A MESSAGE FROM DR. STEPHEN THOMAS, CAHS DEAN

Another academic year has ended with 226 allied health students graduating on May 9, 2014, not including roughly 125 students that graduated in the fall of 2013. First-time student pass rates on national certification exams in most departments were at 100%, some for multiple years. Applicants for our allied health degree programs have continued to climb and speaks well of the reputation our college has earned for delivering a high quality education.

We have recently hired a number of new faculty and are in the process of hiring a few more. I have the pleasure of meeting with each on-campus faculty candidate and when asked why they are interviewing at ECU, they routinely cite the quality and excellent reputation of our faculty and departments. Our reputation as an extraordinary college is gaining traction around the country, not only with the individuals applying for faculty positions, but with their faculty mentors who encourage them to apply to departments in the College of Allied Health Sciences. Simply reading this newsletter will give you a sense of our quality and continued success.

I feel great Pirate Pride in being a part of something so special, and hope you feel the same as well. We all know that health care is changing in many ways and CAHS departments are doing all they can to prepare our students to be leaders in a changing health care system. This includes ensuring that the quality, safety and efficiency of our services maximize outcome and quality of life for those we serve. It is difficult to predict where health care is headed in the future, but I am confident that our past, present and future graduates will do all they can to see to it that their professions will meet, or exceed, the expectations placed on them by the health care system and their patients.

Please continue to be an vital part of our college by attending events like homecoming when you can, by accepting and mentoring our students in clinical field placements, by recommending potential students to apply for one of our 15 degree programs, by hiring our graduates, by contributing to this newsletter (we want to hear from you), and by providing financial support to the college or your department. You will always be a Pirate and you will always have a home in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Thank you for all you do,
Stephen Thomas
Building a road and building better health care require a community to work together. That was the message from keynote speaker Dr. Lori Carter-Edwards at the 10th annual Jean Mills Health Symposium held Feb. 7 at East Carolina University. Using a road-building project in three towns to illustrate her point, Carter-Edwards said the only community that was successful had engaged stakeholders – from the ditch-diggers to the landowner – to get their road built on time with limited resources. They gathered information, relied on the skills of those involved and shared with each other.

“Let’s look at what’s working and replicate it in our communities,” said Carter-Edwards, deputy director for research and operations at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and research associate professor of health behavior at the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Achieving health equity, or the same quality care for all, will require using the principles of community engagement to care for an aging – and changing – population, she said.

North Carolina’s public school system saw a net increase of 60 percent more Latinos and 32 percent more black students enrolled from 2000 to 2009. In Tier 1 counties, many of which are in rural eastern North Carolina, 84 percent of the population was listed as non-white and 51.5 percent was Hispanic.

While construction and manufacturing jobs continue to shrink in rural counties, one growth area has been health care because of an aging population with chronic health conditions. Healthcare in the next decade will need to focus on four key areas, Carter-Edwards said:

- More options for where people get care. Besides hospitals and clinics, people will be treated in mobile units and other non-traditional settings like recreation centers, churches or schools.
- More diversity in health care teams. Community health workers will be the bridge to the community.
- Increased attention to preventing illness and disease.
- Adding collaborative, integrated care networks with non-traditional partners.

“Research projects need to include the people we’re serving,” Carter-Edwards said. “Are you ready to sit at the table with the person you’re claiming to help?”

Landon Allen of Wake Forest is a third-year ECU medical/master’s of public health student and director of the Grimesland Free Clinic. He found Carter-Edwards’ presentation translatable. “It’s great advice,” he said. “It’s difficult to navigate, but the more we talk about it, we begin pulling groups together in a social movement to make these sorts of changes.”

Helen Hill has attended every Mills Symposium
Study shows SpeechEasy can help those suffering from Parkinson’s disease

By Doug Boyd
ECU News Services

People with Parkinson’s disease now have a tool to help them communicate more fluently.

Janus Development Group Inc. is marketing and distributing the SpeechEasy anti-stuttering device, developed at East Carolina University, to people with the neurological disease to assist them with speech.

Parkinson’s disease is a progressive disease which affects men and women, but more typically men. Among the signs of Parkinson’s are decreased speech volume, repetitive speech and an overall decrease in speech intelligibility.

Studies have shown that the use of an auditory delay and/or a change in pitch can help increase the intelligibility of speech in those with Parkinson’s disease. SpeechEasy uses both of these components in a small, discreet device worn in one ear of the client.

According to a small study at Rush University in Chicago in which Parkinson’s patients wore a SpeechEasy device, participants and saw an increase in their intelligibility and a decrease in the repetitive speech, or palilalia, they exhibited. The Michael J. Fox foundation is funding a second study with a larger number of participants.

SpeechEasy for this population is being marketed as SpeechEasyPD and is available nationwide.

“This announcement represents our continuing efforts to provide a proven assistive device to improve the lives of those with communication challenges,” said Alan Newton, president of Greenville-based Janus Development. “Over the years, we have seen how SpeechEasy has assisted

Get Connected with the College of Allied Health Sciences

To view more exciting news involving the faculty, students and programs at the College of Allied Health Sciences visit www.ecu.edu/ah or via our social media channels:

Facebook at www.facebook.com/ECUalliedhealth

Twitter at www.twitter.com/ECUHealthSci

Instagram at www.instagram.com/eczhealthsci

Health Beat Blog at blog.ecu.edu/sites/healthbeat/

LinkedIn at www.linkedin.com/company/east-carolina-university-division-of-health-sciences

SPEECHEasy
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The Department of Health Services and Information Management was awarded a BB&T Leadership Enhancement Grant funded by the East Carolina University BB&T Center for Leadership for the third consecutive year. Through the $10,000 grant, HSIM will conduct a project entitled “Making Connections Between Leadership Theory and Practice: Student Reflection on Interviews with Health Care Leaders” with Dr. Leigh Cellucci serving as the principal investigator along with team members Dr. Michael Kennedy, Dr. Bonita Sasnett, Professor Myra Brown, Jean Merenda and Dr. Xiaoming Zeng.

The purpose of the project is to study health services and information management student involvement with social media for healthcare leadership development. The students will create and post blogs to discuss connections between leadership theory and practice, and they will create and post audio and video recordings in which they elaborate these connections. Not only will the students create their own blog posts, but they will also utilize social media tools to reflect upon the outcomes of the students’ social media efforts from the 2012 and 2013 Leadership in Health Care (HSMA 3050) courses. Along with reflection, it is important the students learn how to create social media products. Hence, their team outcomes are the blogs and recordings. They will be studying past social media efforts while creating new social media products.

In the classroom, instructor efforts focus on helping students to master concepts and skills that will enable them to be effective, performing leaders in health care. In the Leadership in Health Care course, students learn more about basic leadership concepts such as health care executive ethical standards, decision making, change management, and the how to work productively as a team. Additionally, they learn about interpersonal leadership skills including effective communication, delegation, and the management of conflict.

In their application, the team from HSIM along with Educational Technology Specialist Jean Merenda, stated, “Health Service and Information Management graduates will inevitably practice in an online environment. The challenges to us as educators will be how to leverage these new tools to provide leadership education to our students and how to prepare our graduates to be effective leaders in this new environment.”

It is also important for students to learn from real world health care leaders. The interviews of the 2013 students allow for this opportunity for the 2014 students. In this project, students will be assigned to about 15 teams and use the social media platform to share and reflect on the 2013 interviews with health care leaders, focusing on basic leadership concepts, interpersonal leadership skills, or technical leadership skills.

The technologies for students to share and communicate on the interviews will include, but are not limited to, ECU Inner

BB&T

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CAHS and Medical Health Sciences Foundation Plan for Homecoming 2014

With the 2014 East Carolina University Homecoming game set for Oct. 4, the College of Allied Health Sciences and the ECU Medical and Health Sciences Foundation are already setting plans in motion for how the College can celebrate the occasion.

The 2013 Homecoming reception held in the lobby and throughout the Health Sciences Building was a great success with donors and friends of the College enjoying refreshments and touring the building. Friends and patrons of endowed funds of $25,000 and above were then led by members of the Student Leaders Council to view the rooms dedicated in honor of their generosity or in memory of their family member or friend.

The 2014 Homecoming event at CAHS will be similar in that a reception will be held in the Health Sciences building lobby on the evening of Friday, Oct 3 with remarks and a welcome from the Dean, however things will be a little different from there.

This year, each department will invite alumni from various years to come celebrate homecoming with their classmates in individual receptions held in each department. Donors and friends of the College are also welcome to attend.

Department representatives will soon begin contacting alumni groups to invite them to the event. Alumni are encouraged to take part in other alumni-related events over the weekend as well. The ECU Alumni Association will host their annual breakfast and alumni tailgate. The time of the tailgate will depend on the scheduled kickoff time. To register for events hosted by the ECU Alumni Association visit their website at www.piratealumni.com.

To give to the College of Allied Health Sciences, or to learn more about the upcoming Homecoming celebration, contact Director of Development Pat Frede via email at fredep@ecu.edu or by phone at (252) 744-3523.

College of Allied Health Sciences program ranks high in U.S. News listing

By Crystal Baity
ECU News Services

East Carolina University’s rehabilitation counseling program is ranked among the best graduate programs in the nation, according to a listing released today by U.S. News & World Report.

The program was ranked 13th for the second consecutive year. It has been consistently ranked in the top 20 since the mid-1990s.

“I am very proud that our program is again highly ranked among the best in country. This is a testament to the value of our faculty and students, and their sustained pursuit of excellence,” said Dr. Paul Toriello, chair and director of doctoral and graduate programs in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation.

Dr. Leonard Trujillo, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy chats with a friend of CAHS during the 2013 Homecoming reception at the College.

Dr. Paul Toriello, chair of the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation.
Scottish Rite Children’s Communications Disorders Clinic Receives Donation

The Winston-Salem Scottish Rite recently donated $10,000 to the College of Allied Health Sciences to support the Scottish Rite Children’s Communications Disorders Clinic. The funds were raised through the third annual Winston-Salem Scottish Rite Masonic Charity Golf Tournament hosted by the group at Meadowlands Golf Club.

“It was hoped that a properly planned and executed golf tournament could raise more monies with more efficiency than the several events that were being held throughout the year previously,” said Scottish Rite member Michael Fischer, “The more effectively we can raise monies, the more we can help the children. The 2014 tournament will be our 4th annual tournament. So far we have raised over $20,000 through the golf tournament and it continues to grow each year.”

Counseling Team Stands “Ready When the Times Comes” with Red Cross

When disasters strike, such as fires, tornadoes or more commonly for eastern North Carolinians, hurricanes, the American Red Cross does its part in aiding those affected by the incident. Now, one faculty member and four students from the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies in the College of Allied Health Sciences have recently been trained to provide counseling along with the American Red Cross through the “Ready When the Time Comes” program.

“Ready When the Times Comes” is a corporate volunteer program and is “designed to tap into corporate America’s expertise and desire to help people in need” according to the American Red Cross website. Through this program, Red Cross is able to prepare employees from partnering corporations to be mobilized and respond when a disaster occurs.

Team leader Dr. Leigh Atherton, a clinical assistant professor and director of the Navigate Counseling Clinic, will lead four students from the department Samantha Coleman, Matt Cox, Vanessa Perry and Jeff Thomas in this endeavor. The group will not only use their skills and expertise required to provide counseling and aid through the Navigate Counseling Clinic, but also skills they learned through several...
CAHS Faculty in the Spotlight

**Thorp Receives Clinical Specialist Certification**

Dr. Jacob Thorp, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Physical Therapy received his Clinical Specialist Certification in Orthopaedic Physical Therapy at the APTA Combined Sections Meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**Amini Receives Highest Honor from Association**

Debbie Amini, EdD, OTR/L, CHT, FAOTA from the Department of Occupational Therapy received the Roster of Fellows from the National American Occupational Therapy Association. This award is one of the highest awards given by the Association and she joins an elite group of therapists who are recognized for their contributions to the Association.

Dr. Amini was also awarded a 2014 NAOTA Service Commendation for her work as Chairperson of the NAOTA Commission on Practice from 2011-2014 and as a member of the Representative Assembly from 2011-2014.

**Stebnicki Awarded New Credential by AMHA**

Dr. Mark Stebnicki, Professor, Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation, Coordinator of the Military and Trauma Counseling Certificate has been awarded the credential: Diplomate and Clinical Mental Health Specialist (DCMHS) with the specialization of Trauma Counseling by the American Mental Health Association. This certificate recognizes professionals with advanced practice and professional clinical expertise in clinical mental health counseling.

**DPT Faculty & Staff Present at National Meeting**

The Department of Physical Therapy faculty and students presented at the national meeting (Combined Sections Meeting) in Las Vegas in February. Dr. Sonja Bareiss, assistant professor, was awarded the 2014 Best Poster Award for her poster entitled, “Effects of Exercise Frequency on Blood Biomarker Profiles in a Triple-Transgenic Mouse Model of Alzheimer’s Disease.”
CAHS Students in the Spotlight

Achievement Award presented to CSDI Student

CSDI student Lakshmi Kollara-Sunil was presented with the Student Achievement Award by the North Carolina Speech-Hearing and Language Association and given a scholarship for $1,000 sponsored by LinguiSystems. The recognition is awarded on the basis of academic excellence and merit. In addition, the LinguiSystems award requires the student to show evidence of research productivity and consistent service to the professions of audiology or speech-language pathology.

PA Student chosen as Oral Health Champion

Brandon Alspaugh, a student in the Department of Physician Assistant Studies has recently been selected as an Oral Health Champion by the Student Academy of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (SAAAPA) and in partnership with the NCCPA Health Foundation. Brandon has demonstrated exemplary dedication to oral health in PA education and practice and will serve as one of thirteen pioneering student Champions charged to engage other PA students and programs in the PA Leadership Initiative in Oral Health. The initiative is poised to engage the students in leadership and outreach opportunities, while bringing to their peers important messages about oral health as a primary care innovation and an interprofessional learning opportunity. To recognize Brandon’s leadership within the PA program, he was awarded a $500 academic scholarship and will have the opportunity to apply for an additional $300 to support change through a project of his choice. The Champions will also be funded $250 if they choose to attend IMPACT 2014 to participate in oral health outreach projects and be part of the leadership team teaching an oral health educational session.

PT Students’ Poster Awarded During RCAW

(L-R) Dr.'s Lori Kincannon and Kathy Cox with student Lakshmi Kollara-Sunil and Dr. Debbie Bengala, all from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, at the North Carolina Speech-Hearing Language Association meeting where Kollara-Sunil was presented with the Student Achievement Award by the association.

PT Students’ Poster Awarded During RCAW

(L-R) Rachel Webb, Dr. Amy Gross McMillan and Danielle Mckinnis from the Department of Physical Therapy

Doctoral students in the Department of Physical Therapy, Danielle Mckinnis and Rachel L. Webb were awarded Best Doctoral Poster for their poster, “Body Mass and Motor Skill Performance in Children 7-10 Years” as part of ECU’s Research & Creative Achievement Week. The students were mentored by faculty member Dr. Amy Gross McMillan.

DARS Students Receive Honorable Mentions

Marie C. Agius, Samantha M. Coleman, and Kristin Cain, PhD students in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies received honorable mention in the American Counseling Association’s (ACA) National Ethics competition. Dr. Steven Sligar was the faculty representative. The competition allowed students to critically analyze a potential ethical case and create an appropriate ethical decision making plan to respond to the ethical situation.
since at least 2008.

“It’s been a real advantage. Having the connection, listening to all the speakers they’ve brought in through the years and the different areas. It’s helped me,” said Hill, who retired as director of a school-based program with Greene County Health Care after more than 25 years. She began working part-time in Greene, Pitt and Pamlico counties last summer on another project.

Jean Elaine Mills, the symposium’s namesake, was a Greenville native and ECU alumna who died at age 45 of breast cancer in 2000. Her brother, Amos T. Mills III, and his family started the symposium as a tribute and to bring awareness and solutions for health problems such as high blood pressure, stroke, hypertension, diabetes and obesity that plague North Carolinians, particularly African-Americans and other minorities.

“We made a commitment to make a difference in the life of eastern North Carolinians,” Mills said.

The only minority rural health care symposium of its kind in eastern North Carolina, the event has grown each year, from 50 participants in 2004 to about 175 last year.

The symposium was presented by CAHS in collaboration with the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation. More information including photos, speaker biographies and presentations from the event can be viewed at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-dhs/ah/jeanmills.cfm.

Virginia Jackson from the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center speaks with two students as they prepare to present their poster entitled “Improving Community Health through Education and Access to Breast Cancer Screening: A 3-Month Interim Report” at the 2014 symposium.

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thousands of people who stutter to achieve their goals by improving their fluency and confidence. We foresee SpeechEasyPD being able to do the same for the segment of the Parkinson’s population that is experiencing speech intelligibility challenges.”

SpeechEasyPD is a division of Janus Development Group that developed and markets a portable fluency-improving device that fits in or behind the ear and can help people who stutter to speak more fluently. SpeechEasy is a synthesis of miniaturized hardware, cutting-edge digital technology and advanced algorithms that provide customized, fluency-improving delayed auditory feedback and frequency-altered feedback recreating a natural phenomenon known as the “choral effect.”

The choral effect occurs when a person’s repetitive speech is dramatically reduced or even eliminated when they speak or sing in unison with others. The

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Pirate Network, ECU WordPress blogs, SABA Web Conferencing, and My Mediasite services. As in 2012 and 2013, HSIM chose tools customized for users at ECU in order to generate a “walled garden” for students in order for them to feel comfortable to share their work and thoughts.

All activities during the project will be supervised and directed according to the ECU social media guidelines. The social media distribution tools selected are up to the student team members; the topics, however, must reflect leadership concepts, interpersonal or technical skills elaborated in class lecture and read about in the required text for the course.

Proposals submitted to the ECU BB&T Center for Leadership are chosen by their demonstration of how the initiative will assist and enable students to develop awareness and the capacity for inspiring, empowering, and influencing positive change.

Studies in the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences.

The master’s degree program in rehabilitation and career counseling teaches counseling and rehabilitation theories, applied counseling approaches and the clinical skills necessary for professionals to assist individuals with disabilities achieve their maximum level of physical, psychological, social, educational, vocational and economic potential. The doctoral program of rehabilitation counseling allows students to specialize in substance and clinical counseling, vocational evaluation or rehabilitation research.

The best online graduate programs were announced by U.S. News on its website Jan. 8. Full lists and rankings can be viewed online at http://www.usnews.com.

required Red Cross trainings on topics such as mental health fundamentals, psychological first aid and providing emergency assistance. Now that they’ve completed the extensive training the Navigate Counseling Team at East Carolina University is ready to be dispatched if needed during a local disaster.

The team experienced their first call to action on April 26 following the tornadoes that affected Eastern North Carolina. Dr. Atherton and Perry were quickly on scene to provide Disaster Mental Health services and work alongside other Red Cross volunteers to provide assistance to families displaced due to the storm.

“Giving back to the community is a core value of Navigate Counseling Clinic, and the ‘Ready When the Time Comes’ volunteer opportunity is a perfect match for our team. We are all excited for the opportunity to provide assistance to those affected by disasters on both a local and national level,” said Atherton.

Another member of the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Services, Celeste Crawford has been a Red Cross RWTC volunteer for many years and while she isn’t part of the Navigate Counseling Clinic at ECU team, she has been on a number of national deployments. Most recently, she was part of a team of North Carolina-based volunteers who responded to the shooting on the Washington Navy Yard.

The Navigate Counseling Team at ECU is proud to honor the University’s motto “Servire” by serving those in need through the “Ready When the Times Comes” program with the American Red Cross. To learn more about how you can get involved with this program, visit the American Red Cross website at www.redcross.org.