



News for
Eastern Michigan
Faculty and Staff

Oct. 29, 2002
Vol. 50, No. 11

Shillington wants to debunk myth of spiders as dangerous creepy crawlers

By Carol Anderson

They're black and furry and have a few more legs than man's best friend. But, unlike the dog, the tarantula's image is in need of some public relations, especially this time of year.

Cara Shillington, assistant professor of biology at Eastern Michigan University, is trying to change that negative image through her course, "Introduction to Biology for Non-Majors."

"I'm working on overcoming people's fear of spiders and improving the tarantulas' image," she said. "The more you know about spiders, the less fearful you are of them."

The tarantulas and other spiders at the lab are not the monster-size, scary creatures depicted in recent Hollywood movies such as "Eight-Legged Freaks," said Shillington who was horrified with the movie's trailer, "Let the squashing begin!"

Among the 15 different species of tarantulas in her lab are the Pink Toes, Curly Hair, Red Rump, Salmon Pink, Indian Ornamental and Goliath Bird eater.

The arachnids arrived last year from Oklahoma and have set up home in glass jars, tanks and Tupperware containers in EMU's Terrestrial and Aquatics Ecology Research Facility.

Initially, University custodians refused to enter the lab thinking the real-looking discarded skin or exoskeletons were live tarantulas roaming freely.

Shillington's research involves work with animals, especially tarantulas, and how they interact with the environment.



HE WON'T BITE: Cara Shillington, assistant professor of biology, displays one of several tarantulas she keeps at EMU's Terrestrial and Aquatics Ecology Research Facility. Tarantulas are not the monsters portrayed in science fiction films, but actually provide environmental benefits, including eating pests that harm crops, Shillington said.

Tarantulas are mysterious, she said, because not many people are researching them.

Shillington said tarantulas are very docile and will walk right over your flat hand — just don't drop them. Their abdomen is very soft and can be damaged by falling. Since they don't have a clotting factor, they can bleed to death.

Spiders often get a bad rap because people interpret them to be menacing, said Shillington. When someone has a bite they can't identify, it's always a spider bite, said Shillington.

Actually, "their venom isn't deadly to humans. It's like a bee sting. I don't

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Noddings prescribes TLC over testing

By Ron Podell

Although teaching is a highly complex set of activities, it should start with something that sounds simple: establish relations of care and trust.

Based on her experience as an elementary and high school teacher and administrator in New Jersey public schools from 1949-1972, and her research in educational philosophy at various universities since the mid-1970s, Nel Noddings believes that teachers should focus more on genuinely caring for students and they will want to learn.

And to Noddings, learning does not necessarily constitute how well a student scores on a battery of standardized tests.



GOOD WILL NODDINGS: Nel Noddings is this year's John W. Porter Chair in Urban Education.

"Teachers should want to help children with their hostility or their shyness," said Noddings the Lee Jacks Pro-

fessor of Education Emerita at Stanford University. "They don't want to be pushing or forcing kids to get higher scores. But, test scores are all you see in the newspapers. It's discouraging. Test scores are not the sole barometer of how a school is doing."

Noddings is this year's John W. Porter Chair in Urban Education at Eastern Michigan University. The chair is named in honor of Porter, a former EMU president. It is the first endowed chair in the College of Education. Dr. James Comer, M.D., Maurice Falk Professor of Child Psychiatry at the Yale University School of Medicine's Child Study Cen-

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FOCUS EMU premieres on-line today

FOCUS EMU now has a supplemental online version of the faculty/staff newspaper available, beginning with today's issue.

The online version — a replica of the printed version in PDF format — will be posted online every Tuesday during the school year and once a month in May, June, July and August at www.emich.edu/focus_emu.

To read the PDF version of FOCUS EMU, campus readers will need the Adobe Acrobat Reader, available free from Adobe's Web site, www.adobe.com.

Provder wins ASC's 2003 Distinguished Service Award

■ **Ted Provder**, director of the Coatings Research Institute, was selected for the American Chemical Society's Polymeric Material Science and Engineering Division's Distinguished Service Award for 2003.



Provder

■ **Ian Haslam**, department head, health, physical education, recreation and dance (HPERD), completed his Union of European Football Association (UEFA) 'A' license assessment during the week of Oct. 14-18. The UEFA 'A' is the highest soccer coaching award in Europe and is the credential required to coach in the European professional leagues. Haslam has played and coached youth, college and professional soccer for 30 years.

Haslam also was pictured and quoted in an Aug. 27 article in *The Ann Arbor News* about international travel.

■ **Earl H. Potter III**, dean of the College of Business, was recently appointed to the 2002 Board of Examiners for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award. The award, created by public law in 1987, is the highest level of national recognition for performance excellence that a U.S. organization can receive. As an examiner, Potter will be responsible for reviewing and evaluating applications submit-



Potter

ted for the award.

■ **Naomi Long Madgett**, professor emerita, English language and literature (1958-84), will be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Oct. 30.

■ **Nancy Halmhuber**, professor of special education, was recently appointed co-chair of the Council for Educational Diagnostic Services national topic conference. The event, scheduled in Arlington, Va., Oct. 24-26, was for persons involved in educational assessment with students with disabilities — infancy through adult.



Halmhuber

■ **Betty Brown-Chappell**, associate professor and director of the bachelor of social work program, was elected to the presidency of the Michigan chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). The NASW is the oldest and largest organization of professional social workers with approximately 155,000 members, including more than 8,000 in the Michigan chapter.

■ **Bill Cupples**, associate professor of special education, was recently reappointed chair of the Council for Clinical Specialty Recognition of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The Council is responsible for administering programs of specialty recognition for specialized areas of clinical practice in audiology and speech-language pathology.

■ **Norma Cantu**, a second-year graduate student in the master's of social work program, was recently elected to a two-year seat on the board

of the National Association of Social Workers. Cantu will be an advocate for basic human rights and enhancing the lives of underprivileged and homeless families and children.

■ **Mansoor Moaddel**, professor of sociology, is the winner of the 2002 "best article" award given by the Religious Section of the American Sociological Association. Moaddel's article is entitled "Conditions For Ideological Production."



Moaddel

■ **Chuck Achilles**, professor of educational leadership, was recently named to the National Advisory Board for the Alliance for Excellent Education.

■ **O.S. Samonte**, emeritus faculty, recently had accepted for publication "Oh Yes, I Have Been to Honolulu" for *Filipinas* magazine, a U.S. publication. The article is a parody on the knowledge of American teachers about world geography.



Samonte

■ **John Goodridge**, EMU's assistant track and field coach, is the subject of a lengthy online interview on the Aug. 13 edition of MacTrack.Net.

■ **Janet Balowski**, an instructor of athletic training courses, recently returned from a two-week trip to France, Germany, and the Netherlands, where she served as a volunteer certified athletic trainer with two high

school all-star baseball teams and a softball team. Balowski also presented lectures on sports nutrition, strength and conditioning for adolescent athletes, and preventing upper extremity injuries in baseball and softball athletes.

■ **Jon Margerum-Leys**, professor of teacher education, had his article "Teacher Knowledge of Educational Technology: A Case Study of Student/Mentor Teacher Pairs" accepted for the *Journal of Educational Computing Research*.

■ **John Tonkovich**, associate professor of special education, recently served as a medical rehabilitation surveyor at an outpatient rehabilitation center for children in Erie, Pa., for CARF, the Rehabilitation Commission.

■ **Jerry Robbins**, dean of the College of Education, has been elected president-elect of the Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. This is his third, non-consecutive term as president of this organization. He also has been president of the comparable organization in two other states.

■ **Scott Westerman**, dean emeritus, was featured recently in *The Ann Arbor News*. A former superintendent of the Ann Arbor schools, Westerman was interviewed at length about board-superintendent relations.

■ **Kathleen Bell**, an EMU student, was a recipient of the runner-up award (\$500) by the Michigan Association of Colleges for Teacher Education.

PEOPLE is a column that runs occasionally in FOCUS EMU. If you have an item on an EMU faculty, staff or administrator who has done something of note recently, please forward to: ron.podell@emich.edu.

EMU BY THE NUMBERS

Eastern Michigan University is celebrating International Week through Oct. 30. Students from more than 100 countries attend EMU and the University has been nationally recognized for its cultural diversity by *U.S. News and World Report* in three of the past five years. Based on the number of undergraduate students who came to EMU from 1996-2000, here are the top four countries sending students to EMU. In 2001, there were 385 foreign undergraduate students.

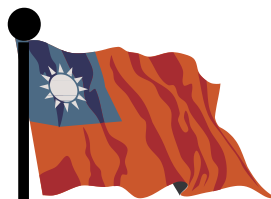
SOURCE: 2001 EMU Student Profile



JAPAN
256



CANADA
235



TAIWAN
199



KOREA
192

Financial Services moves to Hover

Financial Services moved from the Business and Finance Building to the Hover Building (located between King Hall and Mark Jefferson) Oct. 18. Payroll is located at the north end of the first floor; accounts payable at the south end of the first floor; grants accounting at the north end of the second floor; and accounting is at the south end of the second floor.



Hover Building

The stairway and elevator are located in the new addition of Hover on the east side of the building.

For more information, call 487-3328.

Diverse United Way services help deLaski-Smith and family cope

By Ron Podell

To say that last year for Deb deLaski-Smith and her family was an emotional roller coaster would be an understatement. She's glad she had four United Way agencies along for the ride.

First, her mother-in-law developed a rare form of stomach cancer and later broke her hip, a situation that required hospice home-care services. A domino effect of that situation led deLaski-Smith and her family to call Meals on Wheels, another United Way agency, to provide daily noon meals for her 89-year-old father-in-law, who was not able to cook for himself, said deLaski-Smith, associate dean for student affairs in the graduate school.

After being diagnosed as having stomach cancer in October 2000, deLaski-Smith's mother-in-law was originally given six months to live. At that time, hospice services were obtained. She was able to remain in her own home for 14 months, dying the day after Christmas in 2001. Between family, friends, hospice volunteers, and two part-time attendants, all worked around the clock (24/7) to monitor the situation and tend to her needs.

In addition, the family received help from the Dyslexia Resource Center in Howell. The center worked with deLaski-Smith's son, George, to improve his reading skills. A sixth-grader, George has been able to raise his reading skills a full grade level over the past year. And while the Dyslexia Resource Center has since gone out of business, George continues to use tutors who previously worked there.

"George can read. It just takes much longer to get through assignments," deLaski-Smith said. "As a referral service from the center, we're now using tapes from Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic that help him follow along in his text books. He also loves novels on tape, especially the Harry Potter series."

During this time, George also was heavily involved in Boy Scouts and deLaski-Smith's husband, Gene, was a cub master for two years.

"Without Hospice and volunteers, we wouldn't have been able to go to Scout meetings, general



A UNITED FRONT: Deb deLaski-Smith, associate dean for student affairs in the graduate school, said that she and her family would not have been able to cope last year without help from four United Way agencies.

functions and participate in service projects," deLaski-Smith said.

Family activities with the Boy Scouts, a United Way agency, provided an outlet away from the everyday stress the family was going through.

"For us, last year was a huge year for using services. Without them, we wouldn't have been able to cope, quite frankly; one of us would have had to give up our job," deLaski-Smith said. "The nice thing is that United Way is involved in so many diverse programs. It can support many facets of your life. The goal is to maintain some sort of normalcy when life is not-so-normal."

PORTER, from page 1

ter, served as the first chair holder.

"I was not aware of the Porter Chair until Eastern Michigan University contacted me," Noddings said. "I believe I was chosen either for my books or hearing me lecture somewhere."

Noddings is the author of 13 books, has had more than 125 articles published in education periodicals and magazines, and has spoken about the challenge of caring in schools at conferences in the U.S., Canada, England and Japan.

Because standardized tests have become more difficult and have more emphasis placed on them as a gauge for student progress, one result is more children are being held back rather than advancing to the next grade, Noddings said. For example, Noddings said 20,000 students in grades 4-7 in Baltimore schools were held back last year. And there's a possibility 80,000 students in Texas schools will have to repeat a grade this year, she said.

"One thing we've learned in education is that when students are held back, they do worse the next year. It's humiliating. They're ashamed," Noddings said. "The solution is to keep them in their age cohorts but put them in very small classes of eight to 10."

Noddings is a former president of both the Philosophy of Education Society and the John Dewey Society. She is a member of the Kappa Delta Pi Laureate chapter and holds many other awards and recognitions.

After receiving degrees in mathematics from Montclair State College and Rutgers, she was a public school teacher and administrator in New Jersey public schools for 33 years. After receiving her Ph.D. in educational philosophy and theory at Stanford University, and serving brief periods of time on the faculties of Pennsylvania State University and the University of Chicago, she joined the faculty at Stanford in 1977.

At Stanford, she quickly moved up through the ranks, eventually serving as the acting dean of the school of education. In 1992, she was named the Lee Jacks Professor of Child Education at Stanford.

In 2001, she was bestowed the A. Lindsay O'Connor Professorship of American Institutions at Colgate University. More recently, she served as the Libra Professorship at the University of Southern Maine.

"I would like to learn more about what people here are doing in urban education," she said of her goals as the Porter Chair. "I think I would like to convince people that many of the problems schools are asked to address today are not the school's problems but social problems."

Noddings pointed to a *New York Times* editorial by Richard Rothstein that conjectured that if students' dental, nutrition and safety problems were addressed, their test scores would improve based on those merits alone.

Noddings also said so many single mothers are working full-time today, leaving little time for parenting and homemaking. These skills should be taught more extensively to children, she said.

"We teach everyone algebra and geometry," Noddings said. "Not all of us are going to use those skills. But most of us make a home."

Noddings will be in residence Nov. 4-6, 2002; and Feb. 5-8 and March 24-26, 2003.

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY™

WEEK #1
\$42,396

WEEK #2
\$54,920
(Total: \$12,524 raised)

WEEK #3
\$79,631
(Total: \$24,711 raised)

WEEK #4
\$103,179
(Total: \$23,548 raised)

Our goal:
50 percent
participation

CAMPAIGN RUNS THROUGH OCT. 31

JOBSLINE

To be considered for vacant positions, all Promotional Openings Application Forms MUST BE SUBMITTED directly to the Compensation/Employment Services Office and received no later than 5 p.m., Monday, Nov. 4. NOTE: LATE OR INCOMPLETE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Vacancy information may also be obtained by calling our 24-hour Jobs Line at 487-0016. Compensation/Employment Services office hours are Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

An Affirmative Action/ Equal Opportunity Employer

CLERICAL/SECRETARIAL

(Hiring Rate)

CSBF0310 CS03 \$20,817 Postal Clerk, Administrative Support Services, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Valid driver's license.

CSAA0322 CS04 \$23,113 Secretary II, Art Department.

CSEN0305 CS05 \$26,118 Senior Financial Aid Clerk, Financial Aid.

CSEN0306 CS05 \$26,118 Graduation Auditor/Evaluator, Records and Registration.

FOOD SERVICE/MAINT.

(Hiring Rate)

FMSA0309 FM06 \$8.36 Custodian, Putnam/Cust. Prorate (REPOST) 6:30 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday.

FMBF0318 FM06 \$8.36 Custodian, Physical Plant, 11 p.m.-7:30 a.m., Sunday-Thursday.

FMSA0310 FM06 \$8.36 Custodian, Floater-Complex II, 3-11:30 p.m., Tuesday-Saturday.

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know of anyone dying of a tarantula bite," she said.

Tarantulas can be helpful by eating pests that harm crops or bother humans, Shillington said. Once a tarantula came to her rescue: it grabbed a wasp in mid-air that was threatening to sting her.

"Tarantulas are not choosy eaters. They'll eat anything they can subdue," said Shillington.

After tarantulas capture

their food, they paralyze their prey and pump digestive enzymes into it, turning the captured food source into a milkshake that they suck into their system. Shillington feeds her 45 lab spiders some 3,000 crickets each month, although tarantulas can survive for up to two years without food.

Female tarantulas live for some 30 years. Males live for only seven years. They begin as coach potatoes, where they wait in a burrow to grab food as it walks by. After reaching sexual maturity at seven years old, the males become athletes by walking continuously in search of females. Three months later, they die.

Like most children, Shillington didn't even like bugs. However, a college friend of hers had a Pink Toe tarantula (furry black with eight pink toes) and Shillington began to learn more about them. Not long after, she owned five.

While there is a novelty in keeping a tarantula as a pet, Shillington doesn't recommend them as pets because they don't move much and kids get bored with them.

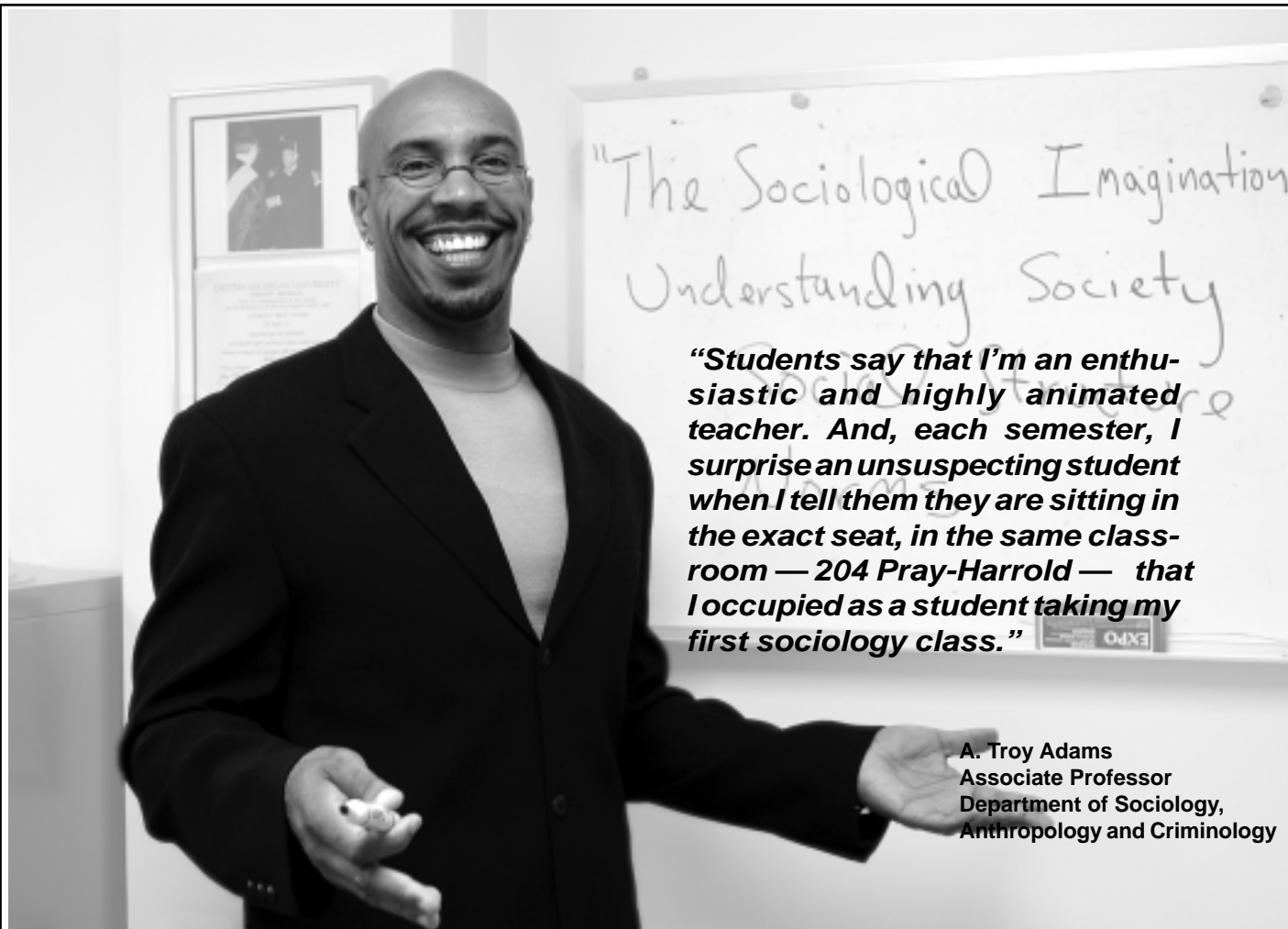
Shillington has two bachelor of science degrees, in computer engineering and zoology, as well as a master's degree in zoology, all from Washington State University. She also has a doctorate in zoology from Oklahoma State University.

She'll continue her work with tarantulas in Mexico and research a number of topics including: what search tactics males use to attract and find females; how the environment, such as desert versus rain forest, influences their activity; and why adult males have a higher metabolic rate than females (and when that occurs).

By measuring the CO₂ levels of male and female tarantulas, Shillington hopes to determine their metabolic rate at various stages of their life.

"This is basic science. Everyone wants to know what it means to them," she said. "There's no connection, but the research is still important. The more we find out, the more it may apply to us."

Shillington encourages all of her students to stop by and see her interesting pets.



A. Troy Adams
Associate Professor
Department of Sociology,
Anthropology and Criminology

Why I teach at Eastern Michigan University

Initially, I came to Eastern with a partial athletic scholarship to play football. I attended summer camp and decided to rescind my scholarship. That was the end of my football career, but the beginning of my academic days at EMU. It's a great learning environment.

Coming from the Green Road public housing projects in Ann Arbor, I could appreciate the many opportunities at Eastern and, as a professor, I tell students to take advantage of the many human and other resources, such as the Halle Library.

I talk a lot to students and I have a good feel for what's happening on campus. Students say that I'm an enthusiastic and highly animated teacher. And, each semester, I surprise an unsuspecting student when I tell them they are sitting in the

exact seat, in the same classroom — 204 Pray-Harrold — that I occupied as a student taking my first sociology class.

I also can identify with the fear some undergraduates feel. Freshmen, especially, have many new situations to experience: new living quarters, new freedom and a new, naughty word to explore — BUDGET. They sometimes lack foresight and have a hard time with that word.

I was turned on to sociology by a former professor and went from student to colleague in 1988. I earned my doctorate from the University of Michigan. I enjoy my work at EMU and plan to stay. This is home!