A Night to Remember

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Tis the Season for Gratitude, As Well As Giving Back

I’ve learned that you shouldn’t go through life with a catcher’s mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. — Maya Angelou

On Thursday, Nov. 13, Old Dominion University held its annual Hugh L. Vaught Scholarship Luncheon with more than 365 attendees. The annual luncheon provides the opportunity for two groups to meet who are connected by generosity and the desire to fulfill an academic dream: scholarship donors and scholarship recipients. On this special occasion, 33 recipients and 18 donors from the College of Health Sciences were able to meet and learn more about one another.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, gratitude is on the minds of many. This is the time of year when people gather with their families and friends and reflect on all they have to be grateful for in their lives. Our College of Health Sciences scholarship recipients are truly grateful for the support they receive. Without this support, many of our students would not be able to achieve their dreams of becoming health care professionals. As you and your loved ones gather together this holiday, please consider giving back to ODU and making a difference in the lives of our Health Sciences students. As Maya Angelou references, we should take the catcher’s mitts off.

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To make your gift today and support our bright students in the College of Health Sciences, please visit www.odu.edu/efgive

Worthy Causes

♦ Michele Leonardi Darby Global Oral Health Award: This past June, Michele and Dennis Darby established the Michele Leonardi Darby Global Oral Health Award at Old Dominion University with a $25,000 gift. This award is intended to prepare dental hygienists to be competent in cross-cultural environments whether around the globe or around the corner. Currently, we are only $7,000 away from reaching our goal of $50,000 by Dec. 31, 2014.

♦ Echternach Scholarship Fund: In July 2013, Old Dominion University Program in Physical Therapy lost its founding educator, Dr. John Echternach Sr. He was devoted to his students, from the first graduating class in 1981 to his final year teaching at ODU in 2006. The School of Physical Therapy established the Echternach Scholarship Fund to honor his ideal of valuing education and encouraging others to achieve their goals. Currently, we are only $6,000 away from reaching our goal of raising $25,000 to fully endow the fund.

To make your gift to the Michele Leonardi Darby Global Oral Health Award or the Echternach Scholarship Fund, please visit www.odu.edu/give or contact Manisha Harrell, Major Gift Officer for the College of Health Sciences at m1sharma@odu.edu or (757) 683-4313 with any questions or for additional information.
College of Health Sciences Hires Strategy, Marketing Specialist

Irvin B. Harrell has joined Old Dominion University’s College of Health Sciences as its Coordinator of Strategy & Marketing. Harrell, a graduate in journalism at the University of Florida, has an extensive background in journalism. He has written for and served as an editor at several major metropolitan newspapers. Among them are The Orlando Sentinel, Tampa Tribune, Tampa Bay Times, South Florida Sun-Sentinel, St. Louis Post-Dispatch and The Detroit News. He recently worked as the Suburban Editor and Urban Editor for The Virginian-Pilot. He looks forward to improving the profile of the college, overseeing its publications, enhancing its reach, boosting its social media presence, chronicling its innovations and expertise, and helping to cultivate its donor base – in addition to other duties.

Harrell lives in Norfolk with his wife Manisha, who is the Major Gift Officer for the college. He enjoys golf, racquetball, water sports and travel.

College Welcomes New Academic Advisor

Beth Truax Armstrong has joined the College of Health Sciences as the new academic advisor for health sciences students with last names A-F. She previously worked at the Strome College of Business as an advisor since July 2013. Armstrong began taking appointments in early November. If you have not already met with an advisor this semester, please go ahead and submit an appointment request via MyAdvisor.

Armstrong grew up in Louisville, Ky., and spent four years at Western Kentucky University where she received a Bachelor of Arts in Television Production. While at WKU, she worked at a Public Broadcasting station, a satellite sports network that broadcasted WKU sports, and was involved with the Honors College. When it came time to graduate, she decided to get her Master’s degree to work with college students. While pursuing her Masters of Art in Education in Student Affairs in Higher Education, Armstrong worked in a variety of areas including student leadership, orientation, study abroad and academic advising. In summer 2013, she and her husband moved to Norfolk for him to attend ODU’s Psychology Ph.D. program.
Physicians for Peace Honors ODU with President’s Award

By Irvin B. Harrell


These are just a few of the countries where Old Dominion University health care professionals – many from its College of Health Sciences – have built a solid partnership with Physicians for Peace. In doing so, the university has been instrumental in assisting the humanitarian organization in its quest to “teach one, heal many.”

On Saturday, Oct. 25, ODU was recognized for its efforts, receiving the coveted President’s Award at the organization’s annual gala, held at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel.

For 25 years, Physicians for Peace has been a leader in global health education. It has joined forces with healthcare providers in the world’s most impoverished regions and given them ongoing medical training to help them attend to their struggling communities.

ODU has been one of the organization’s partners for more than a decade. Through its College of Health Sciences, the university has established global health programs in nursing, physical therapy, dental hygiene and other disciplines. The college created the ODU Center for Global Health in 2011 with a long-range, big-picture vision for education, alumni involvement, research, and increased faculty and student engagement.

In late 2013, Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci took the reins as the center’s director and has since developed a new global health certification program. One goal she has continually addressed is changing the misconception of the term “global.”

“One see ‘global health’ and think, ‘Why is this important to me? That it’s all about something abroad,’” said Dr. Akpinar-Elci, who accepted the award with College of Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe. “But diseases and health care issues know no borders. Global health is about home and abroad. It’s not about location, it’s about magnitude.”

Brig. Gen. Ron Sconyers, president and CEO for the Physicians for Peace, is also the chairman of the ODU Center for Global Health’s advisory board.

“With Sconyers’ help, we are working to further expand our collaborations,” Dr. Akpinar-Elci said.

Dean Mishoe recalls the discussions that became the kernel of creation for the Center of Global Health.

“From the moment I arrived at the college, Ron Sconyers reached out to me. We talked every week about what Physicians for Peace and the college had already done,” she said. “We talked about my vision. And we worked on solidifying an ongoing relationship.”
Dr. Gail Grisetti from the School of Physical Therapy and Professor Gayle McCombs from the School of Dental Hygiene were the front-runners on building the existing relationship with Physicians for Peace, Dean Mishoe said.

Dr. Grisetti became a volunteer with the organization 10 years ago. She says she has found the involvement incredibly satisfying, because “I felt the mission and vision of the organization aligned so clearly with my own mission and vision as well as that of the College of Health Sciences.”

“My commitment to the organization has only grown over time as I have been able to develop programs and projects for and with partners in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Philippines,” she said. “My life has been touched in so many ways by my work with Physicians for Peace, and I hope it will continue to be so in the future.”

The School of Dental Hygiene faculty and graduate students teamed with Physicians for Peace to make numerous trips to Leon, Nicaragua, since 2010. McCombs has been the team leader of the ODU-Nicaragua collaboration.

“In 2010, I was invited to be part of a PFP mission to provide oral care in Leon, which also served as a feasibility investigation into possibly creating the first dental hygiene program there,” she said. “In 2011, the dean of the dental school at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua (UNAN) spent a week at our school to gain a better understanding of dental hygiene programs in the U.S. The UNAN dental hygiene program enrolled its first class this year, and we are eagerly awaiting our next visit to review their progress and provide our support.”

The Resource Mothers program is another example of an ODU/Physicians for Peace collaboration. Through the program, nursing and physical therapy students have worked with the organization to provide perinatal health education in the Dominican Republic. The program was an outgrowth of Norfolk-based Resource Mothers, a state-funded program targeting low-income pregnant teens that was started in 1997. Dr. Edward Karotkin, a leader in Physicians for Peace who worked with the program, identified the need in the Dominican Republic and launched a sister program there in 2005.

Janice Hawkins, a chief academic advisor for the School of Nursing, fully embraces Physicians for Peace’s “teach one, heal many” philosophy.

“It means that the impact of such training programs is exponential,” she said. “PFP equips local health providers to contribute to better outcomes for their own patient populations. The sustainable nature of the model and the potential to impact such large numbers makes it extremely fulfilling.”

Hawkins says accompanying students on medical missions with Physicians for Peace holds an even deeper meaning than the mission itself.

“I believe that I’m introducing many of them to a lifetime commitment to service,” she said.
Graduate Receives Special Honor

The accolades keep rolling in for Cherese Lewis, who graduated in May from Old Dominion University with a degree in public health.

Lewis recently has been picked to receive the Gamman of the Year award from Eta Sigma Gamma, a national health education honorary society.

The society, which was founded in 1967, has more than 80 chapters at colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada. Among its goals are “supporting the planning, implementation, and evaluation of health education programs and resources, stimulating and disseminating scientific research, recognizing academic achievement, supporting health education advocacy initiatives, and promoting professional standards and ethics.” Gamman of the Year is one of highest awards that a member can receive.

Eta Sigma Gamma will present the award to Lewis at its 2015 annual meeting in Portland, Ore.

Lewis was a Gates Millennium Scholar at ODU, receiving a scholarship given to top students in the fields of societal need, such as teaching, public health and engineering. Only 1,000 students in the country receive Gates Millennium Scholarships every year, which are awarded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Upon nomination by the faculty advisor of the ODU Epsilon Theta Chapter of Eta Sigma Gamma Honor Society, Lewis received the Eta Sigma Gamma Scholarship Key Award for having the highest cumulative grade point average among local members.

Lewis is teaching this fall at Churchland Middle School in Portsmouth, and plans to apply to medical school next fall.

Dean Receives Distinguished ASAHP Fellow Award

Dean Shelley Mishoe received the Fellow Award this month from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals (ASAHP). The award recognizes ASAHP members “who have contributed significantly to allied health as administrators, educators, clinicians or researchers.”

“Having been an allied health professional for more than 40 years and a dean of health sciences for 15 years at two universities, it is an honor when your colleagues recognize your years of work in the allied health professions,” she said.

“To become a fellow of ASAHP is a cherished recognition that I hold dearly as it is symbolic of my years of work to advance the practice, education and research of the allied health professions.”

The ASAHP Board of Directors selects no more than five fellows each year. “Leadership, scholarship and professional creativity” are among its criteria.

Dean Mishoe was unanimously selected for the award.

“She has left a significant and lasting mark on our association and on the field of allied health education,” said Richard Oliver, the association’s president. “We are extremely proud of her many accomplishments and are delighted to name her a fellow.”
Ebola Reignites Global Health Conversation
By Irvin B. Harrell

The Ebola Virus Disease epidemic has caused panic, finger-pointing, fear-mongering and paranoia. But it also has demonstrated the importance of thinking globally. When it comes to public health, germs don't regard borders. The positive outcome of this outbreak is that it renewed talks about global health, a subject that is a key health care initiative at Old Dominion University’s College of Health Sciences.

Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci is the director for the ODU Center for Global Health. While she is encouraged that the conversation has resurfaced about global health in the wake of the outbreak, she’s equally disappointed that it took the Ebola crisis to trigger it.

“There is just not enough training in global health,” she said. “If it’s not Ebola, it will be something else. There needs to be better understanding the critical importance of global health and a better preparation.

“In the case of Ebola, the initial reaction was ‘It’s Africa’s problem,’ because the virus stayed local in the rural areas there,” Dr. Akpinar-Elci said. “But when it hit the bigger, more developed cities, then it became potentially everyone’s problem because the disease could travel quickly; and it did.”

Misinformation hasn’t helped.

“Regarding transmission of Ebola, there have been lots of inaccuracies,” said Dr. Kimberly Adams Tufts, an assistant dean at the College of Health Sciences, who heads up interprofessional education.

And there are other critical issues:
- Serious lack of community level health education and literacy about emerging infections
- An insufficient amount attention to occupational health safety education in health professions curricula
- An economic market failure when it comes to vaccines
- Poverty, which is a socioeconomic determinant of health outcomes
- Health care inequalities, which are a predisposing factor for transmission risk
- Lack of priority in the health care system given to adherence to the CDC’s occupational health safety guidelines for prevention of emerging infections

When it comes to spreading the gospel of global health, one of the challenges that you face is with the lay public, said Dr. James Blando, an assistant professor with the School of Community & Environmental Health.
“People are busy, things aren’t on their radar screens,” he said. “It’s tough to convince someone that something that is going on somewhere else far away is important to them. And getting the dollars allocated to combat a potential epidemic can be a challenge as well.”

The ODU Center for Global Health -- through a partnership with Physicians for Peace, the Virginia Beach Department of Public Health, ODU’s Office of International Programs and others -- has tapped into the expertise of several health and medical professions to address a plethora of global health challenges such as community outreach, disease, nutrition, preparedness, interprofessional alliances and occupational health and safety.

A more global-minded, collaborative approach to health care will greatly boost efforts to combat viruses like Ebola and create an environment focused more on prevention than treatment, Dr. Akpinar-Elci said.

“There was HIV, SARS, H1N1 … there will be others,” she said.

One such virus that is dengue fever, which has been a worldwide concern since the 1950s, is turning up in the United States, in southern Texas, said Dr. Blando. Characterized by fever, headaches, and muscle and joint pain, this virus is spread by mosquitoes and upon infection can develop into dengue hemorrhagic fever, which can be fatal.

There is also the threat of viruses from the past, such as polio, returning at a time when less emphasis is given to producing vaccines and antibiotics.

In response to the Ebola outbreak, the Schools of Nursing, Physical Therapy & Athletic Training and Dental Hygiene have cracked down on their protocols when handling patients.

“We began (recently) with the addition of a travel history at the time of appointment scheduling and at the beginning of the health history assessment,” said Dr. Susan Daniel, the chair of the School of Dental Hygiene. “The policy currently in place is to not treat anyone who has traveled outside of the U.S. within a month.”

Still, there must be more vigilance, so that if the Ebola threat fades, complacency won’t return.

“We must continue to increase awareness,” Dr. Akpinar-Elci said. “Start with faculty and student engagement, then the community, with the objective of influencing government actions and policies.”
IPE-Roar... *We roar with Interprofessional Education!*

In response to faculty recommendations, the College of Health Sciences is hosting our 1st Annual IPE day on Friday, April 3, 2015. Our keynote speaker will be Julia Fox Garrison, stroke survivor and author of “Don’t Leave Me This Way.” Garrison will speak about the importance of effective interprofessional communication between health care providers as well as highlight the impact of provider-to-patient communication on patient outcomes. Several COHS faculty members will lead a symposium on “Pearls and Pitfalls of IPE.” COHS students will have an opportunity to present posters featuring their research. We also will feature faculty and student winners of the best IPE idea competition. Details about the competition process will appear in an upcoming COHS newsletter.

Congratulations to Janice Hawkins, Deborah Gray, Sharon Stull, Christine Stump from the School of Dental Hygiene and School of Nursing faculty.

These faculty members won grant funds from the “ODU Office of Student Leadership and Involvement, Service Learning Instructional Mini-Grant” program. They received this funding to support their “Interprofessional Health Science Global Health Education” service learning project.

Service learning activities have long been used to increase students’ awareness of social injustices and to encourage a lifelong commitment to caring for underserved populations. Specific to this project is the primary instructional goal of connecting dental hygiene and nursing students with international communities via partnerships that allow for reciprocal transformation of perspectives about self, healing and global citizenship.

Students will travel to Antigua, Guatemala, during the spring of 2015. This learning experience will be principally grounded in the Interprofessional Education Collaborative’s (IPEC) communication and teamwork competencies.
Center for Global Health Gains More Traction

The Old Dominion University Center for Global Health is making headway on its initiatives, as evidence by its advisory board committee in late October.

The center’s Global Health Certificate program, which was launched in the fall, has enrolled 18 students, 15 of whom have started the program. The enrollment has far exceeded the center’s goal of eight students. The program offers courses in global health and epidemiology.

The competency-based certificate program provides comprehensive training in the global health field for graduate students and professionals who are practicing or plan to practice in a worldwide setting. The certification is also available to disciplines outside of the health care field.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding the center is working with Virginia Beach Public Schools, the Virginia Beach Department of Health and Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation on a program called Let’s Move. The collaboration’s goal is to fight childhood obesity at elementary schools through lessons taught in afterschool programs. The center expects to get data gauging the success of Let’s Move in the coming months.

On the horizon, the center is co-sponsoring along with the graduate program in International Studies and the Department of Women’s Studies “Community Public Health in Haiti: Observations from a Micro Development Partnership.” The open-to-the-public, free discussion will be led by Dr. Michael P. Earnest, with the University of Colorado School of Medicine. The discussion will be held Nov. 25 at ODU’s College of Arts & Letters.

College Receives Undergrad Certification

The Board of Directors of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) approved Old Dominion University’s College of Health Sciences’ Undergraduate Certification Report with the recommendation to continue Full Certified Undergraduate Membership status. The certification will be good for six years.
Publications


*Students of the Post-Professional Athletic Training Program

Grants


Regelski C. & Hoch, J.M. “Assessment of parent knowledge of roles and responsibilities of athletic trainers in the high school setting.” The National Athletic Trainer’s Association, Master’s Student Research Grant , July 2014, $1,000.
Presentations


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**Calendar of Events**

**November**

26-28  Thanksgiving Holiday-University Closed

**December**

4  COHS Holiday Luncheon Celebration, 11:30 am-1:00 pm  
   Location: Ted Convocation Center, Big Blue Room

5  Classes End

6-12  Final Exams

13  Fall Commencement, Location: Ted Convocation Center

24-Jan 2  Christmas and New Year’s Holidays-University Closed