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People in Action

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People in Action

04.30.2009 | Faculty The latest scholarly and professional accomplishments, publications, presentations and awards of your colleagues and students:

Adjudication

- **Linda J. Snyder**, professor of music, served as adjudicator for the Ball State University School of Music Vocal Scholarship Competition Feb. 15 and the state student Auditions of the National Association of

Teachers of Singing April 4 at Cedarville University.

Attendance

- **John Ruggiero**, associate professor of economics, has been invited to attend a National Science Foundation-hosted workshop on models of intercultural service systems. The workshop will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in May. Invitees include economists, anthropologists, decision scientists, complex system modelers and others. Ruggiero's expertise is in data envelopment analysis, or DEA, a linear programming methodology that constructs production frontiers and measures efficiency in various kinds of organizations. Ruggiero is a leader in the DEA field.

Appointments

- **Thomas Lasley**, dean of the School of Education and Allied Professions and Joseph Panzer Professor of Education, was named to the board of directors of the Ohio College Access Network, which provides advocacy, program development and sustainability support to college access organizations in Ohio.
- **Jerome Servaites**, who worked 16 years in the biology department until 2001, has returned to the University of Dayton Research Institute as a research biologist. An internationally known researcher in photosynthetic carbon fixation, he has published more than 50 peer-reviewed papers. Since 2001, he's been investigating harmful algal blooms, testing for cyanotoxins in water, algae, and tissue samples. He also spent two years managing the genomics laboratory at Wright State University. In UDRI's energy and environmental division, he's producing algae in photobioreactors for development of biodiesel and biojet fuels and investigating algal strains with high rates of carbon dioxide fixation and oil production.

Citation

- Research by **Michelle Pautz**, an assistant professor of political science, was cited in a March New York Times article about consumers, recessions and film. Read the article.

Election

- **Charles Shelley** of facilities management's sports turf and irrigation staff was voted an executive director of the Ohio Sports Turf Managers Association after serving two years as a trustee. He also attended the Ohio Turfgrass Foundation's 2008 Ohio Turfgrass Conference.

Honors

- **Serdar S. Durmusoglu**, assistant professor of marketing, and two other authors received the Best Paper Award from the Product Development and Management Association (PDMA) Research Forum for their 2008 paper "New Product Portfolio Management Decisions: Antecedents and Consequences."
- On Saturday, April 4, eight UD voice students participated in the state student auditions sponsored by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, held at Cedarville University. Three received recognition: **Joy Willenbrink**, student of **Lori Hicks**, placed second in the first-year women's division; **Sam Kreidenweis**, student of **David Sievers**, placed fourth in the junior men's division; **Jacki Schneider**, student of **Linda J. Snyder**, placed fourth in senior women and upper-level musical theater. Other students in the competition included **Katie Ballard**, **June Feng**, **Stephanie Jabre**, **Mary Kate Mcnamara** and **Amberly VanArsdall**.
- **Mark Rye**, an associate professor of psychology, was among 40 area educators from 11 area colleges and universities

to receive an Excellence in Teaching Award April 24 from the Southwestern Ohio Council for Higher Education.

- UD's Model UN organization received recognition along with a group from Japan as Distinguished Delegation for Belgium at the 2009 National Model United Nations conference April 5-9 in New York City. The honor is the second-highest awarded at the national conference, said **Zach Lindsey**, secretary-general of the UD group. Lindsey accompanied 13 other UD delegates to the conference: **Mary Fuson, Nicole Krummert, Mallory Pohlman, Jacklyn Smith, Annea Hapciu, Sariana Garcia-Ocasio, Lisa Lin, Katherine McClure, Michael Cermak, Daniel Hughes, Troy Reynolds, Shane Rogers and Michael Veselik**. Their faculty adviser is political science lecturer **Anthony Talbott**.
- History professor **Larry Schweikart** continues to attract national media attention for his commentary on current political events and his book *48 Liberal Lies About American History*. He's a weekly guest on the Fox News show *Fox & Friends*, which has an average monthly viewership of 1.2 million. In April, a Texas businessman purchased 7,500 autographed copies of *48 Liberal Lies* to send to state and federal legislators.
- **Charlotte Cook Robinson** of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community was one of five people chosen from among more than 400 nominees to receive a National Administrative Professionals Award from local radio station WROU-FM, 92.1. She received the award at an April 22 event at the Schuster Performing Arts Center; with the award, she won two tickets to see the musical *The Color Purple*. Among her notable work is the planning and marketing of the 24th annual CityLinks Neighborhood Conference, which drew more than 200 attendees. Robinson's daughter, Erica Guice, nominated her.
- **The Alumni Hall Marianist Community** received recognition in the April 27 issue of *VocationNotation*, the vocation newsletter for the Marianist Province of the United States, for members' efforts to promote a culture of vocations. Among their activities: morning and evening prayer, to which students and faculty are invited; Eucharistic adoration four times per week; meals for students by invitation; and members serving as faculty advisers to two campus fraternities. Future plans include a live-in experience. The community continues to serve as a formation community with the first temporary professed.
- Junior psychology and political science major **James Saywell** took first place in the National Educational Debate Association Championship Tournament, held April 17-18 in Washington, D.C. There, 27 teams competed in debate on the topic, "The U.S. federal government should significantly limit the authority of the Department of Homeland Security." Saywell is the second champion for UD in three years, said **David Miller**, director of the speech and debate team. **Andrew Navolio** took the top prize in 2007. In the tournament's novice division for students in their first year of debate, first-year history major **Joseph Alemagno** teamed up with **Jamal Heath** from Anderson University to finish third; the team of first-year political science major **Jonathan Wilkerson** and sophomore mechanical engineering major **Lawrence Funke** finished fourth.

Interview

- **Eileen Carr**, coordinator of the UD Arts Series, was quoted in March-April issue of *Inside Arts: The Magazine of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters*. One of the main articles, "My First Time," provides overviews from a variety of perspectives, among which is the UD Arts Series.

Performances

- **Linda J. Snyder**, professor of music and coordinator of voice performance studies, performed songs by George Gershwin with the UD Symphonic Wind Ensemble Feb. 22 and in the Sunday Concert Series at the Premier Pianos Recital Hall in Cincinnati March 8 with pianist Sonya Szabo-Reynolds of Xavier University.
- **Linda J. Snyder**, professor of music, served as the director of the Schuster Center Celebration Choir in three concerts this spring: April 22 at the Schuster Center Wintergarden; May 3 at St. John's Lutheran Church; and May 15 for downtown Dayton's Urban Nights. The choir is part of the Victoria Theatre Association and under sponsorship of Dayton Power and Light.

Presentations

- **Qiwen Zhan**, an associate professor in the electro-optics graduate program, will be an invited presenter at two international conferences this fall. At the 8th Pacific Rim Conference on Lasers and Electro-Optics, set for Aug. 30-Sept. 3 in Shanghai, he'll present "Tailoring optical focal field through laser beam polarization engineering." At the Optical Society of America's Frontiers in Optics annual meeting Oct. 11-15 in San Jose, Calif., he'll present "Optical Imaging Instrumentation with Spatially Engineered Polarization."
- **Qiwen Zhan**, an associate professor in the electro-optics graduate program, gave a 45-minute invited talk, "Optimal plasmonic focusing with thin film metrology applications," at the spring meeting of Deutsche Physikalische Gesellschaft, the German Physics Society. At the meeting, he also chaired a session for the thin film division and visited the local semiconductor industries to discuss potential research collaborations.

Professional advancement

- **Ed Watson**, a visiting faculty member in the electro-optics program and an Air Force liaison to UD's Ladar and Optical Communications Institute, has been elevated to the rank of fellow in the Optical Society of America. A principal scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory Sensors Directorate, Watson conducts research in active and passive electro-optic sensors.

Publications

- **Qiwun Zhan**, an associate professor in the electro-optics graduate program, published an invited review article in the inaugural issue of *Advances in Optics and Photonics*. The article, "Cylindrical vector beams: From mathematical concepts to applications," was one of the two most downloaded articles from the Optical Society of America publications in February and March.
- **Patrick Sweeney**, director of the engineering management and systems program, has published the historical novel *Nail '67-68*, set during what's known as the "secret war" in Laos. The story is based on Sweeney's service with co-writer Jerry Dwyer as forward air controllers on the 23rd Tactical Air Support Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Air Base in Thailand. In April, Sweeney traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, in April for the dedication of a replica of his war aircraft, the Kudy Jay, a twin-engine Cessna, in the Forward Air Controller's museum.
- Electro-optics doctoral student **Weibin Chen** published "Realization of an evanescent Bessel beam via surface plasmon interference excited by a radially polarized beam" with **Qiwun Zhan**, associate professor of electro-optics, in the January 2009 issue of *Optics Letters*. This article was among the five most downloaded papers from *Optics Letters* in March.