



THIS ISSUE

David Whitaker

Thomas McCall

W. Brian Shelton

Keith Barker & Kristina Erny

Chuck Gobin & Linda Stratford

Will Shafer

Sean Gaffney

Ben Brammell & Dan Strait

Shad Lacefield

Bruce Branan

Craig Saunders

Jim Owens

Sydney Penner

Jim Shores

Cheryll Crowe Johnson

Elizabeth Jones

Margaret Park Smith

Josh Smith

Heather Hornbeak

Rich Manieri

Devin Brown

Margaret Park Smith and Josh Smith's *Attention Bridge*

MARGARET PARK SMITH AND JOSH SMITH CREATE A TENSION BRIDGE, *ATTENTION BRIDGE*

Dovetail Practice is a collaboration between **Josh Smith**, Associate Professor of Graphic Design and Printmaking, and **Margaret Park Smith**, Associate Professor of Ceramics and Sculpture. In the past year they have collaborated to create *Attention Bridge*, a project which responds to “increasing polarization within all realms of society and culture” according to Park Smith.

Josh and Margaret “identified ten critical tensions that contribute to polarized thought and attitude, and re-imagined these tensions as part of a spectrum, rather than isolated poles, connected by a bridge, wherein tension is a source of strength, as it is within a tension bridge: *Attention Bridge*.”

This theoretical framework includes ten ideas/tensions, with a designed symbol and short writing for each. They also created subsequent art objects to give the project a material form: the symbols, a book collecting the ten tensions, eleven custom flags for presentation, china paint decals, a wall hanging, and two ocarinas serve to move the project from theory to practice.

A grant from the Faculty Development Committee allowed this material transition to take place. “The pigment color, the image scale, and the compatibility between image and form were all key considerations that needed to be physically realized rather than simply planned,” wrote Park Smith in her project summary to the Faculty Development Committee.

This project is an essential and necessary response to “political/religious/institutional ideologies that are feeling increasingly polarizing,” said Smith. Dovetail Practice wanted to “make a theoretical and conceptual framework to point to in the future when we make new work,” something “to offer in writing for ourselves, students, and anyone we come in contact with in the future to help clarify our stance in communion and conversation.”

This beautiful project can be viewed and contemplated online at <https://dovetailpractice.com/ATTENTION-BRIDGE>

ATTENTION
BRIDGEPRACTICING
VALUES
DIFFERENTLY:FROM
POLARIZING
IDEOLOGIES
TO SPECTRAL
REIMAGININGCover of *Attention Bridge*, the book

NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Assistant Professor in the School of Communication Arts **David Whitaker's** article, "A Lack of Expertise: An Ethical Analysis of Climate Change Coverage in the Media," is forthcoming in *Media Ethics Magazine* Spring Issue 2021.

The paper uses Kant's Categorical Imperative and attempts to shed light on the ethical issues of reporting on climate change.

BEN BRAMMELL AND DAN STRAIT HOLD FAITH AND SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM



Faculty Participants at Windsor Manor in February

Professor of Science & Health, **Dr. Ben Brammell** and Professor of English, **Dr. Dan Strait**, held a two-part Faith and Science Symposium on February 19-20. The Faith and Science Symposium, sponsored by the Lilly Foundation and SEARCH, included two days of programming and lectures available for students and faculty participants.

Dr. Praveen Sethupathy, from Cornell University, joined a room of 50 students on Friday, to share an encouraging lecture entitled, "Common Ground Between Science and Faith: What it Means to be Human." He ended by answering several thoughtful student questions.

On Saturday, Dr. Sethupathy shared a similar lecture and answered faculty questions.

The Symposium fostered an interdisciplinary dialogue across lines of specialization, renewed and enlivened a sense of Christian calling among faculty. Additionally, Brammell and Strait's goals were to enlarge the intellectual, religious (Christian-Wesleyan), social, and moral context for cultivating redemptive human action and "press thought toward a just complexity," as Wendell Berry writes in *Life's a Miracle*.

BRUCE BRANAN AND STUDENT ABBY SEARLS BEGAN RESEARCH PROJECT AT WILMORE WASTEWATER

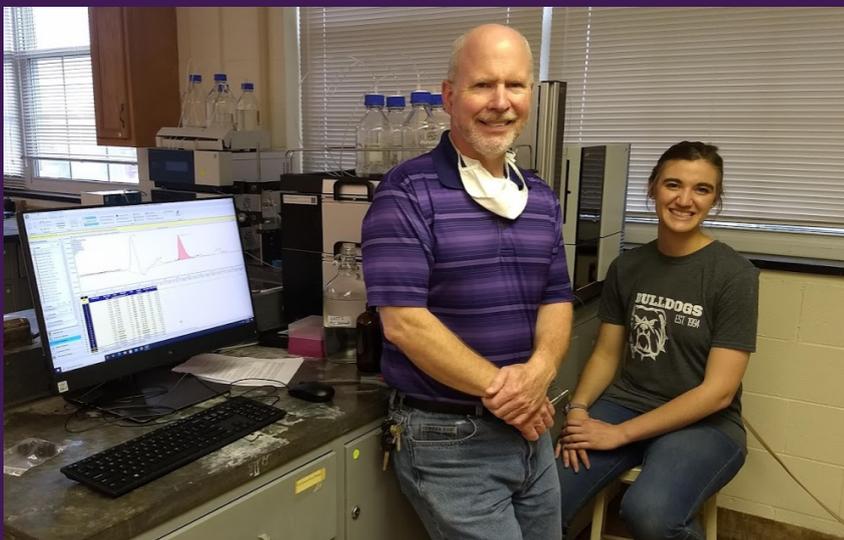
During the fall semester student Abby Searls and Professor of Chemistry **Dr. Bruce Branan** began a research project looking for antidepressants at the Wilmore Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Antidepressants (as well as other pharmaceuticals) get into wastewater due to normal excretion, as well as individuals disposing of their medications down the drain. Branan and Searls collected the water after treatment, just before it was released back into the Town Branch (which flows into Jessamine Creek and out to the KY River).

They limited their initial analysis for a single, yet popular, antidepressant, fluoxetine (Prozac), and their results (7 out of the 8 samples we analyzed) indicated elevated levels significantly higher than 0.2 ppb, which is higher than safe levels set by EPA for drinking water.

Branan stresses that this was *wastewater*, not drinking water, and it was going to be further diluted as it flowed into larger bodies of water. However, the fact that it was elevated is interesting, and makes Branan and Searls wonder if this was due to higher antidepressant use during the pandemic.

Monitoring for this project is ongoing, and they hope to expand to other antidepressants like Sertraline (Zoloft) and Citalopram (Lexapro, Celexa) in the future.



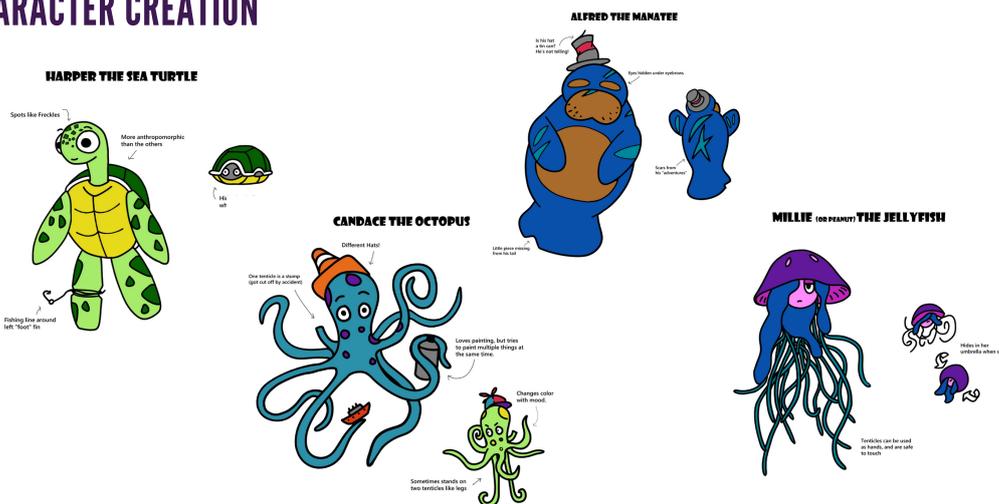
Bruce and Abby in the lab.

CHERYLL CROWE JOHNSON PRESENTS RESEARCH

In February, Dr. Cheryll Crowe Johnson, Associate Professor of Mathematics, presented research at the national Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (AMTE) Annual Conference with two scholars from the University of Louisville including Jennifer Bay-Williams, an international leading research in the field of mathematics education.

Cheryll and Jennifer have submitted their identity survey for a peer-reviewed scholarly publication with AMTE. Crowe Johnson will also represent the state of Kentucky at the conference as the President of the Kentucky Association of Mathematics Teacher Educators (KAMTE).

SEAN GAFFNEY FACILITATES STUDENT EXPERIENCE WITH CONTENT AND CHARACTER CREATION



Through a seminar in TV Writing for Children last spring, Associate Professor of Screenwriting, Sean Gaffney's students developed scripts for *Wondermore*, a children's series produced by In Touch Ministries. This spring, two of the students from that class were brought on to help create additional scripts. Several students from TV Writing for Children have been able to use their skills to apply for writing positions at another company. Also, as a result of the course, *The Superbook Show* (produced by CBN) is offering freelance script writing positions to two other students (one recent graduate and one current student).

This semester, Orbie for Orphans, a ministry recently acquired by One More Child, came to campus in March to work with a group of students to develop animation characters and stories for their ministry. Asbury provided a day-and-a-half workshop, brainstorming a new animation series (characters, setting, etc.) to work with their curriculum for orphans. The workshop included undergraduate and graduate students.

Jill and Carl Toth, executive directors of Orbie for Orphans, came to campus for the workshop and left with a complete set of characters and settings for *Harper's Pearls*, an under-the-sea animation. The materials we collected from the workshop went into a document that was then pitched to One More Child; the parent organization was very enthusiastic about the work. The Toths have expressed great enthusiasm to work with Asbury more in the future.

The above images were created by Cooper Boss, a Junior Media Communication major who participated.

SHAHER'S CATALYSIS CREW GOING STRONG WITH PUBLICATION AND PRESENTATION

Assistant Professor in Chemistry, Science and Health, Dr. Will Shafer's students, Caleb Engler and Elizabeth Strasko, presented their work in March at the KY's Regional Air Quality Web conference. The host praised their work and encouraged them to patent their ideas well. Additionally, their article "New mechanism insight for the hydrogenation of CO/CO₂ gas mixtures to hydrocarbons over iron-based catalyst" was published in *Catalysis Communications*, Volume 152 in April. A collection of articles is also completed and is published as "Future insights into Syngas Conversion" edited by Belma Demirel, Muthu Kumaran Gnanamani, Wilson Shafer, Michela Martinelli. An electronic copy can be downloaded for free at <https://www.mdpi.com/books/pdfview/book/2436>

MORE NEWS-IN-BRIEF

Dr. Sydney Penner, Senior Lecturer of Philosophy, has published "Making Use of the Testimonies: Suárez and Grotius on Natural Law" in *Grotiana* 41 (2020), 108-36.

Keith Barker, Professor of Photography, shared his photographic peice "Stones of Help" along with Kristina Erny, Assistant Professor of Creative Writing, at CIVA Gather (Christians in the Visual Art) online on March 25, 2021. She read and discussed her poem "Resurrection Psalm" and Keith gave a short artist talk.

They had the opportunity to discuss their artistic collaboration and the connection of their art to the Resurrection celebration in the Christian liturgical calendar.

On April 19, 2021, Dr. Jim Owens's, Professor of Media Communication, 6th edition of *Television Sports Production* will be released. The book is published by Routledge/Taylor Frances Group/Focal Press.

Professor of Communication and Theatre Arts, Dr. Jim Shores, recently finished a play, *Viking Summer*, commissioned by The Beating Heart Group in Linlithgow, Scotland. It will be performed by Asbury students at the 2021 Edinburgh Fringe Festival permitting it is safe to travel.

The project, supported by a Huston Foundation grant, examines the value of life from conception to last breath and is set on the island of Iona.

Additionally, *Viking Summer* will be performed as an outreach through Carrubbers Christian Centre in Edinburgh

SHAD LACEFIELD BECOMES VADER, ENCOURAGES STUDENTS THROUGH COVID BY DONNING 100 MASKS

Adjunct Professor in Education, **Shad Lacefield**, has been working hard to engage his Garden Springs Elementary fourth graders online since April of last year. As his teaching migrated completely online with the shut down due to COVID, Lacefield saw interest and participation waning.

He knew he had to do something to keep fun alive in his classroom, and wanted to build community among his students whom he was only seeing virtually, so he donned over 100 costumes and started a home visit initiative called "Vader Visits" in order to motivate and encourage his students.

Not only did this project increase student participation and give his students hope during a time of great stress and consternation, but it caught the eye of news outlets like the Herald-Leader, Lex 18, and Fayette County Public Schools.



RICH MANIERI AND STUDENTS PRODUCE LIVE ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE

Rich Manieri, Assistant Professor of Media, Journalism & Digital Storytelling, writes a column which is syndicated to some 800 newspapers and websites throughout the country. Manieri's column has appeared in USA Today, in Associated Press, and in local newspapers from coast to coast, and he's never sure in which outlets it will run from week to week.

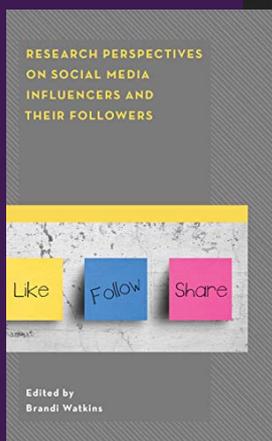
Manieri is grateful for the opportunities this has provided him to share his perspective and his faith, something he "never dreamed possible in mainstream publications." A recent piece, published by the Jacksonville Journal Courier, allowed a Bible verse to run with the opinion column in which Manieri addressed having empathy for those who are dealing with drug addiction and mental illness as well as homelessness.

In addition to writing as a syndicated journalist, Manieri is the faculty advisor of campus newspaper, *The Collegian*. Manieri works closely to build real-world skills for Journalism and Media Communications students and this past election cycle provided an excellent proving ground. On Nov. 3, 2020, a group of Asbury Journalism and Media Communications students along with students from different majors wrote, starred in, and produced a live election night newscast.

ELIZABETH JONES SERVES AS CHAIR OF ANNUAL CONVENTION

Associate Professor of Communication **Dr. Elizabeth Jones** served as the Chair of the Communication and Aging Division for the 105th Annual Convention of the National Communication Association in November 2020. She chaired several paper sessions, and served as a Legislative Assembly delegate. She also authored and presented a panel titled "It's just killing old people": Messages about ageing and older adults during the COVID-19 pandemic" with other communication faculty members from across the US.

Additionally, a book chapter Jones wrote and collaborated on with two current graduate students in the Digital Storytelling MA program is releasing this year entitled "#Marketing faith: The megachurch pastor as social media influencer" in *Research Perspectives on Social Media Influencers and Their Followers* edited by Brandi Watkins published with Lexington Books.



MORE NEWS-IN-BRIEF

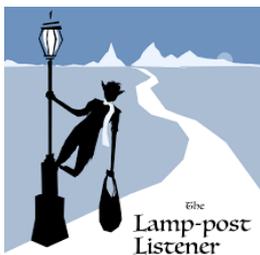
Dr. Thomas McCall, Professor of Theology and Scholar-in-Residence in Christian Studies and Philosophy, has published *After Arminius: An Historical Introduction to Arminian Theology* (Oxford, 2021; co-authored with Keith Stanglin), "'On Doing What You Can:' Toward Recovery of a Protestant Doctrine of Good Works," *Trinity Journal* (2020), and "'The Whole Scope and Tenor of Scripture:' Hermeneutics, Wholeness, and Holiness in Wesleyan Theological Interpretation of Scripture," in *Hearing and Doing the Word: The Drama of Evangelical Hermeneutics*, eds. Douglas A. Sweeney and Daniel Treier (New York: Bloomsbury/T & T Clark, 2021).

Dr. Thomas McCall and **Dr. W. Brian Shelton**, Chair of Christian Studies and Philosophy, attended the Evangelical Theological Society Annual Virtual Meeting in November 2020. Brian serves on the Steering Committee for the Patristic and Medieval History Section. A panel of scholars evaluated Tom's recent book, *Against God and Nature: The Doctrine of Sin* (Crossway).

Dr. Chuck Gobin, Professor of English, and **Dr. Linda Stratford**, Professor of Art History, recently completed a 4-week faculty course, *Why Does "Blackness" Matter?: The Socio-historical Context of Racism in America*, sponsored by InterVarsity Faculty Ministry and the Veritas Forum. The course was taught by Dr. Angela M. Simms, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Urban Studies at Barnard College-Columbia University and hosted by Dr. Cullen Buie, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering, the Esther & Harold E. Edgerton Career Development Chair at MIT.

Dr. Craig D. Saunders, Adjunct Professor in Christian Studies has published his doctoral thesis for London School of Theology at Middlesex University. His book is entitled *A Mediator in Matthew: An Analysis of the Son of Man's Function in the First Gospel* with Pickwick Publications (an imprint of Wipf & Stock Publishers).

DEVIN BROWN'S LEWIS WORK



In March, **Dr. Devin Brown**, Professor of English, gave a guest lecture on C.S Lewis for Northwind Seminary, and in April he gave an invited talk at the UK Honors College entitled, "J. R. R. Tolkien: His Life, Works, and Legacy."

Because of his position as a Lewis biographer, Brown was recently invited to write a book review of *Becoming C. S. Lewis: A Biography of Young Jack Lewis (1898–1918)* by Harry Lee Poe. His review appears this month in the *Journal of Inklings Studies*.

This Spring, Brown was one of eight Lewis scholars interviewed for a program titled "Remembering Walter Hooper." Hooper died of Covid in December after managing Lewis's literary estate for the past fifty years and publishing his collected letters. The program was broadcast on *The Lamp-Post Listener*.

Brown also appeared on the podcast *Mythic Mission*, where he discussed his book, *The Christian World of The Hobbit*.

Finally, during Lent, Brown gave a series of talks titled "Words for the Journey" at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral.



HEATHER HORNBEAK DESIGNS FOR TRUELIGHT CHILDCARE

In the past year, **Heather Hornbeak**, Assistant Professor of Media Communication and Journalism, designed a website and social media campaign for TrueLight Childcare, a nongovernmental organization which works to support orphans and vulnerable children and their families in the capital city of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa.

Through this campaign, TLC was able to raise \$35,000 online in COVID relief for mostly single mothers in Ethiopia as well as other families who were unable to work. The organization continued their sponsorship giving of \$80,000 for children and their families and also created a Christmas giving campaign which raised over \$21,000.

Additionally, every year, Hornbeak helps design ornaments, which are cut with a laser cutter, and taken by volunteers to Ethiopia. TLC children paint the ornaments in the summer, and TLC sells them during the holidays in order to raise funds for the organization.

More information about TrueLight Childcare can be found at <http://www.tlcproject.org/>

TRUELIGHT COVID RELIEF UPDATE



TLC mothers receive rice at a monthly COVID relief distribution.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began to unfold more than 4 months ago, no one could have known the extent to which this virus would change the global economic landscape. The effects of this virus have been immeasurable for so many, but particularly those countries where large percentages of the population were already living in extreme poverty.

Although Ethiopia has suffered greatly, as food prices are inflated and income sources disappear, God has provided abundantly for TLC children and their families. We are incredibly thankful for the generosity of our sponsors and supporters. There has been an outpouring of response to our request for additional funding. This has allowed us to provide monthly distributions to 250 TLC families.

We hope to continue to provide these monthly distributions as funds allow, until the Ethiopian economy begins to recover.

It was not possible to feed my children. But the support we have received helped to sustain my family and my neighbors too. Even though I am poor, I have shared it with my poor neighbors.

- TLC mother of 7

Because of COVID 19 our family was not in a good situation. Nobody is working and we don't have earnings but the gift and support from TLC changed our situation. There are no words to express what we feel. We are so happy. Thank you and God bless you abundantly.

- TLC guardian

Since March, TLC has distributed food and hygiene items each month to all 250 Ethiopian families involved in our program.



\$35,194.88 HAS PROVIDED 250 FAMILIES WITH THE FOLLOWING

- 1 BLANKETS
- 4 MASKS
- 12 LBS. SALT
- 15 LBS. RICE
- 2 GALLONS SOUP
- 2 GALLONS COOKING OIL
- 100 LBS. WHEAT



SUBMIT STORIES HIGHLIGHTING FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ACTIVITY, PUBLISHING, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, PROJECTS, WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS & OTHER NEWS

The Faculty Newsletter was created to foster community and interdisciplinary conversation through storytelling and celebration of faculty achievements.

The Faculty Newsletter is a periodical edited, written, and designed by Kristina Erny, Asst. Professor of Creative Writing and is sponsored by the Faculty Development program.

ASBURY UNIVERSITY

Stories should be sent to kristina.erny@asbury.edu