Celebration of Teacher-Scholars

Works of 2017
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3:30 Mercy Heritage Hall
April, 17, 2017

The simplest and most practical lesson I know ... is to be good today, but better tomorrow.

Catherine McAuley, in a letter to de Sales White (February 28, 1841)

What Catherine McAuley suggested in her letter, was a life pursuit, a purposeful action that drives us to betterment, betterment of community, world, and self. And in concert with such action is the recognition that change is not only possible, but expected. We move forward, driven by curiosity and the possibility for discovery.

Scholarship, as we at Mercyhurst define it, is fueled by curiosity and discovery; a melding of exploration, application, and dissemination. We also ask our peers and colleagues to critique our works. At Mercyhurst University, student and faculty engage in systematic and creative works designed to move academic disciplines forward, and designed to take academic disciplines deeper. At Mercyhurst University, we embrace scholarship because it allows us to confront the unknown simply for the sake of the confrontation.

As a community of scholars we take time to celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues. We celebrate the diversity of our disciplines recognized on the national and international stage. We congratulate our friends in their never-ending pursuit of what Robert Pirsig calls the “dynamic quality.”
Agenda

3:30 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres

4:00 Welcome by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. David Dausey

4:15 Keynote Speakers

   Laura Lewis, Ph.D. - Ridge College of Intelligence Studies and Applied Sciences
   Keyman Asefi, ASID, IDEC - Walker College of Business
   Averill, Earls, Ph.D. - Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
   Nathan Hess, D.M.A - Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences
   Nickolas Lang, Ph.D. - Zurn College of Natural and Health Sciences

5:00 Acknowledgements and Thanks from the Faculty Scholarship Committee

5:15 Cocktails and Hors d'oeuvres resumes

6:00 End of the Celebration
Acknowledged Faculty Scholarship

Faculty Scholarship and our Deans would like to acknowledge the following faculty for their consistent, rigorous, and innovative scholarship.

**KEYMAN ASEFI, ASID, IDEC**

Instructor  
Department of Interior Architecture and Design  
Walker College of Business  

![Image of Keyman Asefi](image)

**Biography**

Keyman grew up in and around construction sites. When it became time for him to decide a direction for his life, he knew that one day he wanted to be involved with buildings. Keyman went to Malaysia-Kuala Lumpur, to pursue a degree in Architectural. He started working in a medium-scale firm involved in designing luxury high-rise buildings for the commercial, residential, and government sectors. While working in the industry, Keyman found himself intrigued by the sustainable methods used in Singapore’s architectural design, which prompted him to begin researching and creating a new approach to sustainability. He also became increasingly interested in the implications of architectural design on human psychology and behavior. Keyman left industry to come to the United States and continue his research in the academic setting at Southeast Missouri State University, where he completed his thesis “Designing a Sufficient Building Module.” He has been full-time faculty at Mercyhurst University since 2015. To learn more about Keyman please visit: [WWW.KEYMAN-ASEFI.COM](http://WWW.KEYMAN-ASEFI.COM)

**Emotional Interior Architecture: Architecture that Responds to Us**

We as human beings spend more than 90% of our time indoors. Thus, the space in which we live, work, and play exerts psychological effects on us every single day. The concept of Emotional Interior Architecture is creating an all-inclusive space for its occupants, both introverts, and extroverts, that fosters an atmosphere of motivation and creativity. This is achieved by utilizing six specific layers that coalesce to bring a sense of joy and belonging to each person that steps foot inside. This unique approach to interior design has transformed the student union at Mercyhurst University’s North East campus in North East, PA.
AVERILL EARLS, PhD

Assistant Professor
Thomas B. Hagen Department of History
Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Biography

Averill Earls, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of History at Mercyhurst University. She is an historian of modern Ireland and sexuality, who writes about same-sex desiring men, policing, and Dublin’s queer urban spaces. She earned her PhD in History from the University at Buffalo, an MA in History from the University of Vermont, and a BA in Political Science and History from the University of Vermont. She is the founder and Executive Producer of the award-winning Dig: A History Podcast, the Assistant Layout Editor at Nursing Clio, and the Pennsylvania Historical Association’s representative on the PA-LGBTQ Council. She’s published a range of pieces on teaching, literature, and the history of gender and sexuality with collaborative history blogs like Notches and Nursing Clio, as well as a chapter on serving as a teaching assistant in large lectures classes with small discussions sections in collaboration with Donald T. McGuire, Jr.

Dig: History podcasting and public intellectualism

In October 2015, I led a group of colleagues to launch a history podcast. At the time we were naive early explorers in the possibilities that live in the Digital Humanities, but we knew one thing for sure: we wanted to connect a broad public audience to History - the kind of smart, deep-diving, (dare I say ‘digging in’) History that we’d been trained in. Publishing in paywall journals and through academic presses is not the way to that audience. A history podcast, though, could be. Nearly three years later we average 3000 downloads per week. Some episodes are syntheses of existing scholarship - effectively like the lectures we deliver in our courses. Some of the stories we decide to tell on our podcast haven’t been written yet, and require that we dig a little deeper to unearth the history. Creating a smart, funny, rigorously researched podcast is the bridge we’ve built between academia and the public. We can reach thousands - maybe, someday, millions - of people, all around the US and the world. While I’ll continue to engage in traditional circles of academic conversation, these kinds of public intellectualism projects are the core of my identity as a Teacher-Scholar.
NATHAN HESS, D.M.A.

Assistant Professor and Chair
D’Angelo Department of Music
Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences

Biography

Dr. Nathan Hess is Chair of the D’Angelo Department of Music and Assistant Professor of Music at Mercyhurst University. Nathan has performed throughout the US and Europe in solo, chamber, and concerto settings. He made his New York City debut at the Americas Society in Lukas Foss’s *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird*, and has appeared in concert at the American Liszt Society Festival, the Second Sunday Recital Series in Binghamton, NY, the College Music Society Northeast Regional Conference, the Steinway Society of Western PA, and at institutions such as Duke, West Chester University, and Duquesne. He performed in and produced the recordings for the textbook *Harmony in Context*, published by McGraw-Hill. He has a special interest in twentieth-and twenty-first century American music. Each August he teaches on the faculty at Rocky Ridge Music Center in Estes Park, CO, and he can be heard on the Centaur label in a recording with flutist Susan Royal and in a recording of Bach arias produced by the International Trumpet Guild. He earned his B.M. from James Madison University, and M.M. and D.M.A. from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Artistic Scholarship: The Life of a Performing Pianist

A significant portion of one’s scholarship as a university artist/professor is public performance. As a pianist, I am able to enjoy varied performance experiences in solo, concerto, and chamber music settings, both on and off campus, as well as recording projects, occasional conference presentations, and collaborations with our Dance Department and local orchestral ensembles. Opportunities abound to collaborate with students in the annual Composers Concert on campus, in local competitions, and in events such as National Water Dance. Keeping up my piano playing is directly related to maintaining effectiveness as a piano professor.
Nicholas P. Lang, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Geology
Co-Director, Environmental Science Program
Zurn College of Natural and Health Sciences

Biography

Dr. Nicholas Lang is an associate professor of geology at Mercyhurst University. Nick is fascinated by processes that effect planetary crusts wherever they exist in the solar system and the ultimate goal of his work is to better understand the external and internal workings of planetary bodies. He earned his B.A in Geology from Whitman College, his M.S. in Geology from Vanderbilt University, and his Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Minnesota. Prior to coming to Mercyhurst, Nick was a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at the University of Tennessee.

Integrating undergraduates into the research process: Thoughts based on a geologist’s rock’n time

Research experiences can be valuable learning opportunities for undergraduates. Undertaking a research project not only aids in a student’s professional development, but it also strongly shapes skillsets, knowledge bases, and perspectives on careers within their discipline. However, undergraduates are typically new to the research process, which can make involving them in professional research a challenging undertaking. Ten years of working with students on a variety of geology-focused research as both class-related and independent projects has shown that pedagogies applied in the classroom (e.g., think-pair-share, journaling, and gallery walks) are effective in teaching students research skills. Experience also shows that the largest degrees of student success will occur in a supportive and structured environment with clear direction and regular feedback from their mentor(s). Key to achieving student success is continual clear communication that includes setting both expectations and timelines. Creating a university culture where research experiences for undergraduates is embraced and supported can result in a further energized and engaged faculty as well as a student populace better prepared for post-graduation opportunities.
LAURA LEWIS, PH.D.

Professor, Faculty Field Advisor, and Chair
Department of Sociology and Social Work
Ridge College of Intelligence Studies and Applied Sciences

Biography

Dr. Laura Lewis is Professor and Chair of the Applied Sociology and Social Work Department at Mercyhurst University. She earned a B.A. in Political Science from Whitworth University, a Master’s of Counseling from Idaho State University, a Master’s of Social Work and Ph.D. in Social Welfare from the University of Pittsburgh. Her primary teaching areas are human behavior and the social environment, contemporary social problems, and social policy. Dr. Lewis has engaged in research on the topics of poverty and human service preparedness for dealing with gambling addiction. Social Workers as Game Changers: Confronting Complex Social Issues was published by SAGE in February of 2017. Since 2008 Dr. Lewis has been involved with a community-wide initiative she helped spearhead. The initiative, Erie Together, serves as a catalyst for fostering system alignment aimed at fostering opportunities for Erie County residents to learn, work, and thrive. Honors for Dr. Lewis include the 2001 Social Worker of the Year Award for Northwest Pennsylvania, the 2006 Women Making History Award presented to her by the Mercy Center for Women, and the 2010 Mercyhurst University Teaching Excellence Award.

Social Workers as Game Changers

The case method is widely used in social work education to challenge students to think critically about social issues, weigh the advantages and disadvantages of competing solutions, explore policy alternatives, and grapple with the unintended consequences of any decision. Social Workers as Game Changers: Confronting Complex Social Issues can be used across the social work curriculum, to increase student knowledge base about various topics while at the same time increasing their sense of efficacy in fulfilling their role in addressing complex social justice issues. Key topics included in this edition include racism, child welfare, immigration, end-of-life care, neighborhood development, homelessness, education, and mental health.
Celebration of Teacher-Scholars
Works of 2017

Books


Book Chapters/Monographs


Peer Reviewed Publications


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**Funded Grants**


Bell, E., Provost, J., Bell, J., Bell, A., Parente, A., Fox, K., Callahan, K., Christian, L., et. al. (2017) Malate Dehydrogenase Cures Community (MCC): A Protein-Centric Approach. Funds awarded by the National Science Foundation DUE-IUSE grant. Amount awarded: $598,666


**Juried Exhibitions & Performances**


Hubert, T. (2017). 94th Annual Spring Show, Erie Art Museum, Erie, PA

Hubert, T. (2017). 44th Annual Hoyt Regional, Hoyt Center for the Arts, New Castle, PA

Hubert, T. (2017). Naked & Refined Show, Clayarts Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

Hubert, T. (2017). 11th Annual Juried Exhibition, Goggleworks Center for the Arts, Reading, Pa

Hubert, T. (2017). Teapots VIII, Baltimore Clay Works, Baltimore, MD

Hubert, T. (2017). NPAA Holiday Show, Artlore Studio Gallery, Erie, PA

Hubert, T. (2017). Hot Tea, Symphony Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

Hubert, T. (2017). Something Fishy, Main Street Gallery, Girard, PA


Santillano S. (2017). Presented Tzigane at the American College Dance Association, University of Maryland at College Park, MD.

Santillano S. (2017). SoMar Dance Works was invited to perform for the first 501 fundraising gala on behalf of the Mercyhurst Institute for Arts & Culture, Erie, PA.

Santillano S. (2017). SoMar Dance Works was invited to perform at Mercyhurst University’s North East annual spring concert, North East, PA.

Santillano S. (2017). SoMar Dance Works was invited to create a 30 minute program/perform for the Lake Erie ArborEAT’em fundraiser, Erie PA.

Santillano S. (2017). SoMar Dance Works was invited to present at The Erie Art Museum’s spring fundraiser Artrageous, Erie, PA.
Invited Addresses


Lang, N.P. (2017), A Planetary Perspective on Volcanic Processes. Presented at weekly seminar series, Department of Geology, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, MN.

Conference Presentations


Garase, M. L. (2017). From Trauma Informed Care to Therapeutic Arts: A Mercyhurst University and Harborcreek Youth Services Collaborative Initiative. Presented at the Northeastern Association of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference, Bristol, RI.


Other Notable Accomplishments


Weaver, M.T. and Preston, E (2017) Travel Award from the Society for Transdisease, Decision Processes, & Therapeutics: Travel Award for Discovering debt: Evaluating the relationships between credit cards & impulsivity. Presented to the Inaugural Meeting of the Society for Transdisease, Decision Processes, & Therapeutics, Boston, MA.

Weaver, M.T. (2016). Chair of Western Pennsylvania Undergraduate Psychological Consortium.
Support

The Celebration of Scholar-Teachers was financially supported by Faculty Development Funds provided by The Hafenmaier College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, The Zurn College of Natural and Health Sciences, The Ridge College of Intelligence Studies and Applied Sciences, The Walker College of Business, as well as the Center for Teaching Excellence.

This year’s program and document were organized by the Faculty Scholarship Committee, including Benjamin Scharff, Kris Gossett, Karen Morahan, Michael Lamm, Jonathan Moser, Laura Lewis, Richard McCarty, Nicholas Lang, Solveig Santillano, and Matthew T. Weaver.

The faculty work presented in this document represent a list of 2016 scholarship accomplishments as voluntarily supplied by faculty members through an e-mail request. As such, we recognize that there is much more teacher-scholar work ongoing at Mercyhurst University than presented in this list, and thank all faculty for their continued commitment to their discipline the students, which ultimately upholds Mercyhurst’s reputation of faculty-student engagement.

Special thanks for Jennifer Verga, Alice Edwards, and Phil Belfiore for their efforts on this project.