



# College of Liberal Arts Newsletter

Spring 2009

## Dean Reflects on Her First Year

Dr. Deanna Shields accepted the position of Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in July, 2008. With her first year as Dean drawing to a close, Dr. Shields recently agreed to an interview on short notice, an example of her open door policy. When asked what she has found surprising, she said it is the amount of time she spends talking to and advising faculty, students and staff in her role as dean, and as the continuing Director of the Master's Program in Criminal Justice. Administrating is as much people work as it is paperwork.

One of her goals has been to promote community in the College of Liberal Arts, including annual gatherings like the Holiday Feast and the Spring Open House, a well-attended

event, as well as a common Honors Society initiation dinner for students joining the six societies in Liberal Arts. She anticipates that the newsletter will be a useful way for the programs' talented faculty members to share news of their own and their students' activities and accomplishments.

Dr. Shields also reflected on the future of the College. She welcomes new president, Dr. Thomas L. Krepel, who has recently been on campus speaking with various constituents, including Faculty Senate representatives. The College of Liberal Arts also welcomes two new faculty members for next year: Dr. Frances Davey, who will serve as a temporary Assistant Professor of History, and Dr. Jennifer Myers, who will serve as Assistant

Professor of Criminal Justice. We also welcome Mr. Jason Thomas, an expert in the field of Intelligence, who will be teaching two classes in the fall and providing lab experiences and internships for students in the National Security and Intelligence major.

A search for a Spanish professor is currently under way, and thanks to Interim President McClain, we are in the final stages of hiring for a brand new position in Philosophy. Progress has been made in accomplishing outcomes-based learning goals and all three departments have elected their Chairpersons. Dr. Shields said, "I feel very supported by faculty and staff and look forward to a new academic year."

## Language and Literature Faculty Win Awards

Three Language and Literature faculty members were honored at the recent 32nd Annual Academic Awards Celebration and two faculty members were honored with Faculty Recognition Awards.

Dr. Leland George, Professor of English, was named the 2008-2009 recipient of the William A. Boram Award for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Erin Hippolyte, Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Chair of the International Education Committee, received the Excellence in Academic Advising Award.

Amy Wilson, an adjunct faculty member in Languages and Literature, earned the Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award

for her many years of excellent teaching at FSU.

Two Language and Literature faculty received Faculty Recognition Awards, including Kevin Smith, Director of Student Publications, and Dr. Angela Schwer. Faculty Recognition Award are awarded for outstanding contributions to students, the college, colleagues and the community.

Kevin Smith also received the Paul E. Edwards Award for Teaching Excellence. Displays that celebrate Schwer and Smith can be viewed in the Fairmont State University Library.



Dr. Leland George

# Students Honored at the 32nd Annual Academic Awards Celebration

College of Liberal Arts students received the following awards on May 8, 2009 at the ceremonies in Colebank Hall:

Molly Born	Outstanding Student in Journalism and Outstanding Student in French
John Bowman	Language and Literature Community of Scholars Award
Lora Bross	Carolyn Coakley-Hicherson Memorial Scholarship
Amanda Ejimofor	Outstanding Sociology Student Award
Joseph Facemire	National Security & Intelligence Award
Roger Glaspell	Political Science Achievement Award
Jessica Jirak	Outstanding Graduating Senior Psychology Award
James Lister	William & Doretha Clayton Barnes Prize in History
Sarah Moore	Outstanding Student in English Education
Celi Oliveto	Salvatore, Anna, Thomas, James & Giovanni Peluso Scholarship
Jessica Patterson	John Teahan Memorial Endowed Scholarship
Owen Scott	Criminal Justice Achievement Award
Jason Vanfosson	Outstanding Student in English
Derek Vankirk	Mildred Mason Newcome Endowed Scholarship
Michael Vozniak	Mary Esther and Dr. Byron Jackson Scholarship



**Student John Bowman receives the Language and Literature Community of Scholars Award from L&L Chairman Dr. J. Robert Baker.**



**Roger Glaspell receives the Political Science Achievement Award.**



**Owen Scott receives the Criminal Justice Achievement Award.**

<b>Year 2008-2009</b>	
<b>College of Liberal Arts</b>	
Faculty Members:	36
Undergraduate Students:	1045
Graduate Students:	34
BAs/BSs awarded this year:	143
MA's awarded this year:	8

# Student and Faculty News

*(in alphabetical order)*

## **Behavioral Science Programs**

John Fitch was featured in the Times West Virginian as a "Local Hero" for his dedication as an instructor at Fairmont State.

Dr. Tadashi Kato was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure. He is currently mentoring several students on research projects with polygraph equipment acquired through a West Virginia EPSCoR NSF grant. Students conducting psychophysiological experiments include Daniel Starsick, Teresa Sestito, Celena Spring, and Arlo Sterling. Dr. Kato also participated in the Christmas Benefit show last December at the Monongalia Arts Center, and gave cultural presentations in Ohio and New York.

Dr. Ann Shaver reports that eleven psychology students were inducted in May, 2009 to the Student Psychology Association. The SPA has been busy all year with activities, including Hospice Training, assisting the Marion County Humane Society, CASA Training, Big Brother/Big Sisters, the Cinderella Project, and the Bowl-a-thon for Animals. Dr. Shaver coordinated the recent West Virginia Pay Equity Conference at Fairmont State where students and other met with Senator Rockefeller's representative regarding the Equal Pay & Fairness Act for Equal Pay. Dr. Shaver also coordinated the State AAUW Spring Conference.

Last summer, Dr. Joe Shaver began training as an "Ethics Investigator" for the WV Board of Examiners of Psychologists. As part of the training, he has conducted two investigations under the supervision of a trained investigator. Dr. Shaver attended both

the fall and spring conferences of the West Virginia Psychological Association (WVPA), and also attended symposiums on the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale, Procedural Safeguards in Forensic Assessment, and the Treatment and Intervention Techniques for Individuals who have Suffered Captivity.

Dr. Nancy Taylor successfully defended her dissertation in March, 2009. She recently attended a conference on "Death and Dying/Ethics in the Helping Profession." In April, she received her license to provide supervision (ALPS) to individual working toward West Virginia counseling licenses (LPC).

Dr. Craig White is currently an advisory board member for MAYSP (Morgantown Area Youth Services Program), an effective anti-addiction program. He also serves as a Commissioner on the Marion County Parks and Recreation Commission and as a Faculty Senator for Behavioral Sciences.

## **Language and Literature Programs**

Dr. J. Robert Baker presented a paper on seeing in Iris Murdoch and Joseph Conrad in February at the University of Louisville. Dr. Baker has recently been inaugurated as the Chair of Languages and Literature, and continues to administer the Honors program. He reports that a new scholarship honoring Christiane Buck Sweeney has been endowed at the Foundation and will be awarded to a French major next year. Madame Sweeney was a long-time colleague who ably headed the French program.

Dr. Judy Byers, the Director and Abelina Suarez Senior Professor of

Folklore Studies, delivered the 19th FSU Presidential lecture, "Saluting Abelina Suarez and the Asturias-West Virginia Connection," in September, 2008. In April, Dr. Byers presented a session at the Mountain State Storytelling Institute, and also presented to students as part of the Student Exchange Partnership between FSU and the University of Calabria at Cosenza. Dr. Byers, with Noel W. Tenney, mentored an undergraduate research project through an Appalachian Teaching Project grant sponsored by the Appalachian Regional Commission; part of the student research was conducted during the Folklife Center's Roads to Appalachia Student Study Abroad to Wales and England last summer. Students have presented their work at conferences in Washington, CD, in Portsmouth, OH, and at FSU's Celebration of Student Scholarship.

Noelia Escudero, a native of Argentina, was at FSU as a foreign language teaching assistant (FLTA) for the 2008-2009 academic year. She came to the U.S. as part of a group of twelve FLTA from her country who are teaching here and taking classes. She holds a degree in English education.

Dr. Suzanne Heagy had a critical article, "Democracy and Divine Difference: Whitman's Calamus Poems," published in January in an anthology of new critical perspectives edited by Dr. Kanwar Dinesh Singh. Two poems are forthcoming this fall in UpHook Press' annual poetry anthology. She was the featured reader for the Morgantown Poets in May.

Dr. Sharon Hiltz was promoted to Senior Professor.

Dr. Erin Hippolyte coordinated the University's participation in HEPC's study trip to Quebec in May. Two English majors—Shasta Gibson and Michelle Yost—and Nick Oliveto were selected to attend.

Dr. Jack Hussey, Professor Emeritus, read from his new book, The Ghosts of Walden, at the Brooks Gallery in April. A work of fiction, the book includes three stories set in New England during the turbulent nineteenth-century. Characters struggle with their own demons and with the conflicts of their time: slavery, temperance, immigration, the status of women and the new railroads. The book may be purchased on-line at Amazon.com or at the bookstore in the Falcon Center.

Rosalbe Ovalle, Adjunct Faculty in Foreign Languages, took eight Taylor County Middle School students to a foreign languages competition in Taylor County, where the students placed second in folkloric dance. Almost three hundred area high school students participated in the event.

Dr. Rhonda Sanford hosted the annual Spenser Society Luncheon at MLA in San Francisco in January, 2009. She also received a grant from the Office of Research to work on her upcoming book, "Representations of Legitimacy and Illegitimacy in Early Modern England," which addresses the broad issue of legitimacy in Early Modern English society by examining legal documents and opinions alongside works of creative literature to determine how legitimacy was represented in a broad spectrum of work. Two of her students presented at the recent Celebration of Student Scholarship.

Dr. Elizabeth Savage has had two articles accepted for publication: "What We Talk Around When We

Talk About The Dick," will appear in Leviathan, a journal of Melville studies, and "Bleached Brotherhood: Loraine Niedecker, Race and Consumer Advertising," is forthcoming in Tulsa Studies of Women's Literature. Dr. Savage's poetry appeared recently in Court Green #6, and she was the Visiting Poet at Duquesne University over Spring Break, 2009.

Dr Angela Schwer was recently promoted to Professor. She presented a paper, "'To Help Them Develop as Men': The Art and Culture of Male Friendship in the London Working Men's College," at the North American Victorian Studies Association Conference at Yale University, in November, 2008. Dr. Schwer and Dr Connie Edwards led a group of thirty-seven Honors and Fine Arts students on the Honors-Program sponsored Shakespeare Road Trip to Cleveland in March, 2009. In May, Dr. Schwer and five members of the Young Adult Literature class attended the 13th Annual University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg Children's Literature Conference. Featured speakers at the conference were award-winning young adult authors Gary Schmidt and Jacqueline Woodson.

Kevin Smith is president-elect of the Society of Professional Journalists and was a guest speaker at a conference in Washington, D.C. in March, 2009, then in Salt Lake City, Missoula, Montana and Montgomery, Alabama in April. Future trips include speaking at a leadership workshop in Indianapolis in June and addressing a group of college writers' at a workshop in St. Petersburg, Fla. in July. Smith reports that Molly Born was named Outstanding Journalism student for the academic year. The Columns won six national awards in the Society for Collegiate Journalists contest with two awards to Born for editorial page content and design and

one each to Stephanie Nicksich for column writing, Nike Oliveto for cartooning and combined staff work for newswriting and breaking news coverage.

Jason Vanfosson, Brittany Heath, Amie Kirk, and Joe Barnosky received Undergraduate Research awards this spring. Vanfosson worked on Melville with Dr. Elizabeth Savage. Heath worked on Kurt Vonnegut, Kirk on the influence of Thoreau on contemporary non-violent movements, and Barnosky on Whitman.

On April 29, 2009, the following students presented at the Celebration of Student Scholarship: Jason Vanfosson, Jane Anne Bowers, Brittany Heath, Michael Vozniak, Joseph Barnosky, Sarah Halbert, Nick Oliveto, and John Bowman.

#### **Social Sciences Programs**

Dr. Ann Bartolo was a guest speaker for the 2009 Women's History Month Program in March, 2009. Her presentation, "Looking Back—Looking Ahead," discussed the history of women working in a non-traditional career such as Corrections, the strides made and the need for equality. Last fall, Dr. Bartolo attended a three-day conference at Mountain State University regarding, "Building Bridges: Offender Employment Specialist Conference." One purpose of the conference was to discuss strategies for overcoming challenges and identifying tools for improving outcomes in offender employment.

On March 30, 2009, the students from the Analysis of Corrections class visited the North Central Regional Jail in Doddridge County, WV. First Sgt. Dorsey toured the students throughout the facility. On this particular day the facility housed 552 individuals in a facility built for 402. This gave the

students an opportunity to better understand issues found in the jail system.

Students from the Female Offender class visited the Secure Female Facility in Hazelton, WV in April, 2009. This facility was opened in 2006, built to house 500 Low Security Female Inmates. At the time of the visit, the institution housed over 400 inmates but had just transferred over 300 hundred of the female offenders to a new female facility.

On April 23, First Sgt. Dorsey administered the WV Civil Service Exam to twenty-three students. Sgt. Dorsey said this is the largest group that has ever taken the exam. He is very happy since WV has many job opportunities right now in Criminal

Justice.

During the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) and National Criminal Justice Honor Society (Alpha Phi Sigma) Annual Meeting in Boston in March, 2009, the crime scene team won 2nd place out of 20 competing teams from around the country. Participating were the following: Sam Blankenship, Alicia Fretwell, Dan Patcher, Owen Scott, Phillip Wagner and Tammy Walker.

Dr. Diana Noone, who now serves as the President of the West Virginia Criminal Justice Educators' Association, directed its conference held at FSU in November. Faculty and students from FSU, Marshall University, and West Virginia State University were in attendance. The

keynote speaker was West Virginia native Kathy Hawk Sawyer, former Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

In March, two Criminal Justice graduate students were honored at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences/Alpha Phi Sigma National Conference in Boston. Philip Wagner won 2nd place in the student paper competition—graduate level, and Pam Wilson was elected to the office of National Vice President of Alpha Phi Sigma, the National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

### We'd like to hear from our alumni!

Next semester's newsletter will feature alumni news. Faculty members, graduate students, and other alumni are curious to know what you're up to, your new positions, new publications, and ongoing projects. Please submit your contributions electronically by e-mail to [hheagy@fairmontstate.edu](mailto:hheagy@fairmontstate.edu) with the subject line: Alumni news, or send us a letter to: Dr. Suzanne Heagy, Fairmont State University, Department of Languages and Literature, 1201 Locust Ave., Fairmont, WV 26554.

Deadline is Nov. 15, 2009. The newsletter will be published in early January.

#### Looking ahead to next fall

It's never too early to start looking ahead. If you plan to attend a conference this summer, lead a student group on a learning trip at home or abroad, if your students are engaged in internships, if you begin a new project or new position, write a paragraph about it, take a picture, to submit for publication in the newsletter next fall.



**FSU criminal justice students visited the North Central Regional Jail in Doddridge County, March 30, 2009.**

I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to the newsletter. Special thanks to Kevin Smith, the First Responder to my call for news. Some contributions were edited due to space limitations. Any errors are mine. HSH