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College of Health Sciences Newsletter, April 2012

College of Health Sciences

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Message from the Dean

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni and Friends of the College,

This month’s newsletter is dedicated to the Global Health Initiatives of the College of Health Sciences. Many of you already realize that the college is developing a new Center for Global Health at ODU. Global health has many meanings and numerous definitions have been proposed such as “Global Health is an area of study, research and practice that places priority on improving health and achieving health equity for people world-wide”. (Koplan JP Et.al. Toward a common definition of global health. *Lancet* 2009; 373 (9679):1993-1995). The vision of the Center for Global Health is “to improve health and quality of life for people locally and around the world by leveraging the unique strengths of the Hampton Roads Communities in education, research and outreach.”

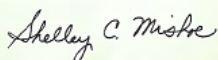
I have been working with a wonderful, interdisciplinary task force to create the new Center for Global Health, which includes representatives from each of the Colleges at ODU, alumni, the community and the college advisory committee. We have been meeting every month since July, 2011 and have achieved many goals such as: drafting a strategic plan, conducting literature searches, reviewing key documents of other centers, establishing relationships with other organizations/potential collaborators, developing a start-up budget, identifying critical needs of Hampton Roads, conducting a faculty survey and more. The goals of the Center for Global Health are to: 1) Create interprofessional global health experiences for faculty and students, 2) Facilitate students gaining global perspectives related to their disciplines, 3) Prepare students to assume leadership roles in global health, 4) Achieve students’ global health competency, 5) Influence health policy and practice, and 6) Inform policy makers and advocate change.

To help achieve the vision and goals, we have launched a search, chaired by Dr. Richardean Benjamin to recruit the new Director of the Center for Global Health. Three individuals have been invited to campus. We invite you to participate in the presentations of the candidates to be held in Health Sciences Room 2121 and give the search committee your feedback: Dr. Michael B. Blank at 10:30 a.m. on April 25th, Dr. Naresh Kumar at 11:00 a.m. on April 27th, and Dr. Barbara Greenberg at 11:00 a.m. on April 30th.

I had the privilege of traveling in February to Santo Domingo with Ron Sconyers (Executive Director, pictured on right), Monica Bridgforth (Senior Director, Development and Communications), Lavern Morris (Founder of the Resource Mothers, pictured on left) and Board Members of Physicians for Peace. On this trip, I was able to participate in the Grand Opening of the new clinic under the direction of Dr. Ramón López, visit the barrios with the Resource Mothers (local name is Madres Tutelares) and meet with the physicians and staff at ADR (Dominican Association for Rehabilitation) and the Maternity Hospital – San Lorenzo de Los Mina Maternity Hospital. I also participated in learning sessions and interviews of the Resource Mothers.

I witnessed firsthand the work led by Gail Grisetti for many years in the Dominican Republic and understand both the needs and the progress. In this issue, you have accounts of the work being done in the Dominican Republic by our nursing and physical therapy faculty and students through their collaborations with Physicians for Peace. Gail and Janice Hawkins give us this wonderful example of the interdisciplinary and collaborative work of our faculty and students and is just the beginning of our full potential. This issue also highlights global health efforts including: The School of Dental Hygiene’s GIVE KIDS A SMILE, Physical Therapy’s participation in Wellness Tuesday, Richardean Benjamin’s mission trip to Haiti, Ann Campbell’s work in Nepal with Operation Smile, Pat Hentosh’s collaborations in Cuba, Anna Jeng’s work to improve environmental health, and Kimberly Adams-Tufts’ involvement in Relay for Life. There is also articles about Gayle McCombs, Tara Newcomb, and dental hygiene students working with Physicians for Peace and our dental hygiene school to create the first dental hygiene program in Central America and Dr. James Blando and Viann Nguyen, Community and Environmental Health, collaborations with EVMS to study Yoga practices of pregnant women. Though not all inclusive, this newsletter highlights some of the College’s recent global health initiatives. I hope you will read the articles and share my enthusiasm for our work in global health and opportunities for YOU to be involved, whether student, faculty, alumnus, board member or collaborator.

Best regards,



Shelley C. Mishoe
Dean and Professor



Highlights

- ▽ **Ann Bruhn**, School of Dental Hygiene, is a Fall 2012 recipient of the Office of Research Faculty Proposal Preparation Program (FP3). The goal of the program is to help faculty submit high-quality, competitive proposals to external funding agencies by financially assisting the colleges to release a faculty member from one course of their teaching commitment during the Fall or Spring semester.
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- ▽ **Admitted Freshman Day** in the College of Health Sciences was held on March 24, 2012. This University event was for incoming freshman who had not yet confirmed their attendance at ODU.

Pictured at left is LaShay Corprew, medical technology junior, identifying bacterial colonies on agar plates for the incoming freshmen and parents.

- ▽ **Dr. Steven Morrison**, Physical Therapy, at Wellness Tuesday held on March 20, 2012 showing someone a few of the tools they use to assess different physiological components for essential balance (e.g. reaction time and vision tests).
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- ▽ This academic year, **Kimberly Adams Tufts**, Director of Community and Global Initiatives, established the School of Nursing's "Lunch and Learn Series on Community and Global Health". The purpose of the series is to expose College of Health Science faculty, students, and staff to a global lens for viewing the impact of educational, practice, and research collaborations on health outcomes across communities borders. Thus far faculty from the Dental Hygiene, Nursing, and Physical Therapy Schools have hosted sessions on their experiences in India, Jordan, and the Dominican Republic. In March, **Gail Grisetti** and **Janice Hawkins** in collaboration with Physicians for Peace, presented the highlights from their interprofessional service learning trip. Next year, service learning projects in South Africa, a medical mission trip to Haiti, and use of a language interpreter in international settings will be presented.
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The School of Dental Hygiene Helps to GIVE KIDS A SMILE



School of Dental Hygiene gives children much to smile about, February was National Children's Dental Health Month, designed to raise awareness about the importance of oral health. Developing effective oral care behaviors at an early age and scheduling regular dental visits helps children get a good start on a lifetime of healthy teeth and gums. This month-long national health observance brings together thousands of dedicated dental professionals, health care providers and others to promote the benefits of good oral health to children and adults, caregivers, teachers and many others. Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life.

Give Kids A Smile is an annual centerpiece to National Children's Dental Health Month, designed to provide education, preventive and or restorative care to low-income children who do not have access to care. In support of this initiative on Feb 11, 2012, Old Dominion University School of Dental Hygiene and the Tidewater Dental Association partnered to provide preventive dental services and examinations to locally underserved children.

Children from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Southeast Virginia participated in this free event which provided education, dental examinations, dental x-rays, pit and fissure sealants and fluoride therapy to children free of charge. For the 10th year, area dentists and dental hygiene faculty members and student volunteers have worked together to improve oral health outcomes of disadvantaged and underserved local children. This year, approximately \$11,000 in free dental services was provided.



ODU Health Sciences and EVMS Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology Conducts Cross Sectional Survey of Yoga Practitioners

Faculty at the Old Dominion University College of Health Sciences and the Eastern Virginia Medical School's Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology are conducting a cross sectional survey of Yoga practitioners in the Hampton Roads area to better understand their motivations and beliefs with regard to practicing Yoga while pregnant. Dr. James Blando and Ms. Viann Nguyen from ODU's College of Health Sciences are collaborating with Drs. Nicole Rankins and Shilpa Babbar at EVMS to conduct the study. While it has been recognized that moderate exercise during normal pregnancies is healthy, the motivation and beliefs about Yoga during pregnancy are not understood. In addition, some women may practice Hot Yoga, where they exercise in a room with elevated temperature. It unclear if there are any risks or benefits for pregnant women who practice Hot Yoga and therefore the research team is interested in better understanding the motivations and health beliefs of pregnant women who participate in this activity. The goal of this study is to provide information that will be helpful to clinicians and families in their effort to support healthy pregnancies within the Hampton Roads community.

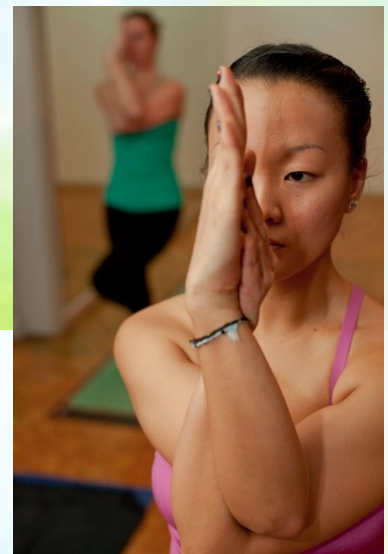


Photo by Angela Douglas

ODU Physical Therapy and Nursing Students Interdisciplinary Medical Mission to Dominican Republic

A team of nursing and physical therapy students deployed to Santo Domingo in March 2012 to deliver targeted training to the Physicians for Peace Resource Mothers. Melissa Uribe, nursing and Jennifer Butler, physical therapy students kept a blog of their daily events below are some excerpts:

We arrived in the Dominican Republic yesterday and were delighted by the warm sunshine and 80 degree weather. During our bus ride from the airport, we enjoyed the beautiful view of palm trees blowing in the cool breeze against the blue ocean. At lunch we filled up on traditional Dominican food, including aguacate (avocado), platanos (plantains), camarrones (shrimp), pollo (chicken), and a variety of different fish.

On the way to the hotel, we saw people in many different colorful costumes celebrating the final day of Carnaval. Along with this, we were able to witness the culture of daily life: numerous domino games played on small tables by men; kids playing in the street; a family of four riding on a motorcycle; people sitting on chairs on the sidewalk enjoying food, drinks, and laughter. On almost every street, there is at least one Dominican flag in view.



This morning, we got to meet the Resource Mothers. Our day started with a tour of their office building and a briefing about Physicians for Peace by Dr. Ramon Lopez, the director of programming in the Americas for Physicians for Peace.

We learned about the many services Physicians for Peace has provided in the Dominican Republic: orthotic and prosthetic services as well as physical therapy for people who have lost a leg; therapy and rehabilitation for patients recovering from burn injuries; dental care for children and mothers in the Resource Mothers program; specialized surgeries for conditions like hypospadias and cleft palate repair; pediatric and neonatal advanced life support; and donations of medical equipment and medicine...among many other services.

Most importantly, we learned the history of the Resource Mothers program (or, as its known here, Madres Tutelares). The program was established in October 2005. At that time there were 10 Resource Mothers, who served pregnant teens and their babies in five barrios.

Melissa Uribe, nursing student

Today, the five physical therapy students present on this training mission embarked upon the first of three barrio visits. We were led by Dr. Ramon Lopez, director of the Americas for Physicians for Peace, Steve Bell, director of ODU Study Abroad, as well as two Resource Mothers: Patricia and Rosanna.

This experience helped us better understand the challenges that the Resource Mothers face when serving their clients. These challenges include difficult-to-navigate terrain and an evident lack of resources. The barrio we visited was the first barrio in the city to test positive for cholera during the most recent outbreak. As a requirement of the Resource Mothers program, each of the Resource Mothers must live in the barrio where her clients live. Combined, Patricia and Rosanna currently have 10 clients in the barrio.



From afar, one cannot truly appreciate the level of poverty in the barrios nor how difficult and hazardous it can be to climb the narrow passages and ascend the hills to reach the clients. Having climbed through these passages, one finds it difficult to imagine how a pregnant woman, especially in her third trimester, reaches her home without injury.

In the following days, the physical therapy students will be teaching the Resource Mothers about motor milestones, which are especially important in the assessment of the children during the first year of life. As we instruct the Resource Mothers in these skills, we will incorporate what we saw in the barrio into our lessons and make the information we relay relevant to what the Resource Mothers

may encounter with their clients.

Jennifer Butler, physical therapy student





On our final days of the mission, we spent time reviewing and practicing the different skills that were taught during the week. When each Resource Mother felt that she was ready, she was given a practical skills test by ODU students and faculty. The test covered taking vital signs: blood pressure, heart rate, respirations, and temperature. Double headed stethoscopes were used to ensure accuracy of their readings. This practical helped to single out those who needed further instruction.

After that, we administered written examinations that included both physical therapy and nursing topics covered this week. Then, we had time to cover the topics of newborn assessment and signs and symptoms of preeclampsia. This was followed by a question-and-answer session. Lastly, we viewed a slide show to celebrate International Women's Day, which brought much laughter among the Resource Mothers.



The final day, both the Resource Mothers and the ODU students got into small groups to give feedback about the training and interaction that occurred during this week. The Resource Mothers provided us with topics that they would like to be covered in future: cardiopulmonary resuscitation, sexually transmitted diseases, respiratory infections, preventing teenage pregnancy, physical therapy techniques for the infant, and typhoid fever.

Finally, we had a graduation ceremony for the Resource Mothers. They were awarded certificates and t-shirts with the Madres Tutelares logo. The Resource Mothers then surprised us with a presentation of their own, in which they spelt out the word "GRACIAS" as an acronym to represent what they have gained this week:

- G – Ganamos experiencia. We gained experience.
- R – Recibimos enseñanza. We received training.
- A – Adquirimos conocimientos. We acquired knowledge.
- C – Cumplimos las expectativas. We accomplished your expectations.
- I – Integramos esfuerzos. We integrated our efforts.
- A – Aprendimos mucho. We learned a lot.
- S – Son ustedes extraordinarias. You are extraordinary!



Melissa Uribe, nursing student

Old Dominion University G.W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene Partners with Physicians For Peace and the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua-León to Create First Dental Hygiene Program in Central America

Since 2010, as part of the School of Dental Hygiene's mission to serve the global community, an international partnership with Physicians for Peace and the dental school at Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua-León has been occurring. This collaboration is resulting in the first dental hygiene program in Central America. While much of the foundational work has been done from afar, Professor Gayle McCombs, the project leader, Assistant professor Tara Newcomb, and MSDH degree candidates Kendra Kleppe and Carmelo Padrino have visited Nicaragua to present the proposed dental hygiene curriculum to the dental school faculty, work with the local dental community, and teach. The goal of this partnership is to implement the dental hygiene program in 2013.



Gail McCombs teaching in Nicaragua.

The School of Nursing "Pacesetter for Prevention" Team Community Event for Relay for Life®

The School of Nursing's "Pacesetter for Prevention" Team reached its goal of \$500.00 and was one of the top 10 teams who participated in the February 28th challenge.

For many people who attend Relay for Life®, one of the most moving parts of the event is the Ceremony of Hope. You too can help spread the light of hope and honor or remember those in your life who have been touched by this disease. See the Pacesetters website to see how to purchase a luminary for the Ceremony of Hope.



http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR?team_id=1086903&pg=team&fr_id=41412&fl=en_US&s_tafld=874543

Richardean Benjamin, Associate Dean, Mission in Haiti

The medical/dental mission trip to Grand Goave, Haiti consisted of a four-person team including two nurses (RB and Linda), a dental assistant (Kristian) and an orthodontist (Brent). This was the first mission trip for two members of the team and the other members we could refer to them as veteran mission travelers. All team members except Kristian were from Virginia. Grand Goave, a region of Haiti characterized as a small rural village is populated with approximately 100,000 residents is located about 32 miles south of the capital Port au Prince. The two hour drive from the airport in Port-au-Prince to Grand Goave, provided a glimpse of the differences between what is considered an urban city and a rural town in Haiti. In Port-au-Prince there was more people, buildings, and traffic. Although less congestion in Grand Goave, the common element was the evidence of the earthquake's destruction- crumbled buildings and mounds of debris along the roadside. Although not considered to be severely affected by the 2010 earthquake, there were approximately 200 deaths in that village.



Mt Tabor Clinic

Our team, assigned to the Siloe Baptist Church and School site supported by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship one of the more than 100 Non governmental agencies working in Haiti, performed health screenings of the school children, a dental clinic providing mostly extractions, cleaning and some filings and

maintenance and minor illness care to two remote medical clinic sites (Mt. Tabor and Norgaisse). Our days were long beginning at 7:00 am when we were picked up by a driver and transported to the Siloe church site for breakfast and preparation for the day's activities. And we returned to Siloe for our evening meal prior to returning to the guest house most days after 7:00pm. Day two consisted of an hour's drive to the mountains (Mt. Tabor Church). Our team along with nurse Jenny and her team which included a lab technician, a pharmacist assistant, three translators, and a driver loaded supplies and medicines onto a 4-wheeled drive truck for the journey. We soon realized why the 4-wheeled drive truck was necessary. The roads were narrow, rugged and in some instances appeared washed out from the rains. During the 7-day trip we completed two days of school screenings at Siloe and conducted two remote medical clinics caring for over 137

patients. A unique difference between usual practices followed when treating children at a clinic in the states and treating them in Haiti. We saw a number of children at the clinics without an accompanying parent. However, during one of our difficult dental cases the teen left without the work complete. We were pleasantly surprised when on the next dental clinic day the

teen was brought in by his father to have the work completed. We learned that the young man had been buried in rubble during the earthquake which was a contributing factor for his increased anxiety related to the dental procedure. Because of generosity of the veteran team members, they thought to bring non-medical gifts and supplies. Linda, for example brought 130 girl's sun dresses that were made by members of First Baptist Church of Manassas, Virginia. She even solicited valentine candy from others of us because our trip extended over the holiday. In addition, to medications to re-stock the clinic, team members included toothbrushes and toothpaste to justify the candy brought for the children, although the adults enjoyed the candy as well.



After School at Siloe



Siloe School Screening



Triage in the Clinic

Ann Campbell, Nursing Faculty, in Nepal



Ann Campbell, full-time nursing faculty, participated in Operation Smile's inaugural cleft education and surgical mission to Kathmandu, Nepal in February 2012. Ann is a long-time volunteer of Operation Smile, an international children's medical charity that works in more than 60 countries to provide free surgeries for children born with facial deformities such as cleft lip and cleft palate. Ann is one of the more than 5,000 dedicated volunteers from over 80 countries who help Operation Smile transform children's lives and give them hope.

In Nepal, Ann was part of an experienced team of 27 medical volunteers from the United States, Canada, and the Philippines. The team worked

alongside a dedicated group of Nepalese medical and non-medical professionals to begin to build the foundation for a sustainable medical program. This process began before the medical mission, with education coordinators in India training 74 doctors and nurses at the Kathmandu Model Hospital in basic life support education. Education continued throughout the week with mentoring and teaching of the local nursing staff and students as well as the local surgical team. The team provided comprehensive healthcare evaluations for 128 patients and life-changing surgery for 35 patients.

Among the patients who received surgery was 6-year-old Kapil Pariyar. He and his father, through the support of the Rotary Club of Nepal, travelled 22 hours on a bus from the small town of Surkhet to Kathmandu. Over the course of the week, the two of them were smiling presences at the hospital as they awaited their surgery. Only later did the team learn that in addition to the thought of a new smile, Kapil was overjoyed to spend time with his father who is normally away working. Kapil attends and lives at a school that was established by Maggie Doyne, a "friend" of Operation Smile, for children and orphans in the Surkhet region of Nepal.

Everyone on the Operation Smile team is looking forward to hearing how Kapil's new smile will change his life at Maggie's school and hope that his and other children's stories will continue to act as sources of inspiration for Operation Smile's work. It was a great privilege to be part of such a dedicated, experienced team and work with and mentor such an amazing group of local medical and nursing staff members. Namaste!



Patricia Hentosh, Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences Faculty visits Cuba

Last year Patricia Hentosh, professor, Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, had the opportunity to travel to Havana, Cuba as part of a delegation of 45 members of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The purpose of the trip was to explore gender equity and the role of women in contemporary Cuba, and the impact of education on their professional and personal lives. They were engaged over a period of four days in a series of meetings with female leaders in the Cuban educational system, government, and law including Mariela Castro Espin, the daughter of President Raul Castro. Mariela Castro is the Director of the National Center for Sex Education and Research, which campaigns to prevent HIV-associated AIDS and to overcome discrimination against homosexuals. The women we met emphasized that the main priorities of the Cuban government were healthcare—which is free—and education. In 2009, 70 percent of health care workers were women, and women make up ~ 80% of the medical students. Cuba also has a very generous maternity and parental leave policy that developed as a result of the work of women's organizations. In terms of medical research, autism appears to be on the rise in Cuba, so research efforts are directed at understanding its causes within the population. Surprisingly, the breast cancer incidence among Cuban women is only ~40% of that in the US. We also learned during our stay of the unfortunate medical effects of the US-imposed trade embargo against Cuba that has limited access to needed drugs for the populace, including anti-cancer drugs.



AAUW delegation to Cuba.

Anna Jeng, Community and Environmental Health Faculty visits Taiwan

Dr. Anna Jeng, an associate professor in Community and Environmental Health, has engaged in academic and research activities related to global health issues since 2002. Her research projects focus on assessment of health effects from a mixture of environmental pollutants that impact the reproductive and immunological health of women and men. These projects have included: 1) Health Effects of Air Pollutants in Urban Areas in Southern Taiwan; 2) Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons and Male Reproductive Health; 3) Assessment of Immunological Status of Coke-Oven Workers; 4) Bio-monitoring of PAHs and VOCs from Coke-Oven Emissions; 5) Effects of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons on Male Sperm Quality.

Since 2009, Dr. Jeng has received two NIH grants requiring international partners in Taiwan and the Czech Republic. Dr. Jeng, along with her doctoral and undergraduate students, has travelled numerous times to Taiwan to conduct research and gain a better understanding of how to protect workers from emissions that occur during industrial processes. She has successfully built partnerships and collaborated with three universities (Kaohsiung Medical University, Chung Shan Medical University, and Kaohsiung Technology University), a governmental agency (Taiwan Council of Labor Affairs), and two industrial companies.

Five ODU students have participated in the projects, while 10 graduate and undergraduate students from the Taiwan universities have worked with Dr. Jeng and her research assistants. Engaging in research work overseas has influenced the students' global outlook in the field of environmental and occupational health. Such educational experiences have helped our students gain an international perspective and develop the skills and knowledge needed to function productively in today's multi-cultural, interconnected world.

Workers from contract labor companies in Taiwan are generally employed to work in and around some of the most polluted and dangerous industrial environments in Taiwan. This population normally receives less health care and education on how to minimize pollution exposure. Through her research projects, Dr. Jeng has secured funding to provide free health examinations for more than 150 low-income coke-oven workers during her two visits in Taiwan. Dr. Jeng and the physicians who serve as co-investigators on the projects have provided free consultations to the human subject workers regarding their health status, concerns, and information on personal protection to minimize exposure to environmental pollutants. Recognizing the usefulness of her research findings, the Taiwan Council of Labor Affairs plans to use the data to formulate policies that focus on preventive and regulatory approaches for improving occupational safety and health of workers.

Dr. Jeng has played a leading role in developing an active ODU linkage with global partners by collaborating with international colleagues in important research activities and directing significant externally-funded projects to internationalize the Old Dominion experience.





Upcoming Events



April

- 19 Dental Hygiene Information Session, 5:00 pm, HS 2115A
- 23 Military Appreciation Day, 12-1 pm, HS 2000
- 24 Spring Classes End
- 26 Health Sciences Awards Luncheon, 11:30 am. Ted Convocation Center Big Blue Room
- 26 Exams Begin
- 28 Dental Hygiene Awards and Alumni Networking Event, 6:00-9:00 pm Diehn Fine & Performing Arts



May

- 3 Exams End
- 5 Spring Commencement, Ted Convocation Center
- 6 Doctorate in Physical Therapy Graduation Reception, 3-5 pm, TBD
- 11 & 12 Dental Hygiene SRTA Exam at ODU
- 16 Summer Classes Begin
- 18 Dental Hygiene Information Session, 5:00 pm, HS 2115A
- 28 Memorial Day Holiday (University Closed)

