I am excited to share with you the accomplishments of the Arts and Sciences faculty at Presbyterian College.

The professors who comprise our faculty are outstanding teachers, advisors, mentors, and guides to our students – they embody PC’s commitment to students, and they demonstrate every day their willingness to develop opportunities that benefit students both now and after they graduate. Our professors are, however, much more: they are active scholars in their own right and they interact frequently with academic and professional communities to advance their own research agendas. They publish books and articles, they attend conferences and meetings, and they develop ideas and experiences that enhance their professional development and the connections to other scholars.

The activities PC professors pursue yield immediate benefits, both for them as scholars and for students. The faculty bring cutting-edge research into the classroom and serve as role models for students as they engage in their own personal development. Faculty also incorporate students into their research – not only in sponsoring projects like capstone papers and our Summer Fellows program, but also as partners on specific projects that yield advantages for students who wish to go on to graduate school, a professional program, or to specific workplaces.

I am proud to present the recent work of our faculty at Presbyterian College.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Raber II
Provost
Dr. Laura Crary, Professor of Art History, had four students from her seminar, “Gender and Art,” present at the 2014 Honors Day Symposium. Dr. Crary participated in the Summer Research Fellows program exploring art conservation and preservation, focusing primarily on the restoration of the Cosmati floor in Westminster Abbey.

Dr. Troy Nash, Associate Professor of Biology, participated in the Southeast Summer Institute on Undergraduate Education in Biology at the University of Georgia. He served as a facilitator for incoming participants and mentored a group of faculty from UGA and Emory University. He was named a National Academies Education Fellow in the Life Sciences for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, based on his work at the institute. As one of 20 members chosen to participate in a NSF funded program at the University of Buffalo, Dr. Nash created online instructional videos and corresponding case studies to teach introductory biology. He was also selected to teach marine invertebrate zoology at the Oregon Institute of Marine Biology at the University of Oregon.

Dr. John Inman, Dana Professor of Biology, along with Dr. Suann Yang and Dr. Troy Nash, prepared a manuscript to be submitted to The American Biology Teacher.

Dr. Michael Rischbieter, Professor of Biology, was recognized as a National Academies Education Fellow in Life Sciences for 2013-2014. He conducted field research in the Badlands near Douglas, Wy, and presented at the Alabama Paleontological Society meetings in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Dr. Suann Yang, Assistant Professor of Biology, was selected to act as a facilitator for participants at the Southeast Summer Institute. Based on her work in this institute, Dr. Yang was named a National Academies Education Mentor in the Life Sciences for 2014-2015. She attended the annual professional development conference of the National Association of Biology Teachers in Cleveland, Ohio, where she presented a talk entitled “Faculty and Student Perceptions of Learning in an Inquiry-Based Introductory Biology Course” and a poster entitled “Growing a Thicker Skin: An Exercise for Measuring Organismal Adaptations for Life in Terrestrial Habitats.”

Dr. Evelyn Swain, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, serves as American Chemical Society student affiliate advisor and has in providing science demonstrations and hands-on activities for students at the Gleanns/Laurens Head Start. Dr. Swain mentored four students during their capstone research projects this year and will mentor three additional students next year. As director, Dr. Swain has begun the accreditation process for the biochemistry program through the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. When PC gains accredited status, students will graduate with distinction from one of fifteen accredited biochemistry major institutions in the country.

Dr. Jody Lipford, Professor of Economics and Business Administration, co-authored a journal article titled “Grazing the State and Local Fiscal Commons: Do Different Tax Prices Lead to More or Less Grazing?” in Public Finance Review.

Dr. Cynthia Lucking, Associate Professor of Economics and Business Administration, presented her paper “Does Playing Monopoly Help Students Learn Accounting?” at the Southeastern Regional Meeting of the Decision Sciences Institute in Wilmington, N.C.

In January 2013, Norman Scarborough, Scott Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, published the 11th edition of his textbook Entrepreneurship and Effective Small Business Management, and in January 2015, the 8th edition of his book, Essentials of Entrepreneurship, will be published. He was elected to Clinton City Council and serves as the Chair of the Laurens County Community Foundation. His is also a member of the Chamber of Commerce’s Municipal Committee.

Dr. Suzanne J. Smith, Robert M. Vance Professor of Economics and Business Administration and Department Chair, presented “Outsourced: Romantic Comedy Meets World Economic Data and Cross Cultural Management Concepts in Heat Maps” at the 2014 Southeast Decision Sciences Meeting. She attended the annual Trustees, Administrators, and Physicians conference as a trustee with the Laurens County Memorial Hospital and serves on the Quality & Academics Committee of the Greenville Health System.

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EDUCATION

Dr. Elizabeth Lilly, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education, coauthored “The power of photography as a catalyst for teaching informational writing” in Childhood Education and “Home-school literacy bags for twenty-first century preschoolers” in Early Childhood Education Journal. Dr. Lilly co-presented “Through their Eyes: Using Children’s Photography and Interactive Media to Scaffold Informational Writing” at the National Association for the Education of Young Children Annual Conference in Washington, D.C. Dr. Lilly was invited to be a member of a panel discussion on literacy at the 39th Annual Conference of the South Carolina Council of the International Reading Association in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Dr. Penny Saurino, Visiting Assistant Professor of Education, presented her paper “Active engagement with complex informational texts: Anchor standard 10” at the annual conference of the SC Association of Teacher Educators (SCATE). Dr. Saurino was recently voted into the office of secretary on the SCATE Board of Directors.

ENGLISH

Dr. Terry Barr, Professor of English, has had over 10 creative nonfiction essays published in journals and writes a regular music column for the website culturemass.com.

Dr. H. Dean Thompson, Jr., Edmunds Professor of English, published a silent film article online in the July 2014 issue of Silents are Golden.

Dr. Jerry Alexander, Associate Professor of English, presented “Power and Identity in Gothic Fiction” at the College English Association Annual Conference in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Alexander also moderated a panel on Restoration and 18th-century literature at the same conference.

Dr. Lynne Simpson, Professor of English, presented “Welcome to the Terrordome: Teaching the Apocalypse” at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference in Atlanta. Dr. Simpson completed her final year of service on the national Board of Directors of the College English Association and was nominated for the 2nd vice presidency of the organization.

HISTORY

Dr. Roy Campbell, Department Chair and Associate Professor of History, served as chair for a panel titled In the Classroom of Good and Evil: Pedagogy, Religious Controversy, and the Liberal Arts College at the American Historical Association Conference in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Anita Gustafson, Professor of History, along with a group of faculty and staff members, secured a $50,000 grant from NetVUE, the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education, funded by the Lilly Foundation. This grant supports the PC Launch Initiative for Vocation, Leadership, and Service.

Dr. Stefan Wiecki, Associate Professor of History, served as the president of the South Carolina Historical Association in 2013-2014. He chaired their annual conference, held in March 2014 in Columbia, S.C. He also traveled to Germany to interview witnesses about their experiences during the transformation of East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall. He also organized the Scotoberfest at PC with Dr. Roy Campbell to celebrate Bavarian Oktoberfest and the Scottish highland games.

MATHEMATICS

Dr. Brian Beasley, Daniel Professor of Mathematics, gave the keynote at PC’s 2013-2014 matriculation convocation. At the meeting of Clemson University’s Association for Women in Mathematics chapter, he served as a panel member to discuss students preparing for job interviews in mathematics after graduate school. Dr. Beasley also presented “Euler and the Ongoing Search for Odd Perfect Numbers” at Anderson University and Erskine College and served as a consultant and mentor for Project NExT.

Dr. Greg Goeckel, Professor of Mathematics, presented his research titled “Successfully Flipping a Mathematics Classroom” at the 2014 Hawaii Education STEM Conference in Honolulu.

Dr. Clint Harshaw, Professor of Mathematics, presented research with Gonzalo Asia, PC Class of 2014, titled “The Effect of Rule Changes on Competitive Balance in NHRA Professional Classes as Measured by the Gini Coefficient and the Resulting Lorenz Curve” at the Southern Sport Management Conference in Nashville, Tenn.
Dr. Kara Shavo, Associate Professor of Mathematics, served on the NetVUE grant-writing committee to develop the course “Launch: Launching Vocation Leadership and Service.” Dr. Shavo received NSF funding to attend the 2013 Research Experiences for Undergraduate Faculty at the Institute for Computational and Experimental Research in Mathematics in Providence, R.I. She was invited to speak at the University of South Carolina Discrete Mathematics Seminar and presented her paper “Classifying Coloring Graphs.” Dr. Shavo also presented this paper at the Mathematical Association of America Southeastern Sectional meeting.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Dr. Mark R. Cox, Professor of Spanish and Latin American Studies, presented multiple conference papers at the Peru Transatlantic Congress in Lima, Peru and also published a variety of additional articles and prologues. Dr. Cox serves on the editorial boards of *Dialogía* (Ayacucho, Perú), *Revista de literatura peruana* (Lima, Perú) and *Setecelebras* (Cusco, Perú).

Dr. Patrick Kiley, Associate Professor of French, presented collaborative research in Paris, France on the role of internationalization in higher education. The presentation will be co-presented with Dr. Jessica Lichy (IDRAC, Lyon, France) in London, England.

Dr. Sharon Knight, Associate Professor of Spanish, collaborated with Dr. Alicia Askew on a Maymester program, giving students the opportunity to explore the cultural diversity of Spain. Highlights of the trip included a visit to the Ramon Cajal Institute of Neuroscience and a tour of the Prado Museum in Madrid.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Dr. Christian Elser, Associate Professor of Music, was the stage director for the Greenville Fine Arts Center High School production of “Rock Opera” and performed the role of “Escamillo” in GLOW Lyric Theatre’s production of Bizet’s “Carmen.” He also performed the role of “Judge Turpin” in Sondheim’s “Sweeney Todd” and the role of “Don Alhambra del Bolero” in Gilbert & Sullivan’s “The Gondoliers” with LOOK Musical Theatre in Tulsa, Okla. Dr. Elser is the founder, general director and music director/conductor for the GLOW Lyric Theatre 2014 season of Larson’s “Rent” and Puccini’s “La Bohème.”

During her sabbatical, Dr. Karen Wisser Buckland, Professor of Music, attended and performed at the Guild of American Luthiers Convention in Tacoma, Wa. Ludlamshöhle, the ensemble she co-founded with Dr. James Buckland, performed recitals in Canada and four states. She presented a lecture/workshop entitled “Developing Better Listening Skills in Collaborative Performance at Appalachian State University and conducted master classes at the South Carolina Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities and Bob Jones University, both in Greenville, S.C. She performed a solo faculty recital and hosted guest artist, Ang Li, for the 30th Annual PC Piano Clinic in 2014.

Dr. Porter Stokes, Chair of the Department of Music, conducted performances with the Augusta Choral Society and orchestra and Greenville Light Opera Works. Dr. Stokes composed four anthems in 2013-2014 and led tours of the PC Choir, including performances in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. The PC Choir also made an appearance at the Upstate SC Intercollégiate Choral Festival.

PHYSICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Dr. Paige Meeker, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Computer Science, chaired the Carolina’s Women in Computing Conference in Charleston, S.C. Dr. Meeker had a Business Objective Framework accepted at the Association of Computing Machinery, Special Interest Group - Computer Science Education titled, “Inspiring a Love of Computer Science through the Education of our Youth.” She presented a paper at the Consortium for Computing Sciences in Colleges, South Central conference titled, "Interdisciplinary Travel Courses, Creating ‘Magical’ Experiences.”

Dr. James Wanliss, Associate Professor of Physics, was awarded third year funding from NSF Division of Atmospheric Sciences for his work entitled Spatiotemporal Development and Forecasting of Space Storms.” Dr. Wanliss presented at four conferences across the globe and four of his articles were published in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He also serves as the editor for Nonlinear Processes in Geophysics, Special Issue on Multifractional Brownian motions in Geosciences.

Dr. Eli Owens, Assistant Professor of Physics, worked with two undergraduate students to build acoustic sensors, studying how sound propagates through sand.
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Dr. Justin Earl Lance, Assistant Professor of Political Science, had a paper titled “Conditional Cash Transfers and the Effect on Recent Murder Rates in Brazil and Mexico” published in Latin American Politics and Society. He presented “Expanding the State: Marginalized Citizens and the Effects of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs on Trust in State Institutions in Latin America, 2010-2012” at the Midwest Political Science Association Convention in Chicago, Ill. Dr. Lance led a trip to Ethiopia with political science professor Dr. Booker Ingram where students visited PC alums in the capital, Addis, visited with scholars at Addis Ababa University, visited a Peace Corp volunteer at her site in the rural south Sidamo province, and participated in a grassroots soccer event on malaria.

Dr. Erin McAdams, Assistant Professor of Political Science, co-authored an article with Dr. Lance titled “Religion’s Impact on the Divergent Political Attitudes of Evangelical Protestants in the U.S. and Brazil” published in Politics and Religion. Both professors presented a co-authored, follow-up piece at the Midwest Political Science Association conference in Chicago titled “The Impact of Religiosity & Political Context on Evangelical Protestants’ Conservatism: A Cross-national Comparison of Nine Countries.” Dr. McAdams co-authored another paper titled “Finding Gaps in Sustainability Education: The Impact of College Coursework on Perceptions of Sustainability” that was accepted for publication in The International Journal of Sustainability in Higher Education. Dr. McAdams also served as an anonymous reviewer for American Politics Research.

PSYCHOLOGY

Dr. Alicia Askew, Chair and Associate Professor of Psychology, traveled to Spain with Dr. Sharon Knight and students on a Maymester course. Dr. Askew’s course, “Psychology and Modern Neuroscience in Spain,” focused on the Spanish biologist and Nobel Laureate Santiago Ramón y Cajal. In June, Dr. Viet Ha and Dr. Askew met with faculty and international program staff at Lillehammer University College (HiL) in Lillehammer, Norway to discuss development of a psychology summer program at HiL, offering courses taught by psychology faculty from both institutions. Dr. Askew co-authored “A low-cost automated apparatus for investigating effects of social defeat in Syrian hamsters” which was published in Behavior Research Methods. She also served as a Summer Fellow Advisor for psychology students and coauthored a paper with a PC international student that is currently under review.

Dr. Jay Michaels, Assistant Professor of Psychology, presented “Self-stability through flexibility: Greater resilience through a coherent but dynamically flexible self,” via video at the annual Society for Personality and Social Psychology conference at Austin, Texas and presented a poster there titled, “Self-esteem as a stabilizing force: Higher self-esteem constrains mental dynamics following ego depletion,” with Meg Genevie, PC Class of 2014. Additionally, Dr. Michaels presented “Applying complexity science to simplify complex conflicts” at the 6th annual Peace Studies Conference at Lander University, Greenwood, S.C. and was invited to present at the Innovation Lab on Dynamical Systems Theory, Peace and Conflict held in Kapolei, Oahu, Hawaii. Dr. Michaels is partnering with Drs. Anita Gustafson, John Inman and Ms. Linda Jameison to formalize the PC Launch Program using a $50,000 grant from NetVUE.

Jill Meehling and Dr. Brooke Spatta, Associate Professor of Psychology, will serve as executive director and assistant director of the Laurens County Humane Society, respectively. A new 2,000 square foot building is being constructed on five acres of donated land which will serve as the new no-kill adoption center in Laurens County.

RELIGION & PHILOSOPHY

Dr. Robert Bryant, Chair of Religion and Philosophy and Professor of Bible, was named a 2014 German Academic Exchange Fellow and awarded a fellowship to teach three courses and research teaching the Bible in intercultural contexts as a visiting professor of religion at the Karlsruhe University of Education for a semester. Dr. Bryant delivered multiple papers and presentations while in Germany and published three book reviews for Interpretation: A Journal of Bible and Theology.

Dr. Rebecca Davis, Assistant Professor of Religion, was invited to teach two courses at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Charlotte, N.C., as a visiting professor of Christian education for the Master of Divinity and Master of Christian Education programs. She was also elected for a second term as president of the South Atlantic and Puerto Rico Region of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators.

Dr. Kirk Nolan, Assistant Professor of Religion, published Reformed Virtue after Barth: Developing Moral Virtue Ethics in the Reformed Tradition.
SOCIOLOGY

Dr. Carla Hall Alphonso, Professor of Sociology, had four submissions accepted for the 2015 peer-reviewed Encyclopedia of Family Studies.

Dr. Robert Freymeyer, Chair and Professor of Sociology, completed a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Southern Demographic Association and presented a paper “In-migration and Changing Southern Politics” at their annual meeting. Dr. Freymeyer is a member of the Publication Committee of the Southern Sociological Society and serves as editor of The Southern Sociologist. He is also program chair for the annual Presbyterian College Honors Day Symposium.

THEATRE

Ms. Miriam Ragland, Professor of Theatre, received the Award for Innovative Teaching at the American Theatre in Higher Education and Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. She conducted research during her sabbatical titled “Exploration of Paulo Freire’s teaching philosophy and its implications in the traditional college classroom.” Ragland established the Center for Devised Theatre at PC, which produces original, student-driven works for the stage. She created an original adapted work about Lt. Col. Hampton, Kimberly’s Flight, and an original theater production, Laughing in the Face of Fear.