Dear CHHS Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni,

Welcome to the Fall Semester 2014 edition of the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) alumni newsletter. We are off to a great start this academic year. Once again, CHHS is one of the largest and most productive colleges at Georgia Southern University. Our enrollment this fall is 3,445! We are seeing slight increases in both our undergraduate and graduate student populations since Fall Semester 2013. The overall University enrollment is stable from last fall at just over 20,500.

There are many exciting developments within the College. On July 1, 2014, the Department of Health and Kinesiology officially became the School of Health and Kinesiology (SHK). This change provides more consistency in terminology within the College but also better reflects the complex dynamic of SHK. Within SHK, we are excited to offer a new Dietetic Internship Program, and there are 20 students enrolled in the program. We welcomed seven new full-time faculty members to SHK: Samuel Adeyeye (Nutrition and Food Science), Donna Burnett (Dietetic Internship Director—Nutrition and Food Science), Manuela Caciula (Exercise Science), Christina Gipson (Sport Management), Hyun-Weo Lee (Sport Management), Nicolas Murray (Concussion Research) and Hal Wilson (Coaching Education). We have one new staff member in SHK, Mandy Motes.

The School of Health and Kinesiology’s online Master of Science degree in Sport Management has been recognized among the top ten by TheBestSchools.org. Sport Management is one of the fastest growing fields of study in the country. The Georgia Southern program can be completed in two years or once a student accumulates 36 credit hours. Students with this degree are prepared for such careers as athletics directors, coaches, league managers, agents, and sports information, media or communications specialists.

FASHION MERCHANDISING AND APPAREL DESIGN CONTINUES TO RECEIVE TOP RANKINGS

For the second year in a row, the Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design major within the School of Human Ecology has received high marks from Fashion-Schools.org. This year, the Apparel Design emphasis placed No. 68 nationally and No. 10 in the South. Meanwhile, the Fashion Merchandising emphasis ranked No. 54 nationally, making it the eleventh-ranked program in the South.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH & KINESIOLOGY NAMED AMONG TOP 10 SCHOOLS

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Melissa Garno Receives Award for Excellence in Service

The College of Health and Human Sciences is proud to announce that Professor of Nursing Melissa Garno received the University Award for Excellence in Contributions to Service for the 2014-2015 academic year. The award is given to two faculty members each year. This award is designed to recognize and reward faculty who use their academic disciplines to provide non-compensated assistance to the region as well as to the academic community.
**Professor Takes Local Youths to European Baseball Championships**

In the spring of 2014, Dr. Daniel Czech of the School of Health and Kinesiology, led a group of local high school students through a European baseball championship experience in Poland. The trip was a first of its kind for students in the United States. The baseball team consisted of students from Statesboro High School, Georgia Southern University, and other local high schools. The group included 11 students and four coaches, and they faced challenges during the trip, including playing against experienced Polish teams. The students also had the opportunity to learn about the Polish culture and the history of baseball in Poland. This experience was a valuable learning opportunity for the students and helped them develop their skills and teamwork.

**Student Caters Reception for Nobel Prize Winner**

Georgia Southern welcomed Nobel Prize winner in physics and former USGA President Dr. Steven Chu to campus on April 15, 2014 at the Performing Arts Center. Chu offered unique insights on our energy future and explained how advances in research and technology can contribute to global issues. His keynote address, "Expanding Our Independence Through Renewable Energy: Challenges and Opportunities," was well-received by Georgia Southern students.

**EXERCISE SCIENCE MAJORS NAMED SCHOLAR-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR**

Two School of Health and Kinesiology students gained recognition for their on- and off the field Spring 2014 graduate Megan Ottmum, a senior basketball player, and Coach Mike Mungary. Both received the Georgia Southern Athlete of the Year award, which recognizes outstanding performances on and off the court.

**Georgia Southern Hosts Nutrition Training to Help Reverse Childhood Obesity**

More than two dozen school nutrition managers gathered at Georgia Southern to attend Culinary Institute, a 3-hour, weekday training session conducted by Dr. Bruce Gladden, School of Health and Kinesiology Nutrition School Program director. "We are fortunate to work with very passionate school nutrition managers who are critical, demanding, and deeply appreciative of opportunities to improve their skills," said Larry Stalcup, a Department of Nutrition manager. "They are the frontline in the fight against childhood obesity and bad nutrition."

**A RIDE TO INSPIRE**

College of Health and Human Sciences alumna, Stacie Pulley, did not set out to become a nurse. She signed up for the BSN program because she was not sure what she wanted to do with her life. But what people may not know is how she has been dedicating her life to helping others and changing the world. Pulley's story is one of inspiration and perseverance. She became a nurse and is now an advocate for addiction recovery. Georgia Southern Center for Addiction Recovery helps her small rural hometown of Statesboro, Georgia, by providing resources and support to people struggling with addiction.

**Graduate Student Achieves Personal Record in Boston Marathon**

Sara Riebner flips into running shoes and starts thinking about her fitness. She knew that first step wasn’t always so easy. Riebner wasn’t always so wise. “My relationship with running has been up and down,” she admits. Riebner has learned to enjoy the journey and to focus on the end result.

**Challenges and Opportunities to Impacting Learning**

Dr. Diana Sturges, School of Health and Kinesiology professor of human anatomy and physiology, is the first Georgia Southern University System of Georgia (USG) faculty member selected to receive the System’s most prestigious teaching awards. In addition to the University’s excellence in Teaching and Learning (SITL) Award, the committee noted it was “particularly impressed with her scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) practice and how it led to a stronger SoTL community at Georgia Southern University.”

**Gryphon Media**

**Real Life, Real Dose: Understanding the Realities of Opioid Addiction**

The opioid epidemic has taken a toll on many communities across the United States. The Georgia Southern Center for Addiction Recovery is taking a proactive approach to addressing opioid addiction and promoting recovery. The Center’s mission is to provide resources and support to those struggling with addiction and to raise awareness about the dangers of opioid use.

**Cerebral Palsy Research**

Dr. Gregory Bell, a research scientist at the University of Georgia and the Georgia Southern Center for Addiction Recovery, is working on a grant to study the effects of exercise on cerebral palsy. Bell's research focuses on understanding the underlying mechanisms of exercise intervention and how it may improve the quality of life for individuals with cerebral palsy. The goal is to develop effective exercise interventions that can help improve physical function and quality of life for individuals with cerebral palsy.
Senior Ears National Recognition
School of Nursing student Nicole Anderson earned second place in the undergraduate poster competition at the Seventh Annual National Conference on Health Disparities held in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The 2013 conference focused on policies and programs to reduce health disparities, with an emphasis addressing issues of particular importance in the Caribbean region.

Her work titled, “Intimate Partner Violence: A Silent Perpetrator,” was based on her experiences studying abroad during the summer in Thailand. Crawford’s poster was chosen for its overall presentation, layout, appearance, content and overall impact.

“I was ecstatic when my name was called as the second place winner in the undergraduate division. There were many potential candidates from various schools in the United States, such as Harvard University, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College, as well as from U.S. territories like the University of the Virgin Islands,” said Anderson. “It was an honor to be among the few chosen to present my work and to represent Georgia Southern at such a prestigious event,” she said.

“Nicole’s competition was very high quality. She is an outstanding student and an asset to all the nursing students across the nation. It is a great blessing to me,” said Kathy Anderson, School of Nursing professor and Minority Health and International Research Training Program and RUN2 Nursing.

NIH Career Development Award
Children of Science in Nursing (DPS) Program at Georgia Southern University.

The two-week intensive session was held in August in Bethesda, Maryland, and focused on research concepts, methods, key issues and applications, while preparing to provide the knowledge and research tools necessary to conduct and develop translational and interdisciplinary research and interventions to eliminate health disparities. The program is for graduate students who are looking for opportunities to help exclude, or accurately diagnose and treat, these chronic illnesses in the U.S. and southeast Georgia,” said Anderson.

School of Nursing Now Offers BSN-to-DNP Pathway

The College of Health and Human Sciences’ School of Nursing now offers a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) to Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Pathway that allows students to earn their degrees with minimal overlap in course content. The new pathway follows the Regents of the University System of Georgia’s approval of a significant proposal to establish a defined pathway for students seeking an education in graduate nursing programs.

“I am thrilled to see the program in place at Georgia Southern,” said Dr. Lathrop. “It’s a big win for the Nursing Program to be able to start something like this.”

To southeast Georgia, health disparities and social inequities are rampant. Chronic illnesses including obesity, diabetes, cancer and heart disease rob both our youth and our older population of years, and all illness-related health issues and substance abuse incidence is correlated with these chronic conditions,” she added. “With all of the research surrounding Georgia Southern, I have been inspired and grateful for all the support that I’ve received in making this dream a reality...it’s a big win for the Nursing Program to be able to start something like this.”

Air Flight Nurse Visits Students

School of Nursing Instructor and alumna Maria Graf invited Stacey Teague (BSN) and the Statewide Air-Evac Lifeline to the School of Nursing’s Hock Codes, Emergency Nursing, and Disaster Training Day to provide trauma training to senior 2 nursing students. The Air-Evac team provides educational services to area schools and programs, and also acts as a mobile ICU to transport patients. The continued partnership with the Air-Evac Team will allow the School of Nursing students to participate in Advanced Cardiac Life Support certification.
Dr. Betty Lane Honored for Outstanding Contributions

At the 2014 Georgia Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Annual State Conference (GAFCS) held on the Georgia Southern campus, the University’s School of Human Ecology Chair, Dr. Cynthia Rutledge, Georgia, where alumna Dan Mathews ’96 is the director. Camp Twin Lakes is a network of camps for children and families with serious illnesses and disabilities, and collaborates with Camp Blue Skies, an organization founded by Richard Sesler to provide opportunities for kids with special needs and socialization opportunities.

Senior Amanda Bearden has been a volunteer at the camp for the three years she has attended Georgia Southern and said the weeklong immersive experience is a blast. “I love helping others and I love volunteering,” she said. “Initially, I wanted to go because I had never worked with people with disabilities and I wanted to experience the help for a future career in physical therapy. Now I go back every year because it feels like home and I have many friends who expect to see me there – I love returning to this place.”

The trip is coordinated through the Honors Program and is one of at least 25 Alternative Break programs offered by Georgia Southern University each year. They are public service-oriented trips intended to provide students with the opportunity to make a difference in the world. Child and Family Development Professor Jeri Kropp, Ph.D., and Recreation and Tourism Management Professor Brett Wolfe, Ph.D., are the two faculty members who spearheaded the trip to Camp Twin Lakes and see how the students gain a deeper perspective on life.

“They see these adult challenges themselves and how they help our students learn to look at things differently,” Kropp said. “It is the need to challenge themselves and grow personally.”

Working with these students who not only give up their spring break, but pay money to do so shows me that we have students who are surprisingly unselfish. Seeing the students willingly participate in this trip and want to come back year after year restores my faith in college students and their priorities.

“When we embarked on this journey four years ago, I had no idea where this would lead,” added Kropp. “Now that we have done this trip for three years, we have built solid relationships with Camp Blue Skies and Camp Twin Lakes. Seeing what college students experience is what keeps me going back. Some of the students have written in their journals that the experience has changed their lives. They put their hearts and souls into this work.”

Francis Dodsworth, Ph.D., associate director of the University Honors Program, said he expects the partnership with Camp Twin Lakes/Camp Blue Skies to last for many years. In addition to helping the campers, students are able to apply what they have learned in the classroom to real world scenarios.

FAMSD STUDENT WINS PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Alpina Sallent, a senior in the Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design program, is studying abroad this fall in Korea through a departmental study-abroad program. The Gilman Scholarship Program provides study abroad opportunities for students of limited financial means who are U.S. citizens intended to provide students with the opportunity to make a difference in the world. Child and Family Development Professor Jeri Kropp, Ph.D., and Recreation and Tourism Management Professor Brett Wolfe, Ph.D., are the two faculty members who spearheaded the trip to Camp Twin Lakes and see how the students gain a deeper perspective on life.

“There is a preconceived notion that fashion is only for designers. It is not true! There are a multitude of career opportunities in the fashion industry,” says Ashley Kulyk, visiting instructor of Fashion Merchandising and Apparel Design.

As fashion majors at Georgia Southern, students learn fashion terminology, study influential designers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and explore today’s major industry influences, from leading fashion designers and agencies to career opportunities and current trends in merchandising. Part of the College of Health and Human Services, Georgia Southern’s fashion merchandising and apparel design program is one of the top in the United States according to Fashion Schools.org.

In 2013, Georgia Southern’s program ranked among the top 25 percent in the nation. The fashion fundamentals class is a requirement for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in fashion merchandising and apparel design. Students often find jobs as clothing and accessory fashion stylists, in web design or styling work with corporate brands and identities. In addition, there is a wide variety of career opportunities, including technical design, production managers, pattern makers, marketing and product development experts, visual merchandisers and corporate buyers. With a Georgia Southern fashion degree, students are also qualified to become fabric producers and their engineers, as well as product designers and both domestic and international apparel retailers.

During Kulyk’s April 2 lecture, “Children’s and Teens’ Apparel,” the professor led a discussion on children’s clothing is marketed, and explored topics such as licensing, labeling and manufacturing. As a women’s apparel designer, Kulyk shared personal implications of formal sitting room designs in Turkey.

Her comments appeared in the sixth issue of the prestigious Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Recently, Professor Amy Boyett from the School of Human Ecology was asked to write an article for a...
Six outstanding alumni from the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) were named to the inaugural “40 Under 40” Class of 2014 honored by the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association. The 40 Under 40 distinction recognizes young graduates who are leading the way in business, leadership, community, educational and philanthropic endeavors. They were chosen based on their professional expertise and achievements, as well as their dedication to charitable and community initiatives. CHHS alumni honored include Mychael Knight (02), Lindsey Blom (01), Mario Crux (05), Dennette Thornton (00), Yvonne Parkhurst (05) and Malcolm Lee (99).

Since leaving Georgia Southern, Mychael Knight, a fashion merchandising and apparel design major, has started his own label and appeared on the reality television show “Project Runway.” Lindsey Blom, a kinesiology major, is on the faculty at Ball State University as a professor of sport and exercise psychology. Kinesiology major Mario Crux is an athletics trainer and sports medicine specialist at Cookeville Regional Medical Center Sports Medicine at Tennessee Tech. Dennette Thornton, a sport management major, holds the position of senior manager for group and premium sales for the Atlanta Braves. Sport management major Yvonne Parkhurst is the high performance team services manager for USA Rugby, while Malcolm Lee (99), a health science graduate, is a music executive for Upper Echelon Music Group in Riverdale, Georgia.

“To have six CHHS alumni among this prestigious group is fantastic. I am extremely proud of our recipients,” said CHHS Dean Barry Joyner. “Each has made a significant impact in their chosen career field and is an excellent representative for the College and University. I look forward to more great things from this group in the future.”

Overcoming fears. Helping others feel wanted and appreciated. Every year, students like Greene continue to demonstrate why a growing number of Georgia Southern’s young men and women are choosing a “nontraditional” Spring Break—something that lasts longer than a forgotten party or fading tan. After all, personal education doesn’t have to take a break, at least not the Spring Break we’ve all become accustomed to.

A lot has happened since you graduated...

CHHS wants to catch up with our alumni. Help us out by going to GeorgiaSouthern.edu/alumni and updating your information.