



FACULTY NOTES

May 2011 Vol. 4, Issue 2

WELCOME

As we wrap up another academic year, we wish our graduating seniors the best of luck as they take their first steps toward long, rewarding professional careers or toward continued learning in the classroom as they further their education. This time of year, especially, is one during which we see the fruits of our labor in the classroom.

This issue of Faculty Notes features remarks John McBratney, professor in the English Department, made when accepting the award at a faculty reception in April. Instead of looking at the whole of his time here, he examines the moment of magical transformation – a kind of moment that recurs in all dimensions of our work here, but whose nature is easiest to grasp from a teaching standpoint.

We also recognize and thank several faculty for their service and in various roles at the University. I'd particularly like to thank Gwen Kinebrew, Eric Fuglister, and Dave Schirm, who are retiring, for their many years of service.

Faculty Notes is published twice each semester by the Office of the Academic Vice President. We are pleased to share this showcase of faculty engagement and initiative. Look for the next edition in October. You can read past issues online – at <http://sites.jcu.edu/facultynotes> – to learn more about faculty teaching, research, and service.

Enjoy the summer.

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Magical transformation

John McBratney reflects on earning the Distinguished Faculty Award



Robert L. Niehoff, S.J., congratulates John McBratney.

The following is the address John McBratney gave after being presented with the award.

One of the odder aspects of winning this award is hearing the different names people give it. Several persons have referred to it as “The Distinguished *Teacher* Award.” I’ve had to remind them the really good teachers at John Carroll win the *other* faculty award: the Culicchia Teaching Award. Another person, in an inspired piece of malapropism, called it, “The Extinguished Faculty Award.” I suppose that’s the prize you get after this one, as a kind of academic last rites. But my favorite appellation is my mother’s: “The Top Doc Award.” For pure down-to-earth poetry, it’s hard to beat that title.

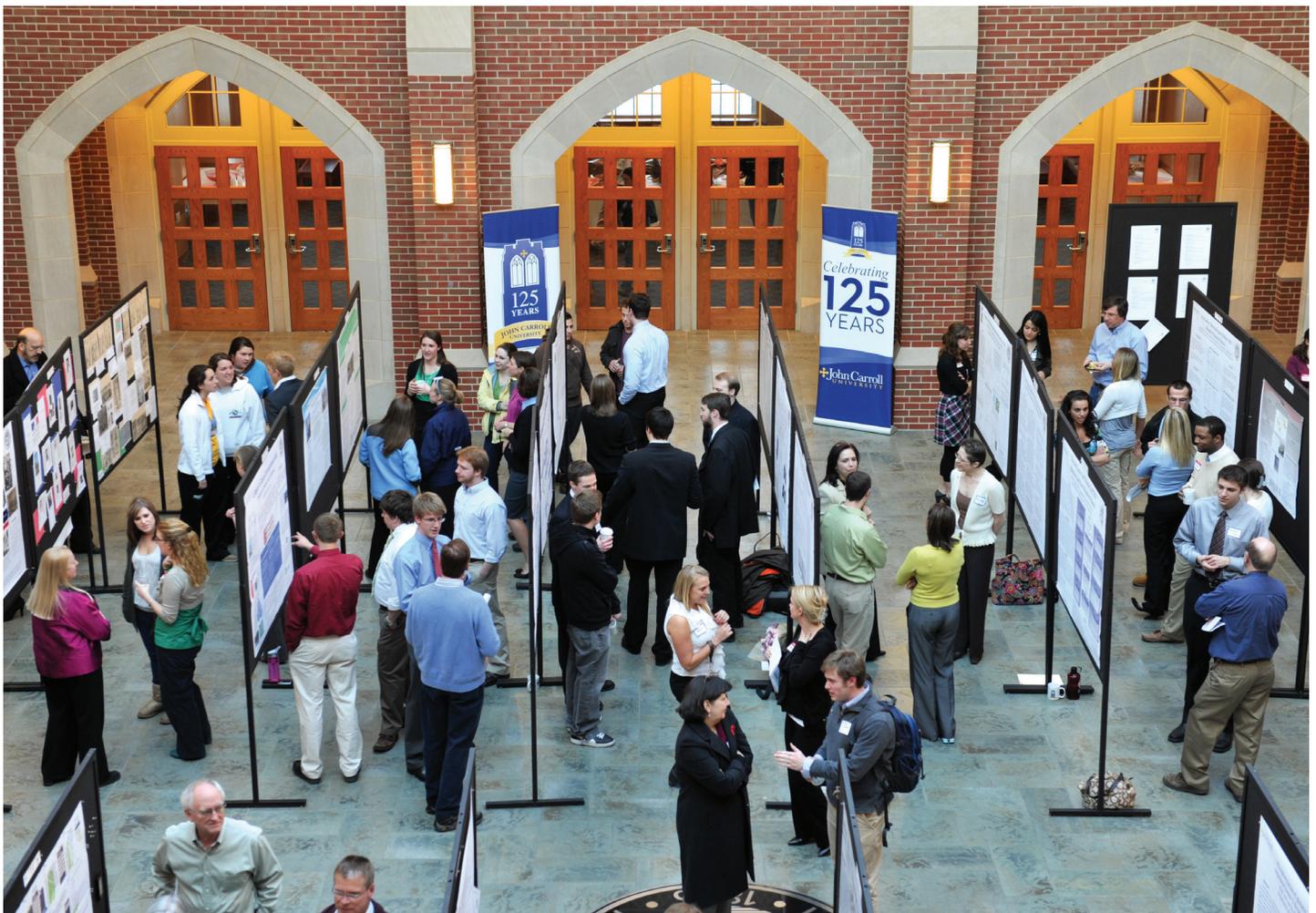
I’m immensely grateful to the many people who have helped me earn this award. I thank the team of faculty and students who put my nomination packet together. I thank my colleagues in the English Department, who have been a source of constant inspiration through the years. Bright, imaginative, and tirelessly committed to being the best teachers, scholars, and writers, they have helped me become the professional I am in incalculable ways. And because this award marks, in some sense, a lifetime achievement, I’d like to extend my gratitude to the families who have shaped me profoundly throughout my life: my late wife and her family, my wife Betsy and her family

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TAKE A LOOK

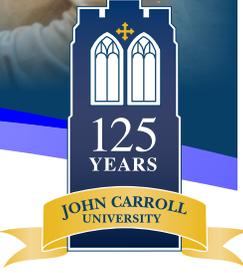
The 10th annual Celebration of Scholarship, which took place March 28-31, showcased the thorough and enlightening work of students, faculty, staff, and administrators in the John Carroll community. The Arts at Lunch segment of Celebration featured eclectic music and vocal performances by faculty and alumni and poetry readings by students and faculty. Celebration also included:

- 17 faculty members who served as moderators.
- 25 paper/panel presentations.
- 30 art submissions in the form of mixed media, ceramic sculpture, watercolor, chalk, photography, charcoal drawing, fiber collage, and acrylic painting.
- 74 poster presentations.






A CELEBRATION
Of SCHOLARSHIP
John Carroll University
 Teach ❖ Discover ❖ Integrate ❖ Apply



NOTES

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

ACCOUNTANCY

Albert Nagy presented a paper titled "Audit Partner Specialization: The Case of Andersen Followers" at the Southeast Regional meeting of the American Accounting Association in Destin, Florida, April 7-9.

BIOLOGY

Gwen Kinebrew served as an invited judge for the annual Aspiring Physicians and Research Scientists Conference (APRSC) sponsored by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at the Cleveland Clinic on March 24-25. Students from JCU were among participants from colleges and universities that included Spelman College, University of Texas San Antonio, Oberlin College, and the University of South Florida. The students presented results of their research that included the impact of Ramipril on neurogenesis, myogenesis in *Xenopus*, inhibition of Amyloid beta in Alzheimer's disease, and prophylactic use of antibiotics in spinal surgery.

CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Katherine Gyékényesi Gatto published "Su siglo veinte: El cine posmoderno de Ildikó Enyedi" on Cine realizado por mujeres at Cinelación.blogspot.com February 2011.

Hélène N. Sanko reviewed L'Afrique noire est-elle maudite? by Moussa Konaté in The French Review 84:4 (2011) 842-843.

Megan Thornton presented "Breaking the Silence: Literary Resistance in Alicia Gaspar de Alba's Desert Blood" at the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference at the University of Kentucky-Lexington, April 14-16, 2011.

TIM RUSSETT DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND THEATRE ARTS

Fern R. Levy gave an invited talk, "Christian Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust-The Motivating Factors of Altruism," to the an audience of more than 90 people comprising members of the Gesu Women's Guild, the Fairmount Presbyterian Church Women's Guild, and Fairmount Temple's Sisterhood at their annual Interfaith Day held this year at Fairmount Temple.

For the seventh year in a row, **Bob Noll** judged the JoAnn Robinson Memorial Scholarship competition sponsored by Scripps Howard Broadcasting Company. The scholarship is open to students nationwide. The cash award is given to a full-time college student who is African-American and majors in broadcast journalism.

Jackie Schmidt presented a paper titled "Helping the First Generation Student Feel at Home" at the Central States Communication Association conference in Milwaukee on April 7.

EDUCATION AND ALLIED STUDIES

Kathleen Roskos chaired the State Advisory Committee that developed the Striving Readers Comprehensive Literacy Plan for the state of Ohio submitted to the U.S. Department of Education at the beginning of April.

Professor Roskos also published "Mindbrain and Play-Literacy Connections" with James F. Christie in Journal of Early Childhood Literacy 11:1 (2011) 73-94 and "A Formative Study of an Ebook Instructional Model in Early Literacy" with Karen Burstein, Byeong-Keun You, Jeremy Brueck, and Carolyn O'Brien, online in Creative Education 2:1 (March 2011).

Professor Roskos presented a paper titled "Design Study of an Ebook Instructional Model in Early Literacy: Findings on Functionality and Usability in

the Preschool Classroom” and served as a discussant for a paper by Daisy Smeets and Adriana Bus, “Learning Vocabulary from Interactive Electronic Storybooks for Kindergarteners” at the American Educational Research Association annual conference, New Orleans, April 8-12.

ENGLISH

Philip Metres published a chapbook of his poems entitled *Ode to Oil* (Cleveland Heights: Kattywampus Press, 2011).

Tom Pace presented “Contested Land, Contested Language: The Puritan Pedagogy of John Eliot” at the annual Conference on College Composition and Communication in Atlanta on April 8, 2011.

MANAGEMENT, MARKETING AND LOGISTICS

Scott J. Allen and **Mitchell Kusy** edited *The Little Book of Leadership Development* (New York: AMACOM, 2011).

Professor Allen and the John Carroll S.I.F.E. (Students in Free Enterprise) team presented in the Regional S.I.F.E. competition at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel on March 21. Their presentation reviewed four of their 2010-2011 projects:

- African Children Ministries: a project that focused on skill building and fundraising that raised \$7,000 that helped purchase a truck for the orphanage.
- Hope for Honduran Children Foundation: a partnering project that created a micro-enterprise to establish sustainable revenue for the children. This program raised \$4,000 and resulted in an immersion trip for 11 students that will take place next month.
- Elevate Your Future: an opportunity for students to learn about, practice, and refine their interviewing “elevator speech” through interaction with

executives, including members of the John Carroll Entrepreneurs Association.

- Sam’s Club Environmental Sustainability Challenge: in partnership with Geraci’s Italian Restaurant and a grant from Sam’s Club, the students developed methods to make the local eatery more environmentally sustainable.

The S.I.F.E. team was invited to compete at the Nationals May 10-12 at Minneapolis, MN.

PHILOSOPHY

Mariana Ortega published “To Live in the Borderlands Means You” in *Bridging*, eds. Analouise Keating and Gloria González-López (Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 2011) 155-157.

PHYSICS

N. K. Piracha, K. V. Duncan-Chamberlin, R. Ali, M. A. Kalyar, M. Mehmood, Rizwan Ahmed, and M. A. Baig published “Laser Excited Population Redistribution in the $2p^23p$ Multiplet in Neon” in *Optics Communications* 284 (2011) 2872-2875.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Mindy Peden presented a paper titled “Probable Futures” and chaired the panel “Political Theory and Political Economy” at the 2011 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago on April 1-3

Elizabeth Stiles and **Lauren Bowen** presented “The Pre-Emptive Effect of the State Judiciary on State Legislation” at the 2011 meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago on April 1-3.

Jen Ziemke has been monitoring Libya and Japan for crisis mapping on the following link: <http://www.wkyc.com/news/article/180173/3/JCU-professor-making-life-saving-connections-in-Japan>

NOTES

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SOCIOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY

Penny Harris reviewed two grant proposals for the National Alzheimer's Association: research paper abstracts for the 64th Annual Scientific Meetings of the Gerontological Society of America and a manuscript for the international journal *Aging and Mental Health*.

In March and April, Professor Harris conducted two focus groups with people who have early stage Alzheimer's disease and their spouses about dementia and friendship.

Professor Harris and **John Keady** published "The Journal's Ten-Year Anniversary—Looking Back and Moving Forward" in *Dementia* 10:1 (2011) 3-6.

Susan Long presented a paper, "Bodies, Technologies and Aging in Japan" as part of a panel entitled Old Age Policies in Japan at the Association for Asian Studies-ICAS joint meeting on April 1 in Honolulu.

Professor Long gave the Stieglitz Memorial Lecture at the College of Wooster, April 12, 2011. The talk was titled, "Bioethics, Cultural Scripts and the Good Death in Contemporary Japan."

THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Paul Lauritzen published "Humming with Mystery: Synthetic Biology and Playing God" in *Commonweal*, April 8, 2011.

Professor Lauritzen was a respondent to Nicholas Wolterstorff about the topic "Is a Secular Grounding of Human Rights Possible?" at a symposium on human rights sponsored by the Veritas Forum at Northwestern University on April 13, 2011.

Sheila E. McGinn published "How [Often] Should I Forgive?" in *Catholic Asian News* (March 2011) 19-23.

Paul Nietupski presented a paper titled "Reading Asian Art and Artifacts" at the 2011 ASIANetwork Conference in Chicago on April 16.

Professor Nietupski organized the February JCU visit of Dr. Tran Le Hoa Tranh of the University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Dr. Tranh's visit was sponsored by The Walter & Mary Tuohy Chair of Interreligious Studies, with additional support from the Program in Applied Ethics and the Department of Sociology.

Professor Nietupski lectured about "The Religious and Literary History of Tibet" at The Rowfant Club in Cleveland on February 16, 2011.

Professor Nietupski conducted a research seminar, "Religion, Governance, and Economy in the Greater Labrang Amdo Community" at Northwestern University on February 20-21.

Thomas L. Schubeck, S.J., reviewed *Movement or Moment?: Assessing Liberation Theology Forty Years after Medellin*, by Patrick Claffey and Joe Egan. *Theological Studies* 72:1 (2011) 196-198.

Magical transformation — *continued from page 1*

(some of whom are here), and my family, represented today by my daughter, Indra. (Unfortunately, my sister Peg and my parents, Betsy and Greer, who were en route from Massachusetts to attend the ceremony, were turned back today because of inclement weather.) I'd especially like to thank my parents, who have taught me key lessons in life: to seek my own road, to work with a steady determination, to find a vocation that pleases me and yet serves others, and never to get a swelled head, especially when you receive an award like this one.

The Distinguished Faculty Award offers the recipient a valuable opportunity: an occasion to reflect on one's career as a teacher, scholar, and citizen of this university. Instead of looking at the whole of my time here, however, I'd like to examine a single moment—a kind of moment that recurs in all dimensions of our work here but whose nature is easiest to grasp from the standpoint of teaching. I've struggled to come up with a name for this instant. The best that I can do is to adapt a phrase from Mahayana Buddhism and speak, rather grandiloquently, of “the moment of magical transformation.” Let me try to convey what happens in this instant from a pedagogical viewpoint. In the English literature courses I teach, I like to ask my students, in a loosely Socratic manner, questions about the texts we read—questions that are difficult to answer, that often have more than one answer, and that sometimes leave the students more up in the air than settled about the matter at hand. The moment I speak of, the moment of magical transformation, occurs when I ask a particularly difficult question. Posing such a question is like dropping a small stone into a still pond. For several seconds, silence ripples through the classroom. For me, this can be a moment of dread. Perhaps the question is stupid or boring, pitched too low or too high. For the students, the

moment can also be one of trepidation. “Will I stumble?” one thinks to himself. “Will I say something completely foolish?” another may ask herself. Sometimes it seems the whole class is riding on such an instant. And then a response comes and then another, and in the best of moments, there's a change in the atmosphere that, though ordinary, is also mysterious. Whereas I previously had the initiative, now the students own it. Suddenly, their potential intellectual energy has turned kinetic.

What comes out of their mouths on these occasions is sometimes rough and halting, but it represents the stirrings of distinctive thought, thought that for each student emerges out of the particular constellation of upbringing, temperament, intellectual bent, and life experience that each brings to the classroom. This moment of magical transformation lies, I think, at the heart of a liberal arts education. If the education we offer is in fact liberal—that is, free and freeing—then in this instant the students and I experience a small but significant measure of intellectual, emotional, and spiritual liberation. We find ourselves engaged in a collective groping toward new truths—or old truths in new forms—an enterprise that represents an essential part of our lives as members of a liberal arts and Jesuit Catholic university, as citizens of a democracy, and as part of an extended human family.

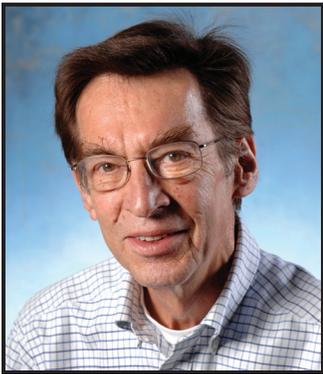
Our ability to keep this moment alive—a capacity possible only in the face-to-face classroom—will largely determine the future health of our educational enterprise. Let a hundred other kinds of academic setting bloom—whether long-distance, online, hybrid, or virtual in yet some unimagined way—but without the live classroom as a staple of our students' experience, our liberal education will wither. May we foster these moments of magical transformation as often as we can in our professional lives. Thank you.



A slice of celebration



G. Kinebrew



E. Fuglister



Dave Shirm

FACULTY RECOGNITION

RETIRING FACULTY

Gwen Kinebrew, *Biology*

Eric Fuglister, *Mathematics*

Dave Shirm, *Economics and Finance*

NEW AND REAPPOINTED CHAIRS/DIRECTOR

John McBratney, *English*

Cathy Rosemary, *Education*

Marc Lynn, *Management, Marketing and Logistics*

Paul Shick, *Mathematics*

Mary Beadle, *Communication and Theatre Arts*

Dianna Taylor, *Philosophy*

Julia Karolle-Berg, *Director of the Honors Program*

AWARDS

Mike Nichols, *Chemistry*
Culicchia Award for Teaching Excellence

John McBratney, *English*
Distinguished Faculty Award

Brent Brossman, *Communication and Theatre Arts*
Miles Curtis Award for Service

THANK YOU

And thanks for service in the following roles:

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS

Brendan Foreman
Education and Allied Studies

Rick Greci
Management, Marketing and Logistics

Doug Norris
Mathematics

Karen Gygli
Communication and Theatre Arts

DIRECTORS

Bob Kolesar
The Honors Program

Paul Shick
Faculty Council and First Year Seminar

Carl Anthony
Coordinator of Graduate Studies, Biology

ADMINISTRATORS

Mindy Peden
Associate Dean for Advising

Nick Santilli
Associate Academic Vice President for Planning, Assessment and Institutional Effectiveness

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Submissions can be sent to facultynotes@jcu.edu. The deadline for the next issue, October 2011, is September 30, 2011

Items of interest regarding faculty activity, including new publications, conference presentations, collaborations with students, community and professional service activities, teaching innovations, etc., will be published. Please include relevant details such as date and place of presentation.

Questions and comments should be directed to:
Lauren Bowen, Associate Academic Vice President for Academic Programs and Faculty Diversity
bowen@jcu.edu

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