

Allied Health Letter

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December 18, 1990

Dear Dean, School of Allied Health, 2014:

Greetings from the 20th century! As Interim Dean of the School of Allied Health, I am writing to give you a brief overview of our history to date and my prognostications for the future. I'm sure you will find this both informative and amusing.

The School of Allied Health was initiated at the Medical College of Ohio in 1970 under the able leadership of Elsa Brown, Ph.D., R.N. who served until her retirement in June, 1987. Mr. Robert Livengood, M.S., P.T. served as Interim Dean from July, 1987 until September, 1988 up to the appointment of Patricia Yarbrough, Ph.D., M.P.H., P.T. as Dean in October, 1988. Dr. Yarbrough stepped down in June, 1990 to join the physical therapy faculty and I was appointed Interim Dean in August, 1990. A search is underway as I write this letter for a permanent Dean, so you can see the School of Allied Health is in transition. During this embryonic period, a fully accredited physical therapy program was implemented in consortium with Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo. Eighty-four full-time students are enrolled in the program, and it is served by five faculty and a variety of adjuncts. Mrs. Catherine Hornbeck, M.S., P.T. is Interim Director. A Master of Science Degree in Industrial Hygiene was initiated in 1985 and 26 part time students are enrolled. Dr. Michael Bisesi was appointed Director in September, 1990. A concentration in Rehabilitation Sciences under the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences Program was initiated in 1989. A proposal for a Master of Occupational Therapy degree is now with the Ohio Board of Regents and we hope to take students in the fall of 1991. Cynthia Grapczynski, M.S., OTR/L was appointed Director in September, 1990.

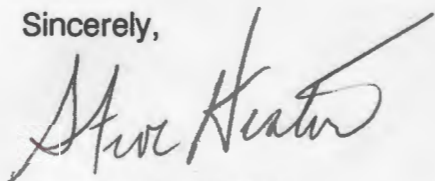
New programs that we are exploring include therapeutic recreation (in consortium with the University of Toledo), cytotechnology, health professions leadership, social work, and dietetics. At this juncture, there are severe shortages of allied health professions across the board, and the Medical College of Ohio has identified the School of Allied Health as a major focus for development in the 1990s. A new building for the School of Allied Health and Nursing is being discussed and planned. There is a critical shortage of space, and the development of the School will depend upon the construction of a new building.

It seems that the future is both exciting and perilous. The United States is on the brink of war with Iraq, the economy is faltering, and education is being squeezed due to tight budgets. On the other hand, allied health professions continue to be recognized for their contributions, third party reimbursement is increasing for the rehabilitation specialties, and the academic world is turning to professional program development in allied health to increase enrollments. There is reason for optimism even in the face of economic decline. I'm sure things will look up for higher education, the Medical College of Ohio and the School of Allied Health.

I see a bright future for the School of Allied Health. I predict we will have a new building by 1995; that the Masters of Occupational Therapy program will be approved by the Ohio Board of Regents by 1992; that physical therapy will be at the Master of Science degree for entry-level by 1995; that we will offer Ph.D. programs for allied health practitioners by 2000; that enrollments in allied health programs will equal those in the Medical School; that MCO will move towards closer affiliation with the University of Toledo so as to offer students the benefit of a "university" complex; and that I will be preparing for retirement from a small college presidency in the northeast as you read this letter.

Enjoy "Founders Day" and best wishes for continued success during the next 25 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Heater". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Stephen L. Heater
Interim Dean