University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Of Note

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

Spring 2006

Admissions

James F. Gyure presented a poster session entitled "Talking to Ourselves about Student Transition" at the 12th National Conference on Students in Transition, in November 2005. The conference was sponsored by the National Resource Center for The First Year Experience and Students in Transition.

Book Center

George Hancock is currently senior writer for *Runner's Gazette*, a monthly newspaper focused on running, covering the Middle Atlantic States. He writes a monthly column entitled, "Rambling Roads," featuring the Cambria/Somerset County road racing scene. This year marks his fifth anniversary with *The Streak Registry*, a national quarterly publication featuring articles on daily running issues and events. He writes a quarterly column, as well as, features for the publication. Noting his 30th anniversary as a road racer, he began road racing in 1976 and recently completed his 315th road race. He began road running in 1973 and will run his 80,000 career mile this spring.

Engineering Technology

Andy Rose co-authored a journal article with Tom Brandon and Mike Duncan of Virginia Technical Institute. The article, "Drained and Undrained Strength Interpretation for Low-Plasticity Silts," was published in the *ASCE Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, Vol. 132, No. 2, pp. 250-257. He is currently chair of the Geo-Institute Chapter of the ASCE Pittsburgh section. As chair, he helped to organize a highly successful one-day seminar on "Stability of Rock Slopes."

Humanities

Catherine S. Cox's second book, *The Judaic Other in Dante, the Gawain Poet, and Chaucer*, was published by the University Press of Florida in September. In late November she presented a lecture and discussion on this work at Beth Sholom Congregation in Johnstown.

Michael W. Cox reviewed David Crouse's collection of short stories, *Copy Cats* for *Choice Magazine*. He also reviewed Lasmisree Banerjee's book of poetry *I Am Woman, I Am the World* for *South Asian Review*.

Ako Inuzuka presented two papers at the 2005 National Communication Association annual convention: "Biographies as Sociological Propaganda: An Analysis of the Cultural Presentation of Lafcadio Hearn in Japan" and "War and Peace: A Study of Japanese Media Coverage of the 2004 Presidential Election." At the same conference, she was also the respondent on the panel "Global 'Warming' Trends: Encouraging International Contact through Alliance Building."

David Magill presented his paper " 'Men of Kindred Spirit': Nostalgic Fraternity as Racial Hatred in the 1920s Ku Klux Klan" at the 2005 American Studies Association convention. He also will present " 'The Second Elevation': Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist* and the Question of Civil Rights" at the 2005 MLA convention as part of a special session he proposed entitled "Civil Rights Legacies in African American Literature." This spring he will host a UPJ visit by Anne Carroll, associate professor of English at Wichita State University, who will speak on "Word and Image in the Harlem Renaissance." He also has published four *Choice* Book reviews and a review for *South Asian Review*.

Carrie Rohman was awarded the 2005 Newly-Published Lawrence Scholar Award from the D.H. Lawrence Society of North America at their international conference. She presented a paper on "Ethics and the Non-Human Other" during her studies at the Cornell School of Criticism and Theory this summer. She also presented her paper "On Marrying a Butcher: Rebecca West's 'Indissoluble Matrimony' and the Critical Unconscious of Modernism," which has been supported by a UPJ Faculty Research Grant, at the 2005 Rebecca West Society Conference in Manhattan. This paper was accepted for publication in the interdisciplinary journal *Mosaic*. Her article "Revising the Human: Silence, Being, and the Question of the Animal in Djuna Barnes' *Nightwood*" has been accepted for publication in the journal *American Literature*. She has been invited to serve on the Executive Committee for the Development of Human-Animal Studies in Academia, which is sponsored by the Society and Animals Forum, after attending their convention in October. She presented her essay "On Singularity and the Symbolic: Calibrating Species in Italo Calvino's *Mr. Palomar*" at the North East Modern Language Association Convention.

María Cristina Saavedra presented "The Battlefield of Language" at the symposium "Cuba in the 1962s: A Symposium," held at Queens University, Canada. Her article "Nation and Migration: Emigration and Exile in Two Cuban Films of the Special Period" appears in the current

issue of *Atenea* 25.2 (2005). She was interviewed for the cover story of the current issue of *The Green Magazine*: "The Day After… Cuba Beyond Castro" (October/ November 2005). Her article on "Atlantic Film" will be published in the *Encyclopedia of Africa and the Americas*, January 2006.

Eric Schwerer's second book of poetry, *The Saint of Withdrawal*, was recently accepted for publication by CustomWords press. His first book, *Whittling Lessons* (published last summer by Finishing Line Press), is a nominee for an Ohioana Book Award. A third manuscript was a finalist for this year's Laurel Review Chapbook Award. This Fall, he was the featured reader at The Coffee Den in Mount Lebanon and the Monroeville Public Library. He also gave a "Poet in the Classroom" presentation at Carnegie Mellon University.

Kamal Verma attended the 2005 annual conference of SALTAF at the Smithsonian. He attended the 2005 annual conventions of the Modern Language Association and the South Asian Literary Association (SALA). He presided over the SALA session 1A: Secularism and Fiction. He presented a paper "Intersection of Marxism, Humanism, Secularism and Indian Thought in Mulk Raj Anand's *An Apology for Heroism*" at the SALA session 2A: Secularism and Fiction II. The 2004 Special Topic Issue of *South Asian Review* devoted to Colonial Studies 1880-1947 and edited by K.D. Verma was reviewed by Dr. Rumina Sethi in *The Tribune* of May 15, a premier English daily of North India: "The editor, K.D. Verma, articulates the argument in the introductory essay 'The Structure of Colonial Fantasy,' where he discusses James Mill's now discredited *History of British India* and the subsequent indulgences of Hegel, who was inspired by Mill… he cites Tennyson, Thackeray, Dickens, Carlyle, Arnold and Marx to show how the Leviathon called India became a 'top heavy' structure, which the British ultimately found difficult to maintain." K.D. Verma, concludes the reviews, "has put together a historically rich account of colonialism by examining its history, language and theory and explicating its political significance." His essay "V.S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr. Biswas*: Poetics of History, Biography, Modernity and Culture" appears in the 2005 special issue of the *South Asian Review* devoted to V.S. Naipaul, 26.1 (2005): 19-39. This essay was initially presented at a colloquium of Arcadia University. His "Reminiscences: Selected Letters of Mulk Raj Anand" also appears in the *South Asian Review* 26.2 (2005): 237-264: "These ten letters, selected from a miscellaneous collection that Anand wrote to me over the years, mostly concern T.S. Eliot for whom Anand worked during his stay in London, Rudyard Kipling and other writers, including British liberals, of the 1930s. In preparing these letters for publication, I have provided a brief introduction and extensive notes."

Susan Wieczorek and Stephen Curran, Michael Ferencak, and John Tompson of the Mathematics Department presented the results of their grant proposal for the 2004 Innovation in Education Award from the Advisory Council on Instructional Excellence at the University of Pittsburgh's Teaching Excellence Fair with their presentation entitled, "Technically Speaking: In Math, That Is," on November 9. They were also featured in the November 23 issue of the *University Times* in the article "Teaching Excellence Fair: Speaking of Numbers." Likewise, their article, "Mathematically Speaking: Expanding the Role of Oral Communication in Mathematics Programs," was published in the Mathematical Association of America publication, *FOCUS*, December 2005, Volume 25, Number 9 issue.

Natural Sciences

Stephen Curran presented a paper entitled "The Number of Hamilton Paths in Cayley Digraphs" at the 37th Southeastern International Conference on Combinatorics, Graph Theory, and Computing.

Michael Ferencak, John Thompson, and Susan Wieczorek will participate in a panel presentation on the topic of technical speaking in the sciences at the 2006 meeting of the Eastern Communication Association.

Charles Hinderliter and James R. Misanin, Susquehanna University, had works highlighted in "Conditioned Taster Aversion: An Annotated Bibliography." They were selected by Drs. Riley and Freeman of American University (editors of the bibliography, http://www.ctalearning.com) as one of 12 leading researchers in the field of conditioned taste aversion. Summarizing their work completed over the last 22 years, Hinderliter and Misanin discussed their hypothesis that aging processes alter internal timing mechanisms that directly influence an organism's ability to associate events separated in time. The authors suggested that changes in a metabolic timing mechanism may explain why older subjects show no evidence of learning. Examining the role of stress on Pavlovian conditioning, Hinderliter, Misanin, and coauthors have recently published two articles demonstrating that stress may produce a time-contraction effect stemming from an alternation of an internal metabolic count-down time. The articles were accepted for publication in *Behavioural Processes* and *Neurobiology of Learning and Memory* for 2006.

Boris Kushner has published a poetry book, in Russian, *Prichal Vechnosti* (*Pier of Eternity*), VIA Press, Cockeysville, MD.

Kevin R. Martin published an article, "Structure and vibrational properties of N-H2 complexes in GaAs:N," W.B. Fowler, K.R. Martin, K. Washer, and M. Stavola, in *Physical Review* B 72, 035208 (2005). He presented his research work based upon a paper to be published,

"Vibrational Properties of Li-OH complex in ZnO," K.R. Martin, P. Blaney, Gang Shi, M. Stavola, W. Beall Fowler, in *Physical Review* B, at the American Physical Society. He was appointed Visiting Research Scientist at Lehigh University from September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006. For the third year, he will conduct research with his colleagues in the summer.

John Mullennix currently has two book chapters in press. The first chapter is titled, "Feedback consistency effects in single-word reading," with co-authors B. Kessler and R. Treiman, to appear in E. Grigorenko's book, *Single-word reading: Biological and behavioral perspectives*. The second chapter is titled, "Memory for emotional tone," to appear in K. Izedski's book, *Voice and emotions*. Drs. Mullennix and Steve Stern also continue their collaborative research on memory distortions. Dr. Stern presented a research paper (co-authored with J. Mullennix, O. Corneille and J. Huart from the Catholic University of Louvain, and UPJ students M. Casey, A. Davis, A. Mahdavi, and L. Steinhauser) titled, "Memory distortion for pitch of male vs. female voices" at the 2006 Social Cognition Pre-conference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology Annual Meeting.

David Willey performed two shows with Professor Clint Sprott of the University of Madison at Wisconsin, for "The Wonders of Physics." He also performed four, one-hour shows for TechFest 2006.

Social Sciences

Reinhard Heinisch was committee chair and discussant at the Pitt-European Union Center Policy Conference, titled "The Challenge for Europe: Governance, Economics and Multiculturalism." He has secured a book contract with British Publisher Palgrave, *Rightwing Populism in Austria-Its Causes and Repercussions In Twenty-First Century Populism: Structure and Agency of the Unwelcome Guest of Western European Democracy*, ed. Daniele Albertazzi et al. Palgrave, forthcoming. The Review Essay of Edward Moxon-Browne ed., "Who Are Europeans Now?" in *The European Legacy: Journal of the International Society for the Study of European Ideas* 2. is forthcoming. His article, "COREPER-EU: Powerhouse; Informal Decision-making in the EU's Committee of Permanent Representatives," published in *Research Europe* (12) December 2005:10-22. He presented lectures at the U.S. State Department Foreign Service Academy, "A Comprehensive Overview of Austrian Foreign Policy" and "The Austrian European Union Presidency." He was a consultant and advisor in preparation of the new U.S. Ambassador to Austria for Congressional Hearings; committee chair and lecturer at the University of West Virginia Faculty Workshop, and provided live commentary via satellite in the German evening news show *Ziet im Bild*, commenting on President Bush's State of the Union address. He presented a paper, "Inscrutability and Stickiness: Explaining the Disconnect between American Political discourse and Its Perception in Europe," at the National Communication Association's Mass Communication Division. His op-ed articles in the Austrian daily national newspaper *Wiener Zeitung*, "A Comparative analyses of the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. and European Economic Model;" "System Failure-Why the U.S. has such a hard time dealing with Natural Disasters," and "War is like the Super Bowl," (a short history of the U.S. Military from George Washington to George Bush).

Ron Krug presented, "A Framework to Guide Undergraduate Business Schools in the Formative Stages of Outcomes Assessment Program Development," at North Carolina State University Undergraduate Assessment Symposium. He presented "An Analysis of the Characteristics, Acceptance and Perceived Efficacy of Formal Outcomes Assessment Programs at AACSB-Accredits Business Schools," at the Assessment Institute.