

College of Health Sciences Newsletter

Associate Dean's Message

This month's newsletter recognizes the academic and service achievements of our faculty, staff, and students at ODU and in the College of Health Sciences. In addition to acknowledging individual accomplishments, we would also like to take the opportunity to welcome our newest honor society, Epsilon Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Gamma, Professional Health Education Honor Society. The ODU Chapter was chartered April 25th during its initiation ceremony and 19 students and five faculty members were inducted. This brings the total number of honor societies sponsored in the COHS to include Alpha Eta (Allied Health), Upsilon Phi (Health Care Management), Sigma Phi Alpha (Dental Hygiene) and Sigma Theta Tau (Nursing).



Although the end of the academic year is a time of celebrations many find this to be a time filled with mixed feelings associated with farewells and new beginnings. Graduation for many students represents the culmination of their educational experience at ODU and the COHS and it is a time to bid farewell to classmates and faculty. We congratulate all our graduates and especially those who excelled in their academic performance. Approximately 250 students received baccalaureate, masters and doctoral degrees during the May graduation ceremonies bringing our unofficial grand total of alumni to 11,188.

Additionally, congratulations to faculty who demonstrated outstanding commitment to the university with countless years of service. The COHS is proud of each of you. The COHS was well represented at the university's Faculty Awards and Retirement dinner. **The following university level awards and recognitions were made during the program:**

- Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award nominees: Carolyn Rutledge, Nursing
- Teaching with Technology Award: Donna Rose, Nursing
- Doctoral Mentoring Award finalist: Bonnie Van Lunen, Physical Therapy & Athletic Training
- New Advisor of the Year Award: Katherine "Katie" Ferrara, College of Health Sciences

The following faculty members were recognized for their years of service at the university:

- 35 years- Faye Coleman and C. Thomas Somma, Medical Diagnostic & Translational Sciences
- 30 years- Lynn Tolle, Dental Hygiene
- 25 years - Jim English, Community and Environmental health

Retiring Faculty Member were honored:

- Sandra Breeden, College of Health Sciences
- Michele Darby, Chair Dental Hygiene

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May is National Fitness & Sports Month:
"How many steps did you take today?"



At Rogers Hall, Tishara Brown, a dental hygiene major from Woodbridge, Va., packs up to head back home after completing her freshman year. Picking her up is her grandmother, Ida Bawuah.

According to the Career Cast.com, University Professor ranked 14th as one of the best jobs of 2013. Dental Hygienist ranked #6 and Physical Therapist ranked #9.



Sandra Breeden (center), College Advisor, retires after 18 years in the College of Health Sciences.

The College of Health Sciences wishes everyone a fun and safe summer!!





**Donna Rose receives the ODU
"Teaching with Technology
Award" Recipient.**

Dean's Message (continued)

College of Health Sciences Award Recipients:

- Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Teaching Award - Dr. Kathie Zimbro, Nursing
- Outstanding Excellence in Teaching Award - Dr. Jackie Sharpe, Community & Environmental Health
- Outstanding Staff Award - Ms. Linda Wray, Nursing
- Gene W. Hirschfeld Faculty Excellence Award - Dr. Kimberly Adams Tufts, Nursing

Student Award Recipients:

- Alumni Award went to Stephanie A. Willis, GPA 4.0 a nursing major.
- Kaufman Award Nominee from our college was Jocelyn L. Weidner, a nursing major also.

May 6 through 12th was Nurse's Week and we along with many others around the world take this time to acknowledge those special health care providers who provide a strong foundation for care for so many of those who are in need of care. During a layover at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam I was surprised to see the name "Florence Nightingale" printed across the nose of a KLM jet. Curious about the significance I searched online for an answer and learned that the airline began in 1993 the tradition of naming their MD-11 jets in honor of famous women Florence Nightingale is among ten other women recognized. The list includes such names as Mother Theresa, Amy Johnson (an English pioneer aviator who flew transport planes during WWII as part of an Air Transport Auxiliary) well as Marie Currie and Ingrid Bergman. Along with so many others we salute nurses of today and honor the legacy of Florence Nightingale who challenged nurses of the world to "inspire, inform, initiate, and get involved."

Sincerely,
Richard Benjamin

Richard Benjamin, RN, MPH, PhD
Associate Dean, COHS



**Ms. Linda Wray, Nursing,
receives Outstanding Staff
Award.**



**Dr. Jackie Sharpe, Community
and Environmental Health
receives the Outstanding
Excellence in Teaching Award.**

Nursing and Physical Therapy Students Partner with Physicians for Peace

By Rachel Bryant, Physicians for Peace



Dominican Republic students listening to a lecture given by Martha Walker, chair, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. Pictured in white blouse, Gail Grisetti, associate professor, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training.

For most students, spring break conjures up thoughts of relaxing somewhere warm in tropical breezes, far from schoolwork, perhaps on a Caribbean vacation. But, for seven nursing students and two physical therapy students from Old Dominion, a work-free spring break took a back seat to teach Resource Mothers, also known as Madres Tutelares, perinatal health education in the Dominican Republic (see photos below).

Resource Mothers was created by Physicians for Peace in the Dominican Republic, based on the need to mentor at-risk teenage mothers to ensure a safe and healthy pregnancy, delivery and first year of a child's life.

The nursing students offered instruction on perinatal topics such as signs and symptoms of infant dehydration and awareness of sexually transmitted diseases. Hands-on training included reinforcement of vital sign assessment. This training and education helps Resource Mothers assist their clients in seeking medical attention and preventing more serious complications. The physical therapy students focused on teaching the importance of recognizing infant motor milestones, as well as ways to reduce musculoskeletal pain during pregnancy.

"I saw this trip as a way to gain a different perspective from what I've been learning in nursing school," said Marcella Kennedy, an ODU nursing student who graduates in August 2013. "I've learned that the problems I've seen in my clinical experiences are international problems as well."

To gain a better understanding of the women's daily struggles and living conditions, the students interviewed Spanish-speaking Resource Mothers and their teenage clients. During the weeklong trip, students had the opportunity to accompany Resource Mothers as they worked with clients in their local neighborhoods. Students also toured the maternal child regional hospital, Los Minas Maternity Hospital, and the Dominican Association for Rehabilitation facility.

"Access to health care is a significant problem for young women of the lower socioeconomic classes in Santo Domingo," said Janice Hawkins, chief academic advisor for the ODU School of Nursing, and chaperone on the yearly trip. "Nursing students who go on this trip gain a new understanding of the limited health care services in the Dominican Republic compared to our own in the U.S."



"Access to health care is a significant problem for young women of the lower socioeconomic classes in Santo Domingo," said Janice Hawkins, chief academic advisor for the ODU School of Nursing.

The multidisciplinary spring break international outreach, coordinated in collaboration with Physicians for Peace, is now in its second year, and includes physical therapy and nursing students, as well as faculty from both specialties. Interestingly, two students on the trip are also involved in the Norfolk-based Resource Mothers program, where they work with low-income teenage mothers through their Community Health class. Kennedy is one of these students who had the opportunity to bridge her clinical work locally with the recent study abroad trip.

"It was so interesting to meet the Resource Mothers internationally after having worked with women with similar problems in my own backyard," Kennedy said. "In particular, teenage girls in both countries have problems with transportation to doctors' appointments and affording diapers. The two groups aren't as different as I imagined."

Infant mortality rates are high in the Dominican Republic at 21.3 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2012, compared to six deaths per 1,000 live births in the United States, according to the Central Intelligence Agency. Dr. Ramon Lopez, director of Physicians for Peace Latin Americas, said this is due, in part, to high teenage pregnancy rates. "Many of these girls have not graduated from high school," Lopez said. "This is why the Madres Tutelares are so important. They provide education and motivate these girls toward economic independence.

"We give hope of a better life," Lopez said of the Madres Tutelares. "We motivate these girls to want a better life for themselves and their babies."

History of the Resource Mothers

The Norfolk-based Resource Mothers, headquartered at the Park Place Community Center, is a state-funded program started in 1997 to identify low-income pregnant teens and provide them with perinatal care, including transportation to doctors' appointments, support groups and education.

Dr. Edward Karotkin, a neonatologist at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and a leader at Norfolk-based Physicians for Peace (PFP), worked with the Resource Mothers and saw a similar need for perinatal education in the Dominican Republic. He subsequently launched a sister program named Madres Tutelares (Resource Mothers in Spanish) in 2005. Since then, the Physicians for Peace-run initiative has 20 Resource Mothers under employment, providing vital education and resources to hundreds of teenage mothers in the poorest neighborhoods of Santo Domingo.

About Physicians for Peace

Physicians for Peace transforms lives by training, supporting and empowering health care professionals working with the world's underserved populations. Since 1989, International Medical Educators has conducted medical missions in more than 60 countries. For more information go to www.physiciansforpeace.org.

ODU College of Health Sciences

The College of Health Sciences at ODU prepares health professionals for careers in nursing, physical therapy, dental hygiene, community and environmental health, and medical diagnostic and translational sciences. The college is committed to excellence and innovation in education, research and service.

To prepare these health professionals as leaders locally and abroad, ODU has launched the Center for Global Health in conjunction with the College of Health Sciences. The center aims to create multidisciplinary global health experiences for faculty and students, prepare students to assume leadership roles in global health, and facilitate opportunities for students to learn about health from the global perspective. For more information about the College of Health Sciences, visit <http://hs.odu.edu/>. To learn more about the Center for Global Health, visit [globalhealth](http://globalhealth.odu.edu/).



"I saw this trip as a way to gain a different perspective from what I've been learning in nursing school," said Marcella Kennedy, (back row, right) an ODU nursing student



A "Resource Mother" showing off her ODU Nursing Bag.

**Retirement of Chair, Michele L. Darby and
Appointment of Acting Chair, Marge L. Green
Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene
College of Health Sciences
Old Dominion University (ODU)**

After more than 39 years at ODU and a total of 41 years in academia, **Michele L. Darby**, Eminent Scholar, University Professor and Chair of the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene has announced her retirement effective June 30, 2013. In addition to three major textbooks, Professor Darby has over 50 peer-reviewed publications and is a leader in higher education and dental hygiene. Professor Darby has lectured across North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East receiving numerous honors and awards throughout her career including being a Fulbright Distinguished Scholar. She is a recipient of the Warner Lambert-ADHA Award for Excellence in Dental Hygiene, the Rufus Alan Tonelson Distinguished Faculty Award from the Old Dominion University Alumni Association in recognition of outstanding contributions to the intellectual development of the University, the Virginia State Council on Higher Education Faculty Award, the Faculty Advisor Award from the American Dental Hygienists' Association and the Outstanding Achievement Award from the Friends of the Old Dominion University Library. In 2007-08 she served as president of the ODU Women's Caucus. She received the Distinguished Dental Hygiene Alumna 2011 Award from the School of Dental Medicine, University of Pittsburgh. In 2012 under her leadership, the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene was awarded the Health Heroes Award from *Inside Business* for community engagement. Professor Darby is already missed as she is currently on leave of absence. The College of Health Sciences wishes Professor Darby continued success with her planned writing projects and also the chance to pursue new adventures with her family and friends.



**Michele Darby, retiring
after 39 years at ODU.**

Effective April 25, 2013, **Marge L. Green** has assumed the duties and responsibilities as Acting Chair of the Gene W. Hirschfeld School of Dental Hygiene. Professor Green is no stranger to ODU as an actively engaged adjunct faculty member who also had the role of tenured, Associate Professor/Clinical Supervisor in the School from 1971-1976. Professor Green earned her Master of Science in Dental Hygiene Degree from Columbia University, School of Dental Medicine, her Bachelor of Science in Education Degree from California State University and Certificates in Dental Hygiene and Dental Assisting from the University of Pittsburgh, School of Dental Medicine.

Professor Green is a national leader in dental hygiene education and foundation fundraising including serving as President of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA) from 2006-2007 and providing numerous keynote addresses at national and international professional meetings throughout her career. She has held numerous leadership roles with ADHA and the Virginia Board of Dentistry as a three time gubernatorial appointee, along with receiving the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine Distinguished Alumnus Award-Dental Hygiene 2000 and the W.S. Jackman Award of Distinction: Alumnus Award – University of California of Pennsylvania – 2011. Currently, she is a member of ADHA's Leadership Development Committee, Director and Treasurer of the Virginia Dental Hygienists' Association (VDHA) Foundation, Peninsula Dental Hygienists' Association Trustee to the VDHA Executive Board and on the Clinical Exam Advisory Panel to assist the Virginia Board of Dentistry's Examination Committee. As a Delegation Leader, she has conducted dental hygiene exchanges with Poland, Russia, South Africa and Israel and is the Founding Chair of ADHA Toothfairy Campaign with National Children's Oral Health Foundation. Professor Green is a board member of the Gene W. Hirschfeld Dental Hygiene Advisory Board and the College of Health Sciences Advisory Board. It is a pleasure to welcome her to our team during this critical time period in such a prominent School of the College and the Dental Hygiene Profession.



**Marge L. Green, acting chair
of Dental Hygiene.**

The College will be conducting a national search to permanently fill the Chair Position, which will be led by **Debbie Bauman**, Assistant Dean in the College and Associate Professor of Dental Hygiene. Interested persons may contact Debbie Bauman at dbauman@odu.edu for information about this key recruitment and search process.



On April 13, 2013, nursing students registered 101 potential donors at a health fair and Relay for Life event.

Distinguished Dental Hygiene Alumni Award presented at the Student and Alumni

Professor Paula Parise, Head Dental Hygiene Program, College of Health Sciences, University of Bahrain presented at the School of Dental Hygiene Student Alumni Awards and Networking event on April 26.



Paula's career in Dental Hygiene began at Forsyth School for Dental Hygiene. She worked in clinical practice and began teaching part time while she earned her BS degree. Ultimately her desire to acquire program planning skills led her to ODU where she obtained her Master's Degree. And two very significant things happened at ODU that created avenues for opportunity, to which Paula said yes. First, Michele Darby gave Paula an assignment as a TA to explore international education in Dental Hygiene. Second, Paula was introduced by Lynn Tolle to Eric Spohn from University Of KY. Always a pathfinderPaula found her calling with the Spohn group at the University Kentucky working as a Curriculum Media Development Specialist developing a four tier dental training ladder for ARAMCO in Saudi Arabia.

Because of the success of this project, Bahrain called, and Paula said yes. With her two year old son in tow, Paula ventured to the other side of the world embarking on a new life adventure.

Paula spent the next two decades developing and growing the Dental Hygiene Program at the College of Health Sciences in the Kingdom of Bahrain, an island located in the Arabian gulf.

This Program was the first of its kind in the area, and today is moving toward a baccalaureate degree curriculum. During her years at the college in Bahrain Paula has been involved in numerous oral health promotion campaigns in the kingdom as well as a mentor, curriculum consultant, presenter of numerous continuing education courses, researcher and author.

MS student Megan Card received an Educational Scholarship for 2013 from the Virginia Environmental Health Association (VEHA). The award will be given at the 2013 VEHA Annual Educational Conference.

Dental Hygiene Student Awards May 2013;

- ◆ Procter & Gamble Academic Achievement Award -Sarah Kate McMullin
- ◆ Golden Scaler Award- Ashley London
- ◆ STAR Award- Lindsey O'Brien
- ◆ Tidewater Dental Hygiene Association - Ashley London
- ◆ Peninsula Dental Hygiene Association Sarah Kate McMullin
- ◆ Virginia Dental Hygiene Association - Helena Lucca
- ◆ Donahue SADHA Award- Helena Lucca
- ◆ Public Health - Shuma Talukdar
- ◆ Sigma Phi Alpha- Sara McMullin, Tommie Barnes, Ashley London, Ashley Cutler
- ◆ Gene W. Hirschfeld Excellence in Dental Hygiene - Hadeel Ayoub

Dr. Jeng to Serve as Council Member and Session Chair

Dr. Anna Jeng, associate professor, Community and Environmental Health, was selected to serve as a Council member of the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council (EHAC). The EHAC establishes specific criteria for undergraduate and graduate program accreditation, which include standards for curriculum, faculty, program funding, enrollment, and management aspects of the programs.

Dr. Jeng was also appointed to serve as a session chair for the 2013 Environmental Health-Bridging South, North, East and West Conference, sponsored by the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology, International Society of Exposure Science, and International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate. The conference will take place in Basel, Switzerland, August 2013.



ODU Nursing Students collected 3,884 diapers in their recent diaper drive. Through their community health course, students are working with Loving Steps, A Resource Mothers' Program, in Norfolk.



Kay Palmer, associate professor of nursing, presented "From the Chalkboard to the Web: Forty Years of Creativity in Teaching" for the Provost's Conversations on Teaching and Learning on April 18, 2013.

Wayne Rudolph, President of the ODU Student National Environmental Health Association (SNEHA) environment club at Earth Day Green Event.



Administrative Professionals Luncheon



Dr. Jackie Sharpe, Ms. Lillian Thompson and Ann Kopitzke attend the Eta Sigma Gamma Induction and Eta Sigma Gamma Director of Chapter Ceremony.



George Maihafer, Physical Therapy and Athletic Training won the Loyal Donor Raffle drawing for the College of Health Sciences Campaign Challenge 2013.



Kimberly Adams-Tufts, School of Nursing receives the Gene W. Hirschfeld Faculty Excellence Award.



Rebecca Poston, nursing, receives the New Donor raffle drawing for the College of Health Sciences Campaign Challenge 2013.

“Marnisha’s Message”

May is always a special time on campus. Families, friends, faculty and alumni gather together to congratulate the graduates and celebrate their accomplishments. The graduates are filled with excitement about starting their next chapter and beginning their career as a well-prepared health care professional. For many of our graduating students, this dream would not be realized without scholarship support.

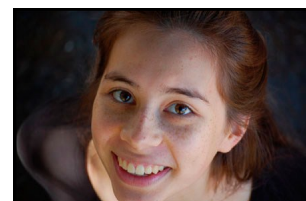
Two-thirds of Old Dominion University students rely on financial aid to achieve their dreams, and 70% of this aid consists of student loans. Although Old Dominion is one of the best educational values in the Commonwealth, the University’s current endowment per full-time student is \$8,055. This leaves the average Old Dominion undergraduate facing \$15,000 - \$20,000 of student loan debt upon graduation. Scholarship support can make the difference between completing an education or not.

Private donations in support of student scholarships allow us to help keep tuition lower and make the College’s offerings more competitive. An initial investment of \$25,000, payable over five years, will establish a named, endowed scholarship. The principal is not invaded, and the income will contribute to the success of deserving students. There are several ways to make your gift: a gift of appreciated stock, a gift from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or a bequest to the College of Health Sciences in a will or trust may be the best way for you to support the College.

To learn more about these opportunities, please contact Manisha Sharma, Major Gift Officer, at (757) 683-4313 or m1sharma@odu.edu.

Visit the link below to read about ODU School of Nursing by student blogger Katherine Tan in the Sigma Theta Tau International journal, Reflections on Nursing Leadership (RNL).

http://www.reflectionsonnursingleadership.org/Pages/Vol39_2_Blog_Tan_HumanAnatomy.aspx?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+NursingSocietyRNL+%28Nursing+Society+RNL%29



Best Wishes to the People of Boston from the College of Health Sciences.