

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



I am pleased to share with you the November edition of the CAS Newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to communicate and celebrate the wide assortment of accomplishments of our faculty and students. In so many ways, our work with students and their experiences are extraordinary; clearly, there is much to share! As you read, I encourage you to think about sending us items that should also be celebrated. I know that our colleagues, students, alumni and friends would enjoy hearing about them.

*Douglas Davenport, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Arts and Sciences*

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Philosophy and Religion to Host 19th Annual Conference

**The 19th Annual Undergraduate Philosophy & Religion Conference will be held Saturday, November 8, 2008 in the Spanish Room, Student Union Building.**

Keynote speaker Gregory Pence, of the University of Alabama at Birmingham will give the 2008 Smits lecture, "Building a Better Human."

The conference itself features papers from undergraduates around the country on a variety of areas in philosophy or religious studies. The conference is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Mike Bova Conti (mjb439@truman.edu) or Dr. Mike Ashcraft (660.785.7531 or washcraf@truman.edu) or visit <http://philosophy-religion.truman.edu/conference>

## IMPORTANT DATES : NOVEMBER

- 8 Undergraduate Philosophy & Religion Conference (Spanish Room, Student Union Building)
- 8 November Showcase (visit event)
- 11 All-Chairs Meeting (Conference Room, Student Union 8:15-11:00)
- 11 Lyceum--Canadian Brass (Baldwin Auditorium 7:30 p.m.)
- 20 Faculty Senate meeting (Conference Room, Student Union 3:00)
- 25 CAS Chairs Meeting (Conference Room, Student Union 8:15-10:15)
- 25 Travel Funding Requests from CAS (spring and summer trips)
- 26-28 Thanksgiving holidays (no classes, offices closed)

## DIRECTOR OF BANDS ELECTED TO MISSOURI BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

Dan Peterson, Director of Bands, has been inducted into the Missouri Band Directors' Hall of Fame. He is the fortieth honoree in the Hall's one hundred year history.

You can read more about it here:  
<http://music.truman.edu/news.asp?AutoID=655>

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



**Jim Jereb**  
Professor of Art

**Degrees:**

1982 - B.F.A. with honors, Painting and Printmaking,  
University of Wyoming  
1985 - M.F.A. with honors, Printmaking and Painting,  
University of Wyoming

**Professional History:**

1985 - 1990: Instructor, Printmaking and Drawing, University of Wyoming Art Department  
1986 - 1990: Workshop Supervisor and Presenter, Wyoming Cultural Outreach Program  
1988, 1990, 1993, 1995, 2002, 2005: Artist in Residence, Albany County School District, (WY)  
1986 - present: Consultant, Special Projects, Bradford Brinton Memorial & Museum Big Horn, WY  
1993 - present: Conservator, for various museums, corporations, and private collectors  
2004 - present: Curator of Exhibitions, Printmaking Section, Wyoming Territorial Historic Museum, Laramie, WY

## RESEARCH ACCOMPLISHMENTS/INTERESTS:

Last year I had a retrospective exhibition in the University Gallery, showing just the Printmaking side of me, for the past 25 years. Yikes! Feels like a year and a half. There is still so much I have to learn. This year – next month, to be specific – I have a show at the Kirksville Arts Association Gallery. It is a two-person show, with ceramicist Velda Dougherty. Opening reception is November 14. Be there!

Some regular, full-time gallery representations these days are at Platte Fine Art, in Chicago, and the Bradford Brinton Museum, in Big Horn, Wyoming. Also, I continue to compete in national and international exhibitions, numbering over two hundred at this writing.

And now, allow me to list some of my side interests: some are related or connected to Printmaking, some not. I like to do paper making, book binding, watercolors, paper marbling, and designing and constructing stained glass windows and panels. Oh, and I do consulting jobs for art and historical museums, mainly restoration projects. Usually that means conservation or repair of works of art on paper, but can reach into furniture and antique printing presses. Yes.

**Teaching assignments/ interests:**

All levels of Printmaking (1 – 5, Independent Study, BA and BFA Capstone, Graduate); All levels of Drawing (1 – 5, Independent Study) Design I; Introduction to the Visual Arts; Truman Week Experience; New Major Seminar

My passion is Printmaking. Print Print Print !!! I eat, drink, and breathe Printmaking. Sharing this love in an art program is an exciting integration of many factors, and I am fortunate to work in a department that recognizes the importance of the Foundation principles, as these courses (Drawing 1 and 2, Design 1 and 2) form the basic skills that set the stage for those who enroll in beginning Printmaking.

The Printmaking program itself begins with the introductory Printmaking course. Here the main categories of processes are discussed and applied. The “four pillars of Print” someone once told me. Thus, the first semester is a survey of techniques. From then on the courses continue to cover new processes, but also emphasize each person’s individual growth, allowing independent choices and outcomes. Cool.

Oh, that’s right: I am supposed to talk about me. Well, who cares about me? It’s the Print classes and the shop that matter!

Anyway, I do spend a bit of time in the shop: There is always a better way to do something, so I can’t keep my hands off all the great things we have in there. Presses, inks, stones, papers, cutters. This stuff is the best! Oh, and a mirrored disco ball and a life-size mummy, complete with a golden brayer.

Currently I am revamping the letterpress offering. Mostly gathering new fonts of lead type, but also fun things like a cute little table top press called a “Kelsey 5x8”. Now I am on the hunt for an iron hand press, from the mid- late nineteenth century.

*e-mail: fa15@truman.edu*

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

**Justin Nichols**

**Degree program:**  
Sociology/Anthropology BS,  
Cognitive Science minor

**Anticipated graduation:** May 2009

**Accomplishments/interests:**

First Degree Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do  
Member of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity for three years, Executive Board for two years.  
Bike Co-op, Mechanic and Webmaster  
Students for Sensible Drug Policy, President and Treasurer.

**Other:** Justin likes reading fiction, especially fantasy novels, and playing computer games. He also enjoys keeping aquariums and really likes listening to music from artists with a strong social message.

**About Justin:**

Interested in indigenous activism and post-colonial situations in the Americas, Justin has been to Peru twice – first as a tourist, again in the summer of 2008 as a student in an applied ethnographic field school sponsored by the Center for Social Well-Being in Carhuaz, Department of Ancash, Peru. The field school involved language study in both Spanish and Quechua, Andean ethnography, and initial stages of participatory action research in the local communities. This rich exposure to indigenous villages and villagers left Justin with a new understanding of how limited his first exposure to Peru had been and a new perspective of development projects. Struck by the number of plastic bags blowing around town, he and his colleagues pursued a project focused on local ecology and recycling including interviews with townspeople and administrators about the local dump. This experience has made Justin more appreciative of the application of anthropological knowledge and more confident with his ability to interact with people living a very different lifestyle – even in a language he barely knows, like Quechua! Justin demonstrates his dedication to anthropology by investing in developing his own knowledge through field work and course work and exploring the interdisciplinary intersection of anthropology and other fields. While anthropological approaches to understanding human cognition generally involve observation of human behavior, his Cognitive Science minor emphasizes the linguistic and philosophical approaches to brain process. After Truman, Justin is deciding between a PhD program in Anthropology, specializing in indigenous/ post-colonial issues, law school with the goal of supporting indigenous activism, or being a municipal fire fighter.

## NEW FACULTY MEMBER HONORED



Obinna Nwakanma  
English & Linguistics

Obinna Nwakanma, whom we introduced last issue as a new assistant professor of English, has been honored by St. Louis University with its prestigious Walter J. Ong, S.J. award. Each year, as part of the annual Literary Award presentation (this year recognizing novelist E.L. Doctorow) the university also recognizes the accomplishments of one English graduate program student. A prize-winning journalist in his native Nigeria, Dr. Nwakanma (who received his PhD this year) has published two books of poetry and is currently completing a biography about the distinguished Nigerian author Christopher Okigbo.

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT : BIOLOGY

The Biology Department is home to ~675 students and 27 dedicated faculty members. The students are generally interested in one of three broad career tracks. These include a pre-professional track for students interested in medicine, optometry, dentistry, veterinary sciences, and physical therapy; a graduate school track for students who intend to pursue a Master's or Ph.D.; and a career track for those who wish to enter directly into the work force as a conservation officer, lab technician, or biological journalist, among other occupations. Over the last decade, about a third of our graduates have fallen into each of these three categories. Truman graduates the second-largest number of undergraduate biological science majors among public institutions in Missouri. Of those students who have applied to medical school over the past eight years, 76% have been accepted. Truman biology graduates have recently completed or are now attending medical school at such institutions as Baylor, Georgetown, Dartmouth, Tufts and Washington University. Some M.S. and Ph.D. programs in which recent Truman biology graduates are enrolled include Harvard, Yale, University of Missouri-Columbia, Cornell, and Case Western Reserve University.

The faculty in the Department of Biology has diverse research interests and represents a balance of professional ranks. There are eight full professors, five associate professors, and nine assistant professors. The balance in professional rank is matched by balanced research interests across the levels of biological organization. Our ecologists study fish populations, insect communities, and plant-animal and animal-animal interactions. Our organism-based faculty members study energy balance, the effects of gravity on plant roots, fish physiology, the biology of aquatic organisms, and the effects of hypoxia (low oxygen levels) on invertebrate survivorship, among others.

Faculty research interests in cellular and molecular biology include the genetics of worm development, the role of cells in plant growth, and the genetics of maize. We also have faculty members with primary interest in pedagogical questions and questions at the interface of biology and mathematics. Several faculty members have received federal funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and other organizations.

Our primary responsibility is to our students and their learning. To this end, we have prioritized experiences that provide students with exceptional learning opportunities. These include research experiences with faculty members, workshop courses at various places in the United States, and Study Abroad courses in Belize and South Africa. Truman Biology majors also enjoy small classes and close interaction with faculty members in the classroom. Most Biology classes have only 20-50 students, and many elective classes are as small as 8-10 students.

Professors teach all of the lab sections, and Truman's new \$26 million science building provides students with state-of-the-art facilities and instrumentation. Many students also participate in student organizations such as BBB (national Biology Honor Society), AMSA (American Medical Student Organization), Pre-Vet Club, Herpetology Club, PLANTS (botany club), ECO (Ecological Campus Organization), Globe Med (issues of global health), Wildlife Society, and NSTA (National Science Teachers Association, student affiliate).

The Biology Department offers three degree programs: B.S., B.A., and M.S. (Accelerated Track). All the degrees requires a broad range of core courses, including a two-semester introductory sequence, cell biology, genetics, physiology, and ecology. The B.S. requires the

## DEPARTMENT SPOTLIGHT : BIOLOGY

completion of a two-semester Organic Chemistry sequence and supporting courses in Physics, Math, and Statistics. Students fill their B.S. Curriculum with 15 hours of elective courses from with the major. In contrast to the B.S. degree, the B.A. degree requires intermediate language proficiency, 15 fewer credit hours of formal Biology electives, and one (rather than two) semesters of Organic Chemistry. An integral component of the Biology B.A. that allows for creative tailoring is the "Learning Plan." In consultation with his or her academic advisor, students custom-design a suite of courses (at least 15 credit hours) that best matches their life-long learning and career goals. Finally, the Accelerated

Track Master's Program at Truman offers students the opportunity to graduate with two degrees in five years. Biology majors at Truman are eligible for the program and can apply in their junior year. Entrance into the program is based on significant undergraduate research, GRE scores, a personal statement, and support from a faculty advisor. Students are expected to parlay their undergraduate research into a more substantial Master's-level research project, while also carrying out the duties of teaching duties of the GTRA. Typically, students receive one year and two semesters of university funding to complete their Master's research.

## NEW STAFF



Deborah Hudman  
Biology

Deborah joined the Biology staff on August 11th 2008. She has a Master's Degree in Wildlife Management with an emphasis on zoonotic disease. She has accumulated over six years of experience in various research and public health laboratories. Deborah enjoys running and painting.



Sherril Pearce  
Sciences Secretary

Sherril Pearce began working as a secretary in Magruder Hall on July 21st. She is married to Billy Joe, and has one son and daughter-in-law, Aaron and Jaylena. She enjoys camping, and spending time with her family and friends.



David Leaton  
Writing Center

Dave Leaton is the Director of the Truman State University Writing Center and teaches courses within the Department of English and Linguistics. Dave received both his B.A. and M.A. in English across the state at Northwest Missouri State University. He has completed his coursework for the Ph.D. in 20th c. American Literature at the University of Arkansas and is currently writing his dissertation on hyperindividualism and form in literature of the left. Dave is also interested in critical theory, cultural theory, science fiction, detective fiction, and bikeways.

## WORK UNDERWAY ON CAS BUILDINGS

Several building remediation projects are underway in the College of Arts and Sciences this year. Some of those projects are directly related to the “normal wear and tear” that occurs and others are directed more toward either systemic problems within a building, or punch-list items that never seemed to get resolved during construction and/or renovation projects. I won’t go into every detail for each building, but I would like to give you an idea of the scope of these projects.

### **Ophelia Parrish**

Many of you are aware that Ophelia Parrish underwent significant renovation and new construction a few years back. One might wonder what could possibly still be wrong with a building after such extensive work, so I’ll try to enlighten you on that topic. After the Art, Music and Theatre Departments moved into the facility, we began to discover that either through construction errors/oversights or design flaws, the building did not measure up to what we who inhabited it thought it should. The most severe problems with the building actually occurred around the two major performance venues: the Severns Theatre and the Music Performance Hall. Those problems were almost all involved with the acoustical design of the facility.

Truman has now entered into a contract to remediate those acoustical problems to the best of our ability, knowing full well that not all will be able to be resolved. In brief, the sound isolation walls were not keeping sounds out, the wall surfaces in the Music Performance Hall were too hard and reflective of sound, the roof mounted cooling tower sent sound vibrations into the spaces, and the roof design was such that when it rained the sound of the drops hitting the roof was almost deafening.

Sound wall remediation of the west balcony wall in the Music Performance Hall is now complete. Rubber “pavers” have been placed on the roof of both the Severns Theatre and the Music Performance Hall to dampen the rain noise. Stone “pavers” are being installed on the roof above the Choral and Instrumental Rehearsal areas and the Black Box Theatre to dampen rain noise as well. The cooling tower is being repaired and re-mounted with more absorbent springs, to cut down on the vibration transmitted into the performance area. New laminated glass panes are being installed in the north windows of the Music Performance Hall to keep out noise from the streets, and over the Christmas break, contractors will construct a new adjustable acoustical curtain wall at the east balcony level of the Music Performance Hall. In an unrelated project, contractors were hired to repair water damaged drywall and to facilitate mold abatement as well. That project was completed early on in the fall semester. Unfortunately, a second occurrence of almost exactly the same kind of water and steam damage occurred on the day after much of the first round of mold abatement was completed. Preliminary work has been done to address that most recent damage with the major part of the new work to be done later this year.

### **Violette Hall**

We have been experiencing episodes of extreme heat in some of our Violette Hall classrooms. Faculty teaching in these rooms were the first to bring this to our attention. As we began to look into what the problem with the heating and cooling system might be, we learned that the Physical Plant HVAC personnel had already discovered that the “adjustable programmer” for the building had failed. This component is used

## WORK UNDERWAY ON CAS BUILDINGS

to automatically adjust the temperature throughout the building based upon readings from thermostats and pre-determined settings. Before the “adjustable programmer” could be repaired, other parts of the system (due in part to the age of the system) began to fail.

The VAV control boxes that control the heating and cooling for different rooms in the building actually run off of compressed air. Air is supplied to the control boxes via plastic tubing. If for some reason the control boxes are deprived of compressed air, the controls automatically default to “heat” as a way to prevent “freeze damage” during times of cold weather. The default setting has nothing to do with the actual temperature in the building at the time of a compressed air failure.

What our HVAC workers have discovered was that more than one of the plastic tubes supplying compressed air to the VAV boxes had broken (due primarily to the age of the system), thereby depriving the VAV boxes of compressed air and causing those boxes to default to the “freeze prevention” setting. Unfortunately, there is no automatic message that tells the HVAC repair people that a tube has broken; the repairmen have to work backwards from the affected room until they find the source of the problem.

Now that the problems have been identified, the HVAC personnel have begun to remedy the situation.

### **Baldwin/McClain Halls**

The HVAC System in both Baldwin Hall and McClain Hall are in sad condition, and the entire campus is in agreement that a major renovation of that system is needed. Until funding for the renovation is identified, we will continue to call the Physical Plant when rooms are too cold or too hot and ask for their assistance in adjusting the temperatures in those buildings.

Recently we moved from a Divisional structure to one of Departments and Support Areas. Renovations to residence halls and the movement of office spaces out of those residence halls and into McClain/Baldwin have brought with it some challenges as well. We now appear to have exceeded our faculty office capacity in both Baldwin Hall and McClain Hall. If any new faculty positions are allocated to the Departments housed in these two buildings, the faculty will have to be housed in Kirk Memorial or other buildings around campus.

Adding to this space crunch is the decision to assign the McClain office complex in MC111 to ITS. An inherent challenge to this reassignment of space is to find adequate office space for the faculty members being displaced from MC111. We are currently in the process of relocating the faculty now housed in this complex to other offices in McClain, Baldwin, and Kirk Memorial.

### **Kirk Memorial**

The Kirk Memorial Building, historically significant to Truman, is in need of repairs due primarily to water damage caused by a series of roof leaks. Physical Plant workers are in the process of trying to rehabilitate the building to the best of their ability and we are in the process of laying out other faculty office spaces in the building.

A need that has been identified is office space for emeriti faculty. At present, we have a shared space in Pickler Memorial Library available for them. Our plans are to install office cubicles in Kirk Memorial that can be assigned to emeriti faculty in the future.

The roof of the building continues to leak around the base of the cupola. A contractor has been asked to look at the cupola and to give us estimates for repair.

## WORK UNDERWAY ON CAS BUILDINGS

Kirk Memorial is in dire need of a thorough renovation, but funds are not currently available for a project of that scope. Our Building and Trades personnel will continue to patch and paint as needed to keep the building functional and in repair until such funds might become available.

### **Barnett Hall**

Barnett Hall was recently renovated to house the AGS Department, Communications Department, Nursing Department, and the Communication Disorders Department. Despite the good work done in renovating the facility, there are still some concerns that have to be addressed. We have discovered that we are at the limit of our ability to provide telephone access in the building. There are no more available telephone lines into the facility. We are examining the fiber backbone to the facility as well, to make certain that there will be enough bandwidth available to carry television broadcasts back from Barnett Hall to the main campus.

As many of you may be aware, the Communications Department along with all student media services was moved to Barnett Hall after completion of the renovation project. Our radio station has been up and broadcasting for quite some time now. However, the television studio has been off the air for at least three semesters. Last week we issued a contract to Burst Communications, out of Colorado, to install our new Television Studio equipment. Hopefully that project will be completed by the beginning of the Spring 2009 semester.

Adding the new radio and television stations and equipment to Barnett Hall and to the Delaney-Baldwin Building made it necessary for us to hire our own full-time engineer to maintain the station equipment and tower facilities for both Television and Radio.

### **Magruder Hall**

Magruder Hall is the most recent academic building to be renovated on campus. However, much like Ophelia Parrish, there are still issues with the building that need to be resolved. This month we entered into a contract with an architectural firm out of St. Louis to identify building problems, and then to draft a remediation plan. Chief concerns are the air noise in classrooms and labs, water infiltration into the building through the roof and around windows, and resolving intrusive electromagnetic fields and vibrations in the rooms designed as a "microscopy suite". A new cage and bottle washer is to be installed in the facility as well.

There are numerous other projects within the building that are being addressed either by the architects or by our own Physical Plant. We are also trying to replace and repair equipment that received water damage in a recent sprinkler system and steam line malfunction this fall.

At times the scope of work to be completed on these buildings seems almost insurmountable, but we are making progress!