Letter from the Dean—

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

In this edition of Equation you will see evidence of the CoSM commitment to "Building for the Future." If you are a routine visitor to campus, over the coming months you'll see dramatic changes, as construction begins on the Biological Sciences III building and as the early renovation stages of science laboratories in Brehm, Biological Sciences I and II and Oelman Halls get under way. Our existing campus buildings certainly are in need of major system renovation and other improvements. The new building will offer state-of-the-art laboratory facilities in the life sciences, setting the stage for innovative research in cutting-edge areas of scientific investigation. All of these changes will better enable us to attract and retain faculty and students.

We also are building a world-class faculty for the future. As you read the pages of "Equation" you will learn about the new breed of faculty we are seeking. Our recent hires have excellent research credentials and are committed to high-quality classroom instruction and supervision of student research. Our newest faculty can be inspired by the continuing success of our established faculty members, who routinely win national awards and grants.

The cornerstone of building for the future is the education of students at all levels. Our undergraduates excel in national competitions and succeed in their career aspirations. Our alumni contribute in a range of professions both locally and nationally. The value they add daily to a WSU CoSM degree is immeasurable.

And finally, we are laying the foundations for the continued success of our nation in science and mathematics through our investment in training pre-service teachers and through outreach into regional schools. In order for America to compete in a "flat" world,* we must expand the pipeline of qualified students who are interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This requires exposure to age-appropriate, discovery-based science activities, early and often.

As a friend of the college, your commitment to establishing a firm foundation has inspired our sincere appreciation. Please partner with us as we build for a brighter future.

*see The World is Flat: A Brief History of the 21st Century *by Thomas L. Friedman*

Alumni Awards

Delores M. Etter, Ph.D., was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Dr. Etter received her bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from Wright State University and received the 2002 Outstanding Alumni Award from Wright State University. Dr. Etter was previously a professor of electrical engineering at the United States Naval Academy. She served three years as the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Science and Technology and previously served on the faculty at the University of Colorado and the University of New Mexico. Dr. Etter was appointed by President Bush to the National Science Board in 2002.

Dr. Etter is a member of the Defense Science Board and the Board of Visitors for the National Defense University. She has received the Department of the Navy Distinguished Public Service Award, the Secretary of Defense Outstanding Public Service Medal, and the Department of Defense Distinguished Public Service Medal. In 1998, she received the IEEE Harriet B. Rigas Award, which recognizes one outstanding woman engineering educator each year for her contribution to the profession. In 2000, Dr. Etter received the Federal Women in Science and Engineering Lifetime Achievement Award.

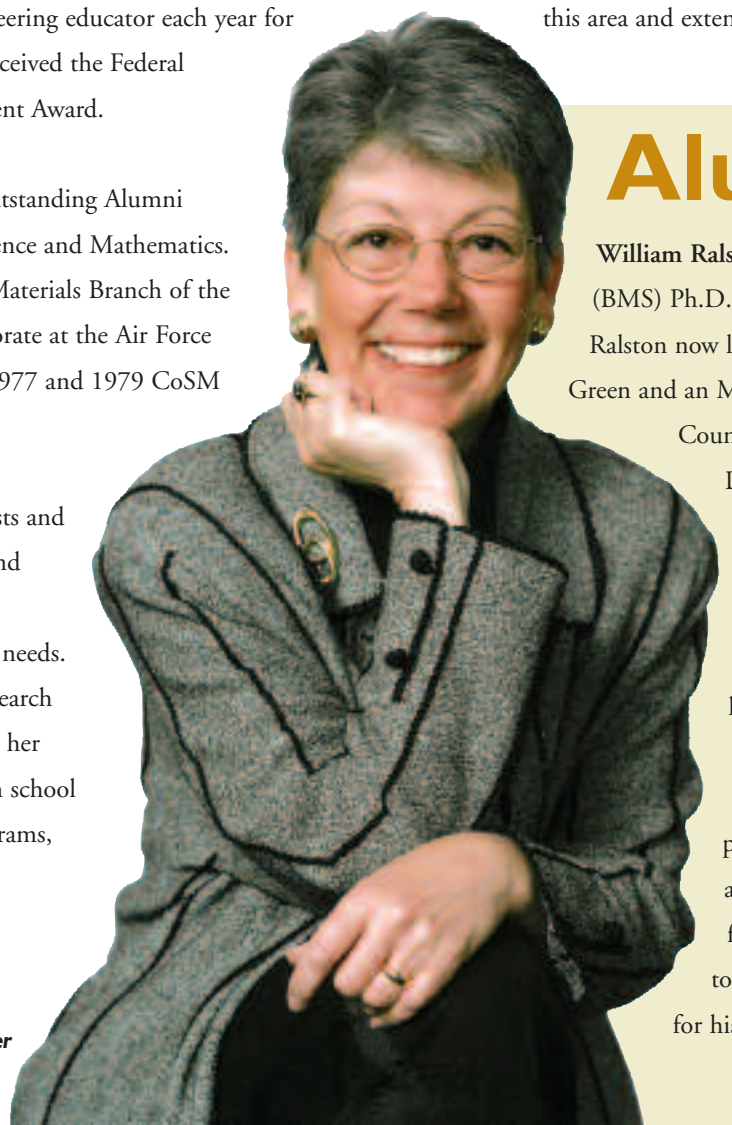
Gail J. Brown, Ph.D., was the recipient of the 2005 Outstanding Alumni Award from The Wright State University College of Science and Mathematics. Dr. Brown is principal research physicist in the Sensor Materials Branch of the Materials and Manufacturing Directorate at the Air Force Research Laboratory (AFRL) and a 1977 and 1979 CoSM graduate in physics.

Gail J. Brown

Dr. Brown leads a team of 23 scientists and engineers who work on the science and technology of the new electronic and optical materials for Air Force sensor needs. In 1998, she received the Wright Research Site Educational Outreach Award. In her community, Dr. Brown mentors high school and college students through apprentice and co-op programs, along with presenting for school career days.

Lindsey Mayo, Ph.D., assistant professor of radiation oncology and pharmacology at the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center, Case Western Reserve University, has received a Young Investigators Award from the General Motors Cancer Research Scholars (GMCRS) Program for his work involving a network of tumor suppressor proteins and an oncoprotein. The GMCRS Program presents five awards annually to highly promising, young investigators who are committed to a career in cancer research. In a departure from GMCRS's standard procedure of awarding each recipient $100,000 a year for each of two years, the second year's being contingent upon "suitable progress the first year," Dr. Mayo received his entire $200,000 award at the outset.

Dr. Mayo earned his undergraduate degree in life science from Indiana State University and his doctorate in biomedical sciences from Wright State University. He did his post-doctoral work at Indiana University School of Medicine and the Walther Oncology Center in 2002, where he identified the oncoproteins and tumor suppressor proteins network. He continued his work in this area and extended his finding, which he proposed for the General Motors Scholar Award.



Delores M. Etter

Alumni Notes

William Ralston, Ph.D., is a pioneer. A member of the inaugural Biomedical Sciences (BMS) Ph.D. class in 1979, he was also the first graduate of the program in 1984. Dr. Ralston now lives in southern California. After completing a BS in biology from Bowling Green and an MS in Biochemistry from WSU, Dr. Ralston worked for the Montgomery County Coroner's Office. **Robert Gardier**, the BMS program's first director, met Dr. Ralston while he was completing his master's and recruited him to be in the first class of students in the Ph.D. program

Dr. Ralston became a Ph.D. student and a father during the first year of the program. Raising a family was costly, even back then, so he continued his work as a forensic toxicologist in the coroner's office for 32 hours a week during his tenure in the Ph.D. program. The philosophy behind the new BMS program was to broadly train scientists in many fields, better preparing them for positions in industry. Dr. Ralston found that he really appreciated this breadth when he moved into industry where his research focus shifted from neurotoxicology to cardiotoxicology. The U.S. Navy toxicology laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base provided the location for his neurotoxicology dissertation work.