**Sustainability/Service-Learning Course Makes Impact**

“...talking about sustainability paled compared to engaging in work that helps create more sustainable communities.”

The Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Sciences Research is the newest building on Wright State University’s main campus. This 35,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art research facility is the new home for Wright State University’s life sciences researchers who use cellular and molecular approaches, including faculty members in the Department of Biological Sciences, the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and the Center for Genomics Research. On each floor, a suite of laboratories is centrally located for convenient access by research faculty and students, whose offices are adjacent to or just outside the labs.

Diggs Laboratory occupies part of what was formally a parking lot behind the Library Annex (as some of you might remember it, the old Fawcett Hall parking lot), and formerly the “STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics and Medicine Corridor) that also includes the biological and health sciences buildings, the Boonshoft School of Medicine’s White Hall, the Krahfalt and Volgyi John Research Center, and the Pizzuti and Driehaus Rens Engineering Center. As with most buildings on campus, the lower level of Diggs Laboratory is connected to the university’s underground tram system.

In addition to being a showcase for cutting-edge life science research, Diggs Laboratory is one of the first university research laboratories in Ohio to be registered under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. LEED buildings must recycle and salvage construction waste, use low VOC (volatile organic compound) emitting products and materials throughout the building, and use energy-saving technologies to decreased water consumption and cut lighting as well as reduced energy consumption.

Grand-opening festivities for the new research facility were held on November 8-9, 2017, and featured Dr. Tyena R. Hayes, renowned biologist and University of California-Berkeley professor. Dr. Hayes kicked off the two-day celebration Thursday evening by speaking to a standing-room-only crowd in the Apollo Room of the Student Union. His engaging presentation “From Silent Spring to Silent Night: of Toads and Men” took the audience deep into the world of research where they learned about compelling links that exist between toxicants and human health.

Friday morning’s dedication ceremony took place under a large tent outside the new building and paid tribute to the memory of Matthew O. Diggs III, for whom the building was named. College of Science and Mathematics Dean Michelle Whaley opened the dedication by recognizing Matthew’s family, parents Matt and Nancy Diggs, and sisters Elizabeth Diehl, Joan Townsend, and Judith Keenan. Joining the Diggs family were over 200 guests, including local, regional, and state dignitaries. In addition to Dean Whaley, guests also heard from Wright State University President David R. Hopkins, Boonshoft School of Medicine Dean Howard Part, and Matt and Nancy Diggs. The dedication ended on a symbolic note with Dean Whaley inviting the Diggs family to be the first to enter the new Diggs Laboratory and to signify its opening to the public with a ribbon.

The morning’s dedication concluded with a ‘shotgun’ that was held in the Student Union and included presentations by President Hopkins, Office House of Representatives and Ohio State University.
The graduates. She also encouraged the audience to “stay engaged in the ‘STEM university, Dean Wheatly shared how the completion of Diggs Laboratory, Focusing on the innovative spirit and collaborative nature of both the college and the future, it was Dean Wheatly’s call to action that electrified the audience most. The strategic planning process was an aggressive five-year strategic plan to position the College of Science and Mathematics at Wright State University as the cornerstone for STEM education as well as for the local economy. In this newsletter, we highlight some of the landmark steps taken in 2007 to fuel the STEM Revolution.

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Growing the STEM Pipeline

2007 Exploring Science and Engineering Atttracts 1100-Plus Students to Campus

Over the course of four days, November 27-30, more than 1100 high-school students from around the Miami Valley area thronged the Wright State campus to attend the college’s annual Exploring Science and Engineering event. Last year’s attendance was the largest to date, bringing in more than 1000 students in 2006.

Faculty members from the Departments of Biological Sciences, Physics, and Mathematics, or on CoSM’s Web site. Please type “Alumni Reflections” in your answer.

Better in school and now I know what I want to do and that I’m definitely going to college here,” said junior Abdulrashid Webster, a business major in Engineering. Of all the student comments, the following were perhaps the ones that summed it up best: “All of this was wonderful; each presentation had the right amount of activity and also touched on the subject.”

Before its debut, “Scientific Thought and Method,” was piloted by Wright State’s STEM Institute during the summer quarter. Modifications to the course, which comprises three different component sections: lecture, recreation, and lab, were made based on feedback collected from pilot participants, consisting of faculty members and teaching assistants. The new course, offered at both institutions, is identified as SM 101 at WU and as ATE 101 at SCC. Recommended for direct-to-high-school students, “Scientific Thought and Method” has already been incorporated into the program curriculum of STEM departments at the two institutions.

Recruiting and Retaining Women in STEM

In 2007, Omicron Delta Kappa (OK) held their annual induction ceremony, and the College of Science and Mathematics was well represented. Omicron Delta Kappa, National Leadership Honor Society induct four students and a staff member: biological science students Jennifer Durye, Roger Fodder, and Theodore Hafford; psychology student Kathleen Kiesiak; and staff member Director of Student Services Susan Woman into the Wright State University Circle.

Other Happenings

Dean to Get Better Connected with Students via the Dean’s Circle

To learn more about the number of undergraduate students in the college, Dean Wheatley has established a new student advisory board called the Dean’s Circle. Consisting of 14 undergraduate students who, together, represent the College’s six comprehensive departments: biological sciences, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, mathematics and statistics, physics, and psychology, the Dean’s Circle will meet with Dean Wheatley once a quarter to discuss college-related issues that are high on the minds of CS&M students.

Instruments in preserving the concept of the Dean’s Circle is the college’s student was CS&M Student Government Senator Cole Budinsky who also succeeded in getting a large pool of qualified students to apply for the director position. In addition to these majors, the members of the Dean’s Circle are selected based on their interest, academic achievement, and leadership skills. Assistant Dean Joyce Howes serves as the group advisor.

Statistical Consulting Center Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Statistical Consulting Center celebrated its 25th anniversary in style with a two-day mini-conference held on Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22, 2007. Friday afternoon festivities included an ice cream social, departmental colloquium, and dinner.

The colloquium, hosted by center directors Dr. Nandy Khanin, featured invited speaker Dr. David M. Reineke, associate professor of statistics in the Department of Mathematics at the University of Wisconsin—La Crosse. Dr. Reineke presented his talk, “Estimation of Hazard, Density, and Survival Functions for Randomly Censored Data within a Competing Risks Framework.” After the colloquium, alumni meet with current undergraduate and graduate students before lunchtime for campus tours.

On Saturday, the featured activity was a visit to the Natural History Museum of the United States Air Force.

CoSM Students and Staff Inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa (OK)

Alumni Reflections

“I wish I could remember the name of my physics TA, who was from Arkansas. He told us ‘If a po’ boy from Arkansas can get a Ph.D. in physics, so can you.’ I didn’t get a Ph.D. in physics, but I’m now in physics, because he was inspiring and encouraging to know that graduate school was an option for me.”

Jeanne McHale, Ph.D. Professor Department of Chemistry University of California, B.S. in Chemistry, Ph.D. in Chemistry

“From my perspective, the most important thing a student needs is the commitment of their biology and environmental science professor. Without that commitment, they won’t make it through the program. The professor needs to encourage the student to keep going.”

C. Richard Brown, Associate Professor Department of Biology University of California, B.S. in Biology, M.S. in Zoology

Dr. Ahlen-Vogl (Mechanical and Materials Engineering) introduces the undergraduates to middle-school students during 2007 Exploring Science and Engineering.

Students spent their day attending topic modules of their choosing. Available modules covered a wide variety of science and engineering topics, including “Fun with Fossils,” “How to Build Your Own Electric Motor,” “Crime Scene Investigation,” and “Virtual Percussion.” In all, 16 different modules were prepared daily by faculty and staff members from CoSM, the College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS), University Libraries, and DaytonVolunteer student ambassadors from CoSM and CECS provided valuable assistance, from getting students to and from sessions to helping students with hands-on activities.

While it was busy work for faculty, staff, and volunteers, it was well worth the effort as the students had gear for the future and provided lots of positive feedback about Exploring Science and Engineering. We all the student comments, the following were perhaps the ones that summed it up best: “All of this was wonderful; each presentation had the right amount of activity and also touched on the subject.” All of this was great. Going on this field trip changed my mind about what I want to do. I really need to start trying harder. After this trip, I will do better in school and I know what I want to do and that I definitely going to college here,” said Abdulrashid Webster.

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Faculty Members Help Area Teachers Learn New Ways to Teach Science and Math

Through a multi-year, CS&M faculty members are helping area elementary, middle- and high-school teachers learn new methods to reach science and math students.

• Faculty members from the Departments of Biological Sciences, Physics, and Mathematics are serving as instructors and advisors for the West Ohio Center for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Education (WEEXCEL), a collaborative partnership involving Wright State University, other local academic institutions, K-12 school systems, and regional organizations to strengthen the region’s capacity to continually improve science and math teacher preparation as well as K-12 science and mathematics education. WEEXCEL provides collaborative activities, including master preparation program development, science and math teacher professional development, and pedagogical research of teacher quality, especially as it relates to student achievement.

WEEXCEL is administratively housed in the College of Science and Mathematics and has offices in Bowling Lab. Co-directed by Dr. Beth Buntin, associate professor of physics and teacher education at Wright State and Dr. Britt Knowles, professor of mathematics at the University of Dayton, WEEXCEL is funded by the Ohio Board of Regents and regional partners and is one of five regional Centers of Excellence in Ohio. For more information, visit www.wright.edu/ste
The college is proud to announce that Dean Michele Wheatly was named the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Early in January, new Earth and Environmental Sciences faculty member Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was named the recipient of his alma mater, the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse (UW-L), that he is the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Alumnus.

In May, Chad will return to LaCrosse to attend the annual meeting, in addition to receiving an original plaque, Chad will present a $2,000 scholarship to a current UW-L student in the Department of Chemistry.

Based on their academic merit and participation in undergraduate research, students were nominated for the Goldschmidt Scholarship award by their institutions, institutions can nominate up to four students per year. This year, 10 were selected for the award.

In addition to receiving recognition and a monetary award at the Midwestern Psychological Association Annual Meeting this year, students now have a competitive advantage in their career.

The Goldschmidt Scholarship Program, and one of 317 selected for scholarship awards of up to $7,500. Currently, the program contains a competitive number of students with doctorates in environmental sciences.

2008 Awarded to the College’s Outstanding Alumnus Award

Dr. Donnie Chelmon, professor of Biochemistry and molecular biology and director of the Center for Genomic Research, has been appointed associate dean of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) by Diane Michele Wheatly (UW-L) and Howard Part.

Dr. Steven Berberich, professor of Biochemistry and molecular biology and director of the Center for Genomic Research, has been appointed associate dean of the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (BMB) by Diane Michele Wheatly (UW-L) and Howard Part.

The college is proud to announce that Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was selected by the dean. The college is proud to announce that Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was selected by the dean. The college is proud to announce that Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was selected by the dean. The college is proud to announce that Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was selected by the dean. The college is proud to announce that Dr. Chad Hemmendinger was selected by the dean.