



A Letter from the Department Chair

by *Diana Godish, Department Chair*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

This semester has been a special one for department faculty and staff. At our Homecoming Open House, we were very pleased that Ruth Payne ('69), Alana Harvey-Faiz ('88), Jennifer Castor ('94), Terrie Greenwalt ('94, '97), Lela Boucher ('96, '97), Kim (Jones) Spangler ('97), DeAnna Hillery ('97, '01), and Kiril Minchev ('00) were able to visit. Emeriti faculty [Molly Wantz ('63) and Wayne Payne ('66)] who are also alumni joined us too. For those who were not able to be with us, we look forward to seeing you at future gatherings. Read more about the Open House below.

Another opportunity to connect with alumni occurred during the fund-raising Phonathon. Faculty members who participated enjoyed telephone visits with many of you.

It is always a real pleasure to have contact with former students, whether by personal visit, phone, e-mail, "snail mail," or other means. The department website, www.bsu.edu/physiology-health, provides the opportunity for you to learn about the activities of your fellow alumni. Please check it out, and if you are not listed, complete the online form to add your information.

We also maintain a bulletin board of your business cards for current students, so please send us your card if you haven't already (or if you have changed positions since sending your last card). These cards provide our students with solid ideas on employment opportunities, as well as links with the profession, and are much appreciated.

The faculty and staff of the department wish you and your family a very happy (and healthy!) holiday season.

Open Houses bring alumni, families to the department

The Department sponsored two events in October that showcased the facilities and the faculty. Despite a rainy morning, Department of Physiology and Health Science alumni returned to visit with faculty, see how the facilities have changed, and enjoy breakfast on Saturday, October 9. Faculty members enjoyed catching up and seeing the "little ones" who tagged along.

On October 30, the department opened its doors to welcome students and their family members for a Family Weekend Open House and Breakfast.

The event was well attended by guests who enjoyed breakfast, tours of the department, faculty demonstrations, and conversations with department faculty and staff.

Students got to show off their daily routines and surroundings, as well as their professors, to their families. Several families also attended the College of Sciences and Humanities Dean's List Reception in Ball Gymnasium where many department majors were honored.



Alumni returned to the department to speak with faculty and tour the department on Homecoming morning.



Faculty showed off the department's facilities to students' families during the Family Weekend Open House.

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An enhanced version of this newsletter is available online at www.bsu.edu/physiology-health/newsletter.

Grant helping department develop hepatitis C program

Cheryl Percy, Hepatitis C Surveillance Program Coordinator, and Dr. Jeffrey Clark, Hepatitis C Surveillance Program Director contributed to this article.

Hepatitis C is the leading chronic bloodborne infection in the United States. It is estimated that almost 4 million people have been infected by the virus and that 2.7 million are chronically infected.

These estimates of prevalence are likely conservative, because the survey excluded incarcerated and homeless persons, groups that have a high prevalence of HCV infection. Many of these individuals are not aware of their infection and are not clinically ill. The consequences of chronic liver disease from hepatitis C do not become apparent until 10 to 20 years after infection. Because the data concerning hepatitis C are estimates, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provided funding to states to develop surveillance systems for hepatitis.

In 2002 the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) received funding through the Epidemiology Laboratory Capacity Grant to administer a hepatitis C control program from the Division of Viral Hepatitis in the Centers for Disease Control. This funding is available to any U.S. state and territory that applies for it. ISDH determined that in order to put a program in place immediately it would be necessary to establish a contractual partner. The Department of Physiology and Health Science at Ball State University was chosen because of its successful administration of the Smokefree Indiana grant. Dr. Jeffrey Clark, who also directs the Smokefree Indiana project, was selected to serve as director of the Hepatitis C Surveillance Program.

The purpose of the Hepatitis C Grant is to develop a program that controls the spread of hepatitis C, increases

vaccinations against hepatitis A and B in children and high-risk adults, and increases public awareness about the seriousness of viral hepatitis infections.

The grant provides money for a coordinator and graduate assistant to develop the program. Accomplishments to date include: the development of a hepatitis C management guidelines manual used by Indiana local health departments; the integration of hepatitis C testing, counseling, and referral of at-risk individuals to existing public health clinics with major emphasis on HIV/STD programs; the introduction of an adult hepatitis A and B vaccination program to Indiana STD clinics for high-risk individuals; the development of hepatitis training programs for healthcare professionals; the expansion of viral hepatitis services in the Department of Corrections; and the development of patient support groups throughout Indiana.

In addition to these accomplishments, former Ball State graduate assistants Brittany Mathers and Alton Knight developed a viral hepatitis web page for the ISDH web site, assisted in writing articles for the Indiana Epidemiology newsletter and the Indiana Chapter of the American Liver Foundation newsletter, developed PowerPoint presentations for target audiences, and provided viral hepatitis training when requested.

The program's current graduate assistant, Mona Wenger, is developing a statewide resource directory for use by anyone doing viral hepatitis prevention outreach. She is also devising a survey of Indiana hospital emergency room policies that will focus on bloodborne pathogen educational messages disseminated during ER visits to people demonstrating a current or prior history of injection drug use.

Safe Kids, Safe Communities *continued from page 4*

a reoccurring issue in Delaware County. The Safe Kids Coalition has focused much of their energy on providing car seats to infants and toddlers and the Business Fellows are helping prepare for a July 1, 2005 change in the car seat law. In addition, the Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities project is creating a marketing strategy for The Delaware County Safe Kids Coalition. New pamphlets have been designed for the Coalition, as well as new membership information. The Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities group is planning a membership drive to acquire additional volunteers and

financial support for the Delaware County Safe Kids Coalition. Plans to design a website and pursue other public relations measures are also in the making.

Grant writing is another primary focus of the group. The Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities project is devoted to securing monies that will assist the Coalition in sponsoring car seat programs and procuring materials for the presentation of safety programs in schools. Currently, they are developing two grant proposals and are anticipating \$5,000 to support marketing and program development efforts.

Alumni Pledge \$820 during dept. phonathon

During the department's second annual phonathon, contributors pledged \$820. The money pledged will be used to help provide Health Science students with more opportunities to network with professionals in the field through support for students attending state and national professional meetings and Professional Day activities, during which invited panelists provide tips for success. Contributions will also help keep equipment used in basic human physiology and anatomy courses as up-to-date as possible.

Department members enjoyed speaking with alumni and catching up during their calls. Faculty members who participated in the phonathon were Department Chair Diana Godish, Jim McKenzie, Becci Brey, Dave Marini, and Dale Hahn.

Thank you to everyone we spoke with during the phonathon and special thanks to those who pledged contributions.



Dr. Jim McKenzie and Dr. Diana Godish speak with alumni during the department's phonathon.

Your contribution to the department can make a difference

Even the smallest contribution can increase the amount the department has to give in student scholarships and research support. If you would like to give to any of the funds that support the Department of Physiology and Health Science, you may do so online, over the phone, or through the mail.

To give online, visit www.alumniconnections.com/donate/ball_state. To give over the phone or by mail, contact the Ball State University Foundation, P.O. Box 672, Muncie, IN 47308, (765) 285-8312, giving@bsu.edu. In all cases, please include the name of the fund you wish your contribution to support. A list of the Foundation Fund Accounts for the department appears below.

If you are interested in establishing a new fund, please contact the Office of University Development at (765) 285-8261.

General Fund: Use of the funds in this account is unrestricted to the Department of Physiology and Health Science

McGovern Lecture Series: Funds the annual McGovern lecture

Public Health Entomology Lab: Supports Public Health Entomology Laboratory research

Physiology/Health Science Research: Supports the purchase of lab equipment for students

Henzlik Physiology/Anatomy Research: Supports the research project of a physiology master's degree student

Physiology/Health Science General Scholarship: An unrestricted scholarship fund for the department

Siverly Memorial Scholarship: Supports/rewards student research in public health entomology

HSC Faculty Scholarships: Scholarship for health and safety teaching major/minor or HSC major/minor

Neilson Scholarship: Supports a graduate student specializing in the promotion of comprehensive health information through education

Paschall Scholarship: Rewards an anatomy and physiology graduate assistant for excellence in teaching

Carroll Health Education Scholarship: Provides a scholarship for a health science graduate student

Herb Jones Health Education Scholarship: Provides a scholarship for a sophomore or junior health science major

Wilma Bartels Henzlik Scholarship: Provides assistance to students in the department

McKenzie-Walkup Scholarships: Provides money for one health science student completing his/her internship and one junior with needs for book money (for Scholarship #2)

Zeberl Family Scholarship: Provides at least one scholarship for students in community health science; it can also provide administrative support for the internship program

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Project partnered with community making kids safer

Shawnita Washington, Business Fellow, and Mrs. Susan Clark, Instructor, Physiology and Health Science, contributed to this article.

The Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities project is part of Ball State University's Business Fellows: Turning Academic Knowledge into Business Solutions Program. The Business Fellows program builds on students' discipline-based learning in their majors and provides an added business involvement experience. The Business Fellowships expand opportunities for students to think critically and creatively in applying theories and methodology they have learned in classrooms and laboratories to practical situations with real-world constraints. Their team-building and collaborative skills are tested and honed throughout the year-long project.

The Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities project, designed by Mrs. Susan Clark, instructor, and Dr. Jeffrey Clark, professor, both from the Department of Physiology and Health Science, has partnered with The Delaware County Safe Kids Coalition to enhance programs ensuring the safety of Delaware County children. Ball State students Ashley Robbins, Ashley Tinkle, Christopher Horn, Shawnita Washington, Karen McGuire, Tracy Holtzleiter, Kaitlin McDonough, and Joanna Dierbeck



Business Fellows are (top row L to R) Chris Horn, Ashley Robbins, Karen McGuire, Tracy Holtzleiter (front row L to R) Kaitlin McDonough, Joanna Dierbeck, Shawnita Washington, and Ashley Tinkle.

were selected to participate as Business Fellows for this project.

The members of the Safe-Kids, Safe Communities project completed a needs assessment to discover prevalent children's safety issues. They found that car seat safety was **Safe-Kids, Safe-Communities continued on pg 2.**