

State

The Florida State University Faculty-Staff Bulletin

Volume 45 • Number 2

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August 2 - 22, 2010

\$13.6 million grant FSU researchers collaborate to boost low-performing high schools

By **Nash McCutchen**
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

High schools across the nation have long struggled to improve student achievement and reduce dropout rates. While reforms enacted over the past three decades have proven successful in some schools, transferring those reforms to others has been challenging, and many students continue to fall behind.

Education policy experts at The Florida State University will collaborate with researchers from Vanderbilt University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Education Development Center on a new \$13.6 million grant to help improve high school performance in Florida and Texas.

"Today's high schools have discouragingly low rates of student retention and learning, particularly among students from traditionally low-performing groups: minorities, low-income students and English language learners," said Lora Cohen-Vogel, an associate professor of educational leadership and policy studies at Florida State and leader of the FSU research team.

In fact, according to Cohen-Vogel, gaps between black and Hispanic 17-year-olds and their white counterparts can exceed up to three years of learning. Gaps are wider still between native English speakers and



Lora Cohen-Vogel

English language learners.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the new National Research and Development Center on Scaling Up Effective Schools will work to bring tested practices to some of Texas and Florida's lowest-performing high schools. Researchers will partner with district and school leaders and teachers from two

Please see **COHEN-VOGEL, 2**

Alvi elected society fellow

By **Barry Ray**
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A Florida State University engineering professor has been chosen for one of the top honors in his field: election by his peers to the rank of fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

Farrukh S. Alvi has served on the faculty of the Florida A&M University-Florida State University College of Engineering since 1993. He is known for his work in experimental gas dynamics and flow control, particularly in the use of microjet-based actuators, and holds a number of patents in those areas.

The rank of fellow is the highest elected grade of membership in ASME. Fellowship is conferred upon a member with at least 10 years of active engineering practice and who has made significant contributions to the profession.

"It is an honor to be elected as an ASME fellow," Alvi said. "Of course, none of this would be possible without the great group of students who have worked with me

Please see **ALVI, 3**

SPREAD the WORD

The Florida State University College of Law's Environmental and Land Use Program is among the best in the nation, ranking fifth in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools."

large public school systems — the Dallas Independent School District and Broward County Public Schools — on the five-year initiative.

“Underperformance in high school is a persistent problem with extraordinary economic and educational consequences,” said Marcy P. Driscoll, dean of Florida State’s College of Education. “The policy expertise within the College of Education will contribute greatly to ensuring that all students not only graduate, but have the skills necessary to enter college or the work force.”

The center’s work will focus on identifying the combination of essential components and the programs, processes and policies that make some high schools in large urban districts particularly effective. Effectiveness will be measured using value-added models to identify high schools that improve student achievement in English/language arts, mathematics and science achievement; reduce the likelihood that

students drop out before graduation; and increase enrollment in advanced courses among traditionally low-performing student subgroups.

But, according to Cohen-Vogel, being able to identify the essential components of high school effectiveness is only the first step toward realizing meaningful school improvement.

“Just as important,” Cohen-Vogel said, “is implementing the combination of practices through which the components can be sustained and transferred to less-effective schools.”

For nearly three decades, researchers and educators have worked to understand what makes some schools effective and others less so, said Stacey Rutledge, an associate professor in Florida State’s College of Education and co-investigator on the project. Rutledge noted that while progress has been made in developing that understanding, less is known about how to replicate successful programs across a range of schools.

“The new center will help us to solve that puzzle, so promising models can be

brought to more students,” Rutledge said.

Beyond developing methods to identify effective and ineffective high schools, the Florida State team will visit schools, administer surveys and observe classrooms.

The Florida State University team draws on expertise from across two colleges: Education, and Social Sciences and Public Policy. Led by Lora Cohen-Vogel of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (College of Education), co-investigators include Tammy Kolbe, Patrice Iatarola and Stacey Rutledge, also from the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, and Tim Sass of the Department of Economics (College of Social Sciences and Public Policy). Team members from other research organizations are Marisa Cannata, Ellen Goldring, Joe Murphy, center director Tom Smith and Matt Springer from Vanderbilt University; Dan Bolt and Rob Meyer from the University of Wisconsin-Madison; and Cheryl King, Maria-Paz B. Avery and Barbara Miller of the Education Development Center.



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People with disabilities who require special accommodation for any event listed in *STATE* should call the unit sponsoring the event, or for the hearing or speech impaired, use the Florida Relay Service at 1-800-955-8770 (voice) or 1-800-955-8771 (TDD). Requests for accommodations must be received at least five working days before the event. To receive *STATE* in an alternative format, call the FSU Student Disability Resource Center at (850) 644-9566.

Finance and Administration Partnership Program completes '09-'10 series

The Finance and Administration Partnership Program successfully completed its nine-month staff development program in June. The goal of the program was to unite administrative professionals within the university's Division of Finance and Administration to provide an environment in which they were encouraged to grow professionally and personally. The monthly meetings allowed participants to develop and offer new ideas and solutions on current topics and share information from their prior work experience. It also provided them with opportunities to be responsible and empowered.

The topics that were presented and discussed during the series were change management; hostile work environment; personality in the workplace; managing stress in the workplace; communication and leadership; age vs. ability; finding organizational fit; Six Sigma: quality in the workplace; and managing disruption in the

workplace.

In addition to the meetings, several lunch and learn events were hosted to give the 16 participants an opportunity to meet senior administrators and gain valuable feedback on professional growth and career development.

The 2009-2010 Partnership Program participants were Bill Iliff, Jennifer Bowers, Brandy Furbee, Kim Coates, Rachel Collins, LaToya Boyd, Laymon Gray, Susan Berry, Lt. Terri Brown, James Johnson, Nancy Milburn, Lovetta Montgomery, Brian Barton, Cheryl Tharp, Corbin deNagy and Heather Crook.

The 2010-2011 Partnership Program will be expanding its participant scope to include all administrative and professional staff throughout campus. Employees who are interested in learning more about the Partnership Program can call Paul Harlacher at 644-7885 or Angela Gaskins at 644-8346.

ALVI

from
page 1

on my research. Collaborating and mentoring bright, hard-working students is one of the most rewarding and enjoyable aspects of my job.

"I also want to acknowledge the support of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the College of Engineering and thank my colleagues, who have supported, encouraged and guided me over the last decade and a half."

In addition to his professorial duties, Alvi serves as director of the Florida Center for Advanced Aero-Propulsion (FCAAP), a consortium of four universities established by the Florida Legislature in 2008 that is charged with advancing aerospace technologies and creating

partnerships with national aerospace industries and relevant government agencies. That need is particularly acute as NASA prepares to retire its space shuttle program, a move that could result in the elimination of thousands of high-paying jobs throughout Florida.

"FCAAP fills a huge need in the aerospace and aviation industries for research and development on next-generation aircraft and spacecraft, as well as work-force training to help keep highly skilled and high-paying jobs in Florida," Alvi said. "We aim to become the advisory and technical focal point for the state of Florida in the critical aerospace and related sectors and play a similar role for other aerospace stakeholders such as NASA, the military and private industry — initially within the state and ultimately, in some key areas, nationwide."

NewsMakers

"For the sand beach areas, the oil spill is a major concern ... especially for the population of animals on the beach. Animals filter water, so if you have contaminations in the water, they can't withstand that." — Markus Huettel, an oceanography professor at The Florida State University, as quoted in the July 19 *Panama City News Herald* discussing the likely effects of oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill washing ashore. Huettel is part of a team researching the coastal area near St. George Island and collecting sand samples on Pensacola Beach.

TO FOLLOW THE ACTIONS OF FLORIDA STATE RESEARCHERS MONITORING AND ASSESSING THE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL, VISIT THE "GULF OIL CRISIS: FSU TAKES ACTION" BLOG AT FSU.EDU OR FSU.COM.

NORMAL cells **VS.** CANCER cells

Florida State and London researchers find 'Mahjong' gene is key player in competition

By Libby Fairhurst
NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A landmark study by Florida State University biologists, in collaboration with scientists in Britain, is the first to identify a life-or-death “cell competition” process in mammalian tissue that suppresses cancer by causing cancerous cells to kill themselves.

Central to their discovery was the researchers' identification of “Mahjong” — a gene that can determine the winners of the competition through its close relationship with another powerful protein player. Lead author Yoichiro Tamori and Associate Professor Wu-Min Deng of Florida State and Yasuyuki Fujita of University College London named the newfound gene after the Chinese game of skill and luck.

The findings shed light on the critical interactions between cancerous cells and surrounding tissue, and confirm that those interactions occur not only in fruit fly models but also in mammalian cell cultures.

Tamori and team found that Mahjong binds to and interacts with the tumor suppressor gene “Lethal giant larvae” (Lgl). That bond allows Mahjong to influence the outcome of cell competition, because it is mutations in Lgl — or in genes interacting with it — that transform a normal cell into a malignant one, triggering the lethal showdown between neighboring healthy cells and cancerous ones.

“A better understanding of the ways that inherited or acquired mutations in key proteins lead to cell competition should help foster new therapies that increase the odds of victory for normal cells,” said Tamori, a postdoctoral fellow in Florida State's Department of Biological Science.



PLoS Biology published their paper, “Involvement of Lgl and Mahjong/VprBP in Cell Competition,” in July. The article also can be viewed at www.plosbiology.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pbio.1000422.

The study began with a focus on Lgl, a gene that normally prevents the development of tumors by tightly controlling cell asymmetry and proliferation. To more fully understand its role in cell competition, the Florida State and University College London biologists looked at Lgl in both fruit flies and mammals. They knew that earlier studies of Lgl's structural qualities had concluded that it worked in tandem with other proteins. To try to identify its possible partners, the researchers used a

technique that worked to trap both Lgl and any proteins bound to it.

They learned that Lgl had just one binding partner — soon to be known as Mahjong.

“In addition to identifying Mahjong and its relationship with Lgl,” said Deng, “we confirmed that both genes function in the same pathway in both fruit flies and mammals to regulate cellular competitiveness.”

To determine if a mutation would induce cell competition in fruit flies, the Florida State biologists modified fly larvae by deleting the Mahjong gene from subsets of the wing-tissue cells.

Then, using a fluorescent probe that can identify cells undergoing apoptosis (a

form of programmed suicide), they saw that cell death was occurring in the Mahjong mutant cells that were adjacent to normal cells, but not in those surrounded by fellow Mahjong mutants.

"In competition with their normal neighbors," said Tamori, "cells without Mahjong were the losers."

After Tamori and Deng confirmed the role of Mahjong in fruit fly cell competition, their collaborators at University College London sought to induce competition in mammalian cells.

To replicate as closely as possible the occurrence of mutations caused by environmental factors, Fujita and his team engineered kidney cells whose copies of the Mahjong gene could be shut down by the antibiotic tetracycline. Before adding tetracycline, they mixed the engineered cells with normal ones and allowed them to grow and form tissue.

"When tetracycline was added to the tissue, the cells in which Mahjong had been shut down began to die, just as they had in the fruit fly," Tamori said.

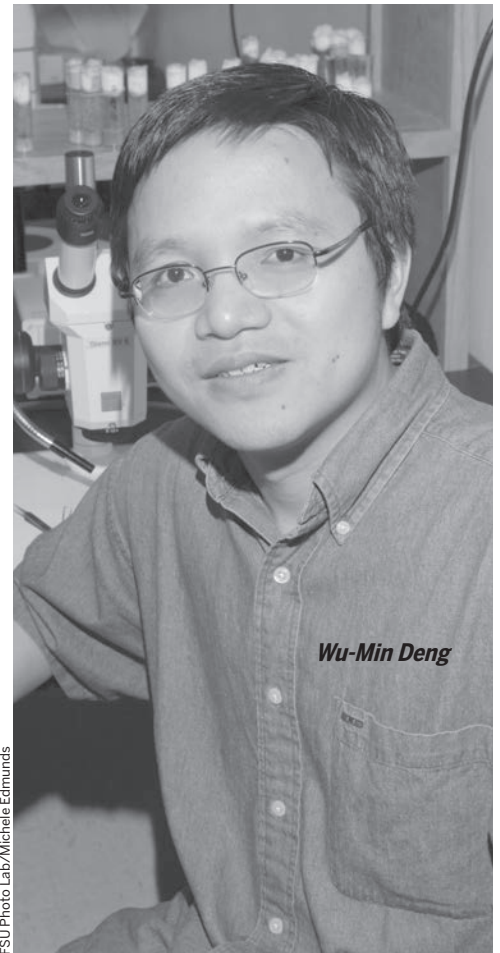
"In the kidney cells, as in flies," he said,

"apoptosis was only observed in Mahjong mutants when they were surrounded by normal cells. We now had a clear demonstration of cell competition in mammalian tissue, triggered by mutations in a key protein."

Next, the team sought to prevent apoptosis in cells that lacked Lgl or Mahjong by copying the remaining protein partner in larger-than-normal numbers.

"We learned that overexpressing Mahjong in Lgl-deficient cells, which typically self-destruct, did in fact prevent apoptosis," Deng said. "But, in contrast, we found that overexpressing Lgl in Mahjong-deficient cells did not prevent cell suicide."

Funding for the study came from a five-year grant to Deng from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). A developmental and cell biologist at Florida State since 2004, Deng is recognized for research in the model organism *Drosophila melanogaster* (fruit fly) that has enhanced understanding of gene regulation and signaling pathways linked to cancer and other diseases.



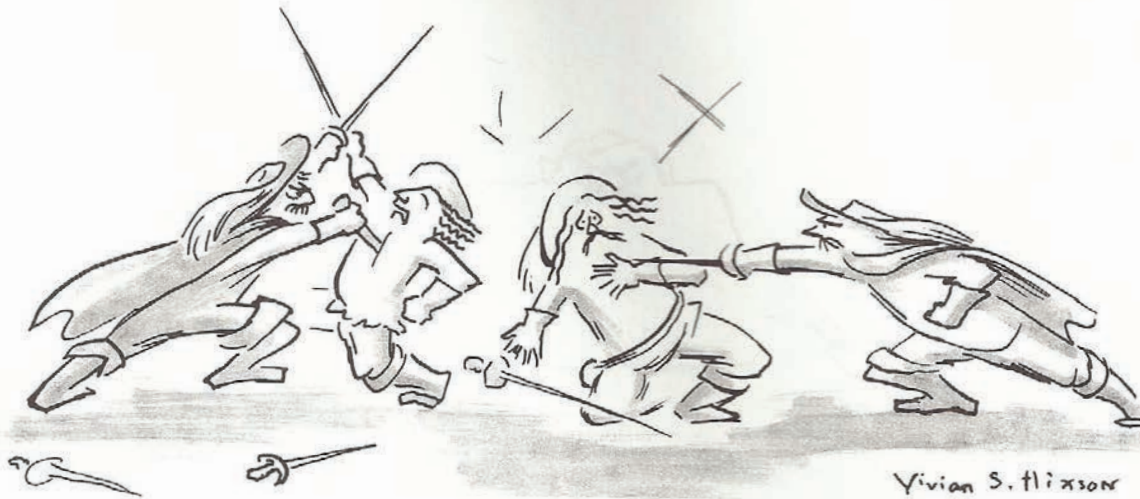
Wu-Min Deng

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University Libraries obtains books from Library of Congress

By Karen Witham
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Florida State University librarians recently selected more than 350 books from the Library of Congress' surplus-books program to add to the university's collections. Shipment of the books from Washington, D.C., to Tallahassee without cost to Florida State was made possible by the

office of U.S. Rep. Allen Boyd (D-North Florida), which provided franking slips for use on the shipping boxes.

"We are grateful to both the Library of Congress and Congressman Boyd for their assistance in helping us enhance our collections in several areas of interest, including art history and education," said Julia Zimmerman, dean of University Libraries.



Roy Ziegler, associate director for Collection Development, at the Library of Congress.

The effort was spearheaded by Roy Ziegler, associate director for collection development for University Libraries.

"We were in Washington for the American Library Association conference, and we were very pleased to have the opportunity while there to take advantage of the free surplus-books program," Ziegler said. "The staff from both the Library of Congress and Congressman Boyd's office were so gracious, and we really appreciate all of their assistance." Ziegler focused on selecting humanities books, and a significant percentage of them are in foreign languages.

Franking privileges allow members of Congress to send official mail using their signature instead of a stamp. Boyd's office (www.boyd.house.gov) provided University Libraries with slips so that the books could be shipped without the libraries having to pay what would have been significant costs.

The Library of Congress offers surplus books to educational institutions, public bodies and nonprofit, tax-exempt organizations in the United States having tax-exempt status under Section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1964. For more information, visit www.loc.gov/acq/surplus.html.

FSU Police launch mapping tool to enhance crime awareness

The Florida State University Police Department has added another tool in the array of methods it uses to notify students, faculty, staff, parents and community members about crimes that occur on the main campus and at university facilities southwest of the main campus.

Using the website **CrimeReports.com**, the department has begun uploading crime information that its officers have received. Visitors to the department's website can click on the "FSU Monthly Crime Mapping" link to be quickly taken to the CrimeReports site. Using easy-to-understand icons, that site maps crimes that have occurred on the Florida State campus employing user-specified date ranges, crime types and other definable parameters. In addition, the CrimeReports site can display locations of registered sex offenders

in the areas near campus, with the ability to highlight basic information on those individuals.

"This tool is a fantastic weapon in the fight against crime on campus," said FSU Police Chief David Perry. "Clearly, when we can provide our community with easy-to-use data and timely information about what has occurred on campus, they, in turn, can use this information to make sound decisions concerning safety. We hope that people will visit this site often to keep informed and, when possible, provide information about crimes, should they be

able to help out."

"Each time we can shed light on offenses that occur on campus, we create an environment that makes it more difficult for criminals to operate," added Maj. Jim Russell, assistant chief of the FSU Police Department. "An empowered campus is a safer campus."

The site has been live since July 12, and visitors can access it by visiting the department's website at www.police.fsu.edu.

The "FSU Monthly Crime Reports" link is located on the top of the left-side navigation bar.



Chief David Perry

The Source

News from Human Resources

>>**TIAA-CREF ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELING:** A representative from TIAA-CREF will be on campus conducting one-on-one financial advising sessions on Aug. 16, 18, 19 and 20, in the seventh-floor skyboxes of University Center Building A. To schedule an appointment, call TIAA-CREF at (800) 732-8353.

>>**MAY/JUNE 2010 RETIREES:** **Mildred Alexander**, assistant professor, DRS Administration; **Carolyn Bridger**, professor, College of Music – Dean; **Mary Creal**, custodial worker, Building Services; **Frank Crimbley**, senior security guard, Public Safety; **Roy Delp**, professor, College of Music – Dean; **Roderic Dugger**, computer research specialist, Florida Institute of Government; **Donna Fletcher**, associate professor, Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education; **Eva Garrison**, assistant director, Controller; **Penny Gilmer**, professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry; **Arthur Hargrett**, clerical assistant, Controller; **Ross Henderson**, research associate, Psychology; **Diane Ice**, administrative support assistant, Management; **Mary Kates**, custodial worker, Building Services; **Ray Kennedy**, broadcast engineer, Panama City Campus Technical Services; **Rosie Keween**, assistant in recreation management, Sport Management, Recreation Management and Physical Education; **Norma Larkins**, custodial worker, Building Services; **Susan Martelli**, university school assistant professor, Education OASIS; **Peter McNally**, application developer/designer, Information Technology Services; **Larry Meade**, university school instructor, DRS Administration; **Alan Ollila**, grants compliance analyst, Sponsored Research Services; **Martha Overstreet**, program associate, Ringling Center for the Arts; **Sallie Rubinstein**, associate university librarian, Strozier Library; **Janet Sanfilippo**, research associate, Center for Advancement of Learning and Assessment; **David Schrader**, IT support specialist, Information Technology Services; **Elizabeth Stanton**, academic program specialist, Computer Science; **Connie Stoutamire**, business manager, Strozier Library; **Ronald Strazulla**, university school associate professor, DRS Administration; **Blanca Vasquez-Copher**, university business administrator, University Business Administrators; **Donna Wieckowicz**, program associate, Dean of Graduate Studies.

>>**OPEN ENROLLMENT:** The state of Florida Benefits Open Enrollment Period for the 2011 Plan Year will be held from Sept. 27 to Oct. 22, 2010. Detailed information about the group insurance and supplemental plan offerings will be sent to all eligible employees at a later date. Refer to the Human Resources website for updates: www.hr.fsu.edu.

>>**BENEFITS AND WELLNESS FAIR:** Save the date! The 10th Annual Benefits and Wellness Fair will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 28, in the Oglesby Union State Ballroom. Insurance, retirement, community and campus organizations will participate and have information available. In addition, representatives from the state group insurance plans and the Human Resources Benefits Office will be in attendance to answer questions about the 2011 Open Enrollment.

>>**ADDRESSES IN OMNI EMPLOYEE SELF-SERVICE:** Employees should verify their current home mailing addresses in the OMNI system. Incorrect addresses will result in delays of any information sent out by vendors concerning health, life, supplemental and retirement programs.

>>**TAKING A LEAVE OF ABSENCE?** If employees take a leave of absence for any reason, their benefits might be affected. Faculty and staff members only have 31 days from going on leave to make necessary adjustments to their benefits. If employees know they are going on leave, they can contact the Benefits Office for assistance to ensure there is no lapse in coverage. **Information:** 644-4015 or insben@admin.fsu.edu.

>>**A&P PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS:** This is a reminder that A&P employees must have their performance evaluated by their supervisors annually. It is important that these performance evaluations be completed in a timely manner. Performance evaluations ensure that employees receive feedback on their performance and are a constructive tool for continued improvement and development.

Evaluations for the 2009-2010 academic year (which ends Aug. 7, 2010) should be completed after Aug. 7, 2010 and forwarded to the Office of Human Resources by Aug. 31, 2010. Performance evaluations are not required for A&P employees who have been employed for less than three months.

If supervisors or their employees have any questions regarding this procedure, reference Section OP-C-7-G1 of the Division of Finance and Administration, Human Resources, Policies and Procedures, or call the Employee and Labor Relations Section at 644-6475.

TRAINING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

>>**INSTRUCTOR-LED AND ONLINE TRAINING:** Training opportunities are available at no charge to all FSU employees through instructor-led and online formats. A current Schedule of Classes for summer 2010 and registration information is available at: www.hr.fsu.edu/train. **Information:** Office of Training and Organizational Development, 644-8724.

>>**NEW EMPLOYEE ORIENTATION AVAILABLE ONLINE:** Each participant must certify their completion of online NEO by faxing a completed copy of the "Certification of Completion and Evaluation of Orientation" form to the Office of Training and Organizational Development as indicated on the form. The link to online new employee presentations, materials and the certification form can be found at: www.hr.fsu.edu/Content/NEOnline/index.html.

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OCTU

BYLINES

Bruce Boehrer, Ph.D. (Bertram H. Davis Professor of English), wrote the book "Nonhuman Beings in Early Modern Literature," published by University of Pennsylvania Press, June; and his book "Parrot Culture: Our 2,500-Year-Long Fascination with the World's Most Talkative Bird" is now available in paperback from the same publisher.

Christie Koontz, Ph.D. (Library and Information Studies), co-edited the International Federation of Libraries Associations and Institutions Public Library Service Guidelines with Barbara Gubbin, published by De Gruyter Saur, 2010.

PRESENTATIONS

Janet Lenz, Ph.D. and **Jake Galles** (Career Center) co-presented the session "Meeting the Career Development Needs of Graduate Students: Building Bridges Through Campus Connections," with Briana Keller, at the global conference of the National Career Development Association, San Francisco, July.

Jon Lutz (College of Law Research Center) presented "The Implementation of QR Codes in an Academic Setting" at the 20th annual conference for Law School Computing, Computer Assisted Legal Instruction, held at the Rutgers School of Law, Camden, N.J., June.

Nicholas Mazza, Ph.D., M.S.W. (Patricia V. Vance

CAMPUS IN ACTION

Professor of Social Work), presented "Poetry Therapy Across Therapeutic Modalities: Using the R.E.S. Model in Practice and Research," and Mazza was awarded the Morris Morrison Excellence in Education Award, both at the 30th annual conference of the National Association for Poetry Therapy, Washington, D.C., April.

Robert Reardon, Ph.D. and **Gary Peterson**, Ph.D. (Career Center), co-presented the session "The Positive Impact of Two Interventions on the Negative Career Thoughts of Pacific Island Students," with Meagan Minvielle Thrift and Julie Ulloa-Heath from the University of Guam, at the global conference of the National Career Development Association, San Francisco, July.

SERVICE

Lauren S. Weingarden, Ph.D. (Art History), recently served as chair/FUNDEP in Humanities, Letters and Arts at the Institute for Advanced Transdisciplinary Studies, Federal University of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte, Brazil.

GRANTS

Stephen J. Tripodi, Ph.D. (Social Work), won

a \$50,000 grant for his research "Pathways to Recidivism Among Women Prisoners with Histories of Victimization: Implications for Assessment, Transition Planning and Reentry," awarded by the Advanced Center for Mental Health Services and Criminal Justice Research, a National Institute of Mental Health-funded center; Tripodi co-wrote the article "Reducing Alcohol Use: A Meta-Analytic Review of Interventions for Adolescent Alcohol Abusers," with Kimberly Bender, Christy Litschge and Michael Vaughn, published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, Vol. 164, No. 1; Tripodi co-wrote the article "Predicting Arrest: Internal and External Sources of Control in a Nationally Representative Sample of Young Adults," published in the journal *Social Work Research*, Vol. 34, No. 1; co-wrote the book chapter "Descriptive Studies," with Kimberly Bender, published by Sage Publications; Tripodi co-wrote the book chapter "Randomized Control Trials," with Ram Cnaan, published by Sage Publications; Tripodi co-wrote the book chapter "Screening and Assessment of Mental Health Disorders and Risk of Re-Offending

Among Juvenile Offenders," with Albert Roberts, Kimberly Bender and Angie Lippman, published by Jones and Bartlett Publishers; and Tripodi presented "From Prevention to Reentry: Understanding Predictors of Crime and Desistance from Criminal Behavior," "Is Employment Associated with Reduced Recidivism? The Complex Relationship Between Employment and Crime" and "The Importance of Both Self-Control and Social Control in Preventing Arrest in Young Adulthood: A Nationally Representative Longitudinal Study," all at the conference of the Society for Social Work and Research, San Francisco, January.

Elizabeth Goldsmith, Ph.D. (Professor and Fulbright Scholar, Human Sciences), will receive a Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Association Travel Grant. The name of Goldsmith's research is "Lou Henry Hoover's Approach to Design and the Influence on White House History." The grant is specifically intended to promote the use of collections of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library and Museum, West Branch, Iowa.

ENRICHMENT

Thomas Murphy (University Police) participated in the Florida Law Enforcement Games by competing in the triathlon. Murphy finished third-place overall and second place in his age group, Fort Pierce, Fla., June.



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