

# alumni news

A PUBLICATION OF CABARRUS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES  
OFFICE OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS



2012-2014  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Governing Board
- New Scholarship Program
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- Student Volunteer Project
- May Commencement

## 9.28.13 HOMECOMING

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences is holding its Second Annual Homecoming Celebration on Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on the campus of Cabarrus College. The celebration is a time for alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the College to come together and celebrate the pride they share for the College and its ever expanding place in the history of Concord and Cabarrus County. There will be activities for all ages, as well as, class seating, class pictures, and lunch! The celebration will be held outdoors, so dress is casual.

Luncheon plates are \$7/person if pre-paid by September 8th, and \$10/person at the door. If possible, please RSVP and pre-pay by September 8th (*We don't want anyone to leave hungry!*) by calling 704-403-2216, or you may visit the Cashier on campus. You may also mail payments to: Cabarrus College Homecoming Celebration, 401 Medical Park Dr., Concord, NC 28025.



Be sure to go to [www.cabarruscollege.edu](http://www.cabarruscollege.edu) to view our 2012 Homecoming video!



**Yearbooks  
Now Online!**

Do you live in the Charlotte, Cabarrus or Rowan County area? Would you like to be involved in starting a Cabarrus College Alumni Chapter in your area? If so, please contact Melanie Gass at [melanie.gass@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:melanie.gass@cabarruscollege.edu)

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences yearbooks are now online! Simply go to the following webpage to view yearbooks as far back as 1948: <http://digitalnc.org/institutions/cabarrus-college-health-sciences>. Yearbooks from various years are also available for purchase through the College. Cost is \$10 (includes shipping). If interested, call Melanie Gass at 704-403-1613.

Creating *progressive educational experiences* that inspire and prepare our students to be exemplary healthcare professionals.

[WWW.CABARRUSCOLLEGE.EDU](http://WWW.CABARRUSCOLLEGE.EDU)



## New Governing Board Members Appointed at Cabarrus College

At their December 2012 meeting, the Cabarrus College of Health Sciences Governing Board elected two new members. Thomas Shandley, Ph.D. and Kelly Propst, Ed.D. were elected upon the recommendation of the nominating committee and will each serve a three year term. "Dr. Shandley and Dr. Propst bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the board that will be critically important as Cabarrus College implements an ambitious strategic plan over the next three years," states Governing Board Chairman Francey Brown.



Dr. Thomas Shandley has served as Vice President for Student Life and Dean of Students at Davidson College since 1994. Prior to Davidson, he was the Dean of Students at Rhodes College and has held positions at the University of Minnesota and the University of South Carolina.

Dr. Shandley has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Simpson College; a Master of Arts in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota in Higher Education.



Dr. Kelly Propst is the Assistant Superintendent of Technology for Cabarrus County Schools. Prior to her appointment as Assistant Superintendent in 2006, she served as principal at W.M. Irvin Elementary School and assistant principal at Coltrane-Webb Elementary School.

Dr. Propst has a Bachelor of Arts in English and Political Science from Western Maryland College; a Master of Arts in English from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; a Master of School Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and an Ed.D. in Leadership, Policy and Organization from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University.

At the December meeting the Governing Board also elected Dr. Paul Campbell as Vice-Chairman and Dr. JoAnne Byerly as Secretary. In addition, the Board said goodbye and thanked Mr. Tom Grady and Dr. Linda Bresnahan for their service.



### **NEW - Bright Futures Merit Scholarship Program**

Cabarrus College recently announced the Bright Futures Merit Scholarship Program for students enrolling full-time, directly from high school. The Gold, Silver, and Bronze scholarships range in total value from \$1,500 to \$4,500, and are awarded based on the students' high school GPA and SAT/ACT scores.

The College's ability to only offer need-based aid, combined with dwindling federal and state financial aid dollars makes the cost of attendance an ever growing concern and struggle for our students. Often, students face significant gaps between financial need and awards. Offering merit based scholarships at Cabarrus College will assist in closing those gaps, as well as, demonstrate the commitment the College has to enrolling high achieving, full-time students.

For additional eligibility information for the Bright Futures Merit Scholarships, visit the following webpage: <http://www.cabarruscollege.edu/content/news/2013/061013-BrightFuturesFlyer.pdf>. You may also contact the Office of Admissions at 704-403-1556 or [admissions@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:admissions@cabarruscollege.edu).

To contribute to Cabarrus College's scholarship fund, please contact Adam Cook, President of NorthEast Foundation, at 704-403-1369 or [adam.cook@carolinashealthcare.org](mailto:adam.cook@carolinashealthcare.org).

Please help us get the word out about this exciting new scholarship program!

## NEW FACES IN STUDENT AFFAIRS

### *Todd Deese, Director of Student Records and Information Management*

Mr. Deese began his position with Cabarrus College in July. He previously served as Registrar at ITT Technical Institute for over four years, and he has also held several positions at DeVry University. He attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees.

In his spare time, he enjoys reading, movies, and spending time with friends & family. He also likes to travel and takes any opportunity he can to visit somewhere new.

### *Cara Lursen, Campus and Community Outreach Coordinator*

Cara, who joined us this summer, received a bachelor's degree in Communications and a master's degree in Health Administration from UNC Charlotte. After graduating, Cara worked as a Residence Coordinator in an all first-year residence hall at UNC Charlotte. She's clearly a huge 49er fan!

Cara currently lives in Kannapolis with her husband, Stephen, who is an artist. She loves thrift shopping, low budget sci-fi disaster movies, reading and crafting everything. She loves interesting television shows. Her current T.V. rotation includes Scandal, New Girl and Arrow.

### *Tanisha Orr, Admissions Representative*

Tanisha joined Cabarrus College in July. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Workforce Education and Development from Southern Illinois University Carbondale and received her Master of Human Resource Development degree from Clemson University earlier this month.

Tanisha enjoys shopping, watching movies, "real"ity T.V., traveling, spending time with family and friends and considers herself a food connoisseur/foodie.

### *Heather Peninger, Staff Assistant*

Heather Peninger joined Cabarrus College in April 2013 as the staff assistant to the Provost and the Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management. Before coming to the College, Heather worked as an administrative assistant for 13 years at Kannapolis City Schools. Heather received a Bachelor of Science degree from Catawba College in May 2012. She is happily married with two teenage daughters and a proud owner of a spoiled black miniature schnauzer, Moe!

### *Gloris "Gigi" Springs, Admissions Secretary*

Gloris "Gigi" Springs joined the Cabarrus College student affairs team in July. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration from Queens University while working full-time at the institution.

Gigi is a native Charlottean and has a passion for caring for the elderly and mentoring socio-economically disadvantaged young ladies. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, cooking, and spending time with her family.



Todd



Cara



Tanisha



Heather



Gigi

## FACULTY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

For the sixth year in a row, the College was named to the 2013 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

### Nursing (BSN)

Molly Patton, DNP, RN, recently received her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of South Carolina. Molly is the Program Chair for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

### General Education

Adjunct Faculty, Gwyndolan Swain, recently successfully defended her doctoral project "The Impact of Early Return To Work Programs on Employers and Employees."

### Medical Imaging

Medical Imaging student, Tonya Viars, was awarded an American Society of Radiologic Technologists (ARST) Scholarship.

### Occupational Therapy Assistant

Amber Ward MS OTR/L, OTA Adjunct Faculty, won a second place professional MADDAK Award at the national American Occupational Therapy Association Conference in San Diego, California.

Freshmen Occupational Therapy Assistant students, Klancy Burney and Kristin Carter won a second place student MADDAK Award.

Jennifer Fitzgerald, sophomore OTA student, received the Janice I. McGraw Memorial Scholarship from the American Occupational Therapy Foundation.

Hayley Pethel and Andrea Puckett, two freshmen students, won the North Carolina Occupational Therapy Association YouTube video contest. They created an incredible video promoting Occupational Therapy and membership in the state professional association.

# class notes

## Announcements

Judy McMillian White, RN '67, retired on September 30, 2012 as a Parish Nurse at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte.

Vinnie "Twee" Ash Mills '76, is enjoying keeping her 3 year old granddaughter, Grace, full time!

Alisa Herman Rogers '90, has been married to Chris Rogers for 13 years, and works in the Pediatric ICU at Jeff Gordon Children's Hospital since the opening of the PICU. Alisa has been the ANM for the past 3 years.

Bobbi Jo McKercher '97, began working on her MHA at Pfeiffer in the fall of 2012.

Amanda Bame Savage '01, married Scott Savage in 2008 and they have two children, Emma (4) and Anna (1). For the last 9 years, she has worked as a certified wound care nurse at the VA Medical Center in Salisbury.

*Submitted by the OTA faculty:* Leonard Barringer '08, was named a National Hero for BAYADA, during the 4th quarter in 2012. Leonard joined the Cabarrus County office of BAYADA as a certified occupational therapy assistant in 2008. His director, Marie McCarter, knows Leonard as someone who always greets others with a smile on his face. A state surveyor was just as impressed with Leonard's work as his colleagues, saying "I have never witnessed such patience on a home visit. Leonard took his time and kept encouraging the client despite protests. I would have given up sooner and lost my patience," the surveyor continued, and "in the end, the client met the goal for that visit." Congratulations Leonard!

BillieAnne Green Phillips '05 & '10, gave birth to a baby boy, Dominick Sinclair, on March 13, 2013. He weighed 8 lbs. and was 21" long. Dominick has a big sister, Brooke.

Paula Ernst, MSL, BSHSM, RCPT, '06, was promoted to the position of Manager for Pelvic Health Services in January of this year. Paula has worked for CMC-NorthEast for 20 years, most recently as the Coordinator of the Vista Continence Center for the last 18 years.

Laura Anderson Cudd '10, married Bert Cudd on January 4, 2013. She is a critical care nurse at Caromont Regional Medical Center. In October 2012 Laura served as a delegate to the North Carolina Nurses Convention, in order to promote safe nursing standards both in her hospital, and the state.

## Memorials

Lula "Russ" Russell Eury '45, passed away on July 14, 2013. Ms. Eury was a member of the first graduating class, which she always said was "her claim to fame". She worked as an operating room nurse and retired after more than 40 years at CMC-NorthEast.

Richard Gibson, MD, husband of Virginia Ferguson Gibson '47, passed away after several years of declining health on February 6, 2013. Dr. Gibson was a cardio thoracic surgeon and served the Boston and Los Angeles area hospitals. Virginia continues to reside with daughter Ginny Stalvey and husband Tom in Chesapeake, Virginia.

Tommy Mann, husband of Jennette Broom Mann '81, passed away on February 26th of this year.

Angela Sanders Price '08, passed away on December 4, 2012 at the Tucker Hospice House. Her death follows a long and courageous battle against cancer. Angela was dedicated to her profession as a Medical Assistant at CMC-NE Oncology and Cancer Research Departments. Her strength and love will be sadly missed by many.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:

To submit a Class Note, send to [alumni.affairs@cabarruscollege.edu](mailto:alumni.affairs@cabarruscollege.edu) or mail to Cabarrus College, Attn: Alumni Affairs, 401 Medical Park Drive, Concord, NC 28025.

## Cabarrus College Volunteers at Memorial Day Celebration

by Haley Love, Nursing Student & 2013-2014 Student Government President



On Sunday, May 26th students, faculty and friends of Cabarrus College volunteered in a one of a kind Memorial Day event.

The event was held in conjunction with the Patriot Partners Pizza Party at the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway (CMS). This was the 54th running of the 600, and CMS was opening its gates to 10,000 American soldiers, making it the largest Memorial Day celebration in the country to date!

I received an email requesting volunteers, two weeks before the big event. Not only did this sound like an amazing opportunity for Cabarrus College to help out in the community, but I have a family member who was spending his Memorial Day deployed overseas and a Grandfather who is a veteran, so this felt like the perfect opportunity to honor the ones I love!

In less than two weeks, I organized 32 volunteers from Cabarrus College, and from my church, to help with the Patriot Partners Pizza Party. The day of the race called for an early morning, full of excitement. As all of the volunteers gathered together, we could hardly contain our excitement. Each volunteer was assigned a bus of troops that we spent the day with. We even got to make two laps around the track with the troops before the race!

There were a lot of emotions involved in volunteering for the event. It will be something that I will remember for the rest of my life. It is essential for us to realize how important the members of our community are, and how much thanks the Armed Forces, as well as their families, deserve. I made posters and took pictures to send to my family member who is stationed on the border of Egypt and Israel.



The troops and the organizer at CMS thanked me for organizing the volunteers and for all of our hard work. That "thank you" and the smiles on the faces of the troops, made the hard work more than worth it!

## Alumni Participate in ASPIRE II Leadership Program at Cabarrus College

by Julie Holland, BA, Coordinator of Student Success

Heather Hodges (ST, 2011), Rachel Houston (MA, 2012), and Brandon Scott (OTA, 2008) shared their education paths, career highlights, and advice with current Cabarrus College students participating in the ASPIRE II (Associate Science Prepared Informed Ready and Educated Leadership Program).

ASPIRE II students meet on a monthly basis to learn about educational success, career goals, and leadership. The March program was an Alumni Panel Discussion about Healthcare Careers. Heather, Rachel and Brandon shared information about how they chose Cabarrus College, their time at the College, the career path they have taken, and offered advice about following their dreams. The students asked questions and enjoyed interacting with the alumni over lunch. Thanks to these alumni for sharing and spending some time mentoring our future alumni!



## Cabarrus College Confers 114 Degrees at Spring Commencement

By Mark Ellison, Ed.D, Director of Admissions

Cabarrus College of Health Sciences graduates entered First Baptist Church for the spring commencement ceremony on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 with an overflow crowd of joyous family and friends cheering in support. The commencement exercises had added distinction with the graduation of the first class from the Pharmacy Technology Associate Degree program.

The Rev. Beth Jackson-Jordan, Director of Pastoral Care at CMC-NorthEast provided the invocation. Dianne Snyder, DHA, Chancellor of Cabarrus College welcomed the graduates and guests and introduced John Cox, President and CEO of the Cabarrus Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Cabarrus Economic Development Corporation who provided an inspirational keynote address. Mr. Cox encouraged graduates to dare to dream, noting that some people never realize their dreams and look around at circumstances wondering why. He also asked graduates to operate out of imagination and described the need to seek out adversity and determine whether one would be part of the problem or the solution. Lastly, he asked that graduates consider walking with the elephants, because they shake things up often changing the world.

114 degrees were conferred, which included 13 baccalaureate degrees, 89 associate degrees, and 12 diplomas.

Several awards were also presented to graduates in association with spring commencement:

- The Anita H. Talbott Academic Achievement Award was presented to Joan Brower
- The Best All Around Allied Health Student Award was presented to Rebecca Biddy
- The Cannon Best All-Around Nursing Student Award was presented to Alice Abreu
- The Dr. Linny and Joyce Baker Pediatric Nursing Award was presented to Brittney Fisher
- The Edith M. Dennis Service Award was presented to Alice Abreu
- The Elizabeth Mabrey Distinguished Baccalaureate Nursing Award was presented to Londa Morgan
- The George A. Batte Scholastic Achievement Award was presented to Alice Abreu
- The Robert L. Wall Leadership Award was presented to Alice Abreu
- The W.R. Floyd Surgical Nursing Award was presented to Laura Hunning



**Class of Spring 2013**

## Lambda Nu: Lobbying For a Cause

Rhonda Weaver '10, BS, RT(R)(M)(BD)(CT), Clinical Coordinator, Medical Imaging Program

Did you know that in the state of North Carolina you are required to hold a license to cut hair, be a general contractor, a dog groomer or landscaper, but not to perform X-ray examinations or Radiation Therapy treatment procedures? Currently North Carolina is one of only 5 states who does not require technologists to be licensed to perform imaging procedures. The NC CARE bill (NC Competency, Accuracy, Responsibility, & Excellence in Radiologic Imaging) would require every technologist performing Medical Imaging procedures and therapy to complete stringent educational requirements and pass examinations before they are able to hold a license and practice.

In February, myself and Medical Imaging student, Tonya Viars attended the first annual RT Day in Raleigh sponsored by the North Carolina Society of Radiologic Technologists. Technologists and radiology students attended this event and met with their local NC House Representative and Senators to urge them to support the NC CARE bill.

Tonya Viars shares her experience... "RT Day in Raleigh brought over three hundred Radiology Technologists from all over the state. It was an honor for me to be in the same room with so many professionals, all desiring to hold our profession to the highest standards possible. This event provided me the opportunity to meet with state representatives and educate them about our profession, including the public's safety as well as the importance of licensure for the state of North Carolina. Each Radiology Technologist was given an appointment with the member of the North

Carolina House of Representatives who represented our own district.

The first meeting my partners and I had was with the North Carolina's House of Representative Carl Ford from the 76th district. Carl Ford is the representative for Rowan and Cabarrus County. Representative Ford invited us into his office, not only eager to listen to our concerns but to create a personal relationship with each of us. While speaking with Representative Ford about our concerns for our profession which included the C.A.R.E bill he soon would be seeing, he directed us to his co-worker Representative Jim Fulghum, M.D. of the 49th district, Wake County. Even without an appointment Representative Fulghum was just as inviting and excited to ask questions and get to know our concerns. Having accessibility to one of our representatives was amazing enough, but for Representative Fulghum to also make time for us without an appointment was unbelievable. R.T. Day was an experience I could never put a price tag on. I feel more inspired to provide the best possible care I can to my patients and advocate on their behalf for licensure for our profession. I found my own voice and gave a voice to all those who desire to be held to a higher standard."

For more information on the NC CARE bill visit [www.ncsrt.org](http://www.ncsrt.org).

**Yes**, I want to join the Cabarrus College of Health Sciences Alumni Association!

Please take this opportunity to join the Alumni Association by returning the form below, along with your \$20.00 membership dues.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class of \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Current Employer \_\_\_\_\_

News to include in "Class Notes" \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Membership runs January through December.

**Return form to:**

Cabarrus College, Alumni Affairs,  
401 Medical Park Dr., Concord, NC 28025

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alumni news

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### Alumni Mixer Held at Speedway Club

On Thursday, February 28th an Alumni Mixer was held at the Speedway Club at Charlotte Motor Speedway. This kicked off the College's efforts to establish regional alumni chapters and events. The alumni in attendance enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, beverages and networking with fellow alumni. Chancellor Dianne Snyder gave a brief update on recent happenings at the College, while Alumni Association President, Janet Wright '66 encouraged involvement with the Alumni Association and the College. Representatives from various programs and classes as early as 1957 and as late as 2012, were in attendance. It was great to see our alumni from different programs and generations, come together to celebrate the one thing they all have in common.....pride in Cabarrus College!

**GO TO [WWW.CABARRUSCOLLEGE.EDU](http://WWW.CABARRUSCOLLEGE.EDU) for all the latest Cabarrus College news! Click on "Alumni" for updates on Alumni activities and special events! You may also update your contact information and submit a "Class Note" for the Alumni newsletter. [Go to Cabarrus College of Health Sciences Facebook page](#) and "Like" us!**

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