

CHES hosts first Kathleen Briggs undergraduate scholars forum

Contributed by Lindy Wiggins

The College of Human Environmental Sciences hosted the inaugural Kathleen Briggs CHES Undergraduate Scholars Forum April 22-23.

The event is named in honor of Dr. Kathleen Briggs, a former Human Development and Family Science professor and department head, who passed away last year.

Students and faculty who participated in the College of Human Environmental Sciences inaugural Kathleen Briggs CHES Undergraduate Scholars Forum are pictured from left to right. Front row: Katherine Johnson, Dr. Colleen Peterson, Eric Moffit, Megan Caudill, Sarah Wright and Stephanie Barr. Back row: Dr. Shiretta Ownbey, Anna Kelley, Alea Sharp, Whitney Burns, CHES Dean Stephen Wilson, Sarah Mugg, Morgan Kinsey, Kelsey Hanebaum and Dr. Christine Johnson. Scholars not pictured are Angela Lefler, Melissa Oliver and Lauren Smith.

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The event is named in honor of Dr. Kathleen Briggs, a former Human Development and Family Science professor and department head, who passed away last year.

“Dr. Briggs was a champion for our undergraduates,” said Dr. Shiretta Ownbey, Associate Dean, CHES Academic Programs & Services. “We want to honor her and her many contributions to our college through this annual event.”

Current Freshman Research Scholars, Honors students who are completing their Honors theses this semester and undergraduates working as research scholars with faculty holding endowed chairs or professorships in CHES were invited to participate. Each student displayed a poster highlighting his or her research or creative scholarship project.

“We are delighted with the number of students who accepted our invitation to participate,” said Dr. Brecca Farr, CHES Career Consultant and Kappa Omicron Nu National Honor Society chapter adviser. “It is a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase their projects and to highlight the range of topics our students pursue as a part of their college experience.”

The exhibition of posters, located in hallways of the two HES buildings, was reviewed by CHES faculty and student members of the Kappa Omicron Nu (KON) Honor Society, who submitted ballots to vote for award winners.

The projects were also evaluated by two panels of judges, one comprised of four members of CHES faculty and one comprised of the officers of Omicron Xi, the KON chapter at OSU.

KON is one of the leading national honor societies for students in the Human Sciences. The group co-sponsored the event as part of their mission to encourage undergraduate research.

Melissa Oliver, a Human Development and Family Science major, was recognized for “Excellence in Research Method” for her investigation of children’s support systems during a parent’s divorce.

Anna Kelley, a Nutritional Sciences major, earned the “Creative Solution,” “KON Members Choice,” and “Forum Sweepstakes” awards for her study on recipe modification for patients with renal failure.

Stephanie Barr, a Design, Housing and Merchandising major, received the “CHES Faculty Choice” and “Forum Sweepstakes” awards for her development of a sustainable, research-based design for the Rise School of Stillwater.

A Recognition and Awards Reception honored the scholars and their mentors and recognized the award winners. Among the students, faculty, and staff at the reception were friends and family of the late Dr. Kathleen Briggs.