

# College of Health Sciences Newsletter



OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
I D E A FUSION

December 2012

## *Dean's Message*

Dear Alumni, Faculty, Staff, Students, Advisory Board and Friends,

On behalf of the College of Health Sciences, we wish you, your friends and family a wonderful holiday season. Given our diversity, we celebrate different holidays in different ways that are special to us and our loved ones. As we are in the season of Hanukah, approach Christmas and then Kwanzaa, along with many other ways we celebrate, may you each be blessed with feelings of joy, moments of silence, deep reflection and a spirit of gratitude that we have today and one another. I am looking forward to the university closing (only my second experience in my career!) and safe travels of my sons and mother from Augusta and Charlotte to our home. To be able to spend down time with loved ones while enjoying good food is a special gift that too many people in the world are lacking. Thanks to our College of Health Sciences and all that we do, the world is a little healthier, safer and nicer. For that and so much more, I celebrate the season with each of you!



Best regards,

Shelley C. Mishoe  
Dean

Farewell and following winds to Ann Campbell, Senior Lecturer of Nursing, as she leaves Old Dominion University, School of Nursing to join Operation Smile as Coordinator of Education. Best wishes, Ann! We will miss you.



## **ODU Professor Appointed by President Obama to Key Federal Science Panel**



Steven M. Becker, professor of community and environmental health in Old Dominion University's College of Health Sciences, has been appointed to the U.S. Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board (NWTRB) by President Barack Obama.

An independent agency of the federal government, the NWTRB provides scientific and technical oversight of the nation's plans for managing and disposing of high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. Individuals are nominated to the board by the National Academy of Sciences and chosen by the president. They must be eminent in a field of science or engineering, including environmental sciences, and are selected solely on the basis of established records of

distinguished service.

"This appointment and Dr. Becker's distinguished accomplishments are a testament to the quality of the College of Health Sciences' graduate programs, including the master's in environmental health sciences and the joint master's in public health," noted Dean Shelley Mishoe. "We are fortunate to have an expert of Dr. Becker's caliber on our team and are enthusiastic about the future collaborations his expertise provides to our programs and the newly created Center for Global Health."

Becker is a leading expert on emergency planning, public health preparedness, and crisis and emergency risk communication for chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear issues. From 2002 through 2006, he was a principal investigator in the Pre-Event Message Development Project, a groundbreaking study aimed at improving emergency communication for emerging health threats. Funded by the CDC through a cooperative agreement with the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) and four U.S. schools of public health (UCLA, UAB, SLU, and the University of Oklahoma), this multisite effort identified key concerns and information needs for the general public (including vulnerable populations) and emergency responders. It remains one of the largest peer-reviewed studies of its kind.

In 2011, Becker was a member of a three-person assistance team invited to Japan in response to the earthquake-tsunami disaster and the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant. While on the ground, the team provided training to more than 1,100 Japanese physicians, nurses, and other healthcare providers and emergency responders.

Prior to his Presidential appointment and to becoming a professor in the Old Dominion University College of Health Sciences earlier this year, Dr. Becker was a professor of environmental health sciences at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. In 2001, he was a Visiting Fellow at the Japan Emergency Medicine Foundation and National Hospital Tokyo Disaster Medical Center. For over a decade, he has also been an invited faculty member for Harvard School of Public Health's course on radiological emergency planning.

In 2005, Dr. Becker was elected by his scientific peers to serve on the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements (NCRP), and his work on emergency preparedness and risk communication has been recognized with awards from such scientific organizations as the Health Physics Society and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.



## **Four ODU ROTC Students Save the Life of a Train Accident Victim**

It's almost hard to comprehend the series of events that had to fall into place for a Navy sailor to survive getting hit by a train early on the morning of November 17.

It's abundantly clear, however, that he wouldn't have survived at all if not for the heroic actions of four Old Dominion University Naval ROTC students.

Before dawn on Saturday, the students were on their way to the rendezvous spot for the weekend-long military exercise in which they were participating. Stopped at a train crossing, the four young students witnessed the young man make an ill-advised attempt to hop the moving train.

When the man fell and was hit by the train, they sprang into action and saved his life.

"I did not think for one second. Everything I did when I was there was reactive," said Officer Candidate Roberto Piedra, a senior nursing student from Miami, Fla., who took command of the emergency rescue. "But, for my colleagues to step in like they did, young students who had never seen anything like that, it really does show what amazing things human beings can do when they collaborate."

The two front cars waiting for the train to cross that morning were occupied by Piedra and Midshipman Nicholas Howe, a sophomore history major from Bristow, Va.

Howe, a volunteer firefighter, also has EMT training. "I ran over to where the guy had fallen, and saw his legs were cut off by the thigh," Howe said. "I stabilized his head and talked to him while the other guys went to work."

Because of that weekend's military training exercise, Piedra had his medical gear. "It's unbelievable. I was packing up the night before, getting ready for cuts and bruises," Piedra said. "I looked at my trauma kit and thought 'What the heck. I'll bring that, too.' It even had two tourniquets. Without them, that guy probably would have bled out."

Two other students, Midshipman Patrick Clark, a mechanical engineering student from Alexandria, Va., and Alex Asta, a Platoon Leaders Course candidate and criminal justice and sociology student from Vienna, Va., joined in the rescue effort. Asta had seen the man walk past his car, but didn't realize there had been an incident until he saw fellow uniformed students running to and from their cars, grabbing supplies. He didn't recognize at first that the uniformed men were his colleagues from ODU.

"I didn't know who the other guys were. I just saw the uniforms. You can't hesitate in this kind of situation; you have to help." Asta handed Piedra bandages and other medical supplies while he worked on the victim's legs, then they all waited for the emergency responders to arrive on scene. "It seemed like forever," Asta said.

Piedra said his nursing education at Old Dominion University, in particular courses with instructor Karen Ackley, has helped him refine his skills. "She was pivotal in my transition to student and becoming a nurse," Piedra said.

After the victim was transported to the hospital, the four ODU students remained behind, speaking to investigators. A few hours later, word came back that he was likely to survive the accident. "That was an incredible feeling. The thought that, collectively, we helped save his life," Asta said.

But there wasn't any time to pat themselves on the back. "We spent 36 hours out in the field after that, on our exercise. Hiking 12 miles, practicing with IED simulations," Howe said. "We're always on duty."

Capt. Thomas Halley, Commanding Officer of the Hampton Roads Naval ROTC, said reactions like early Saturday morning is exactly what his staff hopes to train their students to do.

"If events happen like that, we want to be prepared and dive right in," Halley said. "We don't want to be the people looking as we drive by, we want to be the ones taking action. That's why I'm so proud of them."

Incredibly, this is the second time in 2012 that Naval ROTC students from Old Dominion University have sprung into action to save lives of people they had never met.

In February, two Naval ROTC students helped rescue a woman and her young son from a burning vehicle on Interstate 264 in Norfolk. OC Joshua Moore and Midshipman Jason Benning came across a vehicle on the shoulder, facing back toward oncoming traffic, with the front smashed in and flames flickering out of the twisted metal.

Along with a few other motorists, Benning and Moore pulled the driver out of the vehicle, then went back to the smoking car when they heard a crying child. They freed the child from his car seat and brought him to safety a minute before the car burst into flames.

The common thread of both acts of heroism is that the young ROTC students did what needed to be done.

"This wasn't about me. This wasn't about us," Piedra said. "We represent the United States Navy and those who came before us."

# Alumni Spotlight

## *School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training Featured Alumnus*

Jamie Marsh has a long history at ODU as he received both his BS and his DPT at this University. He graduated with a BS in Psychology in 2001 and a DPT in 2005. Jamie was a member of the first class to go through the three year DPT program. Jamie's career has flourished and he is now a key member of the rehab management team for the Sentara Health Care system in Tidewater. In his opinion, Sentara has been an innovator in health care in this region. He supports the mission of the organization and believes their vision for the future will serve this community well.



Jamie thought about advancing into management as early as high school. He felt he always had an entrepreneurial spirit and thought about a variety of careers such as owning a restaurant before settling on physical therapy. Early on, he thought he might open his own practice but has really found his niche as Manager Sentara Therapy Center and Sentara Sports Medicine. In his current position, Jamie believes that he is able to have a broader impact on patient care and the professional development of his colleagues in rehabilitation.

Reflecting back on his education in the School of Physical Therapy, Jamie states that he felt thoroughly prepared to enter the profession. He felt supported by the faculty in his quest to become the best physical therapist he could be. The support he felt in his studies is part of the reason that Jamie stays involved with the program by serving as a guest faculty member in the physical therapy management class and in facilitating speakers and projects for the program. Jamie believes it is important to stay involved with graduate education as a way to impact the thinking of students about the profession and their future role. He hopes that his contribution to the program will help students identify their core values and commitment to the profession. For all of these reasons the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training honor this graduate and thank him for his on going contributions to the students and the profession.

Jamie lives in Virginia Beach with his wife Michelle and his two children Kylie age 6 and Cooper age 1 ½ .



## **Dr. Marcia Brand, Distinguished School of Dental Hygiene Alumna and Past Faculty Member**



Dr. Marcia Brand earned a bachelor of science in dental hygiene '75 and master of science in dental hygiene '77 from Old Dominion University. After several years as a faculty member in the School of Dental Hygiene and then at Thomas Jefferson University, she earned a doctoral degree in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania, then served on the legislative staff in the Office of Senator Robert C. Byrd in Washington DC. From there, the rest is simply a remarkable career in the federal government.

Dr. Brand served as deputy director of the Bureau of Health Professions Office of Research and Planning for two years, and then in 1997 became a senior advisor to the deputy assistant secretary for health where she worked on the Secretary's Initiative on the Future of Academic Health Centers. Dr. Brand led efforts to initiate the State Planning Grant Program which helped states provide healthcare coverage for uninsured residents. She also coordinated efforts to implement the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and worked on the Secretary's Initiative on Children's Health and the President's Interagency Task Force on Children's Health Insurance Outreach to increase enrollment in CHIP and Medicaid.

From 2001-2007, Dr. Brand was director and associate administrator of Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA) Office of Rural Health Policy where she was responsible for health policy, research and grant activities that promote better healthcare services in rural America. From 2007-2009, she provided national leadership in the development, distribution and retention of a diverse, culturally competent health workforce as the associate administrator of HRSA's Bureau of Health Professions.

As Deputy Administrator, Health Resources and Services Administration since 2009, Dr. Brand provides leadership to the Agency as it seeks to fill the healthcare gaps for people who live outside the economic and medical mainstream. The Agency, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, uses its \$7 billion budget to expand access to health care in partnership with healthcare providers and health professions training programs.

Dr. Brand served as a panelist at the School of Dental Hygiene's Annual Student and Alumni Awards and Networking Event on April 26, 2012, Health Sciences Building, University Theater.



# Highlights

- \* Halah Eldoseri successfully defended her dissertation on November 14th , "Intimate Partner Physical Violence Against Women in Saudi Arabia Primary Healthcare Clinics."

- \* On November 16, 2012, Greg Feltenberger, successfully defended his dissertation, "An Examination of Factors Affecting Non-Urgent Use of Emergency Department Services by Individuals with Universal Healthcare."

He is shown with his committee members (Left to Right): E. Andrew Balas, Greg Feltenberger, Carolyn Rutledge and Qi (Harry) Zhang.



- \* Kathleen Forst Putnam, CAPT, NC, PhD, WHNP-BC, Graduate Program Director, WHNP program ODU School of Nursing, Everett F. Magann, CAPT, MC, ret. Lucas A. Mueller, MD, Andre Thagard, MD, Alan M. Johnson, PhD, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, VA was accepted for a poster presentation at the AMSUS (Society of Federal Health Professionals) 118th Annual in Phoenix, AZ.



- \* On, November 19, 2012, Medical Technology 210 invited LouAnn Wyer, Sentara Healthcare, Debra Soyk, US Navy, Linda Weiss, Lifenet Health, Robert Firestone, VP of Operations, Sentara Norfolk General to speak to the class.



- \* The College of Health Sciences held it's Holiday Luncheon Celebration at the Ted Convocation Center.

- \* The Upsilon Phi Delta honor society induction ceremony, for Health Services Administration, was held on December 7, 2012. Inductees included: Dana M. Barnum, Carrie E. Carson, Megan A. Estep, Lester G. Painter, Megan N. Ring, Patty A. White and John K. Wolfe.



From Left to Right: Dana Barnum, Carrie Carson, John Wolfe and Megan Ring

Honorees with Dr. Sharpe, Deans, family and friends.





## ***New Extramural Research Award***

A 2-year grant from the **National Institutes of Health (NIH) National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute** received by **Harry Zhang**, associate professor, and **Mariana Cox-Szklo**, assistant professor, both of School of Community and Environmental Health and Joshua Behr and Rafael Diaz of VMASC will allow them to study unforeseen and unintended consequences for population health stemming from structural changes in the delivery of health care. Access Partnership is one member of a steering committee with representation from industry and nonprofits across the region. During 2013-2014, the Team will be receiving \$229,500 for their work. For details, please visit <http://blue.odu.edu/ao/ia/insideodu/20121129/topstory3.php>

## ***Intramural Research Awards***

One of 5 2013 Multidisciplinary Seed Funding (MSF) proposals was awarded to faculty from the College of Health Sciences:

*The Utilization of Video Face Replacement Technology (VFRT) for Routine Clinical Procedures in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)*

PI: Jonna Bobzien, Special Education, Communication Disorders and Special Education; **Chung-Hao Chen**, Electrical & Computer Engineering; **Ann Bruhn**, Dental Hygiene; **Debra M.G. Murray**, Nursing; **Rebecca Deal Poston**, Nursing; **Amy Lee**, Nursing

Consultants: Lee Belfore, Electrical & Computer Engineering; Norou Diawara, Mathematics and Statistics

Winners of 2012 Multidisciplinary Seed Funding program presented their summary findings on Friday, December 7 at Perry Library Learning Commons.

An Innovative Approach to Understanding the Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury Enigma: A Combination of In Vitro, In Vivo and Computer Simulation Techniques

Joshua Weinhandl (Human Movement Sciences), **Matthew Hoch** (Physical Therapy and Athletic Training), Sebastian Bawab (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering), Stacie Ringleb (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering)



