

HEALTH PROFESSIONS



UAMS Establishes Center for Dental Education in CHP



Charles Cranford, D.D.S., director for the Center for Dental Education, looks over construction at the future oral health clinic, set to begin accepting patients in January 2013. The clinic is being created from renovated space adjacent to the existing dental hygiene clinic.

UAMS recently established a Center for Dental Education in the College of Health Professions that will include an oral health clinic and postgraduate programs for dentists in advanced general dentistry and oral surgery.

The UAMS Oral Health Clinic, expected to begin accepting patients in January 2013, will occupy about 3,000 square feet that is being renovated adjacent to the UAMS Dental Hygiene Clinic and will share additional facilities with that clinic.

In addition, the center will collaborate with the Arkansas State Dental Association to develop continuing

education opportunities for practicing dentists in the state.

“This center will improve access to dental care in the state and as we begin our postgraduate residency program, increase the number of dentists in Arkansas,” said CHP Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D. “Lack of access to adequate dental care in Arkansas is a health care problem that has far reaching effects on the health of Arkansans.”

Charles O. Cranford, D.D.S., who served many years as vice chancellor of Regional Programs at UAMS, is director of the center. Keith David Stillwell, D.D.S., who previously

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**College of Health Professions
Fall 2012 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



The College of Health Professions has long been known for its ability to respond to changes in health care, technology and higher education. The allied health professions are constantly changing and adapting to changing patient care needs and new technology, medical treatments and social conditions.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find several ways the college has responded and adapted to recent changes. For example, to address a

need for increased dental care in Arkansas, we established the Center for Dental Education, which will work in tandem with our existing dental hygiene department. To provide much-needed grant funding to faculty and staff-led projects that promote innovation and service in the college, we established a small grants program through the Dean's Society.

In this issue, we also feature the first endowed scholarship for Physician Assistant Studies, established by Ruth Allen, Ph.D. You can read more about Ruth's remarkable life and how her passion for education led to the creation of this scholarship.

In addition, you will read about recent changes within our college's leadership team. We responded to the growing needs of our student body by establishing a team of professionals to create new opportunities and resources for students.

The college completed a name change during the summer – though our mission to meet health care workforce needs has not changed. In keeping with national trends, the word “related” was dropped from the college's name. Our new name is more reflective of who we truly are: a group of talented educators, leaders, and innovators in the health professions. Together, we are leading the way for allied health education in Arkansas and beyond.

Recently we welcomed our new and returning students, who began the fall semester on Aug. 14. With more than 700 students in 21 academic programs, we have one of the largest, most diverse student bodies in the college's 41-year history.

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the college as we continue to make positive changes to educate and serve the people of Arkansas. I hope you will join me at one or more of our upcoming events this fall. See you soon!

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

Dean's Society Grants Spark Research, Interprofessional Success



Project co-directors for one of the three initial Dean's Society funded projects pose with a manikin in the UAMS Simulation Lab. Their project will teach students how to care for patients on mechanical ventilation. The co-directors are, from left, Tobias Vancil, M.D., Kendrea Jones, Pharm.D., Mike Anders, Ph.D., Tonya Cook, M.Ed., Theresa Gramlich, M.S., and Karen Jeans, Ph.D., R.N.

A grant program funded through the College of Health Professions' Dean's Society created opportunities for community involvement and interdisciplinary education that might not otherwise have been possible, according to the first grant recipients.

The Dean's Society was created in 2007 by former dean Ronald Winters, Ph.D., with assistance from a matching challenge gift by Walter Nunnally III, the college's chairman for Campaign Imagine, UAMS' most recent capital campaign. The group brought together supporters of the college whose unrestricted gifts supported areas of greatest need, such as scholarships.

The annual grant program was introduced in 2011 by Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., who said a group of donors and faculty arrived at the idea while discussing new ways the Dean's Society could support the college.

"We were thinking about what the college is known for – innovation and service – and how we could capitalize further on that reputation," Murphy said. "A committee of faculty and staff helped devise priorities for a small grant program to focus on innovative teaching methods, promotion of service learning

and seed grants for research projects."

The first three small grants (each less than \$3,000) were awarded by the program in early 2011. The grants funded a nutrition education research project involving a Little Rock area elementary school; development of an online dental imaging course for dental assistants; and an interprofessional project to develop an education program to improved care of mechanically ventilated patients.

"I don't think I would've been able to do the project without the Dean's Society funding," said project director Lori Maddox, a registered dietitian and faculty member in the college's Department of Dietetics and Nutrition. She was joined on the project by colleagues Tina Crook, Ph.D., Dana Gonzales, Ph.D., and department chair Reza Hakkak, Ph.D.

Maddox's project was to create age and grade appropriate nutrition lessons using interactive whiteboard technology

at a Little Rock area elementary school. Early post-lesson survey results indicate an increase in nutrition knowledge among most grade levels.

Graduate student Susan Melhorn, working with Maddox, is researching the increased effectiveness of providing nutrition education via the interactive technology compared to traditional methods in two third grade classes. Maddox plans to extend the project to local middle school in the fall of 2012.

Cindy Saylor, M.Ed., in the Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences, and Katy Warren, M.Ed., in the Department of Dental Hygiene, were already working with the state dental board to update a dental mandatory study aid and examination for dental assistants who perform radiographic procedures. They were rewriting a study booklet and the test that Warren originally drafted some 20 years ago.

With the grant funding they received from the Dean's Society, Saylor and Warren joined forces with Robin Smith, Ph.D., in the UAMS Office of Educational Development. They purchased software and changed tracks; now in addition to a textbook, they are developing an interactive course to

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Donor Profile

Ruth Allen, Ph.D.

Retired UAMS faculty member Ruth Allen, Ph.D., arrived in Malaysia in 1962 as a Peace Corps volunteer with a biochemistry background, prepared to help in hospital laboratories in the Southeast Asian country's capital city.

"On the third day they handed me a train ticket and said I was being sent 250 miles away to teach science at a girls school," Allen recalled. "I told them I didn't know how to teach to which they replied: 'That's OK, you have 24 hours.'"

Three years teaching chemistry and physics to those high school students sparked a passion that turned her career path away from lab sciences and research toward education. She earned a doctorate in educational technology and worked at teaching others how to teach.

By 1992, she arrived at UAMS as associate dean of academic affairs in the College of Health Professions, working with longtime friend, then-dean Ronald Winters, Ph.D. She retired 10 years later after serving in various academic roles at UAMS, but her financial support of the institution continued.

Most recently she endowed a scholarship in the college's new physician assistant program, which is moving through the accreditation process and with plans to welcome its first students in May 2013.

"As long as I'm helping students – that is what is exciting to me," Allen said. "I'm glad to be able to help meet a need with the new physician assistant program."

Allen was named recently to the advisory board for the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

Physician assistants conduct physical exams, diagnose, order diagnostic tests, write prescriptions and manage acute illness and chronic disease with the supervision of a physician. With an aging population and not enough physicians to meet the increasing demand for medical care, physician assistants are expected to play an important role in improving access to care in Arkansas.

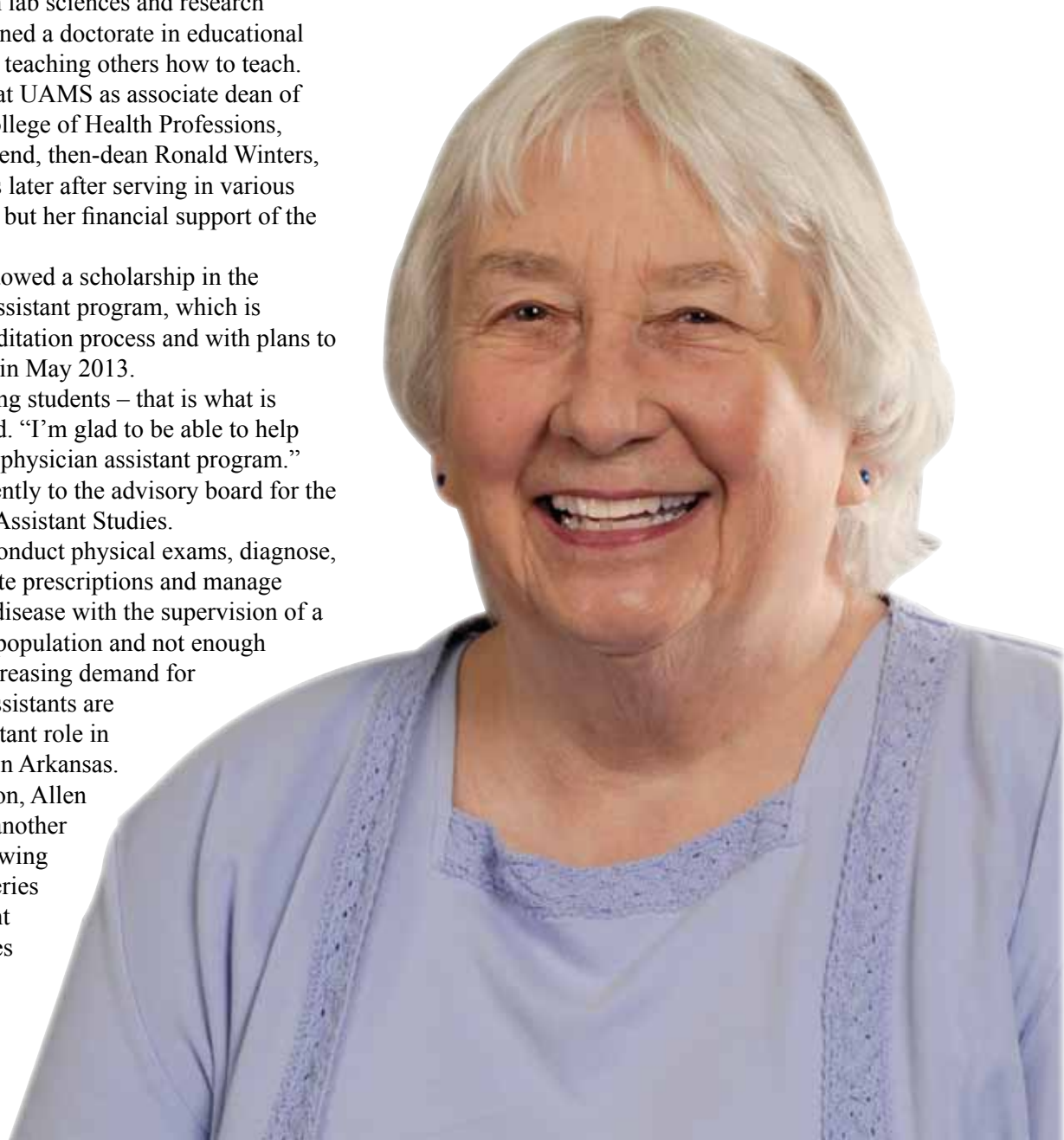
In addition to education, Allen has continued to support another love — music — by endowing the Ruth Allen Concert Series at UAMS. The endowment provides free performances for employees, students, patients and families at UAMS by ensembles of

the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra.

Allen has been in the audience for every performance in the past 10 years. The performances were recently moved to the hospital's Lobby Gallery, something she likes because it's more accessible to patients and their families.

She also continues to find an outlet for her love of teaching, recently wrapping up a course in how to grow orchids, another hobby, for LifeQuest of Arkansas, which organizes activities for older adults.

"There's just something about seeing someone catch on to something," she said. "Their eyes light up and it's a wonderful feeling."



Dean's Society

Continued from Page 3

prepare the dental assistants for their test. “Without the Dean’s Society grant, we would not have been able to purchase the software to assist with development of the online version,” Saylor said.

The course also will be offered to dentists and dental hygienists for continuing education credit. The updated test accounts for improvements in dental imaging technology and is expected to be available for continuing education statewide in September.

The third project developed education for improved care of mechanically ventilated patients and encompassed faculty from four colleges: Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. The interdisciplinary nature of the project echoed a UAMS-wide effort to promote interprofessional education.

“The Dean’s Society funding really motivated us to reach out to our colleagues – it was a catalyst,” said Michael Anders, Ph.D.

“The Dean’s Society funding really motivated us to reach out to our colleagues – it was a catalyst,” said Michael Anders, Ph.D., a project co-director previously on the faculty of the Department of Respiratory and Surgical Technologies.

“It really made great things

happen and prompted new interactions.”

Teams of students in those colleges began using the education program in September, said Anders, who is now director of the UAMS Simulation Center. The center will host the exercises involving simulated patients on mechanical ventilation and simulated patient family members peppering the students with questions.

Anders’ fellow project co-directors included Tonya Cook, M.Ed., Theresa Gramlich, M.S., C. Karen Jeans, Ph.D., Kendra Jones, Pharm.D., and Tobias Vancil, M.D.

Murphy said he was excited by the outcomes of the first round of projects. “We are forming new relationships in the community and enabling education innovation. The benefits are going way beyond the projects themselves,” he said.

The Dean’s Society members are important donors and friends to the college. Their investments in innovation and excellence promote the college’s continued success. Everyone is invited to become a member. For more information about joining the Dean’s Society, contact Brooke Ivy at (501) 686-7203 or by email at bivy@uams.edu.

Dean’s Society Member Sees More Opportunity with Grants

“I was so impressed with the diversity of the first Dean’s Society projects and the impact they are having on the community,” said Judy Sims, a member of the Dean’s Society and the newly established advisory board for the College of Health Professions.

Sims is a former dental hygienist, so she understands the value of allied health education firsthand. She also spent some time on the UAMS campus during the late 80s/early 90s as the project coordinator in the clinical toxicology and environmental health program.

The founder and chief executive officer of a’TEST Consultants, a 20-year old Arkansas-based business that conducts drug tests, DNA tests and background checks for commercial clients, Sims joined the Dean’s Society in early 2012. In May she and other members of the group met the grant recipients and heard progress reports on each.

Sims said she was first interested in joining the group after meeting Dean Murphy. She strongly agreed with his focus on creating more connections between the college and the business community.

Whether for volunteer/service learning opportunities or other partnerships, Sims said the experience would be valuable for the students and the community. “I’m excited about helping,” Sims said of her reason for joining the Dean’s Society. “The growth opportunity for this college is limitless as it expands and adds programs to meet areas of need.

“Just think of the difference we could make with similar grants for all of the college’s programs,” she added. “And I use the term ‘we’ because I feel so connected now with the college.”



Dean’s Society members Bobby and Judy Sims join Mike Anders, Ph.D., before a presentation on projects funded by the society.

College Focuses on Seamless Support for Students, Faculty



The College of Health Professions student and academic services team includes (seated, from left) registrar Phyllis Lloyd, college recruiter Susan Williamson, associate dean for student success Tom Pilgreen, Ph.D., associate dean for academic affairs Susan Long, Ed.D., (standing, from left) administrative assistant Susan Schaffer, director of student services Phyllis Fields and admissions officer Monna Stiles.

There are some new faces and other recent changes in the administration of the College of Health Professions.

Two new positions focused on student resources and services have been created this year. Another recent transition brought the appointment of a new associate dean for academic affairs.

Tom Pilgreen, Ph.D., came to UAMS in January 2012 as the college's first associate dean for student success. He works with college recruiter Susan Williamson, registrar Phyllis Lloyd, Susan, administrative assistant Susan Schaffer, admissions officer Monna Stiles, and the college's first director of student services, Phyllis Fields.

Together, Pilgreen's team will work on student recruitment and retention, diversity and inclusiveness, academic support, campus life enhancement and other areas to support current students and students before they reach college.

Before coming to the College of Health Professions, Pilgreen taught courses in the College Student Personnel Administration program at the University

of Central Arkansas. He also headed up the recruitment efforts for the program and saw the enrollment grow from three to 40 students.

"We have a strong set of comprehensive services for our students," said Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D. "We are developing a coordinated, seamless process for getting information on our programs to prospective students and their families; helping them find the program that is best for them; then helping them through application and admission."

When a student reaches UAMS, the goal is to offer support that maximizes their graduation and career prospects, he said.

"We want our students to know what services are available to help them achieve success," Pilgreen said. "In addition, we are listening to their feedback and ideas for ways to enhance and improve their time at UAMS."

One student services project is to create a welcome center – a one-stop shop of student resources covering all phases of pre-admission, from recruitment

to admission advisement and other services. The college also is planning a slate of activities to create new traditions and opportunities for fellowship and volunteerism.

The college previously had one dean responsible for both academic and student services. With the college's growth – now covering 21 programs across 18 professions with nearly 700 students – the responsibilities are now shared.

Susan Long, Ed.D., who previously served eight years as chair of the Department of Dental Hygiene, began in August as the new associate dean for academic affairs. She succeeded Diane Skinner, Ed.D., M.P.H., who moved into a new position as director of interprofessional education at UAMS (see page 7).

Academic Affairs includes duties related to administrative leadership for academic matters in the college, including student admissions; new program development and approval; program quality; educational methods; regional and specialty accreditation; assessment and evaluation of students, faculty, and programs; faculty development; and policy development and implementation. With so many varied academic programs, at any given time there will be programs going through the reaccreditation process within their profession.

Long said she became interested in the details and methods of accreditation while serving as a site visitor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation. From 2009-2011, she also served the college as director of student affairs. She also is continuing to serve as the associate director of interdisciplinary education for the UAMS Center for Dental Education.

Dental Education Continued from Page 1

served as associate director of General Practice Residency at the University of Alabama-Birmingham, is director of the center's clinical program.

Stillwell will lead the effort to secure accreditation for a general practice residency and will serve as director of the residency program. The goal is for the center to begin accepting dental residents in 2014.

Arkansas Needs Dentists

Arkansas needs more dental health care – particularly in school-aged children and in low-income populations, according to a 2008 report to the state Legislature by a committee chaired by Cranford. Since a 2007 retirement, Cranford continued part time as a faculty member and was later appointed by UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D., as special assistant for dental education initiatives that led to creation of the new center.

In a 2003 study of more than 7,000 third-grade students in public schools, more than 60 percent had evidence of current or past cavities and 31 percent had untreated cavities.

A 2011 study from the Pew Charitable Trusts noted that children who lack dental care miss more school days,

use more expensive emergency room services for care and face worse job prospects than those who receive regular dental care.

A 2008 report to the state Legislature showed Arkansas had 1,331 licensed dentists and ranked 50th in the nation for the ratio of dentists per 100,000 population.

“We need more dentists in Arkansas, and establishing a postgraduate residency program in the state will increase the number of dentists beginning – and hopefully continuing – their careers in the state,” Cranford said.

Cranford said he envisions dental residents being able to complete rotations at clinics, hospitals or AHEC sites around the state.

The Center for Dental Education and its residency program could serve as a foundation for an eventual dental college at UAMS, Cranford said. Arkansas is one of only two states in the nation with a population of more than 2.5 million that does not have a college of dentistry.

For more information about the Center for Dental Education, visit dentaleducation.uamsonline.com/giving or contact Lucas Moore at (501) 686-8089 or by email at moorelucasc@uams.edu.

Skinner Shifts to New Interprofessional Education Post



As the new director for interprofessional education at UAMS, Diane Skinner, Ed.D., M.P.H., the college's former associate dean for academic and student affairs, is working with students and faculty leadership from the five UAMS colleges (Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, and Public Health) and the Graduate School, to provide leadership in needs assessment, implementation and evaluation of interprofessional activities.

“More and more academic health centers are incorporating interprofessional education experiences in their curricula in recognition of the importance of teamwork, communication, role identity and mutual respect,” Skinner said.

She credited her more than 30 years in health professions – including 17 at UAMS – in preparing her for the new role. Since 2007, Skinner served as the associate dean in the college. Before that she worked from 1995-2007 as director and a professor in the Office of Educational Development.

“The College of Health Professions is grateful for the years and dedication that Dr. Skinner provided and is pleased that in her new role, she will continue to assist our college – along with all of UAMS – in improving the education our students receive,” said Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Upcoming Events

Nov. 5 - 9

National Allied Health Week Celebration

Week-long series of events to celebrate the allied health professions

Open to students, faculty, staff and friends of CHP

Nov. 8

Scholarship Appreciation Reception

UAMS Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute
10th Floor Atrium
5-6 p.m.

Open to 2012-2013 scholarship recipients and scholarship donors

Nov. 19

"Everything I Want to Know about...Good Oral Health Care"

Presented by Susan Long, Ed.D.

UAMS Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging
Jo Ellen Ford Auditorium

5:30-7 p.m.

Open to the public

Questions? Contact Deborah Taylor at

(501) 686-5731 or TaylorDeborahC@uams.edu.

UAMS
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UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS
FOR MEDICAL SCIENCES

July 1, 2012

**New name.
Same mission.
Same commitment.**

The College of Health Professions changed its name on July 1, dropping the "Related" that had been in its name since the college was established in 1971. Campus signs, stationery and other logos now bear the college's new name.

College of Health Professions Honor Roll of Donors

Thank you to these generous donors who made gifts to the college from Jan. 1 to July 31, 2012.

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