

FNSM Annual Report
August 17, 2006
Submitted by David G.L. Van Wylen

It is a pleasure to serve as the Associate Dean for a very active and productive Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. This annual report summarizes some of the many meaningful FNSM activities that occurred during the 2005-06 academic year.

Faculty Successes

The heart and soul of the FNSM remains our faculty, and I am pleased to share several faculty successes.

We were successful in both of our tenure-track searches. **Steve Freedberg**, (computational biologist) and **Tina Garrett** (mathematician).

We had several faculty/staff who completed their first year at St. Olaf:

- ◆ **Brian Borovsky**
- ◆ **Tory Borovsky**
- ◆ **Kevin Crisp**
- ◆ **John Schade**
- ◆ **Sara Fruehling**
- ◆ **Pele Rich**
- ◆ **Matt Easterday**
- ◆ **Dan Hernandez**
- ◆ **Becca Starr**
- ◆ **Jumi Hayaki**
- ◆ **Tina Garrett**
- ◆ **Marc Klingshirn**
- ◆ **Dwight Stoll**
- ◆ **Christine Kohnen**

We had three faculty who were promoted. **Donna McMillan** was promoted to Associate Professor of Psychology, **Kim Kandl** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Biology, and **Paul Roback** was awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor of Mathematics, Statistics, and Computer Science. We also completed pretenure reviews for **Jason Engbrecht** (4th year), **Jeff Schweinfus** (4th year), **Gary Muir** (2nd year), **Urmila Malvadkar** (2nd year), and **Olaf Hall-Holt** (2nd year).

Other accomplishments to be noted include:

- ◆ **Martha Wallace** (Kenneth Bjork) and **Henry Kermott** (Marie Meyer) were awarded Distinguished Professor Awards
- ◆ We were successful with Goldwater Scholarships (2), an NSF Research Fellowship, Fulbright Scholarships (2), and a Rossing Physics Scholarship
- ◆ We published over 25 published papers, chapters, and books
- ◆ Many invited talks - elementary schools and churches Northfield; St. Olaf and Carleton; Hamline, Macalester, Gustavas; Maine, Iowa, Wisconsin, California, Washington, Missouri, Florida, Washington D.C., Georgia, Michigan, South Carolina; Bahamas, Italy, Canada
- ◆ New courses taught- Envisioning Biology, Physics 124/125, Children and Technology, Medicinal Chemistry in Jamaica, Limnology, Human Development in East Asia: Perspectives from China and Japan; Medical Experience in Peru
- ◆ New courses approved - Environmental Health, Neuroethology, Ways of Knowing Ecology, Life: Meaning and Mystery, Science and Stewardship
- ◆ Active across campus -CILA, campus committees (chairs of RPC and CEPC), search committees

Program Successes

We had an excellent group of Chairs - **Anne Walter** and **Kathy Shea** (biology), **Wes Pearson** (chemistry), **Paul Zorn** (MSCS), **Bob Jacobel** (physics), and **Dan Gross** (psychology) - and Program Directors - **Beth Abdella** (molecular biology), **Ted Johnson** (biomedical studies), **Shelly Dickinson** (neuroscience), **Julie Legler** (statistics), and **Dick Brown** (computer science).

We had another excellent Science Symposium during Honor's Day, thanks to the hard work by **Ted Johnson** and the Science Symposium Committee (**Gary Muir**, **Gene Bakko**, **Jason Engbrecht**, **Greg Muth**, and **Urmilla Malvadkar**). The theme for this year was A Balance for the Future: The Science of Sustainability. The three featured speakers were: Steve Polasky, Fesler-Lampert Chair in Ecological/Environmental Economics, University of Minnesota, Robin Rogers, Robert Ramsay Chair of Chemistry, University of Alabama and Director, Center for Green Manufacturing, and Nancy Grimm, Professor of Life Sciences, Arizona State University. Associated with the symposium was our annual student research poster session, which again attracted more than 50 student presenters.

Our Summer Research Program was again very successful, with over 50 summer researchers and nearly 30 faculty involved. Thanks to **Charles Umbanhowar**, our Director of Summer Research.

This was an important year for design work on the Science Complex. Two major faculty signoffs, one in December and one in May, marked the culmination of much work on basic lab design.

FNSM faculty were active writing and receiving grants during the 2002-03 academic year. The highlights were:

- ◆ \$2,483,197 total awarded to FNSM
- ◆ **Kevin Crisp, Jean Porterfield, and John Schade** received their first external grant at St. Olaf
- ◆ **Jason Engbrecht** received an NSF RUI
- ◆ **Jeff Schweinfus and Greg Muth** received an NSF CCLI
- ◆ **Eric Cole, Kim Kandl, Charles Umbanhowar, Mike Swift, Matt Richey, Jill Dietz, Bob Hanson, Doug Beussman, Gary Muir, Shelly Dickinson, Howard Thorsheim, Bob Jacobel, and Brian Welch** all active submitting external grants; some funded some not
- ◆ Several faculty development grants
- ◆ Seven international student researchers this summer
- ◆ Kresge Science Equipment endowment being established with the assistance of the advancement staff
- ◆ Ongoing grant work on institutional and individual grants

Sabbaticals were awarded next year for Ted Johnson (also doing Term in Asia), Kim Kandl, Bob Hanson, Rich Allen, Martha Wallace, Paul Jackson. Donna McMillan will lead Global Semester.

Departing Faculty

Several faculty will be leaving St. Olaf. We appreciate the contributions of the following faculty members and wish them well:

- ◆ **Judy Cederberg**
- ◆ **Jim Cederberg**
- ◆ **Jason Hill**
- ◆ **Diane Maher**
- ◆ **Dan Hernandez**
- ◆ **Amelia Taylor**
- ◆ **Mike Huberty**
- ◆ **Becca Starr**
- ◆ **Marc Klingshirn**
- ◆ **Dwight Stoll**