The 2015 Allied Health Career Fair was a great success for students and employers alike. There were 16 employers total, and they represented a wide variety of practice settings and populations. Additionally, there were more than 100 student attendees, many of whom were well-dressed and ready to impress.

Advisors from the University Career Services were also on hand to dish out valuable career advice as well as review student resumes. Several students stopped by their table to get their employment and career planning questions answered.

Students who came to the fair did so for a variety of reasons - not just to find jobs. Although many students who are in the final semesters of their academic programs attended the fair to get a head start on their upcoming job search process, many newer students went to get a glimpse at their future employment prospects.

Employers were impressed with the quality of the UNC students with whom they interacted. One employer stated that they were happy to have met such “impressive, articulate students,” and several others echoed their sentiments. Clearly, UNC’s Allied Health programs are doing well at preparing students to be quality practitioners and skilled professionals.

In addition to potentially competing for jobs, students were also competing to win “Highest Division Attendance.” It was a close race, but in the end the Division of Speech & Hearing Sciences won with an incredible 98% attendance rate. The Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy came in second with 47% of their students attending.

Kudos to the hardworking Student Services staff and well-prepared students who made this year’s event a huge success.
Student Event Highlights

The Fall 2014 semester was a great time for student activities. From midday yoga sessions to informative speakers, the days were packed with student events and activities.

Above: Students lunched and learned about health literacy from Ms. Toni Chatman, Associate Director of Wake AHEC, at the Fall Difference Matters event.

Above and Below: Students participated in “Lunchtime Yoga” led by Ellese Nickles, a second year Doctor of Physical Therapy student, to stretch the stress away.

Above: Ambassadors hosted the popular one-mile “Wellness Walk” from Bondurant Hall to the Old Well during the annual AH week.

Above: During the Spring Difference Matters event, a panel of parents offered their different experiences with Allied Health professionals.
After surveying Allied Health students about their awareness of the University’s Career Services, many stated they had no idea this resource existed on UNC’s campus. However, an interest was expressed to learn more about its offered services. AHS Student Services acted quickly on this new found knowledge and decided to revitalize an event that was regularly hosted in the past with University Career Services (UCS). Career counselors from UCS eagerly accepted an invitation to come to Bondurant Hall to lead a two-day, two-hour long resume workshop for all interested AHS students.

These workshops were conducted a week before the annual AHS Career Fair and during the first two days of the Spring semester. Seeing the benefits of attending a resume workshop, more than 50 students signed up to participate. In order to accommodate the students’ busy schedules, the workshops were broken up into four 30-minute sessions each day. Emily Gomez, Career Counselor, presented on the first day of the workshops highlighting best practices of resume writing, career fair preparation, and the federal employment process. On the second day, Christy Walker, Assistant Director, led the workshops presenting information about general resume writing and answering students’ specific questions.

Due to the high interest and success of the resume workshops, Student Services plan to offer this event again in future semesters. Student Services strives to find proactive ways to develop our students personally and professionally.
Don’t Miss These Great Opportunities

Opening Doors Workshop
This workshop is an overnight three-day personal and professional journey sponsored by UNC School of Medicine. Participants in this workshop explore a framework that deepens their diversity awareness and enhances their ability to create inclusive organizations.

“In the Opening Doors workshop, participants will:
• Increase understanding of diversity by identifying and learning more about our own identity groups;
• Identify personal feelings and experiences related to cultural and other differences among people;
• Examine how practices of institutions, as well as our own personal practices, maintain inequalities among people and prevent us all from reaching our potential;
• Develop a framework and common language in order to facilitate change collectively;
• Identify practical strategies for implementing and supporting change;
• Build alliances and networks.”

Opening Doors is open to everyone in the UNC-Chapel Hill organization.
(FREE OF CHARGE)

Retreat Dates:
• Spring Opening Doors - March 18-20, 2015
  St. Francis Springs Center - Stoneville, NC
• Summer Opening Doors - June 10-12, 2015
  St. Francis Springs Center - Stoneville, NC
• Fall Opening Doors - November 4-6, 2015
  St. Francis Springs Center - Stoneville, NC

For more information, check out the brochure here.

NC Forgivable Education Loans for Service
The 2015-16 NC Forgivable Education Loan for Service application is now available for students enrolled in one following programs:

• Clinical Laboratory Sciences (Bachelors and Masters)
• Radiologic Sciences (Bachelors and Masters)
• Doctor of Physical Therapy
• MS in Speech Language Pathology/Doctor of Audiology
• Masters of Occupational Therapy

This is for students who plan to work in a high-need profession in North Carolina after graduation. Please note that this is for students who will be enrolled in the Fall 2015/Spring 2016 academic year in one of the programs listed above and are considered NC residents for tuition purposes at the time they apply. Please visit the website for all of the information about the program and link to the application.

If you have questions, please contact the College Foundation of North Carolina: www.cfnc.org

Are you following us on Facebook or Twitter?
What is SHAC?

The Student Health Action Coalition (SHAC) is a student-formed/student-run medical clinic that provides free health services to local underserved individuals and communities. SHAC volunteers are made up of students and faculty from the School of Medicine, Dentistry, Division of Physical Therapy, Pharmacy, Public Health, Nursing, Social Work, and Information and Library Science. This organization serves the underinsured and uninsured patients of Orange County by providing high-quality health care services as well as an interdisciplinary service learning environment for the students.

What services are provided?

The clinic offers a variety of services including vaccinations, comprehensive laboratory services, women's health exams, HIV screening and counseling, physical therapy assessments, social work assessments, and many others. SHAC offers an abundance of programs, but more importantly SHAC is committed to connecting patients with the right services in order to meet their needs. Additionally, SHAC offers a number of different outreach opportunities for the community and focuses on improving health through education, participation, and awareness of new resources.

What are some of the Outreach Programs?

Amigas en Salud

This outreach program is an exercise and health awareness program that works to advance the health and independence of Latinas in the Triangle. Amigas en Salud is based on assessments of the community's wants and needs and consists of three main components: Zumba, free childcare, and promotion of health literacy through bi-monthly tutorials. These resources are offered through the network that has been built with organizations like SHAC, Compass Center, Planned Parenthood, the Seymour Center, and Farmer Foodshare.

In October 2014, a second branch was launched in Durham with the help of Duke students and faculty, Duke Integrated Pediatric Mental Health and La Inmaculada. On November 15, 2014, Amigas en Salud in Chapel Hill sponsored a health fair for Latinas and their families, bringing together a vast array of community resources.

Beyond Clinic Walls

Beyond Clinic Walls aims to serve community members who have complex medical and/or social needs. There are two populations who are served: children and senior adults.

Beyond Clinic Walls for Kids - Each student team is matched with a child and his/her family for one year. Teams serve children who live with chronic illness and are between the ages of 3 and 12. From October to April, the student teams visit their clients monthly. Students will provide support for the family and connect them to the needed resources.

Beyond Clinic Walls for Senior Adults - Student volunteers collaborate in interdisciplinary teams that partner with clients for one year. In addition to monthly visits, student teams organize special projects that will benefit their client's standard of living. Past projects include renovating a deck to improve accessibility, handling water quality issues, and installing grab bars to prevent injury.

Comments from Physical Therapy Students

“For me personally, the moments with the participants and team members are some of the happiest moments I experience.”
- Sarah van der Horst

“As physical therapy students, we love being able to help address musculoskeletal and neurological concerns patients may have associated with physical requirements of daily living activities.”
- Amy Gwynn

“For me, SHAC is a great way to practice the skills I learned in the classroom with the patients with real needs while also serving the community.”
- Deidra Debnam

“I love being able to contribute to a system where both the patient and the student volunteer benefits. After a job well done, both the patients and the student volunteers leave happy and fulfilled...and I love that.”
- Abbie Marrle
New Staff Faces

Shelby Brosseau
Clinical Education Support Specialist

I joined the Allied Health Department as the Clinical Education Specialist in October. I am originally from Vermont and relocated with my husband to get away from those New England winters! I come from a background that has included working in the National Hockey League, Minor League Baseball, and most recently, Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont.

My hobbies are cooking and baking, painting, reading and spending time with my family.

Tamara Mesko
Admin Support Specialist
Undergraduate, Occupational Therapy, and PhD programs

I have lived in Greensboro for the past 12 years, and for 11 of those I worked at UNC-Greensboro in the Registrar’s office. I started working in Allied Health in October. I am excited to be working in student services and enjoy helping foster the success of the undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral students in our department. I welcome students to stop by any time.

My hobbies include knitting, reading and attending concerts in Chapel Hill.

Amber Wall
Program Coordinator
Physician Assistant Program

I have worked previously at Salem College (as a faculty secretary), Guilford College (in the Vice-President’s office), Wake Forest University (in both the Schools of Business and in Student Affairs) and the University of Florida (as a Business Manager). I am thrilled to be a part of the new Physician Assistant Program at UNC-Chapel Hill where I will be handling multiple roles!

My hobbies are my children!!!! Alek is 19 and attends Western Carolina University, Hunter is 17 and is a junior at East Forsyth High School and Lauren is 8 and in the 3rd grade at Rashkis Elementary School. My husband’s name is Scott.
**Ina Diana**

In between all of the work she does to support students, Ina still finds time to work out almost everyday! You know she’s committed because she doesn’t even take the bus to the gym - she says, “The walk is part of my workout!”

**Shelby Brosseau**

A recent transplant from snowy Vermont, Shelby is one of our office’s newest members. Although her Southern accent could use a little work, her great sense of humor and stellar storytelling skills have helped her fit right in.

**Perry Studevent**

Raucous laughter coming from the Student Services suite? Probably Perry. A smile on the face of the last person he talked to? Definitely Perry! As our resident “staff comedian” Perry manages to keep everyone in stitches without involving UNC hospitals. He is the master of lightening the mood.

**Benita Burton**

Don’t be fooled by her hardworking exterior - on the inside, Benita is a real party animal! (Or at least she does great impressions of wild animals during office party games.) However, Benita’s theatrical skill isn’t her only talent! She manages the contracts for all six AHS divisions and student residency applications.

**Gabrielle Jones**

Gabrielle always knows who to talk to and where to go on the UNC campus. She’s studying to be a school counselor, so it makes sense. (More like Dear Gabby!!)

**Tamara Mesko**

As one of eight siblings, Tamara is used to the chaos that can come with working in Student Services. Files for miles? No problem. Overflowing inbox? No big deal. Tamara’ easy-going attitude makes her a steadying force on the Student Services team.
With her retirement from the Department finally upon her, Becky hardly has a care in the world! After 30 years of dedicated service to the University, she is now headed home to hit snooze on the clock instead of clocking in. In addition, Becky plans to travel, fish, and volunteer during her retirement days. She states that she will never have a single dull day, but everything will be done at her own pace. We send our farewells and hopes to her that she will enjoy her new role as a retiree.

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement!

Best Multitasker

Dr. Brenda E. Mitchell

Treadmill + reading/writing + teaching + mentoring + working = Dr. Mitchell. She can certainly juggle, but Dr. Mitchell is no clown! She stays busy as the Associate Chair for Student Services and AHEC Operations.

Best Beauty Consultant

Kristie Mendenhall

This is one stylish staff member and student! By day, Kristie is professional and polished as the Executive Assistant to Department Chair Dr. Hooper. But by night, she styles herself as a student, studying English at UNC. Whether she’s taking charge or taking classes, Kristie stays runway ready!

Most Eager

CJ Alfonso

“I really think I wouldn’t have gotten much done if CJ wasn’t here to help take care of things.” Whatever the office staff needs, CJ is ready and willing to jump in and lend a helping hand. His friendly and open nature definitely makes him a great worker and member of the Student Services team!

Best Ninja

Katherine Lemoine

Just like the work she does as a CLS student, the work Katherine does in Student Services is quiet but crucial! She spends much of her time working behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly in the department. Like a ninja, she works diligently - and often silently - to accomplish her tasks.

Best Voice

Lauren Jones

“Jones. Lauren Jones.” She reports valuable feedback from the student side to help the Student Services staff provide the best services for current and prospective students. Your secrets aren’t safe with her!

Special thanks to the contributions of the following students: Deidra Debnam (PT), Amy Gwynn (PT), Lauren Jones (OT), Abbie Marralle (PT), Honorée McGraw (PT), and Sarah van der Horst (PT).