Message from the Dean

Time is flying by. In just two weeks, we will graduate over 230 undergraduate students and 150 graduate students. Our CEHS graduates leave Wright State well-prepared to tackle the world. They’ve collaborated with professors on research projects presented at international conferences, they’ve studied with award-winning professors, and they’ve excelled at community involvement. One only need look at the alumni notes on page 10 to see how far our students can go after they leave our Wright State home.

Spring also brings other exciting happenings in our college—in late April, partnership district teachers and administrators will join Wright State student teachers, faculty, and staff at the Second Annual WSUNER (Wright State University Network for Educational Renewal) conference. This conference celebrates the exchange of ideas between our faculty, our students, and our partners.

The spirit of collaboration is strong throughout our college. Each department and office continues to embrace the idea that working together with our community partners will result in strong research, opportunities for our students, and reinvigoration for the community. As you read through the newsletter, you’ll see many examples of this commitment.

Also to be celebrated are our Dean’s Student Advisory Council representatives. The group has expanded in size over the past year, and also in scope—the students have planned and hosted a number of events for incoming and current students and have acted as ambassadors at other college gatherings. Check out pages two and three for more information about their hard work this year.

We invite you to find out more about CEHS by visiting our Facebook page www.facebook.com/WSUCEHS and following us on Twitter @cehs_wsu. We’ll also be rolling out a fresh design on our website later this spring. Check out www.wright.edu/cehs over the next few months and prepare to be dazzled by the updates.

Thank you for reading our newsletter. We are glad you are a friend of CEHS.

--Charlotte M. Harris, Ed.D.

Please submit ideas for future newsletter articles to melissa.rubins@wright.edu.
What’s the Scoop with CEHS?

The CEHS Dean’s Student Advisory Council (DSAC) hosted an ice cream social in January, bringing together faculty, staff, and advisors to meet with current, incoming, and interested students. The event was an opportunity for students to ask questions, get to know program faculty, and meet other CEHS students in a fun and casual environment. The event was very well-attended—every bit of ice cream was eaten, even though it was one of the coldest weeks of the year. Students and faculty alike enjoyed mingling and finding out more about what’s happening in CEHS. DSAC students plan to host the event again, as they continue to help students connect to the college.

CEHS Organization Fair

DSAC planned and hosted an event to showcase the many student organizations in CEHS on March 27th in the ERC. Students were able to visit with organization members and advisors and ask questions about getting involved in student groups specifically geared to majors/minors, as well as with college-wide groups like DSAC.

Campus Scholarship and Innovation Campaign (CSIC) runs through May 2

It’s giving season again at Wright State. Every spring the university community comes together to raise funds for Wright State scholarships and programs. This homegrown fundraiser allows Wright Staters to give back to the university and support both students and innovative initiatives. This year’s theme is “Destination: Wright State,” and great travel-inspired events and activities are happening around campus. The College of Education and Human Services has historically been very generous, with a very high percentage of giving throughout all of the departments and offices. During the 2013 CSIC campaign, CEHS had a 72% participation rate, raising almost $26,000 for the college. CEHS was recognized for this impressive participation rate by the Office of Annual Giving. This year, CEHS will try to top both the participation rate and dollar amount raised—excitement is building as the university kicks off the two-month-long campaign. Faculty and staff can designate that their donation go to one (or more) of the many CEHS scholarships and program funds. Those who donate to CEHS funds are recognized in the CEHS annual report and with consecutive-year-giving awards. CEHS funds are listed on the CSIC website.

To find out more, check out our CEHS scholarships and programs, and of course, to donate to CSIC, visit the website at: http://www.wright.edu/campus-scholarship-and-innovation-campaign

You can also call Melissa Rubins, CEHS unit chair for the campaign, at 937-775-2822 with questions.
CEHS Night at the Men’s Basketball Game

On February 5th, CEHS students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends attended the Wright State men’s basketball to mingle, network, and celebrate CEHS. Attendees visited the Nutter Center Party Deck and enjoyed snacks and some great CEHS giveaway items.
African American Teachers Association Celebrates Black History

In late February, the African American Teachers Association (AATA) held its 1st Annual Black History Celebration to honor the uniqueness of black culture. The event was entertaining and fun, featuring singing, dancing, poetry, oral history, a slide show of a recent trip to Africa, essays, and discussion. AATA vice-president Michel’le Curington reports that the group is planning to hold this celebration as an annual event. The celebration was free and open to the public.

Transfer Student advising

Autumn Coleman visits Sinclair Community College four times per month to advise and recruit prospective transfer students. During these visits, Autumn also evaluates transcripts. This transfer advising/recruiting initiative was spearheaded by Dr. Thomas Sudkamp. In addition, she works collaboratively with the new Transfer Student Resource Center, acting as a source of referral for Sinclair students interested in other colleges on campus.

Student Services update

The 2013-2014 academic year has been a busy one for the Student Services Office.

Effective July 2013, Student Services changed their advising delivery model from a fully walk-in model to one offering advising appointments Tuesday through Friday, with walk-in meetings available for current CEHS students on Mondays. Overall, the transition has been smooth and, although they are seeing fewer students during a year’s time, advising sessions have had greater focus, and our satisfaction levels have remained high. A report detailing production statistics (advising sessions, admissions processing, academic audits, transcript evaluations, etc.) is available in the Office of Student Services.

Student Services staff have begun scanning the undergraduate student files into WebExtender and will no longer be creating paper files as students enroll in the college. This is similar to the process we now follow for graduate students. We anticipate this change will allow for a significant cost savings, as well as assist in the sustainability efforts in the college.

Effective January 1, 2014, the Ohio Department of Education moved the licensure application process for teaching, administration, and pupil services licenses and endorsements from a paper format to an online format. As of early March, the Office of Student Services had processed 100 online licensure applications using the new system. Advisors have been providing feedback to ODE to assist in the improvement of the online application process.

New OL Minor

The Leadership Studies Department (LDR) will offer a new Organizational Leadership Minor starting in Fall 2014. The minor is designed for students desiring a broad academic background in preparation for supervisory and management careers in private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Contact Julia Acosta for more info: julia.acosta@wright.edu.

ERC news

On March 11th, 10th graders from the Dayton Regional STEM School had a silent art auction and reception in the ERC. Proceeds from the auction will go to UNESCO. As a part of their integrated Language Arts/World History studies on modern genocides, the students created an original silkscreen poster about the topic. In the past, many of their posters have been displayed at the Dayton Peace Museum and at the Dayton Art Institute. Copies of their posters were on display at the ERC during the month of March.

The 5th Annual Picture Book Extravaganza! was held on Saturday, February 22, 2014, in Dunbar Library’s Group Study Room. Participants read about 150 brand new picture books, appropriate for use with boys and girls in preschool through grade 8. For more information about this and future events, contact Stephanie Bange at (937) 775-2050 or email her at stephanie.bange@wright.edu.

Participants get “hands on” at the 5th Annual Picture Book Extravaganza!
**CEHS delegates visit legislators**

During the Ohio Association of Colleges for Teacher Education’s Day on the Square on March 19th, delegates from CEHS met with southwest Ohio state legislators to discuss topics concerning educator preparation. Associate Dean Joe Keferl, Assistant Dean Tammy Kahrig, and Hybrid Educator Amy Elston, along with University of Dayton Associate Dean Katie Kinnucan-Welsch, met with state senators Peggy Lehner and Bill Beagle, and with state representatives Michael Henne and Fred Strahorn. The visits were an opportunity to get to know our state legislators, highlight Wright State’s excellent educator prep programs, and discuss the current initiatives and educational issues affecting Ohio.

**Outstanding CEHS Programs highly ranked nationally**

‘U.S. News’ ranks online ed program No. 31 in the nation

U.S. News & World Report has ranked Wright State University’s online Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction as No. 31 in the nation among online graduate education programs.

The U.S. News ranking in its Best Graduate Schools 2015 edition made Wright State’s College of Education and Human Services’ online program among the top-ranked programs in Ohio. A total of 60 institutions were ranked.

The magazine evaluated retention and graduation rates, student indebtedness at graduation, average undergraduate GPAs of new entrants, proportion of faculty members with terminal degrees, proportion of faculty members who are tenured or tenure track, and whether the program offers support services like career placement assistance and academic advising so they are accessible to students remotely.

“The Department of Leadership Studies in Education and Organizations is very proud of our national ranking and the faculty team who deliver this program: Drs. Grant Hambright, Doug Roby, Yoko Miura, and Chris Cline,” said Jill Lindsey, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Leadership Studies. “We continue to build on our longstanding regional reputation and are known for our dedicated faculty. It is very affirming to continue to be ranked nationally.”

The teacher leadership program focuses on curriculum, instruction, and professional development for educators who want to remain in the classroom or are providing training in hospitals and businesses. The focus is on developing curriculum and excellent teaching strategies and providing leadership for educational programs.

As online technology developed, the program morphed into a hybrid model, with some courses and cohorts—or groups of students—being taught both face to face and online. In 2004 some of the cohorts went fully online; today, all cohorts are online.

Wright State named a top college for Teacher Education

Wright State has been named a top college for teacher education by a national organization that has become a leader in providing educational information to libraries, high schools, and career centers across the country. The online College Database ranked Wright State No. 7 among 52 four-year Ohio college campuses for “Top Colleges in Ohio: Shaping the Next Generation.” “Many colleges and universities have tremendous teacher education programs,” said Doug Jones, founder of The College Database. “But which ones are producing the most young educators today? We wanted to identify the colleges making the largest impact on our students.”

--From the Wright State newsroom.
90 Wright-Patterson Airmen certified to teach self-defense

by Michele Eaton
88 Air Base Wing Public Affairs

WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio - Wright-Patterson Air Force Base leadership plans to make self-defense training more readily available to Airmen in the near future by providing certified instructors to the base community.

The self-defense instructor training program is part of leadership's ongoing effort to cultivate strong, empowered, and resilient Airmen.

The program launched its first 40-hour instructor training course March 10 at Wright State University. The current training will certify 90 Wright-Patterson-based active-duty Airmen in jiu-jitsu for self-defense instruction.

Col. Cassie Barlow said she is hoping to see Airmen come out of self-defense training with increased self-awareness, self-confidence, and self-determination.

"There's the physical side of it, but there's also a mental and psychological side," said Barlow, the 88th Air Base Wing commander. "This is about renewing a culture of dignity and respect. We want to reinforce this message. Self-confidence, self-determination, self-awareness - these areas are important to us."

"This will give me confidence in myself that I can share with others. It's an avenue for me to help others learn to defend themselves," said 2nd Lt. Coraviece Terry, instructor trainee.

Rener Gracie, who is a third degree black belt, said of Wright-Patterson's first group of instructor trainees, "Everybody is very motivated here. And most groups don't show this kind of potential. This is a great group of students."

The training is also part of a collaborative effort between Wright-Patterson and Wright State University's College of Education and Human Services.

Trainees Eve Torres and Rener Gracie hand out an instructor certificate to a participant.

Previously called "Community Health Education," the new name reflects the trends in workforce development both at the national and state levels and aligns better with the brand new accreditation process that is available for this discipline.

This spring has been a busy one; the program now has 15 students who are working towards this degree which prepares students to sit for the "CHES" exam (Certified Health Education Specialist). A student club is being formed with Mike Theobald as the President, Taylor Spina as Treasurer, and Anna Early as the Secretary.

Mary Chace also received a mini-grant from Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids to host a "Kick Butts Awareness Day" on April 9th. The event was an opportunity to advocate for a tobacco-free campus and was extremely well-attended. Student Karthik Peddina won the $100 gift card for guessing the closest number to the amount of cigarette butts collected last October during the campus-wide cigarette butt clean up day.

Public Health Education students have also been very involved with the "Kids for Cooking" after-school cooking club at Kettering Middle School, a program created by last fall's HED 4430 Health Program Planning class, and funded through a CEHS Partnership mini-grant.

The Kinesiology and Health's undergraduate Public Health Education program has just undergone a name change!

Check out the quick video clip from the first "Kids for Cooking" session! http://animoto.com/play/NzSVne9eYR4QR451tfg
CEHS Research Corner

Department of Human Services Research

Last semester, Human Services professors Dr. Gina Oswald and Dr. Mary Huber created the Center for Enhancement of Disability Employment and Research (CEDER). This center is focused on best practices in assisting people with disabilities locate meaningful employment.

CEDER has a commitment to developing and implementing research-based best practices in the center’s projects in order to achieve its mission statement and to enhance the lives of people with disabilities. For more information, you can look at the center’s brochure on the Human Services website.

Dr. Oswald and Dr. Huber are in the process of writing a faculty development grant, a research initiation grant, and social entrepreneurship grant in order to receive seed money to assist with the center’s start-up activities. The money is going to be used in order to found a research activity with the Office of Disability Services (ODS).

Along with her work with CEDER, Dr. Oswald will be presenting at the National Council on Rehabilitation Education (NCRE) Spring 2014 conference with Dr. Michelle Marme of Northwestern Illinois University, and Dr. Alan Bruce of Universal Learning Systems on “From Kafka to MOOCs: Disruptive Innovation in Globalized Rehabilitation Education.” While at the conference, she will also be presenting with Dr. Huber, and Dr. Wilson of the Substance Abuse Resource and Disability Issues program, on technology-enhanced education and rehabilitation services. She also gave a similar presentation at Eastern Kentucky University earlier in the semester.

Dr. Oswald is also being afforded the chance to spend a week in Cuba this May. She will be traveling with the Council on Rehabilitation Education (CORE) to be a part of their “Social Justice and Ethical Issues in Health and Rehabilitation in Cuba: A Professional Educational and Research Program.” The focus of the trip is to learn about the culture of Cuba in general, along with how the culture impacts people with disabilities.

Dr. Huber has continued her involvement with the Montgomery County Drug Coalition. Her involvement now includes chairing the Research Sub-committee. The Coalition is always looking for funding opportunities, so if you have any ideas or suggestions please let her know.

Dr. Huber and Dr. Oswald are also involved with the Greene County Disability Coalition. This partnership is currently focusing upon writing a grant in order to support start up activities, including research focused upon assisting people with disabilities.

Dr. Huber also wrote and submitted a partnership mini-grant in conjunction with East-End Community Center and the East Dayton Police to help fund a program that will provide education and treatment options to people that have an opiate-related offense or have overdosed on heroin.

Dr. Huber has been working with the Office of Disability Services on a number of different projects. The first one is focused upon employment services for students with disabilities with college degrees, and Angela Bonza, Disability Services Coordinator, is the person assisting with this. Katherine Myers, the Associate Director in the Office of Disability Services, is helping them research the services that ODS offers and the outcomes from those services. Finally, both faculty members are looking at the Raiders on Autism Spectrum Excelling (RASE) program and the first year outcomes from the program along with Heather Rando, the Assistant Director of Academic Support Services.

Department of Leadership Studies Research

At the end of February, the Ohio Education Research Center (OERC) released a new report, “The Impact of the Relationship between OTES and OPES on Principal and Teacher Evaluations,” co-authored by Drs. Jill Lindsey, LDR Chair and Professor, and Suzanne Franco, LDR Professor, along with Dr. Ted Zigler at Ohio Dominican University. The study examined both RttT and non-RttT
schools from across the state to study the Ohio Teacher Evaluation System (OTES) and Ohio Principal Evaluation System (OPES) implementation impacts on student growth measures adopted by districts, how student growth measures were selected, how the measures impacted performance metrics, and the effects of these evaluation measures on educators.

In early April, Dr. Franco and Dr. Lindsey presented their research on student growth measures use in educator evaluation in Ohio at the 2014 Annual Conference of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in Philadelphia. They were joined by fellow researchers, Dr. Ani Rhul and Dr. Marsha Lewis from The Voinovich School of Leadership & Public Affairs at Ohio University.

This pilot initiative will seek to improve the identification, reinforcement, and execution of pro-social behaviors from a number of public service, private sector, and media outlets. The subsequent research will inform Dr. Fruth’s Office for Educational Research on other planned large-scale implementations.

Dr. Michelle Fleming, assistant professor of science and mathematics in Teacher Education, and undergraduate student Erica Riggs presented their collaborative study on elementary teachers’ perceptions of science, teaching science, the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and alignment between NGSS and the Ohio Academic Content Standards in Science this spring at the annual international conference of The National Association for Research in Science Teaching (NARST).  With the recent release of the NGSS and the national movement to adopt these standards, Ms. Riggs and Dr. Fleming electronically surveyed local PK-5 inservice teachers’ current methods and views of teaching science and how these methods and views correlated to scientific practices. The researchers uncovered the great need for professional development around these new ways of learning and doing science. Implications of this research include developing and implementing professional development opportunities around NGSS and addressing the needs of inservice teachers through CEHS.

In addition, Dr. Fleming and Megan Winston, principal of Horace Mann PK-8 School (Dayton Public Schools), recently presented together at the National Association for Professional Development Schools (NAPDS) 2014 National Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. Their presentation titled “Cultivating a Collaborative STEM Education Community” described the development of their professional development school, which encourages educators to collaborate on issues of teaching and learning.

Approximately fifty early and middle childhood education preservice teacher candidates played a vital role in the community as they planned and implemented a Family STEM Night event at the Horace Mann school during the Fall 2013 Semester. The collaboration provided a unique infrastructure that began to serve the needs of the school by enhancing STEM capacity and engaged educators in shared investigations within the particular school context. Over 150 students and family members participated in the event. Pre and post-assessments found significant changes in preservice teachers’ views of STEM and the teaching of STEM content.

By deepening the literacy of both PK-8 students and their families, preservice teachers reported that they felt more confident to support and guide learners on STEM content. After cross-comparing participating preservice teachers’ reflections following the event, three themes emerged: (1) planning the event was as important, if not more important, than implementing the event; (2) participation in the event promoted self-efficacy and capacity building of STEM content; and (3) the event facilitated multidisciplinary and cross-curricular connections.
CEHS students presented their work during the annual Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities on April 11th in the Student Union.

Responding to the NGSS: Local Elementary Teachers’ Perceptions of Teaching Science
Student Presenter(s): Erica Riggs, Undergraduate Student in Early Childhood Education Faculty Mentor: Michelle Fleming, Ph.D.
Department: Teacher Education

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) were introduced as a way to unify the science teaching standards across the United States. The NGSS has brought inquiry level and hands-on methods to the forefront of science teaching. Ohio, however, has not yet adopted the NGSS. This study was designed to look at elementary school teachers’ current methods and perceptions of teaching science and how they align with the new Next Generation Science Standards.

Third Grade Reading Guarantee- A Case Study
Student Presenter(s): Adrija Chatterjee, Graduate Student in Clinical Psychology
Faculty Mentor: Suzanne France, Ph.D.
Department: Leadership Studies

In June, 2012, Ohio passed a bill requiring all 3rd graders, with the exception of students with disabilities or English-learners, to pass the state’s 3rd grade reading exam before continuing to the 4th grade. In the fall of 2012, Ohio invited LEAs to submit proposals, either individually or as a colloquium, to implement K-3 early literacy and reading interventions that assist in improving reading development and prepare students to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. This study investigates the funded implementation of a proposal from a colloquium of three LEAs. A mixed methods design collecting qualitative and quantitative data addresses seven research questions. Qualitative data includes document analyses, interviews, surveys and focus groups with administrators, teachers and parents; quantitative data includes student scores from K-3 level reading skills assessments. A professional learning community among the three LEAs was proposed to provide evidence of the proposal’s impact.

Student Growth Measures for Teacher and Principal Evaluations
Student Presenter(s): Allison Mueller, Graduate Student in Counseling
Faculty Mentor: Suzanne Franco, Ph.D.
Department: Leadership Studies

There were three Ohio research efforts about Student Growth Measures (SGM) for Teacher and Principal Evaluations: 1) extended testing for previously non-tested subjects and grades, 2) relationship between the teacher and principal evaluation systems’ implementation plans, and 3) an empirical study of Local Education Agencies’ (LEA) year-end evaluation data from 2013. In 2011-2012 Ohio offered a 2 year mini-grant to LEAs agreeing to administer extended testing for Value-Added measures (VAM) in grades and content areas not represented in the Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA). The mini-grant allowed the state to create testing pools sufficient to produce teacher-level VAMs. American College Testing (ACT) End of Course (EOC), Terra Nova, MAPS, and/or Star assessments were administered. The two year study of a sample of 23 funded LEAs has provided findings for the local and national discussions about student growth measures and teacher/principal evaluations. At the same time Ohio completed a case study for a sample of 22 LEAs about the relationship between OTES/OPES implementation. And finally, 21 LEAs’ final 2013 teacher and principal evaluation data were analyzed for general trends.
WSUNER Conference

As an active participant in the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER), the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) at Wright State University (WSU) has developed strong partnership agreements with nine K-12 school districts in southwest Ohio and the Dayton Regional STEM School. Many if these partnerships began as early as the 1990s. In addition, numerous community organizations are partnering with CEHS through the Professional Development Community (PDC). The focus of these relationships is to develop excellent teacher candidates and rehabilitation practitioners, to improve K-12 student achievement, to enhance achievement of consumer independence, and to encourage “simultaneous renewal” among the participants.

NNER founder, John Goodlad, describes the importance of these partnerships: “School university partnerships in general and partner schools specifically are the essential vehicles through which we may bring about simultaneous renewal.” Goodlad’s reference to “simultaneous renewal” emphasizes his belief that collaboration within the partnership structure will result in a synthesis of new and innovative ideas, ultimately the key to improving the educational system. The WSUNER Conference will encourage this collaboration among the participating school districts and the university on an annual basis.

The second annual WSUNER conference will be held on the WSU campus in Allyn Hall on Saturday, April 26, 2014. Participants will have the opportunity to attend presentations conducted by partnership district faculty throughout the day. A continental breakfast and a lunch will be available.

Approximately 260 partnership district teachers and administrators, community agency professionals, and WSU student teachers and faculty will attend. Partnership districts include: Bellbrook-Sugarcreek Schools, Dayton Public Schools, Fairborn City Schools, Huber Heights City Schools, Milton Union Exempt Village Schools, Ripley-Union-Lewis-Huntington School District, Trotwood-Madison City Schools, Troy City Schools, West Carrollton City Schools, and the Dayton Regional STEM School.

For further information please contact Jack McKnight: jack.mcknight@wright.edu

Disability Awareness Event

Megan Gillespie, undergraduate Rehabilitation Services student, organized a Disability Awareness Event in the Apollo Room on March 12th. The event was held to educate people on invisible disabilities. Two student guest speakers, Ashley Studley and Shakira Busby, presented on learning disabilities and dyslexia. There was also a guest speaker from the VA who presented on PTSD.

Megan designed shirts that read “We wanna TACO ‘bout it, even if its NACHO problem” and sold them for $10 each, which raised over $1,000. The proceeds were donated to the non-profit organization Autism Speaks. WSU’s Adapted Recreation participated in the event, informing students about the many opportunities that are available for all students to be part of intramural sports at Wright State.

Other participants included the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign. Students could stop by the table to make a pledge to stop using the outdated and insensitive terms to describe people with disabilities.

Spread the Word to end the Word table at the Disability Awareness event.

Polished Girlz, a company started by a ten-year-old who visits hospitals and paints the nails of young patients, also had a table at the event.

Students from the Polished Girlz organization polished nails and made connections at the event.
CEHS Student and Faculty Awards

Top Scholar is an event co-hosted by the Friends of the Wright State University Libraries and the Wright State Parents’ Association. One student is selected by the dean of each of the six colleges to receive the honor. A book from each student’s major will be added as a permanent part of the Wright State University Libraries collection. Each Top Scholar book will include a book plate with the student’s name. This year’s CEHS recipient is Shannon Miller, OL major. Shannon is a senior from Plain City, Ohio. She entered the Organizational Leadership program after realizing she had a passion for guiding and developing students in higher education. The award book is *Participative Transformation: Learning and Development in Practising Change* by Roger Klev and Morten Levin.

Alyxis Camden, AYA Math Education student, and Monica DeWeese, SAHE student, were awarded Graduate Council fellowships for 2014-2015. These prestigious fellowships are given to students with excellent academic records.

Two Leadership Studies students received awards from the Division of Multicultural Affairs and Community Engagement (MACE). Officer Kurt Holden, a MSLD student, received the Staff Diversity Advocate award. Susan Ross, a student in the SAHE program, received the Student Diversity Advocate award.

Amy Elston, Teacher Education hybrid educator, received Writing Across the Curriculum faculty recognition, and Dr. Christa Agiro and Dr. Jason Fruth received Service-Learning Faculty Recognition.

A number of CEHS graduate students received awards during the Graduate Student Excellence Awards program on April 16th. Rikki Bell (Adolescent Young Adult Education: Integrated Language Arts), Colleen Demboski (Middle Childhood Education), Theresa Dorn (Educational Technology), Katherine Gerspacher (Leadership Development), Erica Jergens (Multi-Age Education: Modern Languages, French), Jennifer Kimpan (Counseling: Business and Organizational Management), Michael La Torre (Student Affairs in Higher Education), and Melanie Stearns (Reading Education).

In addition, six CEHS students will graduate with honors in May. Congratulations to Katie Hoehne (Early Childhood Education), Jeremy Keller (Middle Childhood Education), Karli Lightner (Organizational Leadership), Brittasha Oswalt (Middle Childhood Education), Amanda Turner (Middle Childhood Education, and Amy Williams (Early Childhood Education).

Teacher Education Reading Program holds OAE prep session

Reading program co-directors Lee Welz and Hannah Chai held a successful test prep session on March 18th. The Pearson OAE is a new test for students, and Ms. Welz and Dr. Chai wanted to make sure that students had all the information about the framework for the assessment. Students had an opportunity to answer practice test questions, discuss the testing process, and win some great prizes. The session was well attended, and students walked away feeling more informed and prepared.

Human Services Department Open House

The Department of Human Services held an open house on April 16th to showcase their new office space. Human Services moved to the first floor of Allyn Hall in January 2014. The new space includes offices in 108 Allyn Hall, and updated counseling rooms in the basement of the building. The open house was well-attended by CEHS faculty, staff, and students. Attendees enjoyed seeing the new office and meeting spaces.


**Alumni News**

**Flying colors: Wright State alum selected by NASA for high-altitude astronomy flight**

NASA’s high-flying observatory enables astronomers to peer deep into the heart of the universe. And when the observation plane’s garage-door-sized panel opens at 45,000 feet this spring to put its infrared telescope into action, Wright State University alumnus Tom Jenkins will be on board.

Jenkins, 39, teaches science at Indian Valley Middle School in Enon, Ohio. He will join Heidi Steinbrink of Oakwood High School in Dayton on the flight of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy, or SOFIA, beginning May 4. It is part of NASA’s flying-classroom-for-teachers program.

“One of the things about being a good teacher is trying to always be a constant learner and continue my education,” Jenkins said. “I am looking for creative and interesting experiences that help inspire me and try to share the new knowledge, inspiration and energy with my students.”

Jenkins earned his bachelor’s degree in elementary education with a science concentration from Wright State in 1997 and a master’s in science teaching in 1999.

He expects to go on at least one of the eight-to-10-hour night flights and possibly two. He plans to videoconference with his students during the flights and is already prepping them by having volunteers from the Air Force Research Laboratory talk to them about the electromagnetic spectrum and why infrared is important in astronomy.

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**Wright State alumna publishes young adult novel on normalcy and romance**

The first moments of Sara Pyszka’s life changed everything. When Pyszka was born, she couldn’t breathe for three minutes. The oxygen supply to her brain was cut off and her motor abilities were permanently damaged. Pyszka has since been living with cerebral palsy—utilizing a motorized wheelchair and a computerized voice mechanism for communication.

But Pyszka pays little attention to her disability. Instead, she has occupied her adult life with outstanding accomplishments. Pyszka obtained a degree in rehabilitation services at Wright State in 2010; sang the national anthem at two Major League Baseball games; recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the 2004 Republican National Convention; wrote a number of songs with Lucas Richman, the head conductor of the Knoxville Symphony; and most recently, published a full-length novel, *Dancing Daisies*. *Dancing Daisies* is a coming-of-age drama about Brynn Evason. Despite Brynn’s cerebral palsy, she is your ordinary 17-year-old girl. She cares too much about what other people think and always finds herself wrapped up in drama. The story takes place at a summer camp where Brynn is swept off her feet by a charming boy who sees past her disability.

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**College Outstanding Alumni Award Recipient**

Carey Kauffman, a 2013 graduate of the MSLD program, was named the recipient of the 2014 CEHS College Outstanding Alumni award. Carey was lauded for her many achievements since her recent graduation, including her continuing research, leadership in her job, and volunteerism as a high school rugby coach. College Outstanding Alumni were celebrated at an awards ceremony and luncheon in March. Carey joins a list of accomplished CEHS grads who have made their mark on our community. Congratulations, Carey!

**CEHS grad visits the Amazon Rainforest to participate in Educator Academy**

Melissa Jordan, a graduate of the science education program and a seventh-grade science teacher, recently traveled to Peru as a part of the Educator Academy program. She visited Bellbrook Middle School science teacher Cathy St. Pierre’s classroom, where she student taught five years ago, to tell the students about her trip. Melissa’s stories about the Amazon rainforest helped the students better understand the unique plants and animals living there.

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**CEHS Alumni, we want to hear from you!** Tell us about your accomplishments, life events, and community ties. Please submit items of interest for our newsletter to melissa.rubins@wright.edu.
Donors

Interested in supporting our excellent programs and creating opportunities for our students? Become one of our CEHS donors and help us continue to create scholarships, enhance programs, encourage research, and expand our reach.

New scholarships and funds, like the William C. and Myra O. Rowe Scholarship for the Doctoral Program in Organizational Studies, created this year by LDR professor Dr. Suzanne Franco, or the recently created Glenn and Judith Rymer Dean’s Fund, allow outstanding students to pursue their dreams. Our CEHS scholarships have generated opportunities for many students.

There are multiple ways to give back--endowed scholarships, contributions to existing scholarships and funds, annual or one-time gifts, and planned gifts.

Information on giving can be found here: http://www.wright.edu/advancement/giving/guide.html

Events

April 22nd: Middle Childhood Symposium, Student Union

April 26th: WSUNER Conference, Allyn Hall

May 20th: Travis Meadows Concert. Singer-songwriter Travis Meadows will visit Wright State on May 20th at 12:30 pm in the Student Union Atrium. He will perform his inspiring songs about recovery from addiction for students, faculty, staff, and community members.

College of Education and Human Services
Wright State University

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