College of Health Sciences Newsletter, April-May 2015

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Inaugural IPE Day a roaring success

Event sets stage for annual interprofessional education celebration

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Dean’s Message

Thanks for another successful academic year

Congratulations to all of the May graduates, with a special thanks to our faculty, staff, advisory board members and our community for making it another special academic year! This summer, whether you travel the world or stay home, I wish you some relaxation and fun! Even though our programs go year-round, it is important that you take care of your own health and incorporate the known evidence and best practices to have longevity and quality of life. Plenty of water, smart food choices, some exercise, adequate sleep and a grateful heart can keep you at your best!

I sincerely thank everyone for all that you do, every day, to contribute to our mission to teach, discover and care. We will take a break from publishing our College of Health Sciences newsletter in June and July. Please look for our next newsletter in August, but continue to follow us on my blog and our college Facebook page. Enjoy the summer!

From the Editor

College provides perfect fit for my passion

At the risk of sounding cliché, I’ll say it: Time flies when you’re having fun.

That pretty much reflects my first eight months here at the College of Health Sciences. I’ve had my brain flooded with knowledge, I’ve been challenged, I’ve been enlightened and I’ve been intrigued.

The other day, Dean Mishoe asked me what I’ve learned about myself in this new role. I’ve given the question additional thought since my initial, knee-jerk response and here the answer I came up with.

Health sciences and healthcare are a nice fit for me. I’m curious, I thirst for knowledge, I take pride in helping others and I enjoy meeting professionals from different backgrounds. The College of Health Sciences feeds all these facets of my life.

Within and outside its walls, students receive incredible hands-on education here. And I get to bear witness to the interactions between the staff and faculty and the students. It has been incredibly satisfying for me. I’ve recently had a chance to observe Bachelor of Science in Nursing students learning how to take blood and insert IVs. Not only did these students work with dummies, but also had to perform the task on each other, under the instruction of talented, cool-headed instructors.

In the short time here, I’ve built of a sense of pride for the college, its schools and its centers. I find myself bragging about the great work we do here and our ongoing mission of “offering excellent educational experiences in a quality learning environment…” I feel that I have become part of a family dedicated to the betterment of the world we live in.

And I look forward to another year of discovery.
Assistant Professor Lori Wood, MSEd, COMT, from the School of Medical Diagnostic & Translational Sciences, has a reason to brag.

She directs a program with a 100 percent placement rate, with entry salaries starting at $50,000 and global marketability.

She could brag, but she won’t. What she will do is look for innovative ways to promote her specialty: Ophthalmic Medical Technology. For 13 years, Wood has led a BSHS/certificate program at Old Dominion University, which is fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Ophthalmic Medical Programs at the highest certification level.

The OMT program at ODU is one of only five in the United States and one of only two that offers a Bachelor of Science degree. The program focuses on four key specialty areas: contact lens, surgery, pediatrics and advanced diagnostics. The program, which was started in 1985, graduated its first student in 1987.

Wood recently contracted for a video elaborating on the program in hopes of getting OMT more exposure. She admits herself that she stumbled upon the program.

“I came across it while looking into pre-optometric programs online,” she said. “I figured I’d finish the Certified Ophthalmic Medical Technologist program and head to optometry school with a leg up.”

That was before she got hooked.

The program, which is extremely competitive, has a lot of advantages, Wood says. Class sizes are small, providing for a very intimate learning environment. And the curriculum is very hands on.

“Class sizes can be anywhere two to eight,” she said. “This year we had five applicants.

Jeanette Fernandez, a certified ophthalmic medical technologist and 2002 Old Dominion University graduate, is one of program’s former students featured in the new video.

“We start the examination process, we do refractions, we take all the measurements of the eye, do visual fields, and we assist in surgeries,” she said.

The diversity in the applicants is amazing, Wood said. The program has had students from places such as Bosnia, Vietnam, Bolivia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Saudi Arabia. The program gets a lot of students interested in switching careers.

By the numbers, there are about 10,000 certified ophthalmic assistants, about 4,000 certified ophthalmic technicians and fewer than 700 certified ophthalmic medical technologists in the U.S., Wood said. And the need for these healthcare professionals continues to grow.

“With the baby boomers, the need for eye care is much bigger than the availability of doctors and technicians,” Wood said.

As she continues to push for more student interest and increased program capacity, Wood has a pretty strong pitch for those examining healthcare programs.

“It’s a very useful degree, you can get jobs before you graduate, there is marketability worldwide,” she said. “You can go into pediatrics, pharmaceutical sales, equipment sales, teaching, development or become an entrepreneur. And you always have the option of taking that knowledge and going into optometry school or medical school.”
IPE Day takes inaugural journey

Celebration draws huge crowd, teaches lessons in collaboration

The Big Blue Room was packed. The crowd was energized. A milestone was achieved.

Friday, April 3, marked the College of Health Sciences’ inaugural IPE (Interprofessional Education) Day. The event’s objective was to raise awareness for the synergies that are possible in our pursuit of making advances in the world we live in.

Julia Fox Garrison, the author of “Don’t Leave Me This Way: Or When I Get Back on My Feet You'll Be Sorry,” served as the keynote speaker for the event.

Tapping into her own struggles during her recovery from a massive hemorrhage resulting from a stroke, Garrison spoke about the pros and cons of interprofessional communication.

“You can overcome adversity no matter what it is,” Garrison said. “Positive outlook equals positive outcome.”

Garrison spoke about the care she received during her recovery – the good, the bad and the ugly. She spoke of her defiance when it came being given a percentage chance of survival.

“I believe that people live up to what they’re told,” she said. “If you tell someone they have a certain percentage change of living that is not a good thing.”
IPE Day takes inaugural journey (continued)

Following the discussion by Garrison, an IPE panel discussed the pitfalls and pearls regarding interprofessional communication. On the panel were Dr. Gail Della-Piana, new member on the IPE Advisory Board; Dr. Christianne Fowler, an assistant professor for the School of Nursing; Dr. Jonna Bobzien, an assistant professor of Communication Disorders & Special Education at ODU; and Shannon Stone, student in School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training and advisory board member. The group addressed the importance of interprofessional education, tapping into their own personal experiences.

Cheresa Wiggins, from the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training received the first student IPE award. Tina Haney and Christianne Fowler from the School of Nursing were this year’s faculty winners.

“It takes a lot of effort, organization and execution for such a well-attended event involving students, faculty, advisory board members, alumni, community and other supporters,” said College of Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe. “

From left, Shannon Stone, student in the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training; Dr. Christianne Fowler, assistant professor for the School of Nursing; Dr. Jonna Bobzien, an assistant professor of Communication Disorders & Special Education at ODU; and Dr. Gail Della-Piana, a new member on the IPE Advisory Board, served on an IPE panel.
Center for Global Health

Adjunct faculty get special recognition

Two adjunct faculty from the Center for Global Health recently received recognition for academic achievement.

Dr. Enrico Wensing, an adjunct assistant professor with the Old Dominion University Center for Global Health, was invited to a workshop at the White House on April 6. The workshop, titled “Resilient People at the Intersection of Climate, Culture and Community: Mental Health and Wellness Impacts,” was organized by the Office of Science and Technology and Policy.

The workshop brought together community leaders, scientists, engineers, program and policy developers, and other stakeholders to discuss the unique characteristics and strengths of communities and cultures across the country that make them resilient in times of difficulty, particularly as they respond to the challenges of climate change. President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation declaring April 6-12 National Public Health Week, reinforcing the importance of our public health system and the need to take action to reduce the health impacts of climate change on our communities.

Dr. Wensing joined ODU in 2013 as an adjunct assistant professor in the Center for Global Health. He is also currently research faculty at the Department of Environmental Science and Policy at George Mason University and part of its research team at 4C - The Center for Climate Change Communication. He also serves as a social scientist at the Caribbean Green Technology Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Dr. Hasan Bayram, an adjunct research professor at Old Dominion University Center for Global Health since 2013, has received The Turkish Thoracic Society’s (TTS) Science Award. He was honored because of “the research that he conducted in the field of respiratory medicine, his contribution to scientific development at a global level, his support for establishment of young scientists, his significant contribution to the scientific institutions, and his extraordinary service for progress in pulmonary science,” the society said. TTS, the main national organization of specialists in Respiratory Medicine in Turkey, was founded in 1992. It has 3,800 members.

Dr. Bayram graduated from School of Medicine, Erciyes University, Turkey. He did his Ph.D. dissertation at St Bartholomew’s and The Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, University of London on “effects of air pollutants on primary bronchial epithelial cells of asthmatic patients.” He completed his residency in pulmonology medicine at the Dicle University in Turkey. In 2002, he was granted by the European Respiratory Society (ERS) a post-doctoral research fellowship at the Thoracic Medicine Department, National Heart and Lung Institute, at Imperial College in London. Dr. Bayram is a full professor of respiratory medicine in the Department of Chest Diseases at The University of Gaziantep, Turkey.
Symposium puts students’ research on display

The School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training launched its inaugural Student Research and Evidence for Clinical Practice Symposium on April 7. Dr. Bonnie Van Lunen, chair of the school, provided opening remarks reinforcing the importance of research and evidence-based practice.

Six students in the post-professional Master of Science Athletic Training program presented their research in either podium or poster format during the two-hour program. Second year Doctor of Physical Therapy students presented proposals for future research that they developed with Dr. Karen Kott’s oversight in their Scientific Inquiry course. About 75 students and faculty attended the symposium, which was moderated by Drs. Mike Tamburello and Matt Hoch. The school is looking forward to developing this symposium into an annual event and expanding its scope. This year’s presenters and topics were:

- Chyrsten Regelski- Development of a Survey to Assess High School Parent Knowledge of Athletic Trainer’s Roles and Responsibilities
- Jonathan Kriebel, Brad Mercier, Sarah Rosbicki- Robotics Use in Persons with Stroke
- Kathleen Hogan- The Influence of Foot Posture on Static and Dynamic Postural Control in Those With Chronic Ankle Instability
- Ashley Burger, Kristine Klammer, David Streett- Treadmill Training Use in Children with Spina Bifida
- Brittany Smith & Christine Feldbauer – Perceived Clinical Competence in Professional Athletic Training Students: A Pilot Study
- William Perkins & Jonathan Hartman- Somatosensory Deficits in Patients with a History of ACL Reconstruction
- Taylor Meier & Brittany Ford- Effects of an Educational Intervention on Accuracy of Spinal Palpation Landmarks for Entry Level Athletic Training Clinicians
- Jen Camasso, Jayson Divers, Taryn Langley – Aquatics for Children with Autism
- Alex Munter & Brice Snyder- Interrater and Intrarater Reliability of the Semmes-Weinstein Monofilament 4-2-1 Stepping Algorithm in Physically Active Adults
- Katie Feckler, Robert Fly, Anelisa Secamiglio– Graded Exercise for Persons with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
Spring Commencement

Alumnus delivers inspirational words

Marcia Brand, an alumnus of the School of Dental Hygiene, spoke at the spring’s commencement to graduates of the College of Health Sciences, College of Sciences and the Frank Batten College of Engineering and Technology. The former student and faculty member noted that the honorary Doctor of Humane Letters she received from Old Dominion University meant that she possesses an “ODU trifecta” of degrees.

“I now hold a bachelor’s degree, a masters’ degree and a doctoral degree from Old Dominion University. While this last degree took me about 40 years to earn, arguably, it was tuition-free,” she joked.

Going from student to practitioner then faculty and on to a long career in public service has been a journey that Brand said she couldn’t have imagined when she sat for her graduation day.

“Theodore Roosevelt said, ‘Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing,’” she said. “I have had a wonderful career, and I was fortunate to do work that was worth doing.”
Spring Commencement (continued)

< College of Health Sciences Banner Carrier and Alumni Award winner Jessica Carter, BSHS, Public Health concentration graduate.
25 fabulous years

The School of Medical Diagnostic & Translational Sciences held the 25th Anniversary Celebration of its Cytotechnology Program in mid-May. Program Director Sophie Thompson, Dr. Thomas Somma and College of Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe spoke at the event to an audience of faculty, staff, alumni, students and friends.

Nursing student shows skills on sailing team

Old Dominion University sailing took second at the 2015 MAISA Dinghy Championships this month hosted by ODU. The Monarchs finished just 15 points behind Georgetown.

The Division A team of Esteban Forrer and Gabriel Smith earned a fourth place finish taking home four top-five places and a pair of wins while the Division B team comprised of nursing student Grace Mason of and Augie Dale took second place with five top-5's and one victory. Mason also received All-Conference honors.

The team qualified for the Women’s National Semifinal Championship, which was held May 25 in Newport, R.I. ODU competed with 27 other schools to see which 18 would advance to the finals.

Old Dominion University women's sailing finished 14th in the Sperry ICSA Women's National Championship. The Division A team, which featured Andrea Luna, Grace Mason and Cady Johnson, came in 15th in the division with seven total top-10 finishes. ODU's Division B squad of Sarah Streater, Katelyn Talley and Colin Voigt earned a 13th place finish with eight top-10 finishes.