2008 Manning Award presented to Juilee Decker at Opening Convocation

The standing ovation that Dr. Juilee Decker received when she was announced as winner of the 2008 John Walker Manning Distinguished Mentor and Teacher Award was testimony to the popularity of this year’s choice. Indeed, the only person surprised as the selection may have been Decker herself, whose emotion at the presentation was clearly evident.

Decker’s was nominated as a result of a broad range of activities in service to students. As advisor to the art society Kappa Pi, Decker has transformed and energized the organization, getting them involved in community projects as well as campus activities and travel to conferences. As an academic advisor, Decker was lauded for her capacity to offer both inspiration and direction, supporting her students through times of academic challenge while helping them find their calling.

In her four years at Georgetown College, Decker has become a mainstay of the campus. She currently chairs the Art Department, and she is also chair of the college’s curriculum committee. She has been a key member of the Task Force for review of the general education curriculum, serving as the leader of the Diversity GERC.

Given the multiplicity of her own commitments, it is not surprising that one of the qualities a student nominator emphasized about Decker was her ability to give advice about effective time management.

Faculty Scholarship Update

Liyan Liu (History) was featured in “Citizen Kentucky/Citizen China: Hope for a New Century,” a half-hour exploration of the Kentucky-China connection, which aired on July 27 on KET (Kentucky Educational Television).

Ed Smith (Theater) attended the Central Florida Film Festival on August 28 and 29 to show his feature-length film, Surviving Guthrie. The film will also be presented at the Secret City Film Festival, Oak Ridge Tenn., Oct. 9-12. He will present “The Making of Surviving Guthrie” at the Filmmaker’s Lab at this year’s Idea Festival in Louisville at the end of September. He has also been accepted by the Kentucky Humanities Council to develop a new Chautauqua character, “John Marshall Harlan.” In addition, he will direct the Kentucky History Center’s new play, “Lincoln Through Kentucky’s Eyes.” The play will open this fall.

H. M. Lewis (Music) recently received a CD containing one of his pieces (publications). The CD is Entitled “In Perfect Peace,” and is a tribute to the late Bengt Eklund by the Goteberg Brass Band of Sweden, on the Doyen Label (a British label dedicated to brass band performances). Bengt was a Swedish trumpeter who formed the Goteberg Brass Band in the late 70s and turned it into one of the premier brass bands in the world. His featured piece is the edition he made in 1980, published by the Brass Press, of the Concertino for E-flat cornet and band which was originally published in 1870 by John Stratton of New York. The soloist on the CD is Mattias Ekberg. The Band is conducted by Dr. Nicholas Childs, one of the top British brass band conductors of the present day.

George McGee (Theater) collaborated with award-winning Irish playwright John McArdle on their new play, “A Fence for Martin Maher.” The play received a staged reading by the Moondarrig Players in Killkenny, Ireland.
“Fence” is being produced in part thanks to grants from the Meetinghouse and the Kentucky Humanities Council. “Fence” premiers in Glasgow, Kentucky, in November with performances in Georgetown in December. “Fence” is being produced in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute’s traveling exhibition, “Between Fences.” McGee will perform “Henry Clay” at the Kennedy Center, in Washington, D.C., February 2, 2009, as part of the Kentucky Humanities Council’s production of “Our Lincoln.” He has also appeared as “Henry Clay” for the University of Kentucky’s New Faculty Orientation program at Keeneland. Other performances include the Kentucky State Fair, Historical Society, and the National Park Service, “A Walk Through Lincoln’s Life.” McGee will performed “Clay” as a keynote speaker at Morehead State University, Wednesday, Sept. 17; the historic ‘Riverside’, in Louisville, KY on Sunday, Sept. 21; and the Anderson County, Performing Arts Center, Oct. 9. He also served as a drama consultant for the Scott County Gifted and Talented program. This fall, he will direct the one act play with music, “Last Night Karaoke.” Performances will be held at The UpBeat Café Oct. 17 & 18, 8 p.m.; the Georgetown College Grille, Oct. 19, 8 p.m.; and Natasha’s Café in Lexington, Oct. 20 & 21, 8 p.m.

Dathan Powell (Theater) worked this summer on the Lexington Children’s Theatre production of “Still Life With Iris” and is serving on the board for the Lexington Ballet. He has also been working on upgrades and refurbishing of the Lab Theatre.

Joe Lunceford (Religion) has discovered that two of his manuscripts have been accepted for publication by Wipf and Stock Publishers. The first is tentatively titled Parody and Counter-Imaging in the Apocalypse and the second is tentatively titled Biblical Women--Submissive? They are due for publication in late 2009 or early 2010.

Darryl Kincer (Art) presented a show entitled “Pilcrows and Capitulums” at the Asbury College Library August 18-September 29.

Karyn McKenzie (Psychology) presented a two-hour guest lecture at University of Cincinnati - Raymond Walters campus. The lecture was entitled Self-consciousness, self-presentation, and self-regulation. Her dissertation is now officially published as an article. It is co-authored with R. H. Hoyle and is entitled The Self-Absorption Scale: Reliability and validity in non-clinical samples, in Personality and Individual Differences (2008). She also presented the Cawthorne Lecture for 2008 in Hill Chapel on September 30.

Homer White (Math) organized the annual meeting of the Bluegrass Ancient Studies Society (BASS), held this September on the Georgetown campus. BASS is a regional gathering of professors of classics, religion and philosophy, and other scholars whose academic interests involve the ancient world. Reading selections this year are drawn from the Upanishads of ancient India and the Enneads of the Neoplatonic philosopher Plotinus of Alexandria.

Emma Bolden (English) has published her second chapbook, The Mariner’s Wife, by Finishing Line Press in May. Her third chapbook, The Sad Epistles, is forthcoming from Dancing Girl Press this fall. She received a Tennessee Williams Scholarship for the 2008 Sewanee Writers’ Conference and a partial scholarship from the Vermont Studio Center; She was also named a finalist for a Ruth Lily Fellowship from the Poetry Foundation/Poetry magazine. Her poem, “The Established Household,” was nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She has work forthcoming in such journals as Prairie Schooner, The Indiana Review, Feminist Studies, The Cimarron Review, Passages North, and Cave Wall, as well as on Linebreak.org.

Julla Decker (Art) was named in August as Editor of the award-winning journal Collections: A Journal for Museum and Archives Professionals, published by AltaMira Press. Prior to being tapped as Editor, she guest-edited two issues (Spring and Summer 2008) which focused on public art. In June, she was appointed Exam Leader for the Advanced Placement (AP) Art History Exam. In this role, she will be responsible for the intellectual content of rubrics that are prepared for the reading of each year’s art history exam which is administered internationally to more than 20,000 students.

Meghan Knapp (Chemistry) gave a talk at the 20th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education this past July. The title of the talk was “Atomic and Molecular Structure: Making the Most of PowerPoint Animation.” In the talk
she illustrated how the custom animation feature of PowerPoint could be used to help students visualize the dynamic nature of electrons in atoms. She also attended a workshop on NSF (National Science Foundation) Grant Writing. Additionally, she has served as a reviewer for The Journal of Solid State Chemistry.

Jennifer Price (Psychology) conducted a training in administration of the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV and the Clinician Administered PTSD Scale for a research team at the National Center for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder in August. She will be presenting a poster at the annual conference for the International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies in Chicago in November. The poster is titled, “Changing Perceptions on the Impact of Trauma: A qualitative study of cognitive processing therapy.” She is also leading a Clinical Psychology Research Team of Georgetown students who are in the process of designing a study to be conducted this fall.

Brian Langlands (Campus Ministry) presented a paper entitled “Choose This Day Whom You Will Serve: Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove, the Call to Relocation and the Moral Tasks of Domiciliary and Ecclesial Choice” for the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy Seminar. This seminar was held at Georgetown College.

Jim Klotter (History) gave five talks this summer, including one to teachers in western Kentucky, as well as presentations to the Southern Foodways Alliance, the Scott County Extension Service, a Clark County Highway Marker Dedication, the Henry Clay Center for Leadership, and Leadership Kentucky. He also moderated a panel on the subject, “Is Kentucky Southern?” at the Lexington Public Library and attended conferences at the Filson Historical Society and the Kentucky Historical Society. He advised in the production of the multi-media production, “Kentucky Story,” which is shown at the Kentucky Center for the Arts, and did several radio and television interviews on historical subjects. In addition, he was named recipient of the OAK Award as the outstanding alumnus of a Kentucky university. He was honored by the governor at a luncheon during the Governor’s Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship on September 29.

Kristin Czarnecki (English) has had an essay accepted at The Journal of Modern Literature. Her paper applies Julia Kristeva’s theory of depression and melancholia to Jean Rhys’s fourth novel, Good Morning, Midnight, whose deeply troubled heroine has fascinated and disturbed readers for decades. Kristeva theory enables an understanding of Rhys’s character as suffering from a particular kind of depression rather than inexplicable self-destructiveness. Czarnecki will also be giving a paper in San Francisco in March at the Conference on College Composition and Communication. She and two others will present a panel on teaching Virginia Woolf in first-year composition. Their papers will consider approaches to structuring a syllabus, creating writing exercises and formal essay assignments, building writing skills, and above all selecting works by Virginia Woolf that provide sound guidance and models for writing. Her paper will stem from her experience this semester teaching her two sections of English 111 with The Virginia Woolf Reader.

Will Sampson (Sociology) has had a paper accepted for the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, which will be in Louisville this October. The paper is entitled “Evangelical Christianity and the Struggle for Creation Care: The Role of Religious Social Movement Organizations in Reframing the Debate About the Environment.” Additionally, his book, Enough: Finding Contentment in an Age of Excess has been completed and will be published in February by David C. Cook Publishing.

Alexandru Spatariu (Education, in collaboration with Rebecca Powell (Education) and Taylor Thompson (Education) gave a presentation entitled “Disseminating Teacher Research through Research Forums and an Online Action Research Journal” for the Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators 2008 Annual Conference. At the KYTESOL Conference 2008, he gave a paper presentation titled “Defining Partnership: Developing Meaningful Relationships with ELL Families.” The presentation was in conjunction with Alison Jackson Tabor (Education); Heidi Hamlyn, Teacher, Linlee Elementary School; and Laura Hampton, Teacher, Bourbon Central Elementary School. He also served as reviewer for the American Educational Association 2009 Annual Conference. Division C-Learning and Instruction and Division K-Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools.
Michael Rich (MCLC) will present a paper entitled: “Cultural Differences, the Concept of Ownership and Intellectual Property Policy: What’s Mine is Mine and What’s Yours is Mine?” with Dr. Penelope B. Summers of Northern Kentucky University at the Conference of the International Association for Intercultural Communication Studies in Louisville this coming November. He is also busy preparing for workshop in Noh theatre this coming January 27-February 1, 2009, at Georgetown College. The workshop will be taught by four Noh Masters from Kyoto, Japan, one of whom is designated a Holder of Important Intangible Cultural Properties (Collective Recognition) by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan.

Sonny Burnette (Music) is working on a new composition for piano and voice titled “I Cannot Sing,” which will premiere on the Department of Music’s Parody Concert in late October. Susquehanna University saxophone professor Dr. Gail Levinsky recorded Burnette’s “The Yellow Saxophone and Other Colors” (KMTA 2001 commissioned work) during the summer, which will be released this fall. Recent performances of his flute choir works were presented by the Merrimack Valley Flute Choir and the Nashua Flute Choir. This past summer Burnette had roles in several independent films, including “The Audit,” “Hell-ephone,” “Normal Boredom,” “Last Breath,” “The Runaway,” and “Soup Kitchen.”

Diane Arnson Svarlien’s (MCLC) verse translation of Euripides’ Medea (Hackett Publishing, 2008) received a glowing review in Bryn Mawr Classical Review: The review opens with, “This is the Medea we have been waiting for. It offers clarity without banality, eloquence without pretension, meter without doggerel, accuracy without clumsiness,” and goes on to say, “No English Medea can ever be Euripides’, but this is as close as anyone has come so far, and a good deal closer than I thought anyone would ever come.” In fall 2008 (Oct. 29-Nov. 4) there will be a production of this translation, directed by Patrick Wang, at the Stella Adler Studio in New York, an acting conservatory whose many well-known alumni include Marlon Brando and Robert De Niro. In summer 2008, she finished her verse translation of Euripides’ Andromache and participated in two conferences: a translation workshop at the Sewanee Writers Conference, and the Conventiculum Latinum, an annual immersion seminar in spoken Latin at the University of Kentucky.

Tom Guskey (CASA) has been informed that his work Struggling Readers in Urban High Schools is the recipient of the National Staff Development Council’s Best Evaluation of Staff Development Award for 2008. He will be recognized at the organization’s Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., December 6-10.

Rebecca Powell (Education) has a new book titled Toward a Literacy of Promise: Joining the African American Struggle which was published this month by Routledge/ Taylor and Francis. This volume is co-edited with Linda Spears-Bunton, a faculty member at Florida International University. She will also be presenting at the Kentucky Reading Conference in Louisville on September 27 with Debbie Hemmerlein, a teacher at Western Elementary who is participating in the Center for Culturally Relevant Pedagogy grant project. The title of her presentation is “Connecting with Families of English Language Learners: Ideas for Building Effective Partnerships.”

Laura Hunt (MCLC) will present the paper “Imagining Amazonia in the 20th Century Latin American Text” at the 58th annual Mountain Interstate Foreign Language Conference, October 9-11, 2008, in Wilmington, NC.

Holly Barbaccia (English) has been invited to contribute her essay, “The Woman’s Response in John Gower’s Cinkante Balades,” to the collection, 1408-2008 The Age of Gower: Essays Based on the Congress, under the editorship of Westfield Publications in Medieval Studies (issued by the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Queen Mary University of London) and forthcoming from Boydell & Brewer.

Virginie Cassidy (MCLC) has been revising the Student Activity Manual (which comprises a Workbook, a Lab Manual, and a Video Manual) to accompany the 4th edition of the French College Textbook Chez Nous (authored by Pons, Scullen,Valdman) with Prentice Hall (forthcoming 2009). Last semester she authored the web site activities to accompany the textbook Points de Départ, 1st ed, (same authors) and collaborated on the accompanying lab manual, again with Prentice Hall (2008). This November she will present a paper titled “Le livre spectacle de Mlle de Montpensier” at SMLA in Louisville on a 17th century French literature panel.
Heather Hunnicutt (Music) presented a recital with collaborative pianist Daniel Ng in September featuring the music of Floyd, Mozart, Meyerbeer, Debussy, Yeston and Graham/Lovland. Also performing were violinist Raymond Ng and Georgetown’s new gospel choir “Joyful Noise Singers” conducted by Pamela Young. She performed the role of Mabel in Gilbert and Sullivan’s Pirates of Penzance with the Highlands Light Opera Company in late July and early August. She spent the month of June in Europe (Salzburg, Milan, Vienna, Munich, Vencie) teaching with the Kentucky Institute for International Studies.

Rebecca Singer (Psychology) won the Nietzel Award from the University of Kentucky. It is awarded to one outgoing Ph.D. student for outstanding research and teaching contributions. This summer she worked with a team of students from Georgetown College (2) and the University of Kentucky (3) to study sex differences in spatial navigation. The Georgetown students are now working on data analysis so that they can present the findings at an international conference this coming March and a regional conference in April.

Alicestyne Adams (Underground Railroad Research Institute) was featured speaker at the seventh annual Hammack Scholarship Banquet at Murray State University. In addition to her work on the Underground Railroad, she is the author of Rosenwald Schools in Kentucky, 1917-1932. Adams serves on a number of boards and commissions, including the Kentucky Historic Preservation Review Board.

Dennis Dedrick (Sociology) is continuing to work on development of his Caregiver’s Rewards Program.

Ellen Emerick (History) and Lisa Lykins (History) and a group of four history students spent four action-packed days in early June in the Fort Jamestown, Yorktown, and Colonial Williamsburg triangle with its array of living history and artifact museums.

Bill Welsh (Kinesiology and Health Studies) is pleased to announce the Athletic Training Education Program has received full accreditation status from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. This makes Georgetown College one of only four undergraduate institutions and the only liberal arts college in Kentucky to offer this program. He also assisted in the abstract entitled “Fatigue and Recovery in Lumber Extensor Muscles Following a Single Bout of Intense Resistance Training” along with Derek Sword (Athletic Training Student Class of ’08) and Dr. Chris Proulx (former KHS faculty at Georgetown College). This abstract was presented at the National Strength and Conditioning Association’s national meeting and symposium held in Las Vegas this past July. He also attended a Nutrition and Exercise workshop in Chicago on August 22-23 as part of his continuing education for the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credential.

David DeSario (Math) was selected for a professional development fellowship through the Mathematical Association of America (MAA) called Project NExT (New Experiences in Teaching). The two-year fellowship program is designed to address all aspects of an academic career for new or recent Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences and to provide the 85 fellows with a network of peers and mentors. He began his fellowship in July by participating in a three-day workshop in Madison, Wisc., followed by Project NExT sessions at the MAA’s national summer meeting, Mathfest, also in Madison.


Boris Zakic (Art) exhibited his work in the Grand Hall of the Community Arts Center in Danville during the month of September. The show was entitled “The Hard Won Paintings 2005-2006.” The Community Arts Center is under the direction of Georgetown College alumnus Brandon Long. The opening reception for the exhibit was held on September 11.

Mark Christensen (Biology) completed a graduate class in bioinformatics at the University of Kentucky as part of his sabbatical last spring. This will assist his preparation of a new class at Georgetown covering similar topics. He also had a manuscript published in The Journal of the Kentucky Academy of Science fall, 2008, issue. The title is “Organization and Evolution of Fibrillarin Gene Introns.” Co-authors are two former students who did some of the early work for the paper: Sara (Alford) Police and Fonyam Atanga.
Regan Lookadoo (Psychology) completed an advising study last fall and spring assessing the satisfaction of students and faculty with the advising system. She plans to continue this research in the current year.

Emily Stow (MCLC) and Virginie Cassidy (MCLC) co-presented at the Kentucky World Language Association Conference on September 26. The title is “Learning and Having Fun with Moodle.” They introduced the Moodle Learning Management System to foreign language teachers and demonstrated how it can enhance the teaching and learning experience in and out of foreign language classrooms.

Mami Hayashida (Music) was invited to South Korea this summer to teach and perform at two summer music festivals. At the 4th Korea J. Heifetz Methods Research Institute International Music Camp held in Jan-Heung, Yanju-si, in July, she taught and coached high school and college-level piano students. In August, she performed solo piano and piano/violin duo works at the Goyang-si Cultural Center in Seoul.

Prior to her trip to Asia, she and her husband who teaches violin at UK, jointly presented a session on the subject of rhythmic mastery at the 2008 American String Teachers’ Association National conference held in Albuquerque, NM. Her recent state-level activities include the adjudication of the Sonatina Tournament in Bowling Green, Cullaher Competition at Morehead State University, and the KMTA (Kentucky Music Teachers’ Association) Keyboard Festival in Bowling Green, as well as her continuing service on the KMTA board as Theory Chair. Her two pre-college students received second prizes, one in the top category, the other in the second most advanced category at the Lexington Bach Contest in February. She has been recently elected as President of the BAMTA (Bluegrass Area Music Teachers’ Organization), a local chapter of KMTA. Her term will be the academic years 2008-2010. In addition to her musical activities, her essay on diversity appeared in the April issue of Nougat magazine in Lexington.

David Fraley (Chemistry) gave a presentation at the 20th Biennial Conference on Chemical Education at Indiana University in August. This is the premier national meeting for college faculty that focuses on chemical education. His presentation, “Hard Water Makes Interesting Science,” detailed some of the more novel experiments that our students experience in lab. The first three topics of the talk: the Chemistry of Hard Water, Recycling Aluminum by Making Alum, and Touring the Local Water Treatment Plant, were ones that he and John Blackburn developed for the General Chemistry laboratory. A fourth topic on the Analysis of Calcium in Hard Water by Multiple Techniques was developed in his upper-level Environmental Chemistry lab. These topics are a good fit with his recent appointment to the Board of Commissioners of the Georgetown Municipal Water & Sewer Service. At the meeting, he had a private tour of the IU Cyclotron and the Midwest Proton Radiotherapy Institute with the Institute’s medical director. This facility (one of only seven in the country) uses high-speed, carefully directed protons to destroy cancer cells. He later presented a talk on this revolutionary new technique to the Bourbon County Science Alliance teachers group.

Roger Ward (Philosophy) published The Scholarly Vocation and the Baptist Academy, co-edited with David Gushee, with Mercer University Press in 2008. He also led a seminar on Jonathan Edwards on Sin and Self-Knowledge at the Summer Institute for American Philosophy, Boulder Colorado in July. In July, he coordinated the meeting of the Young Scholars in the Baptist Academy on Peace Race and Reconciliation. He is organizing the Bi-Annual meeting of the Baptist Association of Philosophy Teachers (as President) at Ouachita University, and presenting an essay “Stout, Hare, West, and the End of Ethics.”