

# RESEARCH BRIEFS

## Meat Politics in the Land of Plenty



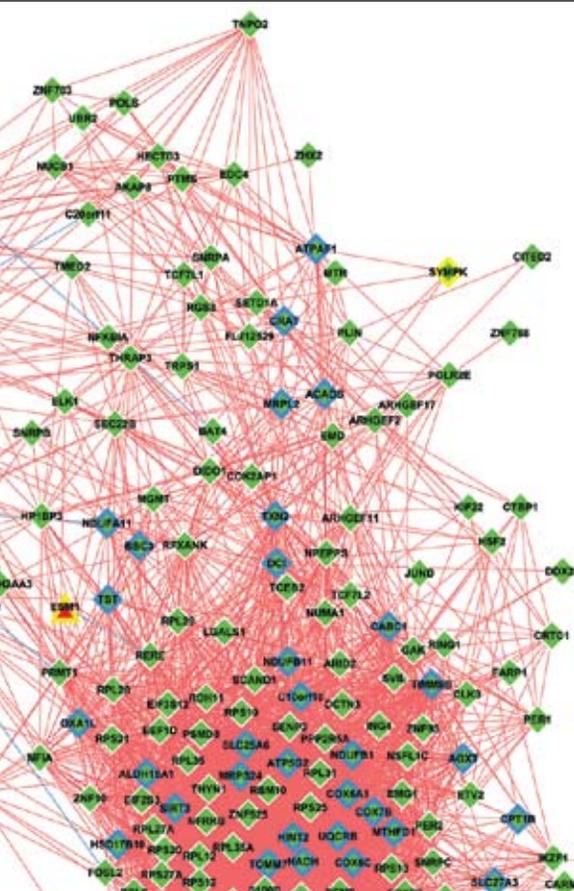
*Dr. Wes Berry*

Dr. Wes Berry of the Department of English is asking critical questions about a literary area that has received scant scholarly attention: how meat is represented in American literature and popular culture, and the role meat rhetoric plays in influencing the way animals are produced and consumed in the United States.

Dr. Berry intends to merge textual analysis of literature, film, television, and advertisements with travel writing and interviews with people who prepare meat and who consume it. He wants to find out if there is a rhetoric that can bring us closer to an ethical and sustainable relationship with animals.

The analytical design of Dr. Berry's project will be shaped by existing studies on the subject; accordingly, he will consider the centrality of meat to our culture, how it has been equated with masculinity and the oppression of women, and how meat has been advertised to the public.

Furthermore, he will look at texts that attempt to show the positive side of meat in society. This effort will include considering the significance of the hog to various cultures, the history of smoking and curing meats, competitive eating, recipes, and barbecue cooking competitions. This literary and cultural analysis should shed new light on America's indulgence of and fascination with meat.



## Extremal Graph Theory



*Dr. Bela Csaba*

Dr. Bela Csaba of the Department of Mathematics is working with mathematicians on real life applications in computer networks. His goal is to embed substructures in dense graphs and tackle other embedding problems. He wants to increase the toleration of computer networks such as the internet and biological networks for metabolisms. Since the graphs are the models of real world

networks, he is relating embedded substructures in graphs to define the networks.

The results will facilitate embedding one graph into another graph. This success will enable Dr. Csaba and his collaborators to attempt to resolve networking problems to prevent network corruption. This research is also useful in other areas of mathematics, such as algebra, number theory, and geometry.



## African-American Academic Accountants

*Dr. Harold Little*

Harold Little, CPA, CIA, CMA, of the Department of Accounting in the Gordon Ford College of Business is at work on a project to identify every African-American to have ever earned a doctorate in accountancy from an American university. Dr. Little says the idea to create a database — which will include the name of the school where the professor currently teaches, the name of the school awarding the degree, the year in which the degree was earned, and the professor's teaching and research areas — arose from his work with the American Accounting Association and KPMG, LLP's Ph.D. Project.

During his three years of investigation, Dr. Little has visited over forty-four historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and traditionally white colleges and universities (TWCUs) and determined that approximately two-hundred five African-Americans have earned doctoral degrees in accounting from American universities. The first degree was earned in 1951. Of the approximately one hundred eighty African-American academic accountants who are still teaching and conducting research, nearly two-thirds are employed by white institutions. Interestingly, more than seventy percent of African-American academic accountants earned their undergraduate degrees from HBCUs.

Dr. Little's research is supported by a research grant from Ernst & Young LLP, a Big Four public accounting firm. The grant has allowed Dr. Little to visit campuses of over sixty HBCUs and TWCUs. Collaborating with Dr. Little are Dr. Cheryl Allen, CPA, of Morehouse College, and Dr. Jennifer Joe, CPA, of Georgia State University.

Academic accounting is experiencing a significant shortage of educators. By some estimates, there are over two collegiate vacancies for every doctorate-holding educator looking for a position. In the tax and audit specialties, the shortage is particularly acute. The shortage is increasing as retirements occur and the number of accounting doctoral graduates declines. There are 50% fewer Ph.D. students in the United States today than there were just ten years ago.

The American Accounting Association, the KPMG Ph.D. Project, and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants have initiatives to increase the number of Ph.D. students, and the accounting profession continues its efforts to increase the number of academic accountants from underrepresented groups (African-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, and Native-Americans). Dr. Little believes his research will assist in this endeavor.

Dr. Little also has publications in the areas of procedural fairness, budgetary participation, corporate governance, and entrepreneurship.

## Czech Theatre Field Research



*Dr. Andrea Grapko*

Dr. Andrea Grapko of the Department of Theatre and Dance has been funded with a New Faculty Scholarship by the Faculty Research Council to return to the Czech Republic to continue research about theatre director Evald Schorm.

Schorm was a politically and artistically significant director during the Soviet occupation from the 1960s through the 1980s; and the Soviets tried to marginalize him. This led to neglect in the preservation of his work and minimized his impact on Czech audiences.

Dr. Grapko will reclaim Schorm's work and evidence the impact he had under the occupation. A book length manuscript will be the result of this research. The manuscript will point out the types of resistance to

Soviet rule of a nation, artistic activity in a nation in crisis, how Schorm's theatre maintained Czech nationalism and reflected social and political concerns of the people, and how theatre helped to achieve national aims that were ultimately successful by creating a close association with the people.

Resistance to the Soviet rule of the Czechs was partly reflected in the theatre by symbols and signs that conveyed criticism, dissatisfaction, and protest to receptive and eager audiences. Schorm's documentaries and feature films reflected the life of the people under the occupation and served as a comment on socialism in the 1960s. After he was banned from producing in 1968, Schorm remained in Czechoslovakia and challenged the people to consider personal choices and to reject compromise with the regime. Dr. Grapko will publish one of the few studies in English about Czech theatre during that repressive era.