

Issue #1, Fall 2011

INAUGURAL ISSUE OF: C N U POTENTIAL FOR DISCOVERY AND CREATIVITY



A magazine dedicated to showcasing the scholarly activity of our faculty and students.



Office of Sponsored
Programs
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sponsoredprograms.cnu.edu/](http://sponsoredprograms.cnu.edu/)
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Director's Introduction	2
The Associate Provost's Introduction	3
The Prudence & Supremacy of Love Dr. Eric J. Silverman's Research	4
Results of Philosophical Research on Students	5
Mummichog Fish Dr. Jessica Thompson	6
Student Research with Mummichog	7
COS Pivot The Research and Sponsored Program Tool for YOU	8
OSP Needs You!	9
Post-Award Corner	10
Scholarly Activity Luncheon-Details	11
Invitation to the Scholarly Activity Luncheon	12

Cover photo by
Anne Pascucci

CNU Potential for Discovery and Creativity

Letter from the Director

I am proud to present the inaugural issue of C N U Potential for Discovery and Creativity, a newsletter that aspires to provide faculty and students the opportunity to see in them potential through the successes of their peers. With the assistance of faculty researchers and creators, the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) has assembled some stories of success. We hope to engage more faculty and students to See In You (C N U) your potential through research and sponsored programs.

Plans identified by OSP include Research and Sponsored Program Development Luncheons bringing faculty from various disciplines together to explore topics or areas which all can contribute and gain rewards. The ultimate goal is a project fundable by an external sponsor. Collaboration between disciplines is the true reward. Our first luncheon will be held on 12/1 on the topic of a holistic curriculum development around Responsible Conduct in Research (RCR). Future topics will include CNU's opportunities for "Green" research and Sustainability programming. We seek to engage our Hampton Roads community through collaboration with businesses, school districts, universities and nonprofits.

OSP will be visiting faculty meetings and holding workshops on proposal development and other topics as well as bringing in consultants to assist on sponsor specific proposals. We are enthusiastic about engaging faculty, administrators, and students.

We look forward to working with all faculty to achieve their goals of scholarly activity. We hope that this interest is infectious and one we do not seek to cure!

Please enjoy our first edition of C N U Potential for Discovery and Creativity and consider contributing to future editions.

Thank you~

Anne Pascucci

Anne M. Pascucci

Introduction from the Associate Provost

Page 3

Dear Colleagues:

This first edition of the Office of Sponsored Programs' newsletter gives me the opportunity to share with you how grants and contracts have impacted me and my career. From 1997 to 2005, I received \$1,250,000 in grant and contract funding from NASA, NSF and SCHEV. In addition, I was a consultant on NSF grants totaling \$7,600,00. For me one of the biggest rewards from this funding was the work I did with elementary teachers -- teaching them to teach using problem-solving techniques and metacognition. I trained at least 150 teachers and it is awesome to know this training continues to affect thousands of elementary students. Occasionally I run into a teacher who attended my training and they talk about how much it changed their teaching. Comments like this encourage seeking further grant funding!

Not only did the grant and contract funding have a profound effect on the teachers I trained, but it also helped me advance in my professional life. Summer salary helped pay my graduate student loans and buy a house, course releases provided time for writing papers and applying for the next grant, keeping up with the field revitalized my teaching, and the activities in the grants assisted with ideas for publications.

As you can see, there are professional advantages to obtaining funding from sponsoring organizations. Your funding may not be as directly related to people as mine, but whatever you do under a funded grant impacts CNU, the local and global community, and you personally.

I encourage you to use the resources of the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) to find the right funding. Anne Pascucci and Debbie Gaudreau in OSP have many years of experience in sponsored programs and are there to help you find appropriate funding opportunities, write a winning proposal, develop the budget, or administer funded awards you receive. Please take advantage of this outstanding resource.

Sincerely,

Bobbie

Bobbie Hoffman Bartels, Ph.D.
Associate Provost
Director of Graduate Studies
Professor of Mathematics

The Prudence and Supremacy of Love

By Dr. Eric Silverman, Assistant Professor in Philosophy & Religious Studies and Chair of IACUC

In graduate school one of my goals was to find a research topic within philosophy that would hold my interest long-term. I knew too many graduate students who spent years of their lives writing about obscure topics that lost interest for them long before their Ph.D. was completed. Fortunately, I chose to investigate theories of love as my primary research area, focusing upon love's ethical implications. I have had the privilege of investigating ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary views of love and examining each account's advantages and drawbacks. And although I finished my dissertation more than three years ago, the topic still captures my imagination.

The revised version of my dissertation was published during my second year at CNU. *The Prudence of Love: How Possessing the Virtue of Love Benefits the Lover* is an interdisciplinary book focusing upon the intersection of philosophical, religious, and psychological questions concerning love. It defends an account of the virtue of love derived from Aristotle's accounts of virtue and friendship, along with Thomas Aquinas's account of charitable love. It identifies five distinct ways that possessing the virtue of love contributes to the lover's happiness. While many people find it intuitive that love benefits the loving person by improving relationships, I surprisingly found that only one of love's benefits is primarily relational and external to the self while the other benefits are largely internal to the self and psychological.

I am currently developing a follow-up manuscript advocating a view of ethics centered on the virtue of love tentatively entitled: *The Supremacy of Love: Why the Virtue of Love Should Be Central to Ethics*. While investigating the major theories of ethics I have found that many give inadequate attention to the value of relationships, and do not attribute proper moral significance to the value of interpersonal connections. The account of love-centered ethics I am developing is intended to: provide moral guidance while according proper value to both individual persons and relationships, address the proper balance between broad impartial moral obligations and partial intimate relationships, resolve the puzzle of 'why should one be moral?' by showing that living according to such an ethic is rational, all while maintaining cultural flexibility so that the theory avoids merely exporting our own culture's moral assumptions.

Obviously, it's difficult to find time to write a book while teaching full-time. The Office of Sponsored Programs has provided helpful resources as I've investigated grants to underwrite dedicated research time for my manuscript. While I haven't yet obtained external resources for my research project, I know that the OSP will continue to aid me in my search.

Results of Philosophical Research on Students



Dr. Silverman and his protégé Mr. Mesler

Dr. Silverman's research on the value of love as an ethicist presents a novel and refreshing approach to a field that is often intellectually stifled. In my own studies and work in the field of ethics, I have encountered an overwhelming dominance of two theories: utilitarianism and Kantian deontology. While both of the theories have merits, each of them attempt to reduce moral action to a cold, emotionless calculus. Dr. Silverman's take on ethics is quite different, his book, *The Prudence of Love*, stresses the value of love as a leading virtue. The idea of genuine, sincere and powerful emotion serving as an important virtue has helped to expand my understanding of ethical outlooks beyond the impersonal mainstream and into a frankly more comforting one- one in which morality is supported, rather than opposed by, genuine goodwill.

I have also benefitted from Dr. Silverman's expertise in the general area of Thomistic philosophical theology. I wrote a paper addressing the contributions of Aquinas to the discussion of the problem of evil, an argument against the existence of God in the light of the existence of evil. He and I worked closely in formulating my reconstruction of Aquinas's argument and I have no doubts that my paper would have been of a significantly lower quality without his help. After some revision, I submitted the paper to a philosophy conference at the University of Georgia. If accepted and presented by me, I am confident that Dr. Silverman's help was a key factor in giving my paper the quality required for acceptance to such an academic event. The following year a paper I wrote under Dr. Silverman's instruction received recognition for its quality. This time, American University's undergraduate philosophy journal, *Pharmakon*, published my paper on Platonic epistemology.

Professor Silverman's research is engaging and admirable in that, while of high scholarly quality, it is not confined to the same narrow scope that academia occasionally resigns itself. Instead, it consists of innovative looks at exhausted topics and an incorporation of the thoughts of great thinkers of the past into areas in which their voices need to be heard.

By : Sean Mesler
Student of Dr. Eric Silverman

In addition to his teaching, mentoring, publications, and research, Dr. Silverman is currently serving as the Chair of the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) and has voiced an interest in the development of an institution-wide responsible conduct in research course.

Dr. Jessica Thompson's Research on the Mummichog

My research focuses on habitat selection by freshwater and estuarine fishes. Using both field studies and laboratory experiments, I investigate how characteristics of an aquatic habitat impact where, when, and why fishes use that habitat. Most of my recent research has occurred in salt marshes in tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay, where I have focused on how the diet of fishes and their risk of predation varies with the tidal cycle and their access to intertidal marshes. I am currently seeking funding to expand my salt marsh research in two directions. First, I have applied to the Jeffress Foundation for funding to establish a laboratory study on the effects of temperature and salinity on growth of mummichog (*Fundulus heteroclitus*), a resident salt marsh fish that is abundant in the Chesapeake Bay. Both water temperature and salinity in the Chesapeake are changing as a result of global climate change, so this work would



allow us to predict the resulting changes in production of mummichog, which are important prey for economically-important species such as blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*). Second, I have applied to Virginia Sea Grant for funding to examine the impact of marsh width and location on population dynamics of mummichog in natural and restored marshes of the Chesapeake Bay. This work would provide useful information to managers who must prioritize decisions to conserve marsh sites with different characteristics.

**Mummichog
Fish in Dr.
Thomson's
Lab**

By applying for external funding, I hope to expand my research capacity by increasing my access to lab equipment and incorporating more sites into my field studies. I also look forward to being able to offer my undergraduate students a research stipend for the time they spend assisting with my research. I have also found that applying for funding has helped me focus my ideas by forcing me to write out a cohesive, well-researched work plan; this process has been particularly helpful as I have considered new directions in which to expand my current research projects. Finally, the process of developing funding proposals has allowed me to connect with potential collaborators at other institutions, including the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Overall, the experience has been a time-consuming one, but it has been well worth the effort just in the extra benefits I have received – getting the money will be the icing on the cake!

**Photo by Anne
Pascucci**

How Research Experience with Dr. Thompson Has Influenced Our College

Maggie writes ... “My graduate research is a learning experience that far exceeds the factual and conceptual knowledge pertaining to my thesis topic. Working as part of a team with Dr. Thompson and our undergraduate research assistants continues to teach me significant lessons on the value of teamwork, the importance of perseverance and the power of the scientific process. Not only does my research develop my knowledge of ecology and biology, it has taught me how to be a professional and how to understand and solve problems as part of a cohesive and communicative team.” **By Maggie McCartney**



Dr. Thompson & Maggie work with the fish.

Kelly writes ... “Undergraduate research is an invaluable experience in college. In fact, graduate and professional schools often require research as a prerequisite for admission because of the fundamental hands-on practice it provides to students. In my case, my experience as an undergraduate research assistant has been exceptionally rewarding and beneficial to my future academic prospects. I have worked closely with both Dr. Thompson and graduate student Maggie McCartney through the trials and tribulations of preparing a thesis. Although we have hit several bumps in the road, it was extremely constructive for us to work together to develop a solution and improve the quality of the research we were conducting. This cohesion was important to me because it allowed me to build working relationships outside of the classroom and apply my knowledge to something tangible. I have learned a lot about my overall capabilities in both a laboratory setting and field work through this experience. I believe it has helped me employ learned concepts in a real-world situation and make a significant contribution to the field of science. Without my involvement in this project, I do not believe I would be as confident in my ability to succeed in professional school or fully understand the primary goals of undergraduate education. Working with Dr. Thompson and Maggie has greatly influenced me to be more involved in applied biology and helped to define my overall career objectives.” **by Kelly Hayes**



Mummicog in Dr. Thompson's Lab

OSP in conjunction with the National Organization of Research Development Professionals (NORDP) have selected Pivot as the research and sponsored activity Development tool to best server CNU Faculty



CNU has recently subscribed to COS-Pivot which will enable you to search for external funding opportunities, in addition to locating potential collaborators in your field. You can also set up funding alerts and have them emailed to you weekly.

If you haven't already done so, we encourage all faculty to register for COS-Pivot at: <http://pivot.cos.com/register>
Please see additional information on Pivot at the OSP website at: <http://www.cnu.edu/sponpro/sources/pivot.asp>

COS-Pivot is offering webinars during the months of November and December especially geared for University Faculty, Researchers and Staff. The webinar will cover how to:

- 1) Navigate and manage the Pivot home page
- 2) Search COS Funding Opportunities via Quick Search and Advanced Search; make a COS Funding Opportunity active; track an opportunity; share it with others; save a search strategy; tag active and tracked records
- 3) Search COS Profiles via Quick Search and Advanced Search
- 4) COS Advisor; intelligent mapping of Profiles to Funding
- 5) Claim a COS Profile; edit and enrich a profile

Days and times offered:

Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 10:00 am

Tuesday, November 29, 2011 at 2:00 pm

Thursday, December 8, 2011 at 1:30 pm

Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 2:00 pm

To register for a webinar presented by COS or see previously recorded events, go to:

<http://www.cnu.edu/sponpro/funding/pivot.asp> and click on the "Learn" tab.

***NEW* - COS Pivot YouTube Channel**

Videos are posted on a weekly basis - <http://www.youtube.com/proquestpivot>

Please contact the Office of Sponsored Programs at osp@cnu.edu or call 4-7392 if you have any questions or require assistance.

Thank you!



Debbie Gaudreau,
Assistant Director,
OSP & COS Pivot
Expert!

Become Involved!!

The Office of Sponsored Programs Wants YOU!!

- ⇒ We seek seasoned researchers and other grant recipients to become *anonymous readers and mentors* to first time or newer proposal authors. Your feedback may mean the difference between a funded proposal and the first evaluation of reviewer comments.
- ⇒ We seek all faculty and staff engaged in research and sponsored programs to *contribute to our news-letter* and other OSP activities such as Scholarly Activity Luncheons.
- ⇒ **Involve your students in research, presentations, publications and sponsored programs.** They enhance your teaching, research, and publications.

Post-Award Corner:

The Grants Division of the Business Office is pleased to welcome our new Director of Sponsored Programs, Anne Pascucci, and our new Assistant Director of Sponsored Programs, Debbie Gaudreau! Anne and Debbie bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to CNU, and they've already proven to be immediate assets to the University. Welcome to Anne and Debbie!

We're excited about incorporating individual spreadsheets for each award made to the University to provide timely and useful fiscal information to Principal Investigators and Program Directors. The detailed spreadsheets encompass all of the considerations involving the financial administration of grants. It will simplify our processes, and ensure that all parties are fully informed of the budgetary status of an award or contract. Transitioning to the spreadsheets will take some time, as we have to convert all Banner reports to the spreadsheet, and provide secure access for all individuals on a shared drive. Once the transition is complete, it will be our goal to provide monthly statements to all, as well as information on changing account numbers, increases in grant funding, and the like. In addition, it would be our hope that a Principal Investigator and his/her team can find everything they need on the spreadsheet, thus drastically reducing the need for CNU Live.

Another new service to be implemented is a close out procedure, notifying PI's 90, 60, and 30 days prior to the grant expiration. These reminders will ensure that funding is utilized expenditures are recorded in a timely manner, and adherence to guidelines.

Is there anything that we can do for you? Please feel free to contact us at 4-7276 or laura.reid@cnu.edu.

Article by
Laura Reid

Your Post-Award Staff:

Ellis Woodruff



Laura Reid



More about CNU's first Scholarly Activity Luncheon:

Our first luncheon focuses on **Responsible Conduct in Research training (RCR)**, a requirement of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, and simply a good idea for all students to experience. It is championed by Dr. Andrew Velkey, Associate Professor of Psychology and Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research. The goal is faculty coming together to develop a course around the topic and of interest to a diverse field of students. A funding source has been identified that, with institutional support, accepts proposals to fund such curriculum development. **History** can provide the depth of knowledge about the Tuskegee experiments, the Nazi atrocities that came to light during the Nuremberg trials and other relevant historical events. **Philosophy** can develop the elements of ethics, bio-ethics, and logic so crucial to this topic. **Government** can address public policy responses to the needs of responsible conduct in research such as the Belmont Report. **Economics** can add perspective from the infusion of economic growth through intellectual property and the economics of technology transfer. **Management** can provide perspective into mitigating financial conflicts of interest. **Literature** can explore the nuisances of the topic found in various literary sources. The ability to create a protocol submitted to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) already required of **Social Work, Psychology**, and other students add real life experience in the area of compliance. Naturally, Biology, Chemistry and other life sciences already contribute to this effort. There are opportunities for all to contribute.



Rural Health Luncheon at Radford University



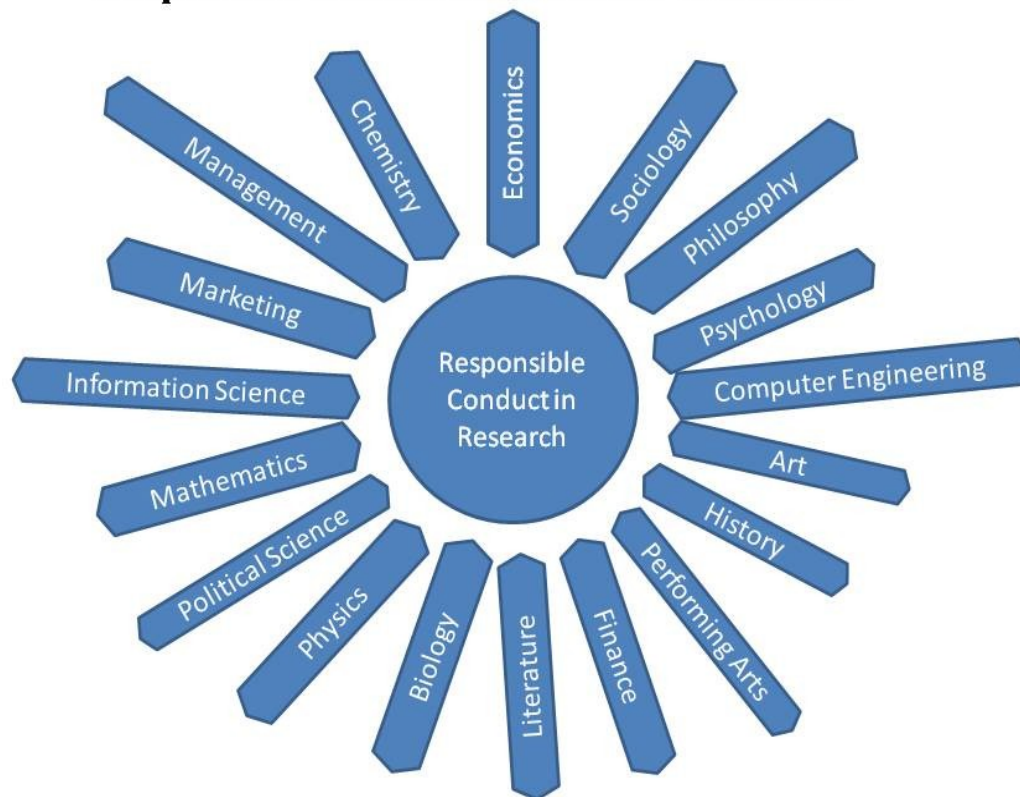
Nursing Collaboration lunch at Rhode Island Col-

These luncheons, as demonstrated by the photos, have proven to be very successful in bringing topically oriented agenda to the forefront and helped to propel externally funded research and sponsored activities.

This is the first of what we hope will be regular gatherings of CNU Faculty to discuss research agenda and sponsored programming opportunities.

Sustainability as it relates to CNU's footprint on our community as well as other community centered research and sponsored programs are just the beginning externally funded activities that can benefit our students, faculty, university, and community!

Responsible Conduct In Research Luncheon



The earlier mentioned goal of our first faculty scholarly activity luncheon to bring multiple disciplines together to engage in the development of a meaningful course with the topic of Responsible Conduct in Research is scheduled! As a liberal arts focused institution, CNU's opportunity to broaden the interest of all students in this very important topic may lead to a variety of research agenda such as bio-ethics, technology transfer economics, and a complete depiction of history's events that lead to the need for this course.

Spearheaded by Dr. Drew Velkey, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research, this multi-disciplinary approach to educating all CNU students in curriculum mandated by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health will guide students in all facets of learning, to become well rounded and thoughtful investigators of their chosen field, whatever it may be. **Our first luncheon is scheduled for December 1, 2011 at The David Student Union, in the Jefferson Room. The discussion and lunch begin at 12:00 noon but we have the room until 3pm for extended conversations.** We invite all disciplines to make this event a success! Please RSVP to 47392 no later than 11/21/11