

Dean's Message

"Local and Global Impact of the College of Health Sciences"

This month's newsletter is a reflection of the ways our college is continuing to grow our global health impact, international presence and study abroad experiences for students and faculty. With the leadership of Dr. Muge Akpınar Elci as Director, the Center for Global Health is showing how global solutions can address important health issues here in Hampton Roads and around the world. The local newspaper in Hampton, the Daily News, recently published an article about the Center with an announcement of the new Global Health Graduate Certificate Program to begin this fall. Please look for further details about the program in this newsletter, along with an article about the services that the Center for Global Health is providing to an ODU alumnus, Angelo Maker, to establish an NGO to help the people of Sudan.



As I write this message, it is Spring Break and I am imagining our nursing students, under the direction of Janice Hawkins, who are studying abroad in Guatemala, which is a new rotation. Although Janice opened this to students from other disciplines, it did not work out this time despite funding from the Dean's Office and the Office of Study Abroad. I look forward to hearing about their experiences, as well as the opportunities that this site may present for future, interprofessional experiences for faculty and students. We will try again for next Spring Break! In December, Dr. Gail Grisetti and Dr. Jonna Bobzien traveled to the Dominican Republic at the invitation of Patronato Cibao Rehabilitation Center to discuss the implementation of an advanced specialized training program for the treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The new center was built to address the unmet needs of children with ASD, who due to limited resources, have little opportunity for speech, occupational or physical therapy. You can read more about that in this newsletter, with kudos to them for their interprofessional work.

Dental Hygiene had a highly successful Winter Weekend in Virginia Beach for their highly popular and annual continuing education event. This CE event has provided countless dental hygienist and dentists with the tools they need to continually update their practice, contributing to contemporary oral health. And, our global health impact does not stop there. On February 24, the School of nursing hosted a visiting scholar from Austria, Dr. Jürgen Osterbrink you gave a presentation on pain management and how little things can make a difference. Additionally, at the end of this month the School of Nursing will be hosting with Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters their annual "Creating a Culture of Safety" Program.

And, our Medical Technology Program was selected as a partner with the Hampton Veteran's Affairs Medical Center to offer the Veteran's Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency Program (VALOR). This was one of eight programs selected nationwide to participate, giving two students per year a paid residency. One of our master degree students in Community and Environmental Health, Lucinda Harrington, has been selected to serve on the Air and Waste Management Association Education Council and one of our PhD students, Koren Goodman, is serving on the medical operations committee of Physicians for Peace. On top of all of this, our physical therapy students and faculty provide free care at the Beach Clinic in Virginia Beach on a weekly basis.

This newsletter provides a glimmer of the current work and activities of our faculty and students to provide access to health care, find global solutions to common health problem and positively impact the quality of life for many people. I thank each of you for the work you do, every day, to make this world safer, kinder, healthier and better.

Shelley C. Mistoe
Dean

Announcements

- ◆ **Lucinda Harrington**, Master's student, Community and Environmental Health, has been selected to serve as the Young Professional liaison for the Air and Waste Management Association's Education Council. The Air and Waste Management Association (www.awma.org) is a large international association of environmental professionals with approximately 8,500 members worldwide. They have major investments in the United States, Canada, China, and Brazil. The A & WMA is making additional efforts to expand membership in Africa and India. The Education Council manages and initiates all professional development, public outreach, and academic activities of the association and members must be voted onto the Council. The Council also awards thousands of dollars in scholarships to students and has an emphasis program currently addressing the needs of young professionals.

Dr. James Blando, Community and Environmental Health, noted that, "Lucinda is a great choice by A&WMA membership and her enthusiasm for our profession is clearly evident. Her participation will help A&WMA coordinate programming that is of great interest to our young professionals."

- ◆ **Amanda Tolbert** was named Outstanding Clinical Faculty by the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2014/03/prweb11633747.htm>
- ◆ The Old Dominion University Medical Technology Program was selected as a partner with the Hampton Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) to offer the Veterans Affairs Learning Opportunity Residency Program (VALOR). Following the submission of a joint application, the Hampton VAMC/ODU Medical Technology Program partnership was one of eight nationwide selected for participation in the VALOR program. The VALOR program gives outstanding students the opportunity to develop competencies in medical laboratory science while completing practicum courses at an approved Veterans Affairs health care facility. Students will experience unique competency based learning opportunities with qualified preceptors in an environment that provides laboratory services to the nation's veterans. Two students will be selected for the yearlong paid residency.
- ◆ Undergraduate nursing students **Lekesha Williams**, **Michael Short**, **Clara Dalton** and **Marian Gemender** poster presentation was accepted to the National Conference for Undergraduate Research. They will be presenting their research project; "A Team-based Approach to Internet Ethnography: Evaluating Community Needs in South Sudan, Central Africa" at the April 2014 conference at the University of Kentucky. Their project was chosen from over 4,000 submissions. The faculty is **Jamela Martin**, RN, PhD, Lecturer, School of Nursing.
- ◆ **Marian Marconyak**, Community and Environmental Health, successfully defended her dissertation on March 12, 2014 titled "Factors Associated with Quality of Life Among Mothers of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders."



Dr. Elizabeth Locke been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Virginia Rural Health Association and to the Riverside School of Health Careers Physical Therapist Assistant Program Advisory Board.

Publication:

Shepherd, JG, Locke, E, Zhang, Q, & Maihafer, G. (2013). Health services use and prescription access among uninsured patients managing chronic diseases. *Journal of Community Health*. ISSN: 1573-3610; PMID: 24338075; DOI: 10.1007/s10900-013-9799-1.

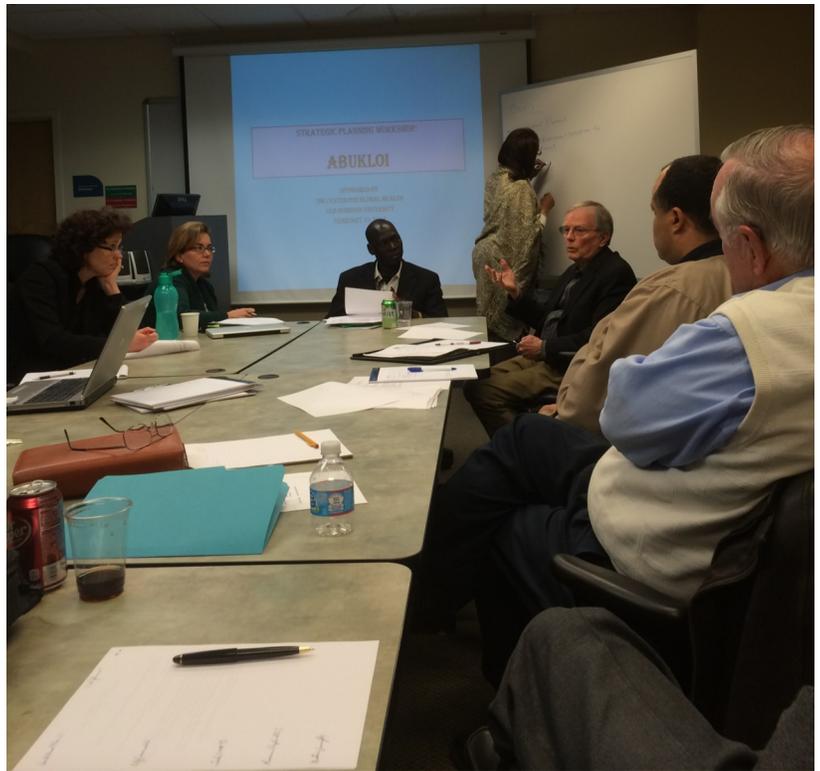


Charlotte S. Alexander Fiscal Technician

Charlotte comes to the College of Health Sciences from MDV/Nash Finch, helping deliver groceries to our commissaries for 20 years. Her work experience includes gross payroll, financial and management reporting, process documentation, routing and planning and tracking resources. Her hobbies include puzzles and woodworking. Charlotte loves to spend time with her family, she has two grown daughters and two grandkids, ages 2 & 4. Whenever she has a chance, she retreats to the country to garden, bird watch, explore and enjoy nature.

Center for Global Health Sponsors Strategic Planning Workshop

On February 10, 2014, the Center for Global Health sponsored a Strategic Planning Workshop for ABUKLOI, which is an international partnership founded by Old Dominion University (ODU) alumnus, Angelo Maker. Mr. Maker's story is one of triumph over incredible hardship. When he was only seven years old, he was forced to witness as his mother and two brothers were murdered when his village was attacked during Civil War in South Sudan in 1983. Subsequently, Mr. Marker joined a group of orphans, called The Lost Boys of Sudan, who struggled for many years to survive in the face of starvation, military conflicts in Ethiopia and Sudan, and life-threatening attacks from predators such as alligators. It was not until 2001 that the US government rescued the Lost Boys of Sudan, providing them with an opportunity to educate themselves for the purposes of returning to Sudan and helping the Sudanese people a forge a better future. Mr. Maker earned part of that education right here at ODU, where he was awarded a double Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Political Science.



ABUKLOI represents part of Mr. Maker's vision for helping to revive his homeland. Although ABUKLOI is centered on providing primary and secondary education to children in Sudan, its goals are diverse. They include goals related to education, health care, safety, workforce development, spiritual formation, community development, and self-sufficiency. Rev. Robert Parson from ABUKLOI explained why the organization's goals are multi-faceted, during the Strategic Planning Workshop, which was coordinated and moderated by Muge Akpinar-Elci, MD, MPH, Director for the Center for Global Health. First, education is interrelated with a variety of national challenges in South Sudan, which is the youngest nation in the world. One such challenge is health care. Female students generally miss one week of school per month during their menstrual cycles as well as have substantial absences due to pregnancy and child care—given that they have children continuously from early-/mid-adolescence to menopause. Additionally, all children are challenged by health care issues related to starvation; their standard diet is only one small meal a day. These health care challenges obviously impact the quality and quantity of education students currently receive. Hence, properly educating children in South Sudan involves mitigating these challenges. Additionally, ABUKLOI is a spiritually-based organization so that helping the Sudanese deal with their “non-educational” challenges is a moral imperative for ABUKLOI.

During the workshop, discussions among ODU faculty members and participants from ABUKLOI helped the group develop possibilities for future partnerships with ODU. These potential partnerships include deriving a conceptual model of the challenges the organization faces, co-authoring grant applications, and assisting with workforce development plans that emphasize entrepreneurship. Participants in these discussions from ODU included Muge Akpinar-Elci, Director of the



Center for Global Health, Kathryn Simms, Research Associate at the Center for Global Health, Gail Grisetti, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, Joshua Behr, Research Associate Professor at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center; James Blando, Assistant Professor of Community and Environmental Health, two PhD Students (My Ngoc Nguyen and Demetra Tate), and Jamie Edmonds, administrative assistant at the Center for Global Health. Participants from ABUKLOI's leadership included Founder, Angelo Marker President, Ellen Wicker Cummings, Secretary Margaret Kutz, Treasurer Jesse Hughes, and members Rev. Robert Parson and Chris Mollenkamp. Robert H. Rea from Axel Innovation also participated as a resource person.

The two-hour workshop was highly productive. Following a brief presentation on "How to Develop a Strategic Plan" given by Dr. Simms, the group completed a Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats (SWOT) analysis for the strategic plan, and they began to develop ABUKLOI's first three sets of goals, objectives, and action items. More specifically, ABUKLOI's first goal is *to provide sustainable and high quality education for the Rumbek community in South Sudan*. About five potential objectives for achieving this goal were developed along with about 10 action items. Goals two and three relate *to maintaining a safe school environment* and *to increasing student's and the community's health and health knowledge*, respectively. Dr. Akpinar-Elci worked with staff at the Center for Global Health to develop these goals, objectives, and action items further following the meeting. Dr. Akpinar-Elci looks forward to working with ABUKLOI on additional projects that may include grant writing projects. Additionally, because South Sudan is such a young nation with relatively little developed governmental infrastructure, training in entrepreneurship has the potential to advance economic prosperity, which ultimately will improve all facets of life in the country including educational and health outcomes. Therefore, the Center for Global Health is particularly interested in working with ABUKLOI to develop health-related entrepreneurial programs designed to assist the Republic of South Sudan.

Addressing the Needs of Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder in the Dominican Republic – An Interprofessional Approach

At the invitation of Patronato Cibao rehabilitation center, Dr. Gail Grisetti, Associate Professor, School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training and Dr. Jonna Bobzien, Assistant Professor Department of Communication Disorders and Special Education traveled to Santiago, Dominican Republic in early December to discuss the implementation of an advanced specialized training program for members of the rehabilitation team in a newly created center dedicated to the treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). The new center was built to address the unmet needs of children with ASD, who, due to limited resources, have few opportunities to receive speech, occupational or physical therapy. During the visit, Dr. Grisetti and Dr. Bobzien had the opportunity to meet with the Center Director, members of the rehab team who will receive the advanced specialized training, as well as parents of children with ASD who currently receive therapy at the Center.

In consultation with Dr. Muge Akpinar, and with support from the Center for Global Health, a proposal has been prepared to provide a 4 phase training initiative which would culminate in an onsite visit with three days of clinical training. To assist with the onsite clinical training, a multidisciplinary team of speech, occupational and physical therapists has been recruited from Dominion Physical Therapy Pediatric Center in Newport News. This center has an active program which provides comprehensive care to children with Autism Spectrum Disorder. The Pediatric Center is a clinical practicum site for ODU DPT students and is owned by Allen Jones, a member of the Advisory Board for both the School of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training, and the COHS.

The training is scheduled to begin this spring and to continue over the coming months. The project represents a unique partnership between programs at the University and the local community to address health needs internationally.

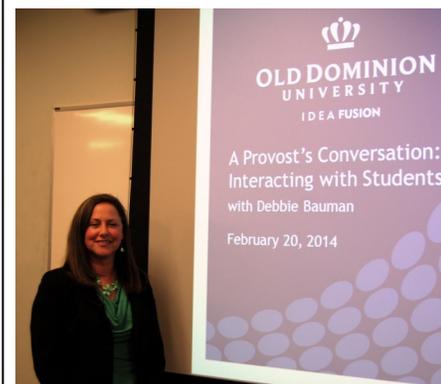


Associate Dean, Richardean Benjamin, Senator Lynwood Lewis, Jr. and nursing students, Elisa Hendrix and Brittany Mitchell. The senator represents the District 6.

Dental Hygiene’s Winter Weekend at the Beach



The Dental Hygiene’s “Continuing Dental Hygiene Education Winter Weekend, was held February 21-23 at the Sheraton Virginia Beach Oceanfront. The event catered to over 263 dental hygienists and dentists, 90 being ODU alumni.



Debbie Bauman, Assistant Dean, lead the Provost’s Conversation on February 20 with a presentation titled “Interacting with Students”.

The Center For Global Health Announces That It Has Launched Its First Certificate Program

The Center for Global Health at Old Dominion University is very pleased to announce new Certificate Program in Global Health beginning in Fall 2014. Dr. Akpınar-Elci for the director of the center stated, “This program offers obvious benefits to health science professionals. But, THIS PROGRAM HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE BENEFICIAL TO ALMOST EVERYONE IN ANY FIELD. For example, an engineer might be asked to design a water purifying system. If he or she understands the underlying public health concerns associated with doing so, that system is going to be much stronger and much safer. And, in today’s world, diseases and other health concerns don’t recognize borders, so engineers need to understand the BIG PICTURE—the global health picture—regardless of where that system is actually being built. Similar logic applies to teachers. If their students can’t attend school due to health issues, those students won’t learn. And, then, there is the business world. The business world today is completely internationalized. Healthcare is one of the largest sectors of our economy and of the international economy. Healthcare issues influence decisions in all other sectors of the business world, too. That means that business people need to know about global health.”

This fully online program gives students the flexibility that they will need to complete the program. Other flexible feature into the program is to allowing for a 1-year or a 2-year timeframe for completing the 15-credit hour program. Additionally, allowing up to 6 hours at the graduate level coursework to transfer into the program. The certificate requires three core courses (3 credit hours each), two electives (2 credit hours each) and a practicum or a research paper (2 credit hours) for a total fifteen (15) credits. Admission to the certificate program requires a bachelor’s degree (or the equivalent).

In addition to offering students an opportunity to master core and advanced materials on Global Health, the program is designed to help students master a variety leadership skills, as well as techniques for developing successful collaborations. After all, business people, engineers, scientists, educators, and liberal arts majors all have important skills and key knowledge that will contribute to solutions to global health problems. However, each of these disciplines has different orientations, whether these differences amount to different theoretical perspectives, work cultures, values, or expected ways of interacting. Global Health professionals need to understand these differences and to know how to keep diverse groups working productively and effectively.

The program offers students many different career possibilities. Maybe, some students want to advance in their current career with their current employer. But, that employer needs the student to expand his or her knowledge base of global health and his or her leadership abilities. The Certificate for Global Health can be perfect for such situations. Maybe, other students want to transition in to more of an internationally-based career. Again, the Certificate for Global Health is perfect for these situations, too. Overall, the graduates of the program can expect to find employment in a variety of fields including health-related governmental/non-governmental organizations, university research programs, international healthcare consultancies, and multinational corporations.

Dr. Akpınar-Elci encourages those who are interested in the program to contact her at (757) 683-6160 or at makpinar@odu.edu.

Upcoming Events:

March

- 28 Spring Faculty Retreat, 10:00 am-12:30 pm
Location: Ted Convocation Center, Big Blue Room

April

- 14 Military Appreciation Luncheon, 12:00-1:00 pm
Location: Health Sciences Bldg.
- 29 Spring Classes End
- 30 College Awards Luncheon 11:30 am
Location: Ted Convocation Center, Big Blue Room



On February 24, the School of Community and Environmental Health had it's Accreditation Site Visit. Pictured: Pat Bohan (Accreditation Site Visitor), Professor Jim English, Tom Deem and Jim Dingman (Accreditation Site Visitors)



On February 24, Dr. Jürgen Osterbrink, Austria, gave a presentation for students on "Pain Management: From Theoretical Basics to Clinical Practice-When Small Changes Make a Big Difference". This marks the start of the School of Nursing initiative to invite a "Visiting Scholar" to campus each year.

The School of Nursing is partnering with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters to host the annual "Creating a Culture of Safety...Together" presentation for 2014. The ODU presentation will begin at 2 pm on Thursday, March 27th in the Big Blue room at the Constant Convocation Center. The event is open to all Health Sciences students.

ANNUAL MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES STUDENT ASSOCIATION BLOOD DRIVE

The Medical Laboratory Sciences Student Association (MLSSA) will sponsor its annual blood drive on Tuesday, March 25, 2014. The drive will be held in Webb Center, Hampton Newport News Room, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. All are encouraged to come, show your support, and GIVE BLOOD. Your GIFT can SAVE a LIFE.

To schedule an appointment visit redcrossblood.org, select <Enter a Sponsor Code> and enter the sponsor code - ODU.

For more information, please call 683-3588.