

A MESSAGE FROM DEAN STEINMETZ

Dear Colleagues,

There is nothing quite like the beginning of autumn quarter at Ohio State—everything comes alive. Autumn quarter is the year's real beginning for us. It also marks the beginning of the College of Arts and Sciences' first academic year together. Let's open our doors wide to welcome our students, new and returning; and to each other, as colleagues and partners in a worthwhile venture.

Next Wednesday, more than 6500 new freshmen take their places in classrooms, lecture halls, dorms and laboratories to begin a process that will change their lives forever. We can be proud to be a part of that process as we teach, mentor, and guide these enthusiastic young minds to find their place and make a difference in the world.

This is the best-prepared entering class in Ohio State history:

- 52-54 percent in the top 10 percent of their graduating class
- 89-90 percent in the top 25 percent
- average ACT 27.7
- average SAT 1230

Here's to new beginnings!



CONTENTS

General Updates: Mathematical Biosciences Institute (MBI) wins \$16.2 million grant; Conference grant: Migrations and Religions; New Special Events Coordinator, Faculty Research

News:
Opportunities
Upcoming Events
Arts and Sciences in the News

GENERAL UPDATES

Quarter To Semester Conversion Update: New to Ohio State? Visit the Semester Conversion [web site](#) where you can find a preview of the [semester calendar](#) and more information.

MATHEMATICAL BIOSCIENCES INSTITUTE (MBI) WINS \$16.2 MILLION GRANT IN NATIONAL COMPETITION

The MBI will receive a total of \$16.2 million in National Science Foundation (NSF) funding for the next five years. Established in 2002, the MBI actively promotes and facilitates interdisciplinary research among the mathematical, biological, and biomedical sciences. MBI funding supports the work of 12 or more postdoctoral fellows annually, along with a number of long-term visiting scholars. MBI scholars have discovered new methods for helping wounds heal, using calculus; tracked the worldwide spread of viruses—including H1N1, using statistics; and have gained a new understanding of the body's immune response, using computer models. Additionally, each year the MBI offers special workshops, attended by approximately 700 visitors. Topics, such as climate change or public health, change yearly to reflect key world issues.

Barbara Becker-Cantarino, Professor in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, has received a

grant of 15,325 Euros from the Humboldt Foundation in Bonn, Germany, to develop a conference on "Migrations and Religions: Germany in Transit." The conference, to be held April 8-9, 2011, will explore the cultural effects of migration in the formation of the German state, through a historical, transatlantic, and contemporary perspective. Central to the proposed conference framework is the recognition that symbolic ethnicity and religious identity continue to influence how individuals, nations, and states negotiate questions of social and spatial mobility. The conference organizers are Barbara Becker-Cantarino and **Georges Tamer**, M.S. Sofia Chair in Arabic Studies in Near Eastern Languages and Cultures.

Welcome Arts and Sciences New Special Events Coordinator, Madeline Khurma. Khurma comes to us from the Wexner Center for the Arts, where she served for 10 years as Patron Services Manager, helping with all aspects of back-of-the-house management for events of all types and sizes. Khurma's first day on the job was Monday, September 13. Her office is 1005 Derby Hall.

Faculty Research: Formal Education Key to Stopping Spread of HIV in Africa

A new study by Ellen Peters, psychology, published in *Psychological Science*, finds that simply teaching people the facts about how to protect themselves from HIV may not be enough to prevent the spread of AIDS in Africa. Peters led a team of researchers to Ghana to see whether more formal education leads to better health decisions. They found that villagers in Ghana who had higher levels of cognitive and decision-making abilities—not just the most knowledge, were most likely to take steps to protect themselves from HIV infection. More formal education provided people with not only knowledge, but the ability to “extrapolate from health knowledge, think counterfactually about actions, reason statistically in everyday life and ultimately lead healthier lives.” The results have important implications for fighting AIDS worldwide.

NEWS

• **Opportunities**

Evening Classes Available at The Office Continuing Education. Boost your skills with evening classes in computer software, business & communications, and language through The Office of Continuing Education. For more information, please call 292-8860 or visit us [online](#).

Year of eLearning Events Planned Through Summer 2011 The Digital Union launched its Year of eLearning this past spring to strengthen interest, community, and expertise in teaching and learning with technology. A wide range of university groups will offer a full slate of events, Autumn 2010 through Summer 2011. For information about upcoming events, visit: elearning.osu.edu

Dig-N-Dash: One-Time Opportunity Thursday, Sept. 16, to Give an Endangered Plant a Good Home

Plant biology's perennial teaching garden is located right in the path of the new road that will run between Garage K and the Neil Avenue Garage. Be a life-saver and stop by the **Dig-N-Dash fundraiser on Thursday, September 16 1-5 p.m.** Pick out your favorite perennials from the garden and for a modest donation to the greenhouse fund, greenhouse manager Joan Leonard and her students will dig out the plants and put them into pots for you to transplant into your garden at home. Fall is a great time for planting. This is your chance to own a piece of the garden so many have long admired.

• **Upcoming Events**

Internationally recognized feminist scholar, *bell hooks*, will deliver a public lecture, **Keeping It Real: The Practice of Diversity, on Wednesday, October 20 at 4:30 p.m.** in 131 Hitchcock Hall. Dr. hooks will be in residence at Ohio State this year as Visiting Distinguished Professor of Women's Studies.

The Film Studies Program and ARTillery Ohio presents, **The Not Painful Film Festival, on Saturday, September 25 from 8-10 p.m.** at the Gateway Film Center. This is a showcase of experimental shorts by some of Columbus' best emerging talent plus some of their friends and favorites, and live musical interludes by keyboardist Scott Steelman in the spirit of classic movie house presentations.

• **Arts and Sciences in the News**

[Scientist Watches Glacier Melt Beneath His Feet](#) *NPR*, September 4, 2010. Earlier this summer, a group of scientists spent two weeks in Indonesia atop a glacier called Puncak Jaya, one of the few remaining tropical glaciers in the world. They were taking samples of ice cores to study the impacts of climate change on the glacier. Lonnie Thompson, earth sciences, led the team and what he witnessed shocked him: The glacier was literally melting

under their feet.

[The Only Child: Not a Loner?](#) *Chicago Tribune*, September 10, 2010, Donna Bobbitt-Zeher, lead author; Douglas Downey, sociology, Marion campus.

[As supply drops, price of helium may go through roof](#), *The Dispatch*, September 13, 2010, Chris Hammel, physics.

[Clinton Coming To Columbus](#), *The Dispatch*, September 11, 2010, Paul Beck, political science.

College of Arts and Sciences
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES
1010 Derby Hall
(614) 292-8686
ascomm@osu.edu



If you have any general information for News & Updates that you'd like to share with the Arts and Sciences community, please forward to Communications. *News & Updates* will be published on the first and third Wednesday of each month; deadline for content is the Monday before publication. Next edition: 10/6