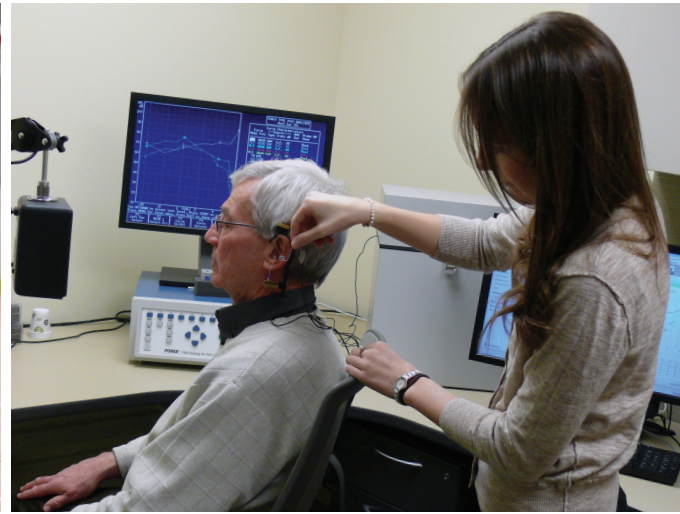




COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

MOVING
FORWARD





"In the 21st century, I think
the heroes will be the people
who will improve the
quality of life, fight poverty
and introduce more sustainability."
– Bertrand Piccard



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



The College of Applied Health Sciences continues to thrive. We graduated approximately 800 students last spring and welcomed a new group of students in the fall. Their talents, accomplishments, and commitment to making a positive difference continue to remind us that the future is in good hands.

We also welcomed eight additional outstanding faculty members who will enrich our teaching, research, and outreach efforts as we continue to grow in strength and numbers.

Sadly last year the college lost a visionary leader and beloved emeritus faculty member, Dr. Timothy J. Nugent. Dr. Nugent died on November 11, 2015, at the age of 92. The program that he began here in 1948 was the first and for many years the only one in the nation that provided accommodations for students with disabilities. Under his 38-year leadership Illinois' interrelated research, education, and service programs led to innovative breakthroughs that changed the world for persons with disabilities and made the world a better place for us all. We were pleased to participate in a celebration of our remarkable colleague's life.

One of the highlights of the year was the dedication of the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education. The programs and services that the Center is providing were built on the foundational leadership we have had in the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) and the Beckwith Student Support Services program in Nugent Hall. The experience we gained over the years combined with what we have learned about the needs of student veterans with disabilities has enabled us to build a center that will serve as a national resource for student veterans of recent conflicts who have sustained the most serious injuries. The center is the only one in the nation that provides residential and non-residential support services to wounded veterans and their families.

In addition to celebrating the opening of the center we also celebrated the extraordinary achievements of two of our distinguished alumni and recognized the honors and awards received by some of our faculty members. In this issue you will also read about the research the faculty is doing to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities and about what some of our amazing students are doing. It is all truly impressive.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the dean of this extraordinary college for the last 17 years. This August I will be concluding the last year of my third term as dean. A national search to recruit the next dean is ongoing and I know you join me in looking forward to welcoming the new dean and to the remarkable achievements that will continue to be a hallmark of this college.

I hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter and that you will stop by and say hello whenever you are on campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tanya Gallagher". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Tanya Gallagher
Dean, College of Applied Health Sciences



AHS DEDICATES VETERANS CENTER

WOUNDED VETERANS ATTENDING COLLEGE HAVE COMPLEX SUPPORT SERVICE NEEDS THAT DIFFER FROM THOSE OF OTHER STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. VETERANS FACE THE CHALLENGE OF TRANSITIONING FROM MILITARY LIFE TO LIFE ON CAMPUS, AND MANY OF THEM ARE CONCURRENTLY WORKING TO REINTEGRATE WITH THEIR FAMILIES. THEY ARE OLDER THAN MOST OF THE OTHER STUDENTS, AND DIFFERENCES IN THEIR EXPERIENCES CAN MAKE THEM FEEL ISOLATED. THEY ARE ENROLLING OR RE-ENROLLING IN COLLEGE AFTER BEING AWAY FROM AN EDUCATIONAL SETTING FOR SEVERAL YEARS. ON TOP OF ALL OF THIS, THEY ARE LEARNING HOW TO MANAGE THEIR DISABILITIES.

In order to provide the higher education support services wounded veterans need, the University of Illinois, as the national leader in disability, established the Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education.

AHS Dean Tanya Gallagher worked for seven years to raise the funding for a center that would provide individualized, comprehensive, residential and non-residential support services for wounded student veterans and their families. Generous private support enabled this vision to become a reality.

The lead donor was Ron Chez, the president of an eponymous financial management consulting firm in Chicago, and chairman of the board of Champaign-based semiconductor manufacturer EpiWorks. In 2012, Mr. Chez, toured the Beckwith Residential Support Services Program administered by the AHS Division of

Disability Resources and Educational Services. The program enables students with disabilities that require personal assistance with activities of daily living to reside in University of Illinois student housing, Timothy J. Nugent Hall. During the tour, Dean Gallagher shared her vision for a facility for wounded veterans that would include similar residential services. Mr. Chez, an Army veteran, pledged his support for the center that very day.

The seven-figure lead gift from the Chez Family Foundation combined with other private gifts and a state allocation committed by then-governor Pat Quinn funded construction of the building that was dedicated on October 2 as the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education. The following are highlights of the remarks made during the dedication celebration

The Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education accepted its first residents and began providing services in August. A comprehensive, one-stop center for veterans, it offers academic preparation and transition services as well as ongoing academic support services such as tutoring and coaching, counseling services for veterans and their families, and serves as a liaison between veterans with disabilities and instructors to ensure that wounded veterans receive the academic accommodations they need to succeed. In addition, Veterans Administration staff members are on site to help veterans register for the benefits to which they are entitled.

AHS DEAN TANYA GALLAGHER

"We are stepping forward once again, as we did in 1948 when we were the first, and for many years the only, higher education institution to provide accommodations for injured World War II veterans, enabling them to take advantage of the GI Bill, pursue further education, and contribute their talents to the nation.

"...input from veterans and staff at various facilities like Walter Reed and the Center for the Intrepid at Fort Sam Houston and students on our campus...helped us understand what student veterans with disabilities were facing, what their challenges were, and what still needed to be done to help them be successful as they're pursuing their next career. We listened and we learned, and the center we're dedicating today is a unique, one-stop, state-of-the-art facility...And because we need to continue to learn more so we can do more, we are also committed to developing and disseminating best practices models that we will share with the nation through our research.

"When he heard about our center, the director of the Army Military Transition Unit in Washington, DC, said, 'No other university has stepped up the way Illinois has.' We're proud of that. The presence of this center on our campus is a concrete statement that veterans with disabilities are welcome here, that they will receive the services they need to be successful at a world-class university, and that the institution and those who have contributed to making this center possible believe in their future."

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR BRUCE RAUNER

"It's no mystery why this campus is regarded as one of the best campuses in America for veterans. It's no mystery why this campus is regarded as one of the most supportive for those with disabilities. We can judge ourselves as a community by how well we take care of those in need. The University of Illinois does that to an extraordinary capacity, and all of us in Illinois owe you an incredible debt of gratitude for your work."





UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESIDENT TIMOTHY KILLEEN

"Thank you, Dean Gallagher, for your service to the University and for the vision and commitment that made this life-changing, first-of-its-kind center a reality...[T]his new center is...yet another pioneering addition to a campus with a long, rich legacy of leading the way to progress. But...it is also rooted in the very core of our DNA, in the mission that was handed to us nearly 150 years ago when a stroke of President Lincoln's pen created our nation's original land-grant universities. We were founded to open the doors of higher education to all, to give every deserving student the opportunity to transform their lives and hone talent on a large scale to lead our nation forward.

"This new center ensures opportunity for some of our most deserving students, veterans who have put their own lives on the line to defend our nation, our freedom, and our way of life. It also stands as a model of how we can carry on our land-grant mission to serve the needs of our students, our state, and our nation in the 21st century."



LEAD DONOR RON CHEZ

"All of us have had good ideas and they evaporate, they go someplace else and nothing happens with these good ideas. And somebody has to have the stick-to-itiveness to lead the dogged pursuit of wanting to get something done. And Tim Nugent started that and Dean Gallagher has been committed to achieving this particular day on behalf of veterans. So she and Dr. Nugent are the reasons we're here today.

"I want people to take the initiative to find veterans that need help, veterans who are suffering and in need of assistance re-integrating from combat back into society, into normal family lives and jobs. We need to take a real boots-on-the-ground approach to helping veterans in need...[Veterans] have displayed great courage and great sacrifice. All we are doing is what we should be doing."



US ARMY VETERAN + AHS GRAD STUDENT GARRETT ANDERSON

"The day I was injured was the day I was reborn and given a new life. I like to say I'm the luckiest guy to ever get blown up. I say this because I've had so many opportunities in my life that others have not.

"I came to the University of Illinois for several reasons. First, I bleed orange and blue... Second, I wanted to be part of a world-leading university, and third, the Center for Wounded Veterans, the first step to building the next great generation. We have the opportunity to help veterans achieve a college degree and learn a new normal. We want to set the standard for the rest of the country, and it all starts right [here]."

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE



With a generous donation to the Chez Family Foundation Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education, Adeline "Jo" Puccini, who earned her undergraduate degree in speech correction at the University of Illinois, has named the third floor of the Center the CAPT J. E. Puccini, USN, Adeline K. and Nancy Ann Puccini Residential Floor.

Her husband, naval aviator Captain Joe Puccini, flew propeller-type and jet planes from 15 different aircraft carriers during his 32-year career, earning "Top Gun" status as a result of his success as a combat pilot. Their daughter Nancy, who died in 2014, earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management at Virginia Tech University and a master's degree in Labor and Industrial Relations at the University of Illinois.

Mrs. Puccini, a longtime supporter of the College of Applied Health Sciences, said, "As the surviving member of a military family of three who were fortunate to earn seven degrees, I am pleased to help wounded veterans further their education."



INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH SCIENCES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

ILLINOIS NATIVE CLAIRE HAFTER WAS A FRESHMAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT WHEN SHE WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A RARE NEUROMUSCULAR DISORDER THAT AFFECTS HER LOWER LEGS. THROUGH SURGERIES, PHYSICAL THERAPY, AND PAIN MANAGEMENT, SHE HAS EXPERIENCED A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN HER HEALTH. DURING HER RECOVERY, HOWEVER, SHE ALSO EXPERIENCED A GREAT DEAL OF FRUSTRATION AND ANGER WITH THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM.

"It amazed me how few clinicians attempted to treat me without consideration for other factors in my life, such as academic stress, mental health, and social life, all of which took a major hit from this experience," she said. "I know how incredibly helpless that can make one feel, and would not wish that on anyone."

She was looking for a different approach to studying the healthcare system, hoping to use her unpleasant experiences as a foundation for affecting positive change. She transferred to the University of Illinois in her junior year to enroll in the Interdisciplinary Health Sciences program. For her senior year, Claire wanted to broaden her perspectives on how culture, history, and environment impact health and health care. She spent last fall in South Africa, where, she said, "I have been able to apply nearly every aspect of being here to my studies, and vice versa."

She completed internships at both the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Rondebosch, Cape Town, where she worked with children and parents in the infectious disease clinic, and in

the pediatrics and maternity units in a township clinic in Khayelitsha Site B. In the infectious disease clinic, Claire dealt mostly with children and mothers who were HIV positive. Because the children were relatively active and playful, she demonstrated ways in which parents could engage their children in stimulating and developmentally appropriate activities.

Claire also assisted in research conducted at a maternity hospital and sat in on classes on child and public health at the University of Cape Town medical school.

This semester, Claire has started classes toward a Master of Public Health. She will bring to her graduate studies a broader perspective, thanks to her experiences in South Africa, where the unique political and racial history still severely impacts many of its citizens. "Learning how to utilize my skills and strengths in an unfamiliar environment has helped me develop more independence and confidence in myself," she said, "factors that will no doubt help me in the future."

IN MEMORIAM

Timothy J. Nugent
1923–2015



DURING THE OCTOBER 2 DEDICATION OF THE CHEZ FAMILY FOUNDATION CENTER FOR WOUNDED VETERANS IN HIGHER EDUCATION, AHS DEAN TANYA GALLAGHER INTRODUCED DR. TIMOTHY NUGENT AS A “VISIONARY PIONEER WHO CHANGED THE WORLD FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND IN SO DOING MADE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE FOR US ALL.” DR. NUGENT, WHO WAS WIDELY REGARDED AS THE “FATHER OF ACCESSIBILITY,” DIED ON NOVEMBER 11, 2015, VETERANS DAY.

Dr. Nugent founded what is now the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES) in 1948 to enable veterans who had been injured in WWII to utilize the educational benefits of the GI Bill and attend college. It was the first disability support services program in higher education and for many years the only such program in the nation.

“Where other people saw invalids that would forever be relegated to a position on a porch, watching life go by, Tim saw future corporate leaders, scientists, educators, lawyers, doctors and international athletes,” said Brad Hedrick, who worked with Dr. Nugent and DRES as a doctoral student and who later became a director of DRES.

Dr. Nugent said that he knew after only a month of working with his students that they needed more than academics. “[They needed] something to give vent to their emotions, something to give them personal satisfaction, (a sense) of mastering a skill,” he said, and he knew the answer was in sports. He started programs in wheelchair bowling, swimming, basketball, football, and baseball. In 1949, he founded the National Wheelchair Basketball Association and served as its commissioner for 25 years. He played a key role in developing national and international wheelchair sports competitions, including the Paralympics.





Dr. Nugent received many honors during his lifetime, including two U.S. Presidential Awards, numerous national and international awards, and an Honorary Degree from the University of Illinois, the university in which he did his landmark work. What he considered his greatest honor, however, were the achievements of those students with disabilities that graduated from Illinois. “He was an inspirational role model for us all and as colleagues and friends, we were privileged to have known him,” said AHS dean Tanya Gallagher.

“[HE] HAD A VERY SIMPLE YET REVOLUTIONARY IDEA: THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO BE CHALLENGED INTELLECTUALLY THE WAY THEY ARE CHALLENGED PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY TO PROVE THEIR OWN ABILITIES AND TO LIVE INDEPENDENTLY.”

- 2013 CHANCELLOR PHYLLIS WISE

◀ DR. NUGENT RECEIVING THE ORDER OF LINCOLN AWARD, ILLINOIS' HIGHEST AWARD, IN 2011

DONORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

THE TIMOTHY J. NUGENT PROFESSORSHIP IN REHABILITATION RESEARCH

Dr. Timothy Nugent changed the world for people with disabilities and in so doing empowered everyone to live life to its fullest potential. The College of Applied Health Sciences established the Timothy J. Nugent Professorship in Rehabilitation Research to honor Dr. Nugent's passionate advocacy for people with disabilities through research and services designed to improve their health, well-being, and quality of life.

At the 2013 investiture of AHS Dean Tanya Gallagher as the first Nugent Professor, then Chancellor Phyllis Wise said of Dr. Nugent, “[He] had a very simple yet revolutionary idea: that persons with disabilities should have the opportunities to be challenged intellectually the way they are challenged physically and mentally to prove their own abilities and to live independently.”

Dr. Nugent said at the event as honored as he was by the professorship, he was even more honored that Dr. Gallagher was its first recipient. “More has happened under her tenure than happened in all the years prior to her coming here,” he said.

If you would like to support the Nugent Professorship in memory of Dr. Timothy Nugent, and help ensure the continuing leadership of the University of Illinois in disability studies, contact Brian Silotto, Assistant Dean for Advancement, at 217-244-8408 or bsilotto@illinois.edu.