

DIVERSITY UPDATE

A U T U M N 2 0 0 8



Special Assistant to the President for Diversity
and Vice Provost

M E S S A G E F R O M M A C

Dear Friends of Ohio State,

As we prepare to send out this update, Autumn Quarter is well under way. Universities are fortunate in enjoying two annual periods of renewal — the Spring, along with the rest of the world, and the Autumn, when students returning from productive summers are joined by the entering cohort of new first-year students eager for the changes and challenges that come with college studies.

After this summer, in many ways I felt a lot like a student new to campus. As a representative of a major diversity program in the U.S., I was invited to join a study tour of China to learn about how diversity is understood and used to benefit Chinese higher education. I was especially privileged to be asked to speak about how we encourage and work with diverse populations at Ohio State. The presentation was held at Beijing's Central University of Nationalities, before an audience of educators from all over China.

But if my audience learned a little about our policies and practices, I learned a great deal more about theirs. The trip occurred shortly before the Beijing Olympics, and formed a perfect introduction to that most diverse national event, which every four years reminds us of the transformative power of international competition at its best.

While I was encouraged by the variety of dialogues among minorities in China (which counts 55 of them as national groups), I was more powerfully struck by the needs that all these diverse groups share: For clean air, for potable water, for renewable sources of energy, for effective educational systems, and above all, for peace. The world is looking for answers to these and other pressing concerns, and we cannot afford to overlook any possible sources for such answers. Diversity is the precondition for finding workable solutions, and managing educational diversity effectively is, in my view, the way to open a door to the answers that we need.

And so back to school every Autumn. Best wishes to every student, colleague, and family that participates in our community as the communities of the nation and world work together on behalf of all.

Sincerely,

Mac A. Stewart



Faculty and Staff Recruitment and Retention

Provost Joe Alutto named a former Ohio State associate provost **Joan**



Leitzel to be **interim executive dean and vice provost of the Arts and Sciences Colleges.** Leitzel served in the Department of

Mathematics for 25 years and was associate provost for curriculum and instruction in the late 1980s. She left to become a divisional director for the National Science Foundation and went on to serve as vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska and as president of the University of New Hampshire. She has also served as chair of the Mathematical Sciences Education Board of the National Research Council and as director of the Ohio Department of Education's Ohio Mathematics Initiative. Her baccalaureate degree from Hanover College, her Masters degree from Brown University, and her Ph.D. from Indiana University are all in the field of mathematics. Leitzel will lead the Arts and Sciences Colleges until a permanent dean is named.

Cheryl Achterberg was named **dean of the College of Education and Human Ecology.** Noted as one of today's outstanding scholars in nutritional development, Achterberg came to Ohio State from Iowa State University,

where she was the inaugural dean of the College of Human Sciences. Achterberg earned her bachelor's degree in biological sciences at California Polytechnic State University, her master's in human development at the University of Maine, and a Ph.D. in nutrition at Cornell University. Prior to joining the Iowa State faculty in 2005, Achterberg was on the faculty of The Pennsylvania State University, where she rose through the professional ranks, attaining tenure in 1991 and the rank of full professor in 1996. At Penn State, she was the director of the Nutrition Center from 1992 to 1996 and, in 1997, became the founding dean of the Schreyer Honors College.

Rep. Joyce Beatty (D-27th District) has been named **senior vice president for outreach and engagement.**



Beatty will begin her new role at Ohio State in January, following the completion of her final term as a state representative. The new senior vice president position will coordinate and strengthen outreach efforts across the university, leveraging resources and enabling additional collaborations. Beatty will be responsible for providing leadership and oversight for a broad array of areas, including community outreach, service learning, health and safety outreach and continuing education. She will also play a prominent role in the university's economic development efforts.

Beatty earned a bachelor's degree in speech from Central State University, a master's degree in counseling psychology from Wright State University, and has worked toward a doctoral degree at the University of Cincinnati. In 2005, Beatty received an honorary doctorate from Ohio Dominican University.

Caroline C. Whitacre has been named **vice president for research.** She was



formerly associate vice president for Health Sciences Research and vice dean for research in the College of Medicine at the Medical Center.

From the time of her appointment as vice dean in 2001, OSU Medical Center total research awards increased from \$97.3 million to \$171.8 million in 2007. She is a professor and former chair of the Department of Molecular Virology, Immunology and Medical Genetics and a leading authority on autoimmune disease. Whitacre had been serving as interim vice president for research since August. Whitacre received her Ph.D. in medical microbiology from Ohio State in 1975 and has been a faculty member in the College of Medicine since 1981. She also is the recipient of a 2008 Ohio State Distinguished Scholar Award. As vice president for research, Whitacre will oversee the university's efforts to stimulate new research and support ongoing activities, which currently include \$720 million in research expenditures.



Gregory N. Washington, professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been named

interim dean of Engineering.

Washington joined Ohio State's faculty in 1995. He also is associate dean for research in the College of



Engineering and currently the interim director of the Institute for Energy and the Environment. He has been involved in research in the design and control of smart material systems, the design and control of hybrid electric vehicles, and the design of smart electromagnetic systems. The author of more than 100 publications in journals, edited volumes and conference proceedings, Washington has conducted research for a number of organizations including the National Science Foundation, NASA, General Motors, the Air Force Research Laboratory and the Army Research Office. He earned his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees at North Carolina State University.

Social and Behavioral Sciences (SBS) hosted a **two-day workshop for minority graduate students** in the social, behavioral, and economic sciences transitioning from graduate students to faculty members. The workshop included panel presentations such as challenges under-represented faculty face and career planning. SBS hosted the workshop on behalf of the Great Lakes Alliance for Social Sciences (GLASS), a National Science

Foundation Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP). GLASS is a consortium of seven universities, including Ohio State, working collaboratively to increase the number of African American, Hispanic, and Native Americans who apply to, matriculate, and graduate from doctoral programs in the social, behavioral and economic sciences.

Student Recruitment and Retention

In 1989, the **College of Pharmacy** established the first **articulation agreement** between a predominantly white college of pharmacy and a minority institution, Xavier University of Louisiana, to encourage student matriculation into graduate programs. This initiative has resulted in a number of Xavier graduates enrolling in academic and residency programs. More recently, the college has also established partnerships with Morehouse College, Spelman College, and the University of Puerto Rico. Students from these institutions participate in summer research in Columbus and attend faculty-led seminars. The college currently has Ph.D. students enrolled from each school. In addition to enhancing its partnerships with minority institutions, the college plans to increase cultural competency instruction for professional pharmacy students.

The Latino fraternity, Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., recently opened a chapter at Ohio State. Founded in 1975 at Kean University in New Jersey, Lambda Theta Phi is the first nationally recognized Greek-letter organizations with a mission to serve the Latino community and provide culturally-based support to Latino college students. Membership is open to all college men who support its values of scholarship, respect for all cultures, and community service. Today, there are more than 90 chapters and colonies across the nation. This new chapter joins the coed **Alpha Psi Lambda** as the second Latino-based fraternity at Ohio State.

Women's Votes, Women's Voices (WVWV), a non-partisan project, seeks to increase young female voter registration and promote voting participation among women in Central Ohio. WVWV serves as a student voter education and registration initiative aimed at significantly increasing registration and voting by young women. WVWV is funded by a \$10,000 grant from the Women's Fund of Central Ohio. Effective January 08 through January 09, this grant supports WVWV educational programming such as bi-partisan candidates' forums, film nights, debate viewings and other awareness-raising initiatives.

A new publication focusing on American Indian issues and interests has been launched on campus. **Rising Sun Hear Our Voice** celebrates accomplishments of the Native



community at Ohio State, highlights aspects of native culture, and lists upcoming events. The publication is coordinated through the Office of Minority Affairs in effort to recruit more Native American students. It is intended to be seen by Native students who view it as a place to share writings and works and also meet other people with a deep interest in the native culture.

The **Diversity Services Office** within the **College of the Arts and Sciences** continues to use diversity as the core principle for student engagement in four key areas: academics, career development, community-building, and service. One of their major elements is the **Program for Advising in Scholarship and Service** (PASS). PASS is a first-year academic learning community for Arts and Sciences students who have shared interests in the academic, cultural, career, and community benefits of diversity.

The **Office for Disability Services** (ODS) is celebrating 35 years of providing academic support services and accommodations for students with disabilities at Ohio State. This makes ODS one of the oldest support programs in the country and it is one of the largest providing the coordination and facilitation of support services for more than 1800 students. ODS will be participating in the First Year Success series for the first time autumn 2008, participating in five sessions for freshmen students. The focus will be

on disability awareness and overview information on ODS.

Academic Programming, Scholarly Activity, and Research

Mark Moritz, assistant professor, anthropology, has been awarded a five-year, \$530,738 National Science Foundation CAREER award for a research proposal. The CAREER award is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholar through outstanding research, excellent education and the integration of education and research within the context of the mission of their organizations. **A significant portion of the NSF award is dedicated to recruitment of undergraduate and graduate students from underrepresented minority groups.**

One of the few **research studies** to look at the effects of religious participation on the **mental health of minorities** suggests that for some of them, religion may actually be contributing to adolescent depression. Previous research has shown that teens who are active in religious services are depressed less often because it provides these adolescents with social support and a sense of belonging. But new research has found that this does not hold true for all adolescents, particularly for minorities and some females. The study found that white and African-American adolescents generally had fewer symptoms of depression at high levels of religious

participation. But for some Latino and Asian-American adolescents, attending church more often was actually affecting their mood in a negative way. Setting all other factors aside, the results suggest that participating in religion at high levels may be detrimental to some teens because of the tensions they face in balancing the conflicting ideals and customs of their religion with those of mainstream culture. Read the entire article at <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/racerelig.htm>

Leadership/Recognition

Ruth Peterson, professor of sociology and director of the Criminal Justice Research Center, and **Laurie Krivo**, professor of sociology, represented the American Sociological Association (ASA) at a congressional session in Washington, DC, around the issue of "**Race, Residence and Crime.**" Members of Ohio's congressional delegation also were invited to the event.

Awareness

Ohio State's **Criminal Justice Research Center** (CJRC) is hosting two lectures by **Elijah Anderson**, the William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology at Yale University and world-renowned urban ethnographer. Anderson has a long tradition of **research on the urban black male experience** and on urban inequality and race relations more generally. Professor Anderson



Common Wisdom about Troubled Youth Falls Apart When Race Is Considered

By Jeff Grabmeier, Research Communications

One of the most widely accepted beliefs about the differences between troubled boys and girls may need to be revised, according to new research.

Experts have long believed that girls tend to internalize their problems, becoming depressed or anxious, while boys externalize, turning to violence against people or property. But a new study found that this oft-repeated idea didn't hold true for African-American youth who were in the juvenile justice system.

For them, whether they internalized or externalized depended not on gender, but on what was happening within their families. The results suggest more attention needs to be paid to the intersection of race, gender and family when it comes to dealing with troubled youth, said Stephen Gavazzi, co-author of the study and professor of human development and family science at Ohio State.

"If you look at most studies involving internalizing and externalizing among youth, they generally look at white, middle-class samples," Gavazzi said. "Most research has not paid attention to race. And when studies do look at race, they are not likely to look at family and gender as well."

In this study, the results showed that Black girls and boys showed similar levels of externalizing and internalizing behavior, once family dysfunction was taken into account.

In these families, boys and girls were more likely to show outward aggression if they lived in families with

higher levels of dysfunction. Such a relationship was not found in white families. "Family issues affect children in African-American families differently than they do in white families," Gavazzi said. "That is something that really hasn't been found before."

This study, published in the July 2008 issue of the *Journal of Marital and Family Therapy*, involved 2,549 youth who appeared before a juvenile court in five counties in

Ohio. Gavazzi said it is not surprising that family issues affect African-American children differently than they do white children.

"Researchers who study ethnicity and culture have long noted the primacy of family for African Americans," he said.

"That's telling us that families matter in a different way for African-American youth than what we're finding for whites."

Gavazzi said he and his colleagues are now trying to identify exactly what is different in African-American families that affects whether youth internalize or externalize problems, and how to best help them. They are looking, for example, at issues such as family conflict and the amount of monitoring parents do of their children.

"We want to find out if there is some different constellation of things happening in African-American families that can explain some of our findings," he said.

Read the entire story at <http://researchnews.osu.edu/archive/racegender.htm>.

"...families matter in a different way for African-American youth than what we're finding for whites."

Stephen Gavazzi



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will be on the Ohio State campus on Thursday and Friday, December 4 and 5, 2008, and will present **From Affirmative Action to Diversity: The New Black Middle Class and Violence and the Inner City**. In one of his lectures, he will offer his perspectives on affirmative action, diversity, and the new middle class. He will discuss his research on young urban males and violence in the second lecture. He is the author of a number of books, most notably, *Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male* and *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*. Co-sponsors of the lectures are the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity, Office of Minority Affairs, Department of Sociology, and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. More details regarding the times and locations of the lectures will be made available at <http://cjrc.osu.edu/>.

Ohio State Newark will implement a “shared book experience” via the Buckeye Book Community this year and the book chosen is ***A Lesson Before Dying*** by **Ernest Gaines**, a prominent African American fiction writer. Born on a plantation in Louisiana, Gaines was in the cotton fields by the age of nine. At age 15, he moved with his family to California, and eventually won a writing scholarship to Stanford University. Today, Gaines divides his time between San Francisco and Lafayette, Louisiana, where he is writer in residence at the University of Southwestern Louisiana. During his spring quarter visit to the Newark campus, there will be lectures, discussion groups, a screening of the film (of the same name) as well as a lecture by Gaines.



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Pouring Tea: Black Gay Men of the South Tell Their Tales was presented as a one man show based on the oral histories collected in **E. Patrick Johnson's** book: *Sweet Tea: Black Gay Men of the South - An Oral History*. Ranging in age from 19 to 93, Johnson traced the stories of black gay men who were born, raised, and continue to live in the South. In his performance, Johnson explored the issues of growing up in the South, including religion, sex, transgenderism, and coming out. E. Patrick Johnson is professor, chair, and director of graduate studies in the Department of Performance Studies and professor of African American Studies at Northwestern University. He also is the author of *Appropriating Blackness: Performance and the Politics of Authenticity* and co-editor of *Black Queer Studies: A Critical Anthology*. The performance was cosponsored by the departments of **Theatre and English**.

The 13th annual **Education and Human Ecology Diversity Forum** featured a

total of 120 students, faculty, staff and guests who attended 49 presentations and 10 poster sessions centered on the theme of “Diversity Research in the Schools, Families, and Communities.”

Jelani Mandara, from Northwestern University, was the keynote speaker and introduced some debate when he said single African-American mothers often coddle their



sons and do not monitor them as closely as daughters. “This places boys ‘significantly at risk’ of misbehavior and drug use and risky sexual activity, he said. “I am not beating up on mothers, but we have to face realities.”

