Dean's Remarks

The College of Arts and Sciences had a good year in 2006. The percentage of credit hours taught by the College grew slightly to 60.1% (152,585 of 253,897), and the number of A&S majors grew by 3.2%, to 2289 (Fall numbers). The College witnessed reasonable faculty productivity, and significant amounts of student research. We are energetically engaged in educating students, and doing this well remains a high faculty priority. Aligning course and program goals to the newly-adopted Framework for the Baccalaureate is an exciting challenge. Faculty and students are active in the community. College goals are carefully tied to the IPFW Strategic Plan, and thus far seem reasonable. We have the generic goal to “Maintain the College of Arts and Sciences as the IPFW flagship in learning and discovery.” Not all departments are equally active in research and creative endeavor. Every department has active and most have very active faculty. I insist that all faculty with a research assignment be active and productive.

The College of Arts and Sciences, as usual, demonstrates overall a high standard of teaching, significant research productivity, and a commitment to service at all levels and in the community. Over ninety faculty produced 6 books (7 more in press), 52 book chapters (8 more in press), 7 edited volumes, 171 journal articles (includes poems and creative fiction) (30 more in press). That is a total of 296 publications. A&S faculty made 138 presentations. Many other faculty are engaged in multi-year projects, produced scholarly reviews or abstracts and the creation of textbooks and other pedagogical materials. Arts and Sciences faculty serve as editors of five scholarly journals, and as associate editors and reviewers for scores more.

Arts and Sciences generated over $357,000 in new grants and contracts, and had continuing grants and contracts in excess of $902,000. Non-grant and contract revenue topped $407,000. A few of the new efforts are particularly noteworthy. Robert McCullough (Anthropology and the Archeological Survey) received $84,000 from Vulcan Materials Company for data recovery at four sites in Lake County. The US Department of the Interior provided $73,000 to the Archeological Survey for three separate projects. Frank Paladino (Biology) received $59,000 from Earthwatch to continue work on Costa Rican Sea Turtles. Karol Dehr (English and Linguistics) received an additional $15,000 to support the Appleseed Writing Project. Bruce Kingsbury (Biology) received $35,000 from the US Army to research the response of Box Turtles to prescribed fire and $32,000 from the Michigan
Department of Natural Resources for work on fox snake ecology.

Some Arts and Sciences accomplishments of note: William Frederick (Mathematics), Larry Kuznar (Anthropology), and Michael Wolf (Political Science) completed their term as A&S Multidisciplinary Scholars, and reported back to the College. Lucille Hess (Audiology and Speech Sciences) won the Friends of the University Outstanding Teaching Award for 2006. Deborah Thompson (Audiology and Speech Sciences) won the Outstanding Associate Faculty Teaching Award 2006. This is the first time both award winners came from the same department. Michelle Drouin (Psychology) won the Continuing Studies Faculty Star Award for her inline instruction. Jane Ehle (CASA) was the winner of the 2005 Bruening Academic Advising Award. Michael Columbia (Chemistry) won the Sigma Xi Science Teacher of the Year award. Anthropology student Joe Frederick Evans won the 2006 Prize for Most Outstanding Student Science Presentation by the Sigma Xi Science Society, a national prize from the premier international science society. Peter Hamburger (MATH) was named A&S Distinguished Lecturer and won the 2006 IPFW Outstanding Research Award. The 2006 Pippert Science Research Award went to Jim Farlow (Geosciences). [An aside: MATH hosted a MIGHTY (MIdwest GrapH TheorY) Conference in honor of Ray Pippert, with 60 attendees.] Matthew Walsh (Mathematics) received the Kirkman Medal from the Institute of Combinatorics and its Applications, given annually to a young scholar who has done “important research” in discrete mathematics. Shree Dhawale (Biology) received the 2006 Community Advisory Council’s “Service to the Students Award. Linda Fox (International Languages and Culture Studies and Womens Studies) received a Community Award for commitment and service to women from Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau, Nov 06.

There are other significant accomplishments detailed in the following pages.

There have been some important changes in Arts and Sciences. First we are now “The College of Arts and Sciences,” a name change that truly reflects our mission and activities. We are energetically refurbishing our Web pages. Marcia Dixson assumed the duties of Chair of Communication, and Bernd Buldt joined us as Chair of Philosophy. We are experiencing a significant growth in the activity of College Programs, due in large part to the energy of the Program Directors. The IPFW International Photography Contest (conducted by the International Studies Program and ILCS) was a very visible example of that activity, as was curricular redesign in Gerontology and American Studies. Jenny Weatherford assumed the new position of Director of the Office of International Programs. We spent the fall semester thinking about the College’s mission statement. This effort will culminate at the 2007 Spring Convocation in March as we formally consider adoption of new language.

This report tends to highlight the special and most visible efforts. It must be emphasized that the greatest strength of the College of Arts and Sciences is the high level of ordinary daily work performed by the faculty and staff of the College. This includes the work of dedicated associate faculty in the classroom, the teaching and service of continuing lecturers, the teaching, research, and service of tenured and tenure-track faculty, and the invaluable support of committed clerical and service staff members. This is the university’s core business, and the College is fully engaged in that work every day.