Celebrating a Legacy

On Thursday, December 8, The Ohio State University community came together to celebrate Dr. Bob Rodgers and his contributions and career. Rich Hollingsworth, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, welcomed the crowd and special presentations were given by current master’s students and the HESA faculty. Steve Kremer, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Director of University Housing, honored Dr. Rodgers with a token of appreciation by presenting him with a gold Buck-ID card—he can now eat anywhere on campus at anytime! In addition, the Ohio College Personnel Association President, Dwayne Todd, presented Dr. Rodgers with a plaque naming the Graduate Student of the Year Award the Robert F. Rodgers Award given by OCPA annually. A travel gift of $750.00 was presented to Dr. Rodgers by Erica Lee (MA 2001), who coordinated donations given by students, faculty and alumni. All who were in attendance were provided the opportunity to offer words of appreciation to Dr. Rodgers and to speak about their fondest memories. The two hour event was sponsored by the College of Education, the Ohio Union, the Office of Student Affairs, Oxley’s Catering, the School of Educational Policy & Leadership, the Student Personnel Assistantship Program, University Housing, and the Academic Advising Association of OSU.

The celebrations did not end when Dr. Rodgers was honored formally on campus in the Fall—they continued well into the national conference cycle and culminated at the American College Personnel Association’s annual conference held in Indianapolis, Indiana. SPA Alumni and program friends, faculty and current students gathered to highlight and recognize his over thirty-five years of research, teaching and service. Special presentations were made by former student and now Vice President of Student Affairs at California State Northridge, Terry Piper; and current students, led by Jess Bennett and Phil Badaszewski. Michele Welkener and Leonard Baird offered faculty perspectives, and well-wishes were abundant during an open microphone opportunity. While everyone agrees that “Dr. Bob’s” presence in the classroom will be greatly missed, we look forward to seeing what wonderful work will be next for him as he begins this exciting new chapter of his life.
A Retirement Reception

“Dr. Bob” Style

(right) Bob Rodgers and OSU alumni, friends, and current Students smile for the camera.

HESA 2005-2006 Faculty: Len Baird, Michele Welkener, Tatiana Suspitsyna, Ada Demb, and Bob Rodgers.

Dr. Rodgers receives a plaque of appreciation from HESPA President, Mike Brockfield.

Steve Kremer had better watch out for “Dr. Bob’s” right hook!
NEWS FROM THE COORDINATOR OF SPA...

It’s hard to believe that the 2005-2006 academic year is coming to a close—a busy year of reflecting on our program’s successes and thinking about possibilities for the future. Dr. Tatiana Suspitsyna and I were welcomed as new faculty at the beginning of the Fall quarter and at the end of Fall we celebrated the accomplishments of Dr. Bob Rodgers as he began his retirement. Winter quarter brought the OCPA conference in Worthington, and it was a time of inspiration and rejuvenation. Attendees were more numerous than ever, suggesting a growing interest in making connections and continuing to learn from our institutional neighbors in the state.

During Winter quarter we also held SPA interviews. We were fortunate to receive applications from so many bright, experienced, and energetic young scholars that making admissions decisions was quite difficult. The faculty nominated several students for university fellowships because their credentials were so exceptional. Many thanks to those of you who recommended OSU’s program to your students and campus leaders! As of the distribution of this newsletter, 35 MA students and five new PhD students are planning to attend our program in the Fall. Their outstanding achievements have prepared them to continue our program’s legacy of academic excellence.

Several SPA interns and GAs who worked with us during Winter and Spring terms played a key role in organizing the interview process and working with offices around campus. In addition to orchestrating interview visits, they worked on NASPA and ACPA conference reception plans and contributed ideas for recruitment strategies and admissions materials. The NASPA and ACPA annual conventions offered numerous opportunities for networking, reconnecting with and learning from colleagues in the field, and the OSU receptions were well attended. It was wonderful to have so many Buckeyes gather to celebrate the year and Dr. Rodgers’ career at OSU.

Of course throughout the entire year we relied heavily on our partnership with Student Affairs and assistantship supervisors—essential members of the SPA and HESA community—and can’t possibly overstate our appreciation for their unending support of current and incoming students. It is this spirit of collaboration that is the hallmark of OSU’s SPA program.

The future looks bright for HESA and SPA—the College of Education and School of Educational Policy and Leadership have a commitment to making OSU programs the best they can be. We have received support to hire a full-time, 12-month, SPA Assistant Coordinator, and Tammy Maltzan will be joining us as a Visiting Assistant Professor during 2006-2007. These hires will not only help us maintain the integrity of our curriculum and collaborative administrative work, but allow us to strategically develop new directions that build on our history and strengths. We are delighted to have Richard Hollingsworth return as an adjunct faculty member while he serves as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs.

It is likely that the next time we write you our College’s name will be the College of Education and Human Ecology, as the merger has been widely accepted by faculty and staff of both Colleges and promises a larger campus presence. Dr. David Andrews, who has been Interim Dean of the College of Education this academic year, will be appointed as Dean of the new College. We will also be hiring a new School Director as Dr. Robert Lawson, who most recently served in this role (and has been a great support to SPA and HESA), pursues a new phase of his career.

As educators we are accustomed to hellos and goodbyes each year, but that doesn’t mean the goodbyes get any easier. On June 10, we held our HESA MA hooding ceremony for the Class of ’06 and wished them well as they depart to institutions all over the country to serve the field in exciting ways. Our OSU HESA/SPA family continues to expand as we watch one cohort graduate and one start from the beginning. To the graduates, congratulations and best wishes! To our new students, welcome! To our valued colleagues, alumni and friends, thank you for your commitment to this ever-growing community of scholars! We are working on plans for developing the program and we hope you’ll be a part of its exciting future.

Have a wonderful summer,

Michele M. Welkener
The Service-Learning Initiative has completed another impressive and successful quarter of course work and community partnering in the University District. Fifty-four students, enrolled in either the Wednesday or Friday Leadership in Community Service course, performed over 1600 hours of community service at Life Care Alliance (Project Open Hand), the After School Academic Program (ASAP) and Food Pantry at East Broad Presbyterian Church, The Boys and Girls Club at Second Avenue, Medary and Como Elementary Schools, Neighborhood Services, Inc. (NSI), and the YWCA Family Center.

At the end of the quarter, students continued to comment on the significance of the course; and, the relationships the initiative has built with its community partners:

- “This course blew me away! It was much better than I expected!”
- “I like how we reflected on what we did. It made us think more and I enjoyed having the ability to incorporate art into our journal entries.”
- “Being at NSI has helped me to have a more open mind and to have a better understanding of what being hungry is like.”
- “I have learned more about myself than I have in any other quarter I’ve had at OSU. I have gained experiences, and my eyes have opened to what is truly occurring in the world around me...I know that after this class, I am going to actively pursue my degree in education.”

While the end of the academic year always brings closure, it also offers promise for things to come. Both Heather Bandeen and I have thoroughly enjoyed our teaching assistant experiences and serving in the surrounding community; but, it is time for us to move on educationally and professionally. Recently, Heather was selected to serve as a graduate assistant for The Ohio Collaborative. The Ohio Collaborative, located on the fourth floor of Ramseyer Hall, is a policy research center dedicated to meeting the educational research needs of schools, children and families. As an initial project, Heather will be analyzing the attrition rates of math and science teachers throughout Ohio classrooms.

After teaching for two years, I have decided to return to Capital University and serve as a graduate assistant in the Office of Multicultural Affairs. I will have the opportunity to advise, engage and interact with several multicultural student organizations, train peer mentors and assist with programming development and implementation.

The service-learning course will be left in the very capable hands of Valentine Mukuria (mukuria.1@osu.edu), a second-year doctoral student who has taken the graduate service-learning course, and served as a teaching assistant for a number of instructors throughout her academic tenure. Valentine has a special research interest in international service-learning programs and community partnerships. Professional guidance will also come from Dr. Helen Marks (marks.50@osu.edu) who will lead the Service-Learning Initiative as its faculty supervisor. We wish them much success next year!
Kristina Brischke (MA ’06) & Abbey Erford (MA ’04) presented “Stop Hazing Before it Starts” at the Mid America Greek Conference. They also presented together at ACPA with Sharing our Success.

Kristina Brischke (MA ’06) & Sarah Shilling (MA ’06) presented “Making a Difference in the Professional Development of Graduate Students” with Rich Hollingsworth and Michele Welkener at ACPA.

Jaime Deafenbaugh (Ph.D. year four) was awarded an ASHE/LUMINA Foundation for Education Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation titled “The Land Grant Opportunity Scholars: Examining their Transition and Persistence Experience to College.”

Jenni Gough (MA ’06) co-presented “The Millennial Student: Are We On Target With Who They Are?” at the OCPA Conference in Worthington, Ohio.

Davida L. Haywood (MA ’04 & Ph.D. year two) presented “Pass the Torch, But Keep the Fire Burning: Developing Organizational Members as Leaders” at Capital University’s Leadership Development Series; and “Using Critical Race Feminism to Analyze the ‘Dark Testaments’ of African American Women” at the College of Education’s 2006 Graduate Student Symposium. She was also recently asked to lead several racial identity development, Black fraternal and mentoring workshops this summer for the Young Scholars Program sponsored by OSU’s Office of Minority Affairs.

Kristin Hunger (MA ’06) & Rebecca Lane (MA ’06) presented “Career Services: So We Enable or Empower Students” at the OCPA Conference in Worthington, Ohio.

Trinity Jeter (MA’ 06) presented “Keeping It Real: Satisfaction, Success and Retention” at the Black and Latino Diversity Conference on the campus of Ohio Wesleyan University.

Larry Mrozek (Ph.D. year three) presented “Assessing Student Responses to Ethnic/Cultural, Gender and Sexual Orientation Descriptives” and “Assessing the Campus Climate for Diversity and Meaning Among Students” at ACPA.

Valentine Mukuria (Ph.D. year two) has presented several papers for the following organizational conferences: the 8th Annual UKFIET at Oxford University (London, England), North America World Council for Curriculum and Instruction (San Francisco, CA), 23rd International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership (Rapid City, South Dakota) and Comparative and International Education Society (Honolulu, HI). She also authored an article for the ACPA Interchange newsletter at http://www.myacpa.org/comm/student/documents/FebruaryIssue.

D’Andra Mull (Ph.D year two), Anne Krabacher (PhD, year four) and Jaime Deafenbaugh (Ph.D. year four) successfully defended their candidacy exams this Spring!

Peter Paquette (MA ’06) & Collier Lumpkin (MA ’06) presented “Our Journey to the Target: A Transformational Approach to the Development of Student Learning Outcomes” at the OCPA Conference in Worthington, Ohio.

Xueli Wang (Ph.D. year two) presented “Understanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Development: A Conceptual Model” at ACPA. Xueli also participated in the 2006 Hayes Graduate Research Forum and placed third. Her paper presentation was entitled, “Exploring the Relationships between Drive to Achieve, English Self-Sufficiency, and Classroom Verbal Participation of International College Students.

Lisa Weiss, (MA, ’06) presented “Homo Away From Home” at the OCPA Conference in Worthington, Ohio.

Please let us know of your news, accomplishments, comings and goings by e-mailing spa@osu.edu!
Elisa Abes (Ph.D. ‘04) was selected as an ACPA Emerging Scholar and for the Annuit Coeptis emerging professional award.

Cheria Dial (MA ‘99) and Brian Orefice (MA ‘99) presented “Developing UNITY: Engaging Students in Seamless Multicultural Education” at the ACPA National Convention in Indianapolis, IN.

Gina Ginn (M.A. ‘05) is the Assistant Director of Development for United Cerebral Palsy of Central Ohio.

Anthony P. Jakubisin (M.A. ‘05) is a Resident Director at The University of California, Santa Barbara.

Dana Kuchem (MA ‘05) married Dr. Harmon Vredeveld on September 4, 2005 in San Francisco.

Tammy Maltzan (Ph.D. ‘06) successfully defended her dissertation entitled “Rurality and Higher Education: Implications for Identity and Persistence.” She graduated on June 11 and will be a Visiting Assistant Professor for the Higher Education and Student Affairs program this fall at OSU.

Katie Thompson (MA ‘02) is a Communications Coordinator for web content of the employee intranet at Nationwide Insurance.

Brad Van Den Elzen (Ph.D. Dec. ‘06) and wife Debra welcomed Owen Kearns on Monday, June 5th at 7:30am. Owen weighed 7lbs. 8oz and was 19.5 inches long.

We are sad to report that Russell Spillman, who led the OSU Office of Student Affairs for nine years, has died in Columbus at age 70 after a long illness.

Russ Spillman was an Associate Dean for the College of Education when he was appointed Vice President for Student Affairs in 1984. He led the complex administrative area for nine years before returning in 1993 to his former post as Associate Professor of Educational Policy and Leadership.

He also assumed a leadership role in diversifying the College’s Center for Policy Research on Ohio-Based Education. He made the program interdisciplinary, expanded its focus to the entire nation and enlarged its research scope to K-16 education.

He joined Ohio State in 1972 as an Assistant Professor, and received his Ph.D. a year later from the University of Chicago. He became Associate Dean of the College of Education in 1976. Before coming to Ohio State, he had served in teaching positions and educational leadership posts in Illinois for 16 years.

He was an active civic leader, with appointments such as the presidency of the Columbus Area Leadership Program and membership on the State of Ohio Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Celebration Commission.

He is survived by his sons, Russell Jr. and Greg; daughter and son-in-law, Kristyn and Doug Friske; and four grandchildren.
Congratulations to the First-Year MA Students completing ACUHO-I and NODA Summer Internships:

Phil Badaszewski
The Richard Stockton School

Vanidy Bailey
The College of New Jersey

Robyn Bowers
Gettysburg College

Wil Chen
University of Syracuse

Kristin Layous
Duke University

Jen Moning
Johnson & Wales University-Denver

Kelly Schoellman
Stony Brook University

And to our students who are studying in Lancaster, England this Summer:

Jess Bennett
Katie Beres
John Prescott