

# First Thursday

Monthly Internal e-Newsletter

August 2018

## Physical Therapy Achieves 100% First-Time Pass

The faculty, staff, students, and graduates of the physical therapy program have a reason to celebrate. All 22 graduates in the program's first class passed the National Physical Therapy Exam on the first attempt. To put this in perspective – last year, only 19 out of 229 programs (or 8.3% of programs across the nation) achieved a 100% first-time pass rate.

*Congratulations  
faculty, staff and  
graduates!*



## Chris Walter Receives Faculty Development Award

Chris Walter, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, is the recipient of a Junior Faculty Development Award from the Arkansas Geriatric Education Collaborative of the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging. The purpose of the award is to support the career development of professionals in academic and clinical geriatrics and to assist junior faculty who wish to become clinical experts and master teachers of geriatric content.



**Chris Walter**

As an extension of his current research, Chris will test a standardized visuospatial battery's ability to predict future falls in older adults. Results may facilitate earlier clinical intervention to prolong health and independence in the aging population. He will also develop a series of student-led exercise programs (e.g., Tai Chi, boxing, etc.) to promote mental and physical health for participants in Northwest Arkansas' newly established Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). This program's impact will be evaluated on student experience and participant perceived value. Congratulations, Chris!

## THIS MONTH

**August 2** – End of summer semester

**August 3** – Deadline for Faculty Excellence Award applications

**August 13** – New Student Welcome; 8:30 a.m., IDW 126 with additional rooms in IDW for overflow seating

**August 13** – Regular registration ends

**August 14-17** – Late registration

**August 16** – First day of classes

**August 16** – UAMS Faculty Resource Fair, IDW, 2nd floor

**August 17-18** – UAMS Alumni Weekend with Medical Laboratory Sciences program 100 Year Celebration

**August 22** – CHP Welcome Celebration for all students, faculty, and staff, Administration West Building, first floor lobby, 11:30-1:30

## **Claire Tucker and Mary Ellen Nevins Serve as Interim-Chairs**

Upon the departure of Mitzi Efurd, Claire Tucker is serving as the interim-chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene and director of the dental hygiene program. She is an assistant professor, appointed in 2014. Claire holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from University of Arkansas, a Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene from UAMS, and a Master's in Adult Education from University of Arkansas – Little Rock. She is currently near completion of a Doctorate of Education in Adult and Lifelong Learning from the University of Arkansas.



**Claire Tucker**

Mary Ellen Nevins is serving as interim-chair of the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology as Aryn Amlani has decided to step down as chair, remaining on the ASP faculty as a professor of audiology. Appointed in 2014, Mary Ellen is a professor and director of the auditory-based intervention certificate program. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Speech Pathology from Rutgers University, a Master of Science in Speech & Hearing/Education of Deaf Children from Washington University in St. Louis, and a Doctor of Education in Special Education/Education of Hearing Impaired Children from Columbia University.



**Mary Ellen Nevins**

Thank you to Claire and Mary Ellen for their service to the CHP.

## **Heather Neal-Rice Accepts New Position at ACH**

Heather Neal-Rice, Associate Professor in the Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies, will be leaving CHP on August 10th to serve as the Staff Development and Education Coordinator at Arkansas Children's Hospital. Tom Jones, department chair, states "Over her career with the respiratory care program, Heather served as an exemplary faculty member, was instrumental in leading the consortium partnership with Arkansas State University – Mountain Home, and served with diligence and professionalism as the Director of Clinical Education." We will miss you, Heather.



**Heather Neal Rice**

## **Genetic Counseling Student Receives Scholarship Award**

The Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions sponsors a *Scholarship of Excellence Initiative* that recognizes outstanding students in allied health programs who are achieving excellence in their academic pursuits and have significant potential to assume future leadership roles in allied health. Alise Murray, a second-year student enrolled in the Genetic Counseling program, was selected as one of twelve recipients to receive this national recognition. Congratulations, Alise!



**Alise Murray**

## **Medical Laboratory Science Receives Two Grant Awards**

The American Society for Clinical Pathologists Foundation has competitively funded two UAMS College of Health Profession's Lab Science Initiatives. The Cytotechnology program was awarded \$10,000 to help defray student housing costs during clinical internships outside of the Little Rock Metro area. The medical Laboratory Science program was awarded \$2,500 to assist in enhancing student's experiences in molecular based training. The ASCP Foundation Fund provides financial support to Directors of Medical Laboratory programs to support the purchase of education-related materials and other training program resources. Congratulations to the Lab Sciences faculty and staff!



**MLS 100th Year Celebration!** As faculty, staff and friends of the College of Health Professions, we are stronger together and have the power to lift up our college. In honor of this incredible milestone anniversary celebration, please contribute to the Medical Laboratory Sciences program. Your participation, as those closest to the College of Health Professions, sends a strong message of support for the education of health care leaders of tomorrow. Funds will allow the Medical Laboratory Sciences program to continue on its path of education excellence well into the future.

A gift of any amount is greatly appreciated. **Click here** to support the Medical Laboratory Sciences Program



**Alumni Weekend** is scheduled for Aug. 17-18. This year, the College of Health Professions is inviting alumni and friends of the Medical Laboratory Sciences program to attend and celebrate the program’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As part of the celebration, a luncheon and ice cream social will be held from **noon to 3 p.m., Saturday, August 18**, in the Hospital Lobby Gallery. Blair Holladay, Ph.D., CEO of the American Society for Clinical Pathology, is the guest speaker.

The cost of the luncheon is \$15. To register, please contact Leslie Mosley in the Department of Laboratory Sciences at (501) 686-5776 or email [LMosley@uams.edu](mailto:LMosley@uams.edu).



**Calling All Volunteers!** The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual, 24-hour UAMS Day of Giving is right around the corner. CHP needs your help. This will **not** require much time commitment, just teamwork. Faculty, staff and students are invited and encouraged to participate. UAMS Day of Giving is an opportunity to raise funds for ALL CHP departments. It’s up to US! Please contact Christine Gronwald at [cgronwald@uams.edu](mailto:cgronwald@uams.edu) for more information on how you can help CHP.

**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.

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](mailto:cgronwald@uams.edu).

**CHP Dean’s Society Members**

- |                     |                   |                     |                        |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Mr. Chad Avery      | Mrs. Lisa Conque  | Mr. Walter Nunnelly | Dr. Laura Smith-Olinde | Ms. Jenny Teeter |
| Mr. Anthony Baker   | Mr. Craig Gilliam | Mr. John Owens      | Mrs. Judy Sims and     |                  |
| Mrs. Brooke Bridges | Dr. Susan Long    | Mr. Drew Ramey      | Ms. Deborah Taylor     |                  |

Please send items for inclusion in next month’s edition of *First Thursday* to Deborah Taylor