

News from the School of Mathematics and Sciences

Associate Professor of Conservation Biology and Director of the Cumberland Mountain Research Center, **Dr. LaRoy Brandt** recently had two research manuscripts accepted for publication and currently in press. These articles are examples of the continued effort of the CMRC to facilitate faculty research.

The first article represents a CMRC collaboration with the Smithsonian Institute and their SNAPSHOTUSA project for eMammal. This research represents a collaboration of wildlife biologists from all 50 states where researchers place trail cameras out simultaneously through September and October to assess the mammalian biodiversity across the entire US. We are now approaching our third year of participating in this project. This current article is a summary of the first year's data and is published in the journal *Ecology*. The CMRC is expecting to expand its participation to include additional locations during this fall's research season. Although not in print yet, the article can be found at the following here.

Cove, M.V., Kays, R., Bontrager, H., Bresnan, C., Lasky, M., Frerichs, T., Klann, R., Lee Jr, T.E., Crockett, S.C., Crupi, A.P. and Weiss, K.C., *et al.* 2021.

SNAPSHOT USA 2019: a coordinated national camera trap survey of the United States.

The second article is a One Health article that was accepted to the *American Journal of Primatology* and represents a collaboration between the University of Toronto, the CMRC, and Regis University. This article summarizes some of the ongoing efforts of Dr. Brandt's affiliation with the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy and a number of other researchers at the LaSuerte Biological Research Station. Over the past 15 years, Dr. Brandt has had the opportunity to assist and advise the evolution of the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy Mission to what would now be considered a Tropical One Health Program that includes not only monitoring the health of the rainforest, but facilitating veterinary and medical missions to rural Costa Rican and Nicaraguan in addition to serving as a resource to local communities and ranchers about more sustainable practices. One current result of their efforts is that Dr. Brandt is also serving as an advisor to the Costa Rican government through the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy on the development and implementation of a biological corridor that will connect national parks in the Central Range to the Tortuguero National Park on the Caribbean Coast. Additionally, this has led to increased collaboration between the Maderas Rainforest Conservancy and palm oil plantations contiguous with the LaSuerte Biological Research Station as he is now advising the plantation owners on developing land management and harvesting practices that will improve the biodiversity of the region and ecosystem health. The citation for this article is below and we will share a link when available.

Bolt, Laura M., Brandt, LaRoy S. E., Molina, Renee L., and Schreier, Amy L.
Maderas Rainforest Conservancy: A One Health approach to conservation.
American Journal of Primatology (accepted May 2021)

Honors Scholars Program

LMU students **Lily Smith** and **Hannah Murphy** each taught a genetics lesson in molecular genetics at a local school as part of their Honors course contract. The students were supervised by Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and Chair, and Program Director of the Department of Biology, **Dr. Julie Hall**. Great job, Hannah and Lily! Thank you, Dr. Hall!

Arts in the Gap Update

The Arts in the Gap program held 10 events and workshops virtually this summer spanning over 5 weeks from the middle of May, to the end of June. They hosted over 150 participants virtually through online events and activities. Some events included watercolor painting workshop for kids, a playwriting workshop, a Nancy Hanks Club collaboration with the Abraham Lincoln Library and Museum, as well as a theatre production of *The Gullywasher*, written by LMU students and faculty. “Despite everything being in a virtual format this year we had an amazing turn out for our Arts in the Gap events this summer,” says **Grace Mahieu**, Event Coordinator for the Arts in the Gap program. “We had a lot of different events for all ages so everyone could enjoy the arts and we heard some great feedback from our participants.” Looking toward the 2022 summer season Mahieu hopes even more people will join Arts in the Gap for their summer programming. “We are working on offering more events next year and hopefully more folks will be able to join us. We are so excited about all the events we have in the works and we can’t wait to bring everyone together again.” To stay up to date on all Arts in the Gap events follow them on Instagram at [lm_u_aitg](#) or on Facebook at Arts in the Gap. Any questions about Arts in the Gap programming? Contact Grace at grace.mahieu@lmunet.edu or call 423-869-7423.

Publications and Presentations

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice & Criminology and Program Director of Criminal Justice, **Dr. Kevin Jennings** submitted a publication:

Jennings, K., & Balas, M. (2020). Twenty First Century Digital Forensics: New Patterns in Evidence Analysis. *Philippine Criminology Journal*, 1(2), 1-10.

Dr. Jennings also had two presentations:

Jennings, K., Romero-Casio, W., Kamaluddin, M., Jhee, J., & Marwan, A. (March, 2021). Cybercrime from Legal and Social Perspectives. PACIFIC Webinar. Online.

Jennings, K., Ray, C., Carter, M., & Thrush, M. (February, 2021). American Social Unrest: Political, Criminal, and Psychological Perspectives. Lincoln Memorial University. Harrogate, TN.

Assistant Professor of English, Department Chair, Literature & Language, **Dr. Abigail Heiniger** recently attended the “Play and Politics, The Brownie Book, 1920-1921” Children’s Literature Association Conference, Virtual June 2021.

Dr. Heiniger was also the senior transcriber for the National Folklore Collection University College of Dublin (UCD) Digitization Project. June 2021—Present.

Heiniger is also a reviewer for the *Journal of American Folklore*. July 2021—Present.

LMU Mini-Grants

The LMU Mini-Grants Program is intended to support and encourage scholarly activity at LMU. The LMU Mini Grants committee evaluates proposals and makes recommendations to the Committee on Scholarly Activity (COSA). Grants are awarded for a one-year period.

Applications will be invited for projects requesting up to \$8,000 in support. The number of awards made will be dependent upon the amount of funding available and the evaluation of applications made by the committee. A faculty member may receive no more than one award per fiscal year.

Eligibility

Full-time faculty/staff of the University are eligible to apply for funding. Consideration will be given to those projects that are collaborative and initiate an ongoing program of research, and/or have the potential to lead to external funding.

Application Deadline

February 1st of each year

Review Criteria

Mini-grants will be reviewed and awards made on the following basis:

- Availability of funds
- Research merit (originality, research significance, research design, predicted outcome, previous research achievements of the applicant, etc.)
- Broader impact (the likelihood that the project will either produce or be incorporated within published material; the potential for external funding, etc.)

Notification of Funding Awards

Applicants will be notified in writing as to the funding decision on their proposals by April 1st and the award start date is May 1st.

The mini-grant application can be found [here](#).

Recent Submissions and Awards

Recent Grant Submissions:

Dr. Susanna Kitts-Morgan and Dr. William Muir submitted a proposal to Peak Therapeutics.

Dr. Stacy Anderson submitted a proposal to Boehringer Ingelheim.

Ms. Maha Ayesh and Ms. Allison Starnes-Anglea submitted a proposal to the Knoxville Bar Foundation.

Mr. Zachary Greene submitted a proposal to the Tennessee Arts Commission.

Ms. Lila Combs submitted a proposal to the Council for Opportunity in Education.

Dr. LaRoy Brandt submitted a letter of intent to US Army Corps of Engineers.

Recent Grant Awards:

Dr. John McCook was awarded five *Grow Your Own Grants* from the Tennessee Department of Education. The grants will serve Rural Schools, Title I Schools and STEM Embedded Classrooms K-5—12 Licensure.

Dr. Susanna Kitts-Morgan and Dr. William Muir were awarded a grant from Peak Therapeutics.

Ms. Maha Ayesh and Ms. Allison Starnes-Anglea were awarded a grant from the Knoxville Bar Foundation.

Mr. Zach Greene was awarded a grant from Tennessee Arts Commission to help fund the Mountain Fiesta program at the J. Frank White Academy.

Mrs. Robin Susong and the LMU Police Department were awarded the High Visibility Enforcement of Tennessee Traffic Safety Laws Grant.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Contact information for grants:

Carolyn Gulley

Executive Director, Office of Research, Grants and Sponsored Programs
Grant Lee 107
carolyn.gulley@lmunet.edu
(423) 869-6291

Melissa Miracle

Post Award Grants Manager
Grant Lee 108
melissa.miracle02@lmunet.edu
(423) 869-6834

Marca Cenatiempo

Director, Health Sciences Research and Grants
DCOM 221
marca.cenatiempo@lmunet.edu
(423) 869-6838

Reminder from the LMU Institutional Review Board (IRB)

Please remember that all research proposals and projects involving human subjects, must have IRB approval ***prior*** to the presentation of any information gathered during the course of the research.

Under federal policy, the IRB cannot grant retroactive IRB approval.

All applications for external funding must first begin by contacting the ORGSP.

If your grant award, application, presentation, or publication has not been mentioned in this edition, please forward your information to us using the contact information listed above. Thank you!

Institutional Animal and Care Use Committee (IACUC)

All research proposals and projects involving animals must have IACUC approval. Please have protocols submitted at least one week before the next scheduled meeting for committee review. Below is a schedule of upcoming IACUC meetings:

September 14, 2021
October 12, 2021
November 9, 2021
December 14, 2021