Respiratory therapy program to begin in spring 2013...

Calling all CSD audiology alumni to support Bob Keith...

Introducing new director for School of Social Work...

Distinguished Alumni celebrated...

The Faces of CAHS

Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Department of Health Informatics
Department of Nutritional Sciences
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
School of Social Work
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When you are finished reading Connections, please pass it on to a friend or recycle.

Cover: Monica Wilkins, CAHS director of diversity initiatives, works with Hughes students—Hughes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) High School, a Cincinnati Public School—taking the college-level medical terminology class offered to STEM students.

Cover photo: Dave Collins

CAHS welcomes new students

The College of Allied Health Sciences welcomed first-year students to campus Friday, Aug. 24, with a picnic lunch and a group photo after convocation. Undergraduate program director Carney Sotto, PhD, said the “First Year College Day” was held to alleviate some of that first-year anxiety by bringing new students to campus and immediately introducing them to the people and professors they’ll get to know through the year.

In an introductory session in Kresge Auditorium, first-year students also heard from Dean Elizabeth King, PhD, as well as college department heads and advisors, who offered up their own advice on surviving the freshman year.

From healthnews.uc.edu
Dear CAHS Alumni and Friends:

The new academic year for the University of Cincinnati and the College of Allied Health Sciences is underway! I hope you enjoyed a great summer and are preparing for a wonderful holiday season.

The CAHS Leadership Council had a busy and productive year. I would like to thank the council for their dedication toward moving the college forward. Hopefully, you were engaged through one of our many focused efforts:

- Held CAHS Meet & Greet events and welcomed four new members
- Successfully reached the $50,000 endowment threshold, in gifts and pledges, for the Robert W. Keith, PhD Audiology Research Endowment Fund
- For the first time, sought sponsors to support our PRaISE event, resulting in sponsorships for more than half of the costs

We’re proud of our accomplishments; they’ve resulted in creating stronger ties with our alumni and businesses, as well as offering significant support to our current students. Most importantly, we value the relationships we’ve established and nurtured with alumni and friends along the way. Thank you for your support!

With your help, we know we can do more. Our goals this year are to continue to raise awareness about the mission and vision of the college and help the college be recognized as a Center of Excellence for professional research and education. We strive to raise more scholarship and research funding for each department, and continue to build relationships among our alumni and friends. Won’t you join us? Please give us a call. We’d like to hear about your experiences since you’ve graduated and explore ways you could use your talents to help the college accomplish its many goals.

Have a blessed New Year!

Terri Hollenkamp

Terri Hollenkamp, MA, CCC-SLP
Inaugural Chair, CAHS Leadership Council, CSD alumni, 1983

It is with great enthusiasm that I recognize Terri Hollenkamp, the College’s inaugural chair of the Leadership Council. Her leadership has significantly increased the number of new board members, enhanced and focused fundraising efforts, and contributed exceptional vitality and energy to the council, for which we are extremely grateful. Please join me in thanking her for sharing her gifts of time, expertise, and talent with all of us.

Elizabeth King, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Allied Health Sciences
When Christopher Gonzalez began his college search, his first priority was finding schools with a dual admission program that would allow him to earn dual degrees in nutrition and medicine. He assumed finding a school that offered the kind of diversity he’d known growing up in Hacienda Heights, Calif., would probably have to fall far down his priority list, especially when he began looking seriously at the University of Cincinnati; after all it was in Ohio, not an area of the country thought of as a “melting pot”.

He discovered however, his assumption was wrong. “Looking at the UC website and reading more about the university, it looked like UC promoted diversity. Then once I came for on-campus visits I saw it wasn’t just talk—it was a place where people were welcoming to all different cultures,” says Gonzalez, who was admitted to UC’s dual admission program as one of 13 incoming freshmen awarded a Cincinnatus Presidential scholarship.

“"The University of Cincinnati will attract, retain and graduate academically prepared students who reflect a wide range of diversity."”

From the University of Cincinnati Diversity Plan 2011

Those are encouraging words for a college that’s enthusiastically embraced UC’s initiative to create and maintain a community that’s diverse and inclusive, as part of UC2019, the university-wide strategic plan. In
the last three years alone, enrollment of students from underrepresented minorities in the College of Allied Health Science (CAHS) has jumped 46 percent.

CAHS dean, Elizabeth King, PhD, confirmed the college’s long-term commitment to seeing that number continue to grow when she hired Monica Wilkins in 2011 as the director of diversity initiatives to coordinate and oversee all diversity programming within the college.

Wilkins’ priorities over the past year have focused on recruiting and retaining students from underrepresented minorities, connecting with them through CAHS programs, organizations, and alumni, as well as through university-sponsored scholarships (see sidebar on page 4) and organizations.

Clearing a path to careers in allied health through CAHS

Within the CAHS, recruitment involves more than promoting the opportunities available to minority students within the college; it often involves first opening students’ minds and eyes to opportunities available in the allied health field. That’s what prompted Dean King to connect with Hughes STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) High School, a Cincinnati Public School (CPS) already collaborating with other UC colleges. According to Kathy Wright, STEM program facilitator, initial conversations two years ago have blossomed into the largest partnership Hughes has with UC.

“Our relationship has been seamless—it’s a real partnership,” says Wright. “The pieces CAHS brings to our Health Pathways students are so important. Our students can see the connections to careers, they can see a realistic path to college and a career that may not be shared with them otherwise.”

Those pieces have created multiple entry points for CAHS to work with the 60 junior and 60 senior Hughes students who have declared a health care major. Power Lunches twice a year give Hughes students the opportunity to connect over lunch on multiple levels, talking with CAHS students and faculty about allied health careers.

“It’s a real dialogue,” says Wright. “We ask the guests to tell a little about who they are, and who they were in high school. It helps our students see highly accomplished professionals who were once like them. It sets the stage for powerful conversations.”

Thirteen Hughes seniors are taking their first step to an allied health career, earning their first college credits through a dual-credit medical terminology course. CAHS was one of few programs awarded a UC Presidential Diversity Grant, which funds the students’ costs for tuition and books. The hybrid course combines distance learning with a once-a-week class taught by Wilkins at Hughes.

The grant also will fund a tutoring/mentoring program in development, which will pair CAHS students with Hughes students for academic tutoring and structured mentoring. Wilkins expects the program to launch late in the fall. Also in the planning stages is a weeklong health and wellness fair as part of Hughes’ spring intersession. Hughes students will organize and run the community-wide event, partnering with CAHS students, who will help with health screenings.

“We’re building bridges with CPS,” says Wilkins of the partnership. “Our hope is to expand and connect with other schools as we grow and develop our diversity efforts.”

A focus on minority student recruitment is underway at the graduate level as well, according to Wilkins. She began laying the groundwork in 2011 to build a bridge with Central State University, a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Wilberforce, Ohio. Plans are in the works for a graduate program fair at UC for Central State faculty and advisors to give them the opportunity to spend time on campus and learn more about graduate programs in CAHS.

Finding support as a student and beyond

Helping underrepresented minorities find their way to UC and the CAHS is only the beginning. Wilkins knows success ultimately is measured in retention and graduation rates. That’s why the college has focused efforts to build and maintain an inclusive community within the CAHS that supports students of all diversities and encourages their success not only as a student but as a working professional too.

Hughes STEM students learn more medical laboratory sciences careers from Elizabeth Warning, visiting clinical instructor.

"Mentoring is a way to give back to the college and my field by helping students out. Hopefully, they’ll graduate and be inspired to do the same thing."

Erin Hedges, MA ’08
Scholarships help open doors

Two UC scholarships have also played a role in expanding diversity within the college: Christopher Gonzales, a dual admission student, and Brian Barney, a sophomore from Illinois studying physical therapy, received Cincinnatus Scholarships, which provide awards for academic achievement, leadership and commitment to community service.

The Albert C. Yates Fellows and Scholarship Program awards a full-ride scholarship to graduate students from underrepresented minorities who are nominated by their department. This year’s Yates Scholars are:
- Devarshi Patel, DPT
- Barbara Arinci, DPT
- Thelma Hodge, SSW
- Vanessa Hardin, SLP (also a Cincinnatus Scholar as an undergraduate)
- Heidi Phero, SLP

Key to doing that is a mentoring program Wilkins launched in 2011 that matched 20 sophomore, junior and senior students with CAHS alumni mentors. The pairs had the opportunity to get together at the orientation kickoff and at a group social outing in the winter, and then connected as often as they liked in whatever way worked best—meeting for coffee, talking on the phone, and thanks to today’s technology, through email, texting and even Facebook.

Arif Ghasletwala, a senior studying medical laboratory science (MLS), was paired with Krystal Lockett, an MLS graduate who works at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati. He liked the idea of being paired with a graduate from his program. “It was very easy to talk with someone who’s experienced all the college studies, graduated and gotten a job,” he says.

According to Sharita Bones, a 38-year-old student who changed majors from business to advanced medical imaging technology, her mentor Chelsey Ahlers, has helped her make the transition to the medical field. “Just knowing there’s someone there I can email or call has been great,” says Bones. “I look to her for advice on how to prepare and what to focus on.”

Learning from her mistakes and being able to pass that along is what Erin Hedges finds most satisfying about being a mentor. “I have to dig into the cobwebs of my mind to remember what it was like when I was that age, doing the same things. It’s gratifying to share advice based on hindsight and experience,” she says.

Wilkins says the program has been a tremendous success and estimates the number of mentoring pairs to double this year. All six disciplines within the college are participating and Wilkins expects the need for mentors to remain steady so she’s hoping alumni answer the call to get involved.

“Mentoring is a tremendous way to give back,” she says.

Jason Roberts, a 2010 health science and dietetics graduate, agrees. “You can’t always give back what you might like to financially so the program allows me to give back to the college and my profession both, in a way I really enjoy,” he says.

Students find support through CAHS and university groups

Students are also finding support through groups aimed at not only their needs as part of an underrepresented minority, but also the needs of the diverse population of clients they’ll be serving as professionals.

According to CSD faculty member Carney Sotto, PhD, an overall increase in diversity at UC has fueled students to look for more diversity support within their majors. That’s what led her to work with students to form Multicultural Concerns in Communication Disorders (MC2), the college’s first multicultural organization. MC2 gives CSD students a forum for meaningful intercultural dialogue and the opportunity to address multicultural issues professionals and clients within communication sciences and disorders face.

CSD students also have support on a national level through the National Black Association for Speech-Language Hearing, which addresses the needs of black
As an immigrant from Paraguay, communication barriers made communication difficult for my mother. Knowing and understanding what she experienced will help me better serve my clients.

Heidi Phero, SLP master’s student and Yates scholar

communication disorders students and professionals, and the people they serve.

Last spring, Shanea Harrington, then a junior majoring in social work, spearheaded the effort to form a UC-affiliated chapter of the Association of Black Social Workers (ABSW).

“ABSW is a way for African American social work students to connect within the college, in the community, and with professionals in the field,” says Harrington, who’s serving as the chapter’s president. Those connections are behind the group’s four areas of focus: volunteering, travel, leadership and professional development.

They’re collaborating with the Avondale Youth Council to conduct a monthly workshop on college readiness and personal development for youth ages 12-18. Nearly 60 neighborhood students attended the first workshop in September.

University-based organizations such as ADVANCE, a professional development and leadership program for African American students, and RAPP, a racial awareness program, give CAHS students broader-based multicultural support.

Cincinnatus Scholar and physical therapy student Brian Barney participated in a RAPP five-day retreat in August on accelerating social justice. “It opened my eyes to diversity issues outside of race and gave me a lot of different perspectives,” he says. Barney also serves on the ADVANCE executive board as the director of community affairs.

As diversity initiatives thrive, so do students and allied health fields

Wilkins says they’ve made great strides in the past year to establish and expand existing diversity initiatives within the college and lay the groundwork for new ones. She believes developing programs with a holistic approach—including recruitment, retention, graduation and alumni involvement—brings success full circle.

::: Alumni are key in our efforts to successfully recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds. As a CAHS graduate and working professional, you have experience that will make a difference in students’ lives. Get involved and give back! Contact Monica Wilkins (monica.wilkins@uc.edu) to learn how.

Monica Wilkins works with Hughes students taking the college-level medical terminology class offered to STEM students
Longtime UC employee
Rose Espel retires

Key staff member Rose Espel, financial administrator for the College of Allied Health Science’s (CAHS) Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences, finished her last day of work on Friday, Aug. 10.

Espel began at UC in 1978 as a temporary worker in the College of Medicine dean’s office. After leaving UC to raise her children she returned 15 years later to the Department of Public Safety, where she worked until transferring to CAHS in 2005.

Friends and colleagues know Espel not only as a hub of information and a jack-of-all-trades, but as a genuine and caring person whose work supported several departments across campus for decades. She also became a resource, support system, friend and family member to the college community.

“Rose, very quickly, became the rock of our department, in terms of keep things running smoothly and taking care of all of us, says Linda Graeter, PhD, associate professor of analytical and diagnostic sciences. I’ll always remember Rose as one of the most genuinely good people I’ve ever known and had the pleasure of working with.”

Espel is retiring to spend more time with some new members of her family: her five grandchildren. When she’s not holding one of her grandchildren, Espel hopes to focus on sewing and crafting in her White Oak home.

From healthnews.uc.edu

Students and faculty answer the call to donate blood

College of Allied Health Sciences faculty and students donated 26 pints of blood during the drive sponsored by the MLS student organization in May. The Health Sciences Student Club was rewarded for the highest club participation with an ice cream social donated by Dean King.

“Rose, very quickly, became the rock of our department, in terms of keep things running smoothly and taking care of all of us, says Linda Graeter, PhD, associate professor of analytical and diagnostic sciences. I’ll always remember Rose as one of the most genuinely good people I’ve ever known and had the pleasure of working with.”

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From healthnews.uc.edu

Board approves Master’s in Health Informatics

The Ohio Board of Regents has approved a new master’s degree program in Health Informatics. The distance learning program, designed to prepare students in the management and analysis of health care or biomedical data, will be a collaborative degree between the College of Allied Health Sciences and UC’s Carl H. Lindner College of Business.

Created primarily for working health care and information services professionals, the program will prepare students for the growing field of health informatics, says interim department chair Jan Kelly, MBA, RHIA. She says graduates could work in health data analytics in a variety of fields, from analyzing public and private health care data and outcomes to creating and implementing information security processes to ensure data integrity and safety. They can also use health informatics in areas like project management, strategic planning and health information exchange.

Students will be able to attain their master’s in Health Informatics in two years with 34 semester hours, all taught online, utilizing the best practices established through the Bachelor of Science in Health Information Management program.

The program is recruiting a director and faculty and will start once a director is hired.
CAHS flag bearer uses his challenges to help others

Although Damian Wilson remembers stuttering since he was five years old, he wanted to use his experience as a gift, to become a speech-language pathologist and work with children who are facing the same challenges that he’s faced—and overcome.

After years of struggling in school, Wilson is well on his way; he graduated in May with a degree in communication sciences and disorders, and currently is in his first year of the speech-language pathology master’s program. In recognition of his achievements, the college selected Wilson as its flag bearer for the 2012 commencement ceremony.

Wilson says he felt lost growing up, lacking confidence and hating school. “I didn’t want the kids to know I stuttered and I didn’t want to be teased.” After graduating from high school despite near-failing grades, he enrolled in college, but dropped out after only nine months.

He spent the next few years working in jobs that didn’t require him to speak or where he could minimize talking. He enrolled at the University of Cincinnati in 2007 at 27 years old. “It took me years to have enough confidence to be in school all over again,” he says.

“When I met Damian, he was so motivated, a really focused young man,” says Carney Sotto, PhD, CAHS undergraduate program director. “I was impressed that he wanted to be a speech pathologist. He’s even a different person now than when I met him three years ago—he’s more assertive, takes more initiative.”

Wilson is active in the speech-language pathology community, serving as vice president and webmaster of Multi-Cultural Concerns in Communication Sciences and Disorders, and volunteering for Fluency Friday, a day-and-a-half intensive program to help students learn about fluency and meet others who stutter. Outside UC, Wilson works with adult and youth sections of Cincinnati’s chapters of the National Stuttering Association. He also volunteers with UC alumna Lisa Froehlich, PhD, an SLP at Cincinnati’s Taft High School, serving as an assistant in her speech therapy sessions. He wants to return to a similar urban school to work once he becomes an SLP.

From healthnews.uc.edu

OPERATION CAHS (Collecting and Helping Soldiers) sends support

Faculty and staff used the College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) Fall Retreat as an opportunity to collect donations for active duty military personnel in Afghanistan. CAHS students assembled 11 boxes from the donations, which were sent to family members of the CAHS faculty and staff.

Rose Smith, PhD, helped organize the same type of project years ago when her nephews were stationed in Iraq. “I know the joy these packages bring at roll call when soldiers receive them. We want to give back,” she said.

DPT student Christopher Ayemesaaid “We all wanted to give back to the men and women who serve us every day. They sacrifice so much for us each day and we want them to know that we appreciate their service to Americans.”
The College of Allied Health Sciences hosted its 14th annual PRaISE (Presentation of Research and Innovative/Scholarly Endeavors) Conference May 11, at Tangeman University Center (TUC).

The conference included both oral and poster presentations of student research, distinguished alumni awards and a keynote address from Wendy Baldwin, PhD. She presented “Why Youth are Key to Stemming the Tide of Noncommunicable Diseases.

Baldwin is president and CEO of the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, DC. Trained as a social demographer, she was formerly at the National Institutes of Health, leading research programs in population, adolescents, fertility, family and other topics.

Krista Grinkemeyer researched Non-Alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) because she noticed an increase of studies being performed for this indication under ultrasound. She found that NASH is the only indication for liver transplantation that continues to rise and is suspected to be the number one indication in years to come.

“The research process was easier than expected due to UC’s resources and search engines,” she said. “PRaISE brings a variety of majors together to learn from each other’s research. I not only gained the experience of presenting all the hard work I had completed, but I was also able to learn lots of valuable information that will lead me becoming a better student and graduate.”

Mike Reuter was part of a research team that investigated the feasibility of body weight support sit-to-stand (STS) training in persons with Parkinson’s disease. The study showed that body weight support STS training appears to be feasible in individuals with Parkinson’s disease, with improvements in all outcome measures.

“The research process was fascinating. The overall process was not difficult due to the individuals I worked with, along with the schooling I’ve had,” said Reuter. “PRaISE allows students to branch out. Students can get involved with a topic that they may end up making a career out of; being able to share research allows you to become exposed to different areas of your field.”

There were 135 posters presented and 14 student oral presentations.

Scenes from the 2012 PRaISE Conference

Krista Grinkemeyer
“The evaluation of NASH as an indication for liver transplantation”
Advisors: Alan Vespie, Barry Southers

Mike Reuter, Keri Fisher, Pierce Boyne
“Body weight support sit-to-stand training in Parkinson’s Disease”
Advisor: Kari Dunning, PhD
“An investment in knowledge pays the best interest” - Benjamin Franklin

Interested in supporting PRaISE through a sponsorship or as an exhibitor? Please contact Meridy Glenn, director of development, meridy.glenn@uc.edu, 513-556-6788; or Virginia Dennis, program coordinator, virginia.dennis@uc.edu, 513-558-7495.

Welcome to team CAHS!

CAHS Administration
Sherry Spokas, MSW
Director Academic, Student Affairs
Jacob Chesser, BA
Equipment Applications Specialist
Virginia Dennis, BSW, LSW
Program Coordinator
Carolyn Stoll, MA
Information Technology Analyst
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Brian Earl, PhD, CCC-A
Assistant Professor

Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences
Amy Burgasser
Financial Administrator 1
Susan Wilkinson, EdD, MT (ASCP)
Interim Department Head, Annual Adjunct Professor, Clinical
Shane Keene, DHSc, MBS, RRT-NPS, CPFT, RPSGT, RST
Director, Respiratory Therapy Educator, Associate Professor

Department of Nutrition
Emily Van Walleghen, PhD
Assistant Professor, Clinical

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
Sherry Masten, BA
Financial Administrator 1
School of Social Work
James J. Clark, PhD, MSW, LCSW
Director of Social Work, Professor

Susan Schlueter
Program Coordinator
Jeff Scott, MSW
Assistant Professor
Erika Fenoglio, BA
Program Coordinator, MHA Program
Andrew Winters, MSW
Visiting Instructor Promotions

Promotions
Janice Ricks, BSW, MSW
Educator, Associate Professor
Tina Whalen, EdD, DPT
Professor, Associate Dean
Carol Wheeler-Strother, PhD, MSW
Educator, Assistant Professor
Faculty members recognized for excellence in 2012

**Excellence in Service**

**Tom Hermann, EdD, PT, ATC, CSCS,** has made significant contributions to the college, university, department and professional community. As the director of the health science program, he led the department through the semester conversion process and spearheaded the effort to make the health science curriculum available to UC East via Mediasite. He initiated the senior internship program, which now includes participation by 85 percent of the program’s seniors, significantly adding to their professional experiences by offering mentoring and guidance that would not have been possible without an intern experience.

At the college level, his peers have valued his leadership as chair of the Committee on Committees. He was recognized as one of the recipients of the 2011-2012 Department of Athletics Legion of Excellence Student-Athlete Faculty Impact Award in recognition of his many years of service to the UC athletic department. Amongst his colleagues, he is recognized for his willingness to always be ready to offer support when asked for help, advice and service.

**Excellence in Teaching**

Students and peers alike attest to the level of excellence **Peter Scheifele, PhD,** bring to the College of Allied Health Sciences. His colleagues appreciate how his depth of knowledge in neuroscience and anatomy has significantly strengthened the curriculum in these areas for the communication sciences and disorders students at all levels. He redesigned the entire neurology teaching sequence for audiology and speech pathology students, including adding an audiology section for the brain and behavior class in the medical school and developing the Animal Audiology Certificate Program.

The number and quality of student research projects he directs reflect the level of respect faculty and students have for his expertise in the profession and the science. Faculty and students value his ability to bring enthusiasm, energy and knowledge to the classroom. With his interactive teaching style, he brings an excitement to the curriculum, incorporating live animals, tissue samples, cadaver studies, and imaging studies within his lectures to help clarify discussions.

**Excellence in Research**

**Nancy Talbott, PhD, MS, PT,** has been recognized for her significant research contributions over the past few years in the area of musculoskeletal research primarily involving the upper trunk and shoulder. Her groundbreaking use of ultrasound imaging allows for the visualization of musculature during selected exercises and the comparison of the resulting change in the thickness of muscle fibers due to exercise.

The collaborative approach she brings to research is a role model for colleagues and students alike. She consistently includes students as co-investigators and the collaboration of her work with other faculty in the department covers a wide range. Her work has also progressed from 16 peer reviewed poster and platform presentations to two peer reviewed publications.
As loyal UC alumni, Tom and Christine Carleton haven’t had a problem finding ways to support their alma mater with their time. As communications grads, they’re regular guests in the Careers in Communication class; Christine, a financial advisor, serves on the Planned Giving Committee at the UC Foundation; Tom supports student internships in his job as a non-profit campaign manager; and of course, they’re staunch Bearcat fans.

They started looking at ways to support the school financially when they began putting together their estate plan. They were amazed at the options. “It would be rare if you couldn’t find something that fits one of your passions,” says Tom.

They realized they had the opportunity to support one of their passions—animals—by supporting Peter Scheifele, PhD and the work he and his team were doing in the FETC~LAB, which they’d first heard about during a talk Scheifele gave at a luncheon they attended. “What most caught our attention was Dr. Pete’s work with hearing-impaired dogs, those coming back from Afghanistan, and his dog, Otter, who was the first dog fitted with a hearing aid,” says Christine.

It led them to establish The Otter Fund in support of the FETC~LAB, in honor of Scheifele’s work. It’s a general fund others can support now, through on-going contributions, and in the future, through planned gifts like their own.

“We’re proof you don’t have to be independently wealthy to contribute in some way,” says Tom. “Whatever your passion, you can find an area within the university where you can give back to help students today and in the future.”

Alumni animal lovers support their passion through The Otter Fund

As loyal UC alumni, Tom and Christine Carleton haven’t had a problem finding ways to support their alma mater with their time. As communications grads, they’re regular guests in the Careers in Communication class; Christine, a financial advisor, serves on the Planned Giving Committee at the UC Foundation; Tom supports student internships in his job as a non-profit campaign manager; and of course, they’re staunch Bearcat fans.

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“We’re proof you don’t have to be independently wealthy to contribute in some way,” says Tom. “Whatever your passion, you can find an area within the university where you can give back to help students today and in the future.”

Dr. Colin R. and Margaret E. Macpherson Scholarship Endowment Fund established

Thanks to support from family, alumni, faculty, and friends, The Dr. Colin R. and Margaret E. Macpherson Scholarship reached endowment status last spring. The scholarship will assist medical laboratory science (MLS) students enrolled in the on-campus and distance learning programs. The first award will be made this year.

Dr. Macpherson joined the University of Cincinnati in 1975 as Director of Laboratory Medicine. He also served as medical director of Hoxworth Blood Center, consultant pathologist to the Veteran’s Administration and Shriner’s Hospitals, and lab consultant to the Drake Center.

A committed, engaging and groundbreaking teacher, he was well known for his lectures. He was Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the UC College of Medicine, as well as in the CAHS clinical laboratory science/medical technology program. Dr. Macpherson was also a founding member and the first chairman of the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS).

Dr. Macpherson created and taught the first ethics course for UC medical students, “Death, Dying and Grieving.” Students recognized his teaching excellence, twice choosing him for the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching, and by the College of Medicine, which presented him with the 2003 Lifetime Teaching Achievement Award. The MLS student teaching laboratory was dedicated in 2008 in his name.

Dr. Mac and his wife of 54 years, Margaret, raised four daughters. They both were active volunteers and had passions for the arts, travel, and photography. Many of Dr. Macpherson’s photographs are now displayed in the college.

The generosity of the Macpherson family and his friends will help to carry on Dr. Macpherson’s commitment to education and his inspiring legacy in the MLS program. “The Macpherson clan is so grateful for all the donations from friends and alumni, which will now allow us to carry on Dad’s desire to help students achieve their full potential,” says daughters Janet and Shelagh.
Stay in Touch!

**Connections** is about staying in touch

Just go to cahs.uc.edu to fill us in on items such as: your move to a new state; your move to a new job; your promotion; your special interests; your wedding; your growing family!

To submit a photo with your update, please send digital photos to Kelly Chirumbolo, alumni coordinator, at kelly.chirumbolo@uc.edu. When taking photos with your digital camera, please make sure it’s set to the highest quality setting.

We’re on Facebook!

Join our Facebook group, University of Cincinnati Academic Health Center facebook.com/UCHealthNews

College events and announcements will be posted within the group to keep you up to date on what is going on in the college.

Are you receiving your e-Connections?

You can keep up on news and events with e-Connections. These twice a year newsletters (from the department or school you graduated from) arrive by email to supplement Connections.

Not on the email list? Visit cahs.uc.edu and go to the Alumni and Giving section to subscribe.

NEWS FLASH...

CSD and Audiology alumni and friends support Bob Keith!

July 1, 2012 marked the 50th anniversary of our esteemed Dr. Robert (Bob) Keith’s first audiology job as a clinical audiologist in the ENT department at the University Hospital, Iowa City, Iowa. In 1967 he came to the University of Cincinnati to begin the audiology programs of teaching residents and providing clinical services under Dr. Donald Shumrick. As the hundreds of you who were part of Dr. Keith’s tenure know, the rest is history. Congratulations to Bob on his milestone!

Last year, Bob and his wife, Kathy, with encouragement from colleague Dr. Paul Willing, and former student Dr. Lisa Hunter, made a lead gift to initiate a much-needed fund to support student research in audiology at UC. The goal of that fund, the Robert W. Keith, PhD, Audiology Research Endowment Fund, was to reach endowment status of $50,000.

Thank you to all who have responded enthusiastically and generously. Through your gifts and pledges, we are proud to announce $50,000 has been raised. Quite an accomplishment in less than 24 months.

However, we’d like to see this fund provide financial support by Fall 2013! In order to do so, we need to raise just $2,200 in cash gifts. We’re encouraging our CSD alumni that have not yet made a gift to help us reach this goal.

If 50 alumni were to make a gift of $44 we could begin awarding funds to AUD/PhD students this fall. The fund supports UC audiology/PhD students in conducting basic and applied research in perpetuity. Your gift will help ensure that both Doctor of Audiology (AuD) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) students will be successful in their training programs, student research and following careers.

Make your gift online today at: www.uc.edu/foundation and specify Robert W. Keith, PhD, Audiology Research Endowment Fund or contact Meridy Glenn, director of development, 513-556-6788 or meridy.glenn@uc.edu.

Please contact Meridy Glenn, director of development, at 513-556-6788 or meridy.glenn@uc.edu, to request a brochure and learn more about the endowment, its purposes and how to support the fund.
Clark named School of Social Work director

James J. Clark, PhD, has joined UC’s School of Social Work at the College of Allied Health Sciences as the director.

Clark comes to UC from the University of Kentucky, where he served as the Constance Wilson Professor of Mental Health. During his time there, he led the UK College of Social Work as the director of its PhD program and, more recently, as the associate dean for research.

A proponent of translational research, Clark has worked not only as an academic but also as a clinician and researcher in adult and child forensic mental health, focusing on the relationship between mental health systems and the justice system.

He says he was drawn to UC by the outstanding reputation of the School of Social Work and its plans for growth.

“I realized this was a school that had been doing very fine work for many years with a robust program,” says Clark, “but one that is moving into developing their research program and infrastructure. That was very appealing to me. I’m very much looking forward to collaborating with the faculty, Dean Elizabeth King and the community to explore the next steps for the school.”

From uc.edu/profiles

CAHS student receives nutrition research award

Julia Piazza, master’s student in nutritional sciences, received a 2012 Student Research Award from the Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior (SNEB) at the society’s annual conference in July in Washington, D.C.

Piazza’s poster, “The Effects of a Clinical-Based Intervention on the Diet Quality of Post-Partum Women”, showed the findings of her master’s thesis under nutritional sciences chair Grace Falciglia, PhD. The study was the pilot study of a National Institutes of Health-funded grant on healthy diets for mothers and their infants for obesity prevention. The study was also done in collaboration with pediatricians and obstetricians.

Piazza was one of five students recognized at the conference. She said going to the SNEB conference allowed her to network with others focused on the research, rather than the clinical side of nutrition.

“I’m not a registered dietitian, so it was great to connect with people on the same wavelength as me in terms of research,” says Piazza. “I made a lot of connections with mentors in the field; it was a really great experience.”
School of Social Work

UC researcher presents at Celebrate Kids Conference

School of Social Work associate professor and researcher Gary Dick, PhD, presented a workshop for Ohio CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) in Columbus on September 28. Dick spoke on Engaging Marginalized Fathers to Reunite with their Families as part of the 18th Annual Celebrate Kids Conference.

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Collaborative distance learning master’s program to begin in January

The University of Cincinnati and The University of Akron are collaborating to offer a distance learning graduate program that leads to a master’s degree in speech-language pathology. The part-time program offers online courses through four Ohio universities; courses run for eight consecutive semesters beginning January, 2012. Students will participate in a clinical practicum where they will be required to accumulate a minimum of 400 hours working under a licensed and certified speech-language pathologist in a variety of clinical sites.

The program is available to students interested in any speech-language pathology practice setting. Qualiﬁed applicants will have either an undergraduate degree in communication sciences disorders or have completed or are in the process of completing, required undergraduate-level courses. Students living in rural areas or in nontraditional circumstances that make it impossible for them to participate in an on-campus program can complete their practicum hours in the area where they live.

If you’re interested in supervising students at a practicum site, we’re always looking for speech-language pathologists with a current state license and ASHA certiﬁcation. All qualiﬁed alumni and friends interested in a supervision opportunity can contact Sally Disney at disneysh@ucmail.uc.edu.

Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

FETCH~LAB researchers collaborate to study hearing in divers and animals

University of Cincinnati (UC) FETCH~LAB researchers are working with divemaster Jennifer Meeks and her staff at the Newport Aquarium to determine how sounds affects human diver hearing. In addition, they are also developing damage risk criteria for working commercial and military divers. Lab director Peter Scheifele, PhD, a former Navy diver and submariner, is leading this effort to understand how the human ear functions in the underwater environment in working situations. The research team includes John Clark, PhD, Laura Kretschmer, PhD, and

Robert Keith, PhD, along with students Justin Burwinkel and Kristine Sonstrom.

FETCH~LAB researchers are also studying hearing and vocal mechanisms in the Asian small-clawed otters and hearing in sharkrays in an effort to aid in the conservation and understanding of the animals’ health. This effort is a close collaboration between UC departments and outside professionals who include Scheifele; Kretschmer, a UC audiology faculty member, Peter Hill, PhD, a Newport Aquarium veterinarian, Michelle Fry, an aquarium biologist, Lesa Scheifele, an exotic animal trainer, Jolene Hanna, an aquatic animal health specialist, and audiology student Erica Combs.
New bachelor’s in respiratory therapy program to begin spring semester

Working respiratory therapists looking to advance in their careers by completing their bachelor’s degree will have an online option available through the College of Allied Health Sciences beginning with the spring semester.

The bachelor of science in respiratory therapy program will be a distance learning program that includes courses in research, management and advanced clinical practice. Students will also complete a culminating capstone experience before graduating. The goal of the program is to prepare graduates to face challenging roles as respiratory managers, researchers and educators.

The program will be part of the Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences within CAHS. Shane Keene, DHSc, RRT-NPS, CPFT, RPSGT, RST, will be the program director and Charlene Deutenberg, who was instrumental in launching the online MHA program will serve as program coordinator. Keene served as program director for respiratory care and polysomnography for the past eight years at East Tennessee State University. He received his doctoral degree from NOVA Southeastern University in health science. His research interests include health care management and interdisciplinary approaches to health care delivery.

Initiative targets high diabetes rates in Cincinnati neighborhood

Faculty members and graduate students from the Department of Nutritional Sciences are working with the Urban Appalachian Council (UAC) on a community health initiative to improve the health of residents in Cincinnati’s Lower Price Hill neighborhood. The initiative targets individuals at risk for or diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, a major health issue in the area. Almost twice the number of residents in the neighborhood are diagnosed with diabetes, compared to the city’s average. Data points to poor diet and physical inactivity as major challenges needing intervention.

Sarah Couch, PhD, and Abby Peairs, PhD, are working with the UAC to develop an eight-week nutrition program for community residents identified as high risk. The program will involve cooking classes and shopping skill development and will be co-instructed by several community health advocates trained by UAC in diabetes prevention/management. This program is funded in part by grants from the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training.

Health Information Management
distance learning graduates

The Health Information Management department held a reception for graduates who traveled to Cincinnati to participate in commencement ceremonies in June, 2012. Graduates pictured left to right, David Calder, Virginia; Alicia Narayan, California; Cristina Ugaz, Ohio; Lara Soto, Texas; Jamie Benkaci, Ohio; Lora Snodgrass, Iowa; Faculty/staff members Jan Kelly, MBA, RHIA, Martha Fowler, RHIA, Pam Greenstone, RHIA.
Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences

Distance learning student Aaron Domine receives MLS scholarship

The medical laboratory science (MLS) program recently awarded distance learning student Aaron Domine a $1500 scholarship. Domine says he selected the UC online program because it “seemed like a perfect fit for someone like myself, who is balancing work, family, and school.”

Domine became interested in laboratory science while serving as an electrical technician in the U.S. Navy. Discussions with hospital corpsmen about hematology and blood banking inspired him to pursue a degree as a medical laboratory technician. He works in hematology or blood bank, as well as chemistry and microbiology as needed, at Seton Health System in Troy, N.Y., a 200-bed community hospital. He serves on the laboratory regulatory committee, writing new policies and providing educational seminars for colleagues and staff. He is also a member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science and AABB.

Domine is a member of the Golden Key International Honor Society, an organization whose invitation-only membership is based on academics, leadership, and service. Domine, who lives in Troy with his wife and daughter, hopes to begin graduate studies after graduation in December.

CSD PhD graduates take next steps

Communication sciences and disorders 2012 doctoral graduates have accepted new positions:

Jill Anderson, PhD, post-doctoral position at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale.

Dakshika Bandaranayake, PhD, clinical position at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.

Christina Yeager Pelatti, PhD, post-doctoral position, The Ohio State University

Kelly Knollman Porter, PhD, faculty position, Miami University

Lindsay James Riegler, PhD, research and clinical position, Cincinnati Veterans Administration Medical Center

Mostafa Youssif, PhD, faculty position, Sohag University, Egypt

CSD students recognized with national awards

Communication sciences and disorders students received numerous awards last year recognizing their achievement and in support of continuing education and research.

Students and their awards include:

Erin Hegner, National Institute of Health Travel Grant

Mostafa Youssif, American Speech-Language–Hearing Association (ASHA) Audiology/Hearing Science Research Travel Award; James Jerger Award for excellence in student research, Audiology Now

Christine Sonstrom, ASHA Student Research Travel Award

Jennifer Keeler, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Student Fellowship Award; Research Symposium in Clinical Aphasiology Travel Award

Anniruddha Deshpandi, Academy Research Council Student Registration Scholarship; Invited participant, ASHAs Lessons for Success Program; Graduate Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Travel Award, Association for Research in Otolaryngology; Student Financial Aid Award, Conference on Implantable Auditory Prostheses.

Shruti Balvalli, Academy Research Council’s scholarship to attend the workshop on Noise Induced Hearing Loss; Mentored Doctoral Student Award [sponsored by the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders at the 13th Symposium on Cochlear Implants in Children.

Student athletes recognized for academic achievement

CAHS had two of its students recognized at the UC Department of Athletics’ “Legion of Excellence” induction gala. The ceremony, held Oct. 30, recognizes UC’s top student-athletes.

This year 17 students were inducted, including Sara Knollman, a senior communication and sciences disorder major and member of the women’s cross country team, and Carly Wilson, senior social school major and member of the women’s tennis team.

As part of their awards, Knollman and Wilson nominated two faculty members for UC Faculty Impact Awards: associate professor of clinical communication sciences and disorders Carney Sotto, PhD, and associate professor–educator of social work Christine Lottman.

Knollman, a senior communication sciences and disorders major, is also a member of the UC Women’s Cross-Country team. She credits several influences in her life with helping her focus on academics while participating in NCAA Division I sports: her parents, for giving her “drive”, the athletic department and her team for being supportive of her studies and Sotto as the faculty member who has most impacted her work.

With Sotto’s encouragement, Knollman says she’s kept her GPA at 3.9 and is applying to graduate programs for next year.
School of Social Work

Cotten a 2012 All American

Jasmine Cotten, a three-time Big East Conference champion, swept the league's multi-events in 2012, winning the indoor crown in the pentathlon and the outdoor title in the heptathlon. She was also a U.S. Track and Field & Cross Country Coaches Association First-Team All-American in the indoor pentathlon. She entered the competition with a top heptathlon score of 5,422 points.

Student awards and achievements

Christopher Gonzalez, a freshman from Hacienda Heights, Calif., studying food and nutrition with a pre-med concentration, is a recipient of the Cincinnati Full-Scholarship Presidential Award. Gonzalez is also a student in UC’s Connections dual admissions program, which reserves his admission into the UC College of Medicine upon completion of his bachelor’s degree.

Nutritional sciences students Bethany Gellati and Taylor Cook, served as UC orientation leaders over the summer. They were two of only 30 students selected from hundreds of applications.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation awarded Allison Baker Kuhn the $2,000 Virginia Harger Scholarship. She was also one of the University of Cincinnati’s nominees for the Goldwater Research Scholarship. She was also one of the University of Cincinnati’s nominees for the Goldwater Research Scholarship.

Internship takes student into the community

Brittany Wells, certificate student in the dietetics didactic program, completed a yearlong internship with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in their Innovations lab. As part of her internship, Brittany created a Healthy Lunches website for Cincinnati Public Schools (www.cps-k12.org/menu/HealthyLunches/index.htm), and collected data last spring on parents’ perception of the website. She also had the opportunity to create nutritional education tools and handouts for diverse audiences in community programs, including the MyPlate Webinar for The Safe and Supportive Learning Collaborative website (http://ohiosupportivelearning.ning.com).

She used those experiences in co-authoring a research paper on translating effective clinical practices into school and community settings, presented at the American Psychological Association National Convention. The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Foundation recently awarded Wells the Ohio Dietetic Association Scholarship. She began her dietetic internship this fall at Good Samaritan Hospital.

CSD and HIM seniors give back!

Graduating CSD and HIM seniors celebrated their hard-earned degrees with their support to the Proudly Cincinnati campaign. New CSD and HIM graduates matched outstanding giving participation rates of 96 percent and 47 percent, respectively. Giving back is a wonderful way to show your pride; welcome to the CAHS alumni family!

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

PT students complete department’s first merger

High school juniors Sam Schwendeman and Anne Prior never imagined their first date would lead to another first seven years later—the first University of Cincinnati physical therapy “merger.” In August, they became the first physical therapy students to marry. “We were nervous about coming to the same school for DPT education but it has been great. No shop talk is allowed at the dinner table,” says Anne. “We balance each other out and help each other stay on task.”

Both plan to celebrate their graduation and hooding in spring 2014.

Class project results in donation to help fight poverty

Last spring juniors collected and donated $599.41 to Mathew 25 Ministries in support of the organization’s efforts to eradicate global poverty. The donation was the result of their participation in the “Giving What You Can” project. Students explored Peter Singer’s perspective on eradicating extreme poverty globally, presented in his book, “The Life You Can Save.”

Students applied what resonated from his work to their lives, and made a financial commitment (or not) to their own Jar for Eradicating Global Poverty. Students researched possible recipients for the money collected, looking at which ones made the best use of donations. They presented their cases for the organizations they wanted to support and the class voted on which organization would receive the money.

School of Social Work

Student awards

Thelma Hodge was named the 2012 School of Social Work Yates Scholar. The scholarship is awarded based on academic achievement to a graduate student from an underrepresented minority.

Senior Pete Freudenberger received the Annie Fitzgerald Award for service and leadership from the UC Center for Community Engagement.

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Internship takes student into the community

Brittany Wells, certificate student in the dietetics didactic program, completed a yearlong internship with Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in their Innovations lab. As part of her internship, Brittany created a Healthy Lunches website for Cincinnati Public Schools (www.cps-k12.org/menu/HealthyLunches/index.htm), and collected data last spring on parents’ perception of the website. She also had the opportunity to create nutritional education tools and handouts for diverse audiences in community programs, including the MyPlate Webinar for The Safe and Supportive Learning Collaborative website (http://ohiosupportivelearning.ning.com).

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Communication Sciences and Disorders
Researcher presents at international conference
Aimee Dietz, PhD, co-presented the AAC & Aphasia strand of the Research Symposium in August at the 2012 International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) in Pittsburgh, Penn. Attendees included speech-language pathologists, registered nurses, and AAC vendor representatives from the United States, Israel, Italy, Finland, and South Africa.

Earl joins CSD faculty
Brian R. Earl, PhD, joined the CSD faculty as an assistant professor of audiology. Earl was a postdoctoral fellow in the Hearing & Speech Department at the University of Kansas Medical Center and involved in translational research focused on the diagnosis of hearing loss. He completed his doctorate at the University of Kansas after working for three years as a clinical audiologist at the University of Texas Medical Branch. He also holds a master’s and bachelor’s degree in audiology from the University of Arizona and Brigham Young University, respectively. His current research focuses on developing a clinical test of auditory nerve survival to help tailor treatment options for people with hearing impairment.

Department of Health Informatics
HIM faculty active in national association
Pam Greenstone, MEd, RHIA, and Deborah Balentine, MEd, RHIA, were members of the AHIMA (American Health Information Management) workgroup this spring that published the practice brief Climbing Higher: Bridging the Gap to Advanced Degrees in HIM, in the August issue of JAHIMA (Journal of AHIMA).

Greenstone also presented “Integrating an EHR Questionnaire into an Online HIM Program” at the AHIMA Assembly on Education, Orlando, Fla., in July.

Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences
DADS faculty attend ASCLS annual meeting
Melanie Giusti and Beth Warning attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS), held July 17-21 in Los Angeles. Warning, outgoing chair of the ASCLS Promotion of the Profession Committee received the Presidential Certificate of Appreciation, as well as the Board of Directors Certificate of Recognition for outstanding service to the society and the profession. The meeting included educational presentations, clinical lab exposition, career fair, and a back-to-school drive to benefit teachers and children in the Los Angeles area. The event’s hot topic was the potential merger between ASCLS and the Clinical Laboratory Management Association (CLMA).

AMIT faculty news
MRI professor Barry Southers completed his master’s in medical education last spring.

Professors present at fall conferences
AMIT professors Alan Vespie and Barry Southers presented at local, state, regional, and national conferences throughout the fall, including:
- Rocky Mountain SMRT Chapter, Colorado.
- Lilly Conference, Traverse City, Michigan.
- START Conference, Christ Hospital, Cincinnati.
- Central Chapter of the Society of Nuclear Medicine, Wisconsin Dells, Wis.
- Kentucky SMRT Chapter Conference, Covington, Ky.
- New England SMRT Presidential Regent, Maine.

School of Social Work
James Clark, PhD, LMSW, director of the School of Social Work, delivered the 2012 Rhoda G. Saranat Lecture at the University of Chicago in October. His presentation, “The Study of Lives and Clinical Social Work in the Era of Evidence-Based Practice,” was part of the university’s School of Social Service Administration Alumni Weekend.

Workshop teaches collaboration across professions
Shauna Acquavita, PhD, MSW, received funding from the Faculty Development Council and Center for Clinical and Translational Research for the workshop, Building Skills for Successful Interprofessional Collaboration, held on Sept. 27 at the Tangeman University Center.

Edward Pecukonis, PhD, associate professor of Social Work at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), and director of the School of Social Work’s Maternal and Child Health Center, facilitated a half-day workshop aimed at allied health faculty and students. Topics covered included group development, problem-based learning, negotiation, conflict resolution, joint decision making and facilitating team-building activities. Pecukonis has facilitated numerous interdisciplinary courses and has published articles in peer-reviewed journals on the topic of interdisciplinary collaboration and recently completed an evaluation of interprofessional learning at UMB.

Rebecca “Becky” Rebitski recognized with 2012 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award
Rebecca “Becky” Rebitski worked 30 years as a physical therapist before finding her way to the University of Cincinnati. Now she says she belongs here, with the students in the College of Allied Health Science’s (CAHS) doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) program.

Since joining UC in 2007, the 2012 Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Award winner has helped shape the structure of student assessments and helped integrate clinical simulations into the course framework. She works with DPT students to translate classroom learning to patient practice. In labs, she instructs students in performing physical assessments, explains specific interventions and evaluates their performance in one-on-one “skill checks.”

Rebitski considers skill development a personal challenge. “We’re building our future colleagues in this program, so we want these students to be better than OK. We want them to be excellent,” she says.

In a letter co-signed by the DPT class of 2014, student Tom Powers wrote: “Becky is an instructor who puts her students’ needs first. She hears our questions, complaints, reasoning and doubts and she responds with honesty and encouragement, as any great physical therapist should.”

According to Elizabeth King, PhD, CAHS dean, Rebitski also serves as a role model for students. “It’s clear Becky has instilled in students the academic knowledge and skills they need to be good physical therapists,” says King. “But it’s even more clear she has gone beyond that and taught them the skills that will make them great physical therapists—treating others with empathy and dignity, the importance of leading by example and the value of life-long learning.”
To our College of Allied Health Sciences Alumni and Friends,

Thank you for your support!

Here’s what we can do with your gift...

- lab coats
- lap tops
- audiometers
- AAC devices
- ultrasound
- a continuous read stress test capable ECG machine
- undergraduate and graduate scholarships
- grip dynamometers
- goniometers
- microscopes
- centrifuges
- extra sets of hoses and connectors for the gas analyzers
- wound models
- joint models and skeletons
- mobile overhead suspension system for gait training with mobility impaired people
- travel to professional conferences
- membership to professional organizations
- summer stipends
- AV equipment to support distance learning
- keynote speakers and community engagement programs
- exam study guides
- exam fees
- instructional materials
- graduate student travel and research
- summer outreach programs that benefit the community and educate our students
- study abroad
- recognition awards

...to name a few items we need during the year.

From your grateful CAHS Dean Elizabeth King, Associate Dean Tina Whalen, faculty, staff, and students...East and West!

Our fiscal year begins July 1, 2012 and goes through June 30, 2013.
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

NIH funds SpeechMark project

Suzanne Boyce, PhD, is one of three principal investigators on a three-year National Institute of Health-funded project that makes acoustic landmark detection tools available to a wider audience of researchers. PhD student Marisha Speights is also part of the investigative team.

The SpeechMark software system is designed to detect subtle changes in how people articulate under different conditions. Possible uses include allowing physicians to adjust drug dosages or electrical stimulation; training emergency workers to be more understandable in noisy backgrounds; and early detection of disordered speech in young children. SpeechMark will be available as a Matlab toolbox and as a free or low-cost plug-in to commonly used speech analysis programs and statistics programs.

Boyce will identify ways in which the software tools themselves can be used by scientists and clinicians trying to learn about speech in different populations. Speights will study the use of acoustic analysis and distance technology for the education of children with communication disorders. They both will act as liaisons to other scientists who would like to use the software for teaching about speech and acoustics.

Department of Nutritional Sciences

Study monitored effects of DASH diet on adolescents

The University of Cincinnati’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training awarded Abigail Peairs, PhD, a grant in April for a study proposal submitted to the Clinical Research Feasibility Fund Pilot (CREFF) Grant Program. The summer project was a follow-up study conducting a controlled feeding study with adolescents diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes. Peairs worked with the Clinical Translational Research Center (CTRC) at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) to provide the patients with an adjusted version of the “DASH” diet and monitored the effects on blood glucose levels. Peairs led the study in collaboration with Amy Shah, MD, MS, Sarah Couch, PhD, and nutritional sciences graduate student Melody Hess.

School of Social Work

Men more at risk for depression after stroke

A pilot study of stroke survivors, led by School of Social Work assistant professor Michael McCarthy, PhD, found that male stroke survivors are more affected by uncertainty about their health post-stroke, making them at greater risk for depression than female survivors.

Results of the study, “Gender, Health Ambiguity, and Depression among Survivors of First Stroke: A Pilot Study,” are published in the journal Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

McCarthy, along with UC social work graduate student Elizabeth Bauer and collaborators at Portland State University and Oregon Health and Science University, interviewed 36 stroke survivors (16 women and 20 men) who had experienced their first stroke within the previous three years. Researchers measured survivors’ depressive symptoms and their ability to perform activities of daily living, such as bathing and cutting food with a knife and fork.

They evaluated interviewees’ health ambiguity or uncertainty by their agreement with statements like, “I don’t know what’s wrong with me,” and “I have a lot of questions without answers.” While results showed that health ambiguity was significantly associated with greater depression for both sexes, the association was stronger for male survivors than for females.

With post-stroke depression affecting one-third of stroke survivors, McCarthy says the study reinforces the importance of proactive communication among rehabilitation professionals, patients and family members. He says it also underscores the tangible impact that health-related beliefs can have on patient outcomes.

“Clear communication that reduces health ambiguity may be an effective approach for reducing survivor distress and, ultimately, for improving rehabilitation outcomes,” says McCarthy.
Studies examine when and how to use assistive devices after stroke

Researcher and assistant professor Aimee Dietz, PhD, hopes to learn how augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) devices can help post-stroke patients dealing with aphasia, continue to communicate.

Under a KL2 Research Training Grant awarded by UC’s NIH-funded Center for Clinical and Translational Science and Training (CCTST), Dietz will examine the use of an AAC intervention in patients between 3-12 months post-stroke. The intervention will teach patients how to use their AAC device during recovery so they can learn how to compensate while working to restore their lost language skills.

Current rehabilitation practices typically do not introduce AAC devices until patients have plateaued in their language recovery, says Dietz, and she hopes to show that restoration therapy does not have to be done to the exclusion of these interventions.

“We don’t tell patients, ‘You have to stay in bed until you can walk.’ What we are doing now is telling them, ‘You can’t communicate until you can talk.’”

In another study, funded by a $25,000 T1 translational science grant, Dietz will study how her personalized AAC device affects patients more than one year post-stroke.

For these patients, a generic AAC device can present more struggles than solutions, as they have to relearn the device’s symbols and connect them to words. Personalized devices use a patient’s own photos and phrases to help them recount stories from their past or convey information about themselves. Dietz says therapists have reported that patients do better when using personalized devices or when recounting personal memories instead of current events.

New study to examine the effectiveness of providing pediatric voice therapy via telehealth

The Agency for Healthcare Research Quality (AHRQ) recently awarded Lisa Kelchner, PhD, and colleagues a $300,000 grant for their project “Access to Pediatric Voice Therapy: A Telehealth Solution”.

The two-year grant will determine the feasibility of using a telehealth solution for delivering pediatric voice therapy via secure teleconferencing and interactive web-based systems. The team will also gather preliminary efficacy data and evaluate the use of telehealth by patients, families and pediatric voice care specialists, studying its impact on treatment effectiveness.

Long-term, investigators hope to prove this model of service delivery can be standardized and used to consistently deliver a high level of care, evaluate treatment outcomes and reduce the chronic nature of childhood voice disorders, and in time, be used for other childhood communication disorders as well. Telehealth is also expected to relieve burdens families deal with such as access, travel and the complex nature of family schedules and scheduling therapy.

The telehealth team involves: principal investigator Lisa Kelchner, PhD, Dimitar Deliyski, PhD, principal investigator from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, Stepbany Zacharias, PhD, Janet Beckmeyer, MA, Alessandro de Alarcon, MD, MPH, Meredith Tabangin, MPH, Chuck Doarn, MBA, Shari Wade, PhD (consultant), and the Departments of Bioinformatics and Information Services at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center.
Ann Kummer
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders
Ann Kummer, a communication sciences and disorders program graduate, is a nationally recognized expert on craniofacial anomalies and service delivery model in medical settings. She has built the speech-language pathology program at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center to the largest children’s hospital-based program in the country. She was named one of the “25 Most Influential Therapists” by Therapy Times and named one of the “10 Inspiring Women” of Greater Cincinnati for 2007 by Inspire Magazine.

Kyle Combs
Department of Analytical and Diagnostic Sciences
At age 14, Kyle was a semi-professional motocross racer when he experienced a catastrophic accident and injury. After spending a week in a coma, he woke up in the hospital with severe traumatic brain injury and partial paralysis. Despite a less than optimistic prognosis, he overcame the odds and graduated from high school and also from the highly competitive advanced medical imaging technology program at the University of Cincinnati. He is one of only a very few imaging technologists registered or certified in nuclear medicine technology, positron emission tomography, and computed tomography. Kyle currently works at MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, Tex.

Pierce Boyne
Department of Rehabilitation Sciences
Pierce is a health sciences program graduate (‘07) and the doctor of physical therapy program (‘10). He has established himself as a rising star among the new generation of physical therapists doing neuro-rehabilitation and movement recovery research. He has been author or co-author on six peer-reviewed manuscript publications, eight peer-reviewed abstract publications, and made 10 local, regional or national research presentations.

Pierce is a physical therapist at UC Health Drake Center inpatient rehabilitation and long-term acute care; Center for Neurorehabilitation Research (UC/UC Health); HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital at Drake Center: Inpatient Rehabilitation and Volunteer Clinical Instructor: Department of Rehabilitation Sciences.

Julie Kenniston
Department of Social Work
Julie Kenniston graduated with a master’s in social work in June 2010. She has extensive experience working with sexual abuse and domestic violence issues. Julie worked with the Butler County United Way to gain funding to start the Center for Family Solutions, a new agency that offers preventive and support services for families dealing with domestic violence and child sexual abuse. The agency opened in November 2010 in a remodeled space that was once a Kroger store in the Hamilton, Ohio area. The center’s partners are Butler County Educational Services Center, county Children’s Services and law enforcement, including the prosecutor’s office. Julie is the executive director.
April Martin
Department of Health Informatics

April Martin is owner and manager of QID Transcription in Gregory, Mich. April continued her education after graduating with her bachelor’s in Health Information Management from UC, earning a master’s in strategic leadership from Stephen’s College. Currently, Martin is a contributing writer for AHDI Publications and also holds multiple certifications including a certified professional in electronic health records (CPEHR); health information technology (CPHIT); health information exchange (CPHIE); a certified HIPAA professional (CHP) and certified HIPAA Security Specialist (CHSS); and has earned fellowship status with the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity (AHDI-F). She was selected MAHDI 2009 Member of the Year and was inducted into the 2010 AHDI Hall of Fame.

Jason Roberts
Department of Nutritional Sciences

Jason Roberts is a clinical dietitian at the Cincinnati Veteran’s Administration Hospital (VA). Roberts, the first male registered dietitian (RD) at the Cincinnati VA, provides nutritional assessment and intervention for patients on the medical-surgical ward. He recently began to provide coverage for patients in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit as well.

Roberts is a member of the American Dietetic Association and Ohio Dietetic Association, and an active member of the Greater Cincinnati Dietetic Association. In February 2009, the Commission on Accreditation for Dietetics Education (CADE) selected him to serve as the dietetics student representative for the 2009-2010 term. Only one student in the United States is selected to serve on the CADE board each year. In his first year of professional work as an RD, Roberts served a second term on the CADE Board in 2010-2011 as past-student member.

Calling all nominations for the 2013 Distinguished Alumni Awards

In April 2013, an alumnus from each department of the College of Allied Health Sciences will be recognized for his or her professional accomplishments. Please join us as we continue this wonderful tradition by nominating someone you feel deserves recognition. Complete and submit your nomination online at www.cahs.uc.edu.

Please submit your nomination(s) by February 15, 2013.

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 Information Management, 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
- Has 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.
School of Social Work celebrates Alumni Day

Close to 130 alumni and friends of the School of Social Work gathered in May to celebrate Alumni Day as part of the University of Cincinnati Reunion Weekend. Alumni reconnected with the school's faculty and staff and had the opportunity to attend two sessions to earn up to six CEU's: “Supporting Adults with Developmental Disabilities and Mental Illness”, presented by Georgia Strupe, RN, MSW from the Hamilton County Developmental Disability Services; “Social Work Boundaries and Ethical Considerations”, presented by Michael Tebbe, MSW, and Xan Boone, MSW, School of Social work faculty.

The school’s alumni council honored Jeanette Taylor, PhD, with the Distinguished Service Award for her work with the council. Alumni also showed their support through donations made to two student scholarship funds. The 2013 Alumni Day will be Friday, April 12.

Home Economics—Nutrition luncheon and lecture series unite alumni, faculty and students

CAHS and hostesses Jane Garvin, Ellen Rember and nutrition sciences department head Grace Faciglia held a luncheon for home economics college and home economics/nutrition alumni on Sept. 8.

The event helped raise funds and awareness for two scholarships, the Nutrition Sciences Scholarship Fund, and the Nutrition Graduate Student Research Endowment Fund. Faciglia announced the Nutrition Sciences Scholarship awarded its first scholarship to a graduate student, allowing the student to complete her requirements for graduation.

Dean Elizabeth King spoke, appreciative of the alumni’s influence on the CAHS. “We’re fortunate to have such a legacy in early childhood education, home economics education, clothing and textiles, dietetics and food nutrition,” she said. “Today through your careers, research and families, we see the important roles our alumni have played in developing the field of nutrition sciences.”

Professor Emeriti Jane Garvin was recognized for her leadership, along with Professor Emeriti and alumnus Ellen Rember who together have forged a sense of camaraderie among alumni, faculty and students interested in promoting a healthier community.

Current faculty attending were Sarah Couch, Abby Pears, Seung-Yeon Lee, Debra Krummel, Audrey Miller, Emily Van Wallenghen. Students attending included Emily Wolf, Surbhi Chhabra, Allison Baker Kuhn (keynote speaker). Special guest was Ruth Rosevear, benefactor of the Rosevear Endowment for Dietary Studies Chair.

At the luncheon keynote speaker Allison Baker Kuhn discussed her research on DHA (Docosahexaenoic acid) and infant anthropometry.
Three poster presentations on current research were on display.
1. DASH-4-Diabetes Controlled Feeding Study, Abigail Pears, Assistant Professor and Melody Hess, student
2. “Is social capital associated with food security in food pantry users?” Surbhi Chhabra, Robyn Hale, David Holben, Grace Faciglia, Lisa Vaughn, Seung-Yeon Lee
3. “Assessing the Prevalence and Characteristics of Vitamin D Deficiency in Patients on Hemodialysis in a Long Term Acute Care Hospital” Emily Wolf, student; Faculty Mentoring Team Sarah C. Couch, and Kari Dunning.
Social Work scholarship supports diversity

Jean Sepate, MSW (’83), calls it an epiphany, one that surprised her actually. Listening to a talk given by the UC Foundation’s Brian Hurst, she realized she had many options for ways she could contribute to the university. She’s always chosen to give with her time as a member of the College of Allied Health Leadership Council, and by supporting social work students in field placements at Lighthouse Youth Services where she’s worked for 30 years and now serves as the chief operating officer.

“I had never thought about giving financially to UC because I assumed my small donation wouldn’t make a difference to such a large institution’s operating budget.

Hurst’s talk was her “aha” moment. She learned that $50,000 would achieve an endowed scholarship and reaching that amount could be done through annual pledges over several years. “I realized I could do that—an annual contribution, no matter the amount, adds up—and I could designate my contribution to something I strongly believe in,” she explains.

For her and her husband Peter Djuric (PharmD, ’83), that means helping bring more African American men to the social work field. “African American men tend to go into fields other than social work. I know they would bring a lot to our field,” she says. That’s why they’ve designated the Sepate/Djuric School of Social Work Endowed Scholarship Fund for male African American Students working toward a master’s degree in social work.

Jean and Peter (the Sepate Djuric family) are seeing their annual pledges add up; they’re on track to fully fund the scholarship by 2015. Sepate says it’s a tribute to the School of Social Work which is close to her heart. “When you give you want to know that the people associated with the school are full of integrity, effective, and teaching all the right things,” she says. “I’ve had a wonderful experience as a student and through the years great experiences working with professors in the School of Social Work as a field placement supervisor. The School does an excellent job of preparing students for their social work careers and UC is lucky to have so many committed faculty. I’ve always felt terrific about UC’s School of Social Work.”
Be a mentor to a future allied health professional

Alumni are key in our efforts to successfully recruit and retain students from diverse backgrounds. As a CAHS graduate and working professional, you have experience that will make a difference in students’ lives. Get involved and give back! Contact Monica Wilkins (monica.wilkins@uc.edu) to learn how.

UC Academic Health Center Tailgate
Colleges of Allied Health Sciences, Nursing, Medicine and Pharmacy

UC Homecoming 2012