Blog from Sea

"The sea, once it casts its spell, holds one in its net of wonder forever."

—Jacques Yves Cousteau

While the blog was being created, excitement began building for Suzy who was planning to announce the research blog and its link to the campus community via e-mail. Never before had such an initiative been advertised by the college nor, for that matter, by any other unit on campus that members could recall. Once “CoSM Students to Blog from Sea” was posted to the university listserv, it didn’t take long for an enthusiastic response. Department of English lecturer Brady Allen was the first to reply with this message to the WSU community: “Now, this is really cool! … I’ll read this blog as it goes on; I can vicariously be that ‘deep-sea’ explorer I dreamed of being as an Ohio country boy! I never could have imagined a ‘blog’ from way out in the Atlantic as a boy in the 1970’s—or, thanks to Ray Bradbury, et al., I could have imagined it, but who’d’ve thunk it’d be real. It may not be Atlantis, but this is something, Hoss.” In addition, a story and link to the blog was featured on the homepage of the CoSM website.

The first person to post to the blog was CosM Dean Michele Wheatly who wished the students bon voyage and added that she would follow their daily travels with great interest. Soon, other posts, written by WSU faculty, staff, and students, as well as family members of the student researchers, appeared on the blog. With each passing day, the students chronicled their experience at sea, posting fascinating details of their work, as well as spectacular photos of their research activities and beautiful seascapes. The research ship

Graduate student researcher Lisa Romas filters water for her inhibitor experiment.

Dr. Chad Hammerschmidt, Katlin Bowman, and Lisa Romas have fun with deep sea mud.
Letter from the Dean

As we approach the conclusion of another academic year, it is time to communicate to all CoSM constituents our progress in the pursuit of “Opening Minds to Science,” our five-year strategic plan, which can be found on our website at www.wright.edu/cosm/. This edition of The Equation provides a panorama of noteworthy accomplishments of CoSM faculty, staff, and students over the past academic year. In the years ahead, we hope to issue a “report card” to document progress toward our seven core strategic goals. This past year, cross-disciplinary implementation teams were tasked with identifying two or three actionable items for each goal.

The four core strategies encompassing the research community and graduate education identified three areas for improvement: infrastructure, policy, and personnel. During the past year, Bio Sci I has undergone extensive renovation, and Bio Sci II and parts of Osborn Hall are now being refurbished. Efforts are under way for a new college website that will bring high visual appeal and improved navigation for over 20 departments and programs. We have been examining policies that will facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration, and we have added technical research support to mission critical units.

In working toward national leadership in the science of teaching, actionable items included renewing National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditation and developing a new Center for Mathematics and Science Education, both in partnership with the College of Education and Human Services. The science of learning initiatives have included significant interaction with regional higher education and the research labs impacted by the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) move, partnership on a University System of Ohio (USO) center of excellence in human performance, and establishment of the Ohio Science Alliance with $6 million in funding from federal and state agencies.

Improving undergraduate student success was adopted as the focus of this year’s CoSM leadership retreat. Targeted initiatives included creation of the Dean’s Circle (a new student advisory board that serves as a conduit to our growing undergraduate population), establishment of peer mentoring programs in our two largest majors (biology and psychology), and a dramatic increase in the offering of Supplemental Instruction for entry-level courses, and a ramp-up initiative for college-wide use of “clickers” (student response system) to enhance the engagement of students in introductory classes.

The hiring of CoSM’s first major gifts officer was achieved to accelerate efforts to develop and expand alumni relations.

Despite an impressive eight percent increase in extramural funding this past year to a new high of $13.3 million, our impact on campus and within the region will be resource limited in light of the economic plight of the state of Ohio and, more generally, our nation. Like other state agencies, public universities are implementing budget cutbacks. In the immediate future, we will be looking to our alumni and other friends to help us continue to grow quality programming that transforms the lives of our students and the communities we serve. In fact, the spotlight has shined intensely on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields in recent months as futurists and our new administration have articulated the national need for more STEM-capable graduates. CoSM alumni, with your continued support, we can solve “the Equation!”

Blog from Sea (continued from pg. 1)

The blog can be found at http://salamiscruise08.blogspot.com.

Editor’s note: We are pleased to report that plans for another research expedition and blog are under way for this coming fall. Check the CoSM website in September for details.

Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics

Dean—Dr. Michele Wheeler
Associate Dean—Dr. Dan Voss
Business Manager—Karen Laycock
Assistant Dean—Joyce Howes

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Chemistry............................................................Kenneth Turnball 2855
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Mathematics and Statistics..............................Wenfu Fang 2785
Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program...Barbara Hall 2568
Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology..........Tim Cope 3896
Physics..............................................................Lok Leuw Van Voss 2954
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Statistical Consulting Center..............................Harry Khamis 4205

Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics

Environmental Sciences Ph.D. Program
Mathematics and Statistics
Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program
Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology
Physics
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Dr. Joseph C. Mantil has been listed in American Men and Women in Science and Who's Who in the Nuclear Medicine, the Ohio State Medical Association, and the American Physical Society. As a speaker, and co-organizer for several international conferences in the United States, Western Europe, and Asia, he has published two books, *Radioactivity in Nuclear Spectroscopy*, Vols. I & II. He has served as a session chairman, and evaluations. He has taught science, mathematics, and medicine to undergraduate, graduate, and medical students and residents. To date, Dr. Mantil has published 75 publications in professional scientific journal articles, 12 publications in professional scientific conference proceedings and reports, 103 scientific papers, and conference proceedings. His work has been recognized at the university's annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

### Awards Abound

**Dr. Joseph C. Mantil Receives 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award**

Dr. Joseph C. Mantil is the recipient of the 2009 Outstanding Alumni Award for the College of Science and Mathematics. A 1975 graduate of the biology master's program, Dr. Mantil is chief of the Division of Nuclear Medicine at Wright State University and director of the Department of Nuclear Medicine/PET (Positron Emission Tomography) at Kettering Medical Center.

Dr. Mantil's professional research has included the study of brain tumors, PET in seizure disorders, brain blood flow, and oxygen utilization studies, schizophrenia, cardiovascular disease, and drug research and evaluations. He has taught science, mathematics, and medicine to undergraduate, graduate, and medical students and residents.

To date, Dr. Mantil has published 75 publications in professional scientific journal articles, 12 publications in professional scientific conference proceedings and reports, 103 scientific papers, and 33 conference proceedings. His work has been recognized at the university's annual Outstanding Alumni Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, February 7, 2009.

### September Big Award Month for Dean Wheatly

Last September, it seemed the awards just kept coming for CoSM Dean Michele Wheatly. On September 2, 2008, Dean Wheatly received notice from the National Science Foundation (NSF) that her proposal, “In the Footsteps of Katharine Wright: Promoting STEM Women through LEADER (Launching Equity across the Academy in the Dayton Entrepreneurial Region),” was awarded funding for five years in the amount of $2.86 million. The focus of this proposal is to increase the participation and advancement of women faculty members in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) across the Dayton region with institutional partners the Air Force Institute of Technology, Central State University, and University of Dayton.

The following week, Dean Wheatly was notified by NSF once again that her second proposal, Ohio's STEM Ability Alliance (OSAA): STEM Degrees and Careers for Ohioans with Disabilities, was selected for funding totaling $3 million. The goal of this proposal was to increase the quantity and quality of students with disabilities receiving associate, baccalaureate, and graduate degrees in STEM disciplines. Educational partners on this study include Ohio State University, Sinclair Community College, Columbus State Community College, and numerous high schools in the Dayton and Columbus regions.

On Thursday, September 18, 2008, Dean Wheatly traveled to Columbus where she was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame during a formal ceremony that was held in the atrium of the Ohio Statehouse. While her family and WSU colleagues looked on, Dean Wheatly was recognized onstage for her outstanding achievements and contributions before being presented with a crystal award from keynote speaker Secretary of State Jennifer Brunner. One of 13 inductees, Dean Wheatly also received congratulatory remarks from Governor and First Lady Strickland, who were also in attendance.
Awards Abound (continued)

Diggs Laboratory First in Ohio to Receive Gold

The Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research is the first laboratory in Ohio to receive the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification. The certification was awarded last November by the U.S. Green Building Council, which rated the building as having over 60 percent of core credits or 40 of 69 maximum points. The rating levels, ranging from lowest to highest, are Certified, Silver, Gold, and Platinum.

The LEED building rating system is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction, and operation of high-performance green buildings. While a research laboratory typically consumes four times more energy than a normal classroom building, the Diggs Laboratory uses 40 percent less energy than the standard laboratory. For more information about LEED Certification, visit www.usgbc.org/LEED.

Mr. Hunt Brown Selected 2008 Honors Teacher of the Year

Nominated by Honors students who found his classes challenging, rewarding, and inspirational, Mr. Hunt Brown is the 2008 Honors Teacher of the Year.

The university's director of sustainability and a faculty member in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Mr. Brown has spent his entire career as an environmental biologist and environmental lawyer. Last year, Mr. Brown designed a new course, “Working Towards Sustainability,” which he taught to Honors students during the winter intercession. The four-week course, consisting of classroom instruction with experiential learning and serious community engagement, ended in a week-long trip to New Orleans, where Mr. Brown and his students did reclamation work in the Holy Cross neighborhood of the Lower Ninth Ward. Mr. Brown and his new course earned high praise from the students. One of the students said “He really was an inspiration of living out what you teach…He really is the best Honors teacher I have had at WSU. The learning went beyond the classroom and is continuing even today for me.”

Mr. Hunt Brown was recognized for his significant and ongoing contributions by the University Honors Program last June during the annual Honors Graduates’ Recognition ceremony, where he was presented with a commemorative plaque and a $500 award. Congratulations, Mr. Brown!

Jeremi Mullins Receives CDC/APHL Fellowship

Jeremi Mullins (M.S., Biology) was selected for the prestigious Emerging Infectious Disease Laboratory Fellowship award sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Association of Public Health Laboratories (APHL). Selected for this award subsequent to his master’s work on “Immunomodulation of Human Skin Cells by Extracts of the Scabies Mite,” Jeremi was one of only 35 students in the nation to receive a fellowship.

The purpose of this fellowship program is to train and prepare scientists for careers in public health laboratories, as well as to support public health initiatives related to infectious disease research. With his fellowship, Jeremi will attend the University of Iowa Hygienic Laboratory in Iowa City, Iowa, to study avian influenza and West Nile virus. After completing this program, Jeremi plans to pursue his Ph.D./M.P.H. (Master of Public Health) degree.

Khadijeh Alnajjar Awarded APS Summer Research Fellowship

Khadijeh Alnajjar (B.S., Chemistry major/Biology minor) was one of 30 students across the country to receive an American Physiological Society (APS) Summer Research Fellowship award. The APS Summer Research Program is a competitive program, providing funding for up to 24 fellowships a year for full-time undergraduate students who are interested in careers as basic research scientists.

Khadijeh will use her fellowship to conduct research with Dr. David Goldstein in the Department of Biological Sciences. The fellowship will also support Khadijeh’s travel expenses to the annual Experimental Biology meeting in New Orleans this April, where she will present her research results. Khadijeh has also worked on research with Dr. Ken Turnbull in the Department of Chemistry and tutored calculus for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. She is currently applying to Ph.D. programs in biomedical sciences.

The Dean’s Circle

These days, students are learning that to be successful, they must gain more than just knowledge—they must gain leadership skills. In CoSM, our students have a wide variety of opportunities to grow as leaders. Many participate in student clubs, campus organizations, and outreach activities and in doing so they develop valuable leadership skills that will serve them well throughout their lifetime. For one elite group of undergraduates, the Dean’s Circle provides the ultimate leadership opportunity. Representing each of the college’s six comprehensive departments: biology, chemistry, earth and environmental sciences, mathematics and statistics, physics, and psychology, 13 dynamic and talented students (they all are academically excellent!) meet monthly with Assistant Dean Joyce Howes and quarterly with Dean Michele Wheatly to discuss student concerns and development solutions. Input from the Dean’s Circle effects change across the college as evidenced by their latest project, a CoSM blog, so upper-level undergraduates can encourage and mentor younger, less experienced students. As the Dean’s Circle, these students also represent CoSM at many public events, impressing visitors with their knowledge and professionalism, and convincing many high school students to choose WSU and CoSM. While the students are pleased to have the opportunity to represent their constituencies to the Dean, chances are, they do not fully realize the scope of service they provide to the college. Thank you, Dean’s Circle!
Other CoSM Happenings

New Lab for Sensor Technology Research

Among the newest research initiatives in the Miami Valley region is the Wright State University Terahertz and Ultrafast Photonics Research Laboratory, led by physics assistant professor Dr. Jason Deibel. Dr. Deibel, who came to Wright State in the fall of 2007, and his research students split their time and work between two locations, one on campus in the basement of the Library Annex and the other in downtown Dayton at the Institute for the Development and Commercialization of Advanced Sensor Technology (IDCAST). The “Terahertz Lab,” as it is more briefly called, opened in the spring of 2008 and features ultrafast lasers that produce pulses of light that occur on a timescale of less than 100 femtoseconds (one femtosecond is one billionth of one millionth of a second). According to Dr. Deibel, one of their lasers emits light pulses that are less than 15 femtoseconds in duration, making it uniquely one of the fastest things in the Dayton metropolitan area. These ultrafast lasers allow the researchers to investigate and characterize novel materials, such as semiconductors and carbon nanotubes, to develop new spectroscopy and imaging techniques.

The primary focus of this research is the use of ultrafast lasers to generate terahertz radiation, a type of light that has wavelengths spanning from the edge of the microwave to the infrared portions of the electromagnetic spectrum. The field of terahertz science is relatively young, but is being developed for applications in materials characterization, non-destructive imaging and evaluation, and security-related applications.

Dr. Deibel and his student researchers also conduct simulation research on novel electronic and optical devices and work with Dr. Doug Petkie’s group to establish WSU as a prominent research entity in terahertz science.

New Sculpture for Diggs

Adorning the Wright State University campus in front of the new Diggs Laboratory is the sculpture Double Helix: Flowing Balance created by sculptor Jon Barlow Hudson of Yellow Springs, Ohio. Acquired through Ohio’s One Percent for Art Program, the sculpture is a loose reference to the double helix observed in DNA.

The artist used stainless steel to fabricate his abstract design, sanding and burnishing the edges to reflect light. In addition to Double Helix: Flowing Balance, Mr. Hudson has created many other sculptures which can be found across the country and around the world, including Fire in the Hole in Omaha, Nebraska; Viscum Amos in Hollywood, Florida; Morning Star II in downtown Brisbane, Australia; and Wind Dragon in Beijing Olympic Park, P.R. China.

Dr. Jacqueline K. Barton Headliner for Fourth Annual P&G Lectureship

Professor Jacqueline K. Barton, world renowned chemist and researcher, visited the Wright State campus last October to present her research on DNA-mediated signaling to faculty and students. Dr. Barton is the Arthur and Marian Hanisch Memorial Professor of Chemistry at the California Institute of Technology, where she has been a faculty member since 1989. For over 30 years, Professor Barton has studied and conducted research on double helical DNA. She pioneered the application of transition metal complexes to probe the recognition and reactions of double helical DNA and has carried out seminal studies on DNA double helical mediated electron transfer chemistry. Throughout her career, Dr. Barton has received numerous awards and has been elected to the most prestigious professional organizations, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the National Academy of Sciences.

The Procter and Gamble Lectureship is co-sponsored by Procter & Gamble Co., Wright State University, and the Dayton Section of the American Chemical Society.

Surpassing Expectations Once Again… Exploring Science and Engineering 2008

This is one event that gets bigger and bigger each year! Exploring Science and Engineering for middle- and high-school students from around the region and state broke all records with over 1,300 attendees this year. Students get to choose from a myriad of fun, hands-on science and engineering activities that were designed and presented by faculty and graduate students from CoSM and CECS. CoSM and CECS staff and student volunteers also got in on the fun and helped students get from one activity to another in timely and safe fashion. Exploring Science and Engineering is free for students and is a great way for students to learn about science and engineering outside their own classrooms.

Twenty Attend MPA Conference in Chicago

Twenty undergraduate psychology students attended the 2008 Mid-Western Psychological Association Conference in Chicago last April and, according to faculty member Dr. Martin Gooden, who accompanied the students, “...it was a wonderfully successful trip.” While all of the students attended the conference for experience and fun, most of them had purpose: to present their research during a poster presentation session. It was an exciting time as this year students presented a total of 12 posters, a Wright State record.

Among the students presenting their research was Dorothy Carter. You may recall from last issue, Dorothy was awarded a Regional (Midwestern) Research Award by Psi Chi, the National Honor Society in Psychology. During the regional award poster session, Dorothy presented her work, “Exploring Learning Strategies during Training on a Truck Dispatcher,” which examined different ways to measure learning during training by combining methods used in other areas of psychology with industrial/organizational research. Dorothy explained that “rather than just looking at final performance score, we looked at actions such as breaking rules, searching for information, and the time people take to complete task actions as evidence of learning.” Dorothy’s research advisor on this project are Drs. Debra Steele-Johnson and Dragana Cizdin.

Editor’s note: In our Spring 2008 issue, Dr. Debra Steele-Johnson’s name was inadvertently omitted as Dorothy’s advisor. We regret the error.

When it comes to making your philanthropic choices, consider making a gift that will last a lifetime... give to a CoSM student scholarship program.
Other CoSM Happenings (continued)

LEADER Consortium to Increase Participation and Advancement of STEM Women Faculty

The LEADER Consortium is a partnership of four historically diverse regional institutions: the Air Force Institute of Technology, Central State University, University of Dayton, and Wright State University. The institutions work actively together to identify, research, and implement best practices to increase the recruitment, advancement, and retention of women faculty members in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) at the partner institutions. In addition to increasing the participation and advancement of STEM women faculty, the LEADER Consortium also aims to help the Dayton region gain renown as a STEM community that welcomes women scientists and engineers and provides an environment that promotes equity, satisfaction, and success in the academy for all STEM scientists.

Made possible by a $2.86 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE Program grant that was awarded to Dean Michele Whestly last September, the LEADER Consortium was launched on November 10, 2008, at a public event that gathered people from across the region. Institutional leaders who pledged support included AFIT Commandant Brig. Gen. Paula Thornhill, CSU Provost Terrence Glass, UD interim provost Joseph Saliba, and WSU president David R. Hopkins. Serving as special guest speaker was Amanda Wright Lane, who paid homage to her great-grandma Katharine, Orville and Wilbur’s sister and the inspiration for the grant-winning proposal titled, “In the Footsteps of Katharine Weight: Promoting STEM Women through LEADER.” Mrs. Lane shared fond stories about Katharine and explained the important role Katharine played in her family, as well as in the success of her famous brothers.

In addition to Dean Whestly, who serves as the consortium’s director, members on the LEADER Consortium team include: Dr. Heidi Ries (AFIT); Dr. Willie Houston (CSU); Dr. Kimberly Kendricks (CSU); Dr. Malcolm Daniels (UD); Dr. Peggy DesAutels (UD); Ms. Michelle Moore (UD); Dr. Jayne Robinson (UD); Dr. Joseph Saliba (UD); Dr. David Goldstein (WSU); Ms. Suzy McGovern (WSU); Dr. Sharmila Mukhopadhyay (WSU); Ms. Emily Polander (WSU); Dr. Tamera Schneider (WSU); and Dr. Juanaita Wehrle-Einhorn (WSU).

OS/APS Fall Meeting: Frontiers in Chemical Physics

The annual fall meeting for the Ohio-region Section of the American Physical Society (OS/APS) was hosted by the Department of Physics and the Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT) last October 10-11, 2008. Over 180 people attended the two-day meeting, which featured plenary speakers from the University of California, Penn State University, and Rice University. Dr. Stephen R. Leone (UC–Berkeley) presented “Ultrafast Science and Attosecond/Femtosecond Dynamics.” Dr. James F. Kasting (PSU) presented “Paleoatmospheres and Search for Habitable Worlds.” Dr. Ken A. Dill (UC–San Francisco) presented “Protein Folding,” and Dr. Vicky L. Colvin (Rice University) presented “Nanoscience.”

A special public lecture brought lots of fun and thought-provoking discussion when Mr. Marc Abrams, founder of the Ig Nobel Prize and the editor of the Annals of Improbable Research, took center stage to talk about the most outstanding Ig Nobel Prize winners and to celebrate Ohio’s production of Ig Nobel winners and improbable research.

New Appointments and Transitions

Dr. Allen Burton Accepts Post at UM

There is no doubt that he will be sorely missed. After 23 years of service at Wright State University, Dr. Allen Burton relinquished his role as chair and professor of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences to assume a new post at the University of Michigan as the director of the Cooperative Institute for Limnology and Ecosystem Research (CILER) and professor in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Dr. Burton will lead CILER in its mission to improve the understanding of the fundamental physical, chemical, biological, ecological, social, and economical processes operating in the Great Lakes region.

Throughout his tenure at WSU, Dr. Burton conducted extensive research on developing effective methods for identifying significant effects and stressors in aquatic systems where sediment and storm water contamination is a concern; his ecosystem risk assessments have evaluated multiple levels of biological organization, from microbial to amphibian effects. Allen also participated actively in the development and standardization of toxicity methods for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, American Society for Testing and Materials, Environment Canada and the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and held positions as a NATO senior research fellow in Portugal, visiting senior scientist in Italy and New Zealand, and the Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research.

For those of you who remember Dr. Burton, you will agree that his impeccable manner and style, both inside and outside the classroom and research lab, are in a class of their own. Dr. Burton is admired greatly by university administration, peers, alumni, and students alike, and we, in CoSM, are certain that at UM, folks will quickly feel the same way. Congratulations and best wishes, Allen!

Dr. Burton’s appointment became effective on July 1, 2008.

Mr. Michael Reynolds Steps Up to New University Director Position

Former CoSM assistant dean Michael Reynolds has stepped up to a new University-level position as the director of STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, and Medicine) Support Services and Outreach. Joining CoSM in 2002, Mr. Reynolds was responsible for a wide range of initiatives associated with college communications and outreach, including serving as editor of The Equation and webmaster of the CoSM’s website.

In his new role, Mr. Reynolds takes his experience and skills to a whole new level where he now supports the university on various state initiatives, such as WSU’s Choose Ohio First Scholarship program, a state-funded program to recruit and graduate more Ohio students in STEMM to expand the research and talent pipelines critical to the state’s economic success, the Ohio Coop/Internship Program, and oversees activities associated with the state-supported Ohio Skills Bank, which is part of the Turnaround Ohio program.

Mr. Reynolds also works with external partners such as Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, and most area colleges and universities. Much of his work centers on identifying active internships, co-ops, and undergraduate research positions available in the STEMM colleges at WSU, as well as to enhance and promote STEMM initiatives through the identification of new grant opportunities, the development of conferences and workshops, and the dissemination of news through publications, press releases, and websites.
Dr. Larry Arlian Retires “With His Boots On”

Dr. Larry Arlian will make a professional transition this spring when he retires from his position as tenured professor of biological sciences and transitions to a new role as research professor. Dr. Arlian, a Colorado native, joined Wright State in 1972 and has been the recipient of many awards, including Wright State’s prestigious Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research Award and the Trustees’ Award for Faculty Excellence.

As suggested by the sign on his door (“Mites R Us”), Dr. Arlian has studied mites—those microscopic arachnids—for all of his professional career. During that time, his research evolved from early studies of basic physiology into two major programs of biomedical science: 1) the allergenic properties of house dust mites, now recognized as major contributors to household allergies, and 2) the host-parasite relations of the mites that cause scabies, a common infestation of humans and other animals. These lines of research were supported by more than $8 million in funding, including 30 years of continuous support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and contractual support from many corporations. Dr. Arlian published approximately 150 papers on his research and is a Fellow in the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology.

Dr. Arlian also supervised approximately 50 undergraduate and graduate students in research, supported several long-term research associates, and taught a variety of classes, including an always-popular course in parasitology. His photographs of mites have been widely reproduced, and can be seen in textbooks, at the Smithsonian, and elsewhere. Dr. Arlian took on numerous leadership roles in his profession, including serving as president of the Acarological Society of America, and, at Wright State, directing the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program and the Microbiology and Immunology M.S. program. Dr. Arlian continues to revisit his roots in Colorado at regular intervals. However, with grandchildren in Dayton and an active NIH grant, he has elected continue his studies of mites and will remain a vital member of Wright State University. Congratulations and best wishes, Dr. Arlian!

New Appointments and Transitions (continued)

Dr. Weifu Fang is New Chair of Mathematics and Statistics

Last July, Dr. Weifu Fang joined the college as the new chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Dr. Fang came to Wright State from West Virginia University, where he was a faculty member in the Department of Mathematics since 1992. While at WVU, Dr. Fang also served as associate chair from 2002-2004.

Dr. Fang’s research interests are in the areas of applied and computational mathematics with a focus on problems arising from industrial applications. He has published over 45 papers in areas of mathematical modeling, analysis, and computational methods for problems relating to semiconductor devices, capacitance tomography, and other non-destructive evaluation techniques in engineering.

Dr. Fang replaces Dr. Jeanna Dombroski, who served as interim chair for the department since 2006.

Ms. Bobbi Skipton Named Director of Major Gifts

Ms. Roberta L. Skipton (Bobbi) was named the new director of major gifts for the college. Ms. Skipton will be responsible for developing and implementing strategies for securing financial support from a portfolio of major donor prospects.

Ms. Skipton’s combination of fundraising expertise and her experience working with area mathematics, science, and technology teachers through The Dayton Foundation/Alliance for Education Project Wright Connection provides a solid connection to the CoSM’s STEM initiatives.

Prior to joining WSU, Ms. Skipton served as the major giving officer for The Dayton Foundation, director of development for United Theological Seminary, and, most recently, served as executive director of the Widows Home Foundation.

Dr. David Dominic Appointed Interim Chair for Earth and Environmental Sciences

Dr. David Dominic, associate professor of geology, was appointed interim chair of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES) by Dean Wheatly last August.

Dr. Dominic’s research interests are aquifer heterogeneity in sedimentary formations, geostatistical quantification of Facies Models, numerical modeling of depositional processes, and Upper Pennsylvanian-Lower Permian sandstones. He has been a faculty member in the department since 1987, when he came to Wright State as an assistant professor. In 2006, Dr. Dominic became associate chair of the department.

As interim chair, Dr. Dominic will lead EES until a permanent successor is found for former chair Allen Burton, who led the department from 2005-2008.

Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Dean’s Office:
Ms. Michael Edwards, STEP Program Manager
Ms. Bobbi Skipton, Director of Major Gifts

Department of Biological Sciences:
Dr. Volker Bahn, Assistant Professor
Dr. Kate Earnest, Assistant Professor
Dr. Lynn Hartsell, Assistant Professor
Ms. Jessica Miller, Account Clerk 3
Dr. Jeff Peters, Assistant Professor

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:
Dr. Yongjie Xu, Assistant Professor

Department of Chemistry:
Dr. Rachel Agra, Assistant Professor
Dr. Jesus Peral, Assistant Professor

Department of Mathematics and Statistics:
Ms. Aina Appelo, Assistant Professor
Dr. Weifu Fang, Professor and Chair
Dr. Xiaojian Zhou, Assistant Professor

Department of Neuroscience, Cell Biology, and Physiology:
Dr. David Ladd, Assistant Professor

A warm welcome to the newest members of the CosM team!
First in Ohio... the Matthew O. Diggs III Laboratory for Life Science Research receives gold LEED certification.

The Equation
The Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics Newsletter

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