A Message from the Co-Chair:
Timothy Brown, Co-Chair of the MFC

A few weeks ago, I received news that my grandmother passed away at the age of 89. She was the quintessential grandmother; she showered us with praise, she knitted us gifts, and she always had plenty for us to eat. Whenever we visited her home, she would always look us in the eyes and say enthusiastically, “How are my grandbabies doing!” as if she had not seen us for years. That was my grandmother. She always made us feel welcome. She always made us feel at home.

As I thought about my grandmother, one of my earliest recollections was her telling me “You’re going to be a college man! You’re going to go to college.” Of course at four years old, I had no idea what college was but from my grandmother’s encouraging tone, I figured college must be something or someplace good, so I would answer “yes” in agreement. Looking back, I now realize that my grandmother was creating a vision for me, an objective, a destiny that gave me direction and purpose before I even saw the vision for myself. At her funeral, we laughed, we cried, and we reflected. Through the different stories there was one common underlining theme about my grandmother—she was a visionary. Like the African griot, she spoke into the lives of others and her encouraging words motivated us to see a vision until the vision became our own. Ironically, the vision she created for me was one she never had the opportunity to fulfill.

In a similar way, I hope you catch the vision of this inaugural MFC newsletter. This newsletter reflects what I learned through my grandmother—that everyone needs to have a home in which they feel welcomed and everyone needs a vision in order to achieve a goal. Let it be known that your accomplishments will always have a home in the MFC newsletter. All the accomplishments listed in this newsletter are shining examples of when we follow our visions. Let us celebrate, congratulate, and encourage one another so we can speak into each others’ lives. Let us create a vision that we and future faculty members can make into their own.

Special Recognition:
I would like to thank Karyn Usher and Kelly Fielder for their help in making this inaugural MFC Newsletter a reality.

For more information on the MFC, visit us at: www.wcupa.edu/mfc
BACKGROUND
The Multicultural Faculty Commission (MFC) was formed in June of 2006 as a result of recommendations from the multicultural faculty retreats. The MFC addresses unmet and incompletely met community-building needs and provides expanded support for a global faculty in such areas as scholarship and academic leadership.

CHARGE AND GOALS
Following the administration’s unanimous approval of the Multicultural Faculty Commission, the MFC members were charged with developing a scholarly community that enhances and embraces diversity as reflected in the mission of the University. The commission’s goals include these:

- Creating and participating in forums that seek to eliminate all forms of racism and harassment
- Eliminating conditions that prevent the campus from improving its climate
- Becoming a model for the commitment to social justice
- Supporting and encouraging existing and new forms of inclusion and representation
- Developing an administrative leadership model that is appropriate for the mission of the MFC
- Collaborating with the administration and serving as an advisory board on issues concerning multicultural faculty
- Actively nurturing open, honest, and meaningful communication among the administration and the campus community, particularly with the multicultural faculty community
- Serving as an informal recruiting board for multicultural faculty

ABOUT the MFC

The MULTICULTURAL FACULTY COMMISSION

- tonya thames taylor
  Assistant Professor of History
  Chair of the Multicultural Faculty Retreat Planning Committee
  MFC Co-Chair and contact person

- Timothy J. Brown
  Associate Professor of Communication Studies
  MFC Co-Chair

- Richeleen Dashield
  Director of Social Equity

- Christopher Fiorentino
  Dean of College of Business and Public Affairs

- Kendrick Mickens
  President of the Frederick Douglass Society

- Bhim Sandhu
  Associate Professor of Political Science

- Jim Trotman
  Professor of English
  Director of the Frederick Douglass Institute

- Jerry Williams
  Chair, Department of Foreign Languages
  Chair of Chairs

MFC ADVISORY BOARD

The faculty members on the Multicultural Faculty Commission Advisory Board have a proven record of advancing the MFC’s goals and a climate for meaningful institutional change. Their insight, wisdom, and knowledge of WCU’s policies and procedures directly benefit the work of the MFC. The MFC Advisory Board includes: Wei Wei Cai (Elementary Education), Idna Corbett (Dean, Academic Programs and Services), Anita Foeman (Communication Studies), Yoko Hashimoto-Sinclair (Theater), Mildred Joyner (Social Work), Gus Mbuy (Biology), Gopal Sankaran (Health), and Lynn Spradlin (Counseling and Educational Psychology).
The MFC: Our Work Thus Far
By Tonya Thames-Taylor, Co-Chair of the MFC

The MFC continually works with the WCU administration and departments on issues of diversity, faculty recruitment and retention, and faculty professional development. Since its inception as a Commission in summer of 2006, the MFC has established its presence on campus. A summary of what the MFC has accomplished during the year includes:

- **MFC Grants.** The MFC has worked with the Provost’s Office and the Office of Sponsored Research to create Request for Proposals (RFP) for funding multicultural faculty professional growth. In February 2007, the MFC selected seven proposals for funding. These grants funded projects ranging from research travel to funding a book project about lynching to conducting DNA research.

- **MFC Interviews.** In the spring of 2007, the MFC coordinated interviews with multicultural faculty to identify issues of campus climate, faculty recruitment and retention, and faculty development. During these one-on-one interviews with members of the Office of Social Equity fact finders, faculty members answered questions dealing with a range of topics from their hiring experience, to their integration into campus life, the barriers they face, to their professional growth opportunities. After the interviews, I received 25 e-mails thanking the MFC for providing the opportunity for faculty members to share their individual experiences. With a 70% outcome rate, the MFC considers the interviews to be a smashing success! The results of these interviews will posted at a later date on the MFC web site.

- **Budget.** Through the support of the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost, the MFC received the necessary funds to hold our annual retreats and the MFC grants that were created this year. I’m pleased to report that the budget request I submitted to the Administrative Budget Committee has granted the MFC with $81,000 for three years. We now have an annual budget of $27,000 for the next three years that will fund the MFC retreats, grants, and our operating expenses such as our fall and spring newsletters.

- **Website.** I have worked with Kimberly Slattery of Academic Computing to design the MFC website. On the website, there is information about the mission of the MFC, grants, past retreats, newsletter, and the 2007 MFC Interviews. Please check it out at [http://www.wcupa.edu/mfc/default.asp](http://www.wcupa.edu/mfc/default.asp).

- **University Governance.** The MFC has taken its charge to eradicate barriers that support structural inequities based on race or ethnicity by having its members participate on several university committees. Members of the MFC have served on the university committee that is reviewing the QUICS, and on job searches for the Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and the Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences. In addition, the MFC has been consulted on issues of governance by the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost.

- **Recruitment.** In October 2006, MFC members Tim Brown, Richeleen Dashield and I (along with Gil Wiswall, Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences) attended the 13th Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity in Miami to help recruit multicultural faculty for various faculty positions at West Chester University. The Compact for Faculty Diversity provides multicultural students with academic and financial support to pursue doctoral degrees and become college teachers. Over 900 graduate students attend this annual conference.

- **Collaboration.** The MFC continues its work with the Office of Sponsored Research and the Office of Social Equity for the upcoming academic year. Currently, the MFC is collaborating with the Office of Sponsored Research to conduct grant workshops in the fall of 2007. Also, the MFC will continue to work with the Office of Social Equity on recruitment and retention of faculty of color. □
Faculty Profile: Celia Esplugas

Family:
My husband is Dr. John W. Ward; he teaches in the English Department. We have been married for eight years (very happy ones!). I also have one sister (Esperanza) and one brother (Alberto), who live in Argentina. Paradoxically, the distance has reaffirmed our relationship, made it closer and more supportive.

Number of years at WCU:
I started teaching at WCU in 1990 ...17 years? ...it seems like just yesterday. These years have been academically prosperous and intellectually prolific. I have consistently developed my teaching, scholarly work, and service to the university and community, not only to my professional development but also to WCU's, which has repeatedly supported me. Of course, I have found hurdles in my way, but perseverance, faith, and the sincere support of many colleagues have encouraged me.

Hobbies/recreational activities:
Gardening gives me a lot of pleasure; probably because I like to construct, not to destroy. I love to see my plants thrive, children playing joyfully, and the tall pampas grass undulating in the wind. I immensely dislike tanks, weapons, and other instruments of destruction. Reading has always been one of my favorite pastimes. I am also a sport person. Swimming has been at the top of my favorite sports. However, lately I do more aerobics and yoga, which I find very relaxing.

Favorite film and why:
Cold Mountain really impressed me. The acting and photography excel. Some of the graphic but creative images are still with me. We clearly see the unfathomable waste of war...the destruction of the country and its people...the futility of violence. How little we learn...

Favorite food:
Being from Argentina, I relish the juicy and tasteful empanadas (deep-fried turnovers filled with meat, olives, hard-boiled eggs, and spices) accompanied with the superb Merlot from the province of Mendoza, with its distinctive bouquet and rich flavors.

Favorite motto/quotation that motivates you:
“All that glitters is not gold.” Appearance and reality, looks and heart, words and deeds; that’s why I like The Little Prince by A. de Saint-Exupéry. It has a well-known line that I have never forgotten: “what is essential is invisible to the eye.”

What event or person(s) had the greatest impact on your personal development?
My parents. Their love provided a solid foundation on which I could develop, grow and learn about the good and not-so-good of life. I grew up with their examples of discipline, hard work, courageousness, and ethics. They also taught me the meaning of community and the significance of the other.

What is your biggest pet peeve?
Unethical conduct, underhandedness. I prefer an honest confrontation to guileful behavior. I can understand making mistakes (after all we are all human), but I cannot understand deceit.

Favorite class to teach and why:
300 to 500 level classes. Students’ desire to learn and enhance their linguistic skills is motivating. Advanced material becomes more challenging to teach, and correcting fossilized errors or teaching unlearned material from previous courses demands a variety of teaching techniques that help to develop my creativity.

What do you like about being a faculty member at WCU?
I enjoy most of my colleagues, both at the social and academic levels; interacting with them broadens my view of academia and life. I also enjoy most administrative
Multicultural Faculty Accomplishments

Mahrulkh Azam
Scholarship

The work for this poster presentation was performed by two undergraduate students in Dr. Azam’s lab.

Service
Dr. Azam speaks about the TRUE status of women or about other topics in Islam in Dr. Helen Schroepfer’s class once a year.

Julian Azorlosa
Scholarship


Service
In addition to Dr. Azorlosa’s scholarship, he continues as a member of the Faculty Senate and the local assembly of APSCUF. Also, he was elected chair of the IACUC (university animal care committee).

Timothy J. Brown
Scholarship


Dr. Brown is also on the editorial board for Qualitative Research Reports in Communication (A publication of the Eastern Communication Association).

Service
Dr. Brown was also named Assistant Chair/General Education Director for the Department of Communication Studies.

Marshall Becker
Scholarship


Becker, M. (2006d). The archaeology of infancy and childhood: Integrating and expanding research into the past. [Review essay].

Wei Wei Cai
Teaching
In Spring 2007, Dr. Cai taught a Honors Program course “Leadership with a Global Perspective” including a trip to China during spring break, 2007. A research study on student intercultural sensitivity was conducted during the course.

Scholarship
Dr. Cai received a PASSHE Diversity Grant Award of $11233 for Dialogue on Social Justice: Walking Across the Room – An Unfinished Conversation, Workshop and Open Forum with Lee Mun Wah that took place on February 23, 2007. The program attracted about 650 students and faculty from both West Chester University and Cheyney University.

Grant: Sponsored Research Incentive Award Program (2007).


Service
International Program: Youth Leadership in 21st Century (UL21C). Dr. Cai is coordinating the visit of a student delegation from Tianjin University to WCU to continue the UL21C in July 2007. The TJU students will take classes with Honors students and share dorm rooms which will provide students with a cultural emersion experience.

Co-Chair of Global Perspective in Higher Education International Conference Planning Committee (2006-2007).

Student Rating Instrument Committee (2007). This committee is evaluating the current QUICs to make recommendations to the University administration in improving the instrument. Three major areas are been studied: the QUICs as an evaluation instrument, the administering procedures for the QUICs, and role of the QUICs.

Recognition
Outstanding Faculty recognized by the Honors College (2007).

Faculty Accomplishments continued on page 6
Cecilia Chien  

Scholarship  
Professor Cecilia Chien spoke in February at Starkweather Elementary School in West Chester on the topic of Chinese culture and the Lunar New Year Festival.

Service  
Professor Cecilia Chien was named to the Advisory Council of the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies which met recently in Carlisle, PA and Boston, MA.

Idna Corbett  

Scholarship  


Professional Responsibility  
Idna Corbett was selected to participate in the American Association of State Colleges and Universities Graduation Rate Outcomes Study, Part II: Latino/Hispanic Student Success. She was one of 76 higher education professionals who participated in this national project, which seeks to understand the success achieved by the study campus with respect to Latino/Hispanic graduation rate outcomes. Dr. Corbett and her colleagues conducted self-studies at their home campuses and visited selected university campuses. Dr. Corbett’s team visited the University of Texas at Arlington. She served as the editor for her team’s report.

In addition, Idna Corbett is southeastern region representative to the PA Association of Developmental Educators' board.

Virgina DaCosta  

Scholarship  
Dr. Virgina DaCosta was selected to participate under the Department of Education's 2007 Fulbright-Hays Summer Seminars Abroad Program: "Living and Learning: How Israel and Egypt educate future generations." Dr. DaCosta will be spending a total of six weeks in both Israel and Egypt with fifteen other educators (high school and college level).

The seminar will help participants to understand – and to teach our students about – Israel and Egypt’s history and the educational, cultural, political, and socioeconomic context of contemporary Israeli and Egyptian life. It will also explain the dynamics of the contemporary Middle East with an inside perspective. The seminar will consist of a parallel view of both countries comprising three phases in each country.

Dr. DaCosta will also attend "a reception in honor of her teaching excellence on Tuesday, April 10th, 2007 in the Philips Autograph Library." Dr. DaCosta was nominated by one of the honors students enrolled in her art history course. The student will be accompanying Dr. Costa on her trip to Greece and Egypt this summer.

Celia Esplugas  

Scholarship  


International Festival [Diversity Grant]. Office for Sponsored Research and Social Equity. West Chester University, 2006.


Anita Foeman  

Scholarship  

Dr. Foeman also received a $3000 Diversity Grant from PASSHE to bring different speakers to her Intercultural Communication course (COM 250). Dr. Foeman also continues her consulting and workshops on diversity at Harcum College, Eastern University, and Villanova University.

With the help of a MFC Grant, Dr. Ginger DaCosta spent spring break 2007 in Cambodia to explore the local culture and the temples of Angkor Wat. Readers can review more photos of Dr. Costa’s trip and read her commentary at: www.intrepidtravel.com

Faculty Accomplishments continued on page 7
Connie Garcia-Barrio

Scholarship
Dr. Connie Garcia-Barrio was chosen by the Education Testing Service as a reader for the Advanced Placement Exam in Spanish. In addition, The Wild River Review, an on-line literary magazine, is serializing her historical novel, Bloodgrip. As a journalist, she attended “Locked Up-Keys to Prison Reform, a conference March 31, 2007. Dr. Garcia-Barrio’s stories on this all-day event will run in several community newspapers.

Yoko Hashimoto-Sinclair

Service
Dr. Yoko Hasimoto-Sinclair will be designing stage makeup for Savoy Company’s HMS Pinafore in Longwood Outside Theatre on June 1 & 2 and at the Academy of Music in Philadelphia on June 15 & 16.

Tammy James

Scholarship
Dr. Tammy James along with Dr. Bethann Cinelli, are currently working with the Coatesville, Octorara, and Downingtown School districts to promote each district’s Wellness Policy. This is in response to a federal mandate that requires all school districts that receive federal funds for National School Lunch/Breakfast programs to develop a specific plan to promote nutrition and physical activity in their district. This federal mandate is the government’s response to the epidemic of childhood obesity affecting students. Through a model called Coordinated School Health Programs, Dr. James and Dr. Cinelli are providing staff development training for School Health Councils as a vehicle to implement each district’s wellness policy. This initiative is funded through the Brandywine Health Foundation.

Mildred Joyner

Scholarship


Kendrick Mickens

Recognition
Dr. Kendrick Mickens received his doctorate in Education Administration. Dr. Mickens also serves as President of the Frederick Douglass Society.

Greg Riley

Scholarship: Dr. Riley, Associate Professor of Saxophone has made the following performances in 2007:

January 6 – International Saxophone Symposium – George Mason University
January 17 – Peter Pauslen Quartet – Chris’s Jazz Café
February 12 – Faculty Recital – Dr. Gregory Riley
February 16 – Gladys Knight – Westbury Music Fair. Westbury, NY
February 17 – Gladys Knight – Carnegie Hall. New York, NY
February 18 – Gladys Knight – Bardavon Theater. Poughkeepsie, NY.
February 28 – March 2 Jazz Week at West Chester University
March 4 – Siora World Jazz– Somers Point Jazz Festival. Somers Point NJ.
March 10 – Gladys Knight – Lyric Theater. Baltimore, MD.
March 16 – Cornerstone – Berks Jazz Festival. Reading, PA.
March 17 – Doc Powell – Berks Jazz Festival. Reading, PA.
March 20 – Leon Jordan, Jr. - Berks Jazz Festival. Reading, PA.

Service:
Adjudicator. West Chester University Jazz Festival, Guest Conductor. PMEA District 7 Jazz Band Festival, Cumberland Valley High School. Jazz Clinic, Harriton High School Jazz Band. Rosemont, PA.

President Madeleine Wing Adler presenting 2006-07 WCU Civility Award to Gopal Sankaran on September 5, 2006

Gopal Sankaran

Honors
2006-07 WCU Civility Award. Presented by President Madeleine Wing Adler at West Chester University on September 5, 2006.

Scholarship
Grants

Sankaran, G. (2007). Teaching cultural competence: Helping students develop global perspectives for success in a multicultural world. Funded proposal submitted to 2007 Faculty-
**Faculty Accomplishments continued from page 7**

Staff Development Abroad Initiative at West Chester University. Awarded Global Development Collaborative grant (FSDAI.GDC.GS.0708.WCU). Award amount: $1,500.

**Invited Presentations**


**Service**

Elected as a Governing Councilor of the American Public Health Association through the International Health Section for a two-year term (November 2006 to October 2008). The APHA is the largest national public health organization with over 15,000 members.

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**Lynn Kell Spradlin**

**Scholarship**


Dr. Spradlin’s proposal, “Diversity matters: Oppression theory informed by minority voices,” has been accepted for presentation at the National Association of Multicultural Education (NAME) conference to be held in Ames, Iowa on May 19, 2007.

Dr. Spradlin also attended the PASSHE Diversity Summit as part of the WCU delegation in Harrisburg, PA, April 19-20, 2007; served on the CAPC “J” course subcommittee; as an advisory board member of WCU’s Multicultural Faculty Commission, served on the spring 2007 PASSHE Diversity Grant proposal selection committee; as a member of the Research Consortium; as a mentor in WCU’s Leading Up Women’s Mentoring Project for female undergraduate students and on the WCU Women’s Summit Planning Committee during this academic year.

**Jerry Williams**

**Scholarship**

Dr. Jerry Williams received a U. S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad Program award in the amount of $72,000 for K-12 field observations by student teachers and practicing teachers in Peru for summer 2007. This project seeks to provide a balance of theoretical training and clinical/field observation, in which the process of becoming a critically reflective teacher is emphasized. The month-long study abroad is designed to take advantage of educational facilities and sites present in Peru and in Amazon schools that are absent in the United States.

The experience will enable participants to establish ties with Peruvian teachers in diverse educational settings, develop a post-project exchange of curriculum models for K-12 instruction, and establish state-side a series of pedagogies for practical application that lead to responsive curricula and improved language proficiency and cultural awareness.

**Publications**


Williams, J. and Slade, D. (Eds.). *Bajo el Cielo Peruano: The Devout World of Peralta Barnuevo: La Galeria de la Omnipotencia and Pasión y Triunfo de Cristo.* manuscript submitted to the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Service**

Dr. Williams is serving for the second time as the Chair of Chairs. In April, he served as an invited external reviewer and panelist for a thesis defense at Bates College.
Faculty Accomplishments continued from page 8

**tonya thames taylor**

**Scholarship**
In February 2007, Dr. tonya thames taylor presented "Race and Reconciliation" at the Beeson Divinity School of Stamford University in Birmingham, AL. In April 2007, she facilitated a discussion about the "N-word" at the People Light and Theater in Malvern, PA and spoke about the commodication of race at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in West Chester.

**Jim Trotman**

**Scholarship**
Dr. Trotman was a panelist at the 7th annual Bloomsburg University Student Conference on April 19 & 20.

**Service**
Dr. Jim Trotman convened the Douglass Collaborative Directorship April 5 at the Dixon Center where plans were developed for 2007-08. Also, Dr. Trotman attended the first PASSHE Diversity Leadership Conference on April 19.

**Karyn Usher**

**Scholarship**
Dr. Karyn Usher had two students, Andria Styborski and Scott Snyder, who received a CAS Undergraduate Research Award in the spring of 2007. The students worked along side Professor Usher for a project titled “Effects of Extra Column Volume (E) on Chromatographic Separations in HPLC Systems”.

Naijian Zhang

**Scholarship**


**Service**
Elected a Governing Councilor of the American Public Health Association through the International Health Section for a two-year term (November 2006 to October 2008).

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Faculty Profile from page 4

staff, whose attitudes have inspired many of my teaching, scholarly, and community projects. Last but not least, my students, who, although they may occasionally vex me with their excuses, teach me to be sensitive to their lives and problems, and more understanding of human beings in general.

**If you were asked to recommend a book, which one would it be and why?**
*The Little Prince*, because it is for all ages and a lesson about the truths and follies of adults. It is a reflection of our humanity with its wonderful capacity to love and to be driven by narrow mindedness.

**If you could change one aspect about your life what would it be?**
I would like to have a more balanced life between work and personal time. I would like to spend more time with my family, friends, and people in general.

**What are your future goals?**
Service and stewardship. I have always had a wonderful family and very good friends; I have been blessed with love and prosperity. Now it’s time to increase my contribution to the betterment of the human condition in our society: the ill, the dispossessed, and the marginalized.