



Focal Points

the College of Arts & Sciences
Tennessee Technological University

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Você fala Português?

It might surprise you a little to hear Portuguese being spoken in Kittrell Hall these days by students from Brazil. For the last couple of years we have benefitted from an exchange program with two universities in Brazil. The exchange program resulted when its program director, Dr. Francis Otuonye, came from Michigan Tech to be TTU's Associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies. The exchange program brings students from the Federal University of Minas Gerais and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul to TTU or the New Mexico Institute of Technology. Most of the Brazilian students have come to TTU.

Our first exchange was during the 2002-2003 academic year when one of our geology majors, Clayton McMillan, spent two semesters at the Federal University of Minas Gerais. Since then our department hosted three Brazilian students during the



Brazilian students visit Big Brutus in Kansas with Dr. Larry

and Caroline Santos. All of the Brazilian students are majoring in mining engineering.



Dr. Larry Knox,
Chair



Three Brazilian students on right with Dr. Michael Harrison & two departmental students on Spring Break in Pennsylvania.

spring semester, 2004; Dr. H. Wayne Leimer and two departmental students (Sara Beth Smith and Leslie Sanders) have gone to Brazil in the summer of 2004; and six Brazilian students have been here during the fall semester of this academic year. This spring semester we are hosting five Brazilian students: Angelo Golin, Victor Morais, Bruno Penna, Leonardo Perdigao

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The Brazilian students have had the opportunity to travel in the United States as well as take classes in geology, English and other disciplines. They have also become intimate with snow for the first time in their lives!

Dr. Leimer, Sara Beth Smith, Leslie Sanders and Clayton McMillian all took classes in Portuguese before going to Brazil. In Brazil they studied geology and enjoyed the culture of Brazil.

--Larry Knox,
Chair



Brazilian students are commonly found using the Internet



Tech students and Dr. Leimer on geology field trip in Brazil



Tech faculty and students enjoy songs and a folk dance performed by a group of Brazilian women farm workers



Biology

One of the goals of the Department of Biology is to promote the professional development of our students by participation in extra-curricular activities. Over half of our majors are active members of one or more student organizations that are sponsored by the Department, each representing a different concentration within our curricular offerings. All of these organizations participate in a number of diverse activities each year, and a brief summary of one activity from each organization is included below.

Last fall, members of the Beta Beta Beta (Tri-Beta) Biology Society provided a zoology presentation to the second-grade class at a nearby elementary school. The large number of students necessitated multiple presentations. Tri-Beta members displayed various mammal skins, slides of common birds, and live reptiles and amphibians. They discussed biological classification, tips on observing birds, special adaptations exhibited by various animals, and proper handling techniques. The second graders and their teachers were very appreciative, and live snakes (as always) were among the most popular displays. Hopefully, the efforts of the Tri-Beta students encouraged the development of a future biologist or two.

The Student Fisheries Association (SFA), in cooperation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Cookeville Department of Leisure Services, Wal-Mart, and Sparta Bass Club hosted the Annual Cookeville Kid's Fishing Derby in mid-

June, an event in which the SFA has participated for several years. This event is intended to provide children with a chance to have fun while learning some angling techniques. SFA members served as judges for the various contests (i.e., largest and most fish caught by age categories) and provided helpful hints to children to improve their success. This event has grown in popularity over the years, and over 100 children under the supervision of their parents participated this year. Additional activities included a picnic, fish identification, and a casting contest. Not only does this event provide SFA members with the opportunity to influence future anglers, but it also provides Tech students with an opportunity to interact with the local community and to introduce the public to current issues in fisheries management.

The Student Conservation Biology Association (SCBA) is our most recent student organization, and the chartering process is almost complete. Last year, this fledgling group was contacted by Tech personnel who were organizing *Window on the World*, an event to increase international awareness among university students and citizens of Cookeville. SCBA constructed a rainforest exhibit in the form of a darkened walkthrough tunnel that was decorated with jungle-like plants and facsimiles of jungle animals. A rainforest CD, a tranquility fountain that created the sound of bubbling water, and live Madagascar hissing cockroaches completed the exhibit. The rainforest exhibit was considered a success by increasing awareness of this fragile ecosystem that is disappearing at an alarming rate throughout the world.

The Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society (TWS) participated last spring in the Southeastern Conclave held at Arkansas State Uni-

versity. Twenty-one southeastern universities have student chapters of TWS, and almost all participated this past year. The conclave consists of a series of events including field trips (wildlife law enforcement, bird banding, small mammal trapping, and nature center management this past year), social functions, and competitive events. The primary competitive event, the quiz bowl, is a series of double elimination matches between student chapters from different universities. The matches test general knowledge of wildlife-related facts. Our TWS chapter has long been recognized as one of the most competitive (often finishing second or third), and they placed first in the quiz bowl and second overall (behind North Carolina State) in 2004. They made a great showing for the University and benefitted from their interactions with students and faculty from other schools. We hope to perform as well next year at the University of Florida, and the 2006 conclave is scheduled to be held on the Tech campus.

Students who participated in these and other events sponsored by the student organizations gained experience in interpersonal skills, advanced knowledge of various biological topics, and an appreciation of public service. Student level of participation is excellent at this time, but we intend to encourage all of our majors to become members of at least one student organization.

--Dan Combs,
Chair



Greetings to our many friends and alumni. The Chemistry Department is witnessing explosive growth in numbers of majors. For many years we had hovered around 60-70 majors. In



just two years we have jumped to over 100. But these students are not just numbers to us. They receive lots of personal attention from our faculty. **Prof. David Crouse** garners rave reviews from students on surveys as being a quality and caring academic advisor to all of these students. He somehow balances all this with coordinating the organic laboratories and outstanding teaching.

The Department has a tradition of significant outreach to the community. This was exemplified in the past year by **Prof. Barbara Jackson**, who has thrown her considerable skills as an organizer and screenwriter into initiating a county-wide methamphetamine awareness project for grades 1 through 12. Her highly successful project "METHAMPHETAMINE - STOP THE MADNESS!" consisted of a poster competition, an essay competition, and a dramatic/musi-

cal competition held at Upperman High in Baxter and aired twice by WCTE. She is now working with District Attorney Bill Gibson to produce a short video to promote methamphetamine awareness.

Chemistry alumni have demonstrated vigorous support for TTU over the years by their giving. This year **Dr. John Clayton** and his company, Schering-Plough Health Care Products, made a sizeable donation to the Department to refurbish its auditorium seating and provide technology upgrades.

The Department continues to produce graduates of excellence, who go on to make important contributions to our society. **Dr. Richard Turner** (B.S. '64, M.S. '66) recently stepped down from a long and successful career as a polymer chemist at Eastman Chemical in Kingsport to become director of the new Macromolecules and Interfaces Institute at Virginia Tech. Dr. Turner was listed among the 10 top scientists in Tennessee by Business TN, and is a 2004 recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

One of our graduates recently wrote to us, "Maybe it sounds



leagues when I started grad school at Purdue, and I have rarely seen anything in my working career for which my undergrad degree had not prepared me. I noticed that one of the alumni, now in grad school I believe, had remarked that he didn't realize how good he had it at Tech until he went elsewhere. Those are my thoughts exactly. I was so focused on making the next step up to grad school that I failed to realize what a tremendous experience I was having while there; only later did it sink in. But, I suppose, better to have had it and only realized later than not to have had it at all!"

--Scott Northrup,
Chair



Prof. Barbara Jackson

corny, but I am truly proud to be a Tech Chemistry grad when I hear of the successes you all continue to enjoy and of the tremendous accomplishments of so many fellow chemistry alumni. I know that I was better prepared than my col-



New chemistry faculty member Dr. Titus Albu puts pie in the face of chair Dr. Northrup for a \$50 contribution to the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates.

or two to complete an assignment, but these groups of intrepid students were given only five hours to complete up to seven problems. Amazingly they wanted to do this work on a beautiful Saturday afternoon, which was during TTU's Homecoming weekend as well. The students had to deal with sharing limited resources (only one computer per team, consisting of two or three students), budgeting their scarce time, and anticipating the secret test cases of

the tough judges who were likely to be their coaches. The winner is the team solving the most problems; in the case of a tie, the faster team wins.

At TTU's site, all teams solved at least two problems. The Belmont University team placed first, and the Western Kentucky University placed second. The top two teams solved four problems each. A team from Austin Peay placed third, and a team from TTU placed fourth. These teams solved three problems each. The members of the prize-winning TTU team were senior Doug Gregory and sophomores Joe Schutte and Aaron Smith. Their total time for solving the problems was only 10 minutes more than the total time for the third-place team, and they submitted the first correct solution only 15 minutes after the beginning of the contest. The top four teams at TTU's site placed 29th, 35th, 38th, and 39th in the entire region. TTU's other teams – one consisting of Robert Fly, Brandon Malone, and David Priebel, and the other team consisting of Sam Bledsoe, James Card, and Andrew McElroy – each solved three problems for solid performances. The top two teams in the region, from the Illinois Institute of Tech-

nology and the University of Illinois, will represent the region at the world finals to be held in Shanghai, China, in April 2005.

Systems administrator Eric Brown, departmental secretary Valerie Nash, and associate professor Martha Kosa planned and organized the event. Instructor Mark Boshart, visiting assistant professor Ligu Yu, assistant professors Mike Rogers and Doug Talbert, and a veritable army of student workers also worked hard to ensure the success of the event.

TTU ACM Chapter Informative, Fun and Competitive

TTU's student chapter of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) ably serves as a voice to reflect student opinions to the Computer Science faculty discussing issues such as student grievances, curricular suggestions, and career guidance. This past year, ACM has organized workshops, picnics and invited talks featuring faculty from other universities and professionals from surrounding businesses, including TTU alumni. ACM has also organized movie nights with free food, board game nights, and LAN parties, in addition to regular meetings. ACM members actively participate in freshman mentoring activities, and organizing luncheons and workshops on Linux and VIM, Java threads and Swing. ACM is coordinating an invited talk on computer security with Julie Starr, who writes for an Apple online magazine. ACM also held an annual picnic for faculty and students.

*--Srini Ramawsamy,
Chair*



TTU Wins Fourth Place at Local Programming Contest

On November 6, 2004, TTU's Department of Computer Science served as local host for the Mid-Central region of the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, which is sponsored by IBM. Eleven teams from six schools (three from TTU; two each from Austin Peay, Belmont, and MTSU; and one each from the University of the South and Western Kentucky) converged on Bruner Hall for five hours of intense but friendly competition. They competed simultaneously with approximately 100 other teams from Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, and Tennessee. The goal for each team was to write computer programs to solve a set of problems. Normally programming students are allowed to take a week



Dean's Message

Winter Thoughts



“. . . the dearest freshness deep down things”
—Gerard Manley Hopkins (1877)

In the “bleak midwinter” it is always tempting to indulge in melancholy thoughts. Not only is the weather bad; there are plenty of problems on which to dwell, mostly associated with reduced funding.

Such thoughts are counterproductive, though, and I prefer to concentrate on more positive developments. I think of our emerging Student Success Center (SSC), for example, which by summer will significantly improve advising in the College and University. Henderson Hall 202 will soon become a major reference point for any student needing academic advice or guidance, especially students without or between majors. As it matures, the Center will begin to track all CAS freshmen, to make sure their problems and concerns are being addressed, and it will more firmly connect all CAS students with the Career Services Office. Advisors within our departments will begin to use the Center as a source of curricular and policy updates.

The SSC will be interdisciplinary in many ways, serving partly as a stopping-off point and service center for students bound for majors in other colleges at TTU. Another new interdisciplinary activity in which our college has a large stake is the embryonic Center for Teaching and Learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Our science and mathematics departments will play a major role as the STEM center takes shape. Its mission will be to conduct applied research and “transfer” its results to teachers and learners from preschool through college.


As it reaches out to the public schools and community colleges in our service area, the STEM center will become a major part of the overall P-16 movement at Tech—the concerted effort to improve the progression of students from pre-school through college. The CAS also has another “piece” of that action through the newly formed Upper Cumberland Teachers Councils in English, Foreign Languages, Social Sciences, Sciences, and Mathematics. Our college is the initiator and “broker” for these organizations, and we are busy trying to stimulate dialogue among the teachers at the various levels, dialogue about the content and delivery of courses.



The CAS Learning Communities, now in their second year and flourishing, are also a form of outreach. The communities enable groups of first-year students to take two or three courses in common, while the instructors of those courses collaborate on activities and assignments. Last Fall’s election theme produced “Electionfest,” an evening when all LC students made visual and audio presentations about issues related to the presidential election.

This Spring the LC theme is “snapshots of reality.” It reminds me that if I could photograph the inner life of this college on a given day, I would find surprisingly little evidence of the devastating budget cuts we have sustained during the past dozen years. The heart and soul of the College, its faculty members, remain energetic and creative, bringing innovative approaches and content to the classroom and online, conducting important research and presenting results, designing new courses and revising outdated ones, advising students, and taking a vital part in the governance and co-curricular activities of the University.

So, despite the wintry environment outside our windows, the College of Arts & Sciences is green and growing on the inside.



English

This year's news in the TTU English Department has a decidedly Asian theme.

To help meet the burgeoning student demand for our Introduction to Speech course, Yun Ding joined the department this fall as an assistant professor of Speech Communication. While teaching a full load of Speech courses, Ding, a native of the People's Republic of China, is completing requirements for his doctorate at the University of Washington.

Ding's dissertation looks at how Tibetan culture and religion is represented in western journalism, film, and travel writing. In one chapter he examines the often conflicting historical relationship between Tibetan Buddhism and Christianity, and more recent attempts to find common ground between them. He also has strong interests in rhetorical theory and international communication.

Before beginning his academic training in North America with a fellowship at the University of Toronto in 1998, Ding spent eight years as a reporter, anchorman, and editor with the English Service of China Radio International in Beijing, serving as producer of the program "China through Westerners' Eyes." In 2001 he earned a master's degree in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota.

With his rich and varied background as a teacher and journalist (he also taught middle-school English and news writing in China), Ding offers TTU's students an exciting international perspective on the practice and theory of communication.

Also this year, Dr. Bill McRae, whose specialties include Shakespeare and the literature of science, was awarded a Fulbright appointment at the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, teaching courses in American and British literature while managing to see a good bit of the beautiful mountainous countryside in this former Soviet republic. Kyrgyzstan, McRae reports, is "always being caught between the memories of those days which ended 14 years ago [the collapse of the USSR], and the reality of today." Its people had "oppression but safety then, freedom but insecurity now."

What has struck McRae most in his first months in Bishkek is the students' powerful drive to be educated. He sees in them not the usual inclination among young people in many countries to escape to America but rather a "genuine desire to make a difference" in their native land. Kyrgyzstan is not rich in natural resources, McRae observes, so "the only resource that will make sense in years to come is an educated populace. . . . the enthusiasm and dedication, with a few exceptions, is astonishing."

This is McRae's second Fulbright award, his first having been in Oman in 1995-96. He also taught at the Beijing Languages Institute in China in 1982-83.



--Kurt Eisen,
Chair



History

The Department of History has had a fine year. Along with the usual spate of strong teaching and publications, however, the Department hosted two major conferences, and received the largest grant in department, and likely college, history.

In October, the Department hosted over 100 colleagues, from as far away as California and connecticut, at the Ohio Valley History Conference (OVHC). Every member of the TTU faculty contributed to the 2004 OVHC. Jeff Roberts served as program chair, reprising a role he played in 1999. Six faculty organized panels (Michael Birdwell, Calvin Dickinson, Paula Hinton, Wali Kharif, Katherine Osburn, and George Webb). Seven presented papers (Michael Birdwell, Kent Dollar, Paula Hinton, Calvin Dickinson, Katherine Osburn, Pat Reagan and George Webb). Six offered commentary (Michael Birdwell, Bill Brinker, Philip Davis, Wali Kharif, Jeff Roberts and Larry Whiteaker). Michael Birdwell organized the book exhibit. Susan Laningham, with help from Phi Alpha Theta, staffed the registration desk. Paula Hinton prepared the name badges and panel posters. Gil Fernandez and Calvin Dickinson hosted

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the hospitality room. In the aftermath, the department has received numerous thank you notes from those in attendance.

This February, the Department hosted nearly 100 students from across Tennessee at the state Phi Alpha Theta Conference. While the OVHC provides a forum for professors to share their research, Phi Alpha Theta provides an opportunity for both undergraduate and graduate students to engage in professional activity. Susan Laningham, our local Phi Alpha Theta chapter advisor, organized the event. Virtually every other member of the department served as a session moderator, charged with introducing the student participants, keeping them on time, and offering comment. Prizes were awarded for the best paper in six different categories. Three Tennessee Tech students took home top prize: Casey Fox, Charles Sears, and Philip Authier.

In the spring of 2004, Michael Birdwell was appointed project director of a nearly one million dollar (\$941,929.00 to be exact) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Department Chair Jeff Roberts will serve as academic director, and the White County Board of Education will coordinate the grant. Collectively they form the Cumberland Plateau Teaching Consortium. Their aim is to improve the teaching of American history at middle and high schools throughout the region.

Over the next three years, the grant will bring area teachers from fourteen surrounding counties to campus for six week-long summer institutes, twelve single-evening spring mini-institutes, and three single-day sessions in the fall. Grant funds also provide for instruction and evaluation of all sessions, allow for teachers to travel

to regional sites, facilitate their attendance at presentations, and will lead to the establishment of a website designed as a curriculum resource. Furthermore, the grant will provide all participants with resources, allowing the teachers to build their libraries in spite of these fiscally maligned times.

Other members of the TTU History Department will serve as guest presenters at the workshops. Wali Kharif, for example, presented his work on local African-American History this fall. George Webb and Kent Dollar are scheduled to lead two of the four evening sessions this spring. Calvin Dickinson will lead one of this summer's sessions. Others will participate in the years ahead.

One of the goals of the program is to introduce teachers to the wealth of resources available in the TTU archives and at numerous regional history sites. A more personalized approach can bring history alive to local youth. "History doesn't just happen to great people," says Birdwell. "When you teach local history, you give students a hook they can latch onto." Knowing something happened to one's own family tends to instill desires to know more. Teachers will be provided with examples and will see demonstrated the usefulness of using supplemental materials in the classroom. Moving teachers away from dependence on textbooks leads to students getting more out of their classes. Furthermore, the grant will allow teachers to become "highly qualified" as per No Child Left Behind guidelines. This is all the more important as many middle and high school history teachers actually specialized in other areas.

--Jeff Roberts,
Chair



Summary

The Mathematics Department has much to give in the way of news for the last two semesters, Spring and Fall 2004. Motivated by the need for better placement, the Mathematics Department has designed a new placement test to be used during Summer Orientation. Mathematics faculty have made a number of visits to area schools that Putnam County to discuss a coordinated approach to better prepare high-school students for the academic transition experienced during their first few semesters at the university. The Mathematics graduate program launched the new "Accelerated To Master's" (ATM) program to attract talented undergraduate students to pursue a master's degree in mathematics after they graduate. The graduate seminar has had a stellar year and boasts a record number of internationally recognized speakers who have presented their ideas and work to TTU's faculty and graduate students. On the research front, the Mathematics Department, through its faculty, was awarded in excess of \$400,000 in research grants over the next three years. One result from this is the new undergraduate research lab in Bruner Hall.

Faculty News

Dr. Michael Allen was promoted to Associate Professor and Dr. Alexander Shibakov was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor.

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Undergraduate News

Mathematics Placement Exam

Spring marked the passage of the "Math Placement Bill of 2004" by TTU's Student Government Association (SGA). The Bill gives incoming students the opportunity to make a better-informed decision when matching their mathematics abilities with a mathematics course, thus making it more likely that the student will pass rather than retake the course. Coordinated with this Bill was the need for a different type of mathematics placement test. The current placement test assesses very basic mathematics skills; doing well on this test does not necessarily imply that the student is ready for Calculus, for example. However, if the student does poorly on the existing placement test, the student most likely does not have the prerequisite skills to succeed in Calculus. The new placement test is being developed to better associate a student's score with the proper mathematics class, the student's success being taken into consideration.

Initiative and Math Mentoring

TTU's Mathematics faculty have made numerous efforts to better their relationship with mathematics faculty and administrators at K-12 schools. Resulting from this was the request by the Putnam County School Board for TTU mathematics faculty to participate in the process for book selection for mathematics at the K-12 level. TTU mathematics faculty have offered to volunteer as mentors to area schools and to give presentations to area school teachers. This past summer members of the Math Department participated in a summer workshop for Tennessee area schoolteachers. Mathematics faculty have also launched an experimental On-Site Office Hour

(OSOH) program in which faculty sit for an hour a week in the lounge of a designated student dormitory to answer any and all mathematics questions. The one-semester pilot program was launched Spring 2004 at the honors student dormitory. The Mathematics Department also hosted weekly social events that invited the undergraduate mathematics students, mentors and first-year math majors to join the faculty for light snacks and punch in a relaxed atmosphere. Given a relaxed setting, it was hoped that first-year students would feel less intimidated by a professor's status and be more apt to visit faculty offices on a more formal basis to discuss mathematics.

Math Contests

The Mathematics Department hosts two mathematics contests each year, one for middle- and high-school students and one for college students. Held at TTU in Bruner Hall each year is the Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association (TMTA) Contest that is organized by TTU's Mathematics faculty. The event provides a setting for students to visit TTU's campus and its Mathematics Department, possibly the deciding factor when choosing their university. This year's event included 409 students from 23 schools and marks an increase from last year's event by more than 100 students.

For TTU's students there was the second annual Integration Bee. First Tennessee Bank has sponsored the event each year and has donated \$200 in prize money for each year's event.

Graduate News

ATM Program

The new 120-hour curriculum allows some students to take additional mathematics courses when

considering graduation requirements. Through acceptance to the newly developed Accelerated To Master's (ATM) program, these undergraduate students can formally apply these additional mathematics courses directly to a master's degree in mathematics. It is hoped that the ATM program will motivate students close to graduation to maintain their pace rather than "taking it easy" their last few semesters at TTU. With the ATM, students can theoretically get their master's degree in as little as two additional semesters after their bachelor's degree. For those ATM students who decide not to pursue a master's degree there are also benefits; their transcripts will show their acceptance into the program and this could be the deciding factor when job-hunting.

DOE and NSF Research Grants

Dr. Sabine Le Borne has received two research grants spanning the next three years to further her research in the area of Hierarchical Matrices (H-Matrices). These grants total \$407,522; the Department of Energy has awarded \$290,496 while the National Science Foundation has awarded \$117,026. Included in the proposed research are funds to support three to four undergraduate students and two graduate students. A new undergraduate research lab has resulted from this funding.

Graduate Seminar

The Mathematics Department has held a graduate seminar for a number of years. This seminar allows graduate students an opportunity to learn presentation skills as well as to broaden their mathematics knowledge. Although each semester the Mathematics Department hosts guest speakers, this year was especially significant.

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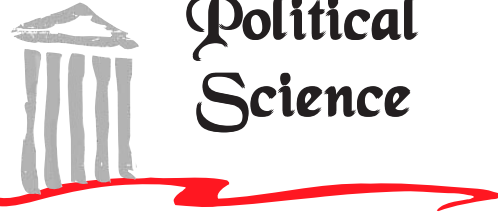
TTU and the Mathematics Department hosted very famous and internationally recognized names that included last year's winner of the prestigious Householder award in numerical analysis, editors from the NSF and scientists from Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This year's colloquium also attracted a record number of attendees from outside the Mathematics Department.

Where Did They Go?

Five students graduated this year with a master's degree in Mathematics: Ms. Cheryl Swafford, Mr. Qiang Zhang, Mr. Jun Ye, Mr. Devin Zhang and Ms. Ping Ye. Ms. Swafford is currently an instructor of mathematics here at TTU and Mr. Qiang Zhang is pursuing a Ph.D. in Engineering here at TTU. Both shared the Dolzycki Memorial Scholarship award. Mr. Jun Ye is pursuing his Ph.D. in statistics at the University of Georgia, and Mr. Devin Zhang is furthering his mathematical interests by collaborating with TTU's math faculty and teaching as an adjunct instructor. Both Mr. Ye and Mr. Zhang shared the Graduate Student Teaching Award. Ms. Ping Ye is pursuing her Ph.D. at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

--Dr. Richard Le Borne

Sociology and Political Science



The Department has experienced a number of major changes recently. For instance, our long-time philosopher, Professor Wes Henry, retired last May and is teaching with us on the post-retirement service program. Perhaps the most far-reaching change, however, is the merger between the Department of Sociology and Philosophy, and the Department of Political Science, which was effective in Fall 2003. In honor of our new Political Science colleagues, I want to focus in this issue on their activities during the past year or so—even though the rest of us have been productively busy as well.

Michael Gunter taught summer school at the International University in Vienna, Austria, for the third straight time this past summer. Vienna is the home to many international organizations, so he had an opportunity to teach courses on international human rights, peacekeeping, and international organizations to diplomats from various eastern and central European countries and also from the Middle East. For Gunter, it was a tremendous opportunity to broaden his teaching experiences and experience first-hand developments in the European Union. For his efforts, he was awarded the "Distinguished Visiting Professor Award" at the 2003 commencement of the International University as well as the opportunity to deliver the commencement address.

Gunter also continued his research and writing on the Middle East

and the Kurds. For his continuing efforts on these subjects, he was named one of only 32 U.S. academics to the Foreign Policy Council Campus Watch of academics whose writings on the Middle East are recommended as balanced and worthy of note. During the past year, Gunter has published two more books on the Kurdish issue and has been invited, all-expenses-paid, to three separate international conferences in Cyprus (Eastern Mediterranean University), England (Chatham House/Royal Institute of International Affairs), and Belgium (the European Union Parliament). He also was invited to present a paper at an unclassified conference sponsored by the CIA in Washington.

Lori Maxwell was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor in June. She continues as advisor to Pi Sigma Alpha, which has been quite active. The Phi Pi chapter has successfully competed for grants for the past two years. The members assisted with a mock election at Algood Middle School. They have also developed a tutoring program as part of their mentoring initiative. They have had advising workshops and a brown-bag luncheon as well as other outreach activities.

Political Science will be participating in the Learning Communities courses in the spring with a community of ENG/HIST/POLS. Sociology participated in the fall under Tom Brignall. Students from Political Science are in the process of being selected as legislative interns to spend the spring semester (or longer if the session demands it) in Nashville. Dr. Steve Williams has overseen that program for years. Other students were enrolled in the fall in internships with local lawyers through a program established by Dr. Sharon Whitney. She continues as advisor to the Young Democrats

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who sponsored several informative programs in the fall. Much of the attention of all four of the political scientists has been on the self-study of their program.

--Gretta Stanger,
Chairperson



Alumni Corner

What do the hymn “Our God, He Is Alive,” the turn signal indicator on your car, and the TTU Physics Department have in common?

Answer: The late A.W. Dicus. But while the hymn itself is well known to most of us, sadly, its famous author is not. Aaron Wesley Dicus was born on May 30, 1888, in Festus, Missouri. When he was just a small child, his family moved to Swayzee, Indiana, where he was reared and later graduated from high school. In that same small, north central Indiana town, he met and married his first wife, Bertha Jane. He started his teaching career in a one-room rural schoolhouse but left that position to become an inventor. Few people are aware of the fact that A.W. Dicus is the man who, shortly prior to the Great Depression, invented the automobile turn signal! When he tried to sell it to a car company, they were not interested. It was not until the patent had expired that all the car manufacturers wanted it.

Dicus began preaching full time for a church in Bloomington, Indiana, and around 1925 was offered a student instructor scholarship at the University of Indiana, which

helped pay for some of his school expenses. He continued to preach whenever possible, in order to help pay for things the scholarship did not cover. Eventually, even though he had to drop out of college on more than one occasion to earn money to continue his schooling, he graduated with B.S., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees. In 1929, he was offered the job of Chairman of the Physics Department at Tennessee Technological University in Cookeville, Tennessee.

In the mid-1940s, Dr. Dicus became heavily involved in training graduates for nuclear studies in connection with the Oak Ridge National Laboratories. One of his former students, the late Ray Kinslow, was hired to work at Oak Ridge, and later observed that A.W. Dicus “probably had more of his students at Oak Ridge than any other physics professor. I was one of those. After doing atomic research at Columbia University in New York, I came to Oak Ridge and hired probably more than half of his former students there, including one of his sons.” Dicus’ two youngest sons and their wives attended TTU, David Errol ‘54 IA and Evelyn L. Dicus ‘40 MATH, and James Thomas ‘42 IA and Evelyn Corlew Dicus ‘41 BUSM.

Even though Dr. Dicus could have stayed on for many more years at Tennessee Tech, he chose to retire from the University and moved to Temple Terrace, Florida, to become academic dean of Florida College. Due in large part to his reputation and untiring efforts, Florida College was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.



Maryjane Webster

During his “retirement” he wrote three books and began writing songs. His first wife, Bertha Jane, had died, and in 1953 he married a lady by the name of Flora, who was instrumental in encouraging him in his song writing. Although Dicus had no formal musical

training, he came up with a mathematical formula that helped him put music to his lyrics. He wrote more than thirty-five songs, among which was “Our God, He Is Alive.” Eventually, his health began to fail and he was afflicted with cataracts and glaucoma, which left him almost completely blind. Even then, however, he continued to compose songs, including the beautiful, “Lord, I Believe.” Dr. Dicus died on September 2, 1978, in Tampa, Florida.

--Maryjane Webster
Development Director

2005 TTU Alumni Events

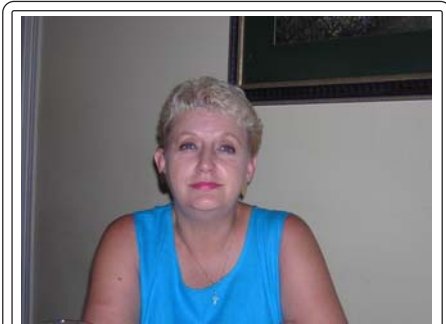
May 14	Nashville-TTU Night with the Sounds - Picnic
June 4	Huntsville, AL - TTU Night w/ the Stars - Picnic
August 10-20	Class of 1980 Reunion*
Sept 16-17	ROTC Reunion*
Sept. 24	President’s Club Reception*
Sept. 30 - October 1	Class of 1955 Reunion*
November 5	Homecoming*

* on campus events

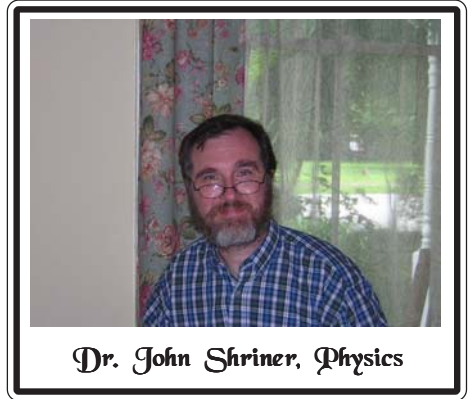
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Luncheon for Dr. John Shriner, former Physics chair



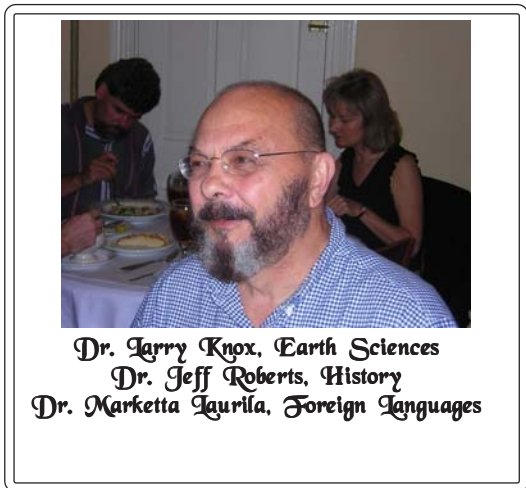
**Colleen Harris,
Executive Aide CAS**



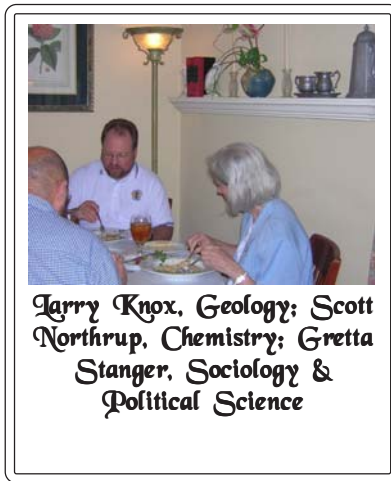
Dr. John Shriner, Physics



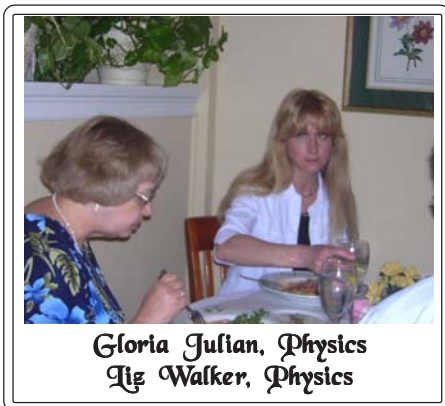
**Dr. Paul Semmes,
Assoc. Dean CAS**



**Dr. Larry Knox, Earth Sciences
Dr. Jeff Roberts, History
Dr. Marketta Laurila, Foreign Languages**



**Larry Knox, Geology; Scott
Northrup, Chemistry; Gretta
Stanger, Sociology &
Political Science**



**Gloria Julian, Physics
Liz Walker, Physics**

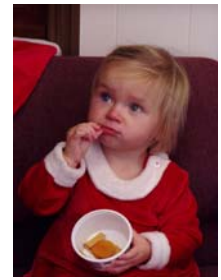


**Dr. Kurt Eisen, English
Dr. Jeff Roberts, History
Dr. Marketta Laurila, Foreign
Languages**

College of Arts & Sciences Annual Open House Event



Dean Armistead's daughter, Emily, & granddaughter, Daisy, enjoying goodies.



Dean Armistead's granddaughter, Daisy, enjoying Christmas goodies.



President Bob Bell



Dean Armistead



Dr. Leo McGee, Assoc. U.P.



Mrs. Rebecca Tolbert, Assoc. U.P. & Susan Maddux, General Education



Wanda Jared, English
Gretta Stanger, Chair (Background)



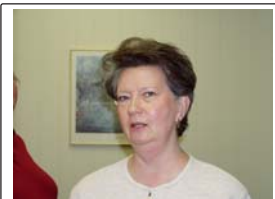
Lois Clinton, History, & Assoc. Dean Semmes



Lorrie McCracken & Janet Rogers



Provost Barker



Lois Clinton, History

Center Stage Series

SPRING 2005 EVENTS

January 18– February 27, 2005	UCE Birmingham U.K. Jewellery Group Craft Center	An exhibition and workshop featuring an exhibiting jewellery artist. The Exhibitions Group of UCE School of Jewellery is internationally recognized and exhibited, having shown in the United Kingdom, Estonia, Thailand and the U.S.
January 19 8:00 pm Concert Jan. 20, 11:00 am Master class	Rhonda Larson, Flute Wattenbarger Auditorium Bryan Fine Arts Building	Ms. Larson, Grammy award winner, plays the familiar western flute but also plays an assortment of ethnic flutes from around the world. Her music merges elements of sacred, classical, jazz, folk, Celtic and ethnic music. www.rhondalarson.com
January 20 11:00 am Master class 8:00 pm Concert	Calder Quartet Wattenbarger Auditorium	The Calder Quartet has created a sensation with its stunning combination of traditional chamber music and the avant-garde. Nominated resident string quartet of Los Angeles by critics, the group has been praised for its "splendor and substance" (Alan Rich, L.A. Weekly) and its "accomplished and touching performance" (Chris Pasles, Los Angeles Times). www.calderquartet.com
January 27– February 18 January 28, 4:30-6:30 pm Reception Feb. 15, 3:30 pm Slide Lecture	Kate Abena Badoe J.D.A.G. 1 st floor RUC	An exhibition featuring ink drawings and oil and acrylic paintings. Ms. Badoe's work draws on the rich imagery of her African-American heritage. She combines images from traditional African art with overlays of geometric shapes, creating works that are at once complex and simple.
February 2 week residency	Olu Obafemi Residency	Professor Olu Obafemi, a significant literary and academic figure in Nigeria, will be a resident scholar/artist at TTU for approximately two weeks. He will visit literature and theater courses; give a public lecture on literary culture and literacy in Nigeria and West Africa, and direct TTU students in a staged reading of one of his plays.
February 3 7:00 pm In conjunction with the annual Soul Food Dinner. There will be a charge for the dinner, but NOT for J. Ivy.	J. Ivy RUC Multipurpose Room Contact Minority Affairs for dinner information. 372-3392	HBO Def Poet. "Metaphorically speaking, spoken-word impresario J. Ivy is the fork in the road where traditional poetry meets hip-hop, blurring genres with his infectious mix of wordplay and musicality that have transfixed audiences across the country, from his native Chicago to Los Angeles and from other national hotbeds.
February 21– March 24 Feb. 22, 11:00 am Reception/Gallery Talk Feb. 22, 3:30 pm Slide Lecture	Caroline Dahl J.D.A.G.	Ms. Dahl's textiles exhibition makes "contemporary narrative textiles." Her compositions use appliqué, embroidery, beading, piecework, and machine and hand-stitched quilting processes. www.carolinedahl.com
February 24– 25 Feb. 24, 8:00 pm Concert Feb. 25, 11:00 am Master class	Festival of Four Wattenbarger Auditorium	This ensemble is a unique blend of two classical guitars, flamenco guitar, and flute. www.festivaloffour.com/index.html
March 1 7:00 pm	Nell Irvin Painter Derryberry Auditorium	Topic: Southern History Across the Color Line and Its Impact on Women. "Nell Irvin Painter is an outstanding historian who focuses on gender, race, and southern history." Part of Women's History Month. www.nellpainter.com Exclusive representation by Greater Talent Network. www.greatertalent.com
March 15 7:00 pm	Finding Common Ground- Embracing Differences Tech Pride Room	Ms. Elaine Penn will present this program, showing students how they can make a positive difference by understanding diversity and by being community builders.
March 28– April 22 Mar. 29, 11:00 am Reception/Gallery Talk March 29, 3:30 pm Slide Lecture	Julie Shelton Smt J.D.A.G.	An exhibition of oil paintings on panel. Ms. Smith's paintings "deconstruct" the human figure, reassembling forms as semi-abstract compositions that challenge our perceptual response. www.juliesmithart.com
April 1 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Thai Food & Cricket Sherlock Park	Students can learn to play cricket, interact, and enjoy Thai food prepared by Royal House of Thai. Co-sponsor: One World Organization
April 1 8:00 pm	Ying Akkos– Flutist Joy Rachor- pianist Wattenbarger Auditorium	Ms. Akkos, originally from Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China, graduated from TTU and received her Master of Music at Peabody Conservatory/Johns Hopkins University. She is a freelance teacher/performer in the Los Angeles area. Ms. Akkos will be accompanied on piano by Ms. Joy Rachor.
April 15– 16 April 15, 11:00 am Symposium April 16, 11:30 am – 6:30 pm	Window on the World 7 RUC	An international symposium and day-long festival. Experience entertainment, food and crafts from around the world. www.tntech.edu/wow
April 21, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30:00 pm April 25, 28:10:00 pm	Servant of Two Masters Backdoor Playhouse	By: Carlo Goldoni (Version by: Tom Cone) Directed by: Mark Harry Creter. Produced in cooperation with Samuel French, Inc.

RUC – Roaden University Center; Backdoor Playhouse@Bottom floor- Jere Whitson Building; Wattenbarger@Bryan Fine Arts Building

College of Arts & Sciences

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Visit TTU's new Online Alumni Directory: Search for other alumni or update your own information at

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