

## CHHS State of the College address

Jan. 18, 2008

### **A YEAR OF EXPANDING OUR REACH**

Welcome, everyone. This afternoon I get to share with you one of the most fulfilling parts of my job:

Recognizing the successes over the past year of our College and those within it.

And telling you about the exciting initiatives ahead for this year.

We accomplished much during 2007. Early last year, we finished our Vision, Mission, Goals Statement to correspond with Vision Ohio. This statement culminated in a delineation of our academic quality indicators – those measures on which we will determine our progress in meeting our commitment to increasing quality and distinctiveness. Not only am I proud of the broad base of faculty and staff at the unit level providing input into this process, I am delighted to report that we are making very tangible progress in distinguishing our College and Ohio University. Next year at this time, we intend to present a quantitative snapshot of our progress in meeting these operationalized goals. The 2008 year will be one of careful self-analysis and recalibration for CHHS.

Of critical importance is our ability to increase staffing for our students. Importantly, we have picked up 9 new faculty positions over the past two years. More are to come, as the University recognizes the staffing imbalances with which we cope daily in CHHS. With these and future increases in staffing, our teaching and advising loads will become more manageable, and our research productivity and professional involvement will increase. We will need to address the support needs that go along with increases in faculty staffing.

Other academic quality indicators pertain to our research and creative activity production; incoming student profile; accomplishments of faculty, students and alumni; program accreditations; support for honors programs;

program rankings; and interdisciplinary programs. These are among the key variables on which we will hang our hats in terms of quality. Some of these will be measured by data produced by the University; other data will be derived from online maintenance of the faculty/staff database that we purchased from Digital Measures last year and hope to unveil to you soon. Now let me turn to a description of some of our salient accomplishments over the past year, really a year of transformation for the College. We as a College greatly expanded our reach. We did this not only by providing much-needed services in our local and global communities, but through influencing policy in our respective disciplines through board and committee memberships. And we expanded our footprint abroad by cultivating educational programs and sponsoring study-abroad trips to Asia, Europe and the Caribbean.

Consider these examples:

**Sharon Denham** and **Darlene Berryman**, through their leadership roles with the Appalachian Rural Health Institute and the Diabetes Research Initiative, respectively, made strides in helping those organizations fulfill their goals of fostering interprofessional research, community outreach, education and scholarly activities. These organizations also provide opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration, an important goal in both our College's mission and vision statement and in Vision Ohio.

Ohio University Therapy Associates increased its client base in its hearing-speech-language clinic in Grover Center last year by nearly 30 percent over the year before. And during the summer, clinical supervisor **Pam Reese** spearheaded a six-week class for preschoolers with autism spectrum disorders, whose needs are greatly underserved in southeastern Ohio. OUTA's Physical Therapy Clinic, meanwhile, under the guidance of **Steve Trotta**, had a banner year as well, recording an average of more than 700 client visits per month at its Castrop Center location alone, including 64 pediatric visits. Through its growth and success, the clinic fulfills another key goal of our mission/vision statement by extending the College's boundaries into our community and providing for the public good.

Clinic coordinator **Davy Parsons** had quite an impact all by herself. She was a central player in the organization Interprofessional Partners for Appalachian Children, or IPAC. This is a network of professionals,

consumers and community agencies working to improve the physical and mental health of children and families in southeast Ohio. This coalition was recognized as the 2007 Distinguished Rural Health Network for the state of Ohio. Davy also chaired the Ohio Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, providing leadership in innovative legislation to enhance the role of students in clinical services in the state.

**Tootie Overby** ably represented our College and University with her memberships on the Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education, as well as the Ohio Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Athletic Trainer's Board.

A little closer to home, WellWorks helped members of our campus community improve their own well-being by launching the Healthy Ohio program, which is providing OU employees with information on their health status while helping to shape future health programs to meet their needs. Another WellWorks initiative, the Risk Reduction Program, helped participants enhance their quality of life by addressing conditions such as coronary artery disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and obesity. Under **Kim Valentour's** leadership, WellWorks also does a phenomenal job of providing experiential-learning opportunities for students – nearly all of its 82 student employees are working within their academic disciplines. WellWorks, along with the Division of Campus Recreation, fulfills yet another vital goal in the CHHS mission statement by providing such relevant employment, professional experience, and leadership opportunities for our students.

Elsewhere in the area of fitness, the physical education faculty in the School of Recreation and Sport Sciences hosted a conference with the Ohio State Department of Health to promote physical education standards in Ohio schools.

Another program that had a significant impact on schools, at least those in our community, was Kids on Campus. Its afterschool programs provided tutoring and healthy snacks to more than 400 academically at-risk children in the Athens area, and four out of five kids who participated showed improvement in reading skills. During the KOC summer program, **Leslie Moss** and her hard-working staff provided more than 300 youngsters and young adults with six weeks of diverse learning experiences that helped them imagine a future for themselves on a college campus. I think you'd all agree with me on the power of that particular dream.

The Child Development Center last year nurtured 100 youngsters from age 6 weeks to 5 years while providing educational opportunities for 500 OU students majoring in early childhood education and child development. This took place under the leadership of **Cathy Waller** and **Terry Swank**, who were recognized for their service in the GroundWork Ohio Initiative, a statewide effort to increase Ohio's commitment to early care and education.

The College nurtured its share of young adults, as well. The Division of Campus Recreation, under **Doug Franklin's** leadership, served as a model in reaching another key target in our College's mission/vision statement: providing high-quality recreation and leisure opportunities for OHIO students. Doug and his staff focused on learning outcomes last year, even holding a staff retreat to sharpen understanding of the division's mission and core values; the division's Bird Arena hosted the Central States Collegiate Hockey League Championship Tournament, generating \$12,000; Campus Rec also administrated more than 1227 intramural teams throughout the year – that's a lot of engaged students.

But we didn't just engage students in our own back yard – we opened up a global classroom to them. **Tim Ryan** spearheaded a study-abroad experience called "Global Public Health: London" that spirited 10 students to the British capital to delve into environmental and health issues as they evolved through history; **David Matthews** teamed up with a colleague in the Scripps College of Communication to lead a trip to China and Japan in which 22 OU students collaborated with their Asian counterparts on various design projects; **Ming Li** took eight sports management undergrads to a number of important Chinese cities, including Beijing to observe the city's preparations for the 2008 Summer Olympics; and **Charlotte Souers** from OU's Chillicothe campus took a group of nursing students to the Caribbean shores of the Dominican Republic to provide a traveling clinic to remote villages. These trips and others planned for the coming year fulfill a key goal of Vision Ohio in extending learning experiences beyond the classroom.

### **ACADEMIC SUCCESSES**

While we were busy extending our academic mission abroad, the programs inside Grover Center continued to blossom. Our enrollments grew, topping more than 3,300 for fall quarter and continuing a steady increase over the past few years that reflects the nationwide demand for

and popularity of careers in health-related disciplines. Enrollment in our majors has grown by about one-third in the 8 ½ years I've been your dean.

Here are just a few of the milestones our programs recorded over the past year:

The College continued its campus leadership in promoting Residential Learning Communities by adding more choices for incoming CHHS students. These learning communities are a critical tool in increasing freshman retention rates, and adding more of them last year fulfilled one of the College's important mission/vision goals. During fall quarter, we had sections in pre-exercise physiology, pre-interior architecture/pre-retail merchandising, pre-sport management, pre-early childhood education, and our original "Food for Thought" learning community. These courses were filled to capacity with about 100 students, and I hope we can roll out even more this coming fall.

The School of Nursing, under **Kathy Rose-Grippa's** leadership, enrolled 318 students in its RN-to-BSN program in fall 2007, and 20 more in its MSN program. The School also graduated the first group of 12 from its Family Nurse Practitioner program in November. Its associate-degree program received an eight-year accreditation, and its master's program received initial accreditation for three years. Work is also progressing toward the launch of a traditional baccalaureate nursing program on the Athens campus, and we expect that to bring 100 new freshmen to OHIO each year – students who otherwise would not enroll here.

Enrollment has been strong for **Ann Paulins** and her staff in the School of Human and Consumer Sciences. Enrollment has doubled in family and consumer sciences, and enrollment in restaurant, hotel and tourism rose by nearly a third. The school's honors program, ably led by **Margaret Manoogian**, continued to blossom in its fourth year, with students presenting their scholarly work nationally. Our College's mission and vision statement calls for cultivating more of these honors programs, and it's my hope that we'll see more in the future.

The School of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, under **Brooke Hallowell's** steady hand, admitted 28 students in its speech-language pathology master's program, the largest cohort ever. This large class is made possible through our program's key involvement with a state initiative, OMNIE, to increase the number of qualified personnel for the public schools of Ohio. The School's Respite Volunteer Program, while providing welcome relief for local caregivers, provided valuable experiential

and service-learning opportunities for students – another important goal in our mission statement.

Kudos to Director **Tootie Overby** and the faculty in the School of Physical Therapy. In a measure of the quality of its students, the School recorded a first-time pass rate on the nationwide licensing exam of 95 percent. In addition to their excellent teaching, faculty members also had a combined 23 peer-reviewed papers accepted or published, and gave 10 presentations for national organizations in their field.

The School of Health Sciences, with **Matthew Adeyanju** at the helm, launched a graduate certificate program in African community health services that's believed to be the first of its kind in the country. The creation of this program, as well as the new child-life certificate in Human and Consumer Sciences, aligns well with our College's stated goal of continually introducing new curricular emphases. Enrollment in the Health Sciences, meanwhile, has increased 64 percent in the past five years, with the help of a dedicated group of faculty recruiters that includes **Tim Ryan, Tania Basta, Lisa Yehl, and Michelle Morrone**. In a measure of the School's diversity, 75 percent of the students pursuing a master's in public health are from under-represented groups.

## **STAFFING AND RESOURCES**

Robust enrollment can be a blessing and a curse when you don't have enough faculty lines to accommodate all those "eager to learn" faces in the classroom, in the hallways outside faculty offices and in the overflowing lab spaces. I'm pleased that we were able to add 9 additional faculty members in a period of lean resources across the University. This is a recognition, I think, of how stretched we are in our teaching loads. I will continue to push for more staffing and resources to match the level of our workloads and the revenues we bring in.

One of the important goals in our mission/vision statement is augmenting the existing infrastructure to align it with the needs of the College in its pursuit of national prominence. We made strides toward this goal last year by converting several classrooms into two additional lab areas. Classrooms on the second floor became an interdisciplinary lab to be used by faculty in Human and Consumer Sciences, Recreation and Sport Sciences and Physical Therapy. A first-floor classroom was

transformed into an auditory electrophysiology lab and shared research space.

On the technology front, **Gerard Akindes** and his crew deployed 70 new computers, several research applications and 19 copier/printers throughout the building.

We provided plenty of support to our students as well, and I'm extremely proud of the abundant resources we provide through the efforts of **Becky Zuspan** and her busy staff in the Office of Student Services. As a College, I think we're second to none in this regard. Student Services, with the help of faculty members, welcomed and advised more than 400 first-year and transfer students during the precollege orientation programs. These students were counseled on everything from the importance of active involvement in academic and campus life programs, to the value of regular contact with faculty advisers, to the mechanics of handling their OAK e-mail accounts. And in keeping with our goal of recruiting and maintaining a diverse body of students, we welcomed **Cecil Walters** last fall as our newest coordinator for recruitment and retention.

### **FACULTY & STAFF SUCCESSES**

As always, our staff and faculty distinguished themselves through their scholarship, creativity and dedication to students. I wish I had time to list all your achievements, but here are some highlights:

**Ming Li** became president-elect of the North American Society for Sport Management.

Three faculty members in Human and Consumer Sciences completed faculty fellowships: **Jenny Chabot** completed a child-life internship at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia; **Gene Geist** finished a book on teaching children mathematics; and **David Holben** served as a Canada-U.S. Fulbright Scholar at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. David also received our College's Faculty Research and Creative Activity Award.

**Brooke Hallowell** was awarded the 2007 Special Distinguished Service Award from the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

**Chao-Yang Lee** served as a University Professor.

**Heather Lawrence** was chosen to be a University Professor.

**Sally Marinellie** received the College's Exemplary Teacher Award.

**Michele Morrone** published chapters in two textbooks, was an invited speaker and chapter author at the NATO Peace Conference and was nominated for University Professor.

**Doug Franklin** received his doctorate in higher education from Ohio University and presented the results of his dissertation at the annual conference of the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association. He also wrote chapters on theory and practice for a book on campus recreation that will be published this month.

With all this outstanding work to your credit, we in the Dean's Office worked just as hard to publicize your achievements inside Grover and beyond. **Jody Grenert** and his student writers produced six issues of the College's online newsletter, *Skylights*, and distributed dozens of press releases on your exploits. We also purchased an online newsletter template – based on *Skylights* – that will enable schools, programs and departments to tailor their own communiqués to students, faculty, staff, even alumni. The Office of Student Services and Center for Sports Administration have already distributed newsletters using the system, and I hope other programs will take advantage of this cost-effective and labor-saving method for getting their message out. In the print publication arena, our alumni magazine, *ATRIUM*, won a national design award for an informational graphic on cochlear implants. The success of all these communication tools fulfills another of our key mission/vision goals by increasing our effectiveness in promoting the accomplishments of our programs, students, faculty and alumni.

## **STUDENT AND ALUMNI SUCCESSES**

It takes quality instructors to develop high-performing students, and once again our College had more than its share of distinguished student scholars last year. I want to give you a few highlights of what these talented young men and women accomplished under your guidance:

The Student Advisory Council, a College-wide group that promotes interaction between students and faculty, had a very productive year. These students served as OU ambassadors for prospective students; they planned the May Mingle mixer to get faculty and students together; they managed the process for selecting the recipient of last year's Outstanding Teaching Award, **Sam Scott**; they coordinated an American Red Cross

Blood Drive; and they helped feed 125 people a spaghetti dinner at the local Good Works shelter.

**David Dominguese**, an athletic training doctoral student, received a scholarship from the National Athletic Trainers Association.

Interior architecture student **Natalie Dibenedetto** received an Award of Distinction from software maker Form Z for one of her animation projects. Even more impressive is that her work, which she completed as a sophomore, was judged against that of mainly seniors and grad students from around the world.

Fifteen of our 17 dietetics students were placed into internships in 2007, and the three who applied for graduate-degree programs all were accepted.

**Maria Ivanova**, a doctoral student in speech and language science, won the 2007 International Student Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Foundation.

Considering the high quality of our students, it's only natural that we have nationally prominent alumni, as well. One of our mission/vision metrics in measuring the success of our alumni is noting the number who fill senior positions in their respective professions. I can think of no more striking examples of this success than the alumni of our Sports Administration and Facilities Management program. **Pat O'Conner**, a 1981 alumnus, in December became president of Minor League Baseball, the governing body for Major League Baseball's farm teams. **Andy Dolich**, a 1971 alumnus and our most recent Grover Lecture speaker, was named chief operating officer of the San Francisco 49ers operation in December – after leaving a similar position with the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies. **Derrick Hall**, a 1993 alumnus, served his first year as president of Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks.

## **GIFTS, GRANTS & RESEARCH**

Among our most important mission/vision goals – perhaps the most important – is increasing our efforts in the areas of grant writing and the cultivation of philanthropic and training-grant sources. We've made major investments in this area, and last year they began paying dividends.

Our grants and contracts totaled more than \$2.7 million in fiscal year 2006, which is \$1 million more than our level of five years ago. The number of proposals we're submitting has also climbed steadily over the past five years. We sent in 53 proposals during the last fiscal year versus 19 in 2001. We submitted nine proposals as part of a CHHS training grant initiative supported by the provost. Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences submitted a bumper crop of proposals: five to the National Institutes of Health, two to the National Science Foundation, one to the Department of Education and seven to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

We had success in securing awards from the Future Growth and Program Enhancement Funds, which will increase our funding of Ph.D. students in the School of Hearing, Speech and Language Sciences, and to establish a 12-month orthopedic residency for physical therapy students

I'm confident we'll continue these gains with the help of our new associate dean for research and graduate studies, **Jennifer Horner**, and through the diligent efforts of grants coordinator and writer **Keely Trisel-Stockwell**. And I'd like to thank **Brooke Hallowell** for her tireless efforts over the past few years in strengthening our position in this highly competitive arena. I'm also pleased we were able to hire Development Director **Joe Foley** during the summer to help us generate philanthropic funding sources.

I can't leave the topic of grants without mentioning the remarkable fund-raising success of Kids on Campus last year. The program secured more than \$2 million in state and federal grants over the next five years. This money will enable KOC, which is grant-funded, to expand its afterschool programming to a seventh school, The Plains Elementary, and to purchase technology to help teachers and KOC coordinators track and improve student academic performance.

KOC was also a key beneficiary of the more than \$800,000 in gifts that the College received last year, the largest in the form of a \$90,000 donation from the JP Morgan Chase Foundation to KOC's summer program. Other gifts last year supported scholarships and programs in nursing, sports administration, ice hockey and other areas.

On a sad note, last year we mourned the passing of a longtime member of the CHHS family, **Po Hickenbottom**, who devoted her career to helping children in southeast Ohio with developmental disabilities. But Po's

legacy will endure in the form of a memorial scholarship in physical therapy that will bear her name.

## **ON THE HORIZON**

As you can see, you and your colleagues accomplished a lot last year. Your efforts distinguished CHHS as one of the most collaborative, innovative and performance-driven units on this campus. And there are bright initiatives on our horizon. Here's a brief preview of what to expect:

The School of Health Sciences is developing an online master's degree in health administration for working professionals that it hopes to launch in fall 2008. Faculty also voted to change the School's name to the School of Public Health Sciences and Professions, which they think will better reflect trends in their disciplines. The proposed change will be reviewed through the University approval channels before it's adopted.

We're retooling our College and School Web sites to better showcase our programs and people to the world. We expect to launch the new sites by the end of winter quarter, and I'd like to commend the 13-member CHHS Web Advisory Group for its hard work on this huge undertaking. Its membership has provided every school a voice in deciding what our Web presence will look like for years to come.

We'll also be unveiling our Web-based faculty-activity database soon to help you track your publications, grants, awards and other career milestones. This tool will enable you to compile this information into the form of a vitae or performance report at the touch of a button, and it will help directors more easily compile data for program reviews. The system will also provide us with a powerful tool for publicizing our institution's achievements on the new Web sites and in printed publications, and for integrating with other campus databases to share information.

Before I open the floor to questions, I'd like to conclude by asking you to accept my sincerest gratitude for all the good and great work you do, whether it makes it into the spotlight or not. The people in this room and your colleagues elsewhere in the building are the true pillars of our college's success.

Thank you all.