Rush Faculty Recognized for Excellence

The four following Rush faculty members were recently acknowledged for achieving excellence in various areas:

Clayton Thomason, JD, MDiv — Rush University Medical Center Values Award

Jennifer Orozco, MMS, PA-C — 2015 CHS Award for Service Excellence

Sharon Foley, PhD, RD, LDN — 2015 CHS Award for Teaching Excellence

Heather Rasmussen, PhD, RD — 2015 CHS Award for Research Excellence

Caption: Pictured from left to right: Thomason, Charlotte Royeen, PhD, dean of the College of Health Sciences, Orozco, Foley and Rasmussen.
The Department of Physician Assistant Studies is pleased to announce that Veronika Speedwell, class of 2018, has been named a National Health Service Corps Scholar in her first year as a physician assistant, or PA, student.

The scholarship is a competitive federal award given to students with demonstrated interest in becoming primary health care providers for patients in designated health professional shortage areas. Speedwell will receive education and living support during PA school in exchange for a minimum of two years of service in a high-need community upon graduation.

Passionate in her dedication to helping Chicago’s underserved communities, Speedwell strives to provide advocacy and outreach to improve health care services for those who need it most. Her path toward becoming a PA includes work as a physical therapy aide, personal health trainer and education coordinator for various health training events.

The scholarship is only the latest among Speedwell’s many scholarly achievements. She is a graduate of the inaugural Rush University Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences program as well as Rush’s only non-medical student recipient of the National Health Service Corps’ award.

### Kudos

**Student Named National Health Service Corps Scholar**

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### Occupational Therapist of the Year

Molly Bathje, MS, OTR/L, was recently named the Illinois Occupational Therapy Association’s 2015 Occupational Therapist of the Year for her outstanding contributions in promoting and advancing the field of occupational therapy.

### Student Faculty Tea Talk

Maribeth Laude Flaws, PhD, MLS(ASCP)℠, SM, SI, chairperson, program director and associate professor in the Department of Medical Laboratory Science, recently delivered a talk at the Student Faculty Tea titled “The Path of Life is Not Always Straight.”
Communication Disorders and Sciences Achievements

Kerry Danahy Ebert, PhD, CCC-SLP, assistant professor in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, received the Language Editor’s Award from the Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Research for meeting the highest quality standards in research design and presentation.

Cheryl Scott, PhD, professor emeriti in the Department of Communication Disorders and Sciences, was one of the 2015 recipients of Honors of the Association by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association — the organization’s highest recognition.

The CHS Faculty Research Development Committee selected the following grant applicants and focuses of study to receive this year’s CHS Seed Grants:

- Lisa LaGorio, PhD, associate professor — “The relationships between swallowing, tongue strength, cognition and motor function”
- Valeriy Shafiro, PhD, associate professor — “Internet-based environmental sound and speech training for cochlear implant patients”

Students, Faculty Showcase Musical Talent at Rushapalooza

The 2015 Rush University student and faculty music celebration — Rushapalooza — recently highlighted the musically talented members of the Rush community. The yearly recital brings together students and faculty on one stage to perform a variety of musical acts. This year’s CHS participants included Matt Anderson (Dean’s office), David Durdov (perfusion technology), Rebecca Goudarzi (health systems management), Neal Ruperto (audiology) and Cheryl Scott (speech-language pathology).
A Lot of Heart

Co-Captains Michelle Murphy, Health Systems Management staff, and Juliett Usedom, College of Health Sciences staff, collected more than double of their fundraising goal for the American Heart Association’s Chicago Heart Walk this year. With the enthusiasm of multiple perfusion technology students, pictured below, they recruited more than 30 walkers and raised more than $2,500 for the CHS team.

Audiology Student Awarded Legacy Scholarship

Audiology student Danielle Frank has been selected as one of the recipients of the Legacy Scholarship awarded by the Midwest Deans of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professions, also known as the ASAHP.

Each ASAHP member institution was allowed to nominate one student for this award, and — after reviewing several highly-qualified applicants — the CHS Scholarships and Stipends Committee selected Frank’s application based on her outstanding academic performance, commitment to service and leadership activities.

“This is a rigorous program given the dual demands of intense course work and challenging clinical practicum assignments, yet Danielle has continued her tradition of academic excellence,” says Patricia McCarthy, PhD, professor, associate chair, audiology program director.

“Danielle is indeed a rare, gifted student with a disciplined, inquisitive mind, a highly developed sense of responsibility and a kind, charming personality. She is already a bright star in our program, and I expect she will become a leader in the field of audiology,” McCarthy said.