

Academic Federation

Spring 2011

Excellence in Teaching & Research



AF Excellence in Teaching Award: Dr. Ali A. Daddel.

Dr. Ali Daddel was born in Iran. He completed the B.S. and M.S. Programs at Shiraz University in central Iran in 1980, and completed his PhD at the University of California at Davis in 1990. His research interest is in tiling and covering n-dimensional space. Dr. Daddel has taught in the Department of Mathematics at UC Davis since 1990; he also contributes to many other campus programs and gives lectures at teacher conferences for K-12 education. He has received departmental teaching

awards three times as well as many student recognition awards. He enjoys gardening, bike-riding, hiking, and photography, but teaching remains a life-long passion for Dr. Daddel.



AF Excellence in Teaching Award: Sam Nichols. Sam Nichols is a composer who lives and works in Northern California. He has received commissions from a number of ensembles and organizations, including the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble (twice), Earplay, and the Composers Conference at Wellesley College. He has also received awards from Composers, Inc. (2011 Lee Ettelson Award), the Third Millennium Ensemble, the University of Illinois, and the International Center for the Arts at San Francisco State University, among others. Born in Maine, he

attended Vassar College (BA, 1994) and Brandeis University (MA 1999, PhD 2006). He is a lecturer in the UC Davis Department of Music, and he also teaches in collaboration with the Technocultural Studies Program. This year, his string quartet *Refuge* won the 2011 Lee Ettelson Composer's Award. The same piece also received third prize in the Salvatore Martirano Memorial Composition Award, and third prize in the 2011 Third Millennium Ensemble Composition Competition.



AF Excellence in Research Award: Marilyn Townsend.

As a Cooperative Extension Nutrition Specialist, Dr. Townsend focuses her obesity prevention research on improving diets and physical activity of low-income families with special attention given to low-literate participants of USDA's food assistance/education programs. She has extensive experience in program evaluation, intervention development and assessment tool validation. She investigated mediators of behavior

change and the relationships among obesity, food insecurity, poverty and food costs. During the last 10 years, Dr. Townsend has published 60 peer-reviewed papers and has been the recipient of the Western Extension Directors Award, Jeanne Priester Health Education Award, Sustained Excellence in Extension Evaluation Award, and Dannon Institute Award for Community Nutrition. Dr. Townsend recently received a \$1.5 million NIFA grant to further her work.

Table of Contents

Excellence in
Teaching & Research
-----p.1

Faculty
Accomplishments
-----p.2-3

Letter from
the Chair
-----p.4

Travel Grants
-----p.4



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Faculty Accomplishments

John Boe's essay, "Poetry and the Writing of Prose," is just out in a new collection, *Composing Ourselves as Writer-Teacher-Writers: Starting with Wendy Bishop*. John presented the 2010 Donald Murray prize for the best essay on writing or teaching writing published in 2010, at the annual meeting of the Special Interest Group for Creative Nonfiction. Along with California State Senator Leland Yee, Boe was made an Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honour Society and gave a keynote address at the Golden Key New Member Recognition Event in January. His article, "Don't Call Me Professor," was published in the Winter 2011 issue of the journal *Pedagogy*. The article can be downloaded at: <http://pedagogy.dukejournals.org/current.dtl>. Boe recently played Mark Twain in Ruth Stotter's play, *Four of a Kind*; he also played a deadhead in a staged reading of *Older Than Dead*. A new book on *Cymbeline* is forthcoming. Although he has just retired from the University Writing Program, John will continue to serve on the editorial board of *Writing on the Edge* for the University.

Matthew C. Bronson (Ph. D.) has held a number of achievements over the past year. In addition to his recent paper, "Tick-Talk: Teaching Grammar of Time and Consciousness" (March 2011), Bronson served as a panel organizer in "Beyond the Rainbow: Strategies for Social Justice and Inclusion at the Institutional, Departmental and Classroom Levels" for the 3rd Academic Resource Conference, Western Association of Schools and Colleges in San Francisco, CA (April 2011). Bronson also spoke at numerous events: "Seeding Change: The Language of Spirit Dialogues" for Foundation for Global Humanity (featured film speaker); 12th Language of Spirit Dialogue in Albuquerque, NM (keynote speaker: August 2010); "Whiteness as Trance: Exploring White Privilege in Hypnotherapy" with Leslie Gray for Milton H. Erickson Institute of the Bay Area in Larkspur, CA (workshop presenter: January 2011); and "(Re)vamping the Queerriculum: Lessons from Teaching Language and Sexuality" with Gregory Ward for Expanding the Circle Conference in San Francisco, CA (special invited session: March 2011).

The Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program is pleased to welcome two new Lecturers. **Mark Christiansen**, PhD, PA-C, joined the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program on last January. Dr. Christiansen has extensive experience as a practicing PA and physician assistant educator, most recently as the Associate Program Director of the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) Physician Assistant Program. His clinical experience is primarily in rural family medicine, and he was actively involved in a student-run clinic at UNMC that served a primarily medically indigent urban population. Dr. Christiansen will also join the clinical faculty at the Family Practice Clinic.

Alex Clerfond, MPH, PA-C joined the faculty of the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program last November. She comes to the FNP/PA Program after 3 years as a Lecturer and consultant on PA education at James Cook University School of Medicine and Dentistry (JCU) in Queensland, Australia. At JCU, she worked with educators to develop a physician assistant program modeled after graduate PA programs in the US. Ms. Clerfond's interests include infectious disease, immigrant and farmworker health and equality in healthcare. She served as a Peace Corp volunteer in Haiti and Jamaica, and as a human rights monitor with the Organization of American States/United Nations in Haiti. Ms. Clerfond has 10 years of experience as a primary care PA and will practice in the Family Practice Clinic.

Faculty Accomplishments

Brad Henderson's poetry book manuscript, *The Secret Cowboy: the Life and Times of the Rebel Poet Beau Hamel*, recently placed as a semi-finalist in the University of Arkansas Press's prestigious Miller Williams Poetry Prize, one of the nation's top contests. Set in the "New Golden West"—the Sacramento foothills, Los Angeles outskirts, and the Modoc high desert—Henderson's narrative-in-verse takes readers on a spiritual journey from childhood through middle age crisis, during which the story's hero adopts various personae—boyish treasure hunter, gritty rancher, suburban misfit, blues-rock drummer, corporate yuppie, desperate addict, and ultimately the artist-alter ego, "Beau Hamel." Pre-publication praise includes this tribute by John Amen, editor of the *Pedestal Magazine*: "With *The Secret Cowboy*, Brad Henderson [AKA, Beau Hamel] has forged a contemporary myth, an *Iliad* and *Odyssey* for the 21st Century reader, addressing the literal and symbolic roles of the American cowboy, the freedom seeker, the wild one, in a society largely disassociated from both nature and its pioneering roots." A selection of sample poems from the manuscript is available in Henderson's chapbook, *Speed, Horse-sweat, and Unboxed Sky* (Oak Meadows Press). A continuing lecturer for the University Writing Program, Henderson was recently granted membership into the Authors Guild of America. The Guild recognized distinguishable promise in Henderson's creative nonfiction project, a memoir-in-progress, *The Tick-tock, Type-type Tortoise Man: a frustrated writer's ill-fated quest to "make it big" by the time he turns 50*.

Kristine Himmerick, MS, MPAS, PA-C, Lecturer in the Family Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant Program, Family & Community Medicine, has been appointed to a 3-year term on the editorial board of the *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants* (JAAPA). JAAPA is the only peer-reviewed journal specifically targeting the physician assistant profession. JAAPA editors review manuscripts, write articles for publication, and promote scholarship in the profession through the development of topics and potential authors. An accomplished scholar, Ms. Himmerick is author of two award winning peer-reviewed publications.

Oliver Kreylos, Institute for Data Analysis and Visualization, won the 2011 Innovations in Networking Award from the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California. Dr. Kreylos has successfully developed 3D video capture and transmission in his innovative research work using the new Microsoft Kinect game controller. The winning project, "Tele-Immersion for Physicians," enables medical professionals to interact efficiently via advanced networks.

D.R. Wagner (continuing lecturer, Design Department) released a new book of poetry last April. The book, *A Limited Means of Expression*, will be published by Rattlesnake Press, Pollack Pines, Ca. Wagner has been teaching in the Design Department since 1988 and has published over 20 books of poetry. He teaches an Honors Challenge Class (Poetry By Design) at UCD as well as numerous classes for the design department.



Thank you for reading this issue of the Academic Federation newsletter. Serving as the Chair of the Federation this year has been a rewarding and enlightening experience for me at UC Davis. I came to Davis as an undergraduate student in 1987 and have been a member of the Academic Federation since 1998. I have experienced several of the many UC academic titles that we try to fit into when we are not Professors – Professional Researcher, Academic Coordinator, Project Scientist, and currently Academic Administrator. While I have always been comfortable in my role within my laboratory, I have often felt a little lost, and sometimes invisible, in the campus community of faculty, staff, students, and alumni. I suspect many of you have experienced similar feelings. I am thankful for having had the opportunity to serve on the Federation Executive Council for the past three years to discover this great community of similar people across the entire campus.

The Academic Federation represents the interests of salaried, non-Senate academic personnel at UC Davis. There are around 1300 members in 2011, nearly double the number from a decade ago. We are spread out among 22 different, and widely varying, titles and across all colleges and schools. The Federation as an organization can be a resource for information and collaboration for members that may not have access to such resources within their individual unit. I encourage you to reach out to other federation members for mentorship and advice. We have volunteers that contact most new federation appointees to offer mentorship, and you should feel free to contact members of the AF leadership with any questions, concerns, or suggestions. We may put you in touch with a mentor in your series, or we may encourage you to become involved with an AF committee. Either way, you will become a more engaged member of the campus community.

This spring Provost Hexter is forming a Working Group on the Role of the Academic Federation in Achieving the Vision of Excellence. This working group will be looking at:

- What are the roles of Federation employees in achieving the Vision of Excellence? How are these roles changing today? How can they be expected to change in the future?
- What concerted efforts by the campus are necessary to ensure that Federation members are enabled to fully contribute to the Vision of Excellence?
- What campus policies, procedures, and practices facilitate the contributions of Federation employees?
- What campus policies, procedures, and practices are obstacles—or may become obstacles in time?

As chair of the Federation I have had several occasions to interact with Chancellor Katehi and Provost Hexter. I have found both to be exciting leaders for our campus and to be engaged partners with the Academic Federation. I am excited to see this working group started, and I am hopeful it will amplify our role within the campus community. Please think about what this working group means to you and send your comments to me.

-Dan Wilson

Apply For Travel Grants!

Travel grant awards are available to support qualified AF members in presenting results of their research at conferences and professional meetings with high visibility. Funding may be used only for travel to national or international professional meetings for oral or poster presentation of original research of one's own scholarship where the applicant is a major contributor. Awards are limited in value to \$800. All AF titles are eligible except those on leave without pay or in appointments less than 50%. Applications are accepted on a continuing basis, and must be received at least two weeks prior to the planned event. In view of the recent Governor's budget proposal, a reduction in the overall grant budget for 2011-12 is expected. As awards are made until funds are depleted, you are advised to plan ahead. For further details, see: <http://academicfederation.ucdavis.edu/documents/Travel-Grant-Call-2011-2012.pdf>.