Message from the Dean

Dear Friends of the College of Health and Human Services:

My first year at Bowling Green State University is flying by, and I am very pleased to see the continued growth and exciting initiatives taking place in the College of Health and Human Services.

We continue to enjoy a growing student enrollment, strong community partners, productive engagement and service learning activities and successful job placement for our graduates. We are exploring the development of new majors within the College, including a bachelor’s degree in public health focusing on safety and sanitation and an online allied health degree to support students with associate degrees in health-related fields pursue bachelor’s degrees.

Our 11th annual homecoming lecture was a resounding success, bringing approximately 100 participants to campus. It featured Kathy Cleveland Bull, who shared stimulating information on the topic of choice and change. We are looking forward to additional events in the spring. On April 9 the College will host its first public health symposium. This event is an expansion of the annual Ned E. Baker public health lecture series and will feature a keynote speaker focusing on contemporary public health topics. The 2015 keynote speaker is Dr. Bechara Choucair, Chicago’s health commissioner. He will speak about how to effectively use social media communications during a disaster or health crisis. We are also pleased to report that the College is hosting the Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education (OAGE) Conference on April 24, 2015.

The College of Health and Services is concerned with the health, wellness and safety of families, communities and individuals across the lifespan. Collectively, no one program or discipline has sole responsibility for the health, wellness and safety of our families and communities, and the value of our College is the integration of knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise related to the many factors that influence population health and health outcomes. As always, we appreciate the support of our alumni and community partners. Please feel free to drop me a line or come by my office. I welcome the opportunity to visit with you!

Sincerely,

Marie Huff
Dean, College of Health and Human Services

CAREGIVING JOURNEY PREPARED GRADUATE FOR CAREER

Tom Stofac learned early in life what it meant to care for others. From the time he was 12 years old he was a caregiver for his mother who became disabled. He would get her up in the morning, prepare her breakfast, wake his father for work and then go to school. This was a daily chore until he was 18 and ready to attend college at BGSU.

Today, as CEO of the Ohio Masonic Home, he admits those are the experiences that prepared him for life and put him on the path to his career. He graduated in 1981 as a member of the second class to earn a bachelor’s degree in gerontology from BGSU.

The combination of his family experiences and his BGSU education in gerontology prepared him to become a CEO at the age of 21 for a company in North Dakota. From there he had jobs with companies in Massachusetts, Minnesota and Ohio before semi-retiring to spend more time with his family and starting a consulting company.

Approximately three years ago the Ohio Masons approached him to provide leadership, vision and direction for this statewide aging services company. He agreed to take on that role and has enjoyed the position and the challenges within the industry.

“I know the joys of being an advocate for older adults,” Stofac said at the HHS Optimal Aging Workshop last fall. “Good caregiving and to be with a person on that journey is a blessing.”

He is also focused on developing tools to help individuals and their families navigate the journey of optimal aging. He created the Ohio Masonic Home Aging Resource Center and Life Compass products that provide resources to questions on aging and leading-edge, assistive technology and professional/service-based support to extend in-home livability. The resource center, which opened last January, receives 125-150 calls per month with questions about a wide range of aging issues and concerns.

For his successes and his vision for looking at “optimal aging as a journey not a destination,” Stofac was named an Accomplished Alumnus for the College of Health and Human Services in 2013 and has accepted the invitation to serve on the College Leadership Council. He recently created the Thomas Stofac Gerontology Graduate Scholarship in support of the Master of Science in Interdisciplinary Gerontology Program that was initiated at BGSU in 2012.

SLP MASTER’S PROGRAM IS RANKED

The Speech-Language Pathology master’s degree program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is ranked 84th in the nation, according to the U.S. News and World Report’s Best Grad School Rankings.
HHS BUILDING RENOVATIONS PLANNED

For more than 45 years, the BGSU College of Health and Human Services has been educating professionals who are making a difference in their work, communities and the world. Our students are outstanding; our faculty are dedicated and connected to their students, and our graduates’ successes consistently prove the value of a BGSU education. Now, a $9.2 million renovation to the existing building will create a facility to match our spirit.

The Health and Human Services Building, which previously housed the Student Health Center, as well as the College of Health and Human Services faculty and administrative offices, will be transformed with new classroom, laboratory and communal spaces to support learning and create a new sense of community for the 1,800 undergraduate students, 200 graduate students and nearly 60 faculty and staff. Interested individuals and community agencies are invited to show their support of our students and educational programs by naming a space in the newly renovated Health and Human Services Building, scheduled to be completed in 2016.

New and renovated spaces will include:

- Dean’s suite (dean’s office, associate dean office, 2 assistant dean offices, dean’s conference room)
- Advising Center suite (advising director’s office, 5 faculty advising offices, waiting room/secretary.)
- First-floor student hub/lounge
- 2 HHS general classrooms
- Public and Allied Health (department chair office, secretarial reception area, 9 faculty offices)
- Food and Nutrition (teaching kitchen, research/kitchen sensory testing, dining/flexible teaching area, pantry, 7 faculty offices)
- Other lab spaces — 2 research labs (general wet lab and food science lab), counseling room
- Speech and Hearing Clinic (patient family waiting area, student resource/clinic area, 4 treatment rooms, 4 treatment rooms, large treatment room, parent observation room, observation room, diagnostics room, group therapy/conference room, audiology suite, hearing tests/booth)
- Basement renovation includes CDIS physical modeling lab, doctoral student/part-time faculty spaces, graduate assistant work area, small undergraduate student workroom and 2 student organizations areas.

Other donation opportunities include naming the college, the speech and hearing clinic, a department within the college, the building or outside space/patio.

For more information about making a gift to the College of Health and Human Services, visit www.bgsu.edu/college-of-health-and-human-services/about/support-the-college.html or contact Calvin Bowers, Director of Development, College of Health and Human Services, 419-372-9446 or bcalvin@bgsu.edu.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Social Work projects earn recognition

BGSU’s social work students are earning recognition for their efforts this year.

Dr. Mamta Ojha's social work classes have been actively engaged in several projects over the past year. Their efforts earned them the BGSU Office of Service Learning Group Excellence Award at the spring ceremony.

Students in her classes have created a series of videos to promote the Court Appointed Special Advocates program through the local juvenile courts. For the past two years, she has encouraged her social work students to be involved in Wood County Project Connect, which is designed to provide homeless individuals and families immediate goods and services.

Ojha joined the BGSU faculty in 2010 as an instructor in the social work program. She uses experiential learning to help the students learn about the field.

The Excellence in Service-Learning and Community Engagement Awards are designed to recognize faculty, staff, students, groups, and community partners who have done exceptional work in service-learning and civic engagement at BGSU.

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**FACULTY NEWS**

**New Faculty**

The College welcomed four new faculty members this fall. Dr. Amad Chaudhry, Dr. Robin Falconer-Tucker, Dr. Cynthia Spitler and Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald. Chaudhry is the new chair of the Department of Public and Allied Health. Falconer-Tucker is a member of the public health faculty, specializing in food. Dr. Cynthia Spitler is new to the department of Human Services, teaching gerontology. Dr. Colleen Fitzgerald is a new faculty member in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Clockwise: Chaudhry, Falconer-Tucker, Fitzgerald, Spitler

**DISTINGUISHED THESIS AWARD PRESENTED TO CDIS STUDENT**

Brittany Frazer, a graduate student in the communication sciences and disorders program, has earned the 2014 Distinguished Thesis Award which is presented by the BGSU Graduate College. The award includes a $500 honorarium and recognition for Frazer and her faculty mentor, Dr. Ronald Scherer.

**FACULTY KUDOS**

**Faculty named 2014 ASHA Fellows**

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Lynne Hewitt, current chair and faculty member in the Department of Communication Science and Disorders (CDIS) at BGSU, and Dr. Larry Small, previous chair and faculty member in the CDIS Department from 1984-2008. Both Hewitt and Small were named 2014 recipients of the Fellowship of the Association, one of the highest honors bestowed by the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA).

Hewitt was recognized for administration, research, and service to ASHA, for which she has performed many roles. Small was recognized for his distinguished contributions to teaching, administration, and national service; he has served as president of the Council on Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

They will share this honor with 37 other colleagues across the country who are 2014 recipients, and join the ranks of earlier recipients with BGSU ties: Dr. Linda Petrosino, Dean Emeritus; Dr. Clyde Willis Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus; Dr. John Folkins, professor and former provost/VPAA; and Dr. Ronald Scherer, current Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of CDIS. To have six Fellows selected from BGSU’s Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders is a testament to the strength and value of this exceptional program.

For more information visit: [http://www.asha.org/About/awards/Fellowship-of-the-Association/](http://www.asha.org/About/awards/Fellowship-of-the-Association/)

Dr. Melissa Burek, associate professor, criminal justice, and graduate coordinator, has been appointed to the Facility Governing Board of NorthWest, a Community Corrections Center. She is the first and only woman to serve on the board and the first female chair.

Dr. Virginia Dubasik, assistant professor, communication sciences and disorders, is the 2014 recipient of the Clyde Willis Faculty Recognition Award. Her research spans several areas and focuses on typical and atypical speech and language acquisition in monolingual and dual language learning children. The award is given each year by Dr. Clyde Willis, former Health and Human Services Dean.

Dr. Adam Watkins, criminal justice, and Dr. Carolyn Tomsett of the psychology department are evaluating a juvenile reentry program in Lucas County as part of a Second Chance Act federal grant. They were subcontracted for the U.S. Department of Justice grant that was awarded to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) in Toledo. CJCC was awarded $748,303 with an “in-kind” match of the same amount, bringing the total to almost $1.5 million. BGSU’s share is almost $50,000 per year over the two years, with the University providing an in-kind match of roughly the same amount. The program aims to reduce recidivism and improve family support for high-risk youth between the ages of 13 and 17 years who are housed in the Lucas County Youth Treatment Center.

Two faculty member retired earlier this year. Dr. Hans Schmalzried, who was a faculty member in public health, and chair of the Department of Allied and Public Health, retired in June. Dr. Judy Adams, associate professor, medical laboratory science, also retired in May after more than 30 years of service.

**ON YOUR CALENDAR**

**Public Health Symposium**
April 9, 2015
Keynote speaker: Chicago Health Commissioner Dr. Bechara Choucair

**Ohio Association of Gerontology and Education**
April 24, 2015
Hosted by BGSU College of Health and Human Services
COLLEGE ADVISORS ACTIVE AT PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

Advising is an important part of ensuring students in the College are progressing through their programs. The College is fortunate to have a staff that is dedicated to helping students by challenging and supporting them to become independent and engaged in their education.

This fall Chris Venable, graduate advisor who works with pre-nursing, criminal justice forensic specialization and medical laboratory science students, was selected to receive a Graduate Student Annual Conference Scholarship from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). The scholarship is presented to selected NACADA student members who are pursuing graduate education with an interest in an academic advising career.

Deborah Hendricks, an academic advisor who works with health science specialization students, received a grant to attend a conference in San Francisco where she was one of the program presenters, and Amy Ferree, who is an advisor of pre-nursing, pre-social work, gerontology, and health care administration students, presented at the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) conference last spring.

OREL CO-EDITS BOOK ON IMPROVING SERVICES FOR LGBT OLDER ADULTS

Dr. Nancy Orel, a Bowling Green State University gerontology professor and associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, is on a mission to improve services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) older adults. Through the book “The Lives of LGBT Older Adults: Understanding Challenges and Resiliencies,” which she co-edited with gerontology colleague Dr. Christine Fruhauf of Colorado State University, Orel is trying to combat the “isms” that have plagued many LGBT older adults. “In addition to ageism, LGBT older adults have had to deal with heterosexism. Additionally, many LGBT older adults have also had to confront racism, sexism and other ‘isms,’” Orel explained. Her research has found that LGBT older adults have faced numerous challenges due to the prevailing heterosexist and ageist attitudes within the culture. These “two isms represent ‘double jeopardy’ and it takes a toll on an individual’s quality of life,” she said.

The intended purpose of the book is to make visible to professionals who work with older adult populations the needs and concerns of “this invisible minority group,” she said. Cody Swartz and Morgan Bunting, who were both BGSU gerontology students involved in the groundbreaking research, co-wrote the chapter on spirituality, which is a source of pride for Orel, their mentor.