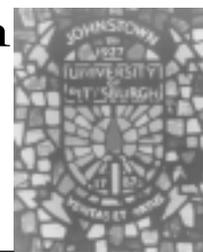


University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown Of Note

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

Spring 2004



Admissions

James Gyure has published an article entitled "Impact of Internet Images: Impression-Formation Effects of University Web Site Images," co-authored with Srividya Ramasubramanian and Nasreen M. Mursi, in the *Journal of Marketing for Higher Education*. Mr. Gyure, who is an ABD doctoral candidate in mass communication at Penn State University, participated in the research for this article as part of a class project conducted in conjunction with other co-authors. His article, "Marketing Map: Showing Your Campus Community How Marketing Works," has also been accepted for publication in a future issue of the *Journal of Marketing for Higher Education*. In November, 2003, he presented a paper entitled, "Generation Mix: Marketing and Enrollment Plans for Overlapping Generations" at the 14th Annual Symposium for the Marketing of Higher Education in Miami, Fla. During 2003-04, he is completing a term as president of the UPJ Chapter of the National Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Conference Center

UPJ's Conference Center will host the Association of Collegiate Conference and Events Directors—International Region 11 Conference September 26-28. The annual conference brings collegiate conference professionals together to discuss a variety of issues related to the collegiate conference industry. ACCED-I Region II consists of collegiate conference programs in New Jersey, New York, Ontario, Quebec and Pennsylvania.

Education

Dr. Malcolm Van Blerkom, Division of Education, and **Diane Van Blerkom**, Academic Support Center, published an article in the Spring issue of the *Journal of College Reading and Learning*. The article, "Self-Monitoring Strategies Used By Developmental and Non-Developmental College Students," is based on research that they completed two years ago and was supported by a Faculty Summer Research Grant. They also have completed a follow-up study on the same topic and have made presentations on this research at meetings of the National Association of Developmental Education and the Eastern Psychological Association.

Dr. Nina Girard is currently serving as a mathematics education co-consultant for the Ferndale Area School

District. She and Dr. Ann Massey, a retired emeritus mathematics education professor from IUP, conducted the first of several in-service workshops for the mathematics teachers grades six-12 on February 24 at Ferndale Schools. She is working with the Ferndale superintendent and the teachers to revitalize their middle and high school curriculum in light of the requirements for the PA Academic Standards in Mathematics, the No Child Left Behind Act, and the district's PSSA results.

Engineering Technology

A team of three faculty members, **Amy Miller**, Engineering Technology, **Dr. Nina Girard**, Education, and **Linda Tully**, Natural Sciences, were selected for grant support to participate in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers' TEEM-UP (Teams of Educators, Engineers, and Mathematicians-Undergraduate Partnerships) for K-12 workshop. The sponsored invitational workshop was designed to provide an interdisciplinary collaboration on how institutions can use partnerships to create new teacher development and student initiatives to promote the study of engineering and mathematics. The UPJ team attended the two day workshop held March 4 and 5 in Clearwater, Fla.

Amy Miller was a panelist at the Careers for the Future Career Fair held March 6 at the Pasquerilla Conference Center. The career fair was held for young women, ages 13 to 17. She and the other panelists answered audience questions and discussed their chosen professions and experiences. The UPJ student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers staffed a booth at the career fair to discuss the scholastic experience with interested young women.

Humanities

Catherine S. Cox's article "Pearl's 'Precios Pere': Gender, Language, and Difference," originally published in *Chaucer Review*, has been selected for inclusion in the Medieval Studies anthology *The Word Made Flesh*, to be published by Ashgate next year. She joined the Hebrew teaching staff of Beth Sholom Religious School, of the local Beth Sholom Congregation, this September.

Michael W. Cox's article "Interpreters of Cultural Difference: The Use of Children in Jhumpa Lahiri's Short Fiction" appears in the current issue of *South Asian Review*.

Susan Dawkins presented a session titled “Literacies in Composition: Helping Writing Students to Develop Competence and Confidence” at the College Reading and Learning Association conference in Albuquerque. Her review of *Persons in Process: Four Stories of Writing and Personal Development in College* will appear in the *Journal of the National Academic Advising Association* this summer.

Valerie Grash presented a paper, “Framing the Other: Specularity in/of Bosch’s *Christ Mocked*,” co-authored with **Catherine S. Cox**, at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, in Pittsburgh, on October 31.

Aparna Hebbani chaired and presented a panel, “Reaching Out From Within: Succeeding in the Job Search Process as Minority Students & Faculty,” on November 21, at the National Communication Association (NCA) Convention in Miami Beach.

Brian Johnston presented a paper, “The Soul’s Music, Where the Metal Meets the Meat: An Ethnographic Criticism of Songs as Life-texts,” at the NCA Convention on November 21 at Miami Beach.

Michele Mock’s article “Women, Nature, and the White Plague: Rebecca Harding Davis’s ‘The Yares of the Black Mountains’” has been published in the current volume of *Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers*. Her review of Owen Wister’s *Romney and Other Stories* about Philadelphia has been accepted for *Pennsylvania History*. This fall she led a reading and discussion group, “Pennsylvania Writers,” at the Windber Public Library, funded by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council.

Diane Nicodemus presented a panel, “Reaching the Faraway Learner: Practices and Pedagogical Implications of Expanding Online and Distant Communication Studies,” at the NCA Convention, November 20 in Miami Beach.

Maria Cristina Saavedra presented a paper at the Caribbean Studies Association Conference in May 2003, in Belize City, Belize; the presentation, for which she received a Hewlett International Grant from the University Center for International Studies (UCIS), was entitled “Nostalgia and Nationalism: The Perils of Emigration in Three Recent Cuban Films.” She also was the recipient of a Category I Faculty Research Grant for continuing work on this theme. In the spring of 2003, she served as an outside reviewer in a faculty research competition for the Institute for Culture and Society at Bloomsburg University. During the summer months, she co-translated with **Frederick Fornoff** *Patricio Guzmán* by Jorge Ruffinelli; Ruffinelli’s book examines the entire body of work of the Chilean filmmaker Patricio Guzmán, best known for his documentary film “The Battle of Chile.” Her review of Katherine Isbester’s *Still Fighting: The Nicaraguan Women’s Movement, 1977-2000* (co-authored with Gloria Rudolf) is forthcoming in the journal *Mesoamérica*.

Eric Schwerer’s poems have been accepted in a current of forthcoming issues of *Elixir* and *The Loyalhanna Review*. A collection of his poetry, *Went*, was a finalist for three national first book awards, the Blue Lynx Book Prize, Ahsakta Press’s Sawtooth Prize, and Steel Toe Books Award.

Merrily Swoboda was the recipient of the 2003 President’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Kamal Verma was the keynote speaker at the conference of the NEH-funded Faculty Focus-Group on Literature of the Asian Diaspora, organized by the Penn State University Press, June 19-21, 2003. This Focus Group, drawn from several departments of Penn State University, was attempting to familiarize itself with the works of Asian Diaspora in order to plan an increased representation of Asian Diasporic literatures in their curricula in the future. In the program item “Conversation with Kamal Verma,” based on Focus Group’s assigned reading of chapter 1 of his book *The Indian Imagination: Critical Essays on Indian Writing in English*, he focused the discussion on diasporic theory and the Indian Writing in English, the place of English, globalization, transculturation and synthesis. He attended the annual convention of the Modern Language Association (MLA) of America held December 26-30 in San Diego, Calif. He presided over a session “Anglophone Interjections II: Old-New Discourses” organized by the MLA Division 33 (English Literature Other than British and American). He also attended the annual convention of the South Asian Literary Association (SALA), an allied organization of the MLA. At the SALA conference, he presented a paper “Ethics of Globalization” that focused on an ethical vision of universal good arguing that the modernist and postmodernist discourse on globalization (Friedman, Anderson, Appadurai, Bhabha, et al.) has been confined mostly to socioeconomic and sociopolitical ideologies and has not taken into account the ethical and moral issues of universal good and human progress. At this conference, he also presided over a session “Cosmopolitanism and Multiculturalism.” He has been invited to speak at the South Asia Seminar organized by the Department of English, George Washington University. He is editing the 2004 Special Topic issue of the *South Asian Review*, vol. 25, number 1, devoted to “Colonial Studies 1880-1947” with a focus on South Asia.

Jeffrey Webb was the guest conductor in November for the Somerset County Chorus Festival. In February, he attended the American Choral Director’s Association Eastern Division conference in Boston and was the featured clinician for a choral workshop at Rockwood Area High School.

Information Systems

Patty Riddle has been promoted to Information Systems Specialist II. Her responsibilities include application development in both desktop and client/server software environments.

Willie Myers has been hired as an Information Systems Specialist II. His responsibilities include providing lead support of the CBORD privilege control system and Debittek vending operations. Other responsibilities include ID Center support and information systems production activities.

Jeff Sernell has earned a master of science in information systems degree from Drexel University. The Drexel MSIS is a three-year program offered through its College of Information Science and Technology. The curriculum is designed for practicing information systems professionals and is focused on software engineering, database theory and information systems design.

Natural Sciences

Lisa Bell-Loncella was on sabbatical last fall. The subject of the sabbatical was "Integrating Molecular Visualization in Inorganic Chemistry at UPJ." The goal of the sabbatical was to learn more about computation in chemistry, identify a piece of software that would be appropriate for use at UPJ and develop activities for two of her classes that incorporate computational chemistry. In July she attended a workshop sponsored by the National Computational Science Institute on Computation in Chemistry. She adapted existing activities and developed new ones for her two courses, Advanced Inorganic Chemistry and a lab course, Laboratory Methods in Synthesis and Characterization. She also developed a series of tutorials that walk one through the basics of using the software. In October, she was a presenter at the 35th Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Pittsburgh describing the laboratory course: "Synthesis and Characterization: Guided Inquiry and Molecular Modeling in an Upper Level Comprehensive Lab."

Jack Beuthin, with co-author Bascombe M. Blake (West Virginia Geological Survey), has published a research paper in the current issue of *Southeastern Geology*. The paper, "Revised stratigraphy and nomenclature for the upper Hinton Formation (Upper Mississippian) based on recognition of regional marine zones, southern West Virginia," is based on ongoing research that has been funded by the Petroleum Research Fund of American Chemical Society and the U.S. Geological Survey. He also has joined the summer instructional staff of GeoScience Adventures in Shell, Wyoming (www.geo-sciences.com). He is a co-instructor for a series of field-based workshops

for K-12 teachers on different aspects of Rocky Mountain geology. In the summer of 2003 he co-taught "The Life and Times of Wyoming's Jurassic Park Dinosaurs and Marine Reptiles." This summer he will co-instruct "The Geology of the Bighorn Mountains."

William Brice spoke at King's College London on March 8. The speech was titled "Henry S. Williams (1847-1918) and Punctuated Equilibria." He currently serves as president of the History of Earth Science Society, as secretary-treasurer of the History of Geology Division of the Geological Society of America, and is the editor of *Oil-Industry History*, a publication of the Petroleum History Institute.

Kevin Martin will be supervising an undergraduate student in solid state physics at an NSF funded program at Lehigh University this summer. The program, "Research Experience for Undergraduates," is a 10-week program funded by NSF. He will be a visiting professor.

Dave Willey appeared on "Steve Harvey's Big Time" on the Warner Brothers Network and the A&E Network on a program called "Take This Job...". He was the featured speaker at the S.W. Michigan Science Teachers annual meeting in October with presentations on his show and "The Rationale Behind Science Demos."

Nursing

Dr. Nancy Grove received a \$26,000 Nursing Education Grant. The grant, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Foundation, provides educational grants or scholarships to nursing students attending the Nursing Program at UPJ during the 2003-2004 academic year. She conducted a presentation on March 16 to the Business and Professional Women's Club in Windber titled, "Protecting Yourself."

Becky Sease has been invited to become a member of the Johnstown High School Occupational Advisory Committee.

Social Sciences

Ron Krug has had an article accepted for publication in the Spring 2004 issue of the *Pennsylvania Journal of Business and Economics*, a refereed publication. The article is entitled "Outcomes Assessment Program for Core Marketing Courses at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown."