Hanna Brewer has been waiting for a hearing aid. Her family was disappointed when she was recently denied coverage by her insurance company. But now, with the help of the non-profit Waiting to Hear, the 5-year-old is getting a loaner for free. Hanna is the first child to participate in a new hearing aid loaner program.

Johnson City Community Health Center partnered with Speedway Children's Charities to launch the program, which provides hearing aids at no-cost to children either waiting for cochlear implant surgery or insurance approval.

Founder Shannon Ball says it helps alleviate the cost from insurance companies. "It can literally take months and months, sometimes up to a year, for these children to be placed with hearing aids. I feel it's really important that we get these kids in aids as soon as possible. Our goal is to eventually provide sound on day one that they're diagnosed," said Ball. The program is the first of its kind in the region.

Message from Dean Don Samples

As we begin another new year of providing the highest quality academic and clinical education to the 1,000 students enrolled in our College, we want to thank you for your commitment and support of the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences. In 2015, the College had a busy and productive year, thanks to our dedicated faculty, outstanding students, and generous contributors. As we begin 2016, we look forward to providing our students and the community with another year of learning, service, and research. There are a number of exciting events on the horizon, and I sincerely hope you can attend. We are partnering with Waiting to Hear Foundation to co-sponsor benefit concerts in the spring and summer, so stay tuned for details to come. We are in the planning phase to develop the region’s first amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS clinic. This interdisciplinary clinic will involve most of our academic programs to include other health related disciplines across the campus. We will continue to provide exceptional clinical services in dental hygiene, speech language pathology, and audiology in an effort to improve the quality of health of our patients.

We have all of our key leadership people in place, and we’re ready to move the College forward. With our 2015-2020 Strategic Plan, one of our highest priorities will be to ensure that our offerings continue to prepare students for careers, while also developing new specializations and programs. To that end, we will invest in comprehensive reviews and updates of our online programs, revise syllabi and curricular outcomes, and update course content across the curriculum. We are also in the process of developing new programs, which include B.S. and Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Health Sciences, and a minor in American Sign Language. We will also be engaged in plans to expand the physical infrastructure of the College, which is scheduled for completion in 2019-2020.

I promise that you will be impressed with the successful outcomes from our students, faculty, staff, and alumni in this year as we forge ahead and continue to be a College that is dedicated to impacting our communities on a daily basis.

Best wishes for the coming year,

Don A. Samples
Dean
Congratulations to Kristi Moore, Erin Boccardo and Mackenzie Anderson, second-year speech-language pathology master’s program students. Moore, Boccardo, and Anderson competed against Vanderbilt University to win first place at the Tennessee Association of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists (TAAASLP) Knowledge Bowl in Chattanooga as part of the organization’s annual conference. The friendly competition poses questions that require participants to synthesize information, knowledge, skills and abilities believed necessary to practice independently as a speech-language pathologist across the full scope of practice in the assessment and treatment of individuals with communication disorders.

Moore, Boccardo, and Anderson also took first place at the EBS-sponsored Praxis Bowl. As winners, EBS will cover the cost for each of these students to take the Praxis exam. The students had strong competition against other SLP graduate programs in the state, including UT-Knoxville and Vanderbilt. The trophy will be engraved with ETSU as this year’s winning university.

Jessie Hewlett, one of our recent BSDH online graduates recently presented a poster at the National Oral Health Conference in Kansas City, MO. Her project for Community and Rural Dental Health Education seminar won third place in the Student Merit Awards presented by the American Assoc of Public Health Dentistry. Jessie worked with the Serenity Center in Knoxville, TN which serves women who are either recovering addicts or victims of domestic violence and are working to return to self-sufficiency. Jessie assessed their dental health and knowledge, planned an educational and treatment intervention based on their needs, and evaluated the project. In addition to providing an educational project, Jessie coordinated volunteers and procured donated supplies in order to provide much needed dental services for these women.

As a result of presenting her project at the National Oral Health Conference she has been invited to be a special guest at an American Dental Association meeting in Nashville to help encourage local dentists to volunteer within their own communities.

Pictured above, third year PT student Lindsey Cox with clinic instructor Lisa Harris. Cox and Harris were featured in the article "Riding for Hope" in Keeneland Magazine. Lindsey has been doing hippotherapy at the facility, Central Kentucky Riding for Hope, while working with Harris who is a therapist at Physical Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, KY. The article is a write up on how physical therapy and horses work together. You can find the article on pages 82-89 at http://keenelandmagazine.epubxp.com/i/517089-no2-2015.

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Congratulations to Dr. Chayadevie Nanjundeswaran on being one of only 12 junior researchers nationwide selected to participate in the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association’s Pathways Program. She will be mentored during the next year by a researcher at Purdue University who will help her develop a strong research program.


Congratulations to Dr. Marc Fagelson (far left), the co-editor of a new book that was released at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Assoc. in Denver, *Tinnitus: Clinical Research Perspectives*.

Dr. Michelle Lee, Associate Professor Nutrition & Foods, has a manuscript published in the Nutrition Research Journal in which she was a co-author: A meta-analysis of school-based obesity prevention programs demonstrates limited efficacy of decreasing childhood obesity. Read the article online at http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0271531715000032.

Dr. Eileen M. Cress, Dietetic Internship Director with the Dept. of Allied Health Sciences has been included in a HRSA grant with the COM Department of Family Medicine titled: Collaborative Training in Team-Based Care in Appalachian Primary Care Practices. This grant award comes to $1,741,122 over a 5 years period. Her role, as the nutrition faculty member on the grant will be to help develop nutrition-specific aspects of curriculum development in year 1 and to assist with student training in year 2 and to direct nutrition involvement in Team Based Care implementation at all four clinics years 3-5.

Congratulations to our visiting professor, Dr. W.Y. So, for his recent publication with the American Physical Society, "Long-range dynamic polarization potentials for Be projectiles on ZN".
Congratulations to Dean Don Samples. As of July 1st he started a two year appointment as the President for the Committee on Accreditation for Polysomnographic Technologist Education (CoA PSG). The Committee is responsible for monitoring accreditation of sleep technologist programs in the US. The CoA PSG is a member of the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education programs (CAAHEP). As president, he will chair a 9 member board, conduct monthly board meetings, and oversee all CoA accreditation policies and procedures. He has served on the CoA PSG board for the past three years as a board member and accreditation site visitor.

Congratulations to Dr. Lynn Williams, Associate Dean of CCRHS who has been elected vice president for academic affairs in speech-language pathology for the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). ASHA is the national professional, scientific and credentialing association for 182,000 members and affiliates who are audiologists, speech-language pathologists, speech, language and hearing scientists, and more. In her role with ASHA, Williams is charged with identifying issues and forecasting needs and trends; initiating recommendations for actions to advance undergraduate and graduate education in the field; recruiting individuals into the study of human communication sciences and disorders, and more.

SAVE THE DATE for upcoming CCRHS Events:

- March 29, 2016 3:00 P.M. – CCRHS Honors Reception
- May 7, 2016 – CCRHS Commencement Reception
- Spring TBD – Loud Shirt Day (Waiting to Hear Fundraiser)
- July 22, 2016 7:00 P.M. – Blue Highway Waiting to Hear Benefit Concert
- Summer TBD – CCRHS Alumni Reconnect

Dates of Interest

- February 5, 2016 – Go Red Day: Women’s Health Day
- March 18, 2016 – Brain Injury Awareness Day
- March 21, 2016 – World Down Syndrome Day
- April 16, 2016 – World Voice Day (free community voice screenings)
- May 15-21 – Tinnitus Awareness Week

Contact Us:

Visit our website: www.etsu.edu/crhs/
Visit our college: 156 S. Dossett Dr. Johnson City, TN 37614
Email: CARHS@etsu.edu
Phone: (423) 439-7454

Dr. Don Samples
Dean
samplesd@etsu.edu

Dr. A. Lynn Williams
Associate Dean (Academic Affairs)
williamL@etsu.edu

Dr. W. Andrew Clark
Associate Dean (Research and Clinical Practice)
clarkw@etsu.edu

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For additional ways to give, contact University Advancement at (423) 439-4242.