

January 3, 2017

First of all, I wish you all a very Happy and Prosperous New Year! It has been my great opportunity and tremendous privilege working with each and every one of you in 2016. As a team, we can be proud of what the College of Allied Health Sciences is achieving and what we are ready to achieve in moving forward.

Just in case there are also other Star Wars fans in our College, let me recommend a fine performance by the President's Own to jump start your 2017: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dA3CCwi2Bjw>

De Leo and Heboyan Secure Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Grant

Dr. Gianluca De Leo (PI) and Dr. Vahe Heboyan (CO-I) were recently awarded a \$548,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) in collaboration with Hack Augusta Inc., a business and idea incubator in downtown Augusta. The grant will be used to create a mesh network among small and midsize communities in Georgia to improve collaboration on public health innovation. This study is timely in that it is synergistic with the rural health initiative at Augusta University. The grant will also fund the development of an online certificate program in public health innovation and small business management. Obtaining a grant from the RWJF is no small feat. Congratulations to the investigators!

Dean's Research Seminar on Community Engaged Research Set for March 16th

Join us for the first Dean's Research Seminar of the New Year! The seminar will feature a presentation by Dr. Tabia Henry Akintobi, Associate Professor of Community Health and Preventative Medicine and Associate Dean for Community Engagement at the Morehouse School of Medicine's Prevention Research Center (PRC). Dr. Akintobi will discuss "Community Engaged Research: Merging High Touch, a Strong Evidence Base and Systems Change to advance health equity." Dr. Henry Akintobi has demonstrated leadership in collaborative, community-engagement research through leveraging the PRC infrastructure. She is also Director of the Atlanta Clinical and Translational Science Institute Community Engagement and Research Program, a central component of the Emory University-Morehouse School of Medicine-Georgia Institute of Technology Clinical and Translational Science Award. The lecture will take place on Tuesday, March 16th in Health Sciences Room 1218.

Article by Burgess Featured in *Nature Methods* Journal

A recent article by Dr. James Burgess was featured in *Nature Methods* Journal. The article, originally published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, discussed the use of nanokits for probing single cells. *Nature Methods* is a "forum for the publication of novel methods and significant improvements to tried-and-tested basic research techniques in the life sciences."

Occupational Therapy Student Honored by Alma Mater

First-year occupational therapy student, Tabitha Meadows, will be honored by Georgia State University with the Kell Award. The Kell award is given to the student with the highest undergraduate scholastic average in all course work at Georgia State. Tabitha is obviously a very high-achieving student and we are happy that she has selected Augusta University for occupational therapy. Keep up the good work, Tabitha!

Student Receives Scholarship from Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions

Occupational Therapy student, Emily Prickett, was one of only 12 students nation-wide to receive the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions scholarship. The scholarship is awarded to recognize outstanding students in allied health programs who are achieving excellence in their academic pursuits. The recipients also have demonstrated potential to become leaders in their profession. Congratulations, Emily!

Andrews Accepted into Augusta University Academy of Health Science Educators

Dr. Bill Andrews, Professor of Medical Illustration, was recently accepted into Augusta University's Academy of Health Science Educators. The Academy of Health Sciences Educators (The Academy) is an organization of distinguished health sciences educators who have demonstrated sustained excellence in educational activities and scholarship within and beyond Augusta University. It should come as no surprise that Dr. Andrews would qualify for this honor thanks to his many contributions to our program and beyond. Congratulations, Dr. Andrews!

January 13, 2017

Dr. Rangachari Appointed Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health

Effective January 15th, Dr. Pavani Rangachari is appointed as Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health. Our college appreciates her effective leadership record of multiplying enrollment and greatly expanding the MPH program and more recently strengthening the performance of our practice plan. Since she became Interim Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health, the practice plan participation expanded, revenues increased and margin greatly improved. She is also successful health services researcher with externally funded projects that support our AU Medical Center. The responsibilities of Dr. Rangachari include administrative oversight of the practice plan, multiplying plan revenues and margin, continuous quality improvement, launching innovative interprofessional and practice-based initiatives, development of community health initiatives and externally funded community collaborative projects and progress monitoring/reporting. Please congratulate Dr. Rangachari on her appointment and offer your support to advancing practice and community health initiatives.

Barefield Selected to Editorial Board

Dr. Amanda Barefield has been selected to be a member of the newly expanded Editorial Board for Online Learning Consortium's premier journal, *Online Learning (OLJ)*, as an Editorial Review Board member. She was chosen among a select group in the OLJ community who have been vetted for qualifications to provide critical assistance to grow the journal. Her commitment is for a 3-year term. Congratulations, Dr. Barefield!

Dr. Kearney Thanked for Volunteer Service

The American Occupational Therapy Association recently thanked Dr. Pamalyn Kearney for her dedicated volunteer service on the Roster of Accreditation Evaluators. As an evaluator, Dr. Kearney commits to numerous hours of online program reviews and to travelling to occupational therapy education programs around the country. Her knowledge of the accreditation process is a huge benefit to our Occupational Therapy program and the College. Thank you for your service!

Dental Hygiene Faculty Have Article Published in *RDH Magazine*

A job well done to Kandyce A'see and Suzanne Mathis who had their article entitled "My Eye's on You: Are dental professionals using safety glasses while rendering care?" published in *RDH Magazine*. The article addresses patient safety and possible adverse side effects on eyes if appropriate safety precautions are not taken to protect patients. A survey of dental professionals was conducted at the Dental Hygiene Symposium held in 2015 to gather more information regarding the need for a culture of safety in professional settings. As patients, we should all be our own advocates for safety as well. To learn more, you can read the article [here](#). (Caution: Graphic Photo Content)

HIA Faculty to Present at Health Informatics Consortium

Lori Prince and Amanda Barefield, faculty in the Health Information Administration Program, will present "*Utilizing an embedded analytics tool to capture health informatics competency data*" in March 2017 at the *Consortium of Baccalaureate and Masters Programs in Health Informatics and Information Management (HIIM)* at The University of Mississippi in Jackson, Mississippi. This is a wonderful opportunity and will bring recognition to the program.

January 17, 2017

Bachelor of Science in Health Services (BSHS) Approved

At the most recent meeting of the USG Board of Regents, the Academic Affair Committee approved the Bachelor of Science in Health Services (BSHS). The BSHS is an open-degree undergraduate program. Students will be able to declare the degree upon matriculation to the university without meeting further requirements. The program will provide knowledge and skills in healthcare delivery, leadership, cultural competency, global health, bioethics, statistics, and research/innovation. Most importantly, the BSHS provides an opportunity for facilitated transition to our allied health undergraduate and graduate professional programs.

The establishment of this degree program is a huge accomplishment not just for the College of Allied Health Sciences but for Augusta University as a whole. This announcement of the degree program is very timely as the Board of Regents just released guidance regarding the phasing out of the "Pre-health" programs in the University system. I am very proud of our College and all of the work we have done to establish the BSHS response to this challenge. We particularly appreciate the great work of the Department of Clinical and Digital Health Sciences, the entire BSHS design team and Lester Pretlow Associate Dean. Special thanks to our excellent Faculty Council in helping to make this program a reality. Congratulations!

Research Awards for FY2017 Set to Outpace FY2016

It appears that 2017 research dollars in the College of Allied Health Sciences are on pace to exceed those of FY2016. For the year end 2016, research submissions totaled \$21,568,527 with awards from the submissions totaling \$355,619. As of the 2nd quarter of FY2017 our research submissions total \$18,475,590 while awards from the submissions topped \$983,427! That is nearly three times the award money in nearly half the time. Keep up the good work!

Health Tech Expo to be held in CAHS

The much anticipated Health Tech Startup Expo will take place in the College of Allied Health Sciences. The expo, which was featured in the [Jagwire](#), will focus on how to create health tech startups, what

challenges those companies face and how to establish partnerships to successfully run startups. This is a great opportunity for our entrepreneurial faculty and students to get inspired by successful startups. The event, being held Friday, January 27th from 11am-5pm, is free and open to the public. Individuals can register online [here](#). We appreciate the hard work of Dr. Gianluca De Leo and Dr. Vahe Heboyan organizers.

Besenyi Receives Center Undergraduate Research and Scholarship Grant

Dr. Gina Besenyi, Assistant Professor of Public Health, received a \$1,000 grant from the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship (CURS) to complete a research study on asthma. The study, titled "Spatiotemporal Interpolation for Particulate Matter Exposure Analysis: Validation of Navel Methodology for Children with Asthma," focuses on community and respiratory health. Congratulations, Dr. Besenyi!

February 9, 2017

Health Tech Startup Expo a Huge Success

Recently, our College hosted over 100 guests as part of the inaugural Health Tech Startup Expo. The event attracted faculty, students, community members, entrepreneurs and more who all have a shared interest in healthcare innovation and business. Expo attendees had the opportunity to meet and hear from local startup owners and innovators who shared their ideas and stories about what it takes to start a business and improve healthcare. The Expo received a lot of media attention with stories from [WFXG](#), [WJBF](#) and [Metro Spirit](#) just to name a few. Thank you to coordinators Gianluca De Leo and Vahe Heboyan who worked closely with local non-profit Clubhouse and the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) to organize the event. We hope the expo inspired the next big idea in healthcare.

Eggert Reappointed as JRCERT Site Visitor

Radiologic Technology program director Lynne Eggert has been reappointed as a site visitor for the Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology (JRCERT). Lynne's work as a site visitor is in addition to all that she does as a program director here in our College. Her dedication to the profession is a great benefit to all of us as she has firsthand knowledge of what it takes to provide the best radiologic technology education possible. Keep up the good work, Lynne!

OT Faculty Member and Students Design App

Occupational Therapy faculty member Sharon Cosper and her research group: Cassie Kornstadt, Lindsey Rosenberg, Jennie Lee, Meredith Griffin, Amanda Rogers, and Page Barnes, recently designed an app called "OT at Home." The app can be used to provide occupational therapists easy-to-access, creative projects to address cognitive, motor, and social skills. This simple tool can be used by the occupational therapist to increase collaboration and overall communication with the caregivers of the children they work with, creating a bridge between the clinic and home environments by providing an accessible resource of activities for caregivers to use at home, under the direction of their child's therapist. The app is available for download in the app store for both iPad and iPhone devices.

Commander Bachand to Lecture about Head Injuries

Commander (CDR) David J. Bachand, a 1994 graduate of the PA Program and commissioned officer in the United States Navy, will lecture about head injuries as part of our Alumni Week activities. CDR Bachand was selected as the CAHS Outstanding Alumni awardee due, in part, to his commitment to the PA profession and his country. He demonstrates the ideals of service, leadership and compassionate care in his everyday work and has received many awards and honors during his career. Currently, he practices at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Bethesda, MD with a specialized team providing primary care and assisting with research for traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder for service members. He provides training on military acute concussion evaluation. **The lecture will be held on April 28th at noon in EC 1204.**

CDHS Works Collaboratively on Several Publications

Researchers from the Clinical and Digital Health Sciences Department have been working collaboratively with colleagues at Augusta University and beyond on several projects. Their efforts will result in several upcoming publications. The first, "Patient Web Portals, Disease Management, and Primary Prevention" will be published in an upcoming issue of the *Journal of Risk Management and Health Care Policy*. The second, "Development of the PYNc Smartphone App for Preventing Breast Cancer in Women" will be published in the February issue of the *Journal of mHealth*. This teamwork is a great example of how interdisciplinary partnerships can foster success. Great work!

February 13, 2017

Bolgia Wins Award for Research Publication

Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, Lori Bolgia, was awarded the "Best Original Research Manuscript Award" from the *International Journal of Sports Physical Therapy* for her manuscript titled "Pain, Function and Strength Outcomes for Males and Females who Participate in Either a Hip/Core or Knee-Based Rehabilitation Program". In addition, her abstract titled "Patellofemoral Pain and Osteoarthritis: Identification of 'at-risk' individuals" was a finalist for the Excellence in Research award. Great work, Dr. Bolgia!

Dental Hygiene Continues Tradition of Professional Continuing Education

In March of 2002, the Department of Dental Hygiene conducted its first Clinical Re-entry continuing education program. At the request of the Georgia Board of Dentistry, a course was developed to refresh the skills of dental hygienists who had been out of the workplace for an extended amount of time. The one-day course, directed by Cynthia Hughes, drew hygienists from across the state. In December of 2016, the now five-day course drew participants from across the US and Canada. Thank you to all who support this effort.

Dr. Benevides Featured on the Means Report

Dr. Teal Benevides, associate professor and occupational therapist, shared the news about her latest autism research on *The Means Report*. Throughout her eloquent interview she discussed her PCORI funded grant and how it will be used to engage adults with autism. Benevides noted that very few studies focus on adults with autism and that her groundbreaking work will give them a voice as they work to improve their health outcomes. She also emphasized that adults with autism have many gifts to share with the community and beyond. The informative interview can be viewed [here](#).

Nuclear Medicine Technology Earns Reaccreditation

The Nuclear Medicine Technology Program recently completed their accreditation site visit and the visiting team found no deficiencies. This rigorous accreditation process starts with a self-assessment followed by a site visit from specialized and professional accreditors. These accreditors have experience in the discipline and are qualified to inspect the program's records as part of the validation process. This positive result is a testament to the hard work of Dr. Greg Passmore, Regina Gerrard and their support team including Jan Bane and Dr. Burgess. Congratulations!

Faculty Volunteer as Science Fair Judges

A special thank you to several of our faculty members who recently volunteered to judge this year's science fair at CT Walker Traditional Magnet School. Volunteers from the College Dr. Bonnie Dadig, Ansley Stuart and... In total, there were 14 Augusta University Volunteers who collectively gave 30.5 hours of volunteer time. They collectively judged 74 projects at least twice, and provided a third review when indicated. A total of approximately 148 projects were judged in one day. On a related note, Dr. Lester Pretlow was a science fair judge for the Warren Road Elementary School Science Fair. Winners from local science fairs will participate in the regional science fair in March.

Promotions Approved by President Keel

Several faculty in our college were recently approved for promotion and/or tenure by President Keel. Congratulations to Drs. Charlotte Chatto and Tiana Curry-McCoy who were each approved for promotion to Associate Professor. Dr. Michael Jensen was approved for promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure. And Drs. Lori Bolgia and Raymond Chong were both approved for promotion to Professor. These promotions represent a significant professional achievement for each of these individuals after many years of hard work. To achieve promotions and tenure each faculty member must have demonstrated proficiency in scholarship, teaching and service. We wish you all continued success!

February 20, 2017

Dental Hygienists Give Kids a Smile

The Dental Hygiene Department recently partnered with the Dental College of Georgia for Give Kids a Smile Day. Give Kids a Smile Day is a national program established by the American Dental Association to provide underserved children with free oral health services. The Augusta event was featured on [WTVM](#) and [WFXG](#). From our college, 57 dental hygiene students and nine faculty members provided free dental care to over 100 local school children. Wow - now that puts a smile on our face!

Passmore Re-Elected as Director on the NMT Certification Board

Dr. Gregory Passmore, program director of Nuclear Medicine Technology, was recently re-elected for his third term as a director on the Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board (NMTCB). The NMTCB is the premier certification board for nuclear medicine technologists and to be elected for a third term is a rare honor. This position speaks volumes for Dr. Passmore's visibility, professional service and respect within the NMT community. Great work, Dr. Passmore!

Dental Hygiene Students Lobby at the Capitol

On Feb 9th, 250 dental hygienists and students from around the state showed up for Dental Hygiene Day at the Capitol to help the Georgia Dental Hygiene Association make history! The organization and our students lobbied the Georgia State House and Senate to pass the general supervision bill. General supervision means better access to patient care, more jobs for hygienists and more freedom for dentists. Thank you to the students who participated. Your voice matters!

CAHS Faculty Featured in R&D Magazine

Dr. Andrew Mazzoli and Dr. Steven Coughlin were recently featured in *R&D*, Augusta University's research and discovery magazine. Dr. Mazzoli was featured for his continued work with the Costa Layman Health Fair – this was his 8th year participating. And Dr. Coughlin was featured for his \$1.1 million grant to study female Gulf War veterans. Each story represents the wide variety of research that is taking place in our College. Great work! The full articles can be read [here](#).

Dental Hygiene Student Honored with Scholarship

Congratulations to dental hygiene student Perlin Ramirez who received a scholarship from the Hispanic Dental Association Foundation. As part of her application for the scholarship Perlin wrote an essay in which she said “after graduation I want to provide low cost services and work with less fortunate and low-income patients in underprivileged communities...” She is a wonderful example of the students in our dental hygiene program and will, without a doubt, become a compassionate care provider and a shining example of our graduates.

CAHS Students Selected for Honor Society

Recently, 21 CAHS students were invited to become members of *The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi*. Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest, largest, and most selective all-discipline collegiate academic honor society. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Congratulations to these exceptional students! This honor is a testament to the caliber of student that we have in the College.

March 3, 2017

Revving Up for the American Heart Association

With just one week to go before the Heart Walk on March 11th, our college has raised **\$3,311** which is 55% of our goal of \$6,000! This figure is not including any amounts being raised in the ongoing bake sales and raffles currently underway in the CAHS. Speaking of raffles, don't forget to purchase your tickets for the 40" Flat Screen TV being raffled by the Dean's Office “Brave Hearts” or your tickets for the Sonicare Toothbrush being raffled by Dental Hygiene. All proceeds go to the same great cause! For more information about the Heart Walk and fundraising goals visit the [AU Heart Walk Website](#).

Balas Article Published in *Nature* Journal

Hot off the presses! Andrew Balas had a correspondence article published in *Nature* Journal this week. The article titled “Preclinical data: Three-point plan for reproducibility” discusses a three-tier approach to ensure the reproducibility of preclinical research results. The tiers include transparency, replication and triangulation which should be attained prior to publication. The journal, *Nature*, is the world's most highly cited interdisciplinary science journal. The weekly journal promptly publishes premium peer-

reviewed research in all fields of science and technology. Click [here](#) to read the action oriented article that should help you in preventing non-reproducible results.

Respiratory Therapy Student Selected for Inaugural Layman Family Scholarship

Respiratory Therapy student Kimberly Savage was selected as the inaugural recipient of the Layman Family Allied Health Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship, established by Debbie Layman (BSN, 1978), was created as a way to recognize the College of Allied Health Sciences and its students for their continued support of the Costa Layman Health Fair. Scholarship recipient, Savage, has participated in the Health Fair for the past several years and is an outstanding student. After a recent meeting with her scholarship recipient Layman was quoted as saying “the qualities that prompted the Scholarship Committee to choose her (Savage) were quite evident and she looks to be one that we will all be proud to say was a graduate of the program.” Congratulations!

March 8, 2017

Coffee with the Dean

Please join us next week, Tuesday, March 14th for Coffee with the Dean. This open-house event will take place from 7:30am-9:00am. Drop-by the PT Conference room for a cup of coffee and a casual conversation with Dean Balas and other colleagues. All faculty and staff are welcome. In addition to coffee, light snacks will be provided. See you there!

Besenyi Awarded Cyber Security Grant

Dr. Gina Besenyi, assistant professor of public health, was selected for intramural grant funding as part of the *2017 Cyber Institute's Intramural Interdisciplinary Awards Program*. Besenyi's proposal titled “FitBit Wearable Technology: Understanding Security and Privacy Concerns and Assessing Protocols for Data Access and Use in Health Research” is a very relevant subject as wearable technology becomes a part of everyday life. The goals of the project are three-fold; device reliability and validation, understanding security and privacy concerns and developing secure protocols. Many of us who have fitness trackers will anxiously await the research results!

Student Advisory Council Meeting

Recently, Dean Balas had the opportunity to meet with members of the Student Advisory Council. The Council is comprised of students representing each program in the College and the meetings provide an open forum for them to express their ideas, questions and concerns. During this most recent meeting the students discussed their desire to have a better understanding of all of the programs in the College so that they can find ways to collaborate on various projects. They also expressed concerns about the lack of resources on the Health Sciences Campus from student life activities to a lack of computer programs such as Microsoft's Vizio and Project in the Greenblatt Library. The meeting was very insightful and productive and will help to guide the College in a positive direction for current and future students.

Marlo Vernon Awarded GPHA Scholarship

Marlo Vernon, CAHS Research Analyst and current PhD student, was recently awarded a scholarship from the Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA). The scholarship affords her the opportunity to attend the upcoming GPHA Annual Meeting and Conference. In addition to the scholarship, she and colleague Vahe Heboyan, assistant professor of public health, submitted an abstract which was accepted for the upcoming Conference which will be held April 11th and 12th in Atlanta.

March 15, 2017

Respiratory Therapy Leads the Way in Simulations

Thank you to Hannah Beriault, assistant professor of Respiratory Therapy, for helping to set the precedent for interprofessional education! In January, students from the respiratory therapy program started participating in Interprofessional Simulations in the Education Commons building with current ER medicine residents. They were the first allied health team to participate in simulations with the residents and now nursing is following their lead. Our students are very excited about this journey of learning with physicians, and now nurses, for a patient simulation that encompasses their skills in critical care and emergency medicine. This is a wonderful initiative for all involved.

Medical Illustration Professor Presents in the Netherlands

Best wishes to Medical Illustration professor Bill Andrews who is presenting internationally this week! Andrews is presenting on Jan van Rymdyk at the Association Européenne des Illustrateurs Médicaux et Scientifiques (AEIMS) Congress in Maastricht, Netherlands. van Rymdyk was a Dutch painter and engraver who specialized in copper engravings of medical illustrations. In particular he was famous for his lifelike illustrations of obstetrics.

CAHS Faculty Recognized for Participation in Faculty Development

We were recently notified by the Office of Faculty Development and Teaching Excellence that several of our faculty members took advantage of their many workshops and events in 2016. Thank you to Amanda Behr, Dr. Bonnie Dadid, Dr. Gianluca De Leo, Ana Thompson, Dr. James Burgess, and Dr. Charlotte Chatto for completing the “Chair’s Professional Development” program. Several faculty members also participated in programs such as “Mindfulness and Meditation”, “Teaching with Technology” and “Creating Self-Regulated Learners”. For more information about Faculty Development visit <http://www.augusta.edu/facultydevelopment/>. Never stop learning!

Lelyand Stone Awarded GPHA Scholarship

Lelyand Stone, recent MPH graduate, was awarded a scholarship from the Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA). The scholarship affords her the opportunity to attend the upcoming GPHA Annual Meeting and Conference. In addition to the scholarship, she and her advisor Dr. Gina Besenyi, assistant professor of public health, submitted an abstract which was accepted for the upcoming Conference which will be held April 11th and 12th in Atlanta. On a related note, recent MPH graduate Terrill Flakes, who was just hired by AU as a Health Analyst, and 2nd year MPH student Heather Yates also had their abstracts with advisor Dr. Gina Besenyi accepted for presentation at GPHA.

Coughlin Manuscript to Appear in *American Journal of Epidemiology*

Dr. Steven Coughlin, associate professor of Public Health, will have his manuscript titled “Reproducing Epidemiologic Research and Ensuring Transparency” published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*. The manuscript discusses measures for ensuring the reproducibility of epidemiologic studies. Suggested measures include “making data sets and software available to other researchers to verify published findings, conduct alternative analyses of the data, and check for statistical errors or programming errors.” The *American Journal of Epidemiology* is the oldest epidemiologic journal and has an impact score of 5.230.

Heart Walk Wrap-up

Thank you to all of our Heart Walk Team Captains, chairs, faculty, and staff for your support in fundraising for this important community health initiative. Our College's grand total is \$5,017, which is 84% of our goal. By comparison, the University is currently at 69% of its goal at \$138,625. Also, our College raised over \$1,700 over the last two weeks during "crunch time," proving that when the going gets tough, CAHS gets going! Keep in mind that the fundraising period for this year is effectively open until Friday, March 31st so please continue to support fundraising efforts for our College through the end of the month. Congratulations!

March 22, 2017

Three Decades of Extramural Fundraising Excellence

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the exceptional accomplishments of Dr. Bonnie Dadig. In her 32 years of service she has served not only as an outstanding leader of the accomplished PA program but also as the Principal Investigator for multiple grants from the Department of Health and Human Services. She has been awarded a significant amount of federal funding that has opened up many avenues of educational opportunities, faculty and staff development, and much more. She has amassed research support totaling nearly \$4 million. Dr. Dadig's research and dedication contributed to meeting the goals, strategic plan, and mission of the college and the university. We are very appreciative of Dr. Dadig's sustained effort and tremendous leadership accomplishments.

Rangachari Continues Scholarly Success

Dr. Pavani Rangachari continues to demonstrate scholarly success as she recently had a paper accepted for publication and a poster accepted for presentation. Her article titled "A Framework for Measuring Self-Management Effectiveness and Healthcare Use among Pediatric Asthma Patients and Families", has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of Asthma and Allergy*, a peer-reviewed PubMed indexed and ESCI-indexed journal. In addition, the abstract from her current AHRQ-funded SKN research project: "Using Social Knowledge Networking (SKN) Technology to Enable Meaningful Use of EHR Medication Reconciliation Technology," has been accepted for poster presentation at the *Academy Health Annual Research Meeting* to be held in late June. Great work, Dr. Rangachari.

Heboyan Accepted into Authentic Leadership Pipeline I

Congratulations to Dr. Vahe Heboyan who has been accepted into the Authentic Leadership Pipeline I Program! The Pipeline Programs, offered by the Leadership Academy, are open to directors, chairs, faculty, administrators, physicians, nurses, and program directors at Augusta University and AU Health. Admission into a program is by nomination, including supervisor approval, and the nominations are reviewed by a Selection Committee.

New Public Health Research Database in the Greenblatt Library

We were recently notified that the Greenblatt Library has a subscription to ProQuest's Public Health Database, <http://search.proquest.com/publichealth/index>. This subscription was purchased through our University Libraries online portal GALILEO, an initiative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. Access to this resource can be found on the GALILEO link from the libraries home page, under the Databases A-Z and from the Greenblatt's "view all databases" web site, <http://www.augusta.edu/library/greenblatt/resources/databases.php>

HIA Student and Faculty Member Receive Recognition

Two of Augusta University HIA Program's finest have been recognized in the Georgia Health Information Management Association's Quarterly Newsletter. Read the excerpts below or check-out the [newsletter](#) for more information about these outstanding individuals!

Student Spotlight: Tyler Schumann by Annette Baker, RHIA - GHIMA President:

"Tyler entered the HIA program with a strong sense of professionalism. His prior years of college experience were filled with service to others. We knew this characteristic would grow as he expanded his knowledge of the HIA profession. In the two short years Tyler has been with us, he has served at the institutional (Augusta University), regional (EGHIMA), and state (GHIMA) levels. He has proven to be a true leader in his roles as Augusta University Class President and GHIMA Student Advisory Council President. Tyler has great aspirations for his future career and the faculty of Augusta University's HIA Program believes he will be a future shining star for our profession."

Professional Spotlight: East Georgia's Amanda Barefield, EdD, RHIA, LNHA by Christi Snider, RHIA – EGHIMA President

"Dr. Barefield has continuously made herself available to her students, gone above and beyond her duties inside and outside of the classroom to ensure we were prepared for our careers, and instilled in each of us the importance of sustained learning. I know so many of us would not have accomplished what we have in our professional careers without her inspiration, support, and encouragement. Although many of us can no longer call her our professor, she continues to be a source of knowledge, assistance, and reassurance for us all. She remains extremely active within the East Georgia region, and goes out of her way every year to ensure we have everything we need. Please remember, I am only one of the many that have had similar experiences with this wonderful, respected, and caring professor."

OT Faculty to Present at Scientific Retreat

The 9th Annual Scientific Retreat for the Culver Vision Discovery Institute was held on the Summerville campus March 22nd and 23rd. Two faculty members from the Occupational Therapy department were asked to present papers. Dr. Priya Narayanan presented "Spermine Oxidase: a novel mediator of diabetes-induced retinal neurodegeneration" and Ms. Mallory Lanier presented on "Low Vision Rehabilitation". We are fortunate to have our faculty members representing us so well at this event.

March 27, 2017

Practice Plan Updates

It has been a busy spring season for AUHPA (our faculty practice plan) – expanding service lines, negotiating new contracts, and renewing existing ones. We closed Q2 FY 17 with total revenues of \$175,195 and a positive margin of \$25,878, a significant increase from the margin in the corresponding preceding period Q1 2016 of \$5,433; The AUHPA web site has been updated to include a current listing of Board officers, members, and committees, alongside key documents, including bylaws, articles of incorporation, operating policies, prospectus, and an updated Request-to-Practice Form. Work is underway to develop an AUHPA Revenue Distribution Policy for easy reference by faculty members. I encourage all faculty members to take a look at the splendid opportunities available [here](#). We appreciate the good work of our AUHPA Executive Committee, Dr. Debra Beazley, Board President, Dr.

Pavani Rangachari, AUHPA Chief Administrator and Associate Dean for Practice & Community Health, and Ms. Aubre Keenan, Director of Business Operations.

Coughlin and Research Team Work to Prevent Breast Cancer

Dr. Steven Coughlin, associate professor of public health, is working with a research team to develop an app to promote wellness and prevent breast cancer. The program is designed to provide health lifestyle tips and promote positive behaviors. The app, **Physical activity and Your Nutrition for Cancer**, or PYNOC for short, was featured on [Health News Digest](#) as well as the [JagWire](#). The app is scheduled to be released later this year.

Bolgia Produces Interactive iBook and Receives Grant

Dr. Lori Bolgia, Associate Professor of Physical Therapy, has been working with Lynsey Ekema in the Department of Instructional Design and Development on releasing an iBook titled “Extremities Alive”. The iBook, designed for students and clinicians, provides an interactive approach to studying joint movement and muscle function. Due to the size of the iBook, it will be released as separate chapters for each body region. Click [here](#) for an overview of each chapter. Or better yet, check out this 30-second “commercial” promoting the iBook.

In addition to releasing the iBook, Dr. Bolgia was recently awarded a \$1,800 research grant from the Southeast Athletic Trainers’ Association. With the help of PhD Student Lisa Cummins, Bolgia will explore the use of smartphone technology to measure hip and knee kinematics during a single-leg squat. The study will also determine associations between a) trunk endurance; b) hip and knee isometric strength; and c) trunk, hip, and knee neuromuscular activity with hip adduction and knee valgus during a single-leg squat. This is a novel new approach to examining these parameters during a single-leg squat and can lead to the development and implementation of new intervention strategies.

OT Faculty and Students Present at National Conference

A number of OT faculty and students are presenting at the annual American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Philadelphia this week. They will present on topics ranging from the use of 3D animation and 3D printed models in learning outcomes to Equality in Healthcare: Fostering Inclusive Environments for the LGBTQ Community. They will also share their experiences with Camp IVEY and international field work. We know you are representing us well.

Benevides Completes Fellowship Program and Prepares to Present

Next month, Dr. Teal Benevides, associate professor of occupational therapy, will complete a 9-month long fellowship through the Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopmental Disorders (GaLEND) fellowship program, funded by MCHB to the Center for Leadership in Disability at GA State. Shortly after completing the fellowship Dr. Benevides will present three posters at the International Meeting for Autism Research. The presentation posters are as follows, *Characteristics and Health Conditions of Publically-Insured Autistic Young Adults*; *Racial and Ethnic Differences in the Utilization of Emergency Departments for Transition Age Young Adults with ASD Only and ASD with ID*; *Autism Spectrum Disorder: Mortality and Healthcare Implications from the National Mortality Files*. All of this is in addition to her continued work on a PCORI grant. Keep up the good work!

April 10, 2017

Physical Therapy Student Elected to State Office

Amy Henderson, a first-year DPT student, was recently elected secretary of the Physical Therapy Association of Georgia Student-Focused Interest Network (SFIN). As secretary, Amy will be responsible for conducting the election of SFIN officers, keeping the minutes for all SFIN and Board meetings, notifying members of the date, time, and place of the SFIN meetings, maintaining the SFIN archives and correspondence, making SFIN minutes and Bylaws available to the membership and sending updates for the SFIN webpage to the Executive Office for approval for updating any social media. It is a big responsibility to take on this work load in addition to her studies. Congratulations, Amy!

Medical Illustration Students Win Awards

We are pleased to announce our students' awards from the UGA/AU Scientific and Medical Illustration Exhibit in Athens. Second year, Shawn McLeod received the Award of Merit for her piece, "Breaking Down the Menstrual Cycle." The Award of Excellence was awarded to first year, Danielle VanBrabant for her patient education brochure, "Craniosynostosis: Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment." First year, Christina Pecora was awarded the top scholarship award, the Strenstrom Award of Excellence, for her patient education piece, "The Line Up: Signs and Symptoms of What's Bugging your Belly." The entire exhibit will be making its way to the Greenblatt Library later this semester with the support of Bill Andrews, who oversees our gallery. Congratulations to all!

PhD Student Wins Poster Award

In March we announced that Marlo Vernon received a scholarship to the 2017 Georgia Public Health Association Conference and that she would be presenting a poster. This month we are happy to say that she not only presented but also received the "Best Student Poster" award at the conference. Great job, Marlo!

Prince Speaks at HIA Seminar

Lori Prince, program director of Health Information Administration, was the invited speaker for the Health Information Professionals Education Seminar at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, GA. Ms. Prince's topic was, "Health Information Education: Focusing on the Future." Northside Healthcare System is one of Georgia's largest and most respected healthcare non-profit hospitals with three acute care hospitals in Atlanta, Cherokee and Forsyth, Georgia and outpatient centers and medical offices throughout Atlanta. Northside frequently takes HIA students for their professional practicum experience and has hired many of our HIA program's graduates.

Nuclear Medicine Technology Seminar

Our very own Nuclear Medicine Technology program's 2017 Annual Nuclear Cardiology seminar will be held on Thursday, April 27th in Room EC-2209. The seminar will be a day of learning and getting to know the products and services available from our industry partner for our graduates as they prepare to enter the work force. Topics will range from an overview of nuclear cardiology to the use of various devices for cardiac imaging. Everyone is invited to participate and say good bye to the graduating Class of 2017.

April 18, 2017

BSHS Program Rapidly Gains Enrollment

Our new BSHS (Bachelor of Science in Health Services) undergraduate degree program is quickly being embraced by current and prospective students. As of early April, we have 95 freshman scheduled to enroll in the program. We have also received several inquiries from current students. The new degree will be activated by the Registrar very soon so that students can officially declare the major. Years ago we recognized that there was a demand for this degree program and we are so pleased to finally meet the needs of our students and the economy.

Respiratory Therapy Program Recognized with Award

Our very own Respiratory Therapy program was recently recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) to receive the Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award. The award is “a measure of the program’s success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations.” This award is only bestowed on a select few programs in the nation. This is a testament to the work of our respiratory therapy faculty and staff and is a well-deserved acknowledgement of their dedication to the program. Congratulations, Andrew Mazzoli and the entire respiratory therapy program team!

Burgess Publishes Article on Non-Invasive Measurement of Cholesterol

Dr. Jim Burgess, Chair of the Medical Laboratory, Imaging and Radiologic Sciences Department, had his review article titled “Cell Plasma Membrane Cholesterol as a Diagnostic” accepted for publication in the *Current Opinion in Electrochemistry* Journal. The editor of the journal stated that the research “is a nice contribution showing how molecular electrochemistry tools can be used to devise sensors that can be used on humans without having to puncture the skin.” Just another example of how we are doing real-world research here in the College. Great work, Jim!

Scott Wise Writes about Acute Hemolytic Transfusion Reaction

Congratulations to Scott Wise, Interim Program Director for Clinical Laboratory Sciences who recently had a manuscript accepted for publication by *Immunohematology*, a journal published by the Red Cross. The manuscript, titled “A suspected acute hemolytic transfusion reaction mediated by anti-Jo^a” stems from an interdisciplinary study conducted with researchers from the Department of Pathology and the Cancer Center. Great things can be accomplished when we bring our talents together. Thank you, Scott! Together with the other news today, it becomes obvious that MLIRS faculty members are on a roll.

Researcher Receives Gift for Stroke Research

Dr. Nasrul Hoda, Assistant Professor of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, received a \$20,000 gift from NeuroFX to continue stroke research. Dr. Hoda’s research was originally funded with an SBIR/R43 grant from NIH through NeuroFx to test and validate their product for stroke therapy. The Phase 1 grant was successfully completed on March 31st. NeuroFx liked the work done by our researchers and now interested to continue the collaboration and further extend this work to submit an SBIR Phase 2 application this year. The product from NeuroFx is Adipose Stem Cell Conditioned Media (ASCM), a cocktail of factors released from stem cells. It is believed that these factors will work better as therapy than the stem cell itself. Their generous gift will support the extension of the work.

Students Propose Apps for Neuromuscular Disease

Dr. Charlotte Chatto, Interim Director of the Physical Therapy program, designed a unique course that culminates with students proposing apps for development. As part of the last patient content area in the course, *Integration for Practice: Neuromuscular*, students examine a volunteer with a specific progressive neuromuscular disease, such as Parkinson's Disease or Multiple Sclerosis. As part of the project, they will create a concept for an app that will be of service to either the patient, caregiver, or physical therapist treating a patient of this population. This curriculum is innovative and challenges our students to meet the needs of their patients and caregivers. It also pushes our students to think about how technology can improve patient outcomes.

April 25, 2017

Alumni Weekend Schedule Offers Something for Everyone

Alumni Weekend kicks off this Friday with a host of special events. The Dental Hygiene program is offering a continuing education seminar Friday morning followed by research poster presentations. Simultaneously, the Respiratory Therapy program will tee off for the 11th Annual Art Hardy Memorial Golf Tournament. Saturday will commence with a Campus Discovery Tour followed by the President's Cookout. Later in the day, MLIRS alumni and students will be recognized at their honors program. And Saturday night will offer dinner and dancing as we host the CAHS Alumni Banquet and After-Hours party at the Augusta Marriott. The Alumni Weekend wrap-up will take place at the Alumni Weekend Farewell Brunch honoring Jag20 Award recipients. For more information and a complete schedule of events visit <http://www.augusta.edu/alumniweekend/>.

CAHS Distinguished Alumnus to Lecture on Head Injuries

Commander (CDR) David J. Bachand, a 1994 graduate of the PA Program and commissioned officer in the United States Navy, will lecture about head injuries as part of our Alumni Week activities. Join us **Friday at Noon in Room 1204** for his discussion on "The National Intrepid Center of Excellence: Helping Service Members and their Families Affected by TBI and Psychological Health Conditions." Currently, he practices at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE) Bethesda, MD with a specialized team providing primary care and assisting with research for traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress disorder for service members. He provides training on military acute concussion evaluation.

PT Student Awarded Faculty Club Scholarship

Congratulations to Physical Therapy student Chase Pendley for being awarded one of five Augusta University Faculty Club Scholarships. The scholarship is awarded to outstanding students preparing for a career in the field of health care. This scholarship will help Chase to achieve his goal of becoming an Orthopedic Certified Specialist.

Faculty Senate Election Ballot Expires Thursday

Please take a moment to vote for the 2017 University Senate officers. There is one candidate for the Vice Chair of the Senate; as a reminder, this is a three-year position with the first year as Vice Chair, the second as Chair, and the third as Immediate Past Chair; all three positions are on the Senate's Executive Committee. There is one position on the ballot for At-Large Senator. A picture of each candidate along with a short biography are available to review before you vote. In order for the count to be official, a

minimum of 25% (or 239 completed responses) of the Augusta University faculty must vote. So please cast your ballot at your first opportunity. The [ballot](#) will expire **Thursday, April 27, 2017 at 5 PM**.

Rangachari Presents at Rural Health Seminar

Recently, Dr. Pavani Rangachari, Associate Dean for Practice and Community Health, had the opportunity to present at the Rural Health Seminar in Douglas, GA. Her presentation entitled "Creating Change in Healthcare Organizations" was a success and provided an occasion for Dr. Rangachari to integrate lessons learned from her current and past research and work experiences. The seminar was a great opportunity to learn and network. Thank you for representing the College!

Celebrate Medical Laboratory Professionals Week

It is Medical Laboratory Professionals Week and this year's theme is "Laboratory Professionals Get Results". Check out the [CAHS Facebook Page](#) for student and faculty spotlights as we celebrate this invaluable group of health care professionals. They are truly detectives as they search for clues about our health by testing blood, tissue and other samples. Be sure to thank a laboratory professional this week!

May 3, 2017

Physician Assistant IPE with Ophthalmology and Nursing

Dr. Julian Nussbaum, Executive Vice President for Clinical Affairs and Chair of the Ophthalmology Department and Dr. Stephanie Goei, a Pediatric Ophthalmologist, have supported the Physician Assistant students education for many years. In the Fall of 2016, the College of Nursing, Department of Ophthalmology and Physician Assistant Department began a pilot inter-professional education (IPE) training by allowing a small number of nurse practitioner (NP) students to participate during the PA lectures and Ophthalmology Simulation labs in order to acquire extra skills and training. Dr. Judith Stallings, Course Director of the Physician Assistant Ophthalmology course, Dr. Pamela Cromer, Associate Professor of the Department of Biobehavioral Nursing, Dr. Lane Ulrich, Associate Professor and Residency Program Director, Ms. Debbie Layman of Layman's Nursery and Dr. Nussbaum have discussed future plans for continuing educational training. During the Fall of 2017, a second group of NP students will participate in this IPE opportunity.

Andrew Balas was Elected President of Allied Health Deans' Association

Dean Andrew Balas was recently elected to serve as the President of the Southern Association of Allied Health Deans at Academic Health Centers for a two-year term. This association of 27 academic health centers is a remarkable group of leaders shaping the future of health professional education and research. This election of association president is a welcome demonstration of trust by dean colleagues in academic health centers and also serves as a recognition of the great progress we are making here in the College of Allied Health Sciences at Augusta University.

Faculty Recognized for Service and Success

Several faculty members from the College were recognized at a variety of special events in the past week. Dr. Lester Pretlow and Gloria Sloan were celebrated for their 15 years of service to the University. Physician Assistant faculty member Laura Lee was recognized as an outstanding faculty and was “Caught in the Act” of demonstrating the Augusta University value of compassion. Her fellow PA faculty colleague, Sarah Haddow was “Caught in the Act of Great Teaching” and honored at the celebration of faculty ceremony. We know that many of our colleagues display compassion, great teaching and dedication daily, but it is nice to see the university level recognition of their hard work and commitment. Congratulations!

Medical Illustration Supports Art Play Studio

Art Play Studio was founded by Augusta University faculty Karen Heid, Amanda Behr, Kathryn Henderson. It is an educational art program that is dedicated to children and adults who are facing hospital stays and medical procedures at the Augusta University Medical Centers, clinics, and centers. Visual art classes are led by Augusta University faculty from art education, counseling, and medical illustration and offered for free. Art Play Studio encourages children, adults, and caregivers to join weekly art sessions at the bedside, in waiting areas, play rooms, or hospital art rooms. Art Play Studio was founded with the additional vision to provide a clinical site for an art wellness educational program which is in development in the College of Allied Health for the fall of 2018.

Judith Anglin Appointed to Diversity Committee

Dr. Judith Anglin, Nutrition Program Director, was appointed as a Member to the Diversity Committee for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics for the 2017-2018 program year. Her appointment is for two years and supports the Academy’s goal of transforming the next century of dietetics practitioners and positioning the Academy as the food and nutrition leaders on a global scale. Thank you to Dr. Anglin for serving on this committee and representing Augusta University so well!

May 17, 2017

Allied Health Sciences Graduates More Students than Any Other College

With graduation behind us we were able to confirm that, once again, the College of Allied Health Sciences graduated more students than any other college at Augusta University. It should come as no surprise given not just our enrollment figures but more importantly our retention, progression and graduation rates. With a total of 234 graduates, the CAHS had the most graduates in May 2017. Coming in a close second was MCG with 204 graduates, followed by CON with 194, Pamplin with 132, Math and Science with 107, Hull and Education with 96 each, DCG with 79. Yet again our CAHS faculty and staff exhibited a level of competence and talent that would be hard to overstate. Thanks for a job very well done!

CAHS Graduate Receives Beard Award

For the third consecutive year, a Physician Assistant student was awarded the prestigious *John F. Beard Award for Compassionate Care*. Recent graduate, D’Neka Colzie was presented with the \$40,000 award

at the CAHS Hooding and Honors Ceremony held May 18th. During her time in the Physician Assistant program D’Neka served in the Division of Hematology and Oncology and volunteered with health clinics and disaster relief efforts throughout the CSRA, all while facing her own personal challenges. She persevered and continued to treat all of her patients, and even her fellow students, with compassionate care. We are so proud!

Physical Therapy Curriculum Encourages Entrepreneurship

Recently, the PT program hosted their very own version of “Shark Tank”. Shark Tank is the culmination of the course, PTHP 8361 Management, for the Doctor of Physical Therapy students. Designer and lead instructor of the course is Dr. Debra Beazley. The primary purpose of the course is to provide a base of awareness and understanding of management theory and principles as applied to the start-up, development, and leadership of a physical therapy practice. A secondary function of this course is to design a physical therapy practice using a codified meaningful skill-set that would allow for the production of a workable, deliverable clinic business plan. The students work with practice owners in the community who act as mentors to the groups of 6-7 students. The capstone project is a fully articulated business plan with analytics and Pro Forma. The students then present their business to a gallery of practice owners, bankers, and lawyer in Shark Tank fashion with a 15 minute presentation and 15 minute question and answer. Not unlike the show, the students defend their business ideas and are sometimes offered financing and partnerships to produce the potential business. Very impressive!

May 22, 2017

Spring Assembly Promises Learning and Laughter

Mark your calendars for the annual Faculty Spring Assembly scheduled for June 2nd. The retreat will cover a wide variety of subjects. Participants will join in a Faculty Practice Plan meeting, review Faculty Council ByLaws, get a college and university update and join in fun team-building activities. In addition, Counseling Services will give us an update and lead us in “Laughing Therapy” which we could all use! Faculty should meet in the Education Commons building, Room 1102 at 9am and staff should join us in room 1102 at noon for lunch and awards. We look forward to seeing you there!

The CAHS budget is balanced and healthy: We generate more tuition revenue than ever before

As we approach the end of the fiscal year it is noteworthy that in FY17 our enrollment and tuition generation reached record highs. Since FY12 our enrollment increased from 512 to 761 in FY17. This increase is due in part to the reallocation of pre-health majors but will remain steady with the launch of the BSHS in the fall. Even before the reallocation, our added enrollment was up by 115 between FY12 and FY16, generating an estimated additional \$1.8M in tuition and fees for the university. Please note additional tuition revenue does not equal additional budget allocation for our college. On the spending side, the good news is that we always carefully balance the CAHS budget allocation received and the CAHS expenditures. As a result, our College budget was balanced last year, it is projected balanced this fiscal year and we presented a balanced plan for next year. In addition to recognizing our faculty members for the accomplishments, let me use this opportunity to highlight the role of our Business Office/Aubre Keenan and our Departmental Office Managers. Please stop by their office and thank them for the hard work and dedication!

Practice Plan BOD New Member Election and Appointment Results

In April/May, we conducted a two-step process to identify nominees for membership in the Practice Plan (AUHPA) Board of Directors (BOD); followed by an election to fill openings for two elected positions on the Board. Concurrently, we also needed to fill openings for two appointed positions on the Board. We are glad to share that we have now completed both processes. The two nominees who received the maximum votes on May 5th were: MJ Weintraub and Alicia Elam. After extensive consultations with practice leaders and chairs, joining them will be two newly appointed members: Bonnie Dadig and Stephanie Johnson. All four new members will serve three-year terms on the Board, beginning in FY18. We are excited to have four new, excellent BOD members joining the team. We are looking forward to working with everyone in the coming years, to continue to move our practice forward.

CAHS Makes Heart Walk Top-Ten

The University recently celebrated the Top-Ten divisions for fundraising for the 2017 Heart Walk. The College of Allied Health Sciences was ninth overall with a total of \$5,127 raised. As a whole, the University had 32 divisions participating in the fundraiser. Thank you for your support of this life-saving event. Let's strive to be in the Top-Five next year!

Medical Illustration Student Conference a Success

In late April the Medical Illustration program hosted a student conference for Johns Hopkins University medical illustration students. The conference offered a variety of workshops from the history of printing to tips for animation. There were presentations by recent grads and even a Craniofacial Reconstructive Surgeon. The conference also allowed students to present their art and network with each other during lunch and dinner events. Thank you to Amanda Behr and her team for organizing this successful event!

June 8, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

For six years, it has been my tremendous opportunity and privilege to serve as Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences at Augusta University. With the conclusion of my leadership service as Dean August 11, 2017, I would like to reach out to you and express appreciation for the remarkable teamwork.

- In 2011, the college had 516 enrolled students and last year we had 631 students, a 22% increase. With the latest re-allocation of pre-health students, our College has an additional 26% enrollment increase this year. Our educational programs are 100% accredited and the retention rate is 93%.
- The College of Allied Health Sciences graduated the most students in the May commencement. The additional CAHS enrollment brings millions of dollars of additional tuition revenue to the University. Our growth was realized during the time of greatest enrollment challenges at our University.

- We successfully launched new educational programs. The PhD in Applied Health Sciences program was developed in response to faculty shortages. The nutrition program started with an MOU transferring it from University Health System. Our new Bachelor of Science in Health Services (BSHS) undergraduate program provided the perfectly timed response to the USG mandate for pre-health studies. We greatly expanded Master of Public Health (MPH) program.
- Six years ago, there were 2 principal investigators with larger than \$50,000 in external funding. Today we have 10 such PIs including NIH R01 grants, DOD grant, VA Merit Award, PCORI funded project, RWJ funded project and many other important and exciting projects. Our research attracts millions of dollars in extramural funding and also provides important support for the educational mission of the College.
- Our budgetary challenges were sometimes significant, but I am proud that working with faculty colleagues, we pulled people together and got the job done. This year our Faculty Practice Plan has the highest level of revenues and also reserves in its history.

Many achievements of the teamwork cannot be expressed in numbers but your dedication to quality education has always been a source of great inspiration for our students and also for me as your Dean. As I am returning to the tenured faculty role, let me reiterate my gratitude and request your support for the incoming new leadership.

Provost Caughman asked me to add the following comment: "I want to take this opportunity to thank Dean Balas, on behalf of Augusta University as well as personally, for his leadership of the College of Allied Health Sciences, and to congratulate the College for its outstanding accomplishments over the past six years. The College, with its excellent faculty, staff and students, is a critical component of our University, and I look forward to more great things in its future."

Best wishes,



E. Andrew Balas