

HEALTH PROFESSIONS



Community, Clinical Partnerships Critical to College Students Gain Valuable Experience, Connections

Hands-on experience is critical to learning a job, so hundreds of students from the UAMS College of Health Professions work side-by-side with professionals each semester in hospitals, clinics and labs.

“We can teach students the book or didactic portion of the work but to truly learn a profession, hands-on experience is so important,” said James Bellamy, Ph.D., M.P.H., chair of the college’s Department of Imaging and Radiation Sciences. “That’s why our preceptors and community partners are so influential on the careers of our students through their willingness to work with our students and share their knowledge and experience as mentors and role models.”

Every one of the college’s 27 degree and certificate programs require some sort of clinical rotation or experience. With the diversity of professions and since online programs reach students outside Arkansas, the college has more than 600 clinical affiliation agreements with entities in 34 states and the District of Columbia.

The clinical hosts include hospitals, clinics, dental offices, school districts, fire-rescue departments, community health clinics, nursing homes, government labs and agencies, hospice and many more organizations. Not all of the sites are active at the same time — it depends on the needs each semester, according to Susan Long, associate dean for academic affairs.

“Clinical education is the backbone of training for most allied health professions,” Long said. “Our clinical preceptors are valued partners who provide outstanding clinical education to our students.”

“Without their support, education programs in the health professions would not be able to offer comprehensive, supervised clinical education as required by the various accreditation agencies.”

Clinical preceptors meet qualifications based on the accrediting agency for each profession.



Shelly Boshears (left), a second-year radiologic imaging science student, reviews an X-ray image at Little Rock Children’s Clinic during her recent three-day clinical rotation where she was supervised and helped by the clinic’s three full-time technologists, including Angela Robinson (right).

A Well-Rounded Experience

Little Rock Children’s Clinic is a host for students in the radiologic imaging sciences program. One student arrives weekly for a three-day rotation at the pediatric clinic.

The students observe and conduct imaging procedures under supervision of the clinic’s technologists. They also cross-train, as the clinic’s technologists do, through work in the clinic’s lab and observing routine patient testing such as hearing and EKG (heart).

“We want the students who come here to get a well-rounded experience and see what clinic work is like and how it differs from a hospital-based setting they will see in other rotations,” said Shannon Fallon, the clinic’s radiology and laboratory supervisor.

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**College of Health Professions
Spring 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



As I write this, we are in the middle of our annual Phone-a-thon with almost 200 students, faculty and staff calling on College of Health Professions alumni and friends seeking support for scholarships. It's always a fun event — and we're headed for another successful drive. We are grateful for the help from college supporters Verizon, who donate use of wireless phone to make the calls, along with Kroger, Marco's Pizza, Catering to You, Tropical Smoothies, and Olive Garden who helped feed our volunteers.

We also just completed our first Allied Hearts event on Valentine's Day and I was thrilled at the outpouring of support and affection for our college.

It reminds me of the African proverb about it taking "a village" to raise a child. A few days ago I had the privilege of meeting with the advisory board for one of our programs, and I remarked that "it takes a profession to educate a healthcare professional." And it certainly takes the active partnership of many professionals in our community to achieve success for our students. This issue of our newsletter highlights examples of our community, our donors, our graduates, our faculty, our staff and even our students all coming together for the benefit of our college and improving health and health care in Arkansas.

Our college depends on a network of clinical partners — hospitals, clinics, schools, nursing homes, laboratories — across Arkansas and the nation to provide a comprehensive learning experience for our students. Our donors, whether it's a small pledge in the Phone-a-thon or a large planned gift, help us create and maintain programs such as the Center for Dental Education or the new physical therapy program at UAMS Northwest. Their support of scholarships expands educational opportunity to students who might otherwise have not been able to pursue their career dreams.

Seeing the continued commitment and dedication of all who support our college — and by extension our students — is always inspiring. And that commitment is everywhere: from the classroom to the administrative offices; from the clinical locations to our donors.

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

Douglas L. Murphy, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Health Professions

Center for Dental Education Reaching Milestones

Grants Assist Expansion of Clinical and Educational Programs



New Center for Dental Education director William Slagle, D.D.S., (left) offers guidance as University of Tennessee dental student Peter J. Stanley inserts an IV needle in a simulated arm in the UAMS Simulation Center. Stanley was a member of the first group of dental externs to arrive at UAMS for a two-week rotation in the Center for Dental Education.

It's been a busy few months in the college's Center for Dental Education: two big grants awarded, a new director named, senior dental students from Tennessee arrived for clinical rotations, new clinic exam rooms opened and momentum continued toward establishment of a dental residency program.

The end of 2013 brought the retirement of the center's first director, Charles Cranford, D.D.S., M.P.A. He was succeeded by distinguished educator and longtime dental college dean William F. Slagle, D.D.S., M.Ed., who had served as the center's associate director since its 2011 inception.

"We are fortunate to have had leaders like Dr. Cranford and Dr. Slagle

with the vision and drive to improve access to quality oral health care for Arkansans," said College of Health Professions Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D. "Dr. Slagle's commitment to dental education and his long experience in establishing and leading dental programs will continue the upward momentum of the Center for Dental Education."

Cranford originally arrived at UAMS in 1985 to lead its Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) and later became the first vice chancellor for Regional Programs. He continued as a part-time faculty member after retiring from Regional Programs until being appointed by UAMS Chancellor Dan Rahn, M.D., as special assistant for dental education initiatives that led to creation of the Center for Dental Education.

Slagle's career includes serving 23 years, from 1980-2003, as dean of the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Dentistry. Among his many honors, Slagle has received the highest award given by three state dental associations — from the Oklahoma Dental Association in 1968, the Tennessee Dental Association in 2000 and from the Arkansas State Dental Association in 2010.

Word also came in late 2013 that the center had been awarded two grants, totaling \$250,000 from the Blue & You Foundation for a Healthier Arkansas and its parent company, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield. The \$150,000 Blue & You grant provided funding to support the new externship program that started in February with fourth-

year students spending two weeks at UAMS observing dental procedures and providing care to patients under supervision of adjunct faculty members.

The \$100,000 from Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield continues the development of a dental residency program and provides equipment for the center's Oral Health Clinic, which will soon open five more exam rooms — for a total of 10 — along with a lab and sterilization area it will share with the adjacent UAMS dental hygiene program.

"These grants gave us critical funding to advance resources and programs," Slagle said. "It's a very busy and exciting time for us and we are grateful for all of the support and for the belief in what we are trying to accomplish in improving dental care in Arkansas."

The Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation also has been a consistent supporter of the center and expanding access to oral health care in Arkansas. The foundation has contributed \$2 million to date toward construction of the new UAMS Oral Health Clinic and adjacent facilities shared with the UAMS Dental Hygiene Clinic.

Externs Arrive

The first group of students from the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry arrived at UAMS in early February for two-week clinical rotations. The students spent time working in the Oral Health Clinic and in the pediatric dental clinic at Arkansas Children's Hospital. In addition to observing and participating in dental procedures, the students will

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Director Hits Ground Running on Physical Therapy Program



The new Doctor of Physical Therapy program in the College of Health Professions is the first UAMS program to be solely located at the UAMS Northwest regional campus in Fayetteville, notes the program's new director.

John Jefferson, Ph.D., started full time Jan. 1 as the program's first director. He has been busy beginning to assemble the pieces for the program that hopes to welcome its first 24 students for the fall 2015 semester.

"There is a lot of work to be done," said Jefferson, who came to UAMS from the University of South Alabama, where he was an associate professor in its physical therapy program. "We hope to select our first faculty position — a director of clinical education — this spring while we also work to arrange for the other staffing and resources we will need to get started."

That work includes assembling a curriculum, setting up clinical internship agreements, getting program information online for student applicants and achieving accreditation. Plans are under way for a physical therapy clinic at UAMS Northwest this year for faculty members to see patients and eventually provide clinical experience for students.

More than 10,000-square feet on the UAMS Northwest campus is being renovated to house the program, providing teaching and administrative space.

Jefferson said he is excited about the resources of UAMS Northwest that will be available to physical therapy students. He pointed to the simulation lab, for exercises involving simulated patients, as one opportunity that also will offer multi-disciplinary experiences with students from other UAMS programs.

"There are so many opportunities here for planning ongoing clinical experiences for the students and not rely just on their clinical internship," he said.

News Briefs

Smith Named Development Director for College of Health Professions

Donna Norvell Smith was named director of development for the College of Health Professions to lead fundraising efforts in support of the allied health school.

Smith brings skills to the college including donor and guest relations, fundraising and strategic planning. She will work closely with the college's dean, the advisory board,

donors, faculty, staff and alumni in support of the college.

She previously served as associate director of development for the UAMS College of Medicine. Before that she worked in the development office of the UAMS Psychiatric Research Institute.

Health Information Management Program Adding Bachelor's Degree

The Department of Health Information Management will begin offering an online bachelor's degree in Health Information Administration in fall 2014.

The college received approval for the new degree last October from Arkansas Department of Higher Education. Kathy Trawick, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Health Information Management, said the program gives graduates a higher level of skill than the existing associate's degree program and positions them for management positions in the field.

"The associate's degree is for those who enjoy the more technical, hands-on aspect of this profession," she said. "For others who enjoy working with people and have a grasp on the big-picture or systems approach, the bachelor's degree is a managerial and enterprise-wide focused degree."

UAMS has offered the health information management associate's degree since 1995. The bachelor's degree will offer both full-time and part-time tracks. Graduates of the bachelor's degree program will qualify to take the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) national certification.

Community, Clinical Partnerships Critical to College *Continued from page 1*

Fallon is one of the clinic's three full-time technologists who supervise the UAMS students while they are visiting Little Rock Children's Clinic, much as education coordinators oversee clinical experiences for those in the laboratory sciences program.

"A good preceptor is someone who genuinely cares about the students and the profession as well as recognizes the vital need for well-prepared young professionals to join the ranks," said Karen Hunter, Ph.D., the college's medical laboratory sciences program director. UAMS laboratory sciences students spend 22 weeks in clinical labs in sites across Arkansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Texas. In those labs, the

professional medical laboratory scientists lead the students in hands-on experiences conducting lab tests on samples of blood, urine or tissue and then analyzing the data and reporting the results that guide patient treatment.

Bellamy and Hunter agree that almost every student will have at least one experience during their clinical rotations that will impact them in a way that will influence their career. "I was lucky enough to have several wonderful mentors in my own education," Bellamy said. "You knew they loved what they were doing and wanted to help you be successful."

Center for Dental Education Reaching Milestones *Continued from page 3*



The Center for Dental Education faculty now includes (from left) Niki Carter, D.M.D., residency program director, Jonathan Hart, D.D.S., staff dentist, and Laurence Howe, D.D.S., Oral Health Clinic director.

spend time in areas such as the UAMS Simulation Center, where they participate in exercises using highly detailed manikins and patient actors simulating medical emergencies they might encounter in a dental office.

The rotations are expected to expand in 2015 to include dozens of students from the dental school in Memphis. The externship program, which differs from an internship by being shorter in duration and not including a formal certification, is part of the growing education programs at the Center for Dental Education in the UAMS College of Health Professions.

"For those students nearing graduation, the externship is a comprehensive and multi-disciplinary exposure to community and hospital-based dentistry," Slagle said. "For those students that are Arkansas natives, it gives them a chance to return home for an educational experience that may encourage them to start their career in the state following graduation."

John Seeburg, D.M.D., assistant dean for clinical affairs in the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, complimented the UAMS facilities during a site visit prior to the externs arrival.

"The students who were on the first rotation were very excited and appreciative of the experience they received," he said after the first students returned home.

Initiating a general practice residency is the center's next big step, with an accreditation site visit set for this fall. Slagle said he expects UAMS will welcome its first dental residents in 2015.

Leading the establishment of the center's first post-graduate (residency) program is Niki Carter, D.M.D., who joined the faculty in November 2013 as the General Practice Residency (GPR) program director. Carter, an Arkansas native, is a member of the American Dental Association and Arkansas State Dental Association and brings more than 24 years of dental experience to UAMS.

GIVING Donor Profiles: “Why I Give”

Carlos Araoz, M.D.

Retired Pathologist



Carlos Araoz, M.D., found the perfect way to honor the memory of his wife and her life’s work — a scholarship endowed in her name for the UAMS cytotechnology program where she graduated in 1970 as a member of the program’s second class.

Eulalia Steedman Araoz, who died in 2012, worked more than 20 years in the clinical lab at the VA Medical Center before her 1994 retirement. During that time, she helped teach and mentor UAMS cytotechnology students completing clinical rotations in the lab.

“She was a person who believed in education,” Carlos Araoz said. “It gives me the best feeling that this scholarship could help someone continue on the path of education and maybe they will learn the benefits of sharing and helping others.”

Returning to UAMS for the 2013 College of Health Professions Scholarship Reception, Araoz was greeted and thanked by those who she had worked with or had been cytotechnology students during her time at the VA.

“She believed in her profession. Eulalia was absolutely committed to it,” he said.

The first Eulalia S. Araoz Cytotechnology Student Scholarship will be awarded in 2014.

Walter S. Nunnelly III

First Member of the College’s Dean’s Society

Walter S. Nunnelly III has long been a member of the UAMS Foundation Fund Board and served on the advisory board for the UAMS Harvey & Bernice Jones Eye Institute, but in 2007 he provided a big boost to the College of Health Professions.

The college’s Dean’s Society was established that year by then-Dean Ronald H. Winters, Ph.D., with support from Nunnelly, who matched gifts made by inaugural Dean’s Society members. The retired president and chief operating officer of Sysco Food Services of Arkansas recently called the college “a true economic engine” for the state by producing new health care professionals through its 27 academic programs.

“I have a passion for scholarship and financial assistance programs that enable UAMS College of Health Professions graduates to provide invaluable medical and educational assistance to Arkansans,” he said.

Gifts by Dean’s Society members provide valuable grant funding for Teaching/Learning Innovations, Research, and Service-Learning projects led by faculty, staff and students.

“It was rewarding for me to see how my contribution to the Dean’s Society was translated into resources for the benefit of students, faculty and staff.”



Ayesha Foote

Alumni Donor



Dental hygienist Ayesha Foote sees her gifts to the College as a way of “paying it forward” after she benefited from scholarships while a student.

Her first gift to the college was made in 2012 and was merely the beginning of a goal she sets for herself every year.

“Someone gave to help me and that scholarship helped take a financial burden off me that allowed me to stay in school, Foote said. “I’m now blessed with a very rewarding

career and giving back to the college is something I plan on doing from now on.”

Foote, a 2011 graduate who now works in a dental clinic that serves veterans, said the college and its dental hygiene program prepared her well. “My education experience in the College of Health Professions helped me learn to be a professional just as much as it taught me how to care of my patients,” she said.

The dental hygiene vocation attracted her from the time she was in high school and took part in a job shadowing program with a dentist.

“Having a nice smile has always been important. I think it’s the main accessory a person should wear every day.”

College of Health Professions Honor Roll of Donors

The faculty, staff and students of the College of Health Professions would like to say “thank you” to these generous donors who made gifts to the college from July 1 to Dec. 31, 2013.

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College Celebrates at Allied Hearts 2014



Dean Douglas Murphy, Ph.D., addresses the crowd during the college's first Allied Hearts celebration on Valentine's Day, Feb. 14. The college celebrated its supporters, students, faculty and staff while raising money for scholarships.



College of Health Professions Dean's Society and Advisory Board member Lisa McNeir (left) poses for a photo with longtime UAMS supporter Jane McGhee Wilson at the Allied Hearts, held at LaVada's in North Little Rock.

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