Faculty Publications, Conferences and Awards

Scott Beadenkopf, adjunct instructor and director of academic technology, presented the following: “E-Books and E-Readers: Is it Soup Yet?” at the Drexel Innovation Institute, Drexel University, Philadelphia, September 11; “Neumann Faculty Flock to Online Training” at the 15th Annual Technology and Learning Conference, Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell, PA, October 2; and “Standing Room Only: Faculty Crowd the Online Classroom,” at the 2009 ACHE Annual Conference and Meeting, Philadelphia, November 16-18.

Dina De Luca, Ph.D., associate professor of Spanish, presented the paper “Presencia y descendencia africana en el Istmo de Panama: Recuento historico,” at the Latin American Studies Association XXVIII International Congress in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on June 11.

Len DiPaul, Ed.D., executive director of pastoral and theological studies, was the keynote speaker at the 43rd Annual Catholic Administrators Conference in Bay Louis, Mississippi, on October 20. The theme of the conference was “Mission throughout Catholic schools.” His topic was, “Exploring the Relevancy and Purpose of Catholic Schools: A Voice for Catholic Social Justice.” The conference gathered all of the principals and presidents from the Dioceses of New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Mobile, Alabama; and Gulf Port, Mississippi.

Terence Gleeson, assistant professor of theatre arts, produced and directed the University Players production of Six Characters in Search of an Author in November.


Mehdi Hojjat, Ph.D., associate professor of finance and international business, won the 2009 Innovation in Teaching Award at the Middle Atlantic Association of Colleges of Business Administration conference in Harrisburg. His was one of more than 25 submissions this year. He also presented “Innovation in Teaching Award” at the conference held on October 13.

Yukiko Ishida, DMA, associate professor of music, performed at 155th Anniversary of Japanese-American Relations Ceremony, Shimoda, Japan, on May 14. She also led the Neumann University Concert Chorale to Japan for the 15th Japanese-American Relation Ceremony.

Jim Kain, assistant professor of English, published the book Sweet Tempo: An American Romance, in spring 2009. It is the story of Stephen, a young man taking uncertain steps from youth to adulthood. In 1976, he takes a break from college to travel by train across the country and “find himself.” He gets sidetracked in a small town called Indecision where he falls in love (he thinks), gets lost and then entangled in dreamlike series of events leading to tragic consequences (or are they?). His is a strange “coming of age” story and a tragic-comic misadventure as much about the American dream as the teenage dreamer. Sweet Tempo is now available, in autographed editions, in the Neumann University Store or through the publisher’s online bookstore at https://www2.xlibris.com/bookstore/default.aspx.

Claudia Kovach, Ph.D., professor of English and French, presented the keynote address, “Wisdom, Leadership, Service: Balancing God’s Gifts and Life’s Challenges,” at the Neumann University induction ceremony of the Delta Pi Chapter of Delta Epsilon Sigma (the national Catholic honor society) on November 22. Dr. Kovach was also given the chapter award for her contributions to Delta Pi, including organizing the inaugural induction ceremony in 1986 and serving as faculty advisor from 1997 to 2006. Since 2003 she has served on the executive committee of Delta Epsilon Sigma, first as board member, then as vice president, and currently as president. Since summer 2008 she has served as co-editor of Delta Epsilon Sigma Journal.

Samuel Lemon, Ph.D., academic advisor for continuing adult and professional studies, was the keynote speaker at the Providence Friends Meeting’s 325th Anniversary Celebration on October 24. The theme of the event was “Quaker Contributions to Freedom,” and he talked about how the Quakers from this particular meeting helped his African-American ancestors, who arrived in Media, PA, as runaway slaves in the early 1860s.

Suzanne Mayer, IHM, Ph.D., ’90, associate professor of pastoral care and counseling, published the article, “Theological Reflection: Prayer formation for pastoral counselors,” in Counseling and Spirituality on July 7, from Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada, in a themed volume, Prayer and Meditation.

Robert McMonagle, Ph.D., associate professor of political science, was accepted as a Commonwealth Speaker for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council for 2010-11. The title of the presentation is “Bush, Obama, Energy and You.”

Maria José Parker, Ph.D., associate professor of music, performed a piano duo recital with pianist Christopher Bradshaw entitled “Vive la France!” in Meagher Theatre at Neumann University on October 23. The duo performed master works by French composers such as Debussy, Ravel, Faure, and Poulenc.

Richard Sayers, Ph.D., associate professor of music, directed the Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble in their combined winter concert on December 3.

Tish Szymurski, Ph.D., dean of continuing adult and professional studies, assumed the role as president-elect for the Association for Continuing Higher Education on November 18. She also co-chaired the international Conference and Meeting for the Association for Continuing Higher Education in Philadelphia, November 15-18.

Donna L. Thompson, assistant professor of nursing, received the 2009 President’s Award from the WOCNCB (Wound, Ostomy, Continence Nursing Certification Board) on October, 11.

Our sincere apologies to Mr. Terence Gleeson who was omitted from the 2008-09 President’s Annual Report.