



Editor  
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The College of Humanities and Social Sciences  
**CHSS Reflections**

# Welcome to the 2008-2009 Academic Year! By Dean Yaw Asamoah

[Editor's note: As may be expected, the budget situation has changed since the presentation of this speech by Dr. Asamoah. Updates are being provided to dept. chairs as they become available.]

Hello and welcome back for another year that promises to offer its share of academic excitement and budget challenges. I want to extend a special welcome to our new colleagues. When I met you during your job interviews, I reported that our College is a strong community of bright scholars, and I am happy that you are here to witness this community in action. In this report, I plan to give you a brief status report on the College, outline my goals and dreams for the coming year, and introduce some of the very special leaders who help the college function and reach the levels of achievement we're all so proud of.

Looking back at how we did last year, I can report that we saw a modest increase in our overall enrollment at a time when the university's overall enrollment held steady. We recorded about a 3% increase in student enrollment; among them were 512 graduate students. In terms of student credit-hour production, ours grew at a much slower pace than those of the other colleges; and although there are good reasons for this, it may hurt in our future scramble for faculty lines.

We also took a leading role in the Liberal Studies revision effort, especially in the shaping of the proposed changes. We made very good progress in the development of two new programs. In Spring the Board of Governors approved our Anthropology Department's new Master's Program in Applied Archeology. Plans are underway to market the program and recruit a new cohort of students to begin in Fall 2009. I am sure you heard the President cite

this among the highlights of new developments in his speech yesterday, and we learned that this program is one among four in the nation, and the only one in Pennsylvania.

Also, last year we received the Chancellor's approval to develop a new master's program in Spanish. The department of Spanish has since completed its proposal, and it is currently under review by the University-Wide Graduate Curriculum Committee. We also made more modest changes in the curriculum in several departments, among them, Spanish, French & German, Journalism, Geography & Regional Planning, English, History, Economics, and Sociology.

In terms of the budget, it must be said that the situation is simply awful. One of my colleagues had argued very strongly that I should devote this meeting to welcome and introductions, and to discuss items to look forward to, instead of depressing you by reporting on the serious financial shape we are in. My advisor was persuasive, but she

unfortunately was speaking to an economist, and as you know, we're a pretty cynical group, a real bunch of pessimists, I know a few myself. Our operating budget remains the lowest per faculty member for any College in this university, something I have not been able to change. Part of the reason for this is the financial pressure facing the entire Academic Division.

Last year, the Division was asked to generate \$2.6 million in permanent savings. Our share of that required us to cut 8.5 faculty lines from our complement. In addition, after a so-called late spring cleanup, the Division was asked to generate yet another \$1.5 million in another round of permanent savings. You didn't hear about this only because Provost Werner worked really hard to absorb it using temporary savings (for a one-time bailout).

For this year, we've been asked to come up with an additional \$2.37 million in a new round of cuts, together with permanently accounting for the \$1.5 million that was ex-

## CHSS Faculty Honors and Awards



**Lynn Botelho** (History) received the Distinguished Faculty for Research Award by IUP's Senate in April 2008. Botelho has published six books and numerous articles on aging in seventeenth-century England and Europe, and serves as an editor for a monograph series on *The Body, Gender, and Culture, 1450-1900*.

**Gian Pagnucci** (English) won the 2008 Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology from the Intl. Conference on College Teaching and Learning and the Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning. Forty teaching faculty from throughout the world were recognized for their contributions to teaching and learning, and for their effective uses of pedagogy and technology. The IUP Council of Trustees also honored Dr. Pagnucci with a Resolution of Commendation on May 9th, 2008.

**John Anderson** (Sociology) was awarded the IUP Sponsored Programs Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research in spring, 2008. Dr. Anderson serves as the department's director of the Administration and Leadership Studies Research and Training Center, as well as the coordinator of the doctoral program in Administration and Leadership Studies. He has secured more than \$15 million in sponsored research during his academic career. Dr. Anderson has authored or co-authored twenty-five publications and research reports.

**Calvin Masilela** (Geography and Regional Planning) received the IUP Distinguished Service Award and the IUP Graduate Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sponsored Programs.

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-acted last spring. Again, the new Provost is going to try hard to shield us from the \$1.5 million, but we the colleges have been asked to generate the \$2.37 million in new cuts for this year. Our share was calculated to be \$524,000 last month. But through some creative bookkeeping and fund transfers we've been able to reduce the \$2.37 million to \$1.1, and with this, our college's share will decline a bit. My estimate is that by the time this is all sorted out, we'll still be required to give back at least six additional faculty lines. What is most, most troubling about this is that because we do not know the details of the budget, we cannot tell whether we'll be asked to make further cuts later this year. This means that our ability to replace retiring faculty is severely restricted.

Because of this desperate resource situation, it also means that we have to make every effort to promote what we do and do well to a larger audience, so that I as your Dean can defend our resource base. I urge us to do all we can to protect our vital missions by looking for ways to restructure the way we do our work. I think that as hard as it is to do, it is far, far better to do these restructurings ourselves than to have them imposed on us.

In spite of the difficult resource situation, our faculty and student productivity remain strong, and I offer you a sample of what and how well you've been doing this past year, much of which brings us university-wide recognition. Last year Dr. Calvin Masilela of the Geography and Regional Planning Department received the IUP Distinguished Service Award and the IUP Graduate Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to Sponsored Programs. As many of us know, Dr. Masilela was recognized for his on-going work with the McNair Scholars Program and the Upward Bound Math and Science Program. In addition, Dr. John Benhart and colleagues

from the same department made a presentation on behalf of their Institute for Mine Mapping, Archival Procedures, and Safety to the Board of Governors this spring. Another award, the Sponsored Program Award for Outstanding Achievements in Research this past year went to Dr. John Anderson, of the Department of Sociology. I am also very proud to cite again Dr. Lynn Botelho of the Department of History, who was recognized with the IUP Senate's Distinguished Faculty for Research Award for her work on the elderly in Early Modern England and Europe. And to stay in the department of History, we welcome back Dr. Paul Arpaia from his time of study and scholarship in Italy after receiving the NEH Rome Prize last year. We also celebrate Dr. Wang Xi's appointment as the Changjiang Visiting Professor at Beijing University for the next academic year.

There were many student achievements as well, and I will only name a few here. Gina Russo, a double major in History and Asian Studies, received a Fulbright Award for a full year to study at the University of Shanghai, China. Only 1,200 university students in the nation are chosen annually for this prestigious scholarship. Chad Buckwalter, a dual major in International Business and Asian Studies, received a Gilman scholarship, as did Natalie McCauley, a double major in History and English. Many of our students also participated in the University-Wide Undergraduate Scholars Conference this past April.

Technology is one area where the outlook is more promising. The implementation of new projector units or upgrades of existing ones are in progress, even though they have been delayed a bit, no doubt caught in red tape. Upgrades are underway in Leonard, McElhaney, Stouffer, Eberly and Davis. All computers in the Digital Language Studio and Writing Center have been upgraded, as have a lab each in Geog-

can assume increasing responsibility for technology matters along with Ben Dadson. As part of the upgrade package, the CHSS will now provide technology support to the Honors College.

Finally, I would like to share my goals for the coming year, which include both increased student-faculty interactions at the undergraduate level, as well as increased faculty leadership in grant-writing, research, teaching, and public service. I hope to see sustained curricular development in all departments, especially those in which efforts are already underway, including Journalism, Political Science, English, History, Sociology, Economics, and Philosophy, as well as the successful accreditation of Regional Planning. The college needs to put forth greater efforts at student recruitment, and continue to reach out to our alumni. We need to continue our efforts to improve our instructional and research technology, and we need to find ways to resist the attempts of others to reduce our resource base. Finally, the college needs to conduct a cold, hard-nosed review of what we should continue to do in terms of our curricular offerings.

Once again, welcome back, and I wish you a very productive year.

### More CHSS Student and Alumni News

**Chelsea Boser** (Economics) participated in the James Madison University's study abroad program in Ghana during June, 2008, where she studied culture and economics.



**Megan Bond** (Anthropology) received a \$5000 National Lambda Alpha Scholarship in May, 2008.

**Luke Matthews** (Anthropology/ Biology alum) has completed his PhD and will be pursuing a postdoctoral research appointment at Harvard University.

### Welcome New Faculty and Dept Chairs

**English:** Patrick Bizzaro, Resa Bizzaro, Gloria Park, Lisya Seloni, and Lynn Shelly.

**Geography and Regional Planning:** Richard Hoch

**Sociology:** William Donner and Dana Hysock

**Spanish:** Marjorie Zambrano-Paff

### New Department Chairs 2008

**English:** Gian Pagnucci **History** R. Scott Moore

**Political Science:** Dave Chambers (fall), John Sitton (Spring) **Spanish:** Peter Broad



raphy & Regional Planning and Journalism, and a writing lab in Leonard 204 will soon be completed for English. Another resource lab has also been approved for renovation in History. We've been able to upgrade Eric Strittmatter's classification to Information Technology Technician, so that now he

### Recent Faculty Publications

**Frank B. "Pete" Brooks** (Spanish) co-wrote a chapter "Embodiment as Self-Regulation in L2 Task Performance," that was published in the 2008 edited volume *Gesture: Second Language Acquisition and Classroom Research*.

**Gawdat G. Bahgat** (Political Science) published an article "Supplier-user Teamwork Key to Stable Oil Prices" in the August 2008 *Oil and Gas Journal*.