Faye Coleman, left, with a Medical Technology student at a blood drive she coordinated.

By Irvin B. Harrell

Faye Elizabeth Coleman, an institution at Old Dominion University’s College of Health Sciences, died after a brief illness on Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019. She was 78.

Ms. Coleman devoted 55 years to the medical laboratory science profession, 40 of which she spent at ODU. She retired in June 2016, but continued serving as consultant and teaching part-time at ODU.

“In 46 years at five colleges I’ve never known a better classroom teacher than Faye Coleman,” said Roy Ogle, a professor with the college and former chair of the School of Medical Diagnostic & Translational Sciences. “Her students could not have received a better education anywhere. She trained her students to succeed in the lab and
in life. Before coming to ODU, I had worked with five vice presidents and senior directors at LifeNet Health, all of whom were graduates of Faye’s program.”

Ms. Coleman received a bachelor’s in biology at Hampton University in 1962, a Master of Science in Medical Technology at St. John’s University in 1973, and an ABD in the Ph.D. Urban Services Program in 1997.

Before joining ODU as an assistant professor in 1978, Ms. Coleman served as education coordinator at
U.S.P.H.S. Hospital in Staten Island, N.Y., and was a staff medical technologist at Leigh Memorial Hospital. In 1980, she became the director for the graduate program in Medical Laboratory Sciences for students in several diagnostic professions. She served as Medical Technology Program director from 1993 to 2016 and still taught classes as professor emerita until Fall 2018.

For many years Ms. Coleman was an active member of the American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, notably promoting mixed simulation format for clinical rotations in blood banking to alleviate clinical site shortages. She received many awards for her contributions to medical technology education.

When Professor Scott Sechrist came to interview at ODU for a position in its former School of Medical Laboratory Science (currently Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences), Ms. Coleman was one of his search committee members.

“She became my mentor, my colleague, my friend,” said Sechrist, a certified nuclear medicine technologist since 1979. “I do not think I would be here today to write these memories if not for her. As a fellow program director, we met regularly to discuss faculty issues, educational theory, curriculum ideas and student stories. Sometimes our discussions would extend from our offices … out to our cars in the parking lot. We called them our ‘parking lot seminars.’”

Sechrist says Ms. Coleman helped guide him through the tenure process, educated him on objective writing, and showed him how to handle a program from top to bottom. Ms. Coleman was that and so much more, he adds.

“She was the cause of the Medical Technology Program,” he said. “She was the stability that the students, the clinics
and the public saw. Students knew she was tough, but they thanked her for it after graduation. She prepared them for the working world.”

Ali Almutah, a foreign student originally from Saudi Arabia who was selected as an ODU outstanding scholar in 2014, called Ms. Coleman his most inspirational faculty member, saying “She encouraged her students to study hard and be well-prepared for all examinations.” Almutah graduated with a B.S. in Medical Technology with a GPA of 3.85.

Ms. Coleman touched many lives for decades on and off ODU’s campus.

Lynn Onesty, the system director of Laboratory Services at Riverside Regional Medical Center, was saddened by the news. “She was a leader and mentor to so many in our field over the years,” she said.

Barbara Kraj, associate professor and current program director for the Medical Laboratory Science program at ODU (formerly Medical Technology), had the pleasure of working with Ms. Coleman since she arrived at ODU in Fall 2016. As soon as she was offered the position, she knew she had big shoes to fill. Faye was a legend.

“There are no words to describe the admiration and respect her colleagues and students hold for beloved Ms. Coleman and neither there are words to describe the sadness shared by all who knew her,” she said. “Faye was a wonderful professional but so much more than just an educator or a hematologist or a professor. We all have been blessed by knowing a beautiful person.”

ODU President John R. Broderick, the university’s eighth president since 2008, put it simply: “I saw a great person!”

Nuclear Medicine Reunion

Scott Sechrist was at the Sentara Princess Anne in early January at its nuclear medicine department. He found himself in good company, among Old Dominion University nuclear medicine graduates. Clockwise from back: Sechrist, Sara Maynard (’14), Jasmine Jefferson (’17), Joe Rothfuss III (’15), and Cheryll-Jull T. Lazo (’13), and Mandy Peters (’17).
Dr. Shelley C. Mishoe was awarded honorary Lifetime Member of the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) at the AARC International Congress Awards Ceremony in Las Vegas on Dec. 4, 2018.

A current or past president of the AARC can nominate someone who has made sustained, important and distinguished contributions to the AARC and the respiratory therapy profession for Lifetime Membership to the AARC. Award recipients are selected by the AARC President’s Council.

To date, only 106 individuals have been bestowed this prestigious award among the AARC membership of more than 50,000. Lifetime members have the rights and privileges of active membership status and all future membership fees are waived.

Dr. Mishoe was nominated by the recently installed AARC President Dr. Karen Schell.

“I am so pleased you were selected,” Schell said to Mishoe. “You have always inspired me.”

**Helping the homeless connect**

Students and faculty from the College of Health Sciences volunteered Jan. 23 with Project Homeless Connect, a resource fair aimed at those experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis.

During the event nearly 200 individuals visited the City of Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center and had access to stations designed to address their needs. Stations included representatives from Old Dominion University’s Dental Hygiene Program and Speech Pathology Program, several governmental and faith based agencies, representatives from legal aid, and hair dressers.

Members volunteering from the School of Community and Environmental Health acted as escorts and navigated participants to any stations they needed.
## February 2019

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<td>Feb. 13</td>
<td>FAS Training (Assessment Best Practices &amp; Maximizing Your Assessment Feedback, noon-1 p.m. COHS Computer Lab</td>
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<td>Feb. 16</td>
<td>Scholars’ Day (Admissions Event)</td>
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<td>Dean’s Student Advisory Committee Luncheon, noon-1 p.m., Dean’s Conference Room</td>
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<td>Feb. 21</td>
<td>President’s Lecture Series Presents Claudia Rankine, 7-9 p.m., The Ted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 22-24</td>
<td>Dental Hygiene Winter Weekend Continuing Education Weekend</td>
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## March 2019

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<tr>
<td>March 11-16</td>
<td>Students Spring Break</td>
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<td>March 19</td>
<td>President’s Lecture Series Presents Bryan Stevenson, 7-9 p.m., The Ted</td>
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**ODU School of Community & Environmental Health**

**Master of Public Health Information Session**

Feb. 7, 2019 — 12:30-1:30 p.m. — Library Learning Commons, Room 1310-1311

Webex for online participants: Meeting number (access code) 926 518 296 Meeting password ODUMPH

Learn more about the program at [www.odu.edu/commhealth/academics/graduate-programs](http://www.odu.edu/commhealth/academics/graduate-programs)