

HEALTH PROFESSIONS



FALL 2016

Speech Pathology Students Teach Reading Skills in Summer Camp

By Yavonda Chase

For some children, reading comes naturally. For others, it can be a difficult and frustrating endeavor. Camp Can Read is trying to give those struggling readers the tools that they need to unlock the mysteries of reading — and make it fun.



Camp Can Read is a six-week course sponsored by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR)/UAMS Speech and Hearing Clinic. The clinic, located on the UALR campus in the University Plaza, is a collaboration between

UAMS' College of Health Professions and UALR's College of Education and Health Professions.

"Camp Can Read was designed for struggling readers, particularly those who have trouble with decoding and spelling," said Chenell Loudermill, Ph.D., a clinical instructor and

clinic coordinator for speech pathology in the UAMS Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology.

"We focused on five core areas — phonics, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, fluency,

and reading comprehension. Within those areas we also strategically address spelling (phonetic and non-phonetic words), and morphological awareness — in our instruction," Loudermill said.

The camp met two days a week for three hours. Each morning started with whole group instruction that targeted reading comprehension strategies. Then the children broke into groups that rotated through the various labs, which addressed the other core areas.

"We're trying to give them strategies to help to decode words and become better readers," Loudermill said.

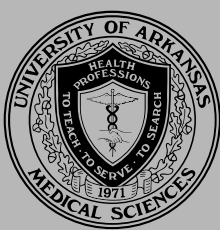
The four labs were operated by students in the Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders program. Each student was trained in how to teach their specific area. Tiffany Harris ran the phonics/phonemic awareness lab. Taylor Russell taught spelling. Emily Pierce ran the vocabulary lab, which included instruction in morphology, while Julianna Nix taught fluency and non-phonetic words.

Also assisting in the program was Misty Sims, an assistant principal and reading specialist with the Little Rock School District.

"We're trying to give them strategies to help to decode words and become BETTER READERS."



Taylor Russell (left), a student in the Master of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders program, and Chenell Loudermill, Ph.D., a clinical instructor and clinic coordinator for speech pathology in the UAMS Department of Audiology and Speech Pathology, work with two children on spelling skills during Camp Can Read.



**College of Health Professions
Fall 2016 Newsletter**

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Professions Mission**

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- 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



The College of Health Professions is proud to be a diverse agent of change in global health, with alumni from our varied programs affecting patients and communities not only here, but around the world. Our alumni and faculty have been recognized for their contributions at both the national and institutional level across the globe.

In this issue of the College of Health Professions newsletter, we highlight two individuals who are shining examples of the professionals affiliated with our college. Lori

Williamson Dean, M.S., C.G.C., chair of the Department of Genetic Counseling, recently received the The Diane Baker Alumni Award from the University of Michigan's Genetic Counseling Training Program in the Department of Human Genetics for her work here at UAMS in developing an innovative genetic counseling graduate program.

For Lori, the recognition, which she likened to "a lifetime achievement award," was made all the sweeter because of the time she got to spend with Baker, her longtime mentor.

Roy Morris, a 1986 graduate of the Biomedical Instrumentation Technology program that was discontinued in 2000, has been awarded the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation' Robert Morris Humanitarian Award, which recognizes individuals or organizations whose humanitarian efforts have applied health care technology to improving global human conditions.

Roy works with the International Children's Heart Foundation in its mission of bringing the skills, technology and knowledge to heal children with congenital heart disease in developing nations. In his job, he works with governments and hospitals in the countries to create a medical infrastructure that will sustain vital health care efforts. From his Little Rock workshop, he repairs donated medical equipment, then sends it to areas where it is desperately needed. Then, Roy trains local health care personnel to use, maintain and repair the equipment.

Both Lori and Roy are excellent examples of health care professionals who are making a difference. I am proud they are part of the UAMS College of Health Professions family.

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

Dental Residents Gain Valuable Experience at UAMS

By Yavonda Chase

UAMS has welcomed its second class of dental residents. The dental residency program, classified as a hospital-based General Practice Residency, is a one-year program that offers advanced training, specifically in the care of patients with weak immune systems or significant health issues, beyond what is available in dental school.



Chad Adams, D.D.S., Alyssa Brailsford, D.D.S., Jack Pardo, D.D.S., William Wilson, D.D.S., and John Scott, D.D.S., are the second class of dental residents in UAMS' General Practice Residency program, part of the Center for Dental Education in the College of Health Professions.

The new residents — Chad Adams, D.D.S., Alyssa Brailsford, D.D.S., Jack Pardo, D.D.S., John Scott, D.D.S., and William Wilson, D.D.S. — started their residencies July 1.

The residents treat patients at UAMS' Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation Oral Health Clinic, Arkansas Children's Hospital, the 12th Street Health and Wellness Center and Harmony Health Clinic in Little Rock. They also complete two-week rotations through anesthesiology, emergency medicine, internal medicine and otolaryngology, as well as four weeks at Arkansas Children's Hospital.

"We try to load the residents up with the bear cases, such as difficult extractions or rare dental issues, so when they leave here, they're prepared for anything," said Gene Jines, D.D.S., director of the Center for Dental Education in the College of Health Professions.

Unlike physicians, dentists are not required to complete a residency program in order to practice. According to the American Dental Association, 5,491 dentists graduated from dental school in 2014. That same year, 1,070 dentists completed residency training.

UAMS' program is one of 184 in the country and the only one in Arkansas.

Patients with weakened immune systems include those who

are undergoing chemotherapy or have an underlying disorder that affects their immune systems and are referred to as medically compromised.

For Ashley McMillan, D.D.S., an assistant professor in the College of Health Professions who spent a year in private practice before serving a residency at UAMS last year, an absence of advanced training meant she often felt she lacked the medical knowledge to treat many of her medically compromised patients. Now, she is helping train the five residents who make up the 2016-2017 class.

"This program gives you the confidence to treat more comprehensively," she said. "You aren't just treating the mouth. You don't just feel qualified to handle the oral cavity. You feel qualified to look at a patient and help with their overall health."

Niki Carter, D.M.D., associate professor in the College of Health Professions, the residency program and clinic director, agreed that a residency provides an invaluable experience.

"Completing a residency assists new dentists in the transition from academics to real world dentistry," Carter said. "The education opportunities for dental residents at UAMS are multifaceted: Dentists provide treatment of commonly encountered oral health conditions as well as preventive care in our oral health clinic. Specifically, we train residents to provide care for a variety of patients, including special needs and the medically compromised. We clear UAMS patients for necessary life-saving treatments for organ transplants, chemotherapy, radiation treatments, joint replacements and cardiology surgery."

“Completing a residency assists new dentists in the **TRANSITION** from **ACADEMICS** TO **REAL WORLD** dentistry.”

"When you graduate dental school, you know just enough to get started," she said. "Experts estimate that a dentist who goes through a residency program has five years of experience on their peers."

That desire for more knowledge and experience prompted this group of residents to seek out the UAMS program.

"I wanted to further my dental education beyond what is traditionally taught in dental school. At UAMS we are able to learn about the latest practices and technology with the goal of incorporating those aspects into our careers after the residency," said Scott.

Continued on page 5

Genetic Counseling Students Complete Clerkships in Foreign Locales



Samantha Cassisi

Two genetic counseling students spent time this summer far from home.

Samantha Cassisi of Shelby Township, Michigan, spent four weeks in Australia, while Brittany Henson of Bolivar, Missouri, headed to India for two weeks as part of their summer clerkships between the first and second years of the genetic counseling program.



Brittany Henson

Cassisi spent her time at two hospitals in Melbourne, the Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Monash Hospital, where she was offered the opportunity to see and participate in genetic counseling cases.

"I decided to go to Australia to learn about differences in the health care systems and the genetic counseling process between Australia and the United States," she said.

Henson spent her time shadowing the students at Manipal University in Manipal City, India, as well as geneticists and

genetic counselors.

"I've learned a great deal about the differences between our health care systems, and how the culture and health care system can impact genetic services," she said. "It has also spurred my interest in helping to improve genetic services worldwide. I hope to one day work as colleagues with the students I met in India to improve services around the world."

Lori Williamson Dean, M.S., C.G.C., chair of the Department of Genetic Counseling in the College of Health Professions, said UAMS has a relationship with Manipal University's genetic counseling program. She hopes that Henson is the first of many exchange students with Manipal.

Dean said she wished every student had the opportunity to study abroad.

"I think it is essential for genetic counseling students to be exposed to the field outside of the U.S.," she said. "Exposing students to other cultures, other health care systems, other ways of practicing genetic counseling can only help to expand their perspectives beyond what we could ever do in a classroom."



Boozman Sponsoring Radiologist Assistant Bill

U.S. Sen. John Boozman (second from left) has sponsored legislation that would allow radiologist assistants to be recognized as non-physician providers of health care services and be reimbursed for their services. He is pictured with James McDonald, M.D.; Cindy Saylor, M.Ed., director of the radiologist assistant degree program; Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D.; Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Professions; and Stephen Routon, M.D.

Speech Pathology Students *Continued from page 1*

Camp Can Read was one of six camps offered by the clinic this summer to address various speech and language difficulties.

The others were:

- Camp Can Say, an articulation group for children ages 6-12
- Camp Connect & Communicate, a language group for children ages 5-12 who have been diagnosed with certain language disorders
- Camp Cool Kids, a group for children ages 4-6 that focuses on early social interaction and communication skills
- Camp Chitchat, a group for teenagers who have difficulty with social skills
- Chitchat, a group for adults who have problems with social skills

The clinic also offers an Aphasia Group, a year round group for adults who have language difficulties as the result of a stroke or traumatic brain injury.

Loudermill said she had seen a remarkable improvement in the students' confidence and attitude about reading.

"They all seem to have a good time, and they feel like they can read words," she said, adding that each success just gives the children more confidence.

The children aren't the only ones learning during the camp, said Nix.

"Dr. Loudermill always says you can hear about something all day, but you learn by doing it or by teaching it, and that is exactly what I'm learning here," she said, adding that what she is teaching in the camp lines up perfectly with what she is learning in the classroom.

Meet some College of Health Professions friends and supporters

CHP Alumnus Receives Humanitarian Award

By Yavonda Chase



Some people make the world a better place. Roy Morris is one of those people.

A 1986 graduate of the UAMS College of Health Professions' Biomedical Instrumentation Technology program, which was discontinued in 2000 amid declining demand, Morris recently was awarded the Robert Morris Humanitarian Award from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.

Since 2008, Morris has worked with the International Children's Heart Foundation (ICHF), whose mission is to bring the skills, technology, and knowledge to cure and care for children with congenital heart disease in developing nations. Morris works with government and local hospitals in these countries to create the medical infrastructure needed to build a sustainable program that will accomplish the goals of ICHF. Morris repairs and refurbishes used medical equipment donated by hospitals in the U.S. and Canada, and then sets

it up in the areas that need it most. He also trains the health care providers on how to use the equipment and local technicians on how to maintain and repair the equipment.

As part of the foundation's work, health care professionals volunteer their time and expertise to perform heart surgery on children throughout the world, oftentimes in the facilities that Morris readied.

Since he started with ICHF, Morris has helped renovate an intensive care unit in Iraq, worked on a cardiac center and operating suites in Benghazi, Libya, and designed and built a pediatric intensive care unit in Guyana. He has also worked in Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Brazil, Peru, Nicaragua, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Macedonia, Romania and Ecuador.

"Roy helps a lot of people," said James Wear, Ph.D., the former chair of UAMS' Department of Biomedical Instrumentation Technology, who himself won the humanitarian award in 2011. Wear nominated Morris, his former student, for the award.

Morris, who grew up in Alexander, Arkansas, credits his grandmother with developing his fix-it skills.

"My grandmother liked to shop at yard sales, but didn't buy things that actually worked. Instead, she would bring the broken things to me so I could fix them," said Morris.

All of that practice as a boy certainly paid off for Morris. He works on the donated equipment in his workshop in Little Rock before sending it all over the world via FedEx, which ships the foundation's medical equipment for free.

Even during his vacation this summer, Morris was in his workshop, repairing an anesthesia machine, a heart-lung bypass machine and a sterilizer — all headed to areas in desperate need for the equipment.

As temperatures climbed in the 90s and sweat pooled on his brow, Morris pulled apart the machines and said with a grin, "I love this job."

Dental Residents Continued from page 3

Brailsford wanted to be more equipped to care for elderly patients, many of whom are medically compromised.

Adams wanted more experience treating medically compromised patients, although he acknowledges that seeing people suffering can be one of the most difficult parts of the job.

The residents' rotations in different disciplines do more than simply expose them to that field of practice, said Jines.

"Residents learn how to communicate with the medical community and vice versa," he said. "UAMS is a big proponent of interprofessional education — and we're right in the middle of it."

Both Pardo and Wilson said they enjoy the opportunity to

collaborate on cases with various departments throughout the hospital, which allows them to give their patients the best care and increase their own medical knowledge.

Upon completing their residency, the dentists will be able to apply for hospital privileges wherever they decide to practice, said Jines, adding that he hopes some of the residents will decide to stay in Arkansas.

"The object of our program is ultimately to recruit more advanced trained general dentists into our state workforce," he said.

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Genetic Counseling Chair Honored by University of Michigan



Lori Williamson Dean, M.S., C.G.C., chair of the Department of Genetic Counseling in the College of Health Professions, has received The Diane Baker Alumni Award from the University of Michigan’s Genetic Counseling Training Program in the Department of Human Genetics.

Baker, a founding member of the Genetic Counseling Program at the University of Michigan, is a pioneer in the field, said Dean, a 1991 graduate of the Michigan program.

“It was an incredible honor to receive an award named after my mentor, Diane Baker,” said Dean, calling it the “equivalent of a lifetime achievement award.”

Dean was honored Sept. 12 during the Diane Baker Alumni Lecture. Her presentation, “Access to Genetics Education and Services,” explored the contemporary issues around access to genetic services and education as well as the strategies that Dean used throughout her career to promote access.

Dean was lauded for her work in developing an innovative genetic counseling graduate program at UAMS that incorporates telemedicine, blended courses that combine live instruction with online components, and satellite training sites throughout the Midwest.

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