

# IMPACT

*Engage. Serve. Collaborate. Learn.*



**WKU**<sup>®</sup>

Western Kentucky University College of Health and Human Services • Academic Year 2015-2016

# Message from the Dean

My first year at WKU has flown by. I am very pleased to see the continued growth and exciting initiatives taking place in the College of Health and Human Services.

It is truly an honor to serve as Dean. This year has been rich and full and this magazine provides the opportunity to share just a few of the accomplishments of our students, alumni, faculty, and staff in CHHS. I hope you enjoy the inaugural edition of *CHHS IMPACT: Engage. Serve. Collaborate. Learn!*

We continue to enjoy a large student enrollment with well over 5,000 students, robust community partners, productive engagement and service learning opportunities, and extremely fruitful job placement for our graduates. We are implementing new academic programs to accommodate workforce needs for Southcentral Kentuckians and beyond. Our units worked hard to equip students, staff, and faculty to be innovative and transformative through exemplary programs and opportunities in health and human services. Throughout this magazine, you will see examples of this commitment to excellence through the work of our students, staff, and faculty.

CHHS is uniquely positioned to make a vital impact for Southcentral Kentuckians. We are concerned with the health and wellness of families, communities, and individuals across the lifespan. Collectively, we are challenged to be human change agents by creating a community of scholars dedicated to the education of next generation of health and human services practitioners who are committed to enhancing the quality of life and health where people live, work, and play. The value of CHHS is the integration of knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise related to the many factors that influence population health and health outcomes

I look forward to the success that I know our units will have in this upcoming academic year. Thank you for your support of the College of Health and Human Services and the impact that support has on our local community. As a college, we are evolving to meet the needs of the ever-changing landscape of healthcare and applied sciences so that our students, staff, and faculty can continue to be innovative and transformative in their respective fields.

As always, we appreciate the support of our alumni and community partners. Please feel free to drop me a line or come by my office. I welcome the occasion to visit with you!

Warm Regards,



**Neale R. Chumbler, Ph.D.**  
Dean, College of Health and Human Services



**Q: What have you enjoyed most during your first full academic year as Dean of CHHS?**

I enjoyed hearing the thoughts of CHHS' many internal and external stakeholders including students, faculty, and staff. It was crucially important for me to consider all perspectives as I developed a solid grasp of the people's strengths and depth of programs. Hearing from these multiple perspectives enabled me to discover all of the excellent academic programs we have and to recognize the high achieving students that CHHS attracts and graduates from. And, of course, watching the Tops become a top 25 Division I football team in our "backyard".

**Q: What are your research interests?**

Over the past 20+ years in academia, my research agenda has centered on identifying barriers and implementing facilitators that increase access to timely health care for community-dwelling citizens. This endeavor continues to be breathtaking because I have been fortunate to find mechanisms that overcome barriers that individuals, many of whom have co-morbid health conditions, experience accessing health services.

**Q: How do you see the college making an impact in the Bowling Green community and region, the state of Kentucky, and beyond?**

As a regional comprehensive university, WKU, and in particular CHHS, is at an ideal crossroads for impacting Southcentral Kentuckians to help improve their quality of life and to provide human services. I will continue to provide support to build collaborations across and outside of campus. We have the great opportunity to facilitate novel interprofessional healthcare work to meet the unmet health care needs of Southcentral Kentuckians.

We will continue to gain a better understanding of stakeholder perceptions and analyze stakeholder input. These perceptions are vital as we move forward in the years ahead. We will foster greater focus on applied research that benefits the city and region. I also want to bolster economic and community partnerships through partnering on mutually beneficial projects.

**Q: What are some things you're excited about for the future of CHHS?**

There are many things that I'm excited about for the future of CHHS! I will continue to implement organizational changes that will streamline and enhance academic instruction and maximize human potential by hiring high quality, diverse, and talented individuals. I will partner with the faculty and staff to ensure student success to increase student retention, progression, and graduation rates. There's been a shift nationally that undergraduate research is one of the better methods for student retention. Faculty who are active in scholarship tend to keep their courses more up to date. To that end, I will invest in more immersive learning opportunities for our students. Immersive learning brings together interdisciplinary, student-driven teams guided by faculty mentors to create high-impact learning experiences. Through immersive learning, students earn credit for working collaboratively with businesses, nonprofits, and state agencies to address community challenges. Whether one is a student, family member, or community partner, I will aim to find the resources to prepare for and engage in immersive learning projects that blends their interests and educational focus with societal needs.

**Q: What do you like to do to relax when you're not busy being the Dean?**

I like to spend time with my family, I am very active in my local church functions, I like to exercise, and I like to read.

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# POINTS of PRIDE



## THE DEPARTMENT OF ALLIED HEALTH

- A \$1.4 million state-of-the-art renovation was completed for the Dental Hygiene clinic, lab, and offices. These upgrades have significantly impacted the quality of instruction and services of the Dental Hygiene program.
- The Health Information Management baccalaureate degree program was accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) in February 2016.



## THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION SCIENCES AND DISORDERS

- Two faculty members were elected to lead the Kentucky Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA). Dr. Janice Carter Smith will serve as President and Dr. Leigh Anne Roden-Carrier will serve as Treasurer.
- In March, Communication Sciences and Disorders students joined with students from around the state to meet with legislators in Frankfort to advocate for Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists in Kentucky.



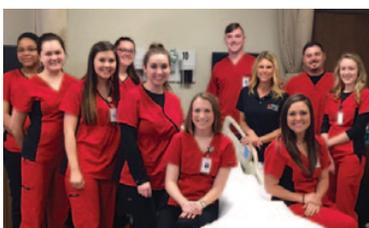
## THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

- WKU graduate, Joe Micatrotto, Jr., and his family, made the single largest donation ever received by the department. The Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management was established last fall by Micatrotto Restaurant Group (MRG) in the amount of \$150,000.
- Dr. Heather Payne-Emerson, Hospitality Management and Dietetics (HMD) faculty member, was awarded the 2016 Outstanding Dietetic Educator of the Year Award by the Kentucky Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics at the 2016 Annual Nutrition Conference and Exhibits in March. This award is the highest award given to a dietetic educator in the state of Kentucky.



## THE SCHOOL OF KINESIOLOGY, RECREATION, & SPORT

- WKU was named a Gold Level Campus for the second year in a row by the American College of Sports Medicine's Exercise is Medicine® on Campus initiative through the cooperation of KRS, the Exercise Science Club and other campus and community partners.
- Recreation Administration faculty offered several travel-based learning courses for WKU students and/or community members including trips to Montana, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and New Zealand.



## THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

- The BSN Pre-Licensure program received a 97% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) for 2015.
- The RN to BSN Program ranked in the top 50 RN to BSN Online Programs for 2016.



### THE DOCTOR OF PHYSICAL THERAPY PROGRAM

- The program received its initial five-year accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education.
- The inaugural class of 30 students graduated from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program this spring. The graduates will be working as physical therapists at outpatient, skilled nursing and other healthcare facilities.



### THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

- The WKU Student Chapter of the Kentucky Public Health Association (KPHA) was awarded the Student Chapter Award for Excellence at the 68th annual KPHA state conference in April. This is the 8th year in a row that the KPHA chapter at WKU has received this award.
- The department developed two new 100 percent online degree programs: the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Administration/Long-Term Care Administration Certificate (HCA/LTCA) and the Master of Public Health Generalist Concentration (MPH) program.



### THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

- Beginning in the fall of 2016, the Masters of Social Work (MSW) Program is conducting a pilot project offering the MSW degree completely on-line in addition to its traditional hybrid model.
- The MSW Program has received an annual award for the last several years from the Kentucky Social Welfare Foundation (KSWF) in recognition of the program's commitment to rural social work. These funds are used each year to help as many needy MSW students as possible with small scholarships to help pay for books and other expenses.



### THE INSTITUTE FOR RURAL HEALTH (IRH)

- The IRH provides valuable educational experiences for students in several of the College of Health and Human Services majors. Students within CHHS logged more than 4,000 hours in patient care and education during the 2015-2016 academic year. Moreover, dental and medical services and educational sessions in the community exceeded 8,000.
- Through collaborative efforts with numerous departments in CHHS, IRH staff members served as principal investigators or co-investigators for 11 research projects and presented at state, regional, and international conferences.



### THE ACADEMIC CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE (ACE)

- The advisors in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) have expanded their academic outreach to students advised in their unit. As a way to track and assist students after the advising appointment, the academic advisors perform thorough follow-up reviews of each student's file three times per year. In August 2015, the office reviewed 1,566 student files and reached out to 244 students. Of those contacted, over 54% saw a resolution prior to the start of the Fall 2015 semester.



### SOUTH CENTRAL AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (AHEC)

- The newly created State Registered Nurse Aide (SRNA) program held its first class in January 2016 and included 10 WKU students in Pre-Med or Physician Assistant Studies. All 10 students completed the class and passed the state written and clinical skills test on the first attempt. This class led to a new partnership between South Central AHEC and the KY Adult Education Program for GED students looking to complete the SRNA program.
- The South Central AHEC has been totally grant funded since its creation on October 1, 1986 – almost 30 years. The initial funding was all federal grants but now funding includes two state grants, one federal grant, and one contract.



Micatrotto Family Dining Room

The Micatrotto family gathered for a photo in front of the new sign during the naming ceremony

# Micatrotto Family Dining Room

*“Through the establishment of the Micatrotto Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management, we have the opportunity to provide incredible pedagogical and service learning opportunities to our students for many years to come.”*

- Dr. Neale Chumblor  
Dean CHHS

On November 6, 2015, CHHS announced the dedication of the Micatrotto Family Dining Room, located in Academic Complex. The Micatrotto Family, Connie and Joe Sr., Sunshine and Joe Jr., and Renata and Justin, donated \$150,000 to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FACS) Hospitality Management Program.

According to Dr. Neale Chumbler, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services, the Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management will have a meaningful impact on the program. "This is a very significant contribution to the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Health and Human Services," Dean Chumbler said. "Through the establishment of the Micatrotto Fund for Excellence in Hospitality Management, we have the opportunity to provide incredible pedagogical and service learning opportunities to our students for many years to come. We are grateful for the support from the Micatrotto family and are thankful for the opportunity to provide our Hospitality Management students the opportunities created by this generous gift."

Joe Micatrotto Jr., speaking on behalf of his family, said they are pleased to partner with the University in this way. "WKU created the base for my personal and professional development as I entered the 'real world,'" he said. "Whether it was the lessons learned in the classroom or on the playing field, I was able to take on the challenges put in front of me and handle them because I am a Hilltopper. I always knew that when the time came, and the ability to give back was present, it was my duty to help the University that helped me. Even though I am the only WKU graduate in my family, my parents, my brother, my wife and my children are all Hilltoppers. As a family we want to see the development of *our* school and *our* students for decades to come."



Guests at the ceremony enjoyed food prepared by students from the Hospitality Management and Dietetics program.

*“WKU created the base for my personal and professional development as I entered the ‘real world.’”*

**- Joe Micatrotto, Jr.**

The recently remodeled Micatrotto Family Dining Room is utilized as a commercial foods and catering laboratory for Hospitality Management and Dietetics majors. It is used each fall as part of the highly popular Faculty and Staff Luncheons, with food prepared and served by the Catering and Beverage Management class. Students write the menus, select the recipes and direct the entire event operations for the Thursday luncheons that are served, restaurant-style, for faculty, staff and guests.



# RESEARCH



**DR. VIJAY GOLLA**  
ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Vijay Golla, an Associate Professor in the Department of Public Health, was appointed Associate Dean for Research for CHHS beginning in August 2015. Dr. Golla has spent the last year working to revitalize the goals and purposes of research within CHHS. Under his leadership, a new CHHS Research Committee was formed and met monthly to develop new standard operating procedures for the distribution of indirects, faculty incentive program, and spending grant monies. Dr. Golla held five Writing Days throughout the academic year for CHHS faculty and staff to set aside time in a quiet space for writing and manuscript completion. He also organized a number of forums and workshops to help faculty learn about research methods and form collaborations across disciplines.

*“As the Associate Dean for Research for CHHS, my goal is to help direct the college’s efforts in accomplishing its research goals by providing strategic vision and support to the faculty and professional staff. My primary mission is to mentor the faculty members in CHHS in developing excellent research proposals and grant applications, and guide them in the pursuit of their research goals and professional development.”*

- Dr. Vijay Golla



# Bingocize®

Dr. Jason Crandall, Assistant Professor in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport in the College of Health and Human Services (CHHS) at WKU, created Bingocize® in 2011 while he was a Faculty member at Kentucky Wesleyan College in Owensboro, KY. When Dr. Crandall came to WKU in 2013, he began working on the program with Assistant Professor of Psychological Sciences, Dr. Matthew Shake, and Professor of Computer Science, Dr. Guanming Xing. In 2014, the research team received grant funding from the Kentucky Science and Engineering Corporation to create a mobile application for Bingocize®.

Bingocize® is a successful preventative health promotion program designed to increase the functional performance, health knowledge, and social engagement of older adults in a variety of settings including independent living, assisted living, and long-term care facilities. Bingocize® has proved to be an effective, enjoyable, and easily replicated way to improve physical activity adherence and ultimately health-related quality of life in the older adults.

After the initial development of the mobile application in 2014, the research team received a \$100,000 grant from the Retirement Research Foundation to study the application. The

team is currently testing the application at older adult facilities in Owensboro, Kentucky and Nashville, Tennessee, and they will be conducting a second round of testing in 10 counties around the Bowling Green area this fall with the support of Community Action of Southern Kentucky.

Dr. Crandall, and the other researchers, have been invited to demonstrate the mobile application at many events across Kentucky and beyond. The program is making a difference in the lives of many residents across Kentucky. Bingocize® meets the highest-level criteria for evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion programs as established by the Administration on Aging Evidence-Based Programs Review Committee. The Health Communities Institute also recognized it as an evidence-based practice.

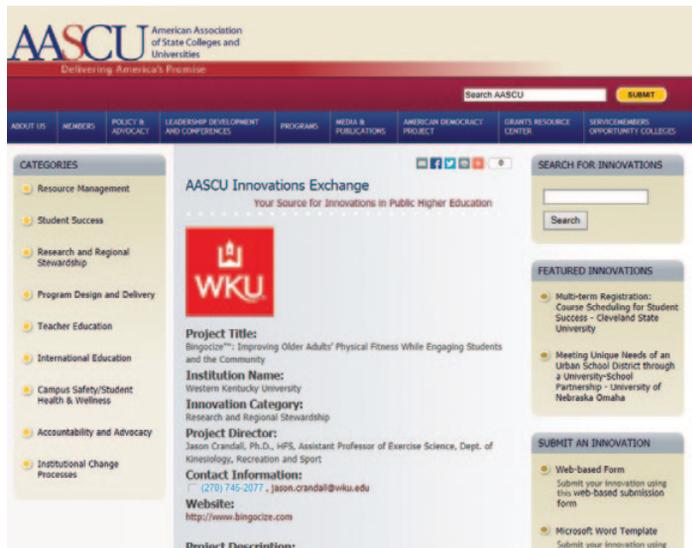
Since 2011, the research team has successfully implemented the program at 13 additional assisted living and independent living facilities in Bowling Green and Owensboro, Kentucky. Subsequently, older adult facilities from across the country and as far away as Australia contacted the team to learn more about the program. Over 25 facilities across the United States have implemented the program. The researchers have been especially successful training administrators and volunteers in 48 counties by partnering with Kentucky Area Development Districts.



Bingocize® participants pause for a group photo.

In 2015, Dr. Crandall worked with Kathryn Steward, Assistant Director of Health Education at WKU, to test the mobile application with WKU students. They used the application to teach the students stress management techniques and found positive results.

In the spring of 2016, in partnership with WKU Professor and Department Head of Communication Sciences and Disorders in CHHS, Dr. Neils-Strunjas, and WKU students from Exercise Science and Communication Sciences Disorders examined the effects of the Bingocize® program on constructive engagement in older adults suffering from Alzheimer’s diseases and other types of dementia. Bingocize® provided a focused activity that tapped into remote memory of bingo games and combined exercise which allowed players to follow movements demonstrated and prompted by undergraduate student leaders. In addition, the exercises were selected to prompt communication and socialization (e.g. hi fives, boxing). Among persons with dementia, Bingocize® increased socialization and engagement. Residents displayed more nonverbal (i.e. following commands, gestures directed towards others) and task-related verbal behavior during Bingocize® than during other activities (coloring, listening to music, eating a snack, etc.)



Bingocize® was featured as an innovative teaching method on the website of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities' website on February 7, 2014.

An administrator at the Roosevelt House in Owensboro, Kentucky explained that "Bingocize® has been a real benefit to our residents. They feel better and it gives them a reason to come out of their apartments. I couldn't be more pleased." Bingocize® was just recommended for inclusion in the first edition of a textbook called, "Hands on aging: Activities for the Gerontological Classroom and Beyond."

If you are interested in hosting a Bingocize® program at your church, senior center, etc., please contact Dr. Jason Crandall at (270) 745-2077 or [jason.crandall@wku.edu](mailto:jason.crandall@wku.edu).



# REACH Events

Each spring, the university showcases the scholarly activities of our students and faculty during REACH week, which is typically held around the time of the annual Student Research Conference. This year, our college had the opportunity to design our own schedule of events to highlight research within CHHS. The CHHS Research Committee planned and organized several events over a period of three weeks in the month of April to give our students and faculty a chance to present their research and to learn more about the research of their colleagues.

## FACULTY POSTER EXHIBIT

Faculty members displayed their posters in the halls of the Academic Complex during the first week of April. Students, faculty, and staff had the opportunity to hear these faculty present on Tuesday, April 4th.

## STUDENT POSTER EXHIBIT

CHHS students also had the opportunity to display their posters during the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup>. Over 25 undergraduate and graduate students submitted posters and each department within the college was represented in the exhibit. These students presented their research to faculty, staff, and fellow students on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## FACULTY PODIUM PRESENTATIONS

On April 11<sup>th</sup> and April 20<sup>th</sup>, five faculty gave podium presentations during the lunch hour to discuss recent and ongoing research projects. Presenters included Dr. Rachel Tinius and Dr. Lee Winchester from the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport, and Dr. Cecilia Watkins, Dr. Jooyeon Hwang, and Dr. Emmanuel Iyiebuniwe from the Department of Public Health. These presentations were organized in an effort to celebrate the research and creative activities in CHHS as well as provide a platform for establishing potential research collaborations.



Dr. Barbara Brindle, an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, listens as students present their research during a CHHS REACH event.



Dr. Rachel Tinius of the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport gives a podium presentation titled "Physical Activity During Pregnancy: Previous Findings and Future Directions in Bowling Green, KY".



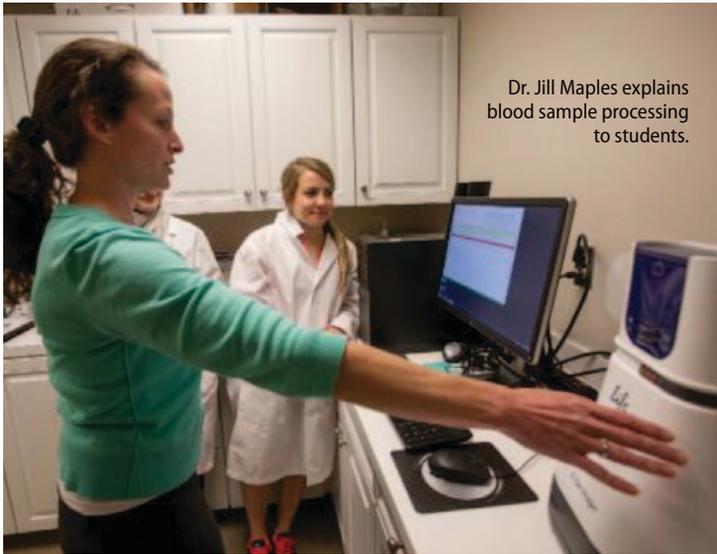
Alyssa Olenick, a graduate student in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport, presents her research on improving workplace physical activity during the CHHS Student Poster Exhibit.



Dr. Gina Sobrero from the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport discusses her research with the Associate Deans of CHHS, Dr. Danita Kelley and Dr. Vijay Golla, at the Faculty Poster Exhibit.



Megan French and Meredith Tade, undergraduate students from the Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders, stand next to their poster at the CHHS Student Poster Exhibit.



Dr. Rachel Tinius



Dr. Jill Maples

## Engaging Students in Research

**Dr. Rachel Tinius** and **Dr. Jill Maples**, both assistant professors in the School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport in the College of Health and Human Services, were awarded a Kentucky Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network (KBRIN)-INBRE Investigator Development Award (IDeA) from the National Institute of General Medical Sciences of the National Institutes of Health. This funding is provided by grant number

The objective of the KBRIN-IDeA grant program is to provide support to promising junior investigators at Kentucky colleges and universities to establish a research program involving undergraduate students that is competitive for NIH funding. In addition to providing funds for research support, the program requires release time from teaching, training and mentoring in NIH proposal development, and the development of collaborative relationship with a senior scientist (mentor).

“Dr. Maples and Dr. Tinius are outstanding young researchers, and both are tremendous assets to the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport,” stated Dr. Scott Lyons, director for the school. “Their research is important and timely, and they are excellent at utilizing students to assist in all aspects of their scholarship. By acquiring this grant funding, they are benefitting not only themselves and their research teams, but also the entire School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport.”

The goal of Tinius’ research is focused on improving the health of pregnant women and their babies, both nationally and in South Central Kentucky. Physical activity during pregnancy improves many maternal and infant health outcomes; however, most pregnant women still do not comply with physical activity recommendations. One of Tinius’ research projects will help identify several potential pathways (i.e. metabolic and inflammatory pathways) that

can be targeted with future exercise interventions, as well as implement a sustainable intervention designed to increase physical activity levels through education and community resources.

“I could not be more excited about receiving KBRIN funding,” relied Tinius. “Thanks to this funding, we will be able to implement a potentially sustainable program that will hopefully increase awareness about all of the benefits of physical activity during pregnancy in South Central Kentucky. Through collaboration with a number of local obstetricians and community partners, we also hope to improve physical activity levels during pregnancy in women in our area, while exploring some novel mechanisms that may be contributing to improved outcomes in physically active women. I believe this project will be a wonderful platform for WKU students to engage in clinical research while working with health care providers and fitness professionals in the community.”

Maples, initially awarded an IDeA in 2014, received an award renewal to continue her research aimed at improving the metabolic dysregulation evident in complex metabolic diseases like obesity. Severely obese individuals are metabolically inflexible in terms of adjusting metabolism in response to their dietary intake, which may lead to weight gain and other metabolic problems like insulin resistance.

This is important because the prevalence of severe obesity in the United States, particularly among younger women, is increasing rapidly. The IDeA program has allowed Maples to train students and investigate this area of research, which deals with one of the most significant health issues of our time, metabolic disease and obesity. The purpose of this research is to develop a greater understanding of overall metabolic health and the epigenetic mechanisms that likely play a role in metabolic health. The long-term goals of Maples' research are to help identify therapeutic targets to treat the complex metabolic diseases like obesity and improve the metabolic health of individuals in her community and beyond.

"I am thrilled to receive a third year of KBRIN-INBRE support, which has allowed me to engage both graduate and undergraduate students in research focused on a critical health topic," Maples said.

The Kentucky Biomedical Research Infrastructure Network is a network of support for biomedical researchers and educators within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The purpose of the network is to develop infrastructure and capacity for biomedical research and training in the state.



Dr. Rachel Tinius tests BethAnne Clayton's aerobic capacity. BethAnne is a student and pregnant participant in the study.



Dental Hygiene students give President Gary Ransdell a tour of the newly renovated clinic.

## DENTAL HYGIENE RENOVATION OPEN HOUSE

Last fall, CHHS celebrated another impactful renovation by inviting the WKU community to an open house to view extensive changes to the Allied Health Wing of the Academic Complex (Lancaster Wing). A \$1.4 million, much needed renovation was completed and significantly impacts the quality of instruction and services of the Dental Hygiene Program. Clinic space was reorganized, redesigned, and a new operatory was added. New computers, software and digital, panoramic x-rays were installed, and the laboratory was redesigned to accommodate room for 28 students. All of the funding for the project was made possible by a joint effort from each unit within CHHS.

# SERVICE

Service is an integral part of our college's identity. Each discipline and program within CHHS centers around serving others and improving the quality of life for members of our community, region, and beyond. We believe that by engaging our students, faculty, and staff in service learning, we will create a community of lifelong human change agents.



## RAMP-IT-UP

Students from the Doctor of Physical Therapy program built their second wheelchair ramp for the "Ramp-It-Up" project at the home of a community girl in need. Jay Duncan, the father of 15-year-old Madison, said, "We were very fortunate and blessed to have Madison and our family chosen for the DPT Ramp-It-Up project. Once the DPT team arrived my family witnessed hard work, persistence, and determination from every member of the team to make this a successful project for Madison. The project finished late that night and the final test was Madison wheeling up and down the ramp independently to a huge cheer from the DPT team."



## HEARING SCREENINGS FOR LEGISLATORS

Students from the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders visited the Kentucky State Capitol in Frankfort in March to advocate for their future profession. While at the Capitol, the students engaged in service learning by administering hearing screenings to legislators and support staff.



## THE BIGGER PICTURE: PUBLIC HEALTH FROM GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

During International Education Week at WKU, students from the Department of Public Health in the College of Health and Human Services and the WKU Student Chapter of the Kentucky Public Health Association helped the campus community see "the bigger picture" of public health on a global scale. Utilizing the diversity within the Department of Public Health, students from multiple countries and disciplines shared their culture and perspectives regarding some of the leading public health concerns in their home countries. Booths highlighting countries such as Nigeria, India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan featured student research, international snacks, clothing, artifacts and music from each country. Representatives from the Barren River District Health Department also hosted a booth featuring information about the health issues common to Bowling Green and the international population in the United States.



## South Central Kentucky AHEC Poverty Simulation

Poverty is a culture, and like any other culture it impacts the health care beliefs and decisions of those who live in poverty. South Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center (AHEC), housed within the College of Health and Human Services at WKU, has partnered with Community Action of Southern Kentucky to provide a unique inter-professional learning resource for CHHS students, faculty, staff and members of the health care community. Participants gain insight into the state of chronic crisis faced by families living in poverty. The Poverty Simulation assigns participants to a family with a unique set of circumstances. Participants must meet all the demands of family life including work, school, day care, rent, food, utilities, transportation, etc. every week which is represented by 15 minutes in the simulation. At the end of the simulation a debriefing allows all participants to share their feelings and insights.

Understanding how poverty impacts every facet of one's life including their interactions with the health care system is important for future health care professionals. The inter-professional component allows students from different disciplines to work together as they explore ways to break down barriers in the health care system for families living in poverty.

The School of Nursing requires their BSN students to participate in the Poverty Simulation as does the Physical Therapy program. Dr. Dawn Garrett Wright and several of her colleagues in the School of Nursing are conducting research on the Poverty Simulation to compare attitudes before and after participating in the program.

The Poverty Simulation is held several times throughout the year. The most recent simulation took place on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Medical Center and WKU Health Sciences Complex.



# INTERNAT

## REACH

### CHHS in New Zealand

### Beyond Bowling Green

While CHHS is committed to having a positive impact in Bowling Green and surrounding areas, we also share the university's vision of having international reach. We seek to integrate international and intercultural dimensions into all aspects of the college experience by providing our students with opportunities to explore health and human services around the nation and around the world. Our goal is to help students develop a global perspective as they improve the health and quality of life for others through their chosen fields.

In the last year, our students and faculty have participated in trips to a number of countries including Costa Rica, Ecuador, New Zealand, Belgium, Ireland, England, France, and Sweden.

In January, Dr. Raymond Poff from the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport and University Photographer Clinton Lewis led a Recreation and Tourism class through the beautiful country of New Zealand. 10 students spent 17 days studying and experiencing the vibrant recreation and tourism industries there. The majority of the group was made up of CHHS students with majors in Recreation Administration, Hospitality Management and Dietetics, Family Studies, and Social Work. The group met with a variety of tourist operations, both large and small, to discuss how they were influencing tourism in New Zealand. Students and the program leaders enjoyed many recreation activities as well, from visiting the locations where Lord of the Rings was filmed to surfing and kayaking. It was an incredible trip from which the students returned with invaluable experiences and unforgettable memories.

This program was featured in the Spring 2016 edition of the WKU SPIRIT magazine. To learn more about the trip, see photos, and read the travel log of University Photographer Clinton Lewis, visit the WKU Alumni Association website at [alumni.wku.edu](http://alumni.wku.edu).



# IONAL



- 1. Bridge building in Costa Rica
- 2. Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport students exploring the Galápagos Islands in Ecuador.
- 3. CHHS students study ecotourism, service learning, and outdoor recreation in Costa Rica.
- 4. Communication Sciences and Disorders students in Gent, Belgium
- 5. CHHS in New Zealand

# CHHS Living Learning Community

The College of Health and Human Services Living Learning Community (LLC) has been serving students in the College since 2006. In the last academic year we have had 25 students who have lived and taken classes together for the first and second semesters of their college careers. We were very excited that we had 100% of students return from their first semester to their second semester over the 2015-2016 school year. Additionally, the LLC's average GPA in the Fall 2015 semester was higher than that of their peers.

This year we have completed meaningful programming in collaboration with the Office of Housing and Residence Life to provide social and academic encouragement. The LLC completed a scavenger hunt via Twitter to learn their way around campus,

as well as connect them to campus resource's social media. Additionally, we teamed up with Chef Julie Lee to complete A Taste of Culture event where students cooked and enjoyed foods from cultures around the world. Parents and Family Weekend Breakfast was also a success. Students' family members were able to see the residence hall and meet other members of the LLC. The students took Theater Appreciation together in the Spring semester. As a part of their course, the students attended the WKU Theater production of Guys and Dolls.

Overall, the 2015-2016 academic year has been full of exciting opportunities and rewards for this freshman group. We are excited to see what the future holds for these ladies!





Dr. Danita Kelley welcomes guests as the ceremony begins.

*“The Awards Banquet provides CHHS with the opportunity to honor students for attainment of excellence in academic achievements and for distinction in service. We enjoy the time of celebration with students, their family, and friends.”*

- Dr. Danita Kelley,  
Associate Dean of CHHS

College of  
HEALTH &  
HUMAN  
SERVICES

# AWARDS

# Banquet



Award winners from the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences show off their plaques for a group photo.

The college celebrates the academic achievements of some of our most outstanding students, faculty, and staff at the CHHS Awards Banquet each spring. Students are nominated and selected by their department or school for distinction in areas such as academics, service, and leadership. The six awards given for faculty and staff are Excellence in Teaching, Excellence in Research/Creativity, Excellence in Student Advisement, Excellence in Public Service, Outstanding Part-Time Faculty, and Outstanding Staff. The winners for the faculty and staff awards are selected by the CHHS Sabbatical and Faculty Awards Committee. 79 students and 6 faculty/staff were recognized at this year’s banquet on April 16, 2016. Award winners and their guests enjoyed a meal with faculty representatives from each department and school within the college. After dinner, Dean Chumbler and Dr. Danita Kelley, the Associate Dean of CHHS, presented the awards to our students, faculty, and staff.



◀ Dr. Sandra Starks and Dr. Patricia Desrosiers (left), and Dean Chumbler (right) present the award for Outstanding CHHS Graduate Student to Jamye Bowins Hardy (center). Jamye is from Nashville, Tennessee, and she graduated with a Masters in Social Work in May.

# 2016 Faculty and Staff Award Winners



## **FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING**

In recognition of the faculty member's teaching excellence and his/her ability to motivate and inspire students in and outside the classroom.

**Dr. Joseph Evans**  
Department of Allied Health



## **FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH/CREATIVITY**

In recognition of the faculty member's outstanding contributions to his or her field of research, creative production and other scholarly achievements.

**Dr. Darbi Haynes-Lawrence**  
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences



## **FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ADVISEMENT**

In recognition of excellence in advising and support of student development in academic and broader life contexts.

**Dr. April Murphy**  
Department of Social Work



## **FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN PUBLIC SERVICE**

In recognition of distinguished activities in public service in the faculty member's department, CHHS and WKU.

**Dr. Patricia Desrosiers**  
Department of Social Work



## **OUTSTANDING PART-TIME FACULTY**

In recognition of the part-time faculty member's outstanding support and dedication to his or her work in CHHS and WKU

**Ms. Sandra McClain**  
Department of Social Work



## **OUTSTANDING STAFF**

In recognition of the staff member's outstanding support and dedication to his or her work in CHHS and WKU

**Ms. Renee Kilgore**  
School of Nursing

# Hall of Fame

The 2016 Awards Banquet ended on a special note as Julie H. Hinson was inducted into the CHHS Hall of Fame. Julie serves as the President and CEO of Advanced Lifeline Respiratory Services headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky. She has been with the company for over 25 years, starting as the Director of Marketing in 1989. Advanced Lifeline Services is the leading provider of ventilator care services to long term care facilities in the United States.

A native of Owensboro, Kentucky, Julie earned her Bachelor of Arts from WKU in 1990, majoring in Public Relations with a minor in Business. She now provides a significant leadership role to the College of Health and Human Services, serving on the CHHS Board of Stakeholders since 2009. Julie brings her expertise, experience, and dedication to many efforts on behalf of CHHS and WKU. She has brought valuable insight to the development and relevance of our many academic programs. Particularly notable is her current reign as President of the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors. Her commitment also includes service as a founding member of the WKU Sisterhood and leadership on the WKU Foundation Board of Directors.

The College has been fortunate to have Julie as a dedicated friend and ambassador. She is respected across the Commonwealth and has brought positive guidance to The Greater Louisville WKU Alumni Chapter and to various Louisville organizations, such as The Fillies, Inc. and The Woman's Club of Louisville. One only has to spend a small amount of time with Julie to recognize her enthusiasm for CHHS.



**Julie H. Hinson**  
President and CEO  
Advanced Lifeline Respiratory Services



Dean Chumbler and Ron Wilson present Julie Hinson with a plaque to commemorate her induction into the CHHS Hall of Fame.

# Senior Spotlight



**GREG AUSTIN**

BOWLING GREEN, KY

Health Sciences, Department of Allied Health

“CHHS really helped me focus on academics so that I have a solid foundation to continue my education in the future.”



**KELLY FUSSMAN**

HENDERSONVILLE, TN

Communication Disorders,  
Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders

“The collaboration between students and faculty members in the Communication Sciences & Disorders department has created such a supportive learning environment, which has allowed me to grow leaps and bounds as a student and clinician.”



**SARAH HICKS**

BARDSTOWN, KY

Interior Design & Fashion Merchandising,  
Department of Family & Consumer Sciences

“I have been taught the importance of creativity and innovation. I’ve learned to capitalize on your abilities by acquiring new knowledge and being willing to try different ideas that no one before you has tried. I’ve learned that you accomplish most when you differentiate yourself, work hard, and respect others well.”



**CHARLES JOHNSON**  
RUSSELL SPRINGS, KY

Nursing (BSN), School of Nursing

“I feel that I have gotten top tier training in the WKU BSN program to prepare me for a career in nursing. My plan is to work for the Veterans Administration as a nurse. I spent 29 years in the KY National Guard, and I want to continue to serve with my fellow soldiers.”



**SYDNEY JONES**  
MAYFIELD, KY

Social Work (BSW), Department of Social Work

“The professors and the students in CHHS have all been nothing less than excellent— they have shown me that there are still many people who want to help others that aren’t out just to make money. Being in CHHS has taught me that my future is in my hands, but others’ futures may be, too, so being kind, caring, and loving is always important.”



**JOHN MORRIS**  
TAYLORSVILLE, KY

Public Health, Department of Public Health

“My major is Public Health with Environmental Health concentration and it has prepared me for my future by challenging me to be the best student I can possibly be. My major required me to log four hundred hours for an internship, and that job experience is critical when looking for a job after graduation.”



**TAYLOR PROCTOR**  
BOWLING GREEN, KY

Physical Education, School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport

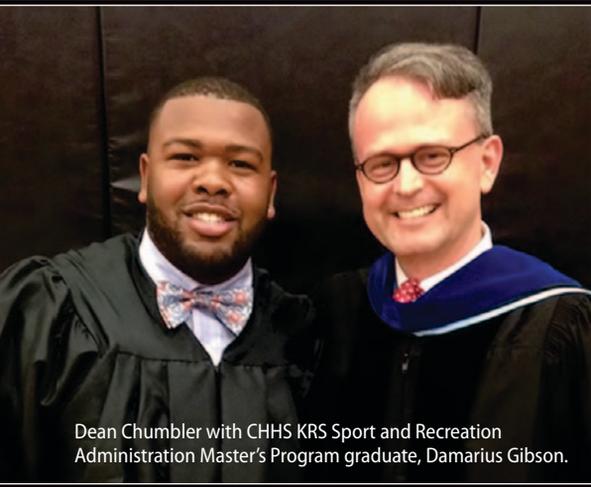
“My major has allowed me to go out into the community and truly see what it will be like for me to educate students about physical and health education. I have been given countless opportunities to practice teaching and have always received feedback from my professors so that I will be prepared when I get my first teaching position.”



# 2016 Commencement

This year's spring commencement ceremony for CHHS undergraduate students took place on Saturday evening, May 14, in E.A. Diddle Arena. The graduate student ceremony was held in the arena on the evening of Friday, May 13. In all, we had a total of 880 students who graduated in May or will graduate by the end of this summer, including our doctoral, master's, bachelor's and associate degree recipients.

We are exceedingly proud of our graduates, and we look forward to seeing all that is in store for them as they move forward in their careers!

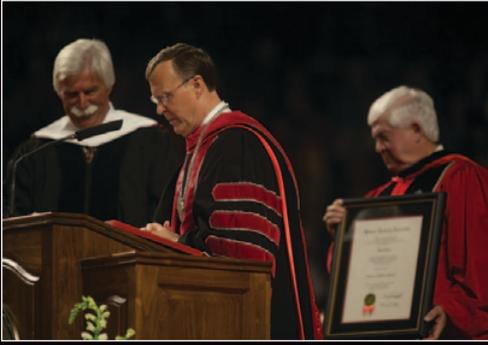


Dean Chumbler with CHHS KRS Sport and Recreation Administration Master's Program graduate, Damarius Gibson.



Graduates from the Speech Language Pathology Master's Program gather for a group photo.





# John M. Kelly

## Honorary Doctor of Public Service

During the undergraduate commencement ceremony, Mr. John M. Kelly was given an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. John is a member of the CHHS Board of Stakeholders and is a dedicated volunteer to our college and community. In 2002, John and his wife Linda established the Kelly Autism Program (KAP) to assist adolescents and young adults diagnosed along the Autism Spectrum Disorders Continuum. Students in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders work regularly in the KAP to gain skills vital to their future success in the field. John and Linda were also recognized as the Philanthropists of the Year at the annual WKU Summit Awards and Volunteer Appreciation Dinner last November. "We are extremely fortunate to have such talented and service-driven volunteers assisting our college to provide our students with a meaningful education and experiences," said Dean Chumbler.

WKU President Ransdell presented John Kelly with an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree at the 2016 Commencement ceremony in May.





Your support, interest, and generosity is greatly appreciated and vital to the success of our mission and our programs. If you would like to make a gift to the college or to any of the departments or schools within CHHS, please visit [alumni.wku.edu/givechhs](http://alumni.wku.edu/givechhs).

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