Dean’s Message

Last summer, as part of the Program Prioritization process, the College office queried faculty members through BlueQ about activities related to scholarship, teaching, and service. Responses were received from 182 faculty members, compiled, and presented as support for faculty development programs within the Program Prioritization process. The collected summary from those responses is quite impressive and strongly supports the contributions of faculty members to scholarship and work with students.

Collectively, the faculty of the College of Arts and Sciences report that in the 2009-2010 fiscal year they authored 35 grants. A major goal of developing faculty scholarship within the College is to inform teaching and to more capably mentor student inquiry, research, or creative productions. To that end, the faculty of the College report having involved 452 undergraduate students in research/creative productions, 102 students in co-authorship of a journal article or book chapter, and 164 students in organizing or co-presenting a conference paper/poster or professional exhibition. Although there may be some overlap among student or faculty projects, the aggregate list of productions is quite impressive and is strong evidence of the scholarly contributions of the faculty, students, and staff of the College. We are attempting to benchmark this data against the reported faculty activities reported by similar colleges and universities, and I will share those results when they become available.

On Monday, January 10th, from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., the College will sponsor a peer-led faculty gathering, “Teaching and Learning with Technology.” Organized by Assistant Dean Mark Turner, the goals are to discover new uses of technology in teaching, and to determine the pro’s and con’s of adopting these technologies in your own discipline and courses. The presentations will be offered in multiple tracks, and you can move back and forth between tracks to attend your preferred sessions. College faculty with experience in using these technologies will share their perspectives and describe the applications they have attempted in their own teaching. I hope that you will make the time to attend this very promising “in-service” learning experience.

Finally, I want to wish you and your families and special friends a very Happy Holiday season. May the peace and joy of the Christmas season infuse your relationships with your cherished ones and your colleagues with a special sense of care for each other. Enjoy the holidays and travel safely.

Dr. Janet Seger Wins Physics Society Award

Janet Seger, Professor and Chair of the Department of Physics, was recently awarded the 2011 American Physics Society Award for Faculty Working with Undergraduate Researchers. This award is given annually to a physicist whose research in an undergraduate setting has achieved wide recognition and contributed significantly to physics and who has contributed substantially to the professional development of undergraduate physics students. Dr. Seger’s research focus, supported by the Department of Education (DoE) and the Nebraska’s Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR), is the study of ultra-peripheral heavy ion collisions. These collisions, where the impact parameters are large enough that long-range electromagnetic interactions dominate, allow the study of photon-induced interactions in a nuclear environment. Dr. Seger has actively involved undergraduates, including several non-physics majors, in the study of ultra-peripheral collisions at STAR, a group studying the formation and characteristics of quark-gluon plasma. Her students also routinely present their work at national conferences. The prize consists of a $5,000 stipend to the prize recipient and a separate $5,000 unrestricted grant for research to the prize recipient’s institution. The prize was established in 1984 by a grant from the Research Corporation, a private foundation for the advancement of science and technology.
Paradoxically, in most cases no prediction can be made. The uncovered set is an attempt to produce a prediction set by limiting plausible outcomes to a subset of the policy space. We present a definition of the uncovered set that further reduces the size of the prediction set.

The uncovered set was developed in order to uncover a set that is, in most cases, contained within the Pareto set. and then concluding by characterizing the exceptions. This is important because conventional approaches to spatial models in political science assume that humans possess extraordinarily precise preferences on policy issues. Paradoxically, in most cases no prediction can be made. The uncovered set is an attempt to produce a prediction set by limiting plausible outcomes to a subset of the policy space. We present a definition of the uncovered set that further reduces the size of the prediction set.

Evolutionary theory posits that contemporary gender differences originated in the successful adaptation to the different demands faced by men and women over time. The sexual division of labor in hunter-gather societies may have led to the evolution of sex differences in spatial and memory abilities, with males developing an affinity for tracking moving targets and females developing superior skills for remembering static objects. On the other hand, gender schema theory argues that because males and females are exposed to different socialization processes, they develop schemata consistent with their own gender that influence their behaviors, traits, and memories. This work tested children’s and adults’ incidental and intentional memory for static and dynamic pictures. It juxtaposes two important theories to examine the origins of cognitive gender differences. This analysis should be useful for scientists and educators interested in the possible factors affecting different types of memory for gender-stereotyped information in children and adult.

It is no accident that the government’s enclosures worlds were most numerous in the American West, where abundant open space has long symbolized the glory of American freedom and progress. Americans have worried that enemies within would twist freedom of speech into a weapon of propaganda and use freedom of assembly to unleash violent internal chaos. As a result, the government isolated and confined within federal communities groups that they deemed dangerous. Within these so-called cultural structures of realistic democracy, the government awkwardly attempted to protect citizens while curbing their rights and freedoms.

The uncovered set was developed in order to predict outcomes when spatial models result in an empty core. In contrast to conventional approaches, fuzzy spatial models induce a substantial degree of individual and collective indifference over alternatives. Hence, existing definitions of the covering relationship return differing results. The process entails developing a definition for a fuzzy covering relation, defining the results in an uncovered set that is, in most cases, about 500 participants - missionary priests, religious men and women, and lay missionaries. The main objectives of the Mission Congress is to DISCERN the movement of the Spirit within the U.S. Church in mission; DISCOVER the varied colors and brushstrokes of U.S. Catholics in mission; INVIDRATE mission identity and leadership in the U.S. Church in mission; and CELEBRATE the faces and creativity of U.S. Catholics in mission.
Dr. Kevin Graham’s Book Presents New Arguments in Political Philosophy

Department of Philosophy

Dr. Graham argues that political philosophy cannot fully understand race-related injustice without shifting its focus away from distributive inequities between whites and nonwhites and toward white supremacy, the unfair power relationships that allow whites to dominate and oppress nonwhites. Dr. Graham’s analysis of the racial politics of police violence and public education in Omaha, Nebraska, vividly illustrates why the pursuit of racial justice in the United States must move beyond redistribution.

Since the publication of John Rawls’s A Theory of Justice in 1971, political philosophers in the English-speaking world have shared a broad consensus that social justice should be understood as a matter of fair distribution of social resources. Many contemporary political philosophers disagree sharply about what would count as a fair distribution of social resources, yet they agree that if social resources were to be distributed fairly, social justice would exist.

In Beyond Redistribution, Dr. Graham posits that political theories operating on a distributive understanding of social justice fail to adequately address certain forms of social injustice related to race. Graham argues that political philosophy could understand race-related injustice more fully by shifting its focus away from distributive inequities between whites and nonwhites and toward white supremacy, and the unfair power relationships that allow whites to dominate and oppress nonwhites. Beyond Redistribution offers a careful, detailed critique of the positions of leading contemporary liberal political philosophers on race-related issues of social justice.

Tim Guthrie Opens Exhibit at Bemis Underground

Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

Tim Guthrie, Associate Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications, recently opened an exhibit of his work at the Bemis Center for the Contemporary Arts. Tim is a nationally renowned artist who collaborated with Doug Hayko in his latest installation to encourage discourse about the practice of extraordinary rendition. The term extraordinary rendition is used to describe the practice of secretly capturing suspected criminals or terrorists without the knowledge of anyone else, including the governments of the countries in which individuals reside. This highly interactive art exhibit runs through December 17, 2010. The exhibit also features the collaborative efforts of Jamie Burmeister, Peter Cales, Justin Kemerling, Landi Olsen, Nolan Tredway, Carol Zuegner, Sarah Baker Hansen, and omahaliveartdivision. Carol Zuegner is also an Associate Professor in the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Creighton's Mock Trial Team Wins Morningside Invitational

Creighton’s Mock Trial Team 1273, under the leadership and moderation of Dr. George McNary, won the Morningside Invitational, November 20-21, 2010.

The case presented was Davis v. HappyLand Toys which is a fictional case about a parent who sues a toy manufacturer because the toys they manufacture contained 1,4-butanediol, a precursor for GHB, or gamma-Hydroxybutric acid. The plaintiff’s child swallowed a bead that was manufactured by the toy company and subsequently died. Each mock trial team presents both the Plaintiff and Defense side of the case and are judged both for the skill and knowledge shown by the attorneys (3 per side) and convincing testimony of the witnesses called (3 per side). Each role is judged 1 through 10 (10 being the highest) and the team that scores the highest wins the round.

Arts and Science junior’s Adam Hester and Allison Prater both won awards for Best Attorney and Best Witness. The Mock Trial team will continue it’s competition on January 22nd and 23rd, 2011 with the BlueJay Open here at Creighton.

Ryan Vacanti Wins First Place

Ryan Vacanti, a senior at Creighton majoring in sociology, recently presented the winning paper in the category for original research at the Annual Nebraska Undergraduate Sociological Symposium (NUSS). Ryan’s paper was titled “Gentrification and Immigrant Neighborhoods: Exploring an Old Process and New Impact”. In winning Ryan displayed an impressive integration of course work from several classes, and the exceptional breadth of both his secondary analysis of social indicators as well as his collection of original data, both qualitative and quantitative and his creative techniques for displaying the data to his readers. Ryan began looking into this topic two years ago when he took Qualitative Methods with Dr. Barbara Dilly. He expanded his work when he took Urban Sociology with Dr. Rebecca Murray. Subsequent coursework in social problems, quantitative methods, statistics, geographic information systems, and population dynamics (demography) all were clearly and concisely included in this paper.

Technology News

A reminder that the College is hosting a Technology Workshop, January 10, 2011. The program will be held in the Harper Center from 8:00-2:00. Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided. To ensure we have enough space and food please register (RSVP) online using the Creighton Calendar.

Recently many faculty have reported problems with passwords. Creating a secure profile in AMI allows you to easily reset your BLUE password should you ever forget it. Your secure profile will allow you to reset your password securely without needing your Creighton ID or having part of your SSN in your password. Create your profile by logging into AMI at https://ami.creighton.edu and select “Update Security Profile” from the menu on the left.

Creighton Magazine

In case you missed it - the latest issue of the Creighton Magazine features articles on the Center for Catholic Thought, the new Energy Technology Program, and the proposed Center for Catholic School Initiatives. Dr. Leonard Greenspoon also wrote an article titled Money and the Bible.
December 2010🎉

Choral Concert
December 4, 2010, 7:00-8:00
Open to the Public
Lied Center for the Performing Arts
Point of Contact: Fred Hanna 280-1124

Choral Concert
December 5, 2010, 2:00-4:00
Open to the Public
St. John’s Church
Point of Contact: Fred Hanna 280-1124

Faculty Senate
December 7, 2010, 3:30-5:00
Faculty Senate
Skutt Student Center
Point of Contact: Tracy Leavelle 280-2652

Jazz Concert
December 8, 2010, 7:30-9:30
Open to the Public
Lied Center for the Performing Arts
Point of Contact: Fred Hanna 280-1124

College Holiday Gathering
December 10, 2010, 7:00-9:00
Faculty & Staff
Harper Center Ahmanson Ballroom
RSVP to Catherine Kelly 280-4015

Final Exams
December 13-17, 2010
Students and Faculty

Council of Chairs
December 14, 2010, 3:30-5:00
Department Chairs
Skutt Student Center
Point of Contact: Catherine Kelly 280-4015

Mid-Year Commencement
December 18, 2010
Creighton University

President’s Service Award Luncheon
December 21, 2010, 12:30
Staff
Skutt Student Center

Christmas Holiday Break - University Closed
December 24, 2010 - January 2, 2011
Faculty and Staff

January 2011

Mid-Year Recess
December 18, 2010 - January 11, 2011
Students

Faculty CV’s Due
January 10, 2011
Faculty
College of Arts and Sciences
Point of Contact: Catherine Kelly 280-4015

Faculty Senate Executive Board
January 11, 2011, 3:30-5:00
Faculty Senate Executive Board
Skutt Student Center
Point of Contact: Tracy Leavelle 280-2652

Spring Semester Classes Begin
January 12, 2011
Students, Faculty and Staff
Creighton University

Council of Chairs
January 18, 2011, 3:30-5:00
Department Chairs
Skutt Student Center
Point of Contact: Catherine Kelly 280-4015

Last Day to Register & Change Classes
January 18, 2011
All Students
Creighton University
Point of Contact: Registrar

Core Revision Conversations
January 21, 2011, 3:30-5:00
All Faculty
Skutt Student Center 104
Point of Contact: Tammy O’Donnell 280-4009

Kate Mattern Recital
January 22, 2011
Open to the Public
Lied Center for the Performing Arts
Point of Contact: Fred Hanna 280-1124

Opening Reception for “From Omaha to New York and Back” by Edgar Jerins
January 28, 2011, 5:00-8:00
Open to Public
Lied Art Gallery
Point of Contact: Erin Averett 280-2261

“From Omaha to New York and Back” by Edgar Jerins
January 29 - March 4, 2011
Open to Public
Lied Art Gallery
Point of Contact: Erin Averett 280-2261

History and the Catholic Intellectual Tradition
January 31, 2011, 7:00-9:00
Open to Public
Harper Center Ballroom
Point of Contact: Fran Minear 280-2303

Mid-Year Recess
December 18, 2010 - January 11, 2011
Students