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by Dean Peter Hawkes

My former professor Lionel Trilling wrote a short story, “Of This Time, Of That Place,” about an instructor teaching a composition course at a college in the Midwest. The story was published in 1943, but Trilling could have been writing about today:

Academic time moves quickly. A college year is not really a year, lacking as it does three months. And it is endlessly divided into units which, at their beginning, appear larger than they are—terms, half-terms, months, weeks. And the ultimate unit, the hour, is not really an hour, lacking as it does ten minutes.

As familiar as this schedule is, some things have changed that Trilling could not have imagined.

Where Trilling taught face-to-face courses, today we are concerned with online learning. We talk of MOOCs, flipped classrooms, and hybrid classes.

Trilling may have reviewed the class after it was done and made notes on improving the readings or the lectures, but today our college is involved in a culture of assessment. The faculty determine student learning outcomes for the university, map courses to them, and use direct and indirect measures to see if the outcomes are achieved. If they are not, faculty make changes to the curriculum based on evidence.

Where Trilling was primarily concerned with his interactions as instructor with his students, the modern university has expanded its attention to services beyond the classroom. Student Life is seen as co-curricular in its many contributions to the personal growth of students. There are student support services—everything from disability services to tutoring to career services. And there are many educational opportunities outside the classroom: service learning, travel abroad, and faculty-guided undergraduate research.

Our arts and sciences students face many challenges. One of the most difficult is the cost of higher education. Dwindling state support for public universities means higher tuition. The shift in costs from state to student results in growing student debt. While ESU is pleased with its affordability as compared to private schools, our students still need financial help. Please think about making a gift to student scholarships in the College of Arts & Sciences. Go to the ESU website, click on “Alumni,” and then “Giving Opportunities.” Select on the left “College of Arts & Sciences Scholarships” and follow directions for making a gift.

As we advance into ESU’s 120th year, we continue to celebrate the College’s rich history. The following pages highlight some of the past year’s activities. I believe Trilling would have found in this report testimony to the intellectual vitality of our students, faculty, and programs.
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New Insights Into U.S. Civil War Prisons

The History Department’s Dr. Michael Gray is an expert on the military prisons of the American Civil War. Below, he shares some information about his past and future research projects.

How did you become interested in the Civil War?

My parents took our family to historical sites at a young age and I really liked learning outside the classroom. As I developed as a student, I always appreciated history, especially how the Civil War touched Americans near and far away from the battlefields.

You specialize in the history of military prisons during the Civil War. What are the two or three most intriguing aspects for us to know today about those institutions of a century and a half ago?

With the more than 150 prisons established during the conflict, these facilities were extremely diverse in nature, with economies and markets developing inside and outside stockade walls. For example, captives spent countless hours crafting trinkets (such as rings or chains) from wood and bone that would be given to the prison guards (the enemy), who in turn would sell it to local citizens. Both parties profited, as the prisoners and guards split the proceeds, helping inmates improve their chances of survival since they could purchase additional food or clothing from the sutler. Meanwhile, guards earning the extra spending money might use it off-duty.

All aspects of the prison host economy might be affected, for example at Elmira in upstate New York, Union guards were brought to that city and would go into the city when off-duty—with 12,000 POWs and the guard force, Elmira’s local population of 15,000 doubled, bringing heavy profits to the area.

Prisoners became nervous when they heard building outside the prison walls that resulted in a large tower being erected—Southern captives thought Northern authorities were going to place heavy guns on it to watch over, if not threaten, them. However, a sign was soon placed on the structure that read “Observation Deck to View Prisoners, Admission 15 cents, Refreshments Served Below.” The local Elmiran who built the two-deck observation tower directly across the street also provided spyglasses for his patrons so one might see the “filth and vermin” on the Southern captives. If one observatory was not enough, a second tower was built alongside, a deck higher and five cents cheaper. Even more competition grew as booths popped up near the observatories selling beer, liquor, and snacks. The carnival-like atmosphere prompted one Confederate captive to wryly complain that he was surprised that President Abraham Lincoln did not take the prisoners out of the stockade and load them onto caravans and take them throughout the countryside “turning an honest penny of the show. Patriotism is spelled with a ‘y’ at the end of the first syllable up here.”

What do researchers like you know about Civil War prisons today that was not known to the general public when the war ended in 1865?

Maybe one of the best examples of such profiting is the story of John W. Jones, who escaped slavery in the 1840s, settled in Elmira, and found a job as a sexton at the local cemetery. When in the prison was established and the pen produced its first Confederate death, Union authorities approached Jones to see if he would bury the dead man, as well as others who might succumb. Jones agreed, but rather than take a monthly fee from $30 to $60 per month, Jones negotiated a per burial rate of $2.50. By war’s end, some 3,000 Rebel captives died, earning Jones more than $7,000, and also the reputation of one of the wealthiest African-Americans in his part of the state. He ended up burying one of the sons of his former owner, who enlisted in Virginia.

You’ve just published an article about a sort of tourism involving day-trippers visiting—at a safe distance—the Northern-located military prisons that held high-ranking Southern officers. It all sounds strange. Can you please tell us about it?

Yes, this is a chapter in my upcoming Johnson’s Island book. It will first appear in the scholarly book Union Heartland: The Midwestern Home Front during the Civil War as an essay entitled “Captivating Captives: An Excursion to Johnson’s Island Prison.” Johnson’s Island Prison, near Sandusky, Ohio, in Lake Erie, had one of the lowest death rates, at less than two percent. Whereas Elmira was an enlisted men’s stockade, Johnson’s Island confined mostly officers. Initial examination into Johnson’s Island has yielded me some interesting finds, just as Elmira had done. The Northern home front was intrigued, especially with having these more gentrified prisoners in their proverbial backyard since Johnson’s Island incarcerated many high-profile Confederate generals. I found steamboat “excursion parties” would travel to the island and anchor up nearby for a glimpse—moreover, such excursions were not localized to the Sandusky area, but rather larger Lake Erie ports, from Detroit to Toledo to Cleveland, and from as far as Buffalo, New York. For the nominal fee that ranged from 50 cents to a dollar,
excursionists would be provided food, drink, and live entertainment. After anchoring nearby, spyglasses were provided to the onlookers, who would also sing patriotic songs at their Southern brethren as a reminder to where their loyalties should lay.

I utilized contemporary newspaper accounts in the Midwest, prisoner diaries from all over the South, and records at the National Archives and smaller state repositories. I found some other interesting facets during my seven years of research, focusing on the diversity of the prison population. The steamboat excursionists had the opportunity to see an extremely diverse prison population, from slaves who were captured with their white masters and allowed into the stockade to serve them, to a Cherokee native in the pen, as well as at least one woman. She had dressed up as a man to serve in the Confederate army, but subsequently gave birth and was discovered. Still other angles will be developed for publication, but there is definitely more of societal spin to this book, something I hope to come close to finishing writing during an upcoming sabbatical.

**What’s next for your Civil War research?**

I was recently named series editor with University of Tennessee Press’ Voices of the Civil War collection that uses primary sources to tell Civil War stories through the contemporaries’ words. So I have to continue researching, editing, and then writing forwards to this series (which already has 53 books out) in addition to writing my Johnson’s Island micro-monograph. I was in Chicago recently, and also have an article in the pipeline about a Civil War prison in that city.

The battlefields of Gettysburg lie not too far from the ESU campus. This year is the sesquicentennial of that pivotal and horrible battle. Could you please tell us how a non-expert of the Civil War could most profitably visit this battlefield? What sort of preparation might be helpful before reaching the site?

Any background reading on the battle, or themes from the battle, would be very helpful. This might seem crazy, but before you go briefly watch a football game and focus on offensive and defensive lines. If you understand how they operate, you will understand why the North won at Gettysburg. In fact, whether it is my graduate-level Civil War Sites class or young students, when I teach at this site I bring a football, line them up, and then show them the importance of interior lines, which mimics a football team’s offensive line, protecting a quarterback or running back. The Union position at Gettysburg formed a fishhook pattern which can resemble a football team’s offensive line and when put into motion pulling players left or right, like linemen protecting the ball carrier, translates to the Union troops protecting their flanks when they were attacked by the Confederates, who held the exterior/defensive lines. Also, when you get to the Park, take your time. Gettysburg is the benchmark of Civil War battles in the eastern theatre, so break the battle up into segments as you tour the site. Start off at the new visitors’ center, and take advantage of the National Park Rangers giving presentations or tours if you can. It is nearly impossible to take in Gettysburg in a single day, so try focusing on a specific day of the battle or a theme. Ideally, it is worth staying overnight. Remember that the battle line was about a three-mile-long front, so take more than one circle around the park. Investigate the monuments as much as the battle strategy, and you will notice a “second Civil War” that erupted long after the conflict, with Southern and Northern states trying to outdo each other in war memory. I really stress this in my Interpreting Civil War Sites class; the “monumentation” of Gettysburg National Battlefield Park might be a trip on its own.

Dr. Gray remains fully engaged in the discovery and exploration of hidden facets of Civil War prisons. He recently wrote a new introduction to History of Andersonville Prison (University Press of Florida) and intends to complete his second scholarly monograph shortly. It is a book-length treatment of the Johnson’s Island prison, tentatively titled Captivating Captives. He also continues as series editor for the Voices of the Civil War collection of the University of Tennessee Press. His recent uncovering of information in an archival collection in Chicago might, he believes, shed new light on how a military prison in that Midwestern city operated during the war.
A Lesson in Sustainability: A Professor Converts Activism into Art

The Art Department’s Prof. Darlene Farris-LaBar is a talented and accomplished artist, raised in East Stroudsburg. In the past year she has presented or published work in China, Colombia, London and Sweden, among other locations. Farris-LaBar believes one of the best perks of being at East Stroudsburg University is being able to “enjoy the colors of the seasons, the vibrancy of its nature, and the beauty of its landscape.” Her passion for nature transcends typical rhetoric and becomes the focal point of all her art.

She didn’t always intend it this way. In fact, as a young artist in New York City, Farris-LaBar says she struggled to find her identity. Inspiration, she found, always seemed to bring her back to nature. It was then that Farris-LaBar embraced her muse and accepted the challenge to make others “wake up and see things we don’t normally see.” She aims to help uncover the “worlds within worlds” that are all around us. Farris-LaBar laments that too many of us “go through the landscape and don’t get out and experience it.”

“Water Has No Boundaries,” one of Farris-LaBar’s latest sculptures, was presented at The Phillips Museum in Lancaster, PA, during the fall of 2012. The theme of the piece is water protection. This large-scale sculpture was made from fencing material. From plain sight the sculpture appears to be a mangled fence lifting off the ground. It is composed of over 1,000 individually labeled glass bottles filled with water collected from 60 different locations in and around the Pocono Mountains. When given a closer look, the visual created is that of a flowing stream. The glass bottles catch the light in a way that makes the sculpture glisten and glow. There is a warmth and grace to the piece, despite being made of iron and glass. As the fence carefully slopes up and down, Prof. Farris-LaBar’s inspiration becomes tangible; she says “what affects water in one place, will affect it later on downstream.” Whether we are talking about overdevelopment, water pollution, or fracking, Prof. Farris-LaBar wants the public to “be aware, wake up, and protect what we have.”

“Mountains for Insects” is a large-scale landscape using recycled flowerpots from a golf course. In this piece, Farris-LaBar created a small, cascading hill of differently colored flowers, soils, and rocks. The vibrancy of the yellow and purple blossoms and dark soil create an earthy and mystical scene. Each pot becomes a small window into a different world and illustrates her idea of worlds within worlds. Each pot is the home of a unique set of flowers, a unique ecosystem within its soil; these ecosystems depend on and thrive off one another. As the small hill slopes upward, Farris-LaBar once again gives voice and solid distinction to an abstract and ambiguous subject. She says “the piece represents land masses and territories. A small hill for humans yet a mountain for insects. The investigation raises questions of whose land is it?”

Through her art, Farris-LaBar wishes to communicate and spread awareness of not just nature’s beauty but of its importance. Most of her work begins as scholarly research about the science behind nature. Her work combines science, aesthetics, and technique to create a model that communicates environmental activism.
To me, art can be used as a vehicle to support global communication and understanding of environmental matters. My art is designed to embody the results of research through environmental interaction and the studying of land management, water conservation, and a variety of eco-systems such as spring peeper frogs from vernal pools, fiddler crabs from marshland and bees that pollinate the grand earth. I hope to influence public awareness towards environmental and sustainability concerns. Unfortunately, not enough populations find a connection and the need to respect the environment. As people become more distant to our land, techniques such as art are needed to bring communities and the environment together. Today, fast lifestyles leave little ethical and moral practices towards the respect and preservation of our lands.

Through my art, it is crucial for me to shift my audience’s experience about the environment and transform the way they value it so they will also support environmental protection. They come in the form of art installations that use media such as sculpture, video, sound, graphic design, illustration and photography. The creation of my work requires scholarly research concerning the health of our natural surroundings and the vulnerable species that influence our future existence. Research and discovery breaks the initial layer and provides me the chance to see more of my world while enhancing a new understanding of worlds within worlds. These forms are metaphorically composed of specific materials and media into sculptures that represent or challenge reality. Combining science, aesthetics, and technique, a reality is modeled in ways that communicate environmental activism. My work is designed to embody the results of research through environmental interaction and the studying of a variety of eco-systems such as spring peeper frogs from vernal pools, fiddler crabs from marshland and bees that pollinate the grand earth. These vulnerable species have large roles in the world we all thrive, during a critical point in time, with our planet currently existing in a fragile ecological state.

Above all it is important for her to educate the public on environmental matters that will affect us all before it is too late.

One of the professor’s biggest challenges is to be true to her resolve for sustainability. She works tirelessly to ensure the materials she uses in her work are not jeopardizing our ecosystem, while at the same time not sacrificing her creativity. “Today, more than ever, there is a need for newer tools of communication to address major environmental and sustainability problems.” Through her art she hopes to raise awareness and help be the change our environment so desperately needs.

Prof. Farris-LaBar’s current work involves 3D scanning native plants in the protected and conserved land of the Pocono Region and then using 3D Printing Technology to replicate the plants into sculptures. Frozen in time, the sculptures will unveil the form, character and beauty of very specific plants. An East Stroudsburg University’s FDR Major Grant is supporting this newest body of work. The sculptures will be exhibited both at the International Exhibition of Art and Nature at the Sao Paulo University of Brazil in the spring of 2014 and the Madelon Powers Gallery at East Stroudsburg University in the fall of 2014.

**Artist’s Statement**

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A poster used to advertise Dr. Noam Chomsky’s campus lecture.
An Icon in Abeloff: Noam Chomsky Visits ESU

On February 6, 2013, Dr. Noam Chomsky (Institute Professor and Professor of Linguistics Emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) spoke at ESU. The Philosophy Department’s Dr. Peter Pruim, who arranged the lecture, recounts the visit for us here.

How did you arrange for Dr. Noam Chomsky to give a talk in Abeloff Auditorium?

Happening upon an opportunity to bring Noam Chomsky to ESU was as unexpected as finding a unicorn in the garden. My class had been enthusiastically discussing Chomsky’s classic text, Reflections on Language, when one of our Philosophy majors, John Christmann, proposed we should invite Dr. Chomsky to speak at ESU. I was touched at this naïveté as I explained that Chomsky is a world-renowned figure, a titan in multiple disciplines, and an international political activist, so, not likely to be passing through the Poconos. But John persisted, telling us Chomsky was engaged to speak in northern Pennsylvania, at Lehigh University. The students buzzed, so I gave them another dose of reality, “Even so, a person of his stature commands the highest speaker’s fee—$30,000, maybe more.” John shook me off, “No, he no longer asks a fee.” No way! What seconds ago was preposterous was now entirely plausible. Noam Chomsky, MIT Emeritus Professor, father of modern linguistics, the most frequently cited living scholar, public intellectual, social critic, and political activist could, should, and, incredibly, would come to East Stroudsburg University.

What sort of preplanning did it involve?

This opportunity became a reality only because many at ESU eagerly pitched in. Seventeen departments each scoured budgets to find small contributions. Faculty gave presentations to introduce their students to Dr. Chomsky’s ideas, influence, and stature. The Graphics Center created a stunning poster, and student volunteers posted flyers everywhere.

How was the turnout for the talk?

Colossal! The Abeloff Center filled to its 890-seat capacity, with a hundred or more people still waiting outside. For them we screened the video recording the next evening. In fifteen years I have not seen a turnout on this scale.

At the risk of forcing you into having to provide an unfairly short summary, what did Dr. Chomsky have to say to the ESU community? What was his central message or theme?

His lecture was “Public Education and the Common Good,” a great subject for ESU students and educators. His thesis was that “one of the great achievements of American democracy has been the introduction of mass public education, from children to advanced research universities. […] Public education is under serious attack, one component of the attack on any rational and humane concept of the Common Good... (in ways that) spell disaster for the species.”

Chomsky contrasted vividly present-versus-past conceptions of the nature of education and its value to society. Universities traditionally were conceived along principles from the Enlightenment era, with Liberal Arts and Humanities as the core, and creative inquiry and social progress as the mission. Today these are challenged by pressures for professional skills. Chomsky attributed these pressures to the unfortunate “new spirit of the age: gain wealth, forgetting all but self.” He urged that, while important for each individual in one dimension of his or her life, these are not enough to support a great society: one that values justice, respects the debt owed to history, appreciates the best of its past, and can exercise its capabilities wisely. Education directed at such outcomes may claim to be part of the “Common Good,” good not just for the individual, but for all in society.

How do you feel ESU students responded to Dr. Chomsky’s talk? What did they gain from his visit?

I was impressed by our students. Not all knew of Chomsky, but all had seen their professors excited, so they were curious. And remarkably, they
listened attentively for two hours, even though before them on stage was an 82-year-old stranger, speaking quietly and deliberately, without slides or pictures—but speaking seriously to them about important issues. Interest intensified when Chomsky spoke about today’s students facing unprecedented debt. He took them through facts, policies, politics, histories, ideologies, and even philosophy. For our students to witness such a broad, deep, knowledgeable analysis of an issue so real to them was a great experience.

What was it like for you to host an international celebrity on campus? Were you intimidated? Were the students intimidated?

I was more nervous during the preparations. On the early morning drive to pick him up from Bethlehem, my mouth grew dry as I approached his motel. In the lobby I watched him check out, giving the name “Noam Chomsky.” Hearing that shot up my heart rate (though the clerk was unfazed). To calm myself, I imagined being back in graduate school, talking to just another prof. But soon he put me at ease with his kind manner. As we rode he asked about changes in the region since he had been here decades ago—he grew up in Philadelphia and had worked summers as camp counselor in the Poconos.

Other very famous people make campus speeches, such as A-list actors, titans of industry, and former Presidents. How do you think Chomsky’s visit was similar to theirs? And different?

Unlike those speakers, Noam Chomsky is primarily an intellectual. Even his linguistic science is pure research. And its impact is on the state of our knowledge, understanding who and what we are. Others command more power, celebrity, and wealth, yet I surmise a hundred years from now people will still know of Professor Chomsky.

As a philosophy professor, you have studied Dr. Chomsky’s body of work for a long time. Did the real-life Dr. Chomsky surprise you in any way? If so, how?

He speaks with the same elegance and clarity as he writes. What I did not anticipate was that, despite his enormous reputation, he would be so unaffected. He has a kind heart and humble manner. From the way he talked about his own colleagues, students, his wife, and his children, it strikes me he has made a deliberate choice not to let reputation disrupt his relations with people. Spending a full day with him was a joy.
I understand that Dr. Chomsky met with people for quite some time after his talk had officially ended. What did people want from him?

Even though he had been on his feet speaking two hours, he stayed another hour to meet individually with students and people from the audience. He gave each person in a very long line his time and attention.

I understand that you saw Dr. Chomsky speak many years ago when you were a graduate student. How, if at all, have Dr. Chomsky and his ideas changed in that period?

Chomsky has two careers, the political activist and the cognitive scientist, and the latter is what I've studied. He has continuously expanded his theories on language acquisition and universal grammar from the formulations in the 1950s until producing in 1995, at the age of 67, his book *The Minimalist Program*. What remains the same are the empirical approach and theoretical framework. Language is a mirror of the mind, i.e., the brain's representational functions. A human brain is not initially a “blank slate” but comes hard-wired with unconscious, abstract concepts, including a universal grammar. This biological endowment is what allows a child to acquire language effortlessly and faster than experience alone could teach them.

Chomsky’s empirical approach and theoretical framework have spawned the new field of “cognitive science,” merging aspects of psychology, biology, evolution, and computer science. New specialties such as evolutionary psychology and behavioral economics provide new understanding of the capabilities and the persisting foibles of the human being. Indeed, the revival of the very notion of a common human nature—not as a theological concept, but a biological one, might be Chomsky’s most significant contribution. Showing us how we are all more deeply alike than superficially different could, and here is where the scientist and activist meet, enhance the capability for our species to live effectively as a “global society.”

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After his two-hour lecture, Dr. Chomsky remained in the emptied auditorium for another hour, greeting and speaking with a long line of people (ESU students and faculty, community members, and visitors who had come from afar just for his talk). Some wanted just a photo or a handshake, others sought answers and explanations to an array of challenging life questions. After finishing with his last well-wisher, the man whom Dean Peter Hawkes called “the most distinguished speaker we have ever welcomed to this campus,” the international figure whom the New York Times identifies as “arguably the most important intellectual alive,” rose from his chair at center stage, chatted with his campus hosts for a while, and then exited with them through the left-side fire door into the afternoon sunlight.
(Above): Vintage, hand-tinted photographs of the campus during its first decades.

(Below): An aerial photograph of the campus, dating from the 1930s.
The master’s words were boastful, bordering on arrogant. In the October 1894 issue of the East Stroudsburg State Normal School’s student literary magazine, Mr. George P. Bible, the school’s principal, proudly described his one-year-old institution:

The second year school opened Sept. 3, 1894, with an increased attendance over that of last year. With new and elegant buildings, handsomely furnished throughout; A strong and competent Faculty, each a specialist in his or her line; Good boarding and homelike treatment; With a location which for healthfulness and picturesqueness, is unequalled by any similar in the state, the school has continued to grow in popularity and prosperity.¹

It has now been nearly 120 years since Principal Bible penned these words, and over that period the original institution has changed its name three times and greatly expanded its institutional mission and physical “footprint.” The story of the campus site—that is, the land on which the school sits—has been somewhat forgotten. The purpose of the present article is to tell the story of the patch of earth on which the school is located.

The Pre-History of the Region
(from 400 million years ago to 11,000 years ago)

The ESU campus sits near the Pocono Plateau, an enormous geological formation which began taking shape some 400 million years ago, and then spent hundreds of millions of years evolving into its present form. As recently as 15,000 years ago, immense glaciers pushed through the region, leaving their imprint. Once the glaciation had retreated, but before any human beings had arrived, the region was chiefly covered by enormous trees that soared one hundred feet into the air; these trees were tightly bunched and therefore provided a domelike cover of shade with their leaves.¹³ Abundant animal life pulsed throughout the region: white-tailed deer, elk, otters, beavers, muskrats, mink, ruffed grouse, raccoons, snowshoe hares, foxes, turkeys, gray squirrels, and passenger pigeons all populated the area, but no human beings.²

The Native American Presence in the Region
(from 11,000 years ago to the mid-1700s)

Starting around 11,000 years ago, Native Americans first arrived in the region. Today we do not know the names of those first tribes, but it was the Lenni Lenape nation that lived in the area during the 1600s and 1700s.³ They spoke an Algonquin dialect, and in their own language the name Lenni Lenape meant “original people.”⁴ They were hunter-gatherers who lived in small, semi-isolated villages along the Delaware River and its tributaries; the Lenni Lenape nation created a network of trails that connected villages and hunting sites across the Eastern Seaboard.⁵ In English they were referred to as the Delaware Indians, due to their proximity to the river that traces its name—in the English language—back to a colonial administrator named Thomas West, Lord De La Warr (1577-1618), the first governor of the Virginia colony. This nation also engaged in farming. It was the early eighteenth-century arrival of white settlers in this same area that ultimately drove the Lenni Lenape out.

The Arrival of White Settlers in the Region
(the early and mid-1700s)

Nicholas Depuy (1682?-1762) was a refugee French Protestant; he and his family, who in 1727 took up residence on a 3,000-acre parcel of land above the present-day village of Shawnee on Delaware, PA, are recognized as the first white settlers in the region.⁶ By the mid-eighteenth century, many other white settlers had followed, including those arriving from New England, New York, Philadelphia, and Germany.⁷ A young hired hand on the Depuy homestead was Jacob Stroud (1735-1806), whose father had emigrated from England.⁸ As an adult, Stroud would become brash, popular, controversial, the holder of a colonelship, and the owner of considerable wealth and tremendous acreage by the end of his long and exciting life.⁹ He was a very successful landowner and merchant, and the impressive house he had built for his eldest son can still be visited at 900 Main Street in Stroudsburg, where as a museum it houses the Monroe County Historical Association. Colonel Stroud was not one to cloak himself in humility: he himself proclaimed in print that the unincorporated village in which he lived and owned a great deal of real estate “will hence forward be called Stroudsburg.”¹⁰ Indeed, at the village’s subsequent incorporation in 1815 it bore the colonel’s name.

War Reaches the Future Campus Site
(December 11, 1755)

The French and Indian War (1754-1763) was the final conflict in a long series of four interrelated wars that pitted France against Great Britain for control of their respective North American colonies. During these wars, the two European nations separately formed combat alliances with various Native American tribes. One of the ways the French and Indian War manifested itself in Pennsylvania was through raids carried out by Native American combatants allied with the French. In these situations, the goal was to expel English settlers from lands that had been the Native American tribes’ ancestral homelands for millennia.

A small but notable piece of the French and Indian War struck close to home on December 11, 1755. Daniel Brodhead (1693-1755), among the region’s first white settlers, had built a large home and outbuildings on the site of what is now the Pocono Medical Center (this hospital complex sits immediately next to the ESU campus). Although Brodhead himself had died earlier that year, the job of managing and protecting his estate had fallen to his five sons, who had fortified the main house and amassed a store of firearms.¹¹ At daybreak on that wintry December morning, from what can be surmised today, a group of nearly 200 Native American combatants moved in undetected from the northeast, heading toward the Brodhead estate.¹² Their siege lasted more than eight hours; when it was over, there were no reported casualties on settlers’ side, heavy casualties on the Native American side, and the main house had been saved while all of the outbuildings had been burned down.¹³

It is possible that a portion of the Native American contingent initially met or hid on the land that now comprises the ESU campus, or that after the raid they retreated over that same land. It is also possible that one or more of Brodhead’s outbuildings stood on what is now university property. (Today the boundaries of the eighteenth-century Brodhead estate are unclear, as are the exact details of the raid). If any of these possibilities is true, it would mean that two and a half centuries ago, the future
ESU campus hosted a portion of the long, bloody, and tragic French and Indian War.

Lumber, Leather, Cigars, and Silk: Monroe County Grows Up (from the early 1800s to the late 1800s)

Starting around 175 years ago, the chiefly agricultural Monroe County (incorporated 1836) progressively grew into a noisy, smoky manufacturing center, prompting a corresponding growth in population. In the area in 1840, there was still some taming of the wilderness to be done: a bounty of $25 was offered for every wolf killed, and up to $16 for every mountain lion. But that same year, the county already hosted 9 tanneries, 25 grist mills, and 107 saw mills. Lumber (hickory, white oak, poplar, and birch) in nineteenth-century Monroe County was felled and processed in great quantities. Over the decades, manufacturing boomed: limestone and flagstone were quarried, and clay (for brick-making) and sand were extracted from the earth; there were factories for shoe pegs, clothespins, brooms, baskets, glass, and cigars; fabric mills produced woolen and silk cloth; the area’s tanneries converted staggering numbers of hides into leather; and a major boiler works welded, riveted, finished, and then shipped boilers out to the world; countless blocks of ice were harvested during the winter months, destined months after their harvesting to help cool New York and Philadelphia.

It was the arrival of the railroad in Monroe County that helped these manufactured products reach their end-using consumers. East Stroudsburg’s first railroad station, owned and operated by the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad, opened in 1856, and overnight this Pennsylvania village found itself connected to the major cities of the East Coast. In its pre-railroad days, the then-quiet village had in fact been called Dansbury, in honor of Daniel Brodhead, but at the behest of the railroad company, the suddenly-booming community adopted the new, easier-to-locate-on-a-mental-map name of East Stroudsburg, and was incorporated in 1870. At the time, the region’s— and the nation’s—roads were virtually all unpaved, there were essentially no automobiles, and the United States interstate highway system lay a century into the future. Thanks to the railroad network, however, goods could be transported from East Stroudsburg or Stroudsburg to such destinations as New York and Philadelphia in only a few hours, and then shipped nationally or internationally. These same train routes brought vacationers to the Poconos; the region’s tourism industry was born, and then went on to develop exponentially, during the nineteenth century.

The Struggle to Bring a Normal School to Monroe County (from 1862 to 1893)

Today the term “normal school” is perplexing to us: such institutions have essentially been extinct in this country for nearly a hundred years. But back in the second half of the nineteenth century, it was America’s normal schools—rather than its colleges—that specialized in the training of elementary-school teachers. The adjective “normal” meant, in this context, “model” or “normative”: normal schools featured model elementary-school classrooms populated with real elementary-school children; the normal-school students used these model classrooms to observe experienced instructors at work, and to student-teach those same children. In addition, normal-school students took courses in which they studied general pedagogy, and others in which they sharpened their skills in specific subjects.

The birth of the East Stroudsburg State Normal School was not easy. In Pennsylvania during the second half of the nineteenth century, the state did not build public normal schools on its own, despite an urgent need throughout the commonwealth for trained teachers. Instead the state, having divided the commonwealth into 12 (later 13) educational districts, required civic boosters in each district to found their own normal schools, and it limited each district to only one such institution. Such normal schools could be created only if and when local businessmen were able to raise a considerable percentage of the associated costs on their own, with the state agreeing to contribute some funds; once successfully chartered and opened, the normal schools then received partial, rather than complete, financial support from the state.

It was not, then, a group of idealistic teachers, poets, or philosophers who founded the East Stroudsburg State Normal School, but a group of philanthropic businessmen. In fact, it took three separate campaigns mounted by three separate groups of business—men—and some three decades—for the third effort to succeed (the first, in 1862, and the second, in 1874, had failed). Encouraged and tutored by the Reverend Chandler Oakes of the East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church and the successful scholar George P. Bible (who, at this point, was just a visiting speaker but would ultimately become the school’s first principal), this third group of business leaders launched their ambitious plan in the fall of 1891 and soon succeeded in
raising the required private funds. It was Seeley Rosenkrans, a local merchant, who spearheaded the sine qua non capital campaign: The businessmen spent the nominal amount of exactly five dollars to purchase the original 11-acre “footprint” of what is now the ESU campus. Non-original buildings now sitting within the parameters of this once-vacant farmland parcel include Gessner Hall, Abeloff Auditorium, and Rosencrans Hall (named after the merchant and his daughter, Edna Rosenkrans, who was a respected and long-serving instructor at the school as well as an alumna). It was the married couple of Albert and Isabel Knapp, Albert being a telegraph operator originally hailing from Minnesota, who sold the acreage to the businessmen; the Knapps had acquired it from Isabel Knapp’s father, Melchior Heller, after his death in 1889. We note that ESU’s present-day campus “footprint” exceeds 250 acres, with its current dimensions swallowing up and surrounding on all sides the comparatively tiny original tract purchased from the Knapps.

“The Normal” Finally Opens its Doors (September 4, 1893)

On July 4, 1892, the brand new institution’s cornerstone was laid. This nineteenth-century plaque is still visible today—although it now forms, rather incongruously, part of an exterior wall of the current Stroud Hall, itself a replacement building erected in 1968. To find the original cornerstone, walk out of the current Stroud Hall’s main entrance and turn to your left. Set your gaze to waist level and scan along the outer wall until your eyes reach the corner of the building. Here you will see the cornerstone of the replacement building; it reads “1968”. Next, position yourself immediately in front of the “1968” cornerstone. Now, keeping your eyes at waist level, peek just around the corner of the building, and gently pull aside the shrubbery. You will now be staring at the only remaining manmade element from the school’s very first day of classes: Monday, September 4, 1893.

If we were somehow able to take a time machine back to the campus of “the Normal”, as East Stroudsburg’s new normal school was nicknamed after its founding, we would feel quite out of place. Back then, there were essentially no automobiles: people reached “the Normal” by foot, bicycle, horseback, or horse-drawn carriage. In fact, one great advantage of “the Normal” was that it lay less than a mile’s walk from East Stroudsburg’s train station; at the time, few other schools or colleges in the commonwealth offered any such convenience of accessibility.

Equally alienating might be some of the staff titles from back then, which seem to have been lifted from a script of the PBS period drama Downton Abbey: a now-obscure Mrs. John Gray served as the school’s “matron” (head of housekeeping), and an equally-obscur Mr. Philip Ruster as its “steward” (night watchman). Finally, the number of faculty members was very small in those early years, forcing some of them to master and teach multiple disciplines. Miss Louise Hochleitner, for example, was the instructor responsible for teaching French, German, sewing, and dressmaking.

We are probably right to suspect that Principal Bible took himself, and the institution he had co-founded, quite seriously. On the school’s first-ever graduation day—June 28, 1894—a total of 16 speeches were given, even though the graduating class consisted of only 73 students. Such generous oration on that summer day yielded a ratio of 1 speech per 4.5 graduates. Shortly after the orchestra played “Auld Lang Syne,” Mr. Bible gave each graduate a diploma: there were 12 male and 61 female graduates. After the closing applause, the first academic year of the school had come to a formal end.

Changes and expansion were swift. In 1920, “the Normal” was purchased outright by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and only then became a public institution. In 1927, it was accredited as a four-year college, and therefore changed its name to East Stroudsburg State Teachers College. In 1960, because the institution’s mission had gone beyond the training of teachers to embrace a broader palette of undergraduate programs, its name was changed to East Stroudsburg State College. We conclude by arriving at today: in 1983, by that point offering graduate programs, the school took the official name of East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania, its name to this very day.


3. Oplinger and Halma, p. 11.


5. Eveland, p. 11.

6. Oplinger and Halma, p. 236.


20. Smith and Patrick (eds.), p. 82.


30. Squeri et al., p. 15.

31. Squeri et al., p. 28.


33. Squeri et al., p. 6.

34. The Normal Echoes, June 1895, p. 2. Collection of the Monroe County Historical Association.


36. “94 First Annual Commencement” [the graduation program of the East Stroudsburg State Normal School’s Class of 1894]. Collection of the Monroe County Historical Association.

37. My thanks to Dr. Ian Ackroyd-Kelly for generously providing information for this article. Any errors or infelicities are entirely my own.

An aerial photograph of the campus today.
The chairs within the College of Arts & Sciences were asked to submit articles highlighting achievements in their departments. The following pages are an overview of the accomplishments of CAS students and faculty dating from the past year.
The Art Department’s strength and vitality this past academic year is displayed by the activities of its professors and students.

The department continued its relationship with Shanghai Normal University’s Art Department by welcoming six visiting scholars. While pursuing independent research, these scholars also gave presentations on their own work and on traditional Chinese art to several studio classes and participated in design critiques.

In service learning, Ceramics classes, along with the Department of Hotel and Restaurant Management, created soup bowls for the annual Empty Bowls event, which raises funds for local food banks. The Communication Graphics class collaborated with the Chemistry Department to create an installation and a periodic table of elements using original font designs, both displayed in the Hoeffner Science and Technology Center. They designed a new logo for ESU’s Recycling Committee, and the Illustration class created posters, buttons, and bumper stickers for the 2013 Earth Day event.

The Student Art Association: held its second “Zombie Walk” to raise money for Habitat for Humanity; conducted the second annual “12-Hour Comic-thon” for ESU and the local community; and installed the Student Juried Art Exhibition. They collaborated with the Muslim Student Association for its Henna Celebration, for which the Muslim Student Association won a Student Activities Association Award.

Dr. Herb Weigand notes that this has been a very exciting year for the Painting program. Many outstanding works of art have been produced; worthy of particular mention is student Lauriel Gingrich, who exhibited a series of nine beautiful landscape paintings in the Madelon Powers Gallery as her capstone experience for her independent-study course in Painting.

Department chair Prof. Joni Oye-Benintende is leading an initiative to develop the Object Design Studio, a rapid-prototyping lab for the department’s design program and future collaborative projects with university and community partners. As Director of the Madelon Powers Art Gallery, Prof. Oye-Benintende curated three exhibits by professional artists: iPhotography, a group show of work shot with smartphone cameras started the 2012-13 season; a group show by a family of artists, featuring nine members of the extended family of the internationally acclaimed sculptor Yeon Tak Chang; and an exhibit by ceramic artist Brenda Quinn and painter Sharon Cosgrove. For this last exhibition, Prof. Oye-Benintende received a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. This grant also supported a workshop by Ms. Quinn for university and community participants. Prof. Oye-Benintende also exhibited work in two juried exhibitions in Lancaster and Philadelphia.

Professor Darlene Farris-LaBar exhibited her sculpture “Water Has No Boundaries” in a group show at the Phillips Museum in Lancaster and made presentations at: the International Interdisciplinary CODATA Conference on Environmental Information and Communication in Bogota, Columbia; the 2013 Conference on Communication and Environment in Uppsala, Sweden; and at Shanghai Normal University’s Shanghai Maritime Fine Arts Academy. She was awarded a grant to use 3D scanning and printing technology to create a 3D field guide of plants in protected areas in the Poconos. Her work will be presented in May 2014 at the International Exhibition for Nature and Art at Brazil’s Sao Paulo University.

Prof. Farris-LaBar created the logo for Dr. Marcia Welsh’s Presidential Inauguration as well as designs for community organizations including the Brodhead Water Association, Stroud Greenway, and Trout Unlimited. She is designing PennDOT-approved road signs and a brochure map for a “Bike to Nature” trail that will begin in downtown Stroudsburg and loop through Cherry Valley, PA. She will produce the annual-report magazine for NASA Goddard Space Flight Center’s Wallops Flight Facility and Marine Science Consortium research collaboration.

Prof. David Mazure gave a presentation entitled “The End of the World in Tire Rubber” at the Major Grant Symposium. He received an FDR Travel Grant for a solo exhibition at the Visual Art Exchange in Raleigh, NC, and exhibited in a group invitational show in AITHICA (Athens Institute for Contemporary Art). He showed in several prestigious juried exhibitions: the 50th Annual Juried Exhibition at the Musar Art Museum (Juror’s Prize); the National Art Encounter at The Von Liebig Art Center (Best in Show); the 8th Annual Human Rights Exhibition at Gallery 409; Figure-It-Out at the University of Missouri (Best in Show); and the 24th Annual Juried Show at the Contemporary Arts Center of Las Vegas.

Dr. Melissa Geiger has participated in a number of scholarly endeavors this past academic year. She co-organized and co-created the interdisciplinary conference “Rivalry in the Arts: The Inaugural International Conference in Paragon Studies,” held at the Flint Institute of Art in Flint, MI, a two-year project that came to successful fruition in July 2012. She also delivered a paper entitled “Paradigm Shift: From Painting to Everything Else” at the conference. In October 2012, she designed and chaired the art history panel entitled “What Is Old Is New Again: An Exploration of the Artistic Impact of Collecting” at the annual Southeastern College Art Conference in Durham, NC. In another session at the conference, she delivered her paper “Reflections of New York: Robert Rauschenberg’s Oracle,” which explored the impact of urbanism on the artist’s infamous electronic assemblage. This past February, Dr. Geiger also organized and led the art history session entitled “Sites of Patriotism in American Architecture” at the annual Consortium of the Revolutionary Era in Fort Worth, TX.
The Environmental Studies program continued to strengthen and expand its commitment to aquatic biology. Coursework was modified to better incorporate “real world” experiences and hands-on activities. An agreement has been reached with Lacawac Sanctuary (Lake Ariel, PA) to allow the Limnology class to work at the field station for a weekend each fall. Students will be able to study a pristine glacial lake while learning how to function in the field. The sanctuary is an important facility with many top researchers working there. These activities will teach students valuable skills, and put them in direct contact with people that work in the field they hope to join one day. Under the direction of Dr. Paul Wilson, students Laura Beimfohr and Scott O’Donnell developed environmental education “modules” for the purposes of community outreach and education. The goal of this project is to help educate the public about important biological, geological, and chemical processes taking place in and around aquatic environments. The research is part of the larger “This Stream is My Stream” project undertaken with Dr. Patricia Kennedy and Dr. Christopher Brooks at ESU. This project is ongoing and will expand in the future. Dr. Wilson also took part in the Lacawac Ecological Observatory Workshop (LEOW) this spring. The workshop offered practical guidance on the use of remote sensing buoys. The initial goal is for ESU to build and deploy a remote sensing buoy on a local lake. This will allow students to get hands-on experience with this cutting-edge technology. Ultimately a buoy(s) will be deployed on an Ethiopian lake(s) as well. These buoys will be part of the GLEON network, and will help to track environmental change over time.

Dr. Terry Master published a manuscript on Cerulean Warblers, in conjunction with former ESU Biology graduate student Shannon Curley, in Volume 23 of the major journal covering neotropical birds, *Ornithologia Neotropica*. He also contributed six chapters to the *Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania*, a book recently published by Penn State University Press. Dr. Maria Kitchens-Kintz taught the Introduction to Molecular Biotechnology course at Wallops Island, VA, to Marine Science students for the second year in a row. This course continues to be a success for these students. She also completed two chapters on “The Cell” and “Genetics” in a manuscript supervised by Dr. Craig Wilson that will be available for students in the Elementary and Middle School Education programs.

Dr. Jay Hunt was able to acquire some very large aquatic tanks to expand his capability for aquatic culture and aquarium science for the Marine Science program.

In April 2013, several undergraduate and graduate students took part in the Pennsylvania Academy of Science as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania University Biologists’ annual meetings held in Bradford and Clarion, PA. ESU was well represented in both the oral and poster sessions.
Communication Studies

During the 2012-13 Academic Year, the Communication Studies Department’s faculty and students were active in their research agendas and in participation in the campus community, community organizations, and professional organizations.

Dr. Charles Warner presented his research on “Media Use in the Classroom” at the 2013 Popular Culture Association’s annual conference. Dr. Glenn Geiser-Getz presented his paper on “Therapy as Entertainment” at the 2013 American Culture Association’s annual conference. Dr. Geiser-Getz also presented his experiences working with the Monroe County Correctional Facility to the campus community in a session sponsored by the Committee for the Excellence in Teaching and Learning. He also presented his research on “The Presidential Farewell: A Neglected Genre” at the Spring 2013 ESU Faculty Research Colloquium.

Dr. Patricia Kennedy traveled to Bogota, Colombia, in 2013 to present research on “Pre-Crisis Media Coverage Using Principles of Risk Communication” at the 2013 International Interdisciplinary CODATA Conference on Environmental Information and Communication. At this same conference, Dr. Kennedy served as an invited panelist on a public panel on Environmental and Risk Communication. Dr. Kennedy also presented her collaborative research with Dr. Margaret Ball (Theatre Department) at the biennial meeting of the Mid-Atlantic and New England Council on Candadian Studies.

Dr. Cem Zeytinoglu presented his research on “The ‘Bonusgate’ Scandal and the Case of the Third Party Candidates” at the 2012 Pennsylvania Communication Association’s annual conference.

Dr. Andi McClanahan presented her research at various conferences, including the 2012 National Communication Association’s annual conference; the 2013 Eastern Communication Association’s annual conference; the 2012 PASSHE Women’s Consortium’s annual conference; and the 2012 Northeast Popular Culture Association’s annual conference. In addition, Dr. McClanahan’s chapter, “Teenage Fathers: The Disruption and Promotion of the Heterosexual Imaginary” was published in the book MTV and Teen Pregnancy (2013; Scarecrow Press).

Dr. Zeytinoglu serves as the editor of the journal Pennsylvania Communication Association Annual and as the chair of the student interest group for the Pennsylvania Communication Association. Dr. McClanahan serves on the Graduate Student Paper Award committee and is the chair of the Visual Media interest group for the Northeast Popular Culture Association, secretary for the PASSHE Women’s Consortium, and chair for the Health Communication interest group for the Pennsylvania Communication Association. In 2012, Dr. Geiser-Getz was selected as a faculty fellow by the National Association of Television Production Executives (NATPE), and in that capacity worked for two weeks at WFMZ TV in their news department and attended the NATPE conference in January 2013. In 2013, Dr. Geiser-Getz taught the course “Employment Communication Workshop” at the Monroe County Correctional Facility to a group of male inmates and a group of female inmates.

WESS 903 and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) brought several outside speakers to campus to talk to students. One of the most successful events headed by Dr. Robert McKenzie included having the management team of WSBG, a local radio station, hold their business meeting at ESU so students in our Broadcasting track could observe a real-time management meeting. PRSSA sent several students to the Regional PRSSA conference held at Penn State University in 2013 and also sent one student, Karianna Simpkins, to the National PRSSA Conference. Students served in internships throughout the region including Sirius Radio, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, the Brodhead Watershed Association, and the Sherman Theatre.

In Spring 2013, we honored several students with scholarships and recognition. Jessica Tanski and Rhiannon Milliardi were awarded the 2013-14 Communication Studies Scholarships. Additionally, Marleanne Newman, Victoria Krukenkamp, Taylor Brittain, LaShonda Cherry and Nikole Threats were recognized as the top students in the Communication Studies Program. Eight students were inducted into Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Honors Society.

In 2013-2014, the Department of Communication Studies is excited to be able to offer “CMST 310: Intercultural Communication” as a distance education course for students. Additionally, the course “Critical Perspectives on Social Media Use” will be offered for the first time.

Computer Sciences

The Computer Science Department hosted the 28th Annual Spring Conference of the Pennsylvania Computer and Information Science Educators (PACISE), held at ESU in April. PACISE is a professional organization representing faculty in all areas of computing and computing education in the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education (PASSHE). The conference theme was “Cybersecurity in the Computer Science Curriculum.” Professor James Emert served as the chairman for organizing the conference. A number of students involved in research and large projects presented their work during the conference program.

One ESU graduate student (Samuel Capella) and one ESU faculty members (Dr. Eun-Joo Lee) gave technical presentations at the conference. Dr. Christine Hofmeister chaired a Birds of a Feather session entitled: “Continuous Improvement with ABET.” The keynote speaker for the conference was Dr. Timothy J. Mucklow, senior historian at the Center for Cryptologic History at Ft. Meade, MD. His presentation was entitled: “Securing Wartime Communications: Why the United States Succeeded and the Third Reich Failed.” A key feature of the annual conference is the programming competition. Twenty-one teams of students from different PASSHE institutions participated in the competition, which consisted of seven programming problems of varying difficulty.

The Computer Science Department held its fourth annual Robotics Competition in December. Four teams of ESU undergraduate students competed with robots made from Lego Mindstorms NXT kits. The winning robot was built by the team of Alan Reed and Jonathan Weber.

The department, led by Dr. Michael Jochen and Dr. Paul Schembari, continued making improvements to both the BS program in Computer Security and the MS program in Information Security. The BS program’s core will now consist of two courses in the junior year on application security and
Pennsylvania for a $15,000 mini-grant and a proposal to the Center for Rural Research. Their recent projects include an economic impact study of the Pocono Raceway by Dr. Todd Behr, Dr. Richard Booser, Dr. Constantinos Christofides, and Dr. Neelakantan, which has completed grant-funded and other research projects in excess of $500,000 over the years. Their research on student advising, student success, and professional development. Dr. Todd Behr, Dr. Richard Booser, Dr. Constantinos Christofides, and Dr. Neelakantan attended the Economic Policy Conference in Washington, DC.

The department regularly organizes panel discussions and brings guest speakers to campus. The Northeast Pennsylvania Business Journal and the Pocono Record regularly interview economics faculty members for their expertise on various issues such as national and regional economic outlook, national debt, current labor market conditions, healthcare challenge, and personal finance matters.

After many decades of dedicated service, Dr. Constantinos Christofides retired from ESU at the end of Spring 2013. Professor Emeritus Christofides, who was a recipient of the Distinguished Professor Award and the Great Teacher Award, served as the Grand Marshal for the spring undergraduate commencement in May 2013.

The E-News—a printed newsletter that addresses economic matters—is now in its sixteenth year of publication. It is written and edited by Economics students and is circulated both within and outside the campus. The newsletter gives students the opportunity to engage in research and publishing under the guidance of faculty economists.

The Economics Club is going strong under the leadership of Dr. Behr. Accompanied by Dr. Neelakantan and Dr. Booser, these students visited Bloomberg LLC in Manhattan during Fall 2012. They also visited the Philadelphia Federal Reserve in Spring 2013. The Econ Club students also formed a study/tutorial group to help other students, and are planning to form an investment club.

During November 2012, the department and the Desi Student Organization (DSO) organized the annual multicultural event, the “Festival of Lights (Diwali) Program” in the Keystone Room, which was attended by over 200 people of diverse backgrounds. Dr. Neelakantan serves as the advisor to DSO.

Finally, the department wishes to welcome its newest member, Dr. Wei Gao, who will join as a tenure-track faculty member in Fall 2013.
The 2012-13 Academic Year was a time of progress and activity for the English Department. In Fall 2012, the department hosted the English Association of Pennsylvania State Universities’ (EAPSU) annual fall conference for faculty, graduate students, and PASSHE Outstanding English Majors. The conference, which focused on the theme of intertextuality, brought over 40 conference participants to the university and featured poet and memoirist Meghan O’Rourke as keynote speaker. English faculty members Dr. Nancy VanArsdale, Dr. Ronald Meyers, Dr. Jeffrey Hotz, Dr. Cynthia Leenerts, and Professor Jan Selving all represented the department as presenters. Krystel Hillbish, a senior English major, presented her paper entitled “Domestic Violence and the Islamic World in Fadia Faqir’s Pillars of Salt” in a panel focusing on gender, ritual, and naming.

In Spring 2013, five English majors and one English minor were selected by the department faculty to participate in ESU’s Student Research and Scholarly Symposium, an event held in April in conjunction with the University’s Presidential Inauguration week. Topics ranged from grading approaches in high school writing classes to analysis of the themes of deformity and disability in The Scarlet Letter. Christopher George, CJ Cioce, Gabi Squartino, Michael Harrison, Sarah Borys, and Tony Westpy presented posters reflecting projects completed in their upper-level English courses.

The English Department continues to provide students with unique learning opportunities in advanced writing courses. In Fall 2012, Dr. Fred Misurella’s “Writing Creative Nonfiction” class worked in conjunction with the editors of the Stroud Courier to publish a special nonfiction issue as a class. The issue, called “Life Studies,” is a 30-page collection of nonfiction essays written, discussed, and edited by the members of Dr. Misurella’s class. This spring, Prof. William Brown’s “Multimedia Journalism” class created an online magazine called FreESU. The editorial content of the project, which is intended to simulate the workings of a real online magazine, was conceived of and created by the students in the class.

The Writing Studio, under the direction of Dr. Sandra Eckard, continued to provide quality peer tutoring to the student body of ESU in the 2012-13 Academic Year. In the Fall 2012 semester, the Studio held 792 tutoring sessions with 353 students. In the Spring 2013 semester, the Studio held 699 tutoring sessions with 304 students. Over the course of the academic year, the Studio offered seven workshops that were attended by 171 students.

In addition to providing peer tutoring to the student body, the Writing Studio also offers an internship program for students interested in getting hands-on experience teaching writing in freshmen composition courses. Four English majors participated in the Writing Studio Internship Program this year. In Fall 2012, Nichole Kamann served as a supplemental instructor for Dr. Sandra Eckard. In Spring 2013, Elizabeth Gehring served as a supplemental instructor for Dr. Charles Park, Jacqueline Hanna served as a supplemental instructor for Dr. Jeffrey Hotz, and Krystel Hillbish served as a supplemental instructor for Dr. Eckard.

In May, the English Department recognized exceptional English majors by presenting 14 awards and scholarships. Lauren Stuber received the Ester Larson Outstanding English Major Award, Jamie Reese received the Jim Barniak Journalism Award, and Lauren MacBlane received the Shelby Starner Award for Writing on Social Justice. This spring, the English Department also awarded the Robert C. Walker III ’97 Annual Scholarship, a newly established scholarship given to students dedicated to the success of the Stroud Courier. This scholarship was awarded to Valentina Caval and Dana Reese. At the same awards ceremony, 17 students were inducted into Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society.
Geography

After receiving final approval in the summer of 2012, the Professional Science Master’s program (M.S. General Science: Application of Geographic Information Systems and Remote Sensing in Environmental Science) began accepting students. By the start of the Fall 2013 semester, about 10 graduate students will be enrolled in the PSM program as a result of various recruiting efforts and the establishment of a cohort from Henan University in China.

Three new courses developed for the PSM Program were approved in the summer of 2012. “Applied GIS” (GEOG 402/502) and “Remote Sensing” (GEOG 411/511) were taught for the first time during the past year. “Advanced GIS” (GEOG403/503) will be offered for the first time during the Fall 2013 semester.

Dr. Shixiong Hu and several students worked on two projects: (1.) “Projecting The Impacts of Climate Change and Identifying Adaption Options at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge,” supported by NASA; and (2.) “Study on Spatial and Temporal Patterns of Stream Temperature in Paradise Watershed, PA,” supported by the Cold Watershed Heritage Partnership and the Cora L. Brooks Fund. Additionally, Dr. Hu conducted grant-funded research during his Spring 2013 sabbatical in China. This grant, entitled “Experimental Study on Overland Flow Resistance,” was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC). Furthermore, Dr. Hu and his student team monitored water-temperature changes in local streams in support of the Brodhead Watershed Association’s (BWA) efforts to preserve high-quality streams in the Poconos.

Dr. Hu published a conference proceedings as chief editor and co-authored two peer-reviewed journal papers: “How to Select the Reference Basin in the Ungauged Regions,” in the Journal of Hydraulic Engineering; and “Characteristics of Annual Runoff Variation in Major Rivers of China,” in Hydrological Processes.

Dr. Hu organized and chaired one session, and presented his research results, at the Association of America Geographers’ (AAG) national meeting held in Los Angeles in April. The title of his presentation was “Application of Modified SWAT Model in Lianshui Watershed, China.” He served as secretary-general and organized the 21st CPGIS annual meeting, which was held in Kaifeng, China, in June. He chaired the session of LiDAR Data Application and presented his research on a NASA LiDAR project. The title of his presentation was “Study Coastal Processes with LIDAR Data.”

He was re-elected as vice president of the PASSHE GIS Consortium; Go-Home Committee Chair of CPGIS, AAG; and secretary and webmaster of the Water Resources Specialty Group, AAG.

Math

The Mathematics Department has chosen to highlight student activities for the 2012-13 Academic Year, when students from the department made scholarly presentations at four different venues. The “Math 425: Introduction to Mathematical Modeling” class completed a service-learning project for Integnol, one of the companies housed at ESU’s Business Accelerator. Integnol asked our group to compare the cost of heating and cooling a standard home in the Poconos with a home built using their super-insulating material. The students presented their work at the Earth Day celebration at the Pocono Environmental Education Center, and to representatives of Integnol.

Student Carolyn Romano and Dr. Olivia Carducci studied the role of mathematics (particularly differential equations) in determining the usefulness of a new drug. Ms. Romano presented the work at the Moravian Student Mathematics Conference (Moravian College, Bethlehem) and at the President’s Inaugural Student Research and Scholarly Activity Symposium at ESU.

Student Phillip Domschke presented a poster entitled “Dynamic Model to Simulate Feasibility of a Solar Power Plant” at the President’s Inaugural Student Research and Scholarly Activity Symposium, based on class work in the Spring 2012 “Introduction to Mathematical Modeling” course.
The 2012-13 Academic Year was a busy and exciting time for the Department of Modern Languages. The number of Spanish majors continues to grow, as does the number of French majors (now over 20). There has also been an increase in the number of ESU students choosing Spanish or French as a second major. The department’s fifth annual modern-language teachers’ workshop drew attendees from around the region.

Several department members attended the annual American Council on Foreign Language Teaching and Learning conference in Philadelphia, and six of them presented on-campus at the annual CETL symposium.

Jeff Ruth (chair, Spanish) received an $11,200 PASSHE Collaboration Grant for a series of faculty training events. He coordinated a one-time, all-PASSHE workshop for teaching modern languages via live videoconferencing. This workshop was held on-campus and featured Lauren Rosen (University of Wisconsin) as facilitator.

Dr. Ruth also led the revision of the department’s student learning outcomes (or “SLOs”) and successfully negotiated reductions in textbook prices to students.

Monika Ackermann (Chinese) had the pleasure of teaching three courses: Chinese I in the fall and Chinese I and Chinese II in the spring. She participated in the Chinese New Year party hosted by the ESU Chinese Club, and gave a speech at the party about Chinese New Year traditions and customs.

Jenifer Branton-Desris (French) attended a French dinner at Maxim’s 22 in Easton with several enthusiastic students. She also taught students in French II an interdisciplinary, content-driven unit on the metamorphosis of the butterfly, using live specimens to present the material.

Dr. Paul Creamer (French) gave the French Club a tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Impressionist collection. He continues to serve as Co-Director of the ESU Honors Program and on university-wide committees. An article on manuscript illumination was published (in French) by the Presses de la Sorbonne nouvelle, and he gave two papers at international conferences.

Dr. Esther Daganzo-Cantens (Spanish) presented a paper at an international conference in Boston entitled “Study Abroad in Spain. Can We Measure the Intercultural Experience?” She received: an award from the Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society; a certificate of recognition for her participation in the President’s Inaugural Research and Scholarly Symposium; the Ralph Vitello Award for her sensitivity to Students with disabilities; and was recognized for her commitment to the Spanish Club and the Latin American Association (LAA).

Dr. Aneka Meier (German) published an article in Current Trends in Language and Culture Studies, and presented a paper at the 11th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Arts & Humanities (Honolulu, HI). She co-organized the German Club’s Oktoberfest celebration and a ‘Study Abroad in Germany’ event. It featured authentic German food, featured the Jolly Rheinlaender German Band, and brought some 250 people (students, staff, faculty) to the Keystone Room.

Dr. Annie Mendoza’s (Spanish) article “El encuentro’ by Carlos Arturo Truque: An Overlooked Literary Response to the 1928 Masacre de las Bananeras” was accepted for the Fall 2013 issue of Negritud: Journal of Afro-Latin American Studies. She presented her research on contemporary Colombian novels at the international Colombian Studies Conference in July of 2013 at Regis College in Boston.

Dr. Peter Pruim (Latin) taught an Honors section of Latin, and led those same students on a narrated tour of the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s collection of Greek and Roman antiquities.
The Music Department’s activities during the 2012–13 Academic Year reveal a multidimensional list of performances, community involvement and scholarly pursuits.

In August, the performance season of more than 20 concerts began with the Carter Chamber Music Series’ twentieth season. “Music of Spain and South America” featured Distinguished Professor of Music emeritus Robert Miller, artistic director of the Series. A September Carter concert featured musicians of the New York Philharmonic.

Student musical groups made guest appearances throughout the Pocono region. The Warrior Marching Band performed at the Collegiate Marching Band Festival in Allentown, and gave exhibitions at Northampton and Pocono Mountain East high schools. In April, the A Cappella Ensemble performed at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian Church for the eleventh time.

Six ESU choral students attended the annual Pennsylvania Collegiate Choral Festival at Slippery Rock University and won the Small Ensemble Competition with their performance of Allala pia callia. Three band students participated in the Pennsylvania Intercolligate Concert Band, and two students are participating in the National Collegiate Concert Band at the University of Massachusetts this summer.

Members of the department worked with the Pennsylvania Lyric Opera during the year. Dr. Betsy Buzzelli-Clarke, department chair, sang in the group’s “Opera Is for Lovers” concert and accompanied the production of The Merry Widow. Dr. James Maroney, director of Choral and Vocal Activities, performed featured roles in several productions. Dr. Otis C. French, director of University Bands, directed the pit orchestra for The Merry Widow.

In October, Dr. Maroney gave a faculty voice recital featuring duets by Felix Mendelssohn, Canticle II by Benjamin Britten, and On Wenlock Edge by Ralph Vaughan Williams. Dr. French was a euphonium soloist with the Trinity Centennial Orchestra and appeared with the Scranton Brass Orchestra. He also served as guest conductor at Stroudsburg High School and guest clinician at both Stroudsburg and Pocono Mountain East high schools.

Dr. Buzzelli-Clarke was the orchestra coordinator and an orchestra member for the performance of Handel’s Messiah at the Shawnee Resort. She served as accompanist for the Music Study Club of the Stroudsburgs and for the Pocono Flute Festival. Both Buzzelli-Clarke and French served as adjudicators for Music in the Parks Festivals.

Dr. French presented a conducting workshop/lecture at this spring’s Pennsylvania Music Educators Association conference and was a guest judge for the PMEA District 9 Concert and Jazz Festivals. He serves on the board of the Pocono Flute Society.

Dr. Maroney is in his fourth year of conducting the Pocono Summer Chorus, an 80-member community group that presents a charity concert each August. Currently, he is president of the Lehigh Valley chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. He also received a Faculty Development & Research grant of $6,025 for the project “Public Lecture-Recital of the Opera Arias Composed by George Frideric Handel for the Tenor John Beard during the Composer’s Years at Covent Garden Opera House.”

Noted for his involvement with the Pocono jazz community, Distinguished Professor of Music Patrick Dorian retired at the end of the academic year.
Philosophy

Three of the department’s majors represented ESU at the 4th Moravian Undergraduate Philosophy Conference: Kevin Gallanella presented his paper “Authentic Art”; Grace King her paper “Globalization: The Unstoppable Force”; and Gerald Brunell his paper “A Teleology of Transhumanism.”

John Christmann, a Philosophy major, and Dr. Peter Pruij, a professor in the department, were directly responsible for bringing Noam Chomsky to speak at ESU in February. Chomsky is the most cited living intellectual, and was described by Dean Peter Hawkes of the College of Arts & Sciences as the most important speaker ever to appear at ESU.


Dr. Tim Connolly presented his work on early Confucian philosophy at several conferences, including the American Philosophical Association, the International Society for Chinese Philosophy, and a symposium on “Morality and Religiousness: Chinese and Western” at King’s College, London. He is editing (with Chung-ying Cheng and Linyu Gu of the University of Hawaii) two double-volumes of the Journal of Chinese Philosophy in celebration of the journal’s fortieth anniversary. This year he published two new articles in Chinese/Western comparative philosophy; he is also finishing work on his book Doing Philosophy Comparatively, which will be published next year with Continuum press.

Physics

The Department of Physics had a busy and productive year in 2012-13. In addition to graduating 11 students, we had several of our majors in the Engineering Transfer Program go on to continue their education at Penn State, Temple, NJIT, and Virginia Tech, among other fine universities.

Department members were involved in numerous professional activities. Dr. Robert Cohen presented work that he did with both Dr. Mary Anne Moore and Dr. Jeffery Spirkor at the American Association of Physics Teachers 2012 Summer Meeting in Philadelphia. Dr. Mark Stewart had a peer-reviewed paper, “A Proposed General Rating System for which the Colley Matrix Rating System is a Special Case,” published in the Journal of Quantitative Analysis of Sports (June 2013). Dr. David Buckley presented a planetarium tutorial that he produced called “Phases of the Moon” to the Spitz Institute in Chadds Ford, PA, in August 2012.

Several ESU students were involved in exciting research and projects in the 2012-13 Academic Year. Amy Tulay applied for, and was accepted into, the summer RIU program in astronomy at Wellesley College. Tulay’s project involved working with three students from other institutions to study exoplanet transits using the 24-inch telescope at Wellesley’s Whitin Observatory. An “exoplanet” is a planet that is outside our solar system, orbiting around a star other than the sun. Exoplanets can be detected by observation of transit events. A “transit” occurs as a planet passes in front of its star, blocking a small fraction of the star’s light. From careful observations of such events, light curves were produced which are the measure of the star’s light over a given time period. Ms. Tulay’s project focused on optimizing an observational program to collect and analyze transit data to produce fitted light curves that return transit midpoint uncertainties. With an understanding of these uncertainties along with coordinated simultaneous observations of transit events with other observatories, transit timing variations are detected. A “transit timing variation” is a slight deviation in the transit event of the exoplanet due to gravitational interactions between itself, other planets, and the star. Detection of such timing variations can provide insight into discovering multi-planet systems outside of our solar system.

Student Bo Niemoczynski worked under the supervision of Dr. Stewart on a project to design, build, and understand a simple sound amplifier. After considering the capabilities of various devices that could be used to build an amplifier, Bo decided to use a cascade of Bipolar Junction Transistors (BJTs) as the main amplifier and an operational amplifier as the pre-amp. After troubleshooting several problems (including low voltage signal, thermal runaway, and transistor saturation), his final result was a 1-amp sound amplifier that was impressively loud in its output. Mr. Siemoczynski graduated with his BS in physics this past May and will use the experience he gained in this project to work toward an MS in Electrical Engineering at Temple University.

Students Shyam Patel and Jason Moody have been working under the supervision of Dr. John Elwood to construct a cosmic ray detector using instructions provided by graduate students at the University of California, Berkeley. The two detectors consist of three principal components: (1.) two scintillating paddles along with two corresponding photomultiplier tubes; (2.) a customizable circuit board; and (3.) a protective external casing. These three components must be prepared separately from one another and then integrated into one cohesive, functioning unit.

The Department of Physics has also been active in the community, hosting the 9th Webelos Scientist Day in October, which was run by the NSTA student chapter and the Society of Physics Students. The McMunn Planetarium has continued a vigorous outreach program, with over 5,000 visitors seeing presentations and astronomical lessons by Dr. Buckley. Approximately half of these participants were members of school groups, and the other half community groups and the general public.
"Whirl is king" said Aristophanes, and in so many ways, the Political Science Department during 2012-13 Academic Year has been a whirl of activity. Between hosting the international European Union Simulation; students attending the Washington Center Internship Program, the Presidential Inauguration Seminar, and the National Security Seminar, and students conducting polling during the Presidential election; visiting the State Capitol, and panel presentations the department has been a whirlwind of activity. The department hosted several guest speakers throughout the year. Additionally, the faculty presented conference papers, published articles, and received several grants, all of which enhanced their classroom teaching.

Last summer, five students participated in the Washington Center Internship Program, under the supervision of Dr. Kimberly Adams. Students in this program have a unique opportunity to obtain intensive professional experience combined with rigorous academic coursework, mixed with stimulating lectures by some of the distinguished leaders in Washington, DC. Additionally, a student spent a semester with the Harrisburg Internship Program, and another student was a part of the New Leadership Pennsylvania Seminar experience.

In the fall, the department welcomed 20 new first-year students, 15 graduate students, and 17 transfer students, and they all quickly became part of the Political Science community, which consisted of 107 undergraduates, 37 graduate students, 1 departmental secretary, and 7 faculty members.

During the fall semester, students gave presentations on their experiences with the Washington Center Internship Program. The Young College Republican Club was officially recognized by the university and was active during the election. Additionally, several students were very active in President Obama’s reelection campaign. Both groups conducted multiple voter-registration drives on campus. Several of the department’s faculty conducted a panel on the Presidential election. Additionally, about 25 students, supervised by Dr. Adam McGlynn, conducted an election poll in conjunction with the Pocono Record. The results of the poll were published by the newspaper.

In January, seven students went to President Obama’s second inauguration and had the opportunity to attend several seminars by prominent national leaders. In addition to attending the inauguration, the students were also able to attend some Congressional committee hearings, and had several networking opportunities with various national leaders and lobbyists.

In April, ESU hosted 160 students from 18 universities in Europe and the United States for political role-playing at its highest level. The International European Union Simulation (known as “Eurosim”), was a rigorous four-day exercise that provided students with real-world experience concerning the European Union, international law, diplomatic protocol, and diplomatic procedures. Students assumed the role of policymakers, prepared policy papers, and applied their knowledge and negotiating skills in sessions with other delegates. ESU was represented by 12 students, and Dr. Leif Johan Eliasson served as the American Director of TACEUSS, and was responsible for planning and coordinating this major international event at ESU.

At the end of April, 20 political science students went to the State Capitol and had the opportunity to discuss state policy issues with State Senator David Argall, Representative Rosemary Brown, and Representative Mario Scavello. In addition to watching a House session, they also were had the opportunity to learn about redistricting from Dr. John Memmi, the lead staffer on the state redistricting plan. The Spring semester concluded with two students attending the National Security Seminar in Washington, DC, where they were able to meet with the Deputy Secretary of Defense, the National Security Advisor, and other national leaders involved in national security.

Throughout this time, the faculty of the Political Science Department published 10 peer-reviewed journal articles, presented 26 conference papers at both national and regional conferences, and were awarded four grants for research projects, all of which adds to the classroom and helps our students achieve their educational and career goals.
The 2012-13 Academic Year was a time of exciting growth and activity for the Department of Psychology. In Fall 2012, for example, the number of Psychology majors rose to a total of 372. A new Extended Learning Program in Psychology began that offers qualified applicants an accelerated bachelor’s degree program in Psychology. This is an exciting 18-month program that offers courses to students on Tuesday and Thursday evenings throughout the fall and spring semesters, with breaks during the summer months.

Scholarly authorship among the Psychology faculty members and student body is at an all-time high. For example, Dr. Richard Wesp and student John Gasper collaborated on “Is Size Misperception of Targets Simply Justification for Poor Performance?” in the peer-reviewed journal Perception; Dr. Sussie Eshun and Dr. Paul Bartoli authored “Suicide in Sub-Saharan Africa: a Need for Practical and Culture-Sensitive Prevention in the text Suicidal Behavior: An International Perspective; and Dr. Jyh-Hann Chang and Dr. Bonnie Green co-authored “Workshop on Changing Attitudes in College Populations: Facilitators with Physical Disabilities” in the Journal of Instructional Psychology.

Student-faculty collaborative research remains a hallmark of the ESU Psychology program. For example, Dr. Renee Boburka and student Abby Jefcoat presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association a paper entitled “‘You Ignored My Poke!’ The Impact of Rejection via Social Media Sites”; Dr. Green and Dr. Chang along with students John Darsinos, Amy Lebkeucher, and Abby Jefcoat presented “People Can Look Better than They Are but Not Worse on the D-IAT” at the 2013 Association for Psychological Science conference; and Dr. Joseph Miele along with students Kelly North, Gina Colonna, and Mary Mulligan presented “Tool-Use in Long-Evans Rats: Importance of Experience” at the 2013 annual meeting of the Eastern Psychological Association. This theme of scholar-practitioner development in our program is on wide display as our department has been selected to host the annual “Conference of Psychology Programs” for the entire Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education in the fall of 2013.

In addition, the Psychology Department contributes significantly to the overall functioning of the university as faculty served during 2012-13 in a multiplicity of capacities across campus as active members of: the Student-Faculty Conduct Board; the University Senate; the Institutional Review Board; and the university-wide committees for Curriculum, Student Evaluation, Racial and Ethnic Diversity, Extended Learning, Assessment, and General Education. The University community recognized Dr. Wesp as the sole recipient of the 2013 Distinguished Professor Award, and Dr. Chang as the winner of the 2013 ESU Martin Luther King Award.
Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice

The Department of Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice had another productive and exciting year in 2012-13, with significant program growth and change occurring. Dr. Barbara Collins, Professor and Chair, retired at the end of May after 36 years of distinguished service. Her vast contributions are well known to the department, university and community.

The department now offers three majors, three minors, as well as a dual major in Sociology and Spanish with the Department of Modern Languages. Over the past year, the two newest program offerings in the department—the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and the Bachelor of Science in Social Work—experienced tremendous growth in the number of majors. The Social Work program, under the direction of Dr. John Kraybill-Greggo, also continued making significant progress in the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) Candidacy/Initial Accreditation process, which included submission of the Benchmark I report in October 2012, a CSWE Commissioner visit in December 2012, and the successful achievement of candidacy in June 2013. The program continues to work toward an initial accreditation decision in June 2015 through completion of two additional Benchmark reports and Commissioner visits.

ESU’s administration and the department also worked this year in developing a relationship with Marywood University to offer Marywood’s MSW Program on the ESU campus. Marywood will start its first class of MSW students at ESU in Fall 2013.

Department members continued their ambitious research agendas, often involving students as research assistants. Dr. Chin Hu and Dr. Hooshang Pazaki jointly presented a conference paper entitled “Evaluating Global Education at a Regional University: A Focus Group Research on Faculty Perspectives” and co-authored an article entitled “Community Life among Practicing Muslims: An Analysis of Generational Differences”. Dr. Pazaki and Dr. Ray Muller co-authored an article entitled “Addressing Student Disengagement in a Socially and Culturally Diverse Society: Developing ‘Sociological Inquiry’ as a New Course”. Dr. Laurene Clossey is currently working on two research projects: a participatory-action research project with certified peer specialists in mental health to uncover the barriers to their full inclusion in the mental-health system; and a series of studies examining the effectiveness of a new family-therapy model for children in the mental-health system. Dr. Michele Tavormina is co-principal investigator on the second investigation.

The department continued to engage in the community in a variety of ways this academic year. Dr. Kraybill-Greggo, Dr. Hu, Dr. Pazaki, and Dr. Alberto Cardelle are working with United Way of Monroe County on the completion of a Community Assessment to identify the most critical human-service needs and factors contributing to those needs. Dr. Clossey serves on the Carbon-Monroe-Pike Mental Health Advisory Board. In April 2013, the department also sponsored a “ESU Law Enforcement Day” involving several regional departments and agencies. The event was coordinated by Prof. Richard Ruck.

Dr. Marianne Cutler serves as the advisor to the Sociology, Social Work & Criminal Justice Club and the ESU chapter of the AKD International Sociology Honor Society. The club developed numerous service projects/community events this year connected to social issues including “A Night Without a Home”, an event geared toward increasing awareness of the needs of the homeless. Twelve sociology majors were inducted into AKD in the spring. Dr. Hu and Dr. Pazaki served as acting advisors in Spring 2013 during Dr. Cutler’s sabbatical.
The ESU Theatre Department was very involved with the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival (KCACTF) this year. KCACTF honored ESU Theatre for exceptional creative work through three Certificates of Merit. For The Diary of Anne Frank, Dr. Margaret Joyce Ball was honored for her direction, and Prof. Yoshi Tanokura for his period scenic and costume design. For Top Girls, student Brandon Cabrera was honored for his outstanding projections design.

Additionally, four students—Hunter Fogel, Shannon Christmann, Ellyse Burnett, and Rebecca Regina—were selected to compete in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition. Fourteen students and two professors travelled to the KCACTF Regional II Festival at Towson University in Baltimore, MD. Three students presented their stage-management books and research and while all 14 attended festival workshops. ESU theatre professors taught workshops and adjudicated student competitions at KCACTF and acted as respondents to productions staged throughout the year at other universities.

Five select students from Xie Jing Television and Film Art College of Shanghai Normal University, one of the top three performing arts schools in China, attended ESU’s Theatre program for a full-semester exchange. In addition to full integration into ESU classes, the students joined with the Musical Theatre Organization to perform songs, and demonstrate voice exercises and martial arts at ESU during the Presidential Inauguration week, and for a number of charitable events in East Meets West, directed by Dr. Ball.

One visiting Chinese student performed a major role of in ESU Theatre’s mainstage production of Top Girls directed by Prof. Stephanie French. Top Girls looked at the pertinent theme of work life balance. Special guest faculty and student speakers from a variety of disciplines collaborated on the event to share relevant research or lead discussions in relating to work/life balance. Research on “Tales from the field: Is There a Still a Glass Ceiling for Women Seeking Professional Careers?” was presented by Dr. Patricia Kennedy of Communication Studies Department, with students Karima Williams and Nikole Threat. Research on “Women Leaders: Voices for Positive Change” was presented by Prof. Kelly McKenzie of the Academic Enrichment and Learning Program and student Abdels Vega. President Marcia Welsh spoke on the “The Experiences and Observations Of ESU’s Top Woman.”

Dr. Andrea McClanahan of the Department of Communication Studies and student Felicia Revero, a Theatre student, discussed “Third-Wave Feminism: Where Are We and Where Are We Going?” ESU Theatre alumna Maria Picon spoke on “Mothers and Daughters Navigating Careers and Family” while technical director Michael Thomas addressed “The Two-Career Family in Pursuit of Happiness.” Erin O’Donnell, Asian History professor, shared her research on “Women of India in the 1980s and the Communal Card.”

This year the Theatre Department presented a historical drama, The Diary of Anne Frank, directed by Dr. Ball to sold-out groups from local schools and to the public. Performances were followed by discussions on the historical events. Prof. Susan O’Hearn directed an absurd dark comedy The Goat or Who is Sylvia? Prof. Yoshi Tanokura designed the scenery and costumes for all three ESU mainstage productions. Guest professional lighting designers Ben Weil and Annie Weigand designed lighting for the productions, offered special workshops, and led students in the implementation of their lighting designs. Students also took part in a workshop on stage-rigging.

In the professional theatre, Prof. Tanokura created three scenic designs, including: the world premier of Stargirl by Y York, based on the acclaimed eponymous novel by Jerry Spinelli; Peter Pan for the Birmingham Children’s Theatre; and the world premiere of Clever Little Lies by Joe DiPietro for the George St. Playhouse, a regional theatre.

ESU Theatre students are successfully transitioning into the media entertainment and live performing arts fields. From technical theatre and design, 2012 graduate Robert McIntyre was hired to work in lighting at the Jacob’s Pillow International Dance Festival, and 2012 graduate Michelle Tuitt was hired as a stage manager for the Long Wharf Theatre and the Hartford Stage in Connecticut. Jenell Manzi stage-managed Chekov’s The Seagull, starring Calista Flockhart, at the L.A. Theatre Works.

ESU actors were also highlighted in films and other media. This year Christi Berlane (Class of 2009) acted in the independent feature film The New Comic Day and three short films, Reunions, Bumps, and Insectaphobia. She has had lead or principle roles in seven films as well as appearing in Law & Order SVU and Nick Noggin’s Nickelodeon. Dave Ausem has completed ten films since graduating from ESU in 2009. Melissa Sherry (Class of 2012) is the co-founder and production manager for Hollow Tree Films, which has produced eight films. They have been nominated for best feature at the Pocono Film Festival and won in the best short film category. Jenell Mazni captured the lead, and Gabryal Rabinowitz a supporting role, in the Web television series The British Invasion written by Hollywood casting director Cathy Reinking.
A Message from the Classroom

Marcel Proust in the Hands of ESU Undergraduates: Can History’s Most Verbose Novelist Survive in the Age of Twitter?

With 2013 being a milestone year for perhaps the greatest of all novelists, French professor Paul Creamer sends word of how Marcel Proust is faring in ESU classrooms a century after the revolutionary writer’s masterpiece was first published.

The French novelist Marcel Proust (1871-1922) was fêted around the world this year because 2013 marked the centenary of the publication of the first volume of his seven-volume novel À la recherche du temps perdu. Oddly, the title of this hallmark of world literature is known in English by two separate and unrelated titles: Remembrance of Things Past (a lyrical but inexact translation riffed from a line in a Shakespeare sonnet) and In Search of Lost Time (less dreamy than the borrowing from the Bard, but an exact translation of Proust’s own French-language title). The first of these English titles was in vogue among English-speaking Proust readers from the 1920s until around the 1980s, but since then the second English title has progressively gained currency and is now preferred by many.

If you find it odd that Proust’s magnum opus should have two titles rather than one in English, we’re just getting started with the oddness. We may begin with the fact that the novel—essentially a first-person, semi-autobiographical walking tour of Paris’ upper-crust society of a century ago—is marbled with individual sentences that run a hundred words, and often well over a hundred words, in length. Further, the length of the text as a whole exceeds well over a million words. (You have just read that last sentence correctly: this seven-volume meganovel hurtles past the million-word milepost, and shatters it with unapologetic joie de vivre.)

How then, we must ask, does Proust’s text pan out for ESU students taking advanced French literature courses in the twenty-first century? In other words, could a Twitter-loving ESU undergraduate—accustomed to sending out tweets that run no more than 140 characters in length—actually enjoy reading Proust’s novel in the original French?

The answer is oui. At ESU, we read À la recherche du temps perdu in severely excerpted form because the original text runs some 3,000 pages in length. But even when reading Proust in an abbreviated format, our undergraduates discover and savor the beauty and humor that Proust threads into his uniquely long sentences. Students are also intrigued by the way the novel is able to interconnect such disparate—and seemingly unrelated—concepts as childhood, dreaming, memory, and self-discovery, and make them all seem seamlessly linked.

The students are also impressed with Proust’s ambition and drive: here is a man, after all, who in one fell swoop literally created a new literary genre (that is, the million-word-plus novel), and remains the only writer in the canon to see such a gargantuan text meet with critical and popular success. ESU undergraduates appreciate the romantic figure of Proust: the dazzling conversationalist and witty party guest, the keen and clever student of human nature, the night owl who churned out thousands of handwritten pages while sitting in bed, the died-too-young genius of the twentieth-century novel.

But perhaps the greatest thrill our students pull from À la recherche du temps perdu is simply the pleasure of meeting a literary genius on the pages of his own masterpiece. It is one thing to recognize a famous author’s name, of course, and quite another to interact with, think about, and then discuss that author’s seminal work. So while a message sent via Twitter and Proust’s meganovel are of astronomically different lengths, both capture the attention of ESU students.