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BSHS Alumni Prepared to Seize New Career Opportunities

The versatility of the BS in Health Sciences degree allowed alumna Emily Halasah (BSHS 2016) to pave her own path in the health and wellness industry. Emily graduated *Cum Laude* with a minor in Business Administration and a certificate in Culture, Communication, and Health. She began her career with the largest health insurance company in the state, Medical Mutual of Ohio, where she worked for three years in Clinical Care Management. Emily’s passion for health and wellness drove her to become deeply involved in the community and she was eventually offered a challenging opportunity: Director of Operations at Restore Health Bar. Restore is a café that specializing in cold pressed juice and super food smoothies. What attracted Emily to Restore was the company’s dedication to using the highest quality ingredients to provide the best products in the health food market, as well as the commitment to sustainability. Restore recycles all of its glass bottles and uses a compostable and eco-friendly alternative to plastic for carryout items. Emily joined Restore in June of 2018 and she has been able to help the fast growing start-up expand from three locations to seven in the last year.

CSU’s undergraduate Health Science curriculum paired with her real world work experience inspired Emily to think deeply about some of the major health issues that many Americans face. It has motivated her to focus on her next career goal: tackling injustice in healthcare policy. Emily plans to pursue a JD/MBA in the next few years.

*Photo*: BS in Health Sciences alumna Emily Halasah (BSHS 2016)

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PHYSICAL THERAPY

DPT Program Offers Pro Bono Services

DPT students and faculty serve the local community by providing pro bono services in the Cleveland area. Students begin their involvement the very first semester in the program:  

**Care Alliance** — Dr. Jane Keehan, Associate Clinical Professor; Dr. Scott Euype, CSU PT ’87 alum, adjunct faculty and Cleveland Clinic clinician; and Dr. Elayna Theiss, part-time faculty and University Hospitals clinician; serve clients and supervise students in this clinic every other Tuesday night.

**Preventive Care Center** — DPT students, under the supervision of licensed practitioners, provide PT services to underinsured and uninsured participants at TriC’s Metro Campus. Our students attend in their second year and work alongside students from the Dietetic Technology, Medical Assisting, Occupational Therapy Assisting, and Physical Therapy Assistant programs. They practice examination and treatment skills and learn how to interact as a team member with members of other professions.
**Verb Ballets** — Dr. Mary Milidonis, Associate Professor, started our relationship with the ballet and continues to assist with the care of the dancers. Dr. Katie Long, part-time faculty and MetroHealth clinician, provides ongoing PT services to the dancers during practices and performances, while supervising DPT students as they assist with treatments.

These opportunities allow CSU DPT students to apply what they are learning in class to real-world situations. Integrating these experiences throughout their education both instills the value of community service as prepares them to hit the ground running on their full-time clinical education experiences.

*Photo: Faculty and students at Heinz Poll Ballet festival with Verb Ballet in Akron*

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**SPEECH & HEARING**

*High-Tech FEES Equipment Sets Speech and Hearing Program Apart*

Through a grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Speech and Hearing (SPH) Program is building its capacity to educate students and clinicians in the emerging practice of fiberendoscopic evaluation of swallowing (FEES). State-of-the-art simulation mannequins, video laryngostroboscopes, and nasolaryngoscopes purchased through the grant will expand opportunities for practice and skill development. Evaluation of swallowing by speech-language pathologists is an increasingly important element of managing a variety of conditions such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and Parkinson’s disease.

Dr. Violet Cox (Associate College Lecturer), who specializes in neurogenic communication disorders and the management of dysphagia and swallowing disorders, was instrumental in establishing the swallowing laboratory and in offering FEES education to students in CSU’s MA in Speech-Language Pathology program and to clinicians in the community. The grant will also strengthen CSU partnerships with Lorain County Community College and Cuyahoga Community College by providing opportunities for interested students and faculty from those institutions to see the equipment in action. Last spring, Dr. Cox hosted students from Tri-C, who attended a lecture on dysphagia with graduate students at CSU and observed transoral laryngoscopy on a student volunteer with images of the student’s vocal folds projected onto a large screen in the classroom. We look forward to hosting additional demonstrations once the new equipment is fully in place this fall.

*Photo: Students learn innovative scoping techniques to evaluate swallowing with Dr. Cox.*

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Award Winning Occupational Therapy Faculty

Robin Chilton, Associate Clinical Professor, received two major awards this year: the College of Sciences and Health Professions’ "Jearl D. Walker Outstanding Teaching Award" and the Ohio OT Association "Virginia Scardina Lectureship Award," granted to an OT who has contributed to the development of the body of knowledge of the profession through research, education, and/or clinical practice. Professor Chilton will be giving her lecture at the fall 2019 Ohio OT Association Conference.

Susan Wayne (Academic Fieldwork Coordinator), Dr. Kristen Pataki (Assistant Clinical Professor), and 4 OT students, Jessica Barth, Amber Grimes, Claire Horstman, and Hayley Jenkins, received the "Down Syndrome Day Award" from the Cleveland City Council for their work with the Up Side of Downs organization to develop and run the "Steps to Independence Retreat Weekend" in summer 2018. In summer 2019 the retreat was offered again by these outstanding OT faculty as a program course elective. Nine OT students earned course credit to develop and implement programs in collaboration with Up Side of Downs, facilitating 19 young adults with Down syndrome to learn new skills, gain independence, and make friendships in a college environment.

Dr. Bette Bonder (Faculty Emerita) received the Meritorious Service Award from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation, which recognizes retiring and incumbent members of its Board of Trustees who have made sustained and exemplary contributions in support of the Foundation’s mission of supporting occupational therapy research and increasing public understanding of the important relationship between everyday activities (occupations) and health.

Congratulations to all!

Photo: Robin Chilton (center) receiving Jearl D. Walker Outstanding Teaching Award from the award sponsor, physics professor Dr. Jearl Walker (left) and occupational therapy program director Dr. Beth Ekelman (right)

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INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Interprofessional Education Tackles Opioid Epidemic

Tackling today’s opioid epidemic, CSU’s School of Health Sciences hosted an interprofessional learning experience for over 300 students of occupational therapy, physical therapy, speech-language pathology, nursing, social work, and chemical dependency counseling as well as pharmacy students from Northeast Ohio Medical University earlier this year.
Coordinated by Dr. Kelle DeBoth, Assistant Professor of Occupational Therapy and Dr. Patricia Stoddard-Dare, Professor of Social Work, the program featured guest panelists who stressed the importance of an interprofessional response to the opioid epidemic and provided valuable information on pain management. Michelle Wilson, an occupational therapist and community liaison with University Hospitals, spoke about the role of rehabilitation providers in managing chronic pain. Berea Police Department Sergeant Pat Greenhill introduced the Safe Passages Program, a police-assisted intervention where community members struggling with addiction can turn themselves into the police for treatment rather than arrest. Community advocate Nicole Wamsley shared her experience with healthcare treatment providers during both addiction and long-term recovery.

Students worked in interdisciplinary teams to learn about each profession’s role in addressing pain and addiction. They used a case study of a young woman struggling with chronic pain following a car accident who turns to illegal drugs after her prescription opiates were discontinued. Students used drughelp.care, a new fully searchable web application, to find harm reduction resources and treatment programs that match an addicted individual’s characteristics.

*Photo:* Drs. Patricia Stoddard-Dare (left) and Kelle DeBoth introduce the event on Interprofessional Responses to Pain

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