Message from the Dean

Dear Faculty, Staff, Students, Advisory Committee, Alumni and Community Partners,

I want to thank the Dean’s Office, faculty and staff for all of your accomplishments and contributions throughout this year. I appreciate your dedication to our mission and your efforts to emulate our values of integrity, excellence, partnership and inclusion. Thank you all for your contributions, which have helped to educate public health and health professionals, contribute to the science and knowledge of our disciplines, and serve the college, campus and our communities. I also want to thank our College’s Advisory Committee Members, alumni and community partners for the various ways they have assisted me as Dean and engaged in meaningful ways to help our college realize its vision. In addition, there are many people and organizations that collaborate with us to improve health and quality of life, along with economic development. I trust you are expressing your gratitude and valuing these relationships, as I do, that help us and our community be our best.

I am truly grateful and enthusiastic for this wonderful opportunity to be your dean and continue to marvel at both the quantity and quality of our collective work. In closing, I wish everyone and those you love Happy Holidays and extend these wishes for the break, which come from my favorite card: “May you experience the peaceful places, the tranquil moments, the quiet thoughts that nourish the soul.”

Happy Holidays,
Shelly C. Mishoe
Dean

Dr. Elizabeth Giles, PT, PhD, Director of Clinical Education in the School of Physical Therapy has received three board and advisory committee appointments since graduating from the United Way of South Hampton Roads’ Project Inclusion Board Governance Leadership and Development Program on April 26, 2011. Project Inclusion benefits the Hampton Roads community by pursuing inclusiveness on boards and committees of non-profit organizations and agencies and has been nationally recognized as one of 3 best practice programs for diversity in the United States. Two weeks prior to graduation, Dr. Giles was invited to serve a continuous appointment on the Kaplan College-Chesapeake Campus Physical Therapist Assistant Program Advisory Board. In June, she was appointed by Dr. Karen Remley, MD, MBA, FAAP, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Health, to a 4 year term on the Health Commissioner’s Minority Health and Health Equity Advisory Committee. Dr. Giles is currently Vice Chair of the Data Subcommittee. On September 27, 2011, Dr. Giles was appointed by the City of Newport News City Council to a 2 year term on the Newport News Mayor’s Committee on Disabilities.
School of Community and Environmental Health Students present posters at American Industrial Hygiene Association

On November 18, 2011, students from the School of Community and Environmental Health taking courses in Industrial Hygiene and Occupational Health recently presented posters at the Tidewater Chapter of the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) Professional Development Conference held at Hits at the Park in Norfolk. Four graduate students in the Master's program in Environmental Health and two undergraduate students in Environmental Health presented posters on a wide range of occupational health and safety topics. Jeff Morelen presented a poster on “Nanoparticle Safety”; Chue Xiong presented a poster on “Indoor Air Quality and Mold”; Megan Mercer presented a poster on “Nail Gun Safety”; John McFarlane presented a poster on “Airborne Workplace Hazards and Their Control”; Chris Irby presented a poster on “Occupational Skin Diseases”; and Tiffany Edwards presented a poster on “Formaldehyde Exposure”. The posters were well received and served as a venue for informal discussion about important occupational health topics. The students found that participation enhanced their educational experience. Chris Jones, Senior Industrial Hygienist at Norfolk Naval Shipyard and current Chair of the AIHA chapter, commented that the interaction with students was beneficial to both new and longtime members of association and Earl Waterfield, Head of the Sewells Points Industrial Hygiene Division of the Naval Medical Center, commented that the student posters were educational and a great discussion starter among the professional industrial hygienists who attended the meeting. Professors Charlene Brassington and Jim Blando, from the School of Community and Environmental Health, assisted the students with their participation and posters and were proud to show the professional community at this event the great program in Environmental and Occupational Health here at ODU.

ODU students and their posters (from L to R): Tiffany Edwards, Chris Irby, Jeff Morelen, Megan Mercer, Chue Xiong, and John McFarlane. James Spechard (far right), US Coast Guard, is the incoming chair of the Tidewater Chapter of AIHA.
Kendra Kleppe Awarded the 2011-2012 Alice Hinchcliffe Williams, RDH, MS Graduate Scholarship

Kendra Kleppe was recently awarded the 2011-2012 Alice Hinchcliffe Williams, RDH, MS Graduate Scholarship given by the American Dental Hygienists’ Association’s Institute for Oral Health. The scholarship is funded by the Virginia Dental Hygienists’ Association and was created to promote lifelong learning for Virginia dental hygienist. Ms. Kleppe is enrolled in the master's degree program in the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene and her graduate program work focuses on dental hygiene education and international dental hygiene programs. Ms Kleppe has worked on an international education project in partnership the Physicians for Peace, University of Nicaragua-Leon and ODU faculty.

Catherine Seifert inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Hygiene

Catherine Seifert, RDH, BS was inducted as a Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Hygiene (AADH). The AADH is an organization that fosters the continuing pursuit of education and research in the art and science of dental hygiene and provides formal recognition for those whom have achieved excellence in the practice of dental hygiene.

Dental Hygiene Faculty Meets the Senators

Meg Lemaster, BSDH, MS and Joyce Downs, BSDH, MS attended a reception for the State Senator, Dr. Ralph Northam on behalf of VDHA on September 29. Meg Lemaster and Joyce Down are both assistant professors in the School of Dental Hygiene.
Students from all across Virginia convened on October 22 to attend break out sessions on a number of different nursing topics. Upward bound students who attended had the opportunity to learn about nursing in VSU’s nursing skills labs.


- Tiraphat, S., (PhD Candidate) Zhang, Q, Behr, J, & Shepherd L. Major environments for active elderly people in United States. Platform Presentation, Section on Promoting Aging-Friendly Communities, American Public Health Association 139th Annual Meeting & Exposition, Washington DC, November 1, 2011.

- Tiraphat, S., (PhD Candidate), Zhang, Q, Behr, J, & Shepherd L. What are the determinants of physical activity for people in the Southern region? Platform Presentation, Section on Epidemiology of Exercise and Physical Activity, American Public Health Association 139th Meeting & Exposition, Washington DC, November 2, 2011.
Dr. David Crouse, Adjunct Faculty in Dental Hygiene Honored for Volunteerism

"I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve."

-Albert Schweitzer

Since retiring from private practice in northern Virginia and moving to Virginia Beach, Dr. David Crouse, Adjunct Associate Professor, School of Dental Hygiene, has dedicated himself to meeting the dental care needs of people who cannot afford healthcare. For his humanitarianism, Dr. Crouse was recently honored by the Tidewater Dental Hygienists’ Association (TDHA) as its first honorary member. Cathy Seifert, TDHA President, made the presentation. Whether Dr. Crouse is volunteering at a MOM Project (Missions of Mercy), Homeless Connect, Pankey Institute Dental Access Days or Give Kids a SMILE Day, he joyfully provides dental care for the underserved.

Dr. Crouse is an avid board member of the Oral Health Improvement Coalition of Hampton Roads and the Park Place Dental Clinic (formerly the Red Cross Dental Clinic). His wife, Carole, is also on the advisory board at Park Place and volunteers with him in the clinic where care is provided. She often accompanies him at venues providing dental care.

In his role as adjunct faculty at Old Dominion University, Dr. Crouse can be found in the ODU Sophia and David Konikoff Dental Hygiene Care Facility where students provide oral health services and develop the competencies and judgments necessary to become dental hygienists. He also mentors ODU dental hygiene students and Virginia Commonwealth University dental and dental hygiene students when on rotation at the Park Place Dental Clinic. He will be working with Meg Lemaster, Assistant Professor and Sharon Stull, Community Outreach Coordinator, School of Dental Hygiene on the newly funded Oral Health Initiative at Lake Taylor Rehabilitation Center.

Asked why he invests his time volunteering, Dr. Crouse said, “It’s fun!” He also cites his faith as a compass for his devotion to others. “My father, Dr. Russell J. Crouse, was a Lutheran pastor…I was raised to help others and share God’s gifts with those less fortunate.” “I volunteer to honor people who have provided inspiration, love and examples.” Dr. Crouse names his mentor, Dr. George Emig of Georgetown University School of Dentistry, his father and Carole as those he honors by his humanitarian actions. “Carole inspires me because she is a kidney transplant recipient and her gift of life requires that we both give back.” Carole, a school teacher by profession, is usually with Dr Crouse at community service events. Our community is fortunate to have them both.
On November 17, 2011, Dr. Daniel M. Russell, Assistant Professor in the School of Physical Therapy presented “Using Visual Stimulation to Rehabilitate Gait Disorders” as part of the Fall Research Seminar Series.

The second annual “wear your slippers to work day” initiated by Deanne Shuman was held on December 5th. Faculty and staff stopped by the show off their slippers, sip some hot cider and munch on cookies.
The College of Health Sciences Annual Holiday Celebration Luncheon was held on December 6, 2011 at the Ted Convocation Center.
December Calendar of Events

December
17 Commencement
23-Jan  University Closed for the Holidays

January
3 University Reopens
7 Spring Classes Begin
13-16 Local Anesthesia/Nitrous Oxide Sedation Course
16 Martin Luther King Holiday-University Closed
19 Dental Hygiene Information Session, 5:00 pm, HS 2115 A

Dr. Jacqueline Sharpe, Community & Environmental Health, showing their Accreditation plaque.

Janice Hawkins, Richardaen Benjamin, and Kay Palmer show of their slippers.

Meg Lemaster and Joyce Downs

Student signing the “What I’m Thankful For” Board

Guess Who?

Dr. Scott Sechrist, Medical Laboratory and Radiation Sciences, gets into the holiday spirit.