

Wednesday, November 1, 2023

## Finding Their Voice: The ODU Speech and Hearing Clinic



In the heart of Old Dominion University's vibrant campus, the [ODU Speech and Hearing Clinic](#) has been a beacon of hope for individuals with speech, language, and hearing disorders for the past 65 years. Its history is rich, and its mission is unwavering.

In 1955, the clinic started as a pilot project, led by Dr. Reuben Cooper. This endeavor aimed to determine if a dedicated facility for diagnosis and therapy was justified. It began by providing services for both speech and hearing disorders, and the Ward's Corner Lions Club provided critical funding of \$500 per year for three years. It later became a full-time clinic in 1958, securing a permanent place on campus. This growth attracted an advisory board of medical and lay professionals from the community, ensuring its commitment to serving the greater good.

Nick and Martha Bountress, who dedicated a combined 75 years to the program, recount their journey. In 1975, their journey to ODU began with a Greyhound bus ride from Texas.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

## The ODU College of Health Sciences Partners with Perry Honors College to Provide Undergraduate Research Opportunities

The ODU College of Health Sciences' NIH R15 Incubator Program currently has 13 faculty members enrolled who are committed to submitting a grant proposal to the National Institutes of Health (NIH)

within the next year. A key component of the R15 mechanism is the inclusion of undergraduates on the research team. To assist our faculty with their preliminary data analyses prior to their R15 submission, as well as to provide our faculty with more undergraduate mentoring experience, the College partnered with the Perry Honors College so that each faculty member could hire one undergraduate research assistant to join their research team this Fall or Spring. This program is called SURE-STEP (Synergizing Undergraduate Research Experiences to Strengthen External Proposals) and is financially supported by the Perry Honors College.

The College of Health Sciences will pilot this program during the 2023-2024 academic year and provide feedback about its utility to the Perry Honors College. SURE-STEP affords the ability for COHS researchers to provide 13 new undergraduate research opportunities in our College that did not previously exist.

We thank the Perry Honors College for their support!

## Associate Deans Kraj and Rhea represent COHS at ASAHP



The Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions (ASAHP) held their annual conference in October, where presentations about higher education issues in relation to academic units of health sciences/professions were given by experts in the field. Leadership from the Dean's office provided two of the presentations. Associate Dean for Education & Innovation Barbara Kraj presented a poster titled "Experiential Learning Model for Interprofessional Education," which was a project conducted with Angela Wilson, clinical assistant professor in the School of Medical Diagnostic and Translational Sciences. Associate Dean for Research & Innovation Chris Rhea presented a podium talk titled "Facilitating research in schools of health professions: Strategies for success". The College was also a gold sponsor of the event.

## Occupational Therapy's Day on the Hill



Advocating for occupational therapy at AOTA's Hill Day in Washington, DC, Dr. Mchelle Thompson and two OT students from the EVMS-ODU Doctor of Occupational Therapy Partnership Program, met with Senator Mark Warner and Representative Jennifer McClellan to support the EMPOWER Act and Expanded Telehealth Access Act. They were joined by VOTA President Savannah Howe and OT professionals nationwide.

## Dean Bonnie Van Lunen appointed to the Board of Certification for the Athletic Trainer (BOC)



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The Board of Certification (BOC) is pleased to announce the appointment of Bonnie L. Van Lunen, PhD, ATC, FNATA, FNAP as an Athletic Trainer (AT) director to the BOC Board of Directors. Van Lunen will take office in 2025, following a year of mentorship and learning as AT director appointee.

Van Lunen has served the athletic training profession at many volunteer levels, including as a commissioner for the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE) from 2017 to 2023. In addition, she has held several National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) positions, including service on the NATA Executive Committee on Education in Athletic Training. Van Lunen is the current chair of the MAATA Research and Grants Committee, which she has served on since 2000. She has been actively

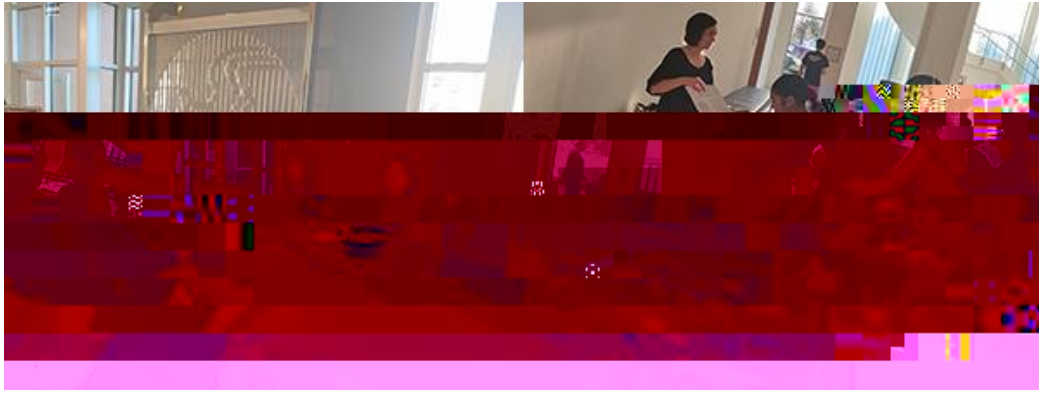
involved on several editorial boards for athletic training-focused publications.

"I believe that I bring a depth of knowledge in the area of post-professional education, specifically now within the area of residencies and fellowships," said Van Lunen. "I have had the opportunity to be connected with the NATA and the CAATE throughout various accreditation processes and standards revisions and this background and knowledge will allow me to connect with the vision and mission of the BOC as we continue to expand specialty certification. My vision for the BOC is that as we continue to establish what is required for continuing education, we are always thinking about how the AT can practice within the full scope of their abilities. The BOC plays a significant role in that process and must continue to work with our strategic partners to develop the blueprint that the public can trust."

Van Lunen was appointed by the BOC Board of Directors following a nomination process guided by the Nominating Committee.

"The BOC is thrilled to add Bonnie to the BOC board," said Anne Minton, MBA, chief executive officer of the BOC. "As a new director with a higher education and administration background, Bonnie brings a broad perspective to the table. Her experience will bring an understanding of different viewpoints across academia linked to credentialing which will positively impact our organization, its stakeholders and the athletic training profession. The BOC board would like to extend a special thank you to its Nominating Committee members for their hard work, and also to the many qualified and talented applicants who participated in this important process."

Art Meets Science at *Fantastic Planet*



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The College of Health Sciences hosted a candy buffet, cour Sr