

April 17, 2014

Welcome back! I trust you had an enjoyable spring break. As we rapidly approach the end of another academic year, we continue to garner great news for our college.

Augusta University: Aspire to Greatness

Augusta University achieved remarkable successes aligning and integrating our many components during the year of consolidation. It was indeed a tremendous time of rapid transformative change and accomplishment. Now, as we look ahead, it is time to shift gears and focus on long-term, sustainable growth. We have three immediate goals – student recruitment, retention, and satisfaction; faculty and staff recruitment, retention, and satisfaction; and ensuring long-term fiscal health. Our college is already working hard to meet those goals by taking the lead in many efforts. Thank you for all you are doing as we “Aspire to Greatness!”

Hearty congratulations

Please join me in congratulating several of our CAHS faculty members on well-deserved promotions effective July 1. Bonnie Dadig in Physician Assistant, Lynn Jaffe in Occupational Therapy, and Lester Pretlow in Medical Laboratory, Imaging, and Radiologic Sciences have been promoted to Professor; Kathy Dexter in the Physician Assistant Department and Scott Wise in the Department of Medical Laboratory, Imaging, and Radiologic Sciences have been named Associate Professor; and Erin Boyleston and Kandyce Mack, both in Dental Hygiene, have been promoted to Assistant Professor. I personally thank each of you for your dedicated and untiring service to our college and university. Well done!

Our RT program – recognized as one of the bests

Of 450 respiratory therapy programs accredited by the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care, our program is one of a select group – just 49, or a mere 11.9 percent – to receive the organization’s Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award. The RRT credential, considered a standard of professional achievement, measures a program’s success over time in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional ambitions. The rigorous criteria examine three years of outcome data, including meeting or exceeding CoARC thresholds for credentialing success, attrition, and positive job placement. Congratulations to our RT faculty, students, and recent graduates for this outstanding recognition!

Making a splash

Our college’s research efforts continue to gain national recognition. Two upcoming publications will feature the work of CAHS faculty as they address health challenges in our ever-aging population. Raghavan Raju’s article, “Resveratrol Suppresses Expression of VEGF by Human Retinal Pigment Epithelial Cells: Potential Nutraceutical for Age-related Macular Degeneration,” has been published this month in the journal *Aging and Disease*. And Mike Foley’s article, “Comparison of Metabolic Cost and Cardiovascular Response to Stair Ascending and Descending with Walkers and Canes in Older Adults Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,” will appear later this year in the *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. Congratulations and thank you for the enthusiasm and wonderful ideas you bring to our college and to health care improvement!

Welcome aboard, health economist

We welcome our newest faculty member, Dr. Vahe Heboyan, to the Department of Health Management

and Informatics. Vahe specializes in health economics, a fascinating field that will only continue to grow in importance and influence as we navigate the uncharted health care waters ahead of us. He has earned his PhD in Applied Economics from the University of Georgia, Athens (UGA). During his tenure at UGA, Dr. Heboyan has spent nearly two years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an evaluation analyst for the Immunization Division. If your health care research involves cost-benefit, cost-effectiveness or other calculations, please contact Dr. Heboyan for sound advice.

Employee Engagement Survey

Phase II of the employee engagement survey is underway for all Augusta University faculty, staff, physicians, and remaining shared services. If you have not yet participated, please do so at go.gru.edu/eesurvey2014 by May 2. Be assured that your responses will remain confidential. Press Ganey, an independent organization specializing in employee, physician, and patient surveys, is conducting the survey.

Faculty Credential review process

A SACSCOC Faculty Credentials Team has begun meeting to ensure Augusta University compliance with assigned standards of the SACSCOC Principles of Accreditation. The team will gather evidence of compliance, develop an ongoing faculty credentialing system, and develop reports to build the case for compliance within standards. The team may contact our college or departments for faculty credentials data needed for accreditation. If data is requested, it is not necessarily an indication of unqualified faculty, but that the university may be required to provide additional documentation that shows the faculty is qualified to teach a specific course.

30th Annual Lauderdale Golf Tournament

Spend the day on the links at Forest Hills Golf Club Friday, April 18! The Lauderdale Golf Tournament supports our elite Augusta University men's and women's golf programs as well as scholarship and academic support programs. For more information visit giving.gru.edu/Lauderdale or call Wes Zamzow at 706-721-2699.

Augusta University Athletics

It's Senior Day! Our baseball team hosts Francis Marion Friday at 6:30 p.m., with a Saturday double-header at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. All three games are at Lake Olmstead Stadium.

The Augusta Golf Association hosts the 3M Augusta Invitational at Forest Hills Golf Club April 5-6. Visit jaguarsroar.com for details.

Alumni Weekend Signature Event

You won't want to miss the second annual Alumni Weekend Signature Event Saturday, April 26, featuring Renaissance man Ben Stein. No one melds deadpan humor and serious insights on the economy and human nature like he does – it makes for a great evening of laughter and thought.

Making a Merger Work

The Presidential Lecture Series is proud to present Dr. Eugene Trani, President Emeritus of Virginia Commonwealth University, Tuesday, April 29 noon in the Lee Auditorium. Dr. Trani will share insights on leading one university that had previously been two. Lunch will be provided for the first 200 attendees.

April 24, 2014

We are in the midst of busy and exciting days. Our students are prepping for exams, our faculty are wrapping up the semester, and our excellent staff are tying up loose ends before graduation. Thank you, everyone, for your part in our college's success!

Join and Celebrate our Alumni!

We welcome our many wonderful alumni back to campus this weekend. Their accomplishments also speak highly about the value of our programs. If you haven't yet registered for the CAHS Alumni Banquet, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the Pinnacle Club, please contact Rhonda Banks at robanks@augusta.edu or 706-729-2390 to sign up. We are looking forward to a wonderful evening. Earlier that day, don't miss the second annual Alumni Weekend Signature Event with keynote speaker Ben Stein.

Augusta University: Aspire to Greatness

Last week, we talked about the need to shift gears after an intense year of transformation. How will we meet our goals? How will we sustain long-term growth? Where will the resources come from?

Going forward, in addition to examining a reallocation of current resources, increases in our clinical margin, philanthropic commitments, tech transfer revenue, tuition revenue, and targeted state and federal government investments will enable us to meet our mission and vision of becoming the next great American university. We will solidify, strategize, prioritize, and execute on a stronger and healthier foundation as we meet new challenges and capitalize on new opportunities. More on that next week!

Hip, hip, hooray for CLS

As you probably are aware from the signs throughout our building, this is National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week. Our CLS students, program faculty and staff and Program Director Barbara Kraj are to be commended for their enthusiastic efforts in raising awareness about their field's extremely vital contributions to health care. Congratulations on a super week!

Exceptional faculty recognitions

In this season of awards and recognition, here are two of special significance. Dr. Pavani Rangachari Associate Professor received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the University Faculty Senate. With remarkable results, she serves as the Director of the MPH Program and specializes in health services research. The other one is special because it is given by students, who are, of course, our whole reason for being here. And so I would like to congratulate Occupational Therapy Assistant Professor Jason Hughes, who has received this award from the Graduate Student Government Association just nine months after joining Augusta University. Making such a substantial impact in so short a time is indeed remarkable, and we look forward to Jason's continued success.

Please attend the Presidential Lecture: Making a Merger Work

The Presidential Lecture Series is proud to present Dr. Eugene Trani, President Emeritus of Virginia Commonwealth University, next Tuesday, April 29 at noon in the Lee Auditorium. Dr. Trani will share insights on leading one university that had previously been two. Lunch will be provided for the first 200 attendees.

Employee Engagement Survey closes next Friday

Have you taken the Employee Engagement Survey yet? It takes only a few minutes, and our collective (and completely anonymous) responses will direct many aspects of the faculty and staff work environment as the university moves forward. Our participation goal is 75 percent.

Expanding our mission, meeting a need

Our OT students are still buzzing about their second Study Abroad trip to Jamaica. Assistant Professor Sharon Swift and Associate Professor Pam Kearney took 12 students to the island nation's Mustard Seed Community Jerusalem Orphanage. This time, they partnered with Wheels for Humanity to rebuild and customize wheelchairs in addition to creating assistive technology devices, completing OT evaluations, and providing individual and group activities for 100 residents. And they are going back in the fall!

18th Annual Take Back the Night Rally Tonight

Take Back the Night celebrates the triumphs of survivors and raises the community's awareness of sexual victimization of women, children, and men. The rally will be held from 6-8 p.m. this evening on the front lawn of the Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre.

Disc golf champs

Huge congratulations to our disc golf team, who earned their second national championship in four years at this weekend's National Collegiate Disc Golf Championships!

Bringing Freud to Fraud

Would you like to understand the personality profile of a fraudster? Dr. Sridhar Ramamoorti will share his research on the subject at a seminar of the CSRA Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors, May 8 from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the JSAC Coffeehouse. A book signing reception will follow. The program is sponsored by the Hull College of Business, Knox School of Accountancy. For more information, contact Kathleen Boyd at kboyd50@augusta.edu or 706-721-9525.

May 1, 2014

As we near completion of another academic year, already we are looking ahead at new possibilities. Please read on to learn more about enrollment, research, college, and university news and opportunities!

CAHS International Research Collaboration on Safe Driving

We have reached a Research Cooperative Agreement with the Belgisch Instituut voor de Verkeersveiligheid, more recognizable to our ears as the Belgian Road Safety Institute, to conduct an assessment of fitness to drive in individuals with various medical conditions and then compare risk factors across those populations. Results of the study should help determine the common and disease-specific visual, motor, and cognitive deficits that trigger unsafe driving. Congratulations to Hannes Devos (Department of Physical Therapy and Driving Simulation Laboratory), who will serve as the agreement's Senior Researcher, on this important international achievement.

Augusta University: Aspire to Greatness

During our journey to become the next great American university, what challenges will we face? What

opportunities will come our way? Of course, some of these questions and answers are still out there in the great unknown, but already we have identified many factors we will come across as we move forward in our quest. Here's what we should expect as we continue to solidify, strategize, and prioritize upon the foundation we have built:

New Challenges ...

- Budget pressures in both higher education and health care,
- Demographic shifts give us a new pool of future students,
- Technological advancements require us to keep up—and figure out how to pay for it,
- Health care system reforms are dramatic, and have only just begun,
- New delivery models coming in both education and health care;

... and Opportunities

- Leverage our strengths: Georgia's public academic health center, partnerships throughout Georgia,
- Expanded alumni family: working collaboratively together,
- Students of the future: military, non-traditional, etc.,
- Global outreach: e.g., Augusta University Confucius Institute,
- Industry partnerships: e.g., Royal Phillips.

As the university works to meet the challenges and discovers new opportunities, I know that here within our College of Allied Health Sciences, working together as partners with common goals, we will play a pivotal role in the enterprise's future success. Thank you for all you do to make that happen!

Bringing in the students

I am very pleased to pass along praise from the Provost Council for Lester Pretlow's excellent accomplishments in student recruitment. During the recent Provost's Council meeting, Dr. Cibirka expressed appreciation for his energetic and effective endeavors making contact with potential students, noting his recruitment effort as an example of hard work that is already bringing about results in meeting our future enrollment goals. Well done, Lester and the team of faculty!

D2L upgrade on the way

Desire2Learn, our learning platform, will be upgraded from version 10.0 to version 10.3 Friday, May 9 between 5-11 p.m. There will be no service interruption and the upgrade will not affect current course development work, but you will need to be familiar with the changes for future development efforts.

The upgrade includes enhancements to communications, content, discussions, Dropbox, navigation, and quizzes. For a comparison chart of the two versions, videos highlighting the new features, and other essential information, please refer to [this informative article](#). Training opportunities will be announced soon. In the meantime, direct comments or questions to Randle Berlin, our CAHS instructional systems analyst, at rberlin@augusta.edu or 706-721-4922. You may also stop by his office in EC-1207A.

Employee Engagement Survey ends Friday

The response rate for Phase II of the Employee Engagement Survey is currently 37 percent. Our ultimate goal is to have 75 percent participation from Augusta University faculty, staff, physicians, and remaining shared services, so if you haven't taken the survey yet, please do before it ends on May 2. It's important, and completely confidential.

Commencement

More than 1,000 students will participate in commencement exercises for Augusta University Friday, May 9, at 2 p.m. in the James Brown Arena. Liz Murray, author of the inspiring New York Times bestselling memoir "Breaking Night," will be our guest speaker.

Workforce Development

HR Workforce Development is offering two important professional development training opportunities:

- May 7 – Building, Restoring, and Sustaining Trust in the Workplace (for Augusta University and GR Health System staff)
- May 15 – Navigating Through Employment Laws and Difficult Employee Relationships presented by Jeff Thompson, J.D., in partnership with the GR Health System Legal Affairs office (for managers and supervisors)

Play ball!

Our baseball team made a strong showing on the 2014 Peach Belt Conference All-Academic team. On a team of just 21 student-athletes, Ryan Khan earned a spot while Kip Custer and Ross Miles received honorable mentions. Congratulations, guys!

May 27, 2014

Just as fast as we said farewell to our 2014 graduates, we are welcoming new students in our hallways! The Physical Therapy and Physician Assistant Classes of 2016 have arrived, and their sense of excitement is contagious. We are delighted as well to pass along several positive pieces of information for our college:

A message to our students: There are many jobs waiting for you!

A recent Employment Projections report issued by the Bureau of Labor Statistics says more new jobs will be created between 2012 and 2022 in health care occupations and industries than in any other field. This is good news for our college and our students, and confirms the need for our programs to nearly double enrollment by 2020. The need for nuclear medicine technologists will grow faster than average, while occupations expected to grow much faster than average are medical and clinical laboratory technologists and technicians, radiation therapists, dental hygienists, medical records and health information technicians, occupational therapists, and physical therapists. Read the full report [here](#).

Awesome news: Graduate students rank our PA Program very highly

Graduate Programs announced its Spring 2014 Rankings of Top Graduate Programs according to ratings

and reviews from current or recent graduate students. Among the Top 25 Physician Assistant Programs is the PA Program of Augusta University/Georgia Health Sciences University and it is ranked #2 nationally. Super news! Clearly, a program of distinction! Congratulations to Bonnie and everyone involved in this excellent program.

CAHS research is up, significantly!

Under the direction of Interim Associate Dean for Research Abiodun Akinwuntan and Grant Development Specialist La Verne Proctor-Streeter, CAHS research is taking a substantial trajectory upward. Awards have doubled in FY14 from last year, while indexed publications have gone from 25 for 35. Our extramural grant applications have jumped from 13 to 22 this year, with the amount awarded nearly doubling. This growth puts CAHS well in line to do our part in making Augusta University a top-tier research university, with even more on the way!

MPH: Kicking it into high gear

Rough calculations based on applications to our MPH program already show a marked potential increase in enrollment for the Fall 2014 and 2015 semesters. An estimated 24 or more new students admitted translates into a 400 percent increase over Fall 2011! Kudos to Program Director Pavani Rangachari and the entire MPH faculty and staff.

Summer asthma camp receives full funding

Associate Professor Kitty Hernlen just received some terrific news: The W. G. Raoul Foundation has awarded funds for the 2015 Augusta Area Asthma Camp in the full amount of \$14,905. This wonderful free camp gives kids with asthma the opportunity to enjoy a safe summer camp experience and to learn more about their condition, and gives our respiratory therapy students real-world experience. This year's third annual camp will be held in July at Camp Tanglewood, and it's great to know that next year's camp is already funded!

Service milestones reached

Three CAHS faculty and staff members were acknowledged at the May 13 Augusta University Service Recognition Breakfast. Congratulations to Erin Boyleston in Dental Hygiene and Prabakaran Krishnan in Medical Laboratory, Imaging, and Radiologic Sciences for reaching 10 years with the institution, and to Nakia Walden in Occupational Therapy, who has been with us for 15 years. Thank you to all for your excellent work and loyalty!

June 16, 2014

Last week, we celebrated the signing of an MOU with University Healthcare System to transfer management of the Augusta Area Dietetics Internship Program to our college, yet another example of our reach, influence, and collaborative efforts. The internship program is a perfect fit for what we do here as an academic health center. There is a great need for what this program offers: theoretical and clinical experiences in food service management, clinical dietetics, and community nutrition for graduates seeking to become registered dietitians. My thanks to Jeanne Lee, Internship Director (UH);

Art Taft, Interim Chair (CAHS); Kyle Howell (UH); Scott Ansele (UH); Dale Hardy (CAHS) and many others in bringing this initiative to fruition!

Welcome to New Faculty

I am delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Priya Narayanan as Assistant Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Narayanan trained in the laboratory of Dr. Ruth Caldwell and has been a valued member of the Culver Vision Discovery Institute. She will have a teaching and independent research role in our college. Welcome, Priya!

Leeper begins as Chief of Staff

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Karla K. Leeper in her role as Chief of Staff. In addition to supporting the Office of the President, Leeper will help to set strategic priorities in the areas of advancement and alumni affairs, communications and marketing, and government relations. She will work with university and health system leadership to meet organizational goals and objectives, and will ensure coordination across a number of critical functional areas.

Hiring Without Backfiring, June 24 – Presented by Jeff Thompson, J.D.

This program is the last of a three-part management training series offered by Human Resources in collaboration with the General Counsel of Georgia Regents Health System, and is available to university and health system employees all management levels. Mr. Thompson is a partner with the Macon office of Constancy, Brooks & Smith, LLP, and he brings a wealth of knowledge based on his extensive background in representing management in employment, litigation, and labor matters. For questions about registration or information about the three-part management training series with Jeff Thompson, contact Wanda O'Brien, Senior Training Specialist at (706) 721-4054.

Augusta on the Go!

Our fair city has landed on two "Best Of" lists in recent days. Augusta is listed tenth by NewGeography.com for mid-sized "Cities Winning the Battle for Information Jobs in 2014," a jump of 70 positions over last year's ranking! We also made the Top 20 list of "Most Affordable Cities" released by NerdWallet.com, coming in at 14th when compared to other cities in housing, utilities, grocery, transportation, health care, and other consumer costs. What a great time to be living in Augusta!

June 25, 2014

Remembering Connie Drisko

We have lost a great friend and colleague, Dr. Connie Drisko, Dean Emeritus of the Dental College of Georgia. Connie died Sunday at Georgia Regents Medical Center after a short battle with acute myelogenous leukemia. She was energetic, accomplished, friendly, and helpful, a tenacious leader and a force to be reckoned with in every sense of the phrase. Her colleagues nicknamed her the White Tornado, a reference to her white hair and Oklahoma roots but really a tribute to her amazing ability to get things done. We mourn this great loss to the Augusta University community, and we will long celebrate the impact she had on the dental profession, this university, and the people we serve.

A showcase of cross-disciplinary community impact

The ninth annual Costa Layman Health Fair took place last Friday in Trenton, S.C., with outstanding participation from faculty and students in all the health sciences colleges. My personal thanks to Debbie Layman for moving this healthy tradition forward over the years and for giving our students a great learning opportunity, and to Andrew Mazzoli for coordinating our CAHS participation. Thanks also to Art Taft, Natasha Glover, and Hannah Beriault in Respiratory Therapy (and former faculty member Mike Fentzel), Lori Bolgla, Scott Hasson, and Miriam Cortez-Cooper in Physical Therapy (and Miriam's husband, Craig Cooper, from the Department of Kinesiology), Jason Hughes in Occupational Therapy, and our dozens of terrific student volunteers for their contributions to this wonderful effort. Read more about it in the *Augusta Chronicle* [here](#).

An alliance recognized

Congratulations are in order to Greg Passmore and two chemistry students from the College of Math and Science, Thomas Lynam and Jessica Robinson, who were awarded second place in the Technologist Section-Cardiology Group at last week's 61st annual meeting of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging in St. Louis, where they presented their abstract "Measurement of the Interactions of Low Energy Gamma Rays with Dense Metals for Applications in Nuclear Cardiology Collimators." Well done – a great example of faculty and students participating in intercollege collaboration.

Augusta University offers summer leadership camp to high school students

Augusta University is hosting a four-day camp for high school students, aimed at improving their leadership skills. The Emerging Leaders Summer Program has slots for 20 rising high school seniors, juniors, and sophomores, and will be held July 20-23. This interactive and experiential learning-based camp is designed to help these students develop and cultivate their leadership skills in areas such as teamwork, collaboration, communication, and group dynamics. For registration information, call 706-737-1411.

Using 2014 County Health Rankings to Inspire Community Action in the CSRA

Join Stephanie Johnson, Community Coach at *County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*, as she discusses the current county health rankings and how the CSRA can take action as a community to improve rankings. The presentation will be held at the Augusta-Richmond County Public Library, 823 Telfair Street, on Thursday, June 26 from 1-4 p.m.

Clint Bryant to chair DII Military Pilot Project Team

Augusta University Augusta Director of Athletics, Clint Bryant, has been chosen to chair the Division II Military Pilot Project Team after the NCAA and local U.S. military leaders agreed on the formation of the project in December. Now in his 26th year at the helm of Jaguar Athletics and a member of Division II's 40th Anniversary Team, Bryant hosted a summit meeting between local U.S. military leaders and Division II leaders to discuss a possible partnership between the two entities – a partnership that would establish a pilot program partnering an athletic conference and its schools with neighboring military installations to demonstrate the advantages and benefits of linking schools, student-athletes, military connections, and local communities together.

June 5, 2014

Have you noticed? Summer has arrived, heralded by blooms all over campus. Some of us are enjoying the lull between classes to catch up and prepare, others are busy in teaching and some are taking extended vacations. Whatever your plans, best wishes for an enjoyable summer.

Practice plan changes approved

CAHS faculty recently voted on and approved proposed changes to our practice plan bylaws as well as joint operating and representation agreements with the Augusta University Health System and its affiliated practice plans. Thank you to Mimi Owen and Kathy Dexter for their hard work as we transition the practice plan to the Georgia Regents Health Professions Association, Inc.

Can't do any better than this!

I am extremely happy to report a 100 percent first-attempt pass rate for our Radiation Therapy Class of 2014 on the national certification examination offered by the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists, the world's largest credentialing organization. Congratulations to Program Director Lynne Eggert and her students. Well done!

OT service program recognized

The Augusta University Study Abroad Committee has announced its 2014-15 offerings, which includes our own Occupational Therapy Jamaica Program. OT faculty and students have already twice been to the island nation's Jerusalem Orphanage, providing care to nearly 160 disabled children and adults as they fulfill their pediatric fieldwork requirement. The committee's recognition and support of this wonderful program is much appreciated. Planning for a return trip this fall is already underway.

Mark your calendars

How do you engage your distance students? A roundtable discussion on just that topic will be take place next Tuesday, June 10 as part of our Health Sciences Leadership Program, with Associate Professor Kitty Hernlen giving introductory remarks. Please join us at 11 a.m. in the Physical Therapy Conference Room for this timely conversation on an ever-growing instructional delivery method.

July 16, 2014

The longest running and largest CE program of Augusta University: Dental Hygiene

Last week, I was pleased to give the opening remarks at the Dental Hygiene Symposium in Savannah. The Augusta University dental hygiene program has hosted this great event for 32 years, making it longest-running continuing education program offered by our university. It is also the largest, with nearly 300 registered participants taking part in numerous innovative and practical presentations and workshops. We are already looking forward to next year! Congratulations to Ana Thompson and the entire dental hygiene faculty on a remarkable job well done (again)!

East meets West: new Traditional Chinese Medicine course

We are excited to announce that we have received approval from the Provost's office to offer a course in Traditional Chinese Medicine (CTCM 4000 and CTCM 7000) this fall in conjunction with the Augusta University Confucius Institute. The course will be housed in our Department of Physical Therapy and offered on both undergraduate and graduate levels. Another course in Chinese Language and Culture will be offered through Pamplin College. Please encourage your students to consider these informative and relevant one-hour courses. Look for details in the GReport this week. Please encourage your students to register. Contact Chair Hasson for further information.

Research recognition: NIH, Academy of Management and Sao Paulo

Congratulations to several of our faculty members who have had their research recognized on the national and international levels!

Raghavan Raju has received a NIH R01 continuation grant of \$288,000 for Year 4 on his study of Resveratrol as an adjunct to resuscitation fluid following hemorrhage injury.

Greg Passmore's concept mapping research has been accepted for publication and presentation at the Sixth International Conference on Concept Mapping in September in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The report examines the collective effects on learning outcomes of students in a nuclear medicine technology radiation science course.

Pavani Rangachari's latest paper from her BSI study, "Impact of Periodic Top-down Communications on Infection Prevention Practices & Outcomes in Two Units," has won the Academy of Management's Best Theory to Practice Award and will be recognized at the organization's annual meeting in Philadelphia in next month.

Opening our doors to the community

Two free clinics led by our colleagues in the Medical College of Georgia will soon be moving into the Interdisciplinary Practice and Research Clinic on the first floor of our building, affording excellent opportunities for our CAHS students to join medical students in an interprofessional setting that provides needed care for the underserved Hispanic and LGBT populations in our area. The student-led Latin and Equality clinics will be open on separate Wednesday evenings beginning in August.

Save the Date: Freshman Convocation, Friday, August 15, 2014

Freshman Convocation is the university's official welcome for the undergraduate freshman Class of 2018. The day is divided into three parts:

- Convocation (11 a.m.-noon)
- President's Picnic (noon-1:30 p.m.)
- Freshman 1101 (1:30-3 p.m.)

For additional information, visit go.gru.edu/1mD2xNe or contact Elizabeth Huggins at 706-737-1594 or ehuggins@augusta.edu.

New faculty orientation event

The MCG Office of Faculty Development will host Career Development 101 Thursday, Sept. 11 from 1-5 p.m. in the Augusta University Alumni Center. All recently hired faculty from Augusta University's health

sciences colleges are invited. Topics will include teaching, promotion, research, and clinical service. RSVP to Becky Mueller at rmueller@augusta.edu by Sept. 3 to take part in this excellent opportunity.

Evans named Interim Director of Leadership Development

Lance Evans, Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Health Behavior, has been named Augusta University Interim Director of Leadership Development. The program cultivates leadership qualities in faculty and staff who aspire to executive leadership roles. Evans, a licensed psychologist, also holds appointments in Augusta University's Educational Innovation Institute and the MCG Department of Anesthesiology and Perioperative Medicine.

July 24, 2014

A camp to appreciate

This week, I had the chance to visit with Kitty Hernlen and her many awesome volunteers at the Augusta Area Asthma Camp. This camp is now in its third year and has grown to accommodate 60 children with asthma, giving them a wonderful, very educational and safe summer camp experience. As many of these children also have food allergies, we are most grateful to Cloverleaf Catering of Augusta for their excellent partnership in providing appropriate meals. Thank you, Kitty Hernlen, for your superb leadership in bringing this camp to life! Please also join me in congratulating the respiratory therapy program faculty, students and alumni (yes, many came back to volunteer) for this outstanding contribution to better health in the CSRA.

Research partners with patients

Without going into details, I can share with you that Charlotte Chatto is working on a new and exciting initiative to support the rehabilitation of patients with Parkinson's disease. This is an interdisciplinary work involving professionals from many different areas. I was invited to their recent meeting and was delighted to discover that the research team includes not just academicians but also several patients with Parkinson's as partners. Thank you Charlotte for leading this project and also for showing us this exemplary roundtable of innovative biomedical research.

National appreciation for our faculty

Congratulations to Lynne Eggert and Malorie Novak for receiving recognition from their national professional organizations. Lynne, Program Director of our Radiation Therapy program, was honored this week at the American Society of Radiologic Technologists' Annual Meeting in Orlando as a graduate of the Leadership Academy. She also received an ASRT Certificate of Service for her work on half a dozen national committees.

And we've just received word that Malorie Novak has been selected to receive the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Outstanding Service Award at the organization's 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco in October. The award recognizes Malorie's ongoing contributions to the Continuing Competence Initiative through her work as a ProCert reviewer.

July 3, 2014

Researcher reaches across borders

The Canada Foundation for Innovation has named Abiodun Akinwuntan a member of the Expert Committee for the 2015 Innovation Fund competition. The six-member committee will help determine which large-scale research infrastructure and technology development projects the CFI will invest \$250 million in during the next year.

Abiodun was also the keynote speaker last week at the Lagos University Medical Society Quarterly Conference/Seminar Series. His presentation on "The Role of Virtual Reality Technology in Health Care Delivery of the Future" stimulated discussion of possible future collaborations between the University of Lagos College of Medicine and the Augusta University College of Allied Health Sciences. We take pride that Abiodun is helping the development of health care in Nigeria, a dynamic country facing many challenges.

A rare expert in our midst

We are pleased to announce that Amanda Behr has been recognized as a Certified Clinical Anaplastologist by the Board of Certification in Clinical Anaplastology. She is one of only two people in the country who are certified in both medical illustration and clinical anaplastology, a branch of medicine dealing with the prosthetic rehabilitation of absent, disfigured, or malformed parts of the face or body. A superb accomplishment, Amanda!

Funding encourages young scientists

Hannes Devos has received a \$20,000 one-year Fight for Sight Grant-in-Aid award to investigate performance-based visual field testing in individuals with glaucoma to detect driving impairments. This is yet another example of the growing benefit of collaborations between our college, the Department of Ophthalmology, and the Culver Vision Discovery Institute. Fight for Sight has been funding promising scientists in their early careers since 1946.

HMI student featured in national publication

Senior Health Management and Informatics student Christi Snider is featured in the June 2014 issue of *AHIMA Advantage*, the bimonthly newsletter of the American Health Information Management Association. Christi was recently named to the AHIMA Student Advisory Board, just one of her many service accomplishments. Read about it [here](#).

Research continues to make an impact

Another paper from Pavani Rangachari's infection study, "Cumulative Impact of Periodic Top-down Communications on Infection Prevention Practices and Outcomes in Two Units," has been accepted for publication in *Health Care Management Review*.

Call for applications

The Augusta University Academy of Health Sciences Educators offers faculty with recognized accomplishments in health sciences education a forum to exchange ideas, foster career development, and collaborate institution-wide. Applications for new members will be accepted through Sept. 15. Appreciation goes out to our own Lori Bolgla, who serves on the steering committee for this exceptional opportunity. Learn more at the academy's homepage [here](#)

July 30, 2014

Associate Dean for Research named: Abiodun Akinwuntan

Please join me in congratulating Abiodun Akinwuntan, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Director of the Augusta University Driving Simulation Laboratory, and Fulbright Scholar, on his appointment as Associate Dean for Research for the College of Allied Health Sciences. Dr. Akinwuntan was named Interim Associate Dean of Research in October 2012. Under his energetic leadership, our college has seen a steady growth in research productivity, value, support, and financial sustainability. His success in producing such extensive and measurable improvement led to the unanimous agreement among members of the review committee to make his position permanent. I know that under his continued guidance, our College will continue to align with the institution's research mission and goals by fostering research growth, external funding, recruitment of high quality research faculty, and comprehensive support for faculty development. Congratulations, Abiodun, and my many thanks to committee members Bonnie Dadig, who served as Chair, Pavani Rangachari, Miriam Cortez-Cooper, Raghavan Raju, and Anatolij Horuzsko.

Nuclear Medicine program receives grant

I am pleased to report that Professor Greg Passmore has received a \$10,000 Program Grant from the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. The award will support graduate program development to provide research active facilities and skill development in molecular imaging methodologies. The program will be designed around the domains of knowledge identified by the MICOE Educational Task Force of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. Congratulations!

Low Vision Clinic ready for patients

Our Low Vision Rehabilitation Clinic, under the direction of Mallory Lanier, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy, will begin accepting patients within the week! As the need for such services is great and will only continue to grow, we are happy to be at the forefront of providing such care in our community. We should also add that this service represents the first step towards implementing the new clinician educator track model in our College and Practice Plan. We appreciate the leadership of Mimi Owen, Kathy Dexter, Melissa Walker and Michael Iwama in making this happen.

Praise for our talented students

Please join me in congratulating our students, faculty, and alumni who were recognized for their achievements at the 69th annual conference of the Association of Medical Illustrators in Rochester, Minn., last week. Senior Tasha Obrin received the Student Best of Show Award in New Media and an Award of Excellence in the Interactive Media category. Sixteen of our medical illustration alumni received honors in the Professional Salon. Well done!

Save the date: Presidential Lecture Series

Former University of Toledo President Lloyd A. Jacobs will speak at the next Presidential Lecture Series Sept. 22. Dr. Jacobs led a vigorous process of growth and transformation to establish a new vision, new identity and new level of educational quality and excellence at the university.

August 21, 2014

Dean's Seminar Series: "The post-acute care environment"

Please mark your calendars and join us next Thursday for the newest installment of the Dean's Research Seminar Series. We are very fortunate to have with us one of the country's most influential and successful health care leaders, Mr. Mark Tarr, Executive Vice President and COO of HealthSouth Corporation. Mr. Tarr has spent many years with HealthSouth, now the largest rehabilitation company in the U.S., and is highly knowledgeable on his topic – the post-acute care environment. HealthSouth recently entered the Augusta health care environment with its acquisition of nearby Walton Rehabilitation Hospital. Let's give Mr. Tarr a warm Augusta welcome next Thursday (8/28/2014) at noon in the Lee Auditorium. All Augusta University faculty, staff and students are invited, and lunch will be provided to the first 100 attendees.

PA Department offers new bridge to success

Our new Physician Assistant Bridge program is off to a great start! Three students have been accepted for the fall semester, and two are slated to begin in the spring, meeting our projected first-year number. We can now offer working PAs the opportunity to earn their master's degree while continuing their health care career. This is important because, as we see in a recently released report issued by the National Commission on Certification of Physicians Assistants, while Georgia ranks in the top quartile of certified PAs based on residence, it lags significantly behind in the number of PAs per 100,000 residents. Simply put, the state needs more PAs with advanced degrees, and Augusta University is stepping up to meet the demand. Program Director Laura Lee and Instructional Designer Georgianna Laws are to be commended for their hard work getting this program up and running so quickly after receiving approval from the Board of Regents. Well done!

Patient inclusion elevates research to a new level

I am excited to tell you that the CSRA Parkinson Support Group has awarded Augusta University a \$10,000 grant to support Phase 2 of a pilot study that could well lead to better compliance of in-home therapy regimens for patients with Parkinson's disease. Charlotte Chatto in our Department of Physical Therapy is working with Paul York on the START (System for Technology-Augmented Rehabilitation and Training) project to hone its usability and effectiveness as a program that can be individually tailored and integrated into the daily lives of PD patients, thereby improving quality of life. What is especially exciting about this particular project is that Phase 1 included a Parkinson's patient as an integral member of the research team, bringing a unique set of qualifications and perspective to the table. Even better – this patient will continue to provide ongoing support as a project advisor and patient advocate during Phase 2. Just imagine what potential there is in such collaboration between patients and researchers!

Dental Hygiene goes to the Y

Our Department of Dental Hygiene will take part in a Health Fair hosted by Congressman John Barrow this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wilson Branch Family Y on Wheeler Road. Our faculty and students will join colleagues in the Dental College of Georgia to provide dental screenings and oral hygiene instruction – a wonderful inter-college collaboration and community outreach opportunity. Many thanks to Ana Thompson and her team for participating in this worthy event.

IGRU is underway!

I hope you were able to participate in one of last week's kickoff events for our new annual giving campaign, IGRU (I'm Giving. Are You?). Through IGRU, you can direct your gift to any of the nine Augusta University colleges (of course, I hope you'll choose CAHS), GR Health, the Children's Hospital of Georgia, university athletics, or any other program you wish to support. Learn more about this important initiative at giving.gru.edu/igru.

August 22, 2014

In yesterday's Dean's Digest, we inadvertently omitted the participation of several departments in the Health Fair hosted by Congressman John Barrow this Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the Wilson Branch Family Y on Wheeler Road. Faculty and students from Respiratory Therapy, Physical Therapy, Physician Assistant, and Occupational Therapy will also be participating in this event, helping to bring better health to our local community. Thank you to all who will be participating and representing our college.

Our Education Day during National Nuclear Science Week will take place Oct. 21 rather than Oct. 12.

August 26, 2014

Interim Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Pavani Rangachari as Interim Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health. Over many years, Dr. Rangachari has demonstrated effective leadership in major health care quality improvement initiatives and public health education. Her research projects with MCGHealth resulted in reduction of hospital acquired infections. As MPH Director, she quadrupled enrollment and tripled the offered concentrations. Her research publication record is significant and prior to her academic appointment she had valuable health care industry experience. Her new leadership responsibilities will include substantially growing our practice plan and significantly expanding the MPH program, among others. As we welcome Dr. Rangachari to this new role, we should also express our most heartfelt gratitude to Kathy Dexter, who has been serving above and beyond in faculty practice development tasks over the past year.

HMI study takes lead on economics of adult vaccines

Congratulations to Vahé Heboyan, who has just received word that his joint proposal with the University of South Carolina has been accepted for funding by the Centers for Disease Control. Vahé will serve as co-PI on the project, "Economics of Vaccines and Immunization Policies, Programs, and Practices for Adults: Priority-setting for adult vaccines," which will develop a sorely-needed systematic review of economic studies on adult vaccines in U.S. and create a decision-making tool for use by state and local public vaccinating entities that will prioritize adult immunization programs and optimize vaccine financial resources. This will be the first such study to be conducted in the U.S. and we are pleased to be at the forefront of this important effort to improve public health.

Another publication from our Driving Simulation Lab

Congratulations also to Abiodun Akinwuntan and Hannes Devos, whose article "Decisions about Driving for Persons with Neurodegenerative Conditions" has been accepted for publication in the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine journal *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*. The manuscript provides vital information and education for individuals with a neurodegenerative condition who wish to continue driving, and is the latest in an impressive string of accomplishments generated by our Driving Simulation Lab researchers!

CAHS offers first Traditional Chinese Medicine course

It was a whirlwind effort on the part of many, but Augusta University's first course offered through the Confucius Institute is underway, with 15 graduate and undergraduate students exploring Traditional Chinese Medicine. The class is housed in our Department of Physical Therapy, with many of our PT faculty participating. Many thanks to Department Chair Scott Hasson, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Lester Pretlow, and Instructional Designer Georgianna Laws for getting the course off the ground so quickly, and to our colleagues in the Office of Communications and Marketing for their help in advertising the course campus-wide!

Community health fair a big success

A huge thank you to all our faculty and students who participated in Saturday's Health Fair at the Wilson Family Y. Many of our programs took part in this community event sponsored by Congressman John Barrow – check out this [video from WJBF](#) and you'll see some familiar faces! Job well done, everyone!

The challenge continues!

Most of us are aware that Dr. Azziz participated in the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge on Friday, and then challenged Augusta Mayor-elect Hardie Davis, Clayton State University President Tim Hynes, and Augusta University Chief Business Officer Tony Wagner, who completed the challenge on Saturday. Tony then challenged others, including Augusta University Athletics Director Clint Bryant and Georgia Bank & Trust Executive Vice President Robert Osborne, a great friend of Augusta University.

Campus visits

Regents Jim Hull and Sachin Shailendra from the University System of Georgia BOR will be touring our campus tomorrow, Aug. 27, and Chancellor Hank Huckaby will be here Friday for his annual tour of Augusta University.

Register now for Day of Service Sept. 6

The next Day of Service for Augusta University will be Saturday, Sept. 6. This is an important tradition that demonstrates our commitment to the service component of our mission through volunteer support of community partners. Please register now at gru.edu/about/dayofservice.php.

August 8, 2014

Rehabilitation expert to speak at seminar series

Mark Tarr, Chief Operating Officer of HealthSouth, the largest rehabilitation company in the country, will visit our College and present on "The Post-Acute Care Environment." Mr. Tarr is one of the most influential and successful health care leaders today. I would like to extend my personal invitation to you and your students to join our Dean's Research Seminar event Thursday noon, Aug. 28 in the Lee Auditorium. Box lunches will be served to the first 100 participants.

Medical Illustration moves forward

Building on many accomplishments, the medical illustration program moves forward to strengthen its resources and contributions to the tripartite mission of the university. Bill Andrews will step down as Interim Chair by Aug. 15. With the change, he will be able to devote more time to the dissertation phase of his PhD studies. We appreciate Bill's administrative service and his several accomplishments over the last two and half years. Simultaneously, Michael Iwama starts as Interim Chair of Medical Illustration in addition to his current responsibilities. His first task is to work with faculty and develop plans to elevate the program to the next level. Our College is committed to advancing the medical illustration program and supporting its excellent traditions.

PT students accept the challenge

I'd like to take a moment to recognize our physical therapy students, each and every one of whom showed their professional commitment this year by joining the American Physical Therapy Association, achieving platinum status in the organization's Reach100 Membership Challenge. The dedication of these future practitioners to their profession while still students is wonderful to see, and certainly speaks volumes about how they will represent Augusta University in the years to come. Well done!

Dr. Raju named editor

Raghavan Raju has joined the editorial board of the journal *BBA Molecular Basis of Disease* as section editor for articles pertaining to mitochondria, sirtuin, trauma, sepsis, oxidative stress, and inflammation. The journal reports on the biochemistry and molecular genetics of disease processes and has an impact factor of 5.089. Congratulations, Raju!

Asthma camp featured in state publication

Our recent Augusta Area Asthma Camp, led by Kitty Hernlen and staffed by volunteer Respiratory Therapy faculty, students, and alumni, caught the attention of the Georgia Department of Public Health and was featured in this week's newsletter. Check out the story [here](#) (third from the top)!

Big news from MPH!

Our proposal for a joint MD-MPH program in collaboration with MCG has received institutional and Board of Regents approval for implementation in fall 2015. The 5-year program allows exceptionally talented and highly qualified students to integrate medical school and public health course work, research, and community work. Another proposal to expand the MPH internship program from two to five credit hours has also received approval for implementation next summer. This important curriculum change gives our students substantial public health field experience prior to graduation and helps align our program with national best practices. My thanks to our MPH faculty, Pavani Rangachari and also Paul Wallach (MCG) for their leadership in bringing these important efforts to fruition.

Faculty recognition and success

Congratulations are in order for Malorie Novak, who has been selected to receive the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy's Outstanding Service Award at the organization's 2014 Annual Meeting in San Francisco in October. The award recognizes Malorie's valuable ongoing contributions to the Continuing Competence Initiative through her work as a ProCert reviewer.

Congratulations also to Hannes Devos and Abiodun Akinwuntan on another manuscript accepted for publication. "On-road Driving Impairments and Associated Cognitive Deficits After Stroke" will appear in an upcoming issue of the journal *Cerebrovascular Diseases*.

West Wheeler practice employee preview today

All employees are invited to a special preview of the new GRHealth West Wheeler practice today from 5:30 -7 p.m. West Wheeler offers numerous specialties under one roof in a new, convenient location just off of Wheeler Road. Visit go.gru.edu/1tmEUIP for details.

A virtual discussion on QEP theme and subthemes

Development of our Augusta University Quality Enhancement Plan is underway. The QEP Core Team has collected several videos, publications, and other resources on Experiential Learning and on the subthemes of Leadership, Research & Scholarship and Community Engagement. All faculty, staff, and students are invited to join the conversation by visiting www.gru.edu/QEP between Sept. 15 and Nov. 3.

Jaguar Athletics

Women's volleyball hosts the Augusta University Invitational Friday and Saturday at the Christenberry Fieldhouse. Visit go.gru.edu/1Ar2l6y for the full schedule.

September 4, 2014

Day of Service registration deadline TODAY

Augusta University's Day of Service is this Saturday, Sept. 4. If you have already signed up, many thanks. If you haven't, there is still time to register at gru.edu/about/dayofservice.php. Day of Service volunteers will be honored and rewarded with a BBQ dinner at 5:30 p.m. at the Maxwell Alumni House on the Summerville Campus, and a free concert at 6 p.m. in the D. Douglas Barnard Jr. Amphitheatre. The concert kicks off our "Jazz at the G" series, with guest artists Joel Cruz and KGordon, The Tandem, and the JAMP Masters. In case of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Maxwell Theatre.

Jaguar Athletics

[Home volleyball](#) begins next week, as well as [men's golf](#) and [men's and women's cross country](#).

Update to the Board of Regents

Twenty months in, the University System of Georgia's visionary decision to create Augusta University in Augusta is producing impressive and exciting results. Next Tuesday, Sept. 9, President Azziz will present to the USG Board of Regents in Atlanta a comprehensive assessment of the consolidation's impact on student engagement and success; academic enrichment; faculty development; research opportunities; regional, state, national, and global reach; and more.

Live streaming will be available at 9 a.m. in two locations:

- Summerville Campus – Science Hall, West 1008
- Health Sciences Campus – Small Auditorium, BC-1400

October 22, 2014

Augusta University to host allied health deans in 2015

Earlier this month I attended the Southern Association of Allied Health Deans Conference at the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston. It my great pleasure to inform you that the association accepted our invitation: next year's conference, which brings together chief allied health officers from academic health centers in the Southern states and Puerto Rico, will be held here at Augusta University. I am honored to serve as the organization's treasurer, and proud to have this important and prestigious event in Augusta next October!

High schoolers go nuclear at CAHS

As part of Nuclear Science Week, on Tuesday our Nuclear Medicine Technology program hosted an Education Day for over 60 exceptional high school students from Richmond and Columbia counties. Guest experts from Savannah River Site's Citizens for Nuclear Technology Awareness Education Committee and CB&I AREVA MOX Services presented several interactive programs, and then joined Augusta University and GRMC faculty and staff on a well-received panel exploring career opportunities in nuclear science – a great example of our college working together with other departments and the professional community to engage potential future students! Many thanks to Greg Passmore, Sharron Walls, Jan Bane, Kathy Stone, Mimi Owen, and Lynne Eggert for their hard work bringing this event to our campus for a second year.

A recognition well-earned: Professor Emerita

Another nuclear medicine technology note – As many of you know, Mary Anne "Mimi" Owen will retire at the end of December after serving for many years as Director of our Nuclear Medicine Technology program. I am very pleased to announce that Mimi will be awarded Emerita Status, an honor for which she is most deserving. Thank you, Mimi, for your innumerable accomplishments and long-standing dedication to our college. We wish you much success in your next endeavors!

Quality Enhancement Plan proposals wanted

As you've heard by now, the Core Team charged with identifying our next Quality Enhancement Plan is requesting proposals for our next QEP. We've all discussed what we wish we could do differently to enrich the educational experience here at Augusta University. The QEP provides the impetus to see one of our concepts brought to life, so please don't hold back! Share your ideas, either individually or as part of a team. Learn more about the QEP theme, subthemes, and the required learning outcome at gru.edu/qep. Additionally, the QEP Core Team will host a Drop-in Workshop on Monday, Oct. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Magnolia/Dogwood Rooms of Terrace Dining.

October 3, 2014

Spreading our influence far and wide

Congratulations to Dr. Michael Iwama, our Chair of Occupational Therapy and Interim Chair of Medical Illustration, who has been invited to speak at upcoming OT conferences in California, Kenya, and the United Kingdom.

He will deliver the keynote address at the 2014 Annual Conference of the Occupational Therapy Association of California, speaking on “Addressing Diversity: Occupational Therapy’s Promise of Cultural Relevance.” Once again, we are proud to have such terrific ambassador in the quest for intellectual leadership and better health care.

Welcome!

Please join me in welcoming postdoctoral fellow Dr. Maud Ranchet to our Driving Simulation Lab. Dr. Ranchet will be heavily involved in database management and analysis for our research collaboration into fitness-to-drive evaluations with the Belgian Road Safety Institute. Her expertise in visual exploration behavior in traffic situations using eye-tracking technology will be an important asset as we continue to advance our research expertise and influence in the field of driving with neurological conditions.

Publication news

Mohan Wakade and Raymond Chong are co-authors on a paper just accepted by the journal *PLOS ONE*. “Upregulation of GPR109A in Parkinson’s disease” shows for the first time the increase of an anti-inflammatory protein and vitamin B3 receptor in Parkinson’s disease patients that may help develop new treatments and lead to a better understanding of the disease’s progress. Mohan is also co-author of an article examining the role of a specific molecule in the brains of mice with Alzheimer’s disease. “Ganglioside GD3 is Required for Neurogenesis and Long-Term Maintenance of Neural Stem Cells in the Postnatal Mouse Brain” will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Neuroscience* (impact factor 7.2).

Innovation Summit Oct. 7

Two innovators who lead top high-tech companies will headline our second annual Innovation Summit on Tuesday, Oct. 7 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Salvation Army Kroc Center, 1833 Broad St. Dr. Dirk Brown, founder of Pandoodle, a digital technology company, is the summit’s keynote speaker. His presentation, “The Pandoodle Story,” will begin at 10:30 a.m. Dr. Mimi Healy, CEO of LaserGen, a biotechnology company focused on commercializing new technologies for DNA sequencing, will speak about “Serial Entrepreneurship – Scraped Knuckles and Bruises ... and Fun,” during lunch at 12:15 p.m. For additional details, visit greport.gru.edu/archives/11621

October 30, 2014

Welcome our new department chair: Dr. Finkelstein

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Joseph Finkelstein, incoming Chair of the Department of Health Management and Informatics, effective Jan. 15, 2015. Currently, Dr. Finkelstein is Associate Professor of Medicine and Director of the Chronic Disease Information Program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, with a joint appointment in the university's Bloomberg School of Public Health Department of Health Policy and Management. He held previous appointments at the University of Maryland in Baltimore, Boston University and Columbia University, New York.

An experienced chronic disease researcher, Dr. Finkelstein has published over 90 articles in peer-reviewed journals, completed numerous grant funded projects, holds two patents and devotes much of his time to mentoring pre- and post-doctoral students. Dr. Finkelstein received his medical degree from Pirogov State Medical University in Moscow, where he also earned a PhD in biomedical cybernetics. He holds a master's degree in medical informatics from Columbia University and completed a research fellowship in clinical pulmonology at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem.

We also appreciate the thorough, excellent work of the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Lester Pretlow and Carolyn Burns Augusta University Executive Search Consultant.

CLS program awarded re-accreditation

Congratulations to Program Director Barbara Kraj and her Clinical Laboratory Science faculty and staff colleagues on receiving extension of accreditation from the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. This formal extension means our CLS program is now accredited through October 2020. The success was greatly facilitated by the excellent leadership support of Lester Pretlow, Barbara Russell and Yoon-Ho Seol. Well done!

CAHS students participate in AHEC rotations

Denise Kornegay, Executive Program Director and MCG Associate Dean of the Georgia Statewide AHEC Network, reports that in FY 2014, regional AHECs across the state collectively provided community-based clinical training support for 808 Augusta University students who participated on more than 1,200 rotations totaling nearly 220,000 hours. These numbers include our college's physician assistant, occupational therapy, and physical therapy students. Our College is grateful for the excellent support steadily coming from the AHEC Network!

Images for Science exhibit

The Augusta University Arts Council is hosting the Royal Photographic Society "Images for Science" exhibition in the Reese and Greenblatt libraries, with 100 of the world's best science photographs. We appreciate the great synergy of arts and sciences. Check out these amazing images!

GRHealth West Wheeler grand opening

We celebrated the grand opening celebration of GRHealth West Wheeler at 1220 West Wheeler Pkwy. This latest facility under the Georgia Regents umbrella combines top-notch physicians and high-quality care with convenience and ease. GRHealth West Wheeler is a community-based practice that is centrally located near state Route 520 and Interstate 20. The new location combines many of GRHealth's key services.

October 7, 2014

It's National Physician Assistants Week!

As part of the celebration, our PA Class of 2016 will visit second graders at Brookwood Elementary today and Thursday for a kid-friendly presentation, "Sink those Germs: Wash Your Hands," where the kids will experiment and create a "pet glow germ." What fun! Other activities this week include a photo contest, student membership drives for state and national professional organizations, an ice cream social and a potluck luncheon. Please join me in expressing appreciation for the great work of Physicians Assistants throughout the year and particularly for the many accomplishments of students, faculty and staff in our outstanding PA Department!

Family Weekend offers glimpse of student life

Families of first-year students at Augusta University will get a glimpse of student life during Family Weekend Oct. 10-11. The weekend will include individual programs for each of Augusta University's nine colleges, and feature tours, games, lectures by professors, laboratory demonstrations, and more.

Please attend CAHS events, which include the following:

10 a.m. – noon – DH tours and demonstrations, Dental Building, GC-4354

10:30 a.m. – PT Brunch, Health Sciences Building lobby

11 a.m. – PT White Coat Ceremony, EC-1222

11 a.m. – MLIRS White Coat Ceremony, Kroc Center

11:30 a.m. – RT Brunch, EC-4304

Noon – 1 p.m. – RT tour and demonstrations, EC-4361

1- 1:30 p.m. – CAHS welcome and greeting line, Lee Auditorium

1:45 p.m. – PA White Coat Ceremony, Lee Auditorium

1:45 p.m. – OT Pinning Ceremony and tours, EC-1222

Helping students bear the cost of higher education

Charlotte Chatto has been awarded an Affordable Learning Textbook Transformation Grant from the University System of Georgia Board of Regents to develop low or no-cost learning materials for physical therapy students. Charlotte is first author on the project, a collaborative effort with Jeff Mastromonico, Director of Educational and Collaborative Technology with Augusta University's Information Technology Services. Already, we are anticipating potential translation of an iBook into other languages. Great work!

Harrison Education Commons grand opening Oct. 16

Augusta University will hold a grand opening ceremony for the J. Harold Harrison, M.D. Education Commons at 11 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 16. Speakers include Gov. Nathan Deal and University System of Georgia Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby.

November 6, 2014

Long-time employees recognized

Last evening, Augusta University acknowledged employees of the university with 20 or more years of service with a recognition ceremony and dinner at the beautiful Legends Club. I am so pleased to recognize with gratitude our college's faculty and staff members who have achieved this milestone:
20 years – Zubaida Abubucker (CLS) and Gloria Paulos (DH)
25 years – Laura Lee (PA) and Sue Ward (DH)
30 years – Jan Bane (MLIRS) and Bonnie Dadig (PA)

Well done, and congratulations!

A great AHP Week!

Of course you have noticed all our program banners proudly displayed in the lobby of the Health Sciences Building since Monday as we celebrate Allied Health Professions Week. I hope you were able to join us Tuesday morning for the fabulous breakfast put on for our college's faculty, staff, and students by the Augusta University Alumni Association, and perhaps you caught the interview on radio station WGAC Monday with Associate Dean Lester Pretlow describing the great work of our various professions, or have seen the daily GReport features this week on outstanding students from each of our programs. I also had the great honor of accompanying six of our wonderful students to the Mayor's office yesterday as he proclaimed Nov. 3-7 "Allied Health Professions Week in Augusta."

Thank you to each and every one of you – our over 100 faculty and staff members and nearly 650 students – for representing our college, our university, and your professions always to the highest of standards. I couldn't be more proud!

A special thank you

As reported in last week's Dean's Digest, Dr. Joseph Finkelstein will join us in January as Chair of the Department of Health Management and Informatics. I'd like to express my great appreciation to Lori Prince for so ably serving as Interim Chair since January 2011, leading the department as it evolves to meet the increasing demand for HIA professionals. Thank you, Lori, for your extended service, leadership, and devotion to the department and its students!

Celebrating radiation technology

This week is also National Radiologic Technology Week. To express appreciation for the time and support given to them by mentors at their clinical affiliates, our terrific junior and senior radiation technology students provided breakfast for their professional role models at Georgia Regents Radiation Therapy Center, Doctor's Hospital Radiation Oncology Department, and the Cancer Care Institute of Carolina at Aiken Regional Hospital. Thank you, students!

CAHS faculty edits new journal watch site

Augusta University has launched the first issue of Journal Scout, a homegrown blog that provides brief reviews of health sciences education literature in allied health, dentistry, medicine, and nursing. Our very own Dr. Lori Bolgla in the Department of Physical Therapy is co-editor along with Dr. Ralph Gillies of MCG's Department of Family Medicine. Congratulations, Lori, and thank you for implementing this

valuable inter-professional project so that busy faculty members at Augusta University and elsewhere can stay informed of the latest innovations and findings.

Each quarter, faculty will receive an email listing of reviewed articles with links to full-text versions. Journal Scout readers are able to post their own comments and search archived reviews. Click [here](#) to view the inaugural issue, and contact Lori to offer your own article reviews.

Open enrollment for university employees

Open Enrollment for all Augusta University active and leased employees is underway through Nov. 14. This is your only opportunity to make changes to your benefit plans, unless you have a qualifying change of status. Please be aware that there are many changes for 2015, including some plans that require mandatory re-enrollment to prevent loss of coverage. For more information, visit gru.edu/hr/benefits/enrollment[BROKEN LINK]

Jazz at the G

“Jazz at the G,” a series of jazz concerts presented by Georgia Public Broadcasting Augusta in cooperation with the Augusta University Music Department, Garden City Jazz, the Greater Augusta Arts Council, and the Maxwell Performing Arts Theatre, will present a concert Saturday, Nov. 8, featuring quietSTORM, Tutu D’Vyne, Nice N Easy Jazz, and The Augusta University Jazz Ensemble. The performance begins at 6 p.m. at the D. Douglas Barnard Jr. Amphitheatre. Click [here](#) for details.

Augusta University athletics

Our Jaguar volleyball team notched their best-ever record, 23-7, with a road win against Francis Marion University in Florence S.C., last Saturday. Go Jags! See details at jaguarsroar.com. In other Jag sports news, Augusta University will host the Peach Belt Cross Country Conference championships this Saturday, Nov. 8 at Fort Gordon. The men’s race begins at 9 a.m., and the women take off at 9:45 a.m.

December 1, 2014

Welcome back, OT

Occupational Therapy students and alumni are home from Jamaica, where they accompanied Drs. Pam Kearney and Sharon Swift on the department’s third Study Abroad trip to that country in just over a year! I congratulate them for their outstanding service to the disabled children and adults who live at the Mustard Seed Community’s Jerusalem Orphanage, and thank them for their ongoing commitment – a fourth trip in March already has 33 students signed up! Thank you, Pam and Sharon, for bringing this wonderful opportunity to our students!

Augusta University retention and graduation rates UP

Provost Gretchen Caughman has asked that I pass along good news from the Board of Regents – Augusta University’s first-year retention rate for Fall 2013-14 is up more than three percent from the previous year, while our six-year graduation rate jumped seven percent. I join with Dr. Caughman in expressing deep appreciation to our faculty and staff for all the hard work and commitment that made these improvements possible. Thank you for your dedication to increasing our students’ success. You make it happen!

Great research news!

Several of our faculty members have received a \$12,500 Culver Vision Discovery Institute Pilot Grant to investigate low vision rehabilitation for drivers who have glaucoma. Abiodun Akinwuntan and Hannes Devos in Physical Therapy and Jason Hughes in Occupational Therapy join Kathryn Bollinger in the Department of Ophthalmology on the study – another great example of collaboration among colleagues!

Abiodun and Hannes have also just received word that a manuscript they are co-authors on, “Association between Site of Stroke Lesion and On-road Driving Performance after Stroke,” has been accepted for publication by the journal Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation. Congratulations!

Grant deadlines approaching

Deadlines for Summer 2015 and Spring 2016 University System of Georgia Textbook Transformation Grants proposals are rapidly approaching. Submissions for Category 4 must be in by Dec. 8. Contact Melissa Johnson at Summerville’s Reese Library at mjohns69@augusta.edu or visit [Textbook Transformation Grants Round 2 RFP](#) for more information.

Medical Illustration student praises former professor

Augusta University Medical Illustration student Mat Severson was recently quoted in an article featuring Dr. Dan Gebo, this year’s “Illinois Professor of the Year.” Mat had collaborated with Dr. Gebo, a world-renowned primatologist and professor at Northern Illinois University, on a textbook about primate comparative anatomy while he was an undergraduate illustration student at NIU. You can read more [here](#).

Submit your comments to QEP proposals

Academic Community Engagement (ACE); Leadership, Engagement, and Professionalism; and Learning Where You Live, Living Where You Learn, are among the QEP proposals submitted. The QEP committee is now asking for your comments on these themes. To read the abstracts of the submitted proposals and to make a comment, visit the [QEP web site](#).

Jag 20 Emerging Alumni Leader Awards

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2015 class of Jag20 honorees, Augusta University’s Alumni Emerging Leader awards program. It honors 20 outstanding younger alumni who have upheld the values of Augusta University and have made a significant impact in their chosen career field, their community, and/or their alma mater. Recipients will be recognized at an awards luncheon April 26 during Alumni Weekend. For more information, or to make a nomination, visit gualumni.com/Jag20.

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day is held on Dec. 1 each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate people who have died. Events at Augusta University are being presented by the Medical College of Georgia Section of Infectious Diseases, the Augusta University Ryan White Program, and Student Health Services. For more information, [please see the calendar listings](#).

Tree Lighting

Join us on Thursday, Dec. 4 at 6 p.m. for the annual Tree Lighting on the Summerville Campus History

Walk. There will be caroling, refreshments, and a visit from Santa. For more information, [please see the full calendar listing](#).

Cares for Kids Radiothon

December 4 (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.) December 5 (6 a.m. – 7 p.m.) December 6 (7 a.m. to noon) - Tune into 104.3 WBBQ, KISS 96.3, and Augusta's newest country G1057.7 December 4-6th as the stations hit the airwaves live from CHOG. Listen to patients and families tell their stories and become a Miracle Maker by pledging \$15 a month. Pledges can be made anytime through the online giving portal at caresforkidsradiothon.com and during the Radiothon by calling 706-922-KIDS (5437) or 1-866-412-KIDS (5437).

Augusta University Faculty & Staff Golf Tournament

An annual Augusta tradition continues Dec. 6 as the Augusta University Faculty and Staff golf tournament is set to tee off at Forest Hills Golf Club. Registration and a continental breakfast begin at 8 a.m., with a shotgun start at 9. Lunch will be served following completion of the round. The cost is \$30 to register, with a Dec. 1 deadline. To register, go to giving.gru.edu/golf. For more information, contact Ralph Alee at ralee@augusta.edu or 706-721-7343.

December 12, 2014

Coca-Cola VP and CFO for Greater China and Korea to speak at Augusta University December Commencement

More than 600 students will become the newest graduates of Augusta University after fall commencement, Saturday, Dec. 13 at 2 p.m. at the James Brown Arena. Thierry Roques, Vice President and Chief Finance Officer for Coca-Cola Greater China and Korea, a business unit of The Coca-Cola Company, will be the guest speaker. Read more at greport.gru.edu/archives/13453.

HMI class president honored by AHIMA

Christi Snider, Health Information Administration Class of 2014 President, has been selected a 2014 American Health Information Management Association Foundation Merit Scholarship recipient. Christi was a shoo-in for the \$1,500 Conifer Health Solutions Scholarship, which goes to applicants with great service-learning and/or community service experience, as she has spent her time here at Augusta University heavily engaged in university, local, state, and national organizations and activities related to Health Management and Informatics. Congratulations, Christi, on an honor well-deserved!

Dr. Bolgla chosen for EII leadership program

Our college once again has a faculty member represented in an elite group of scholars. Physical Therapy Associate Professor Lori Bolgla has been named a Augusta University Educational Innovation Institute Teaching Scholar Fellow for 2015! It is indeed an honor to be selected for this exceptional faculty development opportunity, designed to enhance learning and develop local and global educational leaders in health sciences education and educational research. We couldn't be more proud of Lori, who is joined in the class cohort by Dr. Nita Maihle of the Cancer Research Center; Dr. S. Jones

Miller, the Regional Clerkship Director for OB/GYN at MCG's Southwest Campus; Dr. Dale Peeples in the MCG Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior; and Peter Shipman of the Greenblatt Library.

Augusta University named a top military-friendly university by Military Advanced Education

Augusta University has been recognized again for its educational opportunities for military students. Military Advanced Education has named Augusta University a top military-friendly institution in its "2015 MAE Guide to Colleges and Universities" that measures the best practices in military and veteran education. Read more at greport.gru.edu/archives/13386.

Brian Rust installation featured at EcoArt 2014

A public art installation by Augusta University Professor of Art Brian Rust was selected for EcoArt 2014, a Lexington, Ky.-based program that seeks to increase awareness of environmental issues through art. Read more at greport.gru.edu/archives/13409.

December 18, 2014

Dietetic Internship eligible for reaccreditation

I am happy to report that a review of the Augusta Area Dietetic Internship accreditation application has been completed. The program, which is transitioning to our College of Allied Health Sciences under the directorship of Dr. Dale Hardy, meets all eligibility requirements of the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics and is scheduled for its next reaccreditation self-study report and site visit in 2016.

Commencement

What an honor it was to share the stage with our most recent graduates last Saturday. If you are looking for a dose of inspiration, take a moment to look at the trending gallery at gru.edu/trends/graduation.

Augusta University-affiliated hospitals rank high in state

Georgia Trend magazine ranked Georgia Regents Medical Center – the flagship hospital for the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University – at No. 3 and Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital in Albany at No. 7 among the Top Teaching Hospitals in the state in their 2014 Top Hospitals feature.

Hoops Education Day today

Augusta University men's basketball hosts the inaugural Education Day today in Christenberry Fieldhouse with more than 2,000 Richmond County fifth-graders in attendance. The 7-1 Jaguars tip off the Peach Belt Conference opener with the Hurricanes of Georgia Southwestern at 11 a.m., with the Lady Hurricanes at 1 p.m. Read more at jaguarsroar.com.

Operation Jag R.A.I.D. listed among NCAA Award of Excellence finalists

Augusta University has been named one of 25 college and university finalists for the 2015 Division II Award of Excellence by the NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. We were selected based on Operation JAG R.A.I.D. (Run. Army. Initiative. Day.) program, part of a three-year initiative between Augusta University and Fort Gordon to collaborate with the NCAA and military installations. [Full release](#)