

Engineering, Computer Science, Physics & Math Department

Engineering student Andrew Walter has summer internship at NASA Langley

This summer **Andrew Walter** had the opportunity to be a part of the Langley Aerospace Research Summer Scholars (LARSS) program at the NASA Langley Aerospace Research Center (LaRC) in Hampton, Virginia. This 10-week program is set up to allow students to have one-on-one interaction with an assigned mentor while working on their summer project. Andrew worked in the structural and thermal systems branch, which is a part of the engineering directorate. His primary project involved modeling the distribution of excess mass to match certain mass properties in a boiler plate crew module test article that would be used to test a new launch abort system NASA is working on. This involved using several computer programs including PATRAN and NASTRAN to both edit an existing finite element model and check stresses and buckling under specified load cases. While on base at NASA LaRC he was also able to see many of their facilities and talk to a lot of other NASA engineers. Overall his internship was a great experience that helped him to gain some insight into what work life after college will be like.

Dr. Xiaomin Ma has the following research papers:

Xiaomin Ma, Xiaoyan Yin, and Kishor Trivedi, A Robust Broadcast Scheme for VANET One-hop Emergency Services, *4th IEEE International Symposium on Wireless Vehicular Communications: WIVEC2011*, 5-6 September 2011, San Francisco.

Xiaomin Ma, J. Zhang, T. Wu, Reliability Analysis of One-hop Safety-Critical Broadcast Services in VANETs, *IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology*, Accepted, Aug. 2011.

Biology and Chemistry Department

Biology and Chemistry faculty were busy this past summer with various professional activities. **Dr. Suzanne Vincent** served as the president of the Oklahoma chapter of the American Physiological Society for 2010-2011 and organized the 30th Annual Oklahoma Society of Physiologists Meeting held on June 3, 2011 at ORU. **Dr. Lois Ablin** attended the Green Chemistry and Engineering conference in the Washington, D.C. area. **Dr. Catherine Klehm** taught in Summer Math/Science Academy (joined by **Drs. Ken Weed** and **John Korstad**) and wrote a new curriculum for students touring the Elsing Museum. **Dr. John Korstad** again taught Limnology at the Au Sable Institute of Environmental Studies in northern Michigan. **Dr. George Thyvelikakath** was a keynote speaker at several organizations, clubs and high schools during his trip to India this summer. Dr. George was also recognized for his contributions in the field of Oncological Chemistry by Shri Oommen Chandy, Honorable Chief Minister of Kerala State. **Dr. Bill Collier** participated in a workshop on Computational Chemistry for Chemistry Educators, hosted by Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, July 24-30, 2011.

This fall senior students are actively engaged in experimental research for their senior research projects. For example, **Peter Zakes** is conducting a forensic study with **Dr. Robert Stewart**, measuring hemoglobin content in blood at crime scenes. **Jonathan Barber** is doing research at the Saint Simeon's Episcopal Home on elderly patients under the guidance of **Dr. Suzanne Vincent**. He is examining the role of specific exercises that will show improvements in walking, sitting and

standing, balance, and posture. **Ashley Sweeney** is working with **Dr. Hal Reed** on a vegetation analysis at the local Creek Turnpike wetlands.

The new biochemistry lab on GC 3 is nearing completion and should be ready by fall break. Photos will be in next month's issue.

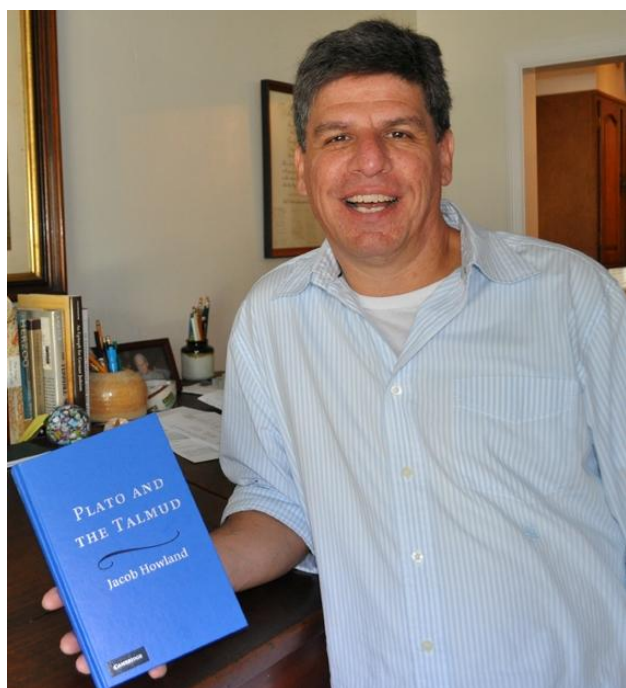
Behavioral Sciences Department

Social Work is excited to begin the new year with good news from the Council on Social Work Education. This summer, they voted to reaffirm the program's accreditation for eight more years! We appreciate the hard work and efforts of everyone involved in this process! The Social Work Club has organized a new year of informative meetings and community outreach. They are led this year by senior **Jessica Hester** and a great group of officers. The next meeting will feature Sheila Mitchell, Executive Director of Dayspring Villa, a local domestic violence shelter for women and children. Club announcements can be found on their Facebook group at ORU Social Work Club. The Emergency Infant Services College Board is being led this year by another senior Social Work student, **Chelsea Dean**. This board offers students the chance to be directly involved with a local agency and area college students by planning the annual EIS City-wide Baby Shower each spring. This event is crucial in supplying EIS with funds and supplies for their outreach to parents and infants in crisis. Everyone is welcome to check out these opportunities to reach out and make a difference in Social Work this year.



Chelsea Dean

Message from the Dean



ASA Meeting on the Relationships between Ancient Greek and Hebrew Thought

The ORU Chapter of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA) is off to a great start this year after a lively and well-attended meeting on the evening of September 22nd. Dr. Jacob Howland, Philosophy professor and former department chair at the University of Tulsa, gave an informative and provocative lecture titled "Cosmos and Philosophy in Plato and the Bible." Student president of the ORU ASA chapter, **Kyle Hansen**, was instrumental in bringing Dr. Howland to speak after meeting him during a summer study-abroad in Jerusalem. About 75 students and faculty turned out to learn more about the relationships between ancient Greek and Hebrew thought. Dr. Howland did a wonderful job of communicating his research at a level which kept everyone engaged for over an hour. And almost no one left before the end of the extended question-and-answer session after the talk. Dr. Howland expressed his appreciation for this

kind of organization (ASA) in bringing together multiple disciplines, and wished they had a similar emphasis at the University of Tulsa. He also said he would like to come back and speak in the future, and that he would recommend ORU as a venue in which some of his colleagues might like to interact. The next ASA meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on October 27th and the speaker will be ORU English Professor **Lori Kanitz**. Save that date!