Welcome to the inaugural issue of PULSE, the UMES’ School of Pharmacy and Health Professions magazine. The theme of this issue is SERVICE. In these pages, we share the individual and group accomplishments that represent our School’s commitment to serving others.

Over the past year, we have been intentional about providing our students with opportunities to address various public health issues. As a result, our students were engaged in a myriad of activities to help address the needs of our local, regional, and global community.

Locally, the Kinesiology Department hosted our annual “Hawk Walk” emphasizing the importance of healthy eating and regular exercise. Pharmacy faculty and students participated in a “Stepping On” program offered to senior citizens in several counties in Maryland focusing on medication management, bone health, and sleep hygiene. Our Physical Therapy Department participated in an adaptive sports festival for those with disabilities to build awareness of the availability and benefits of adapted sports. This past fall, our Rehabilitation Department in conjunction with AmeriCorps VISTA launched UMES’ VET-Connect program to connect Eastern Shore veterans and their families with education, job training, employment and other referred services.

As a School, we are taking a hands-on approach to address the opioid crisis. We were the first health professions program to become a Maryland Department of Health authorized Overdose Response Program. We have hosted three major events to educate lay people and health practitioners, and in the process, we have certified over 400 people to recognize an opioid overdose and safely administer the rescue drug naloxone. Because of these and other efforts to battle this pervasive public health issue, the School was recognized by the Maryland General Assembly and has been tagged as a “promising practice” by the Governor’s Opioid Operations Command Center.

We are thankful for the support we have received from Governor Hogan, our Eastern Shore legislators, the Department of Budget and Management, and the University System of Maryland for our new building. This first phase creates 65,000 sq. ft. for the School of Pharmacy and also includes some shared spaces for the other departments. We plan to move into our state-of-the-art facility in fall 2021.

As I reflect upon our service achievements, I am reminded of the saying, “For he who has health has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.” We trust that you will enjoy and value the stories of our accomplishments as we endeavor to instill hope in the lives of those we serve.

Warm Regards,

Rondall E. Allen, B.S., Pharm.D.
Dean and Professor
Lower Delmarva residents who know someone struggling with opioid use were invited on Saturday, April 29, 2017 to a free information-exchange clinic sponsored by the University of Maryland Eastern Shore.

Students in the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions organized workshops and training in the use of a rapid antidote to help an overdose victim. Those completing the 30-40 minute hands-on instruction received free Narcan™ nasal spray to administer in an opioid rescue.

In addition to front-line health care practitioners sharing their advice, UMES students arranged for those attending to receive a free breakfast and lunch as well as childcare services.

“Just come,” said Dr. James Bresette, a pharmacy professor advising student-organizers, “We want to help our neighbors help our communities.”

The event started at 8 a.m. in UMES’s Student Services Center, followed by breakfast at 9 a.m. The mother of Paul Montalvo, a UMES graduate student who died a year ago from an opioid overdose, was among those offering remarks at the start of the event.

“Julie Montalvo is a brave woman,” said Dr. Rondall Allen, Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions. “She has committed herself to trying to help others avoid what she and her husband have experienced.”

The event was dubbed “Substance & Opioid Abuse Awareness Response” - S.O.A.A.R., an acronym inspired by the university’s mascot, a red-tailed hawk.

Among local experts conducting workshops were 2013 UMES alumnus Donald D’Aquila, a clinical pharmacist with Shore Regional Health (University of Maryland Medical System), Tyantha Randall of Hudson Health Services, Tiffany Travers, an Addiction Specialist with McCreary Health, Kutressa Lankford-Purnell and Lauresa Wigfall of UMES, and William Johnson, a Certified Peer Recovery Specialist.

Scott Baker, a second-year pharmacy student from Snow Hill, said he and classmates wanted to provide the community with a public service project that “would make a true difference in people’s lives.”

“Opioid abuse is in the news everywhere you turn,” Baker said. “It’s a serious problem that we know is out there. As medication experts and stewards, pharmacists have a professional and moral imperative to help lead this charge.”

Following the morning workshop was a luncheon featuring a panel discussion.

Among the panelists was Debbie Wessels, an educator who lost her 23-year-old son Mac to an opioid overdose, shared her heartbreaking story in a Salisbury Independent newspaper article published in February 2017.

Bresette said the Narcan™ training was a key component to the day’s activities.

“An overdose can have catastrophic effects very rapidly,” he said. “Often-times emergency responders cannot get to a victim quickly enough. Equipping our community members with the means and skill to render aid in a suspected opioid overdose is a vital first step in this fight to save lives.”

Student-organizers say they are motivated by a slogan they crafted for the event: “Rise Above - S.O.A.A.R. Above.”
Dr. Adel Karara, Professor of Pharmaceutical Sciences, was appointed to the Pharmaceutical Science and Clinical Pharmacology Advisory Committee of the FDA as a special government employee with a 4-year term. He has been invited to participate in special assignments and attend advisory committee meetings. The committee provides advice on scientific and technical issues concerning the safety and effectiveness of human generic drug products for use in the treatment of broad spectrum of human diseases and to make appropriate recommendations to the Commissioner of the FDA. In 2017, Dr. Karara participated as a voting member of the several FDA oncology advisory committees approving the first biosimilars to Epogen/Procrit® (epoetin alfa) and Herceptin® (trastuzumab) drug products.

Dr. Karara also completed his term as the Chair of the Clinical Pharmacology and Translational Research Section of the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists (AAPS). In that role, he managed the Section with over 1000 members and coordinated the scientific programing for the annual meetings. He has served as an AAPS officer for the past three years, starting as Vice Chair of the Section in November 2014.
Dr. Madan Kharel, a biochemist at the UMES School of Pharmacy, was a lead scientist in the drug discovery team associated with a research project while at the University of Kentucky’s Center for Pharmaceutical Science and Innovation. An article, “How a Garbage Fire Could Lead to New Antibiotics” describing the center’s research and its implications recently appeared in The Atlantic magazine.

Kharel and his colleagues were able to “isolate and characterize many novel structural classes of antibiotics and other compounds with potent anti-cancer activities” from soil samples where underground coal-mine fires have burned for years.

The natural vents of coal mine fires, where gases are released, “provide unique environments for microbial evolution,” Kharel said. Over 80 percent of clinically relevant antibiotics are produced by microbes, he explained. “Thus, we envision that abandoned coal mine fire vents might be a good source for finding bacteria capable of producing unique antibiotics.”

The research is particularly relevant, he said, as science is entering a post-antibiotic era where new antibiotics are getting scarce and drug-resistant bacteria are growing.

Robert W Figliozzi, is a senior Ph.D. candidate in Toxicology at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Under the mentorship of Dr. Victor Hsia, UMES Department Chair of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Robert has coauthored 10 articles in peer reviewed scientific journals. These publications highlight the work that identifies suppressive mechanisms of herpes viruses by thyroid hormones. Robert has mentored and tutored dozens of laboratory science students in UMES undergraduate and doctoral programs. In addition to his scientific endeavors, Robert has established Bio Research Solutions LLC, a bio-technology company which aims to develop technologies that assist fellow research scientists in the production of more meaningful and cost-effective research. His company has won two entrepreneurship awards from Salisbury University, where Robert earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in chemistry. Robert was recently hired by IES Life Sciences, as its laboratory manager and research lead. IES Life Science has recently moved to the Eastern Shore to develop minority health disparity diagnostic tools from technology that the company developed and licenses with the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Through numerous grant applications and presentations, Robert is currently seeking funding to support his projects from the NIH, Department of Defense, and investors. It is his dream to enhance the collaborative relationship between science and business and expose students from both areas to each other to optimize the development of lifesaving, medical, and scientific technologies. Robert is very grateful for the opportunities and lifestyle that the Eastern Shore continues to provide him and looks forward to continuing serving as an ambassador for the region and UMES.
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore’s Dr. Peter Wang is on a mission to unlock the mysteries behind a medical diagnosis dreaded by half the planet: prostate cancer.

Along with fellow oncology researchers with whom he’s worked since emigrating from Taiwan 15 years ago, Wang is an emerging expert in the field of cancer genomics.

Shortly after joining the UMES School of Pharmacy faculty in 2016, Wang was one of three researchers awarded a U.S. Patent for a diagnosis and treatment described as “novel splicing variants of the genes associated with prostate cancer risk and survival.”

Much work still lies ahead, Wang said, but peers have signaled that the gene splicing strategy focusing on ribonucleic acid – commonly known as RNA – shows promise in treating a disease that is the second leading cause of death among American men.

The numbers are proportionately higher among African-American men, which is of particular interest to Wang and his colleagues who are sharing their findings on how inhibiting aberrant RNA splicing might be the pathway to reducing prostate cancer disparities across racial populations.

Wang co-authored a 14-page article published online June 30, 2017 by the journal Nature Communications outlining what researchers have learned trying to measure tumor “aggressiveness and drug resistance in African-American prostate cancer.”

“We are basically searching for a way to translate what we have discovered into a clinical approach in the future,” Wang said. “Our ultimate goal is: We want to help patients.”

“One of the mysteries in human genome is why 20,000 human genes can produce up to one million proteins,” Wang said. “The key step is called ‘alternative RNA splicing’. It is a process that allows different coded information from the same gene to be selected then ‘spliced’ together.”

“One single gene could make multiple different proteins,” he said.

Accumulating evidence suggests that alternative RNA splicing may have critical roles in various types of diseases, including cancer.

Wang and fellow researchers, including Dr. Norman Lee of George Washington University and Dr. Steven Patierno of Duke University, with whom he shared the recent patent designation, are concentrating on understanding how maintaining accurate RNA messages (by correcting the aberrant RNA splicing) might lead to staving off or possibly curing prostate cancer.

Medical science has relied for decades on prostate-specific antigen (PSA) blood testing as an indicator that men might be symptomatic of prostate cancer. PSA is a protein produced by cancerous and noncancerous tissue in the prostate.

As a “biomarker,” Wang said, PSA test results can be imprecise.

“We want to find a better way to provide early detection of aggressive prostate cancer, and screening for aberrant RNA splicing seems to be a promising approach/tool to achieve this,” he said.

Although socioeconomics is considered a major contributor for prostate cancer disparities, it alone cannot fully explain the cancer disparities observed between different ethnic groups.

Lee, Wang and their research teammates have concluded that distinct genetic differences are likely the culprit for “tumor aggressiveness” and “drug resistance” in African-American prostate cancers.

While Wang continues his research with collaborators, he accepted an appointment to UMES’s faculty because it “provides me a more-balanced work life. I enjoy doing research, but I also like teaching and interacting with students.”

The next step, he said, is “to validate the ‘splice variants’ in large-scale clinical samples and further translate our finding to precision medicine that can truly help prostate cancer patients.”
Dr. Deanna Dunn, a graduate of the UMES School of Pharmacy’s inaugural class of 2013, was motivated by her experience volunteering as a student to continue to address a major health issue in the community while pursuing her career goals.

Dunn, now a pharmacist at Marion Pharmacy in Crisfield, MD, established the pharmacy in February 2017 as the first in the state to be an authorized Overdose Response Program (ORP). This designation allows pharmacy personnel to train walk-in community members in the use of the drug Narcan to prevent overdose deaths. Dunn has also applied her knowledge to help develop an ORP at her alma mater.

“We are excited to be partnering with AmeriCorps to develop a model for future partnerships in Somerset County to address the opiate crisis,” said Dr. Rondall Allen, Dean of the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

There were six deaths in 2016, as of September, from opiate overdose in Somerset County as reported to the Maryland Department of Health and Hygiene. According to its Overdose Death Rate by County, as of 2014 two percent of all causes of death in the county were due to drug overdoses; a rate that has tripled since then.

Dunn, who also registered Marion Pharmacy as a drug drop-off site and serves as a member of the Overdose Fatality Review Board of the Somerset County Health Department, is now a support member to the UMES School of Pharmacy Overdose Response as an AmeriCorps member with ShoreCorps/PALS.

“By blazing the path as our first AmeriCorps member, Dr. Dunn is making a significant gift to the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions and the community,” said Dr. James Bresette, retired captain with the U.S. Public Health Service and Associate Dean and Associate Professor in the School of Pharmacy. “Her passion and her commitment to improve public health is obvious.”

AmeriCorps is a federal grant-run program that “drives volunteerism in America.” Members are placed in non-profit organizations to address health care, education and youth or adult outreach programs in exchange for financial assistance for education. Dunn says her work with AmeriCorps has helped further develop her leadership, management and data collection skills that have been invaluable in her career as a pharmacist.

“By establishing an AmeriCorps presence at UMES’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, we will provide a model for UMES students to combine measurable experiences of service to the community with benefits that will enhance their education and skill sets,” Dunn said.

Since April 2016, UMES’s licensed Overdose Response Program has trained over 400 people in how to save lives. The program and its student leaders collaborated with local and state partners, Bresette said, to hold two campus events in April and in fall 2017 to help address the overdose problem and remove the stigma of addiction.

“AmeriCorps members trained in volunteer recruitment and management as well as data collection methods have been established at UMES’s pharmacy school as a great way to drive this process,” Dunn said.

La Merced is a nonprofit organization in Salisbury whose members have “united for the common goal of helping our neighbors abroad.” The mission’s team aided close to 300 patients at three hospitals, a clinic and at a site referred to as “the dump,” where some of Nicaragua’s poorest citizens sift through trash to survive. Medical personnel performed pediatric facial reconstruction and post-mastectomy breast reconstruction surgeries, shared laparoscopic techniques with local surgeons and administered cortisone shots to orthopedic patients.

From left are: Dr. Geoff Saunders, PharmD ’17; Dr. Mark Freebery, formerly of UMES’ faculty; Lena Ward, alumna of the UMES Child Development Center; Dr. Bart Anderson, PharmD ’16; Dr. Veronique Diriker, ORLD ’05, director of development and mission team leader; and Dr. Yen Dang, assistant professor of pharmacy practice.
We drove along unpaved roads from Port-au-Prince to Jeremie, Haiti. Every couple of minutes on a turn, the driver would honk his horn. I quickly found out this was to prevent a traffic accident—one of the top 20 causes of death in Haiti. The bus stopped periodically for “rest stops”—a bush or a rock by the side of the road.

We arrived in Jeremie after a seven-hour drive. We unloaded our duffel bags filled with medications for the medical missions and went to our four-wheel drive vehicles to depart for Carcasse, another four-hour journey.

The vehicles rumbled along the rough terrain, across washed out bridges, hills, cliffs, and vegetation, sometimes throwing us like rag dolls across the car seats.

As we approached Carcasse, we noticed a thin barricade of conch shells and stones across the street; a “security system” to keep the unwanted away. The driver honked and a group of men emerged and cleared it away to make room for our vehicles. We approached the guest house, where we would stay for the next five days to run a full-scale medical mission. The entire household gathered there awaited us and Fr. Verdieu, the pastor, welcomed us to his village.

It had been almost two years since I visited Haiti during the most recent UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions mission trip. It was oddly comforting, yet alarming, that things were exactly as I had left them. A boy was running in the fields with only a tattered red shirt on for his clothes. A fisherman weaved leaves for a fishing net in front of his house. Children in blue and white uniforms lined up for roll call at the nearby primary school. While the world had changed quite drastically in the interim, this location was remote, isolated and achingly familiar.

Joining UMES’s four pharmacy students and two pharmacists this time were five health care providers from The Johns Hopkins Hospital, two medical students and three volunteers from Derwood, Md.

A crowd was already waiting in line at the clinic. Some had walked hours to get there.

Clinic began smoothly with Haitian health department nurses helping us triage and providers assessing patients and sending those in need of medications to the dispensary. By the third day, the 500-pound supply of medications brought for the mission dwindled on the pharmacy shelves, but the crowds did not. As word spread of our clinic, the numbers grew until we were forced to be in the dispensary after dark, bumping into each other filling medications with flashlights. Despite these challenges, we served 1,700 patients and dispensed 3,800.

Haiti is not an easy mission location. It was mentally, physically and emotionally draining. It was especially difficult to know your limitations and realize you could not do everything. The common theme through the patients I saw was that life in Haiti was difficult.

An elderly woman had a serious infection on her foot because she could not afford shoes. A baby with hydrocephalus and limited life expectancy had no follow-up care. A woman eight months pregnant who hadn’t felt the fetus move was unable to go to the hospital, because she had no money for transportation.

Despite daily struggles, we witnessed the strength, determination and generosity of the Haitian people. Children ran up to us as we walked from the clinic to hold our hands and walk us to the guest house. One man climbed a tree with a machete to give us a coconut. A translator cleaned some seashells I collected after I left them on the porch to dry.

Haiti has survived a massive earthquake, cholera epidemic, extreme poverty, and will continue to persevere throughout the bleakest situations.

Two lessons I have learned in Haiti: Be resourceful. We used

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When worlds collide – reducing health disparities in Haiti

By Dr. Yen Dang, Assistant Professor, UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions
The University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy has secured accreditation from the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education through June 30, 2019.

Maintaining the national accrediting body’s validation of quality education is the cornerstone of the doctoral program that has produced 284 graduates in the past five years. The designation enables graduates who complete degree requirements to qualify for state licensure required by employers.

“Graduates of our programs from our Doctor of Physical Therapy, Rehabilitation Services and Counseling, and Kinesiology are highly successful and often have multiple job offers to choose from,” said Rondall Allen, Dean of Pharmacy and Health Professions.

Ensuring quality internal and external validation through accreditation, UMES leaders say, is critical to the institution’s recent request for funding for construction of a new School of Pharmacy and Health Professions building.

State lawmakers approved a construction project’s budget during their 2017 session that included a second installment for a health sciences classroom building that potentially could also house physical therapy, rehabilitation and kinesiology students.

With backing from Governor Larry Hogan, the state has committed more than $6.5 million to fund planning and design of the new building, which tentatively is slotted to be built on the site of a decommissioned orchid greenhouse.

UMES’s pharmacy program currently utilizes classrooms, labs and faculty offices spread among six buildings. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education has urged UMES to consolidate pharmacy instruction under one roof.

Acknowledgments: The UMES School of Pharmacy would like to thank Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Community Pharmacy and Pemberton Pharmacy for their contributions to the mission.

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plastic bags from food vendors for dispensing medications when we ran out of pharmacy bags. Substituting one drug class for another was a necessity when the medications ran out. Pharmacy students assisted with triaging when the nurses were overwhelmed with patients. Think on your feet and always be prepared. Every challenge becomes an opportunity. One person can make a difference. No matter how little you think your contribution is, working together, we can accomplish much. The looks of gratitude from the lives we touched and impacted and the smiles on the faces of the children, was evidence we served the Haitian people and brought health care to an impoverished community. We may be unable to change the world on these missions, but we can make a difference.

Acknowledgments: The UMES School of Pharmacy would like to thank Peninsula Regional Medical Center, Community Pharmacy and Pemberton Pharmacy for their contributions to the mission.
The UMES School of Pharmacy (SOP) conducted its inaugural summer camp in July 2017. The goal of the SOP Pharmacy Boot Camp was to expose students to career options in pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences. According to Dr. Miriam Purnell, the Interim Chair for the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration (PPA) and one of the camp organizers, pharmacy schools nationwide are experiencing challenges with enrollment. The UMES School of Pharmacy hopes to mitigate the diminishing pipeline for pharmacy school applicants by getting students interested in the profession before they decide on a college major. This year’s camp was conducted with 38 rising 10th and 11th graders in the UMES Upward Bound program, which is a pre-college program funded by the U.S. Department of Education. Upward Bound is designed to motivate eligible high-school students to enter and successfully complete post-secondary education.

During the 2-day camp, SOP faculty, students, and alumni served as leaders for workshops, hands-on activities, and a field trip. The Careers in Pharmacy workshop was led by Dr. Marie-Therese Oyalowo, an Associate Professor of PPA. Because most people are only exposed to pharmacists working in community pharmacy, they are unaware of the many career paths available to pharmacists. In this workshop, students learned about the roles and responsibilities of pharmacists in hospitals, long-term care, the pharmaceutical industry, nuclear pharmacy, and other branches of pharmacy practice. Alumna Dr. Deanna Dunn (Pharmacy, 2013) accompanied students on a field trip to Peninsula Regional Medical Center’s (PRMC) Hospital Pharmacy. At PRMC, another alumna, Dr. Rachel Bounds (Pharmacy, 2014), introduced them to hospital pharmacy through a presentation and tour. Ms. Isis Amaye, a Ph.D. pharmaceutical sciences graduate student, presented a workshop on career options in Pharmaceutical Sciences as some students may be interested in drug research rather than pharmacy practice. Dr. Tosin David, Assistant Professor of PPA, led a workshop that educated students about diabetes and about cough and cold products available over-the-counter in pharmacies. They were also provided with an opportunity to practice how they would counsel a patient taking these medications.

Dr. Rick Ward and Mrs. Sharon Neal-Horse, School of Pharmacy Office of Student Affairs, discussed life skills to help students get the most out of their educational experience and to prepare for college. Students participating in the camp also had the opportunity to complete a pharmacy compounding assignment similar to one assigned to Doctor of Pharmacy students during their first year of the program. The compounding workshop, led by Drs. Adel Karara, Anjan Nan, and Feng Chen, provided students with a hands-on opportunity to fill a sample prescription and use their math skills in the process. They also watched an instructional video on compounding capsules.

With the current opioid epidemic, camp organizers also wanted students to engage in a discussion about substance abuse. Mr. Richard Drake of the Somerset County Health Department involved the students in an interactive game to help them make better decisions and to reduce their vulnerability to drug abuse.

A survey completed by camp participants showed that students enjoyed the camp and developed a better understanding of the role of pharmacists and pharmaceutical scientists.
Since January 2012, faculty from the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions have partnered with the M.A.C. (Maintaining Active Citizens) Center to implement the National Council on Aging’s “Stepping On” program. Stepping On is a fall-prevention program offered to older adults residing on the Eastern Shore, from Somerset to Queen Anne counties. According to the National Council on Aging, “about 30% of older people who fall lose their self-confidence and start to go out less often. Inactivity leads to social isolation and loss of muscle strength and balance, increasing the risk of falling. Stepping On aims to break that cycle, by engaging the elderly in a range of relevant fall preventive strategies.”

Both the Physical Therapy and Pharmacy Practice and Administration departments have conducted Stepping On presentations at M.A.C centers on the Eastern Shore.

Drs. Tosin David, Lauren Dupont and Nancy Rodriguez-Weller from Pharmacy Practice and Administration have visited area MAC centers at least twice a month to educate participants about both over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medications that can lead to falls. These pharmacist-led workshops include discussions about medication management, avoiding poly-pharmacy, ways to better communicate with physicians, bone health, and sleep hygiene. Pharmacy students completing their Advanced Pharmacy Practice Experience have also participated in these sessions along with the faculty.

Dr. Dennis Klima from the Department of Physical Therapy has presented information on fall risk, balance and strength exercises, and rising from the floor after a fall. Second and third year physical therapy students assist participants with both exercises and floor rise strategies should a fall episode occur. Community safety awareness is also emphasized.

The classes are not only informative and enjoyable, but are also an opportunity for pharmacy and physical therapy students who are interested in geriatric issues and concerns to engage with the community.

Dr. Marie-Therese Oyalowo, Associate Professor at the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions was invited to speak to the Wicomico Middle School students in Salisbury about the profession of pharmacy in July, 2017. This activity was organized by Dr. Virginie Zoumenou, Director of the Extension, Nutrition and Health Programs at UMES, under the Food Science Ambassador Program, which is funded by the 1890 Capacity Building grant/USDA/NIFA.

The program contained three very interactive sessions. Each session lasted 2.5 hours. Dr. Oyalowo presented an overview of the pharmacy profession including curriculum requirements, practice areas, and job opportunities. Students were introduced to the basic distributive and clinical services that are provided in a typical pharmacy such as dispensing of pills (Skittles candy was used) and liquid medications, as well as monitoring of blood pressure. The students were particularly excited about hands-on activities that included basic pharmaceutical calculations.

At the end of the program, the presentation was highly rated by the students. Most had little or no knowledge about the profession of pharmacy prior to the presentation but indicated they learned a lot. Most of them indicated they would consider a career in pharmacy and would highly recommend a friend to attend this presentation.
The Delta Nu chapter of Phi Lambda Sigma, the UMES School of Pharmacy’s leadership society, gathered in Ocean City, MD on Sept. 16, 2017 for International Coastal Cleanup, an activity organized by the Ocean Conservancy. Some 27 student and faculty volunteers cleaned up beach and boardwalk areas, including tediously picking up cigarette butts—the number one item in a list of the Ocean Conservancy’s top 10 items collected at such events. State Senator Jim Mathias attended the event to offer support of the group’s efforts and to give them a social media shout-out. Tony’s Pizza supplied volunteers with cold drinks. “Harnessing the Power of People to Fight Ocean Trash” was the theme of the 2017 observance of International Coastal Cleanup, said Emily Diseroad, the society’s historian and student pharmacist Class of 2019.

Last year, an estimated 250,000 parents were told the heart-wrenching news that their child had cancer. Although cancer is the number two cause of death in children, only four percent of all cancer research funds go to childhood cancer.

UMES’s Gamma Omicron chapter of the Phi Delta Chi Professional Pharmacy Fraternity (“PDC”), along with its parent organization, is working to change that.

A group of 20 fraternity members and students from the UMES School of Pharmacy participated in the Sept. 23, 2017 St. Jude Walk at historic Fort McHenry Latrobe Park. The group raised $2,780—the second highest PDC team fundraising effort for the Baltimore event. It brings the Gamma Omicron chapter’s total raised for the cause to $4,838.

The parent organization, Phi Delta Chi, adopted St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital (Memphis) as its national philanthropic partner in 1995. In 2010, the fraternity pledged to raise $1 million by 2020—a goal it reached four years early in fall 2016.

The mission of Phi Delta Chi goes hand-in-hand with the mission of St. Jude: “Improving the lives of children with cancer and other life-threatening diseases through unparalleled medical care and research.”
The American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP) Academic Leaders Fellowship Program aims to develop leaders for pharmacy higher education. The year-long program also provides an opportunity for fellows to develop relationships with peers in other schools and colleges of pharmacy and within their own institutions. Dr. Miriam Purnell, Associate Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and Administration (PPA) was one of 30 fellows selected for the 13th cohort (2016-2017) of ALFP. The program requires a nomination from the Dean and a commitment to mentor the fellow throughout the year.

Dr. Rondall Allen, Dean of the School of Pharmacy & Health Professions, stated that he viewed Dr. Purnell’s participation in ALFP as an investment in the future of the School and the academy. Dr. Allen held a monthly book discussion with Dr. Purnell during the program. He also provided her with a list of leaders in the university and in the community with whom she should meet to gain additional leadership insights. One such meeting occurred with Dr. Juliette Bell, the current UMES President. Dr. Purnell stated that the meeting with Dr. Bell gave her a greater appreciation for the challenges that university presidents face and the commitment and sacrifices they make in order for the university to succeed.

Fellows in the program are also assigned to a Dean Facilitator from another school. The Dean Facilitator works closely with a group of 6 fellows throughout the program. Dr. Purnell’s Dean Facilitator was Dr. Daniel Robinson, Dean of the College of Pharmacy at the Western University of Health Sciences.

The program consisted of 4 sessions and included topics such as leadership development, team-building, exploration of legislative and public policy issues that are important to higher education, assessing personal and interpersonal competencies in leadership, and the importance of advocacy for the profession. The fellows were also provided with an extensive selection of leadership books to aid in their development. They completed leadership assessments such as Strength Finder and Emotional Intelligence.

While all the sessions were excellent, Dr. Purnell said there were a few that had a significant impact on her as a leader. One session focused on case study discussions about challenges the Dean Facilitators had faced at their universities. Dr. Purnell said these case studies helped her understand that all colleges and schools of pharmacy face major problems, but good leadership can make the difference. Another session that left a lasting impression on Dr. Purnell involved a visit to the George Washington Presidential Library in Mt. Vernon, VA in the days leading up to the 2016 Presidential election. “Being near Washington, D.C. and reflecting on the leadership of George Washington during a time that our own nation was about to elect a new president was life-changing,” said Dr. Purnell. She credits that session as well another that focused on advocacy as motivating her to renew her commitment to advocacy in the profession and in her community.

One of the highlights of the program, according to Dr. Purnell, was preparing for and presenting a live group debate (“Values-based leaders are best equipped to help their academic organizations reach their goals”). The fellows worked with their Dean Facilitators throughout the year to research the topic, choose roles, and prepare for the debate, which was presented to pharmacy school leaders from around the country during the AACP Interim meeting in February 2017. The program ended with a graduation ceremony at the AACP annual meeting in July 2017.
“Despite the miles and the length of time, Dr. Nicholas Blanchard left a part of his heart here (at UMES) when he moved across the country for a position,” said Dr. Veronique Diriker, Director of Development. So much so, she said in an introduction of the University’s benefactor and former Dean of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, that he endowed a speaker’s series for students in the school and the community “as an intriguing and exciting forum for all of the health professions.”

The inaugural event on April 13, 2017 featured Salisbury native Alex Azar II as the speaker.

“With his diverse experiences as a law clerk for the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, as deputy secretary for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services—that alone would be a highly qualified speaker,” Blanchard said. “Add to those accomplishments, President of Lilly USA, a premier pharmaceutical company, and as a native son of Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Alex is the ideal choice as the first speaker in the series to address this community.”

Azar’s talk was titled “Succeeding on Purpose: Why Institutions that Provide Purpose to their Staff and Customers are Winning in the 21st Century.”

Azar suggested that purpose was more important in the world than ever and called on Yale classmate Daniel Pink’s 2009 New York Times bestseller, “Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Motivates Us,” and Rick Warren’s, “The Purpose Driven Life” as examples of the trend, along with the “explosive popularity” of Justin Bieber’s 2016 Purpose World Tour -- which got a rise out of the mixed-age audience.

“It is the ‘why’—why do we do what we do,” Azar said. “Well-executed, it is to the North Star of an organization.” At Lilly, he said, the purpose is to “make and connect people to medicines to help them live longer, healthier lives.”

It is not enough, he explained, to know one’s purpose, but one (an individual or organization) must act in accordance with that purpose.

Azar spoke of a fact-finding trip he and other Lilly executives took, visiting successful businesses including Disney, Ritz-Carlton, Southwest Airlines and Zappos to emulate their “service profit chain.” Although at first skeptical, he and the management team came to the realization that what those businesses were doing worked. “Purpose itself can draw in customers,” he said.

At these businesses, they found the same things: happy employees who loved their jobs and had a service mentality in which they treated everyone like a customer.

The team came back, he said, asking themselves, “If we can’t sell life-saving drugs with such enthusiasm as Zappos can sell shoes, then something is wrong.”

Azar called on those in health care to do a better job in communicating purpose and to focus on a higher calling, especially given the challenges of the industry—one of the most capital-intensive and riskiest due to the speculative nature of R&D.

“Why you go wrong is when profit is purpose,” he said. “Redefine your purpose and you will achieve rewards greater than you ever expected.”

Jesstine Wolfe, a doctoral candidate in UMES’ physical therapy department, took Azar’s words to heart. “A business will be successful if it genuinely pursues a noble purpose reflected in all of its interactions with its customers, employees and the community,” she said. “It gives the organization integrity and unifies its members, making it more powerful than one that cares about profit alone. We can utilize these principles to fulfill our purpose and provide the greatest benefit for our patients.”

Azar was confirmed Jan. 24, 2018 by the U.S. Senate to serve as secretary of Health and Human Services.
Larry Hogan visited the UMES campus in late April 2016 for the first time since becoming Maryland’s governor, part of a multi-day tour of the lower Eastern Shore.

The University rolled out the white coats – a line of pharmacy students wearing traditional lab attire – to welcome Hogan and his wife, Yumi, en route to Somerset Hall. Students held “Thank you Gov. Hogan” signs, an expression of appreciation to the state’s chief executive for his support of a proposal to make construction of an allied health classroom building a state priority.

He stopped and shook hands with nearly two dozen students lining the sidewalk, commenting at one point he had never been the object of such a unique gesture.

“Look at all these white coats,” he said.

Little did the governor know that he would leave UMES an hour later with his own, customized version, framed for hanging in his office.

During the 2016 Maryland General Assembly session, UMES worked with Eastern Shore lawmakers to present a request to Hogan for a special capital improvement allocation in the state’s annual construction projects budget.

Hogan came through with a recommendation to the General Assembly that it allocate $3.5 million to allow UMES to begin planning for a new classroom building.

The proposed new building would consolidate every academic unit in the University’s School of Pharmacy and Health Professions – Kinesiology, Pharmacy, Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Services – under one roof.

Pharmacy classes currently are held in six buildings that require a walk of just shy of a mile from one side of campus to the other. The expectation of the pharmacy profession’s accrediting organization is that instruction, laboratories and faculty offices be in one location.

If the state will help build a new building for that program, the University’s vision is its other health profession units should be housed there, too.

That message was delivered in a private, 30-minute meeting between Hogan, University President Juliette B. Bell and senior administrators.

The initial $3.5 million in the 2016-17 supplemental capital improvements budget allowed UMES to begin planning for a new building, which will provide a clearer picture of exactly what future allocations are needed for construction.

The meeting with the governor took place in Somerset Hall, constructed in 1949 as a boys’ dormitory and renovated in 2010 to house two working laboratories, study rooms and faculty offices for the School of Pharmacy.

The governor also toured the building, which while featuring modern amenities, is cramped for one of UMES’s signature graduate-level programs with an enrollment of 180 students.

Seven members of the Eastern Shore delegation also were on hand for Hogan’s UMES stop. They also took the same tour.

Since pharmacy instruction launched in 2010, UMES has produced five graduating classes and is one of the top institutions in awarding doctorates in pharmacy studies to minorities.

Dr. Bell called her meeting with Hogan productive and encouraging.

“We’re pleased he made time to come to our campus and to sit and listen to why we asked for his support,” Bell said.
Two faculty members from the UMES School of Pharmacy were among headliners who shared their expertise at an international conference of pharmacists and educators held in February 2017 in India.

Dean Rondall E. Allen was a keynote speaker at the event held at the Chalapathi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (CIPS). The institute and UMES agreed in September 2016 to participate in mutual academic exchange opportunities.

“The agreement,” Allen said, “will allow for student and faculty exchanges and research collaboration with our pharmaceutical sciences and pharmacy practice and administration faculty.”

He and Dr. Yen H. Dang, an assistant professor of pharmacy practice, were featured prominently in the two-day conference. Dang was responsible for conducting two plenary sessions at the event that drew some 1,000 participants, including students and college-level educators.

Allen said CIPS invited (UMES) to co-organize the conference, which focused on “New Insights of Pharmacoepidemiology and Pharmacoeconomics: Roadmap to Harmonization of Pharmacy Education in India.”

“We participated in a health fair with (CIPS) students and faculty,” Allen said. “We also had a chance to tour one of their government hospitals.”

During that tour, Dang and Allen met with the chief medical officer and several physicians. Interactions with physicians, Allen said, was enlightening because “they gave us a better understanding of their health care system.”

The UMES School of Pharmacy is “planning to take two of their pharmacy students to complete a rotation,” Allen said, adding, “We also plan to send two of our students to India as well.”
“Meaningful, sustainable and unforgettable” are words participants used to describe an international service experience organized by the UMES Richard A. Henson Honors Program and Office of University Engagement and Lifelong Learning.

Over winter break, fifteen students and three faculty/staff members spent a week working with Brigadistas, members of the Peace Corps “Green Brigade,” devoted to “preserving the environment and promoting responsible tourism” in the Dominican Republic.

“The impact of travel abroad experiences is huge,” said Allyson McCullough, a Kinesiology major. “This trip will stay with me forever.” McCullough said it introduced her to the Dominican culture and deepened her affection for the Spanish language along with a new appreciation for the environment. “The community service component was enjoyable and brought us closer to each other and more knowledgeable about the environment,” she said.

The Escuela Nacional Forestal (national forest school) near the town of Jarabocoa, which educates students in forestry and the environment, served as the base for the project. Students participated in ecotourism, natural resource conservation and reforestation projects such as: trail building and design, repairing benches and fences, gardening, planting seedlings in a tree nursery and painting recycling bins.

A lot went into preparation for the trip—a year-long endeavor, said Loretta Campbell, Henson Honors program assistant director and group leader. Participants attended orientation sessions in the fall, completed journaling and reflective exercises during the January trip and took a three-credit honors course, “Global Problems, Local Solutions,” in the spring.

Educational tour company, EF (Education First) Tours, offered participants 30 service hours for the experience through its service learning opportunities recognized by the President’s Volunteer Service Award.

“I’m proud of our students, who exhibited strong leadership, spirited fellowship and genuine enthusiasm to expand their global horizons,” said Dr. Michael Lane, director of the UMES Henson Honors program. “They were remarkably able ambassadors of UMES. The experience was such a resounding success, planning has already begun for a repeat program.”
Faculty accomplishments

Dr. Margarita Treuth
- Awards – The 2017 Honors Teacher of the Year Award (from the Richard A. Henson Honors Program)

Dr. Kirkland Hall
- Recognized – Kirkland Hall, a Department of Kinesiology faculty member, was recognized as the “Community Service Recipient” at the Pi Alpha chapter of Omega Phi Psi’s Founder’s Day and Achievement Week program.

Student accomplishments

Graduate: Fall 2016 – 23 graduates, Spring 2017 – 24 graduates. Of these students, several are attending graduate school in Physical Therapy and Athletic Training.

Events

Jasmine E. Brown Delivers Spring 2017 UMES Commencement Speech

Jasmine E. Brown represented nearly 330 members of the senior class on stage at the spring 2017 commencement exercises on May 26 when she delivered the student commentary. Brown, a member of the Richard A. Henson Honors Program, was the top choice of a panel of five judges who auditioned candidates for the honor. The Kinesiology major from Pocomoke City, MD said she was shocked when contacted about her selection. “I’m really excited about the opportunity, and a little nervous, too,” she said.

In her application, Brown wrote that she was hopeful of having an opportunity to “express my gratitude towards the University for making an investment in me and to encourage (members of) the graduating class to invest in themselves.” Her final semester as an undergraduate was an eventful one. She traveled to the Dominican Republic with fellow Henson honors students on a service-learning excursion. It was her first trip overseas, an “amazing” experience that had the support of her parents, who are military veterans.

In April, she was named the top student in the UMES Department of Kinesiology. To fulfill an internship requirement, she worked at the Lower Shore Immediate Care office in Princess Anne, which helped her decide a career path: She’s hopeful of being accepted into graduate school to become a physician assistant. The overseas trip “made me realize I want to work with medical clinics inside our country and outside our county so individuals can receive quality health care,” she said. She was a member of the campus Praise Fellowship and Kinesiology Club as well as two honor societies, Phi Kappa Phi and Kappa Omicron Nu. Her 3.86 grade point average qualified her to graduate with summa cum laude honors.

Awards

Brooke Thomas
Most Outstanding Student Award for the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, April 2017 Honors Convocation, (Department of Kinesiology)

Jasmine E. Brown (left)
Most Outstanding Student for the Department of Kinesiology, April 2017 Honors Convocation

UMES promotes wellness

UMES’ seventh annual Hawk Walk took place with approximately 60 participants from the community and campus. The 2.5 mile walk aimed to “promote health and wellness and to inform the community about various initiatives to stay active and become physically fit,” said Beatrice Nelson, UMES Department of Kinesiology. Kinesiology Club members, she said, organized and staffed the event that added music, food and activities to the main event; the walk.

New faculty

Sungjae Hwang, Ph.D. joined the Department of Kinesiology in September as Assistant Professor. Dr. Hwang has interdisciplinary expertise in human movement as well as a biomedical engineering perspective of the development of assistive systems for human movement disorders. He received his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from Yonsei University in South Korea, and has conducted human movement research at University of Maryland College Park and Temple University as a post-doc research associate. His research aims to better understand patients with neurological diseases and injury that lead to balance problems by studying how the brain combines sensory information from both the environment and one’s own body movements.
been impressive in his knowledge of advanced anatomy and kinesiology, as well as his ability to formulate an individualized plan of care based on patient specific goals, clinical prediction rules, treatment-based classifications and other evidence-based treatments while using sound critical thinking and clinical reasoning. He has consistently been able to develop a positive rapport with patients, as well as staff.” His clinical instructor further described how Trevor was able to utilize his advanced clinical reasoning skills when he evaluated a patient who was referred to PT for thoracolumbar pain. Trevor noted red flags during the medical screen and after discussion with the patient’s primary care provider, further testing was completed which revealed a gastrointestinal infection, which was treated medically. The Department of Physical Therapy is very proud of Trevor and wishes him the best in all future endeavors.

The Joseph Beatus Student Award for Excellence in Patient-Centered Care was awarded to Trevor Hirsch. This award is given to a 3rd year Doctor of Physical Therapy student in honor of Joseph Beatus, PT, Ph.D. Dr. Beatus was an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He was an integral part of the program for 30 years and retired in 2013. The criteria for selection attempts to embody the treatment approach and style demonstrated by Dr. Beatus, who made a lasting impression on his students. For three decades, his philosophy of providing high-quality, effective, patient-centered care has been instilled in all of his students.

Trevor Hirsch is originally from Bel Air, Maryland and received a B.S. in Exercise Science from Salisbury University in 2014 prior to entering the DPT program at UMES. The clinical instructor who nominated him stated that Trevor “has been impressive in his knowledge of advanced anatomy and kinesiology, as well as his ability to formulate an individualized plan of care based on patient specific goals, clinical prediction rules, treatment-based classifications and other evidence-based treatments while using sound critical thinking and clinical reasoning. He has consistently been able to develop a positive rapport with patients, as well as staff.” His clinical instructor further described how Trevor was able to utilize his advanced clinical reasoning skills when he evaluated a patient who was referred to PT for thoracolumbar pain. Trevor noted red flags during the medical screen and after discussion with the patient’s primary care provider, further testing was completed which revealed a gastrointestinal infection, which was treated medically. The Department of Physical Therapy is very proud of Trevor and wishes him the best in all future endeavors.

The student chosen exemplifies or demonstrates the following characteristics of excellence in patient-centered care:
• Strives to provide high-quality, effective, patient-centered care;
• Strives to determine the patient’s personal goals, needs, and values and incorporates these into the physical therapy plan of care;
• Strives to establish a relationship with the patient that has a positive impact on the outcome of the patient’s plan of care;
• Strives to consider the cost-effectiveness of patient care, as well as, patient satisfaction; and
• Strives to provide creative, holistic, hands-on patient care.
The Raymond L. Blakely Alumnus Award for Leadership and Commitment to the Physical Therapy Profession was awarded to Amanda Leonard, PT, DScPT, NCS from the UMES Masters of Physical Therapy Class of 2003.

This award is given to an alumnus in honor of Raymond L. Blakely PT, Ph.D. Dr. Blakely was founding Chair and Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. He was an integral part of the program and retired in 2016 after 34 years of persistent dedication, commitment and excellence.

The Department of Physical Therapy was established in 1981 under the direction of Dr. Blakely. It was through his wisdom, guidance, leadership and perseverance that the UMES Physical Therapy Program advanced from a Bachelor of Science program, to a Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) Program, and to its current Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT) Program within a span of 18 years. The criteria for selection for this award were designed to embody the impact made by Dr. Blakely’s UMES career.

Amanda (Mandy) received her Master of Physical Therapy in 2003 at UMES and her Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy in 2011 from the University of Maryland Baltimore. She is a Neurology Certified Specialist (NCS) with the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists and a Certified Brain Injury Specialist. She has received numerous awards from the University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute (previously known as Kernan Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation) where she is a Senior Therapist on the Stroke Unit. She has 14 years of clinical experience treating patients with neurological conditions. She is well-respected by her peers and students. She was nominated for this award by four of her coworkers who described Mandy as a master teacher and clinician integrating clinical techniques with current best evidence; an outstanding clinical role model who mentors her staff to provide the best possible care; committed to students by participating as a guest lecturer at UMES; and a strong patient advocate, to name only a few.

The manager of the Stroke Unit wrote about Mandy: “As a senior in the largest rehabilitation hospital in Maryland, you have to demonstrate a passion and commitment to the physical therapy profession every day. Mandy is required as a senior to manage leadership responsibilities while sustaining a caseload that is often just one patient less than her staff. When I think about what makes someone a trailblazer, setting them apart from the rest and demonstrating commitment to the PT profession, I personally look at how they mentor and empower their interdisciplinary team members. Mandy consistently reaches out to new therapy team members of all disciplines to provide guidance on a high quality care throughout the hospital.”

Mandy has shared her knowledge, expertise, and experience with the UMES DPT students as a guest lecturer since 2011. She is an invaluable part of the neuromuscular and acute care curricula. The students quickly recognize that she is passionate about providing high quality care for her patients and they are inspired by her to be strong clinical role models.

Dr. Raymond Blakely passed in December 2017 prior to the publication of this magazine.
On Saturday, September 16, 2017, 3rd year Doctor of Physical Therapy students attended the annual Adapted Sports Festival at University of Maryland Rehabilitation and Orthopaedic Institute in Baltimore MD. The purpose of the festival is to build awareness about the availability and benefits of adapted sports participation. The students coordinated multiple sports events including wheelchair rugby, sit volleyball, wheelchair dance, bocce, and hand cycling, and wheelchair slalom. Patients from the rehabilitation facility participated in the events, as well as clients from neighboring communities.

Mary Layshock, PT, DPT joined the Department of Physical Therapy faculty in September 2017. She is a 2012 graduate of the UMES Doctor of Physical Therapy program. She has practiced physical therapy at Chesapeake Rehabilitation Hospital and ATI in Salisbury, MD. She teaches PT Procedures I – Physical Agents and PT Procedures II – Soft Tissue Techniques. Her research interests include patients with myotonic dystrophy and rehabilitation of patients with select chronic diseases.

Hydraulic Beds Donated

Students in the UMES Doctor of Physical Therapy Program train in how to move patients in acute care beds similar to the ones they will see in their clinical internships, said Dr. Michael Rabel, Department Chair. Pictured from left, are: Molly Gigioli, Trevor Hirsch, Karis Coad, Larry Holland, Kristen Russo, and assistant professors Dr. Michelle Gorman, Director of Clinical Education, and Dr. George Steer, cardipulmonary physiology. A hospital equipment refurbishing and resale company, MST and Associates, donated four Hill-Rom beds with a combined value of $4,500 to the program’s Acute Care Laboratory.

Alumni News

Sarah Oleksak, PT, DPT, PCS from the Class 2008 recently became a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Pediatrics from the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. Sarah is a PT at Easterseals of Delaware and Maryland’s Eastern Shore (www.easterseals.com). She also teaches the Pediatric Management courses in UMES’s Doctor of Physical Therapy curriculum.

Lt. Commander. Jose Dominguez, PT, PhD, OCS, UMES PT Class of 2000, was recently featured in the Orlando Business Journal as a “2017 Veteran of Influence”. Jose has been the manager of inpatient rehabilitation at Orlando Health Rehabilitation Institute (OHRI) (http://www.orlandohealth.com/services-and-specialties/rehabilitation/orlando-health-rehabilitation-institute) since 2015, following his retirement from the Navy after 24 years of service. His military service and physical therapy career have been interwoven since graduating from high school. Jose’s naval career began when he enlisted after graduating from high school. He was trained by the Navy as a physical therapist assistant and served on the hospital ship USNS Comfort. He later earned his Master’s in Physical Therapy at UMES and was then commissioned as an officer. Jose was deployed on the USS Nimitz, an aircraft carrier, on which he served as the primary health care provider for musculoskeletal injuries/dysfunctions for 6000 crew members for two years during the Persian Gulf War. He earned his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Florida in 2014. He has also been stationed in San Diego, as department head of the Warfighter Performance Research Lab, Naval Health Research Center.

Dr. Dominquez uses his values of honor, courage, and commitment to lead the rehabilitation team at OHRI. The team provides comprehensive therapy for acute and long-term injury and illness and has four specialty programs: Brain Injury Program, Spinal Cord Injury Program, Stroke Program, and Comprehensive Integrated Inpatient Rehabilitation Program.
It’s three in a row for UMES’ physical therapy program

Students in the UMES Department of Physical Therapy’s class of 2016 received a 100% pass rate on the National Physical Therapy exam on their first attempt. The class of 2016 is the third consecutive group of graduates to achieve that distinction, a string of success that marks a first for the University since it began awarding the Doctor of Physical Therapy degree 12 years ago.

“I’m proud of my classmates,” said Dr. Matthew Lucas, a newly minted physical therapist at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury. “They’re all pretty smart. The school definitely prepared me for the test.”

To be licensed as a practicing physical therapist, Lucas and his classmates had to pass a standardized test administered on behalf of the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy.

Members of the Class of 2016 acknowledged when receiving their degrees that the “perfect” performances by their counterparts the two previous years was occasionally a topic of discussion.

“I really feel like it’s the instructors, the professors, the staff there and the class structure that helped us to get that passing rate,” said Dr. Katie Irvine, who works at Nanticoke Memorial Hospital in Seaford. “We were prepared.”

Dr. Rondall E. Allen, Dean of the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, said he was “extremely proud of the faculty and staff in the physical therapy department. They have been intentional and diligent in their efforts to prepare our students for the national exam.”

Allen and Interim Provost Kimberly Whitehead singled out for praise Dr. Michael Rabel, who is just the second department chairman since the University launched what was at the time an undergraduate program in 1981.

UMES is one of two Maryland universities with a physical therapy program and among eight historically black institutions on the federation’s list of 226 accredited schools in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

UMES typically receives hundreds of applications annually for roughly 30-40 spaces in a rigorous course of study that takes three years to complete.

The Class of 2016 was UMES’s 12th to complete doctorate-level instruction, which includes extensive hands-on field work in clinical settings. Those experiences often lay the groundwork for job offers upon graduation, which was the case with Irvine, who grew up in Salisbury, and Lucas, originally from Mitchellville, MD in Prince George’s County.

“The program gets you to where you need to be,” Lucas said. “A lot of people are there to support you and move you along in your career.”

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics’ website says the average salary for a physical therapist in 2015 was $84,020.

“Employment is projected to grow at a much faster rate than the average for all occupations” over the next 8-to-10 years, the federal agency notes. “Physical therapists will be needed to treat people with mobility issues stemming from chronic conditions, such as diabetes or obesity.”

According to the Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, UMES is among 112 schools that can boast all of their graduates between 2012 and 2014 passed the national test, including those who took it more than once. UMES is the lone historically black institution in that select group.

Whitehead, the interim provost, said she “was excited to learn about the 100 percent pass rate on the National Physical Therapy Exam achieved by the UMES physical therapy class of 2016 on the first attempt.”

“This tremendous outcome,” she said, “speaks volumes about the high-quality, stellar educational experience offered by (our) physical therapy program.”
UMES launches VET-Connect program

Stephanie Hallowell’s affinity for the University as an alumnus (’16) and her passion for working with veterans and people with disabilities has led her to a service post as UMES’s new VET Connect program coordinator.

“A lot of Vets from the area don’t realize what resources are available in the community,” Hallowell said. “My primary responsibility is information and referral—I give military veterans, survivors and their dependents information on services, connect them with local resources and then follow up to make sure they received the services (if eligible).”

Hallowell refers individuals to services including, but not limited to, education, counseling, job training and employment, financial and legal assistance, housing, and information on health care available through state and federal VA programs.

Hallowell, who holds a bachelor’s degree in Rehabilitation Services from UMES and is pursuing a master’s in Rehabilitation Counseling, will split her full-time hours between an office in Suite 2103 in the Student Services Center and being out in the field. Increasing the quality of life of veterans and their families is the main objective of the project, she said.

The program is a project mission launched by Hallowell and university representatives as her designation as an AmeriCorps VISTA member through the Campus Compact Mid-Atlantic.

“We are intent on UMES achieving a Yellow Ribbon status through the Veteran’s Administration, which designates us as a veterans-friendly school,” Hallowell said. The designation would help not only local veterans, she said, but it also would attract more funding to the University for enrollment and retention of that student population.

A step in that direction, Hallowell said, is a focus on an early intervention program geared toward career and technology education for children of veterans. She has already contacted the Maryland State Superintendent of Schools, AmeriCorps VISTA and Dr. Michael Nugent, teacher credential coordinator in UMES’s Education Department in that vein.

“Parents would be informed of their benefits for the education of their children and through early intervention, potential students would have the mindset to pursue a college education and would have an idea of where they would like to attend at an earlier age,” she said.

Hallowell will work with middle and high school guidance counselors to assist with college preparedness and the dual enrollment program in Dorchester County Public Schools, which has an established agreement with UMES.

Call 410-651-8377, email smhallowell@umes.edu or visit www.umes.edu/uell or more information.
Religion, spirituality and secularism, and its relevance to preparing rehabilitation counseling professionals.

Presenter: Betelhem Mulugeta

On July 13, 2016, Dr. William Talley led a group of students and faculty members to an excellent conference in New Orleans. I had the opportunity to attend the 23rd National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns annual training conference in New Orleans, LA, accompanied by Dr. Talley, Dr. Zheng, and Dr. Harris. This was my first time going to a conference and I admit it made me nervous. I didn’t know what to expect from this conference. The first day I was able to walk around and enjoy the New Orleans culture.

The next day came and the conference began. We had the opportunity to taste a delicious breakfast along with interesting conversations on spirituality.

Around 9 a.m. we separated to attend several presentations as we chose. Then about 4 p.m., Dr. Zheng, Dr. Talley, and I started preparing for our presentation. The PowerPoint® presentation was an hour and thirty minutes long, with a title of “Spirituality: Religion, Spirituality and Secularism, and its Relevance to Preparing Rehabilitation Counseling Professionals.” We then marched to our designated area for the presentation. I have to admit, it was a bit nerve-wracking; Dr. Talley introduced and presented at his best, which helped to draw in the attention.

I followed with the assessments with counselor/client engaging questions and Dr. Zheng was able to wrap up with detailed information on the current research on spirituality and personal counselor/client experience.

Our abstract for the presentation stated that the United States is arguably the most religious and religiously-diverse nation. Approximately 91% of those who live in the United States reported that they believe in God or some universal spirit (Newport, 2011). Though spirituality has become more and more emphasized in scholarly journals, the discussion of religion and spirituality’s relationship to the rehabilitation counseling process continuously invites arguments for addressing and ignoring spirituality in the practice on basis of ethical considerations. It remains for many people an uncomfortable, ambiguous and controversial topic to address. Our presentation began with various definitions pertinent to spirituality, standards of spirituality competencies (p. 3 ACA code of Ethics, 2014; Association for Spiritual, Ethical, and Religious Values in Counseling, ASERVIC Competencies, 2009), various settings and client populations, assessment tools of spirituality and religiosity and future research directions. It concluded with a small-group activity to discuss rehabilitation counseling applications of the content presented.

As we presented our PowerPoint®, we saw a few eyebrows being lifted high. We made good friends after we were done presenting, which confirmed that we had accomplished the objective of our presentation: To assist the audience in understanding the complexity of addressing spirituality and religion issues in rehabilitation counseling practice and to point a direction towards available assessment tools for assessing spirituality.

I also attended a student network luncheon and met with several fellow rehab counseling students from different states.

After the luncheon it was time for the poster presentation. I gathered up my poster and pins and headed to the presentation hall. After looking over interesting information and outlooks on vocational counseling, mental health and childhood developmental disabilities, it was my turn to present on “Exploring the Relationship of the Characteristics of Individuals and Social Distance Toward People with Bipolar Disorder.”
Department of Rehabilitation Gets New Accreditation

M.S. of Rehabilitation Counseling was accredited by CACREP until October 2024.

There are two types of accreditation in the United States: The institutional and the specialized. Institutional looks at the entire institution while specialized accreditors, such as the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP), look at professional preparation programs within institutions. CACREP accreditation ensures that students will receive a high-quality graduate-level counseling education that will give them the knowledge and skills they need for a successful career that affects positive change in their lives and the lives of others. Graduates of CACREP-accredited programs are prepared for careers in mental health, human services, education, private practice, government, military, business, and industry. Entry-level program graduates are prepared as counseling practitioners.

Beginning July 1, 2017, CORE (our previous accreditation body) merged with CACREP. The benefits to the profession and the public have been of paramount importance. Recognizing the prevalence of disability in our society, both organizations have agreed that counselors will be better prepared to meet the needs of all clients if there is a unified set of standards that can be supported by the counseling profession. According to the US Census Report, Americans with Disabilities: 2010, approximately 20% of our country’s citizens are living with some form of disability. This prevalence increases exponentially with age and reaches a frequency of seven in ten individuals age 80 and older. This data indicates that all counselors need knowledge of disability regardless of the setting in which they practice (CACREP, 2016).

To find out more about the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) go to www.cacrep.org.

Written Off Film Event

On Nov 16, 2017 the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, in partnership with Hudson Health Services, presented the documentary Written Off. The screening was followed by a panel discussion with Director Molly Hermann and other community members who are leading the fight against opiate addiction. The film challenges conventional thinking about addiction that leads to stigma. Stigmatizing the victims of the disease of addiction often leads to lack of treatment and community funding. The film attempts to dispel the stigma associated with addiction and to humanize the victim.

The evening was kicked off by Kutresa Lankford-Purnell, Undergraduate Clinical Coordinator in the Rehabilitation Department, who welcomed over 120 students, community members, and professionals to the viewing. Guests were also given an opportunity to mix and mingle while exploring the 15 local health care vendors who were present.

A special thank you to Ms. Lankford-Purnell who spearheaded the organization of the event as well as the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions faculty and students who were on hand to provide Narcan™ training to the attendees.
List of Administrators

Dr. Juliette B. Bell  
President

Dr. Kimberly Whitehead  
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dr. Rondall E. Allen  
Dean, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Dr. James Bresette  
Associate Dean for Development and External Relations, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions

Dr. Timothy Gladwell  
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Assessment, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Lana Sherr  
Assistant Dean for Professional Affairs, School of Pharmacy

Dr. William Harbester  
Assistant Dean for Experiential Education, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Sean Vasaitis  
Interim Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Mike Rabel  
Department Chair, Physical Therapy

Dr. Margarita Treuth  
Department Chair, Kinesiology

Dr. William Talley  
Department Chair, Rehabilitation Services

Dr. Victor Hsia  
Department Chair, Pharmaceutical Sciences, School of Pharmacy

Dr. Miriam Purnell  
Interim Department Chair, Pharmacy Practice and Administration, School of Pharmacy

ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF PHARMACY AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The School of Pharmacy and Health Professions is committed to preparing graduates who are able to collaborate with other health professionals in an effort to achieve health equity and eliminate health disparities. Our commitment is consistent with the university’s mission of meeting the health care needs of the Eastern Shore, the state, the nation, and the world.

We offer a variety of undergraduate, graduate, professional degrees in kinesiology, pharmacy, physical therapy, and rehabilitation services. Our undergraduate programs include bachelor degrees in kinesiology and rehabilitation services. The graduate programs include master’s degrees in pharmaceutical sciences and rehabilitation counseling and a doctor of philosophy degree in pharmaceutical sciences. The professional degree programs include the doctor of physical therapy and doctor of pharmacy.

The curricula for our programs are dynamic and progressive in order to meet the current and future needs of the health care system. Our students are trained with other health professions students, which helps them to understand the value of interprofessional practice. Also, our low student-to-faculty ratio provides more opportunities for student engagement which is critical to the learning process.

VISION

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore School of Pharmacy and Health Professions will be the preeminent institution recognized for developing leaders who improve health in all populations.

MISSION

The mission of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions is to prepare health care professionals and advocates to lead change in health care through interprofessional education, research, and service on the Eastern Shore, in the state, the nation, and the world.
At the UMES School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, it’s all about “the people.”

From our students, faculty and staff to our alumni, donors and community supporters. Together, we comprise a community of learners, educators, facilitators, trainers, clinicians, practitioners and professionals in kinesiology, rehabilitation services, physical therapy, pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences.

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