroom*. She participated in a seminar on Shakespeare and Performance at the Folger Shakespeare Library held February 7 and 8, in Washington, D.C., and also served as an outside evaluator for the Bloomsburg University English Department in their five-year review, January 29 and 30. She has been awarded a sabbatical leave for Fall term 2003 to work on a book on Julia Marlowe's Shakespearean interpretations and performances.

Rodney Eatman is the recipient of the 2003 Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching Award, in recognition of his excellence in teaching and mentoring of students and his contributions to UPJ's theatre program and its productions.

Jonathan Gonder performed a classical piano recital on March 22 at the Pasquerilla Performing Arts Center; his recital included works by Bach-Busoni, Debussy, Prokofiev, Liszt, and Chopin.

Valerie Grash's paper, "Framing the Other: Specularity in/of Bosch's *Christ Mocked*," coauthored with Catherine Cox, has been accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Pittsburgh, in October.

Fred Fornoff attended the annual conference of the American Literary Translators Association (ALTA) held October 16-19, in Chicago; he directed the Spanish Translation workshop and attended the meeting of former ALTA presidents. He served as reviewer for Literature Fellowship proposals for the National Endowment for the Arts, April 2003. He collaborated on three volumes in the Oxford University Press series "Library of Latin America:" José Joaquín Vallejo, *Sketches of Life in Chile*, 1841-1851 (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002), edited with introduction by Simon Collier and English translation by Frederick H. Fornoff; Manuel González Prada, *Free Pages and Other Essays: Anarchist Musings* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), edited with introduction by David Sobrevilla and English translation by Frederick H. Fornoff; Simón Bolívar, *El Libertador: Writings by Simón Bolívar* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2003), edited with introduction by David Bushnell and English translation by Frederick H. Fornoff.

Catharine Kloss was inducted into the UPJ Chapter of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi on April 13. She has been awarded a sabbatical leave for Fall term 2003 to work on a project that considers the 18th-century novel in relation to material devices.

Diane Nicodemus's article, "Mobilizing Information: Local News and the Formation of a Viable Political Community," has been accepted for publication in the journal *Political Communication*.

Jon Ritz presented papers at two conferences: "Story Sketching," on creative writing pedagogy, at the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) Conference, and

"A Place at the Table: Exploring Religious Identity in the Writing Classroom," at the PCEA Conference. His review of Lisa Knopp's *The Nature of Home* is forthcoming in *Great Plains Quarterly*, and his creative nonfiction essay "Verse Chorus Bridge" appears in the spring issue of *Cimarron Review*.

Eric Schwerer's poetry has been accepted into forthcoming issues of *Poems & Plays*, *Quarter After Eight*, and (*Some From*) *Diagram's*, a compendium from *Diagram's* first two years. He presented a lecture entitled, "The Image and Word" for a Lunch a l'Art lecture at the Southern Alleghenies Museum in March. The Millay Colony for the Arts awarded him a month's residency in May.

Kamal Verma attended the second annual conference of the United States Association for the Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies held at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, Calif.; he chaired a session on Sir V.S. Naipaul the Nobel laureate; at this session he also presented a paper, "History, Biography and Culture: Colonial and Postcolonial Engagements in Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*," which focused on the concerted movements of Mr. Biswas, the artist-journalist, through several houses, enclosed spaces of political, cultural and moral geographies, which are symbolic of hierarchical layering of graded power structures within the larger powerhouse of the Empire. He also attended the annual conventions of the South Asian Literary Association (SALA) and the Modern Language Association of America in New York; he presided over a SALA session on "Representations of South Asia" and presented a paper, "History, Ideology and Art in Mulk Raj Anand's Post-Independence Fiction," that traced the growth of Anand's mind and art in the larger contexts of psychobiography, history and ideology. Two of his solicited essays have been accepted for publication: "Indian Writing in English" will appear in *The Continuum Encyclopedia of British Literature*, ed. Steven Serafin and Valerie Grosvener Myer (New York and London: The Continuum Publishing Group, 2003); and "Mulk Raj Anand" will be included in *South Asian Writing in English*, a volume in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography* series, ed. Fakrul Alam (Columbia: Bruccoli Clark Layman, 2003).

Jeffrey L. Webb has been chosen to be the guest conductor for the Somerset County Chorus in November, 2003. This past year, he was awarded a Mellon Technology Grant for his project "The Utilization of MIDI Technology as a Teaching and Learning Tool." On April 13, he acted as guest conductor/composer for a concert at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pa.

Learning Resource Center

Diane Van Blerkom and Malcolm Van Blerkom, Education, both attended the 36th Annual Conference of the College Reading and Learning Association in October in Albuquerque. They participated in a variety of activities. She presented a three-hour pre-conference workshop on teaching students to predict quiz and exam questions. They both chaired sessions and were presenters at a session on publishing journal articles. They each also serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*. Mrs. Van Blerkom's text, *Orientation to College Learning*, Fourth Edition was published by Wadsworth Publishing in May, 2003. She also published the Instructor's Manual for the text and produced materials for the book's web site. She presented a lecture on, "Academic Strategies for Assisting Students on Probation" at the ACT 101 Region E Conference held in June at Thiel College.

Natural Sciences

William Brice has been elected the Inaugural President of the Petroleum History Institute, a newly formed international organization devoted to the history of the oil and gas industry. The new institute was developed by the Drake Well Foundation, an organization which is no longer extant. In addition, Dr. Brice is serving as Editor of *Oil-Industry History*, the official journal of the Petroleum History Institute, and the only scholarly journal devoted exclusively to the history of the petroleum industry.

John Mullennix, along with Steven Stern and UPJ alumni Steve Wilson and Corrie-Lynn Dyson, published a scientific article titled, "Social perception of male and female computer synthesized speech" in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior*. Dr. Mullennix, with co-author Dr. Stern, presented a research paper titled, "The persuasiveness of computer synthesized speech" at the Computer Supported Social Interaction Conference held in April in Oxford, Ohio. Another paper, titled "Factors affecting perceptions of computer-synthesized speech" was presented by UPJ student Lynn Winters along with Drs. Mullennix and Stern, and UPJ students Steve Martin and Luke Moore, at the 73rd Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association held in March in Baltimore, Md.

Steven Stern and John Mullennix coordinated the sixth annual Laurel Highlands Undergraduate Psychology Research Conference held in April at UPJ. The conference featured student presentations of research from colleges and universities in the tri-state area. Dr. Stern is currently on sabbatical for the 2003-2004 academic year at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. He is working with researchers in Louvain and other locations in Europe on a number of research projects.

Dave Willey traveled to Seoul, South Korea for a week this summer to create seven pieces for "Science Park." "Science Park" is the most widely seen child's science show in Korea with a regular audience of more than eight million.

Nursing

Becky Sease has completed the three HIPAA Researchers Privacy Requirements Modules through the Oakland campus. She also completed the Oakland School of Nursing Faculty Practice Requirements by developing and implementing three leadership and management education modules presented at UPMC Lee Regional. She became a member of the Yellow Ribbon Youth Suicide Prevention Program in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Cambria County Coroner's Office.

Owen Library

Deborah Rinderknecht and **Patricia Balko** attended the Association of College and Research Libraries 11th National Conference, April 10-13, in Charlotte, N.C.

Mark Hudson authored an article, "Rank and File Metalworker Militancy in France and Britain, 1890-1918" in the 2003 issue of the journal, *New Politics*. In July, he attended the American Library Association Annual Conference held in Toronto, Canada and was elected to the Action Council of the Social Responsibilities Round Table for 2003-2006. He also was appointed to the Research Committee of the Library Instruction Round Table for 2003-2005.

Amos Myers accepted the position of Senior Circulation Assistant in July. He is responsible for Course Reserves.

Personal Counseling Center

Robert Yaskanich presented a workshop titled, "Suicide Prevention and Intervention," at the 23rd Annual Cambria County Child Abuse Workshop held May 1, at the Student Union Cambria Room.

Respiratory Care

The Respiratory Care Program has been selected by Samsung Medical Center, Seoul, South Korea as the training site for two of its Intensive Care nurses. A very unique experience, it may clear the path for more formal Respiratory Care educational programs in South Korea. Chung Sook Kim and Jung Lim Lee will arrive on campus in late October for an eight week training period, culminating in certification in advanced Respiratory Care procedures. Both nurses, along with other members of the Allied Health staff, will attend the American Association of Respiratory Care's International Convention in December in Las Vegas.

Social Sciences

Reinhard Heinisch recently returned from Europe where he was invited by the Austrian government to participate in the annual "European Form Alpbach, Austria" as a consultant for academic curricular reform at Austrian universities and also as a speaker on US-European relations. Also this summer he published the article, "Right-Wing Populist Parties in Public Office," in the *Journal of West European Politics* (vol.26/3/July: 91-130). Upon his return, Dr. Heinisch, along with Eric Hartman of the University of Pittsburgh, presented a paper at the American Political Science Association Meeting in Philadelphia, entitled, "Political Transition Strategies in Developing Societies." This fall, he conducted two lectures by invitation at Carnegie Mellon University on October 2 on the "State of the European Welfare State," and at American University in Washington, D.C. on October 22 on "Right-Wing European Populism." He also organized a workshop and was a speaker at Pitt's Center of West European Studies on October 14. The lecture was entitled, "Prestructured Decision-making in the European Council." The workshop, as well as the research on this issue area, is funded by a grant Dr. Heinisch received from Pitt's Central Development Research Fund.

Robert Matson attended the Commonwealth Fund Conference on American History at University College London in June. He presented a paper entitled "Hollywood, Johnstown and Memory: Motion Picture Experience in Steeltown during World War II" based on research he and his students have done. He also led a workshop on research methods. He is representing UPJ on CERIS-the Consortium on Educational Resources on Islamic Studies-a group of about 20 educational institutions in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio that has been established to facilitate better understanding of the Islamic World.

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