

January 7, 2016

Happy New Year!

We have worked hard and accomplished much last year, and are now perfectly poised for continued success in 2016. On the way: new educational programs to attract the brightest of students to Augusta University, excellent research and collaboration opportunities for faculty and students, increased support for our growing clinics and faculty practice plan, and much more. I look forward to the many achievements we will together bring to our students, college and Augusta University in 2016!

Celebrated activist to speak at MLK Celebration

Augusta University will host this year's annual tri-college Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration Jan. 18 at noon in the Maxwell Theatre on the Summerville Campus. We are very fortunate to have as our speaker a legendary civil rights activist, Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, whose experiences in the civil rights movement from its earliest days are chronicled in the movie *An Ordinary Hero*, which will be shown the night before at 6 p.m. at the JSAC Ballroom. I encourage our CAHS faculty, staff and students to attend either or both events and prepare to be inspired!

Success in public-private partnership

As we continue to explore collaborative opportunities with the private sector, Dr. Nasrul Hoda (CLS) has just received a one-year, \$120,000 grant from ArunA Biomedical to fund a laboratory for research into stem cell-derived exosomes for preclinical stroke, a project for which he is PI. ArunA, a privately held company based up the road in Athens, focuses on platform technology products and services for the stem cell research community. This is an outstanding partnership for our college, and we are enthusiastic about what lies ahead in this worthy venture.

De Leo accepted for ASAHP leadership program

Dr. Gianluca De Leo, chair of the Department of Clinical and Digital Health Sciences, has been selected for the 2016 Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions Leadership Development Program. He joins a distinguished group from academic institutions across the U.S. who are committed to individual and team leadership development. Congratulations, Gianluca!

Wakade selected for VA review panel

Congratulations to Dr. Mohan Wakade (PT) on his appointment to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Rehabilitation Research and Development Merit Award review panel. It is a great honor to be invited to serve our nation's veterans in any capacity, particularly as part of the process that advances rehabilitation for our wounded warriors!

Kearney recognized for professional service

I recently received a letter of appreciation from the American Occupational Therapy Association recognizing the volunteer service of Dr. Pam Kearney as a member of the organization's Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education. Pam's contributions to this quality accreditation program helps advance OT education across the country, and I am pleased that her participation have been acknowledged in this way. To Pam, and indeed, all CAHS faculty serving in national organizations, I am most grateful for your generous service.

Hot off the presses!

The latest edition of [GResearch](#) features a great article on Dr. Greg Passmore's promising research to

build an improved collimeter camera, one that could reduce the number of nuclear cardiac tests heart patients may need to take. Greg, program director of our Nuclear Medicine Technology program, enlists students as fellow researchers in the project, which is funded by grants from Augusta University's Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship.

Mallory Lanier, director of our Low Vision Rehabilitation Center, has recently been highlighted in the press as well, in [GRavity](#) and on the [NBC Channel 26 "Women to Watch"](#) feature, for her wonderful work as founder of Steps of Grace, a ballet company for young children age 3-5 with special needs. This is a true collaboration of the heart as our occupational therapy students volunteer as well for this group of delightful girls. Thank you, Mallory and students, for sharing your talents with our greater community – a wonderful example of dedication to service!

With so many digital devices given as presents this holiday season, Dr. Gianluca De Leo wrote a terrific expert's guide to help kids and parents address cyber safety. It was picked up by several local and national media outlets after publication in [Jagwire](#).

Well done, all!

It's game time!

Remember to mark your calendars for Saturday, Jan. 16 – CAHS Day with the Jags! We will enjoy a great AU basketball game at 3:30 p.m. in our own reserved section, complete with free food and refreshments and a very special halftime activity (involving chairs) that you won't want to miss! All faculty, staff and students get in free with your I.D. badge, and for complimentary tickets for family and friends, please contact Sharron Walls in the Dean's Office.

January 14, 2016

2016 CAHS Presidential Alumnus named

I am delighted to announce that Tammi Balk Peavey, a two-time graduate of our college, has been chosen to receive the 2016 College of Allied Health Sciences Presidential Distinguished Alumnus Award from Augusta University. Tammi is a 1985 graduate of our Radiologic Technologies program who returned to earn a Physician Assistant degree with honors in 1997. Since 2008 she has been clinical director for Augusta's Urgent MD practices. Her distinguished career as a radiologic technologist and then PA has included clinical and clinical faculty positions at her alma mater, with additional positions at the Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center, Trinity Hospital and private practice. She is an outstanding professional, teacher and mentor, an exceptional leader, and a visionary thinker who has made consistent and significant contributions to her community and profession. We are very proud of you, Tammi. Congratulations! We look forward to recognizing your achievements during Alumni Weekend this April.

Ellen DeGeneres features OT grad on show

One of recent OT graduates, Ashlyn Thomas Deloach ('13), appeared on the nationally syndicated TV show "Ellen" Monday morning, highlighting the amazing work she does in one of the nation's most impoverished school districts. I join Department Chair Michael Iwama in expressing great pride in Ashlyn and her fellow Augusta alumni, who exemplify the kind of health care professional our programs are recognized for worldwide. If you missed the segment, take a look [here](#)!

Employee Award nominations due in February

Our wonderful CAHS staff members deserve to be recognized for their excellent support of our college and university. To that end, CAHS is developing a number of college staff awards to be implemented this year, while the Augusta University Employee Advisory Council is now accepting nominations for our institutional-level staff awards. In addition to the Erie P. Blissit and Clay Adamson Facilities Services Employee of the Year awards, several new awards have been created: the Golden Pen Award, the Service Excellence Award and the Teamwork Award. Nominations will be accepted online through Feb. 19, with winners announced during the April 14 Employee Awards Ceremony in the Lee Auditorium. Visit the EAC website [here](#) for details and nomination forms.

MLK Celebration tomorrow

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration takes place tomorrow, Jan. 15 at noon in the Maxwell Theatre with the acclaimed civil rights activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland. This is a rare opportunity to hear about the civil rights movement from one of its earliest and most involved participants. Augusta University joins with Augusta Technical College and Paine College to present this unique and timely speaker.

Hoops on Saturday

Saturday is CAHS Day with the Jags at Christenberry Fieldhouse! During the men's game at 3:30 p.m. we will enjoy our own CAHS reserved section with free food and refreshments. At halftime, our very own department chairs will have a little competition of their own at center court – be prepared to shoot video! Come support your department, our college and our Jaguars! Admission is free for faculty, staff and students with I.D. badge. Complimentary tickets for family and friends are still available in the Dean's Office.

January 28, 2016

Clinic for Prosthetic Restoration receives Walton Foundation support

The Clinic for Prosthetic Restoration, housed in our Department of Medical Illustration and directed by Interim Department Chair Amanda Behr, has received a generous gift from the Walton Foundation for Independence - \$10,000 through the foundation's Community Outreach Fund for the purchase of additional equipment, including a Carver Press and 3D scanner, which will improve efficiency in providing prosthetics for patients who have lost face or body parts due to cancer, congenital or other medical conditions. The fund champions nonprofit organizations with missions that parallel the Walton Foundation's: to serve people with disabilities in Richmond, Columbia and Aiken counties. We are most grateful to our friends at the Walton Foundation for this support.

CAE application submitted for Cyber Institute

Good news – the final application to designate Augusta University's Cyber Institute as a National Center of Academic Excellence has been submitted to the National Security Agency. The work included mapping knowledge units to the cyber curriculum, and developing an institute website (www.augusta.edu/cyberinstitute). This has been a true collaborative effort among several of Augusta's colleges, among them our Health Informatics program under the leadership of Dr. Gianluca De Leo, chair of the Department of Clinical and Digital Health Sciences. Thank you

HPSA growing rapidly

In just a short span of time, our reinstated Health Promotion Student Association has made great progress. Membership is increasing, a newsletter has been developed, an email account established (hpsa@augusta.edu), and a social media and web presence is right around the corner. Kudos to HPSA President Samantha Murdaugh and her slate of student officers and contributors for moving this initiative forward. Best wishes for continued progress!

Laws and Barefield to present at DLA2016

Our CAHS-embedded instructional designer Georgianna Laws will make two presentations this June at the 2016 Distance Learning Administration Conference at Jekyll Island, Georgia. "Web Solution for the Training and Support of Distance Instructors" will focus the use of her geolawsdesign.com website to help train and support faculty. She and Amanda Barefield (HIA) will also present "Using LMS Embedded Analytics to Evaluate in an Online Competency-based Program." Well done, and thank you for further advancing your expertise to a wider audience!

February 11, 2016

International research collaboration

Dr. Gianluca De Leo has received funding from the Italian Ministry of Health for a three-year study, "High-end and Low-End Virtual Reality Systems for the Rehabilitation of Frailty in the Elderly." The research, a joint project with Dr. Giuseppe Riva of Università Cattolica in Milan, will compare and establish the effects of VR-based interventions on cognitive and motor decline in elderly patients, in both health care and home settings.

Cosper a Jag20!

Assistant Professor Sharon Cosper in the Department of Occupational Therapy is on roll! First, she was spectacular winning the halftime musical-chairs-with-a-basketball event at our recent CAHS Day with the Jags, and now she has been named to the Augusta University Jag20 Class of 2016. Each year, Jag20 recognition is bestowed on just 20 outstanding AU alumni under the age of 40 who excel as emerging leaders, making an impact in their field and in their community. The class will be recognized at the Alumni Weekend Brunch and Jag20 Awards event May 1 at the Legends Club. Sharon is not only an alumna of our college, but an outstanding faculty member here at her alma mater. Congratulations, Sharon, on receiving this exceptional honor! We couldn't be more delighted.

HIA ranked #29

SuperScholar, an independent college search and rankings website, has ranked Augusta University's Health Information Management program #29 among the nation's [50 Best Online Bachelor of Health Care Administration Programs](#). Programs were evaluated on market reputation, flexibility, student satisfaction, accessibility and affordability. This is a wonderful testament to the dedication of all our HIA faculty and staff to bring our students the very best in education and training. Well done!

MPH student gets NCI green light

Jennifer Mashburn, an MPH student in the health management track, reached a milestone in her capstone project recently when she received approval from the NIH National Cancer Institute Technology Transfer Center for a Data Transfer Agreement. She will use de-identified work history data

from the U.S. Radiologic Technologists Study of over 50,000 individuals to investigate cancer risk in X-ray technologists. She went to the most prestigious source of data and successfully secured resources for her project. Congratulations, Jennifer!

“A” Day at the Capitol

Augusta University students and faculty converged on the State Capitol in Atlanta today to tell our story to legislators and education them on the future of health care in Georgia. Many CAHS students from several of our programs are among the participants. My thanks to each one of them for representing our college. You make us very proud!

August 15, 2016

34th Annual Dental Hygiene Symposium a Success

The 34th Annual Dental Hygiene Symposium was held July 14-17, 2016 at the Savannah Marriott Riverfront in Savannah, GA. The conference was a success and hosted 305 attendees from ten different states. The symposium serves as a great networking opportunity for attendees and also offers the option to earn continuing education credits. Thank you to Ana Thompson, who served as the course director, and to the entire Dental Hygiene program for their participation in, and support of, this event.

PA Student Honored as Tillman Scholar

Cody R. Ward, pursuing a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, was named as a Tillman Scholar by the Pat Tillman Foundation on June 8th. Cody followed in his brother's footsteps and became an Army ranger. After deploying on six separate occasions, Cody returned to civilian life as a paramedic and EMT. After graduation from Augusta University, Cody hopes to use his experiences to bridge the gap between veterans and health care providers. Cody received a lot of attention for this great honor with features on the [JagWire](#), in the [Augusta Chronicle](#) and acknowledgement from the [PAEA](#). We are proud to call Cody a Jaguar!

Allied Health Sciences a Favorite at Health Sciences Summer Academy

The evaluations are in and the Allied Health Sciences rotations were a big hit at the Health Sciences Summer Academy (HSSA). Our sessions garnered overwhelmingly positive feedback from attendees, receiving an average rating of 4.7 out of 5. The Health Sciences Summer Academy is a program designed to provide high school students with an introduction to the academic and professional world of health sciences through hands-on activities. The HSSA serves as a great recruitment tool and I hope we convinced many participants that the CAHS at Augusta University should be their top choice for higher education.

Medical Illustration Alumni Event Wrap-up

The Medical Illustration department recently hosted an alumni dinner and memorial celebration in conjunction with the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI) conference in Atlanta. The dinner was an opportunity to reunite alumni and celebrate the life and work of alumna Karen Waldo who passed away earlier this year. Over 95 people were in attendance at the event including 13 members of Karen's family. Keep an eye out for pictures from the event on the [Medical Illustration Facebook Page](#)!

New Jamaica Study Abroad Program Approved

The Study Abroad Committee has approved the Occupational Therapy Jamaica Program for the 2016-2017 academic year. Recruitment starts now with a goal to recruit 20 students each for the fall and spring programs. The Study Abroad Fair will be held on September 21st from 10:00am-1:00pm in the JSAC Amphitheater. Please encourage students to attend!

Asthma Camp Launches Facebook Page

The Augusta Area Asthma Camp has launched its very own [Facebook Page](#)! Check out the page for great photos from the most recent camp and “Like” the page to stay updated all year long!

August 22, 2016

Fall 2016 Enrollment Numbers

Point-in-time enrollment figures for Fall 2016 have been reported and, as of August 17th, the university experienced an overall increase in enrollment of 2.48%. Undergraduate enrollment increased by 3.2% while Graduate enrollment was up by 2.4%. Enrollment in Professional and Post Professional programs remained steady with a less than 1% increase in each category. We look forward to seeing this trend continue as Augusta University develops a reputation as a premier public research institution and innovation center for education and health care.

New Report Suggests Bright Salary Outlook for select Health Sciences Professions

A [recent study](#) by online job market *Indeed.com* suggests that the future looks bright for Physician Assistants, Occupational Therapists and Medical/Health Services Managers. Using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Indeed.com* identified “opportunity jobs” which are jobs where wages are strong and wage growth exceeds the rate of inflation. Out of 800 occupations studied, only 170 qualified as opportunity jobs and, of those, the job with the highest salary growth was Physician Assistant with 42% salary growth and an average annual income of \$99,270. Occupational Therapist came in a close second with 38.9% salary growth and average annual income of \$134,330 and not far behind was Medical/Health Services Manager with 36.7% salary growth and average annual income of \$106,070. This report can serve as a great motivator for current students and a great talking point for recruitment of future students.

Ana Thompson Accepted into Authentic Leadership Pipeline II

Congratulations are in order for Ana Thompson who has been accepted into the Authentic Leadership Pipeline II Program! The Pipeline Programs, offered by the Leadership Academy, are open to directors, chairs, faculty, administrators, physicians, nurses, and program directors at Augusta University and AU Health. Admission into a program is by nomination, including supervisor approval, and the nominations are reviewed by a Selection Committee.

Dental Hygiene Student Interviewed by ValuePenguin

Meagan Hawkins, Dental Hygiene Class of 2017, was recently interviewed by personal finance website *ValuePenguin*. During her interview, Meagan spoke highly of her experience at Augusta University. Check out the [ValuePenguin website](#) for the full interview.

Research Analyst, Marlo Vernon, Selected for National Honor Society

College of Health Sciences Research Analyst and current student, Marlo Vernon, was nominated for membership in The National Society of Leadership and Success, Sigma Alpha Pi. The National Society of Leadership and Success is the largest college leadership honor society in the United States. Congratulations, Marlo!

Trinity Massey Starts as new Planning and Community Affairs Manager

Please welcome Trinity Massey as the new Planning and Community Affairs Manager for the College of Allied Health Sciences. Trinity comes to us with many years of experience in higher education administration. Throughout her years in higher education she has honed her skills for working with a variety of stakeholders, planning events and developing content for high-end publications. Trinity earned her undergraduate degree in Marketing and also holds a Master of Business Administration.

August 29, 2016

Students and Faculty Recognized with Georgia Association of Physicians Assistants (GAPA) Awards

Several students and one faculty member were recognized at the GAPA Bowl held on July 11th. The 2016 Faculty Achievement Award was bestowed upon Dr. Bonnie Dadig for her long-term service to PA education. We all know that this recognition is well deserved. The 2016 Student Achievement Award was earned by Amber Casado and two of our students, D’Neka Colzie and Keiko Stobaeus, were named as 2016 GAPA Student Scholarship Recipients. Augusta University was represented in the Bowl by Jackie Smith and Chelsie Rogers whose quick and confident responses in the competition lead them to a 2nd place finish. Last, but not least, Phil DeRosa gave an outstanding presentation at the Bowl. Thank you to all of our awardees and participants, we are so proud of your efforts and achievements!

Faculty and Staff to be honored at Service Recognition Breakfast

Please take a moment to congratulate the following individuals for their years of outstanding service to the University; for five years of dedicated service, Aubre Keenan and Angie Walton. For ten years of dedicated service, Stevie Redmond and Donna Surrency. Each of them will be honored for their years of dedication at a Service Recognition Breakfast on October 13th. Thank you for continued loyalty to Augusta University!

Occupational Therapy Student Receives Scholarship of Excellence

Occupational Therapy student, Emily Prickett, was recently awarded a *Scholarship of Excellence* from the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions (ASAHP). The scholarship program is designed to recognize outstanding students in allied health professions who are achieving excellence in their academic programs and who show potential for becoming future leaders in allied health professions. Keep up the good work, Emily!

Dr. Coughlin Awarded Grant to study Gulf War Illness in Female Veterans

Dr. Steven Coughlin was recently awarded a grant from the Department of Defense to complete a four-year study of Gulf War Illness in Female Veterans. Studies suggest that Gulf War Illness can lead to health issues including reproductive outcomes for women. One major objective of the study is to establish the Gulf War Women’s Cohort, a sample of women veterans who served in the first Gulf War and a comparison group of women who served in other locations during that time. A second objective of the study is to provide current and comprehensive data on the health status of women who served in the war and identify any conditions that affect Gulf War women veterans at increased rates. The study

will lay the groundwork for future research aimed at improvement in the clinical treatment of women veterans with Gulf War Illness. Congratulations, Dr. Coughlin.

Dr. Andrew Balas explores the “Untold Crisis in Medical Research”

In a recent [article](#) published by *Washington Monthly* magazine, Dr. Balas explores the “Untold Crisis in Medical Research” which is that scarce research dollars are wasted on poor quality science. We all know that research can produce positive results such as life-saving cancer treatments and technological advances in prosthetic design but the opposite side of that equation is non-repeatable research. At the heart of non-repeatable research are a variety of deficiencies including insufficient sample size, misidentified cell lines, contaminated chemicals, inattentive statistical analysis and biased research. In the article, Dr. Balas provides several suggestions for how to mitigate the crisis in medical research such as evaluating a researcher’s contributions to scientific innovation and societal impact as opposed to the quantity of published research articles. Keep these concepts in mind as you develop your own research plans.

September 7, 2016

Collaboration with College of Science and Mathematics Commences

On August 15th, Dr. Wakade and a team of researchers from the College of Allied Health Sciences met with research faculty from the College of Science and Mathematics on the Summerville campus to discuss collaboration in research. Our hope is that we can work together to apply for intramural grants, involve students in pilot projects and generally support each other’s research efforts. The next step in this process is to invite the faculty members from the Summerville campus to the College of Allied Health Sciences to further discuss their research interests and future collaborations. A special thanks to Dr. Burgess, Dr. De Leo and Dr. Lehman for their support of this effort.

MPH Fall Admission Closed

As of August 4th the MPH program closed their Fall admission cycle with an increase in enrollment for the Fall 2016 session. A total of 22 applicants accepted admission to the program and they are enrolled as follows: ten Health Management majors, seven Health Informatics majors, four Environmental Health majors and one Social and Behavioral Sciences major. The total headcount for the Fall semester is 71 students which is an increase over the past two years. Best wishes to all for a successful semester!

Occupational Therapy Students and Faculty Support Camp IVEY

This summer several OT students and faculty participated in the inaugural week of Camp IVEY, a camp held at Camp Lakeside in Lincolnton for high-functioning children with developmental disabilities. The camp, hosted by the Family YMCA of Greater Augusta, was co-directed by OT students Hannah Stern and Chandler Hammond with support from classmates Anice Stringfellow, Katy Smallwood, Kaitlyn Thompson and Ansley Dobbs. Faculty members Mallory Lanier and Dr. Teal Benevides also took time out of their busy days to volunteer at the camp. For more information about Camp IVEY visit the camp’s [Facebook](#) page or follow the [Camp IVEY blog](#) written by our student Ansley who was recognized above. Thank you to everyone that helped. We hope to be a part of Camp IVEY for many years to come.

Paper by Dr. Pavani Rangachari Recognized by Academy of Management

Recently, Dr. Rangachari’s submitted a paper entitled “Role of SKN Technology in Facilitating EHR Medication Reconciliation” to the Academy of Management’s annual meeting. Her paper was named “Runner Up” for Best Theory to Practice Award in the Health Care Management (HCM) Division. This

award winning paper also provided the foundation for Dr. Rangachari's grant proposal to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Well done, Dr. Rangachari!

Health Information Administration Students take Honors at State Meeting

On August 4th, the Georgia Health Information Management Association (GHIMA) held its annual meeting. Alumni and students of Augusta University's Health Information Administration (HIA) program were present and took the stage to accept awards and scholarships, as well as being inducted as GHIMA Board Members. Mr. Tyler Schumann (c/o 2017) received the 2016 GHIMA Scholarship. Savannah Lo (c/o 2016) received the Outstanding New Graduate Award. Christi Snider, RHIA (c/o 2015) received the Outstanding New Professional Award. The 2016 HIA Outstanding Alumnus recipient, Ms. Annette Baker, RHIA (c/o 2013), was inducted as the 2016/2017 GHIMA President.

Congrats to all of our Health Information Administration students and alumni for their hard work in supporting the future of the profession.

September 14, 2016

Several Programs Grow in the College

Three graduate programs experienced noteworthy growth for the Fall 2016 semester. The Applied Health Sciences PhD program more than doubled enrollment from 2015. This significant growth is thanks to the dedication of Dr. Raghavan Raju and the PhD faculty who support the program. The Master of Public Health (MPH) graduate program also experienced a nearly 7% increase in enrollment this semester, which can surely be attributed to the hard work of Program Director Dr. Yoon-Ho Seol and his team. And last, but not least, the Dietetics Internship program deserves special recognition in their inaugural year of practice with a full class of 13 students. Great job, well done!

Dietetic Internship Certificate Posted

We received feedback that the Augusta Area Dietetic Internship became a fully approved certificate program in the College of Allied Health Sciences. It is housed in the Department of Clinical and Digital Health Sciences and is under the direction of Dr. Judith Anglin. The Dietetic Internship graduate certificate requires 24 credit hours for completion. Dr. Judith Anglin program director has worked tirelessly to further advance this important program and recruit excellent students. Thank you.

Governor's High Demand Career Initiative Report

A recent report released by the Governor of Georgia suggests that our graduates will be in-demand due to an increase in healthcare and life science companies moving into the State. The report identified several high demand careers including occupational and physical therapists and plasma technologists. In addition, the report identified high demand skills such as healthcare certifications, analytical skills, project management skills and specialist in blood banking (SBB) designation. Depending upon their degree program, many of our students can obtain these skills, specializations and certifications right here in the College of Allied Health Sciences. We pride ourselves on giving our students the tools they need to succeed!

Clinic for Prosthetic Restoration Medicare Application Approved

Congratulations to Clinic Director Amanda Behr and the Clinic for Prosthetic Restoration for having their Medicare application approved. This approval means that the Clinic, a division of our Practice Plan, can readily treat Medicare patients. It also opens the doors to apply for Medicaid approval and other programs. This great achievement will allow us to provide care to those who need it the most.

Program Director to be Guest Editor for International Journal

Our very own Dr. Raghavan Raju, Program Director for the PhD in Applied Health Sciences, was invited to be a guest editor for a special issue of the journal *BBA Molecular Basis of Disease* (IF=5.1). The theme of the issue is “Immune and Metabolic Alterations in Trauma and Sepsis”. At least 15 leading labs in the world have agreed to contribute to this issue. Dr. Raju is the perfect choice for the important leadership job!

Invitation to Conduct NIH funded Research on the Health Effects of Vitamin D

Recently, I had an excellent conversation with Yanbin Dong, MD, PhD, Associate Director of GPI and Regents' Professor of Pediatrics, molecular geneticist and cardiologist. He just received big NIH funding for a large project on Vitamin D and aging. Did you know that Vitamin D gets a lot of attention in cancer immunotherapy as well? He would be very interested in working with our research faculty colleagues and go for NIH supplementary funding together. Please contact Yanbin with your ideas and expressions of interest.

Save-the Date

The 2016 State of the College Address is scheduled for October 14th from Noon-1pm. A formal Save-the-Date will be e-mailed soon. Please mark your calendars for this special event.

September 19, 2016

Occupational Therapy Professor Develops App for Evaluating Posture

Jason Hughes, assistant professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, recently developed and released an app named *Posture Perfect* which allows physical therapists, occupational therapists, and other professionals to objectively evaluate posture. The app uses photos and posture points to determine if posture is improving over the course of treatments. *Posture Perfect* is user-friendly, time-saving and offers a visual representation of progress for patients. The app is available for download on [iTunes](#). Very creative work, Jason!

Physical Therapy Students Study in Italy

Did you know that physical therapy students can participate in clinical studies in Italy? For the past three years the PT program has collaborated with clinics in Italy to provide a once in a lifetime experience for PT students. The program, facilitated by [Eduglobal Associates](#), offers 8-week and 12-week programs that meet all accreditation requirements for clinical rotations. Students have the opportunity to work in one of five renowned Italian rehabilitation facilities. To participate in this study abroad opportunity, students must be in their third or final rotation, submit an essay and application and commit to taking a semester of language prior to departure. This collaboration provides a wonderful opportunity for participating students to understand the patient care environment across borders which can lead to a new perspective on patient care here in the United States.

CAHS Researchers Collaborate with Others to Study Parkinson's Disease

Drs. Chandramohan Wakade and Raymond Chong are working with researchers from Radiology, Neurology, and Oral Biology to study the effect of niacin on activated microglia in patients with Parkinson's Disease (PD). Dr. Wakade described the ground-breaking study as follows “We will use, for

the first time, a new-generation radionuclide that is known to specifically bind to activated microglia in the brain. We propose to test a novel hypothesis that niacin (vitamin B3) supplementation (for 6 months) will reduce activated microglia (and thus inflammation) in the brain of PD patients. The PET scans from PD patients will be compared with and without niacin.” The study is funded for one year.

College of Allied Health Sciences to Sponsor Savannah River Stroll

The College of Allied Health Sciences is sponsoring the Savannah River Stroll scheduled for October 1st from 10:00am-Noon at the Augusta Market on the Savannah River. The Stroll, organized by Aegis Therapies and the Family Y, is an event focused on Active Older Adults in our community. The one mile course, along the Savannah River front, will feature vendors with information on how to stay active and healthy, lemonade and coffee stands, stretch breaks and health assessments. Students from our Occupational Therapy, Dental Hygiene, Physician Assistant and Respiratory Therapy programs will offer information about healthy living and services at Augusta University. Feel free to attend this fun, family-friendly event!

PhD Student to Present Poster at Georgia Bio Innovation Summit 2016

Marlo Vernon was recently approved to present a poster entitled *New Measures of Innovation Productivity in Bio Sciences* at the upcoming GaBio Summit on September 28th.

September 26, 2016

Dr. Pavani Rangachari Awarded Grant from Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality

Congratulations are in order for Dr. Rangachari who was recently awarded a \$299,969 grant from the Department of Health and Human Services – Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. The project, entitled “Using Social Knowledge Networking (SKN) Technology to Enable Meaningful Use of EHR Technology” is a two-year exploratory and developmental (R21) pilot/feasibility project. The project involves collaboration with both the Cerner Health IT unit and the medical staff leadership at AU Health to develop an EHR-integrated SKN system and pilot test it over a one-year period in select inpatient and outpatient units at AU Health. Specific aims are to examine user-engagement in the SKN system and preliminary associations between “SKN use” and “EHR meaningful use.” Meaningful use (outcome) measures would include rates of medication reconciliation, adverse drug events, and other patient-centered outcome measures.

Dr. Steven Coughlin Awarded \$1.1 Million Grant from Department of Defense

Dr. Coughlin was awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Department of Defense to complete a four-year study of Gulf War Illness in Female Veterans. Studies suggest that Gulf War Illness can lead to health issues including reproductive outcomes for women. The study will lay the groundwork for future research aimed at improvement in the clinical treatment of women veterans with Gulf War Illness. This is a fantastic accomplishment that will impact the way we care for our veterans for many years to come. Well done, Dr. Coughlin!

Researchers from Clinical and Digital Health Sciences Department Receive Grant

Dr. Vahe Heboyan (PI) and Dr. De Leo (co-PI) received \$85,000 in Department of Defense funding in collaboration with the Eisenhower Medical Center at Fort Gordon. The project is titled “Assessing Clinical, Economic, and Patient Satisfaction Outcomes of Post-Surgery Follow-Ups through TeleHealth at Eisenhower Army Medical Center.” The overarching goal of this study is to assess the clinical and

economic feasibility of post-surgical follow-up for patients at Dwight D. Eisenhower Army Medical Center (DDEAMC). More specifically, this study will assess the efficacy and feasibility of performing post-surgery follow-up assessment through telehealth; examine patient and provider experience and satisfaction of telehealth follow-up; estimate cost-effectiveness of providing post-surgery follow-up via telehealth compared to in-person visits; and calculate the overall economic and financial impact of telehealth for post-surgical follow-up. Fantastic work, gentleman.

Costa Layman Health Fair Follow-up

With the efforts of over 200 health care professionals and volunteers, the 11th year of the Health Fair provided another successful comprehensive screening clinic for the employees of Costa Farms in Trenton, South Carolina. Support from the College of Allied Health Sciences including Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy was instrumental in providing a comprehensive variety of screenings. Some of the offerings this year included height, weight, BMI, neck, hip and waist circumference, blood pressure, comprehensive lab work including HIV testing and Vitamin D levels, vision and glaucoma screening, pulmonary function and obstructive sleep apnea screenings, hand grip and carpal tunnel screenings, and safe body mechanics classes. The partnership between Costa Farms and the College of Allied Health Sciences, among others, has given employees with undiagnosed or untreated health issues access to some of the top health care professionals in the country and empowered them with the information and resources needed to make informed decisions about their medical needs and future care. Looking forward to next year!

Respiratory Therapy Professor Serves as External Evaluators for Medical Center Accreditation

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organization (JCAHO) requires that the Respiratory Therapy department at the Augusta University Medical Center (AUMC) provide external source evaluators for clinical competencies. These clinical competencies include intubation, arterial blood gases, tracheostomy insertions and more and are actual procedures that are performed on patients once a therapist has been deemed competent. Our very own Hannah Beriault is serving as the only external evaluator for AUMC. She is evaluating more than 60 therapists who work at the hospital with the goal of helping AUMC to meet this very important requirement from the JCAHO.

Medical Illustration Senior Exhibition

The Medical Illustration Graduate Program is proud to present the works of the Class of 2017. A gallery of art by students Julie Schuck, David Nahabedian, Shawn McLeod, Lindsey Heisler and Cora Brown is on display now! Take a moment to view the gallery located in the lobby on the first floor of the Health Sciences Building. This impressive exhibit will be on display until October 2nd.

PA Student and Faculty Member Publish in Peer Reviewed Journal

A job well done to Professor Lisa Daitch and student Lauren Mathews Wilson who recently published an article in the peer reviewed *Advance for NP's and PA's*. The article, titled "The Psychosocial Implications of ADHD in Adults", explores ADHD and how it affects individuals across their lifespan and not just in childhood.

October 3, 2016

College of Allied Health Sciences to Host LASER Talks jointly with Department of Art

Thanks to the good leadership of Amanda Behr, Interim Chair of Medical Illustration, the College will cohost LASER Talks jointly with the Art Department of the Pamplin College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences on October 25th. This unique event serves as a forum for innovative leaders in art and science to share their creative research through brief presentations and an interactive panel discussion. LASER stands for Leonardo Art Science Evening Rendezvous. This month our very own Mallory Lanier, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy and Low Vision Clinic Director, will participate in the panel discussion and discuss “Steps of Grace: Ballet for Special Needs.” See the attached flyer for more information.

Research Paper by Occupational Therapy Students to be Published in Prominent Journal

Please join me in congratulating Occupational Therapy Class of 2016 members: Bryant Alonso, Katie Faulkner, Haley Jones, and Britton Monroe, as well as their research mentor – Professor Stephanie Johnson, and faculty contributors – Dr. Pam Kearney and Dr. Leigh Lehman, for the acceptance of their research paper accepted for publication September 13, 2016 (“Quality of Life Perspectives of Persons with ALS and Caregivers”). The American Journal of Occupational Therapy carries the highest impact factor of peer reviewed publications in the profession. Their paper will be published in a Special Edition on Neurologic Occupational Therapy. For many of the listed authors, this is their first publication. What a way to start your professional careers!

Two CAHS Faculty Awarded PSRP Grants

The Augusta University Intramural Grants Program awarded Pilot Study Research Program (PSRP) Grants to Dr. Teal Benevides and Dr. Kumar Vaibhav. Dr. Benevides, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, was awarded \$21,412 for her study entitled “African-American Caregiver Beliefs, Knowledge and Expectations Affecting Help-Seeking for their Children with Autism.” One reviewer noted, “This represents an important research area with good potential for future extramural support.” Dr. Vaibhav, a Research Scientist with MLIRS, was awarded \$18,648 for his “Study of Transient Receptor Potential Vanilloid-1 in Macrophage Recruitment in TBI Mice.” The reviewers noted the significance of this project when they stated, “Traumatic brain injury is the most common cause of disability...This proposal is significant and will bring new knowledge into this field.” Hats off to the investigators!

Dr. Debra Beazley Accepted into Faculty Development Fellowship Program

Dr. Beazley, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy, was selected to participate in the Educational Innovation Institute’s Faculty Development Fellowship in the Teach Scholars Track. The goal of the track is the development of a knowledgeable, inter-professional cadre of educators who are committed to enhancing health science education within and outside AU. Dr. Beazley is the perfect candidate for the program.

Dr. Sharon Swift and OT Students Presented Awards for Work with Camp Ivey

Dr. Sharon Swift and several Occupational Therapy students were recently presented with awards from the Family Y for their work at Camp Ivey. ‘Camp IVEY’ offers entertaining and educational summer camp

activities for children with developmental delays. We are very proud of our students and thank them for the award winning service to the community. Learn more on the [Jagwire!](#)

Marlo Vernon Receives Poster Award at Georgia BioSummit

Congratulations to Marlo Vernon who received “The Anthony Shuker Scientific Poster Award” at the Georgia Bio Innovation Summit for her poster titled “New Measures of Innovation Productivity in Bio Sciences.” The study, mentored by Andrew Balas PhD advisor, evaluates the current state of innovation research measures and proposes a set of standardized metrics (research expenditure and faculty size per institution) that evaluate the scientific productivity, economic impact, and public health impact of academic research.

October 10, 2016

Costa Layman to Host Women’s Health Fair with Support from the CAHS

Great community service projects also represent an excellent opportunity for interprofessional collaboration. The College of Nursing is scheduled to host a Women’s Health Clinic on October 27th for women who work at Costa Layman Farms. The clinic will provide services such as vision, glucose and bone density screenings along with well-woman exams. In addition to screenings, the clinic will offer patient education including a presentation by Dr. Steven Coughlin discussing the Georgia-South Carolina Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program. Dr. Coughlin’s doctoral student, Jessica Stewart, is also providing support as a Spanish translator. This is a great effort to promote public health.

Dental Hygiene and Occupational Therapy Partner for Interprofessional Education

The Dental Hygiene program has been welcoming Occupational Therapy students into their clinic to conduct ergonomic and work site evaluations with Dental Hygiene students. This collaboration gives OT students a real life context to apply knowledge they have gained regarding environmental assessment, ergonomics, and cumulative trauma/work injury as well as to work on developing skills for creating written reports. This demonstration of interprofessional education benefits all involved. We should all keep thinking of new ways to leverage each other’s knowledge and skills. Please join me in congratulating the faculty of both programs for their exemplary interprofessional partnership!

Occupational Therapy Hosts Functional Capacity Evaluation Clinic

For the past several months, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, Jason Hughes, has been evaluating patients for functional capacity. The functional capacity evaluation is a comprehensive evaluation lasting from 6-8 hours. During the evaluation, clients complete a battery of assessments that include self-perception of disability/injury, dexterity, tolerance to functional positions, strength, and lifting at various levels, among other things. These evaluations are used to help determine disability status, return to work recommendations, and the need for rehabilitation. The clinic is booked for months in advance and is projected to grow. Great work, Professor Hughes!

New Handbook of Community-Based Participatory Research

Dr. Coughlin served as an editor for a soon-to-be-published *Handbook of Community-Based Participatory Research*. Rather than a single quantitative or qualitative method, community-based

participatory research (CBPR) is a diverse set of research approaches united by their common aim of social justice. The *Handbook of Community-Based Participatory Research* codifies these methodologies and articulates an expansive vision of health that includes gender equality, safe and adequate housing, and freedom from violence. Topic-based chapters apply the theory and methods of CBPR to real world problems affecting women, ethnic and racial minorities, and immigrant communities such as sexual violence, exposure to environmental toxins, and lack of access to preventive care as well as suggesting future directions for effective, culturally sensitive research. The book is scheduled to be out in print by January.

PhD Student Paper Accepted for Publication in *Journal of Respiratory Care*

Students from the PhD in Applied Health Sciences recently had their manuscript entitled "Knowledge and Attitudes among Respiratory Therapy Faculty Towards Interprofessional Education" accepted for publication in the *Journal of Respiratory Care*. The students, Lisa-Ann Cummins, Nicole Moore, Stephanie Reyes and Marlo Vernon, designed a survey to evaluate the knowledge and attitudes of respiratory therapy (RT) faculty towards interprofessional education and the responses indicated that IPE is an important component of RT education but is difficult to integrate with existing curricula. This was the first paper completed by the PhD students with support from Drs. Gianluca De Leo, Vahe Heboyan and Andrew Mazzolli. Way to go!

Dietetic Interns Write for *Augusta Medical Examiner*

The dietetic interns are writing articles for the monthly publication *Augusta Medical Examiner*. This newspaper is targeted toward healthcare consumers and aims to "provide a central source of information within the healthcare community, and to offer timely wellness information to readers in general, to everyone interested in the vital topic of better health." The interns write articles about nutrition and wellness which not only allows them to share their knowledge but also hone their writing skills. An example of the type of article that may be printed in an upcoming issue includes a discussion of food safety during the Thanksgiving holiday. Visit the [Augusta Medical Examiner](#) website for information about where you can pick up a copy.

October 17, 2016

Research by Dr. Jim Burgess to be Published in Prestigious Journal

We are pleased to announce the acceptance of Dr. Burgess' manuscript "Nanokit for single-cell electrochemical analyses" for publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). PNAS is one of the world's most-cited and comprehensive multidisciplinary scientific journals. In collaboration with corresponding author, Dr. Dechen Jiang at Nanjing University in China, Drs. Burgess and Jiang adapted kit-based analysis, often use to measure small molecules inside cells, and developed a nanokit-nanoelectrode platform. The simple and low-cost device provides a specific strategy that should facilitate single-cell analyses. This accomplishment can lead to a variety of applications such as the ability to detect disease states resulting from infection or genetic mutations.

PA Week Culminates with Disaster Relief Outreach Due to Hurricane

During the week of October 6 – 12, 2016 PA Students in the Class of 2017 celebrated the history of the profession with multiple activities scheduled during the week. Students kicked off PA week by

celebrating with an ice cream social, hosted a toy drive and donated the collected toys to the Ronald McDonald House, participated in a fundraiser, posed for a photo challenge and celebrated with a potluck. During PA Week, Hurricane Matthew struck and thousands of evacuees from the GA coast were sheltered in the Richmond County schools. Evacuees had many medical needs and a huge shortage of medical providers to respond to that need. Multiple students from the PA Class of 2016 and 2017, plus faculty members: Sara Haddow, Judith Stallings, and Rebecca Rote responded to these needs and volunteered multiple shifts and long hours providing medical care to evacuees on that Saturday and Sunday. The response and collaborative effort in such a time of need is the essence of what the PA Profession exemplifies. Rebecca Rote stated “Witnessing the overwhelming response from both PA classes and the faculty, was probably one of the proudest and most memorable moments I have experienced in my career as a PA.” Thank you to student class GAPA and SAAPA Representatives: Blaine Walsh, Shelby Real, Jamie Moore, and Kayla Wandrick for their hard work and dedication in making this such a successful week for the profession. Many thanks to the PA Department Faculty and Staff who pour their heart and soul into the CAHS, the PA Department, their Students, their patients, and the PA Profession. Our program and profession is remarkable because of amazing individuals such as these who gallantly come together as a united team!

MPH Student Receives Award

MPH student Lauren Smith’s capstone project titled “Expanding choices for birth by understanding the risks: Multiple regression analysis of US birth outcomes” was selected by the APHA Women’s Caucus for the 2016 Highest Scoring Student Abstract Award. Lauren will be presented with the award during upcoming APHA meeting in Denver. Congratulations, Lauren and thanks to her advisory Dr. Vahé Heboyan for his encouragement.

Medical Illustration Student Illustrates for Dangers of e-Cigarettes

Medical Illustration student David Nahabedian’s e-cigarette themed medical illustration, supervised by Dr. Vahé Heboyan, was adopted by the Augusta University Georgia Cancer Center for its flagship pamphlet on e-cigarette education. This pamphlet is a valuable resource as e-cigarettes are becoming more popular amongst teens. For more information, see the document attached to this issue of the Digest.

HIA Program Ranked for Value

The Health Information Administration program was recently ranked the 4th “Most Affordable Bachelor’s in Health Informatics” by CollegeChoice.com. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of the program here at Augusta University. As this field continues to grow students will look to our program as not only a premiere academic program but also one that is affordable and accessible.

Rhonda Carey – Certified Medical Interpreter

Did you know that Rhonda Carey, Grants Development Specialist, is a certified Spanish-language medical interpreter? Rhonda holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Spanish and regularly volunteers to translate for local patients. She also participates in the Costa Layman Health Fair each year as many of the farm workers speak Spanish as their first language. Rhonda provides an invaluable service and we are proud to call her our own!

AUHPA Launches Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) Clinic

The Practice Plan (AUHPA) has launched the Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) clinic after several months of collaboration with AUMC Rehabilitation Services to establish a billing agreement and secure support for patient referrals. The Functional Capacity Evaluation (FCE) clinic led by Jason Hughes, Clinic Director and Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy began seeing patients in August 2016, and has already received enough referrals to be booked through end of October! FCE is a comprehensive evaluation used to determine disability status, return to work recommendations, and the need for rehabilitation. It is therefore, a unique service line with broad relevance to not only our community hospitals and family physicians, but also to local corporations and attorney offices. The FCE clinic is the third clinic offering of our practice plan following the Clinic for Prosthetic Restoration (CPR) and Low Vision Service Line. Congratulations to the Practice Plan Board of Directors, and Department of Occupational Therapy for their efforts in bringing this service line to fruition!

November 9, 2016

Celebrating Allied Health Professionals Week

This week is particularly noteworthy as we applaud the many dedicated allied health professionals who make a much appreciated difference in patient care every day. Yesterday, I visited the Mayor of Augusta with a group of impressive students. We received an official framed copy of the mayoral proclamation recognizing our professions. To complete the week, please come and join the Allied Health Professions Week Breakfast on the second floor overlook of the Health Sciences Building between 7:30a.m.-9:00a.m. Friday, November 11. The celebration is sponsored by the AU Alumni Association

HIA Receives Continued Accreditation

The Health Information Administration program recently received continued accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM). The HIA program at Augusta University is the only baccalaureate level HIA program in the State of Georgia! This is great news for the program and our students. Many thanks to program director Lori Prince and Amanda Barefield for their hard work and accomplishments.

Dr. Priya Narayanan Receives Grant from MS Society

Dr. Priya Narayanan, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, was recently awarded a \$44,000 grant from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a potentially disabling disease of the central nervous system. Visual dysfunction is the first and one of the most common clinical manifestations of MS, and can lead to temporary or permanent vision loss. Dr. Narayanan conducts research aimed at identifying innovative therapeutic targets for vision disorders resulting from retinal neuronal damage. Utilizing animal models of MS and genetically engineered mice deficient in arginase, the studies will evaluate the potential therapeutic benefits of targeting arginase signaling for treating MS patients in reducing vision problems. Congratulations, Dr. Narayanan!

Students Praise Faculty Member for Selfless Volunteerism

The following is an excerpt from a letter written by PA student Jeff Garver: *“Ms. Sara Haddow, MSA, PA-C, volunteered 20 hours on 10/8-10/9 (SAT-SUN) at the Richmond County Special Medical Needs Shelter.*

Her willingness to staff the shelter allowed AU's students the rare opportunity of both viewing public health care in action and participating in the CSRA community's medical care initiative for displaced persons with considerable disabilities. Sara's mentorship was unsurpassed during these 20 hours. The knowledge she shared with AU Medical, PA, and OT students and intuitive guidance she provided during patient encounters was exceptionally beneficial to our educational experience. Observing and assisting Sara imparted insights into practicing medicine in an environment with more needs than resources that simply cannot be taught in a classroom. It will remain an influential experience and invaluable tool throughout our careers. Her dedication to the community was truly inspirational. Her professionalism and compassion with patients was exceptional. We are fortunate to have her on our faculty..." I couldn't have said it better myself. Thank you, Sara!

Dr. Burgess Serves as Guest Editor for *Interface*

Dr. James Burgess, Chair of MILRS, served as a guest editor for the Summer 2016 issue of *Interface*, a publication of the Electrochemical Society an international society with approximately 10,000 members. The issue, dedicated to the field of organic and biological electrochemistry, featured an article co-written by Dr. Burgess and Dr. Mekki Bayachou, a professor at Cleveland State University. The article, titled "Electrons as 'Agents' and 'Signals' of Change in Organic Chemistry, Biology and Beyond" pointed to the 1869 science fiction novel *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea* to highlight the past and future excitement about the power of electrochemistry. Thanks, Dr. Burgess for this "novel" approach to discussing electrochemistry!

CAHS Instructional Designer Innovates for Distance Learning

Georgianna Laws, Instructional Designer assigned to the College of Allied Health Sciences, has been very busy this year finding innovative ways to promote distance learning. She completed a project for the HIA program on their use of D2L to capture and analyze competency data which was used to evaluate the HIA program and secure accreditation. Georgianna also presented at the United States Distance Learning Association's International Forum for Women in E-learning about "*The Yin-Yang of eLearning: How to Stay Centered in a Fast-Paced Work Environment*" related to our TCM certificate. Keep up the good work, Georgianna!

November 14, 2016

This coming Monday is Public Health Thank You Day, an important opportunity to raise awareness and thank those who protect safety and promote health in the community.

Service Recognition for Years of Dedication

Several of our colleagues in the College are deserving of special recognition for their many years of dedicated service to the University. Thank you to Marlene Moore and Lori Prince who each have 20 years of service and to CharAnne Powell who has 30 years of service! They were each honored at the Service Recognition dinner November 16th. Their long-standing commitment to our University, their lasting dedication to academia and student success set them apart from colleagues. They have been pointing the way for a long time and the recognition is truly well deserved.

Dr. Andrew Mazzoli Featured as Expert for Smoke Related Health Issues

It is impossible to ignore the smoke in the air due to wildfires burning from Georgia to North Carolina and many residents of the CSRA are concerned for their health. Thanks to Dr. Andrew Mazzoli, Respiratory Therapy program director, we have a little more information about what the air quality alerts mean for us. Dr. Mazzoli was featured in the news to help explain how the smoke impacts our health and what precautions we should take, especially for children and elderly. For more information, check out [this feature from WFXG](#) and [this feature from WJBF](#).

Dietetic Internship Completes Accreditation Visit

Last week, the dietetic internship program accreditation site visit was completed. Feedback suggests that the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) accreditors were very pleased with the quality and progress of the program. Based on the exit report, reaccreditation requirements were met or exceeded and only two recommendations were added. The overall conclusions appear favorable and final reaccreditation decision by the Board of ACEND can be expected in July 2017. We appreciate the leadership, creative ideas and energy level of Dr. Judith Anglin, Program Director and Dr. De Leo, Department Chair. We are also grateful for the university leadership support and look forward to continued progress, improvement and expansion of this important educational program.

OT Student Named Student of the Year

Congratulations to Hannah Stern, a 2nd year Occupational Therapy student who received the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association's OT Student of the Year award in September at the annual conference. The award is given to honor an occupational therapy student who demonstrates leadership capacity in the area of service to the profession and to professional and/or student associations. Hannah is one of two OT students currently serving as Mental Health Coordinators for the Equality Clinic of Augusta. She served as one of two Co-Directors for Camp Ivey this summer, a camp for children with developmental disabilities Hannah participated in an international Level I Fieldwork experience at Mustard Seed Communities in Spanish Town, Jamaica in the spring semester. She volunteers weekly at Blue Ribbon Riders (equine assisted therapy program). She volunteers bi-weekly with Steps of Grace (dance program for children with disabilities) and an Autism Support Group (assists with child care so that parents can participate). She exceeded the qualifications for this award and we are proud to call her our own!

NMT Program Featured at STEM Career Fair

The Nuclear Medicine Technology program was featured at the STEM Career Connections event held on October 20th at the Kroc Center in Augusta. The event was an opportunity for local high school students to explore future careers in STEM related fields. According to feedback from teachers and students, the event was a huge success! We hope to see many fresh new faces in the NMT program in the next several years thanks to efforts like this. Thanks to all who participated!

Dr. Coughlin Serves as Guest Editor for Issue of *mHealth* Journal

Dr. Steven Coughlin serves on the editorial board of the *mHealth* journal and recently served as guest editor for a special issue, *Focused Issue on mHealth and Social Media Interventions for Cancer*. Dr.

Coughlin's introduction for this special issue can be read [here](#). The *mHealth* journal is "an open access, peer-reviewed journal, published by AME publishing company. It publishes articles that describe new findings in the field of use of mobile technologies to improve public health, particularly in underserved populations; health research, training, and education applications; and delivery systems around the world." An article entitled *Towards research-tested smartphone applications for preventing breast cancer*, co-authored by Dr. Coughlin will also appear in the issue. Very impressive work!

November 28, 2016

CDHS Invited by the Board of Regents to Submit Health Data Analytics Program Proposal

We just received exciting news from the Board of Regents encouraging us to submit a formal proposal for the Master of Science in Data Analytics, a program that would be housed in the Clinical and Digital Health Sciences Department. We will work diligently to see this program with appropriate budget request to fruition as it aligns closely with our Cybersecurity Initiative and the Health Information Management degree program. Congratulations to our colleagues in Clinical and Digital Health Sciences for securing this exciting opportunity to propose a program that is also synergistic with the cyber initiative!

Vote for Medical Illustration Faculty and Alumni in NSF Challenge

The work of faculty and alumni of the AU Medical Illustration Graduate Program have been selected as finalists in the 2017 National Science Foundation Science Visualization Challenge. The judging by an expert panel is ongoing and there is public choice award for each category. Make sure your two cents count; get out and vote. *The public may vote for their favorite in each category until December 4th!*

MIGP Faculty, Michel Jensen and Amanda Behr

<https://review.wizehive.com/voting/view/nsfvizziesgallery2016/27429/4191528/0>

Nobles Green (Class of 2005)

<https://review.wizehive.com/voting/view/nsfvizziesgallery2016/27429/4191524/0>

Allissa Eckert (Class of 2006)

<https://review.wizehive.com/voting/view/nsfvizziesgallery2016/27426/4191490>

Full List:

<https://review.wizehive.com/voting/nsfvizziesgallery2016/27425>

More information about the National Science Foundation Visualization Challenge.

https://www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports/scivis/

Weintraub Recognized by American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science

Dr. Mary Jane Weintraub, Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Science, was recently recognized at the state level by the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science (ASCLS). She was honored with the Omicron Sigma nomination which provides lasting recognition for dedicated ASCLS members who volunteer their personal resources, time and energy to the Society. Congratulations Dr. Weintraub, and thank you for all that you do to promote the CLS profession and to encourage our students as they pursue their CLS careers.

Dental Hygiene Students Honored with Scholarships

Three junior dental hygiene students were recently named Hinman Scholars and will receive scholarships from the Hinman Dental Society. Scholarship recipients are Haley Shelnutt, Reanna Prince and Shanequa Bryant. The new scholars will be honored at a luncheon during the Hinman Meeting on March 25, 2017 at the Georgia World Congress Center. In addition, junior dental hygiene student Perlin Ramirez was awarded the Colgate Scholarship by the Hispanic Dental Association. She received her scholarship and was honored at the Greater New York Dental Meeting during Thanksgiving break. Congratulations to these deserving students!

December 5, 2016

Benevides Receives PCORI Funding for Outcomes Research

Our recently hired, talented colleague, Dr. Teal Benevides, Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy, received a contract from the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) for her research involving autistic adults. The two-year \$250,000 contract was awarded for the project titled "Priority Setting to Improve Health Outcomes: Autistic Adults and Other Stakeholders Engage Together." Congratulations Dr. Benevides and a special thanks to Dr. Michael Iwama and Rhonda Carey for their support of this effort. This project is especially timely given the increase in the diagnosis of individuals with autism spectrum disorder and the inevitability of these individuals growing into adulthood. The high standards signified by this award is a tribute to our OT Department and the excellent service they are providing for the profession.

Bolgia Publishes Several Research Articles

Congratulations to Dr. Lori Bolgia, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, for her many recent publications. She co-authored an article for the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* about patellofemoral pain and rehabilitation as well as an article in the *Journal of Physiotherapy Theory and Practice* about relative electromyographic activity and rehabilitation. Dr. Bolgia also has an abstract published with the *American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) Scientific Assembly*. We are happy to see so much research come to fruition!

FY18 Annual Planning and Resource Alignment Update

As the University prepares to launch a new strategic plan it is important to focus on annual planning and resource alignment for the upcoming fiscal year. For FY18 the University is requesting funds from the University System of Georgia to support an increase in enrollment in the form of enrollment management capacity, cybersecurity program expansion and a health sciences enrollment capacity increase. We are also requesting funds for a new science and math building. Despite these exciting new initiatives, it is important that we continue to further the mission by effectively using our existing resources. Please keep this in mind as you prepare your requests for the upcoming year.

Wise has Manuscript Accepted by *Clinical Laboratory Science* Journal

Scott Wise, Associate Professor of Clinical Laboratory Science, recently received notification from the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science that his manuscript was accepted for publication in the *Clinical Laboratory Science* journal. The manuscript titled "Design and Validation of a Survey

Questionnaire for the Assessment of Physician Transfusion Medicine Knowledge” was based on a study to determine baseline blood transfusion medicine knowledge (TMK) in physicians at Augusta University Medical Center. Results from the study, deployed as a multiple-choice questionnaire, concluded that there are significant knowledge gaps among physicians.

Occupational Therapy Professor Interviewed on *The Jennie Show*

Jason Hughes, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, was featured with colleague Jeff Mastromonico, Director of Instructional Design and Development, on WJBF’s *The Jennie Show*. Together they discussed the increase in “text neck”, or neck pain caused by excessive use of technology. Their new app, Posture Perfect, is a useful tool for improving posture and reducing neck strain. Check out their interview [here](#)!

December 19, 2016

De Leo and Heboyan Secure Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant

Dr. Gianluca De Leo (PI) and Dr. Vahe Heboyan (CO-I) were recently awarded a \$548,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in collaboration with Hack Augusta Inc., a business and idea incubator in downtown Augusta. The grant will be used to create a mesh network among small and midsize communities in Georgia to improve collaboration on public health innovation. This study is timely in that it is synergistic with the rural health initiative at Augusta University. The grant will also fund the development of an online certificate program in public health innovation and small business management. Obtaining a grant from the RWJF is no small feat. Congratulations to the investigators!

***Steps of Grace* Performs at Events Across Augusta**

Steps of Grace is a dance program designed especially for children with special needs and is directed by Occupational Therapy assistant professor, Mallory Lanier. Dancers from the *Steps of Grace* program recently performed at Junior League's "Holiday Market." This was a wonderful opportunity for the community to see the unique talents and abilities of the children who participate in this program. In addition, the dancers were also a featured program at October's LASER Talks event, hosted by the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Occupational Therapy Student Honored by Alma Mater

First-year occupational therapy student, Tabitha Meadows, will be honored by Georgia State University with the Kell Award. The Kell award is given to the student with the highest undergraduate scholastic average in all course work at Georgia State. Tabitha is obviously a very high-achieving student and we are happy that she has selected Augusta University for occupational therapy. Keep up the good work, Tabitha!

Student Receives Scholarship from Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions

Occupational Therapy student, Emily Prickett, was one of only 12 students nation-wide to receive the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to recognize outstanding students in allied health programs who are achieving excellence in their academic pursuits. The recipients also have demonstrated potential to become leaders in their profession. Congratulations, Emily!