

HEALTH PROFESSIONS

UAMS
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

FALL 2017

LEADING THE WAY



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College Selects New
Leaders for Eight
Programs**



College of Health Professions
Fall 2017 Newsletter

The UAMS College of Health
Professions Mission

The mission of the UAMS College of Health Professions is to improve the health of culturally diverse populations by:

- Offering education, research and service opportunities for students in the allied health professions
- Providing students with a total educational experience that emphasizes lifelong learning
- Collaborating with other health care professionals to be an innovator in allied health education

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A Message from the Dean



In my final dean's message before my retirement in December, I want to look back on the great strides that we have achieved together during my tenure in the UAMS College of Health Professions.

During the past six years, we have established the physician assistant and physical therapy doctoral programs. Currently, we are working with the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville to launch a new Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. Our new

program director has been hired, and we are already searching for new faculty to create what will be an innovative education program that UAMS and our state will be proud of. We also welcomed the Center of Dental Education into the college in 2012, providing a home for such dental programs as an oral health clinic and dental residencies.

I am proud to report that the college has an enrollment of almost 700 students in 24 different academic programs. Part of what makes our college so wonderful is the wide variety of programs that we offer our students. Our diversity is our strength.

I'll be eager to follow our college's growth and evolution as new leaders, faculty and staff embark on new directions and strategies to fulfill its education, research, service and clinical missions. The future for the college is promising and filled with exciting new possibilities.

Thank you for your continued support of the College of Health Professions.

Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D.,
Dean, College of Health Professions

“I'll be eager to follow our college's **GROWTH** and **EVOLUTION** as new leaders, faculty and staff embark on new **DIRECTIONS** and **STRATEGIES**”
to fulfill its education, research, service and clinical missions.

College Selects New Leaders for Eight Programs

By Yavonda Chase

The College of Health Professions welcomed eight new program directors into the college's leadership this year.

"I am excited about these wonderful leaders who will be helping to educate the next generation of health care professionals," said Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Professions (CHP). "I think it is a testament to the quality of our programs that so many of these leaders were educated here or have already spent years teaching in a UAMS classroom."

Genetic Counseling

Noelle Danylchuk, M.S., is a familiar face in the Department of Genetic Counseling.

Before assuming the role of department chair and program director, she was an assistant professor and the assistant program director, working at UAMS' Northwest Regional Campus in Fayetteville. She also worked as a genetic counselor at the northwest campus, where she treated pregnant women, and at the Centers for Children in Lowell.

Danylchuk earned her Master of Science in genetic counseling at the University of Texas Health Science Center's Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in Houston. She has a Bachelor of Arts in microbiology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

Medical Laboratory Sciences

Nathan H. Johnson, Ph.D., is the newest addition to the college's leadership team, starting as the program director of the Medical Laboratory Sciences program and chair of the Department of Laboratory Sciences in November.

He joined UAMS from the Center for Laboratory Medicine Services at the Defense Health Agency in Falls Church, Virginia, where he was the national director overseeing the nation's largest laboratory system and its approximately 8,000 technical personnel. Johnson was also adjunct graduate faculty at Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, Virginia.

He earned his doctorate in toxicology from Mississippi State University and his master's degree in clinical laboratory science with clinical chemistry specialization from the University of Utah. He also has a master's degree in management from Incarnate Word College and a Bachelor of Science in medical technology from Louisiana Tech University.

Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences

Art Maune, M.Ed., the new program director for the Division of Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences, has been around UAMS for years. He joined the faculty in 2001 and was named an assistant professor in 2008.

Maune graduated from UAMS in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science in nuclear medicine technology after earning a bachelor's degree in biology from Lyon College. He later earned a master's degree in education from the University of Phoenix.

He is a member of the Medical Ionizing Radiation Licensure Committee for Arkansas, is the state representative for technologist advocacy, conducts several board reviews around the country and reviews articles for the *Journal of Nuclear Medical Technology*.

Occupational Therapy

Sherry Muir, Ph.D., joins UAMS as the director of the occupational therapy program, a joint offering from UAMS and the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville that is under development. The program hopes to begin admitting students in 2019.

Muir comes to UAMS from Saint Louis University where she was an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, part of the Doisy College of Health Science, with a secondary appointment to the School of Medicine. She has also continued to work as an occupational therapist in both Missouri and southern Illinois.

She earned her doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University in Minneapolis and her master of occupational therapy from Texas Women's University in Dallas. She graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a Bachelor of Arts degree in biology.



Ophthalmic Medical Technologies

For **Alicia Baird**, CO, COMT, her ties to UAMS go back to her undergraduate days, when she earned her Bachelor of Science in Ophthalmic Medical Technology. Now she is the chair of the Department of Ophthalmic Technologies and director of the program from which she graduated.

Prior to returning to UAMS, Baird worked as a certified orthoptist and ophthalmic medical technologist at University Hospitals and Rainbow Babies Children's Hospital in Cleveland, Ohio.

She earned an advanced standing fellowship from the Orthoptic Teaching Program of Tulsa and an associate of applied science in opticianry from Arkansas State University.

Physician Assistant

Edward Williams, PA-C, chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies and director of the Physician Assistant program, joined the department in 2014 as an assistant professor. Since then, he has held the roles of the program's director of admissions, director of clinical education and interim program director.

Before entering the world of academia, Williams served as a physician assistant and primary care manager in the U.S. Army, treating soldiers as the medical officer for several combat battalions. Williams retired from the Army after 22 years of service.

Williams has a bachelor's degree in physician assistant studies from the University of Nebraska. He earned a master's in physician assistant studies at the University of Nebraska and a master's in adult education at the University of Phoenix.



Radiologic Imaging Sciences

Lisa Rhoden, M.Ed., program director for the radiologic imaging sciences, is another familiar face.


She came to work at UAMS in 2004 as a radiologic technologist and nuclear medicine/PET/CT technologist in the Medical Center. In 2007, she joined CHP as an instructor in the Division of Radiologic Imaging Sciences. She was named the assistant program director in 2012 and became an assistant professor in 2014.

Rhoden was also educated at UAMS, receiving a Bachelor of Science in nuclear medicine technology and an Associate of Science in radiologic technology. She earned both a Master of Education in learning systems technology and an Associate of Arts in general studies at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Respiratory Care

Tom Jones, M.Ed., program director for the respiratory care program and associate chair for the Department of Respiratory Care and Surgical Technologies, has been an assistant professor in the department since 2006.

He also held several positions at UAMS' North Central Regional Campus in Batesville, including respiratory care program director and business/practice manager.

Jones earned his Master of Education from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville and his Bachelor of Science from the University of Central Arkansas. He graduated from UAMS with an Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care. 



Director Envisions Innovation in New Occupational Therapy Degree Being Developed by UA, UAMS



Sherry Muir, Ph.D., the newly hired director of the occupational therapy program, is determined to create an innovative program that recognizes the importance of interprofessional education.

The foundation is already laid.

The occupational therapy degree program is a joint offering from the

UAMS College of Health Professions (CHP) and the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Working to establish the program are CHP Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., and Susan Long, Ed.D., CHP's associate dean for academic affairs, and Fran Hagstrom, Ph.D., an assistant dean in the UA's College of Education and Health Professions,

The collaboration between the two UA system campuses represents the best of two worlds — academic and medical.

“The collaboration will emphasize the importance of interprofessional education,” Muir said, “sharing resources and preparing new occupational therapists to be active members of strong treatment teams who work together to meet the needs of patients and communities.”

As part of that interprofessional education, the occupational therapy students will be educated alongside their peers in physical therapy, nursing, pharmacy and medicine, Murphy said.

“This program addresses a real need that northwest Arkansas has for occupational therapists,” Murphy said. “This

collaboration between UAMS and UA really emphasizes both institutions' commitment to meeting the educational and health care needs of Arkansans.”

The UA and the UAMS Northwest Regional Campus, both in Fayetteville, are providing space for the new occupational therapy doctoral program. The two campuses are less than a mile apart.

“We are excited to be able to meet the challenge of offering this training to address needs identified in a northwest Arkansas regional assessment,” Hagstrom said. “Our two institutions have several strengths that will help us build a strong program, and we are pleased to have Dr. Muir here in the director's position.”

The assessment identified needs for occupational services for children from birth to 3, for school-aged children experiencing learning, mental health and behavioral challenges and for adults who experience sudden life-changing disability, chronic health conditions and reduced ability to manage activities of everyday life because of normal aging, Hagstrom said.

Muir has been an occupational therapist since 1991, and she began university teaching in 2003, moving to the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy in the Doisy College of Health Sciences at Saint Louis University in 2006, where she also held an appointment in the School of Medicine.

She holds a doctorate in public policy and administration from Walden University in Minneapolis, a Master of Occupational Therapy from Texas Woman's University, and a Bachelor of Arts in biology from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

New Occupational Therapy Degree continued on page 8

Dean's Society Grants Support College's Missions

By Yavonda Chase



Alanazi

For graduate student Ahmad A. Alanazi, Au.D., Ph.D., a Dean's Society grant allowed him to focus more on his audiology research and less on obtaining outside funding to complete his work.

For Erna Boone, Dr.PH., RRT, associate professor and chair of the Respiratory Care program, a Dean's Society grant allowed her and faculty from other College of Health Professions departments, as well as other UAMS colleges, to work together to improve an interprofessional course.



Boone

Both Alanazi and Boone benefitted from the Dean's Society, a group of College of Health Professions donors whose

contributions support the college's educational, research and service missions.

■ The Dean's Society funds interprofessional projects in three essential areas for the college:

■ Service-Learning and Community Engagement

■ Teaching and Learning Innovations

■ Research

A dual doctoral student in audiology and communication sciences and disorders who graduated in May 2017 and is now an assistant professor at King Saud bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Alanazi received two grants from the Dean's Society, totaling more than \$6,000.

His research focused on using simulation — both an infant simulator and standardized patients as parents — to teach students how to conduct hearing screenings on infants, how to make a hearing diagnosis and counsel parents whose child has an identified hearing loss, and finally, how to fit an amplification device on a baby.

"When you do a hearing screening and discover the child has a hearing loss, then you have to communicate the bad news to the parents and guide them through the process so that the child can get the necessary treatment," said Alanazi.

Simulation has been used very rarely in audiology and speech pathology, said Alanazi. However, it is a wonderful tool for teaching audiology students.

"Simulation won't take the place of real clinical practice, but it prepares students to be ready to go out and work with real patients," he said.

Alanazi worked on his research with several faculty members, including his mentor, Nannette Nicholson, Ph.D.; Samuel

Atcherson, Ph.D.; Clifford Franklin, Ph.D.; Mike Anders, Ph.D.; Naveen Nagaraj, Ph.D.; Jennifer Franklin, Au.D.; Pat Highley, Au.D., and Laura Smith-Olinde, Ph.D.

His studies have been published in the *American Journal of Audiology*, the *Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention*, the *Internet Journal of Allied Health Sciences and Practice*, and the *Canadian Journal of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology*.

Boone applied for her nearly \$5,000 grant with two colleagues in the College of Health Professions — Tonya Cook, M.Ed., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies, and Mitzi Efurd, Ed.D., Department of Dental Hygiene — as well as with Kelly Betts, Ph.D., from the College of Nursing, and Kathryn Neill, Pharm.D., from the College of Pharmacy.

Their goal was to enhance a one-credit hour interprofessional course that was focused on patient- and family-centered care. The funds allowed Boone and the other faculty members to purchase time from standardized patients to run a simulation in which students had to tell family members about a medical error that had occurred.

"Through the simulation, students were taught to offer a genuine apology to the family, give an explanation of what was known about the situation, promise to keep the patient and family apprised of the investigation and offer reassurance that safeguards would be put in place to keep the error from happening again," said Boone.

Forty-seven students from dental hygiene, respiratory care and the College of Nursing took the course, while another seven students from the Colleges of Pharmacy and Public Health joined for the simulation portion of the class, which fulfilled requirements for the required Triple Aim Interprofessional Education Curriculum.

The course had 14 facilitators representing the Colleges of Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy, as well as three patient advisers.

"One of the things that makes this course so unique is our use of patient advisers as educators," said Boone. "These advisers really bring in the patient- and family-centered care aspect because they've lived it."

For Boone, being a part of an interprofessional facilitator team was a "joyous experience."

"I really can't thank Dean Murphy enough for his support of interprofessional education," Boone said. "He made it a priority from the moment he stepped on the UAMS campus, and we are a better college for it." 🦋

Dean's Society Grants

Each year, the Dean's Society awards several grants to students and faculty. Here are a few of the projects that have been supported since 2011.

2016-2017

PROJECT: Interprofessional Simulation Training in the 1-3-6 Timeline Among Audiology, Nursing, and Speech Language Pathology Students

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Ahmad A. Alanazi, Au.D., Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology (Student); Nannette Nicholson, Ph.D., Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology

PROJECT: Enhancement of RES 4133: Patient and Family Centered Care

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Kelly Betts, Ed.D., College of Nursing; Erna Boone, Dr.P.H., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Tonya Cook, M.Ed., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Mitzi Efurd, Ed.D., Department of Dental Hygiene; Kat Neill, Pharm.D., College of Pharmacy and Center for Interprofessional Education; Cindy Saylor, M.Ed., Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences

2015-2016

PROJECT: VOLARE-Video Observation of Learning in Auditorily-Responsive Environments

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Mary Ellen Nevins, Ed.D., Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology; Kathleen Sussman, Weingarten Children's Center, Redwood City, California

2013-2014

PROJECT: Coordinated School Health Fairs: A Collaborative Service-Learning Project between the UAMS College of Health Professions (CHP) and the Central Little Rock Promise Neighborhood (CLRPN)

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Erna Boone, Dr.P.H., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Carla Coley, Pharm.D., Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences

2012-2013

PROJECT: Infant Hearing Decisions Pilot Study

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Nannette Nicholson, Ph.D., Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology; Josh Spann, Student, Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology

2011-2012

PROJECT: Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Education: Ventilator Bundle

PROJECT CO-DIRECTORS: Michael E. Anders, Ph.D., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Tonya R. Cook, M.Ed., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Theresa A. Gramlich, M.S., Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies; Karen Jeans, Ph.D., College of Nursing; Kendrea M. Jones, Pharm.D., College of Pharmacy; Tobias J. Vancil, M.D., College of Medicine, Division of General Internal Medicine

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COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The college's Dean Society was created to provide resources to enhance and strengthen our programs in education, research and service.

As a Dean's Society member, your investment in innovation and excellence will promote our continued success. Students and faculty will benefit in their education, research and service endeavors. Ultimately their professions, patients and health care benefit.

You are invited to join in our college's leadership in health care and health professions education. Your investment in the college will help prepare today's students to become tomorrow's leaders in the allied health professions.

For more information on becoming a Dean's Society member, please contact Christine Gronwald, associate director of annual giving, at cgronwald@uams.edu or 501-686-7203.


“THE COLLABORATION WILL EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION,” MUIR SAID, **“SHARING RESOURCES AND PREPARING NEW OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS TO BE ACTIVE MEMBERS OF STRONG TREATMENT TEAMS WHO WORK TOGETHER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES.”**

Muir, who will hold tenured positions as an associate professor at both UA schools, envisions a program that prepares graduates to work at the top of their licenses, using their full skill sets to become innovative practitioners. These occupational therapists will have the abilities and confidence to assess the needs of their clinics and communities and to create treatments and programs to meet those needs, she said.

Her first task is to begin the accreditation process with the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education, Muir said. She will work with UAMS to secure clinical sites for the program’s students, who will go through three levels of clinical practice before graduation.

Murphy said he expects two locations offering the occupational therapy students clinical experiences will be the Fayetteville Outpatient Therapy Clinic and the student-led North Street Clinic, both located on UAMS’ Northwest Regional Campus.

Additionally, Muir will begin the search for an academic fieldwork coordinator, who will be responsible for managing those clinical experiences and fieldwork sites.

Students are expected to be admitted to the program in 2019. 

Genetic Counseling Program Plans for the Future

By Yavonda Chase

The College of Health Professions’ Genetic Counseling program is creating an endowment fund that will support and grow the program as it leads the field in innovative education.

The Genetic Counseling program uses a groundbreaking curriculum that combines live instruction and distance technology, said Lori Williamson Dean, M.S., C.G.C., an assistant professor and assistant program director.

“UAMS was the first program to use this form of education,” she said. “Since we have disseminated the model through national presentations, numerous programs are adopting it, which is really a testament to the innovative work that we’re doing here.”

The use of distance technology allows UAMS to connect to faculty from around the world, she said. It also expands the number of locations where students can receive their clinical training.

“Students no longer have to be at UAMS to earn those clinical hours,” Dean said. They can be at a Nebraska clinic for skills training and still be able to virtually attend classes at UAMS. This allows us to teach more students, which is incredibly important given the shortage of genetic counselors in Arkansas and the nation.”

Currently, there are 14 students at UAMS working to earn a Master of Science in genetic counseling.

Genetic counselors are an important part of the modern

medical team, said Shannon Barringer, M.S., a board-certified genetic counselor and clinical services manager at the UAMS Prenatal Genetics Clinic.

“Oftentimes, patients are sent to a genetic counselor or a geneticist as a last resort when every other avenue has reached a dead end,” she said. “As a genetic counselor, my job is investigate the patient’s medical history to find answers and then to educate the patient about the relevant genetic disease or diseases. I also am here to support the patients and families as they adapt to a life-altering diagnosis.”

Over the summer, the college began the planning process for the endowment, said Stephen Schafer, Ph.D., executive director of corporations and foundations in UAMS’ Division of Institutional Advancement.

Genetic counseling is a rapidly growing field. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the profession is expected to grow 41 percent over the next 10 years.

That growth makes an endowment for the program all the more necessary, said Dean.

If you would like to make a donation to the genetic counseling program or any other College of Health Professions program, please visit giving.uams.edu or contact Christine Gronwald, associate director of annual giving, at cgronwald@uams.edu or 501-686-7203.



Genetic Counselor Helps Patient Find Answers

By Yavonda Chase

As a child, Laura Wright spent more than her fair share of time in the hospital.

She was born with a cleft palate and was diagnosed with Pierre Robin sequence, a condition in which children are born with a smaller than normal jaw, as well as a tongue that falls back in the throat and impedes breathing. Cleft palates are common with children who have Pierre Robin.

She also required several surgeries on her limbs as a child — something that doesn't fall under a diagnosis of Pierre Robin.

It wasn't until she was 27 years old and several weeks pregnant that Wright had a complete, accurate diagnosis.

She had campomelic dysplasia, a genetic condition that often results in short legs, dislocated hips, 11 pairs of ribs instead of 12 and clubfeet, among other symptoms, according to the U.S. National Library of Medicine. Distinctive facial features, such as a small chin, prominent eyes and a flat face, are typical of campomelic dysplasia — and Pierre Robin sequence is commonly seen in those with the disease.

Finally, Wright had answers.

She was also pregnant, and doctors were concerned about her baby's development. At 17 weeks, her son Lane's arms and legs were behind expected developmental milestones, and his head was measuring large. While his torso looked normal, his chest cavity looked small, Wright said.

Wright's obstetrician Paul Wendel, M.D., sent her to the UAMS Prenatal Genetics Clinic. There she met Shannon Barringer, M.S., clinical services manager and a board-certified genetic counselor.

"When Laura walked in, I knew that she had something more serious than a cleft palate or Pierre Robin," said Barringer. "In a way, genetic counselors are detectives. We are trained to look for specific features and medical histories that raise a big red flag. That was the case with Laura."

After taking a complete medical history, Barringer and Wendel sent Wright to G. Bradley Schaefer, M.D., a UAMS geneticist, who made the campomelic dysplasia diagnosis.

"Shannon [Barringer] was with me when I received the diagnosis," said Wright. "After Dr. Schaefer left the room, she

took my hand and sat there with me. That meant more than any of the words she could have said."

The next step for Barringer was giving Wright all of the information she needed to understand her disease, including the possible ramifications for her baby. Campomelic dysplasia is more often than not associated with dying in infancy or at a young age, Barringer said.

"My first thought was would he be able to walk. I didn't even think he could be born and not live," said Wright. "Even though the team was worried about him, they didn't let me know about that worry. They shouldered it themselves and laughed and helped me through it."

Wright said she had mixed emotions about her diagnosis.

"Part of me was relieved to be diagnosed because I finally had an explanation for all of my medical issues. Part of me was scared because I was told Lane's symptoms were more severe than mine were, so we didn't know what to expect," she said.

"Throughout my pregnancy, I tried to maintain a calmness and remain positive so that even if he didn't make it, he would be a happy baby when he was born."

But Lane did make it.

Despite the expectation that Wright would go into labor early because of her small size (she's only 4 foot 6) and the stress of the diagnosis, she carried Lane until he was 39 weeks old.

While he had a cleft palate at birth, none of Lane's other health issues surfaced until he was six months old. At that time, he had surgery to widen his airway. At eight months old, doctors discovered he had difficulty swallowing (dysphagia) and gave him a gastrostomy button (G-button). Lane was fed exclusively through the button until he was 2 years old.

With 5 years and 10 surgeries under his belt, Lane is the happiest little boy, said Wright. "If you looked at him without knowing his medical history, you wouldn't be able to see it."

Wright said she is grateful for her team at UAMS.

"It was one of the hardest times of my life, but the compassionate care of Shannon and Dr. Wendel made it easier."



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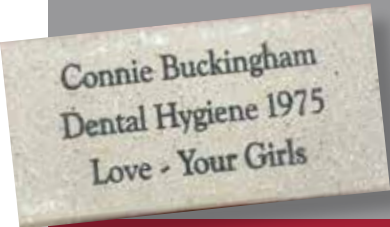
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