

Research@CMU

Promoting Scholarship and Creative Work Throughout the University

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News from the Hedge

Talking Shop

Most of us have been to an after work beer gathering or a cocktail party where a couple of co-workers were engaged in an animated conversation only to have someone else pronounce to them: "Don't talk shop!" While that might be an appropriate admonition under those circumstances, at CMU and at most universities, we need more "talking shop" rather than less. We need to find more ways, more locales and more occasions for talking shop among faculty members, between faculty members and students and among students. Many faculty members relish serving on committees such as FRCE and the President's and Provost's Award committees precisely because the opportunity to talk shop – even outside one's area of specialization – is intellectually stimulating. I count myself particularly lucky in my work here because I get to talk shop with faculty members much more than most people. In the past two weeks alone, I engaged in talking shop with faculty about justice issues related to fire control in the Southwest, Hilbert-Kunz functions, the hydrogen storage capacity of molecular framework molecules, new polymers with the ability to clean perchlorate from drinking water, collaboration with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe to create portraits of tribal leaders who have transformed the Tribe and the challenges of creating radio dramas.

Because those of us in the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs have a dual role of assisting faculty and staff members to acquire internal and external funds and comply with policy rules and guidelines from many quarters, we can easily get a reputation for being a gaggle of staff who live for the joy of pushing an increasing load of governmental rules on the hapless. Nothing could be further from the truth. Rather, it is the pleasure of engaging with the faculty and staff and learning about their varied and fascinating work that makes dealing with, and when necessary, enforcing the regulations less onerous and our working lives a pleasure (most days!).

A recent article in Chemical and Engineering News January 9, 2012, reported on the amazing, technical innovation that the 3M company has maintained for over 60 years. What has their secret of success been? Basically, it has resulted from their finding creative ways of talking shop over their six business segments and 35 business units. I would like to suggest that we at CMU, individually and collectively, pursue some new avenues for talking shop at CMU. I do not believe we can foster the vibrant intellectual life that we all want without more shop talk – within disciplines and across disciplines. After all we are at a university because we deeply value the life of the mind, which in no small part is sustained by critical conversation – that is, talking shop.

Jim Hageman

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 14

3:00-5:00 PM

Faculty Excellence Exhibition
Park Library Auditorium

Wednesday, March 21

(FRCE) Faculty Research & Creative Endeavors Applications Due for April 4 Committee Meeting

Deliver to Foust 251 by 5:00 p.m.

Office of Research and Sponsored Programs

ORSP@cmich.edu

251 Foust Hall
Central Michigan University
Mount Pleasant, MI 48859

The Psychologist and the Chemists – A Story of Creativity at CMU.

Creativity can take many forms. Some exceptional, if traditional, expressions of creativity are captured on the CD's in CMU's White Pine Music label (http://music.cmich.edu/resources/white_pine_music/). Another rather different expression of creativity is captured in the table below. This is the list of US patents that have been authored by members of the faculty, along with some of their students and post-docs. These seventeen patents have all been issued (published) by the USPTO to members of our CMU faculty in the last 8 years. All but one of these authors, Justin Oh-Lee, is a faculty member, or associated with, the Department of Chemistry. Dr. Oh-Lee is a member of the Department of Psychology.

Jensen, Anton *Single Oxygen Catalysts Including Condensed Carbon Molecules*

Mohanty, Dillip, Sharma, Ajit *Polyoxyalkylene Compound and Method for Making*

Mohanty, Dillip, Sharma, Ajit *Solvent Resistant Polymers*

Mohanty, Dillip, Sharma, Ajit *Polyoxyalkylene Compound and Method for Making*

Diallo, Mamadou *Water Treatment by Dendrimer Enhanced Filtration*

Mohanty, Dillip, Sharma, Ajit *Solvent Resistant Polymers*

Fahlman, Bradley *Low Temperature Synthesis of Carbon Nanotubes*

Mohanty, Dillip, Zhang, Zhong-Biao *Dendrimer Compositions with High Branching Multiplicity*

Mohanty, Dillip, Zhang, Zhong-Biao *Conjugate Addition Products of Primary Amines and Activated Acceptors*

Chai, Minghui, Tang, Schengzhuang *Method of Preparing Dendritic Drugs*

Jensen, Anton *Singlet Oxygen Catalysts Including Condensed Carbon Molecules*

Mohanty, Dillip, Sharma, Ajit *Polyoxyalkylene Compound and Method for Making*

Oh-Lee, Justin *Methods of Treating Disease with Nitric Oxide (no)-Releasing Polymers and Soluble No-Releasing Nitrosamines*

Mohanty, Dillip *Nitric Oxide (No)-Releasing Polymers and Compounds and Uses Thereof*

Mueller, Anja *Composition and Method of Preparation of Polysaccharide Gel-Based Artificial, Biodegradable Skin Scaffolds*

Mohanty, Dillip *Solvent Resistant Polymers*

Mohanty, Dillip *Solvent Resistant Polymers*

Oh-Lee, Justin *Methods of Treating Disease with Nitric Oxide (No)-Releasing Polymers and Soluble No-Releasing Nitrosamines*



The Chemists, in alphabetical order... and the Psychologist:

This burst of creative effort -- the ideas in a patent must be novel and must be reduced to practice -- is really remarkable and greatly to be admired. Patent applications undergo one of the most rigorous intellectual reviews possible, often requiring years of effort. The staff of ORSP has worked with these innovative and dedicated faculty members and with a number of different patent lawyers to obtain these patents. While the faculty members are the authors, CMU pays all the patenting costs and holds the intellectual property described in each patent. The concept of a patent, of course, is to protect a vetted, novel idea for a period of time to allow its possible commercialization. In spite of having no true tech transfer office at CMU, several faculty members are working with the Isabella Bank and Trust Entrepreneurial Center in the College of Business Administration, the CMU Research Corporation as well as ORSP staff to take these ideas to the market place. Currently, efforts are being made on four of these patents. Before you feel for the lonely psychologist in this gang of chemists, it is well to remember that it was a psychologist that obtained the patent for the nicotine patch. In any case – kudos to all!

How To Hire A Post-Doctoral Researcher

Are you looking to hire a postdoctoral researcher (postdoc) onto your externally funded project? If so, it is strongly encouraged that this employment opportunity be posted and recruited for. On average, this process can take up to three months. By following the steps below and planning ahead, this process can be made as efficient as possible.

The first step in hiring a postdoc is to create a posting and recruit applicants through CMU's online applicant tracking system (PeopleAdmin). The actual steps and process are explained in a guide, titled: "Faculty Hiring Process Guide for PeopleAdmin." It can be found on the Faculty Personnel Services (FPS) website, www.fps.cmich.edu, and then navigating to *Forms & Instructions* and then *Pre-Employment*.

To start the posting process, go to the CMU Portal, log in, and select 'Job Postings.' Here you will initiate a posting for the CMU jobs website (www.jobs.cmich.edu). Contact Faculty Personnel Services (FPS) if you do not have authorization to do this or you may ask if your department secretary will create a position for you.

Once you complete the posting, the online system will automatically send the posting to your Dean for approval. The Dean will send it to FPS for final approval before it is a live posting.

There is no requirement as to the length of time the posting is open or where it is posted (other than www.jobs.cmich.edu).

All interested applicants will apply through the online applicant system.