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College of Health and Human Services Newsletter

College of Health and Human Services

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Connections, Issue 3

College of Health and Human Services

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College of Health and Human Services

CONNECTIONS

E-News

issue #3

Dean Washington welcomes students, alumni and friends

New College of Health and Human Services students take a photo break from orientation

Autumn is an intense, energetic season for the College of Health and Human Services and the University. It is a time when we welcome you—alumni and friends—to return for exciting 2014 Homecoming events, and welcome returning and new students to follow in your footsteps, pursuing their education and career goals.



In the photo, you will see many of the 589 undergraduate students who have been admitted to our college. Of those new students, 270 have transferred from other institutions. We are pleased to welcome these new members to the college family and look forward to preparing them to transform health care and human services in their future professions.

As we challenge, encourage and support our students, we thank you for supporting them and exemplifying excellence in your lives and careers. We hope to see you this autumn at Homecoming or any time, and wish you a great season, wherever you are and in all that you do.

Nursing outstanding alumna named Brilliant New Investigator



Bronson School of Nursing alumna Dr. Heather Tubbs Cooley '03, inducted into the College of Health and Human Services Outstanding Alumni Academy in 2010, has been named the 2014 Brilliant New Investigator for the prestigious Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science. The award was presented to her at the council's 2014 State of the Science Congress on Nursing Research conference in Washington, D.C. Sept. 18 to 20. For more information about the Council for the Advancement of Nursing Science, visit them on the [Web](#).

After earning bachelor's degrees in both nursing and Spanish at WMU, Tubbs Cooley went on to pursue a Master of Science in Nursing and Ph.D. in

Nursing from the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently an assistant professor and nurse scientist at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and an assistant professor of clinical nursing at the University of Cincinnati College of Nursing. For more information about Tubbs Cooley, [read her bio](#).

Student organizations honored



WMU PA students contribute funds and win accolades

In the six weeks of fund raising, our PA students, faculty, staff and friends raised \$3,112 to support the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program, the highest amount collected by any PA student society in the nation. Team WMU PA was declared the official winner of the contest!



WMU Chapter of National Student Speech Language Hearing Association awarded honors

Congratulations to the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology's chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association, which was awarded Chapter Honors at the Silver Level from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association in recognition of work in philanthropy, community service, career awareness, advocacy and networking.

New, innovative offerings and options enhance academic programs

4 + 3 Accelerated Audiology Doctoral Degree Program

The audiology concentration within the Bachelor of Science degree in interdisciplinary health sciences will allow students to enter the doctoral degree program through an accelerated graduate degree program option specifically designed for audiology. Students can double-count 12 credit hours of coursework in both undergraduate and graduate degrees under the accelerated graduate degree option. This allows a student to complete both degrees in seven years rather than eight. More information can be found on the [Web](#).

Social Work Specialization: Trauma Across the Lifespan

A new trauma practice across the life span specialization in the master's degree program in social work will prepare WMU students for work involving people who have experienced trauma throughout their lives. The program is consistent with the School of Social Work's mission to educate social workers to advocate for social and economic justice and the well-being of all people. Contacts for the program are Dr. Karen VanDeusen, karen.vandeusen@wmich.edu and Dr. Ineke Way, ineke.way@wmich.edu.

Health Informatics and Information Technology

Approved in early 2012, the multidisciplinary health informatics and information management program (HiIM) continues to grow. Bronson School of Nursing faculty member Dr. Sharie Falan and Bernard Han, professor of

business information systems in the WMU Haworth College of Business designed and co-direct the program. It was developed to meet the rise in demand for health care information professionals in health care and related industries. With a major and minor available, HiIM graduates are specialists in managing medical records and coding information for reimbursement and research in a variety of health care settings. More information can be on the [Web](#).

School of Social Work welcomes visiting scholar from Spain



In mid-summer this year, the School of Social Work welcomed visiting scholar Dr. Antonio López Peláez, a full professor of social work and social services in the Department of Social Work and Faculty of Law with the National Distance Education University, the largest university in Spain and second largest in Europe. He will be here for one academic year conducting research, coordinating joint faculty publications, and assisting the School of Social Work to develop partnerships and collaborations with European universities. [Read more...](#)

Ireland study abroad leads to OT international exchange

In early September, Drs. Mary Hannon-Fletcher, head of school, and Patricia McClure, associate head of school, along with six occupational therapy students from the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, Northern Ireland, spent a week at WMU, visiting College of Health and Human Services classrooms and various clinics. The visit was an extension of a long-standing partnership; over the past eight years Department of Occupational Therapy Associate Professor Dr. Maureen Mickus has coordinated a faculty-led study abroad in Ireland program for over 200 WMU students. As part of this experience, WMU students attend University of Ulster classes and participate in clinical placements throughout greater Belfast. Future plans for the partnership include shared courses between the two occupational therapy programs and continued exchanges.



Clockwise starting at upper left: Visitor Dr. Patricia McClure, OT Chair Dr. Ben Atchison, Dr. Maureen Mickus, Dean Dr. Earlie Washington, visitor Dr. Mary Hannon-Fletcher



Visiting University of Ulster students pause to pose.

Serenity Park proposed on college grounds



The College of Health and Human Services is committed to providing exceptional education experiences, enhancing diversity, promoting health and a climate of inclusion, and maximizing the use of resources to enhance sustainability within the college and community. The proposed Serenity Park will be an expression of those commitments. [Read more...](#)

Updates: new and transitioning faculty and staff

To support accomplishment of the college's 2013- 16 strategic plan goals and accommodate continuing growth in academic programs and enrollment, some key positions have been added recently in the college's administration.



Nancy Cretsinger, director of student and academic services



Melinda Lockett, associate director of academic advising



JoAnne McFarland O'Rourke, director of research



Sue Caulfield, coordinator of planning and assessment

Among this additional listing of faculty and staff, some are new to the college; some are new to the University; and some are moving internally into new roles. We welcome all of them within the College of Health and Human Services family and look forward to a productive and successful academic year together.

Office of the Dean:

Finance Analyst **Wan Chen**, June 2014

Webmaster **Christopher Jones**, August 2014

Academic Advisor **Jill Hamilton**, June 2014

Department of Blindness and Low Vision Studies:

Faculty Specialist I-Clinical Specialist **Joanna Katherine Butler**, August 2014

Bronson School of Nursing:

Faculty Specialist II-Clinical Specialist **Joanne DeWit**, August. 2014

Assistant Professor **Kelly H. Pattison**, Aug. 2014

Coordinator of Nursing Clinical Operations **Jodi Terpstra**, August 2014

West Michigan Regional Area Health Education Center (AHEC):

Project Manager **Lisa Lynn Cross**, January 2014

Office Associate **Olivia J. Lanctot**, December 2013

Department of Occupational Therapy:

Faculty Specialist I-Clinical Specialist **Holly N. Grieves**, August 2014

Department of Physician Assistant:

Faculty Specialist II-Professional Specialist **Kathy A. Tuinhoff**, January 2014

School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs:

Faculty Specialist II-Professional Specialist **Joseph E. Fernandez**, August 2014

Assistant Professor **Jill Rowe**, August 2014

Faculty Specialist II-Professional Specialist **Lori Stegmier**, August 2014

Associate Professor **Donald D. Straube**, August 2014

Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology:

Assistant Professor **Michele Anderson**, August 2014