Dr. A.L. Marsteller to Retire in May

Dr. A.L. Marsteller, Associate Professor of Criminology, came to Drury in 1991 as the department’s only criminologist. Marsteller’s experience in Vietnam was an orienting experience in his life. In his dissertation, he synthesized several streams of thought ranging from Mead’s Philosophy of the Present to resource mobilization theory to illuminate the processes by which Vietnam veterans’ movement organizations brought about transformations in the status and identities of Vietnam veterans.

Early in his academic career, teaching emerged as A.L.’s forte. As a graduate student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, A.L.’s caring approach was recognized by the university’s teaching council who presented him with the recognition award for service to students. This award, which went to instructors who had made a significant difference in students’ lives, was reserved for faculty members. However, A.L.’s contribution was recognized as so outstanding that he was selected despite his status as a graduate teaching assistant.

At Drury, A.L. is also known for his outstanding teaching, and he challenges students to think, speak, and write critically. His approach has been remarkably successful, and students report that “Dr. M’s” courses are among the best Drury has to offer.

Staci (Snyder) Hoffman, ’01 reflected, “I had Dr. Marsteller at 9 a.m. the first semester of my freshman year. I remember questioning whether I was really cut out for this whole college thing. However, Dr. Marsteller encouraged me to speak up and think for myself. He taught me to question the source of information, so I could better understand and articulate my point of view.”

“Now more than 13 years into my professional career, Hoffman continued, “I often think of him referring to the notion that “opinions are like noses, everybody has one,” so I better be ready to back up what I say. Thank you, Dr. Marsteller, for taking the time to encourage this small town kid to be a strong, professional woman with something to say. Congratulations, and enjoy your retirement!”

If you would like to send Dr. Marsteller a personal farewell, you may contact him at amarstel@drury.edu.

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Tea Time for Trish

On March 26th, Dr. Patricia Morris, Assistant Professor of Sociology, was a keynote speaker at the annual conference for the Animal Welfare Science, Ethics & Law Veterinary Association (AWSELVA) entitled, “Animal Futures: Perspectives from Ethics, Law, and Social Science.”

Morris’ talk, delivered at the University of Nottingham’s Schools of Veterinary Medicine and Biosciences, was called, “The best and worst of my job: Exploring the future of end-of-life care for animals.” The talk was based on her research on animal euthanasia among veterinarians.

In addition to meeting some of her most beloved and respected British colleagues in the fields of sociology and bioethics, Dr. Morris was also thrilled to be introduced to the work of their enthusiastic graduate students.

The day before her presentation, Dr. Morris attended the University of Nottingham’s Centre for Applied Bioethics 20-year celebration, which included a day of debates ranging from agricultural ethics and animal welfare to biotechnology. Both conferences tackled interesting questions and future opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration in applied bioethics.

Dr. Morris is excited to welcome a veterinarian turned bioethicist from the Centre for Applied Bioethics to the States this fall who is interested in comparative research on companion animal blood and organ donation.
Zora Mulligan is the executive director of the Missouri Community College Association (MCCA). A native of West Plains, a small town in southern Missouri, Mulligan attended Drury College (B.A. Political Science & Psychology ’98) and the University of Kansas (M.Ed. ’00, J.D. ’03). She appreciates having had the opportunity to attend a small private school and a large public research university and says that her coursework and extracurricular activities at Drury were excellent preparation for KU.

After graduating from KU, Mulligan served as assistant attorney general for four years, during which time she litigated environmental and consumer protection cases on behalf of the State of Missouri and managed the consumer complaint unit. In 2007, she joined the Missouri Department of Higher Education, where she served as the agency’s general counsel and lobbyist.

Mulligan became MCCA’s sixth chief executive officer in spring 2010. The Association brings Missouri’s community colleges together to advance common agendas in the Capitol. During Mulligan’s tenure at MCCA, the organization has secured $35 million in federal grant funds and has developed a more cohesive and professional presence in the Capitol.

Mulligan says that it’s hard to explain what she does for a living. “It’s largely lobbying, but it also involves event planning, mediating and peace-making, marketing, and a mix of other stuff,” she says. She adds that it’s exactly the kind of work a liberal arts education prepares students for. “No one major could have prepared me for the work I do today,” she says, “but my political science and psychology majors developed my ability to be precise and think critically, write clearly, and speak effectively. Those are all skills I use every day.”

Mulligan lives in Jefferson City with her daughter Anna Lea.
Chairs Collaborate to Develop AA in Behavioral Science at OTC

Drs. Vickie Luttrell, Chair-Department of Behavioral Sciences, and Linda Caldwell, Chair-Psychology and Criminology at Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC), worked collaboratively to develop a group of courses that will provide a solid interdisciplinary foundation for students to complete an Associate of Arts degree at OTC that will be fully transferrable to Drury University in the field of behavioral sciences.

The AA in Behavioral Sciences (AABHS) includes coursework in psychology, criminology, and sociology and was designed very specifically around what Drury requires of students majoring in behavioral science disciplines. Although the program incorporated courses OTC currently offered, it also required OTC to develop courses to meet Drury's curricular expectations, to include an SPSS-based statistics course.

The proposal for the AABHS was approved by the OTC curriculum committee and the Coordinating Board of Higher Education. The program will begin in fall 2014.

Many OTC students earn baccalaureate degrees from Drury. Ashley Vance transferred from OTC in 2007 and graduated from Drury with a B.A. in psychology in 2009. Because of her demonstrated academic excellence and service to the department, Ashley was recognized as the outstanding student in psychology her senior year. In 2013, she received an M.S. in developmental psychology from Purdue University. Her research focused on developing a method to improve written word learning in 2 to 4 year-olds. Ashley is continuing at Purdue for a Ph.D. and is in the process of submitting her master’s research for publication in a peer-reviewed journal.

“We have a lot of outstanding transfer students in our department, and I look forward to finding other ways to build strong academic bridges between Drury’s day-school program and OTC,” commented Luttrell.

Students and Faculty Attend SEPA Conference

On a snowy Wednesday morning in March, 16 students from the Department of Behavioral Sciences and Dr. Mary Utley headed south to present their research at the 60th annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association (SEPA). The meeting was held in Nashville, Tennessee.

Poster presentations of the students’ research projects were made during the Undergraduate Research sessions. Student presenters included Erin Barry, Alicia Battin, Timothy Bohnsack, Briana Davis, Shelby Hatz, Jordan Henslee, Jordan Herbold, Lamarr (Pierre) Jamerson, Matthew Lytle, Ashley Marmouget, Presley Phillips, Brooke Porter, Michael Shepherd, Evan Stelzer, Brittany Stockwell, and Jonathan Wilson.

Research topics included: Attractiveness and memorability; childhood bullying and effects on memory recall; neuroticism, openness, and terror management theory; level of appearance and severity of crime on a guilty verdict; the effect of test consequences on performance; personality and physical activity; the effects of anxiety and neuroticism on susceptibility to auditory distraction; and the impact of violent crime television on sexual objectification and acceptance of violence. In addition, Dr. Utley presided over a poster session on the topic of health.

When asked about SEPA, Jordan Henslee, a senior psychology major and behavioral neuroscience minor, said, “For me, attending the SEPA conference this year was such a wonderful experience. Not only were we able to network with other psychology, criminology, and sociology students from other universities, but we also developed closer relationships with our fellow colleagues. Attending SEPA gave me the opportunity to present research at a conference, and it was a very eye-opening experience. If given another chance, I would most definitely go back.”

Besides the conference, the students had the opportunity to visit the sites of Nashville including attending a professional hockey game and checking out some pretty awesome cowboy boots.
Introducing the Babies of the Behavioral Sciences!

Each semester, we use our newsletter as a way to highlight the professional accomplishments of our faculty and staff. In this issue, we thought you might like to see some of our more personal accomplishments. Please allow us to introduce Henri, Vivienne, Camden, Hudson, and Julian!

Henri Christophe Claude Bouteille, is the grandson of Associate Professor of Psychology, Jeanie Allen. Henri was born 8/22/13 to Jeanie’s daughter, Hilary Bouteille (‘08) and her husband Christophe (‘09). He is the happiest baby ever. Henri loves laughing and studying things close up, especially Mimi’s fingernails that are always a shade of red. He loves his minky tag blanket, which he rubs his cheek with to put himself to sleep.

Vivienne Mae Brown is the daughter of Assistant Professor of Psychology, Jennifer Silva Brown and her husband Tony. Vivienne was born 11/15/13. Vivie is starting to giggle aloud and is always smiling at her family and friends. She amazes everyone with her awesome jumperoo skills and her ability to sleep through the night. She plans on hitting up the pool this summer for her first swim lessons.

Camden William Jester is the grandson of administrative assistant, Kathy Jester. Camden was born 12/10/13 to Kathy’s son Andy (‘06) and daughter-in-law, Lauren (‘08). Camden loves tummy time and listening to his older brother Carter read to him! Fun Fact: Camden is Kathy’s fourth grandson and joins Cooper, Charlie, and Carter. Kathy is wondering if she will have a granddaughter next!

Julian Henry Derossett is the son of Assistant Professor of Sociology, Dave Derossett and his wife Michelle Creed. Julian was born 6/28/2011. Julian loves dancing, taunting the neighbor’s dogs with sticks, reading books, and is working to improve his singing voice. He’s also a budding film critic and counts Spirited Away, the Iron Giant, the NeverEnding Story, and Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away, among his favorites.

Hudson was born 12/5/2013. In the first months of life, Hudson enjoyed the numerous snow days when both mommy and daddy were home. He has recently become intrigued by his feet and has been found holding them as he falls asleep. His favorite activities include cuddling, bath time, and being tossed in the air.

William Hudson Herrington is the son of Assistant Professor of Psychology, Rachael Herrington, and her husband Nathan. Hudson was born 12/5/2013. In the first months of life, Hudson enjoyed the numerous snow days when both mommy and daddy were home. He has recently become intrigued by his feet and has been found holding them as he falls asleep. His favorite activities include cuddling, bath time, and being tossed in the air.

Check out the Development & Alumni Relation’s New Webpage!

https://alumni.drury.edu/panthertracks

Now that you know what’s going on in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, check out the Development & Alumni Relation’s new Panther Tracks webpage. You can view updated alumni class notes and photos and even submit an update and photo your own.