These are exciting days for the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences (CCRHS) and East Tennessee State University. There are many successes, new initiatives, and upcoming changes for all of us here at the university.

Campus-wide, we are preparing for ETSU’s new independent governing board to take oversight. This is an unparalleled change in the university’s history. It will allow ETSU to make strategic decisions that will benefit our faculty and staff, our local community, and most of all our students in a more meaningful and positive way.

Here in the College, we also formed a new committee to help us sculpt our programs and clinical experiences to best prepare our student clinicians for their health care careers. The inaugural group of 16 CCRHS Advisory Board members was appointed and met this past summer. The board discussed new trends in health care and emerging technologies that impact our programs. The group’s comments are already being implemented in the classroom and clinical setting.

An exciting, cutting-edge clinical opportunity comes out of a newly formed relationship with the Rural Health Services Consortium based in Rogersville, TN. CCRHS Speech-Language Pathology students will be the first to have a clinical experience in telemedicine. Telemedicine practices afford patients in rural settings better access to specialty services than ever before. This innovative clinical experience will give students opportunity to practice with this technology and make them even more competitive as they enter the job market. It is also an excellent opportunity to provide on-demand therapy for individuals in the community who might otherwise go without the care they need.

One of our departments is moving forward in a very visible way. The College is in the development and planning stage of a major remodel of the Physical Therapy Department. The architectural layouts are amazing. We hope to start the project this fall and have state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, meeting spaces, and faculty offices completed for the incoming class of 2018 to enjoy.

Thanks to a generous donation from a College supporter, CCRHS is also reaching beyond its own walls to start a new ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis) clinic. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. Patients who are diagnosed with this disease need ongoing care from multiple disciplines. Patients in the Tri-Cities region must travel hundreds of miles to be seen at specialized clinics for the care they need. This becomes increasingly difficult for both the patient and their loved ones. CCRHS has brought our own programs of respiratory therapy, physical therapy, nutrition, and speech-language pathology together with the ETSU Department of Social Work, colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine, and the Milligan Occupational Therapy Department to form a comprehensive care clinic under the oversight of a local Neurologist and ETSU Internal Medicine. Doors to the Gary Shealy ALS Memorial Clinic open mid-February.

On a final note, I’d like to extend warm congratulations to the new CCRHS Hall of Fame Members who were inducted this fall at the second annual alumni hall of fame dinner and awards ceremony. Please see p. 4 of this newsletter to learn more about these amazing recipients.

Thank you for your continued support of the college. We are proud of our alumni and the contributions they are making to improve the quality of life for patients in our region and across the country. If the college can ever assist you in any way, please let us know.

Go Bucs!
STUDENT AND FACULTY NEWS

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Morgan Geise, 2nd year SLP student, was recently selected to be the Tennessee State Student Officer in speech-language pathology. She will represent the interests and concerns of SLP students, as well as disseminate information from the national level of NSSLHA back to the SLP students in the state.

ETSU is one of six NSSLHA chapters in Tennessee, so Morgan will represent SLP students at ETSU, MTSU, TSU, UT, University of Memphis, and Vanderbilt at the national level.

Aimee Johnson and Paige Waddell are AuD students who were among six AuD students nationwide to receive a $10,000 Starkey Foundation William F. Austin Scholarship.

Johnson currently works as a research assistant in the vestibular laboratory at the James H. Quillen Veterans Affairs Medical Center and is president of ETSU’s Student Academy of Audiology.

Paige is finishing her fourth-year externship with UNC hospitals. She is passionate about working with adults who are candidates for cochlear implants, as well as those with intellectual disabilities and those from low incomes.

A graduate of Clinical Nutrition, Emily Stern was recently appointed editor of Weight Management Matters, a national newsletter for the Weight Management DPG group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Emily is a clinical dietitian at Carolinas Rehabilitation in Charlotte, NC, where she works with inpatient populations that include brain and spinal cord injury patients and oncology and general medicine patients. In addition, Emily’s work on a Kids Eat Right Foundation project, which was part of her thesis, has been published in the Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

PT student Melissa Buehler was selected to serve on the American Physical Therapy Association National Student Assembly’s Committee on Interprofessional Collaboration.

Three of CCRHS’s speech-language pathology students won the state-wide Knowledge Bowl at the Tennessee Association of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology annual conference. ETSU SLP students competed against UT-Knoxville, University of Memphis, Middle Tennessee State University, and Vanderbilt University.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF MEMBERS!

Courtney Andrews
SLP Clinical Supervisor

Melissa Anderson
Audiology

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Susan Epps, associate professor in Allied Health, was recently appointed as East Tennessee State University’s new faculty senate president. She also serves as ETSU’s NCAA Faculty Athletic Representative.

Kristen McHenry, Program Director of Cardiopulmonary Science, was recently awarded a Best Paper Award for her presentation at the International Conference on Learning and Administration in Higher Education 2016 in Nashville. Her paper, “Key Elements of a State Master Plan in Higher Education,” addressed four key elements of state master plans: accessibility, affordability, accountability and success.

Dr. Lynn Williams’ NIH-funded intervention program for children with speech sound disorders was recently released as an app at the ASHA annual conference in Philadelphia by EBS Healthcare. The app will provide speech-language pathologists easy access to the most current evidence-based intervention approaches with children who have speech sound disorders.

Allied Health’s Dr. Randy Byington was named East Tennessee State University’s representative for the inaugural All-Southern Conference Faculty Team. He is one of the 10 representatives from all member schools.

Dr. Chayadevie Guntupalli received the best paper award for her speech-language pathology paper published in the Journal of Voice in 2015. For her paper, “Vocal Fatigue Index (VFI): Development and Validation”, Chaya created a voice fatigue index to help identify individuals with vocal fatigue and identify their complaints.
**NEW ALS CLINIC**

CCRHS is excited to be starting a new clinic serving patients with ALS (PALS) and their families in the northeast region of Tennessee, southwest Virginia, and western North Carolina. Dr. Nathan Whaley, with Tri-State Mountain Neurology, will serve as the medical director of the ETSU Gary Shealy ALS Memorial Clinic. The clinic will be located at the ETSU College of Medicine in Johnson City. For appointments call: 423-439-7280.

**EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

**ETSU Homecoming Week**
CCRHS participated in the November Homecoming Parade to celebrate ETSU’s new football team. Our college homecoming slogan was “Super 8: 8 Super Programs.” We had a week of theme days including SOUPer Bowl Day, for which we had a chili lunch and donated all proceeds to Bucky’s Pantry, as well as Super Hero Day, where students and clients dressed as their favorite super hero and donated sports-themed toys for the Salvation Army Christmas Toy Fund.

**Instagram Takeover**

Fall semester CCRHS started our first-ever “Instagram Takeover” initiative. Students from each department participated in a weeklong “takeover” of our college Instagram (@etsu_ccrhs) and posted current happenings in their program! We had an incredible first semester on Instagram and look forward to sharing more events with you this spring!

**New Dental Hygiene Clinic**

A new affiliation between the ETSU Dental Hygiene Program and the James H. Quillen health care system started recently. This new, non-traditional clinical training site will allow students to practice in a setting other than a dedicated dental office. They will provide oral care for hospital patients and for Veterans at the Quillen VA.

**Nutrition in the Community**

Seniors in the Nutrition Program are serving at Sowing Seeds: A Food and Garden After-School Program as part of a two-year, $100,000 grant funded by the Washington County Community Foundation. With the guidance of the project’s director Shae Keane, as well as Assistant Professor Michelle Johnson, students created a nutrition curriculum, and participated in hands-on education for Parkway/Dunbar and Carver Community Youth.

**Interprofessional Conference**

In October, the Department of Allied Health held an Interprofessional Practice and Education Conference for local professionals, educators, and students at the Carnegie Hotel in Johnson City.

**BLUE Weekend**

In September, CCRHS organized the third annual Health BLUE Weekend. A total of 47 high school students with interests in allied health professions, nursing, pharmacy, medicine, and public health registered for the weekend. Attendees are paired with near-peer college mentors who are part of the Pre-Health Living and Learning Community. The high school students spend a night in the dorm, attend social activities and classes in order to see what campus life is like at ETSU, and attend informational sessions about the university and programs within the Health Sciences.

**LOUD Shirt Day**

ETSU’s College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences teamed up with the local nonprofit foundation, Waiting to Hear, to help host what is believed to be the first “Loud Shirt Day” to take place in the U.S. Originating in Australia, Loud Shirt Day is an effort to bring awareness to childhood deafness by encouraging individuals to wear their most colorful, or “loud,” shirt for a day. ASHA board of directors, ASHA CEO, and ASHA CSOs also “got LOUD” to raise awareness for children who are deaf.
**CCRHS ADDITIONAL INFO**

**CCRHS HALL OF FAME**

**2016 Distinguished Alumni and Hall of Fame Recipients**

**Chad Capps** - Capps graduated with his bachelor’s degree in physical therapy from ETSU in 1998. He currently serves as the director of physical therapy at Unicoi County Memorial Hospital and, for the past 18 years, has served as a clinical site instructor for ETSU physical therapy students and currently serves on the CCRHS Philanthropy Board.

**Pamela Ditto** - Ditto was part of the first class of cardiopulmonary science graduates at ETSU in 1978. She currently serves as regional clinical liaison for Signature Healthcare and is vice president for apHealth Solutions in addition to serving on the Tennessee Society of Respiratory Care board of directors for the past 18 years.

**Major Melissa Ogle Folsom** (Distinguished Alumni) - Folsom received three degrees from ETSU, including her master’s and doctoral degree from the Department of Physical Therapy. Folsom is a 10-year veteran of the United States Army and currently works at Bayne-Jones Army Community Hospital as the chief of rehabilitation services.

**Laurie A. Higgins** (Distinguished Alumni) - Higgins graduated from ETSU in 1980 with a dual bachelor’s degree in communicative disorders and psychology and then went on to complete her master’s degree in audiology in 1982. For 25 years, Higgins was chief clinical audiologist and managing director at Watauga Hearing Conservation. In 2011, she became the first president of the CCRHS Philanthropy Board.

**Dr. Ann Lowdermilk** - Lowdermilk holds three degrees, including her bachelor’s in physical therapy from ETSU. For the past 10 years she has been an associate professor and director of the Physical Therapy Assistant program at Walters State Community College. In the past, she worked as the director of community health and wellness services at the JCMC.

**Louise Skalko** - Skalko graduated from ETSU in 1984 and worked as an educator for nearly 30 years before retiring. Skalko is a receiver of cochlear implants and a significant supporter of ETSU’s audiology program. She funded the development of the Cochlear Implant Clinic for CCRHS.

**CONTACT US:**

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**INVEST IN THE FUTURE BY GIVING**

**By Check:**
Payable to ETSU Foundation with CCRHS in the memo line.

**By Credit Card:**
Call 423-439-4242 and a staff member will assist you with your gift.

**Mail to:**
ETSU Foundation
P.O. Box 70721
Johnson City, TN 37614

**Online:**
Go to, [http://www.etsu.edu](http://www.etsu.edu)
Click “Give” to go to Online Giving page. Designate the College of Clinical and Rehabilitative Health Sciences.

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

**SAVE THE DATE for upcoming CCRHS Events:**

- February 17, 2017 – Opening of the Gary Shealy ALS Clinic
- April 10, 2017 – CCRHS Honors Reception
- May 1, 2017 – Hallf of Fame Nominations Deadline
- May 6, 2017 – ETSU Commencement
- May 21, 2017 – JDRF One Walk (Warriors Path State Park)

**Dates of Interest**

- February 3, 2017 – Go Red Day: Women’s Health Day
- February 6-12 – Tinnitus Awareness Week
- March 2017 – National Nutrition Month
- March 21, 2017 – World Down Syndrome Day
- April 2017 – National Autism Awareness Month
- April 16, 2017 – World Voice Day
- May 2017 – Better Hearing and Speech Month