New Leadership in the College of Allied Health Sciences

Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Department of Nutritional Sciences
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Social Work
The College of Allied Health Sciences looks toward the future with new leadership

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UC’s first Fulbright UK summer program award winner

Meagan Gulmi, senior health sciences student and goalie for the UC women’s lacrosse team, was inducted into Athletics’ Legion of Excellence in November. The selection for Legion of Excellence is based on the highest cumulative grade-point average on their respective team.

CAHS student joins legion of excellence

When you are finished reading Connections, please pass it on to a friend or recycle.
Dear CAHS Alumni and Friends:

As many of you might know by now, I accepted the permanent Dean's position on July 1, 2015. I am very honored to have the confidence of CAHS faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends, and I will work persistently to advance the college’s mission and further facilitate the many achievements and contributions of the CAHS community.

The college has much to be proud of:

• We currently have approximately 3,000 students enrolled in 15 on campus and online programs across our five academic departments.
• Many of our programs have pass rates on national board exams that are higher than the national average for first time testers. Of particular note are: Health Information Management, 100 percent (national average: 84 percent); Medical Laboratory Sciences, 91.8 percent (national average 80.3 percent); and Physical Therapy, 100 percent (national average 91 percent).
• 1,645 CAHS students enrolled in our on campus programs participated in at least one experiential learning activity last year. 29 students participated in faculty-led international clinical service trips, 926 students participated in internship experiences, and 504 students were engaged in research activities.
• The college has over 1,000 clinical affiliation agreements for student practicum placements at local, regional, national, and international health facilities.
• We project to have an 18 percent increase in grant award funding by the end of this academic year.

These outstanding achievements are due to the hard work and commitment to excellence by our faculty, staff, and students, who in turn are shepherded by a very talented team of administrators. I have been fortunate to appoint a number of new unit heads and two associate deans who you will read about in this edition.

One of my goals as permanent dean is to maintain the momentum and positive growth we have seen over the past year, and to better position the college for long-term success. As a result, the college has begun a broad-based, collaborative effort to develop a five-year Strategic Plan. The plan will reflect both current realities and visions for the future. Our strategy team (comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community professionals) is currently working to solicit feedback from multiple stakeholders, both internal and external to the college, including the larger university, and the broader community.

I am pleased to share the 2015 issue of the Connections magazine with you; I hope you enjoy reading it. I am proud of the many contributions and accomplishments highlighted in this issue. If one of the articles peaks your interest, or motivates you to become more actively involved in the college, please let me know! As always, we all appreciate your ongoing support. If you have input about our strategic direction for the future, or questions or feedback about anything the college is engaged in, please contact me at any time (whalentf@ucmail.uc.edu).

In closing, I wish you and yours a very happy, healthy 2016. Please know our entire administrative team is working diligently beside me to lead the college, and facilitate the vision of becoming the best practice leader in 21st century health care education, research, and clinical training.

Sincerely,

Tina F. Whalen, EdD, DPT
Dean, UC College of Allied Health Sciences
The College of Allied Health Sciences looks toward the future with new leadership.

Students in the health science laboratory demonstrated how to measure tensile strength for Dean Tina Whalen EdD, DPT.
When Tina Whalen EdD, DPT accepted the position of dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences in June of 2015, some people were a little confused. Hadn’t she publicly stated many times, while serving as interim dean for a year, that she wasn’t interested in being the next dean? It seems everyone but Whalen herself knew she was exactly the right person to become the third dean since the college’s inception in 1998.

“I’ve always thought of myself as more of a COO person and not a CEO person, never really imagining that I would be here,” Whalen says from the dean’s suite on the University of Cincinnati’s medical campus.

The UC administration, however, saw Whalen as the “CEO” type, after she proved herself serving as interim:

“Tina knows the college well and the support for her leadership is impressive,” UC Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Beverly Davenport, PhD, stated in her endorsement.

And for good reason…

Whalen has been a member of UC’s faculty since 1990 and held the position of associate dean for academic affairs at the College prior to being named interim dean in April 2014. She holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from the Union Institute and University, a doctor of physical therapy degree from Chatham College and a master’s degree in public administration from UC. She earned her initial degree in physical therapy at Ohio State University, and has more than 20 years of clinical experience as a licensed physical therapist.

A self-described “servant leader,” meaning one who focuses on transparency, facilitates broad participation and promotes shared responsibility for desired organizational outcomes, Whalen’s leadership style is one of inclusion (“It’s not the world as I see it. It’s truly a group effort,” she says), and she says she firmly believes that where there are good processes in place then the outcomes will take care of themselves.

Thus, her thinking behind the college’s current undertaking of a strategic plan. “Now that I am in this permanent role, we are setting our priorities and it involves all of our faculty, staff, students and external stakeholders.” The plan, she says, “will and should” roll up into the UC’s Third Century Plan, which is an ongoing umbrella effort to make strategic investments in faculty hires, research support, student success and staff development.

Each of the college’s four departments—Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Nutritional Sciences and Rehabilitation Sciences—and the School of Social Work will decide “which direction they are headed and what success looks like to them,” and to the collective of more than 3,000 students served by the college, says Whalen.

Whalen isn’t doing it alone though; under her direction the College of Allied Health Sciences has five new leaders helping to provide stability and innovative change across the college.

Lisa Kelchner, PhD, interim department head of Communication Sciences and Disorders

“Working on a strategic plan aligns nicely because as we do our day-to-day work we are allowed to dream and look forward to the future,” says Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) professor and interim department head Lisa Kelchner, PhD.

Kelchner was appointed interim department head of CSD when the former department head, Nancy Creaghead, PhD, resumed a full-time faculty position in July after serving the department in that administrative position for over 25 years.

While Kelchner says CSD “easily fills all of its graduate classes” (receiving over 400 applications for 46 slots in the on-campus graduate speech language pathology program

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

John Quincy Adams
in 2015) the faculty are not content to rest on their laurels. They continue to examine ways of offering innovative programs including online versions of their campus curriculum. “There is a high demand for our specialties in both educational and medical settings,” where the minimum degrees to enter audiology and speech-language pathology are a clinical doctorate (AuD) and master’s (MA) respectively.

Sizeable research growth is also being spearheaded by two of the department’s researchers: professors Suzanne Boyce, PhD, and Pete Scheifele, PhD. Boyce, a speech scientist and accomplished researcher, is currently overseeing $650,000 of annual funding by a National Institutes of Health study that uses ultrasound technology to assist children who have difficulty making the “R” sound. A summer clinic using this technology drew 60 participants from six states outside Ohio.

Scheifele’s specialty, animal audiology, has expanded beyond UC’s doors. His brainchild, the UC FETCHLAB, which investigates animal audiology, hearing management in canines, animal vocal mechanisms and noise impacts to animal hearing and bioacoustics, was used as the model for a FETCHLAB University of Colorado. FETCHLAB is engaged in research collaborations with zoos, aquariums, the military and other colleges.

As interim department chair, Kelchner is responsible for overseeing active research agendas, and CSD’s 20 faculty, three staff and numerous adjuncts.

While Nutritional Sciences is the smallest of the departments (seven undergraduate and four graduate faculty) it’s still mighty, with 240 undergraduates enrolled in dietetics and food nutrition and 35 graduate students in nutritional sciences. All of the programs have an online component mixed with traditional classes, says Couch. While in the past the high competition for internships has allowed the programs here to only grow so big, Couch says the department has worked to expand the experiential learning network to over 100 sites, both local and distance.

“There’s a national push to have a graduate credential for entry-level practice as a registered dietitian, so the nutrition faculty are in discussion of how to move our graduate program in that direction,” says Couch.

Although new to the helm herself, Couch says: “The core group of department heads here is really strong, and I feel really good about the new wave of leadership coming up the ranks. It’s a real positive.”

Sarah Couch, PhD, Nutritional Sciences Department Head

It would be a guess at this point whether Kelchner will follow in the footsteps of Sarah Couch, PhD, who spent a year as interim director of the nutritional sciences department before stepping into the director’s role in 2015. Couch first assumed the interim role after long-serving department chair Grace Falciglia, EdD, retired Jan. 1, 2015. In August, Couch was appointed permanent department head with the full support of the faculty.

Couch says that, indeed, one of the great advantages to her having more than 18 years with the college is getting to see graduates come back and act as preceptors to students.

“When you’re here long enough you start to see the fruit of your efforts,” she says, stating that she felt well prepared for the undertaking of leadership.

“It was one of those things where I was ready. I’ve had quite a bit of research success and I’ve taught quite a few classes. I served as both the undergraduate program director for 10 years and more recently as the interim graduate program director and department head for a year.”

Ruth Anne Van Loon, PhD, Director, School of Social Work

Ruth Anne Van Loon, PhD, assumed the permanent role of director of the School of Social Work after former director Jim Clark, PhD, accepted a dean’s position at Florida State University this summer.

Van Loon, a professor of social work at UC for 20 years, leads 17 faculty and many adjuncts. Enrollments here are 200 undergraduates and approximately 150 graduate students with an additional arm that houses the college’s Master’s in Health Administration program.

“It’s really taking off,” says Van Loon, pointing to the MHA program, which is completely online, has an enrollment of 200 and has been growing steadily since its inception in 2011. The program now also offers certificates in four areas of health administration: Health Care Administration, Health Care Finance, Health Care Operations and Health Care Policy and Regulations.

Another area of growth is the new offering of a complete baccalaureate program in social work at the UC Clermont regional campus, and research continues to be a strong focus, says Van Loon. The school is in the final year of a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) supported project lead by assistant professor Michael McCarthy, PhD. The project seeks to evaluate a system of wraparound service for youth in Clermont County so that kids with
mental health problems have access to the services they need. And assistant professor Shauna Acquavita, PhD, recently received SAMHSA funding (a $900,000 grant) to incorporate a substance abuse screening course into the School of Social Work curriculum and will include training 160 medicine, nursing, pharmacy and social work students, 40 preceptors/field instructors and 90 health professionals on substance abuse screening and treatment options.

The School of Social Work, Van Loon says, is also supported by “a very strong alumni group and a lot of support by the agencies and communities we serve.”

Melinda Butsch Kovacic, PhD, MPH, Associate Dean of Research

Another positive is having a position dedicated to the college’s research agenda. That role is now held by Associate Dean of Research Melinda Butsch Kovacic, PhD, MPH.

“Imparting knowledge about resources and strategies, that’s what I’m all about,” is how Kovacic explains her role at the college and her mission to support faculty with their research endeavors.

Kovacic is a leader in community-based research herself; this year alone she was granted a Service Achievement Award from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and one of two HopeFest Humanitarian of the Year Awards.

Her first step, she says, was to meet with nearly all faculty members to determine their research interests. These one-on-one meetings were crucial, she says, because it gave her an idea of what people were doing and ways they could connect. She also had 100 percent participation on the college’s first faculty research survey. Now, she’s pulling everything she’s learned together (“I’m survey crazy because I want information”)

and applying it to tools the faculty can use: established guidelines for grant submissions; a cross-college seminar and lecture series; pilot grant funding; and availability of biostatistical support to analyze data.

“We recognize now that the need for great team science and collaborations is critical,” says Kovacic.

Chalee Engelhard, EdD, PT, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Team spirit also abounds in the office of Chalee Engelhard, who was recently appointed associate dean of academic affairs.

“It’s very important to note that I could not do what I do without the support of a variety of people,” Engelhard says of her position which covers student and faculty affairs, student international experiences, instructional design and technology, first year experience, diversity and inclusion and interprofessional education.

“Since it’s becoming more and more required by accrediting bodies for students to participate in interprofessional education we are stepping up those opportunities,” she says of recently co-chairing the Mid-Collegiate Touch Point Conference, which allowed students across CAHS disciplines to “learn about, with, and from each other.”

Engelhard served in the role as interim for a year, and has over nine years as physical therapy faculty in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences and is still the director of clinical education there.

Kelchner, Couch, Van Loon, Kovacic and Engelhard join existing academic department head Shane Keene, DHSc, department of analytical and diagnostic sciences, and interim department head of rehabilitation sciences, Tom Herrmann, EdD, PT.

Whalen and this team of academic department heads along with Sherry Spokas, Director of Academic Affairs, Kati Elfers, Director of Business Affairs, and Don Hodges, Director of the Center for Educational Technology and Instructional Support, make up a CAHS leadership structure that hopes to pave the way for a bright future.

“We are in a better position of strength for the future, and we are going to maintain that momentum.”

Tina F. Whalen, EdD, DPT
Dean, UC College of Allied Health Sciences

The leadership team of the College of Allied Health Sciences includes: (back from left to right) Sarah Couch, PhD, Ruth Anne Van Loon, PhD, Lisa Kelchner, PhD, Shane Keene, DHSc, Tom Herrmann, EdD, PT (front row left to right) Kati Elfers, Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT, Melinda Butsch-Kovacic, PhD, and Chalee Engelhard, EdD, PT, Sherry Spokas (not pictured Don Hodges).
Connections mentees become mentors

This year the Connections Mentoring Program celebrates five years of mentorships in the College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS). The program, which began in 2011, sought to pair under-represented students with a mentor working in the allied health field. Twelve mentor/mentee pairs were formed in 2011 and since then over 35 pairs have been created annually.

According to Monica Wilkins, CAHS’ director of minority recruitment and retention, the program is beginning to see the full cycle of giving back with three mentees now participating as mentors.

One mentee turned mentor, Monia Carter, graduated from the medical laboratory science program in 2014 and now works as a medical technologist at University of Cincinnati Medical Center. When asked why she became a mentor, she says: “I have a giving spirit and a desire to pay forward the life lessons and experiences my mentor has shared with me.” Carter also says her mentor, Tywauna Wilson, still helps give her words of wisdom and help navigating through corporate America.

CSD student attends minority student leadership program

Lauren McKinney, graduate student in communication sciences and disorders, was the recipient of the competitive Minority Student Leadership Program (MSLP) Award from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Participants of the MSLP were awarded lodging, meals and registration to ASHA’s national convention, and arrived days before the conference began in order to participate in educational programming and activities geared toward enhancing their leadership skills and networking with leaders in their professions. ASHA says that one of the purposes of the MSLP is to recruit and retain racial and ethnic minorities in fields that have historically been under-represented.

“The best part about the program was the 39 brilliant, passionate and diverse students that I was privileged to be among. The conversations we had, and the shared experiences that we’ve had … these people will be an important part of my life for the rest of my life.”

– Lauren McKinney

Hughes STEM High School students spent time in our labs learning more about our majors as part of a pipeline project that UC has with the school.
Grant to study safe patient handling

Susan Kotowski, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, will lead a $250,000 grant from the Ohio Occupational Safety and Health Research Program, a division of the Ohio Bureau of Workers’ Compensation. The grant will examine whether the combination of education along with the use of lift assist equipment in long-term care facilities can reduce injuries to health care providers.

“In order for a safe patient handling program to be effective it has to be comprehensive. It can’t just be training or equipment based. You have to have all the pieces fit together,” says Kotowski.

The study will be the first of its kind to fully develop and assess the value of a comprehensive handling program specifically designed for long-term care and will take place at 50 long-term care facilities in Ohio.

Audiology research makes cover of Audiology Today

Brian Earl, PhD, assistant professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been studying hearing loss for nine years, but today his work has reached new heights by making the cover of Audiology Today, May/June issue.

The article, “Using SiNAPs to Uncover Cochlear Neuropathy,” outlines his clinical research on the study of new tests to diagnose the cause of a certain type of hearing loss: hearing difficulty in noisy listening situations.

His research has been conducted in rodent models and is moving forward to human trials.

“Overall, we’re trying to translate findings from the laboratory to develop a clinical test that would explain why some individuals have so much difficulty hearing in noisy situations despite passing routine hearing screenings,” Earl says.

PRAISE Preview gives a ‘taste’ of PRAISE

In its 17th year, PRAISE (Presentations of Research and Innovative/Scholarly Endeavors) remains a signature event in the College of Allied Health Sciences, which showcases student research projects. Student participation during the 2015 PRAISE hit an all time high, in conjunction with the Undergraduate Student Research Conference: it’s now the largest student research conference in the state and one of the largest in the country.

This year a new event, PRAISE Preview, allowed the college to give 77 McMicken Society donors (donors giving $1,000+ annually), Leadership Council Members and Distinguished Alumni and their families a taste of the main event since it has grown so much over the years.

The preview, held the night before PRAISE, gave attendees an opportunity to enjoy appetizers, drinks and networking followed by a presentation that featured recognition of the 2015 Distinguished Alumni, and six student research presentations: one from each department as well as an interdisciplinary project.

Save the dates for 2016

PRAISE Preview: Thursday, April 21
PRAISE: Friday, April 22

9 Research Grants totaling $2,974,115 in 2014
The College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) has participated in community engagement initiatives since it was formed in 1998. Through the recent strategic planning process, it has become evident that it’s not just something our faculty, students and staff participate in, it’s core to the college’s mission.

According to Dean Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT, the college is committed to providing experiential learning opportunities to students. “As health professionals we have an obligation to share our knowledge and skills with the community whether it’s local, regional, national and/or international,” she says.

In the last five years, the college has expanded its community reach by participating in international service learning trips to destinations such as Nicaragua and Mexico. Taking interprofessional groups of students, faculty and staff abroad has allowed for appreciation of other cultures and an awareness of the global health disparity.

But the College of Allied Health Sciences recognizes that there are underserved populations right here in our own community as well. CAHS partnered with two new local community initiatives this year and continued their work with the open school clinic and the Red Bird Mission.

Open School Clinic
For the last five years CAHS students and faculty in physical therapy, nutrition and social work see about six to 10 patients each Saturday at the Open School Clinic in Cincinnati’s West End. The clinic is a partnership through St. Vincent de Paul and includes students from medicine, pharmacy and nursing. Ruth Anne Van Loon, PhD, director of the School of Social Work, helps to oversee the clinic, along with faculty from across the Academic Health Center and UC Blue Ash. “As they offer health screenings, education, and coaching to community residents, the students develop their engagement and interviewing skills” says Van Loon.

Red Bird Mission
“Team Red Bird” continues to aid a community in the heart of Appalachia. Since 2011, a team of audiology students and faculty participate in a service trip to Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. The team provides diagnostic audiologic evaluations and hearing aid services to an average of 100 grateful individuals on each trip.

Audiology student Kari Wickstrom participated in the mission trip in June and says, “Seeing the gratitude and appreciation of our services from the people at Red Bird cannot be compared to any other experience gained in a classroom.”

New local community initiatives
This year, the college focused on improving its local community reach by participating in two additional local initiatives, Hopefest and the First Ladies Initiative.

“I went to Red Bird thinking that I would be helping a very deserving population, and while I was able to accomplish this, what I came back with was so much more.”

– Jacqueline A Klaserner, Doctor of Audiology student

Students in nutrition, physical therapy and social work volunteer at the open school clinic each Saturday.
Hopefest

Hopefest is an annual health and education festival held in Washington Park in Over-the-Rhine that seeks to, “inform, educate and serve the needs of at-risk and disenfranchised families in our community with the very best we have to offer in health and educational services.”

The festival is in its fourth year, and Melinda Butsch Kovacic, PhD, MPH, the college’s new associate dean of research, has been involved in the event through her work at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. This year, she arranged for students and faculty to be a part of some of the health screenings and data analysis.

Health “passports,” designed by Butsch Kovacic, are used during the event. The passports provide children with the task of visiting each health screening or education booth, while simultaneously collecting data that can be utilized to identify the needs of the community in terms of health programming and services.

The screenings included breathing, hearing, speech and language, diet and weight, feelings, and learning and more.

The First Ladies Initiative

Cincinnati first lady Dena Cranley teamed up with Greater Cincinnati pastors’ wives for the First Ladies Initiative, an initiative that helped to create Cincinnati’s first Health Day. During Health Day on Sunday, Oct. 11, community members could receive free health screenings at one of 18 area church locations.

The First Ladies Initiative began as a pilot program sponsored by Walgreens in Chicago in 2008. The results showed urgent health needs in urban communities, which helped the event spread to cities such as Los Angeles and now Cincinnati.

A partnership group of faculty and staff from the UC Academic Health Center (which includes the colleges of allied health, medicine, nursing and pharmacy), UC Health and Cincinnati State took the lead on the programming and staffing a notable amount of the clinical services during Health Day. In total, the event included 40 community partners and 800 volunteers, including many CAHS faculty and students.

“The event was really impactful” says Monica Wilkins, CAHS director of diversity initiatives and recruitment. “It was really well received by the community and we’re really excited to see it grow next year.”

CAHS service trips are made once per year to Mexico and once per semester to Nicaragua.
Master’s of Health Informatics Graduates first class

The Master’s of Health Informatics (MHI), a program that started in 2013, celebrated its first graduation this summer with a class of seven graduates.

“The program is a niche discipline” says Victoria Wangia-Anderson, PhD, associate professor and program director of health informatics, “we didn’t expect to have huge numbers of enrollments right away.” In 2014, this specialized, online program had 37 students, one year later its enrollment has increased by 135 percent with 87 students enrolled.

Graduate Dione Walder, who recently accepted a position as a clinical documentation improvement specialist at the Dayton Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center, says she set a goal in 2011 to obtain a graduate degree and walk to the podium —with a 3.9 GPA, her goal has been realized.

Even though the degree is completely online, Walder and four of her online classmates traveled from as far as Alaska, Pennsylvania and Missouri to attend commencement at the University of Cincinnati (UC). One family flew all the way from India to watch their graduate walk across UC’s stage.

Respiratory Therapy launches innovative online course

On October 15th, the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy program launched an innovative spin on the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) with a Targeted Open Online Course (TOOC), titled “Shared Air: A Collective Look at the Future of Respiratory Therapy.”

Like other MOOCs, the course is free, self-paced and online. However, it is targeted specifically toward working respiratory therapists and students currently enrolled in associate-level programs who may be interested in furthering their education and moving into advanced practice either within respiratory care or in an allied health profession.

After launching in October, the TOOC already has over 100 students enrolled. If these students complete the course, they can earn college credits if they decide they want to begin the UC respiratory therapy program.

“The respiratory care landscape is rapidly changing, increased emphasis will be placed on higher education. One of the best ways you can prepare for this transition is to complete your bachelor’s degrees,” explains Keene.

An ever-increasing number of associate degreed respiratory therapy professionals are pursuing bachelor’s degree and the TOOC is one way to get started without formally enrolling in a BS degree completion program.

The respiratory therapy program is definitely experiencing this growth. Enrollment in the BS completion program has experienced a 42 percent increase just this year.

Respiratory therapist looks at x-ray of patient’s lungs.

MLS faculty member, Linda Graeter, retires

After 19 years of service, medical laboratory science (MLS) faculty member, previous medical laboratory science program director, and previous department head of analytical and diagnostic sciences, Linda Graeter, PhD, retired on May 1, 2015. Graeter joined the MLS program, then called the medical technology program, in 1996 and in 1998 was appointed its program director. In 2001, she was also appointed department head of the Department of Diagnostic and Analytical Sciences. Graeter was instrumental in the formation of the Center for Health Related Programs, which then transitioned into the College of Allied Health Sciences that we know today.

“Linda is very passionate about helping adult learners achieve their educational and professional goals” says current MLS program director, Charity Accurso. This passion helped develop the MLS AS-BG degree completion program in 2004, which is the largest MLS program in the country today.

Graeter will continue to serve as an adjunct faculty member in the medical laboratory science online program, while she spends more time with family in Minnesota.
Last year an article in the Wall Street Journal featured ultrasound as the new tool being used in speech therapy. The article highlighted Suzanne Boyce, PhD, professor in Communication Sciences and Disorders, who was the recipient of a five-year, National Institute for Health (NIH) grant to investigate techniques that work best.

Wide-scale use of ultrasound therapy is relatively new. The UC Communication Sciences and Disorders Ultrasound Clinic is one of very few clinics in the country using it successfully. Most children come because they have trouble saying the “R” sound. The article and the buzz surrounding the use of this new technology created a large upswing in the number of patients during the summer CSD Ultrasound Clinic. Last year the clinic saw 16 local children; this year it grew to include 60 children from across the United States.

During the clinic, graduate students and clinicians guide patients while using ultrasound-scanning technology in order to view images of their tongue movements while attempting to say the sound correctly. This method has proven to be an effective biofeedback tool in many cases.

The “R” Clinic is restricted to children 8 years and older due to the fact that younger children may not be able to cooperate with the ultrasound procedure. The intensive summer therapy allowed them to focus on speech while out of school. “Many of the parents didn’t want them to be pulled out of class for therapy anymore,” says assistant professor Sandra Combs, PhD, who helped see patients this year. The intensive summer therapy allowed them to focus on speech while out of school.

According to assistant clinical professor Sue Schmidlin, patients saw a wide range of progress, depending on their needs. “Some saw improved awareness and control of all parts of the tongue, others improved their production of the “R,” and some even progressed to producing the “R” at conversational levels,” says Schmidlin.

The clinic’s capacity may not allow it to match last summer’s numbers, but the clinic will continue to serve a robust number of patients in the future. Another goal of the clinic is to continue work on a training program for clinicians with access to an ultrasound system. Recently, they have teamed up with other clinics across the country to give a course on ultrasound therapy at the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s national convention.

Maggie Schad, a third-year doctor of audiology student, is the 2015 recipient of the William F. Austin scholarship. This $10,000 tuition scholarship is sponsored by Starkey Hearing Technologies. Schad is one of six recipients selected from over 100 applicants from audiology programs across the country.

“I feel very honored to have been chosen for this scholarship and to be included in this group of outstanding recipients,” says Schad. “I think receiving this scholarship directly reflects how well UC’s AuD program has prepared me over the past two years; the research opportunities I’ve had at UC really helped me to become a good candidate for this scholarship.”

Schad was also the first recipient of the Robert W. Keith Audiology Research Endowment and works as a research assistant to Brian Earl, PhD, whose research focuses on electrocochleography, a clinical test to diagnose neural degeneration. Upon graduation, Maggie plans to pursue a career as a military audiologist.
Kroger and coordinated program team up for grocery store tours grant

The Produce for Better Health Foundation selected the Department of Nutritional Sciences and the Kroger Company, along with 10 other academic programs and grocery partners, to receive funding to train student interns to give grocery store tours.

The grant hopes to bring more awareness to the community about fruits and vegetables by supplying $1,200 for intern training, goodie bags and produce samples for participants of grocery store tours at the Kenard Avenue Kroger store.

For the interns, giving tours fulfills a supervised practice component in a community rotation of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

Allison Kuhn, a UC alum and Kroger corporate dietitian, helped create this Kroger/UC partnership and trained the upperclassmen tour guides. “It’s not just about fresh fruits and vegetables—the tour addresses dried, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables,” she says.

“It’s a wonderful opportunity for the interns ‘to promote nutrition in the community by delivering respectful science based answers to consumer questions,’ which is one of the accrediting agency’s competencies for this program,” says Elise Cowie, MEd, RD, LD, Director of the Coordinated Program in Dietetics.

To date, a total of 21 interns have given 15 tours to 77 participants. Most tour participants say that they tried something new during the tour and plan to eat more fruits and veggies.

Nutrition graduate student helps UC student body get healthy

As a function of her graduate assistantship, nutritional sciences student Angela Bruzina is overseeing UC’s new Eat Smart program—the nutrition education arm of the university’s “Healthy U” initiative, sponsored by the UC Campus Recreation Center and UC Dining Services.

The Eat Smart curriculum, designed by Bruzina, gives residential meal plan holders the information and tools they need to navigate better choices in the dining hall.

“A lot of students know that they need to eat healthy but they really don’t know how to do that,” says Bruzina.

The program entails outreach and education to 5,500 of the university’s residential meal plan holders by offering free 30-minute sessions that focus on portion sizing, substitutions, building a healthy plate and general wellness and nutrition information.

Bruzina says she’ll benefit from the program as well: “When I finish as a graduate assistant I will have real-life nutrition education experience.”

According to Sarah Couch, PhD, head of the department of nutritional sciences, this is the first graduate assistantship of its kind. “It was funded by a private donor and it is our hope that this experience will create collaborative research opportunities for nutrition graduate students to work with student athletes and students from across campus to eat more healthfully,” she says.

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Hamilton Garvin, a longtime Cincinnati dietitian, educator and advocate, passed away on Nov. 15, 2015, at the age of 92.

Garvin obtained her master’s degree at Ohio State University and was a professor emerita in the department of nutritional sciences at the University of Cincinnati for many years. She served as a delegate for the American Dietetic Association and was active in the American and Ohio Dietetic Associations and Nutrition Council.

Jane was a leader and an inspiration to many. She was a pioneer in the Greater Cincinnati and Ohio dietetics profession, and she had an impact on countless dietitians in Cincinnati and across the country.

(Left) Jane Garvin, head of the department of nutritional sciences, with students.

(from right to left) Sarah Couch, PhD, Jane Garvin, and Grace Falciglia, EdD, pose for a photo at Grace’s retirement party in December of 2014.
Physical therapy students present at OPTA Fall Research Symposium

During their senior year, health science students Sarah Schwab and Joe Combs worked with Jennifer Schmidt, PhD, PT, research scientist and physical therapist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC), to create evidence-based clinical practice guidelines.

At Cincinnati Children’s, a framework called LEGEND (Let Evidence Guide Every New Decision) is used. Sarah, Joe and Jennifer used the LEGEND framework to produce Goal Directed Training (GDT) treatment interventions for children with developmental disorders.

Schmidt says she feels privileged to have worked with Sarah and Joe. “They demonstrated the capacity to be efficient and thorough in a systematic project like this that leaves little room for mistakes.”

Their hard work paid off. They were selected to be two of only 17 speakers at the 2015 Ohio Physical Therapy Association’s (OPTA) Fall Scientific Symposium entitled, “Navigating Clinical Practice Guidelines” Oct. 9 in Columbus.

Schwab says the experience she got presenting among the most well respected researchers and clinicians in Ohio was a true honor. Tom Herrmann, EdD, PT, interim department head of rehabilitation sciences, agrees. “It’s rare that students are asked to give podium presentations” he says. “It speaks to the quality of their work and the quality of Jen’s mentorship.”

Sarah and Joe are now doctor of physical therapy students at UC.

“For the second year in a row, the DPT class had a 100% pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).”

Joe Combs and Sarah Schwab are currently first year doctor of physical therapy students at UC.

New online program launches in January

January 2016 will be the start of an exciting new program in the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences in the College of Allied Health Sciences. The program, Health Sciences – Behavior and Occupation Studies, is an online, degree completion program for those who currently are Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTAs).

For students, this program provides another step on their journeys to becoming occupational therapists, a career path that has a projected growth rate of 29 percent.

The program includes core health science courses such as anatomy, kinesiology and biomechanics accompanied by courses in psychology. Students in the program will actually earn a minor in psychology, an added value to their degree, one that will help them prepare for graduate programs in occupational therapy.

According to Tom Herrmann, EdD, PT, it was important to provide a pathway for working occupational therapy assistants to complete a bachelor's degree. “It provides them with the opportunity to expand their applied human science knowledge base, their behavioral science knowledge base, and opens doors for career advancement and application to graduate occupational therapy programs” he says.

The program is already showing that it’s in demand, with well over 20 applications submitted for its spring launch.

The online Health Science — Behavior and Occupation Studies program is geared towards certified occupational therapy assistants (COTAs).

For the second year in a row, the DPT class had a 100% pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Examination (NPTE).
Shauna Acquavita, PhD, leads substance abuse training grant

Shauna Acquavita, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, will lead a federal grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The $916,323 grant will design and implement a program titled “Interprofessional Screening, Brief Intervention, Referral and Treatment (SBIRT) Training for Health Professions.”

The project, which takes place over a three-year period, incorporates a substance abuse screening course into the school’s curriculum and will include training 160 medicine, nursing, pharmacy and social work students, 40 preceptors/field instructors and 90 health professionals on substance abuse screening and treatment options.

This course, Acquavita says, is for “really anyone who interacts with patients and has the opportunity to ask questions that might head substance abuse off at the path, before a person faces significant consequences.”

While it is not required for social workers or other health professionals to have specific substance abuse training, Acquavita says the training is necessary across disciplines given the rise of substance abuse in U.S. society. According to recent data, only one in 10 Americans with a substance abuse disorder receives treatment.

Social Work helps campus “Reflect and Respond” after shooting of Samuel DuBose

What did you think?...How did you feel?…What did you do?

These were questions posed by Gary Dick, PhD, professor in the School of Social Work, during two group sessions held in the wake of the tragic shooting of Samuel DuBose near the University of Cincinnati campus.

The sessions were held in the Meyers Gallery on Main Street, which at the time was exhibiting “Drawn,” an interactive exhibit created by Robert Probst, dean of the College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning (DAAP), where students, faculty and staff could draw out their feelings and anxieties on the walls.

The group sessions involved faculty, staff and students and were guided by social work faculty members.

According to Dick, it was important for the UC community to stop and reflect following the tragic event that occurred near our campus. “There is power in the group experience; it can be healing and provide a sense of universality when members know that they are not alone with their thoughts and feelings” he says. “As we collectively share our experiences, mourn the tragedy and talk with each other, we grow in wisdom, strength and resolve.”

New faculty member has research success

James Canfield, PhD, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, has a goal: to be “the pre-eminent scholar on the impact of homelessness and poverty on childhood, family and community outcomes.”

And he’s well on his way. Since arriving at UC in 2014, he’s published a book, “School-based Practice with Children Experiencing Poverty,” received five grants, published eight articles (with two in review and six more coming out in the next couple months), produced three technical reports and made nine national presentations.

It’s not all about the research for Canfield; he’s a national award-winning educator, winning the 2013 CSWE/SAGE Innovation Award and presenting on innovative topics like using social media in the classroom.

So what’s next for this new star in the School of Social Work?

He has green lights on two proposals for books and he has a lot of upcoming projects with community partners such as UpSpring, Cradle Cincinnati, Cincinnati Union Bethel and the Off the Streets Program.
Classes without quizzes?
The College of Allied Health Sciences hosts its first “Alumni College” during Homecoming weekend.

Alumni College provided an opportunity for alumni, friends and faculty of the college to receive continuing education credits on the topics of healthcare reform and telehealth, led by faculty and content experts Ruth Anne Van Loon, PhD, and Lisa Kelchner, PhD.

During Alumni College, more than 50 social workers, speech and language pathologists, physical therapists and nutritionists learned about the changing health care landscape while also making professional connections. Along with receiving continuing education credits, participants heard reports on the state of the college and their departments as Dean Tina Whalen, PhD, and the department heads provided updates and opportunities for questions. To cap off the day, the president of the #HottestCollegeinAmerica, Santa Ono, PhD, talked about UC’s future and hosted a question-and-answer session.

Jean Sepate, SSW’83, had this to say about attending her first Alumni College:

“I attended the first Alumni College Day for CAHS on Oct. 23 and found it informative, fun and inspirational. Dean Whalen started the morning with a State of the College review and update on the CAHS strategic planning process. I then attended excellent workshops on the Affordable Care Act and Telehealth. The morning ended with lunch with President Ono. I had a chance to network with old and new alumni friends and received three Social Work CEUs. Go Bearcats! And thanks to CAHS for supporting its alumni.”

The College of Allied Health Sciences wants to provide meaningful opportunities for alumni to become engaged with their university, while also providing them with real support in their lives and careers. To that end, look for Alumni College to become an annual event.

Feedback on this year’s event, and assistance in staging next year’s edition, are welcome. Please contact Ryan Young, Alumni Program Director, at ryan.young@uc.edu.
Last April, the College of Allied Health Sciences honored its Distinguished Alumni for 2015. They come from all five CAHS departments and span graduation ranges of 1975 to 2013. Whether on a local or national level, each has had a notable impact on his or her profession, representing their University of Cincinnati College of Allied Health Sciences education with pride!

**Debra Lierl, MEd, RRT, ’75**
**Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences**
Debra Lierl graduated from the University of Cincinnati in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Respiratory Therapy. She retired from Cincinnati State in 2012 after 30 years as a tenured faculty member, including 22 as chair of the Respiratory Therapy program. She is considered instrumental in the development of the online BS completion program in Respiratory Therapy at UC. She plays an active role in the region’s respiratory therapy community, including as a member of the advisory board for the Respiratory Care Consortium for Cincinnati State/UC Clermont, and for the Respiratory Care program at UC Allied Health Division. She has been an active member in professional respiratory organizations, receiving several local and regional awards.

**Julie Honaker, PhD, ’99, ’06**
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**
Julie Honaker received her Master of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1999 and her PhD in Audiology in 2006 from the University of Cincinnati. Currently, she is an associate professor in the Department of Special Education and Communication Disorders at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), where she teaches and mentors students at all levels (including PhD dissertations). Additionally, she is the director of the Dizziness and Balance Disorders Lab at UNL. Honaker also recently completed an intensive Post-Doctorate Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Her research interests have led her to produce 22 peer-reviewed publications and numerous presentations across the country.

**Thais C. Morata, PhD, ’90**
**Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders**
Thais Morata earned a doctoral degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from the University of Cincinnati in 1990. She works as a research audiologist at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH, Cincinnati) and coordinator of the National Occupational Research Agenda Manufacturing Sector. In addition to her work at NIOSH, Morata created and directs the Safe-in-Sound Excellence in Hearing Loss Prevention Awards™, and serves as an editor for several audiology publications. Her pioneering work in the area of noise interactions in the workplace has influenced not only NIOSH priorities and policy, but has affected national and international occupational safety and health policies.

**Lauren Niemes, MEd, RD, LD, ’83**
**Department of Nutritional Sciences**
Lauren Niemes graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a BS in Dietetics in 1983. Since 1994, she has served as executive director of the Nutrition Council, working with nutrition education programs, community partners and fundraising and communication. Niemes is a licensed, registered dietitian with 27+ years of experience, including teaching at UC, dietetics research, a dietetic internship at New England Medical Center and earning a graduate degree from Tufts University in Boston. She is also highly involved in organizations dedicated to nutrition in the Cincinnati area, including serving as legislative assistant to the College of Allied Health Sciences.
chair and past president for the Greater Cincinnati Dietetic Association.

**Michael Sclafani, DPT, CSCS, ’13**

*Recent Graduate Achievement Award Winner*

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Michael Sclafani received his Doctorate of Physical Therapy degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2013. Sclafani completed a Sports Physical Therapy Residency at the Cleveland Clinic in 2015. During his residency, he served as the team physical therapist for John Carroll University and St. Edward High School, plus professional sports rotations with the Cleveland Cavaliers and Indians. He currently works as a sports physical therapist in the Sports Medicine Department at Children’s Hospital Colorado in Denver. He also serves as a reviewer and published author for Sports Health and the International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy.

**Dana Harley, PhD, MSW, LISW-S, ’03**

School of Social Work

Dana Harley received her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Cincinnati in 2003 and her PhD from Ohio State University. Shortly after the Distinguished Alumni awards were presented, Harley left Northern Kentucky University (NKU) to come back to her alma mater, where she was appointed assistant professor in UC’s School of Social Work in August. Harley is a Licensed Independent Social Worker-Supervisor with more than 10 years of clinical social work experience. While at NKU she was awarded a $1.5 million grant from the Department of Health and Human Services to train MSW students in trauma-focused care. Harley has received numerous regional and national awards, including the SAGE/CSWE Innovative Teaching Award.

**In April 2015, Judith Marlowe received the college’s first Outstanding Alumni Award at the UC Alumni Association’s university-wide Distinguished Alumni Celebration.**

Marlowe completed her Master’s in Speech Pathology and Audiology at UC in 1971, and then set out on a mission to increase access to hearing and speech services by creating the first Audiology/Speech Pathology program at St. Elizabeth Hospital as its director. After later relocating to Winter Park, Florida, she started an ENT surgical practice, a non-profit, and finally a privately owned audiology practice. In 1983, she began the first hospital program in the U.S. to routinely screen the hearing of every newborn; the program is now in its 32nd year of operation. Currently she serves as Executive Director of Audiology & Professional Relations where she consults worldwide.

The author of 24 publications as well as book chapters, monographs and video presentations, Marlowe has been an invited speaker throughout the world, including Europe, Asia and the Middle East. She has been listed in many publications, including *Women Executives*, *U.S.A. Health Specialists*, *America*, and *Strathmore’s Who’s Who Worldwide*.

The UC Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders chose to honor Marlowe as one of the “Twenty-five Most Prominent” graduates in 1989 and also in May 2010, during the College of Allied Health Sciences’ inaugural Distinguished Alumni Awards. She has also served on the college’s Leadership Council since its establishment in 2008.
The College of Allied Health Sciences community of support continues to grow through the graduates, friends and fellow professionals who appreciate the vital services that their involvement makes possible in our community and beyond.

Thank you for your donation
To make your next gift to the College of Allied Health Sciences go to cahs.uc.edu/giving.

Donors can give to a variety of funds within the college including: their department or program, various scholarships, or discretionary funds that can be directed to the area of the greatest need.
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Herman Schneider Legacy Society – UC's Gift Planning Society

Have you left a place in your estate plans for UC or the College of Allied Health Sciences?

The Herman Schneider Legacy Society was established in 1993 to publicly recognize and thank individuals who include the university in their estate or financial plans. Membership is extended to individuals who establish gift plans to benefit colleges or programs at UC. Through life income agreements or naming the university as a beneficiary of a will or trust, Herman Schneider members have committed themselves to the university’s future.

Donors can specify how their gift will be used (for example, student scholarships, faculty development buildings, improvements, a specific college or program, etc.) or left to the discretion of the dean. Through the years many alumni of the College of Allied Health Sciences and its programs have made gift planning arrangements in their estate plans, and we thank you sincerely for this.

If you have included UC or the College of Allied Health Sciences in your estate plans but haven’t let us know, please consider doing so. This allows us to plan for the future and gives you the credit you deserve. Donors who provide an estimate of their future gift are given full credit and celebrated now for that amount.

For more information about joining the Herman Schneider Legacy Society by including the College of Allied Health Sciences in your estate or financial plans, please contact Senior Director of Development, Brian Hurst at (513) 558-0907 or brian.hurst@uc.edu.
First endowed scholarship for the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

The Beth A. Bextermueller Rehabilitation Sciences Endowment Fund

Last spring the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences was blessed with its first permanently endowed scholarship fund. In celebration of his longtime neighbor and friend’s retirement from the College of Allied Health Sciences, Harold Thomas generously established the Beth A. Bextermueller Rehabilitation Sciences Endowment Fund in her honor.

Beth spent seven years as the Program Manager for the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences prior to her retirement. During those years, she was the program’s biggest cheerleader and a friend, supporter, and sometimes counselor to its students. Because of her commitment to the department and the physical therapy program, and Bextermueller’s compassionate care for his recently passed wife, Margaret, Thomas named the fund for Beth in hopes that the many students she supported through the years would see the name and give back in her honor.

“I was always told by my parents, that if you were reasonably successful, you should give back. And I prefer to do it while I’m still living so I can see the results,” said Thomas. “I chose to name the fund after Beth because people know and love her. She has done great things for the program.”

There are currently four students receiving financial support from the Bextermueller fund. Dean Tina Whalen hosted a dinner at her home in September with Thomas, Beth and Jim Bextermueller and the students. “We are so grateful for the generosity of Thomas and for the recognition the scholarship provides Beth, who has been one of the biggest advocates for our program and students,” said Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT, dean of the UC College of Allied Health Sciences. “This scholarship will make a big impact.”

This scholarship is now a permanent part of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences at the College of Allied Health Sciences. If you would like to make a gift to the Bextermueller Fund, please contact Senior Director of Development, Brian Hurst, at (513) 558-0907 or brian.hurst@uc.edu.

Rachel Barnes is the 2015 recipient of the Dr. Colin R. and Margaret E. Macpherson Scholarship. The scholarship honors Colin R. Macpherson, MD, professor emeritus of clinical laboratory science and medical technology, and provides tuition support for both on-campus and distance learning MLS students. Barnes is also the president of the medical laboratory science student organization and a College of Allied Health Sciences ambassador.

“Receiving the Macpherson Scholarship in honor of an MLS professor that loved this program as much as I do means the world to me. It is a great feeling to be acknowledged for the work you aspire to do in the future, especially being in such an underrepresented field like laboratory medicine.”

Creating a named fund at the College of Allied Health Sciences

The college often gets calls from alumni and friends asking about the process, steps and amounts needed to set-up a named fund, a fund that bears the name of the donor. There are two kinds of funds a donor can establish: a fully spendable (gift) fund and a permanent (endowed) one.

Named funds can be started for a variety of purposes such as scholarships, faculty development, program enhancement and facility maintenance.

If you are interested in learning more about starting a named fund, spendable or permanent, please contact Brian Hurst, Senior Director of Development at (513) 558-0907 or brian.hurst@uc.edu.
Academic Advising has a big year

Distinctions put CAHS advising on top

• Director Sherry Spokas was the recipient of the Barbara Schooley Award, which recognizes individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the advising profession and the UC Undergraduate Academic Advising Association.
• Assistant Director Denise Ellis was elected Membership Manager of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Academic Advising Association.
• Denise Ellis, Lauren Martin, and Sherry Spokas presented at the National Academic Advising Association Annual Conference. Their presentation, “What Happens in the First Year, Stays in the First Year…or Does It?” focused on retention strategies for students past UC’s First Year Experience (FYE) program.

(Back row from left to right) Amber Hunter, Denise Ellis, Kristan Metz
(Front row from left to right) Sherry Spokas, Lauren Martin, and Chris McCann

Academic Advising has continuously been a source of pride for the College of Allied Health Sciences; our cohort-model advising method is a student favorite. This year however, has truly been an exceptional year.

New additions to the team of Academic Advisors, Lauren Martin and Chris McCann arrived at the end of 2014, bringing advising staff to levels that can now serve students more effectively by reducing wait times for appointments and decreasing student-to-advisor ratios.