Greetings to our College of Science and Health alumni! We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As is always the case, business doesn’t slow during the summer at WP. Our building project at Science Hall is moving along rapidly. The Annex has taken shape, with the steel in place and concrete floors poured. Utilities are being connected and the entire building should be completed by summer 2010. The enclosed photo shows some of the progress as of June 2009. Simultaneously, renovation of S200a and S200b is taking place. Room 200A which formerly held almost 500 people is being divided into two floors, the second floor housing a 75-seat tiered auditorium, and the third floor encompassing a large classroom and two computer labs. Science 200b is being converted from an over 200-seat lecture hall to a smaller and more elegant 115-seat auditorium.

The other big news on campus is that President Speert is retiring in June 2010. He will have served as President of WPUNJ for 25 years and will be missed very much. A search is about to begin for a new President.

Thank you to those who have designated the College of Science and Health in your Annual Fund donation. These funds have enabled us to hire more students in our research labs, to fund a few students and faculty to attend professional conferences, and to purchase needed equipment.

(continued on page 2)

From the Dean’s Desk

Department of Mathematics

The department conducted a successful periodic program review this year for which several subcommittees were formed and all played an important role. Prof. Maheshwari coordinated the overall program review. Prof. Rick Cleary of Bentley University visited the department from April 13 – 15, 2009 as an external reviewer. An agreement with the College of Education has been reached to upgrade the MAEN program into a Masters Degree (M.Ed. and/or MAT) program in teaching mathematics and additional MAEN courses have been developed by the mathematics department for this purpose.

Faculty continues to engage in research with publications in refereed mathematics journals and presentation of findings at national and international conferences.

(continued on page 2)
From the Dean’s Desk, continued

I hope that you will continue to keep in touch with us in the future. You can communicate with us through the University Web page (ww2.wpunj.edu) and then find the Alumni page or academic department and links to email accounts. We like to hear from our alumni, so please send us your news and address, email, or phone number.

Department of Mathematics, continued

international conferences. Profs. Zeleke and Jani gave plenary talks at the 3rd South American Algebra, Number Theory, and Combinatorics conference (ALTENCOA III) which was held from July 21 – 25, 2008 in Bucaramanga, Colombia. They also gave research talks at the Mathematics Colloquium of the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia on July 18, 2008. Prof. Eswar Phadia gave an invited lecture on “Prior Processes in Nonparametric Bayesian Inference” at the Department of Mathematics, University of Jordan, Aman, Jordan on January 8, 2009. Profs. Fengya and Champanerkar conducted summer workshops for teachers participating in the REFORMS grant and Prof. Zeleke conducted a review of the mathematics curriculum (grades 3 through 8) for Paterson Public Schools through this grant. Math department celebrated the Mathematics Awareness Month with faculty and student presentations including an invited address by Prof. Andrew Poje of Staten Island College on “Mathematics and Climate”. Over 100 students from six local high schools attended the Annual WPUNJ Math Fair was held on November 14, 2008. Profs. Nacin, Von Dohlen, Chen and Miller gave short talks on various topics including the application of mathematics in DNA sequencing.

Twenty nine Math majors completed their senior Capstone research projects during the 2008-2009 academic year and presented their work to faculty and students. Seven math majors conducted independent study projects on topics from different areas of mathematics and statistics under the supervision of five faculty members. During the 2008-2009 academic year 14 math majors have been inducted to Pi Mu Epsilon - a national mathematics honor society. The department has established an endowed scholarship in memory of Prof. Marcelo Llarull - this year’s award was given to Anthony Zajac who has exceptional academic achievement with 4.0 GPA and excellent service record to the department. The department has an active math club and mathematics honor society (Pi Mu Epsilon). Students of the club organized a volleyball game on April 5th which was well attended.
Department of Chemistry

This last academic year has been a very rewarding and successful period for the Chemistry department. The big news has been the approval of the Bachelor of Science program by American Chemical Society along with the approval of the department’s proposed Bachelor of Arts program by the University Senate. We are very proud to report a very successful organization of 42nd Silicon Symposium (www.siliconsymposium2009.com) which was organized and chaired by Prof. Chauhan and sponsored by leading chemical companies. Prof. Snyder and Associate Dean Fuller-Stanley served on the organizing committee. This conference brought together researchers in the field of silicon chemistry from around the world.

From our department, Prof. Snyder and Chauhan published their research in peer-reviewed journals. Professor Chauhan published two peer reviewed articles (one including WPU undergraduate student Esra Cinar) and obtained a patent on the polysiloxane technology. Prof. Snyder also wrote an article (co-authored with Prof. Rafael Brüschweiler of Florida State University and the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory) to appear in the Ency. of Mag. Resonance.

Students and postdoctoral associates presented their work in American Chemical Society national and regional meetings and in the 42nd Silicon Symposium. In addition, eight students supervised by Chemistry department faculty presented their research at the William Paterson University Research Day poster presentation and at the 2nd Annual Research Symposium in the Biological Sciences at WPUNJ.

Projects ranged from Eric Nilson’s work on the synthesis of analogs of sponge antibacterial agents to Galina Badiner’s work on metal doped CdSe nanoparticles and Erica Barden’s work on non-thermal plasmas. These works were also presented as Senior Class seminars.

Department of Computer Science

The most important news about our department in this year is that our B.S. degree program has been accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET is the recognized accreditation agency for college and university programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology. Receiving this prestigious accreditation demonstrates our program’s commitment to providing our students with world-class education. Thanks again to our alumni who came and shared their experiences with the ABET evaluation team during their visit.

A student-faculty get-together for all the new Computer Science students was held in fall 2008 where new freshmen and transfer students could meet all the faculty members, know about our department, and acquaint themselves with their fellow students. We intend to repeat this every year.

Many seminars were organized during the year. There were talks by Dr. Tom Marlowe of Seton Hall University on inter-organizational collaborative software development and a seminar providing internship opportunity to our students by our alumnus Michael Kowal of Cisco Systems on creating IP telephony applications. The ACM, UPE, and the CS Society sponsored two talks—one by Dr. Elaine Weyuker of AT&T Research on finding software faults and another by Dr. Polly Tremoulet of Lockheed Martin Advanced Technology Laboratories on (continued on page 4)
The department began its accelerated BA/MS program this fall and had the first batch of nine freshmen and sixteen transfer students committed to enroll. Further, ten existing WPUNJ students have changed their major to Communication Disorders and 20 students have chosen this field as their minor. Approximately 20 students will be starting in the graduate program in September, bringing total enrollment to 70. Twelve students have graduated with their master’s degrees this year. All are employed or have received job offers. Four graduate students have had papers accepted for presentation at the November 2009 Annual Meeting of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in New Orleans. All presentations are based on the students’ recently completed master’s theses. Shara Holzberg is presenting a paper with Prof. Carole Gelfer as faculty advisor. Four students have Prof. Jennifer Hsu as their faculty advisor. They are: Alicia Bennett, Olivia Fratterelli and Sophia Lin.

Department of Communication Disorders

Prof. Martin Becker of the Environmental Science department has been working on a very interesting project titled “Devonian Marine Invertebrates in Glacial Erratics: Evidence from the High Mountain Preserve, Wayne, New Jersey” during the last year. Lauren Smith, a major in the department has been working with Prof. Becker on this project together with Prof. Richard Pardi.

During these outings, they discovered two unique glacial erratics that contain marine invertebrate fossil assemblages. The glacial erratics are a diverse mixture of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks that are primarily of lower to middle Paleozoic (540-350 mya) and Precambrian (older than 540 mya) ages. The area surrounding Kingston, NY contains geologic formations from the Devonian geologic period and includes invertebrates similar to the ones identified in the two erratics. Kingston, New York is approximately 75 miles north of the High Mountain Preserve. At an average rate of glacial movement of 1 foot per day, it would have taken 1,085 years for the erratics to be transported into the High Mountain Preserve. They plan further investigation in the Hudson Valley Region to determine the exact location for the origin of these erratic.

The results of this study are being compiled for presentation at the Geological Society of America sectional meeting in Baltimore, MD in the Spring of 2010.
Department of Kinesiology

Department of Kinesiology, now with its new name, has appropriately launched three new undergraduate degrees in a) Athletic Training, b) Exercise Science, and c) Physical Education/Teacher Certification. Last year, the department received permission to begin a new Master of Science degree in Exercise and Sport Studies with concentrations in exercise physiology and sport pedagogy or a general degree without a concentration. In spring 2009, our first graduate course was offered to recruit potential students. EXSC 660 Special Topics: Integrated Exercise Science and Sport Studies had an enrollment of 10 keen and eager students. This course was taught by Profs. Schmidt, Manning, and Flores-Marti as a hybrid model with in-person and internet based instruction. In fall 2009, three more courses will be offered including Introduction to Research, Physical Activity and Aging, and Curricular Trends and Issues in Physical Education.

A Physical Education student, Kelly Haughwout, worked with Profs. Overdorf, Makarec, and Silgailis on a research project entitled “The Effect of an Activity Intervention on Depression in Healthy Older Adults.” Lew Porchiazzo III, an Exercise Science student, completed his senior internship in exercise physiology at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO during the spring 2009 semester. Upon his return to campus, Lew made a formal presentation about his internship and demonstrated several training programs learned while at the Olympic Training Center to faculty, coaches, and students. Jaclyn Norberg, an Assistant Athletic Trainer at WPUNJ worked in the finish line medical tent at the Boston Marathon in April 2009. Five of our Athletic Training students, Gianna Albruzzese, Nicole Callaghan, Monique Gerald, Brittany Howell, and Marc Voicecevovski, also worked at the marathon and were assigned to the medical wheelchair sweep team.

Also in April 2009, the Kinesiology Department hosted a visit by the National Circus Project. The circus project instructors taught more than 100 Physical Education students the activities of devil stick, juggling balls and rings, walking on stilts, spinning plates on a stick, performing tricks with a Chinese yo-yo, and riding a unicycle. These activities are ideal for school physical education programs because they are noncompetitive and of interest to students of all physical abilities.

Department of Nursing

Nursing department organized its “Annual Pinning” event where graduating students receive WPUNJ pins and faculty present awards to students for a variety of achievements. However, the graduating class of 2009 surprised Prof. Kathleen Connolly with a check honoring her ongoing work at Eva’s Clinic in Paterson. Prof. Connolly has provided Nurse Practitioner service and student mentorship at Eva’s Clinic for ten years through a University grant. She also volunteers some of her own time to the clinic.

Dean Sandra DeYoung also attended the ceremonies and emphasized the importance and value of compassion in the nursing profession. She said that skills and techniques of patient care can be taught but compassion is not easily taught.
If you would like to receive an email copy of this newsletter instead of a paper copy, please send your email address to the Dean’s office at jamesa@wpunj.edu

Department of Public Health

Department of Public Health is proud to have participated in the 14th Annual Public Health Symposium at UMDNJ as part of a statewide event focusing on “Research and Practice in Global Public Health Issues,” held on April 6, 2009. Six WPUNJ public health and applied health majors presented findings from their undergraduate research projects at this event. It was attended by leaders of major public health programs and health departments in New Jersey and was cosponsored by UMDNJ, NJIT, Rutgers, and the New Jersey Public Health Association (NJPHA).

The six students spoke to over 150 participants about their research studies, with topics ranging from undergraduate caffeine use and aggressive driving, to the stress caused by significant credit card debt. These research projects, conducted under the guidance of Prof. William Kernan, were completed as part of a major core course research requirement. It is significant to note that poster presentations by WPUNJ students were the only ones by undergraduate students at this symposium. Research posters displaying the work of these students have been on display in Hunziker Wing, marking the second year that the Department of Public Health has recognized the meritorious work of our undergraduate students in the area of research.