

THE COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

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CNAS leads the way in sustainability practices

Missouri State University is imagining its role as a leader in sustainability in Missouri with CNAS leading the way. Sustainability is a key organizing principle guiding human activities in the 21st century.

Many individuals and groups on campus are educating Missouri State University students towards sustainable practices. Most significantly, based on a proposal from Dean Jahnke, the 2008-09 Public Affairs Conference theme will be **Sustainability**. A number of past events and activities paved the way for the Provost's Office choice of Sustainability as the Public Affairs theme.

The College of Natural and Applied Sciences is home to a number of student organizations involved in environmental preservation and conservation. The Sierra Club is active in promoting recycling. This fall at Bearfest Village they collected over 6,500 recyclable cans and bottles and transported them to Springfield's recycling center. This material would have otherwise gone into the waste stream. The Sierra Club advisor is Janice Greene, professor, Biology Department. Missouri State also has a very active Missouri Stream Team which participates in stream clean-ups across the region. Stream Team advisor is Tina Hopper, lab supervisor, Biology Department.

Interest in sustainability has also resulted in a new student group and coalition being initiated this fall. *Students for a Sustainable Future* (SSF) is led by Lindsey Berger, math & science education major; and John Chiles, biology major. Faculty advisor is Alexander Wait, associate professor, Biology Department. SSF has partnered with the Sierra Club and Vision 2020 to form the Campus Coalition for Our Environment. Their first event was "Eco-palooza," an all day concert and sustainability fair held on November 6 at the Bear Paw.

In March 2007, CNAS and the Biology Department sponsored an all day event with funds provided by a Public Affairs Grant awarded to Alexander Wait on recycling and biomass recovery. Booths and demonstrations from the University of Oregon, City of Springfield, Nestle Purina PetCare, Agricultural Waste Management, Drury University and Missouri State University Housing provided evidence for successful recycling and sustainability programs. Keynote speaker was Karyn Kaplan, Recycling Coordinator, University of Oregon. She challenged the audience of Missouri State administrators, faculty, staff, and students to start a comprehensive recycling program.

A number of upcoming events have significant leadership by CNAS faculty, staff, students and administrators. Missouri State will host events on January 30-31, 2008 associated with the largest national teach-in ever organized: *Focus The Nation* (<http://focusthenation.org/>). *Focus The Nation* requires campus-based teams of faculty and students to draw on-campus expertise across the broad range of disciplines to address the issue of climate change.

CNAS is also a sponsor for the *Ozarks New Energy Conference* to be held February 22-23, 2008 at the historic Gillioz Theatre. This conference is targeted at teachers, students, researchers, entrepreneurs, farmers, governmental representatives and policymakers, citizen action groups, environmental organizations, and groups interested in energy solutions to climate change. The conference will cover alternative liquid fuels for transportation, biomass fuels for electrical generation, solar and wind technologies, and efficiency and conservation in building design. For more information, see the website at (<http://ozarksnewenergy.org/index.html>).

The Spring 2008 events and the **Sustainability** theme for 2008-09 offer many opportunities for students, staff, faculty, and the community to learn more about sustainability and get involved in making southwest Missouri a leader in energy efficiency, social equality and economic prosperity.



College Update

Greetings!!

2007 has been an incredible year. The College of Natural and Applied Sciences experienced increased external funding from federal and state agencies, increased foundation giving, and an increased pace.

In order to keep up with the level of all we do on campus, I began training for a ½-marathon late in the spring. The training paid off and I completed my first ½-marathon – the Cohick, on Sunday, November 4 in two hours, 29 minutes and 6 seconds. What an experience!! And yes, I would (and will) do it again.

Many of the highlights of 2007 are included in this newsletter, but I want to be sure to mention some leadership changes that are in progress.

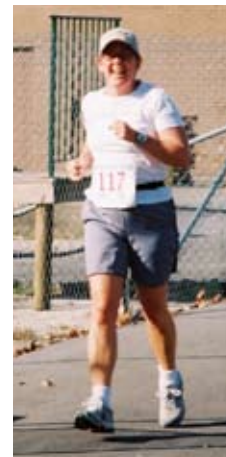
First, Michele Granger has decided that it is time to step aside as Head of the Department of Fashion and Interior Design, and spend her energy teaching. I want to thank Michele for all she has done since she arrived on the Missouri State campus to strengthen the programs that she has led. Jeannie Ireland will serve as Head of FID beginning January 1, 2008. I am thrilled that she has accepted this leadership role during a time of transition. We will search for a new department head to begin in 2010.

Paul Toom has also made the decision to step aside as acting Head of the Department of Chemistry. We are in the search process for a new department head and I am confident we will have someone named in early 2008.

In addition, we are searching for a Department Head for our newest department – Hospitality and Restaurant Administration. Dan Crafts has served as acting Head since July 1 and I certainly thank him for his leadership. Once again, I am confident that we will have someone named in early 2008.

We are searching for 2 engineering faculty (electrical and civil) to begin our cooperative engineering program with Missouri University of Science & Technology (UMR's new name as of January 1, 2008). First year students will be admitted to the program this year. The programs will begin in the fall semester of 2008. A local engineering advisory board is now formed and ready to help with a variety of issues.

Thank you for your support of our programs. I hope that you will take the opportunity to visit Missouri State University in 2008.



Tamera A. Jahnke

Chemistry professor receives national teaching award

Dr. Mark Richter, professor of chemistry at Missouri State University, was selected as a recipient of the 2007 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching Missouri Professor of the Year. He received the award November 15 in Washington, D.C.

"Mark Richter has a unique gift of being able to excite and involve students in chemistry," said Dr. Tamera Jahnke, College of Natural and Applied Sciences dean. "His enthusiasm creates a class environment where it is impossible to not want to learn more and a one-on-one mentoring approach in his research lab gets students to work beyond all expectations."

Sponsored by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and administered by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, the awards recognize professors for their influence on teaching and their outstanding commitment to teaching undergraduate students.

The Professors of the Year were honored at a luncheon at the Willard InterContinental Hotel and an evening reception at the Folger Shakespeare Library Exhibition Hall. The four national winners spoke at the luncheon after being introduced by former or current students.

"I'm very flattered to receive this award," Richter said. "The support I've received from my students, colleagues, department head and dean contributed in no small way to this recognition."

Richter, who earned his doctorate in analytical chemistry from Washington State University in 1993, has taught at Missouri State since 1997. Some of his primary research goals are to discover new light emitting systems; study and develop new applications; improve the sensitivity and selectivity while better understanding mechanisms of light-generation and light-emission.



Dr. Mark Richter and Senator Claire McCaskill



New educational GeoTrip Endowment Fund established

Field trips are one of the most effective mechanisms for learning in the geosciences, and the Department of Geography, Geology, and Planning consider field trips to be an essential part of their curriculum. In addition to the many short field trips offered in conjunction with upper-division geoscience courses, undergraduate majors must have at least one extended field experience.

For geology and earth science education majors, these extended field experiences usually take the form of the annual spring break field trip (GLG 360) or the May intersession course: Field Geology of the Mid-Continent Region (GLG 412).

For geography, geospatial science, and planning majors, the extended field experience is provided by the newly restructured Field Study in Geography (GRY 470), with a different destination offered each May and August intersession.

Unfortunately, extended field trips are becoming extremely expensive. Transportation costs have sky-rocketed in recent years. It now costs the student at least \$500-\$1000 per student for trips traveling by University van and staying in campgrounds. Overseas trips that require airfare and hotel accommodations can easily cost the student \$2000. These costs are in addition to tuition.

Project Runway profits help others this holiday season

Thirty students enrolled in the Fashion Promotion and Show Production class gave a special gift to the Family Violence Center (FVC) of Springfield to help brighten their residents' holiday season. The class produced Project Runway, a fashion show in which original creations of fashion design students were modeled by representatives of the university's student organizations. About 1,500 attended the three showings that were held in October. The show generated \$3,000 for scholarship awards. Awards will be presented at this year's spring fashion show in April.

As the fashion show students also wanted to do something for the Springfield community, they sold Project Runway t-shirts and donated \$1.00 from every t-shirt sale to a project for FVC. Students Jenna Rennie and Kacie Showalter headed the t-shirt sales and the FVC project.

They presented FVC a huge holiday care basket, filled with a variety of items that are needed daily at the Center.

We would like to send out a big thank you to those who purchased a Project Runway t-shirt to help make this special gift possible.

As a way of partially offsetting some of the per-student transportation costs, the Department of Geography, Geology, and Planning has established a new Educational GeoTrip Fund. This fund is managed by the Foundation as a permanent endowment with all earnings from the endowment being used exclusively to subsidize the department's extended field-experience courses.

And here's the exciting part! The Gregg T. and Judith A. Summerville Charitable Trust has graciously offered to match all contributions to this endowment through 2008, up to a total of \$20,000! That means your contributions to this endowment fund will have twice the impact! We hope you will consider making a generous contribution to this endowment so we may continue to provide valuable field experiences for our current and future geography, geology, and planning students at Missouri State University.

Contributions can be made to:
Educational GeoTrip Endowment (Fund #2450)
Missouri State University Foundation
901 S. National Ave.
Springfield, MO 65897

Dr. Dong receives NCEM Fellowship Award

The National Center for Electron Microscopy has awarded Dr. Lifeng Dong, assistant professor of physics, astronomy and materials science, an NCEM Fellowship Award. The award is supported up to \$6,000 to assist a visiting scientist with travel and living expenses at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory at the University of California. While there, Dr. Dong will have full access to NCEM state of the art high resolution transmission electron microscopes (HRTEM).

Dr. Dong plans to characterize nanoscale material samples prepared by his research group and other university colleague groups during this year's spring and summer breaks.

During the visit, he will have opportunities to interact with NCEM research scientists and other visiting scientists. This interaction will provide helpful information about setting up and managing electron microscopy laboratories at Missouri State University.

The experience and support gained from the NCEM Fellowship Award will help Dr. Dong and colleagues to write National Science Foundation proposals for the acquisition of scanning electron microscopes (SEM) and TEM instrumentations.



Equestrian Team finishes fall competition in 2nd place

The Missouri State Equestrian Team finished their six fall competitions in second place in the western team standings. The team has ridden well this fall winning high point team at two competitions and reserve at the other four but they are still chasing the Black Hawk College team for regional champion.

In IHSA horse show competitions the riders travel to host sites and ride the horses provided by those schools.

"The western shows have been a little smaller this year. I think the cost of fuel is making getting to the shows a bigger challenge for some of the teams. Most of the teams in this region (with the exception of Black Hawk College and Kansas State University) are club teams and many of them have to pay all of their travel and competition expenses. The fact that we were able to receive help from SOFAC allows us to compete more than some of the other teams," explained Coach Sue Webb.

The team competes against 14 hunt seat teams and 9 western teams in IHSA Zone 9 Region 2. Region 2 includes Illinois, Iowa, eastern Kansas, and Missouri.

Kelsey Ragsdale, junior animal science major, has led the team with strong performances all year. She is currently the leader in high point western rider in AQHA Cup competition. If she finishes at the top, she will automatically represent Missouri State and Zone 9 Region 2 at the national championship horse show in Los Angeles this spring. Ragsdale has also qualified for individual regional competition in both open rail and

reining divisions so she still has two more chances to qualify for the national championship.

Eight riders, in addition to Ragsdale, are currently qualified for regional competition: Hollie Elliott, Danan Bradley, Toree Bova, Jenny Ford (in both intermediate western and hunt seat over fences), Shelly Dey, Kelsie Minton, Chad Arnone and Codi Burris. "This year we have more students than we have ever had qualify and we still have three shows to go in both western and hunt seat divisions," commented Coach Webb. "If our riders continue to improve as they have this fall we should have a good chance to get several riders qualified for nationals. We would have to continue to ride well and be very lucky at the draw



table to catch Black Hawk in the team competition, but we're sure going to try!"

The next hunt seat competition is in February at Washington University. The next western competition is at Kansas State University the first of March.



Kelsey Ragsdale, a competitor in the most advanced western division, is the current high point western rider in AQHA Cup competition

The physics behind the collapse of the World Trade Center's Twin Towers



Dr. Pawan Kahol, Department Head of Physics, Astronomy and Material Science, recently presented a lecture on Missouri State University's campus discussing the physics behind the collapse of the World Trade Center.

Simple physics concepts show that the kinetic energy of the aircraft collisions and the gravitational energy released by falling floors were enough to destroy the twin towers. The collapse times of the towers, which can be easily calculated from a simple momentum transfer model, are in agreement with the observed collapse times. Consistent with the observed debris particle sizes, the kinetic energy of the fallen

towers was sufficient enough to crush concrete to particles of 0.1mm diameter. The total collapse of the towers would have occurred even if the fuel fires had not started.

Dr. Kahol joined Missouri State University in July 2005. Before joining Missouri State, he taught physics and chemistry while serving as Associate Dean of the Graduate College at Wichita State University. His particular research interest is in conducting polymers. He has published 115 refereed research papers in physics, chemistry, and materials science; co-authored solution manuals for both calculus- and trigonometry-based introductory physics textbooks; and has served in administrative positions for over six years.



Seabird ecologists flock to the Ozarks

Seabird ecologists from around the globe feasted on local game provided by faculty and staff at Missouri State University and tasted wines from the Fruit Experiment Station at the Bull Shoals Field Station (BSFS) in May.

The occasion was a dinner associated with a four day international conference hosted by Alexander Wait, associate professor, Biology Department and Wendy Anderson, associate professor of biology at Drury University, and adjunct professor for Missouri State University Biology Department.

The Ozarks is obviously not home to populations of seabirds; however, Drs. Wait and Anderson study seabird

islands in the Gulf of California. Their participation in a National Science Foundation Research Coordination Network brought together 17 seabird ecologists from institutions all over the U.S. and also from Chile, France, and New Zealand. One of the goals of the conference was to provide a set of guidelines for restoration projects on seabird islands around

the world.

While the meeting focused on seabird islands, ecologists hailing from far off places like Alaska, Hawaii, and California got to experience the Ozarks and products from Missouri State University.

On a beautiful Ozarks evening BSFS hosted a Dutch oven feast prepared by Celeste Prussia, manager of BSFS and Dr. Janice Greene, BSFS director and Biology professor. Wine and jam from the Fruit Experiment Station were highlighted. The Chardone and Port were deemed "excellent" by the New Zealanders, the French ecologist described both as "surprisingly good" and the ecologists from California were also quite impressed!



Students sparkle as Swarovski finalists



wearable art. Missouri State student Faith White is a top 5 finalist and Sonja Johnson was a top 20 finalist. Photos of the top five finalists' original design products are sent to Austria for photography. Congratulations to Faith and Sonja!

Thanks to the expertise of Mrs. Suzi Geiger, freelance designer and owner of Galore Atelier, students in the fashion and interior design program have the unique opportunity to study a centuries-old artform known as Lesage embroidery, which has been used by some of the most renowned houses of French couture including Chanel, Yves St. Laurent, and Christian Lacroix.

Through the classes taught at Missouri State University, and through her contacts in the industry, Geiger's students enjoyed the chance to enter the 2007 Swarovski National Design Competition. Using fine crystal beads donated by Mr. Weiser, head of Swarovski USA, sixty students from select colleges and universities were judged by their creativity and skill in designing

Geography field trip to the cosmopolitan cities of eastern Canada

On August 6th, Dr. Mario Daoust and Dr. Paul Rollinson, along with eleven geography students departed Springfield on their way to Montreal and Quebec City for the GRY 470 Eastern Canada field trip. After successfully navigating the Canadian immigration process, the group was headed to Quebec and then on to Montreal.

In Montreal, the group lodged at the McGill University residences, a short, steep climb from downtown and directly at the foot of Mont Royal. The group was exposed to a good dose of French Canadian history and culture through visits to various museums and cathedrals. A

tour of “Old Montreal” where some of the buildings date back to colonial times, gave students a chance to see one of the oldest urban areas in North America.

The next stop was Quebec City, with its magnificent views along the St. Lawrence River. Staying at University Laval residences, the group used the excellent public transportation system to visit Old Quebec. It was here that Dr. Daoust’s bilingual skills became important in this largely French-speaking city.

Quebec City’s “Old Town” (Vieux-Quebec) is the only North American fortified city north of Mexico whose walls still exist. A tour of the fortifi-

cations and the Citadel allowed students to get a sense that at one time Quebec City was a battleground between English and French forces.

Quebec has a distinct European feel with its stone buildings and winding streets. A visit to Place Royale, the town’s market place and business centre during the 17th and 18th centuries, illustrated the European touch quite well.

The last day in Quebec City students were granted a free day in town. Several went to “les Chutes Montmorency” (Montmorency Falls) without an interpreter . . . showing again the true adventurous spirit that resides in a geographer.



Mont Royal provided an impressive overview of the City.



“Je me souviens” (I remember) is the official motto for the province of Quebec. Historians don’t agree on the true meaning of the motto, but the most widely accepted version is: “I remember my French history and heritage” or “I remember what the English did to the French.”



A walk in “la basse-ville” (the lower town).

The group got a great view of the lower town and allowed a magnificent view of Chateau Frontenac, one of the most recognizable landmarks in the city.



Students present papers to PAM Advisory Board & Missouri Association of Physics Teachers

On Friday, October 26, students gave presentations before the Physics, Astronomy and Materials Science Advisory Board.

Alicia Brokelbank, working with Dr. Mayanovic, presented *X-Ray Absorption Spectroscopy of Aqueous Ytterbium(III) Carbonate Solutions Under High Temperatures and Pressures*.

Growth and Characterization of Nanocomposite Thin Films for Infrared Detection, was presented by graduate student Satya R. Ganti working with Dr. Gupta, Dr. Kahol, and Dr. Ghosh.

Graduate student Vincent Kandagor presented the topic *Synthesis and Electrical Properties of Carbon Nanotube/Polyaniline Nanocomposites*. Kandagor worked with Dr. Gupta, Dr. Kahol, and Dr. Dong.

Implementing Software Analysis of Neural Networks was presented by undergraduate student Duan Gavel working with Dr. Steve Younger (JVIC).

Alicia Brockelbank, Satya Ganti, and Vincent Kandagor also gave their presentations the following day at the 2007 Missouri Association of Physics Teachers (MAPT) meeting held in Springfield on Saturday, October 27.

In addition, Anjali Manivannan, who interned this past summer doing research assistance, presented *The Use of Spreadsheets to Promote Interactive Teaching and Learning* along with her father, Dr. "Mani" Manivannan. Other PAM faculty members spoke at the meeting as well.



Alicia Brokelbank



Satya R. Ganti



Vincent Kandagor



Duan Gavel

Dr. Michele Granger and Nancy Asay from the Department of Fashion and Interior Design traveled to New York in September where Dr. Granger presented her latest book, *Fashion: The Industry and Its Careers*, to the sales and marketing staff of Fairchild Publications. The impressive presentation was designed to help the staff at Fairchild Publications, Inc. better understand the book content in order to answer questions about the book for potential universities adopting the text. The first to adopt the text, hot off the press, is Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising (FIDM) based in California. This is a great start—lots of adoptions to follow, we're certain.

Nancy Asay, ASID, was invited to observe the process and to meet with the editors as she and Marciann Patton, also an interior designer and Missouri State University instructor, have a new contract to write a book on careers in interior design.

Dr. Granger and Mrs. Asay toured Lafayette 148 studios. Lafayette 148 is an upscale fashion company featuring women's designer clothing. One of our Missouri State University alumni, Xiaohong Gong is a designer for Lafayette 148. It was definitely a privilege to preview the 2008 line as well as seeing their design studios, pattern design production area and work areas.



Alumni Xiaohong Gong (Hong) and Nancy Asay pose in front of some new 2008 Lafayette 148 fashions in the New York showroom.



CNAS NewsBriefs

Ivan Georgiev, chemistry alumni, successfully defended his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Iowa and has joined Sopharma Pharmaceuticals in Bulgaria.

Biology graduate student **Katie Day** received a grant from Bat Conservation International in the amount of \$2,300 to support her thesis research. Katie's advisor is Tom Tomasi.

David Vinyard, chemistry graduate student, recently became the first-ever Rhodes Scholarship finalist from Missouri State University. David said, "The substantial Rhodes application process has shown me that I have a great network of support at Missouri State and it has given me the confidence to continue to strive for great things as I plan for the next chapter in my life."

Vinyard was also recently named a Missouri Citizen State Scholar.

Brian Gall, biology graduate student has been selected to receive a Basil and JoAnn Boritzki Endowment award.

The Boritzki Scholarship is unique as it is currently one of only two academic endowments awarded to graduate students competing across all disciplines.

Dr. Ken Vollmar, professor, Computer Science, is one of two Missouri faculty members to be selected for the Faculty Fellowship Program at the Missouri Department of Higher Education (MDHE). The program is designed for faculty to gain experience in statewide planning, research, and public policy initiatives.

MDHE's mission is to coordinate higher education policy and to increase participation in Missouri's public institutions. Recent legislation has given MDHE more responsibility and authority, including the development of entry- and exit-level competencies for entry level coursework at all public colleges and universities.

Ken will spend Jan.-June 2008 in the program, providing support for the agency in the academic affairs unit.

Now that's star power

Justin Gilker, a sophomore studying physics and astronomy and Dr. Mike Reed, associate professor of physics and astronomy, recently returned from a research excursion at MDM National Observatory located at Kitt Peak, Arizona. In particular, Gilker and Dr. Reed were studying a subdwarf star named V391 Peg. This star is of special interest because it has a planet, which has miraculously survived the Red Giant phase of its parent star (which is usually terminal to anything surrounding it, even planets). The relationship between this star and planet is somewhat similar to that of our own Sun and Earth. Studying this star and its planet can provide a glimpse into the possible future of planet Earth.

Justin holds a NASA/Missouri Space Grant internship. Through this program he and other interns obtain valuable experience assisting astronomy faculty with research and even contributing to papers. Dr. Reed is a member of a team of scientists currently studying V391 and other subdwarf stars and who were recently recognized for their research in *Nature*. Dr. Reed is a recent recipient of a Missouri State Foundation Award for Excellence in Research.



Ashley and Brittany Gillig, senior agricultural business majors are the 2007 recipients of the **Glenn E. Karls Senior Excellence Award in Agriculture**. The awards were given at the **Agriculture Department Annual Scholarship and Awards Banquet** in November.

Computer Science Department receives ABET accreditation

ABET, Inc. recently granted accreditation to the Department of Computer Science. Accreditation is valid through September 30, 2013.

A list of accredited programs is published annually by ABET. Information about ABET accredited programs may be found on the ABET web site (www.abet.org).



Native freshwater mussels can help save American rivers

Chris Barnhart, Missouri State professor of biology, is working with the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve and restore native freshwater mussels in American rivers.

A pilot project launched this summer produced very promising results. Four species of mussels were grown (including a federally endangered species) in an experimental device called a flupsy (floating upweller system), which creates river-like conditions needed by the mussels, and allows them to grow in ponds. The mussels were propagated at Missouri State University and lab-cultured until they reached about 1/4 inch in length. They were then placed in flupsys at the Kansas City Zoo and at two MDC facilities. The mussels grew up to four inches in 5 months, the fastest growth that the group has ever recorded. These larger mussels are better able than their smaller counterparts to survive in the wild after release.

Freshwater mussels are ecologically and economically important to the nation's river systems. They feed by filtering the water, removing bacteria, algae and silt. Mussels can grow to large size and live for decades. Their iridescent shells were formerly used for trade, button manufacture and are even now the basis of the worldwide cultured pearl industry.

Although mussels are still abundant in some rivers, many species are in danger of extinction. Populations have been lost because of pollution, dams and other factors. Of the 300 North American species, 38 are extinct and 70 others are listed as threatened or endangered.

The plight of endangered mussels is pivotal in the legal defense of legislation involving American rivers because both species and their habitats can be protected under the Endangered Species Act. North American rivers are a tremendous source for recreation, tourism, biodiversity, and research, but they are under multiple threats from dams, water diversion, pollution and other impacts.

Recent research on mussels may result in more stringent water quality regulations because mussels are found to be very sensitive to certain pollutants. A special October issue of *Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry* reported the results of ten studies, six of which were coauthored by Barnhart and former MSU student Andy Roberts.



Biology graduate student Mike Pillow tags propagated mussels at the Kansas City Zoo.

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2007 Foundation Award Recipients

TEACHING

Daniel Beckman, CNAS, Biology
Kishor Shah, CNAS, Mathematics

RESEARCH

Paul Durham, CNAS, Biology
Michael Reed, CNAS, PAMS

SERVICE

Mark Richter, CNAS, Chemistry
Mark Biggs, COAL

2007 Restaurateur of the Year

Missouri Restaurant Association –
Springfield/ Branson Chapter

Abbe Ehlers, Instructor in the Hospitality and Restaurant Administration Department since 1990, was recently chosen as the 2007 Restaurateur of the Year. Mrs. Ehlers was chosen from a pool of some of the finest restaurateurs in the state based on her leadership and contributions to the industry. Among her many contributions, Abbe has been an instructor in the popular HRA student operated restaurant - Carrie's, which is operated on the fourth floor of the Professional Building.

Hats off to Mrs. Johnston's Product Development Class

FID students currently enrolled in a Product Development class have submitted original designs for a cap to be displayed at the Final IV Basketball games in April in San Antonio, TX. Kudzu, a leading manufacturer of headwear, is hosting a design contest for Missouri State University Product Development students and will announce the winner in mid-December. The cap will be produced and available for sale at the Final IV venue as well as various other locations. The winning designer will receive a cash prize. The students are also designing a cap to be used in Kudzu's upcoming Collegiate line of product offerings. The winning design in this category will also be awarded a cash prize.



CNAS NewsBriefs

Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society held their 2nd annual Biology Chili Cook-Off on Friday, November 9, 2007. Our three judges were Art Spisak, dean of the Honors College; Matthew Dillon, graduate student; and Laura Spiker, undergraduate student. This year's event was very successful with 11 entries. The event raised \$230 from chili and t-shirt sales. Last year's champions were Janice Horton in the Tex-Mex category and Janice Greene in the Alternative category. Although all of the chili this year were excellent, the winners were Mandy Herbster, undergraduate student in Dr. Durham's lab for the Tex-Mex category and Jack Steiert, microbiology professor was the winner in the Alternative category.

OZRX new line debuts with \$3,000 to two fashion students

On November 10th, two Missouri State University students were awarded cash prizes at a presentation held at The Landing in Branson, Missouri, for their winning designs in a logo design and product development contest.

The Midwest competition was hosted by OZRX, a newly formed company producing apparel and accessories created to celebrate and represent the Ozarks region. About 40 Missouri State fashion students designed entries, either as part of the Product Development course or as an outside juried activity required for graduation. The top entries were selected through on-line voting by the public and a panel of industry professionals.

Congratulations to the following students on their winning designs: Jessica Niehaus (winner in two separate categories) and Cherrelle Hitchcock.



Missouri State hosts Central Plains Society of Mammalogists

Missouri State University and the Bull Shoals Field Station were host to the Central Plains Society of Mammalogists October 12-14, 2007. The local committee was chaired by Mark McKnight, Lynn Robbins, and Tom Tomasi, Biology Department. The meeting program consisted of six student presentations (1 undergraduate, 4 masters, and 1 Ph.D.), a keynote address by Professor Matt Gompper from the University of Missouri who spoke on Mammal-parasite interactions: moving beyond simple surveys, and talks were given by McKnight and Robbins on their recent research activities. A poster session followed with five official student entrants and several additional posters. A business meeting rounded out the formal activities. Mark McKnight was elected President-Elect. He will hold that post for two years, at which time he will become President of the Society. Attendance at the meeting was approximately 65.

The meeting was preceded Friday night by a welcoming social, concluded with a banquet/picnic.

Chemistry professor returns to campus after 40 years

If you ask Dr. William J. Husa what difference a half a century can make to an academic department, he will quickly tell you it changes everything. After teaching at our University from 1953 to 1966, Dr. Husa left convinced that the field of chemistry would never be appreciated in the Science Department at the then named Southwest Missouri State.

Little did he know that the seeds he planted and the work he did while he was here would go on to grow into something spectacular – namely a world renowned chemistry program with alumni boasting credentials impressive to any ivy institution. Beyond working to create a fully accredited program at the University, Dr. Husa also worked to inspire the students for whom he labored. One of those students, a former math major from Willard, Mo., went on to become the Curator's Professor & Chair of Chemistry at the University of Missouri. Dr. Jerry Atwood is a legend in the field with multiple awards and honors, and articles and papers published in the most prestigious journals. As successful as he has become, Dr. Atwood consistently contributes his success to the excellent guidance he received from Dr. Husa.

As a powerful testimony to the tremendous role he has played, Dr. Atwood has established a schol-

arship in honor of Dr. Husa for chemistry majors at Missouri State University. The scholarship was announced at a special dinner to honor Dr. Husa held September 17, 2007 at Metropolitan Grill in Springfield. At the conclusion of the evening Dr. Husa was presented a lifetime achievement award by the College of Natural and Applied Sciences. Speakers Dr. Belinda McCarthy, University Provost, and Dr. Tammy Jahnke, Dean of the College, both thanked Dr. Husa for his dedication to the field, as well as Dr. Atwood for his generosity. Jaimie Trussell, CNAS Director of Development commented, "Seeing Dr. Husa and Dr. Atwood together with several former professors was just amazing. It was truly a wonderful event. Despite the evidence they may give to the contrary – the students are listening – and some of them will be affected for the rest of their lives!"



**Dr. Jerry Atwood and
Dr. William J. Husa**



'Tis the Season

It's that special time of year again...you know, the time when all the charities come out to remind you that your gifts are much appreciated!

there are numerous worthwhile opportunities to make a difference this holiday season, I encourage you to consider the lifelong impact a gift to the University's endowment will make.

As you know, gifts to the Missouri State University Foundation are fully tax-deductible, and many companies match gifts made to the university (check out the matching gifts website to see if your employer is among those that match at <http://www.matchinggifts.com/missouristate/>).

This year is also the last year that individuals 70½ or older may roll over contributions from their IRA's to qualified charities completely tax free. Ask your financial advisor if making an IRA contribution to Missouri State will help reduce the taxes you pay in 2007. Remember that this special legislation expires December 31, 2007, so don't delay if you believe this might be a giving option for you!

The University will be closed in observance of the holidays from December 24-January 1, but we will be regularly checking the mail. Be sure to act early to take full advantage of your charitable gift and accompanying tax deduction in 2007. If I can assist you in any way, please contact me at 417-576-1003 (mobile) or at jtrussell@missouristate.edu.

A very happy holiday season to each of you and many blessings in the new year!

Geography field study course will cover Tanzania

Geography majors will have an opportunity to take a trip to East Africa when Janet Puhalla leads a two week field study to Tanzania in May 2008. The program offers hands-on field experience of the cultural and physical geography of East Africa. Students will learn about the conservation of natural resources and the conflict that can result between local people and national parks over the economic benefits of nature conservancy. These topics provide good examples of issues that influence sustainable development.

Students will complete research projects on a geographical topic or a subject related to sustainable development. To help them gather information necessary to their project, students will visit and interact with local residents and work together on community service projects at a primary school and orphanage. Other activities scheduled are visiting the Hadzabe and Watoga tribes, two of the few remaining bushmen tribes in Tanzania, and a chance to meet and talk with employees at a local medical clinic run by an American physician.

Several significant natural areas are included in the itinerary. Students will visit Lake Manyara National Park, famous for its tree-climbing lions, Serengeti Na-

tional Park, perhaps the most well-known park in all of Africa. Visits to Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area, which is the largest unbroken crater on earth, and to Olduvai Gorge are planned. Olduvai is one of the world's most important prehistoric archaeological sites, and is the site where Dr. Richard Leakey discovered the fossilized bone fragments of early hominids (a.k.a. Lucy).

Tanzania protects 25% of its land through national parks and reserves while the gross domestic product per capita is \$800. It is an ideal place for students to learn about conservation and cultural issues of sustainable development in East Africa. This field study provides a rare opportunity to learn about indigenous African cultures and the management of scarce natural resources in an area of the world known for its unique wildlife that most students only see in a zoological park.

GRY397 will count as GRY470 credit for geography majors and is open to all students. Contact Janet Puhalla at jpuhalla@missouristate.edu or at 836-4486 for more information.





Upcoming Events 2008

January 14	Spring 2008 Classes Begin
January 31	Focus the Nation
February 16	Science Olympiad Event
February 18-20	Missouri Small Fruit and Vegetable Conference (Clarion – Springfield)
February 21	VIP Wine Tasting and Dinner
February 22-23	Ozarks New Energy Conference (http://ozarksnewenergy.org/index.html)
March 20-28	Spring Holiday and Spring Break
April 7-8	FFA Contests
April 8-10	Ozark Science and Engineering Fair
April 15-18	Missouri State University Public Affairs Conference
April 17-18	Missouri Collegiate Math Competition
April 18-19	Missouri Mathematical Association of American Annual Meeting
April 18-19	Missouri Academy of Science Annual Meeting – Joplin, MO
April 23	Pummill Math Relays
April 24	Chemistry Department Scholarship Recognition Banquet
April 24	FID Spring Fashion Show
April 26	Missouri Elementary and Middle School Math Finals
May 15	CNAS Graduation Reception
May 16	Commencement

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