

State of the College of Health and Human Services
Address delivered by Dean Gary S. Neiman
Jan. 19, 2007

As a dean, one of my distinct pleasures is having the opportunity to recognize the successes of our College and those who elevate it. Your work during the past year has made the recognition part easy, though it's been anything but an easy year.

According to Rosemarie Rossetti, an Ohio motivational speaker and author, "Adversity precedes growth." As a College, we faced more than our share of hurdles in 2006. An ongoing staffing shortage at Grover Center was compounded by a lean fiscal environment as the University began its transition to a new budgeting model. On top of that, we faced a disastrous flood that forced many of you out of your offices for months and destroyed research and office material.

I'm proud to say that none of the challenges held us back. Every School achieved milestones. We expanded our collaborations and extended the College's reach into the community and around the globe. Our faculty members continued to distinguish themselves in both scholarship and leadership. And best of all, we have some initiatives on the horizon that promise to provide me with a string of successes to report to you this time next year.

COMMUNITY AND GLOBAL REACH

Outreach and community service are an important part of our mission as a College of Health and Human Services. Last year we advanced our involvement in the global community as well as the local one. Consider these examples:

- Under the direction Steve Trotta and of Rich Ozmun, Ohio University Therapy Associates began providing physical therapy services to students at Hudson Health Center.
- In the Division of Campus Recreation, the overall usage rate for facilities was up 10 percent over the previous year, with Aquatic Center leading the way with a 70-percent increase.
- WellWorks hired and trained 18 CHHS students as fitness center supervisors, providing valuable experience for the students as well as healthful services to users of the facility.
- HeartWorks, which moved to a spacious new home at the Cornwell Center for Cardiovascular and Diabetes Care, provided nearly 4,000 patient treatments in its cardiac rehabilitation programs. HeartWorks also introduced new elements to the program last year that included yoga sessions and support groups.
- Kids on Campus completed its 11th summer program, which was expanded to include teenagers among the 325 youths who took part. The summer session plays an important role in demystifying a college campus for the undergraduates of tomorrow. And KOC's afterschool program added a sixth

school to its lineup -- Trimble Elementary in Glouster. That brings the program total to 400 academically at-risk kids who receive homework assistance and enrichment activities.

- Students in the Schools of Health Sciences and Human and Consumer Sciences took part in two Habitat for Humanities projects.
- A little farther afield, David Matthews in Human and Consumer Sciences spearheaded a collaboration with educators in China and Japan that has our students and theirs working side by side on interior-design projects, both here and overseas.
- Tony Sallar in Health Sciences traveled to Ghana to collect data on HIV/AIDS in a collaborative effort to find more effective ways to battle the epidemic on the African continent.

COLLABORATION

I'm particularly proud of the connections our faculty members have made on projects both inside the College and beyond the walls of Grover. Let me tell you about just a few:

- 13 staff and faculty members from CHHS are actively involved in the Appalachian Rural Health Institute and the Diabetes Research Institute, collaborative research organizations that benefit the region.
- Michele Morrone began serving as director of the Environmental Studies Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. In this role she serves as a bridge between that program and ours, where she continues to teach part time.
- Heather Lawrence in Recreation and Sport Sciences is working with representatives of several Ohio University departments and student organizations on an alcohol-education program funded by the NCAA.
- Two other faculty members in Rec and Sport Sciences, Roger Gilders and Jeff Seegmiller, are collaborating with OU's Department of Biological Sciences to study the effects of exercise on bone density in a project funded by the U.S. Army.
- We collaborate under our own roof as well: Margaret Manoogian in Human and Consumer Sciences continues to work with Sharon Denham in Nursing to apply a family lens to the understanding and treatment of Type-2 diabetes.
- The Center for Sports Administration, under Jim Kahler's leadership, is collaborating with a key trade organization on a study on the occupancy of stadium luxury suites. In its inaugural year, the Center has also lined up major corporate partners such as Game Plan Technologies and Turnkey Sports. Such partnerships have secured funding for 10 graduate assistantships in the Sports Administration and Facilities Management program and increased the program's annual fund by 300 percent.
- In a different form of collaboration, I shared ideas and concerns with dozens of you during a series of "dine with dean" sessions that accomplished two of my personal goals: (1.) They allowed me to get to know newer staff and faculty members in a casual setting, and (2.) They created an open, informal

forum for use to discuss as curriculum, staffing, budgeting and any other challenges we are facing.

ACADEMIC SUCCESSES

A college's academic programs are its reason for being. And academic excellence, in large part, defines a college's success. Health and Human Services had a remarkable year in this arena in 2006. Here are some of the milestones we reaching in our programs:

- Enrollment is booming! Including students from the School of Nursing, our FTE enrollment is now about 3,000, a growth of about 25% since 1999. Along with this enrollment increase is some sobering news. Sadly, staffing has not kept pace! In fact, we are still considerably understaffed relative to what should be a fair faculty to student ratio. We really need 25 or so new positions to begin to catch up. I am expecting that we can gain about 12 to 15 new positions over the next 3-5 years, an accomplishment that will be feasible with budget realignment through our new responsibility centered management budget model.
- Health Sciences graduated its first master's in public health, Chris Kolbash, who also was named Outstanding MPH Student in our region.
- Over the last two years, the School of Nursing doubled its enrollment in the RN-to-BSN program, from about 100 to 200. In that same span, it tripled enrollment in its master's program, from 12 to 36, and graduated its first four in June.
 - Two more undergraduates completed the Human and Consumer Sciences Honors Program last year, bringing to 9 the number who have gone through since the program was initiated in 2003. Students in the program continue to receive strong support from the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fund.
- The School of Physical Therapy graduated its first DPT class in June, and the Class of 2006 so far has a 100-percent pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam.
- In Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, graduates of the master's program in speech-language pathology and the Ph.D. in audiology have 100-percent pass rates on their PRAXIS exams.
- Recreation and Sport Sciences, under the leadership of Heather Lawrence, launched the College's second Residential Learning Community, this one aimed at pre-sport management majors. These foundational programs help us retain first-year students by enhancing their relationship with the University and their classmates. I believe the RLC program is so important that I taught a class myself during fall quarter.
- Speaking of retention, eight students participated in the fall retention program hosted by Orlando Jennings, our coordinator of recruitment and retention. All eight of these "second chance" students returned for classes in winter quarter.
- And admissions of multicultural undergraduate students are up by a third over this date last year, thanks in large part to Orlando's efforts.

- Providing strong support for our students' academic success has been the Office of Student Services, which coordinated the welcome for and advisement of more than 400 first-year and transfer students during Precollege orientation programs last year. Many of our faculty and staff contribute devote important time to these programs, and we are indebted.

GROVER CENTER AND THE FLOOD

Amid all the positives of last year, of course, we had the flood. I won't dwell on it here, since I'm sure we'd all like to put it behind us by now. But there was a small silver lining.

- As a result of the flood damage, 40 percent of Grover underwent a restoration that resulted in new carpet, fixtures, furniture and paint. But I'm sure that, given the choice, we'd have all picked a different home-renovation scenario.
- In addition to these "forced" improvements, we also renovated a number of spaces to better suit the needs of our expanding programs. Here's a short list:
 - E118 was converted from a classroom to office space for the Center for Sports Administration.
 - W133 was converted from a conference room to office space for retired faculty, freeing up school office space for anticipated new faculty hires.
 - W141 is in the process of being converted from a classroom to a research suite for Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences and two research suites for qualitative researchers.
 - Three classrooms, W211, 213 and 215, are in the process of being converted to an interdisciplinary research suite for food sciences, exercise physiology, athletic training and physical therapy.
- Beyond the changes to our physical space, we also received 70 new computers, replaced 16 copiers and printers, and installed Smartboards and PCs in every Grover conference room.

FACULTY & STAFF SUCCESSES

As always, our staff and faculty members distinguished themselves through their scholarship, creativity and dedication to students. Here are just a few of the achievements that stood out:

- David Holben in Human and Consumer Sciences and Chao-Yang Lee in Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences were honored as University Professors. David also was selected as the College's first-ever Fulbright scholar.
- Jenny Chabot in Human and Consumer Sciences was presented with a Presidential Teacher Award.
- Jim Montgomery was named Alumnus of the Year at the University of Wichita Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders.

- Teresa Tedrow in the Center for Sports Administration was named Employee of the Month in August by OU's Classified Senate.
- And faculty members in the School of Human and Consumer Sciences, despite hefty class sizes and course loads, found time during the past three years to give 134 national presentations, edit two national journals, and publish 76 peer-reviewed articles, 3 books and 12 book chapters. That's a lot of scholarship.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Considering the inspiring example of their instructors, it's not surprising that our students distinguished themselves, as well. I want to give you a few highlights of what these talented young men and women accomplished under your guidance:

- Two Human and Consumer Sciences students received national recognition from the American Dietetic Association: Diane Cuson earned a scholarship from the organization and Mary Kropf received a research award.
- Steven Knight, an undergraduate in the Health Services Administration program, won a national essay competition.
- Several students in Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences earned national recognition:
 - Alyssa Malchi received a Fulbright Award.
 - Sabine Heuer earned a fellowship sponsored by the National Institutes of Health.
 - Beula Magimairaj received a student leadership award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and Anshula Odekar, received a pair of awards from ASHA.
- Students in HSLS also launched the OHIO American Sign-Language Club, and the School's Undergraduate Research Club was recognized as a national model for other university programs.
- The Physical Therapy Class of 2006 planned and hosted a career fair, then donated the \$2,000 in proceeds to help a fellow student who had been affected by Hurricane Katrina.
- A group of students in Recreation and Sport Sciences designed a Web-based diagnostic tool for spinal cord injuries that won the recognition of the National Athletic Trainers Association.

ALUMS HONORED

Beyond our current staff, faculty and students, several members of the College's extended family received honors from Ohio University last year.

- Sadanand Singh, former faculty member in Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, received an honorary Doctor of Laws.
- And three graduates of our programs received distinguished-alumni awards: They were Linda Saul, an HSLS grad, and William Keenest and Criss Somerlot, both from Recreation and Sport Sciences.

GIFTS, GRANTS & RESEARCH

Another area in which we excelled last year was external funding, which will become more and more important as we usher in Vision Ohio, with its goal-oriented budgeting process.

- Donations and commitments to the College totaled more than \$1.6 million in fiscal year 2006 – that's double the previous year's total. The largest commitment was a planned gift of more than \$1 million from Chuck and Judy Beck of Brentwood, Calif.
- Our two-year total for external revenues in 2005 and 2006 exceed every other two-year period in College's history. We secured more than \$6 million during that span.
- Six CHHS faculty members are involved in research projects that received grants from the University's 1804 Fund.
- We submitted two major proposals to the Graduate Education Research Board, as well as a handful of smaller ones.
- To bolster our efforts in securing grants, we hired grant coordinator/writer Keely Trisel-Stockwell and statistical consultant Alex Sergeev, and we also invested in workshops and consultants to broaden your knowledge in this arena.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

With all these marvelous achievements to our credit, it would have been a shame if news of them had stayed inside Grover Center. Word definitely got out.

- A comprehensive communications strategy was put in place for informing staff, faculty, alumni, students and the community about what's happening in the College. This strategy includes twice-yearly publication of ATRIUM magazine – circulation 16,000 – as well as monthly online newsletters and weekly emails that keep us plugged in to College events and people.
- In addition to the publications, 21 press releases were sent to various media outlets last year.
- A process was developed to showcase CHHS programs on the Atrium monitor, and three slideshows have been created thus far.
- The magazine *Healthcare Traveler* profiled our School of Nursing in its November issue.
- The *Sports Business Journal* published a 16-page advertising insert profiling the Sports Administration and Facilities Management program. And the *New York Times* and *Wall Street Journal* recognized the program as one of the nation's top five of its kind.

ON THE HORIZON

As you can see, we've accomplished a lot. But there's even more on the horizon. Here's a preview of what's ahead:

- Health Sciences plans to launch a graduate certificate in African Community Health, and collaborate with regional campuses on administering a master's in health administration, as well as its

undergraduate programs in Health Services Administration, Long Term Care Administration and Community Health.

- Nursing is seeking approval for a generic baccalaureate program with a major in nursing on the Athens campus. The targeted launch date is fall 2008.
- WellWorks is developing a health and wellness plan for all Ohio University employees and their families.
- The School and College Web sites will undergo a much-needed redesign.
- Human and Consumer Sciences hopes to develop a child-life certificate within the Family Studies program.
- We'll hire a full-time associate dean for research and graduate studies.
- And we'll transition back to a dependable online course-evaluation system.

On a final note, please accept my sincere gratitude for your exemplary work, whether it takes a turn in the spotlight or not. You continue to give me plenty of reasons to sing your praises. Thank you all.

Gary S. Neiman, Ph.D.
Dean