Connections 07/2018

College of Health and Human Services

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Grand reopening creates space for DPT and CHHS programs

On July 27, the college held a grand reopening ceremony to officially welcome the University community to the newly renovated space in the Ernest Wilbur Building. The space was primarily designed to accommodate classes in the new DPT program, but will also host classes from other disciplines in the college.

College celebrates Dean Earlie Washington

At the end of July, Dr. Earlie Washington will step down as dean of the College of Health and Human Services and return to the faculty of the School of Social Work. On July 27, the college hosted a celebration of her 12 years as dean.

Ishler Wellness Lab to expand interprofessional clinical education at CHHS
The College of Health and Human Services recently received a major gift to establish the George Ishler Wellness Lab. During fall 2018, the lab will begin to assemble faculty partners from CHHS for interprofessional collaboration.

**Celebrating the 2018 cohort of HCCP students**

2018 marked the second year of the Health Careers Connection Program at CHHS. The summer bridge program for incoming first-year students grew by 40% in 2018. The college celebrated the completion of the three week on-campus session with all our HCCP students and their families.

**Raise the W podcast highlights Empower Success program**

The Empower Success program from the Bronson School of Nursing was recently featured on Raise the W, a podcast from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Dr. Mary Ann Stark and Empower Success scholar Austin Seavolt spoke about the program and the success of its first year.

**PA students fill Invisible Need donation center**

A physician assistant class donated an enormous amount of food to the Invisible Need Project. This is a student-sponsored initiative undertaken by PA students every summer.

**HHS on Social Media**

We are incredibly excited to announce that the student applications for our developing DPT program at WMU are now OPEN! You can find our application requirements, a link to the application, and much more at w mich.edu/physicaltherapy/dpt.

From the Department of Physical Therapy via Facebook
In other news
Here are some other WMU news articles you might be interested in:

- WMU to launch intercultural and anthropological studies institute
- WMU appoints new VP for diversity and inclusion
- Women's aviation team places first among collegiate competitors

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.

Grand reopening creates space for DPT and CHHS programs

On July 27, the College of Health and Human Services held a grand reopening ceremony to officially welcome the University community to the newly renovated second floor of the Ernest Wilbur Building. The space was primarily designed to accommodate classes in the new Doctor of Physical Therapy program, but will also host classes from other disciplines in the college.

Dean Earlie Washington welcomed attendees to the event and spoke about the history and scope of the project. "The transformation of this second floor adds more than 13,000 square feet of classroom and lab space to CHHS and the University," according to Dean Washington. "And I say 'transformation,' because if you saw this space a year ago, you know that this has been more than just a renovation.”
Dr. Jennifer Bott, provost and vice president for academic affairs, and David Dakin, director of planning, space management and capital projects, spoke on behalf of the University.

David Johnson, vice president and higher education practice strategist, and Patty Boyle, corporate director of architecture, shared their perspectives from the architecture firm, SmithGroup JJR, while Greg Dobson, COO and principal at AVB represented the building company at the event.

After the short program, attendees were encouraged to explore the space, which includes classrooms, office space and unique lab spaces that will be used in the DPT program.
At the end of July, Dr. Earlie Washington stepped down as dean of the College of Health and Human Services and returned to faculty of the School of Social Work. On July 27, the college hosted a celebration of her 12-years as dean to thank her for her service and revel in her many successes.

Before the "old fashioned BBQ" could begin, there was a short ceremony as guests from across the University came to speak to the dean's service and successes. Speakers included:

- **President Edward Montgomery**
- **Dr. Dawn Fortin Matoon**, associate dean of Extended University Programs
- **Dr. Ann Tyler**, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services
- **Lisa Brennan**, executive director of the Western Regional Area Health Education Center
• Dr. Barbara Rider, emerita, donor and friend

Staff, faculty, emerita, students and alumni from the College of Health and Human Services were also well-represented at the event to convey their congratulations and thanks to Dean Washington.
Western Michigan University’s College of Health and Human Services recently received a major gift to establish the George Ishler Wellness Lab, which will be housed in a newly purchased property on Cork Street in Kalamazoo. The space will be renovated in the coming year and will be shared with WMU’s Adult Wellness Programs including Senior Day Services, which is currently located in rented space in a local church. Gretchen Ishler made the gift in the name of her late husband, Dr. George Ishler.

During the fall 2018 semester, Sandra Glista, master faculty specialist in the Department of Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, will begin to assemble faculty partners from the College of Health and Human Services for interprofessional collaboration related to the wellness lab.

“Our goal is to develop the lab’s programs to further the college’s clinical education foundations,” says Glista. “As with all of our clinical endeavors, we will build and strengthen practical, interprofessional skills in our students while providing health and wellness activities and services for older adults in our community.”

The wellness lab will focus on interprofessional practice for collaborative education with students from speech, language, and hearing sciences; music therapy; occupational therapy; physical therapy and nursing. In addition to clinical opportunities for graduate students, the wellness lab will also eventually offer an internship for undergraduate students in the Integrative Holistic Health and Wellness program, which emphasizes the use of healing arts with older adults.

In the community, the goal of the Ishler Wellness Lab is to help older adults remain actively engaged in daily activities and promote their independence with opportunities for professional treatment, social engagement and education. New services will be added to fully utilize the new space, according to Carol Sundberg, Ph.D., director of WMU’s Center for Disability Services, Aging Services and the Unified Clinics. “The new service additions will promote health and wellness for people with conditions that affect mobility, strength, ambulation, speech/language, cognition, hearing, vision and sensory function,” says Sundberg.
The new facility is expected to open in the fall of 2019.

Celebrating the 2018 cohort of HCCP students

Friends and family joined students at the 2018 HCCP celebration.

2018 marked the second year of the Health Careers Connection Program in the College of Health and Human Services. The summer bridge program for incoming first-year students grew by 40% in its second year. The college celebrated the completion of the three week on-campus session with all our HCCP students and their families.

Dean Earlie Washington spoke of the factors that led to initiating the program in the first place. "Only one of the 19 counties in the AHEC catchment area meets the recommended provider-to-patient ratio for primary care, dental and mental health providers," says Dean Washington. "And only nine of the 19 fall in the top 50th percentile for health outcomes."

Dean Washington praised the students for their efforts and urged perseverance to meet their goals. She also thanked donors Kendall and Susan Warren, who were in attendance, and whose endowed scholarship fund was established to support students in the program.

The evening included video messages from President Edward Montgomery and Interim Provost Susan Stapleton. In addition, Mary Middleton, executive director of the Cassopolis Family Clinic Network, and Sandy Siegel director of external & internal affairs at Baldwin Family Health Care, also spoke to the group of about the current state of health care in rural and underserved areas.

HCCP student Sabrina Welch shared her perspective as an active participant in the program. The program was closed by Dr. Martha Warfield, vice president for diversity and inclusion at WMU.
Raise the W podcast explores Empower Success program
The Empower Success program from the Bronson School of Nursing was recently featured on Raise the W, a podcast from the Office of Development and Alumni Relations. Dr. Mary Ann Stark, principle investigator for the Empowering Nursing Students for Success Grant, and Austin Seavolt, student and Empower Success scholar, were interviewed in a wide-ranging discussion.

Dr. Stark spoke about her upbringing in the southeast corner of Michigan and about the beginnings of the Empower Success program. Seavolt spoke about his background and the ways the program helped him through his previous year's studies.

LISTEN TO INTERVIEW

The podcast celebrates Western Michigan University and features stories from and about the people, places and programs that help make WMU a great place to learn.

Raise the W is available on iTunes.

PA students fill Invisible Need donation center

The bins were relatively empty before the class brought down their donations.
A physician assistant class recently brought down an enormous amount of food donations for the Invisible Need Project. This is something the class does every year during the summer sessions.

"This is an annual donation that the class makes," says Phil Walcott, master faculty specialist in the PA department. "They know that it's very important because the food pantry is open year round and donations tend to slow down in the summer."

"The students filled all the donation baskets to the point of overflowing," says Helen Beck, coordinator of the Learning Resource Center in the College of Health and Human Services. "This really shows how much our students care for those in need."

The donation center is located in the Learning Resource Center on the first floor of the College of Health and Human Services building.

More information about the Invisible Need Project, including ways to make donations, can be found on MyWMU.