

First Thursday



Monthly eNewsletter

June 2018

College of Health Professions Celebrates Our Graduates

The end of the spring semester concluded with a celebration of our graduates. We kicked it off with our **graduation brunch** on the morning of Friday, May 18. Our graduates, their families and friends gathered with members of our Advisory Board, faculty, staff and administrators to celebrate with good food, music and fellowship.

That afternoon, 109 students graduating from one of the college's eight graduate programs received their master or doctoral hoods. During the **hooding ceremony**, the graduates came forward one at a time and had their hoods placed over their heads by the program faculty as their names were read. The hood is a part of the academic regalia denoting the graduate's scholarly and professional achievements.

The **commencement ceremony** of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences was held the next day, May 19, at Verizon Arena in North Little Rock. More than 300 students in the College of Health Professions (CHP) received one of 23 different degrees or certificates as they graduated from 12 departments. Dr. Tina Maddox, an associate professor in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, had the honor of serving as Grand Marshal for the ceremony, and Doctor of Audiology graduate, Lindsey Sloan, was selected to sign the national anthem.

Congratulations to all of our graduates!



Department of Physical Therapy Graduates First Class

Double congratulations to the Department of Physical Therapy (DPT) for graduating its inaugural Doctor of Physical Therapy class on May 19 and receiving confirmation of full initial accreditation –3 days before graduation! Department Chair Dr. John Jefferson credits the success of the program to the combined efforts of generous donors, supportive administrators, dedicated and talented faculty, staff and clinical instructors and hardworking

and resilient students. The DPT Class of 2018 will sit their board exams in July and start changing the world in August!



Posthumous Degree Awarded to Radiologic Imaging Sciences Student

On May 1, faculty, staff and students in the Radiologic Imaging Sciences program celebrated the life and accomplishments of fellow student Melissa Kay Haney, who suddenly passed away in the Fall of 2017 after giving birth to her second child. With help from the Office of the University Registrar, an Associate of Science in Medical Radiography was posthumously awarded to Melissa and given to her mother. Melissa's grandparents and her husband's aunt were also in attendance. "The family was thrilled," program director Lisa Rhoden said following the event. "They were so happy that we had offered this gesture of condolence and support for Melissa. It was also cathartic for the students, faculty and staff at the Northwest campus as they dealt with their own loss." CHP is proud of the way our students, faculty and staff came together to honor Melissa and her family. This is part of what makes UAMS and the College of Health Professions so special.



Physician Assistant Class of 2020 Receives White Coats

On May 25, the 40 students in the Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2020 participated in a White Coat Ceremony. The ceremony is a formal initiation for these students into their future profession – a transition from university student into the world of clinical care and into the world of serving patients and families, in partnership with patients and families. Dr. Stephanie Gardner, UAMS vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, served as the keynote speaker.



2018 Faculty Promotions

On July 1, two members of the CHP faculty will be recognized for their hard work, achievements and contributions to their academic programs, the college, university and professions by being promoted in academic rank. Harold Shray, a faculty member in the Department of Emergency Medical Sciences, will be promoted to assistant professor, and Dr. Tiffany Huit in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies will be promoted to associate professor with the receipt of tenure. Congratulations Harold and Tiffany!



Department of Respiratory Care Honors Dr. Erna Boone

In recognition of Dr. Erna Boone's service as program director and chair of the Cardio-Respiratory Care program for 40 years as well as her national recognition as a leader in respiratory care, the Department of Respiratory Care has established the Erna L. Boone Award for Professional Excellence. This award will be given each year in recognition and honor of Erna's exemplary leadership, pursuit of professional excellence and selfless dedication in service to the profession of Respiratory Care, the UAMS College of Health Professions and the Cardio-Respiratory Care program. The inaugural recipient of the 2018 Erna L. Boone Award for Professional Excellence is Kendra McCraney, who was recognized for knowledge sharing, peer leadership and service to the college, program and profession.



OT Faculty Honored

OT Faculty Honored Mark Koch, an assistant professor in our new joint UA/UAMS Occupational Therapy program, received an advocacy award from the University of Missouri, Department of Occupational Therapy, and the graduating class of 2018 recognized Mark as an Outstanding Advocate at their annual banquet earlier this month. Mark was nominated by several members of the graduating class for his personal contributions to student learning. Here is what was read about Mark and the award during the banquet: "As an occupational therapist working an unconventional role as a victim advocate for Boone County, Mark has a wealth of knowledge that celebrates the unique nature of our profession. He has generously shared so much of this knowledge with us and helped broaden our horizons as therapists. Mark has taught us difficult skills like being empathetic and understanding, skills that are not easy to teach. We are grateful for the opportunity to have him involved with our program." Congratulations, Mark!



UAMS Dental Resident Receives Award from Arkansas Children's Hospital

Dr. Angela Frantz, a resident in the General Practice Dental Residency, received the James Calvin Wilkins, D.D.S. Award at the 2018 James Koontz Memorial Lecture at Arkansas Children's Hospital. This was the first year for the award, which was established to honor of Dr. James Wilkins and his recent retirement from ACH after 50 years of service. The award recognizes the dental resident who has shown exemplary work and patient care during his or her clinical rotation at ACH. Those in consideration include UAMS residents, pediatric dental residents from the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center, or any resident that rotates through the ACH dental clinic. Congratulations, Dr. Frantz!

Photo: GPR Resident Award From the left: Dr. Angela Frantz, Dr. Vent Murphy, Dr. James Wilkins, Dr. Stephen Beetstra



Noelle Danylchuk Recognized for her Compassionate Patient Care

Noelle Danylchuk, chair of the Department of Genetic Counseling, was nominated for the Helen May Compassionate Care Award. She was recognized for her dedication to UAMS patients and families by providing safe, quality care, for demonstrating the principles of patient-and family-centered care in her work and for the compassion with which she does her work as a genetic counselor and department administrator. Ms. Danylchuk's nominator said of her, "Noelle is an example for students on a daily basis, showing how to put patients first, caring for them in person and over telemedicine." Congratulations, Noelle!



Deziree Arnett Joins the Distinguished Few with Advanced Credentials

Deziree Arnett, an instructor in the Radiologic Imaging Sciences program, recently passed the American Registry of Radiologic Technologist Cardiac Interventional Radiography exam. She is one of only 20 in the state of Arkansas to hold those credentials! Cardiac interventional radiographers utilize sophisticated fluoroscopic equipment to take images of the heart and the surrounding blood vessels to assist physicians with minimally invasive, image-guided procedures such as angioplasty, stenting, thrombolysis, embolization, ablation, and biopsies. Congratulations, Deziree!



Faculty and Students Attend National Conference

Studies program attended the American Academy of Physician Assistants National Conference (AAPA) on May 19-23 in New Orleans. A team of three students competed in the AAPA Challenge Bowl against 93 other PA programs. The competition was fierce. While the team did not win, they had a great time and learned a lot. Edward Williams, chair and program director, served as an Arkansas representative to the AAPA House of Delegates, and Heather Trudeau, assistant professor, had the opportunity to teach fitness classes to conference attendees.



Danny Bercher Steps Down

After decades of service to the College as chair and program director of the Department of Emergency Medical Sciences, Danny Bercher has left to direct the TRIUMPH program at UAMS. The program is housed in the College of Medicine's Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and provides services to persons with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. The mission of TRIUMPH is to target patients who have limitations in mobility, sensation and other functional abilities by providing call center access for on-the-spot triage and consultation. We wish Danny the best and sincerely appreciate his years of service. Harold Shray, assistant professor in the Department of Emergency Medical Sciences, has been named the department's chair and program director. Harold will lead the program through their accreditation site visit in the fall and transfer to the University of Arkansas-Pulaski Tech in January 2019. Thank you, Harold, for your service and dedication to the CHP and EMS.



Communication Sciences and Disorders Faculty Receive Grant Award

Three faculty members in the Communication Sciences and Disorders program within the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology have been awarded a grant from the College of Education and Health Professions Research and External Funding Committee at the University of Arkansas-Little Rock. Drs. Donna Kelly, Dana Moser and Stephen Kintz will study the “Efficacy of Cognitive and Language Intervention for Deficits Associated with Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries (mTBI).” Congratulations, Donna, Dana and Stephen!

Dr. Reza Hakkak Selected as Keynote Speaker for International Conference

On July 23-25, the 3rd International Conference on Obesity and Chronic Diseases will be held in Los Angeles, California. Dr. Reza Hakka, professor and chair of the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, has created and organized the international conference for the past three years. Reza has the distinction of being this year’s keynote speaker on the topic of Obesity-associated Chronic Diseases Development: The Role of Gut Microbiota. He also serves at the editor-in-chief of the Journal of Obesity and Chronic Diseases.



Dr. Nathan Johnson Appointed to Two National Committees

Dr. Nathan Johnson, chair of the Department of Laboratory Sciences and program director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences program, has been named to two positions with the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). Nathan will serve on the Editorial Board of the Journal of Healthcare Management and as a member of an ACHE confidential committee.



Dental Residents Volunteer at the Arkansas Mission of Mercy

On April 27-28, dentists in the General Practice Residency program worked alongside other local oral health care providers to provide free services to all who were in need, regardless of income or insurance. The Arkansas Mission of Mercy is an annual event that travels to various areas of the state. This year, it was held in Conway. The volunteer dentists performed tooth extractions and provided fillings. One resident noted, "Some patients had been in pain for years, and this is the only chance they have to see a dentist because of cost." Approximately 2,000 patients were seen in two days, and \$1.2 million dollars in free dentistry was provided.



CHP Advisory Board Leads College Participation in Health & Wellness Expo

College of Health Professions faculty, students and Advisory Board members volunteered at the Derek Lewis Foundation's Annual Health & Wellness Community Expo on Saturday, June 2, at St. John's Baptist Church in Little Rock. CHP faculty, staff and students from the Dean's Office and the Departments of Dental Hygiene, Dietetics & Nutrition and Physician Assistant provided free health screenings and presented health information to approximately 250 participants. Our Advisory Board members volunteered at the first "Walk2Thrive 3K Walk" to kick off the expo.

Thanks to a grant from the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation and a team of dental residents and dental hygiene students led by Jennifer Stane, assistant professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene, children and adults were administered fluoride varnish and given oral health kits containing toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, coloring books and resource information.

Physician assistant students, led by Amber Teigen, assistant professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, provided sports physicals, and Christi Arthur, instructor in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition, led faculty and students in Dietetics and Nutrition in educating participants on such topics as making good food choices and portion control.

The college's faculty conducted HEALTH short TALKS covering a variety of health topics throughout the day.

Photo: Pictured below assembling the oral health kits are CHP Advisory Board members Judy Sims (Chair), Dr. Laura Smith-Olinde and Brooke Bridges with UAMS Advancement staff member Christine Gronwald.



CHP Dean Society Grants

Applications for grant funding from the College of Health Professions Dean's Society are being solicited through July 16, 2018. The generous members of the Dean's Society fund grants, which are intended to promote, enhance and build on existing strengths of the College, foster and extend excellence, and encourage innovation. Grants may be used for a variety of research projects, secondary data analyses, single-subject studies, etc., that have potential to be expanded. To encourage interprofessional collaboration, project proposals by individuals from different departments are preferred, especially if the departments are in different UAMS colleges or other institutions or agencies. Proposals may be submitted by CHP faculty, staff or students. Student projects must be sponsored by a CHP faculty or staff member. For more information, please contact Deborah Taylor at TaylorDeborahC@uams.edu.

Upcoming Events

1	June	Reminder for Faculty Excellence Award nominations
5 -16	June- July	Dean's Society grant application cycle
15	June	Scholarship application cycle closes
22	June	Deadline for Faculty Excellence Award nominations

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