



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
MONROE

**CONTENTS:**

Online Radiologic Technology	2
Nursing RN to BSN Online	2
Medical Lab Bridge Program	3
Master of Occupational Therapy Bridge Program	3
Beverly Jarrell: Health Care Hero	3
Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure	4
Faculty News	4
Faculty Complete Degrees	5
Speech-Language Pathology to San Diego	6
Update on Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit	6
Health Sciences Faculty and Students in the Community	7
Honor, Memorialize Others with a Gift	8

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# College of Health Sciences

*Educating Health Care Professionals of Tomorrow  
Delivering Health Care to the Louisiana Delta Today*

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## Moving Forward!!

**Dr. Denny Ryman, Dean**

I am pleased to again welcome alumni and friends of the College of Health Sciences to our second issue of the COHS Newsletter. In spite of our continuing budget concerns, the College of Health Sciences continues to grow in enrollment, course offerings, development funding, service and engagement, student leadership, innovative degree delivery systems, and expanded clinical services.

Our professional programs continue to attract highly qualified students to the ULM campus. The PREP and BROWSE sessions, which bring parents and potential students to ULM several times each year, are averaging a 15% increase each year in the number of students interested in the health sciences. We are also seeing a sizable increase in the number of applicants from south Louisiana, especially the New Orleans area. The word is getting out across the state that the College of Health Sciences at ULM is the place to be to start a career in the health sciences.

We are pleased to report that the Master's degree in Occupational Therapy will begin accepting applicants next spring for the fall 2013 class. This innovative program will allow licensed occupational therapy assistants with baccalaureate degrees to pursue their graduate degrees through a combination of on-line course work and weekend clinical experiences on campus. The 2.5 year program will initially accept 20 students per year and is expected to grow in student population as resources become available. I wish to express my appreciation to the OTA faculty for their hard work and dedication for making this project come to reality, with special thanks to Dr. Patti Calk and Dr. Carolyn Murphy.

There is a growing demand for Speech-Language Pathologists and Dental Hygienists in Louisiana. To meet that need, Speech-Language Pathology has increased the graduate program by 75% and Dental Hygiene has increased their program by 50%. In addition, our on-line degree completion programs in Dental Hygiene, Nursing, Radiologic Technology, and Health Studies have grown by 25% over the past year and Medical Laboratory Science will come on-line this fall for students with associate degrees in medical laboratory technology.

As noted within the newsletter, COHS faculty have earned their terminal degrees in record numbers while many other faculty are at various stages in their doctoral work at institutions such as the University of Mississippi, University of Texas at Tyler, and ULM. We are proud of their commitment to furthering their education and thereby enhancing the education of our students.

Finally, I would encourage each proud COHS alumnus to participate in our developing alumni recruitment network that will allow us to reach more potential students (both traditional and on-line) in Louisiana and around the country. Details of this program will be sent to each alumnus later this year.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration of the College of Health Sciences, I thank you for your continuing interest and support.

## Online Radiologic Technology

*“The online approach has allowed me to juggle a full-time job, my family and my education...If not for the program’s flexible hours and the convenience of distance learning, I would not have been able to fulfill my degree.”*

-Ashley Glassco  
Online Radiologic  
Technology Student

Certified ARRT Radiologic Technologists with a certificate or Associate’s degree can now complete the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Technology degree online. Employed technologists appreciate the flexibility of the program as they can continue working while completing their degree. In addition to the flexibility, the program is affordable as students are only charged in-state tuition. Since its inception, the online program has been an outstanding enhancement to the already strong Radiologic Technology program that has been a part of the College of Health Sciences for more than 20 years. The program has a strong national reputation for quality education as attested to by the alumni throughout the United States who graduated from the program and have gone on to successfully obtain additional certifications in other areas of radiologic technology such as mammography and sonography.

The faculty continues to contribute to the program’s reputation at the national and state levels. Brett Bennett, Department Head and Program Director, is the current President of the Louisiana Society of Radiologic Technologists and Jaelyn Peters is the Recording Secretary. Andy Allen, Clinical Coordinator, is the Immediate Past President and Lacy Davis has served on various committees over the years. At a national level, several times a year Mr. Bennett conducts Registry Review Seminars for students in associate degree programs.

The ULM Department of Radiologic Technology continues to lead the way with well-rounded and well-educated Radiologic Technologists.



## Nursing RN to BSN Online

The RN to BSN program provides an opportunity for Registered Nurses who are employed and have a state-approved diploma or an associate’s degree in nursing to earn their bachelor’s degree, completely online. Offered through the ULM GOLD program since 2010, the RN to BSN online program has more than quadrupled its annual enrollment with students from Louisiana and as far away as Virginia and Indiana. Students are awarded 41 credit hours towards the degree for their current RN licensure.

There has been a 100% completion rate for students who are admitted to the professional phase of the program. After completing the RN to BSN program, some students continue their education by obtaining a Master’s degree or other certification such as Nurse Practitioner, Nurse Anesthetist, Nurse Manager or Nurse Educator. Recently, two area hospitals have started requiring all nurse managers to have a bachelor’s degree in order to retain their position. The convenience of the online RN to BSN program, offered by ULM, is the perfect solution for them to meet this requirement while continuing to be employed.

The online RN to BSN program is the third program offered through the School of Nursing, which has been a part of ULM for more than 50 years. The other two programs are the traditional Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree and the LPN to RN degree. Students interested in the program should contact [rn2bsn@ulm.edu](mailto:rn2bsn@ulm.edu) for information.

*“I am very proud of the nurses who recognize the importance of continuing toward their baccalaureate degree, and am also very pleased with the support of the community toward the nurses returning to school.”*

Dr. Juliet Burgess,  
Coordinator,  
Department of  
Nursing  
Concepts

### *Medical Lab Science Bridge Program*

The Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) program, which is accredited by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Science (NAACLS), is developing a bridge program to enable professionals holding an Associate's degree in Medical Laboratory Science to earn a Bachelor of Science degree. Debbie Wisenor, MLS Department Head stated, "The purpose of the program is to provide competent and proficient medical laboratory scientists to the workforce." Since management positions typically require at least a bachelor's degree, this program allows graduates to better position themselves for other professional opportunities. The program is expected to initiate the new phase as early as Fall 2012. The program can be completed in as little as one year, depending on the student's pace.

The MLS program has been an integral part of the COHS for nearly 40 years. Interested students should contact Ms. Wisenor ([wisenor@ulm.edu](mailto:wisenor@ulm.edu)).

### *Master of Occupational Therapy Bridge Program*

In the fall of 2013, the Department of Occupational Therapy Assistant is expected to begin offering a bridge program for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants (COTA) to obtain their Master's degree in Occupational Therapy (MOT). The proposed master's degree program is a 2.5 year combination of online and onsite components. The didactic portion will be online while it is expected that students will attend the clinical component one weekend per month. This format will allow students to continue to work in the profession while earning their degree.

Last June, the "Letter of Intent" for the OTA to MOT Bridge program was approved by the University of Louisiana System's Board of Supervisors with approval in November from the Louisiana Board of Regents. The program is expected to be accredited by the American Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE).

Students with a bachelor's degree who hold COTA credentials and are interested in being a part of the inaugural fall 2013 graduate class should plan to apply to the ULM Graduate School and the program during the 2012-2013 academic year.

### *Beverly Jarrell: Health Care Hero*

Beverly Jarrell, Department Head and Program Director for Dental Hygiene, was recently honored as a **Health Care Hero** by DeltaStyle Magazine. She has dedicated four decades of service and tireless energy to promoting and ensuring excellent oral health in the region.

As the only Dental Hygiene program in north Louisiana that offers the B.S. degree, the dental community considers Mrs. Jarrell to be the consummate professional. She has taught more than 800 dental hygiene professionals, and through the department's continuing education program, numerous other dental health professionals have benefited from her wisdom and experience.

Jarrell's impact on health care in the region can be seen in the services provided by ULM Dental Hygiene students and faculty through clinical rotations at the ULM Dental Hygiene Clinic located in Caldwell Hall; Riser School Dental Hygiene Clinic in West Monroe; the Overton Brooks Veteran's Hospital in Shreveport; and since 2010, on the Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit.



## *Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure*

Faculty, staff, and students from the College of Health Sciences (COHS) participated in the 2011 NELA Komen Race for the Cure at Forsythe Park. Continuing an eight year long tradition, the COHS won the award for the *Largest School Team*. For the third consecutive year, the college was recognized for the *Highest Amount Donated for a School*; which included all local elementary, junior high, high school, and technical and community colleges.

**Ms. Jaclyn Peters**, Assistant Professor of Radiologic Technology, was the COHS team captain for the 141 participants. Of those, two participants were breast cancer survivors. "I was very pleased with the way the COHS was represented at the race this year," stated Peters. The COHS team wore t-shirts representing their COHS department or ULM, as well as a ribbon that designated for whom they were walking.

All 57 students in Chi Beta Gamma, the radiologic technology student organization, participated in the race but also donated \$425, which they raised from sponsorships and donations by area businesses. The students walked in honor of Mrs. Emily Williamson, Director of the ULM Child Development Center and Instructor in the College of Education.

In the weeks leading up to the Race, several departments in the COHS participated in "Pink Out the Twin Cities". For this *Paint It Pink* decorating event, students voluntarily made posters, posted ribbons on faculty doors, and wrote with pink chalk on the sidewalk in front of the Nursing building, to raise awareness of breast cancer and the upcoming race.



## *Faculty News*

**Ms. Debbie Wisenor**, Associate Professor, Department Head, and Program Director for Medical Laboratory Science, received the Louisiana Society for Clinical Laboratory Science's "Presidential Service Award" at the Louisiana and Mississippi Bi-State meeting in Biloxi, MS. This award is given by the LSCLS President and recognizes an individual who has demonstrated service to the profession.

**Dr. Paula Griswald**, Assistant Professor for Health Studies and Intern Coordinator; **Dr. Carolyn Murphy**, Assistant Professor and Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Fieldwork Coordinator; **Mr. Andy Allen**, Assistant Professor and Clinical Coordinator; and **Ms. Amy Kincannon**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, were nominated for *ULM Foundation for Excellence Awards in Teaching* by the COHS.

**Dr. Patti Calk**, Assistant Professor and Department Head of OTA and **Dr. Carolyn Murphy**, Assistant Professor and OTA Fieldwork Coordinator have been selected to make a presentation at the annual American Occupational Therapy Association conference in Indianapolis in April 2012. The title of the presentation is *Creating Evidence-Based Practitioners*.

**Ms. Jaclyn Peters**, Assistant Professor of Radiologic Technology, was selected as one of ULM's *Top Ten Faculty/Staff 2011*, from the Mortar Board Senior Honor Society.

**Ms. Sherilyn Wiggins**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, received the *2010 Business Appreciation Award* from Neville High School.

**Ms. Nancy Moss**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, and **Ms. Sherilyn Wiggins**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, were recognized by St. Francis Medical Center for outstanding community service in 2010.

**Ms. Connie Lewis**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, holds the Sister Anne Marie Twohig Professorship in Nursing.

**Ms. Amy Kincannon**, Assistant Professor of Nursing, holds the Glenwood Regional Medical Center Professorship in Nursing.

**Dr. Judy Fellows**, Associate Dean for the College of Health Sciences, and Dr. Jacquie Rainey, Associate Dean at the University of Central Arkansas, presented *Conversation Essentials in the Academy* at the National Conference of Academic Deans.

# Faculty Complete Degrees

A spring hamburger cook-out hosted by Dr. Ryman honored 15 current and former faculty who had completed advanced degrees since he became Dean on July 1, 2007. Those honored included:

## School of Nursing

Dr. Juliet Burgess	Assistant Professor, Coordinator Department of Nursing Concepts	Ed.D.	Nova Southeastern University
Dr. Emily Doughty	Assistant Professor, Interim Director School of Nursing	Ed.D.	Nova Southeastern University
Dr. Belinda Morgan	Assistant Professor, Coordinator Department of Nursing Interventions	DNP	Rush University

## Department of Occupational Therapy

Dr. Patti Calk	Assistant Professor, Department Head Program Director	OTD	Rocky Mountain University
Dr. Carolyn Murphy	Assistant Professor, Fieldwork Coordinator	OTD	Rocky Mountain University

## Department of Speech-Language Pathology

Dr. Johanna Boulton	Assistant Professor, Department Head Program Director	Ph.D.	Michigan State University
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## Department of Dental Hygiene

Ms. Amanda Richardson	Assistant Professor	MDH	University of Tennessee
Ms. Kimberly Whorton	Assistant Professor	MDH	University of Tennessee
Ms. Jordan Williams	Assistant Professor Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit Coordinator	MDH	University of Tennessee

## Department of Radiologic Technology

Ms. Lacy Davis	Assistant Professor	MSRS	Midwestern University
Ms. Jaclyn Peters	Assistant Professor	MSRS	Midwestern University

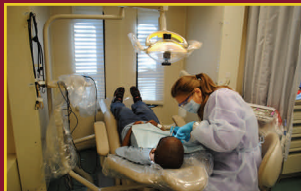
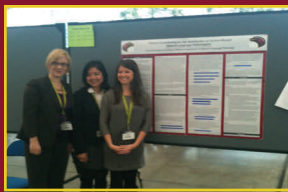
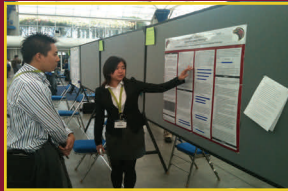
Top Row R-L:

- Dr. Juliet Burgess
- Dr. Emily Doughty
- Dr. Belinda Morgan
- Dr. Patti Calk
- Dr. Carolyn Murphy
- Dr. Johanna Boulton



Bottom Row R-L:

- Ms. Amanda Richardson
- Ms. Kimberly Whorton
- Ms. Jordan Williams
- Ms. Lacy Davis
- Ms. Jaclyn Peters



## *Speech-Language Pathology to San Diego*

**Dr. Johanna Boulton**, Assistant Professor and Department Head, and **Dr. Linda Bryan**, Associate Professor, and Graduate Students **Yee Man Lo**, **Meg Moore**, **Lakeisha Brown**, and **Stacie Brown** presented research at the National Conference of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), held in San Diego. The peer reviewed research presentations and authors were:

Factors Contributing to Job Satisfaction of School-Based Speech-Language Pathologists (**Dr. Johanna Boulton**, **Yee Man Lo**, **Meg Moore**, **Julie Welch**, **Tina Sewell**): explored work satisfaction and drew up implications for policy change.

Selection Criteria for Clients with Dysphagia in University Speech and Hearing Clinics Across the United States (**Dr. Johanna Boulton**, **Ms. Sarah Hayes**, **Lakeisha Brown**, **Lindsay Salter**, **Erika Turpin**): surveyed clinical coordinators of ASHA accredited Speech-Language Pathology graduate programs, that also had an on-campus clinic, to determine whether or not they accepted patients with a popular swallowing disorder, dysphagia, and what criteria the patient had to meet before being accepted.

Augmentative and Alternative Communication: An Evolution (**Dr. Linda Bryan**, **Kasey Shows**, **Jennifer Hootsell**, **Stacie Brown**, **Kristin DeLancy**): studied a seven year-old boy with Developmental Apraxia of Speech and Atypical Autism and the evolution of augmentative alternative communication devices and how they affected his functional needs. The results were that the devices greatly increased his communication ability.

Students and faculty had the opportunity to hear lectures from internationally renowned professionals in the fields of speech-language pathology, audiology, and speech and hearing sciences. To help defray expenses for the trip, the SGA awarded \$500 to the ULM Chapter of the National Student Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The students also held a garage/bake sale which raised \$900, and a chicken dinner fundraiser that raised more than \$600.

## *Update On Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit*

The Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit (MDHU) was purchased in 2010 with federal funds from HRSA and is operated by the Department of Dental Hygiene. The 42 foot-long MDHU contains three dental hygiene operatories, each outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment to provide best practices care.

**Jordan Williams**, Assistant Professor of Dental Hygiene and Coordinator of the MDHU, supervises the dental hygiene students who provide the following: health history review, examination of head, neck, and oral tissues for disease; oral cancer and blood pressure screenings; exposure, processing, and interpretation of dental x-rays; teeth cleaning, application of preventive agents (e.g., fluoride, antimicrobials); and patient education (e.g., oral health care).

During the 2010-2011 academic year, dental hygiene services were provided to nearly 200 children in an underserved area of Ouachita Parish. During the current 2011-2012 academic year, services are being provided to children and adults in Morehouse Parish. It is anticipated that by May more than 300 children and adults in Morehouse Parish will have received services.

Funding for the operation of the MDHU is through grants and donations. Since its acquisition, funding has been provided by the *City of Monroe*, the *Living Well Foundation*, and most recently, *Entergy*. Organizations or individuals interested in helping to fund the operation of the MDHU, should contact **Dr. Denny Ryman**, Dean.

The MDHU enables the College of Health Sciences to continue to address its mission of educating the health care professionals of tomorrow while delivering health care to Louisiana citizens today.

## *Health Sciences Faculty and Students in the Community*

Faculty and students in the College of Health Sciences continue to provide clinical services throughout the region. There are two clinics on campus: the **Kitty Degree Speech and Hearing Clinic** and the **Dental Hygiene Clinic**. Provision of services at a fraction of the cost benefit both the student provider and the recipient.

### **Dental Hygiene**

The **ULM Dental Hygiene Clinic** is located on the first floor of Caldwell Hall. Students, supervised by faculty, provide complete dental hygiene services including x-rays, teeth cleaning, sealants, and patient education. In addition to the on-campus clinic, Dental Hygiene students also receive clinical experience at the **Riser School Dental Hygiene Clinic**, in West Monroe, and the **VA Hospital** in Shreveport. Since 2010, services are also provided on the **Mobile Dental Hygiene Unit** which this year is serving patients in Morehouse Parish. Dental Hygiene services are provided for patients referred by the Fifth District Court, Go Care, Our House, Dialysis Centers, City of Faith, and Association for Retarded Citizens of Ouachita (ARCO). The program has also collaborated with the Children's Coalition for the "Start School Right" program. Annually, more than 2000 patients receive dental hygiene services in one of these four locations.

### **Speech-Language Pathology**

Diagnostic evaluations and therapy for speech, language, and/or hearing problems are provided for more than 100 hours each week at either the **Kitty DeGree Speech and Hearing Center**, located in Sugar Hall, or the **Adm. E.A. Barham Scottish Rite Speech and Hearing Clinic**, located on University Avenue. Screenings are also provided for the **ULM Child Development Center**, **Our Lady of Fatima School**, **ULM College of Education and Human Development**, **Department of Dental Hygiene**, and at **Head Start Centers** in Monroe and West Monroe. All services are provided by graduate student clinicians supervised by nationally and state certified faculty. Each year, more than 2000 hours of speech, language, and hearing clinical services are provided.

### **Nursing**

There are more than 50 acute care and community care clinical sites throughout the area where student nurses, supervised by faculty, complete clinical rotations. Student nurses further embrace the community by providing more than 1000 hours of community service each year.

### **Occupational Therapy Assistant**

Students in the Occupational Therapy Assistant program obtain hands-on experience by engaging patient/clients in activities addressing their physical, cognitive, and/or social needs. Recent clinical sites have included **Mary Goss Nursing Home**, **John Breaux Assisted Living Facility**, **Ouachita Grand Plaza**, **McKeen Plaza**, **Our Lady of Fatima** Pre-K classes, and the **ULM Child Development Center**.

### **Medical Laboratory Science**

During their final semesters before graduation, students in Medical Laboratory Science rotate through practicum courses at a larger lab, a smaller lab, and at **Life Share Blood Center** in Shreveport. These practicum experiences provide them with the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge in a clinical setting and learn advanced Immunohematology methods and principles. The MLS student organization sponsors two blood drives on campus each semester. The **Medical Laboratory Science Society** will be hosting a bone marrow drive on March 27, 2012, as part of the "Be the Match Registry" of the National Marrow Donor Program. In order to have their name listed as a potential donor, registrants will complete a questionnaire and consent form, and will have the interior of their cheek swabbed.

### **Radiologic Technology**

Clinical rotations in area medical centers in Monroe, West Monroe, Bastrop, Ruston, and Rayville are completed by Radiologic Technology students during their last five semesters. As part of these rotations students learn diagnostic radiography and emergency medical imaging, including MRI, CT, ultrasound, special procedures, radiation therapy, and for interested female students, mammography. The student organization, **Chi Beta Gamma**, actively supports local and international charities including the Monroe Women's Shelter and *Operation Christmas Child*.

### **Health Studies**

Forty-two health care facilities throughout **Louisiana** and one in **Virginia** currently serve as practicum sites for Health Studies students. This senior level practicum internship allows students to work directly with Chief Executive Officers and Healthcare Administrators. The Health Sciences Pre-Professional Program option prepares students for professional study in optometry or medical school, for example. The Health Studies degree program is unique in Louisiana and beyond as there is not another undergraduate program in the University of Louisiana, LSU, or Southern systems. Three major options are offered with this degree program: Health Studies Marketing/Management; Health Studies Pre-Professional; and Health Studies Marketing/Management Online. Students in the Healthcare Management/Marketing Option learn how to market and manage a department while completing specific challenging business projects for a healthcare organization.

# Honor, Memorialize Others With a Gift

Naming and scholarship opportunities for the College of Health Sciences are available at various levels of giving. Friends and alumni may designate their gift to any of our seven departments:

- **Nursing**
- **Health Studies**
- **Dental Hygiene**
- **Radiologic Technology**
- **Medical Laboratory Science**
- **Speech-Language Pathology**
- **Occupational Therapy Assistant**

For more information or a tour of the facilities, please contact:

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Alumni: We want to create an Alumni News Section in our Newsletter, but we need YOUR news. Send your updated information electronically to [fellows@ulm.edu](mailto:fellows@ulm.edu).

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