

Dean's Message

It's a new year! Despite the disappointment in New Orleans, we are facing 2008 with optimism and pride.

In this issue of *Buckeye Bios* we highlight an array of programs supported by the Dean's Fund for Excellence. Some of our friends and alumni choose to support targeted funds, such as named scholarships or our ongoing campaign to renovate Jennings Hall. Most of you, however, direct your gifts to the Dean's Fund for Excellence, affording us the opportunity to support initiatives that we could not otherwise.

The stories below will give you an idea of the impact that your gifts have. We hope they also will give you optimism about the future and pride in our students' accomplishments. I believe that you will agree that your investment is being used wisely and well.

If you'd like to know more about any of these programs, please give me a call at 614-292-1627 or send email to herbers.4@osu.edu. We truly appreciate your interest in what we do, and I'd love to hear from you.

With warm regards from chilly Columbus,

Joan M. Herbers, Dean

The Dean's Fund supplies: Opportunities for Research Abroad

Every year, the College sends students to Brazil as part of our University's partnership with the University of Sao Paulo (USP). There the students interact with their Brazilian counterparts and participate in USP's undergraduate research week. They visit classes, and enjoy the social scene with their Brazilian hosts. The College also sends students like Samuel Lasse for special research opportunities abroad. Sam spent the summer of 2004 in Paris working in Professor Alain Mauviel's lab at INSERM (Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale).



OSU students take in the landscape in Brazil.



Kids and adults love the bug zoo, one popular feature of the Museum Open House.

The Dean's Fund shows off: The Museum of Biological Diversity

Our Museum of Biological Diversity hosts its fourth Annual Open House and Public Lecture this month. This year's theme, "Alien Invaders," is launched by eminent ecologist Daniel Simberloff with his lecture, "Biological Invasions: a Global Threat, but a Winnable War," on February 8. Museum staff happily brace themselves for their Open House on February 16 and what they hope will be another record turnout; last year more than 1,000 people enjoyed the collections, exhibits and hands-on learning activities for children and their parents. In 2008, Museum staff produced a booklet outlining key points on invasive species. The content was aligned to Ohio science education standards, and was distributed to 1000 schools across Ohio.

The Dean's Fund draws in: Future Buckeyes

Ohio State hosts the state Science Fair every spring, with thousands of budding scientists and engineers thronging the French Field House. Our College provides a \$1000 scholarship to the winner of the Biological Sciences Division. Similarly, we offer two \$1000 scholarships to the winners of an essay contest in the Columbus Public Schools' annual Empowerment Day Conference for young women in grades 6-12.



Molecular Genetics professor Amanda Simcox talks with a student at the Ohio Science and Engineering Alliance poster session.

The Dean's Fund provides: Undergraduate Research Mini-grants

Undergraduate research is woven into the fabric of our daily lives in Biological Sciences, and we regularly tap the Dean's Fund to support the involvement of undergraduates in research laboratories. Every quarter, the College puts out a call for research mini-grants. Students submit a research proposal and budget that has been approved by the research advisor. Those proposals are vetted by our Student Advisory Committee, which awards grants that average \$250-300. Students must manage their budgets and submit reports on their research at quarter's end. The Mini-Grant Program not only provides funding to support their projects but also gives students valuable experience in grantsmanship.



Theresa Rogers works in the lab with Microbiology Associate Professor Mike Ibba.

The Dean's Fund supports: the College Research Colloquium

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our annual Colloquium that showcases outstanding student work in the laboratory. Every year 100 or so students present research posters at our Colloquium, timed to occur several weeks before the all-University Denman Undergraduate Research Forum. Associate Dean Caroline Breitenberger explains, "Along with the Denman, our colloquium gives students an opportunity to present their findings in a setting approximating that of a scientific professional society meeting. It is an experience

that forces students to hone their presentation skills and think about how to logically and graphically portray their work." Faculty and alumni judge the posters and cash prizes are given in four research categories. Most importantly, the students receive valuable feedback on their posters that allows them to submit improved versions for the Denman — where they typically garner 25% of the prizes across the entire University!



Chair of Biochemistry Richard Swenson and a student discuss a research poster at the annual Colloquium.

Please help keep your college strong

We are grateful for your assistance, and hope you will continue to find our programs worthy of your support. For information about how you can help to make a difference, please contact Gerri Bain at (614) 292-4008, or via email at bain.32@osu.edu. Or contact Megan Collins at (614) 688-6359, or via email at collins.403@osu.edu.

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