



5-2017

## Connections, 05/2017

College of Health and Human Services

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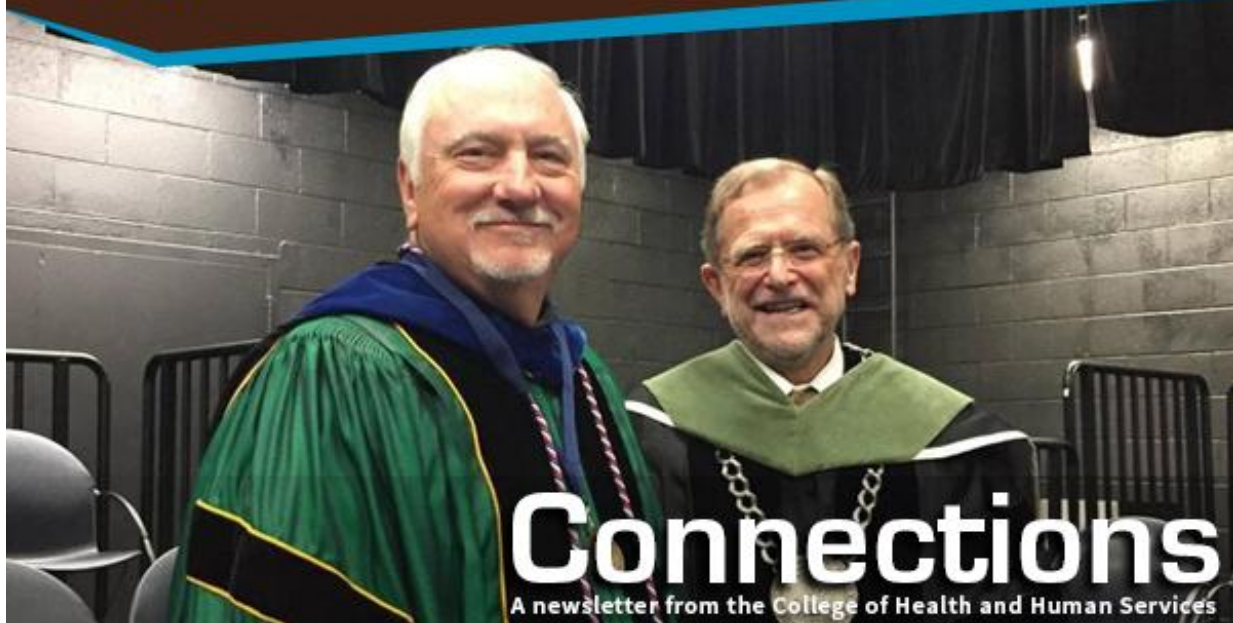
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## College of Health and Human Services



# Connections

A newsletter from the College of Health and Human Services

**Photo:** Dr. Ben Atchison, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, and President Dunn before spring commencement. Both will retire this summer.  
May 2017

### [CHHS kicks off Health Career Connection program](#)

The first cohort of the new **CHHS Health Career Connection** program will come to campus in June. As part of this exciting new program, 12 exceptional incoming first-year students will earn six credits during the summer I session.

### [CHHS celebrates students on 2016 Dean's List](#)

In April, more than 1300 students (and their families) were invited to two separate ceremonies, held at the College of Health and Human Services, to be recognized for making the Dean's List for 2016.

### [Simulation Committee hosts SUN Conference](#)

The CHHS Simulation Committee hosted a Simulation Users Network (SUN) Conference on May 4, in conjunction with Laerdal Medical. Attendees from across the state came together to learn more about effective simulation activities and how to incorporate them into various programs.

### [BS-IHS student wins Alexandra Burgett Endowed Scholarship](#)



In a short ceremony on April 28, **Malaya Myers**, a junior in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs, was awarded the Alexandra Burgett Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded annually, largely based on GPA and an essay.

[Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences annual newsletter](#)

In May, the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences mailed its [annual newsletter](#) to students, alumni, faculty and members of the community. Use the link above to view the electronic version.

[AHEC summer newsletter](#)

Read the AHEC [summer 2017 newsletter](#), which features articles on students discovering oral health careers, AHEC and CHHS Immersion Days, the importance of soft skills during job interviews, and more.

HHS on Social Media



Family, friends, and colleagues of **Dr. Ineke Way** gathered recently to celebrate her upcoming retirement. Dr. Way was recognized for her accomplishments and many

contributions to the School of Social Work.

From the [WMU School of Social Work](#) on [Facebook](#)

In other news

Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- [Agreement gives K College students head start in earning grad degrees](#)
- [Jazz students again take multiple awards in DownBeat competition](#)
- [Faculty Senate approves design for general education revision](#)

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.



## CHHS kicks off Health Career Connection program

The first cohort of the new [CHHS Health Career Connection](#) program will come to campus in June. As part of this exciting new program, 12 exceptional incoming freshmen will earn six credits during the summer I session.

Students will live in residence halls on campus and take classes for the duration of the summer I session. The College of Health and Human Services provides scholarships to cover tuition, books, room and board for the students.

"These 12 students are truly exceptional," said **Nancy Cretsinger**, director of academic and student services at the college. "We interviewed many remarkable individuals as part of the selection process for this first cohort. The students in this group have achieved great things academically, and many of them have overcome great challenges to do so."

The Health Career Connection program is aimed at economically disadvantaged students from areas of the state that are medically underserved. Eligible students live in the 19-county catchment area of the [Western Regional Area Health Education Center \(AHEC\)](#), which is housed in the college.

When **Dean Earlie Washington** [announced the program last year](#), she talked about a similar program that she was a part of after she graduated high school.

"That program was all about foundational learning; but it was also more than that. It introduced us to higher education," she said. "The program was geared to show us how to give back to the communities and systems that supported us."

The ultimate goal of the Health Care Connection program is to return CHHS graduates to their home communities as well-trained health care professionals, improving the diversity and availability of health care in regions of the state that need it most.

## CHHS celebrates students on 2016 Dean's List

In April, more than 1300 students (and their families) were invited to two separate ceremonies, held at the College of Health and Human Services, to be recognized for [making the Dean's List in 2016](#).

In recent years, the ceremony had been held at the Fetzer Center on WMU's main campus. This year, Dean **Earlie M. Washington** wanted to welcome families to the college where their students spend so much of their time.

**Dr. Ann Tyler**, associate dean of the college, welcomed students and families and presented certificates with the help of CHHS advisors. "Admission to the programs in the College of Health and Human Services is very competitive," said Tyler. "We have become accustomed to large numbers of students on the Dean's List. Of course it is incredibly gratifying to see that number grow year after year."



*Dr. Tasko performs a laryngeal stroboscopy on himself*

As part of the program, the recipient of the [2016 CHHS Faculty Teaching Excellence Award](#), **Dr. Steve Tasko**, associate professor in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, gave a brief lecture about his area of focus, speech pathology. To the delight of the audience, Dr. Tasko even performed a laryngeal stroboscopy on himself to show off both his "sword swallowing skills" and his impeccable vocal cords.

Following the presentation of certificates, students and families enjoyed dessert and coffee in the CHHS atrium.

Dean Washington, Associate Dean Tyler and all the CHHS faculty and staff congratulate all students on the 2016 Dean's List.

# Simulation committee hosts Simulation Users Network Conference

The College of Health and Human Services Simulation Committee hosted a Simulation Users Network (SUN) Conference on Thursday, May 4, in conjunction with Laerdal Medical. Attendees from across the state of Michigan came together to learn more about effective simulation activities and how to incorporate them into various programs.

SUN conferences were originally created to facilitate a conversation between users at all levels in the field of health care simulation. This particular conference was attended by educators from hospitals, universities and simulation centers in the area.

Throughout the conference, CHHS and the WMU medical school were repeatedly cited as good examples of institutions using simulation effectively.

“We’ve worked with a variety of disciplines in the last year to construct meaningful interprofessional simulations with tangible educational outcomes that benefit all students,” said **Tina Keeler**, Clinical Coordinator of Nursing Operations for the Bronson School of Nursing. “It’s rewarding to know that efforts like this put CHHS on the leading edge of effective simulation.”

Congratulations to the CHHS Simulation Committee on their leadership in this growing area in health care education.



*SUN Conference attendees at the College of Health and Human Services*

# BS-IHS student wins Alexandra Burgett Endowed Scholarship

In a short ceremony on April 28, **Malaya Myers**, a junior in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Programs was awarded the [Alexandra Burgett Endowed Scholarship](#). The scholarship is awarded annually, largely based on GPA and an essay.

For much of the last three years, Malaya has worked as a rehabilitation assistant at Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers, supporting clients with traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries, helping them regain their independence and reintegrate into their communities.

The scholarship committee noted that Malaya's spirit and commitment to helping mirror that of Alexandra Burgett. Malaya has recently worked with older adults and wishes to continue that work after graduation as an occupational therapist, with a long-term goal of starting her own skilled nursing facilities.

"Working with seniors in such an intimate capacity has enabled me to gain a true appreciation of the unique and inevitable challenges that afflict us all during the aging process," she said. "It has sparked my passion and commitment to dedicating my professional career to serving this population."

The Burgett family was pleased to be on campus to award the scholarship to Malaya.

## About the Scholarship

In 2012, [Alexandra Burgett](#) was about to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Services, when her life was cut short in an automobile accident with a distracted driver. The Burgett family initiated the [Alexandra Burgett Endowed Scholarship](#) in December 2013 to honor and continue Alexandra's legacy, and to help a BS-IHS undergraduate student in need continue in the program.



*Health services faculty with Malaya Myers*



*The Burgett family with Malaya Myers*