



Above: Dr. Terris Kennedy, left, the Chief Nursing Officer and Senior Vice President of Riverside, and School of Nursing Chair Dr. Karen Karlowicz sign the agreement for concurrent nursing program. Below: From left, ODU Provost Carol Simpson; Wade Broughman, the EVP and COO of Riverside Health System; and College of Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe also sign the agreement. / Photos courtesy Hyunsoo Léo Kim

Signed, sealed, delivered

ODU, Riverside collaborate to create historic program to increase BSNs among nursing workforce.

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Dean's message: From Assistant Dean for Interprofessional Education

IPE welcomes new board members, touts IPE Day

The College of Health Sciences faculty, staff and students are working together to realize our goal of creating an Interprofessional Education Collaborative (IPEC). We have instituted the tradition of “roaring” for IPE here at the College of Health Sciences. This semester we have a lot to roar about.

Thanks to the support of the college community, we have new members to the college IPE Advisory Committee. These members represent the perspectives of students and patients. Shannon Stone, a second-year physical therapy student has joined the committee. Shannon received a B.S. in Health and Exercise Science from Roanoke College in 2013. She also minored in Spanish while at Roanoke College. After completing the ODU Physical Therapy program, she has aspirations of obtaining specialized training in sports rehabilitation. Shannon expressed that working in an IPEC during her graduate education will better prepare her to collaborate with other health professionals once she has graduated. Welcome Shannon!



Dr. Kimberly Adams Tufts

Dr. Gail Della-Piana also has joined the advisory committee in the role of patient representative. Dr. Della-Piana recently received physical therapy services at our own ODU Monarch Physical Therapy Clinic. In addition to her experience in the “patient” realm, Dr. Della-Piana is an internationally known expert in architectural cultural design. She is faculty emeritus at Miami University. While among faculty at Miami University, Dr. Della-Piana led interdisciplinary teams of students who have completed nine buildings — including a guest house, children’s library, a marketplace, a community center, and in 2008, a computer facility. Ghana Design/Build, a program founded by Dr. Della-Piana, remains the longest-running summer studio workshop in the Miami University Department of Architecture and Interior Design. Most importantly to our college’s IPE initiative Dr. Della-Piana is an expert in facilitating effective communication across professions, has substantial experience with community capacity building, and is committed to including the voices of “others” in the process. Welcome Gail!

Speaking of communication, during this academic year COHS-wide IPE activity has focused on creating processes and structures for communicating about IPE activities across the college as well as creating a learning opportunity for assisting students to achieve IPEC Competency Domain # 3 “Interprofessional Communication.” The College of Health Sciences IPE Advisory Committee is currently working on the details for the first annual “College of Health Sciences IPE Day.” The purpose of this year’s IPE day is to create a platform to boost awareness of the importance of effective interprofessional communication in realizing optimal health outcomes. Julia Fox Garrison, author of “Don’t Leave Me this Way,” will be the keynote speaker. There will be small group activities and discussions with members of a panel of faculty, students, and patients. We will have a poster session and lunch. The event is scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2015. All faculty, staff, and students are encouraged to attend.

Let’s see how loud we can “roar with IPE.” Please submit your individual IPE roars to me at ktufts@odu.edu or 757-683-5011. They will be featured in future “IPE Corner” columns.

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From the Editor

There are so many stories yet to tell

As we make the turn from 2014 to 2015 and I reflect on my time here at the College of Health Sciences, I can do little but smile about the experiences I've had and the many stories I've been able to tell.

I am surrounded by a group of consummate professionals who are dedicated to educating and helping others. They not only reach out to students, but reach out to the community and beyond. They form alliances with others to foster wellness and research. They boldly look for opportunities to be innovative and collaborative. They don't take no for an answer – instead they master possibilities. And the bottom line: They care.

One of my missions is to tell the story of the College of Health Sciences. As I have written chapter after chapter, there has never been a dull moment.

I have detailed the mission by ODU physical therapy professionals to the Dominican Republic where they provided training on autism spectrum disorder to a large outpatient hospital in that country.

I've chronicled an assistant dean's fruitful trip to Saudi Arabia, where she not only taught dental hygiene in Riyadh but paved the way to future collaborations with a second university in that country.

I've captured history with an agreement forged between the School of Nursing and the Riverside School of Health Careers to create a concurrent enrollment program.

Those are but a sample of the experiences I have had the privilege of sharing with you. And the story is a never-ending one. This year promises to be just as exciting as the last.



**Irvin B. Harrell, Coordinator of
Strategy & Marketing**

Signed, sealed, delivered

ODU, Riverside collaborate to create historic program

By Irvin B. Harrell

In a move that will increase the number of highly qualified nurses educated in Hampton Roads, Old Dominion University's School of Nursing is partnering with the Riverside School of Health Careers to create a concurrent enrollment program.

Riverside has provided entry-level education for registered nurse students for almost 100 years. Under the collaboration, Riverside's diploma will be replaced by an Associate of Applied



Science (AAS) degree through classes provided by Riverside. Students will be fast-tracked to get their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) by taking ODU nursing course concurrently with the Riverside nursing courses. Completion of the BSN degree would occur one to two semesters after attaining the AAS and licensure as registered nurse.

"There is an initiative nationwide to have 80 percent of the nursing workforce with a BSN by 2020," said Karen Karlowicz, associate professor and chair of ODU's School of Nursing. "Through this partnership, we will be able to get more nurses with a BSN into the workforce more quickly because we have expedited their path to that degree."

Karlowicz, one of the program's architects, said ODU and Riverside have already received a \$6,000 Academic Pilot Progression grant award for faculty development from the Virginia Action Coalition, a joint initiative of the Virginia Nurses Foundation and AARP Virginia, which will assist in preparing both faculty groups for the launch of the program.

The five-year, renewable agreement between ODU and Riverside will take effect Jan. 1, 2015. ODU and Riverside will jointly review applications for full-time admission to the pre-licensure BSN program at ODU as well as applicants for full-time admission to the Riverside School of Nursing. Once admitted to Riverside, students will be concurrently enrolled at ODU. Infrastructure planning will take place this year, and program admission will officially start in January 2016.

Riverside and ODU's School of Nursing believe this collaboration will accomplish three main goals:

1. Establish a formal partnership between Riverside and ODU to promote BSN education
2. Fast-track completion of the BSN degree for students enrolled in Riverside's AAS degree program
3. And encourage BSN grads to pursue graduate education in nursing.

Karlowicz has been working on the program for about three years with Dr. Terris Kennedy, the chief nursing officer and senior vice president of Riverside.

"We have a rich history of working with ODU in nursing," said Kennedy, who has been with Riverside for 10 years. "This further solidifies that relationship. This program is a win-win."

“Through this partnership, we at Riverside can continue to reinforce the strength of what we’ve been doing for almost 100 years.”

Karlowicz couldn’t agree more.

“What makes this program special is the willingness of ODU to respect the goals of Riverside Health System and its School of Professional Nursing and the willingness of Riverside to make changes that fit with ODU’s requirements for admission to the BSN program,” Karlowicz said. “We are both very committed to the needs of our students and the goals of both organizations to provide a quality nursing education.”

Riverside School of Health Careers, Professional Nursing Program was established in 1916 as a training school for nurses associated with Newport News General and the Non-Sectarian Hospital Inc. In 1921, the hospital’s name was changed to Riverside Hospital and its nursing program to Riverside Hospital School of Nursing.

Since 1961, Riverside has been continuously accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing Inc. The school has a reputation for consistently high pass rates on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.

ODU’s School of Nursing is one of five schools in the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Shelley Mishoe, dean of the College of Health Sciences, praised the teamwork demonstrated by Karlowicz, Kennedy and the team.

“This collaboration is ideal to give more students the chance to earn their BSN, drawing from the large pool of applicants to ODU’s program while enhancing the nursing workforce in our region,” Mishoe said.

The school has educated more than 6,000 nurses in baccalaureate, masters and doctor in nursing practice programs since it was established in 1967. For more than 25 years, it has provided RN-to-BSN distance education to students in local and rural communities in Virginia. The School of Nursing is fully accredited by the Collegiate Commission of Nursing Education.

Aside from boosting the number of nurses with BSNs and streamlining the degree process for students enrolled in Riverside’s AAS degree program, Karlowicz also is encouraged by the graduate study possibilities.

“We anticipate that students who graduate from this concurrent enrollment partnership program with Riverside will look to ODU for their graduate education,” Karlowicz said. “And if not ODU, with another excellent graduate program in the state of Virginia.”



Dr. James Alan Neff (1952-2014)

College loses dedicated leader and teacher

By Irvin B. Harrell

The College of Health Sciences lost a distinguished member of its faculty last month with the passing of Dr. James Alan Neff. He left an indelible impression on those he worked with and taught. He was 62, and married with two sons.

Dr. Neff was a social-behavioral scientist with specialized training in medical sociology, public health, methodology statistics and evaluation research.

His academic credentials included an M.P.H. in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health; a post-doctoral scholar at the University of California, School of Public Health; and both a M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida State University. He was recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior.



To many at the College of Health Sciences, he will be remembered for his steadfast dedication and commitment to high standards for the college's graduate programs in public health and health sciences research.

"He had a stellar dedication to his students both in and outside of the classroom," said Dr. Deanne Shuman, chair of the School of Community & Environmental Health. "He was happily willing to meet with students and they always learned something new or left his office with an idea to pursue to advance their learning or research."

One of his former students, Dr. John S. Hudson, fondly remembers the guidance he received from Dr. Neff.

"He made me think... harder and deeper than anyone else," he said. "When I would say something stupid, he would say 'Well, let's think about that.' I called him out on it one time and he responded with that belly laugh that only he could do. I told him I was going to steal that line for future use, which I have done, and now it has even more meaning."

Dr. Mariana Szklo-Cox, an associate professor for the School of Community & Environmental Health, expressed her sadness at losing a "wonderful colleague and a friend."

"Jim will be greatly missed -- his level of engagement and seriousness of intent, his ready availability to speak with students and colleagues, and his apt observations and great sense of humor," she said.

Dr. Neff focused his research on such topics as health disparities, alcohol and substance abuse, and substance abuse prevention and treatment approaches. A great deal of his research dealt with minorities. He also was a faculty member in the EVMS/ODU Joint Graduate Program in Public Health.

He was heavily published both in books and many journals. He tackled such subjects as mental retardation and HIV/AIDS. He authored refereed papers submitted to national and international conferences; most recently, he presented on the "Effectiveness of a Brief Screen and Intervention for Heavy Drinkers in Dental Practice" at the American Public Health Association conference in November 2013 in Boston.

Dr. Neff's contracts, grants and sponsored research were extensive. Among his awards, in 2013 he received the Poster of Distinction award from the American Academy of Health Behavior.

Dean Shelley Mishoe, says the loss Dr. Neff will be deeply felt, but his impact on the College of Health Sciences and the School of Community & Environmental Health shall endure.

"We are saddened by the loss of Dr. Jim Neff, but heartened by the outpouring of emails and shared memories," she said. "We will miss the teaching, mentoring and research that Jim contributed to this college. More importantly, we will miss Jim, the person who made us think and made us laugh. His sudden death made us cry and his memory will live on in those he touched and impacted."

Scholarship recipient

Matthew Dancigers, a student at the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training, received a \$1,000 scholarship in December from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions. Dancigers will graduate in May with a Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) degree. Dr. Martha Walker, associate chair of the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training, nominated Dancigers for the scholarship. Dancigers commended the school for its hands-on experience and the personal development he received.



From left, Dr. Martha Walker; physical therapy student Matthew Dancigers; and Dr. Bonnie Van Lunen, chair of the School of Physical Therapy & Athletic Training, gather for a scholarship presentation last month.

School of Nursing online grad program receives high honors

By Irvin B. Harrell

Old Dominion University's School of Nursing ranked tops in Virginia and 39th nationally in its online graduate nursing program, according to an extensive statistical survey released by U.S. News & World Report.

In its annual report released Wednesday (Jan. 7), the publication evaluated about 1,000 online education programs nationwide. Of them, 133 nursing schools were graded on their online graduate programs. ODU's School of Nursing was named among the Best Online Programs.

Statewide, ODU's School of Nursing surpassed Liberty University in Lynchburg, which was ranked 79th. George Mason University and the University of Virginia, which ranked 48th and 75th respectively in the previous year's results, were not ranked in this year's survey.

The survey assessed student engagement, faculty credentials and training, peer reputation, student services and technology, and admissions selectivity in calculating its rankings.

Karen Karlowicz, chair for ODU's School of Nursing, was pleased by the survey's results.

"Our faculty works extremely hard to ensure that students enrolled in the online graduate nursing programs receive a high-quality educational experience. The high certification pass rates and the positive impact alumni have on health care delivery in their communities are worth our efforts."

U.S. News & World Report defines its distance education program in lockstep with the U.S. Department of Education's definition:

"A program for which all the required coursework for program completion is able to be completed via distance education courses that incorporate Internet-based learning technologies. Distance education courses are courses that deliver instruction to students who are separated from the instructor and support regular and substantive interaction between the students and the instructor synchronously or asynchronously."

ODU's School of Nursing scored highest in faculty credentials and student engagement categories. Those areas reflected indicators such as the number of terminal degree faculty, proper training for teaching, technical staff availability, graduation rates, best practices, class size and retention rates.

U.S. News & World Report also examined online graduate programs in business, education, engineering and information technology. ODU's Darden College of Education ranked 42nd for its graduate program.

Dean kicks off wellness program with walking group

By Irvin B. Harrell

If you see a group of faculty and staff routinely stepping through campus around lunchtime several days a week, there's a good chance you'll be witnessing a new wellness-minded phenomenon: the Health Sciences Striders.

Dean Shelley Mishoe of ODU's College of Health Sciences started the Striders on Jan. 5 as a way to promote a convenient approach to staying in shape.

She introduced the initiative with a few simple questions:

- Did you eat too many Christmas cookies over the break?
- Are you feeling heavy and tired?
- Do you get frustrated by the low number of steps on your Fitbit?
- Are you yearning for a healthier lifestyle?

"If you answered YES to any or all of these questions, then joining the **Health Sciences Striders** may be just for you!"

The group meets at noon on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the lobby of the Health Sciences Building and departs for about a 40-minute walk on a pre-designed path covering a little more than two miles through campus.

And there's no need to sign up. The Striders are open to anyone interested in a healthy lunchtime walk. All you need to do is show up and bring some comfortable walking shoes, and you're in.

Dean Mishoe has a few words for those who think they may not have the time to step out with the Health Science Striders.

"Regular exercise and activity will give you more years, giving you more energy and TIME," she says. "And, science has demonstrated that the hours following exercise are the most productive, efficient and effective!"

Dr. Scott Sechrist, associate chair for the School of Medical Diagnostic & Translational Sciences, has been on board with the Striders since they took their first steps.

"Although I prefer running, I wanted to be part of the group at its inception," Sechrist said. "The whole idea is provide faculty and staff an opportunity to get some exercise during the midday and still be back in their office for a quick lunch or to



From left, Dr. Manasi Sheth-Chandra, Dr. Maureen Boshier and College of Health Sciences Dean Shelley Mishoe lead the pack during a rainy-day outing for the Health Sciences Striders.



A rainy day was no match for Dean Shelley Mishoe and the Striders.

Global Health Corner

Event promotes corneal donation, global health

Old Dominion University's Center for Global Health participated in the China Eye Project event on Jan. 9. This fundraiser was aimed at increasing awareness and educating the public by promoting corneal donation in China.

The collaborated project was initiated in 2013 by Dr. Yaoguang Yu, president of Daqing Eye Hospital, and Dave Korroch, CEO of Lions Medical Eye Bank. A corneal donation can save a person from a life of darkness and give them a life of light and hope.

Dr. Juan Montero of the Montero Medical Mission, Petula Moy with Common WealthPlanning, and retired ODU professor Dr. James Yuan were the primary committee members for the event. Center for Global Health Director Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci and Manisha Harrell, major gift officer for ODU, attended the China Eye Project committee meeting in December. As a follow-up to the meeting, Dr. Akpinar-Elci gave a presentation on global health at the fundraising event.

"This project is extremely important," said Dr. Akpinar-Elci. "In fact, transplantation in general is a huge global health issue, because it is often impeded by the cultural barriers in many developing countries."

Dr. Harry Zhang, an ODU faculty member and chapter president of the Organization of Chinese American-Eastern Virginia, was also in attendance to support the project.



From left, Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci; Dr. Yaoguang Yu, president of Daqing Eye Hospital; and Dr. James Yuan, a retired ODU professor, took part in the China Eye Project event.

Global health certificate program up and running

The Old Dominion University Center for Global Health launched a new Global Health Certificate Program in Fall 2014. This graduate-level certification program was started with 14 students. The Center for Global Health aims to leverage the unique strengths of Hampton Roads communities in education, research and service, and to improve the health and quality of life for people locally and around the world. This certification program was developed as a key part of the center's mission.

This competency-based, graduate-level certificate program will provide comprehensive training in global health. It is designed as an online program for professionals who are practicing or those who plan to practice in a worldwide setting. Graduates of the Global Health Certificate Program can expect to find employment in a variety of fields including health-related governmental/non-governmental organizations, university research programs, international health care consultancies, and multinational corporations.

For more information, please contact Dr. Muge Akpinar-Elci at makpinar@odu.edu

Dental hygiene team wins seed funding

Tara Newcomb, an assistant professor with the College of Health Sciences School of Dental Hygiene, and her research team was one of the winners of Old Dominion University's 2015 Research Seed Funding Program (RSFP).

The Office of Research recently announced the awards to five research teams totally nearly \$190,000. The groups include 14 ODU faculty members as well as a number of collaborators from other institutions.

The teams are working on collection of macroscopic particles in deep-sea environments, micro-scale brain map reconstruction, a modified external aiming device for use in mobile dentistry & victim identification, high performance particle collider simulations, and super-resolution & real-time optical nanoscopy in biomedical work.

The project Newcomb's team is working on is titled "A Modified External Aiming Device (MEAD) for Portable X-Ray Equipment: An Innovative Solution for Victim Identification, Forensic Dentistry, and Mobile Dentistry/Dental Hygiene."

Her team includes: Ann Bruhn, assistant professor for the School of Dental Hygiene; Bridget Giles, research assistant professor with Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center; Hector Garcia, senior project scientist with Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center; Dr. Kathryn Simms, research associate with the Office of the Dean of the College of Health Sciences; and Dr. Steven Becker, a professor with the School of Community & Environmental Health.

College co-sponsors mentor match-making event

Do you want to know:

- How to write the most compelling grant proposal?
- Who is the best campus partner for writing and publishing your work?
- Which journal is the best outlet for your work?

Then join us for a CORE² (Committing Our Resources to Excellence through Equity) Speed Mentoring Event. Thanks to the support from faculty and administration, the Old Dominion University CORE² initiative is in its third year of activity. The College of Health Sciences CORE² Faculty Diversity Taskforce is led by Kimberly Adams Tufts. Linda Bennington, Susan Daniel, Barbara Hargrave, George Maihafer, Pamela Hilke and Harry Zhang are its task force members. The College of Health Sciences task force is co-sponsoring the event with the College of Education's Diversity Committee on Feb. 12. Edward Neukrug leads the Darden College of Education CORE² committee. Jonna Bozien, Melva Grant, Tony Perez, Lamar Reams and Kelly Rippard are also on the College of Education's committee.

The event will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in the first floor conference room of Innovation Research Park II. This event is part of the CORE² faculty diversity initiative. Promoting formal mentorship relationships is a part of the CORE² model for retention and ensuring the success of a diverse faculty. Speed mentoring is an opportunity to explore potential mentorship relationships. During the session, senior faculty members will meet briefly with junior faculty members to explore mutual scholarship interests and the potential for a mentorship. For more information about the event and to RSVP, contact Edward Neukrug at eneukrug@odu.edu or to Kimberly Adams Tufts at ktufts@odu.edu, CORE² Faculty Diversity Leaders.

Dean's list

A total of 462 students made the College of Health Sciences Dean's List! Their names will be posted on the dean's display board.

Here are the totals from each school:

Community & Environmental Health (73)
Dental Hygiene (79)
Health Sciences Intended (1)
Medical Diagnostics & Translational Sciences (68)
Nursing (241)

Calendar of events

February

- 10 Program Directors Luncheon, 12:30 pm-1:30 pm, Location: TBA
- 12 Mentor match-maker event at ODU Innovation Research Park II
- 18 COHS Advisory Board Meeting, 8:30 am-11:00 am, Location: Town Point Club (members only)
- 20-22 Winter Weekend Continuing Education Weekend, Sheraton Oceanfront Hotel, Virginia Beach

March

- 4 Dean's Student Advisory Committee Luncheon, 12:30-1:30 pm, Location, HS 2114
- 9-14 Students Spring Break
- 20 Cytotechnology 25th Anniversary Reception, 5-7 pm, Health Sciences Atrium

April

- 3 College of Health Sciences IPE Day