Greetings. We hope everyone has had a good summer! This is the first College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences newsletter – the first in a two-part series covering the highlights of the 2013-2014 academic year. There were so many newsworthy events and developments that it was difficult to contain in one newsletter! We hope you enjoy reading and learning about the people and events in the college.

The CLLSS Committee for Communication and Marketing:
Joni Mihura
Chair, Associate Dean of Social Sciences
Patricia Case
Social Sciences Representative
Dan Compora
Humanities Representative
Gaby Semaan
Interdisciplinary Representative
Eric Prichard
Student Representative
Xi Li
Student Representative

I SEE Southern Africa Open House
Dr. Rubin Patterson, founder of ISEE

April 2014 marked the official birth of the Institute for the Study and Economic Engagement of Southern Africa (I SEE Southern Africa). Its birth comes at an auspicious time to help the University meet parts of its core mission, particularly international and community engagement.

ISEESA is the link between the two seemingly different worlds of Southern Africa and Ohio. The new institute will add educational and economic value to both regions in an innovative manner. ISEE’s value proposition was illustrated June 6-22, when Dr. Rubin Patterson, former Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, Director of the Africana Studies Program and Director of ISEE, led a student to the region on a study abroad experience and worked to broker a project between Xunlight and a provincial ministry. Additionally, the institute’s ongoing research comparing interest in and challenges with entrepreneurship between Ohio and Southern African college students and practitioners also was advanced.

In the words of Dr. Patterson, “Our goal is to strategically position UT to accomplish three goals: generate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary cutting-edge and relevant applied knowledge in a coordinated manner for American and Southern African institutions, facilitate knowledge brokering for institutions between the two regions, and prepare American and Southern African students enrolled in UT courses for leadership positions in institutions concerning the region.” It is against this backdrop that a cross-section of UT, community leaders,
Department of Geography and Planning Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Dr. Patrick L. Lawrence, Department Chair

Although geography classes had been taught at UT in the College of Arts and Sciences since its formation in 1909 — and in later years in various programs by part-time instructors, including within a combined geology and geography department — in September 1963 a standalone Department of Geography was established in the College of Arts and Sciences with one full-time geography faculty member, Dr. Byron Emery. During the 2013-2014 academic year, the department took time to celebrate this 50th anniversary.

Courses and majors would expand during the 1960s with the addition of Dr. Donald Lewis and an increased focus in the area of economic geography led by Dr. Lawrence (Larry) Hoffman. In the fall of 1970, the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) approved the MA in Geography program to be offered by the department. By 1973, the department grew to seven full-time faculty members as Drs. Basil Collins, Eugene Franckowiak, Robert Basile and William Muraco also were teaching courses in a variety of areas with special focus on human, economic and urban geography.

Into the 1980s and 1990s, various department and program reviews resulted in growth in the areas of focus, including expanding to a Department of Geography and Planning and adding specializations in the fields of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), remote sensing, transportation, and the environment. Due to a growing interest and expertise in GIS and related research areas, the department established a lab in the Lake Erie Center in 1998, followed by the creation of the Geographic Information Science and Applied Geographics (GISAG) facility in 2003. Since its formation, the GISAG has secured almost $19 million in external research grant funding to geography faculty and researchers from other departments and colleges at the University, and involving the work of dozens of graduate students supported by federal, state and local agencies, including the National Science Foundation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, NASA, USGS, NRCS, Ohio Department of Transportation, City of Toledo and many others.

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2013-2014 LLSS Student Honors and Awards

The following students were presented with College Honors and Awards at a ceremony May 2, 2014 at the Driscoll Center Auditorium. Dean Jamie Barlowe presented awards to the students, accompanied by Associate Deans Barbara Schneider and Joni Mihura, as well as the department chairs and program directors. Numerous happy and proud parents, family, and friends were also in attendance. The ceremony was followed by a reception. The following were some of the 2013-2014 honorees:

Dean’s Essay Prize Winners
Short Prose Essay: Samuel Duling, “Happiness, Equality, and Other Problems with Democratic Society”

LLSS 2014 Outstanding Students
Ayman Aouthmany, Psychology
Justin Armstrong, Sociology
Blair Donahue, English Language and Literature
Steven Frymire, Geography and Planning
Shahrazad Hamdah, Political Science
Dakota Harkins, History
Lauren Hisey, Disabilities Studies
Amy Hoffman, Foreign Language
Bridget Landon, Anthropology
Emily Numbers, Interdisciplinary Studies: Law and Social Thought
Odiri Omobien, Women’s and Gender Studies
Owen Riley, Economics
Lacey Rogers, Philosophy

2014 Graduates with Honors
Summa Cum Laude – blue and gold twisted cords
Ayman Aouthmany, Psychology
Zachary Dickey, Linguistics
Shahrazad Hamdah, Political Science
Cherry Hanna, Psychology
Kayla Hauser, Psychology
Amy Hoffman, French
Erin Johnson, History
Eleesha Lockett, Asian Studies
Isaac Skaggs, Political Science
Dawn Witmer, English
NEW Leadership Ohio 2014

Three UT students were accepted into the 2014 NEW Leadership Ohio Program that took place June 2014: (pictured, from left to right): Danielle Stamper (double major in Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology), Fanell Williams (major in Social Work and minor in Women’s and Gender Studies), and Monica Klonowski (double major in Women’s and Gender Studies and Psychology).

As described in their materials, “NEW Leadership is designed to address the historical and contemporary underrepresentation of women in politics. NEW Leadership educates participants about the political process and awareness of women’s historical and contemporary participation in that process. NEW Leadership participants spend five days in an intensive residential institute. During this time, participants will: learn the history of women’s involvement in public life, gain leadership skills in public speaking, advocacy, and diversity, and form a network of their peers, as well as current women leaders. Once the residential institute ends, NEW Leadership participants are encouraged to continue to build their leadership skills on their home campuses. They are also encouraged to consider running for public office at some time in the future.

After completing the week-long program, Monica said, “This opportunity was beyond words. I learned so much over this past week, was introduced to a great amount of powerful women leaders, and plan to apply what I have learned by creating my own student organization in the fall.” See UT News story here utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/06_02_2014/two-ut-students-attending-womens-leadership-conference. You also can learn more about the NEW Leadership in Ohio Program at glennschool.osu.edu/programs/new_leadership/new_leadership.html

Geography and Planning Alumni Videos

The Department of Geography and Planning has posted 2-to-3 minute videos of its alumni describing jobs and career paths: Adam DeMars, Lance Dasher, Leah Mullen, and Patrick Etchie. These alumni describe the skills they learned at UT and how they relate to the job they perform today. Adam DeMars is a CAD GIS Analyst in Columbia, S.C. Lance Dasher is a Transportation Planner at Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG). In fall 2013, Lance also received a distinguished scholarship from Gamma Theta Upsilon (GTU), The International Geographic Honor Society. Leah Mullen is a Systemic Analyst at the Toledo Fair Housing Center. Patrick Etchie is a Transportation Planner for the Mannik and Smith Group. Check out the videos here utohio.edu/llss/geography/degrees/degree_home/degrees.html
Recent years have seen continued expansion of the Department and academic programs with the introduction of the PhD program in Spatially Integrated Social Sciences (SISS), approved by OBOR in 2009. The SISS PhD program is housed and administered by the Department of Geography and Planning and represents a multidisciplinary effort also involving the departments of Political Science and Public Administration, Economics, and Sociology and Anthropology — all within in the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences. Currently, the SISS PhD program has grown to a total of 18 students, with the first graduate of the program — April Ames — in June 2014.

2011 marked a significant milestone for the Department with a move from the fourth floor of University Hall, which had been its home for many years, to newly renovated and expanded offices, labs, and classrooms on the 3rd floor of Snyder Memorial. The Department has continued to deliver quality courses and programs to majors and students taking both geography and planning courses, while offering opportunities for internships, undergraduate and graduate research, community engagement and outreach via classroom experiences and student projects to more than 50 majors in the BA Geography and MA Geography programs, and hundreds of other UT students who take our courses in Geographic Information Sciences, regional and human geography, urban planning, environmental geography, transportation and many other topics each year.

Special events to celebrate the department’s 50th anniversary included:
- A colloquium series featuring distinguished alumni giving presentations to current faculty and students
- Hosting more than 150 geographers from Ohio, Michigan and Ontario at the 2013 Joint Annual Meeting of East Lakes Division, Association of American Geographers and Canadian Association of Geographers, Ontario Division, held at UT in October 2013
- Alumni Reception, attended by more than 40 former students
- Creation of a new student scholarship fund with the UT Foundation
- A virtual library archive of historical documents created by the UT Libraries
- Activities organized by our honor society, Gamma Theta Upsilon, and the Geography and Planning Club, including tailgating at a UT football game and evening Geo-Jeopardy competitions
- Articles in the UT alumni magazine, UT News, and the newsletter of the Association of American Geographers
- Promotional banners, photographs and printed materials highlighting the anniversary and department history
- Special panel sessions at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association of American Geographers in Tampa, Florida, in April 2014.

Open House

politicians, and local entrepreneurs in the Toledo area participated in the official launching of this important new institute.

Key among the participants were the following: Dr. Jamie Barlowe, Dean of the College of Languages, Literature and Social Sciences; Sen. Edna Brown, Ohio District 11; Lindsay Webb, Toledo City Councilwoman; Aarohi Vijh, Vice President of Product Development at Xunlight; and Prof. Richard Weisfelder, retired professor of Political Science and Public Administration.
Clinical psychology doctoral students achieve 100 percent internship match rate

Early in the morning of Feb. 21, 2014, nine University of Toledo clinical psychology doctoral students eagerly waited by their computers and smartphones to learn their fates for the next year.

Would they acquire internships or would they be like almost 1,000 other doctoral students across the nation who have to wait another year to obtain their degrees? Fortunately for the clinical psychology students at UT, not a single student will wait another year. So if you heard whooping and celebrating on that day, it might just have been one or more of these nine happy UT students.

Joshua Eblin, who is preparing for a career as a forensic psychologist, said, “I have been looking forward to the prospect of obtaining a position at Atascadero State Hospital for several years. I could not be more pleased with the match results!”

Ateka Contractor, preparing for an academic career, said, “Matching at Warren Alpert Medical Center of Brown University was everything I wanted. [It will] make me competitive for faculty positions.”

Every year, doctoral students in clinical psychology across the nation participate in a nail-biting internship match process that involves numerous hours of applications, as well as extensive travel for interviews. After all of that, at the same time every year all across the nation, a computerized match determines which students have placed at which internship sites — if they have placed at all! For many years, there has been a shortage of approved internship sites for clinical psychology students, who have already passed the test of obtaining a position in an American Psychological Association clinical psychology training program — attained by only 10 percent of applicants per year — and several years of training. In 2014, nationwide, there were available internship placements for only 80 percent of clinical psychology doctoral students. While this was an increase from an average of only 74 percent of students who matched from 2000 to 2010, this still means 20 percent of these students could not advance to their doctoral degrees — around 800 students who are nevertheless qualified to do so. But in 2014 UT, nine accomplished students who matched in nine different states will start their internships between July and September.

Rob Graceffo, who matched at Harvard Medical School’s psychology internship at Beth Israel Hospital/Massachusetts Mental Health Center, described his experience. “For me, the process even raised a sense of nostalgia. I recalled what it was like almost 10 years ago when I decided to change my life route to study psychology... with all the pressure of grad school, (some parts of it) can start to resemble a rat race as much as an important experience with existential meaning. But the match process, especially the interviews, reminded me of what being in the profession means to me, as a person.”

The nine clinical psychology doctoral students and their internships are Maria Gabriela Hurtado Alvarado (Southern Arizona Psychiatric Center, Tuscon, Ariz.), Robert Graceffo (Harvard Medical School, Boston, Mass.), Alisha Lee (St. Louis Health Care System VA, St. Louis, Mo.), Wei-Cheng Hsiao (Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.), Melissa Jensen (Cherokee Health Systems, Knoxville, Tenn.); Erin Swedish (University of Oklahoma Health Science Center, Oklahoma City, Okla.), Ateka Contractor (Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, R.I.), Joshua Eblin (Atascadero, Calif.), and Ariana Rebesco (SUNY Stony Brook Counseling Center, Stony Brook, N.Y.).
UT’s Shining Star Award Winner: ‘Chris Habrecht probably knows the answer to that’

Chris Habrecht, Assistant Dean for Student Services for three colleges

In spring 2014, The University of Toledo’s Shining Star Award was awarded to Chris Habrecht, the amazing Assistant Dean for three colleges: Languages, Literature and Social Sciences; Natural Sciences and Math; and Communication and the Arts.

Chris has served in various advising capacities at UT for more than 20 years. Her expertise, experience and good nature in dealing with students, faculty and staff are outstanding and exemplary. In preparing Chris’ nomination, Patrick Lawrence, Chair of Geography and Planning, obtained numerous responses from within the colleges she serves. An overriding commonality in the responses was Chris’ dedication to students, the attention to detail to get it right for the students, her genuineness and caring about both the students and her job, and how she is “an incredible asset” to the University. The following are just a few of those quotes. See a brief video here tubechop.com/watch/3097834.

“Chris is one of the most professional, dedicated members of our community. She is devoted to our students and is exacting in her advising. The amount of institutional knowledge that she has would fill a galaxy! She represents numerous shining stars.”

“I can’t recall meeting anyone more dedicated to her job and career as Chris. She is a role model to me for sticking to what is right and simultaneously standing up for the needs of students.”

“Chris is the best student advocate. When she acts, it is with purpose and for the good of the student. Her attention to detail is unparalleled.”

“She has a wealth of historical and institutional knowledge that is invaluable when helping to sort out some of the tangles our students find themselves in. When a student gets off track and graduation seems hopeless, Chris is always ready to draw them a map and set their feet in the right direction.”

“Even after our students leave us, she remains committed to them. If she is not a shining star, I do not know who is.”

“She is professional, of course, but I think what most of us admire the most is her caring heart. She balances her concern for equal treatment and fairness with an equally strong empathy for students. I think she has served as a powerful, compassionate role model for her staff.”

“Chris Habrecht is always on the job, answering questions and providing information and advice. There are many times I have received emails from her written late at night and on weekends. Her answers are always correct and thoughtful, often insightful. Chris can be innovative in finding ways to help students graduate, but she maintains integrity. I can’t think of anyone who deserves a Shining Star award more than Chris for her support to both students and faculty.”
Congratulate the CLLSS recipients of UT Outstanding Faculty, Adviser and Staff awards!

This year, the CLLSS recipients of 2013-2014 UT Outstanding Faculty and Advisers awards were Sara Lundquist (Associate Professor and Chair, Department of English) and Robert McCollough (Associate Lecturer, Department of History) for the Outstanding Teacher Award and Lynn Bachelor (Department of Political Science and Public Administration) for the Outstanding Adviser Award. See the UT News story here utnews.utoledo.edu/index.php/05_01_2014/university-recognizes-faculty-staff-for-advising-research-teaching-outreach-work-2.

Sara Lundquist (center) is flanked by former provost Scott Scarborough and LLSS Dean Jamie Barlowe.

Robert McCollough (second from right) is recognized by Scarborough, Barlowe and Charles Beatty-Medina, Chairman of the History Department.

Lynn Bachelor (second from left) was honored by Scarborough, Barlowe and Sam Nelson, Chairman of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration.