

10-2015

# College of Health Sciences Newsletter, October 2015

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*Old Dominion University*

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## Recommended Citation

Harrell, Irvin B. (Ed.), "College of Health Sciences Newsletter, October 2015" (2015). *College of Health Sciences Newsletters*. 3.  
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## Community & Environmental Health's new digs



Deanne Shuman, chair of the school, snaps a few photos during the move.



Quality Moving Services from Richmond load up the truck with office equipment from the School of Community and Environmental Health in September.



Gary Burgess, an associate professor with the School of Community and Environmental Health, speaks with a student in his new office, located in the Laser and Plasma Institute Building.



Dean's Message: Assistant Dean Kimberly Adams Tufts

## Students key in spreading seeds of IPE

Student learning is at the core of Interprofessional Education (IPE). This is inherent in the World Health Organization's definition of IPE: "when two students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes."

Enhancing health professionals' ability to work together for the purpose of delivering high quality and satisfying patient care is the overall goal of IPE. Hence, the Interprofessional Education Collaborative has set forth four core competencies that educational institutions must strive to help students achieve.

At the College of Health Sciences, we value the importance of including students' perspective and voice in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of IPE. We know that student input is essential to IPE that is timely, relevant, and creates an effective platform for producing health professionals who are ready to work in today's health care environment wherein quality and safety are paramount. Therefore, our IPE Advisory Committee bylaws require that we include student representation.

Shannon Stone is the inaugural student representative on the committee. Shannon is a third-year physical therapy student. She received a Bachelor of Science in Health and Exercise Science from Roanoke College in 2013. Shannon also minored in Spanish while at Roanoke.

She has shared with the committee and faculty members that being exposed to IPE during her education will prepare her to work more effectively with other health professionals once she is a practicing physical therapist.

Shannon's profile is featured on Page 3 of this month's newsletter.



Kimberly Adams Tufts,  
Assistant Dean

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### From the Editor

## The right place at the right time

It's funny sometimes how all the pieces come together nicely in the world of healthcare.

I'm currently taking a course called "Medical Geography." Each week I am flooded by new knowledge of the state of global health. Emerging diseases, re-emerging diseases, global warming, changing climate, and pollution leave me fearful of mankind's future.

When I think about the things I'm learning, it hearkens me back to many of my discussions with Dr. Muge Akpınar-Elci, our director of the Center for Global Health "It's one health," she hammers home. She's right. A united front is the best route.

I recently was tasked with interviewing a medical geographer for a class project. After some thought, Muge came to mind. You see, she wears many hats. She is without question a medical geographer. Although she wasn't totally used to the title, she wore it well during a very enlightening interview. Thanks Muge!



Irvin B. Harrell,  
Coordinator of Strategy  
& Marketing

**IPE Corner**

Shannon Stone, DPT3

# Interdisciplinary internship for physical therapy student

By Irvin B. Harrell

There is no wonder Shannon Stone finds herself on the path to a career in physical therapy, she says. Her inspiration was simple: “Getting hurt a lot playing sports.”

While playing volleyball in middle school, Shannon injured her shoulder. She went to a doctor and was then referred to a physical therapist. And that’s all it took.

“I thought it was like the coolest thing ever,” she said. “I had so much fun there. I wasn’t old enough to work at the time, so I started volunteering there during the summer.”

Shannon, who came to Old Dominion University in the summer of 2013, is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the College of Health Sciences. She says she has enjoyed the program and learned a lot, but it has been a lot of work.

“It was kind of a struggle at first, but once you get the hang of it, it’s not as bad,” she said.

One of the benefits of the program, she says, is how it prepares you for real-life situations and promotes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to healthcare. Since arriving at ODU she has have been on a couple interprofessional education committees.

This past summer, Shannon said she was able to witness and work in a true interdisciplinary session. From May to July, she was assigned to Riverside Rehabilitation Institute as a physical therapy intern. Riverside is a transitional care facility that helps its patients regain independence after an injury. Coincidentally, her grandmother was a patient there so she “had heard really good things.” She worked on the neurology floor, handling patients with strokes and brain injuries.

One the requirements of the facility is that there has to be an interdisciplinary approach to the treatment of the patient, she said. The whole staff is required to have at least a weekly conference with each other about the individual patients.

“Speech therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy, nursing staff, the physician, care coordinator, person who deals with insurance meet to discuss the patient and give updates from their perspectives,” she said.

During the meeting they talk about things such as the length of patients’ stays, what sorts of equipment they may need when they go home, if they are safe to go home or if they’ll need extra assistance at home.

“Before discharging the patient, the facility’s staff will have a family conference where all of the disciplines will meet with the family to walk the family through what the patient will need at home,” Shannon said. It’s an incredible process, she added.

Shannon says she had initially leaned toward becoming an athletic trainer down the road, but that her Riverside internship may have changed that.

“If I hadn’t had such a good experience in the neurology setting, I’d probably still be going that direction, but I think I’m more open to other possibilities,” she said.

# School of Nursing gets HRSA grant to boost BSNs on Eastern Shore

By Irvin B. Harrell

Old Dominion University's School of Nursing, which partnered with the Riverside School of Health Careers in late 2014 to create a concurrent enrollment program, will be taking that alliance to new heights with a project to increase the Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) workforce on the Eastern Shore.

Originally proposed in March 2014, the project will be funded by a \$660,000 grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Karen Karlowicz, chair of the School of Nursing, is the chief investigator on the award. Drs. Lynn Wiles, Janice Hawkins and Kimberly Adams Tufts are the co-investigators. Work is under way to hire personnel and recruit students, and enrollment in the program is scheduled for spring 2016.



Karen Karlowicz

The project will provide guidance and resources aimed at BSN-degree completion by diploma and associate degree nurses from the Eastern Shore's socioeconomically challenged households. Using an alternative curriculum, the School of Nursing will pair general education courses with upper division nursing courses in a part-time schedule until the completion of the degree. The nursing courses will be taught through the School of Nursing online. Students will have the option of taking their general education courses elsewhere.

"We are very excited about this project for several reasons: 1) It allows us to evaluate a new model for RN-BSN education that is particularly suited to nurses in working and living in rural areas such as the Eastern Shore of Virginia; 2) It extends our partnership with the Riverside Health System beyond our concurrent enrollment nursing program with the College of Health Careers to increase the number of nurses with a BSN employed by Riverside; and 3) It supports the statewide effort to achieve an 80 percent BSN nursing workforce by 2020," Karlowicz said.

"More important, however, is the support provided by this grant that will enable up to 15 nurses to receive funds to cover 50 percent or more of tuition costs, and guidance by paid peer mentors."

Some of the grant money will go toward hiring an instructor who also will serve as a student mentor. The School of Nursing will hire former graduates of its RN to BSN program to serve as mentors for the Eastern Shore students as well. These mentors will meet in person regularly with the students to assist them with any academic advising and social support they need.

Riverside Shore Memorial Hospital will provide a dedicated space for those in the program, giving students access to resources that may not otherwise be available to them, such as computers, a study hall, textbooks and a place meet with their mentors.

The area nurses expected to participate in this project will increase the number of nurses with a BSN on the Eastern Shore by almost 28 percent.

Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the College of Health Sciences, commends the School of Nursing's efforts to expand health care to the medically underserved and shares the belief of the faculty that "getting students on track during the first two years of the curriculum is important to help them overcome traditional barriers of returning to school such as lack of advising, scheduling conflicts, financial concerns, and fear of failure – particularly in courses such as statistics and chemistry that are often obstacles to progression and retention."

The program further strengthens a relationship that the School of Nursing and Riverside have been building. Under a collaboration signed in December 2014 with ODU, Riverside's diploma will be replaced by an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree through classes provided by Riverside. Participating students will be fast-tracked to get a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) by taking ODU nursing courses concurrently with Riverside nursing courses. The five-year, renewable agreement between ODU and Riverside took effect Jan. 1, 2015. That program, like the Eastern Shore initiative, is schedule to start in the spring.

## Center for Global Health

# Environmental research seminar focuses on the importance of analysis



Dr. James Maughan

Dr. James Maughan, Old Dominion University alumnus and vice president of Water Resources for CH2M Hill, returned to his alma mater in late September for an Environmental Research Seminar at the Innovation Research Park II building on Monarch Way.

The seminar, titled “Environmental Analysis to Achieve: Environmental and Public Health Protection; Regulatory Compliance; and a Better Proposed Action,” was sponsored by ODU’s Center for Global Health, the Center for Coastal Physical Oceanography, and the Mitigation and Adaptation Research Institute.

“Environmental analysis is all about making environmentally conscious decisions comparing alternatives to accomplish objectives required by state and federal laws to mitigate impacts to public health and the environment,” Maughan said.

One of the key topics Maughan discussed was the \$4.5 billion Boston Harbor cleanup in the 1980s. He emphasized the environmental analysis process used to determine the proper cleanup strategy. When responding to such scenarios it’s extremely important to collect accurate data and determine what are ideal and unacceptable ranges, he said.

Maughan also discussed the pollution problems prompted by steel-related industries on the Great Lakes and environmental issues in the Alaskan Juneau mine. Maughan received his B.A. at ODU in Biology, his M.S. at Virginia Tech in Aquatic Ecology, and his Ph.D. in Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. He has published textbooks on Ecological Risk Assessment and Environmental Analysis.



From left, Susan Daniel, chair of the School of Dental Hygiene; Richardean Benjamin, associate dean for the College of Health Sciences; and Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci, director of the Center for Global Health, take a moment to visit before the seminar.

## A Special Reception



Lisa and Paul Doyle hosted a fun reception on Sept. 30 at Leaping Lizard Café for alumni and friends of the Old Dominion University School of Dental Hygiene to share current and future initiatives and the vision for the future. Lisa is a 1985 Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene graduate from ODU.

## Physical Therapy and Athletic Training gets top ranking

Old Dominion University Physical Therapy Graduate Program was recently ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in the nation by GraduatePrograms.com.

Program rankings – compiled using data gathered between Sept. 1, 2012 and Sept. 30, 2015 – encompass reviews posted by more than 70,000 students participating in more 1,600 graduate programs nationwide, according to GraduatePrograms.com’s website.

For a given graduate program, rankings are determined by calculating the average score for each program based on the 15 ranking categories, according to the site. These scores are then compared across all ranked schools for that program and are translated into a final ranking for that graduate program. A given graduate program is not ranked until a minimum threshold of graduate student surveys is completed for that program.

Dr. Elizabeth Locke, the director of clinical education for the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, was ecstatic at the news. She thanked Bonnie Van Lunen, the school’s chair, and Associate Professor George Maihafer for their work. “WOW!!!! We’re #15 in the United States!!!” read her email. “Thank you both for your leadership!”

### Top 15

- 1 University of North Florida
- 2 Texas Woman’s University
- 3 University of Central Arkansas
- 4 Mayo School of Health Sciences
- 5 University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 6 MGH Institute of Health Professions
- 7 University of Central Florida
- 8 Rutgers University-Camden
- 9 Indiana Univ.-Purdue Univ. Indianapolis
- 10 Thomas Jefferson University
- 11 Washington University in St. Louis
- 12 Emory University
- 13 Elon University
- 14 East Tennessee State University
- 15 **Old Dominion University**

# Upcoming Events

## October

- 21 & 24 CE Course: Dental Radiation Safety
- 15 COHS Advisory Board Meeting, 8:30 –10:30 a.m.  
Location: President’s Dining Room, Webb Center  
(Members Only)
- 20 Dean’s Student Advisory Committee Luncheon  
12-1 p.m.  
Location: 2114 Health Sciences Building

## November

- 3 Alpha Eta Induction Ceremony, 12:30-1:30 p.m.  
Allied Health Honor Society  
Location: James Lynn Room, Webb Center
- 25 University Closes 12:00 p.m.-Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26-27 Thanksgiving Holiday-University Closed

## December

- TBD Upsilon Phi Delta Induction Ceremony (Health Care Management  
Honor Society)
- 1 COHS Holiday Luncheon Celebration, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Location: Ted Convocation Center, Multipurpose Room
- 4 Classes End
- 5-11 Final Exams
- 12 Fall Commencement  
Location: Ted Convocation Center
- 24-Jan 1 University Closed for the Holiday