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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Strategic Plan- AY 2013-2014

Vision Statement

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences will be recognized for providing experientially based learning opportunities. Its distinctive and distinguished programs will contribute to the reputation of Frostburg State University as the premier educational and cultural center for the region and for serving as a catalyst for economic development. The college's efforts in undergraduate research and experiential learning will achieve national recognition for providing "real life" experiences for students and for serving as a national model for regional engagement.

Mission

The mission of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is to provide students with a rigorous liberal arts and sciences curriculum grounded in a flexible, broad-based general education program and enriched by the availability of challenging academic majors and minors, graduate programs, interdisciplinary offerings, and other newly evolving programs that are responsive to emerging societal needs.

The college mission is implemented through a diverse, recognized, and credentialed faculty committed to excellence in teaching, learning, scholarship, and creative artistic production.

CLAS fulfills its mission by preparing future leaders to enter a complex changing global society with competence and confidence.

Core Values

1. We value a high standard of excellence in teaching, service, research, and other professional endeavors.
2. We value a stimulating, collaborative, and supportive setting for students, faculty, staff, and administrators characterized by creativity, innovation, and excellence.
3. We value lifelong learning and professional development for students, faculty, staff, and administrators.
4. We value an atmosphere of mutual respect and support, which promotes open sharing of ideas and viewpoints and debate of issues and concerns.
5. We value high standards of ethics, integrity, responsibility, and accountability.
6. We value the active participation of stakeholders in the planning and development of programs.
7. We value diversity and an atmosphere of mutual respect and acceptance.
8. We value interdisciplinary collaboration.
9. We value assessment as a mechanism for continuous improvement.
10. We value nimble response to change.

Overall Goal

Improve student persistence towards graduation.

Action Priorities

1. Enhance student recruitment and retention efforts.
2. Encourage and support faculty implementation of experiential learning.
3. Expand course redesign efforts to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.
4. Seek resource enhancement from both internal and external sources within a framework of responsible resource management.
5. Support faculty research, creative activities, and regional engagement activities, especially those involving students.
6. Link unit strategic planning and program review process to resource allocation.
7. Develop new programs to respond to emerging needs and to workforce shortage areas.
8. Encourage and support interdisciplinary learning opportunities across the curriculum.
9. Develop and enhance CLAS programs supporting international student and faculty exchange.

FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY

One University. A World of Experiences.

CLAS ACTION PRIORITIES OUTCOMES

AY 2013-2014

CLAS ACTION PRIORITIES OUTCOMES
ACADEMIC YEAR 2013-2014

1. Enhance student recruitment and retention efforts.

- Dean's Office and CLAS had representation at all Open Houses this year; the Annual Scholars Reception and Luncheon; and the Bring the Burg to You Area Receptions in Annapolis, Baltimore, and Gaithersburg.
- Dean was a member of the Enrollment Management Committee.
- Dean's Office sponsored the Dean's Student Colloquium.
- Dean attended meetings of the USM STEM Advising Task Force, AACC STEM Advisory Board, and the STEM Tri-County Work Group.
- Dean's Office supported USMH initiatives, recruitment, retention, and programming. Associate Dean served as a liaison between USMH and CLAS. She collaborated with faculty and staff there, visited USMH, and went to the Renaissance Scholarship Fundraising Dinner.
- Program Specialist (Linda Steele) and Assistant Dean co-chaired the Western Maryland Science and Engineering Festival Planning Committee. A STEM Fest for elementary students was held on May 3, 2014. FSU, Allegany Board of Education, and the Appalachian Lab collaborated to host the event.
- Associate Dean collaborated with SES and faculty on several student issues and was a member of the Students of Concern Committee.
- Associate Dean served on the Honors Program Advisory Committee, served on the Search Committee to recommend an Honors Coordinator, and attended an Honors Program Planning Retreat on campus.
- Associate Dean and the Dean's Advisory Council selected recipients for eight CLAS interdisciplinary scholarships.
- Program Specialist served on the Beacon Advisory Group and helped with new freshman registration, transfer advising, and other advising opportunities.
- Associate Dean chaired the CLAS Ad Hoc Advisory Committee and attended a few sessions of the University Advisory Committee. Associate Dean developed the Campus Resources at a Glance Reference and sent it out to the campus community. An SES booklet and an Advising Referral Quick Facts sheet were also sent.
- The advising committee completed an "advising syllabus" for students and shared the syllabus with the University Advisory Committee for their feedback. The syllabus was shared with Harriet Douglas for distribution to the Introduction to Higher Education instructors. It was also sent to CLAS Chairs.
- Assistant Dean is a member of the First Year Experience Task Group charged with making FSU's Learning Communities a true first year/2 semester program which should improve the retention rate.
- Associate Dean asked Department Chairs to submit information on retention strategies. The information was summarized and presented to the Ad Hoc Student Success and Retention Committee.

- Associate Dean helped Stacey Utley-Bernhardt to plan the Family Weekend Passport FSU Program.
- Dean and Associate Dean attended an all-day Graduate Enrollment Management Committee Retreat at the Lyric Building to discuss graduate programs.

2. Encourage and support faculty implementation of experiential learning.

- Dean's Office implemented the Presidential Experiential Learning Enhancement Funding Program (PELEF) for the college.
- Dean sponsored CLAS Strategic Plan Support Funding.
- Assistant Dean is a member of the Experiential Transcript Task Group.

3. Expand course redesign efforts to achieve greater effectiveness and efficiency.

- Dean continued to support NCAT Psychology 150, CMST 102, Developmental Math, Math 102, and English 101 course redesign initiatives.
- Proposals for course redesign were implemented for IDIS 150 (Health in America), BIOL 109, CHEM 201, and MCOM 105.
- Dean and Megan Bradley collaborated with USM colleagues, FSU faculty, and others on the Coursera/Ithaka/Gates MOOCs Project. Proposals for Introduction to Sociology (controlled test), Introduction to Philosophy (case study), Introduction to Comparative Politics (case study), Human Computer Interaction (case study), and Train Your Brain Learning Community (case study) were implemented.

4. Seek resource enhancement from both internal and external sources within a framework of responsible resource management.

- Dean received 24 PIN requests for AY 2013-2014. Nine searches are currently being conducted for PINS, and 6 searches are being conducted for FTNTT positions. There were also 3 PIN conversions.
- Dean's Office collaborated with the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and encouraged individuals and departments to apply for grant funding. In Fiscal Year 2014, 17 CLAS faculty applied for 32 grants. Of those applications, 13 grants were awarded for a total of $538,135. Several applications are pending. Seven were not funded.
- Program Specialist and the Dean collaborated with others on several grants including ITQ/TOPPS, Frostburg Grows Grant Project, Maryland Summer Center, and Evergreen Heritage Center ARC Grant.
- Associate Dean implemented an initiative for new faculty to receive mentoring outside of their departments. All new tenure-track faculty members in CLAS were paired with mentors.
- Program Specialist developed a CLAS Newsletter which was distributed electronically each semester.
- Dean works with the Center for Creative Writing, the Frostburg Science Discovery Center, and the Mountain City Traditional Arts to procure resources.

- Administrative Assistant, Cindy Troutman, planned a meeting for CLAS Administrative Assistants in August.
- Dean worked with Advancement to procure resources. He attended Foundation events to meet with alumni.
- Program Specialist served on the Facilities Reservation Committee.
- The Dean attended many CCIT progress meetings, participated in several conference calls, and facilitated communication between all parties for the construction of the new building, equipment requests, and furniture selection.
- The Dean planned movement of faculty/staff into the new building as well as movement of faculty/staff into available spaces across campus.
- Beth Kenney, Director of Academic Computing and Instructional Technologies, consulted with the Dean's Office pertaining to tech requests. Dean's Office worked with her to gather and prioritize tech requests for the 2014-2015 academic year.
- Dean was a member of Mountain Maryland Trails Board of Directors, Chamber Economic Development Committee, City Business Roundtable, Historic District Commission, Leadership Allegany Steering Committee, Frostburg First Board, Leadership Maryland, the Renaissance Group, and others.
- Dean coordinated the Compton Floor Renovation Project.

5. Support faculty research, creative activities, and regional engagement activities, especially those involving students.

- The Eighth Annual Appalachian Festival was held in September.
- Dean and Program Specialist are working with faculty to sponsor the Savage Mountain Summer Academy and other summer programs for public school students.
- Dean and Program Specialist collaborate with the Maryland Industrial Partnerships (MIPS) Program and encourage faculty to apply for this funding.
- Dean and Program Specialist worked with the Undergraduate Research Symposium Working Group to plan and provide funding support for the May 2 symposium.
- Dean and Associate Dean participated in the Sustaining Campus and Community Dialogue Series.
- Dean and Associate Dean attended the Leadership Allegany Education Day which included a student panel.
- Several CLAS faculty and students presented at Focus Frostburg on April 23, 2014.
- Dean is working with a team to increase the role of SERF in the curriculum by providing research, educational, and outreach opportunities.
- Dean and Associate Dean attending the Positive Attitudes Change Everything (PACE) Reception in Annapolis as well as Legislative Breakfasts held in Cumberland.
- The Frostburg Science Discovery Center hosted 3,831 visitors (127 groups) in AY 2013-2014. Notable outreach events included participation in the Storybook holiday and STEM Festival events, as well as hosting the Western Maryland 4H Livestock Skillathon and a display as part of Focus Frostburg.

6. **Link unit strategic planning and program review process to resource allocation.**

- The revised CLAS Strategic Plan was implemented for the 2013-2014 academic year.
- Unit strategic plan action priority progress updates (outcomes) for academic year 2012-2013 were sent to the Program Specialist.
- Unit strategic plan revisions for academic year 2013-2014 were sent to the Program Specialist.
- Dean met with each department Chair every three weeks.
- Dean collaborated with CLAS units doing USM Program Reviews.
- Major programs put assessment plans and updates in Compliance Assist.
- CLAS Assessment Council met several times during the year. Associate Dean coordinates the council with Chair, Heather Gable; and the Assistant Dean is a member of the committee. The elected members of the council reviewed several program assessment updates and provided feedback to programs. Also, revised assessment plans were reviewed.
- Associate Dean and Heather Gable are on the CLAS Assessment Working Group with Rob Smith and Sara-Beth James.
- Associate Dean was a member of the President's Advisory Council on Institutional Effectiveness (PACIE).
- Dean and Associate Dean attended an all-day Strategic Leadership Retreat at Savage River Lodge and are on the Strategic Planning Leadership Committee.
- Associate Dean is co-chairing the Ad Hoc Study Committee on Academic Programming with Mike Murtagh. She is working on a sub-committee with Tony Stair on evaluating program assessment of student learning.
- Program Specialist and Assistant Dean are serving as co-chairs of Middle States Working Groups. Dean and Associate Dean are members of working groups.

7. **Develop new programs to respond to emerging needs and to workforce shortage areas.**

- The RN to BSN program continued to grow.
- Dean is working on a Nursing Dual Enrollment Articulation Agreement with FCC.
- Dean worked with Heather Gable on establishing a new Master's degree in Nursing (MSN) program. The proposal was approved, and the program will begin in fall of 2014.
- Dean, Program Specialist, and Eric Moore continued to work with Anne Arundel Community College to implement the collaborative Engineering program at Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center.
- Dean, Program Specialist, Assistant Dean, Associate Provost, and Eric Moore collaborated with Cecil Community College to develop articulation agreements for the ENEE 2+2 program.
- The new Secure Computing and Information Assurance Degree continues to be implemented.

- Dean's Office supported the Mechanical Engineering re-accreditation as well as the General Engineering accreditation processes with ABET.
- Dean is leading a team to look at the feasibility of offering a Physicians' Assistant Program as well as other health science programs.

- **Encourage and support interdisciplinary learning opportunities across the curriculum.**

  - The minor in Sustainability continued to be implemented, and the steering committee helped to direct the minor.
  - In September, a breakfast meeting was held for first and second year faculty to talk about their accomplishments, interdisciplinary opportunities, and ways the Dean's Office can support these projects. During April of 2014, a follow-up breakfast meeting was held for first and second year faculty to discuss tenure.
  - Assistant Dean coordinated the Learning Community Program. He was responsible for recruitment of communities to ensure a sufficient number of seats for incoming freshmen, and he oversees the placement of these students into communities at Preview FSU.
  - Assistant Dean worked with academic department chairs and faculty to secure sufficient number of sections of IDIS 150 to meet need during period of inconsistent enrollment patterns. Also, he worked with faculty to develop new topics for IDIS 150, 160, and 350.

- **Develop and enhance CLAS programs supporting international student and faculty exchange.**

  - Dean worked with Phil Allen and Richard Russo on their collaborations with folks at Northumbria.

Department and Program Accomplishments

AY 2013-2014

Sustainability Initiatives

Dan Fiscus

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Created many collaborations in experiential learning with FSU faculty and students in Mass Communication, Geography, English, Chemistry, and more.

RESEARCH

- Paper published: Fiscus, D.A. 2013. Life, money and the "deep tangled roots" of systemic change for sustainability. World Futures: The Journal of Global Education 69(7-8): 555-571. Available online or by request: http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/JH4fJu8teEITj74yaujW/full

- Paper submitted - Fiscus, D.A. In review. Conscious, dialectical, holistic modeling of environment to catalyze human-environment sustainability: In honor of Bernie Patten and his contributions to science and society. Ecological Modelling.

- Presentations

    - Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong presented a talk on "Mutual Benefits of Experiential Learning and Environmental Sustainability at Frostburg Grows" at the Center for Teaching Excellence Conference, Jan. 2014, at FSU.

    - Dan Fiscus Presentation entitled: "Mutual Benefits of Experiential Learning and Sustainability at Frostburg Grows" at the Energy & Sustainability Conference, Feb. 2014, in Richmond, VA as part of a session on "Creating 'Living Laboratories': The Transformative Use of Campus Facilities".

    - Presentation entitled: "Science, Sustainability and the Frostburg Grows Project" at the Earth Day event of the Western Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society April 21, 2014.

    - Invited speaker for the conference "Systems Ecological Perspectives on Sustainability" in Helsinki, Finland in Sept. 2014.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Frostburg Grows received a Sustainable Growth Award from the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission, 2014. The announcement and video can be seen here: http://planning.maryland.gov/YourPart/773/MSGC_Awards2014.shtml

- Frostburg Grows was a finalist for a national Climate Leadership Award, 2014. The announcement and video can be seen here: http://www.planetforward.org/idea/frostburg-state-university-and-the-frostburg-grows-project

- In collaboration with many others at FSU, helped to create the President's Advisory Council for Sustainability. This new Council at FSU was formed in 2013 and began meeting in 2014 to help advise the President and guide FSU actions for sustainability.

Department of Biology

Sunshine Brosi

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Fall 2013, BIOL 425: Forest Ecology & Conservation, planting of over 50 trees on Frost Avenue & Ormond Street through a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation.

- Intersession 2014, BIOL 484: Field Experience in Ethnobotany & Ecology, research trip on sustainability of materials for traditional Cherokee basketry with the Eastern Band of the Cherokee in NC, supported by PELEF. Externally evaluated through the Research in the Interdisciplinary Courses (RISC) assessment, learning gains and course elements were evaluated on a 0-5 scale with the course average: 4.56 compared to the average of all courses taking the survey 3.64.

- Spring 2014, BIOL 428: Ethnographic Field Techniques, presented research at the International Society for Economic Botany annual meeting, supported by PELEF and a FSU Faculty Development Grant. Externally evaluated through the Research in the Interdisciplinary Courses (RISC) assessment.

- Summer 2014, BIOL 460: Field Experiences in Forestry, removal of ash trees following emerald ash borer infestation in Mount Pleasant & Glen Denning Parks and certification of students in chainsaw safety and directional felling, certification of students as instructors of Project Learning Tree, certification of students for Wildland Firefighters.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Peer-reviewed publications: Brosi, Sunshine L. & Ryan D. Huish. 2014. Chapter 6. Aligning Plant Identification Curricula to Disciplinary Standards Through the Framework of Student-Centered Learning and Vougioukalou, Sofia A., Keri Barfield, Ryan D. Huish, Laura Shiels, Sunshine L. Brosi, and Patricia Harrison. 2014. Chapter 3. The Contribution of Ethnobiology to Teaching Plant Sciences: Student and Faculty Perspectives, Innovative Strategies for Teaching in the Plant Sciences, Cassandra L. Quave (Ed.), Springer, 453p.

- Completed three graduate students: Mitchell Hall, Michael McAllister, and Justin Bower

- External Grant: Science-Based Approach to Elm Management, 2013, District of Columbia, Urban Forestry Association, awarded through Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG): #13-023 ($36,158)

- Internal Grants: PELEF, President's Experiential Leadership Education Fund, travel support for Field Experiences in Ethnobotany & Ecology ($2,000). PELEF, travel support for student presentations at the Society for Economic Botany Meeting, ($2,000). Faculty Development grant for presentations at the Society for Economic Botany Meeting

($692.95).

- Scientific Presentations (*=graduate student, **=undergraduate student: Society for Ethnobiology (SOE) & Society for Economic Botany (SEB) joint annual meeting, Cherokee, NC, May 11-15. Organizer of Teaching Tuesday Workshops: Hall, Karen & Sunshine Brosi, Dyeing to learn objectives: using a natural dyes activity to develop learning objectives. Oral Presentations: Sunshine Brosi & Ryan Huish. Cherokee collaborative field school: teaching core concepts & competencies in ethnobiology through the lens of Cherokee Artisan Resources, Huish, Ryan and Sunshine Brosi, Student-centered learning and ethnobotanical connections in plant identification curriculum: engaging students in broader scientific competencies, Michael McCampbell*, Sunshine Brosi, Thomas Hall, Arnold Saxton, & Scott Schlarbaum, Seedling establishment of American chestnut, Castanea dentata, in Pennsylvania, Bower, Justin**, Scott Schlarbaum, Eagle Brosi, & Sunshine Brosi, Health status of butternut (Juglans cinerea L.) in Maryland, Poster Presentations: Ngofa, Sedia**, Juliana Hong**, Laura Smith**, Scott Schlarbaum, Ami Sharp, & Sunshine Brosi, Increasing the availability of butternut for traditional Cherokee dye, Messick, Kerry**, Michael McCampbell*, Matt Tillett*, Megan Carr**, Ami Sharp, Scott Schlarbaum, & Sunshine Brosi, Establishment of white oak, Quercus alba, seedlings for Cherokee basketry material, Hall, Mitch*, J.B. Churchill, & Sunshine Brosi, Prioritizing management strategies in Washington, DC urban forests, Echeverri, Gabe**, Ian Cheek**, Ami Sharp, Scott Schlarbaum, & Sunshine Brosi, Rivercane as a companion for cultural resource butternut plantings.

- Invited Presentation, Appalachian Teas, Gambrill State Park, April 11. Botany of Cherokee Basketry, Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, Department of Botany, Washington, DC, March 18. Palatable or Prohibited: Conservation Concerns of Edible & Medicinal Plants, Maryland Native Plant Society, Frostburg, MD, February 18. Mitch Hall**, J.B. Churchill, & Sunshine L. Brosi, Management Strategies in DC Urban Forests, Western Mountains Chapter, Maryland Native Plant Society, Frostburg, MD, October 15. Fieldtrip Leader, Mount Aetna & Cranesville Swamp, The Threatened Natural Communities & Rare Plants of Maryland's Mountains, Annual Meeting of the Maryland Native Plant Society, Frostburg, MD, September 22-23. Working Group Coordinator, How to Build Networks for Change. Vision &Change II: Chronicling the Changes, Washington, DC, August 28-30.What do we want students to know – and are we getting it across? Workshop, Annual Meeting, Society for Economic Botany, Plymouth, England, June 29.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Judge, Committee Member, organizer of College/Career Fair, National 4-H Forestry Invitational: The Super Bowl of Forestry, July, Weston, WV (2011-present).
- Leader, West Virginia Wildflower Pilgrimage, Blackwater Falls, May, (2011-present).
- Ecological Society of America: ESA Data in the Ecological Classroom Scholar, EcoEdDL, Advisory Panel, develop exercises for data analyses using Science Pipes-a data visualization tool, Ecological Society of America, National Science Foundation

Award, Digital Resource Discovery and Dynamic Learning Communities for a Changing Biology (DRD) (# DUE-1044359),2012-present.

- Editor, Life Discovery, EconBotEd, Educational Portal for Economic Botany lesson plans.Society for Economic Botany: SEB, Secretary, SEB, elected (2013-present).
- Education Committee, SEB, elected (2011-2014)
- Richard Evans Schultes Student Award, Judge, SEB Annual Meeting, Plymouth, England (2013)
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources: Savage River State Forest Advisory Board (appointed)
- Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Working Group (appointed)
- Sustainable Forestry Certification Audit Process, Campfire Programs: Rocky Gap State Park (2009-2013)
- New Germany State Park, Battling Botanical Bullies (invasive species removal)
- Red Spruce Tree Planting in Savage River State Forest
- Allegany College of Maryland, Forestry Program, Advisory Board.
- Assisted with training: Master Gardener Programs Allegany and Garrett Counties, Envirothon Teams: State and Regional.
- City of Frostburg, Shade Tree Commission (appointed).

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Ethnobotany courses externally evaluated for interdisciplinary components outlined with the syllabus. Each interdisciplinary component was linked to core competencies & concepts in undergraduate biology education, assignments, and was externally evaluated through the Research in the Interdisciplinary Courses (RISC) assessment. Means for learning gains on a 0-5 point scale for BIOL 484 are presented and compared with the average of all courses taking the survey in parentheses.
    i. Coursework from multiple disciplines or areas of study 3.63 (3.46)
    ii. Work with peers from other disciplines or field of study 4.00 (3.41)
    iii. Find similarities and differences between disciplines 3.89 (3.43)
    iv. Integrate ideas from two or more sciences in problem solving 4.00 (3.48)
    v. Integrate ideas from both science and non-science disciplines 3.44 (3.30)
    vi. Study an interdisciplinary problem 3.78 (3.49)
    vii. Ask questions that implicate more than one discipline in answer 3.78 (3.60)
    viii. Talk with faculty members from other disciplines 3.63 (3.33)
    ix. Translate specialized language of a discipline into the language of other disciplines 3.44 (3.26)
    x. Judge relative contribution of disciplines to problem solution 3.44 (3.18)

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Summer 2013, Coordination of Educational Workshops at the International Society of Economic Botany Meeting in Plymouth, England. Collaboration with Kent University and Plymouth University on international student exchange. Travel support provided from a FSU Faculty Development Grant.

David Puthoff

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- As part of the BIOL 149, Plant Physiology, and Molecular Biology classes, students used techniques to design, plan, carry out, analyze and present experiments of their own, giving them experiential learning opportunities throughout the semesters.
- An independent study project was completed that investigated the antimicrobial potential of black cohosh compounds. The student presented the results at the CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- Another independent study project examining the improvement of DNA isolations from Wisconsin Fast Plants was also presented at the CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- A third independent study project conducted over Intersession allowed the student to delve into the world of statistics and analyze the results from a transgenic plant experiment centering on improving tomato's insect resistance using genes from wheat. This research was also presented at the CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium.
- A fourth independent study project was dedicated to cloning a candidate gene from *B. rapa* for the *antocyaninless (anl)* gene. This project will be continued by future students looking for experiential learning opportunities.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Mentored four independent study projects for three different students.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Served as a moderator at the Mid-Atlantic Plant Molecular Biology Society meeting.
- Served the American Society of Plant Biologists as a volunteer at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, DC.
- Hosted three activities for the Western Maryland STEM Festival, including Plant-a-Plant, a coloring table, and Name That Plant.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Along with Geography and Chemistry, a student led project on resoiling, reseeding and regreening the FSU campus got underway. This project is aimed at improving the aesthetic beauty and sustainability of campus by investigating ways to improve grassy areas next to sidewalks that suffer from frequent trampling and winter salt contamination.

Tom Serfass

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Reed-Smith, J, T. Serfass, T. Kihudu, and M. Mussa. 2014. Preliminary report on the behavior of spotted-necked otter (*Lutra maculicollis*, Lichtenstein, 1835) living in a

lentic ecosystem. Zoo Biology:xx:xxx-xxx..

- Jessica R. Brandt, J. R., A. L. Brandt, F. K. Ammer, A. L. Roca, and T. L. Serfass. 2014. Impact of Population Expansion on Genetic Diversity and Structure of River Otters (*Lontra canadensis*) in Central North America. Journal of Heredity 105:39-47.

- Stevens, S.S., B. Amulike, S. Ndaga, J. F. Organ, and T. L. Serfass. 2014. The confusion of common names: a wildlife-specific methodological challenge in cross-cultural research. Human Dimensions of Wildlife 19:191:199.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Appointed by the parent chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) as the policy liaison for the Northeast Section of TWS. Responsibilities include coordinating all policy-related issues and statements associated with state chapters of TWS throughout the northeastern United States.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGE

- Mentoring an international graduate student from Tanzania, Steria Ndaga. Steria will complete her degree this semester in the Interdisciplinary Program in Education. Her research involves assessing causes of land-use conflict between the Massai and land-use organizations in northcentral Tanzania.

Rebekah Taylor

FACULTY RESEARCH

- "Absence of organized lymphoid tissues in the intestine of the freshwater fish, *C. commersonii*" Poster presentation at the American Association of Immunologists Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA, May 2-6, 2014, with undergraduate students Jennifer Kleponis and Andrea Keefer.
- "Identification of crytopatches in the small intestine of wild mice (*Peromyscus* sp.)" Poster presentation at the FSU CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium, May 2, 2014, with undergraduate students Fernando Terraro and Russia Tatum.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Organized and hosted the Science Fair at Parkside Elementary School, with members of the FSU Chapter of the Tri-Beta Biological Honors Society, April 24, 2014.
- "Strawberry Banana DNA," a hands-on activity for the STEM Festival at FSU with members of the FSU Chapter of the Tri-Beta Biological Honors Society, May 3, 2014.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Attended the Northeast Region III Tri-Beta Undergraduate Research Conference, with a poster presentation by Sam Blum and other Tri-Beta Biological Honor Society student members, Grove City, PA, March 29, 2014.

Department of Chemistry

Matthew Crawford

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis, Purification, and Analysis.
  Quantitative Analysis of Local Soil Samples from Frostburg Grows and the FSU Campus (PELEF).
  Interdisciplinary across Chemistry, Biology, Geography, and English departments

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Organized the local high school AP chemistry students from Allegany County to participate in an inquiry based chemistry laboratory experience on campus.

Ben Norris

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- CHEM 305 Research Methods in Chemistry students developed research projects that were presented at the CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium
  - Project Title: When Life Gives You Geraniol, Make Limonene: Synthesis of Limonene using a Biosynthetically Inspired Route. Students: Thomas Richardson and Lauren Rosch.
  - Project Title: Baby Got DHA: Determining DHA Levels in Baby Formula. Students: Tory Knippenberg and Grace Weisenmiller. Presented at the 3rd Annual CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium (May 2).
  - Project Title: Analysis of Stream Water at Frostburg State University: Assessing Acid Mine Drainage in Sandspring Run. Student: Nicholas Green. Presented at the 3rd Annual CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium (May 2).
- Established a Peer Mentor in Chemistry program to support introductory courses in Chemistry, especially those which have been redesigned. Four students have served in this role for CHEM 201 General Chemistry I.

FACULTY RESEARCH (INDEPENDENT STUDENT PROJECTS)

- Project Title: Sequenced Carbazole Oligomers. Students: Keith Davidson and Samantha Wasson. Presented at the 247th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society (March 16-19, Dallas, TX).
- Project Title: Deep Eutectic Liquids as Green Solvents. Students: Erin Benton and Matthew Ellison. Presented at the 247th National Meeting and Exposition of the American Chemical Society (March 16-19, Dallas, TX) and at the 3rd Annual CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium (May 2).
- Project Title: Renewable Fuels Derived from Furfurol. Students: Erin Benton and Matthew Ellison. Presented at the 3rd Annual CLAS Undergraduate Research Symposium (May 2).

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Chemistry demonstration with the student members of the American Chemical Society (November 26, 2013, Beall Elementary, Frostburg)
- Presentation on Careers in Chemistry for AP Chemistry students from Allegany County Public Schools, March 20, 2014
- Liquid Nitrogen Volcano Demonstration (with P. Allen, Geography) – Western Maryland STEM Festival, May 3, 2014
- Served as Chair-Elect (Fall 2013) and Chair (Spring 2014) of the Western Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society, as well as Faculty Advisor for FSU's Student Members of the American Chemical Society.
- Developed a website promoting STEM programs and activities at FSU: www.frostburg.edu/stem

Department of Communication Studies

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Brent Kice

- Had students in Small Group Communication design an audio tour of campus.

Elesha Ruminski

- Engaged in interdisciplinary, experiential learning in Organizational Communication, Intercultural Communication, and Conflict Management through engagement with the Frostburg community throughout 2013-2014, the concluding year of the Sustaining Campus and Community Dialogue Series that was supported through a memorandum of understanding between Frostburg State University and Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office (MACRO). The project featured community dialogues and relationship building events as well as linkages to course assignments and programs on campus.

David Stern

- Students in CMST 225, Interviewing (fall 2013), were required to attend the "Sustaining Campus and Community Dialogue Series" sessions and interview participants as part of the journalistic interviewing section of the course. Students had to interview participants from the community who were not faculty, staff, or students at FSU.

- Stern, D. B., & Kice, B. (2014). "LARPing and Scapegoat Devices: Burkean Selection of Means in 'Darkon.'" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Chicago, IL.

FACULTY RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Brent Kice

- Kice, B., & Stern, D. B. (2014). "Directorial Portrayals of the 'Scapegoat Devices of the Ignorant': Connections in the Selection of Means in 'Darkon.'" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI. **Kice** and **Stern's** paper presented at ECA was on the top competitive papers panel of the Kenneth Burke Division.

- Stern, D. B., & Kice, B. (2014). "LARPing and Scapegoat Devices: Burkean Selection of Means in 'Darkon.'" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association, Chicago, IL.

Elesha Ruminski

- Ruminski, E., & Jackson, J. (2013). "The Mountainside Movement: Promoting Alternative Dispute Resolution in Western Maryland." With Jerilyn Jackson, Coordinator of Mountainside Community Mediation Center. FSU Appalachian Festival Symposium: "Social Justice in Appalachia: Addressing Regional Challenges"

- Ruminski, E. (2013). "FSU Shifts: Presenting a Leadership Competency Model for Local and Global Leadership." With Jeff McClellan and Doug Baer. International Leadership Association. Montreal, Quebec.

- Ruminski, E. (2013). "FAQ for New and Emerging State Communication Associations: Connections among Past, Present, and Future." Roundtable with multiple state association leaders. National Communication Association. Washington, DC.

- Ruminski, E. (2013). "Connecting the Pieces: Approaches to Peacebuilding and Conflict Management from a Variety of Communication Fields during a Technologically Evolving Time." Interactive session. National Communication Association. Washington, DC.

- Ruminski, E. (2014). "Creating Frostburg's Future: Sustaining Campus and Community through a Dialogue Series in an Appalachian College Town." Paper to be presented at the International Town and Gown Association conference, Clemson, SC.

- Stern, D. B., & Ruminski, E. L. (2014). "Moving Town and Gown from Dissent to Dialogue: Sustaining Campus and Community in Frostburg, Maryland." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

- Continued to serve as project manager for a MACRO-FSU MOU for a two-year period (Fall 2012-Spring 2014) to continue the dialogue series ($123,674) and conducted research to prepare a monograph that narrates the process and outcomes of the series. She was awarded an FSU Foundation grant to present the work at the International Town and Gown Association conference in June 2014 ($2000).

- Served as a journal article reviewer for the *Leadership and the Humanities* journal and a proposal reviewer for the Peace and Conflict Communication Division of the National Communication Studies Association. She also participated in a Commission for Student Involvement webinar titled "Navigating the Labyrinth: Women and Leadership."

David Stern

- Kice, B., & Stern, D. B. (2014). "Directorial Portrayals of the 'Scapegoat Devices of the Ignorant': Connections in the Selection of Means in 'Darkon.'" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI. **Kice** and **Stern's** paper presented at ECA was on the top competitive papers panel of the Kenneth Burke Division.

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- Stern, D. B., & Ruminski, E. L. (2014). “Moving Town and Gown from Dissent to Dialogue: Sustaining Campus and Community in Frostburg, Maryland.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

- Stern, D. B. (2014). “Dialogue and Dissent: A Lively Discussion of the Use of Social Media between Professors and Students Roundtable.” (roundtable) Eastern Communication Association, Providence, RI.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Brent Kice

- Served as a communication consultant for the Savage River Watershed Association.

Elesha Ruminski

- Served as a public relations consultant for Mountainside Community Mediation Center. She also assisted the Maryland Communication Association with advertising and served as Second Vice Chair then First Vice Chair for the National States Advisory Council for the Communication Studies discipline.

David Stern

- Served on the Mountainside Mediation Center Board of Directors (Fall 2013) and participated in the Sustaining Campus and Community Dialogue Series (Fall 2013 and Spring 2014)

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Elesha Ruminski

- In teaching her courses, **Ruminski** invited guest speakers from other departments, programs, and offices on campus, including University Police, the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Student and Community Involvement, and others.

David Stern

- Created an assignment for CMST 300: Interpersonal Communication with Dusty Shaffer of the Theatre department involving his production of the play, *Barefoot in the Park.*

COLLABORATION ACROSS DEPARTMENTS, DISCIPLINES, AND DIVISIONS

Brent Kice

- Served on the Faculty Senate

Elesha Ruminski

- Served on the Faculty Senate; Served on the Council for University System Faculty.

- Led the Leadership Studies Advisory Committee and continued to serve on the Presidential Leadership Task Force to continue the conversation about cooperative work that supports leadership education and development at FSU; she collaborated with colleagues across campus to discuss experiential learning, recruiting and retention, and curriculum modification in Education and contributed to the Relay for Life Faculty, Staff, and Retirees team.

David Stern

- Served on the President's Advisory Council on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Department of English

Departmental Achievements

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES

- English Department representatives participated in a number of Noel-Levitz retention and recruitment meetings.
- The department changed Open House procedures to attend the early session. A student was recruited to help.
- This student was charged with providing feedback to the department on how to better engage students.
- The department increased its Facebook presence and started Twitter and Instagram accounts.
- An additional faculty member was trained to manage the department website to help with recruitment efforts.
- English department representatives met with Admissions to discuss strategies for contacting prospective students.
- After Open House, the chair contacts prospective students within the week via e-mail and follows-up by postal mail within two weeks.
- A course release was proposed to the Dean for someone in the department to coordinate extensive recruiting and retention activities, including school visits. We think this is a vital position, although it has yet to be approved.
- The department supports numerous activities to bring students together and encourage retention, including a department picnic, Advising Nights, the Sigma Tau Delta Honor Society, the 3 A.M. Society, Career Expo, and numerous events sponsored by the Center for Creative Writing.
- The department offered 74 sections taught MWF across fall 2013 and spring 2014, from ENGL 101 to classes at the 400/500-level.
- English Department representatives served on the University Retention Council and the ad hoc Student Success and Retention committee.
- The department continues to monitor and revise the ENGL 101 redesign, which improved pass rates, contributing to retention.

COURSE REDESIGN EFFORTS

- The department continues to monitor and revise the ENGL 101 redesign, which improved pass rates, course drift, and grade drift.

NEW COURSES/PROGRAMS

- The department continues to work with the College of Education to reinstate the four-year Teaching Certification option.
- The department instituted a learning mentor program that is part of the new Emphasis in the Teaching of Writing.

- The department added an Applied Digital Writing course to increase student technology skills and provide additional workforce preparedness.
- The department increased the number of ENGL 308 courses (Advanced Composition for the Social Sciences) to support students in the Nursing program. Additional courses will be offered online this summer for those students. The rising numbers of nursing students means ENGL 308 is an area of consistent need. Dr. Heather Gable indicates that ENGL 308 is the best placement for the RN-to-BSN students, as many of them go on to pursue graduate degrees.

Andy Duncan

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Faculty adviser to *The Bottom Line*, Frostburg State's independent student news organization (print and online), since August 2013.
- Took five students to the National Computer-Assisted Reporting Conference in Baltimore, February 2014; made possible by internal grants from the President's Experiential Learning Fund, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Department of English, the Office of News and Media Services, and *The Bottom Line*.
- Resident instructor for the first week of the Clarion Writers' Workshop at UC-San Diego, June 2013.
- Resident instructor for the second week of the Science Fiction Writers Workshop at the University of Kansas, June 2013.
- Classroom visitor, University of South Florida, Tampa, March 2014.
- Classroom visitor (via Skype), Wright State University, Fairborn, Ohio, September 2013.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Juror for the Theodore Sturgeon Memorial Award, administered by the University of Kansas; winning story "The Grinnell Method," by Molly Gloss, announced June 2013.
- New essay, "On Rachel Swirsky," published in *Telling Tales: The Clarion West 30th Anniversary Anthology,* edited by Ellen Datlow (Hydra House, July 2013).
- Contributed to two critical roundtable discussions published by *Locus Online:* "Organizing Books" (November 2013) and "Samuel R. Delany, Grand Master" (March 2014).

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Nebula Award for Best Novelette from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America for "Close Encounters" (2012), awarded late May 2013. "Close Encounters" reprinted in *The Year's Best Science Fiction: Thirtieth Annual Collection,* edited by Gardner Dozois (St. Martin's Griffin, July 2013); *The Year's Top Ten Tales of Science Fiction 5,* edited by Allan Kaster (AudioText, July 2013); *Year's Best SF 18,* edited by David G. Hartwell (Tor, December 2013); *Nebula Awards Showcase 2014,* edited by Kij Johnson (Pyr, May 2014).

- New novella, “Wakulla Springs,” co-written with Ellen Klages, published by Tor.com in October 2013. Nebula Award finalist in Best Novella category for “Wakulla Springs”; winner to be announced at the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America’s Nebula Awards Weekend in San Jose, Calif., May 2014.
- Shirley Jackson Award finalist for *The Pottawatomie Giant and Other Stories* in Best Collection category, Readercon, Burlington, Mass., July 2013.
- Special guest at the John W. Campbell Conference at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kan., June 2013. Performed a fiction reading and spoke on three panels: “To the Stars,” “Meet the Authors and Editors,” and “The Secrets of Successful Science Fiction.”
- Fiction reading, Mysterious Galaxy bookstore, San Diego, Calif., June 2013.
- “Beluthahatchie” (1997 short story) reprinted in *Telling Tales: The Clarion West 30th Anniversary Anthology*, edited by Ellen Datlow (Hydra House, July 2013).
- Hugo Award finalist for “Wakulla Springs” in the Best Novella category; winner to be announced at the World Science Fiction Convention in London, August 2014.
- At the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, Orlando, Fla., March 2014, performed a fiction reading and publicly interviewed a conference guest of honor, Nigerian-American novelist Nnedi Okorafor.
- Guest, with Ellen Klages, on *The Coode Street Podcast*, with hosts Jonathan Strahan in Australia and Gary K. Wolfe in Chicago, August 2013.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Fiction reading, Nightsun Writers Conference, Frostburg Center for Creative Writing, July 2013.
- Fiction reading, Baltimore Book Festival, September 2013.
- New journalism article, “Shoulder Cost and Responsibility for Education, GOP Candidate Tells Frostburg State Students,” published in *The Appalachian Independent*, October 2013.
- Public talk in the Coffee With a Writer series, Frostburg Center for Creative Writing, October 2013.
- Fiction reading and three classroom visits, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, Va., February 2014.
- Founding captain of the English Department’s Relay for Life team, which raised a team-best $2,500 in April 2014.
- Honors examiner at Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania, May 2014.
- Member, Frostburg Palace Theatre board of directors.
- Member, Allegany Arts Council’s General Operating Grants Review Panel.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Chaired a paper session, “Human-Computer Interfaces in the Cloud and on the Web,” Computers and Writing Conference, Frostburg State University, June 2013.

Mary Anne Lutz

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented a paper at the conference of College English Association-Middle Atlantic Group in March 2014. The paper is entitled "Origins and End Times: The American Revolution in Sleepy Hollow."

Jill Morris

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- In Fall 2013, students in Dr. Morris' section of ENGL 338 (Technical Writing) rewrote and redesigned the website for the Cumberland Choral Society.
- In Spring 2014, students enrolled in ENGL 438, Applied Digital Writing, are working with the Frostburg Museum to create an augmented reality project for the museum.
- Three students are working with Dr. Morris in various capacities as Editorial Assistants for the academic journal, Kairos. These students, as well as two others, will be traveling with Dr. Morris to the Computers and Writing conference in Pullman, Washington this June where they will be presenting together.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- "Technosophistry and Electroswing," Computers and Writing 2013
- "Gender, Technology, and Power," Feminisms and Rhetorics 2013
- "Gaming as a Lens for Rhetorical Practice," CCCC 2013
- Featured presenter at the Feminisms Workshop at CCCC 2013
- Invited presenter at the STI of University of Maryland College Park in Summer 2014
- Several presentations at Computers and Writing 2014:
    - Panel: Skylanders and Gaming Identity
    - Panel: Students, Gender, and Conference Planning
    - Townhall: Emerging Technologies and the College Classroom (with Frostburg students)
    - Gender Caucus Leader
    - Race Caucus Leader
    - Differences Caucus Leader

Frank Parks

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Frank Parks, "Morality, Politics, and the Poetry of Retirement in Early American Newspapers," East Central/American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 7-9, 2013

Rochelle Smith

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Organized FSU's annual Shakespeare Festival, where FSU students work with over 200 high school students during the spring semester, culminating in the Shakespeare Festival on May 14, 2013.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- "The Paradox of Online Education; or, Keeping the 'Human' in the Humanities," AAUP Conference on the State of Higher Education, Washington, DC, June 2013.

- "The Mechanization of Writing Pedagogy in the Predigital Age: From Gutenberg to P.I.E." Computers and Writing 2013: Mechanization and Writing, Frostburg State University, June 2013.

- "Taking the Long View: The Role of the Writing Prompt in Teaching Transferable Skills," College English Association annual meeting in Baltimore, March 2014.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Brought the Cambridge American Stage Tour (CAST) to Frostburg for a performance of Shakespeare's Measure for Measure and student workshops, September 2013.

Department of Geography

Philip Allen

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Embedded the following learning activities into his courses. Some of the activities include but are not limited to: Exposed geologic sections at exit 29 (Finzel) I-68, Geologic exposures at the La Vale shopping plaza (next to Ollies), exploration of the Sand Springs Run stream and sedimentology in Finzel Swamp.

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Developed several creative learning activities for his courses that included: development of a geologic walking tour of the immediate Frostburg area where the students examined the geology that had been used as a building material, taking students off campus to view geologic formations that enhance their field skills and techniques, design and develop physical models and utilize stream tables that allowed the construct of landforms such as river terraces, and visiting Finzel swamp to undertake sub-surface coring that allows rudimentary sediment identification to be completed.

- Supervised two senior independent research projects. The first project title is "What Flows within: Determining the Contributing Factors to the Seasonal Variations of Stream Conductivity in the Sand Spring Run" and was designed to build a 12-month description of the stream characteristics. The second project title is "Engineered to Natural: Chronicling the Changes of the Sand Spring Run Stream, 1976-2013" and was designed to examine how the stream morphology has changed since it was relocated in the 1970's.

- Maintains activities from his classes are made public on the Department of Geography's Facebook page. https://www.facebook.com/DepartmentOfGeographyFrostburgStateUniversity

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Organizing Earth Science activities for the May 3rd STEM festival on the FSU campus.

- In collaboration with David Puthoff (Biology), Dawn Armfield (English), Bob Larivee and Matthew Crawford (Chemistry), received funding from a PELEF grant for a project titled "Triple R: Resoil, Reseed and Regreen the FSU Campus." Dr. Allen also gave a presentation at Focus Frostburg regarding the project goals, rationale and aspirations.

- Proposed and organized a topical session for the Geological Society of America Annual General meeting in Vancouver, October 2014 titled "Soil: Stress, Exploitation, and Erosion."

- Has the following manuscript titled "EcoCount: A New Digital Approach to Environmental Data Recording" accepted for publication in *SAGE Open*. A second manuscript titled "Sediment Transport Dynamics on an Ice-Covered Lake: The "Floating" Boulders of Lake Hoare, Antarctica" has been recommended for publication (pending minor revisions) in the *Journal of Antarctic Science*.

- Received funding from the Grant Proposal Incentive Fund for a stipend to develop a National Science Foundation grant application titled " The Life and Times of Smith & Tangiers Islands: Environmental Variability, Societal Vulnerability and Coupled Adaptation." This application is in partnership with peers from the University of Exeter, UK, Towson University MD and Coventry University UK.

- In collaboration with Bob Larivee, submitted a pre-proposal to the Appalachian Regional Commission for funding for the development of a Geochemistry Laboratory.

- Applied to the FSU Foundation Opportunity Grant funds for radiocarbon dates, to construct a provisional age depth relationship for organic rich cores extracted from Finzel Swamp.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGE

- With Richard Russo participated in the FSU-Northumbria University (UK) Exchange mission – One week visit in November 2013 (accompanied by two student ambassadors) to our exchange partner in Newcastle to strengthen student and faculty exchanges and to develop a summer geography field course in the UK.

- Along with Matthew Ramspott will collaborate on a new faculty research project which has been initiated with Dr Helen King (Northumbria) for the Fall of 2014. This will be a survey of Dolly Sods, WV.

Tiana Bogart

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented a paper titled "Sensitivity of a Global Climate Model to the Urban Land Unit" at the annual meeting of Association of American Geographers, Tampa, FL April 2014.

Fritz Kessler

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Applied for and received the CLAS Strategic Plan Support Funds. He is using this fund to support an undergraduate student (Bryn Allston) as she evaluates several on-line web mapping applications that will be utilized in his cartography courses.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Drs. Francis Precht and Fritz Kessler applied for a PELEF grant for the purchase of a 3D printer. This 3D printer will be used by students in GIS and physical geography classes to

create 3D models of complex environments and systems. Using 3D models, students can better visualize and thus increase their understanding of those environments.

- Gave a co-presentation titled "Inspection of Topographic Distance Measurement within ArcGIS" at the North American Cartographic and Information Society annual conference in Greenville, SC in October 2013.

- Applied for a PELEF grant for the purpose of purchasing GPS devices. These devices are to be used in his cartography course by students to update the data available through Open Street Map of the immediate Frostburg area. This will immerse students into the data collection and sharing process known as volunteered geographic information.

Francis Precht

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented at Focus Frostburg on his original research titled "The vortex, and cold, and snow, Oh My! The winter of 2013-14: Why was it so fierce…or was it?"

- Drs. Francis Precht and Fritz Kessler applied for a PELEF grant for the purchase of a 3D printer. This 3D printer will be used by students in GIS and physical geography classes to create 3D models of complex environments and systems. Using 3D models, students can better visualize and thus increase their understanding of those environments.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Served as a member of the Program Committee TUgis2014, Maryland's Geospatial Conference

- Chaired session at TUgis 2014 titled "Analytical Applications Using GIS."

Matthew Ramspott

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGE

- Along with Philip Allen will collaborate on a new faculty research project which has been initiated with Dr Helen King (Northumbria) for the Fall of 2014. We aim to undertake a survey of Dolly Sods, WV.

Richard Russo

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Field survey exercise to City of Frostburg Farmers Market (GEOG 360 Food Systems)

- Site visit to valued-added local food producer, Firefly Farms in Garrett County (GEOG 360 Food Systems)

- Site visit to City of Frostburg Department of Community Development with instructional walk along Main Street by Community Development Director (GEOG 325 Urban Geography)

- Site visit and instructional walk in downtown Cumberland by Economic Development Director (GEOG 325 Urban Geography)

- Field trip to Passport DC – Open house event 40 foreign embassies (GEOG 320 Latin America and GEOG 404 Middle East)

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented a paper titled "Urban Renaissance or Decline? The Fate of the Mid-Atlantic's Small Cities." at the annual meeting of the Middle States Division of the Association of American Geographers in Buffalo, NY, in October, 2014.

- Presented with the Outstanding Article Award 2013 by the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers for the best article published in the journal *Southeastern Geographer* in the previous year [Russo, R.A. 2012. Local Food Initiatives in Tobacco Transitions of the Southeastern United States. *Southeastern Geographer* 52(1):55-69.]

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Performed review of draft City of Frostburg Zoning Ordinance

- Member of the City of Frostburg Sustainable Community Working Group

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Developed an interdisciplinary Philosophical Forum (Fall 2013) on the topic of food with Dr. Skott Brill of Philosophy and Dr. Joan Andorfer of Political Science.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND FACULTY EXCHANGE

- With Philip Allen participated in the FSU-Northumbria University (UK) Exchange mission – One week visit in November 2013 (accompanied by two student ambassadors) to our exchange partner in Newcastle to strengthen student and faculty exchanges and to develop a summer geography field course in the UK.

- Organized and hosted visit to FSU by Dr. Jane Entwistle, Head of the Department of Geography and the Environment at Northumbria University (March 2014)

Department of Mass Communication

Melissa Boehm

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Students in Dr. Boehm's Introduction to Public Relations course worked with Frostburg Grows to create web content. They created biographies for each staff member, an organizational history, flyers for volunteer days, news releases, FAQs, brochures, and Public Service Announcements for radio and television.

- For Directed Study, Dr. Boehm supervised Jordan Anderson as he worked with Dr. Dan Fiscus and Corey Armstrong to create a six-minute video for Frostburg Grows for the Climate Leadership Awards 2014.

- In the Introduction to Mass Communication Research Methods course, students conducted their own pilot studies on popular culture topics using in-depth interviews, focus groups, content analysis, and surveys.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented at the Appalachian Studies Association Annual Conference at Marshall University in Huntington, WV on March 28, 2014. Presentation title: The framing of women in Appalachia in ABC News transcripts from 1986 to 2012.

Department of Music

Rebecca Birnie

PRESENTATIONS

- "Sing to Read - Read to Sing: Using Children's Literature to Strengthen the American Song Repertoire of Children," In-Service Conference, Maryland Music Educators Association, Baltimore, MD, February 2014

- "American Children's Songs, Folk Songs and Patriotic Songs: Strategies for Teaching and Learning in General Music," In-Service Conference, Virginia Music Educators Association, Hot Springs, VA, November 2013

- "A Celebration of Singing Games and Dances," Professional Development Workshop for General/Vocal Elementary Music Teachers, Allegany County Public Schools, Maryland, November 2013

- "Composition and Recorders: Perfect Together," In-Service Conference, Maryland Music Educators Association, Columbia, MD, October 2013

PUBLICATIONS

- "Composition and Recorders: A Motivating Experience," *Music Educators Journal*, National Association for Music Education, March 2014

- "Getting Acquainted with the Autoharp," Workshop (General Music), *Teaching Music*, National Association for Music Education, February 2013

- "Teaching with Autoharps in the 21st Century," *General Music Today,* National Association for Music Education, August 2013

RESEARCH

- "The Use of American Children's Songs, Folk Songs and Patriotic Songs by Elementary General Music Teachers in the State of Maryland," Research Poster Session, In-Service Conference, Virginia Music Educators Association, Hot Springs, VA, November 2013

ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICE - OFFICES

- President-Elect, Maryland General Music Teachers Association, Maryland Music Educators Association

- Peer Journal Reviewer/Advisory Board Member, *Music Educators Journal*, National Association for Music Education

STUDENT LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Accompanied FSU music education students to the annual In-Service Conferences of the Maryland Music Educators Association in Columbia, Maryland in October 2013 and at the Baltimore Convention Center in February 2014

Karen Soderberg

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Performances with FSU Chamber Choir, Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the University Chorale. The Student's choreographed movements to several of the songs, student's conducted songs in concert, designed the lighting, sound and publicity for our concerts. Mentoring and supervising student teachers in PreK-12 Vocal Music.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Continued research and performance of choral music of numerous cultures from Asia, Africa, and the Americas, Scandinavia, Eastern Europe, Russia, Latin America, New Zealand and Australia. This contact with the music of other cultures invites deeper understanding and comparison of our own music and that of other countries. Students have performed music by such composers as Hugo Alfven and Thomas Jennefelt (Sweden), Ola Gjeilo (Norway), Jaako Mäntyjärvi (Finland), Henryk Mikolaj Gorecki (Poland), Stephen Leek and Sarah Hopkins (Australia), David Hamilton (New Zealand), Alexander Gretchaninoff (Russia), Sydney Guillaume (Haiti), Paul Mealor (Wales), Wendell Whalum (Nigeria).

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

Conductor Chamber Choir performance for Leadership Allegany, October 9, 2013
Pealer Recital Hall

Conductor Chamber Choir performance for FSU Retired Employees Luncheon, October 24, 2013

Conductor FSU Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Fall Concert, November 24, 2013 at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland, MD

Conductor University Chorale in concert, Department of Music Holiday Concert, Sunday, December 8, 2013 in the Pealer Recital Hall.

Conductor FSU Vocal Jazz Ensemble Spring Concert on Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m., Pealer Recital Hall.

Conductor FSU Chamber Choir and the University Chorale Spring Choral Concert, Sunday, May 11, 2014 at 3:00 p.m., Pealer Recital Hall.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Guest conductor – Calvert County High School Honor Choir, November 18 and 19, 2013 culminating in a concert at 7:00 p.m. at the Northern High School Mary Harrison Center, Owings, MD.

- Clinician – Pre-Festival Adjudicator for all the St. Mary's County High School Choirs, February 25 and 26, 2014 at Leonardtown High School, Leonardtown, MD.

- Adjudicator – Sight-Reading Adjudicator for the Washington County High School Choral Festival, Thursday, March 13, 2014 at Hagerstown Community College, Hagerstown, MD.

- Conductor – FSU Chamber Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble Recruitment Tour, March 31 through April 1, 2014. The Choirs performed for the Bohemian Manor Middle and High School Choirs in Cecil County; Towson High School Choir in Towson, MD, Glen Burnie High School, Chesapeake High School and Northeast High School in Annapolis, MD.

- Director of Music – Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Cumberland, MD

- Member, Penn Alps Board of Director

- Chair, FSU Friends of Music

- Dr. Soderberg secured funding for Lyra, a vocal quartet from St. Petersburg, Russia to present a concert of sacred and folk songs of Russia, September 23, 2013 in the Pealer Recital Hall.

- Secured the Herman Rubenstein collection of art (17 items) for Frostburg State University. This collection includes major works by European and American Artists.

Department of Nursing

Departmental Achievements

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION EFFORTS

- Roxanne Weighley regularly visits community colleges and healthcare systems throughout the state. This includes 8 health systems and 11 community colleges.

- Program Resource Center (PRC) continues to be used in the program as a retention tool. It allows students an opportunity in program governance, student lounge, and an overall electronic student handbook to the program.

- Online orientations continue to be held with all incoming students fall, spring, and summer with invites sent to current students to encourage online peer interaction.

COURSE REDESIGN EFFORTS

- As part of a team, developed and implemented the Train Your Brain Learning Community. Team members included Megan Bradley and Trina Redmond (Psychology), Stefanie Hay, Mary Beth McCloud and Kara Platt (Nursing), Melody Kentrus (Exercise Sports Science), Tamara Lowry (Director of Student Development Services), April Baer (Director of Student Wellness), and consultation by Rob Smith and Terri Massie-Burrell. Curriculum was altered to include 5 areas for student success: Nutrition, Exercise, Stress Management, Sleep Management, and Financial Freedom. Mentoring efforts by upper-level students from PSYC 430: Health Psychology and Field Experience students and Interns from Exercise Sports Science were also integrated.

NEW PROGRAMS OR COURSES DEVELOPED

- MSN with tracks in education and administration developed. This program is currently waiting for MHEC approval.

- MSN Planning grant was awarded from MHEC to fund the development of the program. ($145,000)

- Three nursing courses received Quality Matters™ certification. All courses are now certified.

GRANTS

- New proposal submitted to MHEC May 2, 2014.

- NSP II Phase 9 – Increasing Nursing Faculty in Maryland: “Implementing the pathway to an MSN in western Maryland” – Funds requested – $298,758

- NSP II Phase 9 – “Innovative Approach to a Collaborative BSN Model” – This is a planning grant for $67,122. The plan is to develop a collaborative BSN Model with ACM whereby FSU students would be dually enrolled to obtain both an AS degree and BS degrees in nursing.

Department of Philosophy

Departmental Achievements

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES

- Participated in all FSU open houses
- Participated in FSU Majors Fair
- Held social events fall and spring semesters
- Sponsored the FSU Philosophy Club
- Interdisciplinary Philosophical Forum: "What Value Food?" (Fall 2013)
- Philosophy Tutor at FSU Tutoring Center

COURSE REDESIGN EFFORTS

- Began exploring the redesign of PHIL 205: Logic
- PHIL 306: Science on Trial redesigned as Honors seminar

Shoshana Brassfield

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented the research paper "Intention and Cartesian Resolution," at the Pittsburgh Area Philosophy Colloquium, Ethics Working Group, September 21, 2013.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Organized, along with the members of the Center for Teaching Excellence Advisory Group, CTE Third Annual Regional Conference on Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship: Experiential Learning.

Jean Marie Makang

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Presented a paper "Rethinking Human Rights, War, and Peace from the Perspective of the Poor and Marginal Groups" at the Eastern Division Convention of the American Philosophical Association (APA) in Baltimore, MD on December 29, 2013.

Department of Political Science

Scott Johnson

RESEARCH

- Scott Johnson published a book entitled, *The Faces of Lee Harvey Oswald: The Evolution of an Alleged Assassin* (Nov. 2013) with Rowman and Littlefield Publishing Co.

John O'Rorke

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Fall 2013 semester - Participated in the Gates Foundation/USM/Ithaka Research Group grant exploring the use of MOOCs in traditional classroom settings.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Spring 2014 – Sabbatical Research on designing effective Flipped classroom content

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- Served as Chair of the Frostburg Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

Department of Psychology

Departmental Achievements

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES

- Faculty representatives at open houses
- Meeting with ACM students in conjunction with the Social Work Department
- Tours and meetings for the Annual Scholars Reception Academic Session
- Scholarship reviews
- Psychology and Psi Chi student activities
- Transfer fairs at HCC and FCC
- Offering a wide variety of summer and intersession courses at FSU and USMH
- Meeting with student athletes visiting and interested in Psychology

COURSE REDESIGN EFFORTS

- Continued development of the General Psychology redesign
- The redesign of the Health and Psychology course to work with students in the IDIS 150 course

NEW COURSES/PROGRAMS

- Working on the development of an Industrial/Organizational (I/O) emphasis
- Redesigning the delivery of Addiction courses given the recent change in the program

Alan Bensley

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- The publications and presentations listed below supported the experiential learning of three graduate students and seven undergraduate students.

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Bensley, D. A. & Spero, R. A. (2014). Improving critical thinking skills and metacognitive monitoring through direct infusion. *Thinking Skills and Creativity, 12,* 55-68.

- Bensley, D. A., Kuehne, S. M., Bernhardt, P. C., Murtagh, M. P., & Rainey, C. (2014, March). *Thinking your thinking is both better and worse than other peoples'*. Poster presented at the 85th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

- Bensley, D. A., Murtagh, M. P., Bernhardt, P. C., Flinn, J. A. & Kuehne, S. M. (2014, April). *Closing the Assessment loop on critical thinking and the challenge of low test-taking motivation.* Roundtable presentation at the annual meeting of the American

Educational Research Association in Philadelphia, PA.

- Kuehne, S. M., Rainey, C., Bensley, D. A., Bartlett. A., Hart, K., Maust, N., & Weiner, C. (2014, March). *What do students know about what they know in psychology?* Poster presented at the 85th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

- Rainey, C., Kuehne, S. M., Bensley, D. A., Quintanilla, M., Staggs, J., & Wagner, P. (2014, March). *Students' metacognitive evaluations of knowledge of psychology and misconceptions.* Poster presented at the 85th annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association, Boston, MA.

Megan Bradley

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Examined if MOOCs could be used in a traditional interdisciplinary course

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- PSYC 497: Infant Development Senior Seminar and the Center for Children and Families hosted an informational workshop for the community on May 7. Entitled What to Expect When You're Expecting…And After, the workshop is for women who are pregnant and parents/caregivers with young babies. It's an educational outreach from their senior capstone experience.

- FSU 5K event for students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- As part of team, developed and implemented the Train Your Brain Learning Community. Curriculum was altered to include five areas for student success: Nutrition, Exercise Stress Management, Sleep Management, and Financial Freedom. Mentoring efforts by upper-level students from PSYC 430: Health Psychology, and Field Experience students and interns from Exercise and Sports Science were also integrated. The team included Stefanie Hay, Mary Beth McCloud and Kara Platt (Nursing), Trina Redmond (Psychology), Melody Kentrus (Exercise and Sports Science), Tamara Lowry (Director of Student Development Services), April Baer (Director of Student Wellness), and consultation by Rob Smith (Assistant Vice President) and Terri Massie-Burrell (Assistant Provost of Student Success).

Lisa Morshead

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- In PSYC 386 (Drugs and Behavior), students were required to conduct educational counseling sessions with role-playing clients. This is consistent with how they would actually use this information if they complete the addictions emphasis and work in a community setting.

- PSYC 201 (Research Methods) was offered by Dr. Morshead as a hybrid course for the first time, following in the footsteps of Paul Bernhardt. The APA-style research paper was developed step-by-step over the course of the semester via on-line learning. At this point in the semester, the DWF rate is presently at 0 students. Although there is a possibility of two failures, this is in comparison to 15 DWF students at this point in 2013.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- PSYC 386 course content was modified from last semester based on the fact that 12 out of 26 students were Law and Society majors. Consequently, the role of criminal gangs in the distribution of drugs was integrated into the course benefitting students of both disciplines. Based on this experience, Dr. Morshead is thinking of offering a new course titled, “Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System.”

Department of Social Work

Departmental Achievements

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION ACTIVITIES

- Telemarketing calls to potential students
- Open house participation, including participation in the more informal 9AM session.

NEW COURSES/PROGRAMS

- New course in Forensic Social Work to address the growing trend of social workers testifying in court and helping clients navigate the court system. The department hopes to continue offering this elective every other semester to meet this marketplace need.

Kathy Powell

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Students in the IDIS 491/SOCI 490/SOWK 490 (Social Entrepreneurship) class in the Fall 2013 semester visited the U.S. Office of the Ashoka Foundation, a think tank for social innovation and social entrepreneurship.

- Students in the Spring 2014 SOWK 471 (Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations) partnered with the Community Trust Foundation to conduct an organizational asset inventory of non-profit human service organizations in Allegany and Garrett counties. They developed an online survey, compiled the results, and presented their findings to the CTF Board of Directors.

- Students in the Spring 2014 LEAD 401 (Citizen Leader) developed a social change project around the issue of the condition of the campus residence halls at FSU. They used social media as the medium to organize students and they presented their findings in a forum with students and FSU administrators.

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Members of the Board of Directors of the Community Trust Foundation approached Dr. Powell for assistance in compiling information about non-profit human service organizations in western Maryland. Dr. Powell responded by developing the work as a service-learning project and incorporating it into the SOWK 471 (Generalist Practice with Communities and Organizations).

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Developed the IDIS 491/SOCI 490/SOWK 490 (Social Entrepreneurship) as an interdisciplinary Honors Seminar/Special Topics course.

Department of Sociology

Julie Hartman-Linck

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Created an experiential learning project for WMST 201 students called "From the Right to Vote to the ERA: Activism for Gender Equality in the U.S."

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Julie E. Hartman-Linck (2014) "Everyone's a Lesbian in Appalachia: Butchness and Rural Lesbian and Bisexual Identities." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.

- Julie E. Hartman-Linck (2014) "Negotiating and Balancing Joint Appointments and Other Program Responsibilities" workshop panelist for the Eastern Sociological Society Commission on the Status of Women., Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD

Department of Visual Arts

Robert Hein

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Photography students visited professional photographers' studios from the region
- Hosted portfolio reviews for students with visiting professional photographers

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Showing work at the Print Center of Philadelphia's 88th International Print Competition
- Showing work at the PhotoSpiva international photography competition in Joplin, MO

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Attended the National SPE conference in Baltimore; MSAC Grants for Organizations panelist

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

- Advanced photography class created a series of stills and short videos that documented life and culture of the Visual Arts Department and the students in the program with the results handed over to a graphic design class to finalize edited 20 second clips to put onto the website and use for promotional material during recruitment and open houses.

Pete Herzfeld

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Earth Day Environmental Poster Contest
- Western Maryland Blues Fest Poster Contest
- Global Business Club Website
- Collaboration with Computer Science Students Building Local Business Websites
- Communication Studies Dialogue Series Website Design

FACULTY RESEARCH

- Communication Studies Capstone Project Related to Graphic Design Restructuring

CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Earth Day Environmental Poster Contest
- Western Maryland Blues Fest Poster Contest
- Global Business Club Website
- Collaboration with Computer Science Students Building Local Business Websites
- Communication Studies Dialogue Series Website Design

REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

- Collaboration with Computer Science Students Building Local Business Websites
- Western Maryland Blues Fest Poster Contest

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

- Collaboration with Computer Science Students Building Local Business Websites
- Communication Studies Dialogue Series Website Design
- Global Business Club Website