Connections, 12/2017

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2017 State of the College of Health and Human Services
On Friday, December 1, faculty and staff from the College of Health and Human Services came together for the annual State of the College festivities. The day's events included the State of the College address, a research update and the 2017 CHHS Faculty and Staff Awards.

2017 Faculty and Staff Awards
On Dec. 1, the college recognized the 2017 recipients of its faculty and staff awards. All recipients were nominated by faculty, staff and students. And all were recognized because they routinely deliver excellence, whether working with students, colleagues or the greater Kalamazoo community.

Ph.D. student's grant to fund mental health services for homeless
Tendai Masiriri, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program doctoral student and executive director at Heartside Ministry in Grand Rapids has received a $100,000 grant to provide services to the homeless population in the Heartside community of Grand Rapids.

Communication training simulation for nursing, PA students
In November, nursing and physician assistant students participated in a training simulation for TeamSTEPPS, a teamwork system that aims to improve communication between disciplines to help practitioners provide higher quality, safer patient care.

**Student Nurses Association collects winter gear for local children**
The Student Nurses Association in the Bronson School of Nursing held a Winter Gear Drive to collect items for local Kalamazoo-area elementary schools. Nursing students who were routinely involved in the schools noticed a large need for winter accessories for the students there.

Physician Assistant faculty, staff and students gather at their end-of-the-semester potluck last week. Expanding their sweater contest to an Ugly Outfit Contest yields...results. Have a great break, everyone!

From the [College of Health and Human Services](https://www.facebook.com/CollegeOfHealthAndHumanServices) via Facebook
In other news
Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- Some campus offices on reduced hours for the holidays
- Campus United Way campaign exceeds $200,000 goal
- WMU to confer more than 1,700 degrees during fall commencement

CHHS on Facebook and Instagram
The College of Health and Human Services is on Facebook and Instagram! Please take a moment to "like" and "follow" us to stay informed on what's going on throughout the college.

2017 State of the College of Health and Human Services

Faculty and staff at the 2017 State of the College Address
On Friday, December 1, faculty and staff from the College of Health and Human Services came together for the annual State of the College festivities. The day’s events included **Dean Earlie Washington’s State of the College Address** (view the presentation [here](#)), a detailed **Research Update** from **Associate Dean Ann Tyler** and the **2017 CHHS Faculty and Staff Awards**.

Among other things, the topics included:

- The ongoing renovation of the EWB
- Update of the Unified Clinics
- Update on the Health Careers Connection Program
- Enrollment and budget data
- Grant award and submission data
- Research updates, initiatives and opportunities

In addition, those in attendance also participated in a #youarewelcomehere video for the **Haenicke Institute** and gathered for a group photo in the atrium before lunch.
2017 CHHS Faculty and Staff Award Recipients

On Friday, Dec. 1, the college recognized the 2017 recipients of its faculty and staff awards. All of the recipients were nominated by faculty, staff and students in the college. And all of the recipients were recognized because they routinely deliver excellence, whether working with students, their colleagues or the greater Kalamazoo community.

2017 recipients

**Outstanding Customer Service Award**
**Chris Salvaggio - Interdisciplinary Health Programs**

Chris Salvaggio is an administrative assistant I in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, where she has worked since 2014. She is known in this building for her positive attitude, willingness to help, and her warm, welcoming demeanor. She treats faculty, staff and students with the utmost respect, making a positive impression on anyone who happens to walk into the SIHP offices. To many, she is the face of the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs. As such, she is a reliable worker, a capable colleague and a wonderful ambassador.

**Professional Instructor Teaching Excellence Award**
**Chelsey Langley - Occupational Therapy**

Chelsey Langley is a part-time instructor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She is also a practicing pediatric occupational therapist and a co-owner of Paper Plane Therapies. Here at WMU, she teaches the pediatric curriculum and supervises graduate students at Mel Trotter Ministries. Her colleagues and students who nominated her, say that Chelsey regularly goes “above and beyond” as a fieldwork instructor, forging relationships with students and partners. She truly has a passion for her work and for helping her young patients.

**Faculty Teaching Excellence Award**
**Donald Cooney - Social Work**
Dr. Donald Cooney is an associate professor in the School of Social Work, coming to WMU as an assistant professor in 1977. Dr. Cooney has been associate director of the Lewis Walker Institute for Race and Ethnic Relations since 2008. In 2011, he was awarded WMU’s Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work. He has also been a Kalamazoo City Commissioner since 1997. He teaches courses on the history of social welfare, community practice, social change, and race and culture. Dr. Cooney is active in many social justice organizations, and has a committed interest in community practice, social justice, and confronting institutional prejudice and inequality.

Faculty Teaching Excellence Award
Maureen Mickus - Occupational Therapy

Dr. Maureen Mickus came to WMU in 2006 and is an associate professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy and one of the founding members of the Center for Gerontology. In 2011, Dr. Mickus was awarded WMU’s Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest honor given by the University to recognize faculty members for their work. She has led an interdisciplinary study-abroad program to Ireland that focuses on understanding the cultural context of aging. She has served on multiple boards, including the Michigan Society of Gerontology and Centracare-Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly.

Scholarship Excellence Award
Robert Bensley - Interdisciplinary Health Programs

Dr. Robert Bensley is the coordinator of the Bachelor of Science in Public Health program in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs. Dr. Bensley came to the college in 2016 when the community health program moved to CHHS from the College of Human Performance and Health Education. In addition to coordinating the new program at CHHS, he also manages a grant-funded, online system that is helping change health behaviors and prevent chronic disease, annually impacting feeding practices of more than 3.5% of all children under the age of five living in the United States.
Ph.D. student's grant to fund mental health services for homeless

Tendai Masiriri, Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Ph.D. program doctoral student and executive director at Heartside Ministry in Grand Rapids, has received a $100,000 grant from the Wege Foundation to provide behavioral health counseling services to the homeless population in the Heartside community of Grand Rapids.

The successful application to Wege Foundation was Masiriri's required grant comprehensive exam (CE-3), a requirement for completing the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services at WMU. The grant will fund a new art therapy program at Heartside Ministry.

"We use art therapy because research has shown that it works for homeless populations with histories of mental health and substance abuse issues," says Masiriri. "Art therapy reduces the stigma of accessing mental health care, while reducing resistance to treatment in a population that is very much averse to traditional forms of therapy."

According to Masiriri, 7-10 percent of Kent County residents report some occurrence of mental health issues. In the Heartside community, that number is closer to 34 percent. "Of course we want to thank the Wege Foundation for recognizing that disparity and the need in our community," he says.

The Wege Foundation accepts grant applications that address five basic areas of interest to the foundation -- education, environment, arts & culture, health care and community service. Grants are awarded twice a year.

Masiriri said that the program has already kicked off with a pilot group of clients. He expects the program will be fully operating by mid-2018.

About Heartside Ministry

Heartside Ministry began in 1983 as a small outreach to the homeless and disenfranchised people of the street. It is a relationship-based social service agency that has enjoyed the support and guidance of community members and other organizations for over 30 years.
Communication training simulation for nursing, PA students

In November, nursing and physician assistant students from the College of Health and Human Services participated in a training simulation for the Team Strategies & Tools to Enhance Performance & Patient Safety (TeamSTEPPS) program. TeamSTEPPS is a teamwork system developed by the US Department of Defense and US Department of Health and Human Services to integrate teamwork into practice to provide higher quality, safer patient care.

The simulation featured faculty from Western Michigan University and Kalamazoo Valley Community College role-playing scenarios with a number of pauses for interdisciplinary groups of students to discuss improvements in communication.

Dan Benard, EMS director at KVCC, and Al Moss, respiratory therapy coordinator at KVCC, joined Drew Zolp, faculty specialist I in the Department of Physician Assistant, and Tina Keeler, coordinator of nursing clinical operations in the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, as they acted out the scenarios.

"We appreciate the participation from our colleagues from KVCC," said Keeler. "We hope to be able to include their students in this simulation at some point in the future."

Students in WMU’s Homer Stryker M.D. Medical School also receive TeamSTEPPS training. Plans are to collaborate with W-Med in the training as early as spring 2018.

"I really enjoyed this simulation," said McKenzie Clem, a junior in the nursing program. "It was great to get a visual of good teamwork in our future careers and great communication in the health care setting."
Student Nurses Association collects winter gear for local children

The Student Nurses Association in the Bronson School of Nursing recently held a Winter Gear Drive to collect hats and mittens for two local Kalamazoo-area elementary schools. Nursing students who were routinely involved in the schools noticed a large need for winter accessories for the students there.

The SNA placed collection boxes near each entrance to the CHHS building, gathering new and gently-used goods for several weeks.

"Our goal was to collect 100 items for KPS students who needed hats and mittens to stay warm this winter," says Taylor Birgy, community nurse on the SNA board. "But thanks to the amazing generosity of CHHS, we collected more than twice that number."

SNA members began distributing the items at schools after the Thanksgiving break.