

Anthropology
 Criminology
 & Justice Studies
 Dance
 English
 History
 Music
 Philosophy
 Political Science
 & Pre-Law
 Psychology
 Religious Studies
 Social Work
 Theatre
 Women's Studies

Avila University
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

Faculty Updates

Dr. Nancy Cervetti, professor of English, has submitted the complete manuscript of her S. Weir Mitchell biography, *From Rattlesnakes to Rest Cure: The Life and Work of S. Weir Mitchell* to Penn St. University Press for review.

Dr. Nancy Cervetti and **Dr. Larry Sullivan**, dean of Science and Health, attended the 32nd Annual Global Studies Conference, October 1-3, 2009, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Conference panel session highlights included:

- Afghanistan: Historical and Contemporary Perspective
- Political & Economic Perspectives on Africa
- Aspects of Development in the Middle East & Indian Sub-continent
- Pandemic Influenza
- Perspectives in Korean Philosophy
- International Perspectives on Baseball, Pornography, and the Stock Market
- Politics in Central America

Dr. Carol Coburn, professor of Religious Studies, served as an historian and archivist on the advisory board for *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America*, a national project sponsored by the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. *Women & Spirit* features “the untold stories of the innovative, action-oriented women who played a significant role in shaping the nation’s social and cultural landscape.” This exhibit (to be housed at the Smithsonian Institute - Washington) plans to tour nationally. See Dr. Coburn showcased at www.womenandspirit.org.

Dr. Tony Michel, assistant professor of English, will host a Reading of Prose and Poetry by the Latino Writer’s Collective 1:00-3:00pm, October 21st in Thornhill Art Gallery.

Dr. Jeffrey Myers, professor of History, and **Dr. Ken Parsons**, assistant professor of Philosophy, will take students to Berlin, Germany, from March 12-20, 2010 as part of the interdisciplinary course, IS/PL 358 “Violence.”

Dr. Regina Staves, assistant professor of Psychology, was reappointed by Governor Nixon to the Children’s Trust Fund Board, where she currently serves as the board chair.

Dr. Elaine Wright, assistant professor of Social Work, organized a Prayer Flags for Peace exhibit as part of the events surrounding Peace Week on campus from September 21-26, 2009. Hung on display in the Marian Center throughout the week, almost 100 prayer flags were created by students, faculty, staff and guests as part of the event.

Dr. Elaine Wright will attend the 55th Annual Program Meeting for the Council on Social Work Education, November 6-9, 2009, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme of the conference is “Bridging Rights, Culture, and Justice: Social Work as a Change Agent.”

Dr. Maria Hunt, professor of Psychology, is conducting “a clinical trial” of Mindfulness program intervention at Cristo Rey. The school provided full access to their entire First Year Seminar classes, half of whom will go through the intervention this fall with the other half serving as the control group (to take the course in the spring). Dr. Hunt is testing a variety of responses, most notably, collecting cortisol samples (which is a measure of our hormonal response to stress).

Dr. Maria Hunt, professor of Psychology, and **Shirlene Hess**, Graduate Psychology Director, attended The Gallup Global Well-being Conference, an invitation-only event where they joined 100 representatives from government agencies (like the Center for Disease Control, National Institute of Health, city of Lincoln NE, etc.), healthcare organizations (BCBS, Healthways), businesses (Mars, Inc.) and universities (Harvard, Princeton, Rutgers, Johns Hopkins, U of Michigan, U of Illinois, U of KU, U of Rhode Island, U of Utah, Alliant, KU, and Avila) to discuss “how to impact the psychosocial prosperity of the world.”

Dr. Marcia Pasqualini, associate professor of Psychology, has received funding through the Bial Foundation of Portugal to participate in an international study of neurofeedback. Neurofeedback (also called EEG biofeedback) involves recording and amplifying the electrical signals of the brain in order to help people identify and change their mental state. In conjunction with researchers in England, Denmark and Russia, faculty and student researchers in psychology will be investigating whether healthy people enhance their thinking abilities and improve their mood through neurofeedback. We will soon be recruiting volunteers to participate in a free ten-session training program.

Andrea Olitsky, Esq., assistant professor of Political Science, hosted Constitution Day, Sept. 16 in Whitfield Center. This event featured a compelling presentation about Human Trafficking. Professor Olitsky also played a major role in bringing Russian judges on campus to speak to the campus community on Oct. 1.

Madrigal Dinner
Dec. 10-12, 6:30 p.m.
Goppert Theatre Lobby

For advanced tickets contact the Box Office at 816-501-3699.



THE CRUCIBLE

Nov. 19-22

Goppert Theatre

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fall 2009