Interprofessional project educates community about stroke prevention

The Department of Allied Health Sciences has embraced interprofessional education as an important way to clinically train our students. In 2014, Dr. Brenda Mitchell, Associate Chair for Student Services and AHEC Operations received an innovative grant award from the North Carolina Area Health Education Center (AHEC) program office to enable three students to complete their clinical rotation during the summer of 2015 at a facility in Burlington, NC serving underserved populations of mature adults.

This year, two students were given the same opportunity to develop an interprofessional project in the Asheboro, NC area. Students, Hailey Guerin (PT class of 2018) and Blair Schwab (SLP class of 2017), developed pop-up booths throughout Asheboro to educate the community about stroke prevention. Guerin and Schwab set up booths at YMCA-Asheboro, Clapps Mountain Top Living, and Randolph Orthopedics and Sports Medicine. Around 120 older adults and seniors learned about stroke risk factors for themselves and their loved ones. 

Informational stroke materials students used to educate the Asheboro community.

Blair Schwab and PT clinical supervisor, Jennifer Thomas, provide stroke sign identification magnets to YMCA members.

TOP: Hailey Guerin strikes up a conversation with a YMCA-Asheboro member about stroke risk factors and prevention.

BOTTOM: Blair Schwab asks a waiting patient to fill out a brief stroke risk questionnaire.
After graduating last August from UNC’s physical therapy program, I was offered a job with the Golden State Warriors as a physical therapist and strength and conditioning coach. Rehab and performance training hybrid positions are becoming increasingly popular in the NBA. Prior to physical therapy school, I was a strength and conditioning coach for the Chicago Bulls and Charlotte Hornets, and earning a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from UNC made me a candidate for one of these positions. I was very fortunate to have the Warriors call me. In my role with the Warriors, I create strength and conditioning programs for our athletes, as well as manage their return-to-sport progressions following injury. We have a great group of players who work hard and strive to be champions every season. My goal is to help keep their bodies strong and healthy through the season so they are in position to compete for a championship at the end of year.

MICHAEL IRR

DEGREE:
Clinical Doctorate in PT

GRADUATION YEAR:
2015

EMPLOYER:
Golden State Warriors

POSITION TITLE:
Performance Coach and Therapist

We reached out to alumni of the Department of Allied Health Sciences to see what they have professionally and personally accomplished since graduation. The following pages highlight some of our amazing alumni from our six divisions. Their paths demonstrate the varying routes our current students can take upon receiving their degree or certificate. The sky really is the limit!
ASHLEY JENKINS

Hello my fellow Allied Health Science colleagues! When I was a student at UNC-Chapel Hill from 2009-2011, my program was called Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology. As a student, I was most interested in how mental illness and addiction intersects with the criminal justice system. I was placed at the Federal Medical Center in Butner, North Carolina, which forever changed my career aspirations. Throughout my studies at Chapel Hill, I realized I wanted to become a psychologist so I moved to Miami and attended Alhur University to obtain my doctorate in clinical psychology with a forensic concentration. During my doctoral training, I completed a 2.5-year practicum at the Federal Correctional Institute in Miami where I researched a program named the Inmate Change and Alternative Network or “I CAN” for my dissertation. The purpose of my research was to evaluate the effectiveness of the I CAN program on reducing criminal thinking and behavior. We administered intellectual, personality and reentry/risk assessments at pre, mid, and post assessment points throughout the 18 months that the inmate participants were in the program. We found that the I CAN program was effective in reducing criminal behaviors and therefore helping to reduce recidivism. We are very excited with the results and are hopeful of the I CAN program’s future. I recently completed my doctoral internship at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky and received a Staff Psychologist position also within the Bureau of Prisons. My two years at UNC-Chapel Hill helped focus and shape my years in my doctoral program and consequently my future career. My advice to current and future students is to be open to new experiences and take advantage of the resources, faculty, and alumni from UNC-Chapel Hill. You are part of an extremely valuable organization that will continue to be a part of your life even after graduation. GO TARHEELS!!!

JESSICA KLUSEK

I have recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychology at the University of South Carolina, where I was funded by an NIH Ruth Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F32) focused on defining communication phenotypes among relatives of individuals with autism and fragile X syndrome. In the fall of 2016 I will join the Communication Sciences and Disorders faculty at the University of South Carolina as an Assistant Professor. There, I will continue my research on communication phenotypes in autism and fragile X-associated conditions.

LENA KYMAN

Being a board member of AAA-NC has been a valuable experience. It allows me to be involved in the advocacy aspects of our profession, in addition to every day clinical practice. Our board works tirelessly to unite all of the audiologists in the state, and advocate for our profession. This includes legal considerations (scope of practice, hearing aid dealers and fitters, meeting with legislators), and planning an incredible local conference every fall. In fact, one accomplishment that our board is very proud of is that this year will be the first audiology-only conference. It is imperative that as many audiologists and students across the state join this November. I implore any students to get involved now, and continue their involvement as they transition from students to professionals. Another great accomplishment I have had since graduating from UNC is that I was selected as the 2015 Project Amazon audiologist. Each year, the American Academy of Audiology Foundation in conjunction with the Oticon Hearing Foundation select one audiologist and one audiology student to spend time volunteering at a clinic in Parintins, Brazil. I have a longstanding passion for global hearing health and international volunteering, and it was an incredible honor to be selected for this mission. The mission itself was amazing to walk in, that you are continuing past clinician efforts in sustainability, and leaving new progress for the next audiologists to pick up on. I could talk for much longer than a paragraph about this trip, in fact I will be presenting on it in the Grand Round of the AAA-NC Fall Conference, so please come hear about it there! I have also been featured in the Hearing Review, Audiology Today, and Advance Magazine. It’s been less than five years since I graduated, and I already feel like I’ve accomplished so much. UNC set me up for great success! Please see me at the fall conference to talk about joining the board, becoming active in our essential organization, and applying for Project Amazon.

MANYU LI

After I graduated from the MMDS program in 2013, I worked for LabCorp for one year, then moved to the Molecular Genetics Lab of McLendon Clinical Laboratories. My work focuses on two areas: pharmacogenetics in cancer patients and genetic causes under autism, cardiovascular disease, neuromuscular disease, and developmental retardation. As a team, we are doing our best to provide physicians and patients the most accurate results to support the best therapy with a combination of next generation sequencing and traditional Sanger sequencing technique.
I am an AHS alumni and graduate of the BS in Radiologic Science program, class of 2015. During my senior year, I was fortunate to be accepted to an internship as a research technologist assistant at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. There I spent three months interning in the cardiac catheterization lab at the Clinical Center. I performed imaging for interventional cardiac MRI procedures on swine models, and witnessed innovative cardiac research amongst people at the forefront of their profession. I wrote a case report, entitled “X-ray fused with MRI to guide endomyocardial biopsy of right ventricular mass”, that has been accepted for publication in my professional society’s journal, Radiologic Technology. Additionally, I published two chapters of a radiographic pathology textbook. It was an experience that I value immensely as I not only learned a great deal, but also truly solidified my interest in research. After my internship, I continued pursuing research as a Research Specialist at the Biomedical Research Imaging Center at UNC. I am grateful for my current job as a radiologic sciences is important to me, and I gave a presentation at the NCSRT Annual Conference entitled “Research and the Role of the Radiologic Technologists”. Graduating from UNC’s Department of Allied Health Sciences has opened many doors for me, and I cannot wait to see where it will take me in the future as I continue my studies and passion for research.

JARED MILLER

DEGREE: B.S. in Radiologic Science
GRADUATION YEAR: 2015
EMPLOYER: UNC Biomedical Research Imaging Center
POSITION TITLE: Research Specialist

I graduated from the UNC Clinical Laboratory Science program in 2003 and worked in the clinical lab before entering medical school. After medical school and residency, I completed a fellowship in Sports Medicine. I returned to my hometown of Elizabeth City, NC and now work for Sentara Orthopedics & Sports Medicine Specialists. We’ve been very lucky to have the support of Sentara and the local public school systems. We’ve implemented a Sports Medicine program from scratch which has been highly successful. We employ certified athletic trainers who work part time in our office and part time in the local high schools providing medical coverage to the high school athletes. This program has been a wonderful addition to the community and fills a void to keep our local athletes safe and performing their best on the field. We were very lucky to be selected by the NFL and the Carolina Panthers for a grant which has helped support our program. Additionally, I was chosen as a North Carolina Athletic Trainers’ Association Sports Medicine Person of the Year for 2016. It’s quite a humbling award as it really is a testament to our program and the wonderful people I work with every day to provide the best care possible to our athletes.

I owe a great deal to the UNC Clinical Laboratory Science program. I received a first class education from wonderful mentors. The UNC CLS program made medical school easier and provided a great foundation for which I was able to expand on in medical school and beyond.

STEPHANIE (JOZEFOWICZ) MINTY

DEGREE: M.S. in Speech-Language Pathology
GRADUATION YEAR: 2012
EMPLOYER: Scarborough General Hospital (Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies)
POSITION TITLE: Head of Department - Speech and Language Therapy

After graduating from the UNC-CH Speech and Hearing Sciences M.S. program in 2012, I completed a one year clinical fellowship and then moved to Tobago, a small island in the southern Caribbean. I had planned on moving to Tobago to get married, however at the time I was unsure of what awaited professionally as speech-language pathology is a relatively unknown field of work in most of the Caribbean. Fortuitously shortly before I arrived, a brand new hospital was founded to serve the island, and with it the first Speech and Language Therapy Department in the Caribbean was developed! As the head of department in the hospital and the only speech-language pathologist for the first two years, I have served patients from infancy all the way to geriatric populations, in the areas of speech, language, voice, swallowing and tracheostomy management. The service continues to expand, as we recently hired a second speech-language pathologist from the U.K. I will forever be grateful to my professors in the Speech and Hearing Sciences Department at UNC Chapel Hill for providing me with such a broad and comprehensive knowledge base, allowing me to confidently serve such a diverse and exciting client base! Thank you!
In March 2015, the Jerome Golden Center for Behavioral Health in West Palm Beach, FL, launched a state funded rehabilitation center for individuals in the community experiencing co-occurring substance abuse and severe and persistent mental illness diagnoses. The agency hired me to supervise the clinical and administrative duties of the brand new program. The Co-occurring Disorder Program is a 16 bed level II residential treatment facility, offering housing, medication management, and a 90 day program consisting of cognitive behavioral group therapy, individual therapy, job coaching, and life skills on top of 7 AA/NA meetings a week. Program participants graduate with safe housing and either social security benefits or a full-time job. Not only is the program one of the only Co-occurring Disorder rehabilitation programs in the state, but it is the only one that has state funding that allows the admission of individuals without insurance, a rapidly growing population in need. I graduated with my Master’s degree from the Division of Rehabilitation Counseling and Psychology and am a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and a Licensed Mental Health Counselor in the state of Florida.

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In one of my first graduate OT courses at UNC, my peers and I were asked to identify a type of practice area where we hoped to work in the near future. Having just recently finished a stint with Peace Corps Guatemala, it wasn’t surprising that my work reflected a desire to return to international and community-based practice. Oddly enough, almost exactly 5 years later, I was contacted by Peace Corps Response and asked to apply for an OT position in Guyana, South America. Whereas Peace Corps is a 27-month service, Peace Corps Response is a short-term, high impact position for former Peace Corps volunteers, or individuals with significant professional or technical experience. The 12-month position I accepted in Guyana sought to improve the skills of staff and residents living in the country’s only home for persons with disabilities. It’s important to note that while living in Guyana, I never practiced as an occupational therapist. Peace Corps - and thus Peace Corps Response - is meant to help nations build capacity; capacity-building maintains sustainability and empowers communities, not to mention respects their values and beliefs. As an allied health professional, you understand the importance of “doing with” versus “doing for,” and in Peace Corps, that distinction is a lived experience. It’s not the easiest route to change and grow, but it is the most valuable. I often found myself reflecting on how the qualities of a good occupational therapist are also what tend to make a successful Peace Corps volunteer: one who is client or community-centered, culturally-competent, strengths-based, attuned to the impact of context, and uses meaningful occupations to meet goals. I can’t claim to have achieved every goal we set together, but I’m hopeful that the time spent collaborating with nurses, rehab assistants, university students, and particularly residents took steps towards occupational justice.

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<th>DEGREE:</th>
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When I graduated in 2009, I started working in X-ray at the hospital. I began the cross training program in MRI soon after that. I moved out to the Imaging Center when the doors opened in 2011 and went from X-ray to MRI in 2012. I became a CPR instructor and have taught for five years. I also took the Hiring for Excellence class, and now I assist in the interview process for new candidates here. Working with UNC has opened up many doors for growth. My experience at UNC has been very positive, and I see myself working here for many years.

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<td>POSITION TITLE:</td>
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I still remember the day in 2007 when I first felt the need to improve the procedure that reduces intussusception. Intussusception is the telescoping of one part of the bowel into the other. It is the most common cause of bowel obstruction in children. On that day, I assisted with a Foley catheter that had a single balloon. It was rectally inserted under fluoroscopy to insufflate the bowel, trying to force the telescoped portion back into anatomical position. The single balloon made it difficult to achieve an adequate seal around the rectum in order to maintain the air pressure needed to force the telescoped bowel back into the correct position. This difficult moment was the birth of my new idea.

Fast forward to 2014. With my own funds and small grants from SC Launch and the Atlanta Pediatric Device Consortium, I developed a prototype for a catheter with a double-balloon system (The Cephus Catheter), designed to create a perfect seal, cutting procedure times and minimizing radiation exposure. I applied for a patent (pending) and founded SealCath in 2013 to commercialize the catheter. Other indications for the Cephus catheter include virtual colonoscopies and barium enema studies, which require full bowel distension for optimal imaging.

The Cephus Catheter is undergoing the FDA regulatory process, i.e., bench top testing, feasibility testing. A clinical trial completion will dictate when the catheter will be commercialized. Additional information can be found at www.sealcath.com. I am currently looking for investors and can be contacted through the website.

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<td>POSITION TITLE:</td>
<td>Registered Radiologist Assistant</td>
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It may seem obvious that the transmission of HIV requires two people, but it’s a fact lost on many researchers, medical professionals, and policy makers around the world. With two people making decisions regarding their sexual practices, the norm of individual HIV and STI testing doesn’t make much sense. When couples are tested, receive results, and are counselled together, HIV transmissions have been shown to decrease dramatically. At the Rwanda-Zambia HIV Research Group (RZHRG), led by Dr. Susan Allen at Emory University, we research single mothers and female sex workers; and run simulated HIV vaccine clinical trials to train local staff. Using my background in Clinical Laboratory Manager and Study Coordinator, I manage clinical and research laboratories in Zambia and coordinate several research studies. We perform immunological, microbiological, and molecular tests in government clinics and at our two research sites in Ndola and Lusaka, Zambia to diagnose new infections and support research, with the ultimate goal of reducing HIV incidence among Zambians.
In 2011, I was selected into the 2011 class of AOTA’s Emerging Leaders, a highly competitive program that focuses on leadership development through a year-long formal mentorship, with a 2-day face-to-face training at AOTA Headquarters in Bethesda, MD. After participating in the program and seeing the need for diversity in the field, I decided to start a scholarship to increase OT awareness for under-represented groups in Occupational Therapy at UNC. The goal of my scholarship is to encourage the recipient to educate members in under-represented groups within OT about OT. While at an AOTA conference in 2013 with other Emerging Leaders, I realized others shared this passion and we decided to create an organization with the purpose of increasing diversity in the profession. At that point, COTAD (Coalition of Occupational Therapist Advocates for Diversity) was created. Since then we have broadened our scope and now aim to also empower practitioners, educators, and students to enhance cultural humility and promote diversity and inclusion. Our primary platform is our website (www.cotad2015.wix.com/cotad) and the presentations we perform at local and national conferences. In the fall of 2015, I was selected to the Emerging Leaders Developmental Committee—the committee that selects the yearly Emerging Leader participants. As a member of the ELDC, I also assist with improving the rubric, promoting the program through podcasts, social media, and print, etc. and support AOTA strategic priorities.

DEGREE: M.S. in Occupational Therapy
GRADUATION YEAR: 2010
EMPLOYER: WakeMed Hospital
POSITION TITLE: Occupational Therapist

STACY WILSON

Following the completion of my DPT degree at UNC in 2011, I passed my licensure exam (first try, thank goodness!) and began my professional career as an outpatient physical therapist in California. Since graduation, I have lived in 5 states (mostly due to my husband’s military career), gaining experience evaluating and treating patients with orthopedic, vestibular, lymphedema, neurological, sports, and women’s health physical therapy needs. Luckily, physical therapy is a portable career (I even had the opportunity to work at the Andrews Institute as well as teach biology and nutrition as a college adjunct in San Antonio!). One of my patients introduced me to the sport of triathlon and I instantly fell in love with the sport. I trained for and completed IRONMAN Florida (2014) and IRONMAN Boulder (2015), numerous shorter distance triathlons, and qualified for the 2016 USA Triathlon Olympic Distance National Age Group Championship. My love for triathlon has led me to pursue triathlon coaching as a means to enhance my professional development. I am a USA Triathlon level 1 certified coach and an IRONMAN certified coach. 2016 brought another military move for my family—this time to the beautiful state of Alaska! My husband, 2-year-old son, and I are excited for new adventures and explorations during this 3-year assignment. Alaska has an extreme ultra distance triathlon I hope to compete in next year!

DEGREE: Clinical Doctorate in PT
GRADUATION YEAR: 2011
POSITION TITLE: E2 Multisports Running, Triathlon, and Strength & Conditioning Coach

STACY WILSON

When I started as a freshman at UNC in the Fall of 2001, I wasn’t exactly sure what I wanted to do with my life. Somehow I found out about the B.S. of Medical Imaging program and decided that was the path I wanted to take. As I was completing that program, I remember having a conversation with the program director about a “Radiologist Assistant” program that would be starting within the next several years. As we discussed the profession, I knew that was what I wanted to do professionally. Fast forward many years and now I’m working as a Radiologist Assistant at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, the #3 children’s hospital in the country. Every day I undertake a large variety of tasks, including such things as performing fluoroscopic procedures on pediatric patients, developing relationships with referring physicians, and teaching radiology residents and fellows. Since my graduation from the Radiologist Assistant program at UNC, I’ve also had the privilege to teach at the graduate level, serve on multiple national committees, and speak at international radiology conferences. The Allied Health Program at UNC provided me with a great platform from which to begin my career and prepared me to excel in my field.

DEGREE: M.S. in Radiologic Science
GRADUATION YEAR: 2014
EMPLOYER: Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center
POSITION TITLE: Radiologist Assistant

CHRIS YOUNG

I have been a Clinical Laboratory Technologist in the Molecular Pathology laboratory at NYU Langone Medical Center in New York City for almost a year. We use molecular technology to help doctors better diagnose patients, and to provide them with therapeutic or prognostic insights. My work includes performing tumor marker tests, viral and bacterial assays, quality checks, and testing new instruments for future assays. I joined NYULMC after 2 years with Quest Diagnostics in Virginia, where I began as an intern on clinical rotations from UNC and became a technologist in the Molecular Oncology lab afterward. Before I could work as a technologist in a clinical lab in New York however, I needed a NY State License. NYULMC provided me with an on-the-job training program that results in licensure. Technologists in many NYC hospitals are unionized, including those at NYULMC, so I joined the union at hiring as well. The union fights for technologists’ issues such as salaries, benefits, and licensure. I enjoy being a Clinical Laboratory Technologist; UNC had prepared me very well for the duties that this position entails, and I am excited about the future of this profession!

DEGREE: M.S. in Clinical Lab Science
GRADUATION YEAR: 2014
EMPLOYER: NYU Langone Medical Center
POSITION TITLE: Clinical Laboratory Technologist

TATYANA ZHURAVLEVA

In 2011, I was selected into the 2011 class of AOTA’s Emerging Leaders, a highly competitive program that focuses on leadership development through a year-long formal mentorship, with a 2-day face-to-face training at AOTA Headquarters in Bethesda, MD. After participating in the program and seeing the need for diversity in the field, I decided to start a scholarship to increase OT awareness for under-represented groups in Occupational Therapy at UNC. The goal of my scholarship is to encourage the recipient to educate members in under-represented groups within OT about OT. While at an AOTA conference in 2013 with other Emerging Leaders, I realized others shared this passion and we decided to create an organization with the purpose of increasing diversity in the profession. At that point COTAD (Coalition of Occupational Therapist Advocates for Diversity) was created. Since then we have broadened our scope and now aim to also empower practitioners, educators, and students to enhance cultural humility and promote diversity and inclusion. Our primary platform is our website (www.cotad2015.wix.com/cotad) and the presentations we perform at local and national conferences. In the fall of 2015, I was selected to the Emerging Leaders Developmental Committee—the committee that selects the yearly Emerging Leader participants. As a member of the ELDC, I also assist with improving the rubric, promoting the program through podcasts, social media, and print, etc. and support AOTA strategic priorities.

DEGREE: M.S. in Occupational Therapy
GRADUATION YEAR: 2010
EMPLOYER: WakeMed Hospital
POSITION TITLE: Occupational Therapist

STACY WILSON