

SCHOOL OF Allied Health Sciences



SAHS January/February Newsletter

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Congratulations to Dr. Steve Harrison for successfully defending his dissertation! Dr. Harrison will be receiving his PhD in Art from the University of Georgia after persisting and persevering on a part-time basis to earn his degree.

May his accomplishment serve as an inspiration to others who are also pursuing an advanced degree.



Respiratory therapy student earns top national award

After watching her older sister struggle to breathe Cierra Fortson knew she wanted to help other children with breathing problems.

"Cierra is a good, determined student," says Kitty Hernlen, assistant professor in the Department of Respiratory Therapy. "We're blessed to have a lot of really great students, but Cierra has the extra 'umph.'"

That extra "umph" earned the Elberton, Ga., native national recognition from the American Respiratory Care Foundation. She recently received the Robert M. Lawrence, MD Education Recognition Award, a \$2,500 award given annually to a student for their academic standing, recommendations from faculty and medical director and original scholarly paper on some aspect of respiratory care.

MCG's respiratory therapy students consistently excel in national recognition, says Dr. Randy Baker, chair of the Department of Respiratory Therapy. Cierra is one of 15 MCG respiratory therapy students to garner a national award from the American Respiratory Care Foundation over the past 10 years.

Cierra hopes to return to her hometown to practice and is considering specializing in neonatal or pediatric respiratory care. **Read More ...**

MCG student named Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student of the Year

Kate Baly remembers how great it felt when she finally learned to tie her shoes.

Ms. Baly had a stroke after birth, leaving her left side weakened. The occupational therapist that helped her learn to tie her shoes also inspired her career choice.



The senior occupational therapy student in the Medical College of Georgia School of Allied Health Sciences was recently named the 2008 Outstanding Occupational Therapy Student of the Year. The award is given annually by the Georgia Occupational Therapy Association for outstanding academic achievement, community service and leadership. **Read More ...**



Please join us in congratulating Dr. Carol Campbell for being awarded the designation Fellow of the American Health Information Management Association (FAHIMA).

Recognition as Fellow is one of the highest achievements in anyone's professional career. The AHIMA Fellowship Review Committee found that Dr. Campbell clearly demonstrates sustained and significant contributions to the health information management profession.

In addition, the selection Committee stated its confidence that she will continue to be a committed contributor to the profession and an excellent representative of the HIM profession in the future.

Congratulations Carol!

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• **2008 State Charitable Contribution Program Update**

A HUGE "Thank You" to those who contributed to and supported this past year's State Charitable Contribution Campaign. MCG, once again, exceeded all expectations! Participation more than doubled from the previous year, with total participation at 15.84% (SAHS 23.48%) of employees, up from 6.81%. Contributions to the campaign also exceeded the previous year's giving and totaled \$64,738. As we all face challenging economic times, the School is, so much, appreciative of all of our faculty and staff who supported this campaign. We, also, are very much appreciative of our departmental unit coordinators who worked many long hours to support the campaign with pledge drives and fund raisers. The School would not have achieved this level of success without them!

• **Exploring Careers in Allied Health**

A. R. Johnson Magnet School has designated the month of April for the School of Allied Health Sciences to present the "Tools of the Trade" to their students so they can learn about the various tools used in each of the disciplines in our School of Allied Health Science departments. Last year, we presented this program to the freshmen and general career information to the sophomores, junior and seniors. The specific dates and times have yet to be determined, and will be coordinated by Ms. Ramona Aune. The department chairs will be contacted in the near future to let you know more details. Please consider participating in this worthwhile endeavor.

• **ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS! SAHS Volunteer Leadership Tracking Program**

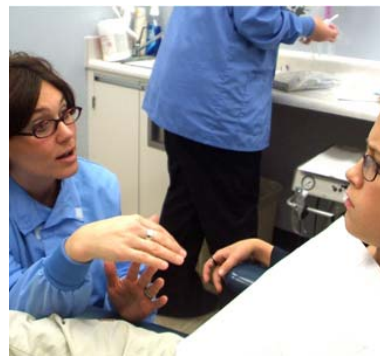
Please remember to log your volunteer and leadership hours in One45. These hours are utilized for the Alumni Association scholarships, Alpha Upsilon Phi Service Honor Society Membership Scholarships and also for school-side tracking purposes, so please don't forget to track these important contributions to service.

• **Patient Family-Centered Care Learning Lab**

The PFCC Learning Lab was held on January 7 from 12-4pm at the MCG Alumni Center. Approximately 60 SAHS faculty and staff attended the lab, which was hosted by SAHS and presented by Ms. Pat Sodomka and the MCG Center for Patient and Family-Centered Care. The learning lab, which was tailored just for SAHS, gave our school a starting point to create opportunities for leadership, innovative strategies, partnering, and advancing patient and family-centered care at MCG and within the SAHS. You may access the Tegrity recording and PowerPoint presentations at: <http://sahs.mcg.edu/sah/pfcc/index.aspx> (username PFCC; password PFCC).

• **Notice of Upcoming Event: Interdisciplinary Development Series**

March 11, 2009, 12-1pm, Greenblatt Library, room 108
 This will be the first of a series of lunch meetings to discuss interdisciplinary opportunities within the SAHS. This first meeting will be a follow-up to the PFCC Learning Lab on January 7. We will discuss the results of the "magic wand" exercise and next steps to incorporate PFCC into the SAHS. The next



MCG schools collaborate to give kids a smile on Feb. 6

Dental hygiene and dental students from the Medical college of Georgia Schools of Allied Health Sciences and Dentistry provided free treatment to elementary and middle-school students in conjunction with Give Kids a Smile Day. This event, one of hundreds nationwide sponsored by the American Dental Association and Crest Oral Health Care, was initiated in 2003 to provide care and highlight the importance of access to dental care for low-income children.

Welcome

Ms. April Bowen and Ms. Brittany Barnes, work study students. Ms. Bowen, a DHI student and Ms. Barnes, an OT student, have been hired by our School to assist with instructional support. Both will be assisting Mr. Meyer with system cleanup and software installations on student and classroom computers.



Announcements

♥♥ **Homecoming**
April 23-26

♥♥ **SAHS Banquet and Reception**
Saturday, April 25th

Deadlines

- **Team MCG09 Kickoff Breakfast** (for team captains) - February 5, 8AM, GPI Gym
- **Departmental Who's Who** Information due (to Kathy Stone) - February 13
- **Departmental Self-Assessment 3rd Quarter** Submission due - February 27
- **MCG Homecoming** - April 23-26
- **Team MCG09 Celebration Bar-B-Que** (for team captains) - May 1, 11:30AM, Alumni Center Courtyard
- **SAHS Hooding and Honors Ceremony**, May 7, 6PM, Bell Auditorium
- **MCG Graduation**, May 8, 2PM, James Brown Arena

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Homecoming Events

(Thursday – April 23)

Respiratory Therapy CE Program, Topic: "Clinical Preceptor Training," 8am-5pm, EC (contact: Kitty Hernlen, 721-3554)

Respiratory Therapy Vendor Fair, 10am-2pm, EC (contact: Kitty Hernlen, 721-3554)

Respiratory Therapy Reception, 7pm, Location TBA (contact: Susan Whiddon, 721-3554)

(Friday – April 24)

Dental Hygiene Alumni Day presentations, "Enamel Therapy: The Next Generation of Care" and "Professional and Predictable Take-Home Tooth Whitening," 7:30am-12:30pm, Alumni Center (contact: Division of CE, 721-3967)

Physician Assistant CME Primary Care Update, 9am-4pm, EC (contact: Wendy Paschal, 721-3246)

Health Informatics Luncheon and Student Research Poster Presentations, 12-2pm, EB First Floor (contact: Nakia Walden, 721-3436)

3rd Annual Art Hardy Memorial Golf Tournament, 12:30pm, Forest Hills Golf Course (contact: Art Taft, 721-3554)

Clinical Laboratory Science/Medical Technology CE Class, 1-2:30pm, EC (contact Jan Bane, 721-3046)
Hospitality Suite, 3-5pm, Marriott Hotel and Suites, Terrace Room

Biomedical and Radiological Technologies Reception, Dinner and Awards Program, 6:30pm reception, 7pm dinner/awards, Savannah Rapids Pavilion (contact: Jan Bane, 721-3046)

Medical Illustration Get-Together, 6:30-9:30pm, Location TBA (contact: Grace Miller, 721-1011)

Physical Therapy Class of 1989 Reunion, 6:30pm, Location TBA (contact 721-2141)

(Saturday – April 25)

Physical Therapy: A Balanced Breakfast, 8-9am, EC first floor (contact: 721-2141)

Orville Parkes CE Program, 8:45-11am, EC (contact: Grace Miller, 721-1011)

Physical Therapy CE Program, "PT Management of Fracture," 9-11am, EC (contact: Eric Robertson, 721-2141)

President's Cookout, 12-2pm, President's Home

Hospitality Suite, 3-5pm, Marriott Hotel and Suites, Terrace Room

2009 Orville Parkes MCG Alumni Art Exhibit Pre-Reception, 5-6pm, Marriott Hotel and Suites (contact: Grace Miller, 721-1011)

2009 Orville Parkes MCG Alumni Art Exhibit, 6pm, Marriott Hotel and Suites 2nd floor (contact: Grace Miller, 721-1011)

School of Allied Health Sciences Reception, Banquet and Distinguished Alumnus Presentation, 6pm reception, 6:30 banquet, Marriott Hotel and Suites (contact: Grace Miller, 721-1011)

SAHS Homecoming Dance, 9:30pm-until, Marriott Hotel and Suites, Oglethorpe Ballroom

SAHS Appointments

- **Mark Wolgin**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department (effective 1/1/09)
- **Benjamin Levison**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department (effective 1/15/09)
- **Katherine Lawhead**, Clinical Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department (effective 2/1/09)
- **Lisa Lowther**, Assistant Professor, Physician Assistant Department (effective 2/6/09)

Retirees



Regina Mobley

Assistant Professor,
Department of Biomedical
and Radiological Sciences
(effective 1/01/09).

Remember to send information for the March/April newsletter to Ramona Aune at raune@mcg.edu no later than March 20th.

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Message from the Dean ...

The School of Allied Health Science (SAHS) is actively implementing our strategic plan for 2008-2012, kicking off several initiatives to bring the faculty together to promote interdisciplinary collaboration. Faculty participated in the Patient and Family Centered Care (PFCC) "Learning Lab" held on January 7 from 12-4pm. You may access the Tegrity recording and PowerPoint presentations at: <http://sahs.mcg.edu/sah/pfcc/index.aspx> (username PFCC; password PFCC). I am enthusiastic about the positive feedback from the evaluations, as well as the numerous suggestions by the faculty via the "magic wand" exercise for moving this forward. We will be discussing the results of the "magic wand" exercise at our first Interdisciplinary Development Series lunch on March 11, from 12-1pm in room 108 of the Greenblatt Library. (Bring your own lunch. Drinks will be provided.) Please plan to attend future School-wide opportunities for further incorporation of PFCC into our teaching, research and patient care service.

The School is also actively pursuing the various ways that we incorporate technology in teaching for innovation, enrollment, and meeting the workforce needs in allied health. A strategic focus is to increase the amount of interdisciplinary collaboration leading to increased numbers of presentations, publications and grant submissions for this strategic goal. We have some wonderful expertise and successes in our School and are seeking ways to share this not only across our School, but to larger audiences on and off campus. If you have not seen the SAHS strategic plan, please take a look at it on our School web pages and reflect on how you see yourself advancing the vision and mission. I welcome any input and suggestions from faculty on achieving our strategic goals and objectives.

Like the rest of the nation, the SAHS is preparing for additional cuts in state funding for the remainder of this year and next year. Consequently, I have requested additional qualitative and quantitative data from our department chairs for each of our programs as part of the budget preparation for FY '10. It will be important to make budget decisions that will not jeopardize the quality of our programs or the preparation of our graduates who contribute directly to workforce and economic development. To quote Dr. Rahn during his State of the School Address to MCG students on January 21st, "It will be important to differentiate when it is possible to do 'more with less' and when it becomes doing 'less with less'."

I commend everyone involved for your timely responses to help us conduct a thorough and systematic assessment of our school's programs and its resources. Over 20% of the School's budget is currently through grants and contracts, with additional resources through the faculty practice plan, department sales, continuing education and gifts. These other revenue sources have provided distinct opportunities for stability and even growth during tight economic times. The State of Georgia's economy and its commitment to higher education makes us a state that will fare better than most during these difficult financial times. I thank all of you who are able to stay focused on our mission and positive about our future. Working together, the SAHS will continue to make great accomplishments in the health sciences!

The School has many exciting events planned during MCG Homecoming, April 23-26, including numerous continuing education programs, the SAHS Reception and Banquet recognizing our Distinguished Alumnus and featuring a special presentation by Ron Courson, ATC, PT, NREMT-1, CSCS (PT '89), Head Trainer for the Sports Program at the University of Georgia. The Clinical Laboratory Sciences program will celebrate its 50th anniversary; the Nuclear Medicine program its 40th; and the Diagnostic Medical Sonography program its 25th. Medical Illustration will celebrate its 60th anniversary and will host an Orville Parkes MCG Alumni Art Exhibit at the Marriott Hotel. Physical Therapy who will host a Class of 1989 Reunion Dinner and Respiratory Therapy will host the Third Annual Art Hardy Memorial Golf Tournament at Forest Hills Golf Course. Please see the program for further details. I look forward to seeing you, our alumni and special guests at all of these wonderful events!