

CHSS REFLECTIONS

NOVEMBER 2009

DR. LINDA NORRIS NAMED PENNSYLVANIA TEACHER EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

Dr. Linda Norris, Indiana University of Pennsylvania English Education faculty member, was recently named Pennsylvania Teacher Educator of the Year by the Pennsylvania Association of Colleges and Teacher Educators, a state unit of the Association of Teacher Educators

and the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Dr. Norris was recognized for her outstanding leadership, professional preparation, scholarship, and service in the field of teacher education. Congratulations Dr. Norris!



KEVIN LYONS RECEIVES CHSS YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Kevin Lyons has been awarded the CHSS Young Alumni Achievement Award for his development and implementation of simulated immersion techniques for Foreign Language teachers at Greensburg Salem and in surrounding districts. Kevin was born and raised in Greensburg and graduated from Greensburg Salem High School in 1995. He earned a BS in Secondary Spanish Education at IUP in 2001, and a diploma in Multicultural Linguistics from the Universidad Internacional in Cuernavaca, Mexico, and a Master's Degree of Education from Gannon University in Curriculum and Instruction in 2006. In 2002 he was

hired to teach Spanish at Greensburg Salem. Since arriving at Greensburg Salem, Kevin has developed and implemented complete language immersion techniques, some of which are based on the



“Survivor” television series, a strategy that requires students to exclusively use the target language in the classroom. Kevin’s immersion techniques have been featured in a case study in the fourth edition of Dr. Eileen Glisan’s best-selling book *Teacher’s Handbook: Contextualized Language Instruction*. Mr. Lyons was an invited presenter at the IUP’s Annual Spring Methodology Conference on Foreign Language Teaching in 2008 and 2010. Congratulations on your award Mr. Kevin Lyons!

Dr. John Benhart Named CHSS Outstanding Researcher for 2009-2010



Dr. John Benhart

Dr. John Benhart, professor and chair of the Department of Geography and Regional Planning at IUPUI, has been selected as the College of Humanities and Social Sciences Outstanding Researcher for the 2009–2010 academic year. Dr. Benhart's recent work has focused on the analysis and interpretation of large-format mine maps, as well as the incorporation of these maps into searchable enter-

prise geospatial databases. Dr. Benhart was honored, along with faculty members selected from other colleges, at a university-wide reception on November 4.

Grad English Programs Dominate at Three Rivers TESOL Conference

The Three Rivers TESOL Conference held on Saturday, October 17, 2009, at Point Park University was a true celebration of English education. Out of 26 conference presenters, 21 (80%) were IUP

graduate students or alumni. Students from the MA in TESOL and C & T program participated in great numbers. All students from Dr. Savova's TESL/TEFL Methodology course participated. Three alumni, quite pleased to be back "home," joined in for the group picture. All three conference prizes for best posters went to English grad students: 1st prize Keshab R. Acharya and Imad Al-Hawamdeh (MA TESOL); 2nd prize Anthony Bessetti (MA TESOL) and 3rd prize Jamie Mathews (MA/Generalist). It was rather cold outside but inside it felt quite warm as old friends reunited and new partnerships formed.



English Department to Host the Academic Literacies Symposium in February

English Department at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUPUI) will host the Academic Literacies Symposium on February 27 and 28, 2010. The aim of the Academic Literacies Symposium is to provide a space both for graduate students and faculty members to share research on the pedagogy and investigation of academic literacies across educational contexts. The symposium will highlight two distinguished scholars: Dr. Alan Hirvela from Ohio State University and Dr. Suresh Canagarajah from Penn State University. If you have any questions about this symposium, please contact Dr. Lisy Seloni at lisy.seloni@iup.edu.

Dr. Melissa Swauger Selected for “40 Under 40” Recognition

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Dr. Melissa Swauger

Dr. Melissa Swauger, an assistant professor of Sociology, has been selected by *Pittsburgh Magazine* and the Pittsburgh Urban Magnet Project (PUMP) for its “40 under 40” recognition. Developed in 1999, “40 under 40” recognizes forty individuals under the age of forty who are making a positive impact on the region’s development. Swauger was honored November 6, 2009, at an event at the August Wilson Center in Pittsburgh.

She is also featured in the November issue of *Pittsburgh Magazine*. A panel of twelve judges selected Swauger out of a pool of three hundred nominations. Winners are selected based on passion, commitment, visibility, diversity, and overall impact on the region. At IUP, Swauger teaches Sociology and conducts research on gender, race, and social class in education and work. Congratulations Dr. Swauger!

Dr. Joseph Bencloski Receives 2009 Pennsylvania Geographical Society Distinguished Service Award

Dr. Joseph W. Bencloski, professor of Geography, received the Pennsylvania Geographical Society’s 2009 Distinguished Service Award at the society’s annual meeting, held on October 23, 2009. Dr. Bencloski was honored for his many years of profes-

sional service to the society, the discipline of Geography, and IUP. Dr. Bencloski also presented a paper at the event titled “The Impact of the 1997-98 El Niño on Vegetation Health in the Piura Region of Northwestern Peru: An

NDVI Analysis.” Using Landsat digital satellite image analysis, he compared the differences in vegetation robustness in the Piura region before and during the 1997–1998 El Niño event.



Dr. Joseph Bencloski

Revised English BA Curriculum Offers Students More Options

Fall 2009 saw the launch of the newly revised BA Program in English. Designed to give students a firm grounding in English Studies, while still allowing them to focus on individual areas of interest, the program features 5 track options: Film Studies; Language Studies; Literary, Textual and Cultural Studies; Writing Studies; and Pre-Law. The gateway course for the major, ENGL 122, offers an introduction to

these tracks and the different modes of inquiry and subject areas embraced by each. Students also take several core courses in literature, language studies, and writing. The creation of the tracks has prompted the creation of new and exciting courses, including Gender and Sexual Orientation in Literature, Theory, and Film; Digital Writing; and Law and Literature. Specialization within the major provides students with the

grounding for future work in graduate study, law school, or professional writing, among many other options. The flexibility of the tracks and overlap among them even enables students to complete more than one track within the major if desired. Majors will complete their program with a new capstone course, ENGL 484, which brings the different tracks together in the study of a common topic. Changes are outlined in the current catalog.

Economics and Political Science Alumna Jennifer Swartz Secures Job at the White House

Jennifer Swartz, a 2007 graduate of IUP, has accepted a full-time career position as a procurement program specialist with the White House's Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Swartz earned a BA in economics/mathematics and a BA in political science from IUP in 2007; she is also an alum of the Robert E. Cook Honors College. Following graduation, she immediately pursued MBA and Master of International Development degrees offered by the Joseph M. Katz Graduate School of Business and the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs at the University of Pittsburgh. Swartz was among 40 interns hired this past summer by the OMB to work in Washington, D.C., but was the only one to be offered a permanent position. She



will begin her work at the Office of Federal Procurement Policy (OFPP) within OMB after graduation from Pitt in December 2009. During her OFPP internship Swartz had many responsibilities including drafting a government-wide memorandum, briefing senior political officials on current costing models, compiling research on contractor inventory models, and attending briefings with foreign diplomats to discuss best practices between government procurement offices in the United States and their respective countries. Swartz also worked extensively on OFPP's response to President Obama's March 4 memorandum on government contracting, which called on federal agencies to eliminate waste and maximize the value achieved from their contracts. Congratulations, Jen!

Retired History professor Dr. Judy McDonough passed away on October 6, 2009 of a brain aneurism. Dr. McDonough taught HIST 195, a popular course on US history in the 1920's and 1930's, and other specialty courses. She also supervised student teachers and maintained the highest standards of professionalism and service. Her publications were in political history and labor history. She will be greatly missed.

Geography Major Receives Award

Sara R. Fortnam, a Geography graduate student at IUP, received the best graduate student research award for her presentation at the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Geographical Society (PGS) in West Chester on October 23, 2009. Also at the meeting, Fortnam's paper, "The Identification of Archaeological Remains on Cyprus via Quickbird Imagery and Remote Sensing," examined the use of satellite image analysis techniques to locate potential Late-Roman archaeological sites for future field work.

Journalism Happenings

- Journalism instructor Pat Farabaugh presented his dissertation project, titled "Carl McIntire and his Crusade to Topple the Fairness Doctrine," at the annual national conference of the American Journalism Historians Association held in Birmingham, Ala., Oct. 7-10.
- Dept. Chair Randy Jesick spoke about "The Role of Basic Journalism Skills in the Age of Media Convergence" at the annual national conference of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in August in Boston.