Hello,

Greetings from the College of Health Sciences (COHS)! With the beginning of the spring semester, our faculty, staff and students are beginning new classes, new partnerships, and new grants.

Perhaps one of the most exciting events for the college was the inaugural trip for Boise State's chapter of TIMMY Global Health. Seven students, including five from COHS, raised money and collected vitamins to take to the Dominican Republic with their faculty adviser, Megan Spurny, from the Department of Respiratory Care.

During the eight day trip, the team joined other medical professionals from around the nation to provide much-needed basic health care to several rural farming communities. The trip was memorable for the students and patients alike. Students experienced and participated on an interdisciplinary health care team and patients experienced medical technology, like an ultrasound, that had not previously been available to them. Moving moments such as expecting mothers seeing their unborn children for the first time were some of the many highlights of the trip. The students are already beginning their planning and fundraising for next year's trip.

Read on for more about the TIMMY team's experience as well as new research happening in the college. Enjoy the newsletter and if you have any questions or comments for me, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Tim Dunnagan, Ed.D.
Dean and Professor

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Want to know more about the activities and accomplishments of the
Faculty Partnering with Saint Alphonsus and Trinity Health on a $100,000 Grant

School of Nursing faculty member Karen Breitkreuz is partnering with staff from Saint Alphonsus Health System and Trinity Health, have received a $100,000 grant titled "Perceived Risk: The Impact of Real and Simulated Exposure to Adverse Events."

Adverse events are accidents and/or preventable errors, caused by distractions in the healthcare environment and/or shortcuts healthcare providers take in efforts to expedite patient care.

The two-year grant is funded by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and could help researchers develop an effective program of education and/or exposure to simulated adverse events that provides a significant and lasting impact on attitudes and behaviors to decrease rates of preventable adverse events.

Boise State Students Bring Basic Health Care to Rural Dominican Republic Communities

Megan Spurny, clinical assistant professor in the Department of Respiratory Care, College of Health Sciences, led members of a new collegiate chapter of TIMMY Global Health on its inaugural journey to the Dominican Republic on Jan. 11. During the eight day trip, the students and medical team saw almost 800 patients, mostly children, and provided much-needed basic health care to five rural communities of banana farmers.

The Boise State brigade is one of the newest collegiate chapters of TIMMY Global Health and included two respiratory care students, three pre-medical students, one kinesiology/biomechanics student and one bilingual education student. They partnered with a national team of physicians, nurse
practitioners and nurses who frequently work with TIMMY chapters to fully staff the trip.

"Many of the students were able to observe and even perform some tasks for the very first time, as well as observe and participate as part of a well functioning interdisciplinary health care team," Spurny said. "We are excited to begin planning and fundraising for next year's trip; we are hoping to include even more students from many other departments! Thank you to all who donated, supported or plan to continue to support TIMMY!"

Interdisciplinary Collaborative Partnerships Lead to Innovations in Research

Interdisciplinary collaborations are furthering College of Health Sciences faculty research. This fall Boise State faculty from the Colleges of Health Sciences, Engineering and Business and Economics gathered for a second medical device idea generation session to brainstorm clinically relevant problems that could be mitigated or eliminated by a device. Meanwhile, Department of Community and Environmental Health faculty Uwe Reischl established a new collaborative research program with Professor Gang Sun of the Division of Textiles and Clothing at the University of California, Davis to field test a new infrared heat radiation attenuation garment invented by Reischl and patented by Boise State University.

During the medical device idea generation session, health sciences faculty described unmet needs encountered within their clinical practice and engineering faculty helped to explore the relevant technical specifications. The top nine ideas from all attendees are currently being evaluated by the iTeams, an interdisciplinary team of graduate students led by Kent Neupert, director of the Center of Entrepreneurship, and the Office of University and Industry Ventures, to provide a preliminary summary of each idea's business potential. The most promising projects will be selected for further refinement and may ultimately provide an enriching experience for senior undergraduate engineering and business student project teams. The first session, held in 2011, resulted in one invention disclosure with an additional two projects still in the prototype development process. Read more.

Reischl's collaborative research is being funded by the

6. Focus on the small. Each day is made up of choices. Making a poor choice in the morning should not throw off the rest of your day. Let go of any guilt and make your next choice a better one. Persistence is more important than perfection.

7. Enjoy yourself. Find the fun and the positive in your choices and activities and you will be more likely to repeat those choices and activities.

8. Reward your progress. Find a way to reward your progress. Try giving a friend a lump sum of money that he/she will refund the money at a set rate for your progress. For each pound you lose or each workout you log, you'll earn back your money more immediately and eventually you'll see progress towards your larger goal.
University of California Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety, which will support the additional laboratory testing of the garment in the Boise State University Thermal Manikin Laboratory and will also support the field evaluation of the new garment by agricultural workers in California during the summer 2013 harvest season.

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**Graduate Research Assistant Submits Two Manuscripts to Peer-Reviewed Journals**

The **Center for Health Policy** is utilizing graduate students to help with the center's projects. To assist in disseminating the data the center has collected, the center hired **Elsa Howard**, a Master of Health Science student, as a graduate research assistant to help write manuscripts for publication, which supports the College of Health Sciences' strategic initiative to increase graduate student refereed publications. This fall Howard helped author two manuscripts that were submitted to peer-reviewed journals and are now pending acceptance. [Read More](#)