



Healthy Communities



Healthy People



Healthy Environment

College of Arts & Sciences

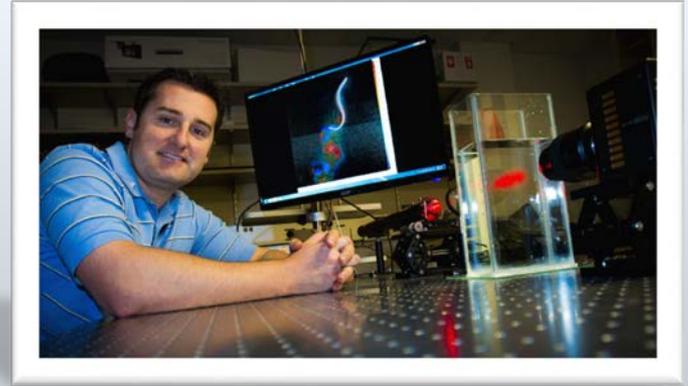
Research & Scholarship Highlights
AWARDS & STUDIES (2016 – 2017)



2017 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy Environment

[Brad Gemmel](#), Assistant Professor, Department of Integrative Biology, was named as a [2017 Sloan Foundation Research Fellow](#) in Ocean Sciences. Gemmel describes his research “as the intersection of biology and physics, exploring the interactions between tiny animal organisms and their watery environment, and how large-scale ecosystem processes and evolutionary relationships explain the survival of the smallest animals at the base of the ocean’s food chain”.

In addition to dozens of academic publications and numerous lectures and conference talks, his work has been featured in [The New York Times](#), [Wired magazine](#) and on the [Discovery Channel](#). A recent Inside Science TV segment on his research [can be viewed here](#).



2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy Environments



[Chuck Connor](#), Professor, School of Geosciences is working as a member of a National Academy of Sciences Panel to set new research directions in volcanology. The panel is charged by the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the U.S. Geological Survey with assessment of the state of knowledge about magmatic systems and volcanic eruption forecasting. The team is focused on promising research directions that depend on innovative methods developed in geophysics and geochemistry to image active volcanoes and the Earth's crust around them.



[Steve McNutt](#), Professor, School of Geosciences, is liaison to the NSF panel from the NAS committee on geodynamics.



2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy Environments

[Lilia M. Woods](#), Professor, Physics, College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Lilia Woods received a \$300,000 Department of Energy (DOE) grant in 2015, entitled, *Fluctuation Induced Interactions in Novel Materials*. This work will study fundamental interactions in Dirac materials with topologically non-trivial phases, which have many emerging properties and applications. In addition, Woods has a continuing \$380,315 National Science Foundation (NSF) award, from 2014 to 2018, to investigate materials for thermoelectric energy conversion.



Woods also published four peer-reviewed articles in 2015 as senior author, with another article accepted in 2015 for publication in 2016. Woods gave three invited talks in 2015 – two in Europe and one in the U.S. She was also an author on four contributed conference talks and a poster.

2016 USF Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award

2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy People



[Jason Rohr](#), Associate Professor, Integrative Biology, College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Jason Rohr's research investigates interactions among pollution, climate change, and infectious diseases of humans and wildlife.

During 2015, he was cited nearly 700 times and had 16 peer-reviewed publications accepted or appear in print, three of which were published in the prestigious *Proceeding of The National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)*.

Rohr's research was also highlighted in Faculty1000 and in the journals *Science*, *PNAS*, and *Journal of Applied Ecology*. He was also awarded five externally funded grants in 2015 totaling more than \$5 million, and had six other active grants in 2015 totaling over \$3 million. Rohr was Elected President of the Disease Ecology Section of the Ecological Society of America, was part of a team that was invited to present their research at the White House, and was nominated for two national awards and one teaching award, all in 2015.

2016 USF Faculty Outstanding Research Achievement Award

2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy People



Researchers [*Bill Baker*](#), Professor, Department of Chemistry and [*Lindsey Shaw*](#), Professor, CMMB Director of Graduate Studies, have extracted a natural product chemical named “Darwinolide” from an Antarctica sponge that has been shown in their studies to eliminate more than 98% of MRSA cells. The study has received a lot of attention from external sources: [ACS Publications](#), [ABC Action News](#), [Fox 13 News](#), [Science World Report](#), and [Science Daily](#), among others.

2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy People

Carolyn Ellis, Distinguished University Professor Communication, College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Carolyn Ellis received the National Communication Association (NCA) Distinguished Scholar Award for a lifetime of scholarly achievement in the study of human communication. This is NCA's highest career achievement award, and was awarded to only two scholars in 2015 from a membership of over 7,000.

She was honored in an NCA session for winning the Woolbert Research Award, given to her chapter, with 3,334 citations, that has “stood the test of time” and has become a stimulus for new conceptualizations of communication research. During 2015, she published a book with Oxford University Press and completed another with Routledge, released March 2016. Both are on autoethnography, an approach for which she has been recognized as founder and developer. At two 2015 national conferences, Ellis screened a film she produced and directed in Poland about the memories of a Holocaust survivor, and also completed a second film and presented ten additional conference papers on autoethnography and compassionate research.



2016 CAS Research Highlights: Healthy Communities



*Jessie Turner, Instructor II, Undergraduate Studies Director, Department of Women's & Gender Studies, is the 2016 recipient of the [WLP Faculty Research Award](#). Additionally, her essay "Rectangular Sky (Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua, México, 2002)" is published in *Frontiers: A Journal of Women's Studies*.*