

# DIVERSITY UPDATE

S u m m e r 2 0 0 5



Vice Provost for Minority Affairs

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

Dear Friends of Ohio State,

Each spring, the Office of Minority Affairs presents the William H. Watson Jr. Memorial Award to individuals or groups who embody the ideals and personal qualities of William H. Watson, a former associate dean of University College and professor of agriculture education. This year, I am delighted to announce that the recipient is Ohio State's own vice president for Student Affairs, Bill Hall.

Bill has been an effective advocate and leader on diversity issues throughout his career and has been a consistent voice for and model of commitment to diversity. His genuine concern for individuals and his commitment to access, fairness, and opportunity for all have earned him widespread respect from students and staff at Ohio State. Among his accomplishments, Bill has partnered with my office to establish and fund the Multicultural Center,

incorporated diversity as a core value with the Student Affairs mission, provided leadership to retain the tradition of the African American Heritage Festival, and advocated for more than 20 years for GLBT rights, including sponsored dependent benefits.

There are programmatic ways in which Bill has made a difference for diversity, but what we will never truly know is the range of ways in which, one on one with individual students and staff members, he has affected those

individuals and made a difference in their lives. But we do know that the list of those individuals would fill many, many pages.

There are others like Bill who continually advocate for progress on diversity issues at Ohio State, and this issue of *Diversity Update* contains evidence of our advances.

Sincerely,

Mac Stewart

From left: Mac Stewart, Catherine Watson, Bill Hall, Barbara Snyder, and William H. Watson III.



## University to Host First College Summit Workshop

The Ohio State University will host a college application and preparation workshop for 40 Ohio high school students July 28-31. The workshop will be conducted by College Summit, a national nonprofit organization, to assist students from low-income families with admissions materials.

Mac Stewart, vice provost for Minority Affairs, said the College Summit event is the first of its kind in Ohio and will provide students with a critical start in the admissions process.

“We are pleased to host this important effort on our campus,” Stewart said. “Navigating through the college search and selection process can be complex and overwhelming. Ohio State is committed to assisting in every way possible young Ohioans who want to pursue a college education.”

University staff members and community volunteers will help students develop personal essays, review admissions and financial aid forms and deadlines, discuss ACT and SAT requirements, and provide college and career counseling. Students also will dine and stay overnight in campus residence halls to familiarize themselves with college life.

Workshop participants are pre-selected by their local school districts for their academic and

leadership potential. Seventy-nine percent of students from low-income families who participate in the College Summit workshops attend college, compared to the national rate of 46 percent.

Stewart said that the College Summit initiative will enhance Ohio State’s own goals for diversity. “The workshop is a welcome opportunity to showcase the many opportuni-

ties that Ohio State has to offer to these talented students,” he said. “The most important part of this collaboration is that students receive the tools they need to attend the college of their choice.”

The Ohio initiative was made possible through the assistance of U.S. Representatives Deborah Pryce and Ralph Regula.

Seventy-nine percent of students from low-income families who participate in the College Summit workshops attend college, compared to the national rate of 46 percent.



President Karen Holbrook talks with a prospective student during the university’s VIP Recruiting Days. Over 600 minority students were contacted over a four-day period.



## Faculty and Staff Recruitment

**Melissa A. Bellini** has been named **associate vice president for Facilities Operations and Development**. In her new position, she will oversee master planning, space assignment, the University Architect's office, renovation and construction, engineering, building services, maintenance and landscape services, occupational health and safety, radiation and bio safety, utilities, roads and grounds, and real estate operations. Bellini comes to the university from her position as regional operations and facilities manager with the Cleveland firm CH2M HILL, which provides engineering, construction, operations, communications, security, environmental, and related services. At CH2M HILL, she was responsible for the management of operational services for more than 1,200 staff in 23 offices in 13 states. She holds a bachelor's degree from Central Washington University and a master's in public administration from LaSalle University. She began her duties on July 1, following the retirement of previous associate vice president for Physical Facilities Jim Stevens.

**Georgina Dodge** has been appointed **assistant vice provost for Minority Affairs**. Dodge will coordinate diversity efforts on campus and in area communities and will, among other projects, direct a diversity leaders group to identify opportunities for collaboration, compile and produce an annual university diversity publication to create awareness of initiatives and appointments at Ohio State, and continue ongoing efforts to recruit and

retain students. From September 2002 to April 2005, Dodge served as director of the Department of African American and African Studies Community Extension Center, a conduit between the university and the residents of Columbus. An expert in African American and multiracial literature, Dodge was a faculty member in Ohio State's Department of English before joining the center as director. She earned her bachelor's degree at the University of California at Irvine and her master's and doctoral degrees in English at the University of California at Los Angeles. In addition, Dodge is a member of the Ohio African American Hall of Fame Board of Trustees, vice chair of the university's Multicultural Center Advisory Council, and a member of the Board of Trustees for Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio.

## Student Recruitment and Retention

**The College of Dentistry is offering a Dental Admission Test (DAT) Prep course for minority students** who are interested in the dental profession. The aim of the program is to help minority students improve their performance on the DAT by providing test preparation methods and materials. In addition to enhancing test-taking skills, the program also includes activities that enable students to experience firsthand what being a dental student and a dental professional are about, as well as expand their knowledge of the dental profession. Students also will receive instruction on completing admissions forms, excelling during mock interviews, understanding the selection process, and obtaining financial aid.

The program is free of charge and is made possible for a limited number of students through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Office of Minority Affairs, and the College of Dentistry.

The Office of Minority Affairs has launched a **campuswide survey** of undergraduate, graduate, and professional **students of Asian descent** to seek feedback regarding programs and the campus climate for nearly 3,000 Asian Americans at Ohio State. The information is considered crucial to make recommendations to Minority Affairs, other administrators, and offices at the university that will better enable these students to thrive on campus.

Several university units are collaborating on "**Gidget**," an initiative intended to **reverse the chronic under-representation of women in technology**. Named for the 1960s television character Gidget—a little girl with big ideas—the initiative's first efforts will be to create a pipeline of information and support for girls that stretches from elementary school into adulthood. Gidget will provide technology training and activities to girls throughout their lifetimes with the hopes of creating a pool of successful and qualified information technology





professionals. Current partners in the initiative include Women in Technology @ OSU, The Women in Computer Engineering (TWICE), University District Extension, and TECH Corps Ohio. Recently, the group invited key professionals from around campus to a Meet Gidget event and also intends to start a listserv for sharing funding and programming ideas. Additionally, it is pursuing grants from the NSF through a program called "Broadening Participation in Computing"—which would help sustain TWICE—and from the Women's Fund of Central Ohio for a proposal to increase the number of elementary school computer clubs.

### Academic Programming and Research

The Corporation for Public Broadcasting has chosen WOSU as one of four public broadcasting stations to participate in an **internship program for minority students**. Co-sponsored by the Emma L. Bowen Foundation, the program places minority students in media industry positions, providing them with opportunities to learn aspects of corporate operations and develop company-specific skills. The goal of the Emma Foundation is to create career opportunities for talented young professionals of color. The foundation has approximately 175 students actively participating in the program and just as many graduates. WOSU will offer the chosen candidate a variety of work experiences, provide a mentor to offer guidance and advice, and provide increasing levels of responsibility. The candidate also will develop diverse knowledge while working in multiple areas of the stations and will work at

WOSU up to 10 weeks a summer for five consecutive years.

A new study of nearly 6,000 children suggests that black youths are more than twice as likely to die from a traumatic injury as are white children. **Research indicates that trauma has a far greater impact on minority children** than it does on white children and that, as a group, black children have more serious injuries. Black children are also two to three times more likely to be admitted to the hospital because of a traumatic injury. However, when black and white children are admitted to the hospital with equally severe injuries, they have an equal chance of survival, spend about the same amount of time in the hospital, and have equal access to rehabilitation services. According to the study, part of the reason that black children may be more susceptible to serious injury is due to their environment. The social and economic data indicate that many traumatic injuries—particularly assaults and burns—correspond with the severity of poverty. The study also suggests that prevention is the key to keeping children safe from traumatic injuries, but that prevention campaigns may have targeted geographic and social centers where African Americans or other minorities are not broadly present. Although data were gathered from Ohio's four largest minority groups—African American, Native American, Hispanic, and Asian—the latter three groups made up a very small portion of the

trauma cases. The study's lead author was Jonathan Groner, a clinical associate professor of surgery at Ohio State.

### Leadership/Recognition

The 2005 Diversity Enhancement Awards were given to two individuals and two departments for their commitment to improving diversity at the university and exceeding expectations in implementing the Diversity Action Plan. **J. Briggs Cormier**, doctoral student in the Department of Theatre, **William J. Hicks**, clinical professor at the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital, the **Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Geodetic Science**, and the **Department of Theatre** all were honored for their efforts to enhance diversity. The awards program is sponsored by the University Senate Committee on Diversity in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources and is in its 23rd year.

The **12th Wexner Prize** was awarded to leading American choreographer **Bill T. Jones**. The \$50,000 annual prize is given to a contemporary artist who has been consistently original, influential, and challenging to convention. Jones is among America's pre-eminent dance makers and is known for his wit and



*The Office of Minority Affairs hosted a reception to recognize senior-level appointments. Pictured (l. to r.): Mac Stewart; Executive Vice President and Provost Barbara Snyder; Athletic Director Gene Smith; President Karen Holbrook; Dean of the College of Optometry Melvin Shipp; and Senior Vice Provost and Executive Dean for the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences Jacqueline Jones Royster.*



elegance and often socio-political approach to issues of gender, race, and sexuality. The Wexner Center's cross-disciplinary International Arts Advisory Council nominates the recipients, who are approved by the Wexner Center Foundation Board of Trustees.

**Pat Enciso**, a professor of teaching and learning, has been selected chair of the **Trustees of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE)** Research Foundation for a three-year term. A national organization since 1911, NCTE is devoted to improving the teaching and learning of English and the language arts at all levels of education.

The **Fisher College of Business** hosted its fourth annual **Diversity Business Awards Program and Alumni Reception** to show appreciation for corporations and individuals who have worked with the college on diversity initiatives. Allen A. Boston, partner and director of campus and diversity recruiting for the Office of Minority Recruiting at Ernst & Young LLP, delivered the keynote speech at the event that honored Key Bank and Deloitte and Touche.

**Rosemary L.M. Hill**, director of Engineering Career Services, recently received the **J.W. Paquette Superior Leadership Award**.



In a field typically led by men, she received this annual award because she is "an active Midwest ACE member who has made consistent and significant professional leadership contributions." In addition to three separate terms on the Midwest ACE Executive Board and chairing the Engineering College Group, she has contributed to multiple committees and task forces during more than 25 years of professional involvement.

### Access for the Disabled

**The American Sign Language (ASL) Literature Digital Media Project** presented "An Evening of ASL Story-Telling" in May. The public performance, presented entirely in ASL, coincided with a series of workshops that were conducted by national leaders as well as entertainers in the field. The goal of the ASL-DMP is threefold:

- 1) to create a web magazine for the dissemination of ASL literature;
- 2) to mentor new ASL scholars, ASL performers/artists, and digital media technicians/producers who are, whether deaf or hearing, interested in ASL teaching or scholarship so that they might assume leadership roles in the further production of such ASL literature texts; and
- 3) to produce a how-to guide for the broader public about the creation of such texts so that people may produce and publish ASL literature of their own.

The **College of Education** recently held its **10th Annual Diversity Forum and Graduate Student Symposium**. The theme for this year's event was

"Fostering Greater Inclusiveness for Students with Disabilities," featuring keynote speaker Dr. Paula Kluth, an independent educational consultant and adjunct instructor at National-Louis University in Chicago. Kluth's professional and research interests center on differentiating instruction and on supporting students with autism and significant disabilities in inclusive classrooms. The daylong event concluded with a fireside chat, giving attendees a chance to talk with Kluth.

Mark Wellman, a paraplegic rock climber, gave a presentation titled *No Barriers* to faculty, students, and staff during a program co-sponsored by the **Office for Disability Services** and by **Adaptive Recreational Sports**. Wellman spoke about his life-threatening climbing accident that resulted in paraplegia and gave a climbing demonstration using the latest in adaptive climbing equipment at Ohio State's new Adventure Recreation Center.

### Awareness

**The 27th annual African American Heritage Festival** was celebrated May 1-7 at Ohio State with the theme *Kisima: Healing the Mind, Body, and Soul*. The goal of the Heritage Festival is to engage the university community in a celebration of African American heritage and culture, and this year focused on the long-term benefits of mental and physical wellness. "Kisima" means "well" in Swahili. Student organizers collaborated with the Soul Flower Group Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization that focuses on health issues prevalent in the African

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### Awareness *(continued)*

American and Latino communities. Diabetes was the focus of the Town Hall Forum, and Ohio State health professionals and students led a discussion about the disease that affects 11.4 percent of African Americans and 8.2 percent of Latino Americans age 20 or older. The weeklong festival also included a gospel music fest, fitness run/walk, and step show.

The President and Provost's **Diversity Lecture and Cultural Arts Series'** final two events featured Mari Matsuda, professor of law at UCLA, who presented *Public Education: Call It Public Trust*, and Paul Kwami who directed the production, *An Evening with the Fish Jubilee Singers*. A total of 12 lectures, performances, and discussions were presented throughout the academic year as a part of the series, intended to provide information and thoughtful discussion on a wide range of topics.

### Outreach Activities

The **College of Optometry** is planning an expansion of its outreach programs in the Columbus area with the future addition of vision services to La Clinica Latina, a health center for Hispanics, and collaboration with the colleges of Dentistry and Medicine to establish vision services in the German Village area, providing care to populations of Somali, Hispanic, and Appalachian patients. The college currently provides outreach services to homeless shelters, nursing homes, and schools.

Research associate **MariCarmen Lambea** has joined the **Latino com-**

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**munity outreach effort** in the College of Human Ecology, Department of Human Nutrition. Lambea, a physician from Mexico who has a master's degree in public health from Ohio State, is now working with assistant professor Hugo Melgar-Quinonez and postdoctoral research associate Ana Claudia Zubieta on applied nutrition research projects to address the local Latino community's needs. Lambea is in charge of coordinating collaboration projects with the Latino community and agencies working with that population group in Ohio. Her outreach and engagement proposals aim to create a statewide network of agencies, programs, and community initiatives.

*It's All About Health* is a monthly radio program about cancer and other health concerns in the African American community. Hosted by **Dr. William Hicks**, oncologist and co-director of the Diversity Enhancement Program at Ohio State's James Cancer Hospital and Solove Research Institute, the show airs on 106.3 FM

in the Columbus listening area. During the June 4 broadcast, Hicks and guests discussed sickle cell anemia, those it affects, the Adult Comprehensive Sickle Cell Program at the James, new drugs and treatments, and the Bellamy Midwest Sickle Cell Conference that was recently held in Columbus.

### Purchasing

The *Minority Business Bulletin*, a new quarterly publication from the university's Office of Business and Finance, is now available and is part of a concerted effort to heighten awareness, increase access, and build business relationships with the minority business community. Ultimately, the goal of the newsletter is to develop a model or prototype that could benefit other university units in their efforts to increase purchases from minority-owned firms. A copy of the publication can be found online at [http://ibuy.osu.edu/PDFs/mbb\\_sp05.pdf](http://ibuy.osu.edu/PDFs/mbb_sp05.pdf).