Scholars Developing Scholars

a newsletter for Georgetown College faculty

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Dr. Karyn McKenzie selected for 2008 Cawthorne Excellence in Teaching Award

The spontaneous standing ovation from the 2008 graduating class was clear testimony to the popular acclaim for the choice of Karyn McKenzie as this year’s Cawthorne Award winner.


In all cases, nominators stressed her innovative and effective technique in the classroom and her supportive approach to students outside the classroom.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson, a former student who is now a faculty member at Skidmore College, wrote a four-page single-spaced letter outlining the reasons why Dr. McKenzie deserved the honor, citing Dr. McKenzie’s continuous support during her undergraduate and graduate years. She placed particular emphasis on the way Dr. McKenzie challenged her to stretch herself to reach her full potential.

Dr. Johnson traveled from New York to be present at the May 10 graduation ceremonies so that she could witness the presentation of the award.

Faculty Scholarship Update

Paul L. Redditt (Religion) should see two of his books appear this summer. One is entitled Introduction to the Prophets (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), and it is a 400+ page survey of the Major and Minor Prophets of the Christian Old Testament. The other is entitled Unity and Disunity in Ezra-Nehemiah (Sheffield, England: Sheffield Phoenix Press, 2008). It is another 400+ page collection of fourteen articles and three responses by different scholars from seven different countries. Redditt contributed one of the fourteen articles and served as co-editor, along with lead editor Dr. Mark J. Boda of McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. Redditt has recently become a member of the Old Testament editorial board of the Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary Series in which he has contracts for two volumes. He also wrote two short articles on prophetic books in the Old Testament, one on Habakkuk and the other on Zephaniah, for the forthcoming Cambridge Dictionary of the Bible. It is planned for worldwide distribution, with reduced prices for students in the second and third world.

Kristin Czarnecki (English) will be participating in the Yale Summer Seminar for Faculty on Slave Narratives, to be held in New Haven this June. The four-day seminar includes lectures and group discussions, with 35 participants from the humanities and social sciences, on understanding, teaching, and researching antebellum and postbellum narratives.

George McGee (Theater) performed in an independent film directed by Andrew Willett. In addition, he did performances as Henry Clay for Pikeville High School; Scott County Gifted and Talented students; Hancock County Middle School; “Our Lincoln” at the Singletary Center for the Arts; The Forum at Brookside; Asbury Theologi-
Melody Deprez (Education) was a presenter at the Kentucky Teacher Education & Learning Conference that at the Convention Center in Louisville in March. The topic was Technology Tools for Multi-level Classrooms. Her co-presenters included one of our LBD graduate students, Kayla Hanser, Math teacher at Shacklette Elementary, Louisville. Other co-presenters included Mary Keith, principal of Shacklette Elementary, and 4th grade teacher Jad Salameh. In this presentation they talked about integrating various forms of technology in the curriculum for regular ed and special ed classrooms. She and Anita Jones (Education) also collaborated with Shacklette Elementary as the school hosted the Region 7 Challenge. The event included thirty entrants (from the University of Chicago, Chicago State University, and SUNY) in the contest. The latter is a murder mystery set in a 14th century Benedictine abbey; the author manages to bring in everything under the sun, from semiotics to the problem of universals to Franciscan spirituality to political theory to postmodernism, to … well, it should keep them (and eventually the students) very busy for a while. White also directed an independent study with sophomore math major Woody Burchette, the goal of which was for Woody to produce a paper for the annual HOMSIGMAA (History of Mathematics Special Interest Group of the Mathematical Association of America) undergraduate paper contest. In a field that included thirty entrants (from the University of Chicago and various other major institutions), Woody’s paper, “Thinking Inside the Box: Geometric Algebra in Quadratic Problems from BM 13901” tied for second place.

Dwight Moody’s (Religion) essay “Sanctuaries, Cemeteries, and a Long Dark Tunnel: Honoring the Memory of Dale Moody” will be published by the journal Christian Ethics Today and his essay “On Finding a Old Friend: Reading C. S. Lewis After Thirty Years” will be a chapter in the book Changing Minds, published by Insight Press. The Dallas Morning News continues to syndicate to newspapers (including the Lexington Herald Leader) his reviews of books in religion and culture, about three per month. His manuscripts “Nine Words of a Christian Marriage” and “Follow the Sun” (a vocationally-oriented memoir of his sabatical road trip in the fall of 2006) are in the hands of an editor. He will soon have completed preaching/teaching engagements at Immanuel Baptist Church in Frankfort, First Baptist Church of Mayfield, and First Baptist Church of Morehead.

Tom Cooper (Economics) served as a reviewer for a paper submitted to the Southern Economic Journal.

Heather Hannicutt (Music) competed in the National Association of Teachers of Singing Artist Awards Competition this spring, the top classical recital competition in the country. She won the Kentucky competition in March, advancing to regionals in Memphis. She also facilitated the founding of two new student organizations this spring: The Lyric Theatre Society of Georgetown College (LTS), which is the state lead for the George Decker’s follow-up discussion and lecture on public art and public sculpture was part of the 2008 Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues, sponsored by the Gaines Center for the Humanities at the University of Kentucky. In March, she offered a response to the presentation by public art collaborator, Barbara Jo Revelle (University of Florida) who gave an artist talk at the Lexington Public Library. Decker’s follow-up discussion and lecture on public art and public sculpture was part of the 2008 Lafayette Seminar in Public Issues, sponsored by the Gaines Center for the Humanities. She also moderated a panel at the Convention Center in Louisville. Other co-presenters included Mary Keith, principal of Shacklette Elementary, and 4th grade teacher Jad Salameh. In this presentation they talked about integrating various forms of technology in the curriculum for regular ed and special ed classrooms. She and Anita Jones (Education) also collaborated with Shacklette Elementary as the school hosted the Region 7 Challenge at the Academy of Jefferson County Public Schools. This was a district-wide Math competition for 5th graders.

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Liyan Liu (History) wrote a book review on City of Working Women: Life, Space, and Social Control in Early Twentieth-Century Beijing (IES UC Berkeley in 2008) and an article review on “In Search of Leisure: Women’s Festivities in Late Imperial Beijing” (“The Chinese Historical Review” 14, no. 1, 2007) for Weikun Cheng’s obituary, which was published by The Chinese Historical Review 15, no. 1 (Spring 2008).

Kim Walters-Parker (Education) has contributed an entry, “Communication with Parents to Enhance Learning,” to the first edition of Psychology of Classroom Learning: An Encyclopedia (Eric Anderman, Ed., Macmillan Reference USA, 2009). The entry discusses applications of research on school and teacher communication with students’ parents. She also served as a peer reviewer for the U.S. Department of Education’s Smaller Learning Communities grant competition earlier this semester and will serve as a peer reviewer this summer for the U.S. Department of Education’s Advanced Placement Incentive Program.


Karyn McKenzie (Psychology) gave two guest lectures at University of Kentucky entitled Aggression and Antisocial Behavior.

Michael Rich (MCLC) will spend three weeks in Kyoto, Japan, participating in the Traditional Theatre Training program. The program combines workshops with artists in a variety of traditional Japanese theatrical genres and an intensive portion of training in Noh culminating in a performance at the Oe Nohgakudo (a traditional Noh theatre in Kyoto). He will also meet with Uozumi Ichiro, chief instructor in the Bishu Chikurin school of Japanese archery in Ichinomiya, Japan, for individual instruction and discussion of a continuing translation project of late 16th c. Bishu Chikurin foundational documents.

Jennifer Price (Psychology) is continuing to work on a project involving content analysis of PTSD patients’ written statements regarding the impact of their traumatic history. She is also working with students this summer to prepare a research project to be conducted in the fall.


Alexandru Spataru (Education) participated in the American Education Research Association 2008 Annual Meeting in New York City, NY, in the Round Table Discussion: An Instrument to Collect Data on Motivation for In-Depth Reading: Current Research and In-Depth Reading in Online Discussions. Authors: Tianyi Zhang (Michigan State University), Alexandru Spataru (George-town College) and Michael Rich (MCLC), ed. by Thomas R. Guskey, Thousand Oaks, CA: Corwin Press. The program combines workshops with artists in a variety of traditional Japanese theatrical genres and an intensive portion of training in Noh culminating in a performance at the Oe Nohgakudo (a traditional Noh theatre in Kyoto). He will also meet with Uozumi Ichiro, chief instructor in the Bishu Chikurin school of Japanese archery in Ichinomiya, Japan, for individual instruction and discussion of a continuing translation project of late 16th c. Bishu Chikurin foundational documents.

Emily Stow (MCLC) presented at the 26th Biennial Louisiana Conference on Hispanic Languages and Literatures at Louisiana State University on March 7. The title of her paper was “A Detached Mother, an Absent Father and Three Hopeful Sisters: Family Relations in Lucia Extebarria’s First Novel.”

Rebecca Powell (Education) has been selected by the International Reading Association to be a national program reviewer. She attended a training institute in Atlanta in early May to learn about the program submission and review process. Her book entitled A Literacy of Promise: Joining the African American Struggle (co-edited with Linda Spears-Buntion) is in production and is scheduled to come out this fall. It is being published by Routledge/ Taylor and Francis.

Peter LaRue (Music) continued for a 14th season as Music Director & Conductor of the Central Kentucky Concert Band as they presented their “Raggedy Ann & Raggedy Andy” concert at Transylvania University, featuring Richard L. Ryder & Ken Haddix, Trombone Soloists. He also conducted a special performance of “The Planets” at the Lexington Opera House – featuring Earle Louder, internationally-acclaimed euphonium soloist. He appeared as a guest on the weekly program “Saturday Night at Eight” with Nick Lawrence on WKY-FM in Lexington. In addition, he played trombone with the Bluegrass Brass Trio on ArtsWeekend as sponsored by LexArts at ArtsPlace in Lexington, served as adjudicator for the preliminary round of the Gallaher Concerto Competition, and continued as a member of the University’s trombone quintet, played trombone with the Bluegrass Brass Trio at several area churches during Holy Week. On campus, he organized and coordinated the trip and performance by “FTGIB” [aka Fighting Tiger Grrr… Pep Band] in support of the College at the Final Four Game of the NAIA Basketball Tournament in Kansas City. He also organized and coordinated the Band Gala featuring the World Premiere of “Legacy Music” by the world-renowned composer, David R. Holsinger – commissioned by and written expressly for our Tiger Symphonic Band.

Anita Jones (Education) and Melody Deprez (Education) attended a training workshop for faculty at colleges selected in the state to participate in an initiative co-sponsored by the Kentucky Department of Education’s Exceptional Children’s Division and the United States Department of Special Education Personnel Recruitment Division. This initiative, in the form of a grant, is
designed to recruit individuals in the effort to increase the numbers of trained special education teachers in the state of Kentucky. Upon completion of the training they initiated contact with personnel from Scott County and Fayette County for the purpose of coordinating a community meeting for various members of the school, business and religious members of community organized as “islands.” The Community Planning meeting was held on March 3, 2008, on the Georgetown Campus at the Thomas & King Center. The meeting was well attended by members of the community and resulted in the representative groups formulating strategies that would be implemented in the effort to intentionally recruit individuals, especially those from underrepresented groups, into the teaching ranks of special education. A follow-up meeting was held at the Ed Davis Community Center in Georgetown on April 8, 2008, where the members of each of the community “islands” reported on the progress they had made toward the goals developed in the original community meeting.

Holly Barbaccia (English) will give a paper at the First International Congress of the John Gower Society, “1408-2008: The Age of Gower” (London). It is titled, “The ‘Woman’s Reply’ in Gower’s Cinkante Balades.” At the fifteenth International Medieval Congress (Leeds), she will give a paper titled “Women’s Lyrics’ in Ms Rawlinson C.813?’; also at Leeds, she will chair the panel, “Marriage and Mothers.” She will also spend time at the Bodleian studying several medieval manuscripts containing Middle English lyric poems which appear to feature “women” speakers, in an effort to assess the external evidence for female authorship.

Taylor Thompson (Education) presented at the Kentucky Association for Gifted Education Conference in February, 2008. The title of the presentation was: “Serving the Gifted in the Heterogeneous Classroom.” Nancy Lumpkin (Economics) did a peer review of an article that was published in the Journal of Applied Economics and Policy. In June she will publish an article in Kentucky Monthly magazine, “Steps to Financing a Second Home.”

H.M. Lewis (Music) presented lecture-demonstrations to the music majors at Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR, on February 29, and to the brass instrument majors (about 75) at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway, AR, on March 1 of this year. On Sunday, March 3, he presented a guest artist recital of music for trumpet and organ in the Greene Chapel on the campus of Hendrix College. He was assisted in the recital by his sister, Betty L. Cohen, organist at First United Methodist Church in Conway, and also an alumna of Hendrix. The program included music by G. B. Sammartini, John Stanley, Henry Purcell, Giuseppe Verdi, C. L. Barnhouse, and Johann Ludwig Krebs.

The Math, Physics, and Computer Science department has enjoyed Faculty Fun Fridays approximately every third week this year. They take turns presenting papers and teaching each other different things. Dave DeSario and Austin French each presented the major ideas from their dissertations. Danny Thorne taught them how to program in html. They also ran the Millikan Oil Drop Experiment, which finds the electrical charge of an electron, courtesy of Dave Bowman.

Todd Hamilton (Chemistry) will be working with Kimberly Walters-Parker (Education), Janet Parker (Education), Jana Henson (Biology) and Tracy Livingston (Biology) in presenting a workshop for science teachers to help them prepare students to take the ACT Science Test. The workshop is called CCARS (Content Collaboration for Academic Readiness in Science).

Math Department opens student lounge

When Dr. Homer White’s new office was first constructed, students had to navigate through a storage area to reach it. But now that storage area has been transformed into a student lounge and gathering place where MPC students and faculty can meet, talk, and write equations on the wall-sized whiteboard. Dr. Zevi Miller (Miami University of Ohio) gave a talk on graph theory during the opening ceremonies for the new space – “Radical Domain” – on March 13.