

Focal Points

the College of Arts & Sciences
Tennessee Technological University

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Rocketing to Success



Cookeville-- It stands to reason that the irrepressible college student who tried to replace the golden eagle atop Derryberry Hall at Tennessee Tech with Shoney's 8-foot-tall Big Boy plastic statue would end up writing the humor-filled screenplay, *Space Cowboys*.

"We had a blast writing it," Howie Klausner said in a telephone interview from his home in Washington State about working with his writing partner, Ken Kaufman.

The two originally tried to pitch the idea of a sort of Grumpy Old Men in Space, but no one would buy their pitch.

"If you can pitch the idea, then the studio will pay you to develop it. But no one bought our pitch, so we realized we were going to have to go to work and actually write a screenplay," Klausner laughed.

The two wrote the first draft in two weeks. The final draft took two more weeks. The idea changed in the writing from a *Grumpy Old Men* spoof to a return of *The Magnificent Seven*. And the screen play was a hit.

"We ended up with three studios in a bidding war over it: Disney, Universal and Warner Brothers," Klausner said.

After the movie came out, most reviewers accused the writers of using John Glenn's return to space at age 77 as the inspiration for the screenplay that eventually attracted senior citizen Clint Eastwood.

"That was all wrong. We wrote the screenplay first and Eastwood originally turned it down because he thought the premise was absurd. But after Glenn went up, Eastwood reconsidered the whole thing. And once we had him signed up there was no stopping the project.



(Cont'd on page 2)

Dean's Message

Planning in a Complex Environment

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled
(who knows how?)

With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle,dim;
He fathers forth

whose beauty is past change....

—G. M. Hopkins, "Pied Beauty" (1877)

This year, as TTU is re-evaluated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, we are all thinking hard about strategic planning—i.e., long-range planning to achieve broad goals. In their most general form, these goals are set by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and each institution is required to express them

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"It was a blast watching it on the set. My agent told me to 'enjoy the moment. It doesn't get any better than this and you probably won't ever come close to something like this again,'" Klausner laughed.

Klausner credits Tennessee Tech with giving him the background and skill in writing that he has needed in his career.

"I didn't really know what I wanted to do after high school. Tech is known as an engineering school and I knew I didn't want that, but it was a place for me to go."

Klausner grew up in Nashville, but his mother, Mary Neal Kennedy, is a born-and-bred Cookevillian who can trace her Cookeville roots back at least three generations.

"My grandfather was Pete Metheny," Klausner said. "He was the justice of the peace for years. And my grandmother was Julia Neal Metheny. According to my mother, she had the first beauty shop in town."

When Klausner decided to give Tennessee Tech a try, he had hopes of making a name for himself on the gridiron.

"But I was short. I was never going to be a first string Golden Eagle."

But Klausner had other talents. He came to Tech in the late 1970s (1979-1981), the era when the movie *Animal House* left its imprint on college students across the nation.

"It was around 1980, but Cookeville was still back in the 1950s. At first I

was dismayed and then I found out that beneath all that heavy emphasis on engineering there was this

funky little underground of writers and artists. I wrote some things for that underground that upset a number of people. But there was a secretary in the English Department who befriended me. I understand she's still there. Her name is Sue Ellen Odom and when

everyone else came down on me, she was the only one who encouraged me to keep writing. She lit a fire under me and pushed me toward a couple of excellent teachers."

"Later, a play that I wrote at Tech was performed by a Nashville troupe and that helped me get into the University of Southern California."

But Klausner's irrepressible humor was a double-edged sword often getting him admitted to opportunities that ended when he stepped over the line of Cookeville decorum.

"I worked at (radio station) HUB for a very short while. I was much too young to be on air. Finally the manager just suggested I might prefer not to come back the next week."

So Klausner filled his spare time with science experiments.

"I was a pretty serious geek at school. I couldn't get dates and I couldn't get into a fraternity so I got interested in creative expression," he said.

"The first time I got into trouble was when a friend and I were shooting

model rockets with messages in them to the girls' dorms at the other end of campus. Unfortunately, not one of the rockets made it."

After that he stayed pretty quiet until one Sunday night when the campus was deserted and he and a friend plotted to "borrow" the eight-foot plastic Big Boy icon which stood in front of the Shoneys on Jefferson Ave.

"This was Sunday night and we felt when everyone woke up on Monday, the Big Boy should be on top of the clock tower."

Campus security caught the boys unloading their cargo and tossed them in the old jail for several hours.

"They handled it just right. They didn't crack a smile in front of us and they scared the bejabbers out of us. Then they called Shoney's manager, a Tech graduate, who thought it all was pretty funny and just told them to let us go."

"Mom heard about the incident from her Cookeville grapevine." She simply said, "I guess this one's not going to grow up to be a doctor."

By the beginning of his junior year, Klausner realized he wanted to go



into film making and transferred from TTU to USC. Later, he began to act as well as write and was beginning to get jobs -- an extra in *Dukes of Hazard*, parts in commercials. But it was the writing that came to the fore.

After *Space Cowboys* the Tennesseean was offered other projects, but a few years ago he stepped back from screenwriting for a year to write the biography of astronaut Pete Conrad.

"His wife saw *Space Cowboys* and decided I was the one she wanted for his biography. You don't say, 'No,' to something like that," he said.

The astronaut's widow opened all sorts of doors for Klausner's research.

Last summer Klausner was in Nashville at Davis-Kidd Booksellers promoting the book. Next year *Rocketman* is scheduled to come out in paperback.

"The guy is such a great character. He was dyslexic and he overcame that. He was short. I'm short, too, and I know what that's like. I could relate to Conrad. I could relate to someone who just won't give up. He was a man who overcame all sorts of obstacles."

"Neil Armstrong, on the other hand, was Captain Cool. That doesn't relate to me. I could never have written his biography," Klausner said.

"I feel this is almost a kid's story. It's motivational and it really happened. Even at the end of his life Conrad couldn't read. Numbers and engineering made sense to him, but not words," he said.

And while the story seems perfect for a screenplay treatment, for now Klausner has turned away from writing and toward music.

"When I was a kid there were two things I dreamed about being when I grew up -- an astronaut and the fifth Beatle. I've been the "space guy" in Hollywood for seven years. So, at 45 I'm ready to go back and try the other thing I love."



Klausner played guitar at some of the rowdier places in Cookeville when he was a college student, he says. Now his group, "The Movies," is about to release its first album, *Prequel*, just before Christmas.

"I'm having fun with it. It's brand new for me after doing the film thing for so long."

And if he gets tired of that, he has a couple of TV projects that he's been pitching: a southern "take" on *Desperate Housewives* called "Southern Comfort" and a space version of *Gray's Anatomy*.

And after he's finished with those, he'll be able to write or compose something

for all those house husbands who work at home like he does.

"Heather (his wife) and I are bringing the girls up Southern. With a six-year-old and twin three-year-olds, there's plenty of material for a book, a screenplay, or an album of songs," he said.

Visit Howie Klausner's website at www.meetthemovies.com.

Special thanks to the Herald-Citizen Newspaper for allowing us to reprint this article. Thanks also to the author of the article, Jill Thomas, the photographer, Tennessee Tech archives, and photo services.

(Dean's Message cont'd from pg.1)

in ways amenable to its own distinctive history and mission. Logically, the next step is for each unit within the institution to devise goals and plans that align well with the overall institutional objectives—and so on, down to the program, course, and even activity level.

Assuming a public institution of higher education must improve its ability to serve society, there is no real substitute for strategic planning. To guide decision-making and allocation of resources, university leaders need long-range goals as well as agreed-upon steps toward reaching those goals. The alternative approach—a strictly inductive, reactive, caretaking style of management—would surely be unable to keep up with the pace at which our culture and its educational needs change.

On the other hand, strategic planning, being centralized, can easily become “top-down” in the extreme, thereby losing faculty support and overlooking distinctive needs of specific programs and administrative units. To prepare students for an increasingly pluralistic, dynamic society, we need many different disciplines of study, a culturally diverse faculty and student body, and a variety of cultural perspectives and activities. The strategic planning process needs to incorporate, indeed gain strength from, this complexity. Somehow, it needs to remain open to special concerns and emerging priorities.

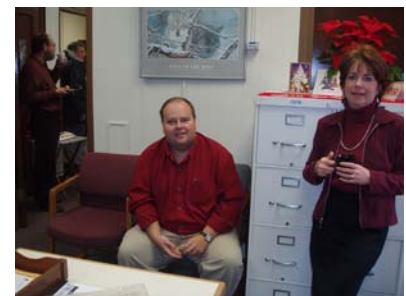
Of course, the final shape of the plan has to come from the top, for only there is the perspective broad enough to include all the major stakeholders. During the shaping process, however, department chairpersons, faculty, and students should be involved in a sustained way, ensuring that the resulting plan is flexible and accommodating. Surely, no strategic plan can succeed if it inhibits the creativity, individuality, and diversity that enervate this type of university, providing such a rich context for learning.



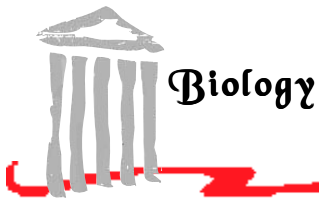
College of Arts & Sciences



College of Arts and Sciences
Faculty, Staff,
and Friends
visit the
Dean's
Annual Open House



(cont'd on pg. 14)



The Department of Biology takes pride in our field-oriented programs, such as the Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree and the Environmental Biology concentration. We consider “hands-on” activities the best approach to teach the use of field equipment and field techniques. Consequently, most of our advanced courses in these areas have a laboratory component used to provide such experiences. Unfortunately, the normal three-hour block of laboratory time prohibits the use of field sites that are more than a few miles from campus, and certain exercises are difficult to complete because of additional time requirements.

Many Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences programs in other universities have dealt with these problems by establishing a summer camp, in which students spend extensive periods of time on exercises that provide a more complete exposure to field topics. In summer 2005, a new course was created that is our equivalent of a summer camp. This course, WFS 4790 – Wildlife Techniques, is a six-credit hour course that meets Monday through Friday from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM during the second summer term (essentially, the month of July). Steve Hayslette and Dan Combs were the primary instructors for the class.

On most days, students were provided classroom instruction for the first two to three hours, and the rest of the day was devoted to conducting related field exercises. For example, students were provided in-

structions on how to use radio telemetry equipment to determine the location of marked animals. Afterwards, they were divided into groups and instructed to locate transmitters placed on trees throughout northwestern Cookeville. They quickly realized that using standard telemetry equipment is more difficult than it appears in spy movies, but all of them had mastered the technique by the end of the day. We received a number of strange looks from passers-by when they saw students walking through fields with antennas held aloft. On one occasion, a student “scanned” a child in a nearby park with the antenna and informed the concerned parent that we were checking for radioactivity; fortunately, instructors were nearby to correct the misconception.

Other field topics included wildlife population estimation procedures; orientation using maps, compasses, and GPS technology; animal trapping and monitoring techniques; approaches to alleviate nuisance animal problems; equipment used to evaluate habitat quality; and techniques used in habitat manipulation. Various field sites were used for these exercises, but a Tech-owned parcel of land on the Cumberland Plateau, the Austin Property, was especially useful. This 420-acre forested area, previously donated to the University, had been used sparingly in the past because of its distance from the University. It served as an ideal natural laboratory for this course, and we intend to use it as our primary field site in future years.

A secondary objective of the course was to provide exposure to management philosophies of different state and federal agencies involved in wildlife management. To meet this objective, we traveled to state- and federal-owned areas

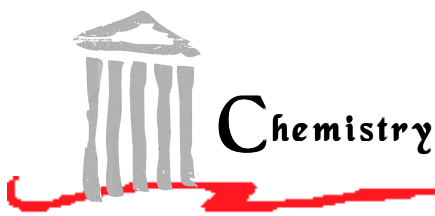
throughout Tennessee and met individually with personnel from most of the major management agencies. In addition to a number of day trips, we made two overnight camping trips, one in eastern Tennessee (Great Smoky Mountains National Park) and one in western Tennessee (Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area). On the last day of the course, we visited one of the few remaining old growth forests in the eastern United States, the Joyce Kilmer National Forest. These trips provided the connection between topics covered in classroom instruction and “real life” constraints faced by managers who are often short on funding and help.

Unlike most universities with wildlife programs, Tennessee Tech does not have a forestry program, and we also used the course to expose students to forestry practices commonly used in Tennessee. Rick Dorrance, a forester and former faculty member at Alabama Southern Community College, joined our team to provide lead instruction in this area. Rick’s extensive experience in teaching most facets of forest management was essential for this three-and-a-half-day session. After several presentations on best management practices, forest cruising, timber tract location, and other topics, students spent considerable time in the field practicing techniques discussed in class. We also met with state foresters, visited sites displaying good and bad timber harvest practices, and concluded with a trip to a sawmill.

This course is now required of all students enrolled in the Wildlife and Fisheries Science degree, and it is a directed elective for the other two concentrations (Conservation Biology and Fisheries). It was not required

of students during this past summer, and we were pleased that 14 junior and senior students elected to take it. All of them spoke highly of the course, and many lower division students have expressed excitement about taking it in future years. Consequently, we consider the initial offering a major success, and we anticipate that it will eventually be considered as the culmination experience of the Wildlife concentration. We also are considering development of similar courses in other programs (e.g., Fisheries) in future years if its popularity continues to grow as we expect.

Dan Combs, Chair



Greetings to our alumni and friends! It has been a busy year around The Chemistry Department as our growth in majors and graduates continues. This year, we are proud to have 8 certified ACS graduates with two in the Environmental Chemistry concentration. We also graduated 5 students with M.S. degrees! To put that in perspective nationwide, ACS-certified departments graduate an average of 5 certified B.S. students and 3.5 M.S. students in departments where their terminal degree is the M.S. As of this writing we have 101 declared chemistry majors (ACS, Biochemistry and Applied Chemistry Majors).

Tennessee Tech is the place to be if you study Chemistry in Tennessee! No doubt this is in part due to both our faculty and those who generously give in support of our mission. We are indeed blessed with faculty, staff and other supporters who work hard in helping us reach our goals. Two faculty received University-wide recognition for their efforts this past year: Dr. Dan Swartling won the Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching, and Dr. Eugene Kline won the Outstanding Faculty Award for Professional Service.

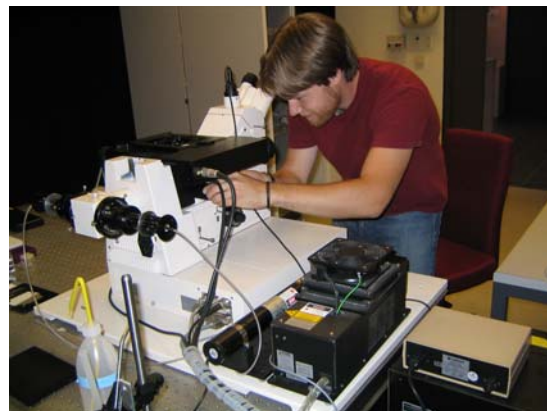
Dr. Scott Northrup stepped down as chair of the Chemistry Department this past spring after serving for 8 years. He has chosen to resume his role as a regular faculty member and direct much of his effort towards teaching and research as well as our graduate M.S. program. We look forward to the opportunity to continue working with Scott, as he has always been a powerful asset to our department.

Dr. Jeffrey Boles has moved upstairs this year to serve as Interim Chair for the Department. A search for a permanent chair is currently underway. As a result of his new duties as Interim Chair, Jeff stepped down



Matt Mancuso doing confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) experiments at the University of Lusanne

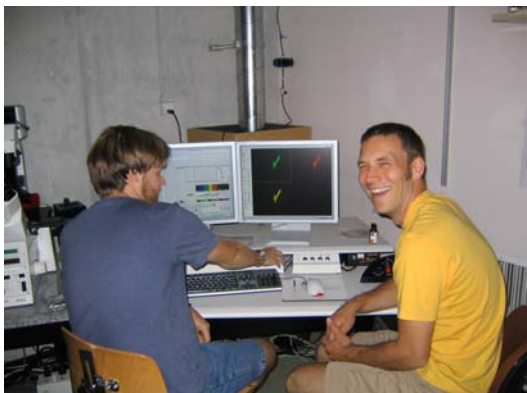
as Director of the Environmental Sciences Ph.D. program and chair of the department's M.S. program. Jeff is also the co-director of an



Matt doing single molecule detection experiments at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology.

NSF-sponsored Regional Undergraduate Research Center at TTU that began operation this year. This is a pilot program that will be used to assess the impact of providing research opportunities to community college students in order to better prepare them for a future in chemical careers. A student from Volunteer State Community College began coming to TTU each Friday in January of 2005, spent the following summer at TTU, and presented his research at the November meeting of the Tennessee Academy of Sciences. The project team also included one TTU undergraduate student and one TTU graduate student, with Boles serving as the Research Mentor.

The Department is also pleased to introduce a new tenure-track faculty member who joined us in the past year. Dr. Mona Wells is an environmental/analytical chemist who comes to us from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. She served as that institution's lead scientist and representative to a European Union consortium working on the problem of bioavailability-associated risks

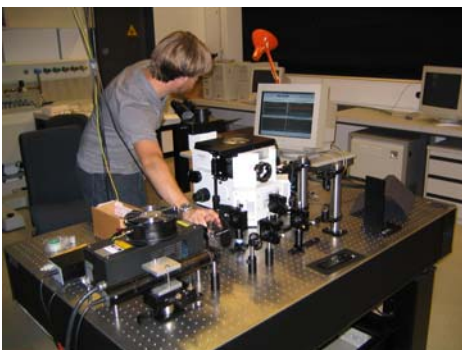


Matt doing tandem CLSM/single molecule fluorescence dynamics experiments in live whole cells on the Leica tandem CLSM/SMD spectrometer at the Swiss Institute for Experimental Cancer Research.

posed by environmental contaminants. She earned her B.S. at the University of El Paso and her Ph.D. at Texas A&M University. At Texas A&M, her work centered largely on problems in quantum mechanical theory including theoretical studies on photoionization reactions of small molecules (reactions important in atmospheric and cosmological chemistry) and biological long-range electron transfer (a type of reaction important to the photosynthetic reaction center's ability to convert sunlight into chemical energy). At TTU, her recent research has been largely experimental and involves the use of genetically modified bioreporter bacteria as biosensors for the study of the bioavailability of toxic effector molecules. She already has one M.S. student, one Ph.D. student and numerous undergraduates working in her laboratories. Mona and one of

her students, Matt Mancuso, went "across the pond" and worked at the Swiss Federal Institute this past summer. This effort has so far resulted in one accepted manuscript, two in preparation, and an abstract by Mr. Mancuso to present the results of his work at the Spring meeting of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology in San Francisco. Mona is a first-rate scientist and will be a wonderful complement to the Ph.D. program in Environmental Sciences. Mona is active in service as well! She was the leading advocate this past year in forming a departmental instrumentation committee whose focus will be not only on the present maintenance and upgrading of our equipment, but also on the future! Of course, she chairs this committee as well. Mona has already demonstrated her skills by being a principal investigator on numerous instrumentation grants during 2005, and we look forward to working with her on our next project, the acquisition of a GC/MS, something the department has needed for years.

Jeff Boles, Interim Chair



Matt hand-optimizing the response of the home-built instrument.

graduate study at TTU toward a master's degree in English. She and her husband Kayode were renting an apartment in New Orleans, where he works as an engineer for Shell Oil.

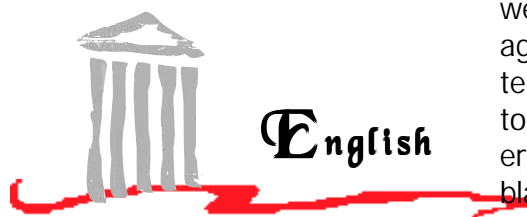
Then on August 29, Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast. The New Orleans levees failed, their home was flooded, and all their belongings were destroyed. Ronke was already back in Cookeville for the start of fall semester, but Kayode had to flee to Houston where he found support among the resident Nigerian community. Along with other displaced Shell employees, Kayode has now relocated back to Hammond, Loui-



Ronke

siana, just north of New Orleans on the other side of Lake Pontchartrain, a town relatively unscathed by the hurricane.

When Ronke and her husband were allowed to return to their ravaged first-floor apartment on September 16, only the books on the top shelves could be salvaged. Everything else was covered with the black and green mold left behind by the receding flood waters. The ceiling had collapsed in places, and their home, said Ronke, looked like a "big fungus farm." Wearing protective masks and suffering from tremendous itching after just five minutes



In August, Ronke Oguntosin returned from her native Nigeria a newlywed looking forward to completing her second year of

in the apartment, they picked through the debris and began to rebuild their lives.

While her husband and his fellow Shell employees restore that company's Gulf Coast operations, Ronke is a graduate assistant teaching her first course in writing, English 1010, and navigating the cultural divide that sometimes separates her from her mostly Upper Cumberland students. Occasionally students have trouble understanding her Nigerian accent. She has learned to speak slowly and repeat her instructions, but she can also use her cultural differences to get their attention. "When I talk about Africa, they all listen," she says. She also invited students to try pronouncing her full name — Obironke Omotolani Oguntosin — so they might better appreciate her own challenge in pronouncing their American names.

Ronke has been especially struck by the big difference in the professor-student relationship here, compared to the much more formal classroom in Nigeria, where the faculty assert "100 percent authority" in the classroom and freedoms such as food and drink — let alone cell phones and iPods — are forbidden.

A college education in Nigeria, says Ronke, is also more decisive in determining one's socioeconomic status. "In Nigeria," she notes, "if you don't have a college education, you're poor."

For her master's project, Ronke is focusing on student-centered pedagogy in the freshman writing courses here, compared to the more authoritarian, traditional lecture format that she experienced as a student at Obafemi Awolowo University in southwestern Nigeria. While she's still getting used to the teaching style that her American students are accustomed to, she reports some definite progress: "Recently I started learning to laugh in class."

Piecing their lives back together after Katrina has not been easy for Ronke and Kayode, but with the support of friends, fellow students, and faculty, the better life they had sought in coming to America seems well within reach again. Ronke hopes to earn a PhD one day, and eventually they plan to return to Nigeria to share their skills and experience with the people back home.

Kurt Eisen, Chair



In July 2004 the Department of Earth Sciences established the Kittrell Hall weather station. The station is mounted on the roof of Kittrell Hall and is equipped with sensors for temperature, pressure, rainfall, wind speed, and wind direction. Real-time data from the station are transmitted via wireless connection to a computer in the building and are displayed for public consumption on a monitor located on the first floor (Fig. 1). Data are also automatically uploaded to the Internet every 5 minutes and can be viewed at www.tntech.edu/earth/wx_station.htm. In addition to data collected by the station, average and record high and low temperatures are displayed. Records and averages are based on more than 40 years of data from the Cookeville cooperative weather station located in another part of the city. The monitor also displays recent RADAR and satellite images (retrieved from the Internet), providing a complete

picture of regional weather conditions all in one place. Furthermore, the monitor screen can be easily customized, for example, to show areas under severe weather warnings or watches. Also included as part of the display on the first floor of Kittrell Hall are several old, mechanical weather instruments (Fig. 2). When compared with the compact, electronic sensors of today, these relics serve to highlight the great strides that have been made in weather instrumentation in recent years. These improvements have made the acquisition of weather data more affordable and convenient, providing the public with improved access to up-to-date weather information.

Data from the weather station are stored permanently every hour and backed up on the Earth Sciences server for long-term storage. In addition to being used for class projects in courses at TTU (mainly GEOG 1010 and GEOL 4711), the growing weather data archive has been accessed by others in the state and elsewhere. Officials from the National Weather Service in Nashville recently contacted the Department of Earth Sciences and requested that changes be made in the weather station website to allow easier access to real-time data. We were pleased to honor their request. Also, a Master's student at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is currently using the data as part of his research project. Data from the station are also uploaded to the Weather Underground, an organization committed to collecting and shar-



ing weather information across the world.

Finally, we are pleased to make our weather database available to any TTU student or faculty member involved in research that requires weather information. The next time you pass by Kittrell Hall, feel free to come in and view the weather station display, or visit the website listed above.

Evan Hart, Assistant Professor



Dr. Mark Groundland

lum and co-curriculum and through the efforts of both faculty members and students.

Foreign language majors have been promoting French, German, and Hispanic culture through a variety of festivals and field trips. The French Club has been busy learning about, preparing, and sampling French cuisine, including delicacies such as escargots, coq au vin, steak au poivre, petits choux, pommes de terre grandmere, mousse au chocolat, and tarte tartin. A group of fourteen students traveled to the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville to view French masterpieces by Toulouse Lautrec, Cézanne, Monet, Renoir, Pissarro and others from the renowned collection of Dr. Gustav Rau. The Deutsche Klub held its annual Oktoberfest and this year raised \$220 in donations for hurricane Katrina victims. On October 15th seventeen German students and friends attended the Nashville Opera's performance of Gounod's *Faust* and plans are underway to attend the spring performance of Puccini's *Turandot*. November and December highlights are cooking classes for preparing dinner and baking Christmas cookies. The Spanish Club, Amigos, has continued volunteer activities and the Spanish conversation hour. Members are currently busy preparing the Day of the Dead celebration

to make students and friends aware of the significance of this holiday for Hispanic families.

Since the Department added a Special Topics course to the curriculum, faculty members have taken advantage of the course to create innovative content and active learning opportunities for stu-

dents. Dr. Heidemarie Weidner has taught an interdisciplinary course on Berlin and a seminar on German for Science and Technology. After mentoring a volunteer project for Spanish majors at Jere Whitson Elementary School, Dr. Karen Burdette created a service learning course in which students received academic credit for working with Hispanic K-6 students. This course has had a positive impact on the Jere Whitson School, where over 40% of the stu-



Oktoberfest

dents are Hispanic, and on our majors. After completing the service learning course or volunteering, several students have decided to become teachers.

In addition to innovations in the curriculum, faculty members have been busy with significant college and university projects to enhance students' experience here at Tech and to address the goals of the Year of Languages. Dr. Colleen Hays has contributed significantly



The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) is coordinating a U.S. Senate resolution to designate 2005 as the year of languages in an effort to improve the "the nation's capacity to learn, teach, and effectively use foreign languages in the national interests" (Interagency Language Roundtable). Among the many benefits of learning a foreign language the Modern Language Association cites the following: "Studying languages in the context of history, politics, and the popular cultures, can help you follow international events with insight, opening up perspectives to make you an informed and responsible citizen of your country and of the world."

The Department of Foreign Languages has contributed to the goals of the Year of Languages in a variety of ways through its curricu-

to the study abroad goal of the Year of Languages and to the Department of Foreign Languages by serving on the board of the Mid-Continent Consortium for International Education, which administers several study abroad programs. Dr. Phillip Campana has chaired the CAS committees to select candidates for Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges and the USA Academic All-Stars Team. These awards recognize outstanding students in the college and at the university and encourage our students to excel.

We are delighted to announce the addition of two new members to the Department of Foreign Languages. Dr. Mark Groudland has joined the faculty as an Assistant Professor of Spanish. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Kentucky and taught for a year at North Carolina A&T State University before coming to Tech in August. During his first three months here, he has proven himself to be a very active and productive colleague. He was awarded a fellowship to continue as bibliographer for the Modern Language Association. In addition, he presented a paper at a Brigham Young University conference marking the 400 year anniversary of *Don*



French students preparing for a museum visit

Quixote de la Mancha, published an article on the Morisco hybridity in early seventeenth-century Spanish prose, and served as advisor for the Foreign Language Honor Society, Alpha Mu Gamma.

Honor Society, Alpha Mu Gamma.

Finally, Ms. Pam Womac began her duties as secretary of the Department in April of this year. She brings many new ideas for improving the efficiency of the department and getting students workers involved in projects that promote the study of foreign languages.

Marketta Laurila, Chair

The Center provides a resource for departments who need advising information. It strives to increase the retention rates of full-time students in General Curriculum, General Pre-Law, and General Health Studies by providing one-on-one advising and by monitoring students' progress. It provides power advising for students who are struggling and at-risk of leaving the University. Further, it assists undecided students to declare a major within 60 hours of completed coursework.

The Center is committed to helping students succeed in general education and basic major requirements, choose appropriate degree programs and career paths, and solve problems, which left unattended, would cause them to fail academically or drop out of the university.

Edith Duvier, Director



Something new and exciting happened the first of June 2005. The General Curriculum Department merged with the College of Arts and Sciences to become the first Student Success Center on the TTU campus. The Center is located in Henderson Hall and primarily works with students in General Curriculum, General Health Studies, and General Pre-Law. Currently there are 627 students housed in the CAS Student Success Center. The staff includes a full time director, a full time executive aide, and 4 part time advisors.



Octoberfest

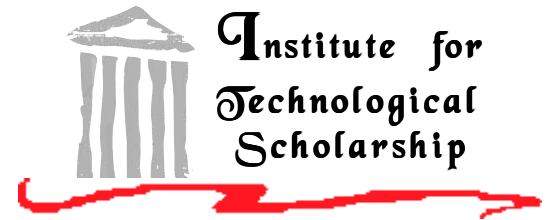
Meet Your Student Success Center



Edith Duvier
Director



Lisa Rice,
Executive Aide



Macromedia, the company which makes well-known Web Design tools such as Dreamweaver and Cold Fusion, has published a case study on the TTU Web Design Program (it is published at http://www.macromedia.com/cfusion/showcase/index.cfm?event=casestudydetail&casestudyid=83088&loc=en_us). The resulting publicity from the published case study and from an online Macromedia seminar which highlighted our program in the future of higher education section, has contributed to a doubling of inquiries into our program from around the world.

As our program is two years old, we are still anticipating our first graduate; however, the success of the program can be measured in the success of student projects in that they are reaching beyond the classroom. The TTU College of Education has begun using the Ionfolio electronic portfolio system which was developed, and continues to be supported by, TTU Web Design students. This system allows students to create an electronic portfolio of their work throughout their education and use it to demonstrate their work to employers after graduation. The Tennessee Board of Regents has adopted Pathways, which was the project of junior Stacey Crook. This system allows potential students to go online and search for degree programs based on career choices. Junior Josh Taylor has created Case Manager in conjunction with the

Advisors



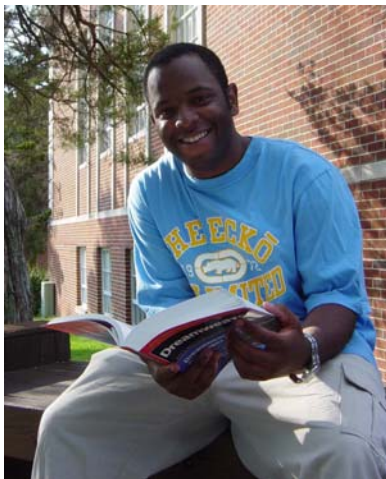
Deborah Allen



Alison Chandler



Gina Mattingly



Alex Moore

Vanderbilt Center for Entrepreneurship. This application allows faculty using case studies in their classes to author their own case studies as well as to manage student solutions. In addition to projects, even student writing has seen wide scale dissemination. Senior Katie Oakes had an article she wrote published on the web site of Elluminate, Inc.

Robert Clougherty, Director



Students mark World Year of Physics

In 1905 Albert Einstein published three landmark papers that provided remarkable insight into three fundamental fields in physics. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of this 'miraculous year', 2005 was declared the World Year of Physics, with one of its aims being to inspire a new generation of scientists. Members of the TTU Physics Club

enthusiastically took on this challenge by visiting area schools with a 'circus' of exciting and intriguing demonstrations. Led by club president Patrick O'Malley, groups of physics majors showed students in a wide range of grade levels how physics relates to everyday phenomena as diverse as thunderstorms, riding a bicycle, how Polaroid sunglasses work, and how temperature affects the behavior of materials. So popular were these visits that the group was not able to fulfill every request and so, as scheduling permits, they will hopefully be able to continue celebrating physics in this way well into the future.

Physics for Elementary Teachers to be published

For the past four years Steve Robinson has been working with collaborators at San Diego State University and the University of Colorado, Boulder, to develop a dedicated physics curriculum for practicing and

Teachers (PET), is to be published in January by It's About Time, a division of Herff-Jones publishing.

The PET curriculum is designed to be taught as a one-semester university course for prospective elementary teachers and its development was guided by current research on how students learn most effectively. Learning goals for PET were selected to allow students to develop a deep understanding of physics ideas that are closely aligned with those they will be expected to teach in their own classrooms. For each learning goal, PET provides a sequence of hands-on activities designed to elicit and build on students' prior knowledge, to provide opportunities for them to test their initial ideas, and to guide them towards the development of ideas that are closely aligned with the ideas of scientists.

In the PET classroom there is no division between lecture and lab. Instead, students spend most of their time working in small groups, performing experiments, manipulating computer simulations, making sense of their observations, and then sharing ideas in whole class discussions. The instructor's role is to guide these whole class discussions, to help set classroom norms that support the development of ideas based on scientific evidence and critical thinking, and to promote participation by all students.



PET students investigating the conditions necessary to light a small bulb using a battery and wires

prospective elementary teachers. During development, this curriculum was field-tested at TTU, as well as at over twenty other institutions. The end result of this National Science Foundation (NSF) funded project, Physics for Elementary

A unique aspect of the course is that it also contains embedded components that allow students to examine important aspects of the effective learning of science. One way students do this is by watching video snippets of elementary students engaged in



A classroom video showing elementary students performing similar experiments.

physics experiments and then analyze their thinking.

So enthusiastic has been the reception already for the PET curriculum that the group has recently received a 2-year extension to its NSF funding, to develop an equivalent integrated physical science course for use at institutions where such a course is the requirement for prospective teachers.

Stephen Robinson, Chair



I always have trouble deciding what to write about with six disciplines and so many different activities within our department. Perhaps I should focus on the new Learning Communities program in the College of Arts and Sciences that began a couple of years ago where the first-year students have two or three courses together. The instruc-

tors of those classes decide on a theme for the term and do some cooperative planning. The participating students have the advantage of associating with the same students in the learning community's cohort and being able to connect with each other. During the past year both Sociology and Political Science were able to be involved. I was so impressed by the self-assurance of the students as they reported on their topics and explained their displays near the end of the fall term at a public event. This year only Political Science was able to participate, but we hope Sociology can return next year.

Or maybe I should report on our new practice of reserving one section of introductory sociology for our sociology majors, who are a diverse group with some having a concentration in social work, some having a concentration in criminal justice, and others registered for a sociology major with a variety of minors. This was a first for our department. We tried it with the opportunity to link it to a pilot course which was a co-requisite, one-hour-credit course designed to assist students in adapting to college and to their declared major. In Fall 2006 all TTU first-year students will be taking either a UNIV 1020 class or a similar major specific course. Professor Norris, who developed our pilot course, has been excited since the first plans were drafted. Students were able to immediately identify with other beginning sociology majors and were able to meet other departmental faculty during their first semester. Dr. Norris reports a tremendous increase in the level of class participation of these students over a typical introductory class. She has served as their advisor and met individually with each student sev-

eral times. We are fortunate to have been able to commit to the pilot this year, and we will be able to benefit the students and the Department as a result of things learned during the pilot course.

Or another option is to update you on changes in our faculty. Sociologist Dr. Riemer retired this past summer and moved to Wisconsin. Dr. Williams, political scientist, retired in May and joins Dr. Henry, our sole philosopher for decades, in the phased retirement program. We welcomed a new assistant professor in sociology this fall, Professor Patricia Campion. She comes to us from California where she has done adjunct teaching and served as a research ethnographer and a principal analyst. Her doctorate is from Louisiana State University. Dr. Maxwell is overseeing the search for a new Assistant Professor of Political Science.

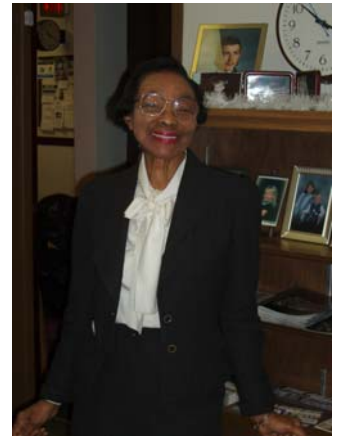
Our faculty continue to be very active in the Regents On-line Degree Program (RODP) with Dr. Neapolitan having recently completed development of his fourth course. Dr. Mookherjee and Dr. Brignall have also developed courses. Three additional faculty from our department will join them soon in staffing RODP classes. That program continues to grow with each additional term. In recognition of the benefits of electronic communication, some faculty have added on-line components to their on-campus courses. Another change in our teaching in recent years, which has been embraced by some, has been the increase in the use of experiential learning as a part of the class expectancies. The variety of activities and settings is great. I'll save that for next time.

Gretta Stanger, Chair

(Cont'd from page 4)



College of
Arts &
Sciences



Cristina Carbajo named 2006 Derryberry Award Winner

COOKEVILLE, Tenn. (May 1, 2006) –

Cristina Carbajo of Oak Ridge captured the prestigious 2006 Derryberry Award as the best overall student at Tennessee Tech University. A former university president, the late Everett Derryberry, established this award upon his retirement. He wanted an award of merit to be given “to a senior who has exhibited scholastic attainment arising out of moral and intellectual integrity; successful campus activity where participation indicates a commitment to good citizenship, interest in one’s fellow persons, and instincts for leadership; and physical vigor as shown by fondness for and success in sports.” Carbajo, the daughter of Theresa and Juan Carbajo of Oak Ridge, will graduate in May with a bachelor’s degree in biology. Achieving a 3.99 grade point average in the Honors Program, she has been on the Dean’s List every semester since fall 2002 and has been awarded numerous scholarships for both her academic success and as a pianist. She received the National Guild of Piano Players Scholarship and the highly competitive Morris K. Udall Scholarship, only awarded to 80 undergraduate students nationwide. Carbajo has been highly active in committee work as well for the Associated Scholars Guild. She was the former chair of the Ecology Committee and currently is active on both the Intramurals and Publicity Committees. Also denoting her academic standing is membership in six honor societies, including Phi Kappa Phi and the Tri-Beta Professional Biological Society. Carbajo is also active with TTU’s Music Department, accompanying music majors and performing solos and chamber music ensembles. She also participates with the University Spanish Club and the Ballroom Dance Club. Carbajo has numerous research studies accredited to her. The Derryberry Award selection process involves soliciting campus nominations from every department, school, college and administrative division as well as from Student Government Association Executive Officers. Four finalists were also nominated, Patrick O’Malley of Hixson, Jessica Seyfert of Hurst, Texas, Caleb Waddle, also of Oak Ridge, and Alan Barker of Maryville.

—Karen Lykins This information posted 03 May 2006



President Bob Bell presents the 2006 Derryberry Award to Cristina Carbajo. (Photo: TTU)

Notes:



Center Stage Series



SPRING 2006 EVENTS

January 17 - February 10 February 9: 3:30pm – 5:30pm Gallery Talk and Reception	Brandon Smith J.D.A.G.	An exhibition of paintings by an emerging artist who grew up on a farm in Kentucky. His dark, atmospheric heavily worked canvases seem to convey deep and significant meaning, and yet they are paintings of cows, fences, and rural buildings.
January 24 7:00pm	Shindana Cooper Multipurpose Room	Ms. Cooper, well-known storyteller, will present "Martin's Story", in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday
January 26 11:00am: Master class 7:30pm: Concert	Robert Belinic, Guitar Wattenbarger Auditorium	Acclaimed in the New York press as "a consummate musician of grace and stature who turns mere notes into magic," Croatian guitarist Robert Belinic was the sole winner of the 2001 Young Concert Artists European Auditions in Leipzig, Germany. In 2002, he became the first guitarist to win the Young Concert Artists International Auditions in New York. Mr. Belinic is represented by Young Concert Artists, Inc. http://www.yca.org
February 13 – March 17 February 14: 3:30pm – 5:30pm Gallery Talk and Reception	Billi Rothove J.D.A.G.	This is an exhibition of paper batik quilts by fiber artist Ms. Billi Rothove. Ms. Rothove's work explores the way repeating images and patterns can shape response and behavior. In her artwork, Ms. Rothove produces a cacophony of color and pattern, creating an exciting visual journey for the viewer.
February 23 - 24 February 23, 7:00pm February 24, Noon	"Arab Pop" Derryberry Hall Auditorium Tech Pride Room - RUC	This symposium of Arab culture will be led by Dr. Joel Gordan and Dr. Ted Swedenburg, from the King Fahd Center for Middle East and Islamic Studies at the University of Arkansas, along with Dr. Elliott Colla, from Brown University. All three are accomplished scholars of Middle Eastern culture and history.
March 20 6:00pm – 9:00pm	Mexican Food & Movie Tech Pride Room – RUC	Enjoy FREE Mexican food and an ethnic movie. Co-sponsored by One World Organization.
March 20 – April 14 March 23: 3:30pm – 5:30pm Gallery Talk and Reception	Phyllis Lear J.D.A.G.	Ms. Lear says of her work: "My most recent work is a response to my propensity for collecting small pieces of my environment (what I call the Magpie complex) and my love of archaeology (buried and excavated objects from the past). These small collages, that I create, are about me-what I have lived, how I have thought, how I have felt. They are a visual journal of my journey through life."
March 23 7:30pm Concert	Gary Foster, Jazz Wattenbarger Auditorium	Jazz artist. Mr. Foster is the "top call" woodwind artist in the Los Angeles film and studio scene. His playing is internationally known through film, television, and jazz festival appearances worldwide such as the Carol Burnett Show, The Untouchables, Jaws, and most well known films of the last 30 years.
March 28 7:00pm	Stephanie Coontz Derryberry Auditorium	Ms. Coontz will present "Diversity in American Families: Myths & Realities". She is a well-known lecturer and spirited debater and has addressed audiences throughout Europe, the U.S. and Japan. Ms. Coontz is the national Co-Chair of the Council on Contemporary families. http://www.jodisolomonspeakers.com
March 30 11:00am: Master class 7:30pm: Concert	Michael Sheppard Wattenbarger Auditorium	Already a rising star of his generation of artists, Michael Sheppard is a pianist of dazzling virtuosity and penetrating musicianship. A Classical Fellow of the American Pianists Association, Sheppard follows numerous now-mature artists who have become international household words. http://americanpianists.org
April 4 7:00pm	Jackson Katz Derryberry Auditorium	Mr. Katz's program will address the subjects of rape, sexual harassment, abuse & violence with the unique perspective of using the attitudes of boys & men. Mr.Katz will stimulate a dialogue between the sexes by way of his engaging, witty & personal speaking style.
April 6 6:00pm – 8:00pm	Gerhard Hennes Derryberry Auditorium	"Prisoners of War on the Cumberland Plateau" video by Dr. Calvin Dickinson followed by "The Barbed Wire: POW in the U.S.A." presented by Mr. Gerhard Hennes, former POW in Crossville, TN. Question and answer session to follow the presentation.
April 6 11:00am: Master class BFA374 7:30pm: Concert	Adrienne Danrich Wattenbarger Auditorium	Ms. Danrich is a promising young artist who is destined to become a major singer on the world stage of opera. Her program will include art songs by Giuseppe Verdi and Sergei Rachmaninoff, as well as from a scene by Francis Poulenc and excerpts from Ricky Ian Gordon's opera <i>Only Heaven</i> . http://www.ada-artists.com
April 17 – May 12 April 17 – Reception	BFA Student Exhibition J.D.A.G.	A professionally juried exhibition featuring work by TTU students enrolled in the BFA program. The juror, Mr. Lloyd Herman, will select artworks from students' applications and identify works of distinction in the exhibition. Mr. Herman will also participate in studio discussions and critiques with TTU art students.
April 21– 22 21 st , 11:00am: Symposium 22 nd , 11:30am-6:30pm: Festival	Window on the World RUC	An international symposium and daylong festival. Experience this celebration of world cultures through music, dance, crafts, displays and food. Visitors will be given a passport at the door that can be stamped from the different countries/cultures. www.tntech.edu/wow

Read **Focal Points** online! If you wish to see the current issue, or any of the previous issues, go to the following URL: <http://www.tntech.edu/cas/Newsletters.html> Visit TTU's new Online Alumni Directory: Search for other Alumni or update your own information at www.tntech.edu/alumni

Dear CAS Alum—would you like to receive **Focal Points** as an e-mail attachment in the future? If so, please send your e-mail address to us via: FocalPoints@tntech.edu. If possible, include your graduation year and your major. Thanks!

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