Delivering Health Care

The newly named and much-improved Health and Wellness Van hit the streets of Massachusetts this spring, bringing much-needed care and education to some of the state’s most vulnerable citizens.

Students and faculty from every health professions program use the van to deliver health care in communities across Massachusetts. Services provided include basic clinical screenings, immunizations, health education, referrals, and follow-up care.

The new van, which replaces the first health van that launched in 2003, will help to further the college-wide goal of increasing interdisciplinary teaching and research opportunities. It will also continue Bouvé College’s long history of serving disadvantaged and disenfranchised patients.

“Our new Health and Wellness Program is a key part of our mission,” said Bouvé Dean Terry Fulmer. “It exemplifies the core values of Bouvé College: providing experiential continued on page 8

On April 5, college officials welcomed community members to the official dedication of the new Health and Wellness Van.
On the Move

I just attended my first Northeastern commencement, and watching the students with their families and friends was exhilarating. I could not be more proud to be a part of this exceptional institution and I can see firsthand why Northeastern (and especially Bouvé) is such a hot school! I marvel endlessly at our students’ passion and dedication to advance quality care for those we serve. I wish our newest alumni the very best for the future and know their Bouvé experiential education will position them for success.

Our faculty and community strive daily to innovate and improve in all of our domains. We are examining our curricula for even stronger interprofessional collaboratives and reviewing our undergraduate experience with an eye for contemporary educational needs in a global society. We were pleased to host Professor Richard Arum, a noted authority in American higher education from New York University, as part of the new Dean’s Seminar Series (page 7).

Our university is on the move, metaphorically and literally. Our new regional campuses in Charlotte, NC, and Seattle, WA, will soon be delivering graduate programs in nursing and health informatics, using a hybrid model that combines online with classroom instruction (page 11). At the core of Bouvé is interprofessional teaching and research. Our cover story, Delivering Health Care, provides a terrific example: faculty and students from our health science programs, along with the engineering and computer science programs, have teamed up to deliver health care to vulnerable populations.

Bouvé College is at the vanguard of innovative health care education and research. I know you share my excitement and admiration for what’s being accomplished and we look forward to your continued engagement in all that we do.

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN
Dean, Bouvé College of Health Sciences

Sons Make Generous Gift for Father, Pioneer Pharmacist

Jack, Bill, and Bob Webb have made generous gifts in support of the Webb Lecture Series, named for their late father, John W. Webb, who served as director of the graduate program in hospital pharmacy at Bouvé College for twenty years.

“After he died, we held a memorial service at Mass. General Hospital. It was nearly three decades after he had retired, and still seventy-five people showed up to celebrate his life and impact. That really drove home the point what a mark he made, and we wanted to recognize it. The Webb Lecture Series is a great tribute to a wonderful person who did so much for the industry. We hope that our gift will lead to fully endowing the lecture series in his memory,” said Bill.

The Webb Lecture Series and the Webb Lecture Award were established by NU in honor of Professor Webb in 1985, a year after his retirement from the College of Pharmacy. From 1959 until his retirement from Northeastern’s School of Pharmacy, he was the director of pharmacy at Massachusetts General Hospital and Massachusetts Eye and Ear, and was an administrator in pharmacy service to the Shriners’ Burn Institute, all in Boston. Webb pioneered the use of infusion pumps for IV solutions in hospitals, a practice credited with reducing the incidence of blindness and strokes and of saving the lives of premature babies with severe infections. The practice, which also made IV infusion possible for astronauts in outer space, is now widely used in hospitals around the world as well as in the space program.

The Webb Lecture Award, now sponsored by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, recognizes leadership and management in hospital pharmacy. The award recipient presents the annual keynote address to the ASHP annual meeting. The Webb Lecture series sponsors the annual keynote address to the ASHP before coming to Northeastern to lecture.

“Few of us will ever get the honor in life to have something significant named after us. Dad was a quiet, unassuming guy,” remembers Bill. “All those things combined make it very special for us to know this award is there, and hopefully, will be there forever.”

Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures

The Healthy Kids, Healthy Futures (HKHF) initiative seeks to prevent obesity among children ages three to eight living in the Roxbury, Jamaica Plain, Mission Hill, and Fenway neighborhoods of Boston by engaging adult caregivers and families in the places where they live, learn, and play. Established in 2009 and led by associate professors Jessica Hoffman, Counseling & Applied Educational Psychology, and Carmen Scopta, Health Sciences, HKHF is currently funded by Northeastern University and Children’s Hospital Boston. Community collaborators include ABCD, Inc., Head Start, and Boston Centers for Youth and Families. Program planning and evaluation is organized across two broad themes: Nutrition and Physical Activity Promotion in Home and Childcare and Community-Based Physical Activity Promotion for Young Children and Families. HKHF has reached more than 325 Head Start families and staff, more than 775 caregivers and children through the Saturday Open Gym program, and 95 Northeastern students, who collectively have provided more than 2,500 hours of service. For additional information, visit northeastern.edu/healthykids or contact Cathy Wirth, program manager, at c.wirth@neu.edu.
Orbis, Bouvé Address Nursing Shortage

Orbis Education, a leading provider of collaborative education solutions, has expanded its partnership with the Bouvé College of Health Sciences with a gift of $500,000 to the School of Nursing and the college’s Interprofessional Simulation Center. This Center, comprised of state-of-the-art high-fidelity and low-fidelity mannequins, task trainers, and standardized patients used in acute care, operating room, community, and home-like settings allows health professions students to learn in realistic clinical settings.

According to Dean Carole Kenner, the School of Nursing is now poised to address the current nationwide shortage of nurses with plans to expand many of its programs, including the RN to baccalaureate (BSN) program and graduate-level programs. They will offer flexible educational plans including part-time online and onsite clinics.

The program also seeks to address the changing role of today’s nurse. The demand for nurses prepared at the baccalaureate and graduate levels continues to increase, according to the Institute of Medicine’s 2010 report, The Future of Nursing. This report calls for seamless academic progress, RN to BSN for example, an increase in the number of baccalaureate-prepared nurses to 80 percent, and doubling the number of nurses with doctorates. Emphasis on interprofessional teams to promote care coordination, quality care, and patient safety is the cornerstone of the future of health professions education.

“Bouvé has always been at the forefront of educating health care professionals to meet the demands of the times, and this partnership will ensure we are able to continue that tradition,” said Kenner.

Orbis Education will provide online learning, marketing, and operational support for the expanded degree programs. “We are very pleased to work with a prestigious partner like Northeastern,” said Daniel Briggs, chief executive officer of Orbis Education. “Expanding the capacity of Northeastern’s undergraduate and graduate degree programs will continue our corporate goal of alleviating the real nursing shortage that our nation faces. This collaboration allows us to provide highly skilled, well-qualified, registered nurses that are sought after by employers.”

Beloved Professor to Retire

T

he “first hippie at the Mass. College of Pharmacy” may be hanging up his teaching hat, but don’t expect him to cut his infamous long hair any time soon.

Dr. Robert “Bob” Schatz, MS ’68, will retire in June after thirty-one years as associate professor and director of the toxicology program. Schatz credits Sumner Robinson, his undergraduate advisor at the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and the person who dubbed him that school’s “first hippie” with putting him on his path to the “best job in the world.” While getting his master’s at Northeastern, Schatz took a co-op job at the U.S. Army lab in Natick. It was there he re-connected with Robinson. “Working with him convinced me to pursue toxicology,” said Schatz.

He became one of the most beloved professors in the department. He is known for taking a personal interest in his students, working one-on-one to teach them to “do science.” He launched countless successful careers and jokes that all of his PhD students make more money than he does. Schatz famously reads from Dr. Seuss’s, Oh, The Places You’ll Go! at each year’s convocation and received a copy of the book, signed by all members of the class of 2012, at this year’s convocation.

For Carl LeBel, PhD ’89, a chance meeting at a faculty mixer changed the course of his career. Ambivalent about his forensic chemistry program, LeBel decided to transfer after an inspiring talk with Schatz.

“The quality, discipline, and enthusiasm for science that he instilled in me have carried throughout my career. Underneath that Aqualung exterior, Bob was a father to all of us. His office walls are covered with our pictures. We were like one big family,” said LeBel, chief scientific officer at Otonomy, a biopharmaceutical company based in California. “Not a week goes by when I don’t think of him.”

“Bob is a legendary member of our academic community,” said Jack Reynolds, dean of the School of Pharmacy. “He guides his students every step of the way, always with intelligence and often mixed with a good deal of humor.”

Schatz plans to relocate to Maine, to live near his children and three grandchildren. A scholarship in his honor is being established. For information, please contact Nan Wetherhorn, 617-373-8986.

An Entrepreneur Gives Back

H

erb Gray, P ’55, always wanted to be an entrepreneur, own his own business, and improve the lives of others. Enrolling in what was then the New England School of Pharmacy set him on the right course to realize his dream.

After graduating with a bachelor’s degree in pharmacy, Gray practiced at various pharmacies in Massachusetts. It was his business partnership with friend and classmate, Mel Aronson, P ’56, that finally fulfilled his entrepreneurial spirit. Together, they founded Suburban Ostomy Supply, a wholesaler of medical supplies and home health care products.

Gray’s lifetime commitment to helping others and giving back has not faltered. As a volunteer at the Good Samaritan Hospital, he works with co-op students on assignment at the hospital. “I love meeting the new co-op students. They are the future leaders of the industry, and I’m impressed with their level of knowledge and dedication to the practice,” he said.

As the School of Pharmacy celebrates fifty years at Northeastern and eighty-five years in Boston, Gray feels fortunate for his professional success and is proud to be a part of Northeastern. “I think we have the best pharmacy school,” said Gray. “We are more collaborative and innovative than ever. Students have the advantage of learning from others outside of their discipline.”

He has established a charitable gift annuity at Northeastern and named the university as a beneficiary in his will, which he hopes will enable Northeastern to continue to recruit the best students possible. He also wants his support to enable gifted pharmacy students to take advantage of interdisciplinary and experiential learning, and to develop into the pioneering health care professionals of tomorrow.

“Establishing a gift annuity makes sense,” said Gray. “I receive a fixed income, but most importantly, it helps the university. It’s the students that make Northeastern what it is, and my gift will ensure future generations have the opportunity to attend the School of Pharmacy.”

For more information on how to help future Northeastern students, contact the Office of Gift Planning at 617-373-2030, email giftplanning@neu.edu, or visit northeastern.edu/giftplanning.
Shaping Health Care Policy

Dean Terry Fulmer is making friends in high places, in keeping with university-wide efforts to engage legislative leaders at both the state and federal levels and put Northeastern at the forefront of public policy making. Fulmer and several faculty members have put Bouvé College squarely into the local and national conversation on health care reform.

With 98 percent of all Massachusetts residents now carrying some form of health insurance, the state is actively looking for ways to reduce costs. According to Dean Fulmer, Bouvé College has a potentially significant role to play in that effort, thanks to its leading edge research, its expertise in cost containment, and the development of integrated health care delivery models underway.

“Bouvé faculty and researchers are offering a lot of expertise to the critical conversation about cost containment, access, workforce development, and integrated delivery models on the state level,” said Fulmer. “With the Affordable Health Care Act, this effort will become increasingly more important on the federal level. We have a great deal to offer, and government officials at the state and federal level are taking notice.”

True health care reform requires allied-health professionals to collaborate in new, innovative, and more efficient ways. Northeastern and Bouvé College have perfected the experiential learning model as well as the use-inspired research approach that prepares future health care workers for the demands of a truly integrated health care system.

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Fulmer, Nursing Dean Carole Kenner, and many others are becoming familiar faces on Beacon Hill and on Capitol Hill. In the past year, they have hosted U.S. Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin and Massachusetts officials including Governor Deval Patrick, Secretary of Health and Human Services Judy Bigby, State Senate President Therese Murray, and several sitting legislators.

Last fall, Governor Patrick declared October Physical Therapy Month in an effort to recognize the contribution physical therapists make to health care. Physician Assistant Program Director Rosann Ippolito and her students have joined a group of practicing PAs to advocate for a broader definition of approved PA duties in Massachusetts, which will enable them to deliver more services and help alleviate the effects of the shortage of primary-care physicians.

Relationships on Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill also help maintain the college’s robust research culture by securing funding. From substance abuse and mental health, nanotechnology excellence, the efficacy of interdisciplinary models of education, systems engineering principles, and software development, research among Bouvé faculty will continue to benefit from these focused legislative efforts.

In January, the Bouvé Dean’s Seminar Series kicked off with lectures by noted experts Dr. Judith Salerno, the Leonard D. Schaeffer Executive Director at the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, and Dr. Jo Ivey Boufford, president of the New York Academy of Medicine. The series brings outstanding leaders in health care to campus to discuss important issues and topics. Through this series, the dean hopes to foster the exchange of ideas and promote collaboration among students, faculty, alumni, and friends of the university.

Dr. Boufford, president of the New York Academy of Medicine, delivered the second lecture in the Dean’s Series, “Is America’s Health Care Policy Healthy?” Boufford is also a professor of public service, health policy, and management at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and a clinical professor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine. In March, in keeping with the dean’s interdisciplinary approach, the Seminar Series presented “Learning during Unsettled Times: College Graduates’ Academic Performance and Recent Experiences in the U.S.,” a lecture given by Richard Arum, PhD. Arum is professor of sociology and education at New York University and is the author of Judging School Discipline: The Crisis of Moral Authority in American Schools and Stratification in Higher Education: A Comparative Study.

To view lectures or learn more, visit northeastern.edu/bouve/about/seminars.html.
opportunities for our faculty and innovative interdisciplinary teaching and research models in the context of delivering crucial health care services to those who otherwise would not have ready access to them.”

The thirty-five-foot, state-of-the-art van contains larger labs and a private consultation area that will enhance the quality of patient care. Other features will allow for use-inspired research among Northeastern students and faculty and create interdisciplinary research opportunities. The van is equipped with an electronic medical records program, developed by faculty from the School of Nursing and the College of Engineering in collaboration with other community partners—an example of the interdisciplinary work that will enhance learning and improve the delivery of high-quality care.

Bouvé has partnered with several community organizations to coordinate and provide this care including the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health; the Boston Public Health Commission; and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

“Underserved populations like the homeless, people with mental illness, and those who battle substance abuse are very hard to reach,” said Huy Nguyen, medical director of the Boston Public Health Commission. “Programs like the Health and Wellness Van can help bridge that gap.”

David Zgarrick, professor and chair of the Department of Pharmacy Practice and chair of the Health and Wellness Van Task Force, sees tremendous opportunity for students in his program and throughout the college.

“The entire facility is excited by the possibilities presented by the new van program,” said Zgarrick, who has been at the forefront of the planning. “We plan to integrate the van into the curriculum of their courses. It is a wonderful opportunity for hands-on learning for students in all health science disciplines.”

Bouvé faculty anticipate that the van will be in use nearly seven days a week attending clinics and health fairs, and visiting homeless shelters, prisons, and rehabilitation and drug treatment centers.

“The van gives us an innovative way to connect with hard-to-reach patients in the community and links them to longer-term health care services,” said Karla Damus, clinical professor in the School of Nursing. “It will also be an invaluable platform for use-inspired research.”

The van was acquired with the support of organizations including The Boston Scientific Foundation, Coviden, and CVS Caremark Charitable Trust.

While attending a harm reduction conference, Catherine O’Connor, MSN, ACRN, clinical instructor and clinical director of the health and human services agency, Health Innovations, was inspired by a doctor who was using medical students to help drug users on New York’s lower east side. She saw parallels in the Boston Public Health Department’s Needle Exchange Program and enlisted the support of eight public health nursing students. They jumped on the Needle Exchange van, traveled the city of Boston, and administered five different vaccines to drug users to reduce the incidence of comorbid conditions.

The success of that effort, as a hands-on learning experience for students and for its impact on the health of this vulnerable population, convinced O’Connor and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health that tapping the expertise of Northeastern faculty and the dedication of its students would have a positive impact all around. The Northeastern van began making rounds, providing additional services to disenfranchised communities.

According to O’Connor, the new van program, with its expanded capabilities, will enable all departments and programs to do even more. “The opportunities are endless,” she said. “For example, pharmacy students can help the elderly with medications; physical therapy students can teach community members exercise regimens and how to prevent falls. Our goal is to reach vulnerable people, give them the immediate care they need, then move them into a traditional medical care setting.”

Kevin Myers ’09, RN, BSN, ACRN and recipient of the School of Nursing’s Community Service Award, volunteered on the van as an undergraduate and continues to do so as a graduate student. He is a nurse case manager at Fenway Community Health Center. “Working on the van has given names and faces to the topics we studied in class. It helped me to understand that treating a particular disease or health condition is simply not enough. In order to provide truly excellent care, we must first take the time to understand our patients, their circumstances, and the obstacles that they face.”

“Our students are really improving public health,” said O’Connor. “This hands-on experience really helps them in their public health course and lets them experience working in an underserved community. I am gratified that many of our graduates choose to work in community health centers and with the homeless.”

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“Creating a platform for use-inspired research.”

Kevin Cranston, Mass. Department of Public Health; Marcia Fowler, Mass. Department of Mental Health; Dean Terry Fulmer; Maria Guadlpy, representing Senator Scott Brown; Rita Nieves and Huy Nguyen, Boston Public Health Commission; and George Beboidis, F’57, Hon. ’98
Pharmacy Celebrates

Two Milestones

Just as it begins a year-long celebration of its fiftieth anniversary at Northeastern University—and eighty-five years of pharmacy education in Boston—the School of Pharmacy has relocated to its new home at 140 The Fenway. The recently renovated and highly visible building will be the new home to administrative and faculty offices, and research labs and conference spaces.

In 1962, the New England College of Pharmacy merged with the university to become the Northeastern University College of Pharmacy. At that time, the school adopted Northeastern’s signature co-op model of education and expanded its four-year program to a five-year course of study combining classroom instruction with professional work experience. Since that time, the school—now incorporated into the Bouvé College of Health Sciences—has become a world-class institution of pharmacy practice and science, with award-winning programs that allow students to work in Boston’s world-renowned health care institutions, as well as those throughout the country and the world.

“Our new home gives us the visibility befitting our prestigious program and provides a space conducive to the interdisciplinary research and collaborations our faculty and students are engaged in across campus and with external partners,” said Dean Jack Reynolds. He added that new conference spaces will be valuable for continuing education programs such as the Annual Critical Care Symposium for pharmacists and the weekly pharmaceutical sciences colloquia. “Co-op faculty are also in the building, and that creates a lot of synergy that benefits students.”

The anniversary celebration kicked off in April with the first Annual Alumni Anniversary Continuing Pharmacy Education Program, held at the new facility and offering alumni instruction on topics such as pharmacy law, hospital pharmacy, and academic research. On May 5th, Northeastern hosted the Boston POPS Orchestra. A pre-concert reception for School of Pharmacy alumni, students, and friends was held in the new building.

“There’s much to celebrate,” said Dean Reynolds. “Our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and friends are at the core of what has been and remains a center of excellence in pharmacy practice and research. I look forward to having them all join the celebration and help us in shaping the school’s future.”

On Saturday, November 3, the Anniversary Grand Celebration will feature a reception and dinner in the Curry Student Center Ballroom on the main campus, as well as afternoon tours of the school’s new home on The Fenway. Look for your invitation this summer and visit our website at northeastern.edu/bouve/pharmacy/anniversary/home.html.

Regional Campuses Expand Education Boundaries

Last fall, Northeastern opened its first regional campus in the heart of the financial district of Charlotte, North Carolina, as part of a plan to expand the university to select cities across the United States. A Seattle campus will open in the fall of this year. The regional campus initiative will offer flexible graduate programs to adults and working professionals, building on the university’s renowned model of experiential education and its commitment to innovation and entrepreneurship. It will also expand the opportunity for research partnerships and serve as a gateway for students and alumni in the region.

The university will design graduate programs to meet the needs of local and regional industries and will employ a hybrid model of education, combining traditional classroom teaching with online learning. The Charlotte campus, for example, offers Bouvé’s program in health informatics to serve the area’s growing health care sector, while the Seattle campus will offer a master’s program in computer science to meet the needs of that region’s technology companies. The university is considering opening campuses in other fast-growing regions, such as Austin, Minneapolis, and Silicon Valley.

Current Northeastern faculty members will teach courses both at the regional campuses and online. While offering graduate programs, the campuses will still strengthen Northeastern’s undergraduate program, which is built on co-op education. They will enable deeper relationships with current co-op employers and help to develop partnerships with new ones. The sites will also serve as a local resource for undergraduates on co-op placements.

“The American system of higher education is going to change dramatically in the twenty-first century. Our existing college campuses are based on a model that we imported from England in the seventeenth century which cannot meet the demands of contemporary society. We need to develop truly modern campuses—regional platforms for graduate education and collaborations between higher education and industry,” said President Joseph E. Aoun.

Steve Zoloth, former dean of Bouvé College, has been tapped as the academic leader for the campuses. “This is an extraordinarily exciting initiative, the first such system in the country that combines online and classroom education. It is great to partner with Bouvé and all of the university’s colleges to deliver high-quality graduate programs in these cities. Our campuses will become part of each region’s higher education landscape, with research, co-ops, and courses.”

What’s New?

Hats Off!

Bouvé College alumni are constantly bringing distinction to their alma mater by receiving awards and recognition for their achievements. If you would like to share one of your own, email it to j.norton@neu.edu.

Alumni

Jeff Stone, ’76, Cramer Award, Eastern Athletic Trainers Association and National Athletic Trainers’ Association Hall of Fame; Lauren Stevenson, ’07, Eastern Athletic Trainers Association Research Award; Nelson Aquino, ’09, 2011 Haley Humanitarian Award; Mr. William Gouveia, P ’64, MS ’66, first-ever Award for Sustained Contributions to the American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy; American Society of Health-System Pharmacy. Barbara Venditti, ’89, started Northeastern Analytics, a gaming and education venture for health sciences careers. Paul Ullucci, ’91, member of the NATA Board of Directors, honored Nicholas and Virginia Payne, marking the full endowment of a national scholarship in the name of their late daughter, Rebecca Payne, ’09.
Dean Terry Fulmer joins members of the Health Sciences Entrepreneurs (HSE) at their annual meeting last fall. The HSE welcomes additional mentors to guide and advise students and alumni interested in starting their own businesses. For more information, contact Julie Norton at j.norton@neu.edu or 617-373-4839, or visit alumni.neu.edu/healthsciences.

Contact Us

To learn more about supporting Bouvé College of Health Sciences, please contact:

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