

In This Issue

- Megan Bradley Wins Regents Award
- CLAS Departments to Offer Off-Campus Programs in Psychology, Engineering
- Astronaut Richard Arnold Honored with CLAS Alumni Circle of Excellence Award
- Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies Welcomes Coordinator, Begins Workshop Series
- Leadership Scholar-In-Residence Visits Campus
- Women's Studies Events Raise Funds for Local Organizations
- Clicker Usage Increasing in the Classroom

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Megan Bradley Wins Regents Award

Megan Bradley of the Psychology Department was recently awarded the USM Regents' Teaching Award. The award is the highest honor presented to exemplary faculty members. Each award carries a \$1,000 prize provided by the institutions and the University System of Maryland Foundation.

Megan was recognized by USM for her leadership role in the redesign of FSU's General Psychology course under the USM's Course Redesign Initiative program. This multi-year, system-wide grant totaling over \$440,000 included working with the National Center for Academic Transformation (NCAT) to improve student learning outcomes and reduce cost. Megan's excellence in redesign has been noted as she was selected to be a Course Redesign Scholar for the NCAT transformation, serving as a national advisor for university teams engaging in course redesign.

Congratulations, Megan!

CLAS Departments to Offer Off-Campus Programs in Psychology, Engineering

Two CLAS programs plan to be offered at off-campus locations beginning in Fall 2010. The Department of Physics and Engineering has received MHEC approval to offer its B.S. in Engineering program (electrical engineering concentration) at the Arundel Mills Regional Higher Education Center. This program is designed to meet the needs of modern industry and is open to community college graduates who have completed an A.S. degree in Engineering. FSU will offer courses on-site and via distance learning for students at the Center to complete the Bachelor of Science requirements.

At the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, the Department of Psychology will begin offering its B.S. program in the fall (pending approval from FSU governance and MHEC).

Astronaut Ricky Arnold Honored with CLAS Alumni Circle of Excellence Award

During a March 4 visit to campus, NASA astronaut and FSU alumnus Ricky Arnold was presented with the CLAS Alumni Circle of Excellence Award.

Arnold graduated from FSU in 1985 with an accounting degree and returned in 1988 to earn his teacher certification. While not an actual

graduate of any of the CLAS programs, Ricky became interested in the sciences during his time at FSU while taking biology classes. This led him to earn a master's degree in Marine and Estuarine Science through the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science. He subsequently worked as a marine scientist on an oceanographic vessel and taught science and math in Waldorf, Md., Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Romania.

Arnold learned that NASA was seeking teachers with a science and math background to become part of its astronaut corps, and he was selected in 2004. After completing NASA's two-year astronaut candidate training program, he became a mission specialist, a dream that began when he was a boy following the Apollo missions.

Arnold was part of STS-119 in March 2009, when the Space Shuttle Discovery delivered and the crew installed critical final pieces of the International Space Station. On that mission, Arnold performed two of the three spacewalks.

In 2007, Arnold was also part of NEEMO (NASA Extreme Environment Mission), a training and research mission aboard the underwater habitat Aquarius. The "aquanaut" mission simulated the level of gravity on the moon, but it was also a "dream come true" for the former marine scientist.

The Alumni Circle of Excellence award is presented to select individuals within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences who have demonstrated sustained excellence and leadership in their career field. To nominate an alumnus, email Linda Steele (lsteale@frostburg.edu).

Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies Welcomes Coordinator, Begins Workshops Series

As part of a \$438,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, CLAS was recently able to hire Mimi Hernandez as Outreach Coordinator for the Appalachian Center for Ethnobotanical Studies (ACES). Mimi is a clinical herbalist and professional member of the American Herbalists Guild, with a Master of Science degree in Herbal Medicine. As Outreach Coordinator for ACES, she will work with ACES faculty to facilitate and expand collaborative research relationships. She will also develop opportunities with partners in government, academia and industry to enhance the market for medicinal plants in a way that is sustainable and sensitive to the cultural foundations of the region.

Mimi will also provide workshops for the local community through "The Mountain Herbalist Series," to be held at Mountain City Traditional Arts, 25 E. Main Street. Upcoming seminar topics will include "Kudzu" (April 26), and "Medicinal Mints" (May 10). All events will be Mondays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, call 301-687-8040 or e-mail mhernandez@frostburg.edu.

Leadership Scholar-in-Residence Visits Campus



The Leadership Studies Minor and the Department of English, in collaboration with the Office of Leadership and Civic Engagement and the SES Division, sponsored Liza Featherstone as a scholar-in-residence on March 23 and 24. The visit was made possible in part by an FSU Faculty Development and Sabbatical Subcommittee Workshop/Speaker Grant.

Ms. Featherstone, a journalist based in New York City, discussed her work on social justice activism, gender, and the workplace, as well as politics and consumerism, the theme of a forthcoming book. A contributor to *The Nation* magazine, Featherstone also writes for *Slate*, *The New York Times*, and *Columbia Journalism Review*, among other publications. She is the author of *Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Workers' Rights at Wal-Mart* (Basic Books, 2004) and co-author of *Students Against Sweatshops* (Verso, 2002). She has been a Knight-Bagehot Fellow in Business and Economics Journalism at Columbia University and teaches at the City University of New York and New York University.

With the strained economic context as backdrop, Featherstone's visit stimulated thinking about economic and social sustainability and student activism. Her conversations with students, faculty, and staff underscored the importance of leadership development on campus and its impact in local and global communities. The FSU-TV3 production LEAD-TV featured an interactive interview with Featherstone where audience members asked questions about activism, politics, journalism, and issues impacting students, like the affordability of higher education.

Featherstone also visited classes including Frank Parks' Advanced News and Feature Writing and Sunshine Brosi's Ethnographic Field Techniques. She also visited Amy Carter's Introduction to Leadership Studies and Elesha Ruminski's Citizen Leader class. A scholarly luncheon for faculty and staff was also held, featuring discussion of excerpts from *Selling Women Short*. She was also a dinner guest of the President's Leadership Circle.

Women's Studies Events Raise Funds for Local Organizations

In celebration of International Women's Day, March 8, WMST and Students for Women's Issues cosponsored "happenings" with students distributing buttons, stickers, and bookmarks highlighting the contributions of women to various college disciplines. That evening, Dr. James Walker (PHIL) presented a teach-in spotlighting a new global campaign to call attention to the wide-scale atrocities committed against women and girls in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The campaign, initiated by V-Day and

UNICEF, compliments the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

WMST co-sponsored two benefit performances of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues*, March 10 and 11. This year's proceeds (over \$3000) will benefit The Family Crisis Resource Center, the Dove Center, and this year's V-Day Spotlight – the Women of the DRC. Since 2002, V-Day related events at FSU have raised nearly \$40,000 on behalf of organizations working to end violence against women and girls.

Clicker Usage Increasing in the Classroom

The use of clickers or "Audience Response Systems" at FSU is growing, with 12 CLAS faculty using them this semester in their courses. The technology allows for instant feedback from the audience on any multiple choice question that the instructor would like to ask. The version used by FSU is TurningPoint (<http://www.turningtechnologies.com>) which integrates seamlessly with the Microsoft Office suite and with Blackboard. The main advantage of using clickers is that instructors can see where students are having difficulties with understanding information. The instructor can then focus on clarifying the more difficult material. For students, the clickers are a fun and interactive classroom tool.

Students can purchase clickers through the FSU Bookstore for approximately \$40. The clickers can then be sold back at the end of the semester or kept for other courses until the student graduates.

If you are interested in learning about clickers or adopting them for your classes, please contact Brian Lance in the Center for Instructional Technology at x4416 or by email (bmlang@frostburg.edu).