2012 Distinguished Scholar Award winners honored
The Distinguished Scholar Award (DSA), established in 1978, honors six faculty members who demonstrate exceptional achievements in scholarly activity, research, or other creative works. The 2012 DSA recipients are Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, The Vernal G. Riffe Professor in Government and Politics, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences; Louis Franklin DiMauro, The Dr. Edward E. and Sylvia Hagenlocker Chair in Physics, Department of Physics, College of Arts and Sciences; Michael R. Grever, The Charles Austin Doan Chair of Medicine and chair, Department of Internal Medicine, College of Medicine; Anita K. Hopper, professor and chair, Department of Molecular Genetics, College of Arts and Sciences; Jin-Fa Lee, professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, College of Engineering; and Vincent J. Roscigno, professor, Department of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences. The recipients, who receive an honorarium and a research grant to be used over the next three years, were nominated by their departments and chosen by a committee of senior faculty, including past DSA winners. The award is supported by the Office of Research. Recipient bios can be viewed online at http://www.osu.edu/universityawards/2012/scholar.html.

Goldwater Scholarship Program recognizes four Ohio State students
Four Ohio State juniors were recognized by the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Program. The Goldwater Scholarship, established by Congress to honor Senator Barry M. Goldwater's 30 years of service in the U.S. Senate, is the most prestigious national award presented to undergraduate researchers in science, math, and engineering in the U.S. Competition for the 30 scholarships awarded annually is intense. Universities nominate a maximum of four undergraduate students per year. Johnny Greco, Ronald Siebenaler, and Grant Yang were named 2012 Goldwater Scholars. Nicholas Jarjour was recognized with an Honorable Mention. Greco, an astronomy and physics major, conducts research in the intersection of astrophysics and particle physics. Siebenaler, a biomedical science major, conducts research in experimental cancer therapeutics. Yang, an electrical and computer engineering major, conducts research in medical imaging and signal processing. Jarjour, a biomedical science major, performs research on the regulation of the immune system. Goldwater Scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board (up to a maximum of $7,500) for one year. Since the award’s inception in 1986, Ohio State students have received 44 Goldwater Scholarships.

History professor receives Heineken Prize for outstanding scholarship
Geoffrey Parker, Distinguished University Professor and Andreas Dorphalen Professor of History, received the highly-coveted Dr. A.H. Heineken Prize for History 2012 from the 200-year old Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. The Heineken Prize, a $150,000 cash award, is given biennially to international scholars and scientists in five disciplines (history, medicine, environmental science, cognitive science, and biochemistry/biophysics) who exemplify the highest levels of accomplishment in their fields. Parker was selected for his outstanding scholarship on the social, political, and military history of Europe between 1500 and 1650, in particular Spain, Phillip II, and the Dutch revolt; for contributions to military history in general; and for research in the role of climate in world history. In 1979, well before the greenhouse effect became a popular concept, Parker described how the “Little Ice Age” that occurred around 1600 not only resulted in splendid Dutch and Flemish paintings of winter scenes, but also in political, economic, intellectual, and social change in many places. Parker is the first Ohio State historian to be selected for this award. Lonnie Thompson, Distinguished University Professor of Earth Sciences, received the Heineken Prize for Environmental Sciences in 2002.
Moulton to study impact of reverse mortgages on older adults

Stephanie Moulton, assistant professor at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs, received one of five competitive grants awarded as part of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation’s $25 million research initiative on “How Housing Matters to Families and Communities.” The initiative funds research to explore the role housing plays in the long-term health and well-being of children, families, and communities. Moulton received a three-year, $427,000 grant, which will focus on providing a better understanding of how reverse mortgages lead to increased financial security, well-being, and independence among older adults. Reverse mortgages as a means of equity extraction can serve as a substantial source of supplemental income in retirement while enabling seniors to stay in their homes. However, reverse mortgages are complex and costly and little is known about their long-term impact. Moulton believes that the decision to obtain a reverse mortgage is influenced by a variety of factors, including individual, market, and household characteristics, and the ability of seniors to appropriately evaluate the decision. Information gathered from this research is intended to inform policymakers about the appropriateness of reverse mortgages for seniors, and the necessary regulatory, underwriting, and counseling procedures that may be needed.

Flowers recognized for contributions to music education

Patricia Flowers, professor of music education, received the National Association for Music Education’s (NAfME) Senior Researcher Award – a lifetime achievement award that recognizes long-term, significant research and scholarship in music education. Flowers teaches graduate level research classes as well as music methods classes for elementary, preschool, and special education teachers. Her research interests include music listening and description, music in the inclusive classroom, and music in older adulthood. She promotes music to enhance quality of life for people of all ages by blending teaching, research, and outreach through regular engagement with schools and nursing homes.

Nursing, medicine, and dentistry collaborate on $2.2 million NINR grant

A team of researchers from the Colleges of Nursing, Medicine, and Dentistry were awarded a five-year, $2.2 million National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR) grant to better understand cancer-related muscle weakness and fatigue. Weakness and fatigue are a major cause of functional dependence and increase the social and financial burden of health care for cancer patients and their families. As more aggressive treatment regimens lengthen survival rates for cancer patients, the need for effective treatments to reduce fatigue increases. Donna McCarthy, professor in the College of Nursing, is the study’s principal investigator. Co-investigators are Peter Reiser, professor of oral biology, College of Dentistry, and Jonathan Godbout, assistant professor, Department of Neuroscience, College of Medicine. Results from this study may contribute to the design of therapies to reduce or even reverse the adverse changes in muscle that limit physical activities in cancer patients.

New regenerative medicine research center unveiled

Ohio State has established a partnership of experts who will work together to discover novel treatments to accelerate wound healing and rehabilitation for patients. The Center for Regenerative Medicine and Cell-Based Therapies was created to develop research programs in these respective fields. Regenerative medicine is the process of creating living, functional tissues to repair or replace tissue or organ function lost due to age, disease, damage, or congenital defects. It is a relatively new area of research recognized by the National Institutes of Health. The core mission of the center is to engage related expertise in the local community, both inside and outside the university, to deliver innovative health care solutions through multidisciplinary partnerships. The Center represents a collaboration of seven colleges: Medicine, Engineering, Dentistry, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine, Arts and Sciences, and Pharmacy. Battelle, the world’s largest independent research and development organization, is also a partner. Chandan Sen, professor and vice chair of surgery and associate dean for translational and applied research in the College of Medicine, is the center’s director.

Byrd Polar researchers to assess human impact on glaciers

Researchers at Byrd Polar Research Center (BPRC) received a $588,000 grant from the National Science Foundation’s Division of Atmospheric and Geospace Sciences to assess the human impact on the chemical characteristics of glaciers in the Himalaya and the Tibetan Plateau (the so-called “Third Pole”) from the pre-industrial era to present time. BPRC scientists will identify the sources, fluxes, and spatial/temporal distribution of atmospheric trace elements using an existing set of unique ice cores retrieved from the Western, Central, and Northern Tibetan plateaus and Central Himalaya. The characterization of atmospheric pollution at high elevations in the Third Pole region is necessary because recent studies suggest that atmospheric “brown cloud” deposition to the Himalayan glaciers may affect their energy balance, resulting in an acceleration of glacial retreat. Knowledge of the initial quality of meltwater resulting from the ongoing shrinking of the glaciers in the Himalaya is also important for planning the availability of water resources for the millions of people who live downstream from these glaciers. Ultimately, this study may serve as a source of fundamental information for policymakers trying to mitigate the impact of trace metals in the environment. Paolo Gabrielli, research scientist at the BPRC, is the study’s principal investigator. Lonnie Thompson, Distinguished University Professor of Earth Sciences and senior research scientist at BPRC, is co-investigator.