



CAS CONNECTIONS

College of Arts and Sciences, American University

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

It has been quite a year in CAS; and with the Katzen Center opening in the fall, next year promises to be equally exciting and successful. Before we turn our focus to the future, I'd like to list just a few of the many accomplishments of CAS faculty, students, and programs in this academic year.

- CAS development efforts brought \$1.1 million in cash gifts from alumni, friends, faculty, and staff to support scholarships, faculty and student research and creative work, and curriculum development across the college.
- The 15th annual CAS Student Research Conference, renamed this year for Ann Robyn Mathias, AU alumna and CAS benefactor, featured the research and creative work of more than 200 undergraduate and graduate students.
- CAS faculty members who were honored with university awards for excellence included Richard McCann, literature (Scholar-Teacher of the Year), Robert Blecker, economics (Outstanding Teaching), Cathy Schaeff, biology (Outstanding Faculty Administrator), Nancy Jo Snider, music/performing arts (Outstanding Teaching by an Adjunct), and Lucinda Joy Peach, philosophy and religion (Morton Bender Prize for scholarly achievements by an associate professor).

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Deborah Kahn, a 2004 Guggenheim Fellow in Visual Arts, discusses her artistic journey and the heroic yet tragic life of the modernist painter. Left, her painting Untitled, 20004, oil on canvass. Story on page 10.

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CAS Connections

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Guidelines for Submission

Submissions to *CAS Connections* are encouraged and should be submitted via e-mail to <bentzel@american.edu> prior to the stated deadline. Faculty accomplishments and events posted into the CAS Master Database will also be automatically considered for publication (unless expressly requested otherwise). Please be sure to include a contact name, phone number, and e-mail address. We also welcome the electronic submission of photographs. Photos should preferably be scanned at no less than 260 dpi and saved in .TIF format.

Deadlines

For Fall issue no. 1 (September 8) - August 13
For Fall issue no. 2 (December 8) - October 11
For Spring issue no. 1 (February 28) - December 18
For Spring issue no. 2 (April 12) - March 29

Please direct any questions to Anne Bentzel in the CAS Dean's Office, 202-885-1781

**Deadline for the Fall issue is
August 13, 2005**

- AU's chamber singers embarked on their first concert tour in 20 years, performing in Ontario, Canada, western New York, and western Pennsylvania.
- The Arts Management program celebrated its 30th anniversary by welcoming alumni and former faculty for a symposium and tour of the Katzen Arts Center.
- CAS faculty members won prestigious awards. Deborah Kahn, art, received a Guggenheim Fellowship for painting. Gay Young and Esther Chow, sociology, held Fulbright awards. Charles Larson, literature, was honored for contributions to the study of African literature. Alan Kraut, history, received two awards for his book *Goldberger's War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader*—the Arthur Viselwear Prize from the Medical Care Section of the American Public Health Association and the Henry Adams Prize from the Society of History in the Federal Government.
- Language and Foreign Studies added two new languages, Korean and Turkish, to the curriculum and will offer Polish and Farsi next year, bringing the total number of languages offered on campus to 13.
- The School of Education was awarded a \$6.4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education for teacher quality enhancement in Washington D.C. In addition, the school continues to work with the DC Public Schools to train new teachers and to assist current teachers to develop new skills and deepen content knowledge in their fields.
- Over the last decade, qualified students in the pre-medical and applied health professional programs in CAS have achieved admission into medical schools (85%) and dental, veterinary, optometry, nursing, and physical therapy programs (100%) throughout the United States.
- A new publication for the sciences, *Catalyst*, went into print. This student-run publication highlights student and faculty activities in all the science programs in CAS.
- Alex MacLennan, an MFA student in the Creative Writing Program, learned that his thesis — a novel entitled *Nest Boxes*— was accepted by Allison Books for publication. Kristy Powers, a senior DPA student, received a National Society of the Arts and Letters Scholarship. Kelly Feltault, anthropology PhD student, was awarded the Eric Wolf Prize

Dean's message continued on page 15

Sapieyevski receives the Knight Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland



On February 1, President Kwasniewski of Poland decorated CAS music professor and composer Jerzy Sapieyevski with the Knight Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland. Jerzy Sapieyevski brings some of the most innovative ideas to the concert stage and music education. Early on, he recognized the potential of music technology and was one of the first musicians to integrate the digital sounds in traditional concerts. As a pianist, he performs concerts of “real-time compositions” which unite classical, jazz, and avant-garde styles into one-of-a-kind creations drawn from the ambience and the interaction of the composer/pianist with the audience.

COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

Antigone: Interweaving history and theater across curriculum



photo by Jeff Watts

It is the first day of class for the honors colloquium *Between Reason and Passion: Antigone and Athens*. Students choose their seats from sloppy rows of desks. Conversation quiets as Valerie French and Gail Mardirosian pass out the syllabus. “My name is Valerie French, and I have been in the history department forever.” “I am Gail Mardirosian and have been teaching theater for twenty years. Welcome to *Between Reason and Passion: Antigone and Athens*.” “The first thing we are going to do,” says French “is break out of these stiff rows. Move your desks into a circle formation; then introduce yourself.” After the introductions, French takes a piece of blue chalk and draws a large circle on the floor. Mardirosian and French step into it. “So what are we doing here?” asks French. No one answers. “We’re here, in this circle, where there is no dividing point, because we want to spread learning across a continuum of fields,” says French. “The ancient world was a place where there was no separation between literature, philosophy, theater—all the disciplines were one big field defined as knowledge.”

For Mardirosian and French it was the interdisciplinary appeal of the ancient world that provided inspiration for the course. Students study classical texts such as Sophocles’ *Antigone* and Aeschylus’ *Eumenides* from both a historical and performing arts perspective. “These texts are paradigms of how the humanities connect the past and present and provide ways to reflect critically on larger issues such as mediating between reason and passion,” says French. Students also gain an understanding of how actors perform classical text by attending a rehearsal and a performance of the Department of Performing Arts’ production of *Antigone* which Mardirosian directed. “It was a joy to undertake both the directing and co-teaching of *Antigone*. It gives me and our students a unique opportunity to investigate a particular time—when art intermingled with everyday life—that embodies values I wish we had today,” says Mardirosian. French also earns insight from exploring a new perspective. “As a historian, I read plays mainly to find out about the cultural issues that were on the minds of the Athenians. But for Athenians, theater was paramount and to understand how the Athenians reacted to the play as an audience enriches my understanding,” says French.

PSM students look at the big picture

Robert Clerman, vice president of corporate mission initiatives for Mitretec Systems, stands in front of a complicated flow chart outlining the Department of Defense’s acquisition process. Underneath it, written in large red letters is the sentence, “If you like this chart, seek help.” Clerman is on campus to speak to students in the Professional Science Master’s (PSM) program about the importance of communicating strategically across scientific disciplines. “We need smart people who understand the scientific details and can see how the science fits into a larger context. If we don’t have that, we can get into great trouble,” says Clerman. He points to the breakdown of information sharing that contributed to the September 11 tragedy as one example. “It is the rare scientist who has the ability to find a common language, articulate complexity, and have the vision to see what needs to be done.”

CAS’ Professional Science Master’s program is geared towards producing graduates who can do exactly that—cross boundaries and apply the science they know to solving problems. Laura Cook, who is enrolled in the program part-time while working at the National Institutes of Health, was attracted to the program for exactly that reason. “I spend almost all my work time studying proteins in a lab. I want to come out of the lab, out of my one tiny area of focus, and see how I can take my knowledge and apply it to the bigger picture.”

For more information on the Professional Science Masters program visit: www.american.edu/psm

Department News

Anthropology

In January, **Gretchen Schafft**, anthropologist in residence, gave a lecture at Politics & Prose and the Polish Embassy on her new book, *From Racism to Genocide: Anthropology in the Third Reich*.

Lesley Gill's new book, *The School of the Americas: Military Training and Political Violence in the Americas*, was reviewed in the *Washington Post's Book World*, October.

Bill Leap was quoted in a *Gay & Lesbian Times* article about language used to describe population.

Kelly Feltault, PhD student, was awarded the Eric Wolf Prize from the Society for the Anthropology of Work for her paper on race, gender, and class issues among the crab pickers of Hoopers Island. In addition, she received a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowship that will allow her to attend the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI) this summer

Anthropology Department receives campus excellence award

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Ally (GLBTA) Resource Center awarded the Department of Anthropology the Campus Excellence Award at its 2005 Annual Awards Ceremony. The Campus Excellence Award recognizes commitment by an office, department, or initiative to improving the campus climate by effectively incorporating gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues into their work. The recipient department or unit is chosen each year by the student staff of the GLBTA Resource Center. The Department of Anthropology was selected for its support of student and faculty research interests in gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender issues, for the annual sponsorship of the Lavender Languages conference, for the incorporation of issues of sexuality and gender into so many of the classes that are offered, and for generally creating a welcoming departmental environment for students of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Previous Campus Excellence Award recipients have been the Career Center and the Office of Admissions. The Department of Anthropology is the first academic unit to receive the award.

to study Thai and southeast Asian studies.

Art

This February, **Mary Garrard** received a lifetime achievement award from the Women's Caucus for Art, a national professional organization. Her new book *Reclaiming Female Agency: Feminist Art History After Postmodernism*, eds. Norma Broude and Mary D. Garrard, University of California Press was published in February 2005.

This December through January, **Mark Oxman's** exhibit: *Mark Oxman, Recent Sculpture* was on display at the Lawrence Gallery, Rosemont College, and was reviewed in the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

Biology

Stephen MacAvoy gave a lecture entitled, "Mysteries of the deep ocean: links between bacteria and animals on the sea floor" at Fairfield University for their Environmental Studies Program Seminar Series.

Victoria Connaughton gave the poster presentation entitled "Asare, M.**, R. Nelson, and V.P. Connaughton. 2004. Effects of dopamine on glutamate responses in horizontal and bipolar cells isolated from zebrafish retina" at the Annual Society for Neuroscience meetings. The abstract for this work was published as well. In addition, Connaughton published a chapter entitled "The Vertebrate Retina" in the book *Glutamate Receptors in Peripheral Tissues*, S. Gill & O. Pulido (eds). Springer-Verlag.

Computer Science, Audio-Technology, Physics

In October 2004, **Paul Oehlers's** score for the movie *Most High* was praised in *Variety's* review of the movie. In addition, the movie was nominated for a Prism Award.

Economics

Barbara Bergmann was chosen as the 2004 recipient of the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award. This Award is given annually by the AEA Committee on the Status of Women in Economics Professions to an individual who has furthered the status of women in the economics profession, through example, achievements, increasing our understanding of how women can advance in the economics profession, or mentoring of others. In addition, she was quoted in the quoted in the *New York Times* on December 31 regarding rises in women's wages.

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Robert Blecker presented the paper “Economic Integration and Social Cohesion: Lessons Learned and Perspectives,” at a conference sponsored by the U.N. Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the European Commission, and the Government of Mexico, Mexico City, in November. He was quoted in article “U.S. and Trade Partners Maintain Unhealthy Long-Term Relationship” in the *New York Times*. In June, he presented “The Economic Consequences of Dollar Appreciation for U.S. Manufacturing Profits and Investment: A Time-Series Analysis” at the Eighth International Post-Keynesian Workshop sponsored by the Center for Full Employment and Price Stability (CFEPS) at the University of Missouri at Kansas City.

In November, **Howard Wachtel** was interviewed on the announced strike of flight attendants and airline bankruptcies, on NPR’s *Marketplace*. In February, Wachtel was also interviewed on NPR’s *Marketplace* on the Wal-Mart decision to shut down a store in Canada in response to unionization.

Paul Winters coauthored “Inducing the Adoption of Conservation Technologies: Lessons from the Ecuadorian Andes” which appeared in *Environment and Development Economics*, vol. 9 (5), October 2004.

In June, **Jon Wisman** gave the paper “Creative Destruction and Community” at the 11th World Congress of Social Economics in Albertville, France.

Education

In December, **David Sadker** was quoted in the *San Diego Union Tribune* in a story about separating genders to teach. Sadker was quoted by the *Washington Post* regarding single sex education in February. In addition, **David Sadker** and **Karen Zittleman**, coauthored the article “Test Anxiety: Are Students Failing Tests, Or Are Tests Failing Students?” originally published in *Kappan* magazine; reprinted in *Multicultural Education* 05/06, McGraw Hill, 2005.

Sally Smith’s *Live It. Learn It. The Academic Club Methodology for Students with Learning Disabilities and ADHD* was published by Paul H. Brookes Publishing, 2005.

Health and Fitness

Margaret “Jo” Safrit, professor emerita, and **Robert Karch** were appointed to the Science Board of the President’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sport.

History

Alan Kraut delivered the keynote address at the Annual Meeting of the Mississippi Historical Society in Jackson on March 4. The theme of the conference was Medicine in Mississippi and the title of the talk was “Goldberger’s Laboratory: Mississippi and the War on Pellagra.”

In October, **Allan Lichtman** was interviewed by NBC, CBS, Fox, and C-SPAN regarding the campaign and election; interviewed by NBC regarding the debates; quoted by AP and interviewed by ABC, CNN, and NPR regarding the election. His op-ed, which discussed what Kerry must do to win the White House appeared on CommonDreams.org. Lichtman also provided commentary for CNN’s coverage of the Inaugural Ceremonies.

Eileen Findlay was appointed as the Distinguished Lecturer by the Organization of American Historians. She was also invited to be member of the Journal of Women’s History’s editorial board.

In February, **David Ekbladh** presented the paper “A Survey of US Foreign Policy Towards the Middle East” at the U.S. Department’s National Terrorism Executive Forum.

Laura Kamoie served as an oral history consultant for the Anacostia Museum project *Banding Together – Then and Now* an exhibit that will document the important role music programs once played in the D.C. public schools. She was also invited to be a consultant for Brightwood Heritage Trail. In December, her book *Neabsco and Occoquan: The Tayloe Family Iron Plantations, 1730-1830* was featured in the *Northern Virginia Journal*. In addition, she was invited to serve on the editorial board for a new encyclopedia of D.C. history which will be published by Yale University Press. Laura Kamoie was elected to the board of the Oral History Association of the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR). She taught the workshop “Oral History 101” at the OHMAR Annual Conference. Her article, “Planters’ Exchange Patterns in the Colonial Chesapeake: Towards Defining a Regional Domestic Economy” appeared in *The Atlantic Economy during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries: Organization, Operation, Practice, and Personnel*, edited by Peter A. Coclanis, (University of South Carolina Press, 2005).

In December, **Peter Kuznick** was interviewed by *AP Radio* about the Rape of Nanking. On March 10, Peter Kuznick was interviewed by Radio Free Europe about President Bush’s approach to the Iranian nuclear program. He was also featured in interview with *Florida Today* about debate over atomic bombing of Hiroshima in anticipation of Paul Tibbet’s visit to Titusville, Florida. Kuznick spoke on WBAI radio in NYC about the

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current nuclear crisis. He has been invited to speak at the 60th Anniversary of the commemoration of the Atomic Missions to Japan, 2-10 August 2005, at the island of Tinian.

In February, **Eric Lohr** began an appointment as research scholar for the Kennan Institute for Russian Studies. This January, he gave the paper "Emigration Policy in Late Imperial Russia" at the Kennan Institute's Russian Studies program and presented the workshop "Immigration, Forced Migrants, and Refugees in Central Eurasia." In January, he served as a discussant for the honors senior thesis defense of "Maxim Gorky and the Bolsheviks: An Assessment" at the U.S. Naval Academy. His article, "The Russian Press and the 'Internal Peace' at the Beginning of World War I" appeared in *A Call to Arms: Propaganda, Public Opinion, and Newspapers in the Great War*. On March 31, Lohr presented "The Citizen and the Subject in Imperial Russia" to the Centre d'études sur la Russie, l'Europe orientale et le domaine turc de l'École des hautes études en sciences sociales at the School of Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, Paris, France.

Pamela Nadell served as a historical consultant to the documentary *And the Gates Opened: Women in the Rabbinate* which was produced by Diva Communications for the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The documentary premiered on ABC affiliates on January 9, 2005. In December, she chaired the workshop "Constructing Their Own Spaces: Jewish Women in Latin America" at the annual meeting of the association for Jewish Studies in Chicago. In December, her article "Women Weave Colors into Tapestry of Jewish Life," appeared in *Washington Jewish Week*. In November, she participated in the seminar "Celebrating One Hundred Years of Sisterhood, 350 Years of American Jewish Life," for the Mid-Atlantic Regional meeting of the Women's Rabbinic Network," in Fairfax, Virginia. She gave the lecture "Guide to the Library of Congress's Exhibition 'From Haven to Home'" for the Religious Action Center in Washington, D.C. and "America's Jewish Women," for the Jewish Studies & Hadassah Fall Brunch at Michigan State University. In October, she presented the paper "Encountering Jewish Feminism," for the conference *Why is America Different?: In honor of the 350th anniversary of the founding of the American Jewish community* at Boston University. Also in October, she gave a lecture entitled "Community, Diversity, and America's Jews: A Historical Perspective, 1654-2004," for the national meeting of the Union of Reform Judaism's Commission on Outreach and Synagogue Community in Alexandria, Virginia. Pamela Nadell served as a plenary panelist for "The Sociological and Demographic Challenges Facing Conservative Judaism Today," discussion at the annual meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly, Houston Texas. She was Scholar-in-Residence for the Tikvat Israel Congregation in Rockville, Maryland where she presented

three lectures. Her article "Congress Proclaims September 2004 American Jewish History Month," appeared in *Kesher* vol. 2 (Winter 2005): 8.

In April, **Anna Nelson** commented on two papers at the Organization of American Historians meeting.

April Shelford's article "Cautious Curiosity: Legacies of a Jesuit Scientific Education in Seventeenth-century France" appeared in *History of Universities* (2004).

Valerie French received a book contract from Greenwood Publishers to write *History of Family Life in Ancient Times*. This will be the first volume in a series on the history of family life over time and around the world.

Language & Foreign Studies

Brock Brady gave the paper "Using Instruction to Sudanese 'Lost Boys' as a Model for Other Refugees Populations," and "Bringing Teaching Values and Beliefs into Practice" at the Maryland TESOL Association Fall Convention, Baltimore in November. He also presented "Nonnative English Speaking Teachers: More than Native Speakers" at the Washington Area TESOL Association Fall Convention in Annandale, Virginia, this October. Brady also presented the lecture "Career and Training Opportunities in TESOL" at the Foreign Service Institute, State Department, in Arlington, Virginia this March.

Sachiko Aoshima presented the lecture "The Parser's Dilemma" at the Cognitive Neuroscience of Language Lab Lunch Talks at the University of Maryland, College Park this March.

In October, **Consuelo Hernandez** presented the paper "La Casa De Las Dos Palmas de Manuel Mejía Vallejo: Documento de una época de una región y su cultura" at the XXV International Congress sponsored by the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) in Las Vegas. She also presented a workshop on poetry at the same meeting.

Naomi Baron appeared on NPR's *On the Media* discussing the potential impact that text messaging on cell phones may have on written English. Baron and Fantu Cheru, SIS, were highlighted in the *Washington Post's* District Weekly section as academic stars, December. In February, Baron chaired the symposium "Language on the Internet" and presented the paper "IM by American College Students: A Case Study in CMC" at the

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Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Nadia Harris was invited to join the editorial board of the journal *Nouvelles Etudes Francophones* published by the Conseil International d'Etudes Francophones, February.

In September, **Alina Israeli** gave the paper "Case Assignment Variation of Adjectival Predicates in Russian," at the conference "Perspectives on Slavistics" in Leuven, Belgium.

In September, **Elizabeth Lang's** translation excerpt from Bernard Kouchner's *Les guerriers de la paix* appeared in *The Changing Role of Humanitarianism*, which is published by the Carnegie Council on Ethics and International Affairs.

Jack Child was interviewed by CNN on the Iraq-Vietnam parallel and his two years military service in Vietnam. He also gave the paper "Semiotics of Miniature Icons of Latin American Popular Culture" at the International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association in Las Vegas.

Literature

In October, **Betty Bennett** was interviewed for the article "Just another misinterpreted 'Frankenstein,'" *Times Union* (Albany, N.Y.).

Myra Sklarew's poem was quoted in a *Washington Post* article about Walt Whitman, February.

Monica Jacobs's article "Transcending a Legacy: Sex, History, and Self in Gayl Jones's *Corregidora*," was published in *Conflict in Southern Writing*, Troy University, 2005.

Richard Sha's article "Romanticism and the Sciences of Perversion," appeared in *Wordsworth Circle*, winter 2004.

Performing Arts

Michael Murawski, staff, presented a paper entitled "Assessment Strategies and Student Learning in In-Depth Interdisciplinary Arts General Education Courses" at the annual meeting of the Association of Integrative Studies (October 2004) in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Daniel Abraham conducted a sold-out period-instrument performance of Telemann's *Cantata Du Aber, Daniel, Gebe Hin*, and J. S. Bach's *Brandenburg Concerti Nos. 2 & 6* with The Bach

Sinfonia on November 20, 2004. The concert was highly praised by Cecelia Porter in her review that appeared in *The Washington Post* on Monday, November 22.

Brett Ashley Crawford's performance review of the *Glass Menagerie* was accepted for publication in *Theatre Journal* (March 2005). She gave the following lectures: "The State of Arts Management in the United States" at the U.S. Department of State; "Event Planning and Management" and "Marketing and the Holistic Organization" at the University of Helsinki's Theatre Institute. In June, Crawford received a Mellon Grant to travel to St. Petersburg, Russia, where she presented a paper entitled "Movie or Stage Play? The Cultural Colonization of Broadway and its Artistic Consequences for the Director" at the International Federation for Theatre Research. In addition, Crawford presented "International Actresses Working the System: Maxine Elliott, an Actress-Producer of International Presence Embraced Capitalism at Home, Nobility in Europe" at the Association for Theatre in Higher Education in Toronto, Canada, in August 2004.

Robert Goler recently published his article "Interim Directorships in Museums: Their Impact on Individuals and Significance to Institutions" in the fall 2004 issue of *Museum Management and Curatorship*. In addition, the 2004 issue of

Gay Young awarded Fulbright Scholar Grant

Gay Young, sociology, was awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant from the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to do research at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, during the 2004-2005 academic year.

Young investigated the engagement in the peace process of the self-identified "critical left," including the feminist left, in Israel, specifically with regard to the ongoing construction of the separation barrier with its implications for borders in the context of a two state solution.

Young is one of approximately 800 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad to some 140 countries for the 2004-2005 academic year through the Fulbright Scholar Program.

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Literature and Medicine which includes Goler's article "Civil War Veterans and the Loss of Memory" has been chosen as runner-up for the Council of Editors and Learned Scholars' Best Special Issue Award for 2004.

Caleen Sinnette Jennings interviewed James Earl Jones for the Kennedy Center on October 13. She also wrote and directed a new children's play entitled *Wish Eye New*, which played with great success to 400 area school children and the Colgate University community in Hamilton, New York. Jennings was on sabbatical as an NEH Distinguished Chair in the English Department at Colgate University for the Fall 2004 semester.

Gail Humphries Mardirosian and **Lynn Fox**, School of Education, presented papers at the American Reading Forum national conference in December held in Marco Island, Florida. Entitled "The Imagination Quest (IQ) Model for the Role of the Arts in Literacy Learning," these papers presented the results of teacher training projects and literacy learning initiatives implemented in Washington, D.C., and Montgomery County, Maryland, school systems during the past year. The research projects have been funded through grants from the Webber Family Foundation, The Brimstone Foundation, and Lockheed Martin. The projects involved professional development training for teachers for reading certification and arts-based instructional initiatives for at-risk students to enhance literacy learning. This July, Humphries will present her paper "Parallel Power: Pericles and Antigone" in Delphi, Greece, at an upcoming international symposium.

DPA senior **Michael Fulvio** received a teaching fellowship at the National Theatre Conservatory in Denver. Michael played Haimon in the department's recent production of *Antigone*.

Senior **Kristy Powers**, who played Antigone in the recent Department of Performing Arts' production of *Antigone* won the National Society of Arts and Letters scholarship for \$4,000 and will compete in an all expenses paid trip to Hawaii for a \$10,000 scholarship.

Karl Kippola was featured in the *Baltimore Sun* about his direction of *Betrayal* at the Bay Theatre, February.

Philosophy/Religion

In October, **Lucinda Peach** was quoted in the *Wilmington Journal* regarding politics and religion.

Congratulations to the following CAS faculty for excellence in service

Scholar-Teacher of the Year

Richard McCann, *Literature*

University Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching

Robert Allen Blecker, *Economics*

Retiring Faculty

Valerie French, *History*

University Faculty Award for Outstanding Teaching in an Adjunct Appointment

Nancy Jo Snider, *Performing Arts*

University Faculty-Administrator Award for Outstanding Service to the University Community

Catherine Schaeff, *Biology*

25 Years of Service Honorees

Albert Cheh, *Chemistry*

Dolores B. Koenig, *Anthropology*

Angela Wu, *Computer Science,*

Audio Technology, and Physics

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Jeffrey Reiman was interviewed on felons' voting rights for *KGNU Morning Magazine* which appears in Boulder and Denver. In addition, Reiman presented the paper "Aristotle on Modern Democracy" for the Society for the Preservation of the Greek Heritage at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C., February. He also served as a panelist on the NPR program *Interfaith Voices*, discussing the striking difference between the great outpouring of charity for the victims of the South Asian tsunami and the general neglect of the African victims of AIDS, March.

Psychology

Brian Yates copresented "Costs of Clubhouses: An International Perspective," at the annual meeting of the American Evaluation Association in Atlanta, November. He also presented "Should Evaluation Include Costs, Benefits, Cost-effectiveness, Cost-benefit? If So, When, How, and by Whom?" at a roundtable at the same meeting. Yates presented the workshop, "Doing and using cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit" at the 18th Annual Research Conference "A System of Care for Children's Mental Health: Expanding the Research Base," in Tampa, Florida in March.

James Gray coauthored "No Longer Just a Pretty Face: Fashion Magazines' Depiction of Ideal Female Beauty from 1959 to 1999," in the *International Journal of Eating Disorders*, vol. 36, no. 3, November 2004.

In October, **Laura Juliano** was featured in the *Washington Post* and on *Good Morning America* regarding her caffeine study.

Barry McCarthy coauthored his second book of 2004, *Coping With Erectile Dysfunction*, which was published by New Harbinger Publishers in November 2004. In April, he coauthored with his wife, Emily, *Getting It Right the First Time: Creating a Healthy Marriage* which was published by Brunner/Routledge.



Kiho Kim and Chris Tudge take students to the Florida Keys

Kiho Kim, biology, and Chris Tudge, biology, intent on

providing their students with some opportunity for field work, traveled with 13 students to the Florida Keys and the Everglades National Park. After piling into a large van and driving 17-hours, the group arrived in Florida. There they kayaked through the mangroves and snorkeled along coral reefs and saw plenty of alligators and sharks. The students also visited Reef Relief, a small conservation program located in Key West. "It is depressing to see the state of the reefs. Despite the importance of the reef to tourism, it seems that commercial interests are winning out," says Kiho.



Top: Chris Tudge prepares to dive. Photos by Kiho Kim.

CAS ALUMNI AND CAREER CORNER

CAS alumna Alison Pace explores art and love in her first novel

Art history alumna (CAS/BA 1993) Alison Pace just published her first book, *If Andy Warhol Had a Girlfriend*. Recently, Sarah Green, assistant director of CAS Development and Alumni Programs, talked with Alison about her experiences as an AU student and her path to becoming a published writer.

Why did you choose AU?

My sister, Joey, was a sophomore at AU when I was applying to schools. When I visited it, I loved the campus and the classes I attended. AU is also in a great location. Washington, D.C., is a fabulous city, and the close proximity to Georgetown was perfect. It just seemed like a great fit for me.

What are some of your favorite AU memories?

I enjoyed the closeness of campus life—walking into the Mary Graydon Center or Bender Library or through the quad and knowing so many people. I really appreciated that AU let me take credit for my internships at the National Gallery and the Washington Project for the Arts. My art history classes were exceptional, and my art history advisor, Dom Kimes, was wonderful.

You have a degree in Art History from AU. Is there a favorite artist or genre you like to study?

I think my favorite is Contemporary Art—the “classic” contemporary art from the sixties: Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns and, of course, Andy Warhol. Also, as with music, I love the pieces that were made in the 80s. I’m fascinated, too, by what’s going on right now.

What did you do after graduation?

I went back and forth between my two interests: art and writing. I worked at a gallery for a while, then worked at *The New Yorker*, went back to school and graduated with a degree in American Art History, worked at Sotheby’s, and then at another gallery.

What prompted you to write a book?

I have always loved writing; it has always been one of my

favorite ways to spend time. For as long as I can remember, my friends, parents, classmates, and then co-workers, would always tell me I should do something with writing. I often heard, “Ali, you should write a book.” I agreed, but didn’t quite know if I had one in me. Around the time I turned 30, I’d grown quite disillusioned with working in the art world but wasn’t sure what else I was qualified to do. I started thinking again in earnest about my novel. Everything just lined up, and it was as if everything was saying to me, “The time to write that novel is now.” So I listened.

Who is your favorite writer?

There are so many, and I’m always adding more. Here are a few: Pam Houston, Ann Patchett, Amy Bloom, Dave Eggers. Interestingly, I enrolled in one of Pam Houston’s writing workshops a few years ago. It was a very memorable moment when I told her my book was sold to a publisher!

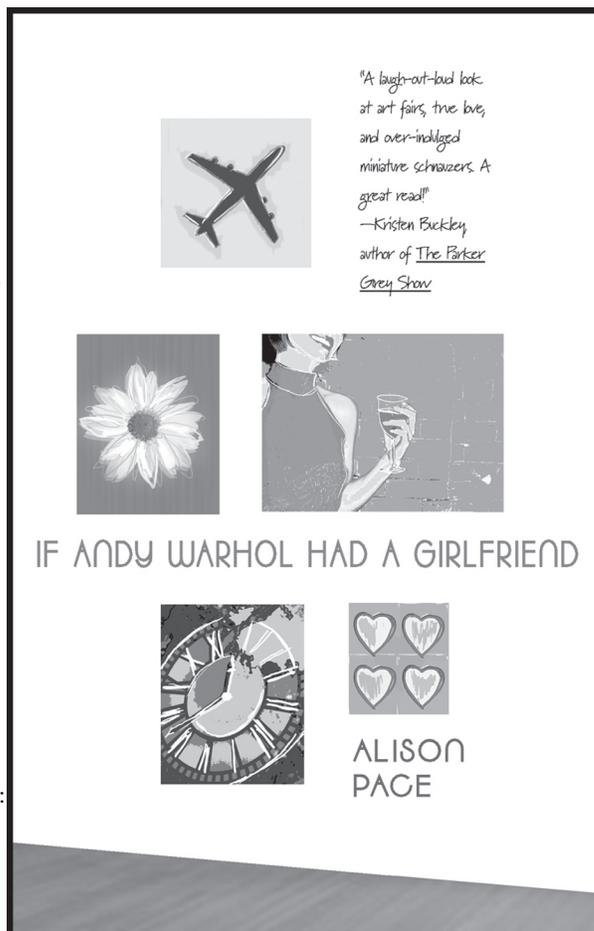
Tell us a little bit about your first novel *If Andy Warhol Had a Girlfriend*.

It is a novel about a young woman working in the art world. She’s trying, among other things, to figure out the answers to the questions: What is art? What is love? Obviously, a lot of the inspiration for the novel came from my own experiences working in the art world. But so many things inspired me and continue to inspire me. Living in NYC provides me with endless ideas. I also lived in Rome for a time and that really influenced the book. In the framework of just this book though, Andy Warhol’s writing, rather than his artwork, really inspired me. Andy Warhol wrote a book called *The Philosophy of Andy Warhol from A to B and*

Back Again. I came across it shortly after college and just fell in love with it. I use Andy Warhol quotes as a sort of a framework for the story of my novel. I had a lot of fun working those in.

What are your plans for the future?

I feel very lucky to be able to have a job as a writer so I’m just hoping to keep doing that. Specifically, I’m working on finishing my second novel now. If anyone’s interested, there’s much more information about my book and upcoming events on my website at alisonpace.com.



NEWS FROM CAS GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE COUNCILS

Graduate council plans social and volunteer events

The College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Council (CAS-GSC) is currently busy with several events and activities. One of the most important volunteer endeavors is the Webb Elementary School Program in northeast Washington, D.C. CAS graduate students are assisting the school in a variety of ways, especially in the task of reconstituting its library, which has been closed for lack of funding. Students also help staff Webb's reading and after-school programs. Other volunteer work includes supporting the Capital Area Food Bank, the Children's Hospital, the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, the upcoming MS Walk in Washington, D.C., and Earth Day Clean-up with the Anacostia Watershed Society.

Among several social events to note is a Valentine's Day Social that the CAS-GSC held on February 12 at the nightclub Vida. Admission was free for AU students; prizes were raffled off with proceeds going to the Children's Hospital. The Graduate Leadership Council (GLC) hosted a free bowling event at Strike Bethesda on February 13 from 4:30 to 8:00 p.m. The GLC also held a Graduate Student Ball at the Cosmos Club on March 25 from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m.

On March 2, Sol & Soul, a D.C. arts organization that promotes social change, gave a live performance and spoke on current human rights and advocacy issues in the D.C. area. Attendees brought a donation of canned food. The food collected was distributed to various nonprofit social service organizations throughout the area.

The CAS-GSC is now working on amending its by-laws and developing means of attracting wider participation by CAS graduate students in the Council's activities. One of the projects for the coming year is the creation of a graduate student journal, which would be a venue for the research scholarship and creative endeavors of our students. Outstanding contributions by students to the annual CAS Student Research Conference will be a source of material for the journal. We welcome any questions and suggestions you may have about the CAS-GSC. Contact Christine Boyd, President, or Aaron Tobler, vice president of CAS-GSC, at casgsc@american.edu for further information on any of these events or activities. Please visit our website, www.aucasgsc.org, for the latest information about the Council.

Undergraduate council fosters understanding between faculty and students

Elections for the executive board of the CAS Undergraduate Council were held recently. Zee Elovich was voted in for her second term as president. Alison Doyle, who has served as treasurer for the past year, was elected to the position of vice president. Tali Moscovitz, a representative from the School of Education, was selected to be the treasurer. All members of the executive board look forward to working together to accomplish the goal of uniting students in this diverse school.

The council hopes to hold more activities this semester geared toward strengthening the bond among students in CAS. Unfortunately, the reception with Mr. Ted Ringleheim and other CAS alumni to discuss employment opportunities and career options had to be canceled due to the weather. However, the Council is exploring the possibilities of rescheduling the event. The council's executive board is continuing to work with the Class of 2007 to coordinate a carnival evening at a local restaurant. The board proposed that a portion of the profits from the event go toward funding future CAS activities. Details of the event will be announced at a later date.

The meetings of the CAS-USC have been successful in helping students voice concerns and offer suggestions for strengthening the bond among the school's students. Meetings are open to all students interested in representing their department or discipline. Any questions or comments regarding the work of the representatives or the activities being planned by the CAS-USC can be answered by visiting the council's office in Battelle-Tompkins T07 or by calling ext. 2687.

Undergraduate council officers:

Zee Elovich, President
Alison Doyle, Vice President
Tali Moscovitz, Treasurer

Deborah Kahn: Searching for true form



original. To me this is heroic, yet tragic. Heroic in that the artist is using the language of painting to seek some kind of truth—to create meaningful art. Yet very little of the tradition of painting is passed on. The tragedy is that the artist is thrust into the studio with little knowledge, trying to figure it out—alone. It takes courage to even start the journey.” Countless times Kahn has called up friends to say she is giving up painting forever. “It can be so frustrating. I can spend hours studying the old masters, and then I draw this klutzy, awkward thing, but somehow I just stay in there. And if you can get past the frustration, the rewards are rich.”

Kahn was first drawn to fine arts as an undergraduate at Boston University. She dropped out of BU and enrolled in the Kansas City Art Institute. She went on to earn an MFA from Yale. In school, she primarily painted the still-life. A few years out, she stopped painting objects. “I realized that I wasn’t interested in working from observation. I was interested in painting space.”

Now she draws from reproductions of old masters’ works in order to learn more about formal elements in painting. She uses what she learns as a critical base to judge whether she is creating convincing form. Using basic pencil, oils, and one small brush that she uses until it wears out, she places layers of paint upon paint until she creates a thick almost cement-like consistency. “The process of weaving color marks remains constant. What changes is the movement from intuition to cognition. Images emerge suggestive of figuration: a head, a torso, a figure or groups of figures.”

A critic who once reviewed her work, accused her of using a “gluttonous amount of color.” Kahn agrees. “She was absolutely right. I use millions of colors. But it’s in a desire to get to something—to use color to get to the form.” Kahn is using her fellowship to paint non-stop. She is pressuring herself to create paintings where every element—surface, color, and drawings—are part of “one continuous space.” For Kahn, the mark of success is the moment a painting begins to feel real. “I know I can put down my brush, when the painting becomes like a living thing, a mass that cannot be penetrated.”

Deborah Kahn sits in her Silver Spring studio, surrounded by black and white pencil drawings and an enormous canvas saturated with color. “This one is an utter mess,” she says gesturing to her latest painting. “It just doesn’t convince me. I may retain one or two elements of it, but I am going to have to make some new choices.” For Kahn it all boils down to decisions. What if this color was red? What if the lines bent this way? “A painting arrives at itself, but first you have to follow it, to push it,” says Kahn.

Thanks to her Guggenheim Fellowship, Kahn now has the luxury to spend a full year focused solely on exploring her art. At times, it can be a confusing, difficult journey. “As I see it, the legacy of modernism is that every artist is striving to be



Kahn's untitled works, oil on canvas. The third image is a black and white sketch that Kahn used as a foundation for a painting.

Research conference showcases student work

Conference inspires students and faculty



On Saturday, April 2, CAS students braved a ferocious rain storm to present their work at the 15th Annual Ann Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference.

Faculty and alumni were on hand to provide commentary and judge presentations. Despite the rain, a lightening strike on the Kay Spiritual Chapel, and some room flooding, more than 200 students made presentations on topics ranging from Batman to quantum computing.

The ideas behind their research came from many places. Justin Schneider, a senior literature major, got the idea for his presentation *To Be Batman, or Not To Be Batman*, after reading a book by literary critic Harold Bloom. “Bloom contends that Shakespeare created the modern notion of human’s interior life,” says Schneider. One night while watching a special on Batman on the History Channel, he heard director Kevin Smith worry that Batman’s interior life would not translate from the comic book to the big screen. “There it was-- both Bloom and Smith talking about our interior life and its presentation. I knew there was a paper here.” Schneider was awarded Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior.

Erin Watkins, a SIS junior, got the idea for her presentation after attending a Clay Aiken concert last December. “During each of his concerts, Clay singles out one girl and sings to her. I almost fainted when he choose me. On top of that, he did the most unprecedented thing, he leaned over and kissed my cheek.” Hours later Watkins found that her name and her picture had sprouted out on Aiken fan sites. “All these discussion boards were conjecturing about me. I even read one posting that said I was in wheelchair.” Watkins explored this phenomenon and its technology in her presentation *Instant Fame: Message Boards, Mobile Phones and Clay Aiken*. The day also provided faculty a chance to commend their student’s work. After hearing student presentations, Richard Sha, literature, said, “It is for moments like this that I became a professor.”

Above, Erin Watkins presents Instant Fame: Message Boards, Mobile Phones, and Clay Aiken.

Awards for excellence

Social Sciences

Outstanding Presentation by a Freshman or Sophomore
Is Islamic Economics a Viable Framework for Economic Development?
by Joshua Su-Ya Wu, economics, sophomore

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior
Morals Overtake Economics: A Model Illustrating Voting Patterns in the Heartland
by Jennifer Agopsowicz, economics, senior

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student
Strip Space for Girlz: Sexuality, Language, Community
by Michelle Carnes, anthropology

Sciences and Mathematics

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior
Differential Expression of TUSC1, A Candidate Tumor Suppressor Gene in Human Cancer Cell Lines
by John Simmons, biology, senior

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student
Analysis of Polyethylenimine by ESI-MS and GPC
by Jianghong Gu, chemistry

Arts and Humanities

Outstanding Presentation by a Freshman or Sophomore
The Philosopher and The Sophist: One In the Same?
by Jeremy Rovinsky, philosophy and religion, sophomore

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior
To Be Batman, or Not To Be Batman
by Justin Schneider, literature, senior

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student
Political Development and Citizen Involvement in the Post-World War II Bavarian Countryside: Issues in the 1949 Bundestag Election
by Kathleen Isaacson, history, graduate student

Performance and the Creative Arts

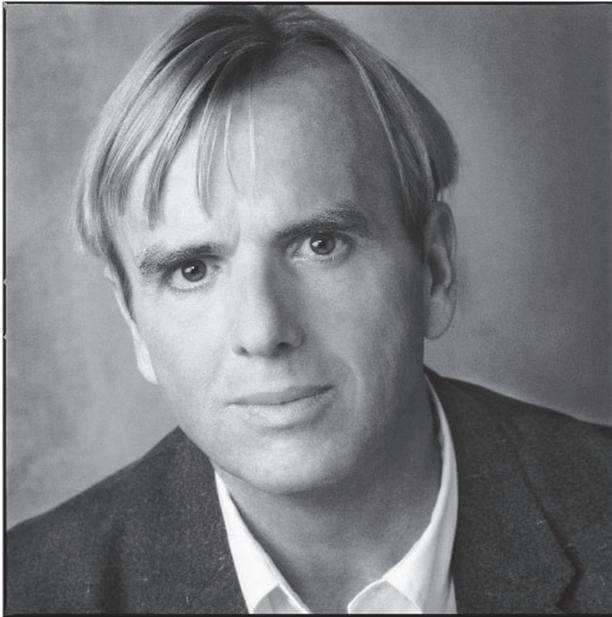
Outstanding Presentation by a Freshman or Sophomore
“Alone”: An Original Composition
by Jacqueline Caruso, performing arts, sophomore

Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior
Love and Idolatry: An Artistic Collaboration for the Development of an Original Theatrical Work
by Caroline Angell, performing arts, senior; Erin Kaufman, performing arts, senior; Kristy Powers, performing arts, senior

Outstanding Presentation by a Graduate Student
Invisible Things
by Lisa Lister, literature

awards listing continued on page 15

In his new novel, Richard McCann tells the story he planned to never tell



Richard McCann Photo © Sigrnd Estrada

Richard McCann's new novel *Mother of Sorrows* makes its debut in bookstores on April 26. The book—which reads more like a memoir of McCann's life than a novel—was 18 years in the making. Ten interwoven stories tell the tale of the narrator's family—a family of two adolescent boys struggling with sexual identity, a glamorous, complicated mother, and a father who dies while the narrator is very young. "I never thought of it as a novel," McCann says. "I started the book because I knew I had to write the hardest story I could ever tell—the story of my family." McCann, who was just awarded scholar-teacher of the year, uses this exercise often with students. "I tell them to write the stories they plan never to tell. It is incredibly hard, but it makes them dig deep."

McCann began his exercise 18 years ago after returning to the D.C. area from living abroad. "I grew up in the 1950's working class suburb of Silver Spring, Maryland. My family was

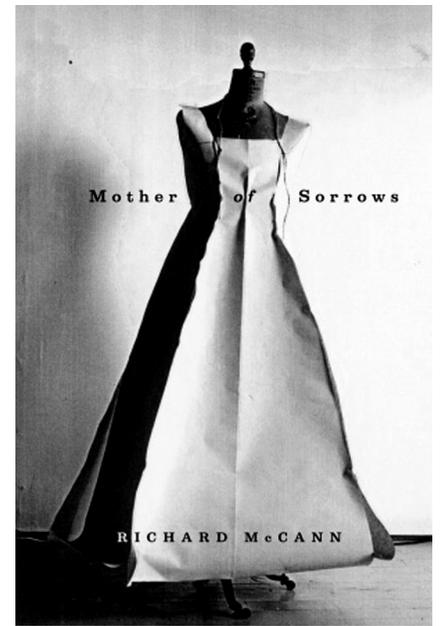
older and seemed different from every other family in the neighborhood. We had a sort of dark Catholic view of the world—very dramatic, wild, and melancholy. I grew up desperately wanting to leave that world." He eventually escaped to Europe where he spent time in Germany, Spain, and Sweden, but returned



to the D.C. area to accept a teaching job at Mary Washington College. "I came back to the place I had wanted to flee and a whole life I had turned my back on. It was time to come to grips with the facts: The suburbs were not the sterile place I had always thought them to be. My parents had moved there with plenty of faith that this place would provide a beautiful life. It was time for me to examine that life." He began to write about his family. Somewhere along the way his writing took a more fictionalized form. "There are variants of my family in here. The mother in the book is not my mother in reality. She is more of an homage to my mother." Over the course of almost two decades, in between publishing two books of poetry and editing an anthology, McCann continued to work on the book. In the mid-1990's, all work stopped. He became sick with end-stage liver disease and waited 13 months for a liver transplant. "This is a book, then, that might very well never have been finished, in that it seemed for a long time that I would be dying instead." After recuperation, he began working on the book again—this time with greater urgency. "I have a deadline, in the most literal sense. I have a shorter lifespan than before; I tend to think about life in the way a much older person does. One thing I feel compelled to do is write."

Last fall, McCann finished his manuscript and turned it over to his publisher, Pantheon Books. The novel has already garnered great reviews. Michael Cunningham, author of *The Hours* calls it "almost unbearably beautiful. It is, purely and simply, the real thing—a book so intricately felt, so magnificently written, that it can stand unembarrassed beside the mystery of life itself." *Publishers Weekly* says, "McCann's graceful writing carries these bittersweet snapshots of a life plagued by self-doubt and yearning."

But for McCann, *Mother of Sorrows* is "a book about loss, a book about what it means to be a provisional survivor."



Bottom left, a young Richard McCann in the backyard of his boyhood house in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Visual and Informational Displays

Outstanding Displays: Morning Poster

The Role of Delta Opioid Receptors in the Aversive Properties of Morphine

by Erica L. Lipizzi, psychology, senior

An Ecological Momentary Assessment Study of Fluctuations in Daily Body Image: The Impact of Interpersonal Stress

by Susan J. Wenzel, psychology, graduate student

Outstanding Displays: Afternoon Poster Session

Structural Composition of Catnip and Its Effects on Cats

by Seth Dolman, chemistry, graduate student; Kenton Kerns, biology, junior; Heather Maranzano, biology, junior; Amber Roegner, chemistry, graduate student

Synthesis of Carbon Nanotubes and Polymers to Increase the Performance of Co-polymers and Polymer Blends

Shavesha Rutledge, Chemistry (Graduate Student)

Honorable Mentions

The Effects of Naltrexone on a Morphine Induced Conditioned Taste Aversion

by Caitlin Monks, psychology, senior

Genetic Strain, Maternal Environment, and Biological Sex Interact to Affect Cocaine-Induced Taste Aversions in Fischer and Lewis Rats

by Catherine Davis, psychology, graduate student; Maxwell Keeler, psychology, graduate student; Pete Roma, psychology, graduate student

How Does Nair Work?

by Christine Korcal, chemistry, graduate student; Katie Tirtanadi, chemistry, graduate student

1, 2, 3-Vicinal Tricarbonyl Systems from 3-acetoxy-4dimethylthio- α -lactams

by Carey Myers, biochemistry, senior



Dean Kay Mussell awards Senior Justin Schneider the prize for Outstanding Presentation by a Junior or Senior during the awards ceremony and luncheon on April 7.

from the Society for the Anthropology of Work for her paper on race, gender, and class issues among the crab pickers of Hoopers Island. Carey Myers, a graduating senior with a major in biochemistry, received a Fulbright Fellowship. She will use her Fulbright to study this summer in Limerick, Ireland, with a professor whose research on penicillin complements the work she has done on antibiotic resistance at her AU lab.

- Faculty in psychology received more the \$500,000 in grant support for research in such areas as cognitive behavior therapy for smoking cessation, disentangling pharmacological and expectancy effects, incentive properties of abused drugs, and research on addictions.
- Twenty-seven undergraduates from the Department of Biology spent a semester researching how to restore a riparian buffer zone in a section of Sligo Creek in Prince Georges County, Maryland.
- Scholars and students from around the world came to American University for the eleventh annual Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference, the longest-running lesbian/gay student conference in North America.
- Guest speakers and performers included CAS alumnus Ernest Thompson (playwright, *On Golden Pond*); John Marburger, White House Science Advisor (event televised live by C-SPAN); Anthony Fauci, Director of Allergies and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health; the Volkov Theatre of Russia; and poet Gail Mazur, finalist for the 2001 National Book Award in poetry.

CAS faculty and students chalked up many more noteworthy achievements this year. We can be very proud of our colleagues and students. Have a wonderful and productive summer, and we'll see you in the fall for another great year in CAS.

Kay Mussell
CAS Dean

NBC's Tim Russert to speak at CAS Graduation on Sunday, May 8, 1 p.m.

As the managing editor and moderator of *Meet the Press*, a political analyst for *NBC Nightly News*, and a senior vice president and Washington bureau chief at NBC News, Tim Russert has interviewed every major figure on the American political scene over the last 15 years. Since taking the reins of *Meet the Press* in 1991, Russert has helped make the Sunday morning interview program the most watched show of its kind in America and the most quoted news program in the world. In addition to increasing *Meet the Press's* popularity, Russert's interview skills have earned him the Joan S. Barone Award, the Annenberg Center's Walter Cronkite Award, and the Edward R. Murrow Award for Overall Excellence in Television Journalism.

CAS EVENTS

April 7 - May 11 —Watkins Exhibit: Graduate Thesis Exhibitions Schedule

April 7-13 – Scott Barnes: Paintings and Prints

April 14-20 – Seth VanKirk: Paintings

April 21-27 – John Anderson: Paintings; and Carrey Voss: Installation/Performance

April 28-May 04 – Erik Korder: Paintings; Chadd Caldwell: Paintings

May 5-11 – Julia Rommel: Paintings and Drawings

Gallery hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.american.edu/academic.depts/cas/art/watkins/gallery/Gallery.htm

May 7 — Phi Beta Kappa Induction Ceremony

10:30 a.m., Kay Spiritual Life Center

By invitation. Reception in the University Club, MGC First floor, immediately following the ceremony.

May 8 — CAS Commencement Ceremony and reception

1:00 p.m., Bender Arena, reception Terrace Dining Room

Join graduating students and their families immediately following CAS Commencement for a reception in the Terrace Dining Room. All CAS faculty and staff are welcome to attend.

For more information on upcoming CAS events visit, http://www.american.edu/cas/news_calendar.cfm



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