May 2019

TO: UVM College of Nursing and Health Sciences Faculty and Staff
FROM: Patricia Prelock, Dean

“Forward Together”

INTRODUCTION

This spring brings many changes to the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. While change can feel unsettling, it provides an opportunity to find new and exciting ways to work together. As I transition to my new role as Interim Provost and Senior Vice President of UVM, I am grateful for this college’s strong leadership team with an associate dean, assistant deans, department chairs, vice chairs, and program directors who do their jobs well. I appreciate the way everyone is responding to the transition and welcoming Dean Thomas as he steps in as a university citizen to support and guide our college.

Together, we accomplished so much this semester and we have a lot to celebrate.

Our tenth annual Zeigler Research Forum and Zeigler-X Event, held May 8 in the Davis Center, offered an opportunity for faculty and students to network and share their research with each other and the wider UVM community. Creating new knowledge and applying that knowledge to practice is a strength of this college.

I am humbled and thrilled by the establishment of a new fund in my name, to encourage and support early career investigators to develop and pursue high quality and competitive research projects. The endowed Patricia A. Prelock Nursing and Health Sciences Research Fund was announced during the tenth annual College of Nursing and Health Sciences Zeigler Research Forum.

Our new Master of Science in Physical Activity and Wellness and the Certificate in Integrative Health Coaching enrolled their first cohorts for Fall 2019. A new Master of Science in Clinical Nurse Leader has been approved and will also start in the fall semester. We are awaiting approval of renaming the Doctor of Philosophy in Human Functioning and Rehabilitation Sciences to Doctor of Philosophy in Interprofessional Health Sciences.

We welcomed new staff members in the Office of Student Services. Advisors Juan Florencia and Kathy Williams serve as student advisors, and Lauren Singh supports graduate student recruiting.

At our faculty meeting this week, we approved a new CNHS Research Honors distinction to provide non-Honors College students an opportunity to write and defend an undergraduate research
thesis and have that distinction reflected in their academic transcript upon graduation.

Congratulations to our outstanding students recognized at our Honor’s Tea and Honor’s Day events. Our students do amazing work and I am inspired by all of their accomplishments in their young lives. The entire CNHS faculty and staff can share credit for our students’ success.

Several faculty members also received honors this spring. I was delighted to present Dean’s Awards to four of our colleagues for their contributions to CNHS: Alan Maynard received the Dean’s Inclusive Excellence Award; Dimitry Kremenstov received the Dean’s Award for Outstanding Research; Emily Coderre received the Dean’s Award for Teaching Innovation; and Brenda Hamel-Bissell received the Dean’s Distinguished Alumni Award. These award recipients’ photographs will be displayed on the Dean’s Wall of Excellence.

In addition, Justine Dee was selected to receive a 2019 UVM Kroepsch-Maurice Excellence in Teaching Award for her outstanding teaching—the highest teaching award given to faculty at the University of Vermont. Genell Mikkalson received a 2019 Outstanding Faculty Woman Award from the University of Vermont Women’s Center. And Barbara Tschoepe was named a 2019 Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). Congratulations to you all. I am so pleased to have supported you in the important work you have been doing.

Thank you for the incredible 10 years of innovation and engagement with our students’ experience as well as the curricular and research efforts you have made over the last decade. It is through your hard work, diligence and dedication to making a difference for our students, our patients and our advancement of new knowledge that our college is thriving. Although I will miss the very meaningful connections I have with each of you, my role as Provost allows me to continue to support the success of the college. It’s important to have someone at the provost level who really understands the work of this college and supports the incredible work that you do.

CNHS will always hold a special place in my heart and will continue to mean so much to me. I will watch you with thoughtful eyes, knowing that you will continue to excel.

Best wishes for a healthy, happy summer!

EDUCATIONAL EXPANSION AND INNOVATION

Integrative Health: Some great news to report on the innovations that continue to occur in Integrative Health.

- The first cohort for the Integrative Health and Wellness Coaching Certificate is full
- Timothy Cunningham, DrPH, MSN, RN, Assistant Professor of Nursing Director of the Compassionate Care Initiative, University of Virginia presented for our Laura Mann Integrative Healthcare Lecture Series & Family Medicine & Nursing Grand Rounds, A Decade of Resilience: The Development of the Compassionate Care Initiative at the University of Virginia on April 29, 2019. This was followed by a Faculty Development Interprofessional Workshop with our College & the Larner Teaching Academy focused on teaching the Culture of Compassionate Care and Resilience to Interprofessional Student Teams in Classroom and Clinical Settings.
• Our Culinary Medicine Program has also been funded and we will be offering modules in our Integrative Health & Wellness Coaching Certificate, our Undergraduate Certificate in Integrative Healthcare and in the graduate Nursing curriculum. If any other faculty are interested in offering culinary medicine, please contact Cara.feldman-hunt@med.uvm.edu

• Finally, our Resilience and Relatedness in Nurses grant was funded and approved by the IRB.

It is exciting to see how UVM Integrative Health is flourishing within our college and campus-wide.

Dean's Innovation in Teaching Award. This award recognizes teaching that engages students in an experiential manner, develops their reflective thinking and is responsive to CNHS strategic goals for integrating clinical simulation, internationalization, interprofessional education and integrative health. The recipient is featured on the CNHS Wall of Excellence and receives an award of $1,500.00 that can be used to support teaching and/or professional development. This year’s award goes to Dr. Emily Coderre, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. Dr. Coderre has been responsible for developing several new courses with a breadth and versatility that is truly remarkable and serve her well in her capacity as an interprofessional researcher and educator. She developed several new courses for our doctoral candidates that bring student and faculty professionals together from across the health sciences with the goal of increasing their knowledge of, skills in, and appreciation for interprofessional collaborative research for improving health outcomes. She created opportunities for students to access the laboratories and research spaces in which our faculty work, and used active learning, problem-based learning, and flipped classrooms to facilitate her students’ thinking and learning. Congratulations Emily!

STUDENT SUCCESS

Building on our infrastructure of student-facing supports and services, we have new professional staff in our Office of Student Services supporting two areas of strategic importance: undergraduate advising and graduate program recruitment.

Many you have met Juan Florencia, who started with us in January as a professional advisor. He comes to us from Champlain College (and before that, Western Michigan University and UMass Lowell). He is expanding CNHS’s successful and beloved Links peer mentorship program and is guiding our growth in the area of short student-oriented videos, to support the transition to college life.

Kathy Williams is arriving just in time for June orientation, also coming to us from Champlain College. Like Juan, Kathy is a highly experienced and effective professional advisor, whose history includes teaching educational technology as a tenure-track faculty member at Shippensburg University. Her ability to understand and address students’ individual needs with great precision – and warmth – make her a valuable member of our advising team.

Lauren Singh is our new graduate programs recruiter, coming to us from KSV (a Burlington- and NYC-based marketing firm), and her background in data analytics and media buying will help our efforts to promote and recruit for CNHS graduate programs. Lauren occupies the front office where Kristen Cella formerly sat; Kristen is still in the 002 suite, continuing her admissions work with program directors and others.
As of August, all faculty will have access to Navigate (formerly known as EAB), an advising and retention tool. Training is available and recommended, but current pilot phase users report that it is intuitive and easy to use. All formerly-used methods for tracking advising appointments will be discontinued as of August 2019.

While we have your attention: please continue to send all news and updates to our communications team (sara.m.white@med.uvm.edu and janet.l.franz@med.uvm.edu). Thank you!

**Outstanding Undergraduate Student.** The Dean gives an outstanding undergraduate student award each year. This award recognizes a student who has demonstrated exemplary professional growth and contributions during their tenure at UVM. This year’s recipient is Alison Chivers, a graduating senior in medical laboratory sciences. Ali has conducted research in Dr. Seth Frietze’s laboratory for nearly three years. During this time, she has been the recipient of many academic awards including two Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships, one of which was spent in León in Spain conducting stem cell research, UVM Mortar Board, and most recently, she was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Leon in Spain as she continues to pursue her cancer research.

**Outstanding Graduate Student.** The Dean also recognizes a graduate student who has demonstrated exemplary professional growth and contributions during their tenure at UVM. This year’s awardee is Katie Zeppetelli, a third year DPT student who has demonstrated professional and personal leadership during her graduate professional education. Katie came to the DPT program well prepared and with a passion to participate in our UVM community. Since her start in the program, she has demonstrated exemplary development. Katie embodies the Dean’s Award in her genuine efforts to incorporate feedback from faculty, clinicians and from her own self-reflection. Katie is a servant leader and is dedicated to promoting excellence in all that she does.

Thank you all for making our Admitted Student Visit Days the best ever! You engaged with families about the unique experiences we can provide, ignited their enthusiasm, and followed-up with students and families who had questions. We have dramatically increased our yield of high-quality students and will be bringing in the largest class ever to our college! Go Cats Go!

**INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE ACTIVITIES**

The Committee on Inclusive Excellence (CIE) has had a very successful year, sponsoring 11 professional development trainings for faculty and staff. Two student ambassadors for the CNHS Diversity & Inclusion Student Leadership pilot program were hired this spring to provide a student perspective on issues of diversity and inclusion affecting our students. A plan is in place to address the accessibility of the Rowell Building and Pomeroy Hall thanks to a collaboration with the CIE, Physical Plant and Facilities, Design, and Construction, and our own 2nd year DPT students in Nancy Gell’s Health Promotion’s course as well as Amber Fulcher, the University’s ADA/405 Coordinator and Kate Coffey, the Facilities architect. The CIE has also embarked on a document review examining policies, handbooks and documents throughout the college for inclusivity, diversity and inter-professionalism. Look for more information at the department level about next steps to support this effort. The CIE will be considering a bullying and harassment policy following those of our peer and aspirant institutions, entitled “Positive Environment and Mistreatment Prevention Policy.”
**Dean’s Award for Inclusive Excellence.** The Dean's Inclusive Excellence Award recognizes a student, faculty or staff member who has made a major contribution to create an environment of social justice, inclusion and equity. The recipient's name and photo will be displayed on the Dean's Wall of Excellence in Rowell Hall. We have both a student and faculty recipient. Our student awardee is **Jeremiah Crawford.** Jeremiah is a talented, inquisitive, and disciplined Doctor of Physical Therapy student who has a robust history of promoting social justice, inclusion, and equity within the community. He is a member of the UVM Brotherhood, where he provides mentorship and coaching sessions to minority undergraduate students as they work to assimilate to new cultural situations experienced here at UVM. He also provides these students with the resources they need to be successful as undergraduate students at UVM. This work is paramount to creating the social justice, inclusivity, and equity we strive for in our UVM community. Congratulations Jeremiah!

Our faculty awardee is **Alan Maynard,** Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Movement Science. Alan was nominated by the entire Communication Sciences and Disorders Department, because of his developed expertise in cultural and linguistic diversity that extends well beyond his D2 Organization and Leadership course, which focuses on diversity, equity, and active citizenship in health care management, professional development, leadership, and professional ethics for students in athletic training and exercise-science. Alan generously and repeatedly gave his time and shared his expertise to help the faculty and students understand, problem-solve, and navigate a discussion about implicit bias, including taking the time to do additional research on the web with respect to cultural and linguistic diversity competency expectations and assessment tools in the CSD field. Congratulations Alan!

**RESEARCH EXCELLENCE**

The Zeigler Research Forum was the largest ever with 51 posters and a wonderful keynote by Dr. Patel and a faculty presentation by Dr. Emily Coderre who was a recent recipient of the CNHS Incentive Grant Award. The Zeigler-X Research Forum followed with our DPT students presenting orally the work they did as part of their systematic reviews. Congratulations to all faculty, staff and students who contributed to the success of this research experience.

**Dean’s Faculty Excellence in Research Award** recognizes innovation in moving from basic science to practical applications that enhances human health and wellbeing, including the adoption of best practices in the community (implementation science) as well as the potential of the research to lead to meaningful applications. The recipient will be featured on the CNHS Wall of Excellence and receive an award of $1,500.00 that can be used to support their research. This year’s award went to **Dr. Dimitry Kremensov,** assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical and Health Sciences. Dimitry conducts important and innovative research that advances our understanding of human disease. His presence has increased the vibrancy and intellectual atmosphere of our college by contributing to many efforts including the CNHS interdisciplinary PhD program, the CMB PhD program, the immunobiology program and many other on campus, national and international efforts. Congratulations Dimitry!
ALUMNI

Our alumni continue to make us proud in the jobs they have undertaken as well as in the graduate programs they have pursued across the nation and the world. In a recent alumni survey, our graduates told us they felt extremely satisfied with their educational and clinical experiences and well-prepared to take on their new jobs. And 100% of our alumni are satisfied with their job! A big thank you to faculty and staff who created such an enriching educational experience for our students that has led to them to find their place in their careers.

Dean's Alumni Award. This award honors an alumna or alumnus of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences for professional accomplishment, service, and/or career and lifetime achievement. The recipient's name and photo will be displayed on the Dean's Wall of Excellence in Rowell Hall. This year’s award was given to Dr. Brenda Hammel-Bissell, Professor in the Department of Nursing. Brenda has dedicated 50 years of her life to the discipline of nursing. Her career began at the University of Vermont where she received a Bachelors’ degree in nursing. She went on to build her academic portfolio with a masters and doctoral degree from Boston University. Through her practice as a staff nurse and team leader she prepared herself for a career of almost 40 years leading the education of psychiatric mental health nurses at the University of Vermont. She is a vigilant advocate for the underrepresented including people of color, and those experiencing challenges. She quietly goes about her work. She arrives early in the morning and can be seen at 3:30 in the afternoon heading over to the hospital where she continues to supervise students two days a week on the inpatient psychiatry unit. She is seen as the backbone and the soul of psychiatric mental health nursing at UVM. Congratulations Brenda for a lifetime of service to nursing and to the University of Vermont!

A bend in the road is not the end of the road . . . unless you fail to make the turn. Helen Keller

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