

College of Arts & Sciences

GRAND CANYON UNIVERSITY

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CLUB FOCUS: AZHOSA

By Jessica Barrajas



AZHOSA students in Anaheim for the National Leadership Conference

The Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) National Leadership Conference in Anaheim, Calif. on June 22-25, was a unique experience for all attendees. Besides the competitions that GCU's chapter of AzHOSA participated in, the symposiums were intriguing and stimulating, particularly the science-oriented sessions.

In addition to the national officers, there were impressive people presenting during the opening session, including one of our own Arizonans, **Daniel Hernandez**, who saved Rep. **Gabrielle Giffords'** life earlier this year.

It was an event that pushed our group outside their comfort zone to learn new things and meet new people. The club leadership recommends that GCU AzHOSA members compete at least once on the national level. Next year, Nationals is in Orlando, Fla.

GCU's own **Casey Smith** sang "God Bless the USA" for the thousands of HOSA members in attendance at both the Postsecondary and Secondary Award Sessions where our members received many recognitions. Here are our results:

2nd Place - HOSA Bowl - **Jordan Magruder, Sam Murphy, and Erica Wadas**

3rd Place - Extemporaneous Writing - **Courtney Canner**

3rd Place - Nutrition - **Joseph Sanchez**

Top 10 - Extemporaneous Health Poster - **Jessica Barrajas**

Top 10 - Prepared Speaking - **Selah Bratt**

Top 10 - Pathophysiology - **Matt Tassinari**

LETTER FROM THE DEAN



September is a very exciting time of year in higher education. On campus this fall we welcomed all of our returning students, many incoming freshmen and a larger than normal number of transfer students.

At the end of last year, we joined the College of Liberal Arts with the College of Health Sciences into a single College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). To support what is now the largest college on campus, we have done lots of work in order to prepare for record-breaking attendance this fall. In addition to the new Prescott Hall dormitory, Thunder Alley food center, intramural field, beatification of the grounds and the 5,000-seat arena, the College of Arts and Sciences has added many new faculty members to campus. We also implemented new processes to enhance the classroom learning experience and help build a stronger community on campus. The improvements

are not limited to campus though. We have many new online students joining our community this fall. To support these students, we spent the past summer making many curricular improvements and designing a new learning platform that will begin to roll out later this year.

Regardless of where you are on your academic journey, all the faculty and staff in



Dr. K. Mark Wooden

the College of Arts and Sciences have made a personal commitment to serve you in the best possible manner. To do that, we will continue to listen to your feedback and make improvements. Our newsletter will come out every eight weeks or so and we will highlight anything new in that broadcast, so stay tuned and enjoy the ride.

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By Matthew Lamca

This past July, a group of GCU students, including two CAS students, **Jaimie Kerpan** and **Matthew Lamca**, went on a mission trip to Peru. They worked in a very poor, developing neighborhood in Trujillo, Peru, helping a church and a church-sponsored preschool. The facilities are located in a part of town where few homes have basic utilities like indoor plumbing and electricity.



Students on a Mission in Peru

opportunity for families to sit for a family portrait and meet the local pastor. It was an eye-opening experience for the GCU students who participated and watched God work through them.

The students took part in an event called "The Fair of Life." They hosted several activities. At a popular station at the fair, people could receive a haircut and hair wash. Another station was for hand washing, where students showed techniques of hand washing and explained the hygienic benefits of hand washing.

Another station gave an

FACULTY FOCUS: TOM PIRTLE

Dr. Thomas Pirtle of the College of Arts and Science conducted research this summer at the University of Washington's Friday Harbor Laboratories, Friday Harbor,

Washington. Dr. Pirtle studied the neuronal control of locomotion in the marine mollusk, *Clione limacina*. The ultimate goal of Dr. Pirtle's research is to understand the basic cellular mechanisms that underlie central pattern generation of locomotion in animals and humans.

This summer, Dr. Pirtle studied the role of the neurotransmitter, dopamine and the cyclic nucleotides, cyclic GMP and cyclic AMP, on the neuronal control of locomotion in *Clione*.

Two GCU students, **Casey Smith** and **Ryan Cannon**, participated in a two-week training session to learn some neurobiology techniques following Dr. Pirtle's return to Arizona this summer. Dr. Pirtle plans to continue this research next summer.

National media outlets have criticized Arizona as being an "anti-immigrant" state. The truth is that Arizona welcomes many immigrants, many of them refugees. Arizona accepts nearly 5,000

refugees a year. Arizona accepts nearly twice as many refugees per capita as California and more than twice as many as New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Many of these refugees come from war-torn regions or are escaping persecution.

David Spilker, administrative assistant for CAS, had the opportunity to teach English to refugees from Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Cuba and Vietnam during his practicum over the summer. Spilker is both an employee and student at GCU. He is finishing his M.Ed. in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages).

"I have interacted with many refugees from Laos and Vietnam," said Spilker, "but I have never had the opportunity to directly help them. Teaching English to refugees in Phoenix has truly been a life-changing experience for me."



David Spilker working with an ESL student.

GET A JUMP START ON FIELD EXPERIENCE

By Sarah Talton

The Office of Field Experience in the College of Arts and Sciences facilitates the field placement for students pursuing Master's level degrees in Professional Counseling and Addiction Counseling. The OFE also helps to coordinate the practicum experience for students who are earning their degree in Athletic Training and Bachelor's students earning their degree in Counseling with an Emphasis in Addiction, Chemical Dependency, and Substance Abuse. Beginning in the fall of 2011 the Office of Field Experience will also be coordinating field placements for students enrolled in the Master's in Public Health. Students in the Counseling and Public Health programs are responsible for locating their own practicum sites, so it is vital that students begin to look for field placements well before the start of their practicum courses. To learn more about this process, students can access our websites at: www.gcu.edu/atep (Athletic Training) and <http://www.gcu.edu/College-of-Arts-and-Science/The-Office-of-Field-Experience.php> (Counseling)

UPCOMING EVENTS

GCU AZHOSA EVENTS:

- 9-14 First Meeting of the Year
- 10-27 Fall Festival (Fundraising, Public Service and Student Unity)
- 9-28 General Meeting
- 10-12 General Meeting
- 10-31 GCU AzHOSA Blood Drive
- 11-4 Health Science and Nursing Day
- 12-7 Awards Meeting

"Therefore my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." - I Corinthians 15:58 NIV