



# ROUNDTABLE

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### **2008 Research and Creativity Award goes to Holcomb**

Dr. Gary Holcomb, Associate Professor in the department of English, has received the 2008 President's Award for Research and Creativity. This award was established in 1996 to honor and recognize research, scholarly activity, or creative endeavors. The individual receiving this award must be peer-nominated and is selected by a subcommittee of the ESU Faculty Research and Creativity Committee.

Dr. Holcomb received his Ph.D. in English at Washington State University in May 1995 and came to ESU in 2000. Since then he has authored and co-authored many refereed journal articles and essays on Claude McKay and on black renaissance scholarship. His recently published book, *Claude McKay, Code Name Sasha: Queer Black Marxism and the Harlem Renaissance*, has become a "sensation in several areas of literary studies," as stated by a colleague. It won honorable mention for the 2007 Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights Book Award.

In addition to furthering scholarship and study in this area, his research has led to many invited lectures and the opportunity to co-edit collections and scholarly books on this topic. Most notably was his invited book launch lecture at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York, NY. According to a colleague, "in Black Studies, it is considered a singular honor to be invited to speak at the Schomburg, the nation's leading African American studies research institute."

Dr. Holcomb is also co-editor with William J. Maxwell on *The Claude McKay Reader for the Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the Americas Series*, due to be published in 2009 by Rutgers University Press.

The impact of his book is further evidenced by the formation of the Claude McKay Society, which will have an international membership and an academic journal. Dr. Holcomb's continuing research in this area has led to efforts to apply Black Renaissance scholarship to canonical literatures, which like the McKay book, "has begun to change the conversation in American and Modernist literary studies," according to colleague Amy Sage Webb.

Dr. Holcomb was a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies in Bucharest in 1998-1999, served as a Senior Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies and Literature in Romania in 2004-2005, and was a Fulbright Senior Specialist in American Studies in Germany during the summer of 2006. He has developed prestigious relationships with international universities and scholars, as evidenced by his lecture tour of eastern German universities in 2005, which was arranged by the American Consulate in Germany and Fulbright-Germany.

In addition to his exemplary research and scholarship, he is an inspiration to his students, many of whom embark on careers in literary research and criticism at some of the most prestigious universities in the world.

Dr. Holcomb was honored at the Research and Creativity Forum award ceremony held in the Colonial Ballroom on Thursday, April 10. He will receive \$1,000, an engraved plaque, and his name will be added to the annual plaque on display in the President's suite in Plumb Hall.

## **WHO, WHAT, WHEN AND WHERE**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Dr. Darla Mallein**, assistant professor, Social Sciences Department, was recently selected to serve on the Praxis Social Studies National Advisory Council. In February Dr. Mallein attended a meeting in Trenton, New Jersey, where council members worked with Educational Testing Service personnel to create the knowledge statements that will serve as the basis for the revised secondary social studies content test questions.

**Mary McDaniel**, assistant director, Student Wellness for Health Services, was elected President of the Central College Health Association at their annual conference March 12-14. Central College Health Association is an affiliate of the American College Health Association and its membership consists of college health professionals from Kansas, Nebraska, and Missouri. Others from ESU in attendance were Jaque Schmidt, Lori Boline, Mary Fry, Linda Ulrey, and Helena Stormont. Convenience

### **CONFERENCES**

**George E. Head, Jr.**, multimedia specialist, Technology and Computing Services, attended the annual HDI Conference in Dallas, Texas, March 9-12, 2008.

**Jill Megredy**, education support tech, Technology and Computing Services, attended and participated in the Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers conference held March 24-28 in Orlando, Florida.

### **HONORS**

**Dr. Philip Coleman-Hull**, director, Study Abroad & International Student Services, served as the State Whip for the state of Kansas at NAFSA's annual Advocacy Day. Hull also met with personnel in the offices of Senators Brownback and Roberts and Rep. Jerry Moran to discuss legislation related to International Education on March 11-13.

## INTERVIEWS

**Dr. Ken Weaver**, professor/chair, Psychology and Special Education Department, was interviewed on the relationship between memory and emotion for the Albanian publication *Psikologji*. The interview appeared on pp. 42-44 of the February-March 2008 issue.

## PANELS

**Dr. Marshall Sundberg**, professor, Biological Sciences Department, participated in the National Science Foundation/Graduate Research Fellowship Program review panel on February 3-5 in Washington D.C. Sundberg was part of the Plant and Animal and other sciences panel that read and ranked more than 400 proposals submitted by seniors and first and second year graduate students from around the country and internationally.

**Dr. Marshall Sundberg**, professor, Biological Sciences Department, visited the Department of Biological Sciences at Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA, from February 13-16 as an external reviewer for their program assessment.

## PRESENTATIONS

**Janette (Jan) C. Borst**, instructor, Sociology and Anthropology Department, attended the Midwest Sociological Society's Annual Conference in St. Louis, March 27-28, where she presented "Our Kids Are Going Buy-Buy: Children and Youth as Consumers."

**Dr. Marcus Childress**, professor & chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, presented, "Facing the Facts about Social Networking Sites" at the National Technology Conference of the National Social Science Association (NSSA), Las Vegas, NV, in April, 2008.

**Dr. Marcus Childress**, professor & chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology and **Junyi Duan**, graduate assistant, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, presented, "PowerPoint vs. the Brain" at the National Technology Conference of the National Social Science Association (NSSA), Las Vegas, NV in April, 2008.

**Dr. Marcus Childress**, professor & chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, and **Xiaolei Li**, graduate assistant, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, presented, "Second Life: A Virtual World for Learning" at the National Technology Conference of the National Social Science Association (NSSA), Las Vegas, NV in April, 2008.

**Dr. Philip Coleman-Hull**, director, Study Abroad & International Student Services, was a co-presenter at a session on the NAFSA Academy at the Spring Kansas International Educators Conference held at ESU. Julia Helminiak, Pittsburg State University, and Coleman-Hull discussed their involvement in the program and, for prospective candidates, how to apply.

**Dr. Janet Holland**, assistant professor, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, presented, "Creating 360 Degree Virtual Objects for Online Presentations" at the National Technology Conference of the National Social Science Association, Las Vegas, NV in April, 2008.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Dr. Gerrit W. Bleeker**, Dean of Graduate Studies, and **Barbara Bleeker**, instructor, Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education, wrote a manuscript entitled "Literary Landscapes: Using Young Adult Literature to Foster a Sense of Place and Self" that appeared in the Winter 2008 periodical, *The Alan Review*, published by the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents of the National Council of Teachers of English.

**Dr. Jane Eberle**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Marcus Childress**, professor & chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, published "Heutagogy: It isn't your mother's pedagogy, any more," in the *National Social Science Journal*, 28(1), 28-32, 2007.

**Dr. Gary Holcomb**, associate professor, Department of English, published "Fly Fishing Romania" in *Exquisite Corpse: A Journal of Letters and Life* on March 24, 2008. On-line Special "Resurrection" Issue: <http://www.corpse.org/content/view/33/36/>.

**Dr. Janet Holland**, assistant professor, and **Dr. Marcus Childress**, professor & chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology, published, "Conversation theory conceptualized in e-learning environments" in R. Luppigini (Ed.), *Handbook of Conversation Design for Instructional Application* (pp. 80-89). Hershey, PA: Information Science Reference.

**Dr. Kevin Johnson**, associate professor, Business Administration and Education Department, and **Dr. Zane Swanson**, Accounting and Information Systems Department, published, "Quantifying Legal Risk: A Method for Managing Legal Risk," in *Management Accounting Quarterly*, Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 2008.

**Dr. Ken Weaver**, professor/chair, Psychology and Special Education Department, published, "Leadership Development and Strategies for Engaging Students" in *Eye on Psi Chi*, 2008, volume 12, number 3, pp. 26-31.

**Brian Winrow**, assistant professor, Business Administration and Education Department, published, "Personal Protection: Vicarious Liability as Applied to the Various Business Structures," in *Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health*, Vol. 53, No. 2, March/April 2008, pp. 146 - 149.

## TRAINING

**Dr. Philip Coleman-Hull**, director, Study Abroad & International Student Services, completed a year-long training program through NAFSA called the NAFSA Academy. It is a competitive

program designed to train and educate international educators, notably in the areas of office management, advocacy, strategic planning, as well as in more specific job-related areas.

### **EMPLOYMENT SEARCH**

For current job listings, please visit: **<http://www.emporia.edu/esu/searches.htm>**

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