

HEALTH PROFESSIONS



CHP Programs Reach Students Across State, Beyond

by Jon Parham

For Debra Dockins, a 45-minute commute three days a week from tiny Ben Lomond, Ark. to respiratory care classes at the UAMS Area Health Education Center in Texarkana offers flexibility to stay closer to home while advancing her education.

Moving three hours away to Little Rock for two years at the UAMS main campus was not an option, she said. Her 7-year old daughter has a medical condition and must remain on a ventilator. Madie’s medical needs inspired her to pursue a career in respiratory therapy and being able to take classes in Texarkana made it possible.

“I knew I wanted to work in health care and thought with respiratory care I would learn more that I could use to give her better care,” Dockins said. “I feel like I’m getting the same experience as if I were in Little Rock.”

The College of Health Professions started its long relationship with the AHECs in the 1980s. Having the AHECs host some of the college’s programs expanded accessibility for students like Dockins who are not able to move to Little Rock.

Today the AHECs continue to host some of the college’s programs and that number could soon grow as both student demand and changes in health care create more need.

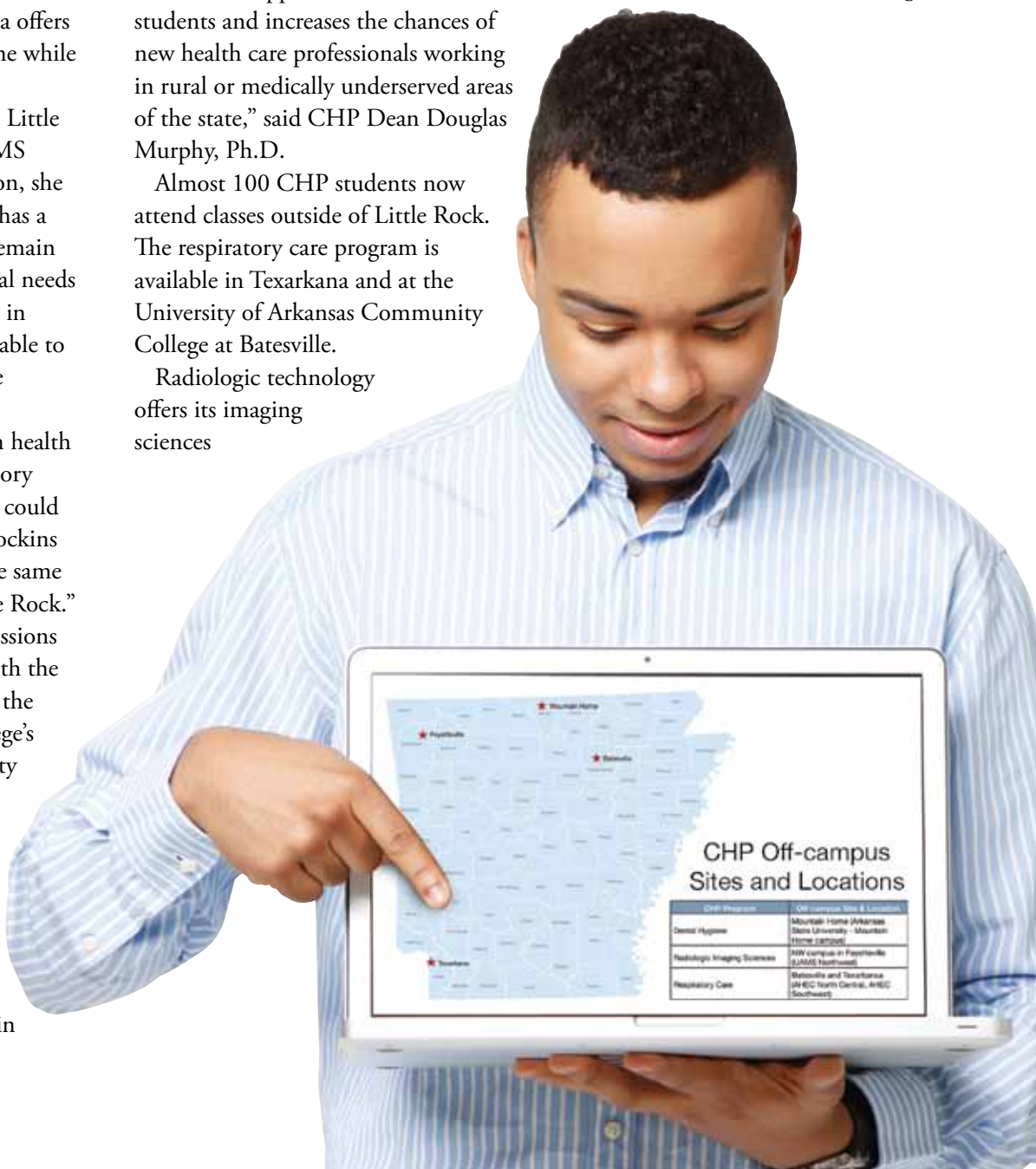
“Having our programs available outside the main campus — whether at the AHECs or online — puts these educational opportunities closer to our students and increases the chances of new health care professionals working in rural or medically underserved areas of the state,” said CHP Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D.

Almost 100 CHP students now attend classes outside of Little Rock. The respiratory care program is available in Texarkana and at the University of Arkansas Community College at Batesville.

Radiologic technology offers its imaging sciences

program in Texarkana and at the AHEC Northwest in Fayetteville while its diagnostic medical sonography

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College of Health Professions Spring 2013 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 life-long learning
- Collaboration with other health care professionals to be an innovator in allied health education

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A Message from the Dean



This spring finds the College of Health Professions growing along with the season. In this newsletter you'll read about some of these changes blooming like spring flowers.

We expect any day to hear if our Physician Assistant program will receive provisional accreditation. We've come a long way since 2011, when we announced plans to create this much-needed program — the first at an Arkansas public university.

The Oral Health Clinic in our Center for Dental Education opened in January. It is another step toward establishing a dental residency program in 2014.

We just added a Bachelor of Science degree program in Emergency Medical Sciences that is a first of its kind in Arkansas and one of only a few in the nation.

In this issue we highlight the college's programs teaching students in locations across the state. College leaders made the decision years ago to take programs off the main campus to reach students not able to move to Little Rock. It's encouraging to hear about students achieving goals to work in the health professions who otherwise might not have been able and enabling our college and UAMS to extend its mission to the whole state.

Also in this issue, we focus on philanthropy, which is essential to the college's continued growth. This spring, our students, employees, alumni, and friends are all engaged in various philanthropic activities. We feature some of these activities here, and we also profile three philanthropists — all employees — who share why they chose to support the college. Each story conveys our employees' feelings of ownership and support of the college's mission.

Thank you for your continued commitment and support of the college.

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

Physician Assistant Program Awaits Word on Accreditation



The Physician Assistant team pauses while looking over the ongoing renovations in the building that will house the program's lab space. The team is (from left) Ruth Quick, director of clinical education Stacie Smith, Linda Haubenstein and department chair Patricia Kelly, Ph.D.

By the time you are reading this, the college's Physician Assistant program may have received accreditation — the final administrative step before the program starts classes this May.

Patricia Kelly, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies, said the program expected to receive notification by mid-March from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant. Following a positive site visit by commission representatives in 2012, Kelly is optimistic of getting the green light to move the program ahead in earnest.

"We are working on the assumption that we'll receive the accreditation because there is so much to get done," Kelly said. "We are accepting students, hiring faculty, ordering equipment and working on courses."

The program also has continued to garner support and momentum with almost \$140,000 in grants and major

gifts awarded in recent months.

The Verizon Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to the program in February to develop curriculum materials on domestic violence awareness and prevention for students in the physician assistant program. The PA program will partner with local nonprofit agency Safe Places in training PA students so they will be equipped to recognize and care for victims of domestic violence.

In December, the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas awarded \$117,000 to the program for efforts to raise awareness among Arkansas physicians and prepare physicians to host PA students while they gain further clinical experience. Arkansas ranks 49th in the nation for the number of practicing PAs, so the program may be unfamiliar among physicians.

Also in December, the program received a \$2,500 gift from the

Arkansas Medical, Dental, & Pharmaceutical Association Foundation to establish a new scholarship in Physician Assistant Studies. The scholarship will be awarded to one outstanding student in the program's first class of 26.

Assembling a Program

"March 1 was the application deadline for students, so we hope to have all slots filled in the next couple months in advance of classes starting in May," Kelly said.

The program will be a full-time, 28-month master's degree program where students will receive classroom instruction and gain experience treating real patients in clinics and hospitals. Kelly said after 26 students in the first year, that the number will grow to 30 for year two of the program and — if all goes as planned — 34 in the third year.

"We are accepting students, hiring faculty, ordering equipment and working on courses."

Kelly also is working to fill out faculty positions, hoping to have three instructors onboard by the time classes start. Stacie Smith joined the program in 2012 as an assistant professor and director of clinical education.

Facilities are another key component. Major renovations are to be completed in March to another building in the former Arkansas State Hospital complex the college moved into

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Spring, Philanthropy in the Air by Brooke Ivy

This spring, philanthropy is in the air in the College of Health Professions. Students, faculty and staff have all gotten in the spirit, giving time and resources to support the college.

At the annual Phone-a-thon, sponsored by Verizon Wireless, more than 100 student volunteers called CHP alumni and friends to ask for scholarship support. Through four nights of calling, the students raised nearly \$18,000 in gifts and pledges. All donations to the Phone-a-thon go to CHP scholarships.

For the first time, CHP students at the UAMS Northwest campus participated in their own Phone-a-thon, with leadership from Imaging and Radiation Sciences faculty members Shawn Thurow and Leslie Spurlock.

In addition to the Phone-a-thon, CHP students are involved in other philanthropic activities this spring. For example, genetic counseling students are partnering

with U.S. Pizza Co. to celebrate National DNA Day and garner support for student professional development. On April 12, U.S. Pizza in Little Rock's Hillcrest neighborhood will donate a portion of its sales to the genetic counseling department. Guests can play trivial pursuit and bid on silent auction items related to genetic counseling.

Also CHP faculty and staff are more engaged in philanthropy than ever before, thanks to "March Madness," the college's first employee giving campaign. Throughout March, employees are encouraged to "show their team spirit" by making a gift to CHP in the area of their choice.

Five teams of employees in various CHP departments will face off to see which is first to reach 100-percent participation. Leading the campaign are campaign co-chairs Katy Warren, Dental Hygiene associate professor, and Ruth Quick, executive assistant in Physician Assistant Studies.

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Thank you to these generous donors who made gifts to the college from August 1, 2012 to January 31, 2013.

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PHILANTHROPY Donor Profiles: “Why I Give”

Becky Butler

Instructor, Genetic Counseling



Becky Butler has been an advocate for a genetic counseling program at UAMS since she joined the faculty of the College of Medicine in 1983.

A licensed social worker, she said she believed UAMS needed its own program to produce new counselors in the growing discipline. She and

her husband Tom, vice chancellor for administration and governmental affairs, have been supporting UAMS for years through employee payroll deduction. When a genetic counseling program was established in the College of Health Professions in 2004, the Butlers shifted their giving toward an endowment in support of the program.

Deborah Taylor made the decision in 2007 to become a founding member of the newly established Dean’s Society in the College of Health Professions.

Her gifts were matched dollar for dollar by UAMS Foundation Fund Board member Walter S. Nunnally III, who provided a generous challenge gift to encourage new members.

Rather than calculate an annual donation to the college, she opted to set up a monthly payroll deduction. She also gave to the scholarship set up in honor of former dean Ronald Winters, Ph.D., using payroll deduction. She said for her the payroll deduction was easier to budget than an annual gift.

Bill Woodell

CHP Associate Dean for Administrative Affairs



Several years ago, while working on his will, Bill Woodell decided to extend his support of the college beyond his lifetime.

He included a planned gift in his will to endow a scholarship in the college. The \$15,000 endowment will fund the scholarship in

perpetuity, helping students in the college for generations to come.

“I just thought it would be a great legacy — something to help students,” he said. “I think leaving something behind

The Becky and Tom Butler Genetic Counseling Endowment has grown significantly. The endowment is dedicated to supporting student professional development in the program. In 2012, interest earned from the endowment covered expenses to send two students to national conferences where they were able to present their genetic clinical research while listening to presentations from leaders in the field.

“It is exciting to see how our contribution supports the students whose research is contributing to the knowledge base of the profession and advancement of services to patients and families with genetic disorders,” Becky Butler said.

Deborah Taylor

Executive Assistant, CHP Office of the Dean

She has renewed her giving every year since.

“It gives me more of a feeling of ownership in the college,” said Taylor, who will celebrate 10 years at UAMS in April.

She firmly believes even small amounts can make a difference.

She said that feeling is illustrated by projects funded by the Dean’s Society.

Annual memberships in the Dean’s Society fund innovative service-learning, teaching and research projects led by CHP faculty, staff and students.



that is useful is important, offering an enduring benefit long after I’m gone.”

While it may not be pleasant to think of one’s death, Woodell said he is comforted knowing that his plans are set. And in the case of his gift to the college, he knows it will help.

Woodell, also a founding member of the Dean’s Society, has been with the college since 2005. He initially joined UAMS in 1984 as the first clinical business manager of the Area Health Education Center in Pine Bluff.

News Briefs

Oral Health Clinic Opens, Celebrates Delta Dental Grant

The Oral Health Clinic in the college's Center for Dental Education opened in January, seeing patients for comprehensive dental care and laying the groundwork for the anticipated dental residency program.

Also in January, the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation announced it will award a total of \$2 million in grants toward construction of the clinic. The first five of the clinic's planned 18 individual treatment rooms are now open. In recognition of the foundation's support, UAMS will name the clinic the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Clinic when the planned expansion is complete in 2014.

The Center for Dental Education is working toward accreditation for postgraduate residency programs in advanced general dentistry and oral surgery. It is planned that in 2014, when the clinic expansion is complete, the center can begin accepting dental residents who will provide dental care to patients in the clinic while gaining advanced clinical experience.

The Oral Health Clinic's hours of operation will be Monday from noon to 5 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Friday, 7 a.m. to noon. To make a clinic appointment, call (501) 686-5733.

EMS Starting New Bachelor's Degree Program

The Department of Emergency Medical Sciences recently was approved to offer the first Bachelor of Science degree in EMS — a first in Arkansas and one of the few programs of its kind in the nation.

Daniel Bercher, Ph.D., department chair, said the program expects to enroll 12 licensed paramedics as the first students for the summer 2013 semester. The degree program will produce graduates prepared to be EMS managers and educators with skills above the current associate's degree level.

"We believe a new area is opening up for our discipline as a community health paramedic," Bercher said. "This degree will equip graduates with the skills they will need

to be better leaders and managers, open up new clinical possibilities to expand their job opportunities and provide them another pathway to become an EMS educator."

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics projects employment in the field of emergency medical services to grow faster than average for all occupations between 2010-2020. An aging population with more age-related emergencies and more demand for patient transfer services is expected to create more job opportunities in the future.

The program is the first in Arkansas and the 16th offered in the U.S. To find out more, visit the department's website, www.uams.edu/chrp/ems.

Physician Assistant Program Continued from page 3

in 2009. The 4,049-square-foot in Building 7 will be divided into rooms to allow small-group courses for the program.

Two laboratory spaces will allow PA students to receive hands-on practice. A physical exam lab will include 11 clinical exam tables where students will practice taking patient histories and other techniques. Another lab will provide space for work on procedures such as casting, suturing wounds and lumbar punctures.

"It's an exciting, busy time as we wind down the accreditation phase of building the program and then ramp up implementation to welcome our first students," Kelly said.



Members of the PA team with representatives from the Verizon Foundation in February. The foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to the program.

CHP Programs Across State Continued from page 1



CHP-Texarkana: Patrick Evans, M.Ed., an assistant professor in respiratory care, teaches a class at the Area Health Education Center in Texarkana.

The dental hygiene program is offered at the AHEC North Central in Mountain Home.

“We also continue to look for opportunities to expand programs to meet emerging health care needs,” Murphy said.

One such opportunity may come soon. A physical therapy program — a first at UAMS — is in the initial stages of development for the UAMS campus in northwest Arkansas, Murphy said. A needs assessment study showed strong support and UAMS is expected to seek approval from the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees soon for establishing a program.

A Win-Win

The off-campus locations are not just a benefit for students. All of the programs with off-campus locations require clinical experiences, achieved through partnerships with local hospitals or clinics.

“We just don’t have any more clinical slots available in Little Rock,” said Cindy Saylor, M.Ed., director for the Division of Radiologic Imaging and interim co-chair for the Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences. “We’ve developed great clinical partners in northwest and southwest Arkansas as well as in north Texas that have allowed us to provide quality clinical experiences for all our students.”

Saylor said every effort is made to provide a similar student experience regardless of student location. With the rise in use of interactive video and online education, some

introductory level classes are taught to students concurrently at all three locations — Little Rock, Texarkana and Fayetteville.

The same goes for respiratory care. “Our campuses are integrated. We have interactive video courses so our students all have the same instructors and they also can interact with each other during class or on their online courses,” said Karen Diles, M.S., an assistant professor in Texarkana for the Department of Respiratory Care and Surgical Technologies, a 1991 graduate of the program. “I know that I would never have been able to make this journey in respiratory care without its location in southwest Arkansas.”

Moving More Online

The growth of distance education through interactive video and later online education has further expanded the reach of CHP programs to students inside and outside the state. Today, an estimated two-thirds of the college’s students are taking at least one course through distance education — either online or through interactive video sessions.

Some programs are offered completely online already, such as the master’s degree radiologist assistant program. Most of the radiologist assistant students are from outside Arkansas.

The sonography program is like others in that it transitions to more online courses after the introductory classes.

“In our associate’s degree program, more than half of the classes are online and we shift to more online courses later in the program,” Saylor said. “This gives all of our students more flexibility not just in geographic location but in accommodating work and clinical rotation schedules.”

The medical laboratory sciences program is one that offers a distance education track. The 17-month course curriculum is completed online or through interactive video sessions. Then two or three times a semester, students travel to Little Rock for a couple days of intensive laboratory work.

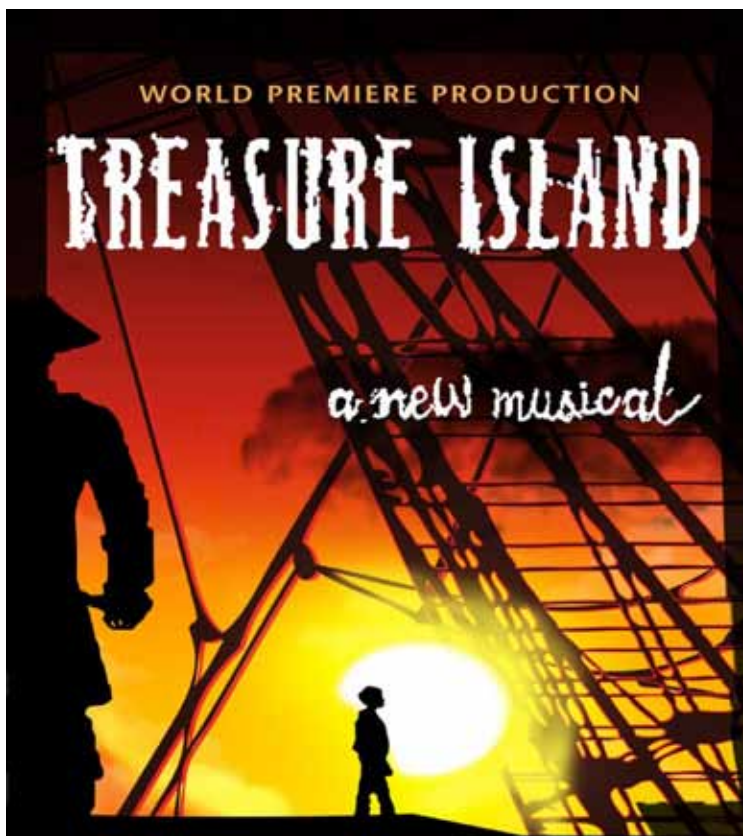
“What the students cannot accomplish through virtual or online lab applications, they come to Little Rock for a couple of eight-hour days of compressed laboratory exercises,” said Lugene Woods, M.Ed., assistant professor in the medical laboratory sciences program. “We have about 12 students from all over the state who are in the distance education track now, then all students in the program finish with a six-month internship.”

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