



# HEALTH SCIENCES NEWSLETTER

## THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES • PURDUE UNIVERSITY

### SAVE THE DATE!

### ANNUAL HEALTH SCIENCES AWARDS BANQUET

The School of Health Sciences would like to cordially invite all - graduate students, undergraduate students, faculty, advisors, clerical staff, and guests to our annual Spring Awards Banquet.

It will be held on Friday, April 20, 2012 at the Purdue Memorial Union, South Ballroom.

We will be honoring the Health Science Graduating Seniors, Distinguished Students, along with the Health Science award winners for their many contributions to academic achievement, service, research and teaching in the school.

Banquet reservations are required and can be made with Helen Terrell (hterrell@purdue.edu) in the Office of Student Services, CIVL 1163 or by phone: 765-494-8102.

The cost of the dinner is \$20, for all guests. All RSVP's, along with payment must be made by Friday, April 13, 2012. Checks are to be made payable to the "Purdue Research Foundation."

We hope you will join us for an exciting evening of great entertainment and delicious food and to celebrate many of our successes!

We look forward to seeing you there!



Prof. Wei Zheng, Head

#### Dear Alumni and Friends:

If you watched Boilermaker vs. Ohio State Buckeyes last weekend (Nov 12<sup>th</sup>), I am sure that you would agree the outcome was stunning, a 26-23 win only after overtime! More satisfying to me was the fact that the game didn't disappoint **Kathy Widner** and her entire family crew of 12 in Ross-Ade Stadium. Kathy, the widow of Tom Widner, came to town to attend the college Scholarship Reception organized by **Dean Ladisch** on Friday, Nov 11<sup>th</sup>. After meeting the first Tom Widner Scholarship recipient **Weston Brander** and being in Stadium next day, she certainly left with a big smile.

I am very glad that the Widner Health Physics Scholarship has finally come to life. The Widner Scholarship will award the outstanding senior students with a career goal toward health physics. This Scholarship joins the School's existing 9 named awards, i.e., Bootsma, Kessler, Kizer, Landolt, Young, Vetter, Ziemer, Lilly IH and Lilly HP scholarship/awards, inspiring our undergraduate as well as graduate students for their learning to achieve success.

Undergraduate education has been and will continue to be the focal point of this School's mission. To help our students build a solid learning profile, our faculty decided to establish a School-wide Honors Program during our September faculty meeting. This **Honors Program** will create opportunities for our promising undergraduates to access the research laboratories and allow them to work more closely with our faculty. Not only will the Honors Program make our pre-med students and other pre-professional students more competitive on their resumes, but it also helps the School recruit better students, particularly the international students, to our programs. Ultimately we hope that the Program will cultivate more Honored students, more Honored distinguished alumni in the future, and more Honored innovation in our creative research and discovery. I am grateful to Dr. **Jennifer Freeman** for her devoted effort in leading this task.

This year's John Christian Distinguished Alumnus is Dr. **Dick Vetter**. Dr. Vetter was the Chair of School's Advisory Board between 2005 and 2010. He and his Board provided tremendous input and timely guidance during the transition period of our School from the past College of Pharmacy, Nursing and Health Sciences to the current College of Health and Human Sciences. Dick is a very well established scholar in the health physics field; but much more to my astonishment are his incredible personal accomplishments, from life-long fly-fishing to welding and building his 1950s-Mercedes model car in his garage! How are you not proud of a friend, mentor, and alumnus like Dick? For the complete story on Dr. Vetter, please turn to the page 4.

(continued on the next page)

## WELCOME DR. YUANLIN PENG



Dr. Yuanlin Peng recently joined the School of Health Sciences as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Health Physics. Prior to coming to Purdue he was an Assistant Professor special appointment in the Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences at Colorado State University.

Dr. Peng received his bachelor's degree in Biology from Beijing Normal University in 1992 and his masters in Nuclear Medicine from Peking Union Medical College in 1995. His master's thesis focused on using radioactive isotopes labeled proteins in the liver cancer diagnosis. Following that, He worked for three years at the Nuclear Medicine Department in the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences before coming to the United States to pursue his Ph.D. training.

In 2004 Dr. Peng obtained his doctorate in Radiological Health Sciences from Colorado State University and he stayed there for another seven years to continue working on the NASA and DOE funded projects. The radiation leukemogenesis project at CSU is funded by NASA to investigate the radiation risks to astronauts from high energy cosmic-ray and solar particle radiations during deep space travel and prolonged stays in space. It also provides information pertinent to the development of bio-markers for earlier leukemia diagnosis and a greater understanding of the molecular changes during the development of leukemia. Another research project Dr. Peng carried out at CSU was funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Low Dose Radiation Research Program to assess genetic factors responsible for variations in susceptibilities to radiation induced cancer among individuals in the human population.

While at CSU Dr. Peng have accomplished innovative research in the pursuit of his degree, as well as contributed to the NASA and DOE funded projects. During this time, He also received certification by the American Board of Health Physics (ABHP). Dr. Peng is member of the Radiation Research Society, Health Physics Society, and American Academy of Health Physics.

Dr. Peng's research at Purdue University will be focused on the biological effects of high-energy heavy charged particles relate to human protection during low earth orbit and deep space missions, the track structures and dose rate effects of HZE particles, as well as the development of improved methods for radiation biodosimetry in an environment of possible nuclear or radiological incident.

Dr. Peng is married to Ming Zhang, who is a geographic information system specialist. They have three lovely children Sydney, Samuel, and Sally.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1—HEAD'S MESSAGE

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. **Yuanlin Peng**, a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Radiological Health Sciences, to join the HSCI family. Dr. Peng (sound like "Pong" of "ping-pong") is a certified health physicist. He brings to the School many years of experience in radiation dosimetry and cancer biology research. His arrival will complement our existing strengths in health physics, environmental toxicology, and radiation biology programs. Dr. Peng has been very busy and yet highly productive, not just playing "ping-pong" well, but already having managed to submit his very first NIH grant from Purdue last month. We hope that his wife, daughter and lovely newborn twins will join him soon.

Finally, I would like to invite you to read the achievements our faculty and students have made during the past 6 months starting on page 6. During a recent personal visit to Prof. **John Christian's** residence, I was touched by his everlasting love for the School, his ceaseless care for our success, and his continuing, vast passion for the education. He spoke loudly, yet clearly, like a man in his 30s or 40s, recounting his students and junior fellows as if they were around. It makes me to think: what a wonderful and privileged job do we all have as educators? How and when can I be a person like him? I am truly inspired, and hope you are, too.

Hail Purdue!



## FALL 2011 HEALTH SCIENCES GRADUATES

<i>Mahmoud M. Abou El-Nour</i>	<i>Samantha Q. Davis</i>	<i>MirAhmed N. Moshref</i>
<i>Miguel A. Arambula</i>	<i>Megan M. Fisch</i>	<i>Hung N. Nguyen</i>
<i>Brian D. Baer</i>	<i>Alexander J. Folk</i>	<i>Courtney R. Roberts</i>
<i>Lindsay M. Barclay</i>	<i>Jasmine L. Forbes</i>	<i>Heather R. Vaughn</i>
<i>Christopher M. Bovard</i>	<i>Naji W. Hattar</i>	<i>Jessalynn K. White</i>
<i>Susan Choe</i>	<i>Pamela Jung</i>	<i>Caitlin N. Wuerthner</i>
<i>Donald Copeland</i>	<i>Tiffany Leong</i>	<b>CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!</b>
<i>Adam M. Dalhart</i>	<i>Marissa N. Mills-Clark</i>	

## BEYOND GRADUATION - WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

<b>Korey DuBois</b> Doctor of Podiatric Medicine Temple University	<b>Adam McLeLand</b> Dow Chemical Company Freeport, TX	<b>David Robbins</b> School of Optometry Indiana University
<b>Ashley Elliott</b> (Class of 2006) Master's Degree in Pharmacy University of Florida	<b>Anna Menze</b> Osteopathic Medicine School West Virginia and DeBusk College	<b>Megan Meents</b> Physicians Assistant Program Butler University
<b>Christina Jackson</b> Medical School Indiana University	<b>Lauren Redig</b> Doctor of Philosophy Lynchburg College in Virginia	<b>Ellen Cotant</b> Medical School Indiana University

### ABR EXAM 100% PASS RATE

Congratulations to Keith Stewart, Anshuman Panda, Ning Cao, and Kent Wong for passing Part I of the American Board of Radiology (ABR), certification exam in August, 2011.

Qingya (Frank) Zhao and Draik Hecksel passed both Part I and II and Minsong Cao received his ABR certification last year.

**Congratulation to all of you on  
these great achievements!**

**Catherine (Katie) Lansing** was selected as the  
2012 Panhellenic President



Above: Gabriel Clark and Kaylie Waltz were announced as the 2011 Homecoming King and Queen at Friday's pep rally. Kaylie is majoring in General Health Sciences.

## HEALTH SCIENCES 2011 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS



### RICHARD J. VETTER, PH. D.

B.S. South Dakota State University, 1966

M. S. South Dakota State University, 1968

Ph.D. Purdue University, 1970

After obtaining his Ph.D. Degree in Bionucleonics, Richard Vetter served as Assistant Professor of Biology at Point Park College in Pittsburgh for one year before returning to Purdue University to continue his academic career as an Assistant Professor of Bionucleonics. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1975 and then to Professor of Health Physics in 1979.

Dr. Vetter joined the Mayo Clinic staff in 1980 as the Assistant Radiation Safety Officer. Shortly after joining the Mayo Clinic he also was appointed a Professor of Biophysics in the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and as a consultant to the Division of Preventative and Occupational Medicine. In 1983 he was appointed as the Radiation Safety Officer and in 1990 became the Head of the Safety Section of the Mayo Foundation which later evolved into the Medical Director for Safety of the Mayo Clinic. He held those positions until his retirement in 2010. During his tenure at the Mayo Clinic he also was active on a number of institutional committees such as the Radiation Safety Committee, Radioactive Drug Research Committee, Hospital Accreditation Committee, and the Environmental Health, Safety, and Security Coordinating Committee. His teaching duties were Radiobiology in the Radiography Training Program and Radiological Health and Medical Health Physics in the College of Medicine.

In addition to his distinguished career in administration of environmental health and safety programs in a clinical setting, Dr. Vetter has an outstanding record of publications. Among early research areas were microwave dosimetry, metabolism and distribution of radionuclides, heavy metal effects in biological systems, and radioactive waste incineration. He has authored or co-authored over 60 peer reviewed articles and has a number of books and book chapters. Most notable of these are a number of National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurement guidance documents: Maintaining Radiation Protection Records, NCRP Report No. 114, 1992, Management of Radionuclide Therapy Patients, NCRP Report No. 155, 2006, and Population Monitoring and Radionuclide Decorporation Following a Nuclear or Radiological Event, NCRP Report No. 166, 2010. He has over 100 presentations at various scientific and professional meetings and numerous additional technical reports, abstracts and other articles.

Dr. Vetter also has an outstanding record of involvement in professional society activities and service. He has been active in local health physics chapters serving as President of both the Hoosier and North Central Chapters of the Health Physics Society. Other local involvement included the Minnesota Advisory Committee on Low-Level Radioactive Waste, Olmstead County Radiological Control Officer, Zumbro Valley Medical Society Environmental Committee, and the Purdue and Mayo Foundation Chapters of Sigma Xi (President).

He has served on numerous committees of the Health Physics Society including the Board of Directors and has served as chairs of the Continuing and General Education Committee, Working Group on Incineration of Low Level Radioactive Waste, Scientific and Public Issues Committee, Awards Committee, and Presidents Emeritus Committee. Dr. Vetter also was the President-Elect and President of the Health Physics Society (1995-97) and was the Editor-in-Chief of the Health Physics Journal from 1988-1994. He has served on the editorial board for the Operational Radiation Safety Journal since 1999 and has just concluded his term as President-Elect and President of the American Academy of Health Physics.

Dr. Vetter has been involved in a number of professional societies and has current membership in the American Academy of Health Physics (Diplomat), American Association of Physicists in Medicine (Fellow), American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists, Health Physics Society (Fellow), International Radiation Protection Association, Society for Risk Analysis, Society of Nuclear Medicine and the Society of Radiological Protection. His current activities are highlighted by membership on the National Academies Nuclear and Radiation Studies Board, Delegate to the International Radiation Protection Association, National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements, and service as an Advisory Board Member to the Purdue University School of Health Sciences, Illinois Institute of Technology, Health Physics Program, and the Duke University, Medical Physics Program.

Additionally, he serves as Agency and Congressional Liaison for the Health Physics Society. He also serves as Head of the Mayo Clinic advocates for the prostate cancer research program. Dr. Vetter also has provided public service to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission as a member and vice chair of the Advisory Committee on Medical Uses of Isotopes and to the Environmental Protection Agency as a member of the Radiation Advisory Committee.



Dr. Vetter receiving the award from Dr. Zheng

Among his honors are the Purdue Student Association Best Teacher, 1979; Mayo Radiography Program Faculty Award for Best Teacher, 1984, 1988, 1992, 1998; Distinguished Alumnus, School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Purdue University, 1987; Distinguished Alumnus, Department of Biology, South Dakota State University, 1989; Distinguished Career Award, Mayo Clinic, 2000; Outstanding Physician/Scientist Educator Award, Mayo School of Health-Related Sciences, 2001; Fellow, Health Physics Society, 1997; Distinguished Alumnus in Professional Development, South Dakota State University, 2002; Founders Award, Health Physics Society, 2003; John C. Villforth Lecturer, Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors, 2009; Madewell Lecturer, Pennsylvania State University Hershey Medical Center, 2010; Fellow, American Association of Physicists in Medicine, 2010.

Dr. Vetter has also provided services to his community and to the Zumbro Lutheran Congregation. In his spare time he enjoys reading, gardening, traveling, and fly fishing. He has been married to his wife Jan for 46 years and has two daughters (Stephanie and Pamela) and one grandson (Adrian).



*Do not follow where the path may lead.  
Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail. – Ralph Waldo Emerson*

On October 27, 2011, the School of Health Sciences had the great pleasure of adding Dr. Richard J. Vetter, 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, Howde 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. Over the past ten years, Dr. Vetter has served the School of Health Sciences in many leadership roles. As a founding member of the School of Health Sciences Advisory Board, Dr. Vetter provided his insight and expertise to help guide the school's strategic direction. Dr. Vetter took on leadership of this group, serving as Chair of the Board from 2004-2010 before transitioning out of those responsibilities to pursue other activities with the Health Physics Society among many other commitments. His leadership and wisdom have been integral in mentoring graduate students, faculty, and the past three Department Heads of the School of Health Sciences. Currently, he is working part-time for the Health Physics Society (HPS), as the HPS agency and congressional liaison.

As Dr. Vetter's time on the School of Health Sciences Advisory Board concludes, we thank him for all his hard work and dedication. Additionally, we congratulate him as the 2011 John Christian Distinguished Alumnus in Health Sciences.



Ellie Timpson, Weston Brander and Shiv Srivastava



Wei-Chun Chen and Dr. Jim McGlothlin



The Purdue Flappers



Becky and Mack Richard & Dr. Dick Vetter

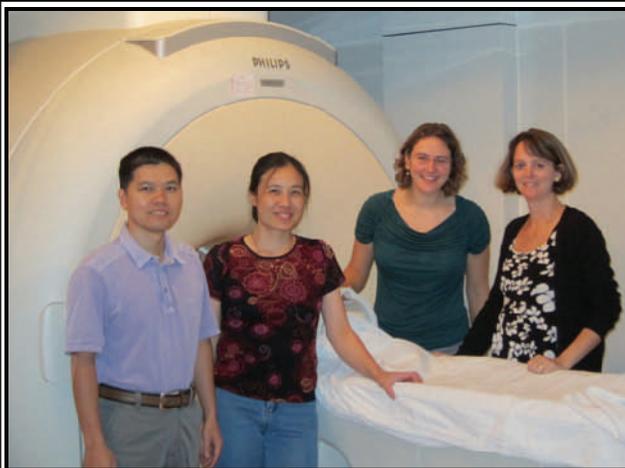


Amber Fisher & Eric Ward



Left to right: Dr. Tom Berndt, Dr. Dick Vetter, Jan Vetter, Linda Christian-Davis, and Dr. Wei Zheng

## FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS & THEIR GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS



Dr. Dydak (right) with part of her collaborative research team imaging Manganese-exposed welders: (from left to right) Dr. Xiangrong Li, Radiologist from Guangxi Medical University, Dr. Jun Xu, Postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Dydak's laboratory and Dr. Sarah Elizabeth Zauber, Neurologist from Indiana University School of Medicine at the 3.0T MRI scanner at Guangxi Medical University.

### First Outstanding New Environmental Scientist (ONES) NIH Award at Purdue goes to the School of Health Sciences

In 2005, the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) established a career award to provide a strong foundation for outstanding scientists who are in the early, formative stages of their careers in environmental health research. The award, in the form of a five-year R01 grant and given to only five to seven early career scientists nationally each year, are meant to assist scientists in launching innovative research programs that focus on human disease and the influence of the environment. It contains a significant budgetary contribution for career enhancement activities and laboratory equipment.

Ulrike Dydak, Assistant Professor in the School of Health Sciences, is one of scientists to receive the ONES award in 2011. She will use novel, non-invasive neuroimaging techniques such as magnetic resonance spectroscopy (MRS) and positron-emission tomography (PET) to measure brain neurotransmitter levels to discover and establish a noninvasive diagnostic tool for early detection of manganese-induced parkinsonism in humans, and to further explore the underlying mechanism of manganese neurotoxicity in an animal model. Her studies are making use of strong

research collaborations both with Guangxi Medical University in China and the Radiology and Imaging Sciences Department at Indiana University School of Medicine, where Dr. Dydak holds an adjunct appointment.

Dr. Dydak brings the ONES award for the first time to Purdue. According to Perry Kirkham, NIH liaison in the office for the Vice President of Research at Purdue, this award shows that Purdue is training and supporting outstanding young scientists in environmental sciences and adds, that this ONES grant "greatly expands Purdue's NIH portfolio in one of the promising areas for future funding and public need".

### In the lab

**Shiv Prakash Srivastava** (Dr. Dydak, Co-Major Professor) in Dr. Indra Das's lab (Director of Physics, Radiation Oncology, IUSM), has three manuscripts published or accepted for publication in 2011. The first one is titled: "Dosimetric Comparison of Split Field and Fixed Jaw Techniques for Large IMRT Target Volumes in the Head and Neck;" The second is "Effect of processor Temperature on film dosimetry;" and the third is "Dosimetric comparison of manual and beam angle optimization of gantry angles in IMRT." The American Association of Physicist in Medicine (AAPM) has also accepted two of Shiv's abstracts, one presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of AAPM in Vancouver, Canada, and the other at the local chapter meeting of AAPM in Louisville, KY.



### Dr. Jennifer Freeman's Lab:

Mr. Greg Weber, a doctoral candidate in Prof. Jennifer Freeman's toxicology lab, has won the 1st Place Award in the graduate student platform presentation competition in the Ohio Valley Society of Toxicology annual meeting last week. The award will cover the winner's travel expenses to attend the SOT Meeting in San Francisco next year. In addition, Greg will organize and host the Student Ohio Valley SOT meeting next year at Purdue! Ms. Kaitlyn Egan, a Pre-Med undergraduate student in Prof. Freeman's lab, has also won the 1st Place Award in the undergraduate student poster competition.



**Dr. Linda Nie** has received a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Faculty Development Grant. The grant was developed as a part of coalition between School of Health Sciences and School of Nuclear Engineering with Co-PI leadership by Dr. Ahmed Hassanein and Dr. Nie. The total amount of \$300,000 will be split between two schools. The newly arrived funds are one of several that have been awarded to our two schools for nuclear safety education and research since 2007. Dr. Nie has received a pilot research grant from NIOSH funded Educational and Research Center at University of Cincinnati, PI, total budget is \$11,665 from Jul.1, 2011-Jun.30, 2012, "Design a Novel In Vivo Neutron Activation Analysis System for Noninvasive Quantification of Mn in Bone with Monte Carlo Simulations."

## SUCCESS IN RESEARCH AND IN THE LABS (CON'T)...



**Dr. James McGlothlin** has recently won the Golden Seed Award by the America Industrial Hygiene Association during AIHA annual meeting in Portland on May 16, 2011. The plaque Jim received states that "On behalf of the students and Early Career Professionals Committee for his demonstrated commitment to promoting the Industrial Hygiene profession among students, and early career professionals and the community." He also received another \$10,000 from Industry for his research on Ergonomics and Occupational Safety.

Dr. Jim McGlothlin's proposal entitled "Contemporary Issues in International Public Health" was awarded by the Study Abroad and International Learning Program (SAIL). In this new round, Dr. McGlothlin will lead the students to visit Beijing (the Capital University of Medical Sciences) and Shanghai (Fudan University School of Public Health) in China in Summer 2012. Jim has directed this highly successful program since 2006 and his students have visited Austria, India, Cambodia, Thailand and South Africa since then.

### In the lab:

**Sandra Cole** won 3rd Place Award (\$250) at the Engineering 2020 Workshop sponsored by the U.S. CDC and NIH/National Institute of Occupational Safety Health, the College of Engineering, and the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering with her awarding winning presentation titled "Minimization of Radiation Exposure and Reduction of Musculoskeletal Disorders in a Nuclear Pharmacy."

**Wei-Chun Chen** won the 1st Place Award (\$1,000) in poster and presentation competition at the America Industrial Hygiene Association during AIHA annual meeting in Portland on May 16, 2011. Her presentation title is "Ergonomic Design and Evaluation of a Clinical Teaching Laboratory for People with Disabilities of the Lower Limbs." She also won 1st Place Award (\$1,000) with this poster at the Engineering 2020 Workshop sponsored by the U.S. CDC and NIH/National Institute of Occupational Safety Health, the College of Engineering, and the Regenstrief Center for Healthcare Engineering.



Occupational Health and Safety Student Research Promoters and Organizers for the American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition (AIHCE) in Portland, OR. Above: Beauregard Middaugh (1), and Dr. James McGlothlin, (6) from the School of Health Sciences pictured with Dr. David Michaels (5), Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, and Dr. Michael Brandt (4), President of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA).



**Dr. Frank Rosenthal's** NIH/NIOSH training grant has been successfully renewed and recently awarded for another four years for a total of \$442,971. Since the inception of this NIOSH training program at Purdue in 2004, Dr. Frank Rosenthal, along with faculty members in occupational and environmental health, has devoted enormous effort to improve the curricula and create the research opportunities for industrial hygiene students. Many of our graduates from this program are now taking the leadership role in industry, government, academia, and consulting firms. The program has been strongly endorsed by School's Advisory Board and obtained a wide support from our alumni.



**Dr. Keith Stantz** has just received yet another new NIH grant entitled "In vivo imaging and therapeutic targeting of hypoxic-niche associated with CSCs". The grant in the format of NIH R21 with a total budget of \$437,000 (9/30/11-8/31/13) will allow Keith to further apply his innovative imaging technique for clinical diagnosis and therapy of hypoxia-related cancers.



**Dr. Wei Zheng and Dr. Frank Rosenthal's** proposal entitled "Establishing a Semester Undergraduate Exchange Program in Environmental Health Sciences with Dublin Institute of Technology" was awarded by the Global Strategic Partner Program (GSP) (total \$20,000). The program will allow undergraduate students who are interested in environmental health sciences to take the classes between two campuses in the U.S. and Ireland. It is a wonderful extension as well as potential expansion of our environmental toxicology educational programs globally.

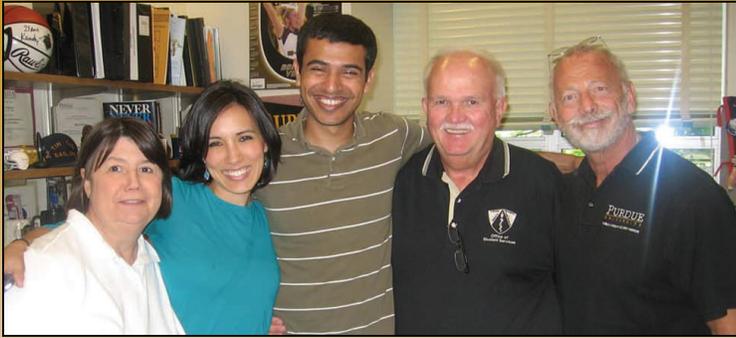


**Beauregard Middaugh** (in Dr. Zimmerman's lab) won the 1st place award for his poster- "A Pilot Study of Neutrophil Count in Spontaneous Sputum as a Biomarker of Effect in Calcium Oxide Exposed Workers." It was awarded by the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Biological Monitoring Committee in Portland on May 16, 2011.

### In the lab:

**Christopher Bates**, a doctoral student in PULSe program and working under the guidance of Dr. Zheng, has received an NIH/NIEHS grant award under the Research Supplements to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research Program. This award for two years will assist Chris to investigate whether and how the blood-brain barrier, particularly the choroid plexus, cleanses a-synuclein inside the brain and how environmental exposure to toxic metals may facilitate aggregation of a-

# ALUMNI UPDATE



Above: Rosemary Ricci, Erin Tao, Akshay Thomas, Bob Walkup & Dave Tate.



Industrial Hygiene Graduates with Dave

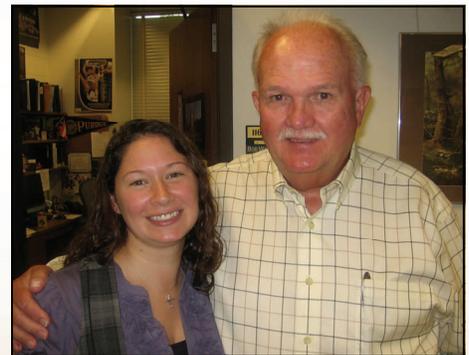


Above: Dave with the Purdue Graduates from St Margaret's

## Alumni reception



Above: Saarah Butts and Dave Tate at Nine Irish Brothers celebrating graduation.



Dr. Stephanie Mussman stopped by to visit with Bob Walkup in our Office of Student Services.



Above: Janet Keiss stopped by to visit with Dave Tate.

# **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

## **ROBERT R. LANDOLT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

### **QUESTION FOR ALUMNI**

Did you have a favorite faculty member while in the School of Health Sciences? Was there someone that inspired you or maybe taught you things you thought you would never need to know but, now that you are out in the working world, you realize just how much you learned from that instructor?

### **QUESTION FOR CURRENT STUDENTS**

Do you have an instructor in one of your current courses who you think is doing an outstanding job?

Nominations are now being sought for the 2012 Robert R. Landolt Award for Excellence in Teaching. All faculty and staff who teach Health Sciences courses are eligible for the award. Any student, faculty member, or alumnus can submit a nomination or an additional letter of support. Letters of nomination or support can be submitted by mail to Dr. Frank Rosenthal, Chair of the School of Health Sciences Awards Committee, School of Health Sciences, 550 Stadium Mall Drive, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, by putting it in campus mail to him at HSCI, CIVL, by fax to 765-496-1377, or by e-mail to [frank@purdue.edu](mailto:frank@purdue.edu). Nominations must be received on or before February 3, 2012. If you have any questions, you can call Dr. Rosenthal at 765-494-0812.

**Thanks for your help with this important recognition of teaching.**

## **THE INDIANA CHALLENGE MATCH**

Have you ever struggled to find the perfect gift for someone who has been an influential part of your life? Or, have you always wanted to honor a professor who taught you how to be successful?

If so, the School of Health Sciences is excited to announce a unique gifting opportunity. Purdue University has announced a matching gifts program called "**The Indiana Challenge Match.**" This program is designed to create scholarship endowments at Purdue University to support undergraduate scholarships benefitting students hailing from Indiana. This is a great way to honor that someone special or possibly a professor who inspired you to be the best you could possibly be.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Travis Stoutenborough at [tstouten@purdue.edu](mailto:tstouten@purdue.edu) or 765-494-4013 for more information.

**HAIL PURDUE!**

# GETTING TO KNOW THE HEALTH PHYSICS SOCIETY

**Rich Vetter, Retired**  
**HPS Agency and Congressional Liaison**

When people ask what a health physicist is, how do you answer? I try to answer this question as simply as possible. It is usually sufficient to say, "A health physicist is a specialist in radiation safety." If they want more information, I go into as much depth as they want, usually starting with typical activities of a health physicist, such as monitoring of workers to determine the amount of radiation exposure they receive, surveying for possible contamination, calculating doses to patients, determining the amount of shielding necessary for a particular application, etc. I also mention that health physicists are employed in industry, nuclear power, regulatory organizations, research, and universities.

Where do you work and what is your job title? I recently retired from my position of radiation safety officer and professor of biophysics at Mayo Clinic. Currently, I work part-time for the Health Physics Society (HPS) as the agency and congressional liaison. How does your job involve health physics? My current job requires knowledge of health physics and a good network of health physicists who can assist the HPS in responding to inquiries from government and media as well as from the public. My contacts in government expect that the liaison from HPS will be knowledgeable in health physics and will be able through HPS leaders to respond to agency requests for stakeholder input.

How did you get started in health physics? While attending South Dakota State University, I took a course called bionucleonics. The content (radiotracer methodology and radiation safety) was fascinating, and the professor encouraged me to apply to Purdue University's bionucleonics graduate program. Dr. John Christian, head of bionucleonics, offered me a full-ride fellowship, and the next thing I knew I was enrolled in a course called health physics taught by Dr. Paul Ziemer. After receiving my PhD and teaching biology, physiology, and radiobiology at a small liberal arts college for one year, I received a letter from Dr. Christian inviting me back to Purdue to work as Dr. Ziemer's assistant in a tenure-track position on the faculty. Thus began my career in health physics.

What do you enjoy most about being a health physicist? I think the most enjoyable aspects of being a health physicist are the opportunities to develop and use technical skills, as well as working with people at various levels, from members of the public to professionals with terminal university degrees and all walks of life. For example, I can be talking to an agency division leader (even a Nuclear Regulatory Commission commissioner) one minute and a member of the public the next. When I was radiation safety officer, I had opportunities to interact with Mayo Clinic administrators, physicians, principle investigators, nurses, technologists, patients, and many outside the Mayo Clinic. It was a stimulating environment. What has been most exciting about your health physics career? There have been some exciting times, such as the day someone spilled the eluate (41 GBq of  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ ) from a  $^{99}\text{Mo}$  generator, or technically challenging times when an investigator needed help with dose calculations for a new radiolabeled compound. But the most exciting (and sometimes challenging) times were those that involved interactions with people who were excited about the promising direction of their work and who needed help with a specific problem. At the end of those exercises it felt like I was making a difference.

Who in the field has most inspired you? In what way? In terms of my career, Dr. Gerald Myers at South Dakota State University challenged me to think and got me interested in graduate school. He was very inspirational to me at a critical time in my development. Dr. Wayne Kessler, my PhD major professor, also taught me to think critically, and he taught me to write. While I was a health physics graduate student, Dr. Robert Landolt was very helpful to me in learning the technical aspects of health physics. Once I started my career, Dr. Paul Ziemer inspired me to learn more and to become specialty-board certified. He also strongly encouraged me to become involved in the activities of the HPS and to network with health physicists from other organizations.

When and why did you join the HPS? When I joined the faculty at Purdue, Dr. Ziemer gave me the HPS membership application and said, "You need to join this association of professionals to establish a network and to read their journal." So, I did. After all, what new assistant professor would argue with Paul Ziemer?

In what ways have you been involved in the HPS? I have been involved as a member of several committees, board member, associate editor and editor in chief of *Health Physics*, president of the Society and of the Academy of Health Physics, and now agency and congressional liaison. I learned how to be a better leader by involving myself in Society activities, and I took those skills back to my job. I encourage all members to get involved in some small or large way, whatever satisfies their needs.

What has been the greatest benefit of HPS membership for you? The greatest benefit of membership for me has been learning from many other health physicists whom I would not have met if not for HPS. From some I learned how to apply health physics knowledge and tools, and from others I learned leadership skills. Everyone whom I have met in the HPS is capable of teaching me something.

What do you do when you aren't doing health physics? My hobbies include reading, gardening, and fly-fishing. I also volunteer in church and in the community and serve as leader of the Mayo Prostate Cancer Research Advocates, which includes the Prostate Cancer Support Group. My favorite hobby of fly-fishing came about as a result of my activities in HPS. In about 1990, I invited Ken Miller to bring his fly rod along to a meeting in Minnesota for a trip to a trout stream. The following year he invited me and Dick Burk to his cabin in the mountains of Pennsylvania, and we have been fishing together ever since. Through Ken's knowledge and perseverance, he has been able to teach Dick and me how to catch fish.

Is there anything else you think HPS members would enjoy learning about you? I am extremely thankful for the support Mayo Clinic has given me over the years. The clinic supported me in my HPS activities and provided me with smart and hard-working health physicists, technologists, and administrative assistants who filled in for me whenever I was away, thus allowing me the luxury of participating in many HPS activities. Each one was a valuable member of my health physics team, and I very much appreciate their support and their dedication to the job.

