

5-1-2011

# Salud y Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences

College of Health Sciences

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## Recommended Citation

College of Health Sciences, "Salud y Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences" (2011). *College of Health Sciences*. Paper 5.

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**College of Health Sciences**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

# Salud y Saludos

The E-News of the College of Health Sciences

Salud y Saludos

May 2011

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## From the Dean's Desk

Two weeks ago we had the pleasure to honor our [100,000<sup>th</sup> UTEP graduate at the University of Texas at El Paso Spring 2011 Commencement ceremonies](#).

Billboards, websites and newspapers all noted this landmark event. This major milestone in the University's history reflects the magnitude of the university's regional, state and national impact. This is a significant point of pride on our path to become the first national research university with a 21st century student demographic. Read all about it in the latest [UTEP Magazine](#).

As a fairly young College, the [College of Health Sciences](#) claims over 5000 of these alumni from the collective history of our nine professional disciplines. Our College and individual program ceremonies were varied and unique, as our programs presented white coats and pins, celebrated professional inductions, announced honors and awards, memorialized their UTEP times in slide shows and videos, hooded, cheered and applauded to mark the success of 185 graduates over a 3-day period, culminating in our Pre-Commencement and Hooding ceremony on Saturday, May 14, 2011. This May also marked the *final* graduating class of the Master of Physical Therapy Program, as the program transitioned to the [Doctor of Physical Therapy degree](#) in 2010.

We had record attendance of over 900 family members and friends for our College of Health Sciences Pre-Commencement and Hooding Ceremony in Magoffin Auditorium. [Mariachi Flores Mexicanas](#), the premier all-female mariachi group of the Southwest, provided outstanding entertainment before the ceremony. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Connie Gamboa and her team from the [CHS Student Support Center](#) created an event to remember, using the Hemingway Challenge to challenge our graduates to write their stories in six words. Their 6-word stories were shown with their photos before the ceremony. Everyone loved it!

As our graduates go on to careers, graduate school and other pursuits, we are proud to forever welcome them as UTEP Alumni. Our alumni will be proud as well, to watch the progress that UTEP makes over the next decade in becoming a national research university. Their degrees will increase in value as UTEP progresses on its journey to Tier 1. Our alumni will have a special vantage point in watching how UTEP takes its unique place among our peer institutions and serves as a unique model for the nation of a research university that serves a 21<sup>st</sup> century student demographic. And lastly, our alumni will know that that they were part of the foundation, the first 100,000 graduates who made this journey possible.

Please join me in congratulating the members of the Class of Spring 2011!

## Honors at the May 2011 Commencement

**The College of Health Sciences Congratulates Individuals who received Honors at the May 2011 Commencement**



**College Marshal for Health Sciences** -The College Marshal led the CHS faculty in the processional and recessional.

Dr. Lorraine (Lori) Torres, Clinical Laboratory Science

**Faculty Marshal of Students for Health Sciences** - The Faculty Marshal is responsible for seating candidates and helping commencement staff maintain decorum.

Dr. Mark Lusk, Department of Social Work

**Undergraduate College Banner Bearer** -The College Banner Bearer is selected based on academic achievement (Highest CGPA in the College of Health Sciences). The student will carry the College of Health Sciences Banner.

Laura M. Carmona, Department of Social Work

**Undergraduate Student Marshal of Students for the College of Health Sciences** - The Undergraduate Student Marshal of Students for the College of Health Sciences is selected based on academic achievement (2<sup>nd</sup> Highest CGPA in the College of Health Sciences) This student will assist the Faculty Marshal and will lead the candidates to the stage.

Amanda R. Garcia, Department of Public Health Sciences

**Graduate Student Marshal of Students for the College of Health Sciences** - The Graduate Student Marshal of Students is selected based on academic achievement, leadership, and campus involvement. This student will lead the candidates to the stage and have her name called first among the graduate students from the College of Health Sciences.

Sarah F. Anderson, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences  
Physical Therapy Program

#### **Academic Honors**

**Summa Cum Laude (Highest Honors)** -The student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.90 with at least 60 hours of the total required credit hours of her/his degree plan earned at UTEP.

*[Health Promotion](#)*  
Amanda R. Garcia

[Social Work](#)

Laura M. Carmona  
 Daniel Gonzalez  
 Cassandra Muro

**Magna Cum Laude (High Honors)** - the student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.80 - 3.89 with at least 60 hours of the total required credit hours of her/his degree plan earned at UTEP.

[Clinical Laboratory Science](#)

Claudia I. Diaz

[Kinesiology](#)

Jessica A. Bock  
 Marco M. Hernandez

[Social Work](#)

Laura E. Alonzo  
 Daniel R. Fierro  
 Diana R. Gomez

**Cum Laude (Honors)** - The student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 3.50 with at least 60 hours of the total required credit hours of her/his degree plan earned at UTEP.

[Clinical Laboratory Science](#)

Meena Aldouri  
 Crystal A. Bolden  
 Yllorelle V. Rodriguez  
 Maria I. Trujillo

[Kinesiology](#)

Aaron Camacho  
 Hans Lars O. Eriksson  
 Joshua A. Fong  
 Eric A. Gomez  
 Afton M. Kutzman  
 Marlene Lara  
 Andrew S. Martinez  
 Evelyn Rodriguez

[Social Work](#)

Laura S. Flores  
 Magda Hall  
 Kimberly Heredia  
 Elizabeth M. Veloz

[Commencement Gallery](#)



## Health Sciences Graduate 185 at Spring 2011 Commencement

### Health Sciences Graduates 185 at Spring Commencement



The College of Health Sciences awarded 185 degrees at the Spring Commencement. One hundred thirty one students received the bachelor's degree and 38 received the master's degree. Thirteen students were awarded the Doctor of Pharmacy degree. Two students received the Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Dr. Patricia Juarez Carillo and Dr. Edina Bene. Following is the breakdown of degrees by professional field:

#### Undergraduate Programs

Number of Applicants	Degree
25	Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Science
8	Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion
70	Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology
28	Bachelor of Social Work

#### Graduate Programs

Number of Applicants	Degree
15	Master of Physical Therapy
5	Master of Public Health
4	Master of Science in Kinesiology
14	Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology
13	Doctor of Pharmacy
2	Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences

## Obama Gets 'Picked'

**By Laura L. Acosta**

Anticipation overcame [UTEP](#) Assistant Professor **Eva Moya, Ph.D.**, as she waited to meet President Barack Obama after his recent speech at El Paso's Chamizal National Memorial.

As she walked up to the president, Moya removed her UTEP pickax pin from her lapel and handed it to him.

"That's how I started the conversation," said Moya, who earned her bachelor's in social work and doctorate in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences from UTEP. "For me, that was the best introduction."

Moya was one of about a dozen people who met with the commander-in-chief after his May 11 speech about immigration reform and border security in front of 1,200 borderland residents.

During their three-minute conversation, the El Paso health activist told Obama about UTEP's historic graduation on May 14 where it awarded the 100,000th degree in its history, and about the University's centennial celebration in 2014.

She told him that the demographics of the U.S.-Mexico border region were the same as the demographics of the country. "He looked me in the eye and said that's precisely why I'm here," she said.

For Moya, the president's comment signaled that she had his attention so she shared her thoughts on how to advance immigration reform and the Dream Act; improve access to healthcare services; invest in education to improve graduation rates; and look at health disparities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

The professor said day's events inspired her to consider academic ways she could get more involved in immigration reform, which has become a divisive issue.

"I told him I would take this experience back to the classroom. That's when I got a second hug," she said. "So I got two abrazos and a big handshake from him."

Obama's speech was closed to the public, but 500 tickets to the event were distributed to UTEP faculty, students and staff on May 9. Several hundred Miners lined up outside Union Building West to claim tickets that were gone in about 45 minutes.

Among the attendees was Stephanie Bustillos, a junior psychology major whose grandparents were Mexican immigrants. She wanted to hear the president's thoughts about immigration reform.

"It was nice that he gave some tickets to the students. It shows that he really does care about the youth initiative and helping us out in the long run," she said.

Daniel Ochoa, who graduated this past Saturday with a degree in business administration, said the event was a good opportunity for students to get more

involved, although he would have preferred to hear the president speak about the economy.

As part of the event's activities, [Ryan Holmes, director of UTEP Office of Student Life](#), sang the national anthem, and [Julio Diaz, senior Latin American and border studies major at the University](#), led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"It's not every day you get to sing for the President of the United States," said Holmes, who has been singing for about 13 years. "It's a blessing."

Diaz, who will be commissioned as an Army officer in December, received a phone call from the White House informing him that he had been selected to recite the pledge.

"I had to practice a couple of times. I wanted to make sure that all the words came out the way they are supposed to come out," he said.

## Student Profiles

### Ph.D. Student Oscar Beltran Awarded Fellowship at Harvard

**Oscar Beltran, M.S.** has been named by the Fenway Institute in Boston as a fellow at the National Mentoring and Training Program of the Center for Population Research in LGBT Health.

He will be working with his mentor Dr. Steven A. Safren, Associate Professor in Psychology in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Department of Behavioral Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Oscar will hone his research skills in behavioral medicine as it pertains to the LGBT population in anticipation of completing his Ph.D. dissertation in the Health Science Ph.D. Program at the University of Texas at El Paso.

Mr. Beltran was also awarded the UTEP Rainbow Miner Initiative Scholarship in recognition of his involvement, leadership and personal achievements within the LGBT community at UTEP and the city of El Paso.

## Program Highlights

### Concussion Management Clinic Recognized by EPCC Athletic Trainers

The athletic trainers at El Paso Community College (EPCC) recognized the [Concussion Management Clinic \(CMC\)](#) for "The outstanding clinical care and community service the UTEP Concussion Management Clinic has provided for all the athletes playing sports at El Paso Community College." A plaque was presented at EPCC Annual Student-Athlete Awards Banquet on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to representatives of the CMC, Dr. Anthony P. Salvatore, Clinic Director, Dr. Edina Bene, and Ms. Jackie Picone, clinic coordinator. Other members of the CMC are Dr. Bess Sirmon Fjordbak and graduate students Princess Puga, Tomas Mendez, Vanessa Fernandez, Attea Guidi, Paola Sanchez, Cynthia Valenzuela, Daniel Peregrino, and Kevin Van den Bogaard.

"Play Healthy" is the motto of the CMC. The clinic was created by Dr. Salvatore, Chair of Rehabilitation Sciences in 2006 at the UTEP College of Health Sciences. Since 2006 the CMC has screened more than 1500 young athletes in the El Paso, TX area, in addition to assessing and treating approximately 80 individuals who have suffered a sport-related concussion. The award represents the dedication of the UTEP-CMC in treating mild head injuries and the appreciation of the athletic trainers at EPCC for helping to keep their athletes healthy.



## Faculty Corner

### Kathryn Schmidt joins Department of Social Work

Dr. Kathryn Schmidt has been appointed Assistant Professor of [Social Work](#). Dr. Schmidt received her BA in sociology from Indiana University and the MSW in Social Work from New Mexico State University. She earned her MA and Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Professor Schmidt has research and practice expertise in LGBTQI people's access to social services, sexual attitudes, behaviors, and experiences of college students, evaluating effective interventions for family and sexual violence, as well as experience in hospice and family violence. She is presently conducting a study of Hispanic College Students' Experience of Sexual Assault.