

September 2010

Lincoln Memorial University



# Research Newsletter

Office of the Dean for Research and STEM Initiatives

## LMU Professor to Conduct Research in Africa

**Dr. Adam W. Rollins**, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Steve Stephenson, a research professor in the University of Arkansas department of biological sciences, have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$16,687 from the National Science Foundation. This grant will allow the professors to travel to Kenya (accompanied by an LMU undergraduate student) in January 2011, where they will visit the Center for Biodiversity housed at the National Museums of Kenya, the University of Nairobi, and the Maasai Mara National Reserve.

The primary objective of this expedition is to establish a collaborative research effort among LMU, the University of Arkansas and the two foreign institutions to investigate the myxomycetes (slime molds) associated with the various ecosystems across eastern Africa. Dr. Rollins and Dr. Stephenson chose to conduct their research in Africa because these organisms have largely been overlooked across the African continent. According to Dr. Rollins, a small amount of data exists with respect to the occurrence and distribution of slime molds for some parts of southern Africa; however, there is virtually no data documenting their occurrence across the remainder of the continent. As such, applying for a grant and going to Africa with the objective of filling in that void of knowledge made sense to him. Not only is he eager to carry out this study in the name of science and research, he is also excited to have the opportunity to experience Africa. Dr. Rollins said he has always wanted to go to Africa, primarily because there is an astounding diversity of organisms across the continent, especially the animals.

Dr. Rollins chose to study slime molds because microorganisms drive life on this planet, yet they are largely overlooked by the public, as well as researchers. One thing that microorganisms usually receive press for is their role in the decomposition process. Dr. Rollins asked, "If every tree and piece of plant fragment that ever existed fell to the forest floor and did not decompose, would you be able to walk through the forest?" The answer is of course, no. He explained, "Microorganisms are responsible for the decomposition of these things. Microorganisms break down the trees and plants, and their nutrients are reused by other organisms."



*Dr. Stephenson (L) and Dr. Rollins (R) studying slime molds in the desert at Saguaro National Park in Arizona.*

*Continued on next page...*

continued... According to Dr. Rollins, "These microorganisms are very significant to the ecosystem, yet they are often overlooked and understudied." Typically, microorganisms are studied in forested ecosystems and not in grasslands, which is another reason why Africa was a good choice for the location of the study. This study is an extension of Dr. Rollins' Ph.D. work, where he investigated the slime molds associated with the temperate grasslands across the central and western United States.

After Dr. Rollins returns, he will provide us with more information on his study as well as his experiences in Africa!



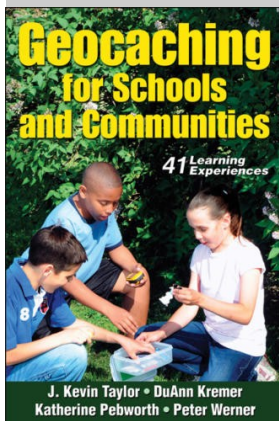
Image of a slime mold.

Photos and information for this article was contributed by Dr. Adam W. Rollins.

## Recent Scholarly Activity

**Dr. David Berry**, Assistant Professor of Graduate Education has an article that will be published in the Fall 2010 issue of the *Kappa Delta Pi Record* (an international honor society in education that is published quarterly). The title of the article which is based on his doctoral dissertation is, "A Not So Merry Christmas: A Dilemma for Elementary School Leaders." The article will be under the "In My View" section of the journal.

**Dr. Suhanya Aravamudhan**, Assistant Professor of Business, recently had an article accepted for publication. The article is entitled, "Market segmentation of non adopters of balanced scorecard using Chaid analysis" and will be published in an upcoming issue of the *International Journal of Data Analysis Techniques and Strategies (IJDATS)*.



**Dr. Katherine Pebworth**, Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Physical Education and Kinesiology, has co-authored a textbook entitled "Geocaching for School and Communities."

**Dr. Michelle Heinan**, Director and Associate Professor of the Physicians Assistant Program, has had two articles published;

**Heinan ML, O'Donoghue D, Brenneman AE, Boissonneault GA, Essary AC, Leger MM, Moreau T.** (2010) Clinical Watch: Cancer screening: Guidelines for cervical cytology. *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*, 23 (7), 16, 18.

Moreau T, O'Donoghue D, Brenneman AE, Boissonneault GA, Essary AC, **Heinan ML, Leger MM.** (2010) Clinical Watch: Substance abuse: Performance-enhancer use and misuse. *Journal of the American Academy of Physician Assistants*, 23 (5), 18, 21.

Each of these articles can be viewed [here](#).

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# Research Newsletter

## NACSW's November 29<sup>th</sup> Audio Conference Workshop



The North Americans Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW), is pleased to announce that it will be offering its next audio conference workshop entitled "Exploring the Relational Aspects of Spiritually-Sensitive Hospice Care" on Monday, November 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm – 2:15 pm (Eastern Daylight Savings Time). This audio conference will be presented by **Ann Callahan** who teaches at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, Tennessee. **Current NACSW members are eligible to participate in this audio conference workshop and earn 1.25 continuing contact education hours at no cost.**

Within the past ten years, there has been growing interest in client spirituality. New spiritual assessment tools and treatment models have emerged with recommendations for individuals, groups, and families. College curriculum and continuing education have started to address innovations in spiritual care. Despite these advances, factors that influence the provision of spiritual care require further exploration. One significant factor is the helping relationship. The importance of relationship emerges in a unique way during hospice care. Patients question the meaning of life and what awaits them in the here-after. This requires workers with a set of relationship skills that can help patients transform spiritual pain into spiritual wellbeing. This audio conference workshop explores the relationship skills hospice workers use in the delivery of spiritual care and will describe a list of relationship characteristics that contribute to spiritually-sensitive hospice care.

Ann M. Callahan, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Social Work at Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate, TN. She has numerous publications and presentations on spirituality in social work practice. Dr. Callahan's research is on the role of spiritual sensitivity and relational spirituality in the provision of hospice social work. Dr. Callahan has seventeen years of experience in social work and a license in clinical social work.

Audio conferences have been designed so that any person or group can participate simply by calling a telephone number provided by NACSW from any telephone in the US or Canada. For additional information (including workshop description and learning objectives), and/or to register on-line, you can go to NACSW's website at <http://www.nacsw.org>, or you can contact the NACSW office toll free at 888-426-4712 to register on the phone.

Current NACSW members and all staff working for NACSW organizational members may participate in this audio conference **at no cost**. Participants are also eligible to earn 1.25 continuing education contact hours approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (also at no cost for NACSW members) by receiving a score of 80% or better on a short ten-question quiz based on the material covered in the conference.

We hope you are able to join us on November 29<sup>th</sup> for this important audio conference workshop – we encourage you to register today!

*Reprinted from the Catalyst, 53(4), 6 with permission of Dr. Rick Chamiec-Case, Ph.D., Executive Director of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work (NACSW) and editor of the Catalyst.*

*Submitted by Dr. Ann Callahan*

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# Research Newsletter

## Understanding the International Humanitarian Law

By Carol Campbell, Director of Programs and Tourism,  
Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum

As Lincoln Memorial University and the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum focus on the upcoming 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War, we have been provided with an excellent opportunity to help build understanding of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

In late 1862, concerned with the manner in which the war was being prosecuted, President Lincoln and General-in-Chief Halleck requested that Dr. Francis Lieber write rules of war that could be disseminated to commanders in the field. This initial codification of the manner in which warfare should be conducted was written by Dr. Lieber, a distinguished professor of history, political economy and military law at New York's Columbia College. Lieber wrote 157 Articles of War approved by a board of Civil War Union Generals presided over by Major General E. A. Hitchcock. Lieber's Code, also approved by President Lincoln, was issued as General Order 100 in April 1863, and is the first attempt to codify various rules of war that had passed down through the years as customary international law. The Lieber Code was known during the Civil War years as "Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States, in the Field." Following adoption in the United States, Lieber's Code "became the basis for similar national military codes and certain international treaties" enumerating the guiding principles of warfare – precursors to the Geneva Conventions.

At the request of the American Red Cross, a partnership of Civil War-related sites across Tennessee, including Lincoln Memorial University, began the process of researching a variety of humanitarian efforts with reference to actions during the Civil War year. The American Red Cross chose Lincoln Memorial University to be part of this project based upon our connection with the humanitarian efforts of President Abraham Lincoln.

Research relating to wartime events and actions relating to Human Dignity; Obstacles to Humanitarian Behavior; Limits in Armed Conflict; the Relationship between the Lieber Code, Geneva Convention of 1864, and modern Humanitarian Law and Refugees and other Displaced Persons are being conducted throughout the state. Other sites in Tennessee involved in this project include Bethesda Church (used as a military hospital by both Union and Confederate forces; Bloody Pond at Shiloh Battlefield, along with humanitarian efforts at Stones River (Murfreesboro) and Chickamauga. Plaques currently are in the design stage and will be included in ceremonies at each site.

My research relating to Dr. Lieber, the Lieber Code, partisan actions and humanitarian efforts during the Civil War along with subsequent lesson plans relating to the Code will become part of the International Red Cross's efforts to educate individuals about the correct methods of conducting war and the rights of both combatants and non-combatants.



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## Journals for Publishing Educational Techniques

Lisa Travis, Medical Librarian, has compiled a list of journals that publish articles on pedagogies and/or instructional methods. This list is a work in progress; journals for disciplines not yet covered will be added over time. If you know of a journal to add or find a broken link, please email Lisa at [lisa.travis@lmu.edu](mailto:lisa.travis@lmu.edu). You can find the list [here](#).



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**We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to the newsletter!**

*If your scholarly activity has not been mentioned in this edition, please forward your information to us using the contact information listed on the left.*