COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES 2014-2015

Preparing future faculty

History:
Dana Hammond, Morgan State University, 2014-15

Political Science:
Saidat Ilo, Howard University, 2014-15

Professors in Residence
Dr. Carlos Aleman, School of Communication Studies (SCOM)
Dr. William O’Meara, Philosophy and Religion
Dr. Kenneth Wright, WRTC

CAL sponsored and co-sponsored symposia and conferences
School of Public and International Affairs spring 2015 symposium: “100 Years of War and Peace.” This year’s SPIA symposium took the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I as its starting point. Talks and roundtables focused on questions of war and peace, making current connections, for example, by asking how different democracies respond to terrorist threats. The guest speaker was Dr. Dennis Foster, Professor of International Studies and Political Science at Virginia Military Institute, who gave a presentation titled The Shell Game: Do Democracies Fight Wars to Divert Public Attention from Terrorism?

Annual conference of the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, April 8-9, 2015. This year’s conference was titled, Tolerance: A Global Necessity from Ancient Times to the Present. Among other topics, talks focused on LGBT issues and gender identity in Italy, Turkey, and Mexico, religious intolerance, and freedom of speech, including a discussion of Charlie Hebdo.

Africana Studies Conference, October 16-17, 2014. The college has been supporting this annual interdisciplinary conference at JMU; this year’s topic was Icons, Bridges and Milestones: Rethinking Africana Studies.

The 37th Annual Communication Studies Conference, Communication Studies in Action: Communication, Citizenship, and Civic Engagement, April 13-15, 2015. This yearly conference featured presentations by JMU faculty and students as well as a keynote address by J. David Cisneros, University of Illinois, whose talk was titled Communication, Citizenship, and Civic Engagement: The Case of Contemporary Immigrant Rights Activism.

2014 Furious Flower poetry conference: Seeding the Future of African American Poetry. The College of Arts and Letters provided support that made it possible to include not only internationally acclaimed poets in the program but also the choir of Morgan State University as well as saxophonist Ravi Coltrane.

Film programs
Reel Change film festival, March 23-27, 2015. This film festival, which features documentaries from across the world, is organized by faculty in the School of Media Arts
and Design (SMAD). As it takes place in the Court Square Theater in downtown Harrisonburg, its impact goes beyond the narrower JMU community. This year, it included documentaries on the US/Mexico border, Angolan death metal music, African-American Lesbian activists in the United States, the environmental effects of animal agriculture, and about an Israeli beauty queen who speaks out on sexual assault.

The Department of Foreign Languages, Literature, and Cultures organized an Italian film festival in spring 2015.

**Visiting Scholars Program**

2014

Geoff Dabelko, Professor and Director of Environmental Studies, Ohio University, *The Periphery Isn’t Peripheral: Acting on the Integration Imperative for Sustainability*, Monday, September 22


Andrew Morris-Singer, Physician; Instructor, Harvard Medical School; President and Principal Founder, Primary Care Progress, *Revitalizing Primary Care: All Hands on Deck*, Wednesday, October 8

Ed Sarath, Professor of Music, Dept. of Jazz and Contemporary Improvisation; Director, Program in Creativity and Consciousness Studies, University of Michigan, *Creativity, Consciousness, and the Future of Education: Jazz as Change Agent in the 21st Century Academy*, Monday, October 13

Bessie House-Soremekun, Director of Africana Studies Program, Purdue University Indianapolis, *Rethinking Africana Studies for the 21st Century*, Friday, October 17

Caty Borum Chatto, Professor of Public Communication and Executive in Residence, School of Communication, American University, *Designing for Impact: A Strategic Approach to Storytelling*, Thursday, October 23

Alice Honig, Professor Emerita, Syracuse University, *Infant Mental Health: Insurance for our Future*, Monday, October 27

Charles Morgan, Research Psychiatrist/Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry, Yale University, *Stress vulnerability and stress reliance; why people differ in their responses to traumatic events: Insights from psycho-neurological studies of Special Forces*, Thursday, October 30

Pilar Perez Solano, Documentary Filmmaker, *The Making and Meaning of Las Maestras de la Republica*, Thursday, November 4

2015

Roger Reynolds, University Professor of Composition, University of California, San Diego, *Alliances – Collaborations – Futures – Cross-Modality – What Is Needed – Memorability – Context or Features – Benediction*, Thursday, February 19
Carl Lee, Professor of Mathematics and Chellgren Professor, University of Kentucky, *The Place of Mathematics and the Mathematics of Place*, Monday, March 16


Elzbieta Gozdziak, Research Director, Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University, *Dreams Deferred: Undocumented Children and Children of Undocumented Parents*, Thursday, April 2

Philip Davies, Director, Brunel Centre for Intelligence and Security Studies, Brunel University, UK, *Intelligence, Politics and Government: National Intelligence Cultures and National Intelligence Systems*, April 30

Judith Jellison, Mary D. Bold Regents Professor in Music and Human Learning; University Distinguished Teaching Professor, University of Texas at Austin, *Too Much Stuff, Not Enough Time: Essentials About Inclusion*, Monday, April 13

Alice Butler-Smith, Assistant Professor, School of Advanced Military Studies, *Designing Operations, Designing Futures: The Practice of Military Art and Science in the Asymmetric Present*, Thursday, April 16,

**Additional talks and roundtables**

Zerlina Maxwell, political analyst, *From Catcalling to Sexual Assault: How We Can All Work to End Gender-Based Violence*, November 5

The SMAD diversity committee organized a roundtable discussion titled *Hot Topics in Media Ethics - Charlie Hebdo*, February 28

The School of Communications Studies organized the *Institute for Constructive Advocacy and Dialogue: Students as Neighbors: Engaging for Sustainable Solutions*, which included a dialogue with the local community, in March 2015

**Russian Studies Lecture Series, FLLC:**

Dr. Juliane Furst. Senior Lecturer in Modern European History, University of Bristol, *The Rise and Fall of Molodaia Gvardiia or A Story of War and Peace in the Donbass*, March 19

Andrew Kaufman, University of Virginia, creator of "Books behind bars", *Transforming Lives with Russian Literature*, April 9

Several CAL faculty members facilitated sessions at the 2015 JMU diversity conference.

**CAL Hiring Policies and Retention**

CAL Academic Units strive to recruit and retain diverse faculty hires. CAL has adopted language provided by both JMU’s OEO, and the Office of the Special Assistant to the President in their job advertisements.

**Student engagement with issues of diversity and inclusion**

The College of Arts and Letters provided financial and logistic support for presentations and roundtables associated with POSC 371: Women and Politics in Comparative Perspective. The course centered on a campus engagement project on the prevention of sexual assault, which included a public talk by political analyst Zerlina Maxwell as well as outreach to
students on the Commons and a public discussion that featured various JMU student organizations, JMU units dealing with sexual assault, as well as JMU alumni. The class issued a report on their experiences that included recommendations for further engagement.

Ahmet Shala, a former minister of finance and economy in Kosovo and ambassador of Kosovo to Japan, was hosted by the Department of Political Science. Shala taught POSC 361 – Topics in International Relations: Peacebuilding and Development in Kosovo.

Justice Studies is adding new diversity-focused courses to the curriculum (Domestic Violence, Indigenous Peoples, and Sexual Orientation & Social Policy; Race, Class, and Justice).

One section of the JUST research methods course collaborates with and provides consultation for the Harrisonburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority in their work assisting Harrisonburg’s homeless population.

SCOM experiences increased enrollments in courses on gender and communications as well as their cultural concentration.

WRTC assistant professor Sean McCarthy helped organize the project Tracing History: Uncovering Urban Renewal, which used drone technology to engage students in an investigation of the impact that so-called urban renewal had on the African-American population in Harrisonburg. September 2014.

JMU student presentation/publication on diversity-related topics are frequently accepted by some of our on-campus CAL sponsored, or co-sponsored conferences. These include:

- Africana Studies Interdisciplinary Conference
- Annual Communication Studies Conference
- General Education Student Conference
- MAD-RUSH
- School of Writing, Rhetoric and Technical Communication’s Graduate Student Symposium

CAL faculty members served as Faculty in Residence in London, Antwerp, and Florence. CAL faculty were involved in large number of short-term study abroad programs in Argentina, Austria, Bosnia, Croatia, France, Ghana, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Russia, Spain, and the United Kingdom.