From the Dean

We are just about ready to open our doors to our incoming and returning students for the 2008–2009 academic year. Many freshmen will be participating in Boiler Gold Rush, which is a great opportunity to get familiarized with the University. College of Science advisors are at the ready to assist our students (and their parents) to settle in and start off the year right. I'd also like to remind our incoming students about the August 24 New Student Orientation picnic hosted by the Purdue Science Student Council, where they will have a chance to mingle and meet representatives of our student organizations.

In August I will be leaving Purdue and the College of Science to join Texas A&M University as Provost and Executive Vice President for Academics. My time at Purdue has been extremely rewarding, and I will take with me many special memories of people, events, and our outstanding achievements, some of which I list here.

One major result of our previous strategic plan is our dual focus of research excellence—combining core strength in our seven individual departments with innovative multidisciplinary collaborations aimed at solving society’s grand challenges. Our COALESCE hiring initiative has enriched our faculty with tremendous new talent and exciting research projects.

We strive to provide all our students with the knowledge to thrive in today’s technological world as well as the foundations and critical thinking abilities to adapt to—and lead—tomorrow’s world. We recently took a comprehensive look at our undergraduate curriculum and asked ourselves how we can best achieve our educational mission. What emerged was a focus on six important outcomes for each student, along with a flexible new curriculum of courses and experiences to meet them. In our new strategic plan, now in draft form, we are building upon the curriculum and examining how best we can educate the many non-majors we teach to become scientifically literate global citizens.

Our excellent K–12 outreach program has expanded its considerable reach to become an important contributor to the I-STEM statewide resource network, which is charged to help attract middle and high school students to the so-called STEM fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. During our recent Centennial celebrations, we reached out to students with some very special people and events, including the MythBusters and renowned humanitarian Jane Goodall. Our future focus is building more pathways for attracting students to STEM fields.

We started a successful “hiring for excellence” program to attract the best and brightest, including building a diverse community of excellence. We have increased the proportion of women and minorities on our faculty, and they serve as important mentors and role models for our students and new recruits.
success. It will be submitted to the Faculty Council later this fall for approval, after which the real work of implementation will begin.

All these achievements are the results of the College's greatest asset—its people. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you. My Leadership team—associate deans, department heads, and directors—has provided the ideas, enthusiasm, and leadership for our key initiatives. I am extremely proud of our faculty members, whose brilliance and dedication to excellence continue to produce amazing scientific breakthroughs that change our world. I'd especially like to thank the staff for their contributions and hard work. It has been a deep pleasure to meet our many students. They are the leaders of tomorrow and fill me with great optimism for the future. Finally, heartfelt thanks go to our alumni for their passion and support. I am particularly indebted to the members of my Dean’s Leadership Council, who have impacted the College in many fundamental ways.

I want to welcome Dr. Jonathan M. Harbor to the role as interim dean. I’ve had the pleasure to work with Jon in his roles at Purdue as associate vice president for research, associate dean for research, founding co-director of the Discovery Learning Center in Discovery Park, and head of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences. Jon also served for a year as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center. I am confident that Jon will continue to move the College forward. A national search for the next dean will be launched this fall.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this great College of Science.

Go Boilers!

*Jeff Vitter*

---

**Science People**

Doerge appointed interim head of statistics  
Full Story

Rebecca W. Doerge

Rebecca Doerge, professor of statistics and agronomy, has been appointed interim head for the Department of Statistics. She will take over for Mary Ellen Bock who will be on sabbatical during the 2008-09 academic year.

Brown appointed associate head of mathematics
Johnny Brown, professor of mathematics, has been appointed associate head for the Department of Mathematics. He takes over for Allen Weitsman, who served as associate head since 2001 and will return to full-time teaching and research.

Brown served previously as Graduate Chair and was a 1999 winner of the Murphy Award, Purdue's highest teaching honor.

Stars align for physics professor Full Story

Maxim Lyutikov, assistant professor of physics, is part of the McGill University-led team that used a unique star system to confirm Einstein’s theory of general relativity under conditions unattainable on Earth or in near space.

A hotter greenhouse Full Story

Matt Huber, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences wrote "A hotter greenhouse," which was featured in the July 18, 2008 issue of Science magazine.

Chronicle covers data mining program Full Story

Technology that Laurie Iten, associate professor of biological sciences, has used to identify at-risk students in her classes, caught the attention of The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Let's talk about the weather

Both The New York Times and Chicago Tribune featured articles on climate research conducted by Jeffrey Trapp, associate professor of earth and atmospheric sciences.

Physics professor and graduate student collaborate on paper View issue

Fuqiang Wang, associate professor of physics, and Department of Physics graduate assistant Jason Ulery co-authored a news piece on conical emission of subatomic particles for the Realistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC).

Science News

NASA writers feature Vulcan project Full Story

In the current issue of Earth Observatory, NASA writers highlighted Vulcan, the carbon dioxide inventory project led by Kevin Gurney, assistant professor of earth and atmospheric sciences and agronomy and

Related Searches: Mathematical Statistics | Degree In
Personalized medicine equals better healthcare [Full Story]

College of Science dean [Jeffrey S. Vitter](#) talks about how improved information technology will give patients a greater role in deciding their healthcare options, but it will also create challenges.

Warmer climate threatens ecosystem [Full Story]

According to a study done by climate researchers including [Noah Diffenbaugh](#), assistant professor of earth and atmospheric sciences, global warming could lead to larger changes in snowmelt in the western United States than was previously thought, possibly increasing wildfire risk and creating new water management challenges for agriculture, ecosystems, and urban populations.

Campers take a byte out of summer [Full Story]

Campers take a byte out of summer

Students in grades six through nine joined the Department of Computer Science for the annual CS Summer Camp.

High school teachers reach cosmic heights [Full Story]

High school teachers from across Indiana spent June 9–15 at Purdue University studying cosmic rays at a workshop hosted by the [Department of Physics](#).

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)[Full Story]

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

[Lawson building garners architectural design award](#)

Gibraltar Design, architectural firm for the [Richard and Patricia Lawson Computer Science Building](#), presented the 2007 Outstanding Design Excellence Award to Purdue in recognition of educational design excellence.

Return to top Return to top

**Spotlight on New Staff**

Angie Teel, administrative assistant to College of Science dean

Angie Teel was appointed the administrative assistant to the dean in the College of Science. Teel has been with Purdue for 23 years and was most recently in the School of Mechanical Engineering where she served as administrative assistant to the head since 1989.

Teel earned her Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership and supervision from Purdue University and has a one-year business degree from Pensacola Christian College in Pensacola, FL.

John Fisher, coordinator for undergraduate recruitment

Related Searches:  Mathematical Statistics  |  Degree In
include managing the new undergraduate student recruiting efforts for the College and acting as the staff liaison to the CoS Student Ambassadors.

Fisher was most recently director of special events and alumni relations for the college. He earned his Bachelor of Arts in anthropology from Purdue University in 1984.

Purdue News

Strategic plan to guide campus units Full Story
Multidisciplinary approach best to foster entrepreneurshipFull Story
Virtual world is sign of future for scientists, engineers Full Story
Teachers, counselors visiting Purdue to learn ways to attract students to computer careers Full Story

Science Events Calendar

July 6–Aug. 2: Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Academic Boot Camp, Purdue University. More information

The program is designed to help first-year students adjust to college and establish successful strategies for completing their courses.

July 27–Aug. 1: The Entrepreneurship Academy, Purdue University. More information

The Purdue Research Park Entrepreneurship Academy will provide innovative math, science, and technology-based business and life skills to empower young people with unique entrepreneurial-based opportunities and real-world experiences.

Aug. 2, 9:30 a.m.: College of Science Summer Commencement Ceremony, Elliott Hall of Music. Aug. 15, 10:00 a.m.–10:00 p.m.: Purdue Day at the Indiana State Fair, Indianapolis, IN. Link

For more information, please contact the special events office: events@purdue.edu, 800-213-3044 or 765-494-0900.


The second annual Science Teambuilding and Leadership Institute takes incoming first-year students through 15 hours of intensive classroom work and activities. For more information please contact Mary Franklin: mjfrankl@purdue.edu, 765-494-9517.

Aug. 19, 8:30–10:30 a.m.: Strategic Planning Committee meeting, Lawson 3102B.

R.S.V.P. to Mary Franklin: mjfrankl@purdue.edu, 765-494-9517.

Aug. 25, 7:30 a.m.: Fall classes begin.

Aug. 27, 4:30 p.m.: CERIAS Information Security Seminar, STEW G52.

Related Searches: Mathematical Statistics | Degree In
Professor Minaxi Gupta, Indiana University. For more information, contact Joel Rasmus, corporate relations manager: jrrasmus@purdue.edu, 765-494-7806

Sept. 5, 9:00 a.m.: Outstanding Alumni Breakfast.

This event honors outstanding alumni selected by the Departments of Actuarial Science, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science, and Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and celebrates the accomplishments of the named and distinguished professors in the College of Science. For more information, contact Amy Hinds: arhinds@purdue.edu, 765-494-1857.

Sept. 8–9: Department of Computer Science Corporate Partner Fall Meeting.

This is the bi-annual meeting Computer Science Corporate Partners program. For more information, contact Pat Morgan: pam@cs.purdue.edu, 765-494-5322.

Sept. 19, 9:00 p.m.: Department of Biological Sciences Alumni Advisory Committee Fall Session, Lilly 1-117.

For more information, contact Sandy Howarth, director of development for the Department of Biological Sciences: showarth@purdue.edu, 765-496-7512.


The program returns for a third year to honor the important role played by science and technology journalists and communicators. For more information, contact Amy Hinds: arhinds@purdue.edu, 765-494-1857.

Oct. 31, 9:00 a.m.: Outstanding Alumni Breakfast.

This event honors outstanding alumni selected by the Departments of Biological Sciences, Chemistry, and Physics and celebrates the accomplishments of the named and distinguished professors in the College of Science. For more information, contact Amy Hinds: arhinds@purdue.edu, 765-494-1857.

Share your memories! If you have a favorite story or memory from your College of Science experience, we'd like to share it with others.

Are you interested in leaving a lasting legacy for future students or faculty at Purdue? If so, please visit our planned giving home page.

Science Seminar Calendar

Alumni and Friends
Science Alumni

We want to hear from you! Share your professional news and your personal and family milestones.

Are you interested in leaving a lasting legacy for future students or faculty at Purdue? If so, please visit our planned giving home page.

- Contact us
- Science@Purdue, past issues
- Insights, the College of Science Magazine
- Scientific Notation, a publication by Purdue Science Student Council
- College of Science Home
- Alumni and Friends
- Purdue News
- Purdue University

Copyright(C) 2008 Purdue University. All Rights Reserved
Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907 USA, 765-494-4600
An equal access/equal opportunity university