

The Health Sciences Herald

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Greetings from the Occupational Therapy Program!

Dr. Larry Snyder, Head, Department of Occupational Therapy

Welcome to the Occupational Therapy issue of the Herald!

Occupational therapy is one of the rehab professions that focuses on assisting and facilitating clients to regain their independence. The term *occupation* in occupational therapy means everything a person does except for sleep. Therefore, when someone has suffered a disease, illness, injury, or developmental delay that results in functional limitations, it is our job to help them regain their maximum independence. OTs work with all age groups in all health care settings, public school systems, and community agencies.



Occupational therapy has also been listed in a number of publications as one of the best recession proof careers. Employment for our graduates has been 100% with students finding jobs within a month of graduation and many have secured jobs even before graduation.

Our OT program has been in existence at TSU since 1991. It began and continued as an undergraduate program which offered a BS degree in occupational therapy up until 2006. Per a mandate from the occupational therapy accreditation body, as of January 1, 2007 all OT programs had to transition to the graduate level. Since that transition we have seen a steady growth in applications (up 148% from 2007).

The faculty members in the occupational therapy department are diverse and have varied expertise and experience including, business and administration, mental health, general rehabilitation, hand therapy, pediatrics, long term care, acute care, industrial rehabilitation, farmers with disabilities, and working in the prison system. Faculty members have had their research published in peer reviewed journals and many have presented at professional conferences.

Many of the faculty members participate in service learning and community volunteerism. OT students participate in service projects at a local developmental day care center, several elementary schools, local family health clinic, and working with the Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association. Throughout this edition you will read about the activities of the faculty and students in the OT department.

Again, welcome to the department of occupational therapy at Tennessee State University.
Occupational therapy – Living Life to the Fullest!

OT Students Receive Honors at TSU Symposium



Two occupational therapy student research groups placed second and third at the 33rd Annual University-wide Research Symposium. For 2011, there were 156 student authors and 17 faculty authors for oral presentations and posters. The student groups placed second and third in the *Graduate Poster – Psychology and Health Science* category. Pictured on the left are the student groups along with departmental faculty. Front row left to right: Jessica Spivey, Holly Beth Roach, Melanie Pond, Kaitlyn Seaman, Dr. Larry Snyder –second row Dr. Michelle Bradshaw, Jonathan McNulty, Jonathan Farmer, Stephen Blazer, and Matt Brashear.

OT Faculty Co-Directs Summer Camp for Disabled Youth

“...the camp not only provides activity opportunities, but also minimizes the barriers to participation that these kids may encounter.”



On July 26 to 30, 2011, Middle Tennessee State University served as the location for Camp ENRGY, a summer youth camp for young people with disabilities. Co-directing the camp is **Dr. Sandy Stevens**, a faculty member in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Tennessee State University.

Camp ENRGY stands for Excellence 'N' Recreation and Games for Youth. During the camp, participants had the opportunity to try a number of sports and activities, including basketball, football, and golf. Pictured below are some of the activities and campers who participated in the camp.

According to Dr. Stevens, the camp not only provides activity opportunities but also minimizes the barriers to participation that these kids may encounter. Check out the following You Tube link to see more about the recently conducted Camp ENRGY: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yo8xxSLdqa>



Handwriting Clinic Provides Service Learning Opportunity for OT Students



This year the occupational therapy students at Tennessee State University had a unique opportunity to participate in a service learning course and at the same time help out children with handwriting and fine motor difficulties. Occupational therapists often work in school systems on handwriting difficulties as well as fine motor difficulties and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) skills as they pertain to the school environment. Fine motor skills may include cutting with scissors, making crafts or even opening small packages in their school environment.

Mr. Stephen Penick, Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy, helped establish the Handwriting Clinic for students from preschool up to first grade. The Handwriting Clinic was established at Ross Elementary School with the help of Dr. Angela Chapman, principal of Ross Elementary and an alumnus of TSU, and Ms. Lori Arrington, special education teacher at Ross Elementary. Pictured below are some of the activities from the Handwriting Clinic.

For more information about the Handwriting Clinic, feel free to contact Mr. Penick at extension 5953 or by email at spenick@tnstate.edu



When occupational therapy says the impossible is possible, we help people live life to its fullest. When occupational therapy sets unreachable goals and makes them reachable, we help people live life to its fullest. Occupational Therapy: Living Life to Its Fullest!

American Occupational Therapy Association

*** News Around the College ***

October is National Physical Therapy Month!



Every October, physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students nationwide celebrate National Physical Therapy Month. This year, the focus of PT Month is on **sports injury prevention across the lifespan**. To find out more about a physical therapist's role in sports injury prevention, please visit the following website: www.moveforwardpt.com. To learn more about the Doctor of Physical Therapy program at TSU, please visit our website at www.tnstate.edu/pt.

The First Graduates of the Master of Public Health Program: Where Are They Now?

Dr. Mohamed Kanu, Program Director, MPH Program

The MPH program, which recently graduated its first class, is already making its mark in the local community. In May 2011, the program graduated its inaugural class and some of these new graduates are already boosting the local public health workforce by contributing their skills toward the development of various sectors of the public health arena. A few months following graduation, Ms. Angel Sherrill was offered employment as Research Coordinator at Vanderbilt University, while Krystal Massey is Community Health Educator at Matthew Walkers' Community Health Center. Another graduate, Ms. Malinda Brooks is Research Associate/Case Manager at Meharry Medical College while Mr. Michael Paul decided to further his education and is now in medical school at Meharry Medical College. The program accepted 18 students for the fall 2011 semester and will graduate more students in November 2011.



“The Master of Public Health program... is already making its mark in the local community.”

TSU Alliance with the Green Hills Senior Health Center

Dr. Rosemary Theriot, Head, Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences



Tennessee State University was asked to establish a Medicare-certified Outpatient Rehabilitation Unit at the Green Hills Senior Health Center utilizing Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Pathology & Audiology and Nursing. The ultimate goal of this joint venture is to establish a full service Geriatric Center within the facility. This project is important because it has the potential of revenue generation and research opportunities for the College of Health Sciences and Tennessee State University. Green Hills Senior Health Center currently serves as a clinical site for student placements in Nursing, Health Care Administration and Human Performance and Sports Science (HPSS). We appreciate Mr. Paul Miller for selecting TSU as a premier institution to establish and provide health care services to Nashville and the surrounding counties.

*** News Around the College ***

Dental Hygiene Faculty Presented, Elected, and Honored at National Meeting

“Ms. Newbern has taught in all aspects of the Dental Hygiene Program... since 1975.”

T. Carla Newbern, RDH, M.Ed., was elected President of the National Dental Hygienists’ Association at its 49th annual meeting in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Newbern is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Dental Hygiene at Tennessee State University for more than thirty years. A graduate of Meharry Medical College’s Dental Hygiene Program, Ms. Newbern has taught in all aspects of dental hygiene including the coordination of freshman level courses, admissions, and periodontics since 1975. She has served as advisor to the Student American Dental Hygienists’ Association as well as pre-dental hygiene students. Prior to joining academia, Ms. Newbern practiced clinical dental hygiene at Matthew Walker Health Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a member of the National Dental Hygienists’ Association, American Dental Hygienists’ Association, Tennessee Dental Hygienists’ Association, and Nashville Area Dental Hygienists’ Association (past Trustee). She also started Music City National Dental Hygienists’ Association a local component chapter, along with the Student Chapter at Tennessee State University.



Ms. Newbern presented a paper at the Minority Faculty Administrators’ and Practitioners’ Forum at the 98th National Dental Association’s Convention in Baltimore, MD in July of 2011. She spoke on “The role of Dental Hygienists’ in Student Recruitment”. At this same meeting, Ms. Newbern was awarded the 2011 NDHA Member of the Year Award, Component Member Award, Professional Distinction Award, Community Service Award, Mentor of the Year Award, and the Outstanding Clinician Award.

COHS Faculty Attends Health Disparities Training Course and Contributes to Publication



Dr. Elizabeth Williams, Department of Public Health, Health Administration and Health Sciences, was selected from a national call to participate in the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHHD/NIH) 2nd Translational Health Disparities Course in June-July 2011. Hosted at the National Institutes of Health campus in Bethesda, Maryland, the 2-week course featured leading researchers in the areas of health disparities, health equity and cultural competency. Dr. Williams was one of 55 scholars from academic institutions, federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to participate in the course.

Along with other TSU faculty members, Dr. Williams was also a contributor to the recently released *Encyclopedia of African American Popular Culture* published by Greenwood Press. The TSU group represented one of the largest from a single institution with encyclopedia entries.

Health Sciences Well Represented in the TBR Research Academy

Congratulations are in order for the following faculty members from the College of Health Sciences who have been selected to attend the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR) Research Academy: **Diane Campbell** (Nursing), **Elizabeth Knox** (Nursing), **Dierdre Jones** (Nursing), **Kesha Rushing** (Nursing), and **Elizabeth Williams** (Public Health).

*** News Around the College ***

Speech Pathology Students win Third Place in Research Day Poster Presentation

Undergraduate students from the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology placed third in the 33rd Annual University-wide Research Symposium. Members of the group include **Cierra Love Baker, Daniel Flatt, Alex Gibbs, Jeanna LaNier, Lauren Phillips** and **Lauren Prather**. The students presented a poster entitled African American English and Hip Hop in the *Undergraduate Poster - Psychology and Health Science* category.



Veteran's Day: Honoring Those Who Served



Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11th. The day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served in the military - in wartime or peacetime. The College of Health Sciences is honored to have at least four veterans in its current faculty ranks. They are **Dr. Rosemary Theriot**, Former Interim Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Head of the Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences (Army); **Dr. Marian Patton**, Head, Department of Dental Hygiene (Navy); **Dr. Larry Snyder**, Head, Department of Occupational Therapy (Navy), and **Dr. Beverly Brown**, Faculty, Division of Nursing (Navy).

To these and other veterans, thank you for your service to the country!

“Memorial Day honors service members who died in service to their country or as a result of injuries incurred during battle. Veterans Day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served honorably in the military - in wartime or peacetime.”

Dental Hygiene Open House Celebrated

On August 26, 2011 the Department of Dental Hygiene held its Open House in celebration of its 2.4 million dollar “state of the art” facility renovation. The TSU Aristocrat of Bands provided engaging music prior to the official ribbon cutting. At one o’clock, the ribbon was cut by the department head, Dr. Marian Williams Patton, and the doors were opened to this marvelous technologically advanced clinic made possible by Title III funding. Many persons visited the clinic that day including former dental hygiene students, faculty, patients, community persons, and dental professionals. All were impressed with the facility. The Vice President of the Public Relations firm of former Congressman, Bob Clement, was also on hand representing the Clement family for whom the building was named.

The dental hygiene clinic provides access to quality oral health care services to assist individuals in eliminating and preventing oral diseases. Dental hygiene students provide the oral health care services under the direct supervision of licensed dental hygienists and dentists. To find out more about the new facility and the services or to schedule an appointment, please call the clinic at (615) 963-5791.



Grant Funding from the Department of Labor Received for Second Year

The Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences was awarded an additional \$50,000 for a second year of funding from the U. S. Department of Labor Veterans Workforce Investment Program. The grant award is a continuation of an agreement between Operation Stand Down Nashville, TSU, Actus Community Foundation, and Campbell Crossing to partner in developing, coordinating, and providing training in the “green jobs industry” for veterans.

*** News Around the College ***



Dental Hygiene Student Receives Award

Ms. Kianna Lyles was awarded the Mary Hawkins National Dental Hygiene Association Award during its 49th annual meeting in Baltimore, MD in July 2011. The award carries a monetary amount of \$5,000. Ms. Lyle's goals are to receive a BS/Masters degree in Dental Hygiene, pursue dental school, open an affordable family friendly practice, and start a summer program focusing on dentistry for underserved children who hope to become hygienists and dentists.

She plans to promote the National Dental Hygiene Association by becoming a mentor and role model to others in the dental hygiene profession. Pictured above is Ms. Lyles receiving the award from **T. Carla Newbern, RDH, M.Ed.**, who was elected President of the National Hygienists' Association at the same meeting.

"The program is designed to provide participants with an in-depth exposure to University administration, and policy-making."

COHS Faculty Participates as President's Fellows

Dr. Iris Johnson-Arnold, Associate Professor of Speech Pathology and **Dr. David A. Lehman**, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, are participating in the 2011-12 President's Fellows Program. The program is designed to provide participants with an in-depth exposure to University administration, and policy-making. The program provides mentoring, networking, research opportunities, university service, and guidance in preparation for career advancement for emerging leaders. Dr. Lehman joins a cadre of COHS faculty members who have participated in the program, including **Dr. Natalie Housel** (2009-10) and **Dr. Tom Bukoskey** (2010-11). Congratulations, Drs. Johnson-Arnold and Lehman!

A Heart and Passion for Counseling and Advocacy



Ms. Debra Smart has been with the Occupational Therapy program since 1997. An occupational therapist by profession and education, Ms. Smart also has a heart and passion for counseling and advocacy. She has a license in school counseling, and is a group facilitator for the Batterer's Intervention Program at Kelly Miller Smith Center Against Abusive Behavior. Currently, Ms. Smart is enrolled at the Nashville Conflict Resolution Center to become a Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 31 Certified Mediator for civil disputes. She is also working on becoming a licensed professional counselor with an emphasis on mental health issues for children and youth.

Drs. Johnson and Williams to Participate in Cancer Partnership Grant

Dr. Owen Johnson, **Dr. Elizabeth Williams** and colleagues from Tennessee State University are part of a team of investigators who were successfully funded through the Meharry-Vanderbilt-Tennessee State University U-54 Cancer Partnership Grant. The 5-year multisite award provided by the National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (NCI/NIH) centers on addressing cancer health disparities in racial and ethnic minorities in Tennessee and increasing the research capacity of investigators of color and HBCUs to conduct basic, behavioral and translational science on cancer disparities. Dr. Johnson will serve as a co-PI on the pilot project with the Biostatistical Core and Dr. Williams will serve as co-leader for the Community Outreach Core and co-PI on pilot project funded through the grant.



Call for Manuscripts and Reviewers: The National Society of Allied Health Journal

Edition: Spring/Summer 2012

Deadline for Submitting Manuscripts: October 15, 2011

Submission address: rtheriot@tnstate.edu

The *National Society of Allied Health Journal* is a fully refereed *Journal*. The aim and scope of the *Journal* is to provide educators, students, practitioners, federal and state government officials, and the public with the latest research and trends affecting the health care status of African Americans and economically disadvantaged populations. The *Journal* is devoted to scholarly writing that addresses:

1. Current theory and practice research;
2. Future trends in theory and practice;
3. Current research studies pertaining to African Americans and disadvantaged populations;
4. Identification of sources that critically examine local and national health problems, and
5. A description of programs and services that promote national health initiatives.

All manuscripts are reviewed using a blind peer-review process. Manuscripts are judged based on the significance of the problem, authenticity of the contribution, and whether research claims advance the profession of allied health. **Manuscripts may be e-mailed to the Editor at: rtheriot@tnstate.edu.**

In 2007, the *Journal* entered into a license agreement with EBSCO Publishing Company. EBSCO is the world's largest intermediary between libraries and publishers and one of the most trusted academic publishers. Over 90% of academic institutions worldwide have subscriptions to one or more EBSCO host databases (www.ebscohost.com). EBSCO recently notified the *NSAH Journal* that the *NSAH Journal* was chosen to be included in a special database. This decision was based on the *Journal's* content and the quality of the *Journal*. Along with this special acknowledgement is a guaranteed yearly royalty payment. When the agreement expires in three years with Proquest and the Gale Group, EBSCO Publishing Company has agreed to enter into an exclusive agreement to carry the *NSAH Journal*. This agreement carries a guaranteed yearly royalty payment of \$5,000.

In 2008, Proquest Publishing Company signed an agreement to carry the *Journal*. Proquest has been in the secondary publishing business for nearly 70 years and is one of the most respected names in the industry (www.proquest.com).

In 2009, the *NSAH Journal* signed a three year licensing agreement with the Gale Group, Inc. Publishing Company. Gale is a part of Cengage Learning and a world leader in e-research and educational publishing for libraries, schools and businesses (www.Cengage.com). All of these agreements are significant because it assures researchers that their work will receive maximum exposure nationally and internationally.

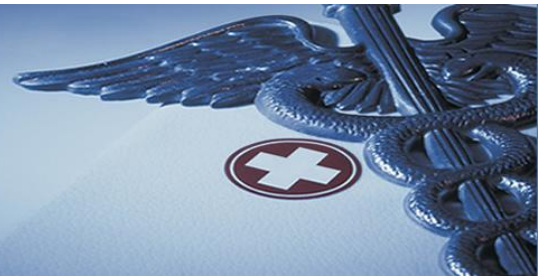
The members of the NSAH Editorial Board include:

- Dr. Pamela Burch-Sims (Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Andrew Bond (Retired Dean, Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Anne Jenkins (Winston Salem State University)
- Dr. Angela Davis (Alabama State University)
- Dr. Rosemary Theriot, Editor (Tennessee State University)
- Dr. Mosunmola George-Taylor, Associate Editor (Chattanooga State Community College)
- Dr. Jacqueline Beck (Retired Dean, Florida A&M University)
- Dr. Robin Washington (Governors State University).

For the past four years, the *Journal* has been produced at Tennessee State University in the College of Health Sciences (Howard University was the prior publisher). The *National Society of Allied Health Journal* is published once a year in March and the deadline to submit manuscripts is October 15th.

“The aim and scope of the Journal is to provide educators, students, practitioners, federal and state government officials, and the public with the latest research and trends affecting the health care status of African Americans and economically disadvantaged populations.”





College of Health Sciences

Welcome to the New College of Health Sciences



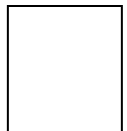
It is my pleasure to announce the formation of the NEW College of Health Sciences at Tennessee State University. Our College is now the largest one at TSU and is twice the size of the “old” College of Health Sciences. The College, which now includes the Division of Nursing and the Department of Health Performance, has responsibility for over 80 faculty, 20 programs, 2600 students, and 3 Clinics that serve the public. We have a full array of programs, from Associate to Bachelor to Master to Doctoral degrees and Certificate programs.

College outcomes are excellent. For example, I was pleased to announce at Faculty Institute that graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program had a 94% pass rate, and the Associate of Science in Nursing graduates had a 95% pass rate on their board exams. So far, with the scores still being reported, there is a 100% pass rate for graduates of the Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Dental Hygiene and Cardiorespiratory Care Sciences programs. Further, several of our programs boast of a 100% employment rate for graduates, many of them in the local Nashville community.

From the Rough, a movie about based on Dr. Catana Starks' coaching experience, will be released this fall. The movie describes how a coach of a women's swim team parlays her success into an opportunity to build her school's men's golf team. TSU is featured prominently in the movie,

As you read the Herald, you will learn much more about the successes of our students and faculty. We look forward to another year of excellence.

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