University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown

Of Note

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

Fall 2006

Academic Support Center

Susan Dawkin's article, "Reflections on Learning: A Composition Curriculum to Meet the Needs of At-Risk Students," was published in the Fall 2006 issue of the *National Association for Developmental Education Digest*.

Diane Van Blerkom, Malcolm Van Blerkom, and Sharon Walstad published an article in the Fall issue of *The Journal of College Reading and Learning* titled "Study Strategies and Generative Learning: What Works?" The article is a report on research that they conducted on the efficacy of various study strategies, and why some strategies are likely more effective than others.

Education

Nina Girard has won the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics (PCTM) 2006 award for "Outstanding Contribution to Mathematics Education." The award will be presented to her at the 55th annual banquet of the PCTM conference October 26 at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. The award is presented annually to a mathematician or a mathematics educator from a public or private school, college or university, or industry, who has made an outstanding contribution to mathematics education in Pennsylvania. Her active involvement in the field at various levels, including serving on executive boards, review teams, and task forces throughout the Commonwealth, in addition to her teaching and training of pre-service mathematics teachers at UPJ and in-service teachers at local schools through numerous programs and successful grants written, contributed to her receiving this prestigious award.

Mark Previte's article entitled "Shirley H. Engle: A Persistent Voice For Issues Centered Education" is to be published in a book entitled *Addressing Social Issues in the Classroom and Beyond: The Pedagogical Efforts of Pioneers in the Field* edited by Samuel Trotten, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Jon Pedersen, University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Engineering Technology

Amy Miller wrote and presented a paper, "The first Reality Show Encounter for Engineering and Engineering Technology Undergraduates." The paper was published in the proceedings and presented at the 2006 American Association of Electrical Engineers Annual Conference and Exposition held in Chicago, Ill. She co-wrote a paper with Alyson Stegman titled, "Clearing the Way, Using Turbines to Reclaim or Remediate Acid Mine Drainage." The paper will be published in the proceedings and presented at the 2006 International Mechanical Engineers Congress in November in Chicago.

Humanities

Alvaro Bernal's refereed article "An Interview with the Columbian author Antonio Caballero "La Hojarasca," No. 23 (August), was published in *A Journal of Literature, Culture and Current Issues*: www.escritoresyperiodistas.com, and "An Interview with the Columbian author Mario Mendoza "La Hojarasca," No. 24 (September), in *A Journal of Literature, Culture and Current Issues*: www.escritoresyperiodistas.com. He had a paper "La Bogotá marginal y su representació literaria en Scorpio City de Mario Mendoza," that was accepted to be read at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literature to be hosted by the University of Missouri-Columbia, November 16-18. Her refereed creative work "Mi version de last jugadas," was submitted to the Online Website www.desquilibros.com and published in August, 2006.

Dolores Buttry's article "Maistre Wace and the Exotic Other," appeared in *Maistre Wace: A Celebration*, edited by Glyn S. Burgess and Judith Weiss, published by the Soiete Jersaise, 2006. The article was an expanded version of a paper read at the first international Wace conference in the U.K.

Catherine Cox moderated and participated in a Medieval Feminist Forum Roundtable, "The Place of Medieval Feminist Scholarship in the Academy," at the Modern Language Association (MLA) 2005 Convention in Washington, D.C., on December 28. She also is Torah Study leader at Temple Beth Israel in Altoona.

Michael Cox has had a literary essay, "Richland," accepted for publication by *River Teeth*, a journal devoted to creative nonfiction. As part of a UPJ contingent, he gave a paper on UPJ's professional writing program at the annual conference of the Associated Writing Programs (AWP) on March 9, in Austin, Texas. He led the same contingent in judging the annual student-writing competition of the Pennsylvania College English Association (PCEA), presenting the prizes for fiction and poetry in March in Pittsburgh. He read his fiction at The Coffee Den in Pittsburgh on July 27, hosted by Paper Street Press.

Joseph Dewey has published *Beyond Grief and Nothing: A Reading of Don DeLillo*, The University of South Carolina Press. In the book he offers an astute assessment of this daunting yet important writer's four-decade cultural critique. Dr. Dewey finds DeLillo's concerns to be organized around three rubrics that mark the writer's own creative evolution: the love of the street, the embrace of the world, and the celebration of the soul.

Rodney Eatman was cast in a training film commissioned by the Department of Justice. The movie dealt with staff manipulation by inmates and was produced by Concurrent Technologies Corporation in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections. Filming was done on location at SCI-Pittsburgh in June. In August Dr. Eatman performed at Mountain Playhouse, Jennerstown, in 16 performances of a Ray Cooney (British) farce, *It Runs in the Family*.

Fred Fornoff translated 69 essays into English, *Anthology of Apologists and Detractors of the Basque Language*, by Juan Madariaga Orbea (Reno, Nevada: Center for Basque Studies, 2006); 703 pages. This anthology consists of essays written between the 16th and 19th centuries by 69 Basque writers living in Spain or France, defending or attacking the quality and significance of the Basque language. Most of these essays were written in Spanish, 12 in French and 10 in the Basque language. Amaia Gabantxo provided the Spanish translations, and Dr. Fornoff the English. María Cristina Saavedra and Carys Evans-Corrales of the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford translated Madariaga's long introduction into English.

Ako Inuzuka has contributed a chapter, "Teaching 'Experiential' Intercultural Communication at an Ethnically and Culturally Homogeneous University," to *Diversity Across the Curriculum* edited by Jerome Brance, Ellen R. Cohn, and **John Mullennix**. Together with Bettina Heinz and Hsin-I Cheng, Dr. Inuzuka's paper, "Greenpeace Greenspeak: A Transcultural Discourse Analysis," has been accepted for publication in the *Journal for Language and Intercultural Communication*. She also was a panelist on a panel, "Honoring Philip C. Wander: Cherishing Four Decades of Teaching and Scholarship in Rhetorical Studies," at the Western States Communication Association annual convention, Palm Springs, Calif., in February 2006. She additionally presented a paper, "Remembering Japanese militarism through the Fusosya textbook: The Collective Memory of the Asian-Pacific War in Japan," at the Faculty Lecture Series of UPJ in April 2006.

Alessandra Lynch's poetry published in the following journals has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize: *The American Poetry Review*, *Antioch Review*, *jubilat*, and the *Laurel Review*. She also was a finalist for the May Swenson Prize in Poetry. She gave a presentation at the AWP panel "Teaching Creative Writing on a Branch Campus," at the annual convention in March in Austin, Texas.

David Magill presented his paper " 'The Second Elevation': Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist* and the Question of Civil Rights" at the MLA 2005 Convention in Washington D.C. as part of the special session he organized entitled "Civil Rights Legacies in African American Literature." In addition, he hosted visiting scholar Anne Carroll's visit to UPJ, where she visited three classes and presented a public talk on "Images and Contexts of the Harlem Renaissance."

Jon Ritz, along with **Michael Cox**, **Alessandra Lynch**, and **Eric Schwerer**, participated in a panel presentation at this year's AWP Conference in Austin, Texas. The panel provided an in-depth look at UPJ's writing program, and his paper was entitled "The Capstone Writing Course." Dr. Ritz's Valentine's Day piece "A Tuesday in Pittsburgh" appeared in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Online* in February.

Carrie Rohman presented her paper "On Singularity and the Symbolic: Calibrating Species in Italo Calvino's *Mr. Palomar*" at the Northeast Modern Language Association (NEMLA) 2005 Conference in Philadelphia in March. Her essay "On Marrying a Butcher: Animality and the Discursive Anxieties of Modernism in Rebecca West's *Indissoluble Matrimony*," which was supported by a 2005 UPJ Faculty Research Grant, has been accepted for publication in *Mosaic:* a *Journal for the Interdisciplinary Study of Literature*.

Eric Schwerer's second collection of poems, *The Saint of Withdrawal*, will be released this November from CustomWords Press. Six new poems have been accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the literary journal *Elixir*. He will be a featured reader for the Single Voice Reading Series at Allegheny College on November 16, for Philadelphia's Manayunk Arts Center's reading series on December 3, and for the Spectrum Series at the University of Pittsburgh at Bradford on January 30, 2007. He read from both his new and forthcoming books of poetry at Gist Street Reading Series on June 2 in Pittsburgh and Cornelia Street Café, New York City on June 6.

Kamal Verma's essay, "Mulk Raj Anand (12 December 1905-28 September 2004)" was published in the *Dictionary of Literary Biography*, vol. 323: *South Asian Writers in English*, ed. Fakrul Alam (Thomson Gale, 2006):25-34. The essay is focused on the life and works of Mulk Raj Anand, a prominent Indian novelist, critic, and thinker, and a contemporary of R. K. Narayan and Raja Rao.

Jeff Webb conducted a successful concert season with the Blair Concert Chorale, culminating with a performance of *Sweeney Todd*. He presented a lecture entitled "Promoting Vocal Health in the Choral Rehearsal" at the February District PMEA Chorus Festival and will be the guest conductor in November for the Indiana County Chorus Festival.

Susan Wieczorek coordinated a panel entitled "Interdisciplinary Approaches to Technical Speaking: Why, How, and When" for the Instructional Communication Division at the Eastern Communication Association Conference held April 26-30. The presentation included speakers from across the northeast on the topics of First Year Experience Speaking Applications for Multiple Disciplines, Speaking Enhancement of a Team-Taught Chemistry Course, Speaking Primary Applications for a Team-Taught Mathematics Course (also presented by Ms. Wieczorek and Michael Ferenchak), and Administrative Perspective on Adapting Speaking in the Natural Sciences. She also received a fellowship for the Diversity Seminar held May 8-19 at the University of Pittsburgh. In response to her studies, she transformed her Public Speaking course for Fall 2006 into a diversity-centered workshop with new speech assignments, activities, and individualized learning applications.

Frances Zauhar's article "Violent Art, Sacred Art: Artists and Sacrifice in Willa Cather," will appear in a collection titled *Violence, Art, and Willa Cather*, Merrill Skaggs and Joseph Urgo, editors; forthcoming on Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2007. This peer-reviewed book is a refereed selection of articles presented at the 2005 International Cather Seminar. She also will be facilitating a monthly reading series this fall at the Adams Memorial Library in Latrobe. The topic of the series is "American Dramas," and she will be leading a discussion of individual American plays. The series started October 18, beginning with Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*.

Information Technology

Darell Bowman, Mike Kemock, Christian Phillips, Sam Gemus, Rob Eckenrod, Bill Slifko, Willie Myers, and Jeff Sernell took part in a table top emergency management exercise designed and hosted by the City of Johnstown Emergency Management Team. The exercise simulated an on-campus incident with technology-related consequences and provided the opportunity for the group to discuss Information Technology involvement in emergency recovery.

Jeff Sernell has completed coursework offered by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency through its Emergency Management Institute. The classes covered topics including the Incident Command System and National Incident Management System.

Information Technology-User Services

Ralph Miller attended the ResNet 2006 Conference held June 24-28 at Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. Workshops included topics such as Windows Vista, Computer Forensics and Investigation, Wireless Networking in Residence Halls, Social Networking and Blog technology.

Natural Sciences

Lisa Bell-Loncella attended the 232nd National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in Atlanta. She was invited to present in a symposium titled "Women Leaders in Chemistry: Stories of Challenges Met" sponsored by the Women's Chemist Committee of the American Chemical Society. The title of her presentation was "Finding My Niche." She gave a presentation at the Women's Information Network of the Johnstown Chamber's May meeting. The talk was a variation of the one she gave in Atlanta. She organized a symposium on Computation, Modeling and Molecular Visualization across the Chemistry Curriculum for the 19th Biennial Conference of Chemical Education held at Purdue University in July. She was co-author with David Waldeck of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Pittsburgh, on a presentation titled "Computation and Molecular Visualization across the Chemistry Curriculum at the University of Pittsburgh." This was an overview of the Computing across the Chemistry Curriculum initiative with faculty in Chemistry at all four of the Pitt campuses. As part of the Computing across the Chemistry Curriculum initiative with Chemistry faculty at all four Pitt campuses, she organized the workshop "Computation for Chemical Educators," held March 16-18 in the Chemistry Department on the Oakland campus.

Stephen Curran's manuscript entitled "The Number of Hamilton Paths in Cayley Digraphs on Semidirect Products of Cyclic Groups," was accepted in the refereed journal *Congressus Numerantium*, July 21.

David Marsh's research article, "The Influence of Eyewitness Similarity to a Crime Victim and Victim Culpability on Eyewitness Recall" published in *Applied Psychology in Criminal Justice*.

John Mullenix and Steve Stern in conjunction with UPJ student co-authors Don Horvath and Ashley Davis and Catholic University of Louvain researchers Olivier Corneille and Johanna Huart, presented a research paper titled, "Memory accentuation for pitch of voice: Does the effect hold for extremes?" at the 76th Annual Meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, March, 2006, in Baltimore, Md.

Bruce Robart has coordinated a week-long summer outdoor education workshop for third, fourth, and fifth grade students sponsored by Stackhouse Park for the past three summers. This last summer the program ran July 10-14. There were four programs led by three UPJ faculty and one instructor: Neil Woffinden, "Birds and Flight,"

Esther Seigfried, "Forensic Science," Kim Ziance, "Stream Ecology," and Bruce Robart, "It's a Small World, Investigations with a Microscope."

Terry Shustrick and Linda Tully presented "Take the Express" Route to Hands-on Activities" at the 54th annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Teachers of Mathematics held in October, 2005, in Harrisburg, Pa.

Linda Tully, Terry Shustrick, and Joe Wilson co-authored the sixth edition of *Developing Skills in Algebra: A Lecture Worktext*. The text was published by Hawkes Learning Systems of Charleston, S.C. in July.

David Willey presented a physics demonstrations show in aid of the American Cancer Society in June. On August 29 he gave two presentations at Luzerne County Community College, and in July he presented physics demonstrations at the "Glendale Camp by the Lake" summer camp. In July, Science Kit/Boreal Labs agreed to sell the fifth, sixth and seventh pieces of Physics apparatus designed by Mr. Willey. The other four were accepted within the past three years. This made him a member of their "Teacher Developer Five Product Club."

Kim Ziance and Bruce Robart were co-presenters of a workshop entitled "Integrating Digital Imaging into a Laboratory Curriculum," at the Botanical Society of America's Annual Scientific Conference held this past July, at the California State University in Chico, Calif. They presented with other faculty members from the University of Colorado, University of North Carolina Greensboro, and Miami University, in an educational forum workshop.

Owen Library

Patricia Balko attended the IACET Luminary Conference sponsored seminar Leading to Greatness: Building True Success Wherever You Live and Work and the PALINET sponsored seminar Pulling the Curtain: Emerging Technologies for Library Managers.

James Langan attended the ALA Mid Winter Meeting in San Antonio, Texas, and the ALA Annual Conference in New Orleans. He is now co-chair of the American Library Association's MARS Best Free Web Sites Committee. He contributed to and assisted with the editing of the 2006 MARS Best Free Web Sites. The list will be published in the Fall 2006 issue of *Reference and User Services Quarterly*. His essay "Serving Unusual Patrons in the Library" was recently published in *An Introduction to Reference Services in Academic Libraries* by Elizabeth Connor, MLS, AHIP (Haworth Press).

Deborah Rinderknecht attended the PALINET sponsored seminar Pulling the Curtain: Emerging Technologies for Library Managers. She presented "Tales from a Library Renovation" to the Spring Meeting of the ULS Faculty Assembly. In May she attended Great Expectations: Leadership in Academic Libraries, the Spring Meeting of the Western Pennsylvania/West Virginia Chapter of the Association of College and Research Libraries in Wheeling, W.V. In June, she attended the seminar Care of Photographic Materials held at Duquesne University.

Social Sciences

William Brice currently serves as editor of the *Oil-Industry History*, a publication of the Petroleum History Institute. He published the "Editorial and Meeting Report," in the current issue of *Oil-Industry History*, Volume 7, Number 1, 2006.

Reinhard Heinisch has had his article, "Structure and Agency Populism in Austria-Its Causes and Repercussion," accepted for publication in *Twenty-First Century Populism: Structure and Agency of the Unwelcome Guest of Western European Democracy* ed. Daniele Albertazzi, Duncan McDonnell et al. Palgrave forthcoming. During the summer, he gave lectures at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences/ZASU in Ljubljana, Slovenia on "Success and Failure of Right-Wing Populism" (June 26, 2006) and two seminars at the Slovenian Summer University (July 1-14) at the Social Science Faculty of Ljubljana University titled "New Frontiers of the European Union-Turkey and other Issues," and "Transatlantic Relations Revisited-The Foreign Policy of the EU and US after Iraq."

Ola Johansson has published "Inter-Urban Competition and Air Transport in the Deregulated Era: The Nashville Case" in the *Journal of Transport Geography* and a book review of "Pennsylvania Landscapes and People by Charles Geiger" in *The Pennsylvania Geographer*.

William Kory has been selected to receive the Distinguished Service Award from the Pennsylvania Geological Society (PGS). The award, which recognizes Dr. Kory's outstanding contributions to the discipline of geography and PGS, will be presented at the PGS annual meeting held October 27 and 28, at Salisbury (Md.) University. He currently serves as editor of *The Pennsylvania Geographer*, a peer reviewed journal of the Pennsylvania Geography Society.

Student Life

Kelly Austin will be presenting at the National Academic Advising Association national conference on October 19 in Indianapolis, Ind. The title of the presentation is "Making Sure First Generation Students Don't Finish Last." The presentation is related to making sure that students who are the first generation of their family to attend college are successful.