



Points of Pride

College of Arts & Sciences

October 2006

COMMUNICATION

On October 7, **Dr. Brian Patrick** presented a paper at George Mason University Law School's national Firearms Law & the Second Amendment Symposium in Arlington, VA. The paper was entitled "The Concealed Carry Movement: Ongoing Social Construction of the Second Amendment and a Return to the Original Meaning of the First Amendment."

Visiting instructor **Lauren Gragg** presented "The New HP Way," an examination of the ethical implications of the Hewlett-Packard pretexting scandal, at the Michigan State University Organizational Communication mini-conference on October 8.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Associate professor **Alison Spongberg** and her student and lab technician, **Jason Witter**, presented at the National Geological Society of American conference, their work on pharmaceutical and antibiotic drugs in effluent waste waters and sludges applied to agricultural fields.

Roadside Geology of Ohio, a new 410-page book by associate professor **Mark J. Camp**, is now available from Mountain Press.

Dr. Jonathan Bossenbroek was awarded a \$250,000 grant from the USDA PREISM Competitive Cooperative Agreements entitled: "Evaluating the economic costs and benefits of slowing the spread of the emerald ash borer in Michigan and Ohio." Additionally, Dr. Bossenbroek's most recently accepted publication is "Forecasting the expansion of zebra mussels in the United States" in *Conservation Biology*. Co-authors are L.E. Johnson, B. Peters, and D.M. Lodge.

Professor of Ecology **Jiquan Chen** was named to the editorial board of *Agricultural & Forest Meteorology*. His board appointment to the journal, which is considered to be the best journal in the forestry field, will run for three years.

LAKE ERIE CENTER

The Lake Erie Center was awarded a **\$25,000 planning grant** from the National Science Foundation to develop plans for its architectural expansion. This grant is anticipated to pave the way for NSF funding of the actual expansion. The principal investigator is LEC director Dr. Carol Stepien. Co-investigators are Dr. Christine Mayer (environmental sciences), Dr. Kevin Czajkowski (geography & planning), Dr. Cyndee Gruden (civil engineering), and Dr. Kevin Egan (economics).

The Great Lakes Genetics Laboratory of the LEC is hosting two eastern European **visiting scientists** for six weeks during October and November, funded by a National Science Foundation grant. The visitors are postdoctoral researcher **Dr. Yuriy Kvach** from the Institute of Biology of the Southern Seas of the National Academy of Sciences in Ukraine; and Ph.D. student **Vasily Boldyrev** of the Zoological Institute in St. Petersburg, Russia.

PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY

Dr. Robert Collins and colleagues were awarded a \$3.6 million grant from the U.S. Air Force in order to broaden research in UT's alternative energy programs. The funds will be used to develop ways to improve lightweight portable systems the military uses in remote areas, and to research innovations in transportation fuel to curb the military's reliance on petroleum.

Graduate student **Michelle Sestak** won the blue ribbon award for her poster presentation, "Surface Plasmon Resonance Studies on Ag Thin Films," at the Sigma-Xi National Symposium held in Detroit (Nov. 2-5). Michelle was nominated to become a member of Sigma-Xi because of the outstanding poster presentation. Collaborators on the project were physics graduate student **Jonathan Skuza**; associate professor and adviser **Ale Lukaszew**; and colleague **Natalia Dushkina** from Millersville University (PA).