Reflections on Teaching and Learning about China – and Cleveland

The following is the text that Paul Nietupski prepared for the ceremony – held on September 30, 2015 – at which he received the 2015 Lucrezia Culicchia Award for Teaching Excellence from Dean Margaret Farrar (pictured above with Dr. Nietupski). Established in 1990, the award is presented annually to a member of the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Nietupski joined the Department of Theology and Religious Studies in 1993.

Writing about ancient Chinese cosmology, Roger Ames observed that, for the Chinese, life experience is processual and fluid.

“In this [Chinese] tradition, meaning is emergent in the transactions among the unique things that constitute the world. Things are moreover understood as results of a processive and hence always provisional flux of events, where the shifting dispositioning of these events is interactive and mutually shaping” (Ames 2011: 10-11).

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Listed are self-reported faculty accomplishments in research, teaching, and scholarship, along with other professional activities.

ACCOUNTANCY
Albert Nagy and Dr. Benjamin Hoffman’s manuscript, titled “SOX 404(b) Exemption Effects on Auditor Changes,” was accepted for publication by Managerial Auditing Journal.

BIOLOGY

Dr. Anthony, Dr. Hickerson, Maggie Hantak, and Shawn Kuchta published “Plethodon Cinereus (Eastern Red-backed Salamander)” in Herpetological Review 46.3 (2015).

Jeff Johansen presented an invited seminar in the Biology Department at the University of North Florida titled “Has the Time Come to Name Cryptic Species of Cyanobacteria? A Case Study in *Oculatella*” on November 13, 2015.

Ralph Saporito, Joel Alvarado, and Alex Alvarez published “*Oophaga Pumilio* (Strawberry Poison Frog): Predation by *Baryphthengus martii* (Rufous Motmot)” in Herpetological Review 44.2 (2013).


CAMPUSS MINISTRY

Dr. McGinness also reviewed The Legacy of Dutch Brazil, by Michiel van Groesen, for the Journal of Jesuit Studies 2 (2015).

CHEMISTRY

Dr. Bruce, Maddi Ferrara, Julie Manka, Zachary Davis, and Janna Register published “Dynamic Hydrogen Bonding and DNA Flexibility in Minor Groove Binders: Molecular Dynamics Simulation of the Polyamide f-ImPyIm Bound to the Mlu1 (MCB) Sequence 5’-ACGCGT-3’ in 2:1 Motif” in the Journal of Molecular Recognition 28 (2015).

COMMUNICATIONS & THEATRE ARTS


Economics & Finance
Feng Zhan presented the paper “Corporate Finance and Governance Implications from the Removal of Government Support Programs” at the 2015 Annual Conference of the Financial Management Association (FMA) in Orlando in October.


Education and School Psychology

Theron Ford and Blanche Jackson Glimps published Gender and Diversity Issues in Religious Institutions and Organizations (IGI Global, 2016).

The National Association of African American Studies & Affiliates accepted a proposal from Laquell Campbell and Chelsea Laboda – education majors who are Dr. Ford’s students – for presentation at the association’s 24th National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in February 2016.

English

Dr. Bilgere gave a poetry reading and lecture at the “Literary Connections Conference” at Laramie County Community College in Wyoming in September. He also gave poetry readings this past summer at the Gestalten Space Gallery, St. Gaudy Café and Die Offene Tür in Berlin, Germany.

Jean Feerick published a review of Marjorie Rubright’s Doppelganger Dilemmas: Anglo-Dutch Relations in Early Modern English Literature and Culture in the online journal Upstart: A Journal of English Renaissance Studies, which was published on October 23, 2015.

Philip Metres published an article in the November 16 issue of America titled “The Place of Poetry in the Global Digital Age,” which is the text of the lecture he gave when awarded the first George W. Hunt, S.J., Prize for Excellence in Journalism, Arts and Letters. The same issue of America also features two of his poems, “Lamech Inventing the Oud” and “Prayer.”

Dr. Metres had several other poems published in Kenyon Review (September/ October 2015): “Palestinae quatour facies (1720),” “Kufur / Yar,” and “Babi / Qassim.”


History

Michael Bowen participated in an H-Diplo roundtable and published a review of Katherine Scott’s Reining in the State in October 2015. Another review – of Timothy Thurber’s Republicans and Race – appeared in the November issue of the Journal of Southern History. Dr. Bowen also was quoted in an article published in thehill.com on September 30 about Donald Trump’s place in the history of Republican populism.


Dr. Marsilli was invited to be an evaluator for the 2015-2016 Humanities/Social Science research competition funded by the Chilean CONICYT (National Council for Science and Technology), an organ of the Chilean government that supports high-impact scientific initiatives. CONICYT’s Humanities/Social Sciences division encourages research projects focusing on Chilean ethnic minority groups.

Counseling and Exercise Science
Ms. Millet and J. Olin published “Gendered Expectations for Leadership in Libraries” for In the Library with the Lead Pipe, which appeared online on November 4, 2015.


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PHILOSOPHY
Mariana Ortega participated in a panel honoring the work of Argentine feminist philosopher Maria Lugones at the Feminist Ethics and Social Theory Conference in Florida in October. She presented a paper titled “Practices against the Grain of Modern Subjectivity.” In November, she delivered the keynote talk at the Philosophy Born of Struggle Conference at the University of Connecticut at Storrs and presented the paper “On Roelof’s The Cultural Promise of the Aesthetic” at the annual meeting of the American Society for Aesthetics in Savannah, Georgia.

PHYSICS

PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCE
Amy Jo Marciano-Reik’s book *The Brain: An Interdisciplinary Examination of Behavior, Cognition, and Health* will be published in January by Nova Science. Dr. Marciano-Reik also has been accepted into the Post-Bac/MD Program of the Northeast Ohio Medical University and Cleveland State University Partnership for Urban Health.

SOCIOLGY & CRIMINOLOGY

Dr. Penny Harris organized a symposium titled “Social Well-Being in Dementia Care: Using Creative Expression to Connect the Past, Present, and Future” for the annual meeting of the Gerontological Society of America, which was held in Orlando, Florida, in November. As part of the symposium, she also presented a paper titled “Building Connections with College Students and People Living with Dementia and Their Family Members through Participation in an Intergenerational Choir.”

Terry Mills accepted an invitation to discuss John Carroll’s “First in the World” grant with the academic advising and student success team at Clark Atlanta University in November.

Dr. Mills conducted a reading and signing event in the Reading Room of the Dolan Science Center for his new book, *The Escort: Walking to Eternity with My Brother*, which recounts his experiences dealing the unexpected death of his brother. He was also interviewed about the book for WKYC’s Golden Opportunities by program reporter Laurie Steiner. The broadcast will air on December 20, 2015, at 11:30 a.m.
THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Michele Freyhauf was awarded the P. E. MacAllister Excavation Fellowship through the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR). In June, she traveled to Israel and excavated in the ancient city of Bethsaida.

Ms. Freyhauf moderated a panel titled “Human Trafficking and the Bible” at the annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature in Atlanta in November. She also organized a scholar/mentor-student luncheon that focused on mentoring, publishing, and the job market.

Joseph Kelly served as consulting editor for Oxford University Press on the newest edition of The Oxford Classical Dictionary.

Dr. Kelly gave two presentations at St. Paul Episcopal Church in Cleveland Heights in December – the first was about the Gospel infancy narratives, and the second was about the date of Christmas.


Kristen Tobey was elected to a three-year term as chair of the “Religion and American Culture” division of the American Academy of Religion (Midwest region).

2016 Summer Research Fellowship Awardees

Deniz Durmus | Philosophy (Category A)
She will explore different types of feminist movements in the Middle East, focusing on Islamic and secular feminisms in Turkey and Iran and showing that these movements have brought positive political changes to the women’s situation in the Middle East.

Philip Metres | English (Category A)
He will complete a book-length memoir tentatively titled Moscow on the Cuyahoga: On the Road with a Russian Poet, which tells the story about a friendship between an older poet, Sergey Gandlevsky, and a younger one (Dr. Metres), as they travel the United States on a reading tour.

Debby Rosenthal | English (Category A)
She will write a scholarly journal article that links the literary representations of climate change and socioeconomic inequality as found in Barbara Kingsolver’s recent novel Flight Behavior, which dramatizes complex issues about climate change facing the impoverished residents of Appalachia.
In this co-emergent context, the Confucian tradition developed its canon of values, valuation of family and community, visions of interactive material and nonmaterial worlds, and how all these operate in human social and political environments. One of the key Confucian values is co-emergent human agency, or creativity, expressed by the Chinese word 誠 chéng. This term has been translated by the English words “honest,” “sincere,” “true,” “real,” and “loyal,” as these meanings emerged in social and educational contexts especially. Like many Chinese words, 誠 chéng, co-emergent or interactive “creativity,” consists of two components: a semantic classifier (“radical”); and a second, often phonetic particle. Both carry meaning. The semantic classifier is 言 yán, which means “words, speech, to say, to talk.” The linked particle 成 chéng means “to succeed, finish, complete, accomplish, become, turn into.” Together, they can carry the meaning of the sincere expression of what is understood to be true or real. And, they mean creativity, to accomplish in verbal and literary contexts, not the least of which is in college classrooms (Ames 2005).

Western college students often come to classes with unclear ideas about Asian belief patterns. Some students have foundations in Western philosophy, and many are generally oriented to what they understand as solid or unchanging, even if they are invisible internal and external realities. The ongoing processual creativity in Confucian philosophy is foreign to these students, until they use the method taught by Confucius to develop an approach that accommodates foreign and familiar ideas. Recently, college teachers have sought to actualize this interactive principle in all relevant academic disciplines with positive results.

Ideas and interpretive methods are flexible and can be applied in different cultural contexts.

Ames explains the Chinese theory is a process in which “all creativity is construed as a situated and radically embedded, collaborative co-creativity. Creating oneself and one’s world is a coterminous and mutually entailing process.” This, he argues, “is the renewed possibility of the aesthetic and religious quality of experience itself. ... The world becomes ever more beautiful and spiritual through the ongoing embellishment of our own tradition as we add the meanings of our own significant, inspired lives” (Ames 2011: 11).

Moreover, his ancient Chinese value, co-emergent creativity, carries the meaning of literary and especially teaching accomplishment, in the context of student and faculty dialogue. There is no mistaking its derived meaning in the Chinese canon of values; it is verbal and literary creativity and, in the Chinese world, is what teachers and writers do. And what teachers do measures their success, creativity, and teaching accomplishments.

References:

In fall 2015, the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) was re-introduced to John Carroll University. Recently, faculty development functions have been housed in the Provost’s Office, managed with great energy and care by Associate Academic Vice Presidents Anne Kugler and Jim Krukones. Dr. Krukones will continue to be primarily responsible for the development initiatives related to faculty scholarship, while the CTL, directed by me and assisted by History Department Secretary Patricia Hoffman, will lead the development of courses, pedagogy, and learning technologies.

In this first year, the CTL has been focusing on three major priorities: the Integrative Core Curriculum, academic assessment, and interactive modes of learning. I have joined the Integrative Core Curriculum Committee to equip myself better to help faculty develop core classes and navigate the core approval process.

In addition to providing faculty one-on-one help on proposal forms, I have organized several development sessions that have included a networking event for those seeking partners for linked classes and sessions about the core approval process. Additionally, we have offered small grants to encourage the formation of learning communities, hoping these will yield additional linked classes. This year, awards have been given to two groups – one dealing with forensics and the other with notions of the natural in global cultures.

The CTL has partnered closely with the Office for Academic Assessment, led by Todd Bruce, to offer various development sessions. Particularly, we have focused on course-based assessment, rubrics, and aligning syllabi with University goals. Our goal has been to help faculty articulate learning goals for their classes more clearly, while developing rubrics to measure student work against these goals.

Finally, we have discussed interactive modes of learning at several CTL lunches. Partnering with the Center for Digital Media, the CTL has had a session about Canvas tools and ways to make course websites consistent with the principles of universal design. Additionally, Mike Nichols, Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry, led a highly informative session titled “Flipped Classrooms,” while Bill Elliott, Professor of Finance, will soon be speaking about team-based learning.

Faculty are encouraged to visit the CTL website (http://sites.jcu.edu/ctl) to find various teaching resources, as well as to keep abreast of CTL opportunities, including summer teaching grants.

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**FORMS ONLINE**

Faculty Development information and forms are online under the Center for Teaching and Learning at sites.jcu.edu/ctl.

Internal research award information and forms are online under Faculty Research and Recognition at sites.jcu.edu/facultyresearch.
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Submissions can be sent to facultynotes@jcu.edu. The deadline for the next issue, March 2016, is February 15, 2016. Items of interest about faculty activity - including new publications, conference presentations, collaborations with students, community and professional service, and teaching innovations - will be accepted. Please include relevant details such as date and place of presentation.

Questions and comments should be directed to:
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