

5-1-2012

Salud &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 &Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences" (2012). *College of Health Sciences*. Paper 15.

http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/chs_news/15

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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 2012

In This Issue

From the Dean's Desk
CHS Outstanding Performance Award
Timothy Tansey Appointed Associate Dean
MRC Program 1st Class
Department of Public Health Sciences
Pharmacy Students Technology

From the Dean's Desk



Not only is May a time for tremendous celebrations for our graduates, it also marks the end of the academic year and is a time that we pause to recognize those who have given their time, contributed to a larger, longer vision and achieved levels of performance that are truly outstanding.

In the past few weeks, I have had the opportunity to be a part of several such celebrations. I

left both events feeling very proud of the faculty and students who were involved. The first of these occurred on the evening of May 4th at the Hilos de Plata Senior Center in central El Paso. Our students and faculty were recognized for their service in support of the City of El Paso Senior Games. This is the 30th year that the Parks and Recreation Department has sponsored and organized the Senior Games and the first year that UTEP has partnered with them to engage our students in service learning and in public health education research.



Through the [Community Academic Partnership for Health Science Research](#), Principal Investigators, Dr. Guillermina Gina Nunez-Mchiri (Sociology) and Dahlia Castillo (Occupational Therapy) both pictured in center bottom row and community partner, Mr. David Lopez, Senior Division Coordinator for the City of El Paso Parks and Recreation (center, top row) collaborated to initiate the project. The team was awarded a \$4000 mini-grant to support a special project involving the [City of El Paso's City Parks and Recreation Senior Games](#). Additional faculty members Amanda Loya (Pharmacy) and Cecelia Fierro (Occupational Therapy) are also participating in the project



The grant supports the group's research efforts to document the experiences of ten exceptional senior game athletes to help generate a public health education campaign to spread the message of healthy aging through physical exercise among other older adults throughout the City of El Paso. Students in the related departments have also been involved in the project as time keepers, supporters and as researchers. The group will record the experiences of 10 exemplary senior game participants who have agreed to participate in the public health promotion videos. And it doesn't stop there... the group is writing another grant to secure resources to support exercise equipment, transportation for seniors to participate in next year's games, and student and part-time staff support to help coordinate these efforts with the help of the



Calendar of events

June 8, 2011
Late registration for Summer/Summer 1
July 6, 2011
Late registration for Summer 2

In the News

[UTEP Hosts AIDS Vigil](#)

[Professor Studies Diseases That Cross Borders](#)

[Pharmacy Students Give Back](#)

[UTEP Celebrates Spring Commencement](#)

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[Center for Civic Engagement at UTEP](#). This is a partnership with great potential for student learning, faculty research, engagement with the city's leaders and most importantly, tremendous benefits for our senior population. Well done!

Another proud moment occurred on Monday, May 21st, when Dr. Eva Moya (Social Work) was honored by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) for her Outstanding Performance in Externally Funded Research. Read more about this special award below.

And lastly, we were honored on May 22nd to recognize recent retirees Dr. Darla Smith as Professor Emerita, Kinesiology and Dr. Mary Carlson as Associate Professor Emerita, Physical Therapy at the Annual Emeritus Faculty dinner. Although neither Dr. Smith nor Dr. Carlson were able to attend in person, I am sure their ears were ringing as we celebrated their careers at UTEP! Dr. George King, Interim Chair of the Department of Kinesiology and Dr. Loretta Dillon, Interim Program Director of Physical Therapy joined me at the event to honor these accomplished faculty.

Congratulations to all!

Eva Moya, Honored for 2012 College of Health Sciences Outstanding Performance Award

Dr. Eva Moya (Social Work) was recently honored by the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects (ORSP) for her outstanding performance in securing external funding. Moya, who is completing her second year as Assistant Professor in the [Department of Social Work](#) is currently Principal Investigator on a binational grant from the [Health Initiative of the Americas: Programa de Investigación en Migración y Salud \(PIMSA\)](#).

The project, [The Sexual and Reproductive Health of Mexican Migrant Women in Ciudad Juárez, Guadalajara, Mexico, and El Paso, Texas](#), is a comparative study focused on interviews of migrant Mexican-origin women of reproductive age in Juarez, Guadalajara, and El Paso and of health professionals and decision makers in the three cities. The project will document migrant women's unmet health needs, identify strategies to meet these needs, develop policy recommendations concerning those strategies, and find financing alternatives to ensure that migrant women have access to health care.



Dr. Moya was also one of the key drivers in bringing the 2012 [Nuestra Casa Initiative](#) to the UTEP Centennial Museum. Dr. Moya and Museum Director, Dr. Bill Wood have planned a year-long set of interdisciplinary activities to reengage the university and community of El Paso in the public health issues of TB and HIV/AIDS using Nuestra Casa as a catalyst. [The Nuestra Casa project](#) has received community-wide and binational attention. The project stems from the need to reinforce advocacy, communication, and social mobilization efforts for the prevention and control of TB in Mexico and the U.S.-

Mexico borderlands.

She also served as Co-PI while a graduate student, with Social Work Program director Dr. Mark Lusk, on another PIMSA-funded project studying stigma and treatment adherence related to tuberculosis. Congratulations, Dr. Moya!

Timothy Tansey Appointed Associate Dean, College of Health Sciences

Timothy Tansey, Ph.D. has been appointed Associate Dean, [College of Health](#)

[Sciences](#). Tansey founded and has served as Program Director for the UTEP [Master of Rehabilitation Counseling](#) program for the past three years. As director of this program, he was responsible for successfully developing the curricula, recruiting faculty and students, applying for and securing national accreditation, and securing over \$1.2 million in external funds for student, research and program support.



Dr. Tansey holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Rehabilitation from the [University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana](#). He received a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Psychology from the [University of Wisconsin](#). Prior to joining UTEP, Tansey held academic appointments at [Utah State University](#) in Logan, Utah and at [Michigan State University](#).

[Tansey](#) has received national awards for his service in Rehabilitation Counseling professional organizations as well as for implementation of instructional technology in his courses. His experience base includes extensive doctoral student supervision and expertise in innovative pedagogical approaches utilizing technology. He is committed to diffuse use of technology as a means to increase faculty productivity and satisfaction with their roles as educators, researchers, and service providers. He has served on a number of committees at [UTEP](#) including the College of Health Sciences Academic Affairs, Faculty Recruitment, Development, and Evaluation, and Technology as well as several university-wide committees.

Tansey's role will include leadership of College efforts to promote and manage online conversions for courses and programs and to promote and evaluate utilization of available technologies across all departments and programs. He will also be responsible to lead a process for the initiation and development of a clinical learning and research environment in the newly renovated Campbell Building. In addition, he will collaborate with the Dean's office and other campus leaders to foster further integration of our academic departments with entities such as the [Student Health Center](#) and [University Wellness](#) program. He will continue as Program Director of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program. His appointment as Associate Dean begins on June 1, 2012. Congratulations, Dr. Tansey!

[MRC Program First Class](#)



The [Master of Rehabilitation Counseling](#) (MRC) program will graduate its first students in the Summer of 2012. Ten students took part in the Spring 2012 Commencement Ceremony. These students were admitted in Fall 2010 as the inaugural class in the program. The students graduating from the MRC program this summer are: Bernadette Baca, Manuel Colorado, Nidia Escobar,

Veronica Estala, Daniela Guerra, Leticia Gurrola, Ruth Marin, Maribel Mora, Robert Ramirez and Ryan Rodriguez.

In addition to graduating from the MRC program, these students will sit for the Certified Rehabilitation Counselor Exam in July. Many of these students have obtained employment prior to graduation and will be completing their internships with their new employers. Employers of graduates include the Texas Division of Rehabilitation and Assistive Services-Division of Rehabilitation Services and Ready One Industries. Please join us in congratulating the MRC program Class of 2012 on their accomplishments!

Department of Public Health Sciences Graduates



The faculty and staff at the [Department of Public Health Sciences](#) are proud to announce the graduation of their undergraduate and graduate students during the 2012 Spring Commencement Ceremony.

Samantha Ungos*, a [Top Ten Seniors](#) Award graduated along with 13 other students with a BS degree in Health Promotion. Graduating seniors obtaining a BS in Health Promotion are Cynthia Chacon, Priscilla Cortez, Tanya Durbin*, Stephany Marcum, Jacqueline Martinez, Sarai Martinez, Connie Medrano, Estrella Pena, Jessica Ponce, Martina Rivera, Marcos Sandoval, Samantha Saucedo,* and

Gonzalo Siqueiros. Health Promotion professionals are qualified to provide the information and skills necessary to help individuals make informed decisions about lifestyle and personal health behaviors which can play an important role in preventing and controlling many current health problems. Health Promotion professionals become community resources by communicating health and health education needs in community centers, classrooms, retirement homes, and wherever social and professional groups meet. A degree in Health Promotion prepares graduates to function as professionals in health promotion and health education and work in a variety of settings including government agencies, private-for-profit businesses, public and private schools, non-governmental health and social service agencies.

Graduate students obtaining a [Master of Public Health](#) degree are Aurora Aguirre Polanco, Amir Kamel*, Eldaah Chacon, Yudith Chacon, Leticia Cortez, and Xochiquetzalli Gamboa. The MPH degree provides public health professionals a competitive edge by providing them with the broad knowledge and analytical and technical skills needed to be effective leaders in the public health field. Our MPH program prepares future health leaders through innovative teaching, research, and service by providing educational excellence and access. The program places a special emphasis on the promotion of health equity in Hispanic and border communities through the use of evidence-based approaches and the preparation of Hispanic health professionals. Congratulations to all of our graduates!!

*Students graduating with honors.

Pharmacy Students Promote Medication Safety

Pharmacy students from the [UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy Program](#) and the [UT Austin College of Pharmacy](#) participated in a local community Earth Day health fair sponsored by the [City of El Paso Environmental Services Department](#) on April 21, 2012. Participation in this event was a joint effort between the El Paso Student Pharmacist Association (EPSPA) and the Mexican American Association of Pharmacy Students (MAAPS). This event allowed the pharmacy students to take advantage of an opportunity to provide health-related services to members of the El Paso community. The students

provided health-screening activities including blood pressure, blood glucose, total cholesterol and BMI measurements. Additionally, the students developed a variety of fun activities to engage health fair participants in the principles of medication safety. Health fair



participants were educated on the importance of keeping an accurate list of the medications, herbs, and supplements that they take. They were provided with a bilingual (English/Spanish) portable medication information records for assistance in organizing their medications. The pharmacy students also counseled participants on the proper disposal of medications and provided information about medication "take-back" programs. To engage children attending the event, the pharmacy students created a "Kid Zone" that educated on the dangers of household poisons, errors that can occur with the use of household spoons to administer medications (instead of calibrated devices) and the potential for confusing medications and candy. Finally, students and their preceptors had the opportunity to staff a "pharmacy consultation window" created specifically for health fair use in which they provided general medication information to health fair participants who had questions for the pharmacists. The pharmacy students who participated conducted over 300 interventions at the health fair. Overall, this was a great success and wonderful learning opportunity for both the pharmacy students who participated and the health fair participants who attended!

NSSLHA Celebrated the Closing of the Semester

The National Student Speech, Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA) celebrated the closing of the semester with the annual end of the year party! It took place at Jaxon's restaurant with dinner and a DJ for all members, professors and their guests. The night consisted of saying goodbye to the [Speech Language Pathology](#) graduating students and current officers, while welcoming in the new students to the program and the new elected officers for the 2012-2013 school year. A slideshow presentation had music and photos of all the events that took place this place year. Reminiscing and discussing future endeavors with food and dancing, the night was a success! NSSLHA looks forward to another successful year!



Technology: Blackboard 9.1



The University of Texas at El Paso is upgrading its Learning Management System to the latest edition, Blackboard Learn 9.1. More information and training is available at the [FIT Lab](#).

