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College of Health and Human Services



August 2017

[Progress in the Department of Physical Therapy](#)

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[Bronson School of Nursing receives HRSA grant to improve workforce diversity](#)

Dr. Mary Ann Stark, professor in the WMU Bronson School of Nursing, has been awarded a \$2 million HRSA grant to establish a new program to recruit, retain and graduate more students from underrepresented groups and educationally and financially disadvantaged populations.

[Nursing Assembly Day and Skills Day take over CHHS](#)

Nursing Assembly Day serves as a welcome back for current students and an introduction for incoming students to meet the faculty. Skills Day was an opportunity for current students to refresh their previously learned skills as they prepare to enter the clinical environment again this semester.

[Speech and OT clinics accepting clients for fall](#)



The Charles Van Riper Language, Speech and Hearing Clinic and Marion R. Spear Occupational Therapy Teaching Clinic are accepting applications for their fall programs. More information is available on the Unified Clinics website.

[AHEC fall 2017 newsletter](#)

Read the AHEC summer 2017 newsletter, which features articles on summer conferences, Michigan AHEC's legislative breakfast, the new Health Careers Connection Program, and more.

[Common read event at WMU School of Medicine](#)

The WMU Homer Stryker School of Medicine will a "common read" event Sept. 29 for Kalamazoo's health sciences community. This year's book is A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy. The free event features a lecture and discussion with author, Sue Klebold.

HHS on Social Media



Skeleton is getting ready for BSON Skills Day...luau style.

From the [College of Health and Human Services](#) on [Instagram](#)

In other news

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

- [WMU lauded again with Washington Monthly top-100 ranking](#)
- [WMU's Seita program named finalist for national higher ed award](#)
- [Campus wayfinding effort leads to new street names, building addresses](#)
- [WMU named Michigan's top affordable university](#)

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.



Progress in the Department of Physical Therapy

The WMU Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the [Department of Physical Therapy](#) in April 2015, but the work on building a Doctor of Physical Therapy program began much earlier. When **Dr. Stacie Fruth** [started as founding chair](#) in January 2017, the department and program finally established a presence in the College of Health and Human Services. This year has seen more growth and progress toward the 2019 start date of the DPT program.

Personnel update

Finding the right personnel is essential in the development of a new department and academic program. This summer, the PT department grew by two faculty members, and a staff member will be added in the coming weeks. The department is also currently searching for two additional faculty members.



Dr. Stacie Fruth, founding chair of the Department of Physical Therapy

- **Daren Webb** started as Director of Clinical Education in July. Most recently, [Daren](#) was staff physical therapist in the Sports Medicine Clinic at the Sindecuse Health Center.
- **Dr. Don Hoover** officially joins the department as professor in August. [Dr. Hoover](#) was most recently an associate professor in the physical therapy department at Western Kentucky University.

Space progress

Upon her arrival, Dr. Fruth took up temporary space in the Dean's suite on the second floor of the building. With the arrival of PT faculty and staff, department offices have moved to the third floor, adjacent to OT and PA offices.

Meanwhile, there has been progress with plans to renovate the second floor of the Ernest Wilbur Building (EWB), which is located near the northeast corner of the CHHS building. The renovated space will include classroom and lab space that will be available to all CHHS programs. It will also include a shower facility, a welcome addition for staff and students who exercise during working hours or who want to shower between clinical experiences and classes, for example.

Still in the early stages, the architectural plans have been approved and construction bids are being considered. If the current timeline holds, renovations will be complete by fall 2018.

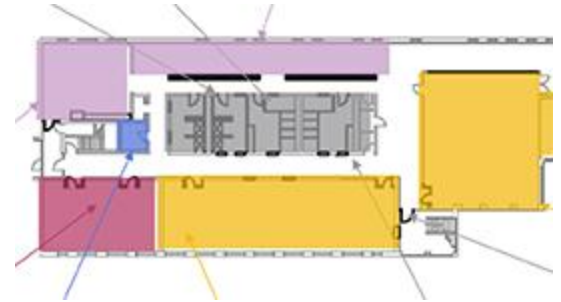
The curriculum process

A major hurdle in achieving program accreditation is development of a curriculum that includes every element of the accreditation requirements. This has been the primary focus of the current faculty. A full curriculum proposal will be submitted for university-wide approval this fall.

At this time, plans are to offer a two-and-a-half year program with cohorts of 30 students starting in the summer II session. Working closely with CHHS Advising, the department has also finalized prerequisites for the program, including minimum GPA and a requirement to take the GRE.

"The Department of Physical Therapy is building an innovative, contemporary and learner-centered DPT program," said Dr. Fruth. "We have developed excellent working relationships with the other schools and departments in the College of Health and Human Services, and I look forward to working collaboratively with other programs within the University."

As more information becomes available, the [Department of Physical Therapy website](#) will continue to grow. In addition, the department will become more active on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and other social media platforms as they recruit faculty members and begin to recruit students for the program's first cohort in summer 2019.



See the proposed layout of the EWB second floor, as unveiled at the 2016 State of the College

Bronson School of Nursing receives \$2 million grant to improve nursing workforce diversity

Dr. Mary Ann Stark, professor in the [WMU Bronson School of Nursing](#) (BSON), leads a team that has been awarded a four year, \$2 million Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Nursing Workforce Diversity Grant.

This grant allows BSON to establish a new program, **Empowering Nursing Students for Success (Empower Success)**, to recruit, retain and graduate more students from underrepresented groups and educationally and financially disadvantaged populations.

“A diverse nursing workforce is beneficial to the health of our community and society,” said Dr. Stark. “It is something that health care organizations have been paying attention to for some time. Nursing programs and other higher education institutions have been making great strides in recent years to support our students and improve workforce diversity.”

In 2015, faculty in the Bronson School of Nursing and the CHHS Office of Student Engagement and Success developed a program to support students from underrepresented groups. They wrote and received a \$5000 grant from the WMU Office of Faculty Development, with which they assembled a group of students and faculty to identify common academic and personal issues that impede success.

Older students were hired as Navigators to help the student scholars achieve success. All of the students in the program passed and progressed in the nursing program. This program was called the Marie Gates Scholars Program in honor of our previous BSON director who valued and supported diversity in nursing.

“The success of that 2015 grant opened the door for us to try to expand the program,” said **Kim Searing**, coordinator of the Empower Success program. “We decided to look beyond our current students to find, recruit and retain students throughout this region.”

Dr. Stark and Searing, with support from **Dr. Yvonne Ford, Mary Stahl, Joanne DeWit** and **Andy Brown** from CHHS student success, wrote the HRSA grant. The award allows BSON to provide scholarships and stipends totaling \$225,000 per year, academic and peer support, and develop a holistic admissions process to recruit, retain and graduate more nurses from underrepresented groups and educationally and financially disadvantaged populations.



Dr. Mary Ann Stark

This grant helps address a critical overall nursing shortage. More specifically, it address the shortage of nurses from underrepresented groups. Producing highly qualified nurses from these groups will improve the quality of healthcare, while improving the overall diversity of the nursing work force.

Nursing Assembly Day and Skills Day take over CHHS

Two consecutive days of events at the college welcome students from the Bronson School of Nursing back for the fall semester. Nursing Assembly Day serves as a welcome back for current students and an introduction for incoming students to meet the faculty. Skills Day was an opportunity for current students to refresh their previously learned skills as they prepare to enter the clinical environment again this semester.

On Tuesday, August 29, the WMU Bronson School of Nursing hosted its annual **Nursing Assembly Day** at CHHS. The event included presentations, training events and networking with professional nursing employers.

Dozens of health care vendors filled the atrium at the CHHS building. Nursing students were able to speak with the vendors about potential job and extern opportunities in addition to learning about their products and services.



Nursing students and vendors in the atrium during Nursing Assembly Day.

"There's always a lot of excitement around these events," said **Tina Keeler**, Coordinator of Nursing Clinical Operations at the Bronson School of Nursing. "The students bring a great deal of energy with them and it really helps get everyone prepared for the semester ahead."

Nursing Skills Day was held on Aug. 30, with numerous stations set up on the third floor for students to interact with faculty in a number of different scenarios. From IV insertion to central line care, students were able to refresh their skills with help from BSON instructors and their peers.

There was a "luau" theme for this year's skills day. Hallways and [practice areas were decorated](#) with brightly colored flowers and some faculty could be seen wearing straw hats and leis.

In addition to skills practice, CVS Pharmacy was on hand to administer flu shots to students in preparation for their clinicals during the fall and winter seasons.



Students practice IV insertion during Nursing Skills Day with supervision from master faculty specialist Jennifer Brown

Common read event at WMU School of Medicine

Each year, the [Western Michigan University Homer Stryker School of Medicine](#) hosts an interdisciplinary "common read" event for the Kalamazoo health sciences community. The book for this year's event is **A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy**. The memoir raises important questions about trauma, grief and mental health. The common read event includes a lecture, small group discussion and book signing with the author, Sue Klebold.

Klebold is a strong advocate for mental health awareness and the mother of Dylan Klebold, one of the gunmen in the 1999 Columbine High School shooting.

The common read event is free, but [registration is required](#). The lecture will be held Sept. 29, at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the WMed Upjohn Building. More information about the book, author and event can be found [on the medical school's website](#).

