

Jax State CHPW Newsletter

Fall 2024

Message from the Dean: Tracey D. Matthews

Dear Alumni and Friends:

Welcome to the Fall 2024 edition of the College of Health Professions & Wellness newsletter! This semester marks an exciting period of growth and innovation for our college, with groundbreaking developments that will enhance our students' educational experience.

We are thrilled to announce a \$1.75 million Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) grant that will revolutionize our facilities. This funding will transform the South Complex Annex with state-of-the-art equipment, creating advanced learning environments that prepare our students to deliver exceptional healthcare across our district and state.

Our college continues to expand with two pioneering programs launched this fall:

- Bachelors of Public Health
- Masters in Public Health

We are proud to welcome five exceptional faculty and staff members to the CHPW family. Learn more about their expertise by clicking their profile pictures in the newsletter.

Discover how our students and faculty are making significant contributions in the health professions, physical education, and sport fields. Please share this newsletter with colleagues, prospective students, and anyone interested in any of our outstanding academic programs.

Be Well and Go Gamecocks!

Tracey



Welcome New Faculty & Staff



Dr. Meghan Burroughs
Assistant Professor, Public
Health



Dr. Kelsey McEntyre
Assistant Professor, Health
and Physical Education



Rafaela Rafajlovska
Instructor, ESW



Caitlin Sharpe
Instructor, Sport Management



Dr. Kelley Swatzell
MPH Program Director,
Associate Professor



Melissa Watson
Lab Assistant, CHPW

Updates

School of Nursing Update:

Jax State Nursing Receives CCNE Reaffirmation of Accreditation:

The Jax State School of Nursing hosted their reaffirmation of accreditation on-site visit October 4-6, 2023. Our accrediting body, the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), holds the School of Nursing (SON) accountable for meeting the *Essentials* (American Association of Colleges of Nursing, 2008/2011) as well as other standards that support quality, integrity, and achievement of our mission, vision, and goals. The accreditation process included a written self-study, which provided evidence that the SON programs meet accreditation standards, and an on-site visit by a team of accreditation visitors. As a result of the on-site visit, there were no compliance concerns, and all Standards of Accreditation were fully met without any recommendations. On April 16, 2024, the CCNE Board of Commissioners voted to grant accreditation to all JSU Nursing programs (BSN, MSN, and DNP) for ten years, extending through June 30, 2034.

Kinesiology Update:

Jax State Launches New Public Health Programs and Welcomes Two New Faculty Members



The Kinesiology Department launched two new degree programs! A Bachelor of Public Health (BPH) and a Master of Public Health (MPH) are now being offered. These public health programs are designed to prepare students to improve the health of communities. The BPH degree provides the foundational knowledge and skills to improve public health issues and systems. The MPH offers advanced knowledge and specialized skills in public health, with a focus on leadership, research, and advanced practice. Both are designed to prepare professionals for public health careers in local or state health departments, national or federal governmental health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), healthcare or health-related organizations, private foundations, or community organizations. Public health degrees provide excellent preparation for management and leadership positions with public health agencies and are a great addition to medical, nursing, and other health and social service careers.

Two new faculty members in public health bring a wealth of experience and expertise. Dr. Meghan Burroughs, Assistant Professor, earned her PhD in Health Education and Promotion from The University of Alabama and is a Master Certified Health Education Specialist. Her research primarily focuses on young adult substance use and the influence of social media on health behaviors. Kelley Swatzell, DrPH, serves as the Public Health Programs Director. She has extensive experience in public health, including delivering prenatal and preschool education, designing and evaluating graduate curricula in health and medicine, and serving as Assistant Dean for Accreditation at the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health.

The Jax State MPH program offers advanced courses in epidemiology, biostatistics, health policy, management, and program evaluation. Students engage in practical fieldwork through internships and capstone projects. The program equips graduates with analytical skills, leadership abilities, and a thorough understanding of public health issues, preparing them to design, implement, and evaluate public health programs and interventions.

Alumni Spotlight

Mrs. Leigh Anne Shirley awarded the Finley Scholarship

Mrs. Leigh Anne Shirley, BSN alumna of JSU, a dedicated nurse, and graduate student in JSU's Population Health Nursing Master's degree program, has been awarded the prestigious Finley Scholarship by the Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame (AHHOF).

This recognition, accompanied by a \$2,000 scholarship, was presented on August 10th at the AHHOF banquet, underscoring Leigh Anne's exceptional academic achievements and her commitment to making a positive impact on patients in the state of Alabama. The award is in honor of AHHOF honorees Wayne H. Finley, M.D., Ph.D. and his wife, the late Sarah Crews Finley, M.D., who co-founded the first medical genetics program in the southeast region of the U.S. The Finley's are widely recognized as pioneers in the field of genetics.



Life Saver Award

Justin Files, alumni of the JSU MAT Program and current preceptor for the JSU MAT Program, was awarded the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Life Saver Award. This award honors an athletic trainer that has represented the athletic training profession well and used their training to provide lifesaving service or other humanitarian efforts.



Opportunity Grants

Justin Files and Greta Romei, alumni of the JSU MAT Program and current preceptors of the JSU MAT Program, were awarded the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Opportunity Grants. This grant was used for funding for a set criterion for supplies or opportunities to improve their practice, and subsequently the outcomes of their patient populations.



Student Scholarship Corner

ALATA Scholarships

Three students in the JSU MAT Program, Meagan Chastain, Cody Hopkins, and Victoria Tillman, were awarded the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association Student Scholarship. This scholarship was in recognition of excellent scholarship and dedication to continuing a career in Athletic Training.



American Kinesiology Association Award

Rian Stephens, who is a student in the JSU MAT Program, was awarded the American Kinesiology Association Award. This award was in recognition to a master's scholar committed to promoting and enhancing kinesiology as a unified field of study and to advancing its many applications.



Faculty Research and Recognition

Congratulations Dr. Majid Koozehchian

Dr. Koozehchian recently authored a book chapter titled 'Nutrition and Ergogenic Aids.'

Koozehchian, M., Wilborn, C. D., & Woeller, H. (2024). Nutrition and Ergogenic Aids. In T. J. Chandler, W. B. Chandler, & C. Bishop (Eds.), *Conditioning for Strength and Human Performance* (4th ed.). Routledge.



Congratulations Dr. Franco Zengaro

Conferences

Zengaro, S., & Zengaro, F. (October, 2024). Just Checking In: Creating an Inviting and Motivating Learning Environment. Paper accepted at ISETL the International Society for Exploring Teaching and Learning. The Eagle Institute Air University Montgomery, Alabama.

Zengaro, S., & Zengaro F. (2024, November). Students weigh in on teacher caring Behaviors [Conference presentation]. Annual meeting of the Mid-South Educational Association, Chattanooga, TN, United States.



2024 ASAHP Conference Presentation

Dr. Tracey Matthews, Dr. Chris Clark, Dr. Serena Gramling, Dr. Danyel Munster and Dr. Laura Barrow from the College of Health Professions and Wellness and Dr. Kimber Wickersham from the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences represented Jax State at the 2024 ASAHP Conference in Atlanta, GA with three podium presentations and one poster presentation. The following presentations were done:



- IPE Simulation: Identifying Perceptions of Healthcare Students Caring for Transgender Patients by Dr. Serena Gramling, Dr. Chris Clark, and Dr. Danyel Munster
- Pioneering Health Professions IPE Simulations: A University Exercise in Emergency Preparedness by Dr. Chris Clark, Dr. Tracey Matthews, Dr. Serena Gramling, and Dr. Kimber Wickersham.
- The Final Frontier: Boldly Creating Connections like no Course has Created Before by Dr. Kimber Wickersham, Dr. Serena Gramling, Dr. Chris Clark, and Dr. Tracey Matthews.
- Innovation Pathways to Academic and Clinical Nurse Educator Roles by Dr. Laura Barrow.



Dr. Laura Barrow



**Dr. Kimber Wickersham,
Dr. Serena Gramling, Dr.
Tracey Matthews & Dr.
Chris Clark**



**Dr. Danyel Munster, Dr.
Chris Clark & Dr. Serena
Gramling**

26th Annual Advocacy Summit Presentation

Dr. Meghan Burroughs, an assistant professor from the Department of Kinesiology, was a co-presenter at the 26th Annual Advocacy Summit held by the Society for Public Health Education. The presentation, titled "Calling All Faculty: Moving towards Consensus on a New Public Health Advocacy 2.0 Instructional Model," focused on the need for stronger professional preparation and training in policy advocacy. This work is a part of a larger, ongoing study that aims to better define public health advocacy and create instructional guidelines for more prepared public health professionals.



State Secretary Dr. Chris Clark

Dr. Chris Clark, Assistant Professor and Program Director for the JSU MAT Program, was elected for the State Secretary for the Alabama Athletic Trainers' Association. He will serve for a 2-year

term.



Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Doug Stephens Selected for Prestigious Leadership Academy

Dr. Stephens will join the CAPES Academy at Emory University's Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing from 2024 to 2025. CAPES Academy's mission is to cultivate the next generation of nursing leaders through innovative education programs and cutting-edge research. The goal is to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the ever-changing healthcare landscape of underserved areas.



Dr. Stephens will not only contribute to this mission but also bring new perspectives and ideas to enhance the program. His acceptance into this prestigious program underscores his dedication to advancing the nursing profession and addressing critical healthcare needs in the Southeast. The CAPES Academy, supported by a \$3.9 million award from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is instrumental in recruiting, training, and equipping skilled clinical nursing faculty and preceptors who will serve in medically underserved areas.

As a participant in this program, he will be able to enhance his skills and student knowledge, positioning him to significantly contribute to optimizing health equity and increasing access to care across the region. His expertise, particularly in the Adult Gerontology Acute Care Program, will be invaluable in shaping healthcare providers' future in underserved areas. His commitment to healthcare excellence will undoubtedly inspire and lead the next generation of nursing professionals, motivating us all to strive for excellence in our field.

Student Spotlight

Pacifier Drive

To commemorate Respiratory Care Month, Jax State Respiratory Therapy students launched a community service project, gathering pacifiers to benefit Children's of Alabama Hospital.



Stop the Bleed

Fourth semester nursing students facilitated Stop-the-Bleed training to MAT students and the public. The American College of Surgeons Stop the Bleed program has prepared nearly 4 million people worldwide on how to stop bleeding in a severely injured person.



QPR Suicide Training

The SAM Foundation provided training to the College of Health Professions and Wellness Students to prevent suicide through public awareness and education by equipping our communities with the skills to intervene in a suicidal crisis.



Mental Health First Aid Training

Thanks to the generosity of The Sam Foundation, second semester nursing students in NU 326 along with students from the MAT program are now certified in Mental Health First Aid.



Camp WheezeAway and Talladega

Earlier this month some of our Junior RT students volunteered to help [Camp WheezeAway](#) and the Forever 24 Foundation to work concessions at Talladega Speedway. We love seeing our students help make our community a better place!



Cervical Spine Injury Management Training

The Jax State Master's in Athletic Training Program recently collaborated with Jax State Sports Medicine and Northeast Orthopedics to create an educational video on helmet and shoulder pad removal and cervical spine application. Our students were able to practice these critical emergency skills in preparation for their graduation last week. In addition, Masters in Athletic Training students and Sports Medicine



Athletic Trainers at JSU did a workshop and simulation practicing various emergency preparedness skills. The skills included helmet and shoulder pad removal, sideline, and injury management, and heat, exhaustion preparedness. Thanks to JSU sports medicine, Dr. Allen Gilbert for speaking to our students, Dr. Connor Read for speaking to our students and all of our past graduates who came and helped as well. We are so proud of everyone and looking forward to your future success in the profession of athletic training!

Superheroes at CoA

Look who we found on Children's of Alabama social media? That's Kaliah, on the left, she is one our of Senior RT students! She is photographed with the other superhero's that work at CoA.



Happy Thanksgiving 🦃

Jax State College of Health Professions and Wellness

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Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/jsu_chpw/

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Website: www.jsu.edu/health

Location: 700 Pelham Road North Jacksonville, AL 36265



Tammy Johnson

Tamatha is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters