

Profiles

Faculty and Staff Professional Activities

Spring 2012

Profiles, Faculty and Staff Professional Activities is published each semester by the Office of University Communications. Send information about your professional activities to Valerie Owens at vowens@shepherd.edu.

School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics

DR. DAN DiLELLA, professor of chemistry and chair, Department of Chemistry, received an \$18,234 grant for the upgrade of high performance liquid chromatography and electrochemical capabilities, and DR. CAROL PLAUTZ, assistant professor of biology, received a \$19,755 grant for a multimode microplate reader. The instrumentation grants were awarded by the Division of Science and Research of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. The purpose of the instrumentation grants program is to encourage undergraduate students to continue in careers in science, math, and engineering by allowing the purchase of modern instruments for laboratories and encouraging submission to National Science Foundation research.

Dr. DiLella and his co-contributors, DR. RUTH CONLEY, associate professor of biology, and DR. PETER VILA, assistant professor of environmental and physical sciences, submitted a request for a detector that can be interfaced to a high performance liquid chromatography system to add new capabilities to the instrument to test and detect very low levels of pharmaceuticals and environmental pollutants.

The multimode microplate reader will provide students and faculty with the ability to detect and quantify samples in a multiwell plate, detect fluorescent intensity, and determine absorbance of samples across a spectral range. Co-contributors on the grant include DR. ADAM PARKS, assistant professor of biology; DR. DAVID WING, associate professor of biology; and DR. BURT LIDGERDING, associate professor of biology.

DR. JEFFREY GROFF, assistant professor of physics, presented "Estimating the Size of Onion Epidermal Cells from Diffraction Patterns" at the winter meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers in Ontario, California, on February 6. The presentation focused on a laboratory activity invented by Dr. Groff for his physics students. This activity uses the principles of laser diffraction taught in introductory physics to probe the microscopic features of onion epidermal cells. The activity emphasizes the relevance of physical principles to bioscience students and draws parallels with the x-ray crystallography work of Rosalind Franklin that led to the discovery of DNA's double helical structure.

DR. MENGYANG LI, assistant professor of chemistry, received a \$10,000 research grant from the NASA West Virginia EPSCoR Research Seed Grant Program to study the properties of Langmuir monolayers. The purpose of the program is to promote scientific research of interest to NASA in West Virginia and to support faculty at colleges and universities in their efforts to initiate research activities, conduct pilot experiments, or demonstrate new concepts that might lead to significant scientific projects in the future. The funding will be used to purchase supplies and for travel expenses to present the research at conferences, as well as provide faculty research stipends.

DR. QING WANG, assistant professor of mathematics, received a research award from the West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence for predominantly undergraduate institutions for "Modeling and Stability Analysis of Mixed Immuno-chemotherapy of Tumors by Impulsive Control." The \$223,928 grant, which is for two years, was matched with \$36,150 by Shepherd. The research team includes mentor Dr. David Klinke at West Virginia University, co-investigators DR. ADAM PARKS, assistant professor of biology, and DR. ZHIJUN WANG, assistant professor of computer sciences, and two undergraduate students at Shepherd University.

Dr. Wang is the first author for a research paper titled "Stability Criteria of a Class of Nonlinear Impulsive Switching Systems with Variable Time Delays" published in the *Journal of The Franklin Institute*, Volume 349, Issue 3, 2012. She also is the first author (co-authored with Dr. Zhijun Wang) of the research paper "Impulsive Synchronization of Lorenz Systems by the Lyapunov-Razumikhin Method" which was accepted for publication by the *International Journal of Applied Science and Technology*.

Dr. Wang is the second author (with Dr. Zhijun Wang) of the research paper "Simulation of SARS Model with Impulsive Control Describing Spread and Control Patterns of SARS Virus" which was accepted for publication in the conference proceedings of the Sixth International Conference on Dynamic Systems and Applications.

DR. DAVID WING, associate professor of biology, recently received a \$25,925 grant from West Virginia IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence to purchase an advanced gel imaging and analysis system. The high-tech camera uses ultraviolet light to detect molecules or chemicals. The 4.2 megapixel density sensor and adjustable focus enhance image resolution and quality, producing publication-quality images. The equipment can be set up to have in-

finite exposure time and allows enough light detection for a short exposure up to a 10-second exposure. Valuable specimens can be used to investigate more conditions instead of massed together to generate enough sample for a single condition.

DR. RALPH WOJTCOWICZ, assistant professor of mathematics, submitted research proposals to the NSF and to the West Virginia NASA Space Grant Consortium. He served on a proposal review committee for the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and as a reviewer for the CogSci 2012 cognitive sciences conference. Dr. Wojtowicz submitted a research article to the Turing Centenary Conference to be held at Cambridge University this summer and a research abstract for the 2012 NASA Workshop on Independent Verification and Validation of Software to be held at West Virginia University.

School of Education and Professional Studies

DR. LAURA CLAYTON, professor of nursing education, was named as one of five finalists for the West Virginia Humanities Council's 2011 Faculty Merit Foundation Professor of the Year. Dr. Clayton cofounded the Emmanuel's Table Free Clinic in Martinsburg in 2006, serves on the Eastern Panhandle Medical Reserve Corps Steering Committee, is the peer reviewer for *Nursing Education Perspectives* by the National League for Nursing, and is the president of the board of directors for the Shenandoah Valley Medical System. In 2010 she received the West Virginia University School of Nursing Golden Graduate Award and received the Nursing Excellence Award in Nursing Education from the West Virginia Center for Nursing in 2007. Dr. Clayton received her certification as a certified nurse educator by the National League of Nursing in 2010.

The Faculty Merit Foundation was started to recognize and reward excellence in higher education at private and public colleges and universities across the state. Candidates are nominated by their students and colleagues. The five finalists were honored at a March 13 reception and banquet in Charleston.

Shepherd faculty members who have previously been honored by the Faculty Merit Foundation include **DR. ED SNYDER**, **DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT**, and **DR. LINDA TATE**, who were winners of the Outstanding Professor of the Year award in 2010, 2006, and 2004, and **DR. SCOTT BEARD** and **DR. JERRY THOMAS**, finalists in 2009 and 2007.

DR. DOROTHY HIVELY, assistant professor of education, special assistant to the vice president for academic affairs, and director of assessment and accountability, was accepted to attend the 40th annual HERS (Higher Education Resource Services) Institute this summer at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

HERS, an educational nonprofit, provides leadership and management development for women in higher education administration around the world. Since 1972, HERS has served the higher education community, preparing more than 4,300 women faculty and administrators for leadership roles. HERS has active alumnae on more than 1,200 private and public campuses and more than 500 HERS alumnae serve in senior-level positions. This year's theme is Women Leaders of Today: Accepting the Challenge of Re-Inventing Higher Education. Curricular themes include planning and leading change in the academy, managing and investing strategic resources, engaging individual and institutional diversity, and understanding the environment for higher education.

Alumnae of the HERS Institute include **DR. ANN LEGREID**, professor of geography and dean of the School of Business and Social Sciences, and **DR. VIRGINIA HICKS**, professor of health and

physical education and dean of the School of Education and Professional Studies. Both attended the institute in 2005.

DR. REBECCA MERCADO, assistant professor of education, and **DR. TAUNA COLE**, assistant professor of education, co-presented a workshop for teachers on November 5, 2011 at the National Convocation of Kappa Delta Pi, Education Honor Society, Indianapolis, Indiana. Their workshop, titled *Comprehension Zone: Caution! Teach Before Testing*, drew new and veteran elementary and secondary teachers as well as teacher educators to learn cognitive and metacognitive comprehension strategies to help students improve their comprehension of both literature and expository text. Workshop evaluations rated the workshop among the best of the conference.

School of Arts and Humanities

DR. KURTIS ADAMS, assistant professor of music and director of jazz studies, performed at the biennial conference of the North American Saxophone Alliance in Tempe, Arizona, in March with **DR. NATHAN LINCOLN-DECUSATIS**. They performed a series of works by Chopin and Schumann that they have deconstructed and rearranged as vehicles for jazz improvisation. Dr. Adams has had a busy semester performing frequently with his own jazz quartet in Washington, D.C., featuring fellow music department faculty member **DR. MARK COOK**. Dr. Adams also attended the Jazz Education Network conference in Louisville, Kentucky, in January and coordinated the Eastern Regional Jazz Festival at Shepherd.

DR. MARK CANTRELL, assistant professor of English, recently published his essay "Dark Soundings: Teaching Heavy Metal Adaptations of *Moby-Dick*" as part of the book *Adaptation and American Studies: Perspectives on Research and Teaching*, published by Germany's Heidelberg University. This essay draws on his experience teaching *Moby-Dick* at Shepherd and the University of Miami to explain the appeal of Melville's book for adaptation by contemporary metal bands and argues for the efficacy of using such adaptations in helping students connect with this canonical novel.

In December 2011, Dr. Cantrell was elected to be a representative for the Middle Atlantic region in the Delegate Assembly of the Modern Language Association. His three-year term began on January 9 and will involve yearly attendance of the MLA annual convention to meet with the Delegate Assembly and vote on policies and guidelines for the MLA.

DR. MARK COOK, assistant professor of music and director of music theory and composition, was named a finalist of the International Music Prize for Excellence in Composition 2011, awarded by the National Academy of Music in Greece. Cook, who submitted his piece "Piano Sonata" to the master status category of the competition, is among 210 entrants worldwide. The piece was originally written for a former student of the department, Jason Solounias. Cook said that the work consists of "unfinished strands" of music from throughout his career and requires a performer who possesses the intuitive and aesthetic skills allowing for spontaneous composition. Each submission was evaluated by at least five members of the artistic committee; only entrants who had been nominated by at least four members of the artistic committee were declared finalists of the competition.

Dr. Cook was named the West Virginia Music Teachers Association Commissioned Composer for 2012. In response to this honor, he has begun work on a song cycle for soprano and piano. Wishing to explore relevant subject materials, Dr. Cook sought the advice of friend and colleague **DR. SYLVIA BAILEY SHURBUTT**, who suggested the *Anthology of Appalachian Writers* (for which she serves

as editor) as a potential source, as well as faculty members and the Appalachian Heritage Writer in Residence Ron Rash. Shepherd alumna Lawren Hill, currently in the graduate opera studies program at the Manhattan School of Music, and Jason Solounias, former student of **DR. ROBERT SCOTT BEARD** and currently in the DMA piano performance program at Catholic University of America, have agreed to perform the cycle at the WVMTA conference, to be held at Shepherd University in October.

Dr. Cook serves as a guest lecturer in music theory and composition at the Barbara Ingram School of the Arts in Hagerstown, Maryland, and is currently writing an online textbook, "Foundations of Music Theory," to be released in July by Flat World Knowledge Publishing.

PAMELA C. EDWARDS, adjunct instructor in history and English, presented a paper titled "Enabled Environments, Accessible Bodies: Helen E. McCullough and the Wheelchair Kitchen" at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology and a second paper titled "Preserving 'Family Values': Cross-Generational Transmission of 'Core Values' in the Lesbian Community" at the annual meeting for the Social Science History Association, in November 2011. She plans to submit revised and expanded versions of these papers to be considered for publication in related journals over the course of the next few months. She is scheduled to present a third paper at the Appalachian Studies Conference in March, tentatively titled "Housewifery to Home Economists in the Appalachian South."

Between 2009 and 2011, Edwards has had four book reviews published in various academic publications, including reviews of Martin Duberman's *A Saving Remnant: The Radical Lives of Barbara Deming and David McReynolds* for the fall 2011 edition of the *GLBTQ Newsletter*; Jarod Roll's *Spirit of Rebellion: Labor and Religion in the New Cotton South for the Florida Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2011); Marko Maunula's *Guten Tag, Y'all: Globalization and the South Carolina Piedmont, 1950-2000* for *South Carolina Historical Magazine* (January-April 2010); and Steven High and David W. Lewis's *Corporate Wasteland: The Landscape and Memory of Deindustrialization for The Michigan Historical Review* (Spring 2009). She is currently pursuing three research projects, one dealing with the role of professional women in the Appalachian South and another focused on lesbian organizations in the American southeast. A more minor project concerns labor relations and disability in World War I and is associated with a collaborative publication project in North Carolina.

DR. HEIDI M. HANRAHAN, assistant professor of English, guest-edited and wrote the introductory essay for the fall 2011 issue of *Studies in American Humor*, which featured six essays on the subject of "Funny Girls: Humor and American Women Writers." **DR. TIM NIXON**, assistant professor of English, also had an essay appear in that issue.

ED HERENDEEN, professor of theater, was appointed to the governing board of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national service organization for the American theater (www.tcg.org).

MONICA LARSON, assistant professor of communication and new media, was featured in a segment on West Virginia Public Broadcasting. The story covered Larson's COMM 344 Game Design class and its recent initiative to create civics games for Shepherdstown Elementary School fifth graders. Using the fifth grade social studies textbook and curriculum, the Shepherd students developed four original board games, covering topics ranging from the Electoral

College to the branches of government. The communication students supervised preliminary game testing at the elementary school and also did a follow up visit with the optimized games. The full interview MP3 and transcript can be found at www.wvpubcast.org/newsarticle.aspx?id=23256.

DR. JIM LEWIN, professor of English, presented a paper titled "Hamlet's Hard-Boiled Ethics" at the Ohio Valley Shakespeare Conference in East Lansing, Michigan, in October 2011. This spring semester he is on sabbatical, exploring "Shakespeare's Known World."

DR. JOHN E. STEALEY III, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, reviewed the book, Andrew L. Slap, ed., *Reconstructing Appalachia: The Civil War's Aftermath, New Directions in Southern History* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2010) in *The Journal of Southern History*, LXXVIII, No. 1 (February 2012): 191-93. In October 2011, a contractor for the United States Postal Service retained Dr. Stealey as a consultant to review and write descriptive historical prose accompanying the issuance of a forthcoming stamp commemorating the state of West Virginia's sesquicentennial. He critiqued the proposed stamp design, and he disclaims any role in the selection of a final design.

Last October, Dr. Stealey engaged in an extensive speaking foray in the Great Kanawha Valley. On October 18 at the meeting of the C. E. Jones Historical Society at West Virginia State University, Institute, he spoke on the topic "Was West Virginia a Slave or Free State upon Admission to the Union?" About 50 students and faculty attended. In the evening, he appeared with two other historians on a panel at the Charleston Civic Center answering spontaneous questions for an hour and a half about any phase of West Virginia history. More than 100 people attended the program before the presentation of the play, "A New Home for Liberty: Human Rights, Slavery, and the Creation of West Virginia."

On October 19, Dr. Stealey commented about post-Civil War civil rights of African Americans and the exercise of the franchise in West Virginia at a continuing legal education seminar for approximately 50 lawyers. Sponsored by the Mountain State Bar Association and the J. R. Clifford Project, the West Virginia State Bar Association authorized this credit session. Professor Atiba Ellis, College of Law, West Virginia University, Dr. Cicero Fain, assistant professor of history at the University of Southern Maryland, and two practicing attorneys, Thomas W. Rodd and Larry L. Rowe, also participated.

On October 27-30, Dr. Stealey was at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended sessions and met with prospective publishers of future projects.

In the public history area, Dr. Stealey collected, selected, and described the historical photographs from various archives and assembled the 2012 wall calendar for Jefferson Security Bank. The work incorporated historical scenes of Berkeley and Jefferson counties, West Virginia, and the Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland area.

School of Business and Social Sciences

DR. MAX GUIRGUIS, associate professor of political science, presented a paper titled "The Rise and Fall of Establishment Clause Taxpayer Standing Doctrine" at the 73rd annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Political Science Association held in March at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

DR. JOSEPH W. ROBBINS, assistant professor of political science, and a co-author have had a paper accepted for publication in the *Taiwan Journal of Democracy*. This paper examines the demise of the Japanese Socialist Party over the latter half of the 20th century. In addition, Dr. Robbins has been given an opportunity to revise and resubmit a manuscript to *Electoral Studies* that examines the connection between electoral systems and military spending in 50 democracies worldwide. Ostensibly, Dr. Robbins and his co-author argue and then show that party-centric electoral systems devote more funding to the military complex than do candidate-centric systems. Most recently, the *Journal of East European and Asian Studies* has extended an invitation to Dr. Robbins to submit a manuscript for publication in an upcoming special edition that explores contemporary politics in Russia and Ukraine.

Dr. Robbins presented two papers at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association which was held in Seattle. Both papers are collaborative projects with the first analyzing terrorist attacks' impact on voter turnout cross-nationally, while the second finds that candidate-centered electoral systems exhibit a greater propensity to initiate militarized conflict. Additionally, he was invited to serve as a discussant, chair, and panelist at the upcoming Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, but declined the opportunity. Dr. Robbins, along with **DR. GORDON DEMERITT**, led a group of students, faculty, and community members to China. During this trip, the group visited various sites in Beijing, Xi'an, Yangshuo, and Shanghai.

DR. STEPHANIE A. SLOCUM-SCHAFFER, associate professor of political science and chair, Department of Political Science, attended the American Political Science Association's Teaching and Learning Conference, February 17-19. Dr. Slocum-Schaffer was able to attend the conference with a grant from the Center for Teaching and Learning.

DR. JACOB L. STUMP, assistant professor of political science, submitted two articles to peer-reviewed journals. The first submission was "Terrorism Studies and Social Network Analysis: Toward a Relational Research Program" to the *European Journal of International Relations*. He also submitted a syllabus for his Terrorism class, to the journal *Syllabus*. This spring/summer Dr. Stump's book manuscript, "Critical Terrorism Studies: An Introduction to Methodology and Method," is scheduled to be completed. Paperbacks will appear on book shelves in fall 2012.

CINDY VANCE, assistant professor of accounting, attended the West Virginia Council of Accounting Educators Conference—Fraud, Forensics, and Ethics, in Morgantown, September 15-17, 2011; the West Virginia Society of Certified Public Accountants Annual Meeting and Student Night in Shepherdstown, October 27; and the Educational Ethics Conference at Shepherd University, October 14-15.

She completed the Shepherd University Online Certification Course, July 2011, and the H&R Block Tax Course (84 hours), November 2011; maintained her CPA license; and developed a research project to be completed in April. Vance developed a survey sent to 300 Shepherd University accounting alumni from the past 20 years.

Teaching, Learning, and Instructional Resources

DR. JOHN ADAMS, University Professor and graduate associate professor for college student development and administration, presented "Using Behavioral Intervention Teams to Manage, Educate, and Retain Students in Crisis" at the West Virginia Association of

Student Personnel Administrators Annual Conference, November 7, 2011, Flatwoods.

Administrative Staff

SCOTT ANDERSON, associate director and chef for Dining Services, is helping improve food quality and nutrition at schools in Smithsburg, Maryland, as part of Cook Smart, a new initiative. The Restaurant Association of Maryland Education Foundation, partnering with the Maryland State Department of Education, started the Cook Smart initiative in four counties in Maryland. Anderson, who is a member of the local American Culinary Federation, was selected as the chef to work with schools in Washington County. He will work with K-12 schools in Smithsburg, Maryland, help develop 15-20 new recipes, and hold a six-day boot camp this summer to go over knife skills and other kitchen skills.

Anderson, who began as a part-time catering employee at Shepherd in 1991, serves as a chef consultant for Phillip's Food, Baltimore, and chef ambassador to Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board. He hosts a biweekly cooking program "Culinary Passion" on WHAG-TV, Hagerstown, Maryland, and is the information officer for the National Association of College and University Food Systems, Mid-Atlantic region. Anderson also helps young mothers from Harvest Pointe Church in Charles Town through a group called Young Lives, which helps them effectively shop for food and prepare meals.

JOSHUA R. BELICE, area director of residence life, has published 28 internal articles and produced three volumes of the Residence Life newsletter *Ramble On* since starting at Shepherd in July 2010. Belice serves as the Student Affairs Sustainability Taskforce chair and is working on his second master's degree in the college student development and administration. Belice, who has had two articles published in the regional *MACUHO Magazine* since 2010, serves on the Mid-Atlantic Association of College and University Housing Officers' leadership committee as strategic planning coordinator and received the Ann Webster New Professionals Award at the annual conference in October 2011. In 2011 Belice presented on cultural leadership at Penn State in State College at the MACUHO Student-Staff Live-In Conference, co-presented with **DON ROHEL** on sustainability at ACUI held at Frederick Community College, and presented at WVASPA in Flatwoods on sustainability. Additionally, Belice worked in partnership with Marshall University in a student/staff exchange within Residence Life, sending Belice to Marshall University and bringing four Marshall students to Shepherd. Internationally, Belice attended the annual Counseling and Career Development Conference (Cannexus) in Ontario, Canada, in January 2011. The summer of 2011, he presented "Going Green in Res Life: Beyond the Basics" at the annual ACUHO-I conference in New Orleans and also serves on the international sustainability committee for this organization. His ecocritical research titled "Anthropomorphic Representations of Nature in Walt Disney's Silly Symphonies" was selected for presentation at the Association for the Study of Literature and Environment conference at Indiana University-Bloomington in the summer of 2011. An extreme couponer known for holding up the line at drug and grocery stores with stacks of coupons, Belice is working on his first syllabus for a FYEX course this fall on economic sustainability through extreme couponing.

VICTORIA BUCHBAUER, director of career services, and **EMILY GROSS**, director of the Academic Support Center, will present at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) regional

conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, in April. NACADA promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students. The presentation will include a review of the methods and findings for the pilot First-Year Experience (FYEX) interest group Oh the Places You Will Go. Research shows that students who are more engaged at college, both inside and outside the classroom, and who build strong communities for themselves are more likely to succeed and be retained. The Oh the Places You'll Go FYEX interest group helps to foster this type of experience by offering the opportunity for students to develop a close-knit community of learners who share a common quest—the rite of passage of all college students—choosing a major. This was the first course of its kind at Shepherd whose purpose is to assist undeclared first-year students through a major exploration process. Buchbauer and Gross's plans for statistical data include tracking the history of major declarations of these class attendees.

DR. THOMAS C. SEGAR, vice president for student affairs, provided the keynote address "Leadership and College Success: Making the Grade and Making the Difference" at the Blue Ridge Community and Technical College Leadership Academy. He also presented four programs at the West Virginia Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference in Flatwoods: Aligning University Enrollment Goals with Housing Maximization Strategies; Diversity Education Skills for New Professionals; Factors Influencing Student Participation in Social Change Behavior; and Taming the Wild: Successfully Navigating Institutional Politics. Dr. Segar was inducted into Chi Sigma Alpha International Student Affairs Professional Honors Society and the Golden Key International Honor Society.

DR. RAY SMOCK, director of the Robert C. Byrd Center for Legislative Studies, received the Roger R. Trask Award of the Society for History in the Federal Government. He is the fourth recipient of the award which honors historians whose career and work reflects the unique importance of federal history and the mission of the society. He accepted the award at the annual meeting of the Society for History in the Federal Government and gave the plenary address on March 21, at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.