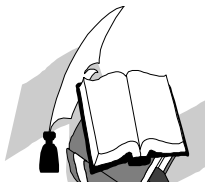


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Denison University  
September, 2008



# Faculty Newsletter



## FACULTY NEWSBRIEFS

**Kennard B. Bork**, alumni professor of geology, emeritus, attended the 33rd International Geological Congress (IGC) in Oslo, Norway, August 2008. While at the IGC, he chaired a session on the history of geology and concluded his four-year term as Secretary-General of the International Commission on the History of Geological Sciences (INHIGEO). Bork's invited essay on "Back to the future, through the past – Why study the history of science?" was the lead article in a special history-of-geology edition of *The Compass*, published this summer.

**Alexandra Bradner**, assistant professor of philosophy, and **Seth Chin-Parker**, assistant professor of psychology, presented a poster entitled "Empirical Support for the

Pragmatic Approach to Explanation" at the 34th annual conference of the Society of Philosophy and Psychology, in Philadelphia (June, 2008). In July, they presented "The Pragmatics of Explanation" at the 30th annual Cognitive Science Society conference in Washington, D. C., and the accompanying paper was published in the conference proceedings.

**Kirk Combe**, professor of English, has been named a finalist in the 4th Annual Gival Press Novel Award contest. His novel, *Imperfect Enjoyment: A Postmodern Epic*, was one of four finalist works.

**James Davis**, associate professor of English, taught "The Cold War Films of Alfred Hitchcock" for the Advanced Studies in England program in Bath from June 7 to July 12, 2008. The ASE program is affiliated with University College, Oxford, and

is administered by Franklin & Marshall College.

**Sue Davis**, associate professor of political science, published "Elections, Legitimacy, Media, and Democracy: The Case of Georgia," *Nationalities Papers*, 36, 3, July 2008.

**Jordan Fantini**, associate professor of chemistry, made an oral presentation on his work entitled "Methylene-Bridge Functionalized Calix[4]arenes: Routes to 'Click-Chemistry' Reactants" at the 39<sup>th</sup> Central Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society. The meeting was held in Columbus, Ohio, June, 2008. Coauthors on the presentation were **Samantha Williams '08** and **Michael Hardman '09**. Jordan also made a poster presentation on his work entitled "*Calix[4]arenes with versatile tethers attached at the methylene bridge*" at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on

Macrocyclic and Supramolecular Chemistry, held in Las Vegas, Nevada from July 13 to 18, 2008. Additionally, he presented a poster on his research entitled "*Geminal substitution at the methylene-bridge position of a calix[4]arene via 2-methylene-tetramethoxy-p-tert-butylcalix[4]arene*" at the 236<sup>th</sup> National Meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Philadelphia, Pa. from August, 2008. **Ken Klatt**, professor emeritus of biology, was a co-author of this presentation.

**David Goldblatt**, emeritus professor of philosophy, published a review of Arindam Dutta's *The Bureaucracy of Beauty: Design in the Age of its Global Reproducibility*, Routledge, 2007, in the *Journal of Aesthetics and Art Criticism*, Summer 2008, Vol. 66, No. 3. In addition, David was part of an architectural jury for a final graduate school project, "Scaler Shifts: Transformations for a Mixed Use Building in Chelsea, NYC," at the School of Design and Architecture, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 6, 2008.

**Jeffrey Kurtz**, associate professor of communication, presented "Confessions and Responsibilities: Dorothy Day and the Rhetorical Reconciliation of Religion and Liberalism" at the Rhetoric of Society of America Conference in Seattle, WA, in May. He also presented

"How is it that ye do not discern this time?": Religious Communication, Crisis, and the Withering of Liberalism" at the 10th-anniversary meeting of the Communication Ethics Conference, held at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, PA, in June.

**Nestor Matthews**, associate professor of psychology, presented a poster entitled "Bilateral Superiority in Detecting Gabor Targets Among Gabor Distracters" at the annual meeting of the Vision Sciences Society in Naples Florida on May, 10th, 2008.

**Andy McCall**, assistant professor of biology, presented "Why do florivores prefer hermaphrodite over female flowers?" with D. M. Barr, U of Montana, at The Ecology and Evolution of Plant-Pollinator Interactions Conference, August, 2008, Milwaukee, WI. Andy also presented "Does inbreeding affect tolerance to shoot herbivory in *Mimulus guttatus*?" with D. E. Carr, U of Virginia, at the Ecological Society of America Annual Conference, August, 2008, Milwaukee, WI. Andy organized a panel and discussion on "How to Get and Keep a Job at a Small College" for the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America held in August. Andy McCall and **Jessica Rettig**, associate professor of biology, served on this panel and facilitated small-group discussions on this topic.

**Joyce Meredith**, special assistant to the president, has been elected Vice President of the Environmental Education Council of Ohio (EECO).

**Pete Mills**, director of the Denison Jazz Ensemble and affiliated instructor of music, was featured in the September/October issue of *Saxophone Journal* Vol. 33, No. 1. The regular series, "A Lesson With...", inquires of saxophonists their approach to artistic development. In June Mills was a featured soloist with The Columbus Jazz Orchestra at the Vail (Colorado) Bravo! Music Festival. His third solo recording, *Fresh Spin*, on the Arizona based Summit Records label, received enthusiastic reviews this spring in both *DownBeat* and *JazzTimes* magazines and was on the *JazzWeek Top 50 Radio Chart* for 8 weeks. The CD also has been featured on CBC radio (Canada) and is currently being played on the Australia Broadcasting Corporation (ABC Radio).

**Erika Molloseau**, assistant professor of communication, participated this summer in the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute, "African American Struggles for Civil Rights in the Twentieth Century," hosted by the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University.

**Jessica Rettig**, associate

professor of biology, presented a research poster entitled "The nesting environment for bluegill sunfish in small ponds: Is there variation in seasonal nesting activity, colony activity, or nest characteristics?" at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in August.

This research was coauthored by Denison students **Nicole Gray ('06)**, **Walter Kim ('06)**, **Amy Ali ('09)**, **Jai-Jai Arrington ('08)**, and **Ezinnaya Ubagharaji ('09)**. Jessica also gave a podium presentation on "Double duty courses: Using an ecology class to fulfill a general education requirement for oral communication" at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in August.

This presentation was coauthored with **Geoff Smith**, associate professor of biology, and based on their experiences modifying BIOL 375 to fulfill the O-requirement at Denison.

**Margot Singer**, assistant professor of English, won the 2008 Glasgow/Shenandoah Prize for Emerging Writers. Her short story collection, *The Pale of Settlement*, which won the Flannery O'Connor Award for Short Fiction, also received an honorable mention for the 2008 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award and was a finalist for the 2008 John Gardner Fiction Book Award. Margot served on the faculty of Queens University's low-residency MFA Program in Charlotte, VA, where she gave a reading in May.

**Geoff Smith**, associate professor of biology, along with **Allie Boyd ('07)**, **Chris Dayer ('07)**, and **Kristen Winter ('06)**, recently published "Behavioral responses of American toad and bullfrog tadpoles to the presence of cues from the invasive fish, *Gambusia affinis*" in the May 2008 issue of *Biological Invasions*. Geoff, **Amber Burgett ('06)**, **Kathy Temple ('04)**, **Katie Sparks ('07)**, and **Kristen Winter ('06)** recently published "The ability of three species of tadpoles to differentiate among potential fish predators" in *Ethology*. Geoff, **Chris Dibble ('09)**, **Peter Iverson ('06)**, and a colleague from UNAM recently published "Natural history of *Procinura aemula* (Serpentes: Colubridae) from Chinipas, Chihuahua, Mexico" in the June 2008 issue of the *Southwestern Naturalist*. Geoff also presented a poster entitled "Ecology's role in solving environmental problems: A module-based environmental science course for non-majors" at the 2008 Ecological Society of America meeting in Milwaukee. The poster was based on his FYS102 course "Ecology for a Changing Planet." He also presented a poster with co-authors **Chris Dibble ('09)** and **Jessica Rettig**, associate professor of biology, entitled "Small fish, big effects: The impacts of mosquitofish and ammonium nitrate on tadpoles, zooplankton, and phytoplankton."

**Steve Vogel**, professor of philosophy, presented "What is Alienation from Nature?" at the conference on Philosophy and Social Science held in association with the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague, and a longer version of the same paper at a conference entitled "Beyond Reification: Critical Theory and the Challenge of Praxis" at John Cabot University in Rome.

## STUDENT NEWSBRIEFS

**Chris Dibble ('09)**, with co-authors **Jessica Rettig** and **Geoff Smith**, associate professors of biology, presented a poster titled "Relative strength of top-down and bottom-up effects in a simple aquatic food web that includes an invasive fish" at the 2008 Ecological Society of America meeting in Milwaukee. The poster was based on an experiment done as part of BIOL375 Population and Community Ecology.

**Jeff Green ('08)** and **Leland Morris ('09)** delivered a paper at the annual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication convention in the beginning of August. The paper, "Destroying

the Beast: An Analysis of Women's and Animal Oppression in The Little Mermaid," was featured at a poster presentation session at the conference and was originally written for Assistant Communication Professor **David Oh's** course on Media, Representation, and Power in Spring '08.

**Peter Surace ('11)** has won a scholarship in the Student Conservation Association Environmental Essay and Video Contest. The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities. SCA is focused on developing conservation and community leaders, looking for practical solutions that involve young people in addressing an environmental challenge. In the fall of 2007, SCA sponsored a contest inviting submissions on this topic. Pete entered and has been named the winner of his region, receiving a \$2,000 scholarship. SCA will also send him to Washington DC in April to compete against three other regional winners for a \$15,000 prize. His project, involving educating future drivers about global warming and what these youth can do to put an end to it, can be viewed at:

<http://www.thesca.org/contest/>  
**Autumn Lotze ('07)**, currently the Education Coordinator for the Retail Industry Leaders Association, a trade association

doing lobbying and research for the retail industry, located in Washington DC, was recently awarded one of ten Young Executive Scholarships to attend the Global Summit on Social Responsibility.

Attendees gain insights on how social responsibility initiatives strengthen the ability for organizations to serve members and their missions while increasing their organization's visibility and goodwill in the professional community. During the summit, they will forge strategies and define new actions to vault associations to the forefront of social responsibility.

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

**The American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS)** supports *post-doctoral research in the humanities and research in the social sciences* with a predominantly humanistic emphasis -- "humanities-related social sciences. ACLS offers fellowships and grants in more than a dozen programs for research in the humanities and related social sciences at the doctoral and postdoctoral levels. The specifics of the competitions vary. Program descriptions, eligibility requirements, and application procedures for each program can be

found on the [Competitions and Deadlines](#) page at the web site. Fellows and grantees in all programs are selected by committees of scholars appointed for this purpose. An individual may apply to as many fellowship and grant programs as are suitable. However, not more than one ACLS or ACLS-joint award may normally be accepted in any one competition year. For the purpose of these competitions, the humanities and related social sciences include but are not limited to American studies; anthropology; archaeology; art and architectural history; classics; economics; film; geography; history; languages and literatures; legal studies; linguistics; musicology; philosophy; political science; psychology; religious studies; rhetoric, communication, and media studies; science, technology, and medicine studies; sociology; and theater, dance, and performance studies. Proposals in the social science fields listed above are eligible only if they employ predominantly humanistic approaches (e.g., economic history, law and literature, political philosophy). Proposals in interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies are welcome, as are proposals focused on any geographic region or on any cultural or linguistic group. In 2008, awards of over \$9.3 million were made to 314 scholars. (<http://www.acls.org/>)

**The American Council of Learned Societies** is also accepting applications for the third annual competition for the ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships. With funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program supports digitally based research projects in all disciplines of the humanities and humanities-related

social sciences. ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships are intended to support an academic year dedicated to work on a major scholarly project that takes a digital form. Projects may involve development of new digital tools that further humanistic research (such as digital research archives or innovative databases); research that depends on or is greatly enhanced by the use of such tools; the representation of research that depends on or is greatly enhanced by the use of such tools; or some combination of these features. ACLS does not support creative works (e.g., novels or films), textbooks, straightforward translations, or purely pedagogical projects. ACLS will award up to five ACLS Digital Innovation Fellowships in this competition year. Each fellowship carries a stipend of up to \$55,000 towards an academic year's leave and provides for project costs of up to \$25,000. The program is open to scholars in all fields of the humanities and the humanistic social sciences. Applicants must have a Ph.D. degree conferred prior to the application deadline. U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is required as of the application deadline. Appropriate fields of specialization include but are not limited to American studies; anthropology; archaeology; art and architectural history; classics; economics; film; geography; history; languages and literatures; legal studies; linguistics; musicology; philosophy; political science; psychology; religious studies; rhetoric, communication, and media studies; science, technology, and medicine studies; sociology; and theater, dance, and

performance studies. Proposals in the social science fields listed above are eligible only if they employ predominantly humanistic approaches (e.g., economic history, law and literature, political philosophy). Proposals in interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary studies are welcome, as are proposals focused on any geographic region or on any cultural or linguistic group. See <http://www.acls.org/>

**The American Council of Learned Societies** is also offering an *Inaugural Round of Collaborative Research Awards*.

The aim of the program is to offer teams of two or more scholars the opportunity to collaborate intensively on a single, substantive project in the humanities and related social sciences. It is hoped that projects of successful applicants will help demonstrate the range and value of both collaborative research and inquiry in the humanities and model how such collaboration may be carried out successfully. Collaborations that involve the participation of assistant and associate faculty members, or that of scholars at different kinds of institutions, are particularly encouraged. Each project should yield tangible research outcomes (e.g., joint publications, Web projects, or other collaboratively produced projects). One member of the project team must be designated as the project coordinator. It is anticipated that the project coordinator's institution will administer the funds for collaboration costs. The project coordinator must have an appointment at an institution of higher education; other project members may be indepen-

dent scholars. The project coordinator must be at a U.S.- based institution; other project members may be at institutions outside the United States. All project participants must hold a Ph.D. degree or its equivalent in publications and professional experience. Awards will be provided in amounts of up to \$140,000 per project, with no more than \$60,000 awarded to a single participant for salary replacement, up to a total tenure period of twenty-four months, to be initiated between July 1, 2009, and September 1, 2011. Visit the ACLS Web site for complete program information and application requirements. <http://acls.org/>

Deadline: November 12, 2008

An initiative of the **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation's Arts Program**, the *Fund for National Projects* supports projects designed to strengthen the national infrastructure of the dance, jazz, presenting, and/or theater fields; or improve conditions for the national community of performing artists in dance, jazz, and theater. During a two-year pilot phase, the fund will award a total of up to \$1 million in grants to support key national projects in the dance, jazz, presenting, and/or theater fields. Grants will range from \$60,000 to \$200,000 and cannot exceed 40 percent of a project's total cost. National projects engage a broad national constituency, occur once (or periodically) rather than annually, and have the potential to significantly impact a field. Organizations are encouraged to submit Letters of Inquiry for activities such as research projects assessing the national health of arts groups or of individual artists;

special national convenings for entire performing arts fields (beyond traditional national annual conferences); and special projects that address unique circumstances that affect an entire field. The fund expressly does not support the following types of activities: projects by single performing arts entities (e.g., national tours of a particular dance or theater work); individually produced conferences, performances, or symposia (e.g., a festival produced by a single organization or by a consortia of local groups in a specific city or locale); re-granting programs; translations or commissions of new works (even if expected to have national impact); and production start-up activities. Single nonprofit organizations and consortia are both eligible to apply. National organizations receiving core support from the DDCF are not eligible to request additional support from the fund for single-discipline activities. Deadlines for Letters of Inquiry are November 1 and May 1, with full proposals (upon invitation) due no later than December 1 and June 1, respectively. Visit the DDCF Web site for complete program guidelines and application procedures.

<http://www.ddcf.org/>

Each year the **Stanford Humanities Center** offers residential fellowships to as many as thirty fellows, who meet regularly in formal and informal sessions while pursuing their individual study, research, and writing. The Center constitutes an intellectual and social community in which historians, philosophers, scholars of literature and the arts, anthropologists, and other

humanists of diverse ages, academic ranks, and departmental and institutional affiliations contribute to and learn from one another's work. Faculty members have offices at the Center, within a short walk of Green Library and the center of campus, and meet together regularly for lunch, seminars, and workshops. While spending most of their time researching and writing books, articles, and dissertations, fellows also contribute to the Stanford community by participating in research workshops, giving lectures, teaching courses, and taking part in conferences. For information about specific fellowships, go to <http://shc.stanford.edu/fellowships/about.htm>

The *Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI)* program of the **National Science Foundation** seeks to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for all students, based on educational research and empirical data concerning needs and opportunities in undergraduate education and effective ways to address them. It targets activities affecting learning environments, course content, curricula, and educational practices, with the aim of improving learning contributing to the relevant knowledge base that will support future efforts to enhance STEM education. The CCLI program has four tracks that emphasize, respectively, the development of new educational materials and practices for a national audience (EMD); the local adaptation and implementation of previously developed exemplary materials and practices, including laboratory experiences and support

for instrumentation (A&I); the national dissemination of exemplary materials and/or practices through faculty professional development (ND); and the assessment of student achievement, including research on assessment and the development of assessment tools and practices (ASA). Projects may address the needs of a single discipline or cut across disciplinary boundaries. Full Proposal Deadline Date: January 12, 2009 for Phase 2 and 3 proposals. [http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm\\_summ.jsp?pims\\_id=5741](http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5741)

### **Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program to Fund Work on Contemporary Visual Art**

The Creative Capital/Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant is an initiative of the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts (<http://www.warholfoundation.org>) as part of its broader Arts Writing Initiative (<http://artswriters.org/initiative.php>) and is administered by Creative Capital. <http://creativecapital.org> Dedicated to supporting a wide range of writing on contemporary visual art -- from general-audience to scholarly -- the program awards project-based grants to individual authors. In its 2008 cycle, the program will fund approximately 20 projects, in amounts ranging from \$3,000 to \$50,000 each, in the following categories: books; articles; short-form writing; and blogs/new and alternative media. To be eligible, an arts writer must be one of the following: an individual; an art historian, artist, critic, curator, journalist, or practitioner in an outside field who is strongly engaged with the contemporary

visual arts; a U.S. citizen, permanent resident of the United States, or possessor of an O-1 visa. Please note: Writers wishing to apply for book projects must first submit a Letter of Inquiry. The 2008 deadline for the Book LOI has already passed. The program is no longer accepting applications for article series, only for individual articles. Visit the program's Web site for complete program guidelines and application procedures.

Deadline: September 22, 2008

RFP Link:

<http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15014738/artswriters>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### IMPORTANT DATES

Science Poster Session	9/11
Spring Course Schedules	9/29
Non-Science Poster Session	10/2
Student Research Proposals	10/13
Tenure Dossiers On Line	10/17
Mid-Semester Grades	10/20
Promotion to Professor	11/3
R.C. Good Fellowships	11/10

### FACULTY AWARD

#### **Kristina Mead**

Kristina Mead, Associate Professor of Biology has won a 2008 Marine Biological Laboratory Grass Foundation Sabbatical Fellowship, which will allow her to do research at

the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts from August through the end of this year. She will study the variation in grass shrimp (*Palaeomonetes vulgaris*) noses, which are on their antennules, carry out and write up a smaller side project on antennule regeneration in grass shrimp, and possibly write a literature review of animal navigation, using the extensive resources at the MBL library.

### 2008-09 MIDWEST FACULTY SEMINARS

On p. 8 of this newsletter you will find descriptions of the University of Chicago's Midwest Faculty Seminars for this academic year. (UC sends fuller descriptions about four weeks before the individual seminars.)

The maximum number of nominations of Denison faculty for any one seminar is two, plus two alternates if space is available. We are able to nominate 6 faculty members for the 2008-2009 series – possibly more, depending on the enrollment patterns in the individual seminars. The provost's office will cover the costs associated with attending the seminars.

If you are interested in attending any of these seminars, please send a brief statement to Keith Boone outlining the relationship of the topic to your research

and/or teaching interests. (Email is fine.) If there are more than two requests to attend a seminar, we will give primary consideration to the centrality of the seminar for a faculty member's research and teaching interests.

*Please do not send a statement unless you are sure that you will attend since we have only 6 slots to distribute throughout the year.*

Call or email Keith Boone if you have any questions.

*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.*

### MFS TOPICS 2008-2009

## **American Empire and the Exportation of Democracy** **November 6-8, 2008**

Advocates of the so-called American Empire insist that the United States has a moral obligation and a pragmatic need to promote freedom and democracy across the globe; critics claim that this practice violates our national ideals and increases global instability and violence. Military struggles in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the looming possibility of expanded engagement in the Middle East, do little to resolve questions about America's global role. Instead, they underscore how important it is to approach this thorny issue with thoughtful discussion and analysis. Is the American model of democracy a universalizable one? What counts as a democratic system, and what conditions are required for effective democracy? Can we resolve the tensions between a democratic electoral system and the exercise of imperial power?

## **The Dialectic of Enlightenment** **January 15-17, 2009**

In 1944 Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer published a book that was to become a foundation of the Frankfurt School of theory, and a cornerstone of aesthetic and political criticism for generations of scholars. They recast the enlightenment as a movement that devastated humans' ability to engage with the irrational and non-individual aspects of life, and postulated a "culture industry" that, stupefying the masses with simple pleasures, shores up the hegemony of capitalism and quashes the potential of the fine arts. This

text-based seminar explores what we can learn from this influential work today. How do contemporary technology, art, politics, and economics reflect or challenge the conditions described by Adorno and Horkheimer? What political and economic work is achieved by today's mass culture?

## **Troubled Waters** **March 5-7, 2009**

While the scarcity of oil and other energy sources dominate news and politics, the attention of concerned scholars is increasingly focused on water, a diminishing natural resource that is still more central to everyday life. Many commentators agree that water scarcity is taking over as the likeliest cause of conflict, in the Middle East and elsewhere, as fresh water is increasingly diminished by agriculture and industry or rendered unusable by pollution. Meanwhile, global warming threatens hard-to-predict changes to oceans and ice caps; molecular chemistry delves deeper into the unique properties of water's structure; and new evidence from Mars offers hitherto fantastical possibilities for understanding the history and future of our own planet. This seminar will invite reflections from political scientists, economists, historians, and geographers, as well as from scholars in public policy, environmental, international, and area studies.

## **Religion and Morality** **April 16-18, 2009**

Ivan Karamazov famously concluded that if there is no God, all is permitted. Much of the academic community today, however, tends to discount the possibility that religion is essential to morality, or to argue the opposite: that the removal of God is the necessary condition for moral discourse and action. This seminar will examine debates about the relation between morality and religion, considering how this relationship has been figured and refigured in different societies and at different moments in history. How can teachers maintain appropriate distance from dogma without shutting down possibilities for understanding other cultures? What are the opportunities of and constraints on an intersection between religion and morality, particularly in and between modern, pluralist societies? What role can, should, and do particular religions play in an era of global moral problems like climate change and terrorism?