COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Dean's Progress Report

Accelerating success through collaboration
Greetings from the Office of the Dean

I am pleased to share this progress report from the College of Health Professions. To continue this momentum, we spent time lobbying in Annapolis, displaying the work of each of our five departments. We demonstrated grip evaluations, hands-only CPR, concussion screenings, reading techniques for language development, and ways to improve cardiovascular health to legislators and their staffs.

As always, I am proud of the work our faculty have done over this last year. Our annual list of publications continues to grow, and we added a number of exceptional faculty to our College. I continue to be impressed by the great accomplishments of our faculty, and I enjoy the energy of our students as they progress in their education, ready to enter the workforce.

One of my goals is to ensure that any student interested in a career in the health professions be given the resources to fulfill that dream. The College of Health Professions DreamMaker Student Scholarship Fund helps students with the greatest need pursue careers in the health professions. I encourage you to give to this Fund to ensure that those in our community with the desire to help others, can.

Whether you are a student, faculty member, donor, or alumnus/a, you are an important part of our future. Thank you for all you have done for our College as I look forward to another year as the Dean.

Lisa Ann Plowfield, Ph.D., RN

“Exceptional faculty are responsive to students’ needs as they build high caliber learning experiences.”
BY THE NUMBERS

1. The only accredited Occupational Therapy education program in Maryland

2nd. Largest baccalaureate nursing program in Maryland

5. Centers housed at the Institute for Well-Being

- Hearing & Balance Center
- Hussman Center for Adults with Autism
- Occupational Therapy Center
- Speech & Language Center
- Wellness Center

5. Departments

- Health Sciences
- Kinesiology
- Nursing
- Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science
- Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology

130. Undergraduate majors

100. Years of health care education at Towson University

138. Full-time faculty

748. Students in practica, internships, fieldwork and observations at the Institute for Well-Being

1,196. Degrees awarded in the 2018-19 school year

2,667. Clients served by the Institute for Well-Being’s programs and services

4,785. Enrolled students in fall 2019 in the College of Health Professions

26,569. Total client visits for programs, services and/or health screenings at the Institute for Well-Being

34,124. CHP alumni nation-wide

Cover Photo: TU students in the physician assistants masters program are joining one of the fastest growing and most needed professions in the country.

Noteworthy

The Departments of Kinesiology and Health Studies featured study abroad programs in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, Denmark and Iceland. These unique, first-hand experiences afforded students global perspectives around sport and physical activity, sport leadership and international health professions.

More than 500 students across all disciplines in CHP participated in a series of Interprofessional Education Grand Rounds through the year. Topics included Disability in Media, Opioids and other Substance Use Disorders, Falls Risk Reduction and Treating Sleep Apnea with an Interdisciplinary Approach. Faculty and healthcare professionals facilitated group activities and discussions following their presentations.

Dr. Marcie Weinstein announced her plan to retire after 30 years in the College of Health Professions. She began her career at Towson as a visiting assistant professor. She was tenured in 2001 and took a sabbatical leave to complete her PhD in Policy Science. Prior to becoming Associate Dean in 2006, she held positions as an associate professor, Assistant Dean for Collaborative Programs and served as Graduate Program Director of the Physician Assistant Program.
Lobbying for a New Building
College of Health Professions Takes Trip to Annapolis

The College of Health Professions participated in a Lobbying Day on January 29, 2019, at the Lowe House Office Building in Annapolis, Maryland. Approximately 25 students, faculty, and staff participated in the event, helping to educate state representatives about the CHP’s impact on the community and the need for a new CHP building. Five stations were set up including a grip strength and dexterity evaluation, hands-only CPR demonstrations, concussion evaluations, language development, and cardiovascular health and wearable technology, providing health information and demonstrating related skills. Over 35 legislators and members of their staffs stopped by to participate in the stations and hear about the College of Health Professions.

"It is so important for the College of Health Professions to be top of mind for legislators in the next few years. As we push for funding for a new building, there will be many competing priorities for legislators, and we need to make sure they are still thinking about the College of Health Professions," said Executive Director of Government and Community Relations Katie Maloney.

Marketing pieces were distributed that laid out the total cost for the new CHP building at $166 million over five years. The new building will also help the state of Maryland as currently there are nearly 23,000 unfilled health professions positions, resulting in $1.8 billion in unrealized wages and $193 million in unrealized state and local tax revenues. Legislators and their staffs seemed enthusiastic and receptive to the messaging from Towson University and the College of Health Professions.

CHP Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator, Rachel Ermer, said "We had a great turnout and everyone was very positive about Towson University and its impact on the community. We ran into a lot of alumni, either representatives or their staff, as well as people whose kids are attending or plan to attend Towson. It’s amazing how many Tigers are working in the community!"

The College hopes to make this an annual event as leadership seeks additional funding for the new building.

"The new building will provide an exciting and dynamic interprofessional environment for student success.”

— Lisa Ann Plowfield, PhD, RN Dean

CHP Receives Planning Fund for New Building

The 2019 legislative season in Annapolis brought good news for the College of Health Professions. The College received $5,266,000 for the first planning funds for a new building.

College leadership hit the ground running and hired the design and architecture firms Perkins & Will and JMT to begin the planning process. The current proposal places the footprint on the northeast side of the Liberal Arts building off University Avenue. The new facility will include classrooms, offices, laboratories, lecture halls and an array of green and open spaces.

“We are planning the building to facilitate intentional, systematic inter-professional education embedded throughout CHP programming. This planning includes shared classroom, lab, and state-of-the-art simulation spaces for cross-disciplinary education. Opportunities for our students to practice collaborative teamwork across healthcare disciplines will enable their success in the workforce,” said Associate Dean Tab Uhrich.

Currently, three of the five College of Health Professions departments live in Linthicum Hall, which was built in 1968. The technology needs and growth of the College call for a brand-new structure which will also allow the Department of Speech-Language Pathology & Audiology to move under its umbrella. The College has had a 77% undergraduate enrollment increase since 2007, and with current healthcare needs, we plan to continue to grow all our programs.

"It’s amazing how many Tigers are working in the community!"
Our Focus on Collaboration

BCDA Receives Partnership Award from the College of Health Professions

During the annual College of Health Professions Spring Faculty and Staff Meeting on May 17, 2019, Dean Lisa Plowfield honored the Baltimore County Department of Aging (BCDA) with a Community Partnership Award to recognize over a decade of collaboration.

"We greatly appreciate the BCDA's commitment to the education of future health professionals."

The partnership began when the Department of Kinesiology initiated a clinical partnership to add fitness centers to the BCDA Senior Centers as an extension of the Towson University Wellness Center, now a part of the Institute for Well-Being.

As an outgrowth of this partnership, students from the Departments of Nursing and Occupational Therapy & Occupational Science participate in and provide health education to those attending the annual fall event entitled Get Ready! Get Set! Get Fit! 5K Run and 1-Mile Walk. Approximately 90 students from those departments also participate in the annual Senior Expo that draws upwards of 11,000 attendees. Students develop educational outreach activities and health assessments each year for participants that correspond to that year’s theme.

In addition, each semester the Department of Health Sciences places students from the Gerontology and Health Education & Promotion programs in BCDA internships.

While giving the award to Director Laura Riley and Deputy Director Dayna Brown, Dean Plowfield said “We greatly appreciate the BCDA’s commitment to the education of future health professionals, encouraging them to work in their fields with older adults. BCDA has mentored countless CHP students, providing internships and other opportunities, even hiring many of our graduates. We are looking forward to partnering for years to come."
New Faculty: Expertise and Research Interests

Ross Chakrian, M.A.
- Social-emotional learning in K-12 physical education
- Integrating technology in K-12 physical education
- Cooperative learning

Randyl Cochran, Ph.D.
- Behavioral health
- Health information exchange
- Integrated care delivery
- Implicit bias in healthcare

Stanjay Daniels, D.N.P., R.N.
- Neonatal transitional care
- Pediatric and adolescent rehabilitation
- Nursing education
- Healthcare systems leadership

Jillian Fry, Ph.D., M.P.H.
- Oxygenation and healthy food systems
- Population level behavior change to improve public health
- Dietary shifts
- Community health

Janice Hoffman, Ph.D., R.N.
- Medical surgical nursing
- Clinical decision making
- New graduate nurse transition to practice
- Test development and analysis

Susan King, Ph.D., M.B.A., R.N.
- Nursing education
- Critical care nursing
- Emergency services
- Leadership

Ming Li, Ph.D., M.S.
- Public health genomics
- Cancer prevention and control
- Health disparities
- Mental health

Amanda Littleton, O.T.D., O.T.R./L.
- Physical rehabilitation
- Gerontology

Marguerite Lucesa, Ph.D., M.P.H., R.N.
- Improving health and well-being of women who have experienced violence or sexual trauma
- Intersecting epidemics of intimate partner, sexual violence, HIV transmission and acquisition among marginalized populations
- Nursing workforce development and health system strengthening, in both developing and developed countries

James McGinnis, M.P.A.S., P.A.-C.
- Resilience among healthcare workers in emergency and critical care settings
- Organizational culture and workplace incivility in healthcare
- Organizational resilience in the healthcare industry
- Resilience in the EMS, Fire and LEO community
- EMS and LEO integration during active shooter response

C’Rai Weeden Shannon, M.A.
- Pediatric speech-language pathology
- Augmentative and alternative communication
- Special education

Hannah Zabriskie, M.S.
- Female athletes
- Energy balance
- Body composition
- Autonomic recovery from exercise

Rachel Riedel, Ph.D.
- Interdisciplinary research in psychology, health education and physical education
- Development, implementation and evaluation of mental health & wellbeing programs in K-12 settings

Katherine Peitsch, Au.D.
- Hearing aids
- Diagnostic audiology
- Electrophysiology
- Clinical supervision
Each year the Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award is presented to a distinguished College of Health Professions alumnus/a. Occupational Therapy alumnus Lieutenant Colonel Richard Holley (B.S. ‘96) was honored with the Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award on May 23, 2019. He is the lead Occupational Therapist of the Joint & Spine Therapy center at Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is also a 2019 Alumni Award recipient of the Frederick, Maryland Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and mentors young African American students.

Be a DreamMaker

The DreamMaker Student Scholarship Fund in the College of Health Professions is dedicated to helping Towson University students address the increasing costs of higher education and seeks to offset some of the financial stress caused by student loans. The College is seeking donors who want to impact the professional development of Towson’s CHP students through scholarship support.

To donate today, visit: towson.edu/TUDreamMaker

Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award


Faculty Publications: 2018-2019


Spotlight On…

Astou Gaye

College Ambassador

How did you choose to attend TU and select Health Education & Promotion as your major?

As a resident of Montgomery County, Maryland, I was looking for a university that gave me independence and also had a program I was interested in. I have a passion for helping others and bridging the gaps in healthcare. This motivated me to choose Health Education & Promotion as my major.

What do you do outside the classroom?

I am the Kids in Safety Seats Program Fellow. Our program provides car seats to low-income families in Baltimore County. I correspond with the families on eligibility for the program and schedule their visit. I also educate participants on car seat safety before I distribute the seats.

In the Health Sciences department, I am the student administrative assistant. I provide support to the other admins. My responsibilities include answering the phone and helping students navigate changing majors and the enrollment process.

I was recently appointed Vice-President of Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) Open School. As Vice President, I am in charge of communication between the executive board and our four committees: fundraising, marketing, membership, and program relations. I am also the chair of the program relations committee, and we are busy planning events for next semester.

I studied abroad this Summer in Senegal. I took two courses: African Public Health and Wolof (the native language). While I was there, I also volunteered in an orphanage and toured both a holistic hospital and community clinic. At the holistic hospital I was able to garden where they grow the plants used for medicine. The clinic visit gave me insight as to how Senegal’s healthcare system operates. I’d recommend studying abroad to any health professions student to understand healthcare from a global perspective.

What are your plans post-graduation?

I want to pursue Maternal & Child Health. I plan to either get my Masters in Public Health or become a Nurse-Midwife. Once I obtain my degree, I’d like to go back to Senegal and work on public health issues there.

The Institute For Well-Being

The Institute for Well-Being (IWB) offers professional services from licensed and certified clinicians to the Towson community, while giving students the opportunity to gain direct supervised experience in their fields. The IWB houses five centers that provide services – Hearing and Balance Center, Hussman Center for Adults with Autism, Occupational Therapy Center, Speech & Language Center, and the Wellness Center. This past year the IWB served 2,667 clients who came for 26,569 visits. In addition, 546 students were involved in practica or internships at the IWB last year.

The Hussman Center for Adults with Autism at the Institute for Well-Being

The Center for Adults with Autism started in February of 2008 following a gift from Doug and Therese Erdman and was renamed in 2012 after a generous donation from the Hussman family. During the first few years, programs were offered that brought together young adults with autism and Towson University student volunteers. This learning experience was formalized when a new course titled “Introduction to Autism” was created. The course is open to students from all majors, fulfills a core diversity requirement needed for graduation, and requires student participation in service learning activities at the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism. Since 2012, more than 1,120 students have taken the class and learned about autism and concepts of inclusive communities, presumed competence, and self-determination for all individuals.

Students from speech language pathology and occupational therapy also learn about autism through practice in HCAA therapeutic programs. Last year more than 200 Towson University students participated in 4,100 hours of service learning or therapeutic experiences at the HCAA. Students engaged with more than 195 young adults with autism who enrolled in a variety of weekly programs, including work readiness, art, robotics, independent living, fitness, communication skills, and self-advocacy. In addition to structured programs, the Hussman Center sponsors a twice monthly Friday night social that brings together adults on the spectrum and Towson University students. Through the generosity of donors, the Hussman Center offers program scholarships so that every adult can attend at least one program at a significantly reduced cost. The Hussman Center also supports Towson University students with autism. The College Autism Peer Support (CAPS) program provides peer mentoring and guidance to help adults with autism learn to navigate their way through college both in and outside the classroom.

To learn more about the Hussman Center for Adults with Autism visit www.towson.edu/iwb/centers/hussman or call 410-704-4486.