

Biochemistry and
Molecular Biology

Biological Sciences

Chemistry

Geological Sciences

Mathematics
and Statistics

Neuroscience, Cell Biology,
and Physiology

Physics

Psychology

the EQUATION
THE WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2006

Pioneering Spirit. Innovation.

These words exemplify the Wright brothers and the university that is proud to bear their name. In the decades following the Wright brothers' first flight, Dayton became known as a center for innovation in a variety of fields. Thanks to the vision of those who created Wright State University, that legacy continues into the 21st century.

From its inception, the College of Science and Mathematics has been a source of pride for Wright State. Our first four decades boast many notable accomplishments.

- The college received more than \$5 million in external research funding in 2004-2005.
- The Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program was the university's first doctoral programs and celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2005.
- The Science Education, Environmental Science, and Human Factors and Industrial Organization programs are unique nationally.
- The Creating Laboratory Access for Students in Science (CLASS) project has developed model techniques and instruments that allow students with physical disabilities to perform exciting laboratory experiments in K-12 classrooms.
- A CoSM graduate was appointed by President Bush to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and a CoSM professor was appointed to help oversee the State of Virginia crime laboratory.
- Science outreach activities, which promote science and mathematics, serve 3,000 local K-12 students annually.

Whether in the classroom, the laboratory, or the community, our professors, students, and alumni use their pioneering spirit and innovation to make a difference. We now stand ready to build on those successes for even greater achievements in the future.

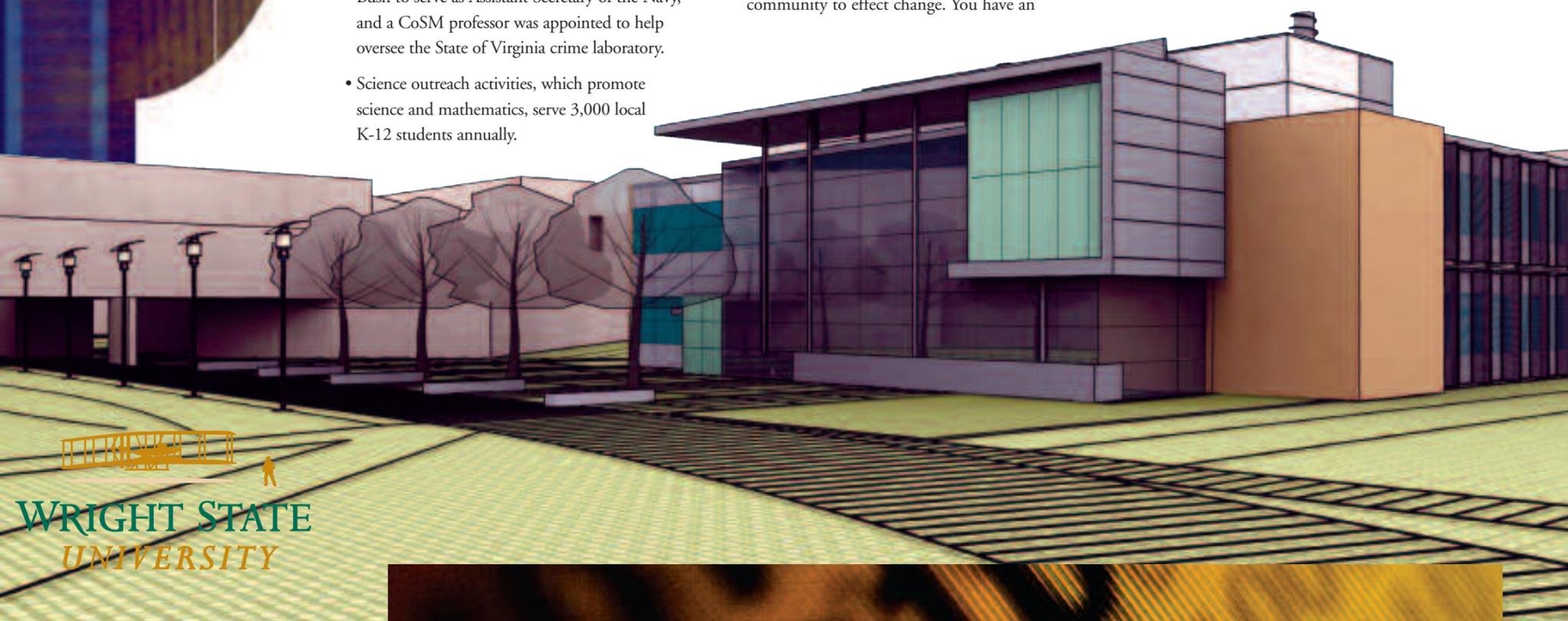
Originally constructed in the 1960s and 1970s, our facilities require upgrading to stay in step with modern technology. The CoSM renovation project will occur in several phases over six years and result in an additional 33,000 square feet of teaching, research, and student-learning space.

The project includes a new building and additional academic space in Brehm Laboratory, as well as renovation of existing spaces. The new 27,000 square foot facility will provide space for the Center for Genomics Research, the Wright Brothers Institute, and parts of three existing CoSM departments. This 14.5 million dollar facility will be physically connected with the two existing Biological Sciences buildings, creating a campus centerpiece focused on science. Just as the Wright brothers and the founders of Wright State University understood, it takes a supportive community to effect change. You have an

“Life is good
for only
two things,
discovering
mathematics
and teaching
mathematics.”

—*Siméon Poisson*

opportunity to participate in the pioneering transformation that is taking place on campus. The financial support of CoSM graduates like yourself can make a difference and can help ensure that laboratories and facilities are up to the task of producing a new generation of dynamic scientists and mathematicians. Please consider making an investment in the future of our students, our university, and our community. To donate, please use the envelope enclosed or, for more information, contact Stacia Edwards at (937) 775-3180.



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY



Letter from the Dean—

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In this edition of Equation you will see evidence of the CoSM commitment to “Building for the

Future.” If you are a routine visitor to campus, over the coming months you’ll see dramatic changes, as construction begins on the Biological Sciences III building and as the early renovation stages of science laboratories in Brehm, Biological Sciences I and II and Oelman Halls get under way. Our existing campus buildings certainly are in need of major system renovation and other improvements. The new building will offer state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in the life sciences, setting the stage for innovative research in cutting-edge areas of scientific

investigation. All of these changes will better enable us to attract and retain faculty and students.

We also are building a world-class faculty for the future. As you read the pages of “Equation” you will learn about the new breed of faculty we are seeking. Our recent hires have excellent research credentials and are committed to high-quality classroom instruction and supervision of student research. Our newest faculty can be inspired by the continuing success of our established faculty members, who routinely win national awards and grants.

The cornerstone of building for the future is the education of students at all levels. Our undergraduates excel in national competitions and succeed in their career aspirations. Our alumni contribute in a range of professions both locally and nationally. The value they add daily to a WSU CoSM degree is immeasurable.

And finally, we are laying the foundations for the continued success of our nation in science and mathematics through our investment in training pre-service teachers and through outreach into regional schools. In order for America to compete in a “flat world,” we must expand the pipeline of qualified students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This requires exposure to age-appropriate, discovery-based science activities, early and often.

As a friend of the college, your commitment to establishing a firm foundation has inspired our sincere appreciation. Please partner with us as we build for a brighter future.

*see The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century by Thomas L. Friedman

Alumni Awards

Delores M. Etter, Ph.D., was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Dr. Etter received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in mathematics from Wright State University and received the 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award from Wright State University. Dr. Etter was previously a professor of electrical engineering at the United States Naval Academy. She served three years as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense

for Science and Technology and previously served on the faculty at the University of

Colorado and the University of New Mexico. Dr. Etter was appointed by President Bush to the National Science Board in 2002.

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Dr. Etter is a member of the Defense Science Board and the Board of Visitors for the National Defense University. She has received the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal. In 1998, she received the IEEE Harriet B. Rigas Award, which recognizes one outstanding woman engineering educator each year for her contribution to the profession. In 2000, Dr. Etter received the Federal Women in Science and Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award.

Gail J. Brown, Ph.D., was the recipient of the 2005 Outstanding Alumni Award from The Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Brown is principal research physicist in the Sensor Materials Branch of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and a 1977 and 1979 CoSM graduate in physics.

Dr. Brown leads a team of 23 scientists and engineers who work on the science and technology of the new electronic and optical materials for Air Force sensor needs. In 1998, she received the Wright Research Site Educational Outreach Award. In her community, Dr. Brown mentors high school

and college students through apprentice and co-op programs, along with presenting for school career days.

Gail J. Brown

Delores M. Etter

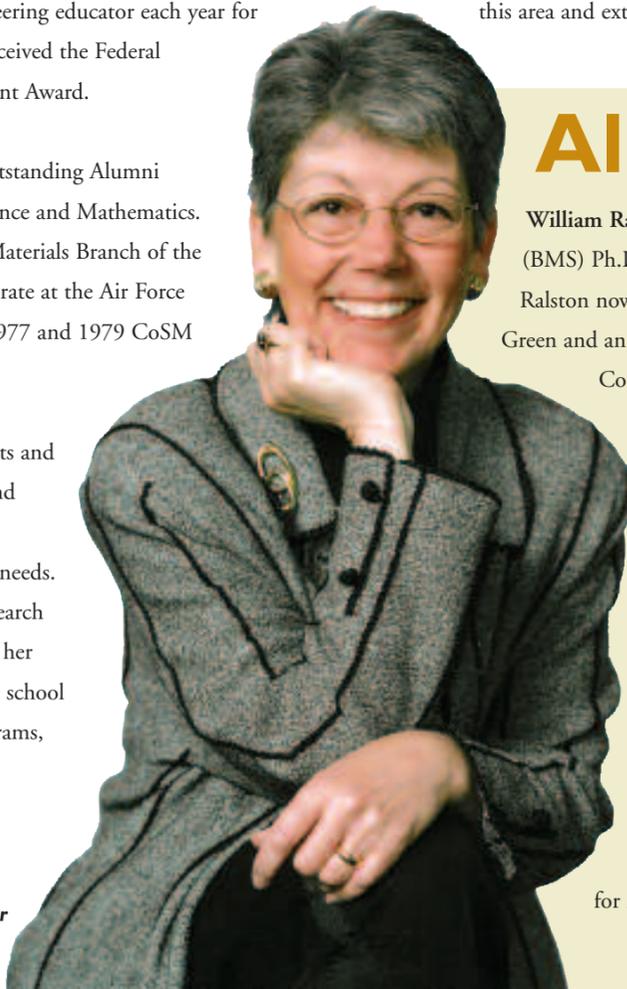
Lindsey Mayo, Ph.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology and pharmacology at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University, has received a Young Investigators Award from the General Motors Cancer Research Scholars (GMCRS) Program for his work involving a network of tumor suppressor proteins and an oncoprotein. The GMCRS Program presents five awards annually to highly promising, young investigators who are committed to a career in cancer research. In a departure from GMCRS’s standard procedure of awarding each recipient \$100,000 a year for each of two years, the second year’s being contingent upon “suitable progress the first year,” Dr. Mayo received his entire \$200,000 award at the outset.

Dr. Mayo earned his undergraduate degree in life science from Indiana State University and his doctorate in biomedical sciences from Wright State University. He did his post-doctoral work at Indiana University School of Medicine and the Walther Oncology Center in 2002, where he identified the oncoproteins and tumor suppressor proteins network. He continued his work in this area and extended his finding, which he proposed for the General Motors Scholar Award.

Alumni Notes

William Ralston, Ph.D., is a pioneer. A member of the inaugural Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Ph.D. class in 1979, he was also the first graduate of the program in 1984. Dr. Ralston now lives in southern California. After completing a BS in biology from Bowling Green and an MS in Biochemistry from WSU, Dr. Ralston worked for the Montgomery County Coroner’s Office. **Robert Gardier**, the BMS program’s first director, met Dr. Ralston while he was completing his master’s and recruited him to be in the first class of students in the Ph.D. program

Dr. Ralston became a Ph.D. student and a father during the first year of the program. Raising a family was costly, even back then, so he continued his work as a forensic toxicologist in the coroner’s office for 32 hours a week during his tenure in the Ph.D. program. The philosophy behind the new BMS program was to broadly train scientists in many fields, better preparing them for positions in industry. Dr. Ralston found that he really appreciated this breadth when he moved into industry where his research focus shifted from neurotoxicology to cardiotoxicology. The U.S. Navy toxicology laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base provided the location for his neurotoxicology dissertation work.

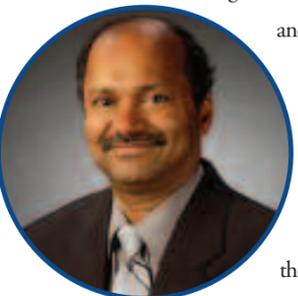


Faculty News

The Wright State University Board of Trustees selected **K.T. Arasu**, professor of mathematics and statistics, as the winner of the Trustees' Award for Faculty Excellence. This award is presented to a faculty member in recognition of sustained excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service.

"Dr. Arasu's accomplishments have been phenomenal," said **Michele Wheatly**, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "His long-term success in obtaining research funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Security Agency (NSA), and the Air Force Office of Scientific Research far exceeds what is often viewed as being feasible for any mathematician at any university. He operates on a very high level, with scholars from around the world regularly visiting Wright State to work with him. He has excelled in both very abstract mathematical work and in very applicable areas of cryptology and of data and communication security."

Over the past 15 years, Dr. Arasu has supported approximately 20 undergraduate students and 15 graduate students with his NSA



K.T. Arasu

and NSF grants. His research focuses on difference sets and related areas of combinatorial mathematics, algebra, and number theory. His work not only applies to the combinatorial field, but also to engineering and computer science. Dr. Arasu developed a NSF-sponsored summer program for mathematics teachers to expose them to current research in cryptography and other areas of discrete mathematics.

A Wright State faculty member since 1983, Dr. Arasu earned his doctorate at The Ohio State University and his bachelor's and master's degrees at Punjab University in Chandigarh, India.



Steve Higgins

Steve Higgins, assistant professor of chemistry, received the "President's Award for Faculty Excellence: Early Career Achievement Award." This award recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, or service during the formative years of a junior faculty member's initial appointment.

Allen Burton, professor of biology, was elected vice president of the World Council of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) for 2006. He will serve as president in 2007. This society represents about 5,000 scientists worldwide, with four Geographical Unit offices in North American, Europe, Asia Pacific, and Latin America. A new group is also forming in Africa. The future is bright for SETAC, because they mandate balanced perspectives (equal representation) on all science issues with representatives from academia, government, business, and NGOs. This balanced viewpoint gives them credibility with regard to controversial environmental issues and debates. SETAC's motto is "environmental quality through science."



Allen Burton

Jane Fox, a research professor in the Department of Physics, who has studied the upper levels of earth's atmosphere and the planets for more than 30 years, has been named a Fellow of the American Geophysical Union (AGU). She was

one of 43 worldwide scientists selected for the honor that is awarded annually to no more than one of every 1,000 AGU members. In nominating Dr. Fox for the award, Professor **Alexander Dalgarno** of the Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics at Harvard University described her as "a commanding figure in planetary physics and astronomy. Her contributions have been innovative, influential and enduring and have become part of the conventional wisdom."



Jane Fox

Julian Gomez-Cambronero, professor of neuroscience, cell biology, and physiology, recently received the Sembrador Award in his hometown of Manzanera, Spain. The award was presented by "Siembra" magazine in recognition of his international leadership in biomedical research.

"Dr. Gomez-Cambronero is the first scientist from our city to receive this award that has traditionally been given to composers, choral directors, poets, playwrights, historians, painters, sculptors, or doctors," said Isabel Romera, director of "Siembra" magazine. "It recognizes his contributions, outstanding academic merits, and leadership in inflammatory and leukemia biomedical research in the United States. He has proudly taken the name of our city far beyond Manzanera and across the Atlantic Ocean."



Julian Gomez-Cambronero

Virginia Governor **Mark R. Warner** recently appointed **Dan Krane**, associate professor of biology, and 12 other scientists from around the country to oversee the state's crime laboratory. This group review's laboratory operations, adopts qualification standards for the laboratory director and other staff, and establishes an audit process to be used when errors occur.

The Virginia crime laboratory has come under scrutiny recently because of high-profile testing and procedural errors that, once uncovered, resulted in long-incarcerated individuals being found innocent and subsequently released from prison. New York and now Virginia are the only two states that have a scientific review panel for their DNA laboratories. Other states are considering similar panels, according to **Betty Layne DesPortes**, chairwoman of the jurisprudence section of the American Academy of Forensic Science.

New CoSM faculty for the fall of 2005

Three new assistant professors joined the Department of Biological Sciences. **Paula Bubulya**, whose specialty is studying nuclear processes through high-resolution imaging of live cells, came from Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. **Lisa Kenyon** is a Science Educator, with a joint appointment in the College of Education; she came from Northwestern University. **John Stireman**, an evolutionary ecologist with special interest in insects and their parasitoids, joined us from Iowa State University. Also in Biological Sciences are two new instructors: **Athanasios ("Tom") Bubulya** and **Meredith Reedy**.

Alumni Notes *continued*

Dr. Ralston currently works for a drug development company in San Diego that focuses on dermatology-related areas of medicine. He is responsible for assessing the scientific and commercial viability of technologies and products and also provides technical guidance on non-clinical pharmacology and toxicology studies. One of his favorite things about his career is the fact that he is able to blend science with business.



William Ralston

Lawrence N. Killian, Ph.D., a 1991 graduate of the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program, is currently a professor of biology and the faculty development coordinator at Clark State Community College. His principal assignments are four online anatomy and physiology courses. His WSU advisor was **Dr. Robert Gardier**, a professor in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

Dr. Killian describes himself as a career teacher; he is completing his 41st year as a teacher, of which 37 years have been at the college level. He said, "I have had the privilege of teaching and directing many students from Cedarville University and Clark State Community College to several program areas at Wright State University, including the Wright State Medical School." He received a 2004 Excellence in Education Award and was selected as one of Ohio's top 100 educators in higher education by "Ohio Magazine." He was recently named for the third time to Who's Who among American Teachers (2004-2005).

As a friend of the University, your gift to the CoSM could provide the margin of excellence — the difference between a university that offers solid academic programs and one that offers outstanding and innovative programs. Your gift would provide state-of-the-art technology in our classrooms and laboratories, competitive resources for a world-class faculty, and critically needed financial aid, which helps ensure that higher education remains accessible to all students. In addition to sustaining current programs, your gifts would also help the CoSM fund educational initiatives that respond to our changing world. I hope you would remember us when you receive a letter or call from the University.

Give or pledge to the CoSM online at <http://wsufoundation.wright.edu/>

Research News

Kathleen Koenig joined the Department of Physics as an assistant professor and has interest in physics education; she holds a joint appointment in the CoSM and the College of Education and Human Services. She came to Wright State from the University of Cincinnati where she earned her Ph.D. in 2004 and was a visiting assistant professor.

Nathan Bowling joined the Department of Psychology this fall as an assistant professor. He recently completed his Ph.D. work in industrial/organizational psychology at Central Michigan University and is a 1999 graduate of Ohio University with a B.A. in Psychology. His primary research focus is on employee well-being, and he is particularly interested in job attitudes, occupational stress and workplace aggression.

Dan Miska is a new instructor in the Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology and Physiology.

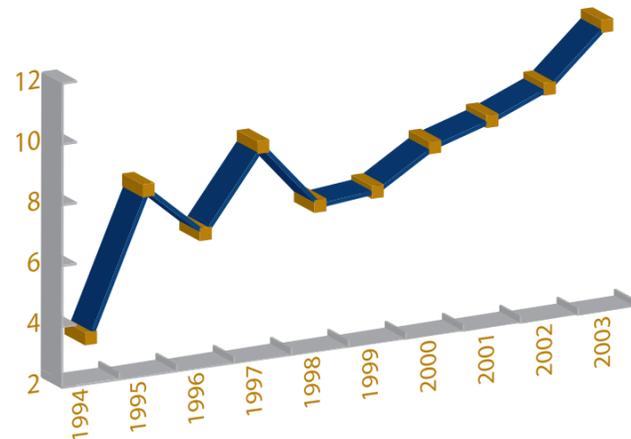
CoSM Faculty Promotions

Moving from assistant professor to associate professor (with tenure) are **Gregory Koslowski** (Physics) and **Doyle Watts** (Geological Sciences). Promoted to full professor are **Jim Amon** (Biological Sciences), **Steve Berberich** (Biochemistry & Molecular Biology) and **Herb Colle** (Psychology).

CoSM faculty members continue to bring in significant research funding. In the fiscal year that ended in June, 130 grants/contracts were funded for a total of more than \$5 million dollars. The funding comes from a variety of sources including private industry, U.S. Government agencies, foreign governments, state and local governments, universities and professional societies. A few of the larger awards are listed in the table below.

Faculty	Department	Funding agency
Mill Miller	Biological Sciences	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Yvonne Vadeboncoeur	Biological Sciences	National Science Foundation
Steve Higgins	Chemistry	National Science Foundation
Ernest Hauser	Geological Sciences	U.S. Department of Labor
Allen Burton	Institute of Environmental Quality	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Thaddeus Tarpey	Mathematics and Statistics	U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Beth Basista	Physics	Ohio Board of Regents
John Flach	Psychology	U.S. Air Force Research Laboratory
Michele Wheatly	CoSM Administration	National Science Foundation

Our faculty, researchers, and students have created a culture of excellence that spans over 40 years. It's no surprise that Wright State is ranked among the top three public institutions in the state of Ohio in terms of the dollars of grant funding its researchers attract. And the grant money we receive doesn't just fund researchers and equipment; it also is an important part of what enables our college to thrive and grow. The chart below shows funding growth in the past 12 years.



In the past year, the college office has been aggressively pursuing grants on topics such as enhancing science education at all levels, expanding diversity in the sciences, and methods of expanding the pool of scientists.

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Keep in touch!

Send us your news, where you are these days, news about a job or promotion, relocations, births, etc. We'd like to expand the AlumNotes section in this newsletter. While you're at it, send us your e-mail—we'd like to create an e-mail database so that in the future, we can keep you informed about the special events and activities in the college.

Student News

The College of Science and Mathematics (CoSM) attracts some of the best and brightest students.

Ryan Whitesell recently graduated from WSU with a degree in biological sciences and is now attending Washington University in St. Louis. Ryan applied to 13 of the top medical schools in the country and went on 10 interviews. He was accepted to WSU (M.D./Ph.D.), Case, OSU, UC, Wake Forest, and Dartmouth (with full scholarship). He was waitlisted at Pitt, Northwestern, and Yale.

Ryan said that he particularly enjoyed the physiology, immunology, and exercise pharmacology courses. "The experiences that helped me

Ryan Whitesell

the most were the research positions in Dr. Mamrack's and Dr. Putnam's labs."

Alex Gutman was awarded one of two 2005 Texas Instruments Demana-Waits Scholarships by the Mathematics Education Trust Board of Trustees. The award is \$5,000 per year for two years. Alex is from Botkins, Ohio, where he graduated as valedictorian of his high school class. He is a junior mathematics education major with a 4.0 GPA. He tutors in the Mathematics Learning Center and works for Dr. K.T. Arasu. In addition to being an outstanding student, Alex is also on the WSU Cross Country team.

Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics

Dean—Dr. Michele Wheatly

Associate Dean—Dr. Terry McKee

Assistant Deans—Joyce Howes, Stacia Edwards, Michael Reynolds

Key Contacts.....please add "(937) 775-" to all numbers

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Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. ProgramGerald Alter2504

ChemistryKenneth Turnbull2855

Environmental Sciences Ph.D. ProgramWayne Carmichael3273

Geological SciencesInterim, G. Allen Barton ..2990

Institute for Environmental QualityG. Allen Burton2201

Mathematics and StatisticsDan Voss2785

Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program.....Larry Arlian2568

Nueroscience, Cell Biology, and PhysiologyTim Cope.....3896

PhysicsLok Lew Van Voon2954

Pre-Med AdvisingKatie Mechlin.....2627

PsychologyJohn Flach2391

Statistical Consulting Center.....Harry Khamis.....4205

Web site: www.wright.edu/cosm/

CoSM News!

BMS Anniversary Weekend

On October 28 and 29, 2005, the College of Science and Mathematics and the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. Program office held a 25th anniversary celebration weekend to commemorate the establishment of the program. All 144 graduates of the program, faculty, staff and friends were invited to participate in the weekend's activities.

Distinguished Speaker

CoSM hosted one of the world's leading experts on seafloor hydrothermal systems and geobiological processes.

Deborah Kelley, Ph.D., University of Washington School of Oceanography and Astrobiology, visited as part of a Distinguished Lecturer Series, sponsored by WSU's Department of Environmental Sciences and the National Science Foundation.



Deborah Kelley

18 Days on the Research Vessel Thompson

Jeff Smigelski, an environmental sciences doctorate student, expressed an interest in this research field to Dr. Kelly during her visit. In September he was invited to observe the seafloor hydrothermal systems firsthand off the coast of Washington.



Smigelski spent 18 days with scientists on the research vessel Thompson that explored undersea volcanos in the Pacific Ocean. He served as a camera operator for an unmanned robotic submersible exploring black smoker chimneys on the ocean floor. Smigelski said it felt like he was actually on the ocean floor as he manipulated the camera

that is part of a \$5 million Keck Project to study the oceanic crust and the life forms that exist at such an extreme environment.

ART/SCIENCE Photography of David Goldes

Photographer **David Goldes** creates still-life photographs from scenes of scientific experiments that explore water, electricity, air movement, wind, and breath. Goldes manipulates and documents the phenomena to illustrate science's omissions, invoking metaphor, memory, narrative and emotion. The artist's first book, "Water Being Water," accompanied the exhibit and featured essays from prominent science and art writers **Philip Ball** and **Vince Leo**. CoSM co-sponsored this special exhibit in the Wright State University Art Galleries.

Nobel Laureate Speaker

Paul Lauterbur, who shared the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with **Sir Peter Manfield** for their pioneering discoveries concerning magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), was the 2005 Varandani Memorial Lecturer. Lauterbur's talk was titled "Mindsets: Why MRI Was



Paul Lauterbur

Delayed for so Long." Currently a faculty member at the University of Illinois, Lauterbur used nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) to study molecules, solutions, and solids. He realized that by varying the strength of the magnetic field and analyzing the frequencies of the resulting radio signals, he could use NMR to create a two-or three-dimensional picture. This laid the foundation for what would become MRI, perhaps the most significant medical diagnostic discovery of the 20th century.

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Distinguished Speaker

John McMasters, Ph.D., a Boeing research aerodynamicist and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) distinguished lecturer, recently gave a talk at WSU titled "Hooking Children on Math, Science and Engineering—An Aerospace Industry Perspective." According to the Boeing researcher, there is "the need for an aggressive means to replenish and sustain the pool of technical talent required to maintain an industry that continues to find a multi-billion dollar a year market for its products and services and which remains important to the continued growth of our global economy and national security."

World Year of Physics

"The Physics of Star Trek" was the title of a lecture given by **Dr. Lawrence Krauss** (physics chair, Case Western Reserve University) in conjunction with WSU's celebration of the World Year of Physics.



Dr. Lawrence Krauss

Celebrating Excellence

The annual CoSM Awards ceremony was held in June to recognize the accomplishments of faculty and students of the CoSM. Several students were awarded college and university level scholarships. Over the past year 429 undergraduate students received 1.8 million scholarship dollars while 71 graduate students received over \$450,000.

Noel Nussbaum, Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology, retired this year after 40 years at WSU. Noel was presented a commemorative CoSM/SOM chair in appreciation of his service to the university.

Faculty teaching awards were presented to **David Dolson**, Chemistry; **Martin Gooden**, Psychology; and **Suzanne Lunsford**, Chemistry. A Graduate Teaching Assistant award was presented to **Kristin Delgado**, Psychology.

Twenty-one honors students were recognized for their achievement; 13 graduated with general honors, four with departmental honors, and four with university honors.

the What's Inside? EQUATION

THE WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF
SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS NEWSLETTER

OUTREACH

February 18, 19, 2006
TechFest weekend

February 20, 2006
Premedical Professions
Information Forum. An
informational forum
designed for high school
students (and their parents)
interested in pursuing a
premedical degree program.

February 25, 2006
Greene County Science Day

WATCH FOR ALL
COSM EVENTS AT

www.wright.edu/cosm/calendar/

Science Fair 101

CoSM recently hosted more than 250 students and faculty from Colonel White High School, in the physics, chemistry, biology, psychology, and engineering laboratories. The two-day event emphasized the scientific method in a laboratory setting as a precursor to the students beginning their science fair projects.

TechFest

CoSM participated in the Miami Valley Techfest, which was held in downtown Dayton. This event gave children and parents an opportunity to learn about science and technology of the past, present and future. Over 2000 children registered during the two-day event. CoSM faculty and students graciously volunteered their time to support the event and showcase the college. The next TechFest will be February 18 & 19, 2006.

Take our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

CoSM faculty, staff, and students again supported this special event in which children 8-15 years of age visited campus and participated in various learning sessions. The visitors had a chance to visit CoSM laboratories in chemistry, biology, physics, statistics, and psychology.

