LMU professors, Dr. Adam W. Rollins, Assistant Professor of Biology, and Dr. Ron Caldwell, Professor of Biology, as well as LMU undergraduate student Derrick Lindsay, participated in an expedition across the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from August 13 to 18, 2010. The expedition represented a collaborative research effort among three universities, Lincoln Memorial University (TN), the University of Arkansas (AR), and Ave Maria University (FL). The overall objective of the research was to document the co-occurrence and potential interactions of myxomycetes (slime molds), algae, and land snails associated with the forest floor among different forest types.

Each of these organisms occurs in the microhabitat that is formed by falling leaf litter and other debris (e.g., nuts, twigs, flower parts) that accumulate on the forest floor. As such, it is conceivable that these very different groups of organisms interact with one another; however, to date this has never been documented. The research will determine if they interact and if so to what degree. In addition, this work will examine how the assemblages of these organisms and their potential interactions differ across different forest types.

Studies that seek to examine the co-occurrence and interactions between very different types of organisms are relatively rare. The research team predicts that these organisms interact with one another. In fact, they suspect that these interactions may play an important role in recycling nutrients within the forest floor microhabitat. Ultimately, a better understanding of these processes could be used to help develop management plans for natural resources.

Overall the trip was very successful, and the research team established eight major plots across the park. These plots included forest types that were characterized by very different ecological parameters (e.g., high elevation spruce-fir forests and low elevation hardwood forests dominated by tulip poplar). Furthermore, an LMU undergraduate student gained valuable experience as he participated in the field work involving researchers from three universities. The research team anticipates that at least one peer-reviewed publication will be developed from this work.

Article and photo contributed by Dr. Adam Rollins
Dr. Ron Caldwell, Dr. Adam Rollins, and Sara Collins, sophomore, Wildlife Management, were the first researchers to make use of LMU’s new neotropical research lab during a scientific expedition to Belize from October 10 to 19, 2010. The lab is located on the property of the Belize Foundation for Research and Environmental Education (BFREE).

This expedition represented the inaugural use of LMU’s neotropical research lab. During the expedition, scientists from five nationalities participated in an impromptu meeting where they discussed Ron and Adam’s research on the biodiversity and possible symbiotic relationship between snails and slime molds in the neotropics. This project represents a collaborative effort between LMU/CMRC scientists and BFREE resident biologist and CMRC Research Associate, Dan Dourson. Adam presented a lecture about slime molds and then the group ventured into the jungle where Ron and Adam demonstrated collecting techniques associated with their respective groups.

This expedition represented an incredible opportunity for Sara, who helped Drs. Caldwell and Rollins collect specimens and samples in the field. Sarah intends to investigate some aspect of land snail biodiversity or ecology at BFREE for her Junior/Senior project. This represents the first ever international undergraduate research project which will ultimately result in a peer reviewed publication. This is a landmark event that the sciences at LMU have been determined to achieve for several years now. We hope that Sara represents the first of many international student researchers from LMU.

Article and photos contributed by Dr. Ron Caldwell.
For more information about BFREE, please visit www.bfreebz.org.
Recent Scholarly Activity

Dr. Rebecca Brackmann, Assistant Professor of English, has had an essay published: “Laurence Nowell’s Old English Legal Glossary and His Study of Quadrupartitus” in *English Law before Magna Carta: Felix Liebermann and Die Gesetze der Angelsachsen* (Boston: Brill Academic Publishers).

Ms. Elissa Graff, Assistant Professor of Art, presented her paper, "'Greening' the Curriculum" at 'Romancing Nature Again', the School of Visual Arts 24th Annual Conference on Liberal Arts and the Education of Artists. The Humanities and Sciences Department of the SVA held the conference at the Algonquin Hotel in New York. Ms. Graff’s presentation addressed how an interdisciplinary class sought to highlight the importance of the interconnectedness of environment, art and culture with a field experience in the country of Belize. The interdisciplinary class was highlighted in a previous newsletter, which can be viewed [here](#).

Dr James F. Hoelscher, Assistant Professor of Business, co-authored a research paper with Dr. Rivera-Solis titled, "The Ethics of Yield Spread Premiums in the Financial Crisis." The paper has been accepted for presentation at the Eastern Economic Association 2011 Annual Conference in New York City, in February 2011. Dr. River-Solis will be presenting the paper.

Dr. Elizabeth Lamont, Associate Professor of English, has had an article published in the Fall 2010 issue of *Appalachian Heritage*. The article is entitled, “An Unsung Appalachian Literary Heritage: The Significance of James Still’s Undergraduate Experience.”

Citation: *Appalachian Heritage*, 38.4 (Fall 2010): 32-37.

To view the article, please click [here](#).

Dean Jonathan Marcantel, Professor and Dean for the Duncan School of Law, has recently had an article accepted by U.C. Davis Business Law Journal for publication. The article is titled, “The Corporation as a ‘Real’ Constitutional Person.” It is slated to hit print in spring 2011.
This year’s Appalachian College Association Summit was held on October 21—23, 2010, in Abingdon, VA. Six LMU faculty and staff members presented at the summit:

Dr. Karen Carter, Assistant Professor of Leadership & Organization Studies and the EdD Program, gave presentation entitled “The Engaging Presentation,” during a breakout session. Abstract: I’m not Listening, I’m Reading.” Today, many oral presentations are prepared from written documents that force listeners to process information both verbally and in written form simultaneously. This workshop will provide a methodology to connect with an audience by developing presentations that inform or persuade in a very meaningful, engaged learning environment.

Ms. Jessica Rasmussen, Instructor of Biology, and Ms. Elissa Graff presented “Art and Biology - Moving in the Right Direction” at the ACA Summit. The session highlighted the interdisciplinary course they created which took students to Belize last spring break and is being repeated this year.

Ms. Elissa Graff also served on the faculty panel for Undergraduate Research moderated by Bettie Starr, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Lindsey Wilson College. Current student, Katelynn Riordon, and recent graduate, Marissa McKie were invited to repeat their ACA-UNCA research presentations. Both then served on the student panel with peers from both Lindsey Wilson College and Tennessee Wesleyan College.

Appalachian College Association Shared Language Acquisition Project: In December 2009, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation funded an Officer’s Grant for the Appalachian College Association (ACA) to develop a process for shared language acquisition among the Appalachian College Association (ACA) institutions. Dr. Joanna Neilson, Assistant Professor of History, and Mrs. Evelyn Smith, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, are members of the ACA Shared Languages Acquisition Project (ACASLAP) work group and participated in a panel discussion on the project at the ACA Summit. The ACASLAP work group is chaired by Dr. Irene Burgess, ACA Vice President for Academic Programs. Other ACA institutions participating in the project are Carson-Newman College, Ferrum College, Lee University, and Pikeville College. ACA institutions have been surveyed to determine parameters of current language instruction and perceived need, and a white paper evaluating options for shared language instruction among ACA institutions is being developed. A pilot class (Spanish) is being planned for spring 2011 with selected participants. Further discussion with the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation regarding support for continuing the project beyond the pilot class will be initiated by ACA.

Information contributed by Ms. Evelyn Smith and Ms. Elissa Graff
Dr. Ron Caldwell and Dr. Aggy Vanderpool, Professor of Biology, met with Don and Patty Oakley from Well Being Foundation of Tazewell, Tennessee, and Jess Jones, USFWS, Virginia Tech last year concerning Dr. Vanderpool’s habitat mapping project on the Powell River. Jess Jones agreed to further fund Dr. Vanderpool’s project to extend the mapping.

With the generous support from the Well Being Foundation, Drs. Caldwell and Vanderpool launched a research program targeted at GIS mapping the substrate of the river and monitoring the ecological health of the river through water chemistry analyses and macroinvertebrate surveys. Drs. Caldwell and Vanderpool were assisted in their endeavors by four undergraduate research assistants who received summer internship support through the Well Being Foundation grant. Andras Pauko, senior Business major, Heather Barker, senior Wildlife and Fisheries Management major, Hannah Wilson, sophomore biology major and Ashley Givens, junior biology major at Georgetown College in Georgetown, Kentucky participated in the project. Student interns received research assistantships for ten weeks.

Heather and Andras led the GIS mapping work, walking a 2.5 mile stretch of river on foot with a handheld GPS unit. They succeeded in mapping the substrate of the river based on six different habitat types: small and large gravel, cobble, fines, small and large boulder and bedrock. Their work is providing data for the creation of closely detailed GIS maps of the river which will assist state and federal resource management agencies in planning for conservation and reintroduction of threatened and endangered fresh water mussel and fish species. LMU’s research on the Powell River this summer is the first study to provide GIS habitat mapping of the Powell. LMU Associate Professor of Biology, Mr. George Mears is providing the GIS expertise to create the maps.

Ashley and Hannah spent their summer days on the river collecting aquatic macroinvertebrates and analyzing water samples for basic chemical parameters. Water chemistry was monitored on a bi-weekly basis for surface temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen as well as turbidity, total ammonia nitrogen, nitrite, nitrate and phosphate. Preliminary data for water chemistry suggests that the river water quality is good, but that there are differences in ammonia nitrogen and nitrite among selected monitoring sites within the study area. Further water chemical analyses will be conducted throughout the fall and winter to determine if the summer effects we noted are seasonal or more long term. Junior biology major Andrew Bates is collecting and analyzing water samples from the Powell River study site this fall and will continue throughout the spring. Dr. John Copeland, Professor of Biology is assisting with the statistical analysis of the results for the water chemistry analyses. The macroinvertebrate samples were preserved and brought back to the LMU campus where separation and identification of aquatic insects is currently underway. Senior environmental science major, Becky Thompson is working to identify these bottom-dwelling insects which are sensitive indicators of the ecological health and quality of the Powell River.
With remaining funds from the Well Being Foundation and additional funding promised from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the coming summer, Drs. Caldwell and Vanderpool anticipate continued substrate habitat mapping efforts on the Powell this coming summer. We are excited about the information this project is generating regarding the ecological status of the Powell River and we look forward to another good summer on the river.

Dr. Steven L. Stephenson, a research professor from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, spent November 4, on the campus of Lincoln Memorial University. His visit was supported by the LMU student group LEAF (League of Extraordinary Active Freshman). During the visit, Dr. Stephenson presented a lecture recounting numerous experiences and discoveries that he has had over the past 35 years studying slime molds across the planet. The lecture was attended by over 140 students, faculty, and staff in the auditorium of the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum. In addition, Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Adam Rollins held a planning meeting about their upcoming slime mold expedition (supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation) to Kenya. Furthermore, the two worked in the newly renovated Cumberland Mountain Research Center (CMRC) identifying specimens that have been collected across the neotropical country of Belize, and planning future research endeavors.

Dr. Steve Stephenson discussed his slime mold adventures to a crowd of over 140 attendees in the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum Auditorium.
Excerpts from “The Doctoral Times”

The Doctoral Times will be a monthly newsletter highlighting activity within the EdD program. All photos and information have been provided by Dr. Toby Rogers, Assistant Professor of Education.

Jamie Freeman (left), attended the Grounded Theory Institute in Manhattan from October 22-24 as part of an interactive panel headed by Dr. Barney Glaser, founder of Grounded Theory. Glaser spoke to Jamie about his dissertation and said that “You’ve done it... This is a good phenomenon to have studied- It’s good.” Jamie’s dissertation is titled “Interviews of Selected Drop-outs in Washington County, DC.”

Jonathan Richardson (right), presented his dissertation to the Music Educators National Convention on October 7 in Knoxville. His dissertation is titled “Reflections of Early Childhood Educators Regarding Multicultural Education: Implications for Administrative Policy.” He will present on this topic Nov 5 to the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Society for Multicultural Education in Las Vegas, Nevada.
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@lmunet.edu. You can find the list here.

Audio Workshop
REGISTER NOW!
November 29, 2010
1:00pm-2:15pm
Ann M. Callahan
"Exploring the Relational Aspects of Spiritually-Sensitive Hospice Care"

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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.

Happy Thanksgiving!