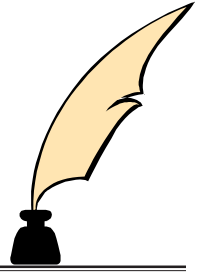


SCHOLARSHIP at SPSU

an Academic Achievement Support Group Newsletter

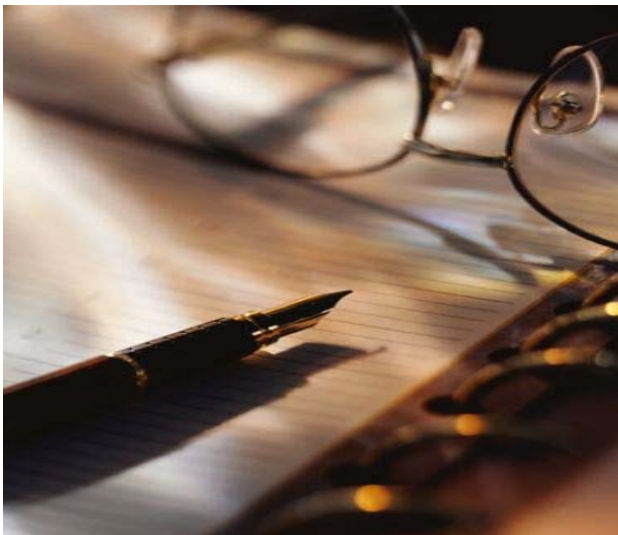


Issue 2 • Summer 2004

This edition of the Scholarship at SPSU Newsletter is made possible again through the efforts of Dawn Ramsey and Scott Brown in Extended University. Without their work, there simply would be no newsletter. Spring 2004 was a productive semester for SPSU faculty in their pursuit of scholarship. Their work is listed in this issue.

There were also some interesting presentations as part of the brown bag series of the Academic Achievement Support Group. Each of the presenters has included a synopsis for those who could not attend the lunch series. These presentations included a panel discussion among the four School Deans with some additional input from the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs. It should be noted that the comments from this session should not be construed as permanent policy, but merely musings about the topic. As Dave Hornbeck wrote, they are firmly cast in Jell-o.

At this point, I want to issue a **call for volunteers to speak** during the fall semester about their experiences in pursuing scholarship. So, if you want to share with us how you go about being successful, please contact me this summer at



bnuhferh@spsu.edu. I will set up a schedule for fall meetings that includes you. Also, if you would like to suggest topics of discussion, please do so. That is, if you have particular issues that need addressing, they are likely to be issues being faced by other SPSU scholars as well.

I hope you have a summer that fulfills your goals, be they productive or lying fallow for future productivity. Thank you.

Bernice Nuhfer-Halten

School of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, & Construction

Tony Rizzuto

I just finished editing the proceedings from the Bauhaus symposium of last year. It is being printed by Fidler Doubleday and contains several important essays on the Bauhaus by some of the leading scholars on the subject. I believe that this is the first time a proceedings from an SPSU symposium has been published.

Khalid Siddiqi

Published articles:

1. Partnering: A tool for Construction Claims Reduction
2. Federal Facilities Environmental Journal
3. Motivation for Environmental Construction

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Carol Barnum

“The Magic Number 5: Is It Enough for Web Testing?”

Information Design Journal.

Requested submission after hearing a presentation I made at last year’s Society for Technical Communication conference.

Refereed European Journal. Accepted for publication.

Published this month (April).

Albert Churella

Conference Papers

“The Problem with ‘Discipline’: The Limits of Managerial Control and Worker Autonomy on the Pennsylvania Railroad,” by invitation, at the National Railway Museum, York, U.K., June 30, 2004

“External Networks Confront Internal Networks on the Pennsylvania Railroad: The Case of the Philadelphia Improvements,” the Business History Conference, Le Creusot, France, June, 2004, responsible for organizing and proposing entire panel

Book Reviews:

Lawrence A. Brough and James H. Graebner, *From Small Town to Downtown: A History of the Jewett Car Company, 1893-1919*, for H-Business, forthcoming

Robert E. Mohowski, *The New York, Susquehanna & Western Railroad*, for *Enterprise and Society*, forthcoming

Richard Saunders, *Main Lines: Rebirth of the North American Railroads, 1970-2002*, for *Railroad History*, forthcoming

Steve Edwards

“Lucas Numbers and Golden Triangles in the Regular Pentagon”,

Submitted to the Fibonacci Quarterly, but rejected:

“...Your results and proofs are correct. And your paper is well-written. However, I feel that much of the material in your paper would be known to the readers of the Fibonacci Quarterly....

You might want to consider submitting your paper to another journal....

“Lucas Numbers in the Regular Pentagon”, Invited talk, Integers Conference 2003, State University of West Georgia, November 2 2003

“Nuggets of Gold in the Regular Pentagon”, Mathematics Colloquium, SPSU, October 8, 2003

“Miles of Tiles-Patterns in the Plane”, three-hour mini-course presented at the MAA/SIAM Joint regional Meeting, Clemson University, March 21, 2003. The CD-Rom produced and used for this presentation was also distributed to participants.

Tiling Plane and Fancy, a web site at www2.SPSU.edu/math/tile/index.htm

Bernice Nuhfer-Halten

I finished the second of 2 book-length concordances of Spanish poetry—now on-line on my web page—this one is of the complete poetry of Federico Garcia Lorca...

1.) Refereed paper presented at national conference of AATSP (American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese) in Chicago, “Teaching Process Writing in Spanish courses.” I plan to convert this into a publishable article to submit to a refereed journal.

2.) I co-authored with Barron, E., Bledsoe, R., Cotille-Foley, N., Daigle, L., McCoy, S., and Tesser, C., a document, “Proposed Implementation of *eCore* Online Foreign Language Courses: Evaluation and Recommendation,” for which I received consultation fees, and which has been accepted by the USG.

3.) “A Concordance to the Poetry of Antonio Machado,” book-length digital work now posted on my website. I plan to notify MERLOT shortly so that it will be reviewed.

Kenneth T. Rainey

Activities:

Completed typescript of “Effective Professional Communication.”

Looking for an agent and publisher.

This is a reference guide with nuts-and-bolts guidance on fundamentals of grammar in the first section. The second section contains composing processes for technical writers on document design, revision, copy editing, graphics, etc. Several appendices cover using numbers, punctuation, glossary, index, and a thorough annotated bibliography. This work has, in its latest iteration, covered three years with a rather grumpy coauthor. The bibliography has to be constantly updated because new titles come out every month. Completed chapter for a book on the Status of Technical Documentation International titled “Technical Documentation: United States of America” to be published (in both German and English editions) in Germany in December 2004 by Verlag Schmidt-Römhild, Lübeck.

This was an invited chapter for which I was lead writer with six other contributors that covers the technical communication profession in the US, including reputation and professional status and organizations, educational opportunities, industrial/business organization, cost, salaries, market situation, research, and current trends. It was a chore to coordinate the contributions of seven people from all over the country and one in Germany. But it was a good experience in all and I think will make a significant contribution. The book will contain similar chapters from 15 other countries. So for it we will get a picture of the profession around the world. Completed article “Certification in Technical Communication” to be published in *Technical Communication Quarterly* in June 2004.

This is a project that I have worked on for 10 years (not the article—the topic). The article is a part of two issues of TCQ on current trends in the profession. It was co-written with one of my graduate students, Kirk Turner, who is also doing his

School of Arts & Sciences (continued)

thesis on this topic. I finished the initial work on the article while I was on vacation, using an Internet access at the visitor's center in Riomaggiore, Italy (it's absolutely wonderful—in many ways—what the Internet allows us to do!). My hope is that this article will make many in the profession so angry that they will begin talking seriously about certification.

Thomas Rotnem

“The Political Economy of Oil in Putin's Russia: The Khodorkovsky Affair.” Pew Case Study in International Affairs. Georgetown University Press. Forthcoming.

Also, I have begun a project on the importance of administrative reform for Russia's economic/investment

prospects in the near/medium term.

James Whitenton

Well, we (Joel Fowler, Brian Cook (student) and I) have received reviewers' comments to the paper we submitted and are in the process of revising it for re-submission. But more important (right now, at least) is the fact that the most recent issue (April 2004) of American Mathematical Monthly (page 363) has a Submitted Problem from Whitenton and Cook! The little critter may not look like much but it is a brand new mathematical identity (brand new as far as I can tell, and presumably the editors of that journal agree with its originality or they wouldn't have printed it). Everyone is invited to go over to the current periodicals area of the library and see the little fellow in print!

School of Computing & Software Engineering

Briana B. Morrison

I will have the following paper in the proceedings of the ITiCSE conference this summer:

Lister, R., Box, I., Morrison, B., Tenenberg, J., Westbrook, S. (2004) “The Dimensions of Variation in the Teaching of Data Structures”, ITiCSE '04 June 28-30, 2004, Leeds, United Kingdom

This paper was a result of a collaboration of colleagues met through an NSF funded workshop. Two of the people came up with the general idea and did the initial interviews. Then we all worked on the paper. It was a very tight deadline that came at a busy time (finals of fall term.) Since all the authors are spread over the globe we each took the paper for 24 hours and reworked, added, edited, etc. then released it to the next person. That made the whole thing doable since you knew you only had it for one day and then were free for a week or so. There were several late nights involved, but well worth the effort for the final product!

Kai Qian

1.) Research paper “Design Patterns in Web Services”, will appear in the Proc. of 4th international SNPD conference, 06/2004

2.) Book “Component Based programming”, Co-author, under

contract with John Wiley & Sons, 04/2004. The manuscripts are completed

3.) “LAMP: An Approach to Teaching Internet Technology by Open Source Software”, workshop co-author, ACM SIGCSE 03/2004

4.) “Water Level Model in Density based Unsupervised Classification”, co-author, Proc. of Visual Information Processing XIII, 04/2004

5.) Paper “Software Architecture & Design”, accepted in FIE Oct. 2004

Frank Tsui

1.) published a book entitled Managing Software Projects, Jones and Bartlett, February, 2004. (I wrote this because I couldn't find just the right text for my course.)

2.) Presented a paper entitled “Information Communications in Software Projects” at the American Society of Engineering Education, Southeast Conference at Auburn University in May, 2004. (I am continuing my investigation into patterns of communications as applied to software life development cycle. If we can establish some correlation between patterns of communications and success/failures of projects, then we can provide software project managers some guidance on how to manage software projects.)

School of Engineering, Technology & Management

Pamela Frinzi

I'm doing research/development/training in new connectivity technologies. I have authored and delivered two courses — Serial ATA and Universal Serial Bus (USB). I spend — probably

8 - 12 weeks researching, etc, the technology, then another 4 weeks with the hands-on implementation. I am currently teaching these to practicing engineering professionals at Dell, CATC, Phillips Semiconductors, etc.

Brent Jenkins

I presented two papers at the ASEE-SE Conference in Auburn, AL on April 4-6:

The first paper, entitled "A Freeware-Based Antenna Simulation Exercise", was written to publicize the educational potential of a freeware antenna simulation program that I discovered about two years ago. At the time, I was looking for a cost-effective way to incorporate antenna-simulation into our Wireless Communications course, and I was delighted to find freeware that was capable of meeting our needs. The paper introduces the MMANA program, it details a laboratory exercise that uses MMANA to illustrate basic antenna concepts, and it provides the results that are obtained through completing the exercise.

The second paper, entitled "The Case for Using a Circuit-Analysis Emphasis

When Introducing Students to Transistor Problems" was written to compare two basic methods for approaching introductory electronics and to make a case for what I believe to be the superior approach. It was written out of my deep conviction that students are shortchanged by the popular approach to the subject: emphasizing "canned" equations that apply to a few basic circuit configurations while de-emphasizing the methods that are required to analyze circuits of a more general nature.

The paper demonstrates both methods through analysis of two representative circuits, and it compares the pedagogical and computational value of each method. A challenge that I faced with the second paper was the large number of equations and schematics that had to be included to demonstrate the two approaches. The initial "typing" and drawing was very time consuming, and a fair amount of tweaking was required to enable the equations to be faithfully converted into PDF format. Thank you for hosting the brown bag series this semester. I got a lot out of the two sessions that I was able to attend.

Scott Tippens

I delivered a paper at the ASEE-SE Conference this month (April) entitled "Born to Teach with Technology?". The paper dealt with the lessons learned for the Teaching and Learning Academy program. I presented the structure, implementation details, and results of the "experiment". This was a peer reviewed journal publication (apparently that's important to some folks).

Advice Corner

Scholarship

James C. Kropa

When this new requirement surfaced several years ago, I looked to my consulting activities as a source of scholarship. This has had both a direct and an indirect component.

Several years ago I was asked to come up with a simple way to score how well two distributions compare. For example how well did the actual salesperson coverage during the day compare to that which was originally scheduled. Since the solution I obtained was not implemented at that time and since it had general application, I asked and was granted permission to publish the result. The original paper was rejected by a mathematics journal, and a revision, entitled **Needed: A Standard Method for Comparing Distributions**, was rejected by a statistics journal. I gave a short talk at the joint MAA-SIAM meeting at Clemson in March 2003. I gave an expanded colloquium talk for the mathematics department on March 25, 2004. I have also "published" these results on my faculty web page.

My skills developed in consulting were used in conducting the **Mathematics Retention Study**. This study was a response to report of a committee of the Board of Regents that visited SPSU late in 2001. A copy of this study was submitted and accepted by the SPSU

library this past year. During the academic year 2002-2003 I followed up with a Center of Teaching Excellence Grant. I designed a mathematics information roll to help instructors identify students at risk. This is report WSFR3120. I also looked into characteristics of students not having a successful initial Fall semester. I gave a CTE report in April 2003. A copy of this report is also on my faculty web page.

For this academic year I thought about expanding my institutional research into investigating the characteristics of our graduates. However, the efforts that I outlined above did not generate much interest. Also, I became concerned about the quality of the data. If WF's were being used to indicate nonpayment of fees, what other compromises existed? Finally, the reports, that I used to access data for repeating my yearly look at mathematics results, were no longer available. Multiple requests to have these reports reinstated were not successful.

These two efforts at scholarship do not appear to have a future. Trying to pick up mathematical research after 30 years is very difficult. The possibility of having to take on a T3 academic load was clearly on my horizon. This is one of the many reasons I have decided to retire and teach as an adjunct. (A possible research project for someone else is to determine: How many other faculty have retired for similar reasons and what has been the effect on the quality of instruction of the large number of retirements?)

Brown Bag Highlights

Excerpts from the March Brown Bag March 23, 2004

Dr. Carol Barnum - Professor, TCOM **So you want to be in print (or pictures):** **Eight simple rules**

Because I've "been there, done that," I was invited to share some ideas on publishing. As I have a long memory, and can think back to the beginning of time, or, more specifically, the beginning of my time at (then) Southern Tech, it was easy for me to remember what it was like to want to publish something but not know where or how to go about it. What I did and what I can recommend to others getting started or wanting to go farther in the world of publishing became the basis for my talk.

I boiled it down to the following "eight simple rules":

Rule #1—have something to say

Rule #2—Find out who wants to hear (or read) it

Rule #3—Bend it like Beckham (rework, repackage, to hit the mark many times)

Rule #4—Have backup (more than one place to send it)

Rule #5—Have a Plan B (collaborate?)

Rule #6—Budget your time ("no" must be in your vocabulary)

Rule #7—Get used to loneliness . . . and weight gain (writing can be fattening!)

Rule #8—Seek inner peace (it may be your only real reward)

There are bullet points for each of these rules, so if anyone wants "the full text," drop me an email (cbarnum) and I'll be glad to send it to you. I'll also be glad to chat with you about your idea for publishing and offer suggestions, if I can.

Excerpts from the April Brown Bag April 13, 2004

Bill Barnes

Dean of Architecture, Civil Engineering Technology, and Construction

In general, I support the Boyer-Mitgang philosophy but would like to clean up with the other deans some issues that might be peculiar to SPSU or simply not addressed by Boyer et al.

Alan Gabrielli

Dean of Arts and Sciences

We are not ready to commit to a definition of "noteworthy scholarship". It may take many years to establish a culture on this campus in which everyone understands what is meant by "noteworthy scholarship", and rushing to put a standard in place at this time would only be counterproductive. Any such standards would have to recognize and take into account the

different practices and expectations of the various subcultures on our campus. What we can talk about at this point is what does and what does not constitute scholarship. To be regarded as scholarship, a work has to be original, it has to have been subject to external review, and it has to be disseminated. If a work does not meet those criteria, it is not scholarship. To some extent, the quality of a scholarly work can be assessed by the degree to which it meets each of the three criteria.

Mike Murphy

Dean of Computing and Software Engineering

First and foremost, I truly believe that the issue of academic achievement is best served by a broad-based discussion among the faculty that leads to some consensus of what is valued and how to "define" or "describe" terms like "noteworthy". To take a stab at the issue from my own perspective, most of academic achievement is qualitative and difficult to measure. Most attempts to be prescriptive on the quantitative side tend to be or to become unsatisfactory.

I strongly endorse the Boyer model of scholarship that includes teaching, application, integration, and discovery as scholarship directions. I also believe that the higher the degree of dissemination among one's peers and the higher the degree of scrutiny of the work, the more noteworthy it is. When academic achievement is fragmented, it becomes more difficult to assess the overall impact or the cumulative effect or value, but that is part of our challenge in an institution that values teaching and learning. I count academic achievement in the period (for annual evaluation purposes) in which it becomes "real" (e.g., published or presented). It is worthwhile, for purposes of tenure and/or promotion where noteworthy academic achievement is claimed or required, to have external validation of that as part of the assessment of the candidate's case.

Britt Pearce

Interim Dean of Engineering, Technology and Management

Comments by a departing, Interim Dean:

Although hierarchies of scholarly activity exist (not identical for all Schools and Departments on campus), I do not favor rigidly using them to evaluate faculty. This is particularly true since SPSU is still in an infant stage of developing a culture of scholarship. (It is also difficult to summarize this topic in a short paragraph. Discussions such as the one held recently should be held on a recurring basis.) For purposes of evaluation, I would like to see each faculty member viewed as an individual at their own stage of scholarly development. The faculty should be encouraged to continue to develop over time and be evaluated on their progress relative to where they are and how far they have advanced.

