



GOOD NEWS NOTES
SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND NATURAL SCIENCES
FALL 2008

New Faces Around SOHNS

Visiting Nursing Faculty from Thailand - SOHNS has the honor of hosting two visiting Nursing faculty from Thailand during much of the Fall semester 2008. **Mrs. Waraporn Wanchaitanawong and Ms. Waraporn Yottawe** are here to learn about Nursing education leadership and management skills in the United States. They have graciously consented to having us call them as Jeps and Ka tee'. During J-term 2009 they will be hosting Debbie Loop and a group of senior nursing practicum students in Thailand.

Steve Funck, Lab Program Manager, Mr. Steve Funck, began his work as Natural Sciences Lab Manager on July 1. Steve decided to enter academia after serving twenty years as a Supply Corps officer in the U.S. Navy. He completed a MS degree in petroleum management, a joint program between the School of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering and the School of Business, at the University of Kansas. He also holds an MA degree from the Senior

Officer course at the United States Naval War College. Prior to taking the lab manager position, Steve served as an adjunct instructor at Harrisburg Area Community College for nine years and as an instructor in Chemistry at Penn State Harrisburg for five years. Last year he served as an adjunct instructor in Chemistry here at Messiah College. Steve's strong qualifications for the Lab Program Manager position will benefit the Natural Sciences program greatly in the coming years. He replaces Jay Bennett who resigned to serve with his wife, Patti, in the Peace Corps.

Anne (Nancy) Woods, Associate Professor of Child/Maternal Health Nancy comes to us from Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. She will be teaching Maternity-Women's Health in the Messiah nursing program. She is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson University Hospital School of Nursing and has advanced degrees from University of Hawaii in Manoa, University of Pennsylvania and Ursuline College and a Ph.D. in Nursing from Johns Hopkins

University. Her husband John is retired as a Brigadier General from the U.S.Army and they have two grown children and two grandchildren. They will be living in the Gettysburg area with their two boxer dogs.

Jodie Haak, Assistant Professor of Exercise Science Jodie earned her B.A. from Messiah College in 1999 and was a four year member of the women's soccer team. Since that time she has taught and pursued a graduate program at the University of Iowa. Jodie recently completed her doctorate in Integrative Physiology and joins the Health and Human Performance Department as their newest faculty member. She enjoys riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle and lives in Camp Hill with her two dogs and two cats.

Susan Donat, Adjunct Instructor, Biological Sciences, joins SOHNS this fall as an adjunct and is teaching the Physical Science for Elementary Education course. She holds a masters of education from Penn State and taught for 5 years at the high school level. She has also worked as a senior research associate for the Allegheny Singer Research Institute. She is married to a Messiah alum and has three children -- a 9 year-old and 7 year-old twins. She is an active member of West Shore E Free Church and spends her free time "backpacking, hiking, camping and ferrying children to activities."

Familiar Faces Around SOHNS

It was exciting to have a number of faculty and students on location and working on summer research projects in Kline/Jordan labs during the summer of 2008. As I-Dean, it felt like we had a microcosm of a university research program ongoing here in Grantham. It is good to have Ted Davis back from his 2007-2008 sabbatical and look forward to learning more about some of the things he accomplished during that time. July and August are a lonely time for the Dean's office, as students are few, many faculty area away on vacation, Sarah Crone and Beth Aumen are not here and Deb Poplaski is here only a few hours a week in July and August. Even Ken Mark disappeared for several weeks at one point in the summer. Thank goodness for Terry Middlekauf and Carolyn Kreamer who became the I-Dean's sounding board by default.

Faculty Searches During 2008-2009

Several SOHNS faculty searches are scheduled for the coming year. The search process to locate someone to teach Pediatric Nursing is already under way. This position is a replacement for Martha Solomon who is retiring in December. Since Norm Shank is retiring at the end of 2009, a search for a Physical Chemist to replace Norm will take place later this year. Although Karl Oberholser's anticipated retirement is two years away, Roseann Sachs plans to be on sabbatical during the entire 2009-2010 academic year. In

light of her sabbatical, the Chemistry and Biochemistry faculty has been granted permission to conduct a search for a Biochemist to fill Karl's position a year early so that new hire can assist in covering courses during Roseann's sabbatical.

SOHNS School Meetings for 2008-2009

Plan for at least two school meetings this fall and at least one in the spring semester. At our first meeting on September 24, President Kim Phipps and Provost Randy Basinger will do a presentation, "Orthodox, Critical Mass, or Pluralistic? Locating Messiah College". This interactive presentation relates directly to the 2008-2012 strategic plan 'Fulfilling Our Purpose' and is being given to each school. At a subsequent meeting this fall, Ted Davis and other faculty will present the 'Statement on Origins' that is currently available on the Biological Sciences website. Prospective students, faculty and other interested parties are referred to this statement on a regular basis. This statement was first written and approved by the Natural Sciences Department faculty about 10 years ago. A subcommittee of faculty from the former 'Natural Sciences Department' are revising the statement and updating the references listed there.

Summer 2008 Scholars and Awardees

Andrea Peters, '10, Biology major, spent several months working with

Dr. John Spurrier and other staff members at Macha Hospital in Zambia. Andrea received support from the Wengert Humanitarian Award. Kristen Meunier, '09 Nursing major also received Wengert Humanitarian Award Support. Kristen reports that her summer in Africa and Israel was full of rich experiences. Jen Michener, '09, Biology major received Crist Scholarship support for a second summer of laboratory research at Temple University School of Medicine.

Recognition for Karl Oberholser's Molecular Modeling Efforts
Karl Oberholser has worked tirelessly for several summers plus a recent sabbatical to develop computer based molecular models that are used as teaching tools in his biochemistry class. Karl uses Protopedia to prepare interactive molecular scenes for use by his students. An recent article about Protopedia in Genome Biology (<http://genomebiology.com>) made reference to Emily Forschler's (08 Biochemistry grad) page on Photosystem II as a page made by an undergraduate in fulfillment of a course requirement.
Congratulations Karl and Emily.

Internal Grants awarded to faculty for 08/09 academic year

Congratulations to the large number of SOHNS faculty who were awarded Faculty Development grants for the current school year.

Biological Sciences:

Course Development Grant:

Gary Emberger, Erik Lindquist, Jim Makowski, Larry Mylin, Michael Shin, David Foster, John Harms

Scholarship Grant:

Erik Lindquist, Michael Shin

Chemistry & Biochemistry:**Teaching Enhancement Grant:**

Roseann Sachs

Health & Human Performance:**Course Development Grant:**

Wendy Cheesman

Scholarship Grant:

Doug Miller

Nutrition and Dietetics:**Course Development Grant:**

Amy Binkoski

Nursing:**Course Development Grant:**

Marti Derr, Pam Linstedt, Heidi Lutz, Martha Solomon

Cross-Cultural Grant:

Deb Loop

Scholarship Grant:

Wanda Thuma-McDermond

Summer Renovation**Projects in Kline/Jordan**

While the Summer 2008 renovation projects did not require faculty to wear hardhats (unlike Summer 2007), there were plenty of construction workers around much of the same and a concomitant variety of activities. Kline 014 was quietly transformed during June to enable teaching additional students in the Nursing lab. This was the first year of a three project to enhance the capacity and generally upgrade the clinical labs in the basement of Kline. Replacement of the original fume hoods in Kline laboratories began the last day of Spring finals with asbestos abatement and ultimately removal of

the original fume hoods in second and third floor Kline labs. Early one morning in July, a shipment of 14 new hoods arrived by truck. There was a flurry of activity outside the Dean's office most of the day as the hoods were unloaded and subsequently ferried into Jordan where they were stored temporarily until moved to their intended locations in Kline. Installation of the new hoods was completed just in time for the start of labs. The entire system of fume hoods in Kline and Jordan will be balanced during the latter part of September and early October. Much of this work will transpire in the attics of both buildings but on 'lab lite' Friday afternoons you may find workman in the labs testing the individual hoods.

Not to be outdone by the fume hoods, the lift mechanism (the part you never see but totally depend on each time you enter) for the elevator in Kline was completed rebuilt during the summer, resulting in the need for the Jordan elevator to serve both buildings for much of July. The elephant in Hollinger Atrium is not the only new accommodation in 2008 for the Oakes Museum. A major upgrade of the HVAC system began in August to provide year round humidity control. Part of this project includes installation of A/C equipment on the roof outside the West suite of second floor offices in Jordan. The window in Sheri Boyce' faculty office is now a door (for maintenance workers only) that provides access to the roof area. The new autoclave for the K274 prep room is scheduled to arrive in mid September and should be installed and ready for use promptly thereafter.

Faculty

summaries/highlights:

Jim Gustafson attended the Christian Society for Kinesiology and Leisure Studies (CSKLS) conference in June hosted by Seattle Pacific University. He presented a paper titled "Christian & Secular Students: Is there a Difference in the Wellness Arena." The paper was based on a comparison of data from the collegewellness.org survey (8 Christian colleges including Messiah) and the American College Health Association - National College Health Assessment (ACHA-NCHA) which also included Messiah.

From the Oakes Museum:

Helena Cicero, Oakes Museum Educational Coordinator. Helena has returned to the Oakes Museum as Education Coordinator, a position she held several years ago. She is one of our own as she graduated from Messiah in 1999 with an MS in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science. After serving her first stint as Education Coordinator at the museum from September, 2002 through August, 2004, Helena attended Millersville University. She took part in a unique one year Post-Baccalaureate Certification Program towards becoming a Pennsylvania Certified Biology Teacher and completing 24 credits towards her Masters of Education Degree.

Helena brings a strong science and museum background to Messiah as she was an Environmental Education Intern at Au Sable Institute at Mancelona, Michigan, in the Summer of 1999, and at Whidbey Island, Washington, in the Fall of 1999. At the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, from October 2000 to 2002, she was a Teacher-Naturalist and Safari Overnight manager.

Helena resides with her husband, Patrick and two children, Jack (3) and Maggie (18 months). Last year, Helena and the family entered into an intergenerational household setting when they moved into a single-family house with her parents, John and Amy Yeatts. She is interested in birding and sustainable living and her hobbies include reading, knitting and being with her children. Helena is a member of the Harrisburg Brethren in Christ Church.

Dean's Priorities for 2008-2009

Each year the each Dean prepares an updated 5 Year Plan for their respective schools. Included in that plan is a review of accomplishments and projected endeavors for the coming year in the areas of Program, Process, Personnel and Planning (a rubric familiar to anyone who has written a program review). As part of that review, I prepared a one year plan for the Deans Office as well as a one year plan for each department. The latter plan is drawn from the completed program reviews and/or discussions that I have each month with Chairs. I am sharing the 5 Year Plan with the SOHNS Chairs as

we meet for one on one's early this fall. It's a lengthy report but chairs are welcome to share the plan with faculty as deemed appropriate.

A Word from the Interim Dean.

By now you all know that what started as a supposedly one year term of service in the SOHNS Dean's office, has now become not just a second but a third year commitment. During 2008-2009, I continue to teach one course each semester along with the ever growing responsibilities of the Dean's office. Several weeks ago, and before I knew anything about continuing for a third year, I submitted my retirement letter to Randy Basinger. My plan to retire in June, 2010, remains unchanged. To what extent I will continue serving the college or the Biological Sciences Department on a part-time basis after that remains on open question. For now, I am committed to working with all of you to pursue our individual and collective visions for serving our students and moving SOHNS forward.

REMINDER:

Please keep directing Good News items to the Dean's office. There are many great things happening in the School of Health and Natural Sciences - let's keep communicating and celebrating!