South African Immersion Program

Taunya Tinsley and Grafton Eliason (Counselor Education) collaborated with Lourens Human, a faculty member in the University of Pretoria’s Department of Counseling Psychology, and Monja Human, Psychologist at the University of Pretoria’s High Performance Centre, on a South African culture immersion program that permitted Cal U and Duquesne University students and faculty to expand their awareness, knowledge and skills in the areas of multicultural counseling, spiritual counseling, and sports counseling and health education. The professors traveled May 1-16 with 15 others from Cal and Duquesne to South Africa, where students engaged in activities to develop cultural competence and sensitivity as a helping professional. They facilitated groups for youth, adolescents, young adults and adults in various settings, including an SOS Children’s Village (orphanage) in Mamelodi, Itsoseng Clini (Psychology Clinic) in Mamelodi, a women’s shelter, a crèche, a local church, a hospice and other schools and community agencies in disadvantaged areas in Pretoria, Soweto and Johannesburg, South Africa. Also, Tinsley and Eliason worked with Cal U’s Caryl Sheffield, Ayanna Lyles, Deb Farrer and Charlotte Orient to facilitate workshops designed to increase multicultural competency when working with diverse populations. During the trip, the Cal U representatives invited faculty and students from the University of Pretoria and the High Performance Centre to visit Cal U in 2011 for an immersion program with the diverse cultures in the United States, and they have accepted. The 2010 cultural immersion program may be just the beginning of a long-lasting relationship and partnership between Cal U and the University of Pretoria.

Award-Winning Faculty

Justin Barroner (Exercise Science & Sport Studies) received the Tri-State PGA’s Bill Strasbaugh Award for 2010 and is a finalist for the award at the national level. The award recognizes a PGA Professional who has distinguished themselves by mentoring their fellow PGA Professionals and Apprentices in improving their employment situations and through service to the community.

On May 7, the 2010 Cal U Faculty Professional Development Committee Merit Awards were presented. The award recipients recognized were Mark Aune (English) - Research Award, Carol Bozetti (Biological & Environmental Sciences) - Service & Service Learning Award, Christina Fisanick (English) - Technology Award, William Hug (Elementary Education) - Grants & Contracts Award, and Marta McClintock-Comeaux (Justice, Law & Society) - Teaching & Learning Award.

Shirley Lazorchak (Business & Economics) won the American Marketing Association's Hugh G. Wales Award for Faculty Advisor of the Year at the association’s 26th Annual International Collegiate Conference in New Orleans. The award honors the recipient for chapter guidance, training of chapter officers, chapter planning assistance, motivation, communication and support for the student chapter.
**Faculty Achievements**

**Melanie Blumberg** (History & Political Science) moderated a discussion at the 2010 Mid-West Political Science Association meeting in Chicago on April 24.

**Paul Crawford** (History & Political Science) presented “Hospitallers & the trial of the Templars” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, MI, in May.

**Holly Diehl and Diane Nettles** (Elementary Education) presented “More Than Mentioning: Supporting the Teacher’s Use of Mental Modeling in Teaching Reading Comprehension” at the International Reading Association Conference in Chicago, April 27. Also, Diehl, Nettles and **Connie Armitage** (Elementary Education) presented “Beyond Calling Words: Teaching Comprehension to Struggling Readers of Poverty” at the Washington County Education Summit on April 24.

**Grafton Eliason** and **Jeffrey Samide** (Counselor Education) published (with two others) “Existential theory and our search for meaning” in the Journal of Spirituality in Mental Health.

**Craig Fox** (Philosophy) presented “Wittgenstein and Ethics: an Approach via Film,” at the Nordic Wittgenstein Society Conference in Uppsala, Sweden and “*What* Will Time Tell?: Comments on Clewes’ Theory of Age Factor” at the Eastern Division of the American Society for Aesthetics in Philadelphia in April.

**Nancy Hudson** (Philosophy) presented “Nicholas of Cusa and Neo-Platonism: an Early Renaissance Man’s Debt to the Greeks,” at the Renaissance Society of America meeting in Italy in April.

**William Hug** (Elementary Education) published “Exploring instructional strategies to develop prospective elementary teacher children’s literature book evaluation skills for science, ecology and environmental education” in Environmental Education Research, 16 (3).

**Andrae Marak** (History & Political Science) published “Frontier Masculinity, Femininity, and the Ideological Cleansing of Borderlands Teachers” in the New Mexico Historical Review.

**Joel Press** (Philosophy) presented “On the Virtue of Cursory Scientific Reduction” at the PASSHE Philosophy and Religious Studies Society meeting in West Chester in April. Three Cal U philosophy majors participated in the conference, including Andrea O’Leary, who received second place for best undergraduate paper.

Press was elected the Society’s president and will host the 2011 conference at Cal U. Also, Press is the Philosophy Division Editor for the new Keystone Journal.

**Joseph Schwerha** (Business & Economics) published “Law Enforcement Challenges in Transborder Acquisition of Electronic Evidence from Cloud Computing Providers” for the 2010 Octopus Conference on Cybercrime.

**Michael Slavin** (Theatre & Dance) will teach English Theatre History in London from May 17 to June 17.

**John Shimkanin and William Hug** (Elementary Education) presented “Monarchs, silkworms and painted ladies: Developing elementary learner’s scientific proficiency” at the National Science Teacher Association meeting in Boston.

**Jacqueline Walsh, Gloria Brusoski, and John Patrick** (Counselor Education) presented “Including Mind-body Methods in Counselor Education Programs” at the American Counseling Association Conference in Pittsburgh.

**Mohamed Yamba** (History & Political Science) will serve as a member of the Steering Committee of the Researchers’ Alliance for Development during the All Bank Conference on Developing Economies in Sweden, May 29-June 2.

**Faculty Searches for Fall 2010**

This year, five departments conducted searches for eight tenure-track faculty for Fall 2010. The positions being searched, by department, include:

- **Art & Design**: Art History (**Richard Miecznikowski**, Search Chair) & Graphic Design (**Robert Meyers**, Search Chair)
- **Justice, Law & Society**: Criminal Justice Generalist & Criminal Law Specialist (**Emily Sweitzer**, Search Chair both positions)
- **Math, Computer Science & Information Technology**: Computer Information Systems (**Gina Boff**, Search Chair) & Statistics (**Kaddour Boukaabar**, Search Chair)
- **Professional Studies**: Legal Studies (**Jeffrey Magers**, Search Chair)
- **Special Education**: Special Education (**Kalie Kossar**, Search Chair)

As this newsletter is being prepared, the searches have reduced their applicant pool to a few top candidates. Many highly-qualified individuals applied, and the departments hope the best will be teaching at Cal U in the fall. This is the first time that Cal U used PeopleAdmin for an entire faculty search process. It has been a learning experience. The search chairs are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to improving Cal U academics by identifying the best candidates for these faculty positions. Hopefully, the fall issue of this newsletter will report eight new tenure-track faculty members.
Women’s Studies

In March, during Women’s History Month, the Women’s Studies program offered activities under the theme The Arts & Activism: Equality for All. Three featured events were Attack Theatre, the Aubrey-Beth Fitch Conference, and Guerrilla Girls.

Internationally known dance company Attack Theatre offered a workshop to help participants to learn to use their bodies for strength, balance, and empowerment.

The 5th Annual Aubrey-Beth Fitch Conference offered workshops and panels on Building Community through Art; Feminist Lens in Art, Film & Media; Rhetoric of Modern Contraceptive Ads; and Redefining Theory, Art, Craft, and Sexuality. Caryl Sheffield (Elementary Education) presented Social and Political Activism through the lens of African American Artists.

Guerrilla Girls, women wearing gorilla masks, bring attention to the lack of acceptance of women artists in the art world. Guerrilla Girls provided workshops and training for Cal U students.

Recent Grant Awards

Michael J. Brna (Teaching with Primary Sources) received $200,000 from the Library of Congress to continue Cal U’s participation in the Teaching with Primary Sources teacher professional development program. Cal U has been a Teaching with Primary Sources Educational Consortium member since 2004.

Anthony Pyzdrwoski (Math, Computer Science, & Information Technology) received $4,720 from the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission for WvEB Mathematics 2009-2010 to provide technological assistance to the WvEB project through the creation of materials and troubleshooting problems, as well as working with teachers and school technology resource staff and participating in the dissemination of project evaluation.

Gary Seelye (Academic Development Services) received $22,575 from the US Department of Agriculture through the PA Department of Education for the 2010 Upward Bound Summer Food Program for qualifying participants in Cal U’s Upward Bound summer program, which assists eligible students in completing a program of secondary education and to enter and succeed in a program of post-secondary education.

Summer Arrigo—Nelson and Mark Tebbit, (Biological & Environmental Sciences) and 12 PASSHE students will conduct an Assessment of the Impact of Invasive Species on Native Biodiversity in Madagascar’s Tropical Rainforest in southeastern Madagascar with $7,777 from the PASSHE Faculty Professional Development Council.

Gwendolyn Perry-Burney (Social Work) received $30,000 from PASSHE to conduct the R. Benjamin Wiley Partnership Program. This summer, Cal U will help 42 urban high school students to develop the academic and social skills needed to succeed in college. The program was initiated in Philadelphia in 1989, Pittsburgh in 1995, Erie and Harrisburg in 1998, and in Reading in 2000.

Senior Projects Symposium

Jeffrey Sumey and Ghassan Salim (Applied Engineering & Technology), and Gary DeLorenzo (Math, Computer Science & Information Technology) ran Cal U’s first multidiscipline Senior Projects Symposium on April 22. The symposium, conducted during Applied Engineering & Technology’s 2010 Spring Technology Conference, showcased 13 projects by 47 students enrolled in senior projects courses in Computer Engineering Technology (CET), Computer Information Systems (CIS), Computer Science (CS), and Electrical Engineering Technology (EET). Held on the third floor of Eberly, the event had 167 registrants, including parents, high school students, Cal students and faculty, faculty from Westmoreland County Community College, and industry representatives from PTC, GE Healthcare, and Bayer. In the photo, student team iSee, which included Michelle Shanaberger (CSC), Colin Campbell (CET), Kevan Scott (CSC) and August Rodkey (CET), is shown with their computerized vision assistant for the visually-impaired.
Programs & Students

Counselor Education received mid-cycle accreditation from the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs.

Elementary Education was approved by the PA Department of Education to offer a new master’s degree program in English as a Second Language.

English majors Mike Lash, Alex Vucelich, and Rodney Taylor delivered papers or short stories at the English Association of PA State Universities Conference at East Stroudsburg in April. Sarah Downey is their faculty mentor.

Several Honors Program students presented at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference (Harrisburg) and Intersections Undergraduate Research Conference (Robert Morris University, photo). Also, honors students visited the Art Institute of Chicago, the Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Fallingwater, and the Pittsburgh Public Theater.

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Theatre & Dance students Kaitlin Descutner, Mark Rockage, Kristin Ross, Jennifer Majetic, Catherine Hoeffer & Laura Nichols took classes and auditioned for employment at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Lexington, KY. Michele Pagen led the group.

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The PA Recreation & Park Society & Program the Excellence in Recreation Programming Award for the Annual Pike Run Youth Fishing Festival. Also, Parks & Recreation students Joseph Unger and Jared Fencil received the Wayne Johnson Memorial Scholarship to attend the state conference. John Confer (Earth Science) directs the Parks & Recreation Management Program.

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