Message from the Dean

With about a year and a half to go, we are very excited about the completion of the new Center for Healthcare Education. If you care to keep up with the construction, you can access the Work Zone Cam by searching on “center for healthcare education” from the SHU home page. In addition to the new opportunities for our students and faculty, the Center will provide greater access to and interaction with our surrounding communities. Our clinic and teaching laboratories will draw clients and patients to support real and simulated clinical activities while providing needed health promotion and health care services. We are very excited about the research potential the new facility will bring for faculty and students and foresee more opportunities for community engagement in that aspect of our mission as well. We also look forward to hosting, conferences, and workshops to support the continuing education needs of our clinical instructors, adjunct faculty and providers in the community.

I am pleased to share with you some of the highlights and accomplishments in teaching, service and scholarship from the past year and invite you to contact us if you would like to become involved in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Patricia W. Walker, Dean
College of Health Professions

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Reflections  In This Issue

2014-2015 highlights

GROUND BREAKING
Center for Healthcare Education

advocacy

Global Health

faculty focus

Dr. Emmanuel Yung
co-develops PT iPad/iPhone Apps

Program News

Exercise Science
Global Programs
Health Science
Healthcare Informatics
Occupational Therapy
Speech Language Pathology
The University held the ground breaking ceremony for the new Center for Healthcare Education on June 18, 2015. The new building, located at 4000 Park Avenue in Bridgeport, will house state of the art laboratory and classroom facilities designed to support a collaborative, team-based learning environment for the Colleges of Health Professions and Nursing.

The new Center for Healthcare Education will provide students with expanded space and updated equipment opening up new opportunities for learning and preparing them for their future professions.

One of those new opportunities is the exciting new multi-professional education clinic planned for the building. It will offer specialized single-profession services and a collaborative, holistic approach to needed services for everyone from pediatric to geriatric populations. Disciplines that will collaborate in the clinic include physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology, exercise science, athletic training, physician assistant and nursing.

Along with a medical gym and individual treatment rooms, the clinic will have an aquatic therapy pool and an audiology suite used for teaching skills in hearing assessment, aural rehabilitation and fitting clients with hearing aids. Clinic staff will also have access to the motion analysis and human performance labs and a driving simulator. There will also be a simulated outpatient suite for evaluation and treatment of ambulatory patients.

Both suites accommodate high-fidelity manikins or actors playing roles as standardized patients. There will be a home-care suite to simulate occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology and nursing practice. An expanded human anatomy lab will also be used to support health professions and nursing students.

Enhanced athletic training, human performance and motion analysis labs will provide up-to-the-minute learning environments for the exercise science and athletic training programs. These will be used for developing clinical skills and evidenced-based practice and to support faculty/student research.
Having access to and being skilled on the new equipment will prepare students for careers in patient care where they will evaluate the physical performance of individuals with injuries and chronic conditions. In addition, the speech-language pathology program will have labs to teach the use of diagnostic instruments and software and to provide an environment for supervised clinical activities.

The SHU PT Specialists clinic will be relocated to the new building from its current locations in the Pitt Center in Fairfield and the Cambridge building in Trumbull. The Life and Sport Analysis Clinic will also be relocating to the new building from its current location in the Oakview building in Trumbull.

A multi-purpose amphitheater will be available for both large and small group discussions and will expand the capacity for problem-based tutorials. The building will also serve as a site to host professional development activities for health-care providers in the community, and it will be the center for coordinating community-based programming supported by our Colleges, such as global health and service learning activities.

The new site is closer to the main campus and will allow our faculty and students to be more participative in University events.
Sacred Heart University Developing Physician Assistant Studies Program

Sacred Heart University College of Health Professions is developing a Masters of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program, with an anticipated start in Fall, 2016.

The MPAS program will prepare individuals to practice medicine on healthcare teams with physicians and other providers in compliance with the Physician Assistant (PA) Profession Competencies described and accepted by the profession. A PA is a graduate of an accredited PA educational program, and nationally certified and state-licensed to practice medicine with the supervision of a physician. PAs may work in various settings, to include hospitals, physician offices, emergency departments, and urgent care centers as well as any setting where physicians practice. PAs practice and prescribe medications in all 50 states.

Because PAs are educated in the same medical model as physicians, they are uniquely suited to work with physicians and help guide health care teams that deliver accessible, high quality care at a lower cost. PAs are particularly critical to increasing access to care for rural and other medically underserved areas and patients, and they may be the only healthcare provider in some areas. Since PAs typically complete their education in about 26 months, they enter the workforce quickly and are adaptable to any setting or specialty where physicians work. As a member of the health care team, PAs are educated to obtain medical histories, conduct physical examinations, diagnose and treat illnesses, order and interpret tests, counsel patients on preventive care, assist in surgery, and prescribe medications.

The SHU MPAS Program plans include a 27-month program that will offer a 12-consecutive month didactic phase, a 15-month clinical phase, and a Masters Capstone Project. Clinical rotations are planned as ten 5-week clinical rotations, and include rotations in Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedics, Women’s Health, Pediatrics, Behavioral Medicine, and Emergency Medicine; as well as two Family Medicine (Primary Care) rotations and one elective rotation (student chooses area of medicine for this rotation). The SHU PA Program will be the first offering of the College of Health Professions in Stamford and will be located on the campus of Stamford Hospital.

The SHU MPAS will prepare graduates to practice in Primary Care and a variety of healthcare settings to meet workforce needs by providing them with the skills to promote safety, health, and wellness in their patients and communities; and to be professional and compassionate providers of patient-centered quality healthcare who respect and embrace diversity.
The College of Health Professions and The Department of Global Studies has announced the launch of a new global health concentration within the global studies minor program.

Globalization has brought rapid change as citizens, governments, and markets worldwide have become increasingly interdependent. Today’s health professions graduates will need the knowledge, skills and abilities to thrive in a competitive, globalized healthcare setting.

The minor in Global Studies with a concentration in Global Health responds to the demands of the 21st century by equipping students with competencies through a broad based and multidisciplinary program designed to prepare them for global engagement and global health incidents. It is designed for students who have strong international interests and wish to pursue those interests in a program of study.

Students can begin earning credits towards the new minor concentration in the Fall of 2015. The program comprises 18 credits, including two new courses: “Global Health Systems” and “Culture and Global Health.” The minor courses may also be taken as electives by students studying other disciplines.

“The shrinking of the world through travel, increased immigration and increased business transit, anyone in the health care profession needs to be prepared to care for patients who are affected by global health issues,” says Christina Gunther, Director of Global Health programs. “Ebola was a perfect example of this in terms of how a developing nation’s health issue really affected the entire world and required health care professionals everywhere to prepare themselves to respond to the crisis.”

The College of Health Professions is committed to providing students with international opportunities to promote global health awareness and cultural competence and to engage in social justice. Global programs include short-term study abroad, service learning, and clinical experiences in countries such as Guatemala, Jamaica, Haiti, Luxembourg and Ireland, among others.

For more information about the global health concentration of the global studies minor, please contact Lesley DeNardis, Program Director, Global Studies, at 203-371-7834 or denardisl@sacredheart.edu
Alumni Leadership Award

The Alumni Leadership Award was created to give recognition to alumni of a department within the college who has shown one or more of the following:

- service to the University
- distinction within a profession
- contribution to the fulfillment of the mission of the college.

The College of Health Professions faculty and alumni submitted nominations for the Alumni Leadership Award. Ann Spenard ’92 MSN, RN, C was presented with the award at the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Luncheon on October 16, 2015.

Ann Spenard is Vice President and Principal at Qualidigm, a mission-driven not-for-profit healthcare consulting company in Wethersfield. Throughout her extensive career as a long-term care and geriatrics specialist, Ms. Spenard has lead national quality, patient safety and data validation projects. She has also taught nationally to provider groups and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Additionally, Ms. Spenard has been involved in multiple research projects and has published on topics related to patient safety and healthcare quality improvement. She is a master trainer for TeamSTEPPS, an evidence-based teamwork program to improve patient safety, and helped adapt this national program for use in long term care.

She has also had academic appointments at Yale School of Nursing and the Frank H. Netter M.D. School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University where she is currently an Associate Clinical Professor.

Prior to joining Qualidigm, Ms. Spenard was founder and president of Healthcare Consultation & Education Resources, Inc., where she provided consultation and education on issues of long term care and geriatrics. She used her expertise to serve a spectrum of organizations including as an expert witness for several law firms. Previously, for seven years she was also a surveyor for The Joint Commission, surveying in both hospitals and long term care facilities.

Ms. Spenard received a bachelor’s degree in Nursing from Western Connecticut State University in 1983, a master’s degree in Nursing from Sacred Heart University in 1992, and is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Nursing Practice at Sacred Heart. She currently serves on the boards of The Connecticut League of Nursing and the Avila Institute of Gerontology.
Community Partner Award

The Community Partner Award was created to recognize an individual or corporation that has demonstrated exceptional collaboration to further the educational goals and mission of the college.

This year, three Community Partner Awards were presented at a breakfast celebration held on October 9th, in the Hearth Room at Sacred Heart University. The following people received the awards: Dr. Evan Pitkoff, Dr. Shirley Sahrmann, and Dr. Stu Steinman.

Dr. Evan Pitkoff, Executive Director, Cooperative Educational Services (CES), has been an enthusiastic and valuable partner to the College of Health Professions by opening the broad range of C.E.S. programs as field sites for our students. He exemplifies the collaborative spirit that makes it possible for students to learn in authentic settings and have access to innovative, dedicated professionals as they acquire the skills necessary to practice their professions.

Dr. Shirley Sahrmann, Professor Emeritus of Physical Therapy, represents the consummate professional community partner. Through her service to Sacred Heart University’s Doctor of Physical Therapy program Sacred Heart University was able to enter the Marquette Challenge—a prestigious challenge among Physical Therapy educational programs, nationally, to raise money for Physical Therapy research.

Dr. Stu Steinman, WestSports Medicine, has been an integral part of the growth and development of clinical education in Exercise Science at Sacred Heart University and has served as a clinical instructor for undergraduate and graduate students for over a decade.
Healthcare Informatics Program Receives Accreditation

The Healthcare Informatics program received notification from the State of Connecticut Office of Higher Education, in a letter dated December 15, 2014, that accreditation of the Master of Science degree offered online was approved.

New Faculty

Dr. Julie DeMartini, assistant professor of Athletic Training specializing in exertional heat illnesses and maximizing athletic performance in the heat. She received her PhD from UCONN and comes to us from Westfield State University.

Dr. Frank Tudini, clinical assistant Professor and associate director of clinical education for Physical Therapy specializing in Orthopedics. He received his Doctor of Science in Physical Therapy from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI and comes to us from Gaylord Specialty Healthcare. He also has served as an adjunct for the PT program.

Harry Pomeranz, clinical assistant professor and director of Didactic Education for the developing Physician Assistant Studies program specializing in Primary Care Medicine. He received his Master of Science in Public Health from Long Island University, Brooklyn, NY and comes to us from Weill Cornell Medical College, New York, NY.

Carolyn Falconer-Horne, assistant professor of Speech-Language Pathology specializing in aphasia and motor speech disorders. She received her Master of Science in Communication Disorders from Hunter College, New York, NY and comes to us from New York University.

Taryn Rogers, clinical assistant professor and Director of Clinical Education for Speech-Language Pathology specializing in pediatric medicine. She received her Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology from University of Connecticut and comes to us from the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.

Cristina Pino, clinical instructor for Speech-Language Pathology specializing in adult rehabilitation. She received her Master of Arts in Speech Language Pathology from New York University and comes to us from Preferred Therapy Solutions.

7 College of Health Professions Reflections
College of Health Professions faculty were recognized and awarded by various organizations in the 2014-2015 academic year.

**Dr. Stephen Burrows**, clinical assistant professor of Healthcare Informatics was named a Fellow in the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society.

**Dr. Lenore Frost**, clinical associate professor of Occupational Therapy received the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Award of Merit.

**Dr. Sharon McCloskey**, clinical assistant professor, received the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association Award of Service.

The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, (ASHA) has conferred its highest award, the Honors of the Association on **Dr. Rhea Paul**. The award was presented to Dr. Paul on November 21, 2014 at the ASHA Annual Convention in Orlando, Florida. Dr. Paul was also awarded Honors of the Association by the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association in the same year.

**Peter Ronai**, clinical associate professor of Exercise Science received the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (NEACSM) Honor Award.

**Dr. Wendy Romney**, clinical assistant professor, was awarded a 2015 Ellen C. Ross Memorial Scholarship from Rutgers University, State of New Jersey.

**Dr. Gail Samdperil**, clinical associate professor received the National Athletic Training Association’s 2015 National Athletic Trainer Service Award.

College of Health Professions faculty were honored and presented with awards at the Faculty Awards Reception on May 8, 2015.

The following faculty were awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees and promoted from assistant professor to associate professor.

- **Dr. Anna Greer**, associate professor of Exercise Science
- **Dr. Heather Miller Kuhaneck**, associate professor of Occupational Therapy

**Dr. Jody Bortone**, clinical associate professor of Occupational Therapy received a University Research and Creativity Grant (URCG) for her research proposal entitled, “Evidence-based Practice: Occupational Therapists’ Real Life Experience.”

**Dr. Matthew Moran**, associate professor of Exercise Science was awarded with a sabbatical for the fall 2015 semester.

The following faculty received Academic Creative Teaching (ACT) grants for projects to be completed during the 2015-2016 academic year.

- **Dr. Stephen Burrows**, clinical assistant professor of Healthcare Informatics.
- **Dr. Emmanuel Yung**, clinical assistant professor of Physical Therapy

Honors of the Association recognizes individuals whose contributions have been of such excellence that they have enhanced or altered the course of the professions.
College of Health Professions students showcased their academic accomplishments at the Third Annual Academic Festival on April 25, 2015. There were 11 poster presentations given by students representing the College of Health Professions, eight of which were honors senior capstone projects. Athletic Training student, Noelle Cahill, was awarded with the outstanding achievement award.

Student contributions included research projects, significant class projects or papers, work presented at professional conferences, service learning projects, and honors senior capstone projects. Congratulations to all of this year’s participants! To view pictures and abstracts of students from the College of Health Professions please click on the links below:

### Athletic Training Poster Presentations

**27 year-old with Left Vertebral Artery Dissection and an Acute Cerebellar Infarction: A Case Report**  
Student: Noelle Cahill  
Mentor: Eleni Diakogeorgiou  

**Sixteen Year Old Male, Lacrosse Player Diagnosed with a Grade Three Splenic Laceration: A Case Report**  
Student: Patrick Cronin*  
Mentor: Theresa Miyashita  

**Posteriosuperior Popliteomeniscal Fascicle Disruption and Iliotibial Band Syndrome in the Male High School Wrestler**  
Student: Joseph Erdos*  
Mentor: Theresa Miyashita  

**Calcaneal Lengthening Osteotomy with Freeze-Dried Bone Graft, Internal Fixation and Kryptonite to Correct Bilateral Pes Planus: A Case Report**  
Student: Timothy Godfrey  
Mentor: Gail Samdperil  

### Exercise Science Poster Presentations

**Influence of Running Experience on Ability to Match Auditory Cues in Gait Retraining**  
Student: Caroline N. Bertram*  
Mentor: Matthew F. Moran  

**Fit Kids: Health & Nutritional Enhancement: Does topic preference among children enhance outcomes?**  
Student: Emily Denmark and Michaela Lachance  
Mentor: Wendy Bjerke  

**A SWOT analysis of the Bridgeport Youth Recreational Sports Program**  
Student: Joanne Downing*  
Mentor: Valerie Wherley  
An Integrative Literature Review based on the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment (CPFA): History, Current Literature, and Suggested Modification
Student: Sara Isaacson*
Mentor: Valerie Wherley
http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/academicfestival2015/collegeofhealthprofessionsposters/exerciscienceabstracts/abstract47/

Physical therapy participation and post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms among combat veterans
Student: Jamie O’Donoghue*
Mentor: Anna E. Greer
http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/academicfestival2015/collegeofhealthprofessionsposters/exerciscienceabstracts/abstract48/

Effect of Sodium Bicarbonate on Figure Skating Performance
Student: Martine Szanto*
Mentor: Beau Greer
http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/academicfestival2015/collegeofhealthprofessionsposters/exerciscienceabstracts/abstract49/

Health Sciences Poster Presentation
The Holistic Effects of Intercessory and Personal Prayer on Health: Determining the Possible Benefits of Prayer in Clinical Practice
Student: Elizabeth L’Esperance*
Mentor: Raja Staggers-Hakim
http://www.sacredheart.edu/academics/academicfestival2015/collegeofhealthprofessionsposters/healthscienceabstract/abstract50/
* Honors Seniors
Athletic Training

Students Attend Hit the Hill Day at the State Capitol

Athletic Training students met with State Representative Laura Devlin, on March 2, to advocate on behalf of Connecticut Athletic Trainers’ Association (CATA) for their Connecticut Hit the Hill Day at the State Capital.

The students spoke with Representative Devlin about two pieces of legislation that impact Athletic Trainers, HB-6722: a bill regarding concussion safety for youth athletes and SB-684: a bill which would require training of high school students in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). The students made compelling arguments for why Connecticut should pass this legislation. Clinical Assistant Professor, Eleni Diakogeorgiou, was a co-organizer for this event.

Student Awarded Scholarship

Noelle Cahill ‘15 was selected to receive the Nelson Family Scholarship from the Far West Athletic Training Association (FWATA) District 8 Scholarship Committee. The award is intended to recognize an outstanding student athletic trainer in a curriculum program, it was recognized at the 2015 FWATA Annual Awards Dinner in San Diego, CA on April 18, 2015

Students Present at Symposium

Noelle Cahill ‘15 and Timothy Godfrey ‘15 (pictured below) had their capstone projects accepted for presentation at the Connecticut Athletic Training Symposium on May 21, 2015 at Quinnipiac University.
Exercise Science Students Attend and Participate at Annual Conference

A group of twelve undergraduate exercise science students attended the New England Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine Annual Fall Conference in Providence, RI. in November. The conference theme, Exploring New Frontiers in Sports Medicine, highlighted topics such as barefoot running, heat stress, treatment of hyperlipidemia, and exercise guidelines for cancer survivors.

Sacred Heart University participated in the annual College Bowl, a Jeopardy-style knowledge-based quiz, with a team comprised of three seniors Kyle Rogus, Caroline Bertram, and Sara Isaacson.

Exercise Science Students Help Host Fitness Fair for Senior Citizens

On Friday, April 24, 2015 over 115 people attended a Health Fair organized by 19 Exercise Science students from Professor Peter Ronai’s EX 358: Exercise and Aging class. The event, held at The Watermark at 3030 Park attracted residents from within as well as from the surrounding community. Students ran a variety of fitness testing stations, took blood pressures, led exercises and provided education during the two hour event. They even had a 94 year old woman complete the “Gallon-Jug Shelf Transfer” test (full body power assessment) in 8 seconds.

The students worked closely with Watermark Fitness Director Cynthia McGuire to plan the event as a class project incorporating testing techniques that Professor Ronai had taught in class. In addition, 24 students from the class had volunteered at the center throughout the semester as part of the learning-service component of the Exercise and Aging class, offered in the College of Health Professions. Students are asked to volunteer 10 to 15 hours a week at the Watermark or another fitness center that serves seniors. Ms. McGuire’s comments on the event were “the Health Fair was excellent! The students were engaging with the residents. They were very pleasant and active.”
Exercise Science

Dr. Anna E. Greer Focuses on Research for the Public Good

It’s hard to tell where scholarship ends and community service begins for Anna E. Greer, associate professor of exercise science in Sacred Heart University’s College of Health Professions. The two go hand in hand as Greer undertakes one research project after another in the City of Bridgeport. Her students are learning that data collection and analysis, combined with advocacy for new public health policies, form a powerful prescription for helping people live healthier lives.

During her six years at Sacred Heart, Greer has established close ties with the city through her research on Bridgeport’s public parks, playgrounds and trails and her affiliation with Sacred Heart’s Center for Community Health and Wellness, which collaborates with community partners to address unmet health needs. Many students in the College of Health Professions have been instrumental in helping Greer carry out her studies.

“The more you get involved, the more you see, the more people you meet and more needs arise,” said Greer. “For each of these projects, funding is limited, and Sacred Heart students are always generous with their time. I wouldn’t be able to do a lot of these things without the students volunteering.”

The Bridgeport City Council voted in October to ban smoking on beaches, playgrounds and sports fields in all Bridgeport parks, following a campaign led by Greer’s 2014 Health Promotion Planning and Evaluation class. The effort began in the summer of 2013 after Greer conducted a survey of adults in Bridgeport to assess the condition of the city’s more than 30 parks and residents’ attitudes about them. After learning that cigarette butts were keeping people out of the parks and limiting opportunities to exercise, Greer and the 15 students in her class joined forces with key city leaders to advocate for the smoking ban.

Last year, Greer collaborated with city officials to develop the GO PLAY! Parks Passport program to promote physical activity in the parks. Several students majoring in exercise science helped her survey parents in 20 elementary schools to determine the best approaches to get families to participate. “We needed two students in every school. I was able to cover all of those schools because so many students volunteered,” she said.

Now Greer is turning her attention to another chronic problem that threatens the health of Bridgeport residents: obesity. She and Bronwyn Cross-Denny, assistant professor in the Sociology department, are working with the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport to increase access to fresh and affordable produce through church-run food pantries, which are a major source of food for low-income families. One key finding from a survey conducted last year was that many people were unaware that their subsidized SNAP dollars can be used at farmers’ markets as well as the pantries. Greer and Cross-Denny plan to apply for a grant to form a network that will improve coordination between the pantries and farmers’ markets.

Greer is also working with the Bridgeport Health Department to update a survey documenting levels of obesity in the city. And she has connected with the city’s Green Village Initiative to explore the possibility of a study of community gardens and school-based farms and how they are impacting families.

“I think it’s really important and meaningful work, and I’m excited to be a part of it,” said Greer. “For the students, it’s good for them to see a part of society they might not have seen before. As a teacher, it’s really cool to see them react to these experiences.”
Students get Involved in Research

Athletic Training

Head Impacts

Dr. Theresa Miyashita, director and assistant professor for the athletic training education program began an accelerometer concussion study last spring. Her research continues this spring with a grant awarded by US Lacrosse to Sacred Heart University’s athletic training education program to study the effects of on-the-field head impacts over the course of the Pioneers’ college men’s lacrosse season. Students in the program will work with professors and staff to collect data throughout the spring 2016 season by using helmet-mounted impact sensors during games and practices.

Speech-Language Pathology

Aphasia

Assistant Professor, Carolyn Falconer-Horne’s research investigates ways to improve language production after a neurological injury, such as a stroke, which leads to aphasia. Aphasia can affect verbal expression, auditory comprehension, reading or writing, but it does not affect intelligence. This is a frustrating and isolating condition. Carolyn’s current research involves rehabilitation of aphasia with non-invasive brain stimulation. A small current is passed between two electrodes placed on the scalp with the goal of stimulating the neurons in the brain beneath those electrodes. This form of brain stimulation, Transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS) has been shown to improve arm and leg function after stroke, especially when added to traditional exercise based physical and occupational therapy. Carolyn’s work aims to extend these effects to aphasia treatment. Two 2nd year graduate students, Abrielle Gouvin and Amanda Rizzo, two first year graduate students, Natasha Sousa and Allison Kornhaas, and senior undergraduate student, Gina Gallo have been working on data organization and analysis for this project.

Speech-Language Pathology

Vocal Folds

Normal voice production depends on the health of vocal folds. The vocal folds are vulnerable to chemical damage from reflux and inhaling irritants, or mechanical damage from cheering, yelling, or excessive speaking demands. Associate Professor, Dr. Ciara Leydon’s research focuses on the role of vocal fold epithelial (skin-like) cells in maintaining vocal fold health by protecting the vocal folds from chemical and mechanical damage, and in modulating recovery after injury.

Two graduate assistants, Ben Jerrild and Gabriela Depa’s presentations on the project were selected for oral presentation at the Annual Convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

PICTURED ABOVE: Dr. Leydon with students, Monica Brimley (top seated) and Brittney Gunnerson, (bottom seated) preparing cow larynx and trachea to study the protective properties of airway epithelium against chemical damage.
Speech-Language Pathology
Bilingual Language and Literacy

Assistant Professor, Dr. Robin Danzak focuses her research on bilingual language and literacy, and is also currently collaborating to investigate the impact of global service learning on students' intercultural development.

PICTURED RIGHT: Three of Dr. Danzak’s 2nd year graduate students, Justina Parmiter, Amanda Rizzo, and AnnMarie Zielinski, as well as SLP clinical faculty Ellen Massucci, co-authored a poster at the International Association of Research on Service Learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) conference in Boston, November 16-18, 2015. The poster title is, “Reading Between the Lines: Developing a Literacy Program in Guatemala.”

Speech-Language Pathology
Stuttering

Assistant Professor, Dr. Jill Douglas’s research is based on the concern that within the field of speech-language pathology, stuttering can be oversimplified as solely a behavioral issue; that if stuttering isn’t heard or observed by an outsider then the stuttering doesn’t exist. However, we know that stuttering can impact the emotions, thoughts, and self-perceptions of a person who stutters, even when he/she is not actively stuttering. In order to best serve a client who stutters, both the behavioral and psychological affects must be addressed. Dr. Douglas’s research addresses this broader aim in working with people who stutter. Students, Jay Klara and Kaitlyn Smith presented on covert stuttering research in November at the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA) annual conference, Denver, CO.

Speech-Language Pathology
Autism: Learning to Speak

Through funding received from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, two graduate students, Lianne Choo and Amanda Rizzo, have been involved in assisting Dr. Rhea Paul with her research. Dr. Paul, chair & program director, is currently conducting research concerning how children with autism, particularly those who are nonverbal, learn to speak. Dr. Paul has recently began a new research program in which she is exploring how to distinguish between bilingual preschoolers: those who will go on to have trouble learning English and those who will learn it at the typical rate, so that early intervention can be provided to those having difficulty.
Students from the EX320: Pediatric Exercise Science class and Dr. Valerie Wherley hosted guest speaker, Richard Cashman, in October. Coach Cashman, originally from Wales, studied coaching at Cardiff Metropolitan University and currently coaches youth soccer in Shelton, CT. He taught a class entitled, “Using Time-on-Task to Increase Physical Activity in Youth”. The lecture emphasized planning, organization, creativity, and thoughtful use of time when working with children and adolescents, with the ultimate goal being an increase in movement and energy expenditure.

EX 320 is a service learning class, and students were able to directly apply Coach Cashman’s concepts to their service learning projects at Cooperative Educations Services (CES), Madison Elementary School, and Winthrop Middle School. On October 28th the students held a fitness field day at the Cooperative Educational Services (CES) school in Trumbull, CT.

The CES school provides quality education to youth and adolescents with developmental delays. Learning objectives, teaching strategies, and task/functional constraints were identified prior to the field day. The SHU students, in conjunction with Dr. Wherley and Kevin McGlone, site supervisor and Physical Education Instructor at CES, created fitness stations emphasizing hand-eye coordination, aerobic fitness, and muscular endurance. Approximately 80 students from CES participated in the event.

Last fall approximately 200 children from Madison Elementary school (grades 4-6) ran their timed-mile at Sacred Heart’s track for the purpose of the annual Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment. Children arrived at the William H. Pitt Health and Recreation Center and were accompanied by 14 student volunteers from Dr. Wherley’s EX 320: Pediatric Exercise Science class. The children were acclimated to the track facility, given a proper warm-up, and offered a few helpful tips on running the mile successfully. Data was collected from the timed-mile test and reported to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Following the test, students from Dr. Wherley’s class divided the children into groups and offered several learning stations: human anatomy, heart rate lab, balance & coordination, and speed/reaction time.
Global Programs

Cheyenne River, La Plant, SD

The College of Health Professions is committed to providing students with international opportunities to promote global health awareness, cultural competence and providing education to engage in social justice. Global programs include short-term study abroad, service learning, and clinical experiences. Whenever possible, an interdisciplinary model is provided.

Presently, opportunities are available at the following locations: Greater Panchoy Valley, Guatemala; Gros Morne, Haiti; Luxembourg; Oaxaca, Mexico and new this summer, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation, La Plant, SD.

This summer a service learning trip to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation, La Plant, SD with Simply Smiles took place from June 20-27, 2015. Trip Leaders were Dr. Jody Bortone from Occupational Therapy and Dr. Linda Strong from Nursing. Additional faculty included Pat Carl-Stannard from Social Work and Ellen Massucci from Speech Language Pathology.

This interdisciplinary program to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation was the first for Sacred Heart University (SHU) to the Cheyenne River with the intent of beginning to forge a partnership with Simply Smiles and the Lakota people. SHU is the very first group that traveled to the reservation with expertise in health and health education and the first to provide health education programs to the Lakota people. Students and faculty from Occupational Therapy, Speech Language Pathology, Nursing and Social Work participated in the week long program. SHU faculty and students developed, with Simply Smiles, a series of five health education programs that students and faculty implemented throughout the week. ; “walking for health”, “thriving with diabetes”, “interview of a Lakota elder”, “nutrition and cooking class”, and “dental day”. Every morning throughout the week, while one team of SHU faculty and students conducted the health education programs, the remainder of the group participated in Simply Smiles work projects including constructing a home, building concrete side walks, digging and leveling ground to install large planter boxes, constructing large greenhouse end walls and door frames, community garden work, and a buffalo installation project. The days were long and the morning projects involved heavy work which was followed by afternoon children’s’ camp, evening events, and daily chores such as cleaning the latrines, sweeping & swiffering the community center floor, and washing the community dishes.

One of the highlights of the program was participation in town-wide events with the Lakota people including three town-wide meals, artisan night, social/game night, bingo night, and children’s book club.

Faculty and students forged some wonderful relationships with the Lakota people, both children and adults. Some faculty provided information for following up with health concerns, medications, and evaluations. The Lakota taught the SHU group how to make various Lakota crafts, included them in re-building a tepee that had been knocked down in a storm, instructed the group about Lakota religion and spirituality, and discussed their history, particularly about experiences of many elders who were removed from their families and forced into boarding schools, prohibited from speaking the Lakota language, practicing their religion, or cultural practices. There is a great deal that SHU has to offer the Lakota people in the future, as well the Lakota have a great deal to offer SHU faculty and students. The next program is planned for June 18-25, 2016.
The Annual Health Science Senior Capstone Poster Session was held on May 5, 2015 with 20 students presenting their work.

All senior health science students must complete research based on an area of health care related to a specific treatment or intervention in the capstone course. The course, taught by Dr. Clotilde Dudley-Smith, allows students to find the best available current research and apply evidence-based practices to real world scenarios.

The posters covered a variety of topics including art therapy on autism, red wine effects on health, speech therapy for veterans with traumatic brain injury, and cell phone use and infertility in males.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/sacredheartunivpix/sets/72157652339597626

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Healthcare Informatics

Healthcare Informatics Students Awarded Grants for Internships

The New England Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Dvora Brodie Grant-Backed Internship Stipend Program assists student members of the New England chapter who are gaining real world experience in healthcare information technology through an unpaid internship opportunity.

Awarded recipients are provided a grant in the amount of $1,250 to help offset some of the costs which can commonly pose a barrier to participation in an unpaid internship opportunity. There were two recipients of the award in 2014, Asma Ahmed and John Murray, both are students in Sacred Heart University’s Healthcare Informatics program.
Occupational Therapy

Students Inducted into Pi Theta Epsilon Honor Society

Fourteen students from the Occupational Therapy program were inducted into the Pi Theta Epsilon honor society on February 21, 2015. Pi Theta Epsilon recognizes and encourages scholastic excellence of occupational therapy students, contributes to the advancement of the field of occupational therapy through scholarly activities, such as research development, continuing education, and information exchange between student and alumni members; and provides a vehicle for students enrolled in accredited programs in occupational therapy to exchange information and to collaborate regarding scholarly activities.

Middle Row: Cassandra Tanner, Deanna Lindberg, Sari Warren, Mariaelena Distefano, Kristin Carter
Front: Erin Foley

Student Presented with Award at Annual Conference

Second year student, Michael Dezmin, was presented with a Student Scholarship Award at the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association’s (ConnOTA) annual awards ceremony on March 7, 2015.

Mr. Dezmin is working closely with Assistant Professor, Dr. Heather Miller Kuhaneck, on an Autism Speaks funded study on play for children with Autism and teaches swim lessons to children with special needs through Angelfish Therapy.
Speech-Language Pathology

Department Offers Interdisciplinary Presentation and Workshop

The Speech Language Pathology department offered an interdisciplinary presentation: “Aphasia Awareness, Disability Sports and Recreation” by Avi Golden, stroke educator and survivor, with guest Andy Polak. Mr. Golden is a remarkable advocate of aphasia awareness, as well as driven to help people with stroke (and other forms of disabilities) to enjoy the outdoors, despite physical and cognitive disabilities.

The department also offered its first interdisciplinary intensive clinical workshop for stroke victims. Twelve Speech-Language Pathology students and 4 Occupational Therapy students provided daily therapy to 12 patients with aphasia at the Cambridge Building.

Speech Language Pathology — Student News

PICTURED ABOVE: Speech Language Pathology student, Shelley Ransome, ran an inter-professional stress-reduction and wellness program for College of Health Professions students on April 16, 2015. It was attended by 15 students.

PICTURED ABOVE (Left to Right) Speech Language Pathology students, Jamie-Marie Erickson, Lindsay Droney, and Julia Poole, were awarded scholarships from the Connecticut Speech-Language-Hearing Association at the Spring Conference on April, 24, 2015.
Athletic Training

Dr. Theresa Miyashita, program director and assistant professor became a member of two Connecticut State Legislative Task Forces concerning concussions and youth.

Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Gail Samdperil was awarded a 2015 National Athletic Trainer Service Award. She will be presented with the award at the 2015 National Athletic Trainers’ Association Annual Meeting & Clinical Symposia, June 23-26, 2015 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Exercise Science

Clinical Associate Professor, Dr. Wendy Bjerke co-authored an article titled “Teaching a Lifestyle Intervention for Reversing Impaired Fasting Glucose, Hyperlipidemia and Obesity/Overweight to a Cohort of Local Physicians.” published in Current Nutrition and Food Science, January 2015.

Dr. Bjerke gave a presentation titled “Can a University Mission Statement Inspire Service Learning Among Allied Health Students?” at the International Association for Research on Service-Learning and Community Engagement’s annual meeting, October 2014, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Assistant Professor, Dr. Anna Greer, co-authored the following published articles:


Clinical Associate Professor, Peter Ronai, co-authored an article titled “The Single Leg Wall Squat With a Stability Ball” published in the Strength and Conditioning Journal, Volume 37, Issue 2, April 2015.

Health Science

Assistant Professor, Dr. Clotilde Dudley-Smith gave a presentation titled “Interdisciplinary Approach to Health Care Seminar” at the Association for Prevention Teaching Research annual meeting in Charleston, South Carolina in March 2015.

Global Programs

Director, Christina Gunther, gave a presentation along with assistant professor, Dr. Michelle Cole and assistant professor, Dr. Robin Danzak titled “Developing a Cultural Awareness Curricula for Study Abroad Students.” The presentation took place on May 29, 2015 at the NAFSA: Association of International Educators Annual Conference and Expo in Boston, Massachusetts.

Healthcare Informatics

Chair & Program Director, Dr. Stephen C. Burrows, was named a Fellow in the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society on December 12, 2014.

Occupational Therapy

Two faculty members from Sacred Heart University were presented with awards at the Connecticut Occupational Therapy Association’s (ConnOTA) Annual Awards Ceremony on March 7, 2015.
Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Lenore Frost, was recognized with an Award of Merit. The award recognizes individuals who have attained outstanding accomplishments in clinical practice, research, leadership or innovation and whose body of work is considered exemplary and influential by peers.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Sharon McCloskey, was recognized with an Award of Service. The award recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions in advancing the mission and strategic goals of ConnOTA and the practice of occupational therapy in the state through community leadership or advocacy.


Associate Dean of the College of Health Professions and Chair of Graduate Occupational Therapy program, Dr. Jody Bortone, was awarded a University Research and Creativity Grant for her research proposal entitled, “Evidence-based Practice: Occupational Therapists’ Real Life Experience.” The grant will allow Dr. Bortone to expand on the research she and second year student Joe Dodson began in the 2014-2015 academic year.

Physical Therapy

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Emmanuel Yung, is the co-developer of two Physical Therapy iPad/iPhone Apps that made it to the #1 worldwide ranking of paid medical apps for physical therapists. These are: Clinical Pattern Recognition: Low Back Pain AND Hip/Thigh Pain released in 2013 and 2014 respectively; both were ranked #1 among all physical therapy apps in 2013 and 2014.

Dr. Yung also recently co-introduced 2 more apps: Clinical Pattern Recognition: Knee Pain AND Ankle/Foot Pain. Both were released to the App Store on 2/5/2015. No other faculty in the US News and World Report's top 100 physical therapy programs have developed apps to be used (in lieu of textbooks) by physical therapy students at the Apple Store. In addition to use by Physical Therapy academic programs, the apps are now downloaded by physical therapists working in the National Football League, Major League Baseball, & ESPN.

Dr. Emmanuel Yung is the first author on two presentations that have been accepted to the World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress in Singapore, May 2015.

- A poster presentation titled, Systolic Blood Pressure Response to Anteriorly Directed Pressure Applied to the Cervical Spine- a Randomized, Repeated-Measures, Double Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study. “

These abstracts will be published as World Confederation for Physical Therapy Conference Proceedings in the Physiotherapy Journal in 2015.

http://www.clinicalpatternrecognition.com/team/

Clinical Assistant Professor, Jason Grimes is serving a two year term as an item writer for the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties Specialization Academy of Content Experts (SACE) from Jan 2015 – Dec 2016. He has also been a manuscript reviewer for Physiotherapy Theory and Practice since Jan 2015 and he became the Research Committee Chair and Programming Committee Member for the Connecticut Physical Therapy Association, beginning Jan 2015.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Wendy Romney, was awarded a 2015 Ellen C. Ross Memorial Scholarship from Rutgers University, State of New Jersey.

Speech-Language Pathology

Assistant Professor, Robin Danzak, was awarded a $2,000 travel grant from Sacred Heart University’s Office of Global Affairs to participate in a Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) International Faculty Development Seminar in Spain. The seminar, “Learning while leading: Supporting intercultural development through study away,” will take place in Madrid, June 7-13, 2015.

Department Chair, Program Director, and Professor of Speech Language Pathology, Dr. Rhea Paul, gave an invited lecture at the Center for Autism Research at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia on February 23, 2015 titled “Hear No Evil: Auditory Preferences in Infants At Risk for Autism.”
Athletic Training

Corey Iamonico ’08 is currently working for Innovative Health & Rehabilitation, covering New Canaan Youth Football, and Staples High School in the Fall and Winter, and working in the clinical setting during the spring and summer. She is entering her third year as Assistant Trainer at Staples High School in Westport, CT.

Taylor Pettit ’12 graduated from the Albany Medical College Physician’s Assistant program and began her profession as a Physician Assistant at the Albany Medical Center EmUrgentCare Center.

Exercise Science

Katie Bottini ’09 featured in Jan, 2015 Vogue magazine. Katie Bottini is a competitive triathlete, Wilhelmina sponsored fitness model, Nike run coach, and NASM-Certified Personal Trainer and Fitness Nutrition Specialist. Based in the greater NYC area, Katie provides personal training and nutrition services to clients locally and worldwide.


Mary Keenan ’14 had her honors capstone research project titled “Sedentary Behavior and Related Factors in the Sacred Heart University Full Time Faculty.” accepted for publication in the International Journal of Workplace Health Management.

Joe Petreycik ’01 a certified clinical exercise physiologist and registered nurse wrote a book titled “Pump it Up: Exercise Your Heart to Health!” He divides his time between a hospital-based cardiac rehab facility and a surgical intensive care unit. Joe is certified as a Clinical Exercise Specialist by the American College of Sports Medicine.

Mr. Petreycik’s book is available at www.amazon.com.

Occupational Therapy

Sheila Marmion ’10 MSOT was selected as District 6 Selectman by the Fairfield Democratic Town Committee. Prior to her appointment as Selectman, she served two-and-a-half terms on the Representative Town Meeting, representing District 6 on various committees. Ms. Marmion is a licensed occupational therapist, working with the geriatric population.

Graduate Exercise Science & Nutrition

Jenna Angelucci, MS ’12 and ’14 recently passed the American College of Sports Medicine Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist (RCEP) examination. Ms. Angelucci is currently an Exercise Physiologist at Northern Westchester Hospital in Mt. Kisco, NY.

Paul Brown ’13, ’14 MS EXN is a Registered Clinical Exercise Physiologist, currently named the new fitness manager at Meadow Ridge, a senior living community in Redding, CT.

Physical Therapy

Heather Garretson ’02 MSPT recently completed certification as an Orthopedic Clinical Specialist through the American Board of Physical Therapist Specialties. Ms. Garretson is a therapist at Rehab Dynamics and the Center for Orthopedic and Spine Health at Bristol Hospital in Bristol, CT.

Amy Pierno ’03 MSPT was appointed director of Holyoke Medical Center’s new Wound Care Center in Holyoke, MA, which opened in August 2015. Ms. Pierno, a licensed Physical Therapist and a certified wound specialist.
The Dean’s Leadership Society

The Dean’s Circle: $1000 and above
Edward J. Boccuzzi
Council of Academic Programs
Delaney Memorial Foundation
Karin N. Douglas ‘84
Paul J. Hesketh
Paul L. Jones Trust Fund
Gary J. Levin

Faculty Circle: $250 to $499
Edwin Jergensen
Vincent F. Masi
Rhea Paul
Nancy M. Pires
Traci Rankel
Steljem Riscal
Patricia W. Walker

Benefactors: $1 to $249
Cecilia M. Antimisiaris
Alyxandra Bailey
Karen M. Banoff
Loriann N. Baranauskas
Gerard K. Beirne
Jacqueline R. Belezos
Melissa L. Berrick
Judith A. Bianco
Anne Marie Bilynsky
Stefania Bonanni
Joanne M. Bortone
Donna M. Bowers
Meaghan L. Brosnan
James A. Bugden
Roger Bunker
Stephen C. Burrows
Gianna Calvo
Beverly E. Capasso
Kathleen P. Carius
Lauren M. Casalveri
Janet L. Cascio
Jocelyn R. Ceruti
Ashley M. Chory
Michelle A. Cole
Victoria Cotto
Brian Cugini
Susan C. Cyboski
Lucia M. DeAndrade
Susan M. DeNisco
Richard Diguiuseppe
Kathy Dilks
Robert DiNapoli
Mary Ann Dombrowski
Anne M. Downing
Lori Dubbioso
Sheila A. Du Bose
Thomas Dumond
Beverly A. English
Kristina M. English
Frances A. English
Joseph J. Erdos
Oscar V. Fornoles
Margaret E. Flynn
JoAnne Gatti-Petito
General Electric Company
Susan A. Goncalves
Edward Greco
Charlene Heffernan
Elizabeth L. Hutchins
Carey M. Hotsky
Gilda Iadevaia
Donald R. Johnson
Kathryn A. Katz
Kevin R. Kennedy
Regan E. Kesting
Peter J. Kilcommons
Mary E. Lapolla
Taylor Leak
Linda L. Liljeberg
Nicolette F. Marcotte
Sharon A. McLaughney
Thomas W. McGillicuddy
Karen M. McGuigan
Candace E. Meader
Arthur Medeiros
John Mourao
Stephanie N. Messier
Lars Egede-Nissen
Assunta Orsini
Giovanni Orsini
Jadwiga Panuccio
Despina D. Parlamas
David P. Patrick
Michele R. Peloso
Richard A. Pesci
Jennifer L. Petrone
Cynthia A. Pettit
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Robyn T. Pittman
Jennifer L. Powers
Lindsay M. Pucino
Michael Quilter
Mariel Reid
Janice L. Rezuke
June Rusckak
Maureen E. Sanfilippo-Burch
Ann-Marie Saranchik
Bernadette Semenick
Kelly L. Sherman
Caren J. Silhavye
Susan L. Smith
Earl M. Spinelli
Lindsay J. Strassburg
Nancy A. Telford
Aileen A. Trelis
Kaitlin A. Tuohy
Maureen P. Tuohy
Traci S. Umbreit
Judy R. Wallace
Moira Wallace
Hunter R. Warner
Renita Wukovits
Maria Xenakis
The College of Health Professions at Sacred Heart University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate degrees to bring your dream of a career in the health professions to life.

Doctor of Physical Therapy  
Graduate Certificate in Advanced Orthopaedic Physical Therapy  
Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Administration  
Physical Therapy Geriatric Residency Programs  
M.S. in Exercise Science & Nutrition  
M.S. in Healthcare Informatics  
M.S. in Occupational Therapy  
M.S. in Speech Language Pathology  
Post-Baccalaureate Pre-Professional Speech Language Pathology Plan of Study  
M.S. in Physician Assistant Studies - pending state approval, anticipated fall 2016 start  
B.S. in Athletic Training  
B.S. in Exercise Science  
B.S. in Health Science

Individuals who hold a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or University may apply to the graduate programs offered by the College. Admission requirements vary by program. Please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions for more details: (203) 365-7619 or www.gradstudies@sacredheart.edu

To apply to the full-time undergraduate programs, please call the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at (203) 371-7880 or www.enroll@sacredheart.edu

About Sacred Heart University

Sacred Heart University, founded in 1963, is an independent, co-educational University in the Catholic intellectual tradition that offers more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs including online degree programs to more than 8,000 students in the College of Arts & Sciences; School of Communication & Media Arts; College of Health Professions; College of Nursing; Isabelle Farrington College of Education; University College; and the AACSB-accredited Jack Welch College of Business. SHU’s main campus is located in Fairfield, CT, with international campuses in the Irish-speaking community of Dingle, County Kerry, Ireland and the only American-accredited MBA program in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

The Princeton Review includes SHU in its The Best 380 Colleges: 2015 and U.S. News & World Report ranks SHU #41 among the best regional universities in the North in its annual America’s Best Colleges publication, making it one of the top New England liberal arts colleges. SHU’s Physical Therapy program was ranked one of the best in the state of Connecticut and among the top five in New England in the 2015 U.S. News and World Report.