

## Letter from the Chair

by Dr. Dave Yearwood

Well, another year is behind us and yet another group of students were sent out into the workforce to begin what would become for some, their first foray into the business world. As a faculty, we are indeed proud of our graduates and wish them all the best in this new chapter in their lives. The faculty and staff, working together, accomplished quite a bit and the effort they collectively put forth was second to none. Dr. Sam Hsieh, a Taiwan exchange professor came to the Department last fall to conduct research related to classroom instruction. Sam also co-taught OSEH with Dr. Diez, and he is wrapping up his study and will be going back to Taiwan in just a few days. The faculty thanks Dr. Hsieh for his contribution and we wish him the best in his future endeavors.

At the spring 2008 Student Recognition and Awards Ceremony, two Bender Scholarships were awarded to Daniel Hornseth & Cory Iseminger and one Poyzer Scholarship was awarded to Florija Ajdari. The Departmental Student Excellence Award along with the Outstanding Alpha Tau/NAIT award was given to Dan Goebel. The Outstanding Graduate Student Award was presented to Nenny.

A number of ventures and other activities were undertaken or carried out by faculty and staff and these include the following:

- The curriculum sub-committee consisting of Dr. Lynda Kenney and Mr. Alex Johnson led the department’s curricular revision efforts and several changes have been submitted regarding the BS IT degree. Revision efforts for the Masters’ degree are being completed and will be submitted sometime during the summer.
- The policies and procedures guideline is being revised by Dr. Ray Diez and Dr. Luke Huang and will be submitted this summer as well.
- Several articulation agreements were completed for transfer students from two-year colleges and these efforts will go a long way to increasing easy transfers into our Department and potentially increase our student enrollment.
- A departmental showcase, which was attended by area high school students, was held in the Department on January 11<sup>th</sup> 2008.
- Dr. Dave Yearwood served on the Presidential Search Committee to elect the next President of UND—Dr. Kelly was called and accepted the position. He will begin his work at UND starting July 1<sup>st</sup> 2008.
- Dr. Lynda Kenney received tenure in the Department and we all join in congratulating her on this major accomplishment and milestone in her career—great job Dr. Kenney!
- The capstone course was revised (with Dr. Lynda Kenney as the lead faculty), case studies written for each emphasis area, and an evaluation of these efforts will be conducted during the summer. Judging from a preliminary report received from Dr.

Kenney, the course was a success and she believed that much was accomplished but that some fine-tuning will be necessary for next year's offering of the Capstone course. We owe much to Dr. Kenney for the work expended in pulling this off. Thanks Lynda!

- IT 300 taught by Dr. Dave Yearwood was re-validated as a General Education/Essential Studies course. This is good news for the Department as it provides an opportunity for students from across the campus to get to know our Department better.
- The Department received a Student Technology Fee grant to update and/or install instructor stations in each classroom. Dr. Kenney was also awarded a Student Technology Fee grant for a \$45,000 upgrade in computers for the Graphics Macintosh Computer Lab. We are looking forward to these updates which should take place over the summer.
- Brown bag luncheon sessions, headed up by Dr. Ray Diez, were held—one each per month—in which students presented information about their co-op experiences. This was a valuable experience for students and faculty alike as we learned about our students' work, their level of preparation, and the impact that they have had at their respective sites. Thanks for all of your work, Ray, with students.
- Becky Bohlman continues to do great work for the Department as well as keeping us all straight and on the right path.

This year, our Advisory Council met and adopted a new set of by-laws governing the operation of the Council with a theme of: Reorganize and Revitalize. We did not have a large attendance due in part to the bad weather and also due to UND Hockey team being a part of the Frozen Four in Denver. Several decisions were made and three levels of membership were adopted: Level I thru III.

Our Department continues to grow and we continue to learn as well. We look forward to your ongoing support in whatever way possible and ask that you keep in touch. Thanks for reading and on behalf of the faculty and staff, we wish you a happy and safe summer.