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Dr. John Bonaguro, Dean

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New dean appointed to College of Health and Human Services


By CHUCK MASON The Daily News cmason@bgdailynews.com 783-3262 | Posted: Tuesday, December 9, 2014 9:45 am

A new dean will take over in late March at Western Kentucky University’s College of Health and Human Services.

Neale Chumbler, a 1991 WKU graduate, will start March 23, Provost Gordon Emslie said Monday.

Dean John Bonaguro, the founding dean of the college, will return to the faculty after serving 12 years as dean.

“I want to get to know the faculty and play to the strengths of the faculty and staff,” Chumbler said in a phone interview with the Daily News on Monday. “I see the components as research, teaching and service.”

Chumbler, a Paducah native with family ties to Bardstown, said he sees an opportunity for the college to go into the community to help with issues such as the continued roll out of the federal Affordable Care Act.

“I have worked with nurses and physical therapists and dental hygienists in interdisciplinary research,” Chumbler said. “I can translate all those different languages.”

Emslie noted Chumbler also has a strong research background.

“He is a WKU alumni and he understands the university,” Emslie said of Chumbler, who is a professor and head of the Department of Health Policy and Management at the University of Georgia.

The College of Health and Human Services was established in August 2002 and consists of Allied Health; Communication Sciences and Disorders; Family and Consumer Sciences; The School of Nursing; The School of Kinesiology, Recreation and Sport; Public Health; Social Work; The Academic Center for Excellence; the Institute for Rural Health; the Kentucky Emergency Medical Services Academy; and the South-Central Kentucky Area Health Education Center.
The CHHS also offers two doctoral degree programs, Doctor of Nursing Practice and Doctor of Physical Therapy, according to the university website.

Chumbler has a doctorate from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, a master's degree in sociology from WKU and a bachelor's degree in sociology from Murray State University. He has served in leadership positions at UGA, Indiana University, Purdue University and the Indianapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center. He has also served as a faculty member at the University of Florida, according to a news release.

“As an alumnus of WKU, I am extremely excited to be returning to the Hill,” Chumbler said in the release. “The faculty, staff, alumni and students of the College of Health and Human Services have made enormous contributions to education, scholarship and community outreach. I am excited about the enormous opportunity to work with all of them.”

Chumbler, 46, and his wife, Janice, have two children, Monica, 17, and Isabel, 13. Janice received her bachelor's and master's degrees from WKU.

Emslie said Bonaguro has been an excellent dean to serve the growing college at WKU.

“He has been a wonderful team player moving the university forward. He has helped with the collaboration of programs across the university,” Emslie said of Bonaguro.

The college added The Medical Center-WKU Health Sciences Complex, which allowed the nursing program to move out of the Academic Complex. The nursing program has since doubled in enrollment.

— *Follow education reporter Chuck Mason on Twitter at* twitter.com/bgdnschools *or visit* bgdailynews.com

Dr. Neale Chumbler
CHHS Student Receives Library Research Award

*Original story available on WKU News. Please visit http://wkunews.wordpress.com/2014/12/12/library-awards-fall2014/ to be taken directly to the story.

WKU students Elizabeth Howard of Owensboro, Chris Riehl of Louisville and Frances “Currey” McCullough of Nashville, Tennessee, received undergraduate research awards at a recognition ceremony in Helm Library on Dec. 2.

WKU Libraries and WKU University Experience faculty offer the awards in an effort to recognize the important role of good undergraduate research in college academic success.

WKU students (from left) Frances “Currey” McCullough of Nashville, Tennessee; Chris Riehl of Louisville; and Elizabeth Howard of Owensboro received undergraduate research awards.

“Information literacy and library skills are essential for student success at any level, and I am happy to be a part of introducing the importance of college level research skills to our first year students,” said Sara McCaslin, University Experience Coordinator.

Howard, a first-year student representing the College of Health and Human Services, received the award for the subject-specific category from the University Experience class on the main campus. Her annotated resource list is pertaining to a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner. Her instructor was Lynn Hazlett-Sherry.

Riehl, a first-year student majoring in history, received the award for best annotated resource list featuring TED Talk information titled, “Photos that Changed the World.” His instructor was Cort Basham, University Experience 175 on the main campus.

McCullough, a first-year student from the University Experience class at South Campus, was recognized for the best career essay titled, “Exercise Science.” Her instructor was Dr. Anne Heintzman.

Students received a monetary gift along with a plaque honoring their achievements. The winning documents, along with those of past recipients, are posted on TopSCHOLAR—WKU’s research and creative database—at digitalcommons.wku.edu/ueul_award/ For information, contact Amanda Drost, chair of the Research Award Committee, at (270) 745-2962.

Contact: Jennifer Wilson, jennifer.wilson@wku.edu
WKU students (from left) Frances “Currey” McCullough of Nashville, Tennessee; Chris Riehl of Louisville; and Elizabeth Howard of Owensboro received undergraduate research awards.

School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport Faculty Member Receives Award

Dr. Willie Hey from the School of Kinesiology, Recreation & Sport was named the Sport Professional of the Year as recognized by the Southern District of SHAPE America. SHAPE America is the organization formerly known as the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD). This is the cornerstone organization of the Health, Physical Education, and Recreation discipline, and the Southern District is among, if not the, largest regional chapter within SHAPE America.

Dr. Hey has been a member of AAHPERD/SHAPE America for his entire professional career, and he has been the recipient of numerous awards for his dedication and contributions to his field. This is yet another high honor and one for which he should be commended. As stated by Bud Reiselt, President of Southern District, "This award is given to the outstanding sport professional in the 13 states of the SHAPE America Southern District. This award is not given lightly, as we intend that its recipients have made outstanding contributions to the profession. You [Dr. Hey] truly deserve this honor...you have been a longstanding professional and are well-respected in SHAPE America, as well as Southern District.”

Dr. Willie Hey
CHHS Scholars of the College

The College of Health and Human Services had 3 students named as Scholars of the College. **Caitlynn Oberhausen, Emily Purpus, and Laura Young.** Caitlynn Oberhausen graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2014 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Hospitality Management and Dietetics. She is also an Honors College Graduate. Emily Purpus graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2014 and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. Laura Young graduated Summa Cum Laude in August 2014 and received her Bachelor of Social Work degree.