Dear Friends of the School of Health Sciences:

Recently I met many of our alumni from the 1970s and 1980s; the most characteristic reminiscence of their Purdue life echoes the golden age of the School - a sturdy student body, generous financial support, and inspiring professors as lifetime friends. Restoring this glorious period, engineered by Prof. John Christian and Prof. Paul Ziemer, is a daunting task. Nonetheless, today I am confident that we are stepping closer to a new era in our School's history and opening the door to our promising future! I have pronounced my assessment in my opening speech in this year's John Christian Distinguished Alumnus Award Banquet, which took place on October 16, 2014. I think there is no better place than the Head's message to share the script with you.

"Ladies and Gentlemen,

I'd like to thank you all for coming to this special event. This year the recipient of the John Christian Distinguished Alumni award is Dr. Henri Rothschild. Today we are very happy that Henri and his wife Lorrie and two daughters Natalie and Susana are with us. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving a round of applause to welcome them back to Purdue. You will hear Henri's story a bit later.

In our VIP list, we have Dr. Rick Mattes representing Dean Christine Ladisch joining us tonight. Rick is the Director of College's Public Health program, which is a larger umbrella where many of our research and educational programs fall under. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Rick to join us.

I am also very pleased that Dr. Gary Hutchins, the Vice Chair of the Radiology Department at the IU School of Medicine, came all the way up to our banquet. Gary and his crew have been our close and reliable ally in our medical physics program for many years. Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome Gary to our celebration tonight.

Now please allow me to invite our advisory board members to rise. Let's give them a round of applause to thank them for their time and effort to come Purdue and provide their wisdom and guidance to us.

(continued on page 2)
For those who may be not quite familiar with our School’s history, I’d like to spend a few minutes to refresh your mind as I did almost every year. Back in 1942, about 62 years ago, Prof. Christian invented the method to use short-lived radioisotope Na-24 in drug tablet coating. That study became the very first application of radioisotopes in health sciences research. In July 1959, the Department of Bionucleonics was established. John Christian served as the Head of the Department. For the next two decades, the Bionucleonics expanded to include programs in environmental health, industrial hygiene, and nuclear safety. In 1979, the School of Health Sciences was formally established. John Christian became the first Head of the School until he retired in 1983. So he was a head of this academic unit for about 24 years, perhaps is one of the longest serving department heads on Purdue campus. This is truly remarkable.

Since 1983, the School has changed the leadership several times. Dr. Paul Ziemer led the School from 1983 to 2000 and Dr. George Sandison continued from 2000 to 2008. From 1979 to today, we have 35 years of history behind us. Standing on the shoulders of giants, tonight I am very glad to declare, if I may, that our School is on the path for expansion and growth, a sustainable growth!

A sustainable growth requires the best scholars in the world. I am very proud of our faculty for their productivity, having published many high-impact research papers and secured more than $11 million research dollars in the current calendar year to support their innovative, collaborative and productive research. Just in the past few weeks, I have signed off several major NIH grants submitted by our faculty; Dr. Jason Cannon submitted one of his major R01 grants; Dr. Shuang Liu and Dr. Candace Tsai each individually submitted two NIH R21 grants; and Dr. Keith Stantz has one DOE grant under review. Good luck Shuang, Jason, Keith and Candace!

A sustainable growth also requires a strong student body that supplies tomorrow’s leaders in the health sciences field. I am proud to acknowledge that the School of Health Sciences has the highest number of undergraduate students receiving the presidential, trustee and leadership fellowships within the College. The students in our Honors Program have been working productively with their professors; some have published their research discoveries, and many have presented their experience (and won awards) in local and national research conferences!

A sustainable growth requires the strong financial backup that supports our students’ study in our programs. I am very glad to see that the collaborative health physics program with School of Nuclear Engineering has recently received more than $1 million in training grants from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to assist the training of our undergraduate and graduate students as well as our junior faculty in nuclear safety monitoring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Linda Nie for her leadership in this effort. Ladies and gentlemen, please join me in giving Dr. Nie a round of applause for her effort.

A sustainable growth definitely requires the infrastructure that supports the expansion. Again, I am happy to inform you that our three toxicology labs have accomplished their moving to the LILY Life Sciences building last week. The wet lab space, plus faculty offices, post/doc office, student study rooms, conference room, designated cell culture, animal surgical processing and equipment rooms, altogether amount to more than 6,500 sq. ft. The School’s wet lab space is more than doubled by now! This has built the structural foundation for School’s next phase of expansion.

A sustainable growth also requires a sufficient manpower or - in a more specific term - the FTEs (full time employee) in our faculty line that meets the challenges in teaching, research and engagement. I couldn’t be more excited to share with you that with Dean Ladisch’s absolute support, currently we are working on two new faculty hires, with one in the radiological health science branch and the other in the occupational and environmental toxicology branch. We are also working very closely with other academic units, to add additional two more faculty lines in these two signature areas of our research and educational programs.

Finally, a sustainable growth requires the strong support, either financially or spiritually, from our loyal alumni. That is what this Distinguished Alumni Award is all about. We recognize achievements of our distinguished alumni like Dr. Henri Rothschild; we reminisce the precious moments in the past that brought about their success today; and we celebrate our collective accomplishments tonight, with the confidence that the School will not only restore but surpass the past glory in the future.

Ladies and gentlemen, I trust that with Prof. John Christian as a role model, our faculty, staff, current and future alumni – who are those students in this room, will work together to meet challenges and sustain our growth in years to come. Thank you! “

Hail Purdue!
Wei Zheng, Professor and Head
The week of September 8th, 2014; four faculty from the Dublin Institute of Technology visited Purdue University to continue developing our study abroad relationship between DIT and Purdue students. The four professors from DIT were Sara Boyd, Jesus Frias, Mary Hunt and Frank Dark. During their visit, they saw many of our faculty in the colleges 9 units, especially those in the School of Health Sciences.

In addition to their visit, they also met with two of their DIT students who are on internships at Purdue this semester. They are Aoife Gilheany and Conor Waters. Both students have been busy with assignments from Purdue’s Radiological and Environmental Management (REM) office; and with the Community Health Department.

During the week of October 13th, 2014, Drs. Jennifer Freeman and Ellen Wells, along with counselor Truda Strange traveled to DIT to firm up opportunities for our students to study at DIT in 2015.

THREE PURDUE ALUMNI WORKING AT MAYO CLINIC

Purdue has strong ties - world-wide, a lot of companies continually hire our students. One such example is we have three Medical Physics Students who now work for the Mayo Clinic.

Anshuman Panda got his PhD in medical physics in 2012 from Dr. Dydak’s lab, and was hired directly out of his PhD to the Medical Physics Division, Department of Radiology, at Mayo Clinic Arizona. As diagnostic medical physicist with specialization in MRI, he is involved in development and optimization of all MRI protocols for patient care at Mayo Clinic, as well as in translational research, such as development of MR-based biomarkers and MR safety. As director of the radiology resident physics education, his teaching responsibilities include diagnostic imaging physics education for all radiology residents at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. He values the hands-on clinical and research training he received in the School of Health Sciences, as well as the strong collaboration between Purdue and Indiana University School of Medicine that gave him the unique opportunity to master didactic training at Purdue and obtain clinical research experience at IUSM: “The high standards that the professors at Purdue held for us helped me develop the skills that I use daily to solve challenging problems and issues.”

Judy Rose James did her PhD research in Dr. Navin Bansal’s lab and graduated in 2009. After several years as Assistant Professor and medical physicist at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, she got hired by Mayo Clinic Arizona as Assistant Professor of Radiology and Diagnostic Imaging Physicist in 2013. Her responsibilities entail overlooking clinical protocols for MRI, quality control for MRI Scanners, mammo and ultrasound, assisting pacemaker MRI, and implementing advanced neuroimaging protocols, amongst others. Judy comments that her Purdue coursework built her foundation of medical physics, her research in MRI and exposure to multiple scanner platforms helped her learn all the basics and that finally the internship she did at IUSM helped tremendously in exposure to clinical scanners and the quality control work that is today part of her job.

Zaiyang Long graduated with a PhD in 2013 from Dr. Dydak’s lab, where she spent another year as postdoctoral fellow. Early in 2014 she won the competition for one of only a handful of diagnostic medical physics residency positions in the US – at Mayo Clinic Rochester. She started her residency in summer 2014. As clinical medical physics resident she undergoes a full-time training of all aspects of a medical imaging practice and works on selected research topics using different imaging modalities. Zaiyang reports that the Purdue medical physics course work laid a solid foundation for the clinical practice and that her PhD research training cultured the scientific spirit and enthusiasm that is essential for any research activity.

We are so proud of you!
# Summer 2014 Graduates

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<td>Hannah L. Blubaum</td>
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<td>Tasha Cole</td>
<td>Erica L. Hauter</td>
<td>Callie A. Provost</td>
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<td>Sarah N. Copley</td>
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<td>Catherine M. Crevecoeur</td>
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# Fall 2014 Graduates

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<td>Timothy B. Han</td>
<td>Carolyn J. Oakes</td>
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<td>Ji Woong Jeong</td>
<td>Whitney N. Popp</td>
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# Beyond Graduation ~ Education & Employment

- **Abby Jagdfeld** has been selected for the USA Swimming Junior National Team.
- **Lauren Schweizer** has received the Rising Star Award from the Purdue Alumni Association.
- **Kendall Smith**, (May 2014 HSPP graduate) is employed at Boimet Orthopedics, Sales Associate, Indianapolis, IN.
- **Kevin Tammen**, (August 2014 HSPP graduate) is attending Manchester University in the Pharmacy Program.
Industrial health and safety specialists who place sampling equipment on their colleagues to assess biological, chemical and physical agents in the workplace could benefit from a new product that was launched Monday (June 2) by Galson Laboratories Inc. at the American Industrial Hygiene Conference & Exposition.

Traditionally, air sampling pumps, personal monitors and other instruments are clipped or secured with duct tape onto a worker’s belt during the entire workday. Inconsistent placement of equipment could lead to inaccurate results, tubes or wires being caught in machinery, and other negative effects. Additionally, workers often prefer to wear no more than one sampling device at a time due to physical discomfort, which means complete sampling could take several days.

Galson’s OneTouch IH Sampling Vest provides workers with a simpler, more comfortable means of using sampling equipment that determines the levels of physical, chemical and biological agents in the workplace. The vest utilizes snaps and pockets which allow multiple devices to be attached and detached. It also has specialized channels to integrate and protect tubing and wiring.

Ron McMahan, vice president of Galson Laboratories, said the vest represents another innovation from the company to help its clients simplify industrial hygiene sampling. "Studies to date have shown an 80 to 90 percent reduction in complaints when the OneTouch IH Sampling Vest is used instead of the traditional means of attaching sampling devices to a person," he said. "This vest could result in more effective and accurate sampling data for our clients, which leads to a better understanding of the amount of physical, biological and chemical agents in work environments."

Galson Laboratories has signed an exclusive license with Purdue Research Foundation for the vest, which was developed by Eric Ward. Ward is a Ph.D. student in Purdue University’s College of Health and Human Sciences and a consultant at Galson Laboratories. "I have been working diligently with the professionals at Galson Laboratories to develop the initial vest prototypes into the OneTouch IH Sampling Vest. It has been a privilege to work with all of them," he said.

Ward said AIHce 2014 is the premier event in the industrial hygiene sector. "Thousands of health and safety personnel involved in the industry will be in attendance at the conference in San Antonio," he said. "There is nothing better than having Galson Laboratories, one of the world leaders in industrial hygiene analysis and monitoring solutions, showcase this vest during the event." The OneTouch IH Sampling Vest was on display and available for demonstration purposes. Pre-orders for the vest were taken during the conference. It was expected to be available in early July.

Dr. Jennifer Freeman received the 2014 College of Health and Human Sciences Early Career Research Achievement Award. This award recognizes research that goes beyond the candidate’s dissertation and demonstrates clear scientific/scholarly contributions as a result of work completed while a Purdue faculty member.

In an excerpt from Dr. Zheng’s nomination letter, he stated:

“Dr. Freeman is a model junior faculty member in the School of Health Sciences. She has published abundantly in high impact journals including Nature, PNAS, Environmental Health Perspectives, Toxicological Sciences, among others. She has obtained 20 funded research grants (19 as PI/multi-PI) totaling over $2.2 million. The fact that she has been repeatedly invited to NIH study sections and other national grant review panels bespeaks her recognized scholarly status in her research and discovery. It is for these facts and achievements that I recommend Dr. Freeman for an Early Career Research Achievement Award with my highest enthusiasm.”

Congratulations, Dr. Freeman. We look forward to hearing more great news from you in the future!
Dr. Keith Stantz – received a grant award titled “Delivery of Nano-Tethered Therapies to Brain Metastases of Primary Breast Cancer Using a Cellular Trojan Horse” from Northwestern University ($8,826; 9/15/2014-9/14/2015).

Dr. Ellen Wells – received a pilot research award entitled “Impact of co-exposure to metals on manganese neurotoxicity” from one of the NIOSH centers ($18,923, 7/01/2014 – 6/30/2015). The project will allow Dr. Wells to conduct a preliminary study on a cohort exposed to multiple metals in Zunyi, China. The data can be used as the preliminary data for a larger NIH grant.

Dr. Linda Nie has received a new NIOSH-R21 grant fund titled “Bone Manganese as a Biomarker for Early Diagnosis of Manganese Neurotoxicity” from the National Institute of Occupational Safety Health (NIOSH) ($401,478; 9/01/2014 – 8/31/2016). In this project, Dr. Nie (PI) will team up with Drs. Zheng (co-investigator in occupational toxicology) and Wells (co-investigator in environmental epidemiology) to apply the novel neutron-based noninvasive technology invented by Dr. Nie to seek the association between Mn neurotoxicity and bone Mn accumulation in smelting workers exposed to Mn in Zunyi City, China.

Dr. Linda Nie has received the NIH/NIEHS funding to support an RO1-grant research entitled “Early and Late-life Metal Exposure and Alzheimer's Disease” for 5 years (07/01/2014-06/30/2019) (PI: Marc Weisskopf of Harvard School of Public Health). The total budget for this award is $2,613,979 with $245,337 to Purdue. The goal of this study is to examine whether exposure to metals, as indicated by bone metal concentrations, increases the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease. In addition, the research will investigate whether such exposures alter levels of amyloid-β species in blood and brain, and whether they affect levels of cognitive function in non-demented elderly. She has also received the NIOSH Education and Research Centers (ERC) Pilot Research Program (PRP) from University of Cincinnati to validate and improve a neutron activation analysis system to quantify metals in bone in vivo (Jul.2014-Jun.2015, $7,600).

The Schools of Health Sciences and Nuclear Engineering have received three grants from U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) that support the research and educational innovation in nuclear engineering and safety: (1) Purdue NRC Faculty Development grant (Co-PI: Linda Nie, Robert Beans, and Alan Garner): $580,000; 08/01/2014-07/31/2017 (2) Purdue NRC Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics Graduate Fellowship (Co-PI: Audeen Fentiman and Linda Nie): $391,620; 08/01/2014-07/31/2018, and (3) Purdue NRC Nuclear Engineering and Health Physics Undergraduate Scholarship (Co-PI: Audeen Fentiman and Linda Nie): $194,400; 08/01/2014-07/31/2016).

Dr. Candace Tsai has recently received an extramural research fund ($5,000) from Imerys Minerals for a project entitled "Occupational exposure assessment to microfibrillar cellulose (MFC) paper product".

Dr. Candace Tsai received an award titled “Particles Release Ability of encapsulated insulation materials” from Aspen Aerogels Inc. ($3000; 9/1/2014 – 8/31/2015). The fund will allow Dr. Tsai to study the potential exposure to aerosol particles in construction industry (many containing engineered nanoparticles) when workers or consumers are in contact with those insulating materials.

Candace Tsai also received research funding for “Airborne Particle Release and Exposure from Paper Shredding and Biological Response Potentials” is funded by NIOSH-sponsored pilot research programs at University of Cincinnati ($7,000, 8/01/2014 – 8/30/2015); the project investigates the health effect of airborne particles due to paper shredding. These research activities not only allow Dr. Tsai to address the real-life health issues but also create the opportunity to produce the preliminary data for even larger extramural research support.
In addition, Dr. Tsai’s symposium on nanotechnology safety of which she served as the chair received the Outstanding Project Team award in a recent American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) conference in San Antonio in early June, 2014. The symposium was well attended and a great success! I am very glad to see that Candace, along with other five HSCI faculty members, entertained Purdue’s IH alumni (many of them!) in our reception in AIHA meeting and represented Purdue’s IH program very well.

Dr. Candace Tsai has also received an RO3 fund from NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety Health) entitled “Efficiency of Various Devices and Theories to Collect Nanoparticles Directly onto TEM Grids” ($141,836, 9/01/2014-8/31/2016). The project will allow Dr. Tsai and her research team to study the novel sampling method for collecting nanoparticles for health and safety assessment. This method is in urgent need for nanomaterial exposure assessment/control in industrial production as well as for general public health concerns of nanomaterial safety. For those who may be less familiar, the NIOSH has traditionally had a much smaller and tighter budget and therefore more competitive in grant funding than all other NIH institutions.

STUDENT SUCCESS IN RESEARCH AND IN THE LABORATORY

School of Health Sciences welcomed 5 new students into the School’s Honors Program. They are: John Koenig, Morgan Kramer, Natalie Lamport, Leehah Reidenbach and Claire Wilson.

Dr. Ulrike Dydak’s Laboratory
Welcome and congratulations to David Edmondson, a new PhD student in Medical Physics who was selected as a recipient of a Ross Fellowship by the College of Health and Human Sciences. He has started to work on research in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the lab of Dr. Dydak.

Dr. Jennifer Freeman’s Laboratory
Anna Winchester (a senior majoring in HSPP with a concentration in Physical Therapy) was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Project Award from the Carroll County Cancer Assos. and Purdue Center for Cancer Research. Brad Qualizza (a senior majoring in HSPP with a concentration in pre-medicine) was awarded a Cancer Prevention Internship Program (CPIP) – Discovery Park Undergraduate Research Internship from Purdue University. This award is for summer 2014-May 2015.

Kelly Schlotman (she graduated HSPP with a concentration in pre-medicine in May 2014) had her research that she completed in my laboratory published in the Journal for Purdue Undergraduate Research (JPUR) in Fall 2014.

Dr. Linda Nie’s Laboratory
Yingzi Liu received the Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship, which is used to support outstanding Ph.D. candidates in their final year of doctoral degree; she was also the first place winner of Sigma Xi poster competition for Physical Section at Purdue University and the recipient of Society of Toxicology (SOT) Student Travel Award.

Aaron Specht received Purdue Research Foundation Fellowship to develop and validate a portable XRF systems to quantify metals in bone in vivo. Aaron also received third place for his student poster at the Int’l Soc Exposure Science, 2014. The award is to recognize outstanding research conducted by a student in the area of Human Exposure Science.

Dr. Wei Zheng’s Laboratory
Dr. Dallas Cowan, Dr. Zheng’s doctoral student graduated in 2008, was invited back to Purdue campus and presented his research on consumer product safety and regulation in School’s seminar series on Nov 4th, 2014. Dr. Sherleen Fu was awarded “Best Platform Presentation by Postdoctoral Scientist at the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology meeting on September 26, 2014.

Stefanie O’Neal received a Compton Graduate Research Travel Award by the Research Advisory Council of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Alex Jones, a senior majoring in HSPP with a concentration in pre-medicine, has been working on bone manganese project since 2012 and published his results in JPUR. He was featured in a recent HHS magazine LIFE 360 (Fall 2014).
After obtaining his PhD Degree in Bionucleonics in 1972, Henri Rothschild joined the National Research Council of Canada as a Research Council Officer with the Environmental Secretariat. In that role, he was responsible for supporting a sub-committee on Physical Energy Phenomena. In 1974, Dr. Rothschild was offered the challenge and the opportunity to head the Environmental Radioactivity Labs in the Radiation Protection Bureau of the Canadian Department of Health and Welfare where he was involved in the design and installation of the tritium monitoring network around the emerging CANDU (Canadian Deuterium Uranium) nuclear installations in Ontario. During his tenure, Dr. Rothschild was able to confirm these labs as part of the World Health Organization global accreditation and standards network. He was then appointed to be part of the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR) representing Canada at UNSCEAR for ten years.

Dr. Rothschild established a new unit within the Canadian Department of the Environment in 1976 and, in doing so, became Chief of Nuclear Programs. In that capacity, he was responsible for providing radioactivity criteria for inclusion into the new Canadian Contaminants Control Act and representing the Department on the various committees of the Atomic Energy Control Board. In addition, he played a central role in the Government of Canada's response to radioactive contamination in the city of Port Hope, Ontario through active participation in the Federal Provincial Task Force on Radioactivity. Most notably, he was part of the Canada-U.S. team investigating the radioactivity deposited across the Canadian northern environment resulting from the disintegration of the Soviet Satellite, COSMOS 954, over the Canadian Arctic.

In 1980, Dr. Rothschild joined the Department of Energy Mines and Resources, (EMR) as Director of the Office of Environmental Affairs, where he played a central role in coordinating and compiling the geo-scientific reviews of the environmental impact of major resource development initiatives. While at EMR, Dr. Rothschild helped break new ground in the area of environmental assessment and risk, most significantly by helping establish the Canadian Environmental Assessment Research Council and serving on its inaugural Board of Directors.

In 1984, Dr. Rothschild was offered a senior science policy position at the Ministry of State for Science and Technology, where he became Director General for strategic technologies. In that capacity, he developed the policies of the Government of Canada in information technologies, advanced industrial materials and biotechnology and was the science and technology advisor to the Canadian Trade negotiation team involved in the delivery of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Dr. Rothschild also became head of the Canadian delegation to the OECD Science and Technology Committee and organized the first OECD Technology in the Economy programs. A major highlight of his accomplishments in this position was his work in the designing and launch of the International Human Frontiers Science Program (HFSP), an initiative of the Government of Japan. Dr. Rothschild was delegated by his government to represent Canada at the early planning meetings and played a key role in the reaching of an agreement by the original eight participating countries, a role that was recognized when he received the HFSP 10th Anniversary Award which was presented at a ceremony at the White House.
He was promoted to the position of Assistant Deputy Minister for Science and Technology in 1991. In this role, he was the government’s lead strategist on its overall investments across the portfolio of research support programs and, internationally, represented Canada in discussions on the support of ‘big science’ projects, including the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN). One of his major responsibilities was also to establish and provide the secretariat for the first Canadian Prime Minister’s National Advisory Board on Science and Technology. In 1994, Dr. Rothschild successfully negotiated the establishment of the Canada Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF). Following this, he followed made a career decision to leave his government position in order to manage the new organization whose mandate is to manage a bilateral fund for the promotion of collaborative R&D projects between companies in both countries.

Dr. Rothschild has been the President and CEO of CIIRDF since its inception and has funded numerous projects and established research partnerships in areas ranging from internet software to medical devices, environmental technologies, robotics and new materials. The success of CIIRDF prompted the Government of Canada to apply the partnering approach with its other priority trading partners, including India, China and Brazil. In 2007, he launched the International Science and Technology Partnerships Program Canada (ISTPCanada) and became its founding President and CEO, a position he maintained in parallel to his CIIRDF duties until January 2014, at which time he reverted to focusing exclusively on the work of CIIRDF.

His interest in the commercialization of academic research led him to become involved in the University of Toronto’s Innovation Foundation, the technology commercialization arm of Canada’s largest research university, where he served as a director for six years. In 2010, Dr. Rothschild headed the management of PRECARN (Precompetitive Advanced Research Networks), a not-for-profit corporation that designed and managed intelligent systems research programs in Canada. In 2010, he became a director, and in 2011 chairman, of NeuroDevNet, a Canadian Network of Centres of Excellence dedicated to understanding brain development and to helping children and families overcome the challenges of neurodevelopmental disorders.

Henri Rothschild has been married to his wife, Lori, for 35 years. They live in Ottawa and are the proud parents of two daughters, Nathalie and Susanna. The Rothschild’s enjoy spending time together at their family cottage on a beautiful lake north of Ottawa. From time to time, the family will host a Purdue Football party complete with old gold and black attire, as Henri remains a loyal and die-hard Purdue fan!

On October 16, 2014, the School of Health Sciences had the great pleasure of adding Dr. Henri Rothschild, Ph.D. to the list of John Christian Distinguished Alumni in Health Sciences. This is the highest honor awarded by the School of Health Sciences and was established in 1988. The award is made possible by an endowment in honor of John E. Christian, Hovde Distinguished Service Professor of Bionucleonics and Health Sciences at Purdue. Christian was the first head of the Health Sciences School. He came to Purdue as a research fellow in 1940 and retired from the University in 1988.
A team of four from the School of Health Sciences (Dr. Wei Zheng, Dr. Linda Nie, Dr. Ellen Wells and graduate student Aaron Specht) traveled to China to visit Xinhua Hospital affiliated with Shanghai Jiaotong University, Xinhua Hospital and Zunyi Medical University and to conduct research and promote two promising collaborative projects.

Dr. Nie has been collaborating with Drs. Xu and Yan at SKCEH for over two years on the childhood Pb poisoning study. The main goals of this study are to validate a portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) bone Pb measurement system developed in Dr. Nie's lab, to test the hypothesis that cumulative Pb exposure in children is highly correlated with bone Pb concentration, and to test the hypothesis that the efficacy of chelation treatment is affected by child's age and other factors, as reflected by the change of Pb in bone and blood before and after Pb chelation. We have measured bone Pb concentrations for over 60 children so far and we plan to measure about 100 children for this pilot project. Blood Pb and urine Pb concentrations for these kids were collected. We are analyzing these data and preparing for a paper to be published in a high impact journal. We are also preparing grants to be submitted to NIH in the US and NNSF in China based on these preliminary data. Dr. Nie and Aaron will go to the International Society of Exposure Sciences (ISES) in October to present these results. In addition, during the visit, Drs. Nie, Zheng, and Wells talked to other researchers in a center for neurodegenerative disease about a potential collaboration on Pb exposure and Alzheimer's disease. Because the bone Pb measurement system is there, we may be able to collect some preliminary data on that project if we can obtain some seed funding and IRB approval for the project on both sides.

Drs. Nie, Zheng, and Wells have been collaborating with Drs. Li, Zhou, and others at ZMU on a manganese study among an occupationally exposed population. The goals of this study are to test the hypothesis that bone Mn is significantly correlated with cumulative Mn exposure and that Mn accumulation in bone is positively associated with neurological functions. During this visit, we discussed our research plans, the procedures and required documents for IRB applications on both institutions, research tasks, and the time line for the project. We just received some funding for this project and plan to start our field study on this site early next year.

All three professors presented their research in both institutions. Dr. Nie presented on "Noninvasive In Vivo Quantification of Metals in Human Tissues"; Dr. Zheng presented on "Environmental and Occupational Causes of Alzheimer’s Disease: Impact of Lead Toxicity"; Dr. Wells presented on "Health Outcomes Related to Lead and Mercury Exposure: Results from Birth Cohort Study". This is the first time Dr. Wells and Aaron visited China. Dr. Wells stayed there for one week and had a great experience to interact with our collaborators. She learned at least three Chinese words during her visit and learned to use chopsticks. Aaron was in Shanghai for three months. He made many friends there, including researchers we are collaborating with, several “sea turtles” (researchers return to China from across the sea), graduate students, and people he met at gym. He started to have simple communication in Chinese using the dozen of words he learned, and he refuses to use knife and fork for his meals while he is in Shanghai.

We are looking forward to productive collaboration in near future!