

# HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS

## At 40, CHRP Poised for Continued Growth

From humble beginnings as a scattered collection of a few programs, the College of Health Related Professions greeted its 40th anniversary in 2011 as a school with a reputation as a technology leader and among the largest enrollments at UAMS.

The college moved to a new home in 2009, the first time in its history that most of its programs — which today encompass 21 academic programs — were in one place. The college began the 2011-2012 academic year with 682 students in certificate and degree programs at locations across Arkansas and even outside the state by virtue of distance technology and online education.

“The college is in a good position to grow and expand as needed,” said Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., who in 2011 became the college’s third dean. “One thing that impresses me as I look at the history of the college is that it has remained responsive to the state’s health care workforce needs.

“Programs have been added in emerging professions and the college has consistently used technology as a tool for making education accessible in a variety of ways.”

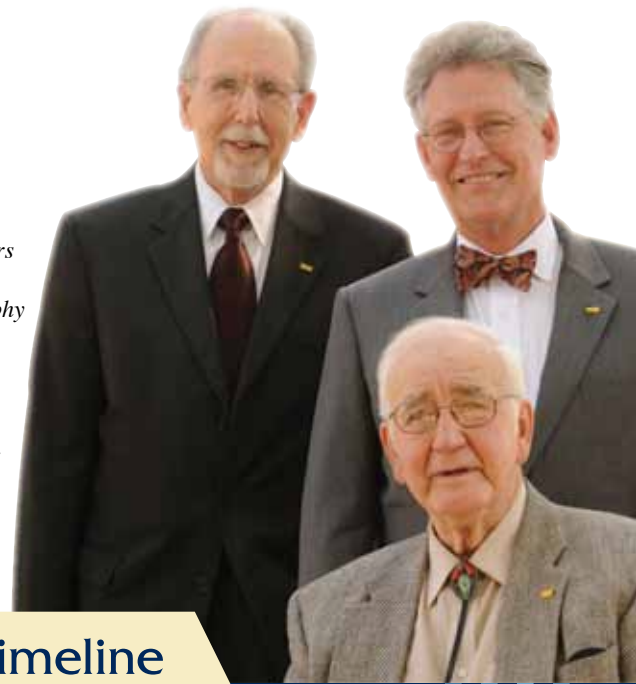
The effort leading to the creation of the college gained steam in the late 1960s. Howard Quittner, M.D., a professor in the College of Medicine’s Department of Pathology worked with Betty Shook and Gene Hall in what was then that college’s medical technology program to engineer a combination of that program with lab sciences programs at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center.

Chancellor James L. Dennis, M.D., began thinking about joining all the allied health programs on the campus, said Tip Nelms, D.D.S., M.Ed., who was then leading the dental hygiene program. The University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved the formation of a School of Health Related Professions in 1971 with five existing programs — dental hygiene, radiological technology, medical technology, biomedical instrumentation technology and surgical technology.

*continued on page 9*

*Dean Emeritus  
Ronald H. Winters  
(from left), Dean  
Douglas L. Murphy  
and Founding  
Dean Tip C.  
Nelms gather to  
celebrate the  
college’s 40-year  
anniversary.*

*Photo by:  
JohnPaul Jones*



## College of Health Related Professions Timeline

**1918**

- Medical Technology program started in the College of Medicine’s Department of Pathology, making the program the college’s oldest



## College of Health Related Professions Fall 2011 Newsletter

Daniel W. Rahn, M.D.

*Chancellor*

*University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences*

Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D.

*Dean*

Editorial Committee:

Suzanne Hansen

Deborah Taylor

Editors:

Brooke Ivy

Jon Parham

Mikel Holloway

*Graphic Designer*

UAMS College of Health Related Professions

4301 W. Markham St., #522

Little Rock, AR 72205

(501) 686-5731

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# A Message from the Dean



YOU ARE LOOKING AT ANOTHER MILESTONE FOR THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH RELATED PROFESSIONS — the inaugural issue of the college's newsletter — just one of the many milestones in our 40-year history.

Actually, the history of the college's programs extends back almost 100 years when the medical technology program was established in 1918 as a program in the UAMS

College of Medicine. Since then, UAMS and the College of Health Related Professions have become distinguished innovators and leaders in health care and health professions education.

Since my mid-February arrival at UAMS, two themes have become obvious. First, this university and the college prize creative and proactive solutions to health care workforce needs. We have a track record of anticipating and leading new developments in emerging professions and educational methods.

Second, this college has a "dual personality." We have a well-deserved, solid reputation among schools of allied health professions around the nation. However, we are a well-kept secret within our own state. One of my goals as dean is to share the secret and engage you in our history and continuing story.

In this newsletter, you will learn how exceptional people apply cutting edge technology and form partnerships to make our outstanding programs accessible to students throughout our largely rural state. You will see how faculty — even retired faculty — have an impact on health care around the globe and how we are positioning ourselves for future growth and development.

So, welcome to our newsletter! I am eager to share more "secrets" in future issues and tell you more about our remarkable history and promising future.

Douglas L. Murphy, Dean  
College of Health Related Professions

## 1971

- College of Health Related Professions established, incorporating programs in seven professions already in existence at UAMS: Biomedical Instrumentation Technology, Dental Hygiene, Medical Technology, Operating Room Technology — subsequently renamed Surgical Technology, Radiologic Technology,

Respiratory Therapy — subsequently renamed Respiratory Care, and the Dietetic Internship

- Tip C. Nelms, D.D.S., named the college's first dean



*Tip Nelms*

# Medical Technology Program at Roots of College's History

The roots of the College of Health Related Professions can be traced back 93 years to its oldest program – medical technology.

The laboratory sciences program was established in the College of Medicine's Department of Pathology in 1918. The medical laboratory scientist — conducting clinical laboratory tests on blood, body fluids and tissues — was closely linked to the pathologist's work of categorizing and diagnosing disease.

Technology has transformed the discipline and automated many of the tests previously done manually peering through a microscope. Rather than deemphasizing the laboratory scientist, said Sandra Ackerman, an assistant professor in the program as well as a graduate, the job is more critical.

"Labs are much more automated now but the medical laboratory scientist is still the eyes of the physician and must be able to identify cell types and conditions," Ackerman said. "The instrumentation is only as good as its operator."

It was a successful combination of the medical technology programs at UAMS, the Veterans Affairs Medical Center and St. Vincent Infirmiry Medical Center in the late 1960s that spurred UAMS leaders to create an allied health college on the campus.

Today, 84 students are part of the medical laboratory science program under the direction of Karen Hunter. In addition to students on the UAMS campus, the program is offered at five of the UAMS Area Health Education Centers or online for about 10 distance learning students. Clinical partners include numerous hospitals or labs where the students gain hands-on experience.

Lugene Woods, another assistant professor in the program who graduated alongside Ackerman in 1976, said the program has evolved to meet the changing needs of students. Instead of just one curriculum track, there are full-time and part-time programs as well as a track for laboratory medical technicians to become medical laboratory scientists.

"We must always keep our program up to date with technology or new testing methods, but our students still learn the basics of medical laboratory science, which haven't changed all that much," Woods said.

## UAMS Helps Establish Lab Sciences Program in Namibia

In one of the most rural African countries, some UAMS faculty members are reaching out to help a university there educate more health care professionals.

Don Simpson, Ph.D., M.P.H., chairman of the CHRP's Department of Laboratory Sciences, has been working since 2007 through a four-year, \$640,000 grant from the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) to partner with the Polytechnic of Namibia and establish that country's (and Africa's) first Bachelor of Science in biomedical sciences program. The country, with a population of just more than 2 million — compared to Arkansas' population of about 2.8 million — has fewer than 180 medical technologists and cytotechnologists, Simpson said.

The first 24 students in the new program are expected to graduate in November.

"It's really fulfilling to have an opportunity to go share the knowledge and experience from our program in such a positive way that will really boost health care in their country," Simpson said.



*Don Simpson in Namibia with children of local farm workers*

### 1973

- Nuclear Medicine Technology program established

### 1974

- Communicative Disorders (subsequently renamed Audiology and Speech Pathology) Master of Science degree program established

### 1975

- Emergency Medical Sciences program established

### 1981

- Cytotechnology program moved to the college



# Celebrating the Allied Health Professions

Most health care professionals working in hospitals today are not physicians or nurses — but allied health professionals.

Several activities are planned by the College of Health Related Professions to celebrate National Allied Health Week, Nov. 6-11. This annual event honors the various allied health professions represented in the CHRP.

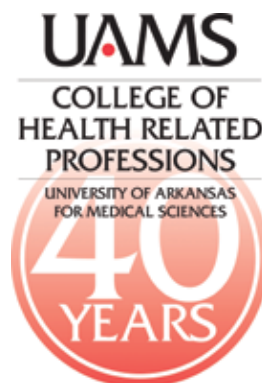
Events planned by the college this year include starting the week with “Donuts with the Dean” for students on Monday, Nov. 7.

A Nov. 8 scholarship recognition ceremony will honor scholarship recipients from the past year and major scholarship donors. That event will be followed by the college’s 40th Anniversary Celebration. Music will be provided by the Ted Ludwig Jazz Trio. A silent auction will benefit the College of Health Related Professions Scholarship Fund.

On Wednesday, Nov. 9, faculty, staff and students will attend a lunch-and-learn presentation, “Health Literacy 101: A Primer for the Allied Health Professional.” Richard Zraick, Ph.D., and Samuel R. Atcherson, Ph.D., both faculty members in the Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, are the presenters.

Specific departments in the college have also planned their own celebrations during the week, such as a tour of the newly renovated UAMS Dental Hygiene Clinic hosted by the Department of Dental Hygiene.

For more information about any of the events planned for National Allied Health Week, please call (501) 686-5731.



## You're Invited!

Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Health Related Professions  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences  
cordially invites you to attend a reception for the

### College of Health Related Professions 40th Anniversary Celebration

**Tuesday, November 8, 2011**  
**6:00 - 8:30 p.m.**

Fred W. Smith Conference Center  
12th Floor, Jackson T. Stephens Spine  
& Neurosciences Institute  
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences

Music by the Ted Ludwig Jazz Trio  
Silent Auction to Benefit the CHRP Scholarship Fund

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#### 1982

- Ronald H. Winters, Ph.D., appointed the college's second dean
- Total enrollment of the college was about 200 students



Ronald Winters

#### 1984

- Department of Dietetics and Nutrition established with its Dietetic Internship program

#### 1985

- Nuclear Medicine Technology program re-opens in its own department

# Alumni News

## Alumni Association Lets Graduates Stay in Touch

By Kristen Hansen



Megan Cantrell

CHRP graduates have a new way to stay connected with the school through the college's recently created Alumni Association.

Joining couldn't be easier — graduates automatically become members. Recent radiologic technology program graduate, Megan Cantrell, has helped the group get started. "I was inspired to have something like this for our school," she said. "I wanted an easier way to stay in contact with the college after I leave."

The association's goal is to establish a bond between alumni and CHRP that will allow alumni to stay informed of special events and continuing education opportunities. Alumni will also receive newsletters and email updates.

"CHRP alumni identify with their professions more than the college," Cantrell said. "We want to bridge that gap so they also identify with the college as a whole and alumni from other professions."

current and future alumni to share professional accomplishments and current contact information.

In addition to the annual Alumni Phonathon, which raises money for scholarships, the association will offer new opportunities for CHRP alumni to support projects such as scholarships.

"Alumni have been helped and know that students need assistance too," Cantrell said. "This will be a special way for alumni to keep in touch and raise awareness for scholarship needs at the same time."

## Legacy Brick Campaign

CHRP supporters can now make a lasting contribution to the college by purchasing a personalized legacy brick to support the CHRP Scholarship Fund.

For \$40 — in honor of the college's 40th anniversary — an engraved brick will become a permanent part of the UAMS landscape. After 2011, the price of legacy bricks will increase to \$100 each.

To purchase your legacy brick today, complete the enclosed order form or visit [www.uams.edu/chrp](http://www.uams.edu/chrp).



### 1989

- First class of Respiratory Care Technician students accepted at its outreach program at the Pine Bluff UAMS Area Health Education Center (AHEC), beginning a long partnership between the college and the network of UAMS AHECs across the state

### 1990

- First class of Radiologic Technology students accepted at outreach program at the AHEC-SW in Texarkana
- First class of Respiratory Care therapist-level students accepted at outreach program at the AHEC-SW in Texarkana

# Donor Profile

## James Wear, Ph.D.



James Wear, Ph.D.

James Wear, Ph.D., was working in a national research center at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center when he was asked to evaluate some unused VA medical research equipment.

The request eventually led him to start the National Veterans Affairs Engineering

certification program for engineers in Malaysia, and training engineers from all over the world.

"It has given me a chance to travel," said Wear, who retired from the VA in 2007. "I've lectured on every continent except Antarctica."

Wear was chair of the Department of Biomedical Instrumentation Technology until the program was discontinued in 2000 after demand declined. He stayed busy at the VA as director of the VA training center while also traveling to promote engineering and hospital safety. He also kept supporting the college through donations.

"I just thought it was a good thing to do. They did a good thing for me," said Wear, a founding member with his wife of the college's Dean's Society. "I was still conducting a continuing education program for the college."

His support of the college led to creation of the James O. Wear, Ph.D., Endowed Scholarship using funds from the continuing education program. The scholarship will be awarded annually for the first time in 2011.

"As an endowment it will be able to go on and support students for years to come," he said.

Wear said he has kept up with many former students, some of whom have gone on to start biomedical companies

and to be in charge of biomedical engineering programs at hospitals. "It has really made me proud to find out about their success," he said.

Training Center. One of the VA training programs was maintaining medical equipment, which became one of the first six programs when the College of Health Related Professions was established in 1971.

His work also has taken him around the world to advise others in hospital engineering, which recently earned him an international humanitarian award from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.

The organization credited Wear for authoring more than 200 manuscripts and technical guides used internationally by both engineers and technicians, establishing a

**"As an endowment it will be able to go on and support students for years to come."**

### 1991

- First class of Radiologic Technology students accepted at outreach program at the AHEC-NW in Fayetteville

### 1992

- First students admitted to the new Master of Science in Clinical Nutrition program in the Department of Dietetics and Nutrition

### 1994

- Medical Record Technology (subsequently renamed Health Information Management) program established

### 1996

- Diagnostic Medical Sonography program established



# Imagine the Difference a Scholarship Can Make

Increased support for scholarships is critically important to the College of Health Related Professions. Often scholarships can make the difference in a student's ability to attend school while paying for his or her living expenses and fulfilling family obligations.

At this time, fewer than five percent of the college's 682 students receive scholarship assistance. Your support can help to ensure that more CHRP students are awarded the scholarships that they deserve in order to continue their educations.

An endowment of \$25,000 will establish an endowed scholarship that will assist students in the College of Health Related Professions in perpetuity. Gifts to scholarships endowments can be given in a lump sum, pledged over a number of months or years, or made through a planned gift such as appreciated stock.

This fall the College of Health Related Professions is pleased to offer the following new scholarships:

- Joseph R. Bittengle Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- Terry J. Dubose Endowed Scholarship
- Neal and Clara Spain Endowed Scholarship
- James O. Wear, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship
- West Little Rock Rotary Scholarship
- Ronald H. Winters, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship
- Herbert B. Wren, M.D. Scholarship

The 2011 recipients of named scholarships in the College of Health Related Professions will be honored with the major scholarship donors at a recognition reception on Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2011.

For more information about how you can support scholarships for CHRP students, call (501) 686-7203.



*Dental Hygiene scholarship recipients gather for group photo during UAMS Philanthropy Day.*



*Valerie Green '11, recipient of the Arkansas Hospital Auxiliary Association Scholarship, with association president Mary J. Frauenhauff*

## 1999

- Department of Nuclear Medicine Technology makes all lecture courses available online and first out-of-state students enroll for distance education

## 2000

- Department of Ophthalmic Technologies and its Ophthalmic Medical Technology program established
- Department of Radiation Therapy established

# Home Sweet Home

## Allied health college enjoys its new facility

More than 40 radiologic technology students used to cram into one radiography lab. They would wait to work with an X-ray machine that was in nothing more than a large closet.

Not anymore after the 2009 transformation that moved most of the College of Health Related Professions into 72,000-square-feet of newly renovated buildings that formerly housed the Arkansas State Hospital adjacent to the UAMS campus.

For Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., who arrived in early 2011, the facility made quite a first impression.

“There is a lot of nice space. It’s a luxury that you usually don’t have at a university and it gives us room to expand,” he said.

During the college’s first 38 years, most of the programs in the UAMS College of Health Related Professions faced logistics challenges or space restrictions. It’s easy to see why, when you consider they were spread across locations in two cities.

Respiratory care students with classrooms in North Little Rock traveled to UAMS Medical Center or other Little Rock hospitals for clinical education.

The genetic counseling program’s offices were in a small, renovated house near the UAMS campus. Other programs, including dietetics, medical laboratory sciences and emergency medical sciences were located in a building across Interstate 630 from the main campus.

“Now we have two radiography labs instead of one, which enables the students to have more hands-on experience,” said Rebecca Ludwig, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences. “Similarly, we had no dedicated sonographic laboratory previously, and now we have two.”

UAMS took ownership of the buildings after the State Hospital moved into a new facility. About \$5 million in renovations — funded in part through a 2006 voter-approved bond issue — remade the buildings into classrooms, teaching labs, offices and other usable space.

A Student Study Center includes a large open area with tables and chairs along with smaller study rooms for individuals and small groups. There also is a study garden, renovated by a generous donor, further giving the facility a campus-like feel.

The college hopes to receive philanthropic support to renovate a courtyard that would provide another outdoor gathering place for students, faculty and staff. Murphy said a sculpture will complete the courtyard facelift and make the space more distinctive.

Future plans also include adding artwork throughout the college’s buildings.



*Medical Technology students Yuxin Zeng, Alfred Brown, Jr., and Brandon Ellis chat with Dean Douglas Murphy (second from left) in the CHRP Study Garden*

### 2002

- First class of Diagnostic Medical Sonography students in the College of Health Related Professions accepted at its outreach program at the AHEC-SW in Texarkana

### 2003

- Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies formed by combination of the Departments of Respiratory Care and Surgical Technology
- Department of Laboratory Sciences established by combination of the Departments of Medical Technology and Cytotechnology



## ***“CHRP Poised for Growth” continued from page 1***



*Gene Hall, Emeritus Associate Professor of Medical Technology, with a student in 1983*

“Just bringing it all together was a challenge,” said Nelms, who was the college’s first dean from 1971-1982. “The programs had been working independently or under the College of Medicine so we had to get everyone to work together. There was a lot of give and take.”

With the programs spread across locations on and off the UAMS campus already, the fledgling college faced another challenge in forging its own identity. The dean’s office and the Department of Dental Hygiene moved from the University Tower building to the campus in 1981.

The college worked through issues created by the physical separation — in a pre-Internet, pre-email time. Ronald Winters, Ph.D., who became the college’s second dean in 1982, said faxes and videotaped classes played a role. The college also looked to early distance education technology as well as partnerships with other institutions — both inside and outside the state — as a way to broaden its reach.

In 1989, the college began an affiliation with the UAMS Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program that grew into several of its programs being available at AHEC locations across the state. Online education and

interactive video accelerated the educational accessibility to Arkansas.

Winters said distance education was necessary and critical for the college because many students could not afford to leave home and come to UAMS full time. “We made the conscious decision to take the programs to them,” he said.

Today, two-thirds of the college’s students are taking at least one course through distance education.

In 2009, the college finally found a home as most of its programs moved to renovated buildings formerly part of the Arkansas State Hospital adjacent to the UAMS campus. Murphy hopes the new home will foster more collaboration and cross-professional education.

With shortages in almost every health care profession in Arkansas expected to worsen in the decades to come, Murphy said the college is well positioned to respond. “We can build on our strengths — our people and technology — to continue to address health care work force needs for years to come.”



*Dr. Jim Montague and Dr. Sakina Drummond in the Department of Communicative Disorders (now Audiology and Speech Pathology) in 1981*

### **2004**

- Department of Genetic Counseling and its Genetic Counseling program established
- Medical Dosimetry program established

### **2005**

- Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences formed by combination of the Divisions of Radiologic Imaging Sciences,

Nuclear Medicine Imaging Sciences, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Radiation Therapy and Medical Dosimetry

- Radiologist Assistant program established

### **2007**

- Dean’s Society established through challenge gift offered by Walter S. Nunnally III

# College of Health Related Professions

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Thank you to these generous donors who made gifts to the college from Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, 2011.

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### 2009

- Nuclear Medicine Advanced Associate program established
- Programs in most of the professions in the College of Health Related Professions, and its Dean's Office, move into renovated facilities that were formerly part of the Arkansas State Hospital
- College's total enrollment surpasses 700 students

### 2011

- Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D., appointed the college's third dean
- Respiratory care program in Texarkana converted to a satellite program
- First five students graduate the distant location of the dental hygiene program hosted at Arkansas State University Mountain Home
- Alumni Association established

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 Bivy@uams.edu



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4301 West Markham, #619  
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Degrees and Certificates Offered	26
Satellite Campuses	4
Current Faculty	76
Current Student Enrollment	682
Students Receiving Financial Aid	85%
2011 Graduates	273
Alumni	7,000 +
States Where Alumni Live	48
Graduation Rate	94%
Board Exam Pass Rate	85.7%

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