

HEALTH PROFESSIONS



Students Find Education Outside the Classroom, Clinic By Jon Parham

As College of Health Professions students accomplish the classroom and clinical requirements needed to graduate, more and more are finding opportunities outside the formal curriculum to enhance their education.

Education outside the classroom for students can include volunteering their skills in the community or attending events such as conferences related to their profession where they interact with fellow students and experts.

Students from several of the college's programs volunteer time at the student-led 12th Street Health and Wellness Center in Little Rock. Working alongside students from other UAMS colleges and under supervision, these students provide health and wellness services, including disease and medication management, basic dental screenings, health screenings, education and immunizations for neighborhood residents.

Audiology students assist with hearing screenings and may recommend re-screen, full hearing evaluation, and/or hearing protection. Physician assistant students take patient histories and perform physical exams or even contribute to diagnosis and management as their skills improve.

Dietetic interns conduct nutrition assessments and provide education and counseling assistance. Dental hygiene students perform oral examinations. Laboratory science students handle the testing on blood-sugar tests for diabetes. And even if the services offered do not directly fit their professional skills, allied health students are finding ways

to contribute — surgical technology students have helped check in patients or file paperwork.

“These students want to be here. They want to serve and this commitment broadens the conversation with their colleagues and with their patients,” said Lanita White, Pharm.D., director of the 12th Street Center and an assistant professor in the UAMS College of Pharmacy.

“Not a night goes by when we don't have a need for some nutrition education or a dental hygiene exam, and these students aren't just helping the community, they are learning about the community, about each other and about the other professions that make up the health care team.”

While logging some time at the 12th Street Center can fulfill a community service requirement for nutrition students and dietetic interns, many volunteer to spend additional time there, said Tina Crook, Ph.D., dietetic internship director and an assistant professor in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition.

“All of the dietetic interns are required to participate in the 12th Street Center two times, but many elect to be there more often,” Crook said. “In addition to the invaluable interdisciplinary experience, it gives our students more practice talking to patients with diverse backgrounds about nutrition and translating the things they are learning in the classroom into practical recommendations for these individuals.”

Dietetic interns also can be found volunteering to staff health screenings at

several Kroger pharmacies in October, invited to help by the College of Pharmacy, which has organized the annual event. The interns are available to offer dietary guidance and suggestions for customers whose body mass index, blood-sugar or cholesterol readings suggest a need for changes in diet.

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College Celebrates Legacy



Betty Jo Ward, widow of the late Harry P. Ward, M.D., former UAMS chancellor, places a brick engraved in his memory in the College of Health Professions Legacy Garden. The brick in memory of Ward was purchased by CHP Dean Emeritus Ronald Winters, Ph.D. For more on the garden and information on its upcoming dedication, see Page 5.



**College of Health Professions
Fall 2014 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

By Spencer Watson



As I write this, classes are beginning for another semester at the College of Health Professions. It's always an exciting time.

Our 12 academic departments and Center for Dental Education are all busy. Students are returning. We are welcoming new faculty. New programs are in various stages of development.

This newsletter is always just a sampling of all the happenings in the college. This time around you will read about how are students are gaining valuable professional and educational

opportunities outside the classroom or clinic. There's the extraordinary story of faculty member Paul Thaxton and the colleagues who revived him after a cardiac arrest on campus.

Our Emergency Medical Sciences, Center for Dental Education and Audiology programs are among those celebrating new programs or — in the case of our dental clinic — a new name. Construction is under way in Fayetteville on the clinic, offices and educational space for our physical therapy program on the campus of UAMS Northwest.

And we recently put down the first engraved bricks in our new Legacy Brick Garden. You'll read about a few of the donors helping our programs by purchasing bricks in memory of friends and family.

I hope if you are a graduate reading this that you will keep in touch with your academic home. If you are one of our supporters, we thank you and hope you see the ways your investment in us is helping fulfill the UAMS mission of health and health improvement in Arkansas. If you are a colleague, I appreciate your continued dedication to our school — teaching and supporting new generations of health care professionals.

Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Health Professions

'Perfect Storm' Saves Life of Faculty Member

By Jon Parham



When Paul Thaxton (seated) had a cardiac arrest, coming to his rescue were (from left) physician assistant faculty members Nadja Button and Theresa Morris as well as Department of Emergency Medical Sciences faculty and trained paramedics Harold Shray and Tim Rinehart.

The first person to see Paul Thaxton slumped in a chair in the lobby of the Administration West building initially thought he was asleep.

Thaxton, division director for the Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences program in the College of Health Professions, had not fallen asleep while waiting on his ride home that February afternoon. He was having a cardiac arrest, but thanks to employees in the building, the quick response of faculty from the physician assistant and emergency medical sciences programs and the presence of an automated external defibrillator, Thaxton was revived and is back on the job.

"You often hear the term 'perfect storm' in a negative context, but in this case it was a combination of several factors that was a good thing: people nearby who called 911, trained responders who were close and the AED," said Nadja Vawryk Button, M.H.S., an assistant professor in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

Button and colleague Theresa Morris, M.P.A.S., PA-C, the director of clinical education for the physician assistant program, were in a meeting in a nearby building when summoned to come for someone who needed help. Not sure what they would find, they arrived to find the unconscious Thaxton had been moved to the floor, where Morris discovered he had no pulse, so she and Button began CPR.

"I recognized Paul instantly and it flashed through my mind — 'I just saw you at a faculty gathering last week,'" Morris said. Next to arrive were Tim Rinehart, M.Ed., and Harold Shray, M.S.O.M., paramedics and faculty members in the Department of Emergency Sciences. They brought the AED.

'It Looked Grim'

"Honestly, it looked grim when we got there, but when the AED was attached and it said 'shock advised' just like we train

our responders to look for, it gave me hope," Rinehart said.

For each minute that passes before defibrillation therapy and CPR is administered, a victim's survival odds decrease by roughly 10 percent, according to one study. Rinehart and Shray used the device to administer two electric shocks that helped reestablish a pulse. The ambulance soon arrived, taking Thaxton to the hospital.

It was two days later when he awoke, not remembering anything about what had happened. His sudden cardiac arrest had no warning signs, Thaxton said. He had a heart attack about 15 years ago while working too long in the summer heat.

"I didn't know who had come and treated me at the time. I have since thanked them, both for myself and on behalf of my family," said the husband and father of two grown children.

Thaxton returned to work part time about a month following the incident. He's now working full time again.

The AED the two faculty members brought with them that day was one in the Emergency Medical Sciences offices. But when Thaxton and the group of responders gathered recently for a photo, they noted that there was actually one of the devices in the building, located on the second floor.

Five AEDs were donated to the college in 2012 by Ben Wellons and his company eMed Healthcare of Little Rock. The devices were placed around the college's buildings.

"I think the presence of the AEDs has made our campus a safer place and we continue to be thankful for eMed's donation," said Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D. "We are so glad Paul is doing so well and his fellow UAMS employees and faculty colleagues were there that day to respond as they did.

"I think this situation demonstrates the lifesaving difference these devices can make in starting treatment before the ambulance arrives."

Added Button, the PA faculty member: "Even if you don't know if it will be needed but you know one of these devices is nearby — bring it because you never know."

Morris noted the incident was her first out of hospital emergency response and the first time she was one of the first responders on the scene. "As we teach our students, perfect the basics to create a good foundation for your training," she said.

Nearby Shray noted that Morris and Button had "a good rate" of CPR compressions going when he and Rinehart arrived.

Thaxton sitting in the same blue chair — he noted it was a while before he could go near that chair — asked which of the faculty members handled the chest compressions. "You did a good job. I was sore for two weeks," he said.

GIVING Legacy Garden

By Spencer Watson

The College of Health Professions Legacy Garden will be dedicated from 1-2 p.m. Oct. 20 at the garden in the college's campus area at UAMS. Here are a few of the stories told by its inscribed bricks, purchases of which benefit scholarships in the college. To find out how to purchase a brick for the garden, visit giving.uams.edu/legacybrick.

Lindy Bollen, Jr., D.D.S.



For Lindy Bollen, Jr., D.D.S., seven bricks don't fully quantify his support for the Legacy Garden. Each represents a class he taught in the dental hygiene program through 2014, but it's impossible to put a number on what those classes mean to him.

"It was a tip of the hat from me to an institution that came along in a very dark time personally in my life and made me realize I still had something to live for," said Bollen, who lost a teenage son Kyle in a car accident in November 2003.

He said it was the opportunity to teach — and the students

he taught — that convinced him he had something to give. He pointed to students in his first class who, on the first Friday in November 2007, all showed up in white T-shirts with the slogan "Klick it for Kyle," a reminder for everyone to buckle up. "It choked me up a bit," Bollen said. "I told them, 'you guys sure are going to great lengths to get out of a lecture.'" But the gesture became a bond that is still evident today in all the well wishes Bollen got from those students when he posted pictures of the bricks, also inscribed with "Klick it for Kyle," on Facebook. "For so many to send comments, some saying what I meant to them ... it really did surprise me," Bollen said.

Ronald Winters, Ph.D.

It is perhaps fitting that a former chancellor who led UAMS through two decades of tremendous growth should have his name once again literally paving the way, this time as part of the College of Health Professions Legacy Garden.

The late Harry P. Ward, M.D., who served as chancellor of UAMS from 1979 to 2000 and died in 2008, was honored with the first engraved brick placed in the garden. The brick was purchased by Ronald Winters, Ph.D., dean emeritus of the College of Health Professions.

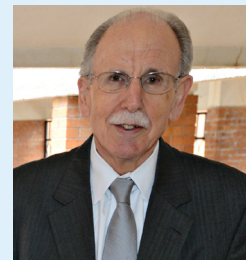
"Dr. Ward was a transformative figure in the history of UAMS and was an ardent supporter of the College of Health Professions," Winters said.

Ward's memorial brick and dozens of others were placed in

a ceremony April 30. The placement of Ward's, nestled near the fountain, was chosen by Ward's widow Betty Jo Ward, who attended the ceremony.

"This is really nice and it always feels good to visit UAMS," she said. "Harry saw the importance of the College of Health Professions to UAMS and to the state and I'm happy to see him honored here."

Betty Jo Ward also was honored with a brick purchased by Winters. That brick will be placed in October.



Artie Dutcher



Sometimes the decision to honor a legacy isn't so much about accolades and honors one earned in life as much as it is about the love that person inspired.

"It is gratifying to be able to honor a loved one in the durable way that the Legacy Garden provides," said Artie "Dutch" Dutcher, Sr., a senior

technologist and 35-year UAMS employee who received his bachelor's degree through the college's radiologic technology program. "I am pleased to honor Artie C. Dutcher Jr., a person gone too soon, and demonstrate the love that is shared by his mother Joice, myself and a host of other family

members as well as friends in this tangible, tactile type of way. Although we'll always love him in our hearts, this will serve as an edifice of sorts and a testament of that love."

Of his son, Dutcher said: "He was a young man that was surely going places. I've heard many people say, 'I wish that we had spent more time together,' but we got to spend a lot of quality time, and do a lot of fun things, and he was exposed to many and varied educational experiences, which I thank God for.

"One never thinks that they will outlive their child, but with this brick in the garden, he now gets a chance to outlive me."

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Nevins, New Auditory Certificate Program Gets Moving

A nationally known expert in development of listening and spoken language for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing joined the College of Health Professions to lead its new graduate certificate program in Auditory-Based Intervention for speech language pathologists and audiologists — one of only a handful of such programs with this special emphasis in the United States.

Mary Ellen Nevins, Ed.D., said the first students will begin an introductory course in the 15-hour program this fall, to learn auditory-based strategies for listening and language development in children and to address the needs of adults with hearing loss. Nevins, the program director and a professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, which is jointly hosted by UAMS and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, said it was a combination of resources and opportunity that attracted her to the job.

“The close collaboration between UAMS, UALR and Arkansas Children’s Hospital is a model of interagency practice,” she said. “There is a very strong audiology program here — one that has historically been committed to the needs of children.

She also sees the program as a catalyst for bringing statewide attention to the need for families to have access to quality listening and spoken language services across Arkansas.

To meet this need, graduates of the certificate program will be ready to deliver specialized early interventions that launch young children on a “listening, spoken-language journey” that will have them maximizing the use of listening technology for auditory learning, she said. Nevins foresees graduates working in early intervention programs, hospitals, public or private schools, outpatient centers or in private practice.

Nevins was previously director of the Professional Preparation in Cochlear Implants program, a national continuing education program based at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. She has been joined in developing the new program by Kimberlee Crass, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department who has been charged with curriculum planning, student mentoring and developing externship opportunities for program candidates. Crass holds the LSLS Cert-AVT from the AG Bell Academy, an international certificate for developing listening and spoken language in children.

College Nurtures Budding Community Paramedic Initiative

A growing school of thought — one supported by emergency service providers, regulatory agencies and UAMS — envisions a workforce of trained paramedics that respond to more than just emergencies. They would function as a health resource for some of the most vulnerable populations in a community.

The idea, called the Community Paramedic Initiative, is one growing worldwide for two decades. Though still in its infancy in Arkansas, a handful of experts are now starting to imagine what that concept will look like here.

“Paramedics naturally work in places distant from the hospital, often in a person’s home, trained with acute care/lifesaving management for patients. However, the ‘eureka’ moment came when paramedics realized that transport to the hospital in rural areas often was not in the patient’s best interest,” said Daniel Bercher, Ph.D., chair and associate professor of the Department of Emergency Medical Sciences in the College of Health Professions and co-chair of the Community Paramedic Initiative in Arkansas.

“The solution to the problem was to train the paramedics for some chronic care interventions and robust communications with physicians or other health care advisers.”

That could mean tasks as routine as making sure a person with diabetes is following a treatment plan, helping a patient with medication reconciliation between different physicians or ensuring an elderly patient’s residence is free from fall hazards.

Importantly, however, Bercher noted the vision for community paramedics doesn’t include an infringement on

services already offered in a community.

“The goal of the community paramedic is to improve patient care at the community level, but do not — and I repeat, do not — interfere in any way with existing resources benefiting patients,” he said.

Practically speaking, Bercher explained that a community paramedic, properly trained and with hyper-local awareness of area resources, could be called to service the uninsured or underinsured or the simply those overwhelmed and lost in the health care system who either don’t know how to get help or don’t have the means to do so.

“The community paramedic is a safety net for those who fall through the cracks,” he said.

A team of 13 community paramedics trained by the college’s Department of Emergency Medical Sciences are now serving in a pilot program in Mountain Home, Bercher said. The goal is for educators to work with agencies in the field and the Arkansas Department of Health — as well as other health care agencies — to create statewide standards for a licensure program both for individuals and EMT services.

Specifically, Bercher said, a community paramedic’s education will expand on the foundation of paramedic education by focusing on community mapping of existing resources — to interface and not interfere — as well as instilling more knowledge of chronic care problems than a paramedic would normally have.

UAMS Names Oral Health Clinic for Delta Dental



The name for the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Clinic is unveiled by (l-r) Foundation Chair Jim Johnston, Delta Dental of Arkansas CEO Ed Choate and William Slagle, director for the UAMS Center for Dental Education that operates the clinic.

UAMS unveiled a new name for its comprehensive oral health clinic in July — the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Clinic — in celebration of the foundation’s gift to help build the facility for hosting dental education while expanding access to dental care.

The foundation in January 2013 pledged \$2 million toward the clinic. The clinic, a part of the Center for Dental Education in the UAMS College of Health Professions,

will host a postgraduate dental residency program that is on schedule to welcome its first dental residents in July 2015.

The clinic began hosting senior dental students from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry for clinical rotations in early 2014. New groups of fourth-year students started arriving in August with the start of the fall semester for two weeks of clinical experiences with patients under supervision of the clinic’s two faculty dentists.

The 7,500-square-foot clinic includes nine rooms for general dental exams (with one more to be finished by the end of 2014), one sedation suite for more complex procedures and two overflow exam rooms shared with the adjacent clinic for the college’s dental hygiene program.

“This oral health clinic and the support from the Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation that made it possible, is already improving access to dental care as we welcomed the dental students from Tennessee and continue to move toward postgraduate residency programs,” said William Slagle, D.D.S., director of the Center for Dental Education.

Students Find Education Outside the Classroom, Clinic *(Continued from page 1)*

Going to Summer Camp

Like many students, Sarah Kennett, an audiology Ph.D. student in communication sciences and disorders, headed to summer camp this year. Unlike almost all those campers, her “camp” in late August was a trip to Denmark for the Eriksholm Summer Camp, a prestigious gathering of leading researchers and practitioners in hearing care.

The conference featured seminars, discussions and workshops, hosted at the Eriksholm Research Center, one of the world’s leading hearing research centers. Kennett was one of only four U.S. students invited to attend the event, a decidedly out-of-classroom educational experience.

“I’m looking forward to the opportunity to meet other students — especially those from outside the U.S. — and learn how they learn about audiology and any differences in the scope of practice or our clinician’s role in other countries,” she said in an interview prior to the trip.

Kennett, who hopes to pursue clinical research in hearing technology, said that attending such events allows her to meet other professionals and see their work.

With hearing technology changing sometimes faster than textbooks can keep up, she said, learning by experience and by meeting those on the leading edge of research will help her be a better professional.

Kennett’s mentor, Samuel Atcherson, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, called the trip a chance for her to broaden her horizons.

“I think students walk away with a renewed spirit for the field from an experience like this and they will be able to bring that information back home to use and to share with their classmates, faculty and clinical supervisors,” Atcherson said.

“Because students do not earn continuing education credit, summer camps like these also offer early exposure to the importance of continued lifelong learning, professionalism and competence as they maintain and grow their skills.”

Attendance at conferences, both at the state and national level, are common for students across many of the college’s programs. Whether presenting research projects, posters or just attending for

the networking opportunities, the experience is valuable.

“Students get the chance to meet students from other schools and hear presentations from leaders in their field,” said Don Simpson, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Laboratory Sciences. While many programs require students to develop and conduct a research project, presenting it at national meetings is not required. For those like master’s degree students in clinical nutrition, choosing to attend the national gatherings gives them another important educational experience outside the classroom, said Reza Hakkak, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition.

“We are proud to have our students choose to represent our program at a national level — interacting with thousands of students in their profession and getting a chance to meet experts in nutrition while presenting their own work,” Hakkak said.

College of Health Professions Upcoming Events

Oct. 20
Annual Courtyard Carnival
11 a.m.

Oct. 20
Dedication of Legacy Brick Garden
1 p.m.

Nov. 6
**The Dean's Gathering and Scholarship
Reception**
4 p.m.

Dec. 2
The Dean's Office Holiday Open House

College alumni and supporters
are invited to join us.

We Want to Hear from You!

Do you have a personal story about the college that you'd like to share? Contact us at (501) 686-5730 or by email at DeanCHP@uams.edu to share stories or recent accomplishments with us.

Get our newsletter via email and help us "go green" by providing your email address to DAA_Updates@uams.edu.

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Support CHP

For information about supporting scholarships, the Dean's Society, or other areas of need, contact Donna N. Smith at dnsmith@uams.edu or (501) 686-7203