Stephanie D. Allen, Visiting Assistant Professor of Biology, currently teaches at Capital University and is a Post-Doctoral Research Assistant at The Ohio State University. Dr. Allen received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from The Ohio State University. She will develop the Anatomy and Physiology component of the pre-nursing program.

Sandra L. Alzate, Assistant Professor of Spanish, currently a Teaching Assistant and a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Cincinnati.

William L. Barber, Instructor of Speech Communication, currently is teaching for Muskingum as an adjunct. Mr. Barber received his MA from Ohio University.

Sally K. Goins, Instructor of Education, currently is teaching for Muskingum in the Graduate and Continuing Studies Division. Ms. Goins received her MA from Ohio University.

Ivan D. Ivanov, Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, currently is a Graduate Assistant at the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Ivanov is a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Cincinnati.

Robert Sharp, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, currently teaches at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. Dr. Sharp received his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University.

Promotions and Tenure:
Polly Collins granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor
Alistair Hattingh granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor
Lois Zook-Gerdau granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor
Todd Lekan promoted to Professor
Richard Williamson promoted to Professor

Sabbatical Leaves:
Brian Bergstrom - Fall 2008
Laura Hilton - Spring 2009
Danny Ingold - Spring 2009
Rick Nutt - Fall 2008
Diane Rao - Spring 2009

The college extends its best wishes to the following faculty members who will be leaving Muskingum at the end of this semester: Dr. Michelle Boomgaard, Dr. Carey Childers, Dr. S. Lena Crouso, Dr. Gary Herstein, Dr. Shelley Judge, Dr. Victor Keiser, Dr. James Longhurst, Dr. Larry Pelz, Dr. Lisa Petrov, Dr. Nicole Price.

Muskingum thanks each of these colleagues for their service and their many contributions to our campus community. May you also prosper in your new positions.
Brian Bergstrom, Department of Biology, received support for sabbatical research as a visiting scholar at Illinois State University. Dr. Bergstrom’s research is related to Parkinson’s Disease and is part of a collaborative project between the laboratory of Dr. Paul A. Garris at Illinois State and the Mayo Clinic.

Eric Law, Department of Geology, and Jay Shaffstall, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, received funds to create computer simulation modeling of cave formation at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky.

Oluwatoyin Osunsanya, Department of Biology, received funds to study Heterotrophic Bacteria Isolates from reclaimed, restored, and remnant sites at The Wilds.

Deborah Phillips, Department of Speech Communication and Theatre, received funds to study at the University of Toronto the differences between Canadian and U.S. produced television.

Rachel Pollock, Department of Speech Communication and Theatre, received funds to study the audio archives from the Storycorps project at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center in Washington, D.C.

Diane Rao, Department of Speech Communication and Theatre, received funds to support sabbatical research related to the creation of a full-length play. The project involves travel to Tallahassee, FL, to visit the Mag Lab (National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) and the Mazza Vineyard and Heritage Vineyard in North East Pennsylvania to interview winemakers about the making of ice wine.

Amy Santas, Department of Biology, received funding for primary biological research on the protein complex dystroglycan in skin using both biochemical and histological analysis.

Paul Szalay, Department of Chemistry, received funds to design and prepare new compounds with the potential to act as heterogeneous (solid state) catalysts.

David Tabachnick, Department of Sociology, received support for travel to India to study rural development activity by non-governmental organizations.

Jane Varley, Department of English, and Jim Dooley, Department of Biology, received support for research on the ecosystems of Iceland and to attend the Hofsos Writers Workshop in Reykjavik.

Vivian Wagner, Department of English, received funding to attend the Mark O’Connor Tennessee Fiddle Camp and Strings Conference to gather material for a book she is writing.
SUMMER MUSKIE FELLOWS

James Dooley is sponsoring Kelley Crater, who was selected for an internship at the Audubon Center for Research and Endangered Species in New Orleans.

Danny Ingold and Jim Dooley will collaborate with students Alissa Anderson and Kyle Axe to study differences in the reproductive success of grass- and shrub-land birds on four treatment plots at The Wilds.

William Kerrigan, in collaboration with students Ryan Worbs and Heather Giffen, will develop a pictorial history of Muskingum College using documents and images stored in the College archives. This work will lead to a publication by Arcadia Publishing in their Campus History series.

Ronald Lauck, in collaboration with student Kristin Brumley, will study the application of digital technology to the production of projected backgrounds in theatres.

Steve McGuire, in collaboration with student Hugh Martin, will produce a film collage featuring large-scale modern office spaces, billboards, the Columbus skyline, police and related criminal justice facilities, and traffic jams.

Paul Szalay will mentor student Ruth Gentry in designing and preparing new chemical compounds which have the potential to act as heterogeneous (solid state) catalysts.

Stephen VanHorn will mentor student Matt Konkler in a project to examine and compare stream morphology in a headwater catchment significantly affected by surface mining with morphology of a headwater catchment that has not been surface mined.

FACULTY IN PRINT


FACULTY PROFESSIONAL TRAVEL AND ACTIVITIES


Sandra Schroer was the recipient of the “Our Social Worlds Travel Grant” from Pine Forge Press and earned the North Central Sociological Professional Development Certificate. Sandra presented papers entitled, “(Teaching) Gender and the Use of Foreign Films” and “Preparing for the Job Market: The Benefits of Teaching in a Liberal Arts College” at the North Central Sociological Association Conference on March 27-30 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Laura Schumann conducted the Columbus Symphony on February 10, 2008 at the Ohio Theatre in a Family Concert. Selections programmed by Schumann included Irish music and Irish dancers, as well as, an orchestral arrangement of the Irish Blessing, arranged by Schumann, and her fiddle performance of the Devil Went Down to Georgia, with full orchestra, and featuring Associate Professor Gene Alesandrini, vocalist. Laura also was a featured performer in the “Best of Zanesville” program at Secrest Auditorium. According to Holly Richards of the Zanesville Times Recorder, “...Dr. Schumann fiddled her way into the audience’s hearts.”

David Tabachnick presented papers entitled, “Wielding the Camera Pen: Teaching Sociology Through Film Making” and “Common Property Institutions and Neoliberal Land Policy in Guinea” at the North Central Sociological Association Conference on March 27-30 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Yan Sun had a solo exhibition at the Muskingum County Community Foundation from November 9-December 14, 2007. The exhibit featured 21 oil and acrylic paintings. Yan also read his paper, “Spirituality in Art and the Humanistic Expression: Empowering Creative Works of Art with Universal Appeal” at the Twenty-First Annual National Conference on Liberal Arts and the Education of Artists at New York, October 17-19, 2007. The conference was organized by the School of Visual Arts, New York.
DATES TO REMEMBER

May 8, 2008—7 p.m.  Graduate Commencement Ceremony
May 10, 2008—10 a.m. Undergraduate Baccalaureate
May 10, 2008—1:30 p.m. Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony

Muskie Preview Dates
May 20, 21, 22
June 10, 11, 12
THINKING ABOUT WHO WE ARE

Most of us have heard that Muskingum College’s designation in the most recent (and complex) Carnegie Classification system is “Master’s M” or, more completely, “Master’s Colleges and Universities (medium programs).” Among other things, what this categorization means is that we are now more likely to be compared with “universities” than with baccalaureate colleges. And so in the latest U. S. News ranking of Best Colleges, we are listed in the “Universities—Master’s” category. At least one of the Ohio independent colleges with whom we compete for students and on the athletic fields and courts still appears on the U. S. News Baccalaureate Colleges list—Marietta. Other Ohio peers (Baldwin-Wallace, John Carroll, Heidelberg) are with Muskingum on the University—Master’s list.

So what are we to make of all this? Are we now a “university” in the same sense as regional public universities? Do we want to be on this U. S. News list? As we ponder questions like these, keep in mind that the list itself is a Best Colleges list! We are among a select company of fifteen Midwest institutions that are ranked as “best value” colleges and universities based on academic quality and net cost of attendance. And we are number four on the list! Granting some arbitrariness of the rankings, it is still heartening to see that the education we offer has attracted the attention of a national ranking system which offers guidance to students in the process of selecting the college they will attend.

It is also encouraging to note that the U. S. News list of “Universities—Master’s” includes only independent colleges and universities—no public universities made the list. In the eyes of U. S. News analysts, therefore, we are still what we have always been: a private institution which, compared to other private colleges and universities in the Midwest, offers a high quality education with an affordable price tag. In other words, I would say that both Carnegie and U. S. News are telling us is that we are what we have always been—and more. Unlike the Amhersts, Swarthmores, and Grinnells of the academic world (all fine institutions, of course), Muskingum has reached out to audiences beyond the traditional 18-21 year old population, offering to graduate and adult learners the same emphasis on quality and depth of learning that the College has offered to its traditional undergraduate students since the first half of the nineteenth century. I believe that Muskingum is committed to maintaining that mark of quality whatever expansion of programs and student populations we may pursue in the future.

In the end then, whatever we are called in national “best” lists and higher education categories, Muskingum College remains an institution of quality offering a distinctive educational experience to all its students.