Message from the Dean

As of January 1, I proudly assumed the position of the dean of the College of Health and Human Services at BGSU. As a lifetime southerner, I must admit that navigating my way through the past winter was challenging. Despite the Level 3 snow emergencies and record-breaking snow and cold temperatures, I have received a warm reception. I have enjoyed getting to know the outstanding faculty, staff and students within the college and university. I have also had the privilege of meeting many of our community partners and colleagues who lend their support to the college through supervised internships and training opportunities. This last year has been rich and full, and this newsletter provides the opportunity to share just a few of the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty and staff at BGSU. In this Inaugural issue of the College of Health and Human Services electronic newsletter, you can read about:

• Our generous donors who are enhancing the lives of our students by providing scholarship support.
• Our students and faculty who are making a difference through their community engagement and research initiatives.
• The Center of Excellence for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan’s revival under the co-leadership of Drs. Chris Dunn and Nancy Orel.
• The numerous community engagement and continuing education activities that have taken place over the past year.

I invite you to contact me to learn more about the college or to find out how you can get more involved with our college and/or students.

Dr. Marie Huff
Dean, College of Health and Human Services

Wanted: College Advocates Board Members

College Advocates are invaluable members of our college family. We depend on our Advocates to provide us with sage programmatic advice, to promote our programs and departments, lend their support and expertise to college initiatives, and to serve the college in its continual quest for excellence. We are in the process of rebuilding our College Advocates Board and are currently accepting nominations for membership. If you or someone you know might be interested in contributing time, talent and/or funds to support of the College of Health and Human Services, please contact Dean Marie Huff at huffm@bgsu.edu or call our office at 419-372-8243 to nominate members.

Jessica Miller-Blakely Earns Alumni Award

Jessica Miller Blakely ’97, a licensed nursing home administrator in Bowling Green, Ohio, was named a 2014 Alumni Award Recipient for the College of Health and Human Services. She graduated with a bachelor of science in gerontology, and has been an administrator for 17 years.

Donations to College on the Rise

The number of donors giving to Health and Human Services programs and students is increasing. At the annual college scholarship luncheon in April, 43 students were awarded more than $54,000 in college scholarships. Among the scholarships presented this year were two new ones established by BGSU alumni for gerontology students.

Thomas Stofac, a 1981 BGSU gerontology graduate, endowed a scholarship in his name to support student scholars in gerontology. With 30 years of experience in the long-term care industry, Stofac is considered a visionary leader and is the chief executive officer of the Ohio Masonic Homes. Olivia Smith, a graduate student in the gerontology master’s program, is the recipient for the first-time award.

Also new this year was the Joan Honkala Gordon Gerontology Scholarship. BGSU alumnus and retired faculty member Jim Gordon endowed this scholarship in memory of Joan, his Falcon Flame of 56 years, who passed away in September 2013. She was known for her involvement in numerous civic and university endeavors, and played an integral role in advocating for quality services to older adults in Wood County. The first-ever awardee of the Gordon scholarship is Pragya Hamal, also a student in the gerontology graduate program.

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In addition to the recent increase in scholarships for the college, “giving” is up among faculty and staff of the college. BGSU’s fundraising efforts among employees, known as the Family Campaign, encourages donations from faculty and staff. The College of Health and Human Services staff giving increased from 40 percent in 2013 to over 70 percent in 2014. As enrollment increases, so does the need for scholarships to support and reward our excellent students. If you are interested in contributing to student scholars or other programs within the College of Health and Human Services, please contact Cal Bowers at bcalvin@bgsu.edu or visit givetobgsu.com.

Sanctuary Model Workshop Well Received

Dr. Sandra Bloom, a board-certified psychiatrist and international trauma expert, presented the Sanctuary Model of trauma-informed organizational and cultural change in a college-hosted workshop for Wood County agencies and organizations. More than 600 people attended the April 7 event to listen to Bloom, who is also an associate professor of public health at Drexel University, discuss “Trauma in Individuals, Families, and Organizations and the Process of Recovery.”

This intensive training was sponsored by BGSU’s Center of Excellence for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan, the Wood County Alcohol Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board, Children’s Resource Center, Wood County Educational Service Center, Wood County Juvenile Court, the Safe School and Healthy Student Initiative, and the Cocoon Shelter.

The goal of the training was to create safe and healing environments for children, families, and adults who have experienced chronic stress and adversity. The Sanctuary Model will be used throughout Wood County, and the College of Health and Human Services will continue to provide workshops and trainings, as well as support this initiative to create a healthy and trauma free community.

Center of Excellence for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan

The BGSU Center of Excellence for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan, which was established in 2010, continues to focus on its strengths in research and education to advance health and well-being in Ohio.

The past year was productive with prevention and health promotion programs, and the initiatives for the coming year will strengthen the community engagement aspect of the Center’s mission, said Dr. Nancy Orel, one of the co-leaders for the BGSU Center of Excellence.

“A healthier workforce improves productivity and increases business capacity through lower absenteeism from work, less money spent on health care, and redirection of savings to other vital business functions,” the OhioHigherEd.org article stated. With that in mind, the economic impact of BGSU’s work in health promotion and disease prevention is immense.

More than 100 faculty affiliates across the University are associated with the Center of Excellence and more than 5,000 student have participated in the numerous projects that have been initiated through the center. Additionally a strong network of partnerships with more than 400 community health aids and human services organizations and agencies.

Medical Mutual of Ohio has been the primary funder for the Center, as well as for Well-Aware, the University’s faculty/staff wellness program. Some of the University-wide projects that have been supported by the center are the BGSU Speech and Hearing Clinic Community Outreach Program, Traumatic Brain Injury Prevention Event, Farm to Fitness Summer Day Camp, World Voice Day and the Wound Healing and Exercise Intensity n Diabetic Mice research project.

For 2014-15, some of the center’s projects will focus on:

• Disease prevention, risk factor reduction, health promotion and healthy lifestyle development and maintenance.
• Development of new collaborations with community agencies and organizations.
• Greater student participation in service learning, student research and volunteer service.
• Sponsorship of workshops and trainings focusing on the Sanctuary Model of trauma-informed organizational and cultural change to include curriculum development and pedagogy.

According to OhioHigherEd.org,

“Mounting evidence shows prevention and health promotion programs not only save money and improve lives, but are more cost-effective than one-on-one treatment interventions.”
Undergraduate Research on the Rise

Undergraduate research in the College of Health and Human Services offers an important tool to our students. A total of 35 undergraduate students, representing all three departments in the college, were involved in research this spring. They had different roles from volunteering through leading an independent project for an honor’s thesis.

Undergraduate research allows students to engage their intellectual curiosity and interest in discovery. Learning in a research environment is known to lead to better understanding of, and a deeper appreciation for the area of study. It enhances undergraduate education through the intellectual stimulation of active student participation in meaningful research and creative activities in all fields of study. Through experiencing the process of scholarly discovery and dissemination of their results, students become fully engaged members of our learning community.

As a senior health care administration major Jennifer Gebes researched and wrote a literature review article about MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus). She researched the history of antibiotic resistance, the direct and indirect costs of hospital-acquired MRSA infections and what can be done to prevent the problem. She teamed up with a master of public health student, Shelby Hale, who also is interested in MRSA. Together they designed a poster presentation that addresses the topic. The presentation was delivered at the Public Health Combined Conference in Columbus (Ohio) in May.

Gebes and Hale have bright futures in the industry. Gebes has been accepted into Case Western Reserve University’s Master of Science in Anesthesiology program and received the Public Health Senior of the Year Award from the BGSU College of Health and Human Services. Hale is a graduate assistant in the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health program.

KUDOS

- Dr. Ronald Callaway Scherer, pictured above, communication sciences and disorders, was named a Distinguished Research Professor at the Faculty Excellence Awards in April. Scherer has earned an international reputation for his pioneering work on the aerodynamic and acoustics of the human vocal tract. The Board of trustees confers the title upon faculty members who hold the rank of professor and who have established outstanding national and international recognition through research and publication in their disciplines. Read more at www.bgsu.edu/news/2014/04/scherer-named-distinguished-research-professor.html.

- The Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) named Dr. Charlie Stelle, gerontology, as the Educator of the Year for advancing gerontological education and training for students and practitioners. It is one of the highest honors for gerontology educators in Ohio.

- Two gerontology students, Lauren Feyh and Morgan Bunting, were recognized at the OAGE conference. Feyh was named one of the Outstanding Gerontology Students for the year, and Bunting had the top undergraduate research paper.

- Carroll Feasel, administrative assistant to the dean in the College of Health and Human Services, received the Michael Ferrari Award recipient in April. The award is presented to the outstanding administrative staff member for the year.

- Dr. Mamta Ojha’s social work class received a service-learning award this spring for its involvement in the Project Homeless Connect held in Bowling Green in the fall.
The College of Health and Human Services will host its annual Homecoming Lecture on Friday (Oct. 3) of BGSU’s Homecoming Weekend. Alumni and friends of the college are invited to the free presentation from 8:30 a.m. to noon in 228 Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The topic of this year’s lecture is “On Choice and Change: Taking Charge of Change at Work and in Life,” presented by BGSU alumna Kathy Cleveland Bull ‘83, ’85, a professional speaker, trainer, coach and consultant.

In her presentation, she addresses the concept of seeking success through a balanced approach to living despite constant change in our lives. This modern and healthy approach to living isn’t destabilized by change, but includes change as a reality. Change is viewed as a catalyst, an opportunity for growth.

Cleveland Bull founded and is president of N~Compass Consulting, a firm focused on navigating the art and science of change. She works with Fortune 500 companies, educational institutions, government agencies and nonprofit organizations helping them successfully adapt to change. She has spoken on four continents to more than 200,000 people from all walks of life. Recently she established the Center for Eating Psychology.

Previously she was director of training and organizational development and director of student life at The Ohio State University. She also has held various positions in student affairs administration, admissions, leadership development, event planning, and residence life at BGSU, North Carolina State University and Ohio State. She is a Phi Beta Kappa psychology graduate of BGSU, and holds two master’s degrees in guidance and counseling and college student personnel, also from BGSU.

College of Health and Human Services Homecoming Lecture
FREE EVENT
On Choice and Change: Taking Charge of Change at Work and in Life
Featuring BGSU Alumna Kathy Cleveland Bull ‘83, ’85

Friday, October 3, 2014
8:30 a.m.-Noon
228 Bowen-Thompson Student Union
BGSU

Attendance is free; registration required
Contact Jennifer Wagner
hhsevents@bgsu.edu
419-372-7773