

3/28/12

Peggy Cox, Professor of Art, and Ann Throckmorton, Professor of Biology  
*A Cluster to Dye For*

Last semester's Art and Biology cluster (Art and Nature) enabled students to discover aspects of nature that could be measured, analyzed, and depicted or manipulated artistically. Ms. Cox and Dr. Throckmorton will present their experiences with the cluster format, specifically coursework with natural dyes. They will describe how students first explored the color potential of their local environment and then used their dyed fibers to create simple weaving and fabric samplers. The final biology project consisted of proposing and setting up a scientific experiment around a specific color, complete with poster presentation.

## April 2012

4/4/12

Shannon Smithey, Associate Professor of Political Science  
*Crime and Public Support for Democracy in Latin America and Africa*

The ability of the state to prevent and respond adequately to crime is a crucial question of government capacity. Based on her sabbatical inquiry, Dr. Smithey will discuss emerging democracies, where popular support for democratic government often hinges on the ability of the state to provide protection from criminal victimization.

4/11/12

Michael Bowen, Visiting Assistant Professor of History  
*Chasing Walter Flowers: The Art of Research in Action*

Dr. Bowen will discuss the broad outline of his next research project focused around Walter Flowers. He will discuss the exciting finds and frustrating obstacles encountered by historians researching political topics.

4/18/12

Jeffrey Boerner, Assistant Professor of Mathematics; Natacha Fontes-Merz, Associate Professor of Mathematics; Terri Lenox, Associate Professor of Computer Science; and David Offner, Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
*Enriching Experiences: Research with Undergraduates*

*\*Undergraduate Research Focus*

Members of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science will discuss the rewards and risks of working with undergraduate students on research projects. Drs. Boerner, Fontes-Merz, Lenox and Offner will outline several different models of performing research with undergraduates as well as describe some of the student projects.

4/25/12

*Undergraduate Research and Arts Celebration*  
McKelvey Campus Center

## May 2012

5/2/12

*Faculty Roundtables on Assessment*

# Westminster College Faires Faculty Forum Spring 2012 Schedule



## About the Faires Faculty Forum

Dr. Barbara T. Faires, professor of mathematics *emerita*, established Faculty Forum in the fall of 1990 during her time as dean of the College and vice president for academic affairs. Since then the forum has continued to provide an opportunity for faculty members to meet weekly to share their scholarship in the best tradition of the liberal arts. Faculty members from all disciplines volunteer to present lectures on their current research, artistic productions, and/or scholarship of teaching and learning. Each forum presents new ideas with innovative lecture techniques. The faculty forum is held most Wednesdays during the academic year, beginning promptly at 11:45 a.m. The Faires Faculty Forum is normally held in the Mueller Theater of the McKelvey Campus Center. Performance forums may be held in other locations.

## January 2012

**1/25/12**

David Swerdlow, Professor of English

### *Creative Travel*

By reflecting on his own experiences, by reading from his own poetry, and by analyzing the texts of more well-known literary figures, Dr. Swerdlow will consider some of the differences between good and bad traveling. In October 2011, he delivered this presentation in Greece as part of the Institute for Shipboard Education's Distinguished Lecture Series on Global Engagement.

## February 2012

**2/1/12**

David Goldberg, Associate Professor of Philosophy

### *Nietzsche's Eternal Recurrence: What Is It That Returns?*

One of Nietzsche's most enigmatic thoughts is that of the Eternal Recurrence. As with many of his philosophical concepts, scholars are left with very few textual references from which to construct an understanding of what Nietzsche terms his "most abysmal thought." Stemming from his sabbatical research, Dr. Goldberg will offer an alternative interpretation that coincides better with Nietzsche's philosophic corpus.

**2/8/12**

Kurt Roscoe, Assistant Professor of Media Art

### *The Design of Stuff and Other Things*

Design is ubiquitous. From within our homes, at the workplace, inside the stores we shop and the buildings in our communities, we experience design in every corner of our lives. Is function as important as visual aesthetics? Beyond design, what gives a product sustainability? Mr. Roscoe will share his passion for design and the exciting experience of finding the perfect utility knife and other stuff.

**2/15/12**

Rotua Lumbantobing, Assistant Professor of Economics

### *Revealed Preferences Using Sorting Equilibrium: Research and Pedagogical Applications*

Dr. Lumbantobing's research interests are primarily in economic development and applied microeconomics with a current focus on application of sorting equilibrium on how water access affects where people choose to live. In her presentation, she

will tie this sorting equilibrium concept to a teaching technique developed during her graduate studies. Additionally she explores her latest research project where she combines her love of sports with economics.

**2/22/12**

Joe Balczon, Associate Professor of Biology; Josh Corrette-Bennett, Associate Professor of Biology; John Robertson, Associate Professor of Biology  
*CSI Miami: Curricular Strategies and Inculcation (of Assessment-Driven Revision) in South Beach*

### *\*Assessment Focus*

Last year, Drs. Balczon, Corrette-Bennett and Robertson attended the Project Kaleidoscope/Association of American Colleges and University's (AAC&U) sponsored conference, Engaged STEM Learning: From Promising to Pervasive Practices. Their poster presentation, "Assessment-Driven Revision of a Biology Curriculum," detailed their department's use of different forms of assessment for evaluation and revision of programs. In their presentation, they will describe their poster, the assessment-focused conference, and AAC&U's Project LEAP (Liberal Education and America's Promise).

**2/29/12**

David Shaffer, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Computer Science  
*Student Research in Machine Learning and Robotics*

### *\*Undergraduate Research Focus*

Over the last six years, Dr. Shaffer has been engaged with students studying biologically-motivated computer algorithms for enabling robots to learn to be more effective in their environments. This work focuses on self-organization of groups of robots through application of the Genetic Algorithm. He will discuss students' results and his plans for future experiments.

## March 2012

**3/7/12**

Spring Break

**3/21/12**

Mandy Medvin, Professor of Psychology, and SoYoung Kang, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education

### *Stress and Coping: American and South Korean Preschoolers*

Very little is known about how young children cope with potentially stressful situations. Children from the U.S. and South Korea were presented with four normally occurring scenarios and asked how they would respond in each situation. Drs. Medvin and Kang will share how their comparisons of children's answers provide insight into cross-cultural patterns of socialization.