



Think BIG

BUCHTEL COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

News Capsules

The University of Akron

November 2005

Features

Dean Ronald F. Levant, as president of the American Psychological Association, joined two White House ventures in October and will join a third next month.



Invited by the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, Dr. Levant first joined Department of Defense officials and leaders from national health and mental health organizations to visit the U.S. Naval Station at **Guantanamo Bay, Cuba**.

According to the news release issued by the APA, the association is interested in the role psychologists play in national security investigations as part of the Joint Task Force. It helps advise DoD to ensure that work by psychologists is safe, legal, ethical and effective.

“This invitation was an important opportunity to provide expertise and guidance for how psychologists can play an appropriate and ethical role in national security investigations,” states Dr. Levant. “Our position is very clear: We believe there is an appropriate role for psychologists in such investigations as bounded by our ethics code and a strict prohibition against torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment.

“This trip in no way changed our position.”

The second October venture, the **White House Conference on Helping America’s Youth**, took the dean to Howard University, where he joined 500 researchers, practitioners “of all stripes,” and children advocates to examine

programs for troubled youth, launch a web tool for community action, and encourage action by faith-based and other groups in the areas of family, school and community. Laura Bush hosted the day-long event.

Writes Dr. Levant: “President Bush introduced the First Lady, who spoke eloquently of her goals for the conference, then sat down and stayed through the entire conference. Panelists commented that they thought this was the first time a First Lady had ever done that. This was followed by seven panels, which were moderated by no less than five Cabinet Secretaries.

“The panel presentations were often prefaced by first-person accounts by kids and young adults who have been helped by one of the showcased programs. These testimonials were usually followed by sustained applause, following the model of some daytime television shows.

“Overall, there was a failure to discuss the realities of working with troubled youth -- the incredible difficulties and the many treatment failures -- and there was no analysis at all of larger contextual issues of poverty and racism. Thus I felt that a fairy-tale atmosphere was created, in which the take-home message was that all it takes was ‘a caring adult,’ and that love, compassion, and faith (which was an important subtext) were enough.

“The conference was followed by a reception in the West Wing of the White House, including a receiving line with the First Lady. As we were arriving by bus, a helicopter landed, and we wondered if it was the President, who, it had been reported, was visiting flood-torn South Florida. Whether it was or wasn’t, the President wasn’t seen by this writer at the reception.

“However, the reception provided opportunities to interact with the many psychologists who were in attendance plus government officials such as U.S. Surgeon General Andrew Carmona, administrator of SAMHSA Charles Currie, and Assistant Secretary of Health for Children and Families Wade Horn, a psychologist.”

December 11 through 14, Dean Levant attends the 2005 **White House Conference on Aging**, a distinguished assembly dating to 1961. He was selected as an at-large delegate; 3,000 were

nominated or applied to attend and only 400 were chosen.

New Scholarships

The Dr. Robert and Mrs. Sharon S. Gandee Scholarship in Exercise Physiology and Gerontology is to provide support for a deserving graduate student in exercise physiology (in the Sports Science and Wellness Education Department) with an emphasis in gerontology. Second preference will be given to a graduate student in the Institute of Lifespan Development and Gerontology.

Dr. Robert Gandee began his career at The University of Akron first as a student in 1955 in physical education. He achieved both his B.S. Ed. ('61) and M.S. Ed. ('68) at the University. Mrs. Gandee spent her entire career in secondary education. She believes that education should challenge students, broaden their horizons, and expand their scope of life's opportunities. Both believe that their education was the single most important factor in creating direction and fulfillment in their lives.

Dr. and Mrs. Gandee deeply value education and the opportunities that it creates in life. Coming from families who did not have the same educational opportunities that they have had has formed their desire to offer a scholarship that will enable young people to pursue their studies.

The Royal C. and Betty J. Gardner Scholarship in Physics was established by Mr. and Mrs. Royal C. Gardner. Royal C. Gardner received a B.S. in physics from The University of Akron in 1939. Mr. Gardner worked for many years at Goodyear and at Lockheed. The Gardner Scholarship shall be awarded on the basis of merit and financial need to a student majoring in physics. The scholarship will be renewable as long as the recipient meets the criteria established by the department chair.

The Dr. Douglas Shaw Award for Community Involvement was established in 2004 by Dr. Shaw's family, friends, and colleagues

in memory of his outstanding 32 years as a professor of history, public administration and urban studies. As well as teaching at The University of Akron, Dr. Shaw served as the associate dean of the Graduate School. He was always a caring and professional teacher, and touched the lives of many students with his wisdom and use of visual irony.

Dr. Shaw had a passion for grassroots political activism that created a benefit for the community through neighborhood revitalization and economic development. He believed in instilling in his students "the understanding of the political process that gets things done and creates change."

The Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies and the Department of Political Science, along with the Shaw family, will award the scholarship annually to a graduate student who demonstrates the use of his or her knowledge to benefit the community through grassroots participation in government. First preference is to be given to a graduate student in the Department of Public Administration and Urban Studies.

The Mary A. and Joseph E. Snyder Scholarship for history and/or English undergraduate honors students was established by an estate gift from Mary Alice and Joseph Snyder. Mary Alice attended UA and enjoyed her time with the history and English professors. Mary Alice's wish was to honor the professors of Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences by creating a scholarship that would attract the best and brightest students to study history and/or English at The University of Akron. This scholarship is to be awarded to an undergraduate student(s) whose major is English or history and has been accepted into the Honors Program.

The Christian Stinner Memorial Award was established in 2005 by Christian's family and friends in memory of his great devotion to them. Christian will be lovingly remembered for his caring and generous heart, his courageous and adventurous spirit, his bright and inquisitive mind, and his ability to enjoy each moment.

Christian graduated from The University of Akron and Copley High School. In 2003, he earned a Baccalaureate of Arts in Psychology. The award will go to a deserving student who is conducting research at the Dr. Paul E. Martin Center for Field Studies and Environmental Education.

The Cathryn Carroll Taliaferro Endowed Fund in English was founded in 1994 with the express purpose of bringing diverse writers to The University of Akron campus. This endowed fund is provided by annual gifts and a pledged bequest by the late Cathryn Carroll Taliaferro, a native of Akron. Mrs. Taliaferro was a 1938 graduate of The University and a member of The University of Akron faculty in the Department of English. Lecturers are selected by the Department of English Lectureship Committee, which Mrs. Taliaferro had served as an honorary member.

— *George Van Horn IV*
Director of Development

Recent Grants

Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences has received \$94,845.70 in Stoller Funds, used in direct support of student learning.

Sociology: \$17,592.50. Expansion of the undergraduate teaching lab through purchase of five computers and software; remodeling of room; network cable drops.

Statistics: \$4,356.00. Network server storage system for file back-up of data necessary for use in undergraduate and graduate statistics lab serving over 1,000 students.

Psychology: \$16,320.00. Purchase of 8 notebook computers for departmental honors student use in research study.

Classical Studies, Archaeology and Anthropology: \$9,925.00. Improvement of undergraduate and graduate laboratory teaching facility --- 8 tables, 16 stools, lockable desk, printer, desktop computer and monitor.

Geography and Planning: \$9,750.00. Advanced technology equipment for classroom 428 to include an LCD projector; DVD/VHS combo; wall mounted speakers; System 7 switcher/scaler.

(The department will contribute \$2,250.00 in matching funds for a purchase total of \$12,000.00)

English Language Institute: \$11,888.00.

Replacement of computers and projector in teaching lab (computers purchased in 1994). Includes 10 eMac computers and an Infocus LP 120 projector.

Chemistry: \$14,989.20. Equipment for computer-assisted data collection and analysis for use in the freshman chemistry lab sequence serving over 800 students annually. \$9,405.00. Upgrade on one infrared spectrometer purchased in 1990. Upgrades include new data board, power supply, interferometer module, detector and preamp.

—*Nancy L. Stokes*
Associate Provost

Grant/Contract Awards

Recent reports from the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs:

Dr. Todd Blackledge, **Biology**, Dr. Ronald Eby, Polymer Science; National Science Foundation; "Acquisition of a Dynamic Nano-Force Tensile Test System for Ultrathin Fibers with Environmental Control and Integrated Image Analysis" (\$337,345.00)

Dr. David McConnell, **Center for Collaboration & Inquiry**, Dr. Katharine Owens, Curricular and Instructional Studies; Ohio Board of Regents; "Northeast University Center of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teacher Education, Year 4" (\$250,000.00)

Dr. Jesse Marquette, **Center for Policy Studies, Institute for Health & Social Policy**; Ohio Board of Regents; "Urban University Program Linkage Program 2005-2006" (\$160,500.00)

Dr. David Modarelli, **Chemistry**; Ohio State University Research Foundation/National Science Foundation; "CRC: Probing the Dynamic Nanoscale Chirality of Folded Dendrimers for Selectivity, Year 1" (\$115,990.00)

Dr. Chrys Wesdemiotis, **Chemistry**; National Institute of Standards & Technology/US Dept. of Commerce; "Effect of Molecular Structure on the Environmental Stability of Ballistic Materials" (\$186,404.00)

Dr. Sonia Alemagno, **Institute for Health & Social Policy**; Visiting Nurse Association Health

Partners of Ohio; “Technological Supported Health Promotions for Community-Based Seniors; Health Town” (\$100,000.00)

Dr. Peter Leahy, **Institute for Health & Social Policy**; Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton/Kellogg Foundation; SPARK Ohio Phase II Implementation, Year 3” (\$60,208.00)

Dr. Zili Sloboda, **Institute for Health & Social Policy**; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; “Implementation Fidelity Evaluation for the New DARE 7th Grade Program” (\$49,919.00)

Dr. Dena Hanley, **Political Science**; National Institute of Justice; “Prison Experience and Reentry: Examining the Impact of Victimization on Coming Home” (\$466,475.00)

Dr. Maryellen Atwood, Curricular and Instructional Studies, Dr. Brian Pendleton, **Sociology**; Ohio Dept. of Education, Summit Education Link for Families; “Self Even Start Program” (\$136,353.00)

Dr. Antonio Quesada, **Theoretical & Applied Mathematics**, Dr. Lynne Pachnowski, Curricular & Instructional Studies: Ohio Dept. of Education; “Teacher Professional Development: Mathematics Topics Foundational to Calculus” (\$69,136.00)

Grants for Work in History, Psychology Depts.

Akron schools have received a nearly \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to provide American history teachers with additional training, reports Akron’s Beacon Journal.

The grant, which is disbursed over three years, allows 30 teachers each year to attend a summer program and monthly seminars. The teachers learn from historians, UA faculty and Cuyahoga Valley national park staff.

The Teaching American History Grant Program aims to raise student achievement by improving teachers’ knowledge, understanding and appreciation of traditional American history. For more information:

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/2005abstracts/oh.html>

Reports Dr. Paul E. Levy, **psychology department** chair:

“Our own Dr. Rosalie Hall [associate professor] has and will continue to play an integral role in a \$2.1 million grant that Dr. Stephanie Woods of Nursing has received. Dr. Hall serves as the methodologist/statistician in this work and has been working on various projects with Dr. Woods for a few years.

“The project is a five-year longitudinal study examining PTSD in battered women and has been funded by the National Institutes of Nursing Research and Child Health and Human Development.

“This, of course, is fabulous news,” he writes, “and yet another indicator of the talents, skills, and effort that Dr. Hall brings to her work here at UA.”

Short Takes

A panel of six contending that the theory of intelligent design has no place in science classrooms spoke to a group of about 80 who attended a **geology department** sponsored “80 Years After Scopes: A Forum Discussion the Kitzmiller v. Dover Intelligent Design Case” Nov. 10 in Zook Hall.

Panelists were Dr. John Green of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, Mr. Wilson Huhn of the UA Law School, Dr. Peter Niewiqarowski of the biology department, Dr. Lisa Park of the geology department, Dr. Patricia Pricehouse of Case Western Reserve University, and Dr. Matthew Weinstein of Kent State University.

Reports Dr. Robert Mallik, **physics department** chair, on using “clickers” in classes:

“Our specific type of clicker was the ‘Personal Response System.’ We used it in our Physics for Life Sciences class in Summer 2001 and in our General Education Astronomy classes the following year. We used a combination of departmental and Info Tech funds to purchase the system.

“It all came about after Ben Hu [Dr. Yu-Kuang, associate professor of physics] attended an NSF New Faculty Workshop, and Dr. Eric Mazur was one of the invited speakers. Dr. Mazur, a leader in the field of physics pedagogy, demonstrated the system and how it could prove useful for delivering material in an interactive way and obtaining immediate feedback from students.

“We have found the system to be very useful!”

The **Archives of the History of American Psychology** marked its 40th anniversary Nov. 16 with a celebratory open house for all campus visitors.

Akron’s Beacon Journal of Oct. 28 featured news on the **Department of Anthropology, Archaeology and Classical Studies**, with “Dig Up a Relic? Have It Checked Out.”

The prominently placed article focused on the department’s fourth annual Artifact Road Show, held the same day, and used extensive quotes from archaeologist Linda Whitman, research associate Ann Donkin and senior archaeology students Charlotte Mader and Jim Sutter.

The annual college-wide **Round-Up** recruiting event, held Oct. 26, featured an atrium full of UA students, high school students, faculty, staff and friends swapping plans and ambitions and getting ready for spring semester enrollment.

Winner of the Round-Up Scholarship Drawing this year is Pamela Roeper, an honors student majoring in English.

NEOMFA (Northeast Ohio Universities Consortium in Creative Writing) presented its Distinguished Guest Lecture Series with author Edwidge Danticat Oct. 17 in the Martin University Center. Danticat’s books include *Breath, Eyes, Memory*, an Oprah Book Club selection; *Krik? Krak!*, a National Book Award finalist; and *The Farming of Bones*, an American Book Award winner.

Dr. John Zipp, **sociology department** chair, reports that an article “highlighting the joint

doctoral program in sociology between UA and KSU appears in the November issue of ‘Footnotes,’ the official newsletter of the American Sociological Association.”



Round-Up Scholarship Drawing Winner Pamela Roeper with Dean Ronald Levant and Associate Dean Charles Monroe

On Oct. 28, the **economics department** – along with the Institute for Teaching and Learning and the H. Kenneth Barker Center for Economic Education – hosted the annual Midwest Conference on Student Learning in Economics, which featured two “giants in the field of economic education,” Drs. Michael K. Salemi and Michael W. Watts.

Dr. Salemi, an economics professor at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, spoke on “The American Economic Association’s Teaching Innovations and the Interactive Teaching of Economics. Dr. Watts, an economics professor at Purdue University, spoke on “The Best of the Instruction Section of the *Journal of Economic Education*.”

“**An Evening with Ronald F. Levant: Making Psychology a Household Word**” of Nov. 15 featured overviews of psychology at UA and views from Dean Levant, president of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Paul Levy, psychology department chair, and Dorothy Gruch, senior archives associate of the Archives of the

History of American Psychology. Roughly 100 attended the after-work event, held from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Martin University Center.

Dr. David Roediger, the Kendrick C. Babcock Professor of History at the University of Illinois Champagne-Urbana, delivered the **2005 George W. Knepper Lecture** Oct. 13 at the Martin Center.

Dr. Roediger, whose *The Wages of Whiteness* is regarded as “one of the most influential books written on the construction of race,” presented “Frank Sinatra’s ‘The House I Live In’: White Ethnic Artists and the Limits of Racial Tolerance During World War II.”

Dr. Diana Reep, **English department** chair, offers an exemplary story of student success at UA. “One of our freshman composition students may have achieved publication based on a paper in his composition class,” she writes.

“His paper, ‘The Lunch Box,’ about his father’s lunch box, was requested to be included in Tim Russert’s upcoming book, *The Wisdom of Our Fathers*. [to be published May 2006 by Random House, Inc.]

“Craig James credits his composition teacher, Joyce Hill, with playing an important role in his success. Craig’s success is a very nice testament to our program and our instructors.”

In Memorium

Dr. Dale L. Jackson, revered professor emeritus of biology who retired from UA in 1993, died Nov. 25. A special gathering of friends to honor his life and achievements will be held Monday, Dec. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Martin University Center’s library room.

Coming Soon

The **Department of Theoretical and Applied Mathematics** holds its 5th annual Poster Session Wednesday, Dec. 7, 3:30 to 5:30 in the atrium of the College of Arts & Sciences building.

Over 100 undergraduate and graduate students have prepared posters, write Dr. Kevin Kreider, chair, Dr. Jeff Riedl and Dr. Ethel Wheland, assistant and associate professors, respectively. “If previous years are any indicator, the posters will be creative, interactive and exciting.”



Susan Calvo

HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2005

The college-wide **Holiday Reception** is Thursday, Dec. 15, from 3 to 5 p.m. in Ballrooms C, D and E of the Student Union. Please attend!