

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences

www.cnas.missouristate.edu

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Carrie's Goes "Green"

Carrie's Restaurant, run by the Hospitality and Restaurant Administration students at Missouri State University, recently went "green" with their food preparation methods, service delivery, and product procurement. Although this effort was conceived by faculty members, it was developed and institutionalized by students.

Students worked, under faculty guidance, to identify areas of environmental concern in the restaurant, and to rectify these. Their efforts led to ovens being turned on later, water being turned off faster, a comprehensive recycling program, the replacement of appliances with energy efficient ones, discontinued use of non-biodegradable "to go" containers, the use of chemical alternatives for sanitation and cleaning practices, and the increased use of sustainable food.

This initiative is squarely in line with Missouri State University's public affairs mission and this year's sustainability theme.

Bob Holmes Remembered

Bob Holmes, machinist for CNAS, passed away on January 17, 2009. Bob began his career at Missouri State University in the spring of 1975. Bob designed and built many one-of-a-kind items for faculty teaching and research projects in the college. Staff Senate recognized Bob and his contributions over the past 34 years at its February 2009 meeting.

The following is from some of Bob's best friends on campus – Mike Murphy, Bill Agee, Dave Allen and Corbin Campbell. "Bob's shop is right across the hall from Electronics Support. Many times we would have Bob assist us in making or rebuilding broken mechanical parts on the electronic equipment we work on. In some cases, professors would bring us a project to build from scratch and Bob was instrumental in getting the mechanical parts of the project manufactured for us. We think most people who knew Bob knew of the larger projects he worked on, but for us, it



was the small unique parts or repairs he did that made him so valuable to us. We think Bob would have worked here at the University another 35 years if he could, and that would have been just fine with us; all of us at Electronics Support Services are going to miss him badly."

May we all remember Bob - his smile and his many contributions to the college.

College Update

Happy New Year!!

As you can see from this edition of Newswatch, the faculty, staff and students were very productive in 2008 (as they always are!!!). There is a great deal of energy and enthusiasm as we focus on environmental and sustainability issues.

In 2009 we are going to start a new Public Lecture Series. Our first set of speakers includes Drs. Bob Patterson, Kevin Evans, Larry Campbell and Doug Gouzie and their presentations promise to be exciting and stimulating for all who attend. All presentations will be open to the public. We look forward to seeing you at one of these events.



February 3	7:30 PM	Temple Hall 002	"The Expansion of the Universe"
February 17	7:30 PM	Temple Hall 002	"Written in the Rocks: A Brief History of Geological Time in Missouri"
March 3	7:30 PM	Temple Hall 002	"Math is Not a Four-Letter Word: Celebrating the Importance and Relevance of Mathematics in our School Classrooms and in our Lives"
April 13	7:30 PM	Temple Hall 002	"Living with Our Landscape – Lessons from the 2006 Nixa Sinkhole Collapse"

There are two other important events that will be held on the Missouri State University campus this spring. The Public Affairs Conference will be held April 21-24 and the schedule is posted at <http://publicaffairs.missouristate.edu/conference/2009schedule.asp>. The Ozarks New Energy Conference will be held April 30-May 1 and schedules may be found at <http://one2.ozarksnewenergy.org/>.

These events would not be possible if it were not for faculty with outstanding ideas and the energy to move them forward. Dr. Bob Patterson suggested the Public Lecture Series and volunteered to be the first presenter as well as to organize the first series. Thank you, Bob!!! Alexander Wait is serving as the Provost's Public Affairs Fellow in 2008-2009 and is the Public Affairs Conference Chair. Thank you, Alexander!!! Alexander Wait and Inno Onwueme are serving on the planning committee for the Ozarks New Energy Conference. Thank you, Alexander and Inno!!!

Other events to watch for in 2009 will be posted on the CNAS website at <http://www.cnas.missouristate.edu> and a brief listing may be found on the back cover of this edition of NewsWatch.

Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Daniel Beckman, biology professor at Missouri State University, is the recipient of a 2008 Governor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Governor Matt Blunt and members of the Missouri Coordinating Board for Higher Education recognized Beckman and 14 other recipients during a luncheon ceremony April 9, 2008.

The awards, which are not monetary, are based on effective teaching, innovative course design and delivery, effective advising, service to the university community, commitment to high standards of excellence and success in nurturing student achievement.

"I am honored to receive this teaching award from Missouri State and the Governor," Beckman said. "I think I can speak for many university professors that we appreciate this sort of recognition for the effort we put into our teaching. It feels good to be able to make a useful contribution to the education of this generation of college students."

Beckman's current research is concentrated in the areas of fish ecology, fish life histories, and age and growth determination. He earned his doctorate in marine science from Louisiana State University in 1989.



CNAS Welcomes New Program Director

Dr. Doug Carroll joined the administrative team in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences in the fall of 2008 as Director of the Collaborative Engineering Program with Missouri University of Science and Technology. Dr. Carroll has been and continues to be a faculty member at the Missouri University of Science and Technology (formerly known as the University of Missouri-Rolla).

Dr. Carroll received his BS in Mathematics and Engineering Physics from Southwest Missouri State University in 1980, his MS in Mechanical Engineering from Texas A&M University in 1982, and his PhD in Engineering Mechanics from the University of Missouri-Rolla in 1991. His area of specialty is mechanics of materials, including fatigue, fracture and composite materials. He is best known for his success in solar car competitions.



Dr. Carroll also started a national outreach program for elementary school children to interest them in choosing engineering as a career. The presenter (usually a professional engineer) brings a bridge kit to the classroom and leads the children through the process of building a six feet long truss bridge. The bridge is raised off the floor using chairs as abutments, and the children take turns crossing the bridge they have built. The presenter then talks about engineering as a very rewarding career. Dr. Carroll has built bridge kits for engineering groups all over the country, including the MSPE group in Springfield and the Discovery Center in Springfield. Hundreds of thousands of children have participated in the program.

Dr. Carroll has been a faculty member at the Missouri University of Science and Technology since 1991. He has been happily married to Karla Carroll for 30 years. They have two children, Zachary and James, who are both engineering students at Missouri S&T. Doug and Karla are originally from Springfield, are graduates of SMSU, and are pleased to be a part of the Cooperative Engineering Program at Missouri State University.

The Case for Education

At Missouri State we are fortunate that our alumni understand the importance of the education they received. Together with other friends of the university, our gifts supporting the University have continued to increase in volume and scope. In the first six months of the 2009 fiscal year, our gifts are still more than 2 million dollars above where we were in 2008. For those of you following the world's financial markets, you know what a truly amazing accomplishment that is!

How do we explain this increase? Concerned alumni and friends that realize that in a depressed economy, there is an



even greater need for students to enter the workforce armed with a college degree. A college degree from a quality institution often means the difference between finding a job that pays a livable wage and not. Sadly, it is becoming more and more difficult for students to finance their own education, while at the same time, they are more

motivated to do so. Even subsidized lending sources are becoming more difficult to secure, thanks to the so-called "credit crunch" and even by working full-time, some students truly cannot pay for their education themselves.

Consider:

A full-time minimum wage job will earn a student only \$14,600.00 before taxes

(\$7.05 x 40 hours per week x 52 weeks per year)

The total cost of attendance at Missouri State was approximately \$12,800 for the 08-09 year – and we are one of the most affordable four-year institutions around! (30 hours plus fees, room and board, books)

Because there are many deserving students who need the help, and because they too are being affected by the economic downturn, it is more important than ever for us to invest in student scholarships. This is an investment that will pay dividends not only for each individual student, but also for our community and society. A gift of any size could make a difference. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help you help the students of Missouri State or check us out online at www.missouristate.edu/giving

Jaimie E. Russell

Ted O'Brien Remembered

Ted O'Brien, son of Emeritus Professor Jim O'Brien and Barbara O'Brien, passed away March 18, 2008. Ted and his wife Julie Capps O'Brien graduated from Missouri State University in 1994, each with a BS in chemistry. Ted immediately started graduate school at University of Florida and earned his PhD in chemistry in 2000. Ted and Julie moved to Indiana where Ted became a postdoctoral fellow at Indiana University, Bloomington from 2000-2002.

Ted, like his father, was a physical computational chemist. They even published papers together. Since 2002, Ted served as a visiting lecturer of inorganic and Computational Chemistry at IUPUI - Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.



In the last year Ted was named to an Associate Research Professor position at IUPUI. Ted will always be remembered for his wit, his ability to think through the toughest of problems and his smile.

An evergreen tree has been planted next to Temple Hall on the Missouri State University campus so that we will always remember Ted.

FID Project Runway

Project Runway, the fall fashion show presented by Missouri State fashion merchandising and fashion design majors, was held at the Shrine Mosque on Nov. 7, 2008. Approximately 550 people from the Springfield area attended the show that included garments from 37 student designers. Forty-one models (including students and others from the Springfield area) showcased the garments in the runway show.

All garments were juried by industry professionals. The winning garment was designed by Lisa Shoemaker, a junior fashion design major from St. Louis. PGM Plus awarded a dress form worth \$400 to Lisa for her winning design. Second place was won by Kat Philbin, a senior fashion design major from Niangua, MO. FM Stores awarded a \$50 gift certificate for Kat's design. Third place winners included Michelle Kelsay, a sophomore from Bernie, MO, Chelcie Lynch, a senior from Parkville, MO, and Maggie Allen, a sophomore from Springfield. These students were awarded gift baskets provided by Linda Herndon of Sewing Machine Express and the Roberts family--Mark, Jenifer, and Keely.



HRA's Annual Speakers' Series

The Department of Hospitality and Restaurant Administration held their second annual speakers' series on October 7, 2008, at the University Plaza Hotel, Springfield, Missouri. The series was developed to benefit MSU's hospitality students as well as hospitality professionals from the area.

Keynote speaker for the series was Kelly C. Baltes, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Cheddar's Restaurant Holding Corporation. In his role, Mr. Baltes leads an executive team as they oversee all aspects of the Cheddar's organization including brand development and positioning, growing organizational clarity and capacity, meeting established growth objectives, and achieving sustainable operational excellence. Cheddar's Casual Café currently operates seventy casual dining restaurants in sixteen states, with system-wide annual sales totaling over \$250 million.



Mr. Baltes' hallmark of "hands-on" and "focused high-energy" is well known in the industry. Preceding his current position, Mr. Baltes held the post of Executive Vice President of Operations with Red Lobster. In this capacity, he led an organization of more than 65,000 employees at over 670 company-owned restaurants which produced over \$2.6 billion in annual sales.

This year's series followed the 2007 event which hosted John Q. Hammons, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of John Q. Hammons Hotels & Resorts, as keynote speaker. Mr. Hammons shared with Missouri State University HRA students, faculty and guests of how he started from humble beginnings to become one of the most successful hoteliers in the world.

Welcome to Jingjing

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences is pleased to welcome Jingjing Miao, a new research scholar in the Biology department.



Jingjing is currently working on her PhD at the Ocean University of China (OUC), which is located in the city of Qingdao in Shandong province. Her research is focused on using biomarkers to assess the impacts of environmental toxicants on marine bivalves. Jingjing will be studying in Dr. Chris Barnhart's lab and will be conducting research on freshwater bivalves. Upon the completion of her time in the United States, she will be returning to China to teach at Ocean University and will also be returning to her fiancée. Best of luck to Jingjing during her time here at Missouri State!

Agriculture Banquet 2008 Honors Outstanding Grad

Each fall for the past 70 years, the Missouri State Agriculture department has come together for a special banquet honoring its highest achieving students and graduates. This year over \$60,000 was awarded in scholarships, presented to every level of student. Besides the wonderful atmosphere of homecoming, one of the highlights of the evening is the presentation of the Glenn E. and Ruth Z. Karls Memorial Scholarship, the recipient of which was not announced until the actual banquet November 5. This year's recipient, Ms. Christi Gonder, is an Ag Communications major, works part time on campus, and is proof that the award only goes to Missouri State's best and brightest students. Besides receiving the Karls award, Christi was also selected as the recipient of the W. Anson Elliott Citizen Leadership Award, and has held the Douglas W. Darr Leadership Scholarship since she was a freshman.

Christi's decision to attend Missouri State can be traced to her mother attended school here. Her mother attended Southwest Missouri State University to be a teacher and loved the University and the town. Christi's mother encouraged her to come and check out the campus and department. When Christi visited she fell in love. Christi feels that, "Springfield has the feel of a small town with all the luxuries of a large city. Not only that, but from the moment I stepped on campus I felt like I belonged and never once have I felt like just another number. From the beginning I could tell my professors were honestly interested in my goals and helping me to achieve them."

Christi describes her proudest accomplishments, "Receiving the Glen E. and Ruth Z. Karls Award and the Elliott Leadership Award as well as being a recipient of the Darr Leadership Scholarship have all been tremendous honors. I think the best part at the banquet was coming back to my table to see my dad holding back tears he was so proud of me (I think he would have actually been crying had President Nietzel not been seated at our table). I'm also pretty proud of the fact that I have been able to be active on campus and served as the 2008 Sigma Alpha President as well as the Collegiate Farm Bureau Public Relations Chair. I have also maintained a 4.0 (so far). A smaller accomplishment that I've been very proud of was surviving my Introduction to Horseback Riding class! I was terrified most of the time (both on and off the ground) but managed to make it through and really enjoyed the class." Christi remembers how receiving these awards was overwhelming and what really made them so special to her was "the fact that the faculty nominate and then vote on the recipients. It is a tremendous honor to know that they felt I was worthy of two of our department's top awards. Plus, looking back on the past recipients, especially of the Glen E. Karls Award, and knowing the caliber of the students who have received it in the past..wow, I don't feel worthy."

Christi turns towards most of the professors in the Ag department for advice. She feels they have been absolutely amazing about giving her honest and helpful answers. When Christi talks about her mentors she mentions a few who have been very

instrumental in her success. In Christi's words, "Dr. Elliott, though, has especially helped to mold me into the student that I am today. He was the one who first encouraged me to apply for the Darr Leadership award and then to take his leadership class. I had honestly never thought continuing my education after my bachelor's degree was even an option until this summer when Dr. Elliott began encouraging me to look into grad school. With a little bit of a push, I'm more excited than ever to be looking into grad programs. Dr. Johnson and Dr. Rimal have also been a great help to me. They have always encouraged me to do not only what was required but to give a little more than I ever thought possible. They have challenged my thinking and have never settled for anything but my best. In searching for grad schools I have really appreciated their honest and frank advice as well as their encouragement. I would say two of mentors outside of the program have also been my parents. They instilled a strong work ethic in me and also have listened to a lot of telephone break downs! Both of them taught me the value of an education and have always been supportive of my school work."

Christi graduates in spring 2009 and will continue her education Missouri State University pursuing a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics. Her ultimate goal is to attain her doctorate.

Dr. Jeannie Ireland, Author at Hand

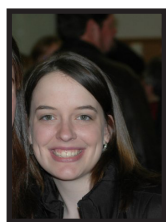
Fashion and Interior Design's Acting Department Head, Dr. Jeannie Ireland, has published a book entitled "*History of Interior Design*". Dr. Ireland's book is a comprehensive survey covering the design history of architecture, interiors, furniture, and accessories in civilizations all over the world, from ancient times to the present. With a primary focus on Western civilizations, it also explores Eastern design history. Each chapter begins with background information about the social and cultural context and technical innovations of the period and place and shows their impact on design. Throughout the text, influences of the styles and design solutions of one culture on others are highlighted, demonstrating how design has evolved as a continuing exchange of ideas. The book has more than 800 color illustrations bringing to life historical design and architecture. Timelines and hand-drawn maps illustrate the transition between periods, continents, and cultures.

"History of Interior Design" follows on the heels of Dr. Ireland's first book, "*Residential Planning and Design*" which she wrote in 2006. Both books may be purchased on-line at amazon.com.

CNAS Citizen Scholars

In 2007 the Missouri State University Board of Governors initiated the Citizen Scholar Award. Nominations for this award are made by faculty and staff members with five winners being selected by Board members. Criterion for the award includes outstanding accomplishments, advancing the University's public affairs mission and strength of character. Ashley M. Egan, senior chemistry major, and Catherine C. Shoults, senior biology major, were two of the Citizen Scholar Award winners for 2008. CNAS is honored to have two of our college's students awarded this year.

Ashley Egan is a senior chemistry major with minors in biomedical science and business from Ellisville, Missouri. After graduation, Ashley would like to pursue her dream of becoming a physician and will apply to medical school. Upon completion of medical school and residency, she hopes to one day own her own practice and provide patients with the best medical care possible.



Ashley's decision to attend Missouri State University was influenced by many factors including an undergraduate human cadaver lab, an excellent chemistry department, and overall an education that would provide a great foundation for medical school.

She feels her most important accomplishment within the scope of her college years has been interning at The White House under the Bush Administration during the Spring of 2007. Ashley assisted in Presidential briefings and event planning as well as interacted with White House staff and influential community leaders from across the United States. Through this internship, she was able to gain a valuable understanding of how the government influences the health care field as well as the importance of her role as an informed and knowledgeable citizen.

Ashley is highly involved in our community and Missouri State University. After two years of volunteer service in the Human Anatomy Cadaver Lab, she now is a teaching assistant where she facilitates student learning and understanding of human anatomy. In addition, she is in her second year as a Resident Assistant in Wells House where she implements programs to foster academic success and community development among the building's residents. She is also a member of many organizations including the Pre-Medical Society, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Eta Sigma, National Honor Society, and the Golden Key International Honor Society. In addition, she is a student editor for Missouri State University's LOGOS Journal of Undergraduate Research. During the summer,

she volunteers at Missouri Baptist Medical Center where she assists the ER staff. In addition, she routinely shadows physicians of different fields to develop an understanding of what the medical field requires of physicians.

Ashley's advice to prospective Missouri State University students is, "An education is, in my opinion, the key to your future. It is not something that is handed to you but rather something for which you must work and dedicate yourself. Obtaining a well-balanced and solid education will offer many opportunities in the future. In particular, a degree in the College of Natural and Applied Sciences is one that is rigorous and challenging but one that I believe presents the greatest rewards and opportunities."

Catherine Shoults is from Mountain View, Arkansas, and is seeking a major in Biology with a chemistry minor. After Catherine graduates from Missouri State she plans to continue her education by receiving a Ph.D. in epidemiology.

While Catherine was attending school in Mountain View, Arkansas, she learned about Missouri State and realized it was a good fit for her. Catherine also realized what great scholarships Missouri State offers, especially since she is a Presidential Scholar. To be a Presidential Scholar one must

be in the top 10 percent of their high school class as well as earn a minimum ACT score of 30.



One of the criteria for the Citizen Scholar Award is based on outstanding accomplishments. Catherine feels that her undergraduate research is her most proud accomplishment. Catherine states,

"We each have to reach out to the world around us in our own way, and, for me, discovering something new is the best way to help my fellow man. I have worked with hibernation energetics in bats, stem cell niche formation in vitro, and blind cave fish. I hope to go on in the future to develop my own research on the spread of disease and help make people's lives safer."

Catherine's community work helped her to advance the university's public affairs mission. With Missouri State's dedication to public affairs mission, Catherine was able to work on Public Affairs Week. She was the service chairman and through an entertainment drive she created and implemented PAW donated over 500 pieces of media to the Springfield Violence Center. Catherine remembering her work with the Springfield Violence Center said, "This was a wonderful experience that taught me how to be a leader and how to organize large events. Plus, I was able to reach out to the Springfield community."



If Catherine were talking to prospective Missouri State University students, she would tell them, “There is nothing as powerful as an education. It is something that no one can take away from you. CNAS offers degrees that are especially powerful because they deal with the world around us. Through my biology degree, I have learned how to study the natural world and what I can do to make that world safer. Other CNAS degrees, such as chemistry, physics, or mathematics help give you the same knowledge and make your brain a powerful tool.”

Russell Rhodes Honored On Wall of Fame

This past fall, Professor Emeritus Russell Rhodes was initiated to the Missouri State University Wall of Fame. This honor is in recognition of his exceptional service to the campus and surrounding community. During his time at Missouri State, Dr. Rhodes served as Department head of Biology, Interim Dean of the newly-formed College of Health and Human Services, and Director of the Center for Scientific Research and Education (CSRE). As Director of CSRE, Dr. Rhodes was a campus leader in developing instructional technology on campus



Dr. Russell Rhodes receives his Wall of Fame award from Missouri State University President, Dr. Nietzel and Board of Governors Chair, Michael Duggan

(distance learning and web site design). He coordinated two new Master's Degree programs (Natural and Applied Science and Plant Science). Dr. Rhodes was also a leader in the Springfield community. He was elected to serve two terms on Springfield City Council, served on the board of Springfield City Utilities, and served as chair of several community committees, including what is now known as the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

Dr. Rhodes was a popular instructor of biology for non-majors, introductory biology, and advanced courses in botany and phycology, and was well known for his interactive teaching style. He was a true “Master Advisor” to his undergraduate honors students, finding answers to just about any student question about coursework and career planning. Dr. Rhodes has also been a respected member of the broader scientific community. He is well known for his research on nuisance and toxic algae threatening public water supplies, work that he continues today through contracts, workshops, and seminars.

CNAS Faculty and Students Tackle Problem Solving

Did you ever wake up one morning and think, “A point is selected at random from the region inside of a regular n -gon. What is the probability that the point is closer to the center of the n -gon than it is to the n -gon itself”?

For the last nine years, the Missouri State University Problem Solving Group has been finding the solutions to problems like this. The group, consisting of both students and faculty, get together once a week to work on problems which come from a variety of mathematical journals (for example, the American Mathematical Monthly, Mathematics Magazine, the College Mathematics Journal, and Crux Mathematicorum, and the Pentagon which is the journal of a national Mathematics honor society). When a solution is obtained, it is written up and submitted to the appropriate journal. The group has submitted over 100 solutions, a number of which have been published. Over the years, more than 30 students have participated in the group.

The students who participate have usually had or are concurrently enrolled in the beginning Calculus class (MTH 261) but this is not at all necessary. Professor Richard Belshoff relays, “Anyone having an interest in solving some challenging, non-standard mathematical problems is welcome. The Problem Solving Group gives an opportunity to work on some interesting problems different from the standard textbook problems and to flex one's mathematical muscles.” Professor Belshoff enjoys the satisfaction of solving the problems and the interaction with the students. Missouri State faculty members involved in the problem solving group are Professors Richard Belshoff, Les Reid, Cameron Wickham, and Matt Wright.

To view recent published recognitions of the Problem Solving Group and receive more information regarding The Problem Solving group, visit <http://math.missouristate.edu/44210.htm>. Weekly meetings are held at 2 PM in Cheek Hall room 174. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. For further information about the group, contact Professor Les Reid at 417.836.5583 or Professor Cameron Wickham at 417.836.5884.



Missouri State
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF NATURAL & APPLIED SCIENCES

901 South National Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65897

Upcoming Events 2009

March 1	Festival of Food and Wine
March 31 - April 2	Ozarks Science and Engineering Fair
April 3	Interior Design Senior Show
April 16	Chemistry Awards/Scholarship Banquet
April 22	Pummill Relays
April 27	HRA Golf Scramble
April 24	HRA Scholarship Luncheon
May 7	Computer Science/Mathematics Spring Banquet
May 14	CNAS Spring Graduation Reception
May 15	Spring 2009 Commencement

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Missouri State University
901 South National
Springfield, Missouri 65897
417-836-5249**

Visit our website for more information: cnas.missouristate.edu