

Denison University

May 27, 2008



Faculty Newsletter

**FACULTY
NEWSBRIEFS**

David Baker, professor of English, has been awarded a poetry fellowship for Individual Excellence from the Ohio Arts Council for 2008. He also gave two readings from his work this spring at Ballet Met in Columbus (at performances for "Romeo and Juliet" and "Love Struck"). In addition, he conducted MFA tutorials, taught a workshop on literary editing and publishing, and gave a poetry reading at the University of Florida. In Boston, David served as one of five poetry jurors for the Massachusetts Cultural Council's poetry fellowships, and in Worthington he gave a master workshop in poetry for National Poetry Month at the Worthington Public Library. His own new poems appear this spring in *Alaska Quarterly Review*, *The Antioch Review*, and *Literary Imagination*. "Under the Covered Bridge Historical Site" is included in *The Making of the Sonnet* (W. W. Norton). For *Pleiades* magazine, he

presented a special feature, "Emerging Poets: On Derek Mong," selecting and writing the introduction to the poetry of this 2000 Denison graduate.

Michael C. Behrent, visiting assistant professor of history, published "The Mystical Body of Society: Religion and Association in Nineteenth-Century French Political Thought" in the *Journal of the History of Ideas* (69:2 April 2008). Another of his articles, "Une nouvelle querelle des universaux? Le débat Guyau-Durkheim sur la théorie sociologique de la religion," will appear this summer in *Archives de Sciences Sociales des Religions* (142, 2008). Michael also presented "Neither Discipline Nor Punish: Michel Foucault's Neoliberal Moment, 1976-1979" at the conference "A Foucault for the 21st Century: Governmentality, Biopolitics & Discipline in the New Millennium," held in Boston, April 16-17, 2008.

John Cort, professor of religion, is a co-author, with Lawrence A. Babb (Amherst College, Anthropology) and Michael W. Meister (University

of Pennsylvania, History of Art), of *Desert Temples: Sacred Centers of Rajasthan in Historical, Art-Historical and Social Contexts* (Jaipur: Rawat Publications, 2008).

Sue Davis, department of political science, received a course development grant from the Center for Russian and East European Studies at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor (July 2008) to update and enhance her course on the "Politics of Russia after Putin" (POSC 322). She has also been accepted to participate in the Summer Workshop on Teaching Terrorism (SWOTT) at the University of Oklahoma, during June 2008. Sue was also appointed for a three-year term to the Editorial Board of *Nationalities Papers*, the journal for the Association for the Study of Nationalities.

Jordan Fantini, associate professor of chemistry, and **Samantha Williams '08** were co-authors, with collaborators from the University of Toledo (Matthew Hertel and Professor Joseph Schmidt), on a poster presentation entitled "Calix[4]arene-based

Amine-terminated Scorpionate Ligands for Lanthanides,” at the 235th National Meeting of the American Chemical Society in New Orleans, April 6-10, 2008.

Barbara Fultner, associate professor of philosophy, has been awarded one of two external fellowships at the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute for 2008-09. Projects at the Institute are designed to contribute to scholarly knowledge or to the general public's understanding of the humanities. External fellows receive a stipend equivalent to the current NEH stipend, faculty library privileges, and assistance in locating housing.

David Goldblatt, emeritus professor of philosophy, published a review of Edwards Winters' *Aesthetics and Architecture* (Continuum, 2007) in the *British Journal of Aesthetics*, Vol. 48, Number 2.

Karen Graves, associate professor of education, has been elected Vice-President for the History and Historiography Division of the American Educational Research Association. The two-year term commences April 2009.

David Greene, associate professor of geosciences, presented “Neoproterozoic rifting in the southern Georgina Basin, central Australia: Implications for connecting Australia and Laurentia in Rodinia” at the Geological Society of America Cordilleran Section Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. David and Denison geosciences student **Mimi L. Pierson '08** presented “Geophysical Evidence for a Neoproterozoic rift basin underlying the Burke River

Structural Belt, eastern Georgina Basin, central Australia” at the same meeting. David's article entitled “Great Basin” was published in the latest edition of the McGraw-Hill *Encyclopedia of Science & Technology 10e* (2007).

Tony Lisska, Maria Theresa Barney professor of philosophy, published “A New Look at Inner Sense in Aquinas: A Long-Neglected Faculty Psychology,” Presidential Address of The American Catholic Philosophical Association, in *Proceedings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association*, Vol. 80 (2007). Tony's works also included the following:

Reviewer of *Praeambula Fidei: Thomism and the God of the Philosophers*, by Ralph McInerny, The Catholic University of America Press, *Notre Dame Philosophical Reviews* (on-line), July 2007; Reviewer of “On the Revival of Natural Law: Several Books from the Last Half-Decade,” in *American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly*, Vol. 81, # 4 (Fall 2007);

Presenter, “Natural Law and the Roman Catholic Tradition,” at the Conference on Geogist and Roman Catholic Traditions; also Comment Paper, “Principal Concepts in Henry George's Theory of Natural Law: A Brief Commentary on *The Science of Political Economy*,” The University of Scranton, July 25, 200;

Presenter of invited paper “*Recta Ratio* in Natural Law Moral and Political Theory: Thomas Aquinas and William of Ockham,” and Chairperson and Commentator, Session on “Political Theory in the Middle Ages,” Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, November 15, 2007;

Chairperson, Plenary Session, Annual Meetings of the American Catholic Philosophical Association, Milwaukee, WI, November 4, 2007; Author of *An Illustrated History of the Buckeye Lake Yacht Club*, Published by BLYC, Buckeye Lake, OH: 2007; Author of “The 175th Anniversary of Denison University,” *The Historical Times*, Vol. XXI, # 2 (Spring 2007); Presenter, “Aquinas on Natural Law Jurisprudence,” *The Justice Institute*, sponsored by The College of Law of the University of Cincinnati, November 8, 2007; Presenter, “Contemporary Natural Law Jurisprudence: From Ronald Dworkin to John Finnis, With a Stop in the *Summa Theologiae* of Thomas Aquinas,” the Thomas More Lecture, The Thomas More Society, Columbus, OH, April 1, 2008; Presenter, Comment Paper, “Creation *Ex Nihilo*,” by Louis Mancha, The Ohio Philosophical Association, April 12, 2008.

Bernardita Llanos, associate professor of modern languages, chaired a session entitled “Imaginarios do la mirginalidad: video y la novella de la chilena Diamela Eltit” at The Ohio State University on April 18-19. The session included presentations by four Denison students: **Diana Dixon '09**, “Vigilance and Dictatorship in *Los vigilantes* by Diamela Eltit”; **Mónica Aldana '08**, “Cinematografía y Malestar en el video *El Padre Mío*”; **Ryan Ahlrich '08**, “El padre mío y su camilia maldita”; **Janine Waranowicz, '08** “Lumpérica: La teatralización del estado.”

Lew Ludwig, department of mathematics and computer science, and twelve Denison students attended the Mathematical Association of America - Ohio Section meeting in Marietta. Nine of the students competed in the problem solving contest and three gave presentations. **Matt Steinke ('07)** presented his research, conducted with Dr Ludwig entitled, "Arc presentations of the (p,q)-torus knot." **Joanna Kreiselman ('08)** shared her work done with **Todd Feil**, "Modern Cryptology Conundrums." **Sam Behrend ('08)** presented work conducted at a summer REU, "Epidemiology on the farm."

Andrew McCall, assistant professor biology, published "Florivory affects pollinator visitation and female fitness in *Nemophila menziesii*," in *Oecologia* 155 (4): 729-737. He also published, with Lau, J.A., Davies, K.F., McKay, J.M., and Wright, J.W., "Herbivores and edaphic factors constrain the realized niche of a native plant," in *Ecology* 89: 754-762.

Erin Daina McClellan, visiting assistant professor of communication, published "Making Sense of the City: Place, Space, and Rhetoric in Portland's Pioneer Courthouse Square," in *Liminalities: A Journal of Performance Studies*, 4 (2008): ISSN: 1557-2935 (online) <http://liminalities.net/4-1/pioneer.htm>

Cheryl Johnson, instructional technologist, and **Joanna Mitchell**, assistant professor of modern languages, presented "Real World Web-Conferencing in Spanish Classes at a U.S. University" at the 61st Annual Kentucky Foreign

Languages Conference at the University of Kentucky at Lexington on April 18th.

Joanna Mitchell presented "Crossing the Zócalo: Thresholds between Jewish and Mexican" at the 16th UC Mexicanistas Conference dedicated to "Los Otros Méxicos / The Other Mexicos" at the University of California at Irvine on April 11th.

Margot Singer, assistant professor of English, received a Hemingway Foundation/PEN Honorable Mention for her collection of short stories, *The Pale of Settlement*. She was awarded a one-month artist's residency at the UCross Foundation in Wyoming, and she gave a reading and met with student writers at Earlham College on March 13, 2008.

Geoff Smith, associate professor of biology, **Amber Burgett '06**, **Katie Sparks '07**, **Kathy Temple '04**, and **Kristen Winter '06** recently published "Temporal patterns in bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) tadpole activity: a mesocosm experiment on the effects of density and bluegill sunfish (*Lepomis macrochirus*) presence" in *The Herpetological Journal*. Geoff Smith and colleagues from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo, the University of Oklahoma, and the Instituto Tecnológico de Huejutla, recently published "Reproduction and sexual dimorphism of *Lepidophyma sylvaticum* (Squamata: Xantusiidae), a tropical night lizard from Tlanchinol, Hidalgo, Mexico" in the May 2008 issue of *Amphibia-Reptilia*.

Bonnie Sneed, associate professor of music, will be conducting the Brahms' *Requiem* in Varna, Bulgaria as part of the Varna International Conductors' Workshop. Bonnie has been named Associate Editor of Emerson Music for her ongoing work with Bulgarian choral music. Bonnie has had her proposal for a panel discussion, "The Conductor as Scholar: How to Define Creative Activities/Research in Higher Education," accepted for the 2008 National Conference of the National Collegiate Choral Organization. She will serve as the Moderator for several musicians and administrators from Eastman, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Westchester University of Pennsylvania, and the University of Texas- San Antonio. The conference is in October at the College-Conservatory of Music, University of Cincinnati. The goal of the panel is to begin developing national guidelines to assess choral performance in the area of creative activity/research.

Jeff Thompson, assistant professor of biology, published "UV sensitive mutations in histone H3 in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* that alter specific K79 methylation states genetically act through distinct DNA repair pathways" in the May 2008 issue of *Current Genetics*. The paper was co-authored with Denison students **Margery Evans '07**, **Lindsey Bostelman '05**, **Ashley Albrecht '07**, **Andrew Keller '06**, and **Natasha Strande '08**.

Steve Vogel, professor of philosophy, presented "Alienation from the Built Environment", at the meetings of the Western Political Science Association. He also published a review of *Recognizing the Autonomy of Nature*, edited by

Thomas Heyd, in the journal *Human Ecology*.

STUDENT NEWSBRIEFS

Two Denison University students have been jointly awarded a \$10,000 grant from Davis Projects for Peace. The winning proposal by **Ian Darrow '10** and **Kara Lemarie '11** is called "Ten Years of Recovery: Healing Processes in Post-Conflict Ireland." For eight weeks this summer, Darrow and Lemarie will be "student journalists" in Northern Ireland. They will conduct a study of Irish culture with a specific focus on life in Northern Ireland since the signing of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which was a major development in that country's peace process.

Michelle Oyakawa '09, Sociology/Anthropology major, won first prize in the North Central Sociological Association student paper competition, held at the annual conference in Cincinnati in March. Michelle's paper, "Voice in Online Communities: The Formation of Individual and Group Identities," was supervised by Professors **Veerendra Lele** and **Todd Callais**.

Two Denison students earned research awards from Sigma Xi, the scientific research society. **Jenna Kelly '10** earned a \$1,500 award for her vision research project, and **Kristin Cox '07** earned a \$2,500

award for her vision research project in graduate school at the College of William and Mary.

Kevin Ching '10 from Naperville, Ill., has received a [Boren Scholarship](#) from the National Security Education Program (NSEP) to spend next year studying Mandarin Chinese in China. NSEP provides funding for students to study in world regions critical to U.S. interests

Christine Durkin '08, a political science and German double major from Whitefish Bay, Wis., will decide between the [Padagogischer Austauschdienst Teaching Assistantship](#) (PAD) to Germany and an [English Teaching Assistantship](#) to Austria. The PAD offers German participants the opportunity to improve both the learning and teaching of subjects, in particular foreign languages, by sharing and comparing best practice at an international level.

Both **Rachel Grotheer '08** from Deerfield, Ill. and **Alyssa Landry '08** from South Hamilton, Mass., recently learned that they are recipients of [French Government Teaching Assistantships](#), administered through the Fulbright program. Landry will spend the next academic year teaching English in France, while Grotheer has declined the offer in favor of another position.

Chuan-Xing Ho '10 of Johnson City, Tenn., has been awarded a \$7,500 [Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship](#), which helps outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering. Ho is a biochemistry major and philosophy minor who also holds

the Wells Scholarship at Denison.

Also heading to Germany this year is **Stephen Julka '08**, an environmental studies/German double major from Madison, Wis. Julka was awarded a [Padagogischer Austauschdienst Teaching Assistantship](#) to Germany. He also was named an alternate for the [English Teaching Assistantship](#) awarded by the Austrian Fulbright Commission.

Nicole Scholtz '08, a math and computer science double major from Chesterland, Ohio, has been awarded both an [AT&T Labs Fellowship](#) and a [National Science Foundation](#) grant. The AT&T Labs Fellowship is a national fellowship for outstanding under-represented minority and women students who are pursuing a Ph.D. in computer and communications-based fields.

Karen Siklosi '06, a biology and Latin double major from Bar Harbor, Maine, will receive her masters degree in genetic counseling from the University of Maryland School of Medicine in May. Siklosi has been awarded a [Fulbright Research Scholarship in Ireland](#) for 2008-09 (one of only three given). She will work at the Cystic Fibrosis Clinic of St. Vincent's University Hospital in Dublin.

Erik Walker '08, a political science and German double major from The Woodlands, Texas, received a scholarship from the [Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange \(CBYX\) for Young Professionals](#), a program with a strong focus on cultural exchange. Additionally, he was awarded an [English Teaching Assistantship](#) to

Austria, for which he applied for through the Austrian Fulbright Commission. Walker declined this second award in favor of the Congress-Bundestag program.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Reunion, May 30-June 1. Parade of Classes and Alumni Convocation. Faculty Line-up at 7:15.

June Orientation, 2-3, 5-6, 7-8, 10-11, 13-14.

Dan Gibson & Wes Walter Awarded NSF Grant

Dan Gibson and Wes Walter, professors of physics, have been awarded a National Science Foundations grant of \$283,000 for their proposal entitled "RUI: Valence and Inner-shell Negative Ion Spectroscopy." The grant covers a period of three years.

August Mellon Workshops

Denison will hold two workshops in August, one on advising and one on

the liberal arts. The workshop on liberal arts is a reprise of the May workshop, which was very successful. The specific times of the workshops will be announced in the near future.

Academic Innovation Fund

The Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) is pleased to announce a new professional development resource for faculty members who seek to collaborate in pursuing shared interests in research, teaching, or leadership development. The Academic Innovation Fund will provide professional development support totaling \$100,000 over three years to groups of faculty seeking to work together in achieving common purposes within and across GLCA's 12 member colleges. Proposals for grants will be accepted beginning in January 2007.

The Academic Innovation Fund is one component of the GLCA Academic Leadership and Innovation (GALI) Institute, begun in Fall 2006 with a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. In addition to providing support for collaborative faculty initiatives, the Mellon grant supports a series of GALI Institute faculty development

workshops, which will provide a growing number of faculty members with foundations for better understanding academic leadership,

governance, and decision making at liberal arts colleges.

The Faculty Newsletter is published by the office of the provost during the first week of each month of the academic year. For further information, contact Keith Boone, email or x6592. Send Newsbriefs by email to Mary Philipps.

