Tom Jones Appointed as Chair

Congratulations to Tom Jones, who has been appointed as chair of the Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies effective April 1. Tom was initially appointed to the department in 2006 to coordinate the respiratory care program’s extension to the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville. In 2016, Tom was appointed as interim program director, followed by program director and associate chair in 2017.

Erna Boone Steps Down as Chair, Continues Passion to Help Patients Quit Tobacco

Handing over the reigns to Tom Jones, Erna Boone has stepped down as chair of the Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies to continue her work in the Comprehensive Tobacco Treatment Services, a part of the nursing services line of the UAMS Integrated Clinical Enterprise that was established in 2016. Erna states, “I am gratified to have been given the opportunity to work with patients who use tobacco during the past several years. There is nothing more gratifying than having a role that can add years to a person’s life.” Erna will retain a part-time faculty position in the program.

Arriving at UAMS in 1979, Erna has spent her entire academic career in the College of Health Professions. That equates to five program re-accreditation site visits. While leading one of the top tier programs in the nation, Erna earned a Doctor of Public Health degree in 2010 and was inducted as a Fellow in the American Association of Respiratory Care in 2011. With a national reputation for her contributions to the profession, Erna has also held leadership roles in service-learning, patient- and family-centered care and interprofessional education at the college and campus levels.
Sam Atcherson Appointed to Board of Trustees

Congratulations to Sam Atcherson, whose appointment was approved by Governor Asa Hutchinson in March for the position of Board of Trustees of the Arkansas School for the Blind and the Arkansas School for the Deaf. His appointment expires January 14, 2023.

Sam has a joint faculty appointment with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UA Little Rock) and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences (UAMS) as Full Professor and Director of Audiology as well as Adjunct Clinical Associate Professor of Otolarynology—Head & Neck Surgery.

Dental Residency Receives $120,000 Grant

The General Practice Residency (GPR) program in the Center for Dental Education has been awarded a 3-year grant from Nobel Biocare. A GPR is an elective postdoctoral residency in advanced general dentistry, with emphasis on medically complex and/or hospitalized patients.

The grant provides dental implants, supplies, and equipment for use in patient care by residents. The grant is managed by Ashley McMillan, assistant professor in the Center for Dental Education and director of the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Clinic.

Reza Hakkak Sought as Expert

Reza Hakkak was recently interviewed by Dawn Scott of KTHV Little Rock (Channel 11) to answer the question, “Are daily multi-vitamins necessary and do they work?” The interview was part of the station’s “Verify” segment and was tied to an article in the Annals of Internal Medicine entitled, “Enough is Enough: Stop Wasting Money on Vitamin and Mineral Supplements.” So, what was Reza’s answer? With few exceptions such as pregnancy and aging, the average healthy adult does not need vitamin and mineral supplements. The best approach is to eat a healthy, balanced diet.

Clinical Nutrition Students to Present at National Conference

Congratulations go to the Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition program. Six students were recently notified of the acceptance of their posters for presentation American Society of Nutrition annual conference in Boston June 9-12.
Deandria Green Receives AEIRS Scholarship

Deandria Green, instructor in the radiologic images sciences program, was the recipient of the Laverne T. Gurley Annual Meeting Scholarship in the amount of $1,200 from the Association of Educators in Imaging and Radiologic Sciences (AEIRS). She will receive the award at the AEIRS Annual Meeting in Charleston, SC on July 12, 2018. Congratulations, Deedee!

Cytotechnology Students to Present at National Conference

Case studies submitted by all five cytotechnology students were accepted for presentation at the American Society for Cytotechnology Annual Scientific Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah on May 4-6, 2018.

Logan Coomer and Shanario Whitfield were 2 of only 10 students nationally selected to present their cases during the general session of the conference. Logan’s case study is entitled, “You Can Metastasize but You Can’t Hide: Malignant Melanoma,” and Shanario’s case study is entitled, “Who is the Original Big Mac?: Hurthle Cell Neoplasm.”

Nina Smith, Hannah Murphy, and Andrew Prince were selected for computer presentations. Congratulations to all 5 cytotechnology students and their faculty advisors, Catherine Smith and Allison Wingfield.

Cytotechnology Student Recipient of National Award

Shanario Whitfield was selected as the recipient of the Bob Gay Student Scholarship Award. The award consists of $1,000 plus travel and accommodations to attend the American Society for Cytotechnology Annual Scientific Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. Chosen from a competitive pool of cytotechnology students nationwide, the award honors an outstanding student who demonstrates academic excellence and the future potential of contributions to the field of cytotechnology. This is the second year in a row the selected student is from the UAMS cytotechnology program.

Mitzi Efurd Collaborates on IPE Grant

Mitzi Efurd, chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene, has collaborated with colleagues from the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging (College of Medicine) on a grant project entitled, “An Interprofessional Intervention for Oral Health Among Institutionalized Adults.” The project received $6,875 in funding from the UAMS Office of Interprofessional Education Small Grant Program, offered in cooperation with the Provost’s Office. Congratulations, Mitzi!
Cherika Robertson Uses Voice, Knowledge, and Experience to Make a Difference

Cherika Robertson, faculty member in the Department of Laboratory Sciences, received a $750 travel grant awarded by the New Professional New Member Forum of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science. The grant was awarded in an effort to assist with travel costs to attend the 2018 Legislative Symposium, held in Washington, D.C. March 19 and 20. Cherika was one of two grant recipients nationwide.

Cherika joined other laboratory professionals in meeting with senators and representatives to speak up about important issues, and highlight the impact both budget cuts due to the Protecting Access to Medicare Act and workforce shortages will ultimately have on the health care system and patient care. Cherika met with legislative assistants from the offices of Senator John Boozman, Tom Cotton and 2nd District Representative French Hill.

RIGHT: Cherika Robertson (right) meets with Anna Wilbourn (left), Legislative Assistant and Correspondent for Arkansas 2nd District Representative French Hill.

PA Student Takes 1st Place in Finals of 3MT Competition

Battling against 7 other contestants, Physician Assistant Studies student, Ada Sochanska took first place in the finals of the UAMS 3MT Competition during UAMS Research Day on March 6th. The 3MT is a competition that “challenges students to describe their research within three minutes to a general audience,” and “encourages their skill in communicating the importance of research to the broader community.” Ada’s thesis topic was entitled, “[Not] Lost in Translation.” Melissa Clark and Tiffany Huitt, faculty in the Physician Assistant Studies program served as her advisors. Congratulations, Ada!

Amyn Amlani is the New Editor of Hearing Economics

Amyn Amlani, chair of the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, has been named section editor of the professional website Hearing Economics. As section editor, Amyn and guest contributors share their opinions and perspectives every week on a wide range of subjects impacting the business management aspects of the hearing industry. The Hearing Economics section discusses the forces steering hearing healthcare markets toward equilibrium through massive and/or rapid shifts in consumer demands, professional training, technological advancement, capital investment, industry consolidation, regulatory control, product and service distribution, and strategic pricing. More information can be found on the UALR website. Congratulations, Amyn!
Melissa Clark Awarded Grant Funding for “iVaccinate” Project

Congratulations to Melissa Clark, assistant professor in the physician assistant studies program, on receiving a grant from the Arkansas Immunization Action Coalition, with funding provided by Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas. These grants are designed to support and enhance the promotion of immunizations in Arkansas. Funded projects support immunization rates, address disparities, or advance the use of immunization best practices.

The grant was approved for her “iVaccinate” project to benefit the 12th Street Health and Wellness Center. The grant will provide a dedicated iPad for use to access and enter data into WebIZ — the Official Immunization Information System for the State of Arkansas. This will save time, improve patient care, and assist in patient communication and program participation.

Heroes Against Hunger 5K—Save the Date!

Saturday, October 6, 2018 am 8am - The Kelly-Rahn-Turnage Fellowship for Physician Assistant Students program & AMDPA Foundation is proud to announce the return of their Heroes Against Hunger 5K Race.

This race benefits the Arkansas Food Bank program and increases awareness about the Physician Assistant profession in Arkansas. Every $1 raised will help provide food for 5 children.

The race takes place each October to coincide with National Physician Assistant week. Things you can expect at this year’s event:

- Great course along the Arkansas River Trail. Murray Park, Little Rock, AR
- Custom Soft Style Event T-Shirt
- Great Post-Race area and awards

Thankathon! - New for 2018

On Thursday, April 5th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Institutional Advancement will host a THANKATHON on UAMS’ Little Rock main campus.

Nine THANKATHON stations will be set up throughout campus where students, faculty, researchers, employees and patients will be welcome to sign thank-you cards and record gratitude videos that will be sent to our donors, whose loyalty and commitment to UAMS helps educate thousands of health professionals, underwrites state of the art technology, expands the state-wide network of centers for public education and clinical outreach, makes cutting-edge research possible, and builds new buildings and centers of excellence across UAMS.

Looking For A Way To Connect with Alumni? Try UAMS UConnect

Join UAMS Connect for access to an exclusive network with mentors and jobs that fit you best. The platform sits between Facebook and LinkedIn – offering alumni social and professional opportunities you won't find anywhere else. For a more experienced alum, it’s a place to network, hear the latest school news and reminisce with old classmates. For our newest alumni, it’s a great starting point!

▼ Mentor a student or young professional ▼ Advertise a job or find one ▼ Influence conversations ▼ Join a group ▼ Connect with friends and classmates ▼ Broaden your professional network ▼ Follow others on Facebook and LinkedIn ▼ Promote your own events and register for others ▼ Post your photos from 'back then' and now ▼ See UAMS news and social networks in one place.
CHP Dean’s Society Project Grants—Application Cycle Opens Soon

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the College of Health Professions Dean’s Society will fund projects in the areas of (1) Education Enhancement, (2) Research, and (3) Service-Learning. Grants may be awarded up to $5,000. Grant recipients may use up to $2,500 to pay students who work on the project or to relieve faculty and staff members of routine responsibilities by hiring adjunct faculty, teaching assistants, or temporary employees, etc.

To encourage interprofessional collaboration, project proposals by individuals from different departments are preferred, especially if the departments are in different UAMS colleges, other institutions, or community agencies. Dean’s Society grants may be used to extend, complement, or supplement funding from other sources. The deadline for applications is July 15. Grant recipients will be selected and notified by August 1. Funded projects may be initiated immediately after notification.

Special Opportunity to Join the CHP Dean’s Society

The College of Health Professions Dean’s Society was established to enhance and strengthen programs in education, research and service within the college. Since its inception in 2011, the College of Health Professions Dean’s Society has made discretionary funds available to be used where they are needed most within the college. View a list of projects made possible by the College of Health Professions Dean’s Society grants. Everyone is invited to become a member.

There is a special Dean’s Society membership level of $250 or about $21/month for all CHP Faculty and Staff. This can be payroll deducted. These funds are critical in propelling our college forward. Please encourage those you know who may have interest in supporting this fund to become a member. Contributions are tax deductible. For more information, please contact Christine Gronwald at cgronwald@uams.edu.

Please send items for inclusion in next month’s edition of First Thursday to Dr. Susan Long.