



Points of Pride

College of Arts & Sciences November 2006

CHEMISTRY

Assistant professor **Cora Lind** received several awards and honors in Nov.. She was nominated for the American Chemical Society's PROGRESS/Dreyfus lectureship award which identifies her as a "rising star" at Carnegie Research Extensive Universities, and provides for her to travel to lecture at other universities. Cora was also voted as a member of the U.S. National Committee for Crystallography, and she will receive the 2007 Margaret C. Etter Early Career Award from the American Crystallographic Association. The Etter award recognizes "outstanding achievement and exceptional potential in crystallographic research demonstrated by a scientist at an early stage of their independent career."

Lecturer **Edith Preciosa Klingberg** and instructor **Brenda Snyder** presented "It's Not Just About Chemistry Anymore" at the Northwest Ohio Symposium on Science, Math and Technology Teaching on Nov. 3 in Toledo. The talk was designed to improve communication between high school teachers and instructors of freshmen chemistry students, to better prepare incoming freshmen for the transition to college.

For the fifth consecutive year, the UT chapter of the American Chemical Society Student Affiliates group received the top award ranking of "Outstanding" for the 2005-06 academic year. Of more than 400 active student affiliate chapters in the U.S., only 34 receive the highest ranking each year. President **Andrew Stelzer** and advisor **Julie Mosher** accepted the award.

Ph.D. student **Shontell Wright** from Dr. Kirchhoff's lab received a \$1,000 National Travel Award from Pfizer and the American Chemical Society to present results of her research at the Pittsburgh Conference in Chicago.

COMMUNICATION

Dr. James Benjamin, professor and chair of the Department of Communication, was named President-elect of the Association for Communication Administration on Nov. 17 at the National Communication Association conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Dr. Paul Fritz delivered a paper entitled, "Empowerment Stories Among Latino Undergraduates: Interviewing Family Members" at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 9.

Representatives from the UT chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America attended the national PRSA conference in Salt Lake City on Nov. 11-14. Attendees were **Stacy Moeller** (president), **Liz Cancian** (vice president), **Terra Hopple** (secretary), **Matt Minidis** (vice president of recruitment), and **Elliot Calloway** (treasurer).

Communication students **Krysta Adamczyk, Lauren Amstutz, Gary Davis, LaQueenia Gibson, Bryan Gilles, Meghan Harshbarger, Dave Herndon, Michael Irish, Mariana Joy, Carrie Macey, Roshawna Peoples, Jenn Steck,** and **Amy Warnick** assisted in election night coverage at WTOL-TV. The director of operations at WTOL wrote, "Please express to these folks how impressed we were, and let them know that THEY were the key to our successful night of election returns on our air and on the web."

ENGLISH

Poets and faculty members **Wallace Martin** and **Eric Lesniewski** read from their newly published chapbooks at the Canaday Center on Nov. 30. The books, *The Complete Poetical Works of W.D.M.* and *In the Name of the Father*, were hand-set and printed by UT's Aureole Press, run by **Dr. Timothy Geiger** of the English department.

Linguistics major **Shamsi Modarai**, who graduated magna cum laude in May 2006, was accepted into M.A. programs in Medieval Studies at the universities in York, Leeds, and Durham, all in Great Britain. She will be visiting all three prior to making her decision, and will also spend six months in Iceland prior to her graduate studies.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES / LAKE ERIE CENTER

Ph.D. candidate **Matthew Neilson** has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation's DeepFin project for fish phylogeny. He will spend several weeks working at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in St. Petersburg with Dr. Nina Bogutskaya on the morphology and biogeography of goby fishes.

M.S. student **Kristen DeVanna** successfully defended her thesis on Nov. 30, titled, "Role of *Dreissena* as ecosystem engineers: Effects to native bioturbators and benthic community structure and function."

A team of UT researchers is positioned to take part in one of the largest and most expensive ventures in the history of environmental research. The National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) would blanket the United States with a network of observation platforms to provide a nonstop and comprehensive picture of the state of its ecosystems. The UT-NEON Team, under the direction of **Jiquan Chen** and **Hans Gottgens**, is aiming to employ several UT facilities as observation platforms for this NSF-sponsored project with an overall price tag in the \$100 million range. UT sites include the Oak Openings region, the Stranahan Arboretum, and the Lake Erie Center.

Assistant professor **Stacy Philpott**, along with collaborators from seven other universities in the U.S. and Costa Rica, were awarded funding from the National Center for Ecological Synthesis and Analysis to teach a graduate seminar in "Biodiversity, Conservation, and Ecosystem Services in Managed Landscapes." The seminar – which will be conducted during Spring 2007 at UT, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, Kansas State University, Columbia University, Iowa State University, Oregon State University, and the Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza in Costa Rica – will focus on data synthesis and meta-analyses to summarize information on this important topic.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Professor **Ruth Hottell** attended the 28th International Festival of Mediterranean Film in Montpellier, France. She participated in educational fora and discussion groups and will incorporate some of the films into two books currently underway.

Students of the **Sigma Delta Pi National Spanish Honor Society** collected two large boxes of shoes and socks for the Cherry Street Mission to be distributed to the homeless in Toledo.

MUSIC

Gunnar Mossblad, director of Jazz Studies, was performer, producer, and arranger on the new CD, "Bebop Process Excellence Vol. 2 – Tribute to Charles," to be released in January. He also performed in a world premiere of a five-movement arrangement of John Coltrane's "Meditation's Suite" by the Manhattan School of Music.

Jason Stumbo, UT director of bands, was guest conductor/clinician at the 2006 Lenawee county High School Honor Band. Professor **Stephen Hodge** received 11 invitations to serve as clinician with high school choirs in Northwest Ohio.

A record audience of more than 700 people attended the **UT High School Honors Choir Festival** led by **William Schwepe**. The festival also drew a record 186 registrations from high school students.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

On Nov. 7, Ritter Planetarium hosted a lecture and book signing by best-selling, award-winning author **Dava Sobel**, who is on tour promoting the paperback release of her latest book, *The Planets*. The book's publisher, Penguin Group, Inc., selected the UT campus as a venue for Sobel's appearance due to the active planetarium here. The event, held in the Law Center Auditorium, drew an audience of approximately 120 students, faculty, and members of the public.

PHILOSOPHY

The annual Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue event, held on Nov. 16 in Doermann Theatre, was attended by approximately 260 individuals from the university and community. This year's discussion, "Spirituality in Everyday Life," featured **Dr. Rick Gaillardetz**, Catholic Studies (UT); **Dr. Mashhad Al-Allaf**, Islamic Studies (UT); and **Mr. Geoff Berdy** of the Toledo Board of Jewish Education.

A book by **Dr. Rick Gaillardetz** was published: *The Church in the Making: Lumen Gentium, Christus Dominus, Orientalium Ecclesiarum* (Paulist Press 2006).

SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Marietta Morrissey received a Fulbright Scholar grant to teach a course and conduct research at the University of Costa Rica. Her research will focus on the development of social services in Costa Rica and how the state commitment to social welfare supports economic development efforts.

THEATRE & FILM

Professor **James S. Hill** presented a series of workshops on theatre conceptualization to the students of the University of Debrecen's Department of English Studies from Nov. 6-16. Hill's presentations are part of an artistic exchange program developed with the University of Debrecen, a major university in Hungary of 16,000 students and very similar in structure to UT.

Holly Hey, a new assistant professor in film, received a \$10,000 production grant from the LEF Foundation prior to joining UT. The grant will fund ongoing work on "The Dum Dum Capitol of the World," a short experimental documentary on how community and environment factor into internalized homophobia. She had a multi-media piece entitled "Here Myrtle" as part of the group exhibition Place and Memory at the Laconia Gallery in Boston in October/Nov. as well, and recently received Apple Pro Certification in Final Cut Pro Level I, which positions her to train trainers on this complex video production software.

Students from the departments of Theatre/Film and Art collaborated on *recovery* from Nov. 14-19. The event included a multi-media installation developed and performed by art students in conjunction with a performance of Greg MacArthur's play *recovery*. The production itself incorporated film and video with live performance to create a world where people go to recover from addictions, only to find they must give up more and more of their rights and freedoms in return for less help and support.