Growth transforms 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
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Cover: Dean Elizabeth King discusses Leah M. Scholl’s research. Leah graduated in spring 2014 with a master’s in Communication Sciences and Disorders.

Cover photo: Lisa Ventre

Distinguished Alumni award criteria

• Graduate of the University of Cincinnati more than 10 years ago in one of the following departments or programs: Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Health Informatics, Nutritional Sciences, Rehabilitation Sciences, or Social Work

• Has made a significant contribution in their chosen profession through practice, teaching, administration, education, research, writing, or organizational work involving health care or an innovation in health care

• Current employees of the University of Cincinnati are not eligible for consideration.

Recent Graduate Achievement award criteria

• Graduate of the University of Cincinnati College of Allied Health Sciences within the past 10 years

• Have distinguished themselves in their chosen profession or community service

• Current employees of the University of Cincinnati are not eligible for consideration.

• Individuals who have been presented the Recent Graduate Achievement Award may be nominated and selected at a later date for the Distinguished Alumni Award. However there must be at least five years between the presentation of the Recent Graduate Achievement Award and the nomination for the Distinguished Alumni Award.
Message from the Dean

Dear CAHS Alumni and Friends:

As I was considering what to say in my last message to you, I thought I would reflect on selected accomplishments we have all made together during the past decade. Since 2002, the college has grown from 474 to 2,885 students, i.e., a 509 percent increase. Some of the professional programs in the college had a long and respected history within the University of Cincinnati; yet, over half of our programs are relatively new. For example, the Coordinated Program in Dietetics and several distance learning programs such as the degree completion programs in Health Information Management and Respiratory Therapy, along with the new masters degrees in Health Administration, Health Informatics and Occupational Therapy, are new programs since 2002. Together, these programs have all grown in strength and respectability. They have received strong endorsements from their professional accrediting bodies. Simultaneously, our programs have strengthened their admission standards, further identified their respective areas of practice and assumed greater responsibility for directing and controlling their quality of practice. Higher degrees of autonomy have been achieved, for instance, the doctorate degrees of Audiology and Physical Therapy.

Our integrated undergraduate core curriculum is exceptional, including a freshman year retention rate of 86.3 percent for the fall of 2014, a signature freshman year experience, an excellent mid-collegiate experience, and undergraduate research experience/senior capstone experience which culminates in an all-day research symposium, i.e., PRaISE (Presentation of Research and Innovative/Scholarly Endeavors).

We have strong, rigorous undergraduate and graduate programs that prepare competent practitioners and selected researchers. Our research is helping to build and sustain the knowledge base in our disciplines and provide evidence to support our practice. Our students and faculty regularly disseminate their scholarly activity through books, articles and peer-reviewed journals.

We have produced a faculty that has become increasingly involved in the life of the university, with a record of community-based service that is second to none. We have reached out to our alumni community through the SHARE Initiative. We are proud to have you as alumni of the College of Allied Health Sciences.

I appreciate all of the kindness I have received since being here. I will miss preparing my biannual messages to you. One of my regrets is that I have not said "thank you" enough for everything everyone has done that has contributed to our success. My greatest hope is that the college will continue to flourish and grow, and that outreach to the community and research will both continue to expand.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Warmest regards,

Elizabeth C. King, PhD, Dean

“Optimism is a strategy for making a better future. Because unless you believe that the future can be better, you are unlikely to step up and take responsibility for making it so.”

–Noam Chomsky
Taking the Lead

Dean Elizabeth King looks back at how the College of Allied Health Sciences hit its stride and has set the pace for growth.

When the College of Allied Health Sciences became the university’s 16th college in 1998, everyone associated with it hit the ground running. No one’s slowed down since. Since 2002, Elizabeth King has served as dean, leading hard-working faculty and staff as they nurtured the young college—adding seven programs and curriculum innovations—to empower future and current allied health professionals.

“We’ve transformed this college by developing programs that equip students to explore, and lead people to connect in meaningful ways. There’s much to celebrate and build on.”

College of Allied Health Sciences’ total enrollment and freshmen retention

Growth in the number of students choosing to make the College of Allied Health Sciences their home has skyrocketed. Since 2002, enrollment has jumped from just under 500 students to 3,000 projected in the fall of 2014. And more freshmen are staying—nearly 90 percent.
Growth in the college’s enrollment and number of programs is extraordinary. Since 2002 when enrollment was just shy of 500 students, it has exploded over 500 percent, with 3000 students projected in the fall of 2014.

It’s not just a matter of more students calling CAHS home, but also from where they’re calling it home. As a pioneer in distance learning programs, CAHS eliminated geographic boundaries to reach more students in more ways. In 2013, a third of CAHS students were working toward their degree without ever stepping foot on campus.

“It’s amazing,” says King. “We have students in all 50 states and beyond.”

Thanks to distance learning, non-traditional students—those in their mid-30s or older, juggling work and family obligations, or serving in the military—are signing up to achieve their dreams of earning a degree.

It’s just one area that’s contributed to the kind of growth that’s made CAHS the college that’s grown the most new programs of any college in the university. Since 2002, the college has added seven new programs.

“When I came, my charge was to grow the enrollment,” says King. “I knew significant growth would mean the development of new programs.”

Growth transforms lives too

Degree programs aren’t the only programs that have nurtured growth; innovative experiential initiatives such as the college’s integrated core curriculum are helping students thrive and develop into well-prepared professionals. Students begin with the First-Year Experience. From there transition continues with the Mid-Collegiate experience and culminates with the Senior Capstone project or research experience.

As the college prepares more students for careers in allied health, King also sees the effect of the college’s growth from an even wider view.

“We’re changing more lives because more students are going into professions where they’re going to be able to find jobs for the rest of their lives,” she says. “And these are careers that will enable them to make a difference in other people’s lives.”

The growth is making an impact across the health care industry as well.

“There are critical personnel needs in healthcare,” says King. “We’re going to be providing manpower that’s critically needed for several decades.”

New program initiatives and distance learning

Programs in disciplines not previously offered by the college in red

- Distance learning options initiated since 2002

Undergraduate
- Coordinated Program in Dietetics
- Health Information Management
- Medical Laboratory Science
- Respiratory Therapy

Doctoral
- Physical Therapy
- Clinical Doctorate in Physical Therapy approved by the Ohio Board of Regents
- Implemented innovative PhD program with funding from ASHA and U.S. Dept. of Education

Certificate and other
- Certificate in animal audiology
- MD/MS in Nutrition Dual Degree
- Nutrition minor
- Physician Leadership program (health care and business training)

Master’s
- Health Administration
- Health Informatics
- Occupational Therapy (starting in 2016)
- Speech Language Pathology

CAHS distance learning students are in all 50 states and around the globe

Transfer students
Transfer students with associate degrees are credited with completion of general education courses required for bachelor degrees.

Mary Salgado is just one example. Through distance learning, she took classes while deployed with the military in Afghanistan, took a final while on her honeymoon in Mexico, and finished her degree a month before giving birth to her first child.
Growth through exploration

CAHS’s three-part integrated core curriculum, much of which was phased in over the past nine years, also helps students explore, learning about themselves and their chosen career, and how they can make a difference in the lives of others. King says it’s an approach that’s had a significant influence on students’ experience.

“It gives students an undergraduate experience that’s truly integrated and meaningful,” says King. “It’s really an exemplary program.”

She says beginning with the First-Year Experience, CAHS faculty put in the time to develop the program.

“We saw that the program made sense, so we committed to it and took advantage of its benefits.”

As part of the yearlong First-Year Experience, students belong to a learning community, which includes a peer leader and a faculty member, and support for the tough, first-year science and math courses.

“They also take a class that teaches them how to study, and they complete 22 hours of hands-on service learning,” says King. “All of it grounds them, and gets them ready to be an allied health student.”

More ways to explore

King explains that the daylong Mid-Collegiate Conference, which began in 2011, gives students the opportunity to explore the roles of allied health professionals through an interprofessional review and discussion of a patient case study.

“It’s profound, very effective,” says King. “Students see how the roles are different, but how all are important to someone getting better.”

During the last segment of the curriculum, hands-on learning through their Senior Capstone research project or internship, the annual PRaISE conference, and service learning, combine to allow students to explore real-world situations in their fields.

King feels that encouraging exploration has played an important role in the college achieving an 85.7 percent retention rate.

“Students may change majors, but they stay within the college,” explains King. “They may find out they don’t like blood, for instance, but they like testing hearing. They find their niche. That’s what exploration’s all about.”
Growth through connections

An increase in the ways, places, and people CAHS connects with has spread to every area of the college. The integrated core curriculum is students’ link to the college and to the allied health fields, while expanding enrollment and programs have made for a more diverse mix of students that reflects different cultures, lifestyles and life stages.

CAHS’s exemplary use of service learning has also been key to extending CAHS’s reach. Hands-on learning has meant making thousands of life-changing connections, such as:

- CAHS social work, nutrition and physical therapy students, along with students from UC Academic Health Center colleges, provide health screenings in partnership with St. Vincent de Paul, to residents of Cincinnati’s West End neighborhood.
- Collaboration with Hamilton County’s Head Start program has resulted in CSD students and faculty providing thousands of hearing, speech and language screenings.
- Audiology students fitted 90 people from an Appalachian community with free hearing aids.

The number of study abroad service learning opportunities has surged as well. Faculty and students in CSD, social work, nutritional sciences and physical therapy, have traveled to Jamaica, Nicaragua and Mexico, for instance, turning hands-on learning into global connections.

Connecting with alumni and the community

A focus on reconnecting with alumni and community organizations and programs has also fed the college’s growth while supporting an initiative to increase diversity.

In 2011, King hired Monica Wilkins as the director of diversity initiatives to focus on recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented minorities.

That focus led to a dual credit medical terminology class and a mentoring program at Cincinnati Public Schools’ Hughes STEM High School. Seven students completed the class and enrolled as freshmen at UC.

At CAHS, a mentoring program supports sophomore, junior and senior allied health students by connecting them with CAHS alumni mentors. Since the program’s launch in 2011, it’s grown to include 36 students.

The CAHS Leadership Council, formed in 2008, has also helped make connections. Activities such as luncheons, social events, and functions such as a “speed networking” event link alumni to the college and students.

CAHS reconnected with nearly 300 alumni last summer through Students Helping Alumni Reconnect and Engage (SHARE), a project that had students talking with alumni about their experience at the college. Students will conduct another round this summer to gather more feedback, which will help faculty as they set strategies for CAHS’s reconnections with alumni.

CAHS is making life-changing connections at home and across the globe. A study abroad experience in Nicaragua gave multi-disciplinary allied health students the opportunity to share their expertise with local children and families. Seven students from Cincinnati’s Hughes STEM High School enrolled in UC after completing a CAHS dual credit medical terminology class during high school.

36 pairs of students and alumni in mentoring program
“Bigger” and “more” aren’t always reasons to celebrate; in CAHS’s case, however, evidence of success, woven throughout the college, proves that growth and change have worked in CAHS’s—and its students’—favor.

King points to retention as her barometer of the college’s overall success, noting that amidst tremendous growth, “We’re also keeping our students; that’s a good quality measure.”

“I’m proud of the program development, the strong, integrated core curriculum, and the growth that’s resulted,” she says. “Our high retention is the by-product of all those things working.”

Data proves that quality and reputational measures have increased as well: national exam pass rates consistently top national averages; higher ACT scores of entering students in every program; higher graduate school acceptance rates.

“If you build a reputation of quality, people come; we’ve done that,” says King. “We can also show students—and their parents—that when you come, your chances of graduating are very good. When we make sure people finish and accomplish their dreams, we’ve done what we set out to do. That’s the only reason we’re here.”

What’s ahead

King believes the pioneering spirit that’s resulted in programs such as the country’s first certification in animal audiology, distance learning, and a new master’s in occupational therapy blended program, will produce even more ways to deliver education.

She sees technology at the center of it all.

“Technology has transformed this college,” says King. “It took down walls, in terms of distance learning and how we educate students.”

Referring to how the college used technology to enable more people to earn a degree, King says, “Others said it couldn’t be done, and we said, ‘Yes it can, watch this.’ I see the walls continuing to tumble down and opportunities become available for people where they’ve never been available before. We’re going to continue to be pioneers.”

Interim dean steps in July 1

With Dean King’s retirement, Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT, will serve as the interim dean, beginning July 1.

Whalen, a UC faculty member since 1990, has served as the CAHS associate dean for academic affairs since 2012. Previously, she chaired the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences since 2006.

She holds a doctorate in higher education leadership from the Union Institute and University, a doctor of physical therapy degree from Chatham College, a master’s degree in public administration from UC and is a licensed physical therapist with more than 20 years of clinical experience.

In addition, Whalen serves on a number of leadership committees at UC and leads four funded research efforts.

High college profile

Numbers reflect CAHS’s success at every turn:

Over 500% increase in enrollment since 2002

Developed and started 7 new programs since 2002

2014 freshman retention rate of 86.3%

Increased diversity of 2014-15 class to 15.5%, the highest level ever

Increase in average incoming freshman since 2002: ACT score 114%, SAT 155%, GPA 110%

National boards’ pass rates consistently top national averages
Portraits of PRaISE
Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences student Gene Mink participated in the 2014 PRaISE Conference during the oral presentation section. Mink will graduate this summer with a bachelor of science degree in Advanced Medical Imaging Technology (AMIT).

Mental Focus
After joining the MRI track in AMIT, Mink chose his PRaISE project in order to learn about depression's impact on the brain: “There are some very specific morphological and anatomical changes that occur in the brain of an individual who has depression,” he says. “There are parts of the brain that actually shrink as depression becomes chronic.”

Technological Treatment
As imaging provides greater access to the brain’s workings, Mink says the diagnosis and treatment of depression is changing too. More therapies based on imaging technology, such as transcranial magnetic stimulation, are available, and more research is being done. Having experienced the effects of depression in his family, Mink hopes the growth of AMIT will help more patients.

Career Change
A non-traditional student, Mink came to CAHS after a cancer diagnosis led him to reconsider his career. In financial services, he worked 80 hours a week and didn’t see his family—but his spirit was bolstered by the imaging technologists during his cancer treatment. “I looked at them and thought, ‘That’s what I want to do, I want to be happy,'” he recalls. “So I started asking them questions about their career.”

Extracurricular Service
Though he has a full plate with two college-aged daughters, Mink is the first member of the AMIT program to join the Ohio Society of Radiology Technologists. Initially accepted as a student intern, he eventually served as the society’s student director and voting member of the board. His term ended in April.

PRaISE Conference 2014 highlights student research and achievements
More than 200 posters and oral presentations, gave students the opportunity to showcase their research and achievements. This year’s keynote speaker was John Hutton, MD, pediatrician at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. He presented “The Case for Baby Unplugged: Analog People, Digital Age.”

This year was the first time the students, faculty and visitors at PRaISE could rate and provide feedback on posters the day of the event. To the left are samples of screens.

Thank you to our PRaISE Conference sponsors

College of Allied Health Sciences | Connections Spring 2014
CAHS and Education partnership creates new health IT degree

A new, accelerated program combining a bachelor’s in Information Technology, a master’s in Health Informatics and five semesters of co-op experience will begin fall semester of 2014.

The “IT + MSHI” degree is a partnership between the University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Education, Criminal Justice, and Human Services (CECH) and College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS). The School of Information Technology and the Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences will house the program. Students enrolled in the five-year program will develop expertise in one of three Information Technology tracks: Networking/Systems, Software Application Development and Cybersecurity.

In their third year, students will take master’s level classes about the health care and public health landscape, health IT standards and policy, clinical information systems, usability, clinical workflow analysis, health data and analytics. Students will ultimately gain the tools and skills necessary to integrate advanced digital technologies into the field of public health and health care and use electronic data to contribute to the transformation of health care.

Mid-Collegiate Conference brings students together across professions

The College of Allied Health Sciences brought together its junior class to review and discuss a case study for its third annual Mid-Collegiate Touch Point Conference on Jan. 24.

During the conference, students heard (via videos) from Alison and Tim Delgado, who experienced a devastating accident in October 2010. Alison, then a pediatric resident at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, was hit by a van while on a bike ride, and Tim, an emergency medicine resident at UC Medical Center, was on the Air Care helicopter that flew to his wife that day.

Alison’s recovery included weeks in the intensive care unit, months of recovery and a setback in which she suffered a burst aneurysm that placed her back in the hospital.

The videos show the Delgados discussing the case throughout her recovery, with their allied health caregivers, including Alison’s hematologist, nutritionist, physical therapist, speech pathologist and social worker.

Interdisciplinary discussions after each video gave students the opportunity to explain their profession and its role to their peers. Organizers measured students’ understanding of the conference objectives before and after the discussions so faculty can study the conference’s impact and present it to other educators.

CAHS co-hosts diversity and inclusion speaker series

Dean Elizabeth King and the College of Allied Health Sciences hosted the Feb. 4 installment of the Diversity and Inclusion Seminar Series, a monthlong series held on Tuesdays in February.

The deans of UC Academic Health Center’s four health colleges hosted the series, which featured different speakers on topics including UC’s diversity and inclusion plan, health disparities, and culturally competent care, among others.

The CAHS-hosted speakers were Charla Weiss, PhD, from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion, who spoke on “Culturally Competent Care,” along with Mary Stagaman, executive director of Agenda 360, with a presentation entitled “Diverse by Design.”

From healthnews.uc.edu
Seminar helps physicians gain leadership skills

A new group of emerging physician leaders says completing UC’s Physician Leadership Program significantly increased their leadership competencies and knowledge. Self-assessments from the 24 Cincinnati-area physicians who completed the annual 12-week program in December revealed increases from eight to 64 percent in the 26 National Center for Healthcare Leadership’s categories.

The physicians met weekly for presentations from health care faculty and experts, executives and thought leaders, including CAHS’s health administration program director, Joan Murdock, who also serves as the leadership program’s director.

The program, which began in 2005, meets the growing demand for physician leaders educated at the intersection of business, quality care and leadership.

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

First animal audiologists graduate

Aniruddha Deshpande was among the first class of audiologists to graduate with a certificate in animal audiology—the first certificate of its kind—in 2013.

Deshpande came to UC to get his PhD in audiology in 2009, when he met Pete Scheifele, PhD, who created the program, which was launched in 2011. Deshpande decided to also enroll in the certificate program.

“I viewed the certificate as a golden opportunity to combine my skills and passion for animal physiology and anatomy. I was thrilled with the prospect—I’ve not found this program elsewhere. I’ve had wonderful opportunities to put my skills to test, like the acoustic mapping of the dolphinarium at the Georgia Aquarium.’’

The certificate is a new focus area combining the fields of audiology and veterinary medicine. Scheifele says there’s a growing need for audiologists who can test for and diagnose hearing problems in animals, particularly dogs.

The certificate is available to UC audiology doctoral students, as well as currently licensed audiologists. UC’s FETCH~LAB is the only U.S. program with the capability to teach animal audiology to certificate students, and Scheifele has worked to make the certificate more accessible to distance learning students. They can take their coursework online, and then have a choice of coming to UC’s FETCH~LAB or working with a local, approved veterinarian for their final practicum.

From healthnews.uc.edu

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Humanitarian award will help audiology students serve in Kentucky

The American Academy of Audiology awarded the University of Cincinnati chapter of the Student Academy of Audiology (SAA) a $1250 humanitarian award at the academy’s annual convention held at the end of March in Orlando, Florida.

The award will support trips audiology students take each year to the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky, in the heart of Appalachia. In the two trips since last summer, 11 students have served in the mission’s health clinics, providing hearing tests, hearing aid checks and hearing aid fittings.

The trips began in 2011 at the suggestion of CSD professor emeritus Robert Keith, PhD. Since then, the SAA has organized and raised money to fund the trips and purchase hearing aids and batteries for the residents of the area. In the last four years, they’ve fit and provided equipment for hundreds of residents from the area, free of charge.

From healthnews.uc.edu

From healthnews.uc.edu
Physical therapy students serve in Mexico over winter break

A group of graduate physical therapy students and faculty traveled to Cancun, Mexico, Dec. 12-19, providing treatment and education as part of a new international service trip.

Partnering with the Palace Foundation, a nonprofit organization that serves residents of Mexico, the students worked with employees of the Palace Resorts, set up a clinic in a dentist’s office at the city center, and worked with staff and residents at a senior citizen residential facility.

Emily Stewart, a third-year DPT student says she liked using her physical therapy skills with people who otherwise didn’t have access to that kind of care. “We saw a lot of orthopedic patients,” she says. “We taught them about better body mechanics, and showed them exercises they could do at home.”

Lauren Thomas, who graduates in the spring, wondered at first if the group would be able to make a difference, but soon saw they did, even in a week, teaching staff at the residential facility how to transfer and position patients properly, for instance. “People from other countries don’t take care for granted,” she says. “They were so appreciative of anything we could do to help.”

The trip inspired both students to do more. “I feel like my role now is to make people in the health care field aware how much an experience like this is worth it and how much you can do with one week of your time,” says Thomas.

Stewart agrees. “It was great to help people in Mexico, but there are also a lot of things we can do to help people in Cincinnati who don’t have access to health care either.”

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Annual Rosevear lecture series held on Mar. 28

Ellen Demerath, PhD, associate professor at the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology & Community Health, was the featured lecturer at the annual Ruth Rosevear Lecture, held Mar. 28.

Demerath, who lectured on “Infant Body Composition: Developmental Plasticity and Assessment,” conducts research in the areas of developmental origins of chronic disease, with an emphasis on obesity, body composition, and cardiovascular disease risk factors in infancy and childhood.

The Department of Nutritional Sciences hosts the lecture series, which honors long-time College of Allied Health Sciences benefactor Ruth Rosevear.
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

Physical Therapy Geriatric Residency Receives National Accreditation

The American Board of Physical Therapy Residency and Fellowship Education (ABPTRFE) has accredited a new, yearlong residency program in geriatric physical therapy. The program in 2012 (part of a three-year pilot study) is a collaboration between the Cincinnati Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center and the College of Allied Health Sciences doctorate program in physical therapy.

The program is the first geriatric physical therapy residency in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), and one of five credentialed and fully funded residencies through the OAA.

Program director Alice Holder, DPT, says the residency helps the Cincinnati VA Medical Center address the needs of its patient population and provides professional development in a growing field.

According to Chalee Engelhard, EdD, assistant professor of rehabilitation sciences at UC, PT residencies are typically completed immediately following graduation, but some practicing physical therapists—including the first resident in the Cincinnati program—use a residency program to enhance their skills and professional development.

The program accepts two physical therapists each spring, who complete clinical experiences at the VA Medical Center and other VA facilities.

From healthnews.uc.edu

School of Social Work

Social Work students build relationships and programs in Nicaragua

For a group of 18 social work students, spring break meant a trip to Granada, Nicaragua. The mix of freshmen through graduate students, along with social work professors Xan Boone and Chris Lottman, and romance languages professor Ligia Gomez, spent 10 days immersed in the culture, staying with local families while serving in the local communities.

The trip was part of CAHS’s effort to design sustainable programs and projects, working with local partner Viva Nicaragua, an non-governmental organization (NGO) operating in Granada. Three teams of students focused in different areas. Two worked in a former squatter’s community that’s transitioning to permanent housing. There, students met with adolescents and young adults to discuss gender identity, healthy relationships, alcohol and drug abuse prevention and sexuality. Other students spent time building relationships with younger children through play, crafts and outdoor activities.

The third group worked with second through sixth grade students in the local school on building their social and emotional skills.

CAHS students also learned about the area through a guest speaker, visiting nearby “Isletas”—beautiful small islands—and participating in a weekly celebration of dancing, music and food.

“Working alongside students making a difference for kids and families in Nicaragua was a fantastic way to spend spring break,” says Boone. “I am so proud of the relationship we have built with the NGO Viva Nicaragua, and the impact these kids have had on us is amazing!”

Boone returned to the area in May with another CAHS group that included communication sciences and disorders, social work and physical therapy students.
Assistant professor Brian Earl, PhD, is conducting research he hopes will lead to a clinical test that will allow audiologists to better tailor treatment options for people with hearing loss.

It’s thought that problems understanding speech, especially in noisy situations, is caused by a degenerating auditory nerve. Because recent research suggests that common hearing tests may miss auditory nerve damage, Earl’s research, conducted in his EARLAB, is looking at a new technique to better pinpoint and measure the extent of auditory nerve damage in people with hearing loss.

The Hearing Health Foundation is funding the research, which uses mice with auditory nerve damage, to record activity in the auditory nerve, providing a prediction of location and extent of the damage. The University of Cincinnati’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training is funding concurrent research, which focuses on adapting the technique to a clinical setting.

Currently, cochlear implants and hearing aids are the standard treatment for hearing loss, but neither option restores normal hearing. Thanks to advances in regenerative medicine that could restore the function of the hair cells in the inner ear and auditory nerve, a cure for hearing loss may be possible one day. Earl says until then, this test could help clinicians better pinpoint auditory nerve damage and individualize a patient’s hearing aid or cochlear implant to fit their needs.

The Ohio Speech-Language-Hearing Association (OSLHA) awarded Phyllis Breen, communication sciences and disorders adjunct assistant professor, the 2014 Honors of the Association Award on Mar. 14.

Breen was recognized for her outstanding contributions to the education of future speech language pathologists, mentorship of clinical supervisors and clinic directors, support of excellence in clinical services and active service to OSLHA, the Southwest Ohio Speech Language and Hearing Association (SWOSHA) and the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA).

Her CAHS colleagues describe Breen as insightful, professional and knowledgeable, and a teacher who has inspired others to become active members of the profession.

She currently serves as the practicum coordinator for the speech language pathology program, connecting CSD graduate students with practicum assignments in community and health care settings. She also coordinates the Speech, Language and Hearing clinics housed in the college.

In the field, Breen has served on the ASHA legislative council, chaired the OSLHA ethics and election management committees and served as president of the OSLHA university supervisory group.

Ruth E. Rosevear Chair of Nutritional Sciences Debra Krummel, PhD, has been named Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the largest organization of food and nutrition professionals.

Krummel was specifically recognized for her leadership roles within the Academy, professional and personal volunteer activities and research activities.
An expert in women’s health, Krummel has placed her recent research focus on omega-3 supplementation and inflammation markers for pregnant women. She is also an expert in women’s cardiovascular health, obesity prevention in postpartum women, and fetal origins of cardiovascular disease.

• Brian Barney, a third year health sciences student and Cincinnatus Scholar, presented his research project, “Does motor function affect aerobic fitness measures in chronic stroke?” to the UC Board of Trustees at their February meeting.

Barney was one of three research assistants working with CAHS faculty Daniel Carl, PhD, Kari Dunning, PhD, and Pierce Boyne. Barney plans to attend graduate school to study physical therapy.

• When advanced medical imaging technology (AMIT) students surpassed their $2500 fundraising goal for cancer research, Barry Southers, an AMIT assistant professor, made good on his promise to allow students to shave his head.

The fundraising was part of the annual Relay for Life event held April 4 at the University of Cincinnati. It’s the third year AMIT students have participated.

Katie Ulm, AMIT student group president and Relay for Life team captain, said students collected most of the total through donations made by family and friends. “But we raised almost $700 the night of Relay by selling Outback Steakhouse hamburgers, popcorn from the Danbarry Theater, cupcakes, and pop,” she added.

Overall, the students raised $2,695, more than $1,000 over last year’s total.

Jeannette Taylor, PhD, was named the 2014 University of Cincinnati Provostal Faculty Award recipient. She retired earlier this year after a 41-year career in social work and academia, 35 of them at UC.

She earned her doctoral degree at UC in 1979, and that same year, became a professor of social work and UC’s first African American female dean when she was appointed dean of the UC Division of Continuing Education (later the College of Evening and Continuing Education). She served as dean until 1991.

Countless students, alumni, colleagues and community members know and admire her as an innovator, leader and courageous pioneer who sat at the drugstore lunch counters in 1960 and marched from Selma to Montgomery with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1965.

Taylor’s the recipient of numerous awards in the community, including the Celebrating the Lions Award from the Urban League of Greater Cincinnati. There is a conference room named in her honor in UC’s French Hall.

She helped develop the first comprehensive Afro-centric child development programs in Cincinnati and introduced the national concept of comprehensive community child care (4Cs), which became a United Way agency that still exists.

Over the course of her career at UC, she served on countless boards, including areas of substance abuse and treatment, African-American youth leadership, Leadership Cincinnati, housing opportunities, parent-child relationships and the Girl Scouts.

From healthnews.uc.edu

Carney Sotto awarded Student Group Advisor of the Year

The Student Activities Board (SAB) recognized communication sciences associate professor Carney Sotto as the Student Group Advisor of the Year. Sotto, also CAHS’s First-Year Experience director, received the award at the All University Recognition Ceremony on April 6.

SAB selects the recipient based on several criteria, including regular meeting attendance, understanding of university regulations, and being respected by students, faculty and staff.
Alumni News

2014 Distinguished Alumni Awards

M. Kay Brown
School of Social Work Distinguished Alumni
BA (71); MSW (02)

As a social worker and as a parent of a grown son with disabilities, Kay Brown, MEd LISW-S, believes, “You have to be able to look at what’s possible, and not at what’s not there.” It’s a belief that’s helped her work tirelessly to bring resources and networking together for children with developmental disabilities and mental health needs, and their families.

Throughout her 45-year career, she’s worked with St. Aloysius Orphanage, as a therapist and consultant, program director with Hamilton Choices in Cincinnati, and since 2007, as the coordinator of the Regional Autism Advisory Council (RAAC) of Southwest Ohio.

With RAAC, she coordinates the efforts of four county task forces to bring together resources to build on successes. She works with families and communities to give people with autism the opportunity to live as meaningful a life as possible.

In addition, she serves on the Greater Cincinnati Autism Society Board, the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence Advisory Board and is the Ohio representative to the Autism Society of America.

Brown is an adjunct professor at the College of Allied Health Sciences, and also an advocate for her field, serving as an active member of the National Association of Social Workers at the local and state level. She was also instrumental in forming the University of Cincinnati’s School of Social Work Alumni board in 2008, which she also chaired for five years.

With the move to electronic health records, she and her staff also review and test every template that’s built in their system and used by clinicians, to assure they meet all state, federal and accreditation requirements. They’ve also been at the center of bringing together teams that previously worked on their own—including HIM, clinical and information technology—to learn how and why they need to work together.

Persistence as well as understanding each team’s viewpoint has paid off—so successfully that she and a representative from the hospital’s information technology team will present at the Wisconsin Health Information Management Association (WHIMA) conference in May on how they unified their efforts.

In addition to earning her master’s through Loyola University in 2013, Paulson stays in step with her ever-changing field through her involvement with WHIMA, where she’s served on the board and as president.

Dawn Paulson, MJ, RHIA
Department of Analytic and Diagnostic Sciences Recent Graduate Award
BS, Health Information Management (09)

Dawn Paulson wanted to work in the medical field but didn’t want to do direct patient care; she saw health information management as a perfect fit. As the assistant director of health information management at the University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics in Madison, Wis., since 2001, the self-described “info geek” says she’s not a numbers person, but a work-flow person who uses data to help not only make things more efficient, but also plan for future services.

Harrison Blackmond
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders Distinguished Alumni
BS, Audiology and Speech Pathology (70); MA, Audiology (71)

Two photos hang side-by-side in Harrison Blackmond’s home: one of his home in Alabama where he grew up as the son of a sharecropper; the other, the White House, where he visited years later to discuss education reform. Blackmond says it was education that paved the road between the two, and changed his life.

His family moved to Cincinnati, where he attended Hughes High School and became the first of 12 children in his family to graduate from high school. He served three years in the military, earned his degrees from the University of Cincinnati, and then added a law degree from the University of Michigan.

Although Blackmond only worked as an audiologist while waiting to take the bar examination in California, he says the people and his time at UC prepared him well for the stops along his career. He worked as an attorney, prosecuting attorney, vice president for a mall developer, management consultant and in numerous roles associated with his eventual move into what became his passion—education reform.

He retired in 2009 only to begin new organizations focused on using education reform to make a difference. He helped establish Democrats for Education Reform-Michigan and serves as its state director, working to ensure children’s needs are at the center of education policy. He also serves as the executive director of Education Now-Michigan, educating the public and policymakers about public education reform.
Although Shareen Lee was a microbiology major at Ohio University (OU), she had her heart set on clinical laboratory science (now known as medical laboratory science). When she learned she qualified for a CLS internship program OU offered, she completed the rotation during her fourth year at the University of Cincinnati and earned her CLS certification.

With her husband beginning a doctoral program at the University of Southern California, she began working at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, as a clinical lab scientist, first in the blood bank, and then in the histocompatibility lab, where she is today.

Working in clinical labs that are smaller due to serving a limited population of patients, Lee performs all functions in the lab, which has given her the opportunity to be part of bringing onboard new technology for better patient care, better results and better workflow. It's also work that continues to fulfill her desire to serve those in need for the greater good.

Lee's also been an advocate for the field, serving on the board of the Greater Los Angeles Clinical Lab Management Association, and as an ambassador for the American Society for Clinical Pathology. Through both organizations, she spreads the word about the profession to high school and college students at a crossroads for making decisions about their careers.

If Kent Martin had used the results of his high school career—he nearly didn’t graduate—as a predictor for where he would be today, he certainly wouldn’t have seen himself as a third-year medical student at the University of Arizona (UA).

Six years of active military service after high school gave him a new focus on academics and enough confidence to enroll in the University of Cincinnati. Inspired by his military experience to help people in need, he began his journey to become a physician with a degree in health science.

His total of 12 years of military experience also inspired him to found MedVets, an organization that helps UA students adapt to civilian life and transition into the medical field. In addition, he's worked with the UA's College of Medicine to develop curriculum that addresses the unique aspects of veteran healthcare.

In 2012, Martin was named a Tillman Military Scholar and awarded a scholarship from the Tillman Foundation for his commitment to a life of service in and out of uniform. As a Tillman Scholar, he's spent time in Washington, DC, discussing veteran issues and healthcare with members of congress. He's currently serving on the foundation's scholarship selection committee.

Martin is also already using his medical training to serve, volunteering in local areas and clinics to provide medical services to underserved residents.

Nancy Nevin-Folino points to a life-threatening car accident as her inspiration to “go for everything she could and make the most of herself,” and launch her journey and career as a dietitian.

She returned to the University of Cincinnati (10 years after getting her undergraduate degree in home economics) to earn her master's degree. It's there her counselor Jane Garvin's requirement that students set one-, five- and 10-year goals began a habit that has fueled her career.

Setting goals, or as she calls it, “jumping in cold water” every three years to challenge herself with something new, has given her many opportunities to take on new challenges. She worked in public health before joining Dayton Children’s Hospital in 1985, where she's not only played a critical role in the care of pediatric patients, but also helped train hundreds of future pediatric professionals.

Nevin-Folino's involvement with national, state, and local professional associations has led to numerous elected and appointed positions, in addition to working as the editor of the American Dietetic Association’s Neonatal Nutrition Care Process Toolkit. She’s published extensively, and has given over 250 professional presentations. In 2009, she was awarded the American Dietetic Association’s (ADA) Medallion Award in recognition of her outstanding service and leadership to ADA and the dietetics profession.
Social work alumni learn, reconnect and celebrate during Alumni Day

Nearly 150 School of Social Work alumni were part of the University of Cincinnati’s Alumni Weekend held April 11–13. Social Work Alumni Day on April 11 included two workshops, and the opportunity for attendees to earn continuing education credits.

Linda Helm, from The Ohio State University College of Social Work, presented “Social Work Ethics and Supervision: New Challenges and Opportunities” during the morning session. UC associate professor and counseling coordinator Cirecie West-Olantunji presented “Social Workers as Social Justice Practitioners” in the afternoon session.

During the luncheon, alumni Dana Harley, PhD, and Susan McIlvain, MSW were recognized and celebrated as Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. Harley received her MSW from UC in 2003 and is a third-year assistant professor in the Department of Counseling, Social Work and Leadership at Northern Kentucky University. She has over 10 years of clinical social work practice experience, specializing in child and adolescent mental health and developmental issues.

McIlvain is a psychotherapist with the Cincinnati Veterans Administration’s PTSD & Anxiety Disorders Clinic. She also works as lead clinician for the VA’s Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury residential treatment program, the first in the country to offer residential treatment for veterans diagnosed with PTSD.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Social Work Alumni Association events:

Elder Abuse Outreach Project — Plans are underway to collaborate with another organization for this June event.

DSM 5 Update — A September overview of changes included in the new DSM 5 is planned.

Into the Streets with UC Center for Community Engagement — During this annual volunteer project UC students, faculty, and staff volunteer their time and effort to a range of service organizations for a full day at the start of the academic year. Breakfast, lunch and transportation are provided for all volunteers. Go to uc.edu/crete/student/programs/its.html for more details.

Hot Topic Event — Learn about the Affordable Care Act and earn CEUs. The workshop is June 26 from 1:00-4:30 pm at the Myers Alumni Center, 2906 Woodside Drive, on UC’s campus.

Also in the planning stages for the fall is the Intimate Partner Abuse Outreach Project and Homecoming Weekend Cookout. For information about these and all SW Alumni Association events, visit cahs.uc.edu/departments/socialwork/general/alumni.aspx or contact Sarah Ghee, association president (gheesc@mail.uc.edu).

Connections Mentoring Program

Connect with CAHS students by serving as a mentor. New session begins in September; contact Monica Wilkins (monica.wilkins@uc.edu) to join other allied health professionals in supporting a student.

Be a Mentor
Alumni Updates

Before she retired in 2012, Jennifer Brown (MA 91, PhD 97) used her experience in communication science and disorders to conduct training to help parents and professionals understand the unique challenges and needs of children and families dealing with autism.

She could also lend another perspective, as the parent of Richard, her grown son with autism.

“I found that telling stories about Richard in the training got the point across much better, and the fact that I was a parent gave the stories credibility,” says Brown.

Those stories have become the central part of her book, Snapshots of Richard: Living with Autism. Brown says it’s written in lay terms, with no technical jargon, making it a resource for families and that they can share with friends and neighbors.

The book will be available early this summer through Amazon, Barnes and Noble and Joseph-Beth Booksellers.

Carly (Voellmecke) Bryant (MA, 2013), finished her clinical fellowship in speech-language pathology in May, received an Exceptional Achievement Award for her work with students in Adams County/Ohio Valley Schools. The award recognizes individuals who have been instrumental in providing opportunities that enable students with disabilities to achieve personal, social or academic goals of the highest standards.

The Ohio Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recognized Jason Roberts (10) as one of three Young Dietitians of the Year.

Stay in touch
Visit cahs.uc.edu to fill us in on your recent career and personal accomplishments.

To submit a photo with your update, please send digital photos to our new program director, alumni and external affairs, Ryan Young, at ryan.young@uc.edu.

Council studies SHARE results

Students Helping Alumni Reconnect and Engage

College of Allied Health Sciences faculty and the Leadership Council are reviewing results from the SHARE initiative, last summer’s effort to reconnect with College of Allied Health Sciences alumni.

CAHS students contacted alumni from all departments and the School of Social Work to talk with them about their experiences at UC, their lives since graduation, and their thoughts about being involved with the college.

Based on the interviews, students learned that the alumni they talked with were a hard-working group while in school; 80 percent worked as students, with 64 percent working more than 20 hours per week to support themselves and/or their families. Over half of the alumni—62 percent—also counted on scholarships to help pay for their college costs.

Although most of them worked in some capacity, they still found time to get involved. Ninety-six percent were involved in at least one activity outside of attending classes. Those hardworking, well-rounded students are now hardworking, well-rounded professionals and alumni. Nearly 80 percent volunteer in at least one area, and 40 percent volunteer up to three hours per week.

Most respondents said their classmates and programs were the highlights of their experience at UC. They said they were most interested in reconnecting to CAHS through continuing education and seminars and workshops that will help them in their professional lives.

The Leadership Council is reviewing the results and recommendations and will develop a plan for how to best use the feedback. Preparation is underway to conduct another round of SHARE this summer.

Ryan Young joined UC Foundation June 5 as program director, alumni and external affairs, College of Allied Health Sciences and Winkle College of Pharmacy. Ryan recently earned his Master of Education degree and brings with him a background in student and alumni engagement, event planning and development. He can be reached at 513-558-5570 or ryan.young@uc.edu.
Giving Back

Mary Partin

Mary Partin joined the Leadership Council in 2013. An occupational therapist by trade, the University of Findlay graduate is the director of rehabilitation for American Mercy Home Care, where she’s worked since 1999.

With home care services on the rise, Partin saw getting involved with the council as a good way to educate students and school leaders about home care and what the home care community can do.

“It’s been a good opportunity to be a liaison between the academic world and the work world,” she says.

Partin admits it’s also been an eye-opener for her. “It’s been interesting to learn about all the things the academic world has to think about,” she says. “I’m continuing to learn.”

She believes not having a background in academia or with the University of Cincinnati works in the council’s favor. “I see things totally differently so I bring a fresh set of eyes,” says Partin. That comes into play in the council’s work to generate ideas about how to promote the college.

“The council does a great job brainstorming,” says Partin. “They’re optimistic and proactive about how to increase awareness for allied health.”

Maureen Hebert

When Maureen Hebert joined the Leadership Council in 2012, she brought a wealth of health care experience with her. Raised and trained on the east coast as a registered nurse, Hebert earned her master’s in health planning and administration in 1984 from the University of Cincinnati when she and her husband moved here for his position with Thomas More College.

Hebert, who retired in 2009, says her involvement with the council has been an opportunity to support the college while using her experience as a health care professional. Locally that experience has included numerous clinical management positions with Good Samaritan Hospital and St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

She says running organizations taught her that, “You can’t act alone; if we’re going to move a patient through the continuum of care, we need all of the clinical services.”

Learning how the leadership council brings together all the allied health disciplines is what interested her about getting involved.

“It’s nice to be valued for my knowledge base,” says Hebert. “But I enjoy learning about the struggles and opportunities that exist across all disciplines. It’s an exciting time to be in health care. And it’s nice to be able to help the college meet their goals to integrate education into the reality of what the students will face when they enter the job market.”

Meet our newest CAHS Leadership Council members

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Gift to benefit nutrition lab

As a CAHS nutritional sciences associate professor for 28 years, Ellen Rember, MS, RD, spent countless hours in the nutrition labs; she knows the importance of the hands-on learning they provide. It’s what led her in part to make a $50,000 endowed gift to support the Ellen Marie Rember Food and Nutrition Sciences Laboratory in the Department of Nutritional Sciences.

“If you’re going to have food labs, you need the funds to support them,” says Rember.

She says she also made the gift in large part in honor of retiring Dean Elizabeth King.

“It’s a tribute to Elizabeth to be able to do it,” says Rember. “You don’t run into people like her very often.”

Rember, a 1950 UC graduate, along with Jane Garvin, MS, RD, were the only two dietitians in Cincinnati with their masters’ degrees when they began teaching at the University of Cincinnati in 1961. Rember says she taught the majority of the classes that included labs.

“People had retired, and the department was in transition,” recalls Rember. “We were the only two instructors for dietetics and nutrition; we developed every course they taught.”

The two associate professor emeriti provided continuity in the department as it changed and grew during their tenure.

Rember retired in 1989, but stays involved with the college as a member of the Leadership Council, which she says has been satisfying. She’s also pleased to see how nutrition has moved forward and grown the way it has.

“It looks like things are going the right way.”
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.

Matching gift programs are a tremendous opportunity to double—even triple—the impact of your gift!

Many companies have programs that match gifts made by employees, employees’ spouses and retirees.

See if your company has a program; visit matchinggifts.com/uc.
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Do you have a CD that is about to expire? Or do you have stock that has increased in value and you want to take some of the gains “off the table” but are concerned about the tax consequences?

Consider using a charitable gift annuity at the UC Foundation. Your gift creates an income payment for you and someone you love for life. The payment rate is based on the ages of the income recipients. For example, a 75-year-old establishing a gift annuity would have a 5.8 percent payout rate. A couple aged 75 and 74 would have a 5 percent payout rate.

In both cases you also get a tax deduction for the value of your gift after your life.

If you would like a personalized illustration, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 513-556-6147 or e-mail giftplan@uc.edu.
Thank you for your support of UC's College of Allied Health Sciences. Your support enables us to provide our students and faculty the opportunity to change and improve the health of our communities.

For more information, please contact Ryan Young, alumni and external affairs, College of Allied Health Sciences at 513-558-5570 or ryan.young@uc.edu.

Life insurance can be used to increase your gift to UC:
A 26-year-old female can donate $1,000 per year for 7 years and fund a policy with a $100,000 death benefit; or
A couple both aged 50 can donate $5,000 a year for 10 years and fund a $800,000 policy.

For more information contact Meridy Glenn, College of Allied Health Sciences director of development at 513-556-6788 or meridy.glenn@uc.edu.
Save the date

UC Homecoming is Saturday, Sept. 20

UC Bearcats will host long-time rival Miami (Ohio) at Paul Brown Stadium in downtown Cincinnati.

Look for information on cahs.uc.edu, Facebook or eConnections.

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