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OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

College of Health Sciences

Thursday, October 13, 2022

ODU's Project I-Hear Topples Barriers to Health Care, Trains Future Professionals

No one could stop talking about the little boy who came through for his first school physical.

It was Aug. 2, and the Old Dominion University Primary Care Clinic at ODU Virginia Beach was conducting a school physicals and health screenings clinic. The boy had been in the country only a short time and didn't speak much English, but he clearly had a great time. Visiting the stations, he met Big Blue, collected stickers and excitedly learned English words. Oh, and melted a few hearts.

The clinic was part of Project I-Hear, an effort by ODU students and faculty from multiple disciplines to change the landscape in health care services. Carolyn Rutledge, director of the University's doctor of nursing practice program, said one of the goals of the project is to learn more about the disparities and barriers to health care in this region.

"Patients move here with no medical record, but schools and sports require a physical," she said. "There's no free clinic in Virginia Beach, so our clinic meets that unmet need for many patients. It also provides pediatric experience to our students. And it's fun! The hospital is not always a happy place, so this is a unique experience for the students, too."

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Barbara Kraj Delivers More than 60 Pairs of Children's Shoes to Ukrainian Refugees in Poland

Barbara Kraj, program director for medical laboratory sciences, visits her parents in Gliwice, Poland every summer. This year's trip looked a little different.

The crisis in Ukraine began in February, and support from Poland began immediately. The people of Gliwice made a concerted effort to help Ukrainian businesses, and the city opened a support center in an arena where supplies could be donated and refugees could get what they needed.

Kraj's parents regularly donated supplies to the center. One day in April, while dropping off hygiene supplies, Kraj's mother, Jolanta, overheard Ukrainian refugee parents talking about their children outgrowing the shoes they arrived in.

This need tugged at Kraj's heartstrings, and she asked faculty and staff in the College of Health Sciences if they would like to donate children's shoes for her to take with her on her trip. Her limit was 30 pairs, owing to the size of her luggage.

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Dr. James Blando

ODU is full of talented, humble people. Jim Blando, PhD, the interim chair for the School of Community & Environmental Health, is one of them because he learned from, "tremendous people who were

so humble."

His humble beginnings include Sicilian immigrant grandparents who worked in factories. His grandmother lost her hearing due to the working conditions, which sparked his interest in environmental health.

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Feature Staff: Marcelina Wade

Marcelina Wade is the newest academic advisor for the College of Health Sciences. She earned a Master of Science in Sports Administration from

Canisius College in 2019, and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health from Syracuse University in 2017. Prior to ODU, she worked as an academic advisor at Thomas Nelson Community College and Tidewater Community College. She has enjoyed working in higher education and wanted the four-year experience.

Wade said, "ODU truly provided me with the community atmosphere."

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[Dental Hygiene Alum and Adjunct Instructor , Samantha Vest, receives New Research Award at the International Symposium for Dental Hygiene in Dublin](#)

Adrienne Hartgerink, DNP, appointed Program Director of the Nurse Anesthesia Program in the ODU School of Nursing. She was also inducted into the Fellows of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

Jonathan Romero, DNP appointed chair of the curriculum committee at Virginia Peninsula Community College

[2022 Health Sciences Welcome Reception and Awards](#)

In the news

[Dr. James Blando on WTKR](#)

[Dr. Harry Zhang, featured researcher in Monarch Magazine](#)

[Dr. Janice Hawkins on With Good Reason](#)

[Dr. Anna Jeng on WTKR](#)

[Dr. Mariana Szklo-Coxe on With Good Reason](#)

Featured Upcoming Events

IPE Day: October 14, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

DPT Alumni Reunion: October 20-21

Provost Spotlight featuring Carolyn Rutledge: November 2, 4 - 5 p.m.

Nursing White Coat Ceremony: November 11, 2:30 p.m.

Alpha Eta Luncheon: November 15, 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Dental Hygiene Radiation Safety: November 20, 6 - 9 p.m. and December 3, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Community Health Poster Presentation Day: December 12, 9 - 11 a.m.

Call for stories

Share your stories about research, grants, teaching success, awards and honors, student success, alumni success, interdisciplinary collaboration, students getting experience in the field, community service, events, and anything else that shows how unique our programs are and how great it is to be a Monarch! If you are featured in the media, please share that as well ***Deadline to be featured in the next newsletter is October 31***, but the "call for stories" is constant. Please share your story ideas with Erica Howell at ehhowell@odu.edu.



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