

5-2016

College of Health Sciences Newsletter, May 2016

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Recommended Citation

Harrell, Irving B. (Editor), "College of Health Sciences Newsletter, May 2016" (2016). *College of Health Sciences Newsletters*. 49.
https://digitalcommons.odu.edu/healthsciences_newsletters/49

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Field trip focuses on Zika



From left, David Smail, Emmyrose Khan, My Ngoc Nguyen, Sharon Stull, Jamis Bonnanno, Samantha Black, Rebecca Behling, Janelle Carolus, Claudia Christino, Christine Sump, Deborah Gray, and Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci in front of the NIAID headquarters in Rockville, Md.

National Institutes of Health offers alternative to study-abroad plans

By Irvin B. Harrell

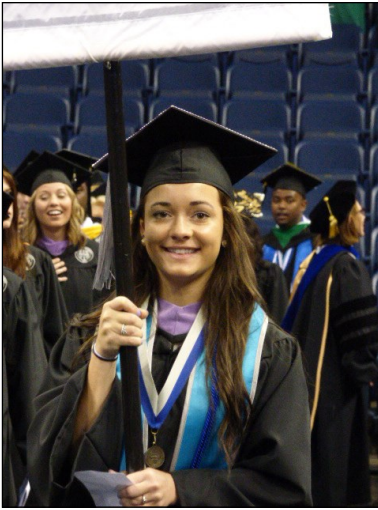
The Center for Global Health, in collaboration with several schools and programs in the College of Health Sciences, had plans for an interprofessional group of faculty and students to travel to South America and the Caribbean this spring. But because of growing concerns regarding the Zika virus outbreak, the trip was scuttled, and with it study-abroad plans of students who would have had a chance to learn firsthand about health concepts in a developing country.



Students and faculty arrive at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease after an early morning van trip from the Old Dominion University campus.

Dean's Message: Dean Shelley C. Mishoe, Ph.D.

Memories of academic year 2015-16



Dental hygiene's Ellie Gaug was this semester's Graduation Alumni Award winner.

We wrapped up another outstanding academic year! I congratulate Drs. Jim Blando and Christianne Fowler for their award of tenure and promotion to associate professor. Congratulations also to Drs. Muge Akpinar Elci, Anna Jeng and Kimberly Adams Tufts on their promotions to full professor. Special recognition to the new graduates within the College of Health Sciences who earned undergraduate and graduate degrees from the five schools. Special thanks to the COHS Advisory Board and the advisory committees throughout our schools and programs.

Kudos to Ellie Gaug, dental hygiene, for being the May Graduation Alumni Award winner and her most inspirational faculty member, Sharon Stull. Kudos to Chris Ndiritu, health services public health track, on being selected as the ODU Kaufman Award Winner and his service as Student Government President the past two years. Hats off to our many faculty and faculty administrators who were recognized by students with the *Shining Star Award*.

Whether the summer semester brings you back to ODU, on an exotic vacation or just some down time in your backyard pool, I wish you a wonderful summer. In closing, I wrote a poem about academic life to share with you:

Life in the Academy

Term papers, exams, promotion and tenure,
Laughter, tears and late night snacks.
Lack of sleep...
Work outs in the gym.
Grant deadlines and accreditations.
Alumni, graduates, students, faculty,
Advisory boards and community supporters.
Classes, labs, clinics, dissertations.
Hellos and goodbyes,
Births, deaths, appointments, cancellations.
Entrepreneurship and innovation.
New beginnings, different endings, ambivalent feelings...
Confidence, caring, brilliance, satisfaction, searching.
This and so much more,
Filled our lives and our days.
Congratulations to all;
Another successful academic year.



Dean Shelley C. Mishoe

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Regards,

Shelley C. Mishoe



Chris Ndiritu was honored with the ODU Kaufman Award.

FROM THE EDITOR

To a safe summer and a festive fall

Congratulations graduates and happy summer to faculty, staff and students in the College of Health Sciences! I know for many of you, there will be little time for breaks, but for those of you who get some vacation time, have fun and be safe.

As you've probably noticed the College's 30th Anniversary Celebration is underway. Our actual anniversary will fall on July 1, a particularly quiet time on campus. Thus, our big celebration will be held this coming fall semester at our Welcome Back Picnic. You'll find the details on the event on **Page 10**. Please take a moment to save the date and RSVP.

The picnic will not only provide an opportunity to socialize but also to celebrate the accomplishments of the college for the past 30 years and honor several distinguished alumni. We look forward to seeing you there!



Irvin B. Harrell,
Coordinator of Strategy
& Marketing

COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Zhang's WIC research getting national attention

Dr. Harry Zhang's food voucher research has received the attention of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. These institutions have invited him to make a presentation on some of his finding at a workshop on June 29 in Washington, D.C.

"This is a very prestigious honor," he said. "Especially this early in the research process."



Dr. Harry Zhang

For more than three years, he began focusing his research on the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program. WIC provides federal grants to states for supplemental food, health care referrals and nutritional education to low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women. It also provides services for infants and children up to age 5 who are found to be a nutritional risk.

"We just finished our focus group work," Zhang said. "And we've received strong support from the local WIC offices. WIC support was instrumental in recruiting focus group subjects."

Most state WIC programs provide vouchers that participants use at authorized food stores. A wide variety of state and local organizations cooperate in providing the food and health care benefits, and 46,000 merchants nationwide accept WIC vouchers. WIC had almost 140,000 statewide participants as of July 2015 and almost 8 million nationally. More than 50 percent of the infants in the U.S. participate in WIC.

What Zhang consistently found was that money for program recipients wasn't being fully redeemed. "Based on our statistics, a few \$100,000 was not being claimed each year," he said.

To ensure that WIC participants in the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) system take full advantage of funds to pay for fruits and vegetables each month, Zhang and fellow researchers are working on a mobile messaging system to notify participants of balances they have on their cards so they can be redeemed. His project is called the Just-in-Time Incentive (JITI) program.

Zhang says that his presentation hopefully will provide information that will lead to recommendations for changes to the WIC program.



Old Dominion University students and faculty prepare for the workshop at NIAID headquarters in Rockville, Md.

Zika, from Page 1

Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci, director of the center, was determined to find an alternative for the students.

“We wanted to provide another option to our students to explore Zika at home,” she said. “Because it is a global issue. Meantime, we also wanted to show them that in the global health setting we need to be flexible. Everything can change.”

Using her contacts at the National Institutes of Health in Washington, D.C., Dr. Akpinar-Elci was able to make that vision possible.

At 6 a.m., on April 22, a group of eight students and three college faculty boarded a van at Old Dominion University and headed north to Rockville, Md. Their destination: the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID). Their mission: to learn more about the virus that altered their study plans.

Patricia Carlisle, an American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Science and Technology fellow with NIAID, and her team of researchers set up a Zika Virus Information Workshop for the group from ODU. Among the program’s objectives were:

- Gain a general understanding of the biology, epidemiology and clinical issues associated with the virus



The NIAID workshop team: From left, Patti Carlisle, Mark Challberg, Stephanie Coombs, Natalie Aviles and Claire Schulkey.

- Develop an overarching understanding of the NIAID response to emerging infectious diseases, using the Zika outbreak as a current relevant example
- Gain insight into the government’s response to this type of crisis (funding, multiple agency coordination, etc...)
- Gain an appreciation for the knowledge gaps and what actions need to be taken to protect the public’s health
- And spur ideas and conversation to start developing a community education campaign in Norfolk.



Zika, from Page 4

Taking the all-day excursion were faculty members Sharon Stull (dental hygiene); Christine Sump (nursing); Deborah Gray (nursing); dental hygiene students Jamis Bonanno, Samantha Black, and Rebecca Behling; nursing students Janelle Carolus and Claudia Christino; EVMS/ODU Masters in Public Health Program students Thomas Smail and Emmyrose Khan; and My Ngoc Nguyen, a Ph.D. student in Health Sciences Research. (They would rendezvous with Dr. Akpinar-Elci at NIAID.)

Bonanno, a senior, said she was initially disheartened to learn that the Guatemalan trip had been scrubbed.

“When I heard the news the trip was canceled, naturally I was very disappointed,” she said. “I had worked very long and hard to prepare for this trip and was really looking forward to the experience of providing oral health care to those in need in a Third World country.”

As she found out more about the Zika virus and the threat it posed to travelers in that region of the globe, the decision started to make sense, said Bonanno, who graduated this month.

The group arrived at NIAID headquarters about 11 a.m., and after getting the proper clearance, they were escorted into the impressive facility. NIAID’s mission is to provide leading research to understand, treat, and prevent infectious, immunologic and allergic diseases. The agency has the second-largest operating budget of the 27 agencies in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with more than \$4.4 billion in fiscal year 2016.

The students and faculty had a chance to break the ice and speak with a few researchers at lunch, before heading to a conference room for the workshop. Once there, they were deluged with information about the Zika virus and multi-agency response to the disease.

NIAID speakers gave the group an up-close look at the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito – the vector mostly responsible for spreading the virus. It originated from Africa, spends a lot of its time around houses and likes to bite during daytime hours, they were told.

Once contracted, the Zika virus can be sexually transmitted, and resides in males’ sperm for a month or two. The symptoms for adults contracting the virus are fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, headache and muscle pain, which last two to seven days.

But the virus is also linked to microencephaly, a condition in which a baby’s head is significantly smaller than expected, as well as Guillain-Barre syndrome, a condition in which the immune system attacks the nerves. As of April 27, there were 426 cases of Zika reported in the U.S., 36 of them in pregnant women and eight of them sexually transmitted, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

A couple of the major hurdles concerning Zika are that there are no vaccines for the virus, there are still unknowns in the natural progression of the virus and there are funding needs to combat it, Carlisle said.

“The best way to control the outbreak now is to control the vector,” NIH researcher Dr. Mark Chaullberg told students during the workshop.

Faculty member Christine Sump was impressed by the level of knowledge provided at the workshop and looked forward to sharing it upon her return to ODU.

“As health care providers who interact with the public, we can now educate our patients and others on what is known regarding the Zika virus,” she said. “The latest information on protection, latency period, diagnosis, and complications were all very valuable pieces of information on this virus of which there are many speculations via the news and word of mouth.”

Zika, from Page 5

The researchers also discussed the coordinated effort involving several agencies to battle Zika and their specific responsibilities:

- CDC: providing public health education information
- Food and Drug Administration (FDA): ensuring vaccines and treatments are safe and effective
- Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR): providing countermeasure research and preparedness planning
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA): vector research



“The commitment of resources and time to the Zika virus on the part of our government really impressed me,” said faculty member Deborah Gray. “The work they have done so far on things like all the genomes of the virus since it was first detected in the ’50s is pretty amazing.”

Natalie Aviles, with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), spoke about the painstaking process of developing a vaccine – from clinical trials and working with the international community to validation panels and protecting the blood supply. Not to mention the high cost.

“There is no possible way that we’ll have a useful vaccine very soon,” said NIH researcher Stephanie Coomes. “If you are planning to travel to the Caribbean or South America, you have to think carefully, especially a woman of child-bearing age.”

After the two-and-a-half hour workshop, NIAID researchers answered additional questions posed by the ODU faculty and students.

Thomas Smail, one of the ODU students, said the workshop delivered a ton of information, some good and some bad.

“Fortunately, humans can build an immunity to the virus after the first infection...,” he said. “But there are still many unknowns about the virus itself.”

Dr. Akpinar-Elci was pleased with the success of the workshop, but said the experience won’t stop there.

“Our students will work with local health departments to increase awareness of Zika and with their mosquito control programs,” she said. “It will be a great service learning project for our students and also will strengthen ODU’s connection with our communities.”

College honors the exemplary

The College of Health Sciences Awards and Recognition Ceremony was held Monday, April 25 at the Ted Constant Convocation Center.

This year’s award winners were:

- ◆ **Outstanding Adjunct:** Diana Williams
- ◆ **Outstanding Alumni:** Katie Kerr
- ◆ **Outstanding Faculty Teaching:** Matthew Hoch
- ◆ **Outstanding Preceptor:** Stefani Masterson
- ◆ **Outstanding Staff:** David Figgs and Gordon Ward



David Figgs was one of two winners of the Outstanding Staff Award.

Couple realizes dream of giving back

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

— Margaret Mead

Sharon Stull and her husband Jon have long desired to create an opportunity for dental hygiene students at the College of Health Sciences to become the future change agents of their profession. Sharon, a School of Dental Hygiene faculty member, has been involved with increasing the public's oral health status — especially those most vulnerable — since 1992.

"I always had a dream to be a dental hygienist," Sharon says. "I loved dentistry and always believed in decreasing oral diseases."

In 2015, the Stulls' vision came true in the form of the Community Oral Health Impact Scholarship. The scholarship is for any enrolled dental hygiene student in the School of Dental Hygiene who maintains a 3.0 GPA and who develops and implements an extracurricular community impact project with a community partner and provides letters of accomplishment, oral health outcome data and a desire to publish their community impact work in a peer-reviewed journal.

Sharon, also has been a clinical volunteer as well as an executive board member for Chesapeake Care, Inc. a free medical/dental clinic for the underserved citizens in the South Hampton Roads area of Virginia for numerous years. She has been instrumental in achieving a five chair dental clinic within this free and charitable safety-net provider our area.

She also was president of the Oral Health Improvement Coalition of South Hampton Roads from 2009-2011 — a coalition of (21) community stakeholders who promoted strategies to improve the areas oral health.

Teaching Community Oral Health Planning and Practice a two-semester core curriculum course in the School of Dental Hygiene, Sharon continually emphasizes to her senior dental hygiene students the value and ethics of reaching all citizens, not just those who can gain access to oral healthcare services but especially those who cannot.

"Education is the key to anybody's health and wellness," Sharon said.

To learn more about endowed scholarships or other giving opportunities in the ODU College of Health Sciences, please contact Manisha Harrell at m1sharma@odu.edu or 757-683-4313.



Sharon and Jon Stull

Spring reception

Advisory Board member Andrew Nusbaum held a rooftop Dean's Spring Reception on April 15 at the Wells Fargo Center in downtown Norfolk. Guests included donors to the college, advisory board members, and community partners. Guests learned about the recent accomplishments of the college and its plans for the future.

From left, Alan Bortnick — advisory board member and senior vice president of Finance for LifeNet Health — and Ken and Shelley Mishoe.





Members of the Golden Pride observe the treadmill simulation demonstration.

Knowledge is Golden



Dr. Lisa Koperna provides a tour of ODU Monarch Physical Therapy.



Dr. Steve Morrison provides a presentation on Falls Prevention Research at the ODU Alumni Center.

On April 25, members of The Golden Pride (Old Dominion Alumni who graduated 50-plus years ago) gathered for a luncheon at the alumni center with special guests Dr. Steve Morrison and Dr. Lisa Koperna, from the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training. The group learned about the Falls Prevention Research and toured the lab and the Monarch Physical Therapy Clinic.

REPRINT FROM THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Virginia's critical need to address carbon pollution

AS A DOCTOR and public health practitioner, I know that improving air quality and combating climate change saves lives and ensures that children, whose lungs are still growing, have an opportunity for a healthy start in life.

That's why I was pleased to hear that Gov. Terry McAuliffe remains committed to developing robust and enforceable air pollution safeguards to limit carbon pollution from power plants in Virginia, as outlined in the Clean Power Plan.

Unfortunately, the U.S. Supreme Court — by a vote of five to four — ordered the administration of President Barack Obama to stand down on implementing the plan, which could stall it until the president leaves office next year. Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency unveiled the plan in August as a critical step in curbing carbon pollution by power plants.

We must continue work to reduce carbon pollution. The health benefits of a strong Virginia plan to address this issue would be significant, while delays would prevent already vulnerable communities from getting much-needed relief from the risks of air pollution and climate change.

Air pollution from power plants drives climate change and threatens communities. The prevalence of asthma is a concern nationwide. The condition affects an estimated 8 percent of Americans. However, the prevalence of asthma in Virginia is more than 9 percent, and cases are even worse in Norfolk and Chesapeake and on the Peninsula, where the range is from 11 to 12 percent.

Average hospitalizations for this condition last nearly four days and cost about \$13,000. Asthma is the fourth leading cause of hospitalization among Virginia's children.

McAuliffe's action stands in stark contrast to some members of our General Assembly, who supported legislation to delay the Clean Power Plan. This legislation would add an additional step in the process, requiring the General Assembly's approval of Virginia's plan to reduce emissions. On March 9, the governor vetoed a bill that would have given the General Assembly the right to approve any state plan for compliance with the Clean Power Plan.

Developing a strategy to reduce air pollution is the responsibility of our state's scientific experts at the Department of Environmental Quality. Let's allow the experts to do their job. Our state lawmakers should join McAuliffe in standing firm on the Clean Power Plan.



Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci, director of the Center for Global Health

Old Dominion University College of Health Sciences is turning 30 this year!



Please join us in celebrating this important milestone of 30 years of academic excellence by showing your support for the College of Health Sciences' future and making your gift today. Every gift makes a difference and helps us achieve our vision of advancing healthcare education and research through interdisciplinary and global collaborations.

To make your gift online, please visit www.odu.edu/efgive

Share your anniversary pledge on Instagram (@oducoh) or Twitter! @COHS16 #COHS30

SAVE THE DATE



The College of Health Sciences Presents



Welcome Back Picnic 2016

IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

**Who: Students, faculty, staff, alumni, board members
and community partners**

When: Tuesday, Sept. 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Where: 47th Street picnic area behind the College

RSVP ksalamon@odu.edu by Aug. 24

or call 757-683-6871

DENTAL HYGIENE

Pinning ceremony features several honors



The ODU School of Dental Hygiene held its annual Awards and Pinning Ceremony on Sunday, April 17, at the Batten Arts and Letters auditorium. During the event, senior dental hygiene students and master's students were presented awards for academic, clinical, service, teaching and research achievements. Additionally each of the 33 senior dental hygiene students received their Registered Dental Hygiene profession pin presented by Susan Reid-Carr, president of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association and Marge Green, president of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Foundation. Lindsay Heath of Glaxo Smith Kline provided support for the reception and the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Foundation grant paid for the professional pins.

The following awards were presented:

Patterson Dental Company Academic Achievement: Ellie Gaug
Colgate Student Total Achievement Recognition: Jamila Williams
Hu-Friedy Golden Scaler: Shante Dickerson
Achievement in Community Dentistry and Public Health: Kevin Ellorin
John Donahue Memorial: Samantha Black
Tidewater Dental Hygiene Association: Samantha Black
Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association: Kimberly Lintag
Excellence in Dental Hygiene BSDH Post-Licensure: Kelly Sterling
Gene Hirschfeld Excellence Master's Program: Emily Ludwig



From left: Samantha Black, Ellie Gaug, Kimberly Lintag, Jamis Bonanno and Dr. Susan Daniel, chair of the School of Dental Hygiene.

Faculty/ Staff Appreciation by Senior Students: Denise Claiborne and Lauren Arlaud

Outstanding Dental Hygiene Alumna: Dr. Deanne Shuman
Sigma Phi Alpha Dental Hygiene National Honor Society Inductees:

- **Students:** Samantha Black, Jamis Bonanno, Elle Gaug, Kimberly Lintag
- **Faculty:** Gayle McCombs
- **Alumna:** Mary Littleton, Senior Educational Representative, Hu-Friedy

Upcoming Events



May

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 16 | Session 1 classes begin |
| May 26 | Retirement reception for Faye Coleman and Sophie Thompson, HSB Atrim at 4 p.m. |
| May 30 | Memorial Day Holiday |

June

- | | |
|------------|-------------------------|
| June 24-25 | Session 1 exams |
| June 27 | Session 2 classes begin |



Fond farewells

LEFT: George Maihafer, from the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training was showered with balloons this month during the Physical Therapy DPT 2016 Graduation Reception. George is on the verge of retiring.

BELOW: At an April 15 event, the college said goodbye to retiring Jane Plummer-Washington (at center), the administrator and program specialist with the School of Dental Hygiene.

