CIMMS Nationally Recognized Awards

- Adam Clark (Research Scientist) received the very prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). Clark’s selection was announced by President Barack Obama on December 23, 2013. He will receive the award in a ceremony in Washington, D.C. later this year. According to the White House press release, “the PECASE Award is the highest honor bestowed by the United States Government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.” Clark’s selection for this important recognition benefits all of CIMMS, NSSL, and the entire National Weather Center.

- Dr. Matt Kumjian (former Graduate Research Assistant/Post-Doctoral Scientist and now an Assistant Professor at Penn State) and Dr. Alexander Ryzhkov (Senior Research Scientist) have been selected to receive an Outstanding Scientific Paper Award from NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). The award was for their paper titled “Storm-relative helicity revealed from polarimetric radar measurements,” published in the Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences.

- Dr. Alex Fierro (Research Scientist) received an Editor’s Award from the American Geophysical Union. He was cited for this award by Dr. Paul Williams, an Editor of Geophysical Research Letters (GRL). This journal has a high international reputation. Fierro is a CIMMS collaborator with NSSL, primarily on the cutting-edge challenge of incorporating atmospheric electricity processes into the computer modeling of severe convective weather and hurricanes.

- Sean Waugh (CIMMS/SoM Ph.D. student) who collaborates with NSSL, has been chosen to receive an Outstanding Student Paper award from the American Geophysical Union on his paper titled “Balloon-borne electric field and microphysics measurements in the 29-30 May 2012 super cell storm in Oklahoma during DC3.” Waugh’s Ph.D. dissertation research is now being funded by Dr. Don MacGorman (NSSL Senior Federal Scientist and CIMMS Federal Associate, from a NSF Grant) and by NSSL. Last year, Waugh was supported by the new CIMMS/VPR Cost-Sharing Account.
New Music CD

Associate Professor Anthony Stoops (Double Bass) has released a new CD titled *Insights: New Music for Double Bass* on Albany Records. It also features work by Professor Marvin Lamb (Composition) and program notes by Professor Michael Lee (Musicology). The project was made possible by a Faculty Investment Program grant from the Research Council.

Storm Evader iPad App is Now Available

OU undergraduates developed a new iPad application called Storm Evader. This app is designed to teach children about the evolution of storms and how pilots can use technology to safely route planes. The app was developed by Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) students Andrea Balfour, Marissa Beene and David Harrison and directed by Amy McGovern (Computer Science). It was funded by NSF and is available for free on the iTunes app store.

MACBETH Serious Video Game Wins Awards

The OU team of developers of the serious video game, *MACBETH*, was awarded the “Best Business Game” during the Eighth Annual Serious Games Showcase & Challenge at the Inter-Service/Industry Training Simulation and Education Conference in Orlando, Fla. The award was based on recommendations from a panel of more than 100 game developers and serious game researchers. *MACBETH* also received the “Adaptive Force” award, which is an award recommended by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

“Winning in this category as the ‘Best Business Developed Serious Game’ according to an esteemed panel of judges opens the door for the OU team,” says Norah Dunbar (Associate Professor, Communication/Center for Applied Social Research). *MACBETH* was one of 17 games selected from over 50 submissions for the showcase at the conference. The Serious Games Showcase & Challenge is the premiere venue for recognition of excellence in the field of serious games development.

OU collaborated with Judee Burgoon’s team at the University of Arizona when testing the game. The OU team included Norah Dunbar; Scott Wilson and Javier Elizondo (K2O Center); Matthew Jensen (Business); Claude Miller (Communication); and a dozen other scientists. For more information about *MACBETH*, contact Norah Dunbar at 405-325-1588 or ndunbar@ou.edu.
Concentrations of Nanodiamonds Found in OK Panhandle

In a University of Oklahoma-led study, researchers discovered an additional active process, not excluding an extraterrestrial event, that may have led to high concentrations of nanodiamonds in the Younger Dryas-age sediments and in sediments less than 3,000 years old. Findings from quantifying sediments of different periods along the Bull Creek valley in the Oklahoma Panhandle suggest the distribution of nanodiamonds was not unique to the Younger Dryas sediments.

“Whatever process produced nanodiamond concentrations in the Younger Dryas sediments may have been active in recent millennia,” said Associate Professor Leland Bement (Oklahoma Archeological Survey). Bement led the project with Associate Professor Andrew Madden (Geology and Geophysics) and with collaborators Brian Carter (Oklahoma State University); Alexander Simms (University of California Santa Barbara); and Mourad Benamara (University of Arkansas).

The recent OU-led study, “Quantifying the distribution of nanodiamonds in pre-Younger Dryas to recent age deposits along Bull Creek, Oklahoma Panhandle, USA,” was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Early Edition. For more information about this study, contact Leland Bement, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, at lbement@ou.edu or 405-325-7215.

School of Art & Art History Faculty Recognition

♦ Professor Marwin Begaye was awarded first place in the drawing/graphics division at the 27th Annual Red Earth Native American Cultural Festival for his print titled Southern Plains Warrior. Begaye also was awarded an OVAC Creative Projects Artist grant and is exhibiting his work and leading a printmaking workshop at the Ngapuhi Festival in New Zealand this month.

♦ Professor Pete Froslie was named as a recipient of the Oklahoma Visual Arts Coalition’s 2013 Oklahoma Visual Arts Fellowship. This award rewards qualified artists with outstanding vision and are chosen by a guest curator from applications submitted by the artists.

♦ Artist-in-Residence Paul Moore was honored with a Special Recognition Award for his unique contributions in support of the Oklahoma arts and cultural industry at the 38th Annual Governor's Arts Awards. Moore was also awarded the gold medal for sculpture, the Anne Marion/Best of Show Award and the Ray Swanson Award at the 48th Annual Cowboy Artists of America Show at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum.
President’s Monthly Research and Development Highlights

700-Year-Old Eggs Hatch

Professor Lawrence Weider’s (Biology) study about water fleas has recently received attention from the New York Times, Minnesota Public Radio and News Channel 9 OKC. He is one of the authors along with Co-PI and OU alumni Professor Punidan Jeyasingh (Oklahoma State University) of a paper titled A Millennial-scale Chronicle of Evolutionary Responses to Cultural Eutrophication in Daphnia published in the journal Ecology Letters Volume 17, Issue 3, pages 260-368, March 2014. Weider and his team have managed to hatch eggs that belong to a tiny shrimp-like animal known scientifically as Daphnia and informally as water fleas. The eggs were laid over 700 years ago in South Center Lake near Lindstrom, Minn.


New Books

University Of Chicago Press published The Birth of Insight Mediation, Modern Buddhism by Assistant Professor Erik Braun (Religious Studies) (November 19, 2013).

Editorial Cuarto Propio published Maquinarias deconstructivas. Poesía y juego en Juan Luis Martínez, Diego Maquieira y Rodrigo Lira by Assistant Professor Marcelo Rioseco (Modern Languages, Literatures, and Linguistics) (2013).


University of Michigan Press published The Presidential Expectations Gap: Public Attitudes Concerning the Presidency by Associate Professor Carol L. Silva (Political Science/Center for Risk & Crisis Management), Professor Hank Jenkins-Smith (Political Science/Center for Risk & Crisis Management) and Richard Waterman (December 28, 2013).


December New Awards

- Jeffrey Basara, Oklahoma Climate Survey and Meteorology
  Mark Shafer, Oklahoma Climate Survey and Geography & Environmental Sustainability
  “Facilitating Adaptive Management Under Conditions of Rapid Drought Onset Using the GOES-based Evaporative Stress Index”
  U.S. Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  $59,113

- Petra Klein, Meteorology
  Evgeni Fedorovich, Meteorology
  Mark Morrissey, Meteorology
  David Parsons, Meteorology
  “Research in Support of Forecasting and Uncertainty Quantification of Power from Intermittent Renewable Energy Sources”
  Lawrence Livermore Laboratory
  $54,941

- Yang Hong, Civil Engineering & Environmental Science
  “Hydrological Technology Interchange Meeting”
  NASA - Headquarters
  $33,000

- Mary Connelly, Psychology
  “Evaluating a Team-based Learning Approach to RCR Instruction”
  University of Florida
  $24,843

- Michael Jablonski, Mathematics
  “Group Actions in Riemannian Geometry”
  National Science Foundation
  $31,000

- Alexandros Gianninas, Physics & Astronomy
  Mukremin Kilic, Physics & Astronomy
  “COS Spectroscopy of Pulsating, Metal-Rich, Extremely Low Mass White Dwarfs”
  Space Telescope Science Institute
  $85,024

- Morris Foster, Technology Transfer
  Heather Basara, Geography & Environmental Sustainability
  “Oklahoma Shared Clinical and Translational Resource”
  Health Sciences Center
  $148,762

- Zhisheng Shi, Electrical & Computer Engineering
  “Research in Lead Salt Growth”
  Nanolight Inc.
  $29,314

- Steven Crossley, Chemical, Biological & Materials Engineering
  “Napthenic Acid Ketonization Mechanism over Zeolites”
  American Chemical Society, Petroleum Research Fund
  $100,000

- Amy Buthod, OK Biological Survey
  Bruce Hoagland, OK Biological Survey and Geography & Environmental Sustainability
  “The Federally Endangered Ptilimnium Nodosum (Harperella nodosa; Apiaceae) in the State of Oklahoma”
  U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service
  $12,979