

Teamwork in Health Sciences - Our Engine of Progress

State of the College of Health Sciences – August 2007

Andrew Balas, Dean
Old Dominion University

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Distinguished Guests,

Thank you for coming as we review the College of Health Sciences accomplishments and planning for the next academic year. I am proud to highlight that we are continuing our very best traditions. Many thanks for the hard work of our faculty and staff colleagues. The 2007 academic year was remarkably successful. The College of Health Sciences reached new and unprecedented levels of accomplishments and is ready for another prosperous academic year.

We have not achieved these successes alone but through working with others. We have received generous support from Old Dominion University leadership, the community, and the friends of health sciences. We are grateful for these signs of support and recognize their significance for the future of our college. This is why I selected today's focal point: Teamwork in Health Sciences - Our Engine of Progress.

First, let me join my colleagues and express my appreciation not only for their presence, but also the continuous support of our University leaders, advisory board members, distinguished alumni, and community representatives.

Accomplishments of the 2006-2007 Academic Year

We have many successes and received many signs of support. To portray what we accomplished last year and to put it into historical perspective, the following formula was used to provide a stable baseline: the academic years of 2002, 2003 and 2004 were averaged and served as 100% baseline for the assessment of the latest, 2007 academic year.

Education: New Professionals for Health Care and Public Health

Serving students and disseminating knowledge is our primary mission and the reason to be called university, a place of higher education. We took this mission very seriously and our faculty has produced impressive results.

In terms of student credit hours our performance has increased 15% over three years, that rate has exceeded the University average. A growth in student credit hours also indicates growing tuition revenues for ODU. Meanwhile, the annual student full time equivalent (FTE) grew by 15%, an above-average rate as well. Overall, the health sciences student headcount both declared and intended grew 36% over three years.

More specifically, we have significant accomplishments in graduate education. FTE of graduate students grew by 20% over three years. Consistently with this growth, the

increase in graduate student credit hours was 23% over three years. Both numbers exceed Old Dominion University averages.

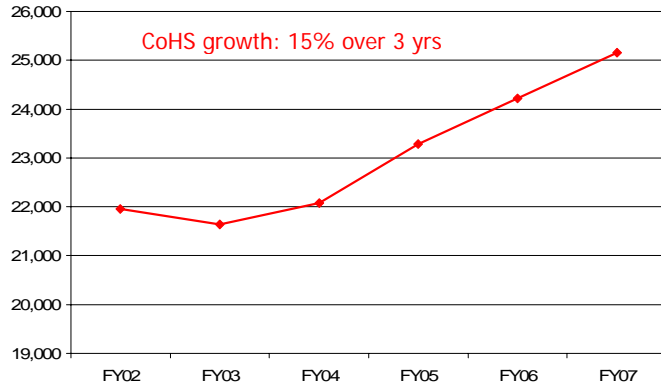
My review of education would not be complete without mentioning Provost Isenhour's leadership. He has been an energetic supporter of our many initiatives. We are well on our way to fulfilling the promise of the ODU strategic plan.

The accreditation of the graduate environmental health program was an excellent success.

Congratulations to Jim English and every member of his team!

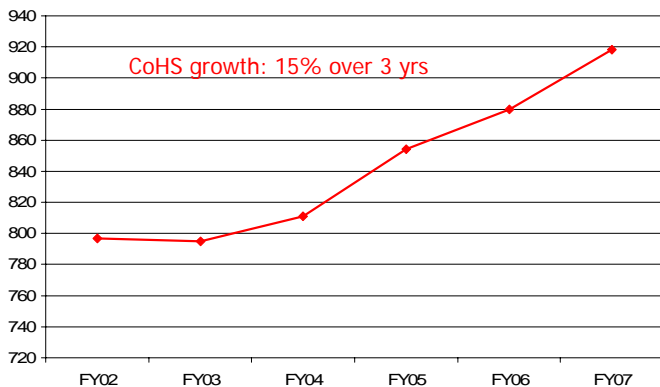
Thanks to our program leaders, perfect maximum accreditation is becoming the norm in our College. We also appreciate the strong accreditation work of Scott Sechrist, Lori Williams, and many other colleagues.

Student Credit Hours



Source: ODU Institutional Research

Annual Student FTE



Source: ODU Institutional Research

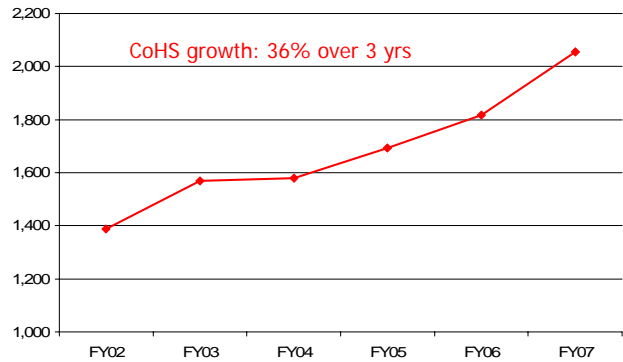
I would like to particularly recognize the leadership of Brenda Stevenson Marshall, our new Assistant Dean, overall and in particular launching the ODU Masters of Public Health (MPH) program with a concentration in Environmental Health. Vice Provost and Graduate Dean Phil Langlais has been very supportive of advancing our many graduate programs. Our new Chair of the School of

Health, Stacey Plichta brings outstanding competencies and great plans to the broader area of public health education.

With us today is community and Environmental Health alumna, Edwina Davis-Gary (1979). She served as CEO of the Peninsula Institute for Community Health for 24 years. Under her leadership, this Federally Qualified Health Center grew from a 2-physician practice to a 16-physician practice. Edwina Gary is most proud of her work to improve access to health care and to improve the health status of African Americans. We are proud of her accomplishments.

In the just completed academic year, many of our programs added another cohort of successes to a long history of distinguished contributions. Particularly, our School of Nursing has produced thousands of highly qualified graduates for health care in Virginia and nationwide. This year the School of Nursing celebrates its 40th anniversary. We congratulate Chair Richardean Benjamin, Kay Palmer and Laurel Garzon program directors and the entire faculty on this occasion.

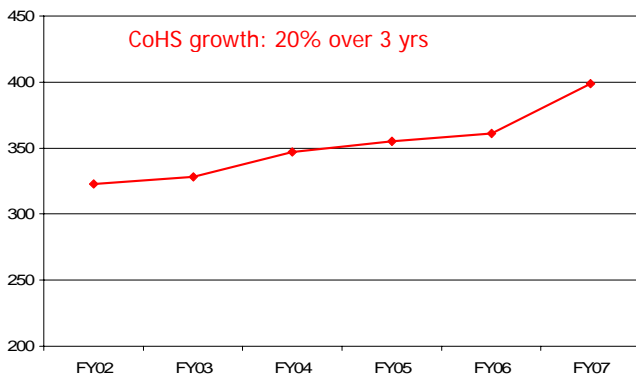
Headcount: Declared and Intended



Source: ODU Institutional Research

With us today is Peggy Braun (1985), school of nursing alumna. Peggy has been the Vice President and Nurse Executive at Sentara Virginia Beach General Hospital, since November 2004. Prior to coming to Sentara she spent 17 years at the Children’s Hospital of the King’s Daughters in various positions from Staff Nurse to Unit Director.

Annual Graduate Student FTE



Source: ODU Institutional Research

The catalogs from 1930-1941 make no mention of degrees awarded by ODU. It appears that we offered courses in selected areas and students transferred to William and Mary for their degrees. The 1942 catalog shows that we offered a terminal, two-year program for laboratory technician. The description says that the program is recommended by the Registry of Medical Technologists of the ASCP for the

training of such persons. In other words, the medical laboratory sciences program is reaching its 65th year of service. Congratulations to Sophie Thompson, Faye Coleman, Tom Somma and the entire faculty.

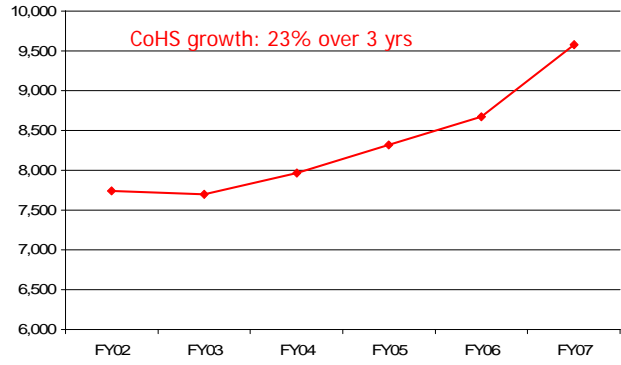
One of our Medical Technology graduates Arthur “Bud” Brame (1982) is with us today. He serves as Vice President of Tissue Operations at LifeNet Health. He has accumulated more than 20 + years of experience at LifeNet Health and has also served on the American Association of Tissue Banks board of directors, standards committee, and the accreditation committee.

Research: Our Original Contributions to the Knowledge Society

We are in the knowledge business of a rapidly changing world. Our faculty colleagues fully recognize that our education should offer not only knowledge produced by others but also the many benefits of our research discoveries and development products.

Achievements of our accomplished faculty colleagues and our new faculty members illustrate the many paths to research success. Let me give you two examples:

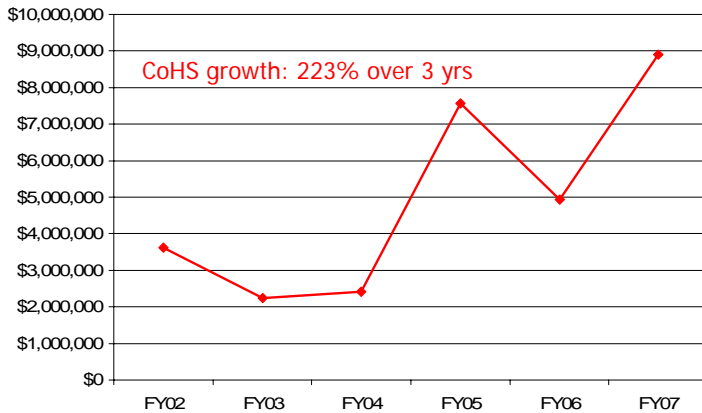
Graduate Student Credit Hours



Source: ODU Institutional Research

Gail Grisetti submitted a very important conference proposal to advance the national discussion and best practices of amputee rehabilitation. The proposal received an absolutely superb score. I have reviewed many applications but I have never given such a good score to anybody. We are very hopeful that this initiative, so important to our military colleagues as well, will get the requested support.

Research Proposals



Source: ODURF

Caci Gilden (1996) alumna of Old Dominion University's Physical Therapy program is with us today. She has been a practicing physical therapist for 11 years and is currently the team coordinator of two Sentara Therapy Centers. I am sure she shares our pride in the accomplishments of our PT program.

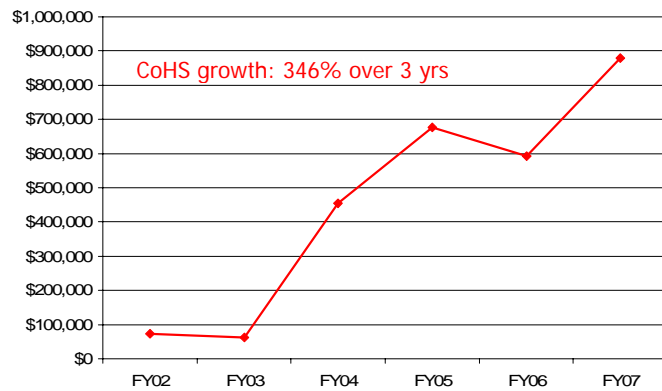
Congratulations to one of our newest faculty colleague Qi (Harry) Zhang on winning

National Institute of Health (NIH) grant funding. He leads the research team involving Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago on a two year grant titled "Price Effect on Diet and Obesity Risk of Food Assistance Program Recipients." The research is important because it will determine the relationship between local food prices and food stamp program participants' body weight status and risk of obesity.

When you sum up our many success stories, the measurable results speak for themselves:

In the last academic year, we produced more proposals and submitted much larger budget requests than in any previous years. Actually, the rate of growth was 223% over three years. Simultaneously, the amount of received research awards went up from less than hundred thousand to nearly a million last year. The rate of growth in research awards has been 346% over three years.

Research Awards



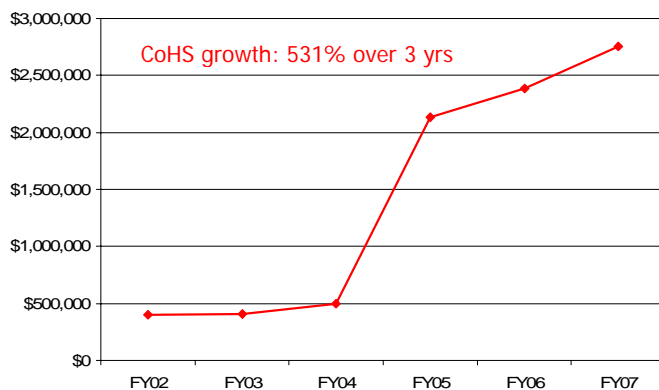
Source: ODURF

We also appreciate the visits of Nobel Laureate Peter C. Doherty and Nobel Laureate Ferid Murad. Together with our many other outstanding scholar visitors, they stimulated excellent discussions about science and the research needs of the new century.

Resources to make everything happen

2007 was the year of officially opening the new Health Sciences Building. Our new home is more than an excellent place for education, research, and service to the community. It is a symbol of strong support we have been receiving from Old Dominion University, from our alumni, and also the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Endowment



Source: ODU Office of Development

We particularly appreciate President Runte's leadership and personal commitment to advance health sciences in serving Hampton Roads and the world beyond. She is a leader with the reputation of energy, enthusiasm, and great community relations. She also brings great resources and tremendous opportunities to Old Dominion University.

I also want to thank the collegial support of Dean Nancy Bagranoff and Dean Chandra DeSilva along with other deans of Old Dominion University.

Let me illustrate my point about community support by conveying the accomplishments of Linda Rohrer (1972), Dental Hygiene Alumna. Linda was a dental hygienist for 15

years, then started her company DPS, Inc. Founded in 1985, DPS is a professional management firm that provides healthcare personnel to federal dental and medical facilities throughout the United States. Linda Rohrer is highly accomplished and also strong supporter of our College of Health Sciences.

Our review would not be complete without recognizing the very successful leadership of Chair Debbie Bauman and also the generosity of Konikoff Family in advancing dental hygiene. The new \$250,000 instrumentation fund will make a world of difference.

In terms of numbers again, thanks to the support of the University's Office of Development, our endowment has been growing significantly, more than 500% over three years. Even if you take out the endowed professorships we've received, our endowment has been growing, and the rate of this growth has also been increasing.

I should also mention that in the new research building, we will have significant additional space available for us.

Dimensions of Teamwork in Health Sciences

Teamwork is the engine of progress; it is not an accomplishment, however, without resource. It needs our constant attention and positive commitment to help each other. We need to succeed along the lines of three major dimensions simultaneously.

First Dimension: Joint Multidisciplinary Effort

Christopher Columbus as a teenager was the theme of poet Nikki Giovanni's convocation address to Old Dominion University's Class of 2011. This past Sunday afternoon, she eloquently highlighted several aspects of the Columbus story and its message: persevere!

However, I would like to add to the Columbus story. His proposal promised a new route to the Orient which was an error because it led to the discovery of America. It was based on the false assumption that Asia can be reached from Europe within a 5,000 mile trip. It was submitted twice to the King of Portugal and twice to the Queen of Spain before it got funding. It was approved by the Queen in spite of the comment of reviewers that the critical distance calculation was wrong. Finally, when the Principal Investigator made the trip, he believed that India was reached. This was again wrong, but the project is still considered a success. Obviously, many people including his crew members touched the Christopher Columbus project. That is how it could be realized.

As we look back at our own successes, almost all of them are results of teamwork. Collaboration of various disciplines is required for our external and intramural funded projects as well as our new educational programs. Our partnerships are multiplying. This trend should continue.

In the new academic year, we will address some challenges. For example, we need to continue our evaluation of the length of time it takes to graduate. We've made some

progress, but we need further actions. We will continue our practice of internal program reviews. I trust that the creativity and team work of our faculty colleagues will find a solution to this difficult challenge.

We are very proud of our good and evolving relationship with the military. Our military graduates provide health care in every continent and every theatre of war with distinction and bravery. We have ambitious plans to increase educational partnership with the ROTC program and to compete for DOD funding for our research in the coming years. Thank you, Dick Whalen, Director of Military Programs for your leadership.

As another illustration of partnerships I would like to mention our many research and educational collaborations with Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). The research project led by Chair Martha Walker is a good illustration of how such partnership can produce and test new modeling and simulation methods for the rehabilitation of stroke patients. Meanwhile, the Ophthalmic Technology program, the MPH program, and many other joint initiatives illustrate educational collaborations. We appreciate the recent signing of the ODU-EVMS memorandum of understanding (MOU) and also Dean Pepe's leadership at EVMS. We are very optimistic about further expansion of joint initiatives.

Collaboration remains important within ODU as well. Today, I received information from Provost Isenhour about some budget cuts affecting our College as a result of shortfalls in state revenues. We will need to work hard but will be able to meet our needs while getting stronger. We can achieve what Aneesh Chopra, Secretary of Technology of the Commonwealth, said at our campus a few days ago "we all need to do more with less."

Obviously, growing enrollment, an improved image, and strong community relations will remain very important. We are particularly appreciative of Vice President John Broderick's leadership and strong support for health sciences. Helping to secure state funds for our new building, effective recruitment support, and the latest issue of the Old Dominion University magazine about health sciences are just a few impressive signs of his energetic support.

Second Dimension: Inclusive Multicultural Environment

Many speak eloquently about fairness and human rights as reasons for an inclusive environment in academia. Supplementing these points, I would like to talk about the fundamental importance of cultural openness to our intellectual relevance and productivity.

In the College of Health Sciences at Old Dominion University, we have reached many milestones and seen many signs of progress. Diversity in our own faculty and staff and Richardean Benjamin's project regarding the education of culturally competent professionals are fine examples. We also have outstanding faculty members like Professor Michele Darby from dental hygiene or Ann Campbell from nursing, who foster and lead collaborations by visiting developing countries, uncovering their needs,

supporting care locally, and advancing international education with other nations and humanitarian organizations.

In issues of health and health care, what intrigues men, women, minorities, researchers from universities of other countries or the average person in a developing country can be vastly different. Our doors must be open and welcoming not only in the interest of global health but also our own professional relevance and effectiveness as well.

Third Dimension: Innovation Partnership with Community and Industry

Whoever builds the most update to date scientific ideas into practical solutions is the winner of the competition. Universities and research institutions hold a highly privileged place in our society and they should use this prestige to serve needs locally and globally.

‘The mathematical accomplishments of Archimedes served exclusively Syracuse in the ancient Greece.’ ‘With his germ theory of disease, Louis Pasteur made a tremendous difference in the Alsace region of France.’ Such statements would never sound right, great science serves people everywhere. And great science needs questions that are important globally. This is why we need to increase involvement with our communities.

Our users do not read scientific papers but we need to publish to reach the scientific community. However, our work will never be fully successful without becoming product or service that is needed by our communities. Therefore, good teamwork innovation in partnership with community and industry will remain very important

Together We Can Achieve Much More

Teamwork in its broadest sense is the source of our accomplishments and also our engine of progress. When our committees review educational initiatives, they are part of the innovation team. When some faculty members take on a heavier teaching load and free up time for a colleague to pursue research, they are part of the academic team. We need to help each other as faculty colleagues, instructors, grant writers, staff support, administrators, and in many other capacities.

Ultimately, we should correctly recognize the mathematics of teamwork. We have 55 full-time faculty members and 18 staff members producing the same number of individual achievements. However, when we work together, when we help each other and when we collaborate, we are much more than that.

Together we achieve much more. Together, we are reaching new levels, 115%, 120%, 123% and 145% in health sciences education. As a team we are achieving 323% and 446% in research and development. Teamwork in health sciences is not just an accomplishment, it is a continuing challenge; it is a daily task and a long-term mission. Please join me in applauding each other for the successes of team work.

Opportunities of the New Academic Year

Today, we celebrate the accomplishments of the past academic year. Tomorrow, we continue teaching practitioners for better health care and public health. Tomorrow, we will continue advancing science, the greatest American dream. The coming academic year will be our next contribution to the knowledge society—improved health in our communities. I wish you all much success.

HOOAH!!!