

October 2011

College of Health Sciences Newsletter



Dean's Message

As assistant dean, I primarily provide oversight for undergraduate programs and events such as the Welcome Back Picnic and marketing efforts such as this Newsletter. I am proud to present this third issue of the College of Health Sciences newsletter which highlights nationally recognized outstanding faculty members and awards supporting cutting edge research. This issue also brings a reminder about the second conference hosted by the School of Nursing inviting students from all of the nursing programs in the region to join together at ODU and advocate for patient safety. The Dean's effort to address College space needs has begun to reap rewards! Renovations have begun on additional space that will add 3 luxury sized faculty offices, elegant reception area, kitchenette, working space for new technical support staff (TSP), and a conference center. The College now owns a golf cart because the additional offices and TSP space are located in the next block down 47th Street!

Best wishes as we enjoy the second half of the semester!




 Assistant Dean

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College of Health Sciences Annual Welcome Back Picnic!

The College of Health Sciences Annual Welcome Back Picnic was held on September 13, 2011. Faculty, staff and students enjoyed good food, music, and prizes.



CATHERINE SEIFERT NAMED 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.

Seifert has served in numerous leadership positions on the local and state level of her professional associations and is currently President of the Tidewater Dental Hygienists' Association. She is intricately involved with the clinical education of future dental hygienists and contributes to raising the level of knowledge in dental hygiene as a speaker, writer and in service to the community. Catherine has generously offered support and mentorship to students and colleagues throughout her career. She also practices in the office of Dr. Kenneth Marinak, a local periodontist.

LYNN TOLLE, UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR RECEIVES THE VIRGINIA DENTAL ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD



Dr. Michael Abbot and Lynn Tolle

Virginia Dental Association, Community Service Award, was presented to Lynn Tolle, University Professor and Director of Clinical Affairs in the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene. The award was presented in Fredericksburg VA at the Governance and Awards Annual Session by Dr. Michael Abbott, President of the Virginia Dental Association on September 17, 2011. Tolle, the first dental hygienist to receive this award, was recognized for her high level of professional achievement, leadership and outstanding service to the community. For over a decade, Professor Tolle has collaborated with the Tidewater Dental Association to sponsor the Give Kids a Smile Day held annually at the Sofia and David Konikoff Dental Hygiene Care Facility on the campus of Old Dominion University. The February event provides free dental sealants and dental referrals to underserved children in the Hampton Roads area. Over the years, greater than \$100,000. in free care has been provided.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ **Dr. Anna Jeng**, associate professor in the school of community and environmental health, presented at the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology. In September, Dr. Jeng was also invited to attend a scholar exchange program in China where she gave presentations on occupational exposure and reproductive health at a hospital and two local universities. Dr. Jeng worked with researchers from Harbin Medical University and Daqing Hospital in August to develop research projects examining reproductive issues of workers exposed to emissions from petroleum processes.
- ◆ **Dr. Scott Sechrist**, director of ODU's Nuclear Medicine Technology program traveled to The Nevada National Security Site formerly known as the Nevada Nuclear Test Site on July 25-28, 2011 to attend a course developed and delivered by the Department of Energy and the National Nuclear Security Administration Counter-Terrorism Operations Support (CTOS) group.

Sechrist attended the "Weapons of Mass Destruction Radiological/Nuclear Course for Hazardous Materials Technicians." The course, which is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security/FEMA/National Preparedness Directorate, is designed to teach first responders, including health care professionals, how to operate following a radiological/nuclear disaster.

Sechrist had noticed that at several of his clinical affiliates and hospitals – several of his nuclear medicine students and graduates were involved in disaster drills for RDDs, or more commonly known as dirty bombs. One such graduate, a chief technologist, and now an adjunct faculty member in the program had attended the training course a year earlier and recommended it to Sechrist.

The group of 100 attendees, comprised of firefighters, first responders, EMTs, and police, also included health physicists, radiation safety officers, Pentagon Security agents and military personnel. The course began with a tour of the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The course was then held in Area 23 of the Nevada National Test Site, and live drills were held at Area 10 and others, some of which were only 15-20 miles away from the infamous Area 51 at Groom Lake, Nevada.

In the four day training course he learned how to respond to an incident involving a radiological or nuclear weapon of mass destruction such as a Radiological Dispersal Device (RDD) or an improvised nuclear device (IND). Mock incidents, disaster drills and terrorist scenarios were staged in a realistic fashion using live sources of radiation. Equipment training and emergency response and decontamination were also covered. Sechrist received hands on experience in locating nuclear material, surveying radiation areas, and search and rescue techniques in simulated burning buildings after a nuclear incident.

Lastly, Sechrist also took the "Train the Trainer" course and can now offer a short course on preparedness and response to radiological incidents and disasters to his nuclear medicine technology students.



DEAN'S LECTURE SERIES

On September 30, as part of the Dean's Lecture Series, James S. Cain, MD, FACP, from Valley Nephrology Associates and an Alumni of ODU and EVMS spoke on "Apolipoprotein L1 and it's Connection to Trypanosomiasis and its Clinical Implications for the African American Dialysis and Transplant Population." Faculty and students, from Health Sciences, students from EVMS and ODU graduate and undergraduate Biology students attended the lecture.



RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS JUNE-AUGUST 2011

ANNA JENG. Principal Investigator: Effects of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons on Male Sperm Quality. National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, R15 (1R15ES018952-01), 06/01/2010-5/31/2013, \$234,283

GAYLE MCCOMBS and **DANIEL RUSSELL.** Co-Principle Investigators: Comparison of hand piece design on forearm muscle activation. Dentsply International, Troy PA, \$25,000, June 2011.

RICHARD HELLER, director of the Frank Reidy Research Center for Bioelectrics, "Flu Vaccine Technology Program"; Vandalia Research Inc., \$263,383.

STEVE MORRISON, associate professor of physical therapy, "A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled, Crossover Study on the Effect of Pregabalin on Pain Related to Walking in Patients with Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy"; Eastern Virginia Medical School, \$45,075.



Creating a Culture of Safety...Together 2011

*a Continuing Education
Seminar for Caregivers*

*Featuring **Tiffany Christensen***

national patient safety advocate and author of

Sick Girl Speaks!** and **We Are the Change

Born with cystic fibrosis, Tiffany Christensen has undergone two double lung transplants. A lifetime of difficulty navigating the medical maze motivated her to become a national speaker, author, trainer and patient safety advocate who offers insight and clarity on transforming the healthcare experience through partnership.

*For general questions,
e-mail Linda.Baynes@chkd.org or call (757) 668-8246*

Wednesday, October 19, 2-4 p.m.

Old Dominion University

Ted Constant Convocation Center Multipurpose Room

Free parking for program participants available in adjacent garage

Hosted by ODU School of Nursing, the program will feature Tiffany Christensen presenting "Partnering with Patients: A Bed's Eye View of Patient Safety." Primary audience: nursing students from schools in the region, as well as allied health professions students and faculty. **Admission is by advance reservation only.** For more information, please call Janice Bunting at ODU School of Nursing, (757) 683-4297.

This activity has been submitted to the Virginia Nurses Association for approval to award contact hours. The Virginia Nurses Association is accredited as an approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

UP COMING EVENTS

October

- 19 Creating a Culture of Safety...Together, featured speaker Tiffany Christiansen, author of Sick Girl speaks and TeamSTEPPS facilitator, 2:00-4:00 pm
Location: Ted Convocation Center. Hosted by the School of Nursing
- 20 Dental Hygiene Information Session, 5:00 pm
Location: HS 2115A
- 28 President Broderick & Provost Simpson, Fall Visit with COHS, 11:00 am-12:00 pm
Location: HS 2110

November

- 7-8 Written Candidacy Exam
- 10 COHS Advisory Board Meeting, 8:30 am-11:00 am,
Location: Town Point Club
- 14 COHS Career Fair Day, 12:00-4:00 pm
Location: HS Atrium
- 17 Dental Hygiene Information Session, 5:00 pm
Location: HS 2115A
- 21 Oral Candidacy Exam, TBD
- 23 University Closes 12 noon for Thanksgiving Holiday
- 24-25 Thanksgiving Holiday- University Closed



This year, more than **30,000** Americans will be diagnosed with oral cancer and **8,000** will die of the disease. Oral cancer is more common than leukemia, Hodgkin's disease, and cancers of the brain, liver, bone and stomach. It is typically caused by long-term use of tobacco products, alcohol, and human papilloma virus (HPV) infection. According to the National Cancer Institute, oral cancer is a major cause of death and disfigurement. Oral cancer can be treated in up to 90% of early stage cases. However, if the cancer goes undetected, it can spread to other parts of the body and become difficult or nearly impossible to treat.

Oral cancer screening is **one of the most critical components** of professional dental hygiene care. Regular professional visits with your dental hygienist will help you learn more about oral cancer prevention and overall oral health.

Take charge of your oral health by visiting your dental hygienist. Contact the ODU on-campus Dental Hygiene Care Facility at 757-683-4308 to make a dental hygiene care appointment.

BRUSH 2 minutes 2x a day **FLOSS** daily **RINSE** with mouthwash **CHEW** sugar-free gum after eating