

SEPTEMBER 2005 NEWSLETTER

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A Quick Word from the Dean



On June 1, 2005, I became the new dean of the School of Arts, replacing my colleague **Dr. Kris Pruitt**, who decided to retire after a quarter century

of distinguished service as a faculty member, department chair, and dean. At present, I'm only at the beginning of a long process trying to learn the ins and outs of my new position. One of my top priorities is to increase the visibility and influence of the School of Arts in the University and the community at large. As a historian, I'm very much aware of the great potential and worth of the liberal arts. In fact, I see them as the key to CBU's future. I envision a proud and assertive School of Arts whose faculty as

well as present and former students see their School at the center of a CBU education.

The purpose of this newsletter and the ones to follow is to boost the exposure of the School of Arts and its departments. Alumnae and alumni of the School, potential students and their parents, and others will have the opportunity to read about faculty and student achievements, new programs and initiatives, and other noteworthy and exciting developments. Alumnae and alumni are encouraged to submit news about themselves (email to [Frank Buscher](mailto:Frank.Buscher@cbu.edu)).

I hope that you find the School's first on-line newsletter informative. Suggestions for improvements are always welcome. We in the School of Arts would love to hear from you.

Frank Buscher

A Year of Change

This is in many ways a historic year for Christian Brothers University. If all goes according to plan, three presidents in succession will lead the university in 2005. Perhaps more importantly, with **H. Lance Forsdick Sr.** (Business Administration '61) CBU has its first lay president. His interim presidency will end on November 30, when a former dean of this School, **Brother Vincent Malham, F.S.C.**, becomes president. In addition, two Schools - Arts and

Engineering - are headed by new deans in 2005-06.

New Faculty

The School of Arts welcomes the following new faculty:

Scott D. Geis

Assistant Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Scott taught at St. Norbert's College in De Pere, Wisconsin, for the past four years. He has also taught at Marquette University and Marian College. Scott earned his Ph.D. from Marquette University in 1995. He also holds a master's degree in theology from Duke University and a Master of Divinity degree from



Bethel Theological Seminary.

Federico C. Gomez-Uroz

Visiting Instructor of Literature and Languages



Federico previously taught for CBU as an adjunct faculty member during the 2004-05 academic year. Outside of his university teaching, he has

been active in the Latino community of

Memphis, focusing mainly on civil rights and social issues. Federico holds an M.A. in psychology from the University of Grenada, Spain, an M.A. in Spanish and a B.A. in psychology from the University of Memphis.

Maureen O'Brien

Assistant Professor of Behavioral Sciences

Maureen comes to CBU from Louisiana State University at Alexandria where she was an assistant professor of psychology. She holds a Ph.D. in psychology from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro where she also served as a research



assistant and teaching assistant. Maureen also holds an M. S. in psychology from the University of Memphis and a B.A. in psychology from CBU.

Talana L. Vogel

Assistant Professor of Education

Talana comes to CBU from the



University of Memphis, where she has served in several teaching and leadership capacities including supervisor of student teachers, assistant director of Campus

School, and instructor in instruction and

curriculum leadership. Outside of her university teaching, Talana has been active in local urban schools. She holds an Ed.D. in educational leadership from the University of Memphis and an M.S. in learning disabilities and a B.S. in mathematics education from Florida State University.

Theresa L. Womble

Visiting Assistant Professor of History and Political Science

Theresa has held adjunct positions at the



University of Memphis and Rhodes College and was an assistant professor of history at the University of Central Florida. She holds both an M.A. and Ph.D. in Near Eastern Studies from

Princeton University and a B.A. in history from Tulane University.

Fulbright Scholar in Residence

Taga Francis Nawugaba, a Ugandan artist, is teaching courses on painting and drawing during the 2005-06 academic year. He received his Bachelor in Fine Art from Makerere University in 1990 and became a full-time artist eight years later. His art has been purchased by the Ugandan First Lady, Janet Museveni, and has been given to visiting dignitaries, including President George W. Bush, former President Bill Clinton, and Secretary of State Colin Powell. Taga is a realist painter. His approach to art is not to

shock and confront but to soothe, and yet many of his images are challenging and thrust the viewer deeply into the culture and traditions of the Ugandan people. Taga seeks to give the marginalized in his country – women and children, the poor, the endangered wildlife – a voice. He has served as vice president of the Uganda Artists Association. He has also worked frequently with American and European artists.

In Memoriam

Gerard A. Vanderhaar, Professor emeritus of Religion and Peace Studies at Christian Brothers University, passed away on June 21, 2005. He was born on August 15, 1931 in Louisville, Kentucky. He was educated at Providence College and Dominican Theological College in Washington, DC, and received his doctoral degree in theology from the University of St. Thomas in Rome. From 1971 until his retirement in 1996 he was a faculty member at Christian Brothers University. He also served as a visiting professor at Wesleyan University, St. John's University (New York) and several other institutions of higher education. He was the author of several books and numerous articles on peace and justice issues, and was a frequent speaker on these topics in the US and throughout the world.

Dr. Vanderhaar was active for many years in Pax Christi, the Catholic peace organization. He helped to found the American branch, Pax Christi-USA, in the 1970's, and served on the National Council of the organization for a number of years, and as its chair for two terms. He also chaired two Pax Christi

commissions on non-violence, and worked in the organization's international office in Antwerp, Belgium, in 1979-80. In 1992, along with six other founding members, he was named a Pax Christi Ambassador of Peace. Dr. Vanderhaar was also a founding member of the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center, and served at various times as its chair and a member of its board of directors.

Dr. Vanderhaar was an outspoken critic of U.S. military policy from the Viet Nam War to the war in Iraq. He also was active in protesting U.S. military involvement in Central and South America, and training of foreign military officers at the School of the Americas. Together with his wife Janice he participated in many activities against war and in support of peace and international cooperation in the U.S. and throughout the world, including travels to the former Soviet Union, the Philippines, Japan, and many countries in Central America and Europe.

Dr. Vanderhaar and his wife were recipients of the Bishop Carol T. Dozier Award for Peace and Justice given by Christian Brothers University, in recognition of their many years of work for world peace.

Kris Pruitt's Memories of Gerry Vanderhaar:

Before I read David Waters's moving tribute to Gerry a couple days ago, I had written down some of my remembrances. One of my descriptions was "a steadfast warrior for the cause of peace." Why is it, I wonder, that at least two of us who knew Gerry use the

paradoxical word "warrior" for a man who represents, for me, the model pacifist. Perhaps it is his remarkable balance of gentleness and tenacity, his ability to stand up to his opponents with integrity, reasonableness, and the unreasonable (to some) proposition that the peacemakers shall be called the children of God, that the meek shall inherit the earth. Gerry was also a person with a lively sense of humor, an infectious grin, and a warm hug. He valued and nurtured his colleagues and was an articulate champion for the rights of the often-unempowered faculty. And those of us who had the good fortune to work and play with him knew of his enduring love for and devotion to Janice.

For me, Gerry was a mentor, a colleague, a friend, and, quite simply, a hero. I will miss him and will keep Janice in my prayers.

From Edna St. Vincent Millay's "Elegy Before Death":

*"Oh, there will pass with your great passing
Little of beauty not your own,--
Only the light from common water,
Only the grace from simple stone."*

Department of Education Site Visit

The State of Tennessee Board of Examiners will conduct an on-site examination of the Department of Education and its programs, November 19-23.

Global Studies

CBU will offer a wide variety of [Travel/Study Abroad](#) opportunities to CBU students and, in some cases, others

during the 2005-06 academic year. They include trips to Spain (Spring Break), Rome and Italy (May Session), England (Fall, Spring, Summer), Haiti (Fall and Spring Breaks), Brazil (Summer) and Uganda (Summer). For more information, please contact [Dr. Emily Mathis Forsdick](mailto:Dr.EmilyMathisForsdick@cbu.edu) or point your browser to <http://www.cbu.edu/Academics/studyabroad/index.html>.

Fall Play

This Fall's production will be Neil Simon's comedy hit, "God's Favorite." The show is a modern day telling of the book of Job. In the play, Joe Benjamin (Job) is a wealthy businessman living in Long Island, NY, with his wife, twin children and wayward drunken (prodigal) son. Joe is visited by a messenger from God who tests Joe's faith by inflicting upon him disaster after disaster. The play's director is Kevin Shaw. "God's Favorite" will be performed at the CBU Theater on November 11 and 12 at 8 p.m., and on November 13 at 2 p.m.

CBU Celebrates Constitution Day

On Thursday, September 22, 2005, CBU celebrated Constitution Day with a special seminar on America's foundational document. The goal of the panel was to present the US Constitution as an accessible legal document approachable by all educated citizens rather than a distant, revered artifact. In particular, we hoped to dispel the notion that it is a secret code comprehensible only to specialists. In order to understand the place of the Constitution in American life and politics it is critical

that every citizen understands the text of the Constitution, where there is agreement on meaning, where there are disputes, and how the document has changed over time. A Roundtable of CBU faculty offered comments on various aspects of the Constitution, its historical context and present-day debates. Participants included: **Marius Carriere** (History and Political Science), **Peter Gathje** (Religion and Philosophy), **Pat Papachristou** (Economics), and **Karl Leib** (History and Political Science). While preparing for the seminar, Dr. Leib drafted an annotated version of the Constitution with definitions and short explanations of the text. Copies were distributed to the audience to aid discussion. Over 60 students, faculty, and community participants attended, and there was a lively question and answer section after the panel presentations. We would like to extend our thanks to all participants and to the Vice President of Academic Affairs, **Tony Aretz**, for his support. Plans are in the works for next year's celebration and ideas for "Constitutional activities" are welcome.

Student Achievements

Bailey deRouen presented a paper titled "Popular Culture Changes Racial Attitudes" at the Phi Alpha Theta History Conference at Murray State University. **Michaela Lemen** presented a paper on "John Bagot Glubb and the Arab Legion." Recently, Michaela also began her graduate studies at the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University.

The following students from the CBU Department of Behavioral Sciences attended and presented at the Southwestern Psychological Association's annual conference in Memphis in March: **Cynthia Holmes**, **Dana O'Hoyt** (poster presentation on "The relationship between peer acceptance in childhood and adult depression"), **Lauren Cox** (poster presentation on "Perceptions derived from online conversations: Effects of weight and gender"), **Crissy Cox** (poster presentation on "An examination of the fading bias in individuals with dysphoria"), **Alexis Laughery** (poster presentation on "Media influences in the perception of serial killers"), and **Stephen Adair** (poster presentation on "Virtuous woman effect").

Faculty Accomplishments

Dr. Frank Buscher, Dean, participated in six triathlons and a variety of other races during the summer and early fall.

Dr. Pete Gathje, Religious Studies and Philosophy, has been active on a number of fronts. Together with David Oki Ahearn, he has published *Doing Right and Being Good: Catholic and Protestant Readings in Christian Ethics* (Liturgical Press). He also published the following articles: "I Hope Someone Murders Your Mother!: Extreme Support for the Death Penalty," with Margaret Vandiver and David J. Giacompassi, in Alex Thio and Thomas Calhoun, eds., *Readings in Deviant Behavior*, (Allyn and Bacon), 2006; and "Teaching African American Religions as Learning to Resist Racism," in *Teaching African American Religion: Mining the Motherlode*, edited by

Carolyn M. Jones and Theodore Louis Trost, Oxford University Press, 2005.

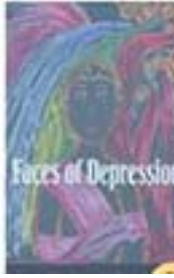
On June 10, 2005, he gave a baccalaureate address titled "Free At Last" at Kalamazoo College. He also presented a series of talks on "Seven Characteristics of Holiness" at Immaculate Conception Church, and he spoke at Germantown Methodist Church on "Holiness and Spirituality." In September and October he gave four presentations at Idlewild Presbyterian Church on "Biblical perspectives on wealth and poverty." On September 11 he spoke on "Spirituality and Activism" for the Diocese of Memphis. He also participated in the roundtable discussion at CBU's Constitution Day event.

Earlier this year Dr. Gathje and others formed "Emmanuel House," a community in the Catholic Worker Tradition that serves the homeless and the families of people on death row.

Dr. Ellen Faith has received, on behalf of the Department of Education, a three-year \$126,000 grant from The Assisi Foundation of Memphis to support the Department's efforts to achieve national accreditation. Currently the Department's programs are state-approved. The Department is initiating a two-year process with the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) this fall and hopes to host the on-site visit from a national team in Fall 2007.

Dr. Elizabeth McGhee Nelson, Behavioral Sciences, has broken the mold on books about depression with her new work, "Faces of Depression." In it,

she strives to dispel the myths about depression and invites readers to relate to those who suffer from it, whether recognizing themselves, a friend, a family member or neighbor in the stories told by survivors. For it



is the survivors who tell the stories in "Faces of Depression," giving frank accounts of what it's like to live with depression, or to live with someone who suffers from it. In a unique format, Dr. Nelson presents their stories as they relate to depression's face and body, sensations, perceptions, emotions, cognition and culture, patterns, relatives and finally, what it means to face depression.

Dr. Nelson has also formed a **Mood Disorders Support Group**. This group will discuss issues involving living with a mood disorder (depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety). Group members may have a mood disorder; live, work, or know someone with a mood disorder; or be interested in learning more about mood disorders. In addition to materials designed for mood disorder support groups, the group will explore the

scriptures for God's Word in learning about and dealing with mood disorders. The group will meet Fridays beginning May 27, 12:00-1:00 p.m. (bring your lunch if you like), at Messiah Lutheran Church, 3743 Austin Peay Highway. For more information contact Dr. Nelson at 386-2533 or emnelson@midsouth.rr.com.

Dr. Nelson also made a presentation on depression at the Septemberfest Health Fair in Raleigh, TN, September 17th, 2005.

Alumnae/Alumni News

Aimee Lewis Elliotte, English '92, has been appointed CBU alumni director.

Julie Gilmore, ECCM '01, has recently accepted the technical services librarian position at CBU's library. Julie completed her Master's in Information Science in August.

Terri Wells, English '89, was recently promoted to vice president of regional marketing at Smith & Nephew Orthopaedics.