



GOOD NEWS NOTES

SCHOOL OF HEALTH AND NATURAL SCIENCES

SPRING 2009

CONGRATULATIONS TO FACULTY FOR RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sabbaticals during 2009/2010

Roseann Sachs and her family will spend the 2009/2010 academic year in Cambodia, where Roseann will assist faculty at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in advancing their chemistry education and developing green chemistry research techniques. Erik Lindquist and family anticipate a year in South America. The actual location is pending final approval from the host university and the Fulbright organization. Sheri Boyce will use a fall semester sabbatical and to continue developing a collection of Anatomy and Physiology case studies.

Promotions and Term Tenure

By action at the Winter Trustee meeting, Clinical Track Nursing faculty member Wanda Thuma-McDermond was promoted from Assistant Professor (Clinical Track) to Associate Professor (Clinical Track) of Nursing. Biological Sciences faculty Erik Lindquist was granted Term Tenure. Jeff Erikson (Biological Sciences) and Retta Murray (HHP) were recommended for Term Tenure renewal. Congratulations to each one.

NEW FACULTY AND STAFF PERSONS IN SOHNS

Hannah Tims, Ph.D., will be joining the Chemistry faculty, as Assistant Professor of Chemistry. Since

completing her Ph.D. in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Cellular Biology at Northwestern University in December 2007, Hannah has been teaching Chemistry at the College of Wooster (Ohio). Hannah completed her bachelors degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Bethel University (MN).

Tara Jankouskas joined the Nursing Faculty in January, 2009, as Assistant Professor (Clinical Track) of Nursing. Tara fills the pediatric nursing faculty position which Martha Solomon held prior to her retirement in December, 2008. Tara comes to us from The Milton S. Hershey Medical Center where she served as Clinical Nurse Educator.

PRE-HEALTH PROFESSIONS ADVISING OFFICE PROGRAM REVIEW

Along with her busy schedule of meeting with students for advising sessions in her office (K-128) and writing recommendation letters, Martha Smith has worked with the Interim Dean to complete a program review for the Pre-Health Professions Advising Office. In many ways similar to the program reviews produced by individual departments, the PHAP review is complete with appendices and assessment grids

GOOD NEWS FROM SOHNS DEPARTMENTS

Biological Sciences

Implementation of the Biology and Environmental Science curriculum revisions began this year. Three

new courses are being taught this year including a new lab course for majors in January. An additional two courses will be developed and offered for sophomore majors beginning with Fall 2009. These changes are the outcome of their Educational Program Review completed in September 2006. Implementation of program assessment strategies outlined in the EPR is an ongoing challenge for the coming months.

Chemistry and Biochemistry

A series of new B.A. majors, Chemistry, Biochemistry and Chemistry Teacher Certification have been proposed by the faculty as a means of enhancing the enrollment in departmental majors as well as accommodating the increased requirements for the Teacher Certification program.

Health and Human Performance

Enrollment in majors offered by the HHP Department continues to grow as the faculty implement recent changes in the curriculum and new majors offered by the department. The Athletic Training program was granted continued accreditation by the CAATE accrediting agency. Efforts to increase the enrollment in the Athletic Training program will be ongoing in the coming years.

Scott Kieffer is the Chair of the Exercise Physiology Academy through the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD). As part of his executive duties, he succeeded in establishing the first discipline specific undergraduate research symposium in the field of Health and Exercise Science. The Executive Committee of AAHPERD has tentatively planned to make the Undergraduate Research Symposium a permanent part of the Annual Convention. This year, the Undergraduate Research Symposium accepted 10 peer-reviewed abstracts from schools around the country. In the future, AAHEPRD hopes to expand the number of abstracts accepted and reach across the disciplines of Biomechanics, Exercise Physiology, Motor Learning and Development, and Pedagogy.

Nursing

The Nursing faculty is in their second year of curriculum revision. New courses for Seniors are currently being developed and offered this year.

Nursing continues to lead the way in technology innovation with use of classroom 'clickers' and the Saki electronic portfolios making their debut. Nursing enrollments continue to be at capacity, with limits on both numbers of entering and transfer students that can be accepted due to the finite number of available clinical faculty and facilities. Renovation of the assessment lab (Kline 014) during summer 08 began a process of renovations in Kline basement that will enhance the functionality of the Nursing labs.

Nutrition and Dietetics

Kay Witt traveled with students to Burkina Faso (Africa) with a junior Dietetics student and students from the Collaboratory during January. Kay explored the potential for research study dealing with nutritional aspects of *Moringa oleifera*, a small tree which grows well in drought-prone environments. This is part of a potential project between the Educational Concerns for Hunger (ECHO) organization and Messiah College.

Oakes Museum

Enhanced environmental (humidity) control for the Oakes Museum HVAC system was completed in early September. Noise abatement concerns in adjoining classrooms were addressed throughout the fall semester and resolution was accomplished in February. With Tukufu firmly established in the Hollinger Atrium, permanent 'story boards' for Tukufu are being prepared to tell the Tukufu story.

FACILITY CHANGES AND UPGRADES

Fume Hoods

An extensive project to install new Fume Hoods in Kline was completed in early September. Attempts to balance the air flow of these hoods revealed that additional exhaust equipment needed to isolate the air intake from the exhaust. In case you were wondering, that explains the new 'rocket-like' additions on the east end of the Kline roof that were added in early February. Increased air flow capacity and other changes to achieve current lab safety are the results of this project.

Autoclave

After a year relying on smaller backup autoclaves, the new autoclave has been installed in the microbiology lab prep room (J 274). Delivery was in late September as expected, but minor complications during installation prevented use of the autoclave until the beginning of second semester.

Kline Hall upgrades/renovations

Kline 120 received a new coat of paint at the end of classes in December. Capital Budget requests have been submitted for FY10, requesting funds to upgrade the seating in Kline 120 and to renovate the Kline restrooms. Should the current budget situation prevent action on these this year, we will continue to submit these requests in coming years. The Dean's office was asked to submit a letter of appreciation to the Kline Foundation on the 40th anniversary of the building. The letter indicated that the building is still very functional, given some significant improvements to the heating/ventilation system in recent years.

SCHOLARSHIP AND TRAVEL COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

The culminating event for the 2008-2009 SOHNS senior student research endeavors will be showcased on Friday afternoon, April 24, 2009. The venue for the 5th Annual SOHNS Scholarship Symposium will be the Kline/Jordan Science Center. Participation of students from all five SOHNS Departments is anticipated.

David Foster led a January term travel honors cross-cultural course to New Zealand in January, 2009.

Debbie Loop's Senior Nursing Seminar course allowed students to reconnect with Mrs. Waraporn Wanchaitanapong and Ms. Waraporn Yottawee, our fall semester visitors in Thailand, in their home setting. Wanda Thuma-McDermond's Senior Nursing Seminar course to Zambia provided students with insights into both health care and international relations.

Erik Lindquist: While in Panama (Jan '08) Erik's research team was filmed by the Online Adventure

TV network. Clips can be reviewed at the following sites:

<http://www.onlineadventure.com/videos/Los-Quetzales-Lodge-Erik-Lindquist>

<http://www.onlineadventure.com/videos/Los-Quetzales-Lodge-Erik-Lindquist-2>

<http://www.onlineadventure.com/videos/Los-Quetzales-Lodge-Messiah-College-Students>

SPRING SEMESTER SEMINARS

Both the Biological Sciences and Chemistry and Biochemistry Departments are sponsoring seminars presented by speakers from off-campus. In addition, the Central Pennsylvania Forum directed by Ted Davis has hosted several speakers on Science/Religion topics.

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Larry Mylin and colleagues from Penn State College of Medicine recently published an article in *The Journal of Immunology*, 2008, 181:4406-4417. The article is entitled: CD8+ T Cells Targeting a Single Immunodominant Epitope are Sufficient for Elimination of Established SV40 T Antigen-Induced Brain Tumors. The study advances understanding of requirements of tumor control by cellular immunity. T cells genetically programmed to recognize a single tumor target epitope peptide were able to control aggressive tumors by focusing on a single epitope.

Louann Zinsmeister, PhD, RN, nursing faculty member, and Deborah Schafer, MSN, RNC clinical nurse specialist for PinnacleHealth, recently published "The Exploration of the Lived Experience of the Graduate Nurse Making the Transition to Registered Nurse During the First Year of Practice" in the *Journal for Nurses in Staff Development*, 25(1), 28-34, (2009). This work is part of The Research Roundtable project, an ongoing initiative between Messiah College and Pinnacle Health system in which students, staff nurses, advanced practice nurses, and nursing faculty together develop research projects to promote evidence-based nursing practice.

SOHNS ALUMNI NEWS

Tara Roche, '96 Nursing wrote: *"I just wanted to drop you a line to tell you that I am one of the winners of NY Times Tribute to Nurses. This is an award given to any RNs in the US that go above and beyond for patient care. An article about the award was published in the NY Times Magazine on Sunday, November 30th. I thought you would like to know since I am a proud graduate of Messiah College '96".*

Cyndi Brewer, '04 Nursing wrote: *"I was talking to my mom on the phone today and she said, "please be sure you write your profs from Messiah and update them on what you are doing. They would be so thrilled to know how they have influenced your life." I know better than to not do what mom says. So I wanted to pass along a little update of what's been going on in my career. I have been accepted to the Nursing PhD program at UCLA starting next fall. Mostly because of you at Messiah, from the very beginning of my career I knew I wanted to teach and conduct research. So thank you for the wonderful support and mentoring you gave to me. It has molded me more than you will ever know. And thank you to the rest of the Messiah Nursing staff, also".*

John Cuddy, '04, Health and Human

Performance: John recently finished his Master's Degree at Montana and is considering a doctoral program. His advisor recently received a six million dollar grant and has hired John as a full-time research assistant. John has published ten articles in top tier Exercise Physiology journals as part of his Master's program.

Emily Forschler, '09, Biochemistry: While a student in Karl Oberholser's (Spring '08) Biochemistry II class, Emily authored an outstanding page on Photosystem II that can be viewed at:

[http://proteopedia.org/wiki/index.php/Student Projects](http://proteopedia.org/wiki/index.php/Student_Projects) An article on Proteopedia in Genome Biology (<http://genomebiology.com>) had a reference to Emily's page on Photosystem II as a page made by an undergraduate in fulfillment of a course assignment.

DEAN'S OFFICE

Efforts to bring the budget into compliance have resulted in the Dean working closely with Chairs in an effort to increase the efficiency of course offerings throughout the school for FY 10. While enrollment has sustained for spring semester and prevented further FY 09 budget adjustments, the administration is taking a conservative approach (holding the line on budgets and hiring) given the uncertainty surrounding enrollment numbers for FY 10.

During the spring semester, the Deans have joined the President's Cabinet on several occasions for 'Generative Thinking' sessions in which the group has discussed a variety of new or revised programs that might be used to sustain and increase undergraduate enrollment.

A great deal of Dean and Chair time and effort has gone into revising the Teacher Certification programs in Biology, Biology Environmental Science Dual Certification, Chemistry and Physical Education during the current year. Pennsylvania's State Board of Education has mandated that twelve additional credits related to special education and English language reading skills be added to an already crowded curriculum. Developing a curriculum that accommodates the expanded education course requirements, general education requirements along with the major courses has proven to be a challenge. The good news is that approval is nearing completion and the revised programs will soon be sent to the Pennsylvania Department of Education for their approval.

Deans are involved in two major reviews, FTE and School Structure, that are occurring on campus this spring. Several SOHNS faculty members serve as the respective task forces for these reviews. Faculty have been asked to provide written feedback for the School Structure review and Chairs will have opportunity to meet with off-campus resource persons who visit the campus in April.

We're on the web:

www.messiah.edu/schools/health_nat_sci/