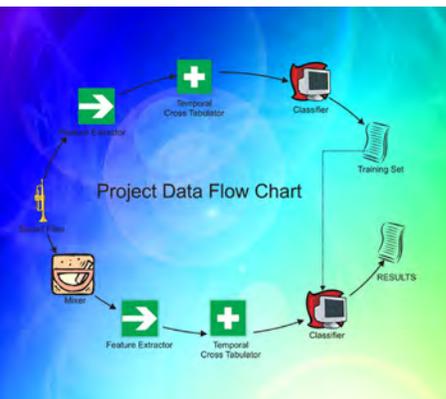


Arts & SCIENCES

SPRING 2013

Measuring the Emotional Impact of Music



If, as the philosophers believe, there is a rhythm to life, then there must be an algorithm to detect the emotions of the music in life. So outlines the theory behind the latest research project by Dr. Angelina Tzacheva, informatics expert and University of South Carolina Upstate professor, and her colleagues Dr. Dirk Schlingmann and Keith Bell.

The theory's basic premise is that while certain pieces of music have a relaxing effect, or can cause a change in mood while others stimulate people to act, the quantity of sounds is also rapidly increasing and the access to the music files available on the Internet now is constantly growing.

That being acknowledged, the team notes, too, that music is now so readily accessible in digital form that personal collections can easily exceed the practical limits of time people have to listen to them, which may create a problem in building music recommendation systems.

Though these music recommendation systems, such as Pandora, Spotify, even the earlier Napster or MP3s, have been around for some time, the common denominator of all of them is their inability to recognize or truly grasp the emotion of the songs.

The team's approach, called music emotion classification (MEC), divides the emotions into classes and applies machine learning on audio features to recognize the "emotion embedded in the music signal." What they are beginning to discover is that certain information is present within the signal, which can be linked to the emotion that is invoked within a human while listening to the music recording at hand.

Such a link could then help users create playlists in music recommendation systems that reflect the emotions stimulated by different music instead of just identifying them by general genres. The team sees this as a useful tool not only for individuals, but commercially, as well, in radio and television programming, or even in the area of music therapy.

Kemboi Earns Prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship

USC Upstate senior distance runner and multiple Atlantic Sun Conference individual champion Gilbert Kemboi has received a myriad of awards since stepping foot on campus as a freshman in 2009. He can now add yet another honor to his resume as a recipient of the prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship.

Kemboi, from Eldoret, Kenya, was one of the 58 fall student-athletes from all NCAA member institutions encompassing Divisions I, II and III to earn the prestigious postgraduate scholarship from the association. To qualify, student-athletes

must excel academically and athletically, be in their final year of eligibility and plan to pursue graduate study. Student-athletes must also maintain at least a 3.2 grade-point average and be nominated by their institution's faculty athletics representative.

Kemboi is the quintessential student-athlete. In the classroom, he owns a 3.545 GPA as a major in sociology. He has been named the A-Sun Scholar-Athlete of the Year five times in cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field since the league established the award in 2011-12. He has also earned the Conference Scholar classification

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Kemboi Earns Prestigious NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship continued

from the A-Sun, is a three-time member of the A-Sun All-Academic team and is a multi-time member of the academic all-conference teams in cross country and track and field.

“Gilbert is the true definition of a student-athlete,” said associate head coach Carson Blackwelder, who heads up the distance program at Upstate. “He brings the same work ethic to the

track and the classroom. This will be a great opportunity for Gilbert to continue his education and earn a graduate degree. We are very proud of him and his academic achievements.”

Kemboi plans to pursue a master’s degree in sociology with the goal of becoming a college professor.

NEWS BRIEFS

Informatics Master’s Program Approved for Fall 2013 Start

Beginning in the Fall 2013 semester, the University of South Carolina Upstate will offer a master’s of science degree in informatics. The program will meet an increasing demand for expertise in the field, which is expected to see significant job growth over the next five years, with many positions requiring advanced degrees.

Informatics is the study of information systems and information processing, including the social impacts of

information technology in a particular domain. All aspects of business, and life in general, have become increasingly dependent on information technology and electronic processing of information during the past 30 years.

Two tracks of study will be available to students: Health Information Management and Information Resource Management.

What Does Happiness Have to Do with Politics?



What makes people happy? Does government play a role in the happiness of its people? While interesting questions in their own right, consider answering them while traveling through Europe.

Allison Pingley, assistant professor of political science, will do just that with a group of students this summer during her Culture and Politics in Europe class. With the theme of

“Happiness in Politics,” the course is part of a study abroad program that will visit England, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden.

The group will explore these diverse Northern European countries June 8-22 to see what makes people happy, and will examine various cultures and compare and contrast them with America and its people. Students can earn three hours of upper-level political science credit for completing the class.

O’Brien Announces Manuscript Publication



The University of Virginia Press editorial board has approved the publication of Dr. Colleen O’Brien’s book manuscript “Race, Romance, and Rebellion in Nineteenth Century America.” According to O’Brien, who is an assistant professor of English, the book illustrates how

transatlantic print culture consistently flashed back to reports of the Haitian revolution (1791-1804), particularly in moments of domestic controversy over race, gender, and rights.

“The images of violent slave insurrection repeatedly coincide with stories of interracial romance, both in cautionary tales that depict the revolution as a gothic nightmare and in reform

literature that idealizes and romanticizes race relations,” said O’Brien.

The book will be part of a series from UVA Press called New World Studies, which focuses on interdisciplinary research that seeks to redefine the cultural map of the Americas and to propose particularly stimulating points of departure for an emerging field. Encompassing the Caribbean as well as continental North, Central, and South America, the series books examine cultural processes within the hemisphere, taking into account the economic, demographic, and historical phenomena that shape them.

Oney Named Program Coordinator, Liaison for Student Music Concerts



Dr. Tricia Oney, assistant professor of commercial music, has been named program coordinator and liaison for USC Upstate student music concerts at the Chapman

Cultural Center. She will oversee two student music concerts annually, one in the spring and one in the fall. The inaugural performance is set for Sunday, April 7 at 2:30 p.m.

USC Upstate Students Excel at Model U.N. Conference

The University of South Carolina Upstate captured one of eight prestigious Outstanding Position Paper Awards while participating in the 23rd annual Southern Regional Model United Nations Conference, held Nov. 15-17 in Atlanta.

Members of the award-winning delegation included Joel Gregory (head delegate), Nicolaj Gericke, Amy Yancey, Catherine Estupinan, Ashton Gottschall, Samuel (Gifton) Hines, Elizabeth Mitchell, Jonathan Eames, Morgan Jones, and Brandon Lybrand.

“Attending SRMUN allowed USC Upstate students to experience what it would be like to serve as an ambassador

to the United Nations, debating real-world issues such as climate change, peace and security, and access to food,” said Dr. Trevor Rubenzer, faculty advisor. “I’m proud of our students, all but one of whom is new to Model U.N., in the many hours they spent researching and preparing to fully immerse themselves as a delegation from Egypt. It is also a great honor to have our preparation recognized by the conference in the form of our position paper award.”

The Conference had approximately 700 students from 53 schools representing 80 countries in attendance. Model United Nations is a competitive simulation of the United Nations and other international governing bodies.

Johnson Editing Upcoming Special Issue of Periscope; Presents at USC



Director of the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies Dr. Lisa Johnson will edit an upcoming special issue of Periscope, which will analyze the May 2013 edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM).

Johnson and other contributors will reconsider

the progress narrative of the numbered revisions of the DSM and replace it with a theoretical inquiry informed by feminist disability studies and crip theory.

In addition, Johnson recently presented a paper at the Women’s and Gender Studies Conference at the University of South Carolina in March. Her paper was titled “Becoming Deleuzianal: Darren Aronofsky’s Black Swan and the Subschizophrenic Dimension of Borderline Personality Disorder” and appeared on the “Health, Agency, Power” panel.

Timonov Consulting for U.S. Army; Organizing International Symposium

Dr. Alex Timonov, associate professor of mathematics, has begun scientific consulting work for the Army Research Lab/Army Research Office (ARL/ARO). His professional work will be conducted within the ARL/ARO research grant “Globally Convergent Methods for Solving Coefficient Inverse Problems for Time Dependent Maxwell Equations,” which is currently pursued at UNC Charlotte. It is expected to investigate analytically and computationally some globally convergent algorithms and to interpret quantitatively the real data from Ground Penetrating Radars.

Furthermore, Timonov will be organizing a mini-symposium called “Theory and Numerical Methods of Recovery of Coefficients of PDEs from Boundary Measurements” within the Applied Inverse Problems Conference (AIPC). The conference will be at the Korean Advanced Institute of Science and Technology in Daejeon, South Korea, from July 1-5, 2013.

Omolo to Publish Cancer Research



Dr. Bernard Omolo, associate professor of mathematics, has co-authored two papers on cancer research that will appear in upcoming editions of respected journals in his field. The first, titled “Pathologic and Gene Expression Features of Metastatic Melanomas to the

Brain (MBM),” will appear in the journal Cancer. The paper discusses the histopathologic analysis and whole genome expression profiling of tumor blocks from melanoma patients’ craniotomy samples in order to understand the biology of metastatic melanomas to the brain and their association with overall survival.

Omolo also co-authored a paper titled “A Prognostic Signature of G2 Checkpoint Function in Melanoma Cell-lines,” which will appear soon in the journal Cell Cycle. DNA damage checkpoints are barriers to carcinogenesis. The paper discusses how gene expression profiling of primary melanomas, through the quantitative trait analysis of the G2 checkpoint function, could be clinically useful in melanoma prognosis.

SPARTANS IN THE COMMUNITY



The Daisy Scouts group at Jesse Bobo Elementary School celebrated the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, by making a birthday sign.

USC Upstate Students Work with Girl Scouts in Girls Studies Service Learning Course

The “Girl Scout Law” calls on members to make the world a better place. This past semester, nine USC Upstate women’s and gender studies students did their part.

In conjunction with their Girls Studies class (WGST 345), the students were trained as Girl Scout troop leaders. They were then placed with four “outreach troops” in the community, which were formed at under-served elementary schools in areas that are economically disadvantaged and with a majority population of African-American or Hispanic children.

The troops met at Spartanburg’s Jesse S. Bobo Elementary, Chapman Elementary and Cleveland Elementary. In addition, a fourth troop met at the public library in Greer on Saturdays. This fourth troop, which was led by bilingual student Vanessa Beckers, utilized Spanish as its primary language.

The student leaders were trained during their regular class periods and then responsible for meeting with their troops at least once per week over the remaining six to eight weeks of the semester. The experience proved memorable for troop leaders and Girl Scouts alike.

“The students described their impact in terms of just being there with and for these little girls, celebrating their uniqueness and teaching them to build community with each other,” said Dr. Lisa Johnson, associate professor of women’s and gender studies and creator of the course.

The course is part of a community partnership organized by Johnson and Sheila Snoddy, director of Upstate Region Services for the Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands. Due to the success of the class, Johnson plans to offer it for a second time during the Fall 2013 semester.

FACULTY UPDATES



Jane Nodine – In October, Nodine received the Award for Outstanding Artistic Achievement at the annual Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC). The award is intended to recognize, encourage and reward individuals who have been particularly successful in their creative work as demonstrated through regional, national or international exhibitions or presentations. Nodine is a professor of art.



Dr. Desiree Rowe and Ben Meyers – Dr. Rowe and Meyers, assistant professors of communication, were featured in a December edition of USC Times for their work on “The Critical Lede,” a blog and podcast devoted to qualitative communication research. “The Critical Lede” features two interviews and two article reviews a month.



Dr. Lizabeth Zack – Dr. Zack, assistant professor of sociology, was awarded a grant from the American Sociological Association’s Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline. The grant provides “seed money” for innovative research projects that challenge the discipline. She is using the funds during her sabbatical this semester to conduct research on environmental protest in Jordan.

Student Updates

The London Company of “Almost, Maine” – The London company of “Almost, Maine,” which performed at the Rose Theatre last summer, advanced to the regional finals of the American College Theatre Festival competition. The company included Patric Phillips, Joelle Gwinn, Anna Elyse Lewis, Leah James, Ashley McFadden, Chris Smith, Chandler Crawford, Ryan Barry, set designer Will Luther, and technicians Nick Whitworth, Zoe Sneed, Jordyn Chelf and Bethany Lancaster. In addition, Lee Niebert, assistant professor of theatre, received a directing award for the performance.

Chandler Crawford – The South Carolina Theatre Association recently recognized USC Upstate student Chandler Crawford's work as the best 10-minute play written by a college or university student in the state of South Carolina.

Esmael Mayar – USC Upstate student Esmael Mayar has been awarded a \$1,500 Magellan Scholarship for his research project titled “The Destruction of Modern Muslim Shrines by Fundamentalist Movements,” which analyzes Muslim sacred space. The scholarship is awarded as part of the University of South Carolina Magellan Scholar Program. David Damrel, assistant professor of comparative religion, will serve as Mayar's research mentor.

LOOKING BACK

Dr. Mary Lou Hightower – Dr. Hightower, professor of art, exhibited new work at the West Main Street Artist Co-op gallery in January. The exhibit, “Watercolor Quilts – An Artist's Path,” ran from January 17 to February 9.

“Reflections” – The foreign language program presented its annual “Reflections” workshop on March 15. The theme of the 2013 workshop was “Using LinguaFolio® to Build Proficiency in All Modes of Communication.” Foreign language teachers from the elementary to university level traveled from all areas of the state to attend the workshop.

Center for Child Advocacy Studies – The University of South Carolina Upstate's Center for Child Advocacy Studies hosted its fourth annual conference, “A Brighter Future: Ending Child Abuse through Advocacy and Education,” on March 22 on the USC Upstate campus. Nearly 400 participants attended.

USC Upstate Represented at First Annual Collegiate Invitational Art Exhibition – Two art department faculty and nine students from USC Upstate exhibited their works at the Spartanburg County Public Library's First Annual Collegiate Invitational Art Exhibition in downtown Spartanburg from January 30 to March 8. The students were Ashleigh Payne, Emily Phifer, Kyle Rogers, Aubrey Micah Long, Tavon Charie Williams, Halliey Nichols, Brandon Lopera, Beth Copelan and Miriam Jackson. Participating faculty were Judi Battaglia, instructor of art and photography, and Jane Nodine, professor of art.

GIVING BACK TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUCCESS

The College of Arts and Sciences is the heart of USC Upstate. We are committed to being one of the Southeast's best Colleges of Arts and Sciences at a liberal arts university. Our diverse student body participates in a wide variety of exceptional programs and learning opportunities that prepare them to be effective regional, national, and global citizens.

You can help further these worthy endeavors with your gift. Visit www.uscupstate.edu/academics/arts_sciences/ and link to Online Giving today!

CALENDAR

Southeastern Conference on Logistics

The Southeastern Conference on Linguistics will be held April 4 and 6 at the Chapman Cultural Center in Spartanburg. Conference highlights include:

Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m.

Dr. Tracey L. Weldon, University of South Carolina
New Directions in African-American English Research: Pointing the Compass toward the Middle Class

Saturday, April 6 at 10 a.m.

Dr. Christine Mallinson, University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Language Variation in the Classroom: A Model for Promoting Linguistic Awareness through Collaborative Research, Teaching, and Community and Educational Engagement

ALSO ON TAP

Shoestring Players presents "Assassins"

April 11-13 at 8 p.m. • April 14 at 3 p.m.

Humanities & Performing Arts Center

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim

Book by John Weidman

Assassins is based on an idea by Charles Gilbert, Jr.

Tish Oney and John Chiodini: The Peggy Lee Project

Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m.

Chapman Cultural Center (David W. Reid Theatre)

Tish and John present their nationally touring and critically acclaimed show highlighting the songwriting talents of the late, great jazz and pop vocalist, Peggy Lee.

Tickets are \$10 general/\$5 students.

Call 864-542-2787 for ticket information.

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