Dr. Sasha Zill, Professor in the Department of Anatomy and Pathology, presented two posters at the Society for Neuroscience meeting, held November 12-16, 2011, in Washington D.C. Both presentations examined how signals from sense organs of the legs are used to control walking movements. One study presented a new model for integration of sensory feedback within the plane of leg movement. This work was conducted in Huntington and in Germany with Dr. Josef Schmitz. The morphological data was generated by Ms. Sumaiya Chaudhry, a MU sophomore, using confocal microscopy. The other study tested elements of the model in a robotic leg equipped with strain gauges. Dr. Zill's research examines posture and walking in insects, but the basic principles can be applied to controlling movements in robots and understanding human locomotion.

Meet the New Faculty: Dr. Jon Saken

Dr. Jon Saken joined the Department of Physics as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2011. Dr. Saken's research examines stellar spectroscopy of relatively bright stars. In particular, he conducts long-term monitoring of the chromospheric activity of Young Solar Analogues, stars similar to the young Sun, and the hosts of “hot-Jupiter” exoplanets. This research seeks to determine the activity level and variability of the young Sun at the time when life developing on Earth. In addition, this work could potentially detect life in other solar systems. Dr. Saken currently teaches two sections of physical science for education majors.

Faculty Presentation: Dr. Sasha Zill

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Resource: “The Meeting”

The Office of Multicultural Affairs will host “The Meeting,” on Monday, January 16, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. in the Joan C. Edwards Performing Arts Center. The play, a fictional rendezvous of two legendary civil rights activists, is free and open to the public.

Suggestions for future newsletter items can be sent to Heidi Williams: willi143@marshall.edu.