

The Health Sciences Herald

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Greetings from the Division of Nursing!

Dr. Kathy Martin, Associate Dean and Executive Director of the Division of Nursing

It's a good time to be a nurse, and the future continues to look even brighter. As the Division of Nursing continues to experience record setting enrollments, the job market continues to hold great promise. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2012) reports that 1 out of every 5 new jobs created this year was in the health care sector, with registered nursing projected to be the top occupation in terms of job growth through 2020. Career opportunities are numerous as nursing graduates assume new and greater responsibilities in hospitals, community agencies, schools, industry, and home settings.



The Division of Nursing continues to offer programs for the individual just entering the field of nursing such as through the Associate or Baccalaureate Programs in Nursing, or for those pursuing an advanced degree through the Master of Science in Nursing. Advanced nursing specializations are currently offered in Family Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Education, Holistic Nursing, Informatics or Administration.

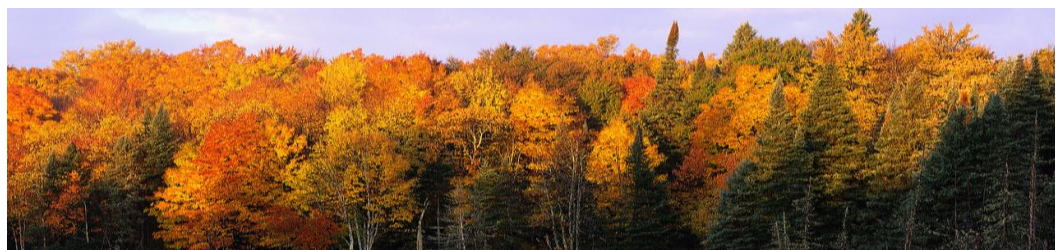
The nursing faculty and staff continue to empower our students for service through learning by focusing on the active transformation of knowledge into effective and compassionate nursing practice. Our nursing students are being prepared today to make a difference in a healthier tomorrow for the patients, families, and communities they serve

Nursing Graduate Selected for Competitive Training Program

Dr. Pam Ark, Associate Professor of Nursing

Congratulations to Ms. Ashley Baxter, 2012 graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. She is a 2006 alumna of East Literature Magnet High School, and earned an associate degree in science from Volunteer State Community College in May 2010. Ms. Baxter entered the nursing program in Fall of 2010, and completed the program in May 2012. She was selected for the highly competitive Veteran's Administration Learning Opportunity Residency (VALOR) program in summer 2011.

Upon graduation from TSU, Ms. Baxter was employed as a registered nurse at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center in Nashville and is preparing for additional training as specialized wound care nurse. Ms. Baxter is the mother of a three year old little boy, and is the first member of her immediate family to graduate from college, proudly blazing the trail for others.



Nursing Hosts Pfizer Oncology Visiting Professor

Dr. Verla Vaughn, Professor of Nursing

“The Division of Nursing was the only nursing program in the country... to receive this competitive grant.”



The Division of Nursing had the honor of hosting Dr. Mary Gullatte as an Oncology Visiting Professor for three days of educational exchange by means of a grant written by Dr. Verla Vaughan and funded by Pfizer. The Division of Nursing was the only nursing program in the country for that grant period to receive this competitive grant. Dr. Gullatte, associate chief of nursing, Emory University Hospital and Oncology Nursing Society president toured various facilities on campus and in the community and led a series of discussions ranging from breast cancer prevention to the advancement of oncology nursing science.

Dr. Gullatte began her visit by joining a team of multidisciplinary health care providers in a panel presentation on breast cancer disparities. Panelists were asked to respond to questions and concerns identified by the moderator in a town hall like format with community participants. The moderator was Dr. Elizabeth Williams,

Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health, Health Administration and Health Sciences, On day two Dr. Gullatte discussed *Advancing Oncology Nursing Science through Health Policy and Research* with nursing faculty and nursing students. She described the foundation and priorities of oncology nursing science and identified the research contributions of oncology nursing scientists across the cancer continuum. Implications for advancing oncology nursing science through career development and multidisciplinary research were discussed. In the afternoon she was given a tour of Vanderbilt Ingram Cancer Center by the center's staff where she met with cancer researchers who discussed genetic research to individualized cancer treatment according to DNA changes in patients' tumors. On day three, Dr. Gullatte presented a seminar on her work in an open forum at Meharry Medical College.

These were highlights of a packed, fast paced and rewarding three days designed to assist the Division of Nursing in meeting long term goals in contributing to the elimination of health disparities that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations, particularly in Tennessee. The educational exchange also served a second long-term goal of the Division of Nursing in facilitating interventional research and strengthening evidence based nursing practice.

Best Nursing Practices from an International Perspective

Dr. Susan Levy, Assistant Professor of Nursing

Summer 2012 was an exciting time for assistant nursing professor Dr. Susan Levy as she attended an international conference on nursing, *“Nursing: Caring to Know, Knowing to Care,”* in Jerusalem, Israel. The conference was held June 4 -7, 2012. The conference was organized by the Canadian Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), Nursing at the Hadassah Hebrew University, and Sigma Theta Tau (International Honor Society of Nursing).

Over 400 nurses from all over the world came to share in this professional meeting which provided an opportunity for nurses to share leading nursing interventions and ideas related to various topics. It also served as a platform for an open discussion among the best minds of nursing research, practice, education and policy to promote nursing skills and talents in this era. Home hospitality gave participants the opportunity to exchange knowledge and experiences in their specialty area.

Invaluable networking opportunities at the conference provided a pathway for future international collaborative efforts by Tennessee State University Division of Nursing and the University West of Wales. Exposure to the energy of such leaders in their respective nursing fields served to recharge the participants in an overall exceptional learning experience.

Nursing Faculty Appointed NLNAC Accreditation Site Evaluator

Dr. Dianne Campbell, Associate Professor of Nursing



Dr. Diane Campbell, Associate Professor, and graduate faculty in the Division of Nursing has always desired to become part of the process that establishes excellence in nursing care. So she submitted a letter to the National League of Nursing Accreditation Commission (NLNAC), detailing her interest in becoming an accreditation site evaluator for nursing programs. The NLNAC is a nationally recognized accrediting body for both post-secondary and higher degree programs in nursing education that sets standards and criteria for nursing programs. In her submission, Dr. Campbell expressed concerns about resources in higher education and the significant number of students awaiting entrance into nursing programs or denied admissions because of nursing faculty shortages. In addition, she emphasized that nursing schools must strengthen evidence-based curriculums, and that graduate curriculums must provide curricular content that addresses population-focused core competencies as preparation for advanced nursing practice roles. She further expressed that both components were essential in establishing high quality educational standards in nursing practice. As a result, she was selected to serve as one of many highly qualified nursing on-site evaluators who examine nursing curriculum throughout the country for high standards of performance in providing evidence-based nursing education.

“...nursing schools must strengthen evidence-based curriculums, and... graduate curriculums must provide curricular content that addresses population-focused core competencies as preparation for advanced nursing practice roles”

Division Welcomes New Nursing Faculty

Ms. Tamica Davidson, Administrative Assistant



The Division of Nursing is delighted to have the opportunity to welcome six new faculty members to its team. **Ms. Jessica Bechard** joined the faculty in Fall 2012 and has expertise in multiple aspects of neonatal patient/family care. **Dr. Greta Marek** holds national certification as a nurse educator and originally joined the faculty in Spring 2011. **Ms. Deborah Hood** joined the faculty in Fall 2012 and brings national certification in Advanced Holistic Nursing. **Ms. Rebecca Mercer** joined the faculty in Fall 2012, returning as an alumni after receiving her Masters degree in nursing from TSU. **Dr. Katherine Pendleton-Romig** joined the faculty in Fall 2012, after completing her doctorate in nursing practice in nursing administration from Samford University. **Ms. Adrienne Wilk** joined the faculty in Fall 2012 while completing her Master's degree from Texas Woman's University. Please join us in welcoming these faculty members to the Division of Nursing team and wishing them well in their new role!

*** News Around the College ***

Occupational Therapy Students Participate in Backpack Awareness Day

Mr. Stephen Penick, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy

“...students calculate the weight of their backpacks against their body weight to evaluate if the pack is too heavy...”



Occupational therapy students participated in **Backpack Awareness Day** by teaching students at a local elementary school the musculoskeletal effects of heavy backpacks on posture. The students calculate the weight of their backpacks against their body weight to evaluate if the pack is too heavy. Backpack Awareness Day is sponsored by the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Physical Therapy Faculty to Present at the Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities

Dr. Edilberto Raynes, Assistant Professor of Physical Therapy

Dr. Edilberto A. Raynes will be presenting his research on **Cultural Differences on Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices in Treating Tuberculosis among Healthcare Providers** on November 1, 2012 to the National Institute on Minority Health and the Health Disparities (NIMHHD) in their 2012 Summit on the Science of Eliminating Health Disparities at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Maryland. Dr. Raynes is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy and serves as adjunct faculty in numerous departments in the College of Health Sciences



Dental Hygiene Program to Host Dental Hygiene Educators Workshop

Dr. Marian Patton, Head, Department of Dental Hygiene

The Department of Dental Hygiene will be hosting a Dental Hygiene Educators Workshop. This will be the first time that this workshop under the leadership of **Cindy Biron Leiseca, RDH, MEd** is being held in Tennessee. This Fall Workshop will take place November 9 to 11, 2012. The workshop topics include: Allied Dental Educators' Teaching Methodology; The Complete Ethics Course & Quality Assurance; and DA & DH Accreditation Workshop.

Department Head Receives National Award

Dr. Natalie Housel, Professor of Physical Therapy



Dr. Ron Barredo, Professor and Head of the Department of Physical Therapy was awarded the Outstanding Service Award during the 2012 annual meeting of the **Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy** in Indianapolis, IN. The award recognizes Dr. Barredo's ongoing volunteer service with the Federation, including serving as reviewer for the Continuing Competence Certification, item writer for the National Physical Therapy Examination, and member of the PTA Exam Development Committee.

***** News Around the College *****

National Society of Allied Health Conference Scheduled

Dr. Rosemary Theriot, Professor and Head, Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences

The Annual Meeting of the **National Society of Allied Health** is scheduled for March 14 to 17, 2013. The meeting will be held in the newly built 80,000 square foot Health Science Complex on the campus of Alabama State University in Montgomery, Alabama. The theme of this year's conference is "Health centered action through interpersonal collaboration: Addressing obesity, metabolic syndrome and related disorders in communities of color".



Please access the National Society of Allied Health website at www.nсах.org for the deadline to submit papers and poster presentations.

OT Students Present at State Conference

Dr. Larry Snyder, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Occupational Therapy



David McGuire, Bailie Hardin, and Larielle Taylor were the first presenters at this year's Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Annual State Conference. The students prepared an informational and educational presentation titled, Service Learning and Occupational Therapy Awareness in the Community. The students who presented were also officers of the Student Occupational Therapy Association. They did an incredible job of spreading that message and educating other professionals

on how they can get involved in community service and succeeded in representing the values that the occupational therapy department instills with their students.

"...[the students] succeeded in representing the values that the occupational therapy department instills with their students..."

Health Sciences Well Represented at Homecoming

The College of Health Sciences had a good showing at the recent centennial homecoming celebration by besting the other participants in the homecoming parade. Kudos goes to Ms. **T. Carla Newbern**, Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene, who coordinated the design and decor of the float. Student representatives from each program who assisted in preparing the float and participated in the parade: Whitney Johnson (Dental Hygiene), Annika Schonewell (Physical Therapy), Mary Barnett (Occupational Therapy), Jasmyne Henderson (Speech Pathology & Audiology), Alvisha Black (Nursing), Arielle Golden (Human Performance & Sport Sciences), Okoye Cothrine (Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences). Also participating in the float are: Chantele Wells (Tooth Fairy), Gabrielle Gray (Little Ms. Tooth Fairy), and Mikaela Gray (Tiger).



MPH Program Participates in TBR Research Conference

Dr. Mohamed Kanu, Program Director, Master of Public Health Program



Recent graduates of the Tennessee State University Master of Public Health Program (pictured L to R: Janiqua Owens, MPH, Carolyn Johnson, MPH, Asia Andrews, MPH, Dr. Elizabeth Williams,; not pictured, Dr. Mohamed Kanu) and TSU faculty participated in the 1st Annual Tennessee Board of Regents Qualitative Research Conference held at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, Tennessee on October 15, 2012. TSU-MPH Program graduates presented qualitative and mixed methods projects developed in conjunction with the MPH Program's Internship (PUBH 6000) and Capstone Project (PUBH 6100) courses. Dr. Williams organized the session and presented an overview of the Internship and Capstone Project courses and how each interweaves qualitative methods and approaches into course design and student learning.

*** News Around the College ***

OT Students Inducted into Phi Theta Epsilon National Honor Society

Dr. Larry Snyder, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Occupational Therapy



Phi Theta Epsilon is an honor program for students and alumni in Occupational Therapy. Students that are in the top 10% of their class with a 3.5 GPA or higher are invited to join. According to the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, the purpose of Phi Theta Epsilon is “to contribute to the advancement of occupational therapy through special projects of its members; to provide a basis for relationship among accredited programs of occupational therapy; and to work in cooperation with the aims and ideals of other student occupational therapy organizations. At present, the mission of Pi Theta Epsilon is to promote research and scholarship among occupational therapy students.” The students inducted in the new chapter at TSU include: Cherise Longenecker, David McGuire, Anne McGinn, Mary Virginia Barnett, Lauren Williams, Keegan McAllister, Chelsea Speelman, Hollie Davis, Larielle Taylor, Lauren Rogers, Allie Allbaugh, Amber Sprunger, and Jessica Bridges.

My Amazing Experience at Camp Dream Street

Ms. Jocelyn Woodason, Physical Therapy Student

"I was able to apply what I learned in school to real life situations at camp..."

My first experience at **Camp Dream Street** was amazing. I met many great people who are now my friends and many campers that I will never forget. I was able to apply what I learned in school to real life situations at camp, such as lifts and transfers, fitting campers for wheelchairs, and assessing the position of the campers in their wheelchairs for different activities. I demonstrated lifts and transfers in several settings, such as the pool, the shower, and the bathroom. I was responsible for pool safety, such as reminding counselors to protect the wheelchairs from the sun, to put socks on all campers, and how to use the water wheelchair and electric lift. I was able to fit campers for water-assistive devices so the camper could become more independent and to also make caring for the camper much easier for the counselor. I also helped campers with their wheelchairs. Activities were my favorite part because each camper surprised me with his and her own creativity and ability. Camp was a great experience not only to apply concepts learned in school, but to also personally learn more about each camper.



State Senator Speaks with Students and Faculty

State **Senator Bo Watson** spent time with PT and OT students and faculty taking about the importance of role of rehab therapies in health care, including employment opportunities for prospective graduates of these programs. Senator Watson is a physical therapist by education and profession. He is rehab director of Parkridge Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee.



Nurse Educators Partnering for Community Health Improvement (NEPCHi) Partnership

Dr. Pam Ark, Associate Professor of Nursing

The NEPCHi partnership was formed in late 2002 and continues today as faculty and students join together to work with the community. NEPCHi is an ongoing partnership with the underserved Edgehill community to provide primary and secondary clinical activities from TSU and Belmont Schools of Nursing. **Dr. Pamela Ark** and **Dr. Ruby Dunlap**, professor at Belmont, along with the Belmont College of Pharmacy provide outreach experiential learning that includes the biannual health fairs as well as semester rotations in community health nursing. All learning is coordinated through the O.N.E. Edgehill Community Board, led by Ms. Brenda Morrow. The Metropolitan Nashville Health Department and the Agricultural Extension Service are active partners in the initiative. Nursing students work with residents to review medications and make appointments with healthcare providers. A health fair is held each fall and spring. Nursing students provide depression screening and health education programs. Dr. Pamela Ark and Dr. Ruby Dunlap, professor of nursing at Belmont School of Nursing were part of the original work group and continue with the initiative with nursing students. Drs. Ark and Dunlap presented on the work of NEPCHi at the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators [ACHNE] 2012 Spring Institute.



"NEPCHi is an ongoing partnership with the underserved Edgehill community to provide primary and secondary clinical activities from TSU and Belmont Schools of Nursing."

Degree Programs in Nursing

The Division of Nursing is proud to offer a number of nursing programs, ranging from associate to graduate degrees. The degree programs include the following:

- ❖ **Associate of Applied Science in Nursing (AASN)**
Traditional AASN program
LPN to AAS/RN Career Mobility
LPN to BSN Career Mobility
- ❖ **Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN)**
Traditional BSN program
RN to BSN Career Mobility
- ❖ **Master of Science in Nursing (MSN)**
Family Nurse Practitioner
Holistic Nurse Practitioner
Nursing Education
Informatics
Nursing Administration

For more information, visit <http://www.tnstate.edu/nursing/>



Veteran's Day: Honoring Those Who Served

Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11th. The day is set aside to thank and honor living veterans who served in the military - in wartime or peacetime. The College of Health Sciences is honored to have at least four veterans in its current faculty ranks. They are **Dr. Beverly Brown**, Faculty, Division of Nursing (Navy); **Dr. Marian Patton**, Head, Department of Dental Hygiene (Navy); **Dr. Larry Snyder**, Head, Department of Occupational Therapy (Navy); and **Dr. Rosemary Theriot**, Head, Department of Public Health, Health Administration, and Health Sciences (Army).

To these and other veterans, thank you for your service to the country!



Nursing Students and Faculty Present at Southern Gerontological Conference

Dr. Pamela Ark, Associate Professor of Nursing

“The clinical experience is an essential part of learning for undergraduate nursing students who will care for... elders during acute episodic hospitalization.”



Dr. Pamela Ark and senior baccalaureate nursing students Ashley Baxter, Denise Eshe, Amanda Harrington, Katrine Jensen, Makko Madison, Adolphus D. Poe, Shirin Tabibi, and Latamara Troutt provided a poster presentation at the 2012 Southern Gerontological Association Annual Meeting in Nashville. The poster presentation was entitled **Making a Difference: One Elder Community High Rise Dwelling Client at a Time**. The students joined together with Dr. Ark in a service-learning clinical course to meet varied health needs of community-dwelling clients age 62 and older who reside in a large metropolitan area housing development.

The elders are self-sufficient in activities of daily living, however, present with a multitude of health challenges. Student nurses worked with the elders honing therapeutic communication skills throughout an academic semester. The clinical experience is an essential part of learning for undergraduate nursing students who will care for the same type of elders during acute episodic hospitalization. Through the community placement, nursing students came to know the setting that elders will face when transitioning from the hospital back to their home dwelling.

Nursing Faculty Recognized for Making a Difference

Ms. Adrienne Wilk, Division of Nursing

Nursing faculty member **Adrienne Wilk** attended the National Brain Tumor Society's (NBTS) Annual Summit in Boston, MA, October 11th & 12th. Wilk, who lost her father to brain cancer two years ago, will be recognized for her volunteer efforts at this year's conference. In addition to her award, Wilk has been named as the NBTS Tennessee State Lead Advocate for public policy issues. Over the last two years Wilk has traveled to Washington DC on two occasions

to meet with lawmakers regarding public policy issues related to brain tumor and brain cancer patients. In addition, Wilk is the race director for a 5K race in honor of her father. Last year the event raised over \$17,000 for the NBTS. For more information about the work of the NBTS and how to get involved, please contact Adrienne Wilk at awilk@tnstate.edu.



Nursing Hosts Aging Simulation Sensitivity Training

Dr. Pamela Ark, Associate Professor of Nursing

Through the collaborative HRSA Grant of Meharry Consortium Geriatric Center and Tennessee State University partnership, students had the opportunity to participate in aging sensitivity training in Spring semester of 2012. Audrey Wahl, Special Projects Coordinator and Jean Baker, RN from the Eastern Shore Area Health Education Center in Cambridge Maryland presented a four-hour interactive seminar attended by 35 junior, second semester BSN students and five faculty members. Activities included the simulation of painful feet by placing beans in our shoes; trying to read text with special glasses that simulated glaucoma, cataracts and macular degeneration; and trying to do simple dexterity with gloves to simulate the challenges of compromised motor abilities. Evaluation of the learning activity indicated that participants would interact with elders differently, allowing more time for the aging person to complete tasks, providing more emotional support, and providing more physical assistance. Participants indicated a change in attitude towards the elderly to be more respectful and tolerant. Faculty plan to incorporate the learning activities as an ongoing part of the program to enhance health care in elders.

Pi Upsilon Chapter Inducts New Members

Ms. Diedre Jones, Assistant Professor of Nursing

The **Pi Upsilon Chapter** of the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International (STTI), held its 12th Annual Induction Ceremony on April 16, 2012. Membership into the chapter is by invitation to baccalaureate and graduate nursing students who display excellence in scholarship and to nurse leaders exhibiting outstanding achievements in nursing. This year, the Chapter inducted 38 new members.



Tennessee State University's Division of Nursing, formerly known as the School of Nursing, was authorized by the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International to establish a chapter to be known and styled as Pi Upsilon Chapter on April 10, 2000. The Chapter began with 24 dual and transfer members and 99 charter members.

Today, the Chapter continues the society's mission of supporting the learning, knowledge, and professional development of our members committed to making a difference in health worldwide.

The Division of Nursing and Pi Upsilon Chapter of Tennessee State University congratulates its new members and encourages all members to actively contribute to the society's overall vision of creating a global community of nurses who lead in using scholarship, knowledge, and technology to enhance the health of all people.

Community Service: An Essential Part of Nursing

Dr. Pam Ark, Associate Professor of Nursing

Students enrolled in the nursing program are committed to improving the health of their community by actively participating in community service opportunities as an important part of their learning experience. In the last seven months alone, the students and faculty have made a difference through sharing their knowledge of good health practices. Examples of such activities include:

Charles Bass Correctional Complex Health Fair - On September 14, 2012, Mr. Gregory L. Hardy, RN, Director of Nursing, invited BSN students to take part in the annual health fair at the correctional complex. Students provided flu shots to a number of participants. The picture shows Ms. Brenda Boyd, RN-HSA, Graduate of TSU School of Nursing, and Ms. Betty Wilson, with her clinical students.



Incredible Baby Shower - The Nashville-Davidson County Metro Public Health Department and community partners sponsor the Annual Incredible Baby Shower event. Tennessee State University BSN nursing students and Dr. Pamela Ark provided the health education. The aim of the event is to assist new parents or soon to be parents with important information for having a healthy pregnancy, and raising a happy and healthy child. The nursing students provided health education topics to nearly 300 participants this year.



Annual African Street Festival - Nursing faculty and students have staffed the First Aid Tent each September since 2009 at the Annual African Street Festival, sponsored by the African American Cultural Alliance. "The AACA was founded in May of 1983 by concerned African American community members in Nashville who wanted to promote the positive aspects of African culture. The primary concern of the African American Cultural Alliance is to enhance the awareness of the cultural and historical background of people of African

descent, while providing various outlets in which we ourselves can take part in demonstrating our culture to others." [AACA Website, 2012]

"...the students and faculty have made a difference through sharing their knowledge of good health practices...."



The Fall 2012 issue of the Health Sciences Herald highlights our Nursing programs. We are proud of the many accomplishments of the Nursing faculty and students, especially the establishment of new Clinical Skills labs for our students. It was recently my privilege to review the BSN students' posters on cultural diversity. The students learned a great deal about cultural competence in health care, and were proud and enthusiastic about their work.

Homecoming 2012 – TSU's Centennial Homecoming – was a rousing success. We welcomed many alumni back to the campus for a historic celebration of our centenary. Our own College of Health Sciences float in the Homecoming Parade was awarded first place! The float celebrated our programs and our students, with special attention to the theme of Sustaining the Legacy: Excellence, Resilience, Unity. We are now nearing the close of TSU's Centennial Year, which will culminate with Commencement on December 15, 2012. The commencement speaker is President Portia Holmes Shields, who is scheduled to leave TSU at the end of the calendar year. We wish President Shields well in her future endeavors and thank her for her service to the university.

College outcomes continue to be excellent. For example, our Physical Therapy 2012 graduates recently earned 100% pass rate on their credentialing examination – a testament to the hard work of both students and faculty.

In this issue of the Health Sciences Herald, you will read about service learning activities, faculty awards, transitions, and conference attendance. We are so proud of the contribution that our students, our faculty, and our alumni have made to our community.

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