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

College of Health Sciences

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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

October 2012

**In This Issue**

- Gold Nugget Awards
- Occupational Therapy
- SPLP Students
- Commitment to Fitness
- Miner Ability Award
- CLS Program



**From the Dean's Desk**



October has been one of our most active months, ever! We celebrated the [completion of \\$2.3 million renovations of the historic Campbell building](#); ran and walked in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual UTEP Commitment to Fitness; celebrated Binational Health Week with our colleagues from the Mexican Consulate in El Paso and unveiled [Voice and Images, a new Photovoice exhibit on domestic violence, sexual and reproductive health in migrant women](#); and then held our [2012 Homecoming events](#). Read

about our two 2012 College of Health Sciences Gold Nugget awardees, Brant Capps, PT, DPT '95 and Katherine Long, BS '88, below.

**Calendar of events**

**November 3, 2012**

**9:00AM-1:00PM**

[San Elizario Health Fair](#).

San Elizario High School

**November 5, 2012**

**4:00PM-5:30PM**

HSN, Room 206

[Weight of the Nation](#)

[Screening: Part IV-](#)

[Challenges](#)

**November 14, 2012**

**1:30PM-3:30PM**

in HSN, Room 217

[Go Blue of the Border:](#)

[World Diabetes Day](#)

[Program](#)

These celebrations and events serve as marker of the progress we have made in creating an outstanding environment for health professions education, research and clinical learning to prepare the 21st century workforce. Further, they demonstrate our growing capacity to include our university and regional communities in activities that promote health and address some of the most complex health issues our region faces. Many thanks to our faculty, staff, students and community partners for their outstanding contributions to planning and hosting these events!

Please take a look at some of the great work our [University Communications](#) staff is doing to help us make our campus a healthier place. Many thanks to Laura Acosta, our UC writer and Associate Vice President, Chris Lopez, for their roles in helping us elevate this agenda!

The Fall 2012 Homecoming edition of [UTEP Magazine](#) features a great article, *A Healthy UTEP*, on our University Wellness program, including a link to a new [video, A Healthy UTEP](#) featuring our hula hoop break, the Roving Retro Recess! Also, please don't miss the recent article featuring the [inspiring blog of Terry Weber, Wellness Ambassador for the Department of Physics who lost 80 lbs and then participated in the Couch Potato to 5 K Training Program](#) and then went on to complete the recent UTEP Commitment to Fitness 5Krun. We are so proud of you, Terry!

**In the News**

[A Healthy UTEP](#)

[Voices and Images](#)

[Displayed at HSN](#)

[Building](#)

[Campbell Building](#)

[Renovations Offer New](#)

This month's events are particularly meaningful in light of the recent [Washington Monthly National Universities](#) rankings, which [placed the University of Texas at El Paso as 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation](#), between Harvard (#11) and University of Michigan (#13). In fact, this publication has

### WASHINGTON MONTHLY'S TOP UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

1. UC San Diego	9. UC Riverside
2. Texas A&M	10. Georgia Tech
3. Stanford University	11. Harvard
4. UNC	12. UTEP
5. UC Berkeley	13. Michigan
6. UCLA	14. UC Santa Barbara
7. Case Western Reserve	15. MIT
8. U. of Washington	

assigned the #1 spot in the nation to UTEP in its ranking

[Health Sciences Research and Lab Space](#)

[UTEP Headlines Newscast 10-19-12](#)

[Renovated Campbell Building is Hub for Health Sciences Graduate Programs](#)

[From Couch Potato to 5K Winner](#)

[Grant Supports UTEP Occupational Therapy Students](#)

of Social Mobility. [Washington Monthly's ranking of universities on Social Mobility, Research and Service](#) validates and provides national visibility to UTEP's commitment and history of transforming our students' and graduates' lives through access to higher education and the opportunities it provides.

We are thrilled to be recognized and even more importantly, to have had the transformational role in higher education that merits such recognition.

Go Miners!

### Gold Nugget Award Recipients & Friends of the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing

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This year, the College of Health Sciences recognized Jay Brant Capps, PT, DPT ('95) and Katherine Long, BS ('88) as its Gold Nugget award recipients. Capps is currently the Director of Rehabilitation and Therapy Services at [Baptist St. Anthony's Health System](#) in Amarillo, Texas where he has served in his current role since 2001. Long earned her Bachelor of Science in Medical Technology from The University of Texas at El Paso in 1988. Ms. Long is currently employed by [Helena](#)

[Laboratories](#) in Dallas, TX, as a Hemostasis Specialist. On October 17, 2012, College of Health Sciences faculty, staff, and friends gathered at the Health Sciences and Nursing building Curlin Plaza to celebrate their accomplishments. Over 160 people attended the ceremony, helping joining the celebration. Both were honored at various events on campus throughout the week of October 14, 2012 culminated by the lighting of the Star on the Mountain on October 20, 2012.



During the ceremony, the College of Health Sciences also celebrated our special FRIENDS who do so much for us throughout the year (shown left to right below with Dean Kathleen Curtis). Those individuals were Mr. Robert Parker, UTEP Planning and Construction; Dr. Arturo Vargas, Providence Memorial Hospital; Mr. Robert Meredith, UTEP Planning and Construction; Mr. Richard Salcido, Family Services of El Paso; and Mr. Kirk Davis, UTEP Athletics (not shown). Also honored at the ceremony was Dr. Gretchen Schmalz as Engaged Professor Emerita (front row second from right).



## **Occupational Therapy Program Awarded Grant to Support Student Scholarships**

The University of Texas at El Paso's [College of Health Sciences](#) has been awarded its largest [Health Resources and Services Administration](#) (HRSA) grant to date, which will be used to provide occupational therapy students with much needed financial support to focus on their graduate studies. The [Master of Occupational Therapy \(MOT\)](#) program will receive a one-year allocation of \$604,925 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services HRSA's Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students program. HRSA is recommending the same amount for each of the next 4 years, totaling \$2,419,700.00. Eligible students will receive a scholarship that will be applied toward tuition and fees, books and program expenses and also pay for a review course for their certification exam and licensure exam fees. Funds also will be used to assist students with living expenses while they complete out-of-town clinical rotations.

"This award will provide invaluable assistance to our graduate students in the Master of Occupational Therapy program," said College of Health Sciences Dean Kathleen Curtis. "UTEP's College of Health Sciences is committed to preparing the next generation of the healthcare workforce for our region and to providing opportunities to talented students to succeed in health professions education. Ultimately the winners in this effort will be our underserved community members who will receive these much needed occupational therapy services." This professional field has been designated as one of the top career choices for the future by Forbes, US News and World Report and other publications. For more information about admissions for this program, check our [MOT website](#).

[Read more](#)

## **Congratulations, Speech Language Pathology Students!**

Congratulations to Amanda Sepulveda and Michelle Gonzalez who were successful in securing COURI Research Awards.! Amanda, a senior in Pre-Speech Language Pathology will be working on her project "Baby Sign Workshop" with Dr. Vannesa Mueller. Amanda's research interests include examining the impact of using baby sign with infants on parent-child interactions and parental stress. Michelle, a senior in Linguistics and Pre-[Speech Language Pathology](#), will be working on her proposal "Lexical

Diversity in the Narratives of Adult Bilinguals" with Dr. Connie Summers. Michelle' research interests include narrative skills in bilingual children and adults.

Congratulations to Gabriela Villaneda, a graduate student in Speech Language Pathology, who was selected to participant in the Minority Student Leadership Program: Class of 2012 of the [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association](#) (ASHA). Gabriela was selected as one of 32 out of 84 applicants. She will be participating in leadership-focused educational programs and activities at the 2012 ASHA convention.

Congratulations to Nadia Arriazola-Flores, a graduate student in Speech Language Pathology, who was selected for a position as one of two Graduate Student Representatives to sit on the Executive Board of the Texas Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Nadia was selected in a competitive process from a pool of applicants in Speech Language Pathology programs across the state. She will serve a two year term on the [TSHA](#) Executive Board, the governing body for this professional association of over 5000 members.



(Shown left to right above, Amanda Sepulveda, Michelle Gonzalez, Gabriela Villaneda and Nadia Arriazola-Flores)

### **UTEP Commitment to Fitness 5K Run and 2K Walk**

The [3rd Annual UTEP Commitment to Fitness 5K Run and 2K Walk](#) was held Saturday, October 14th, kicking off the Homecoming Week festivities. This year's event, organized by the [UTEP Kinesiology Department](#) and the Golden Age Fitness Association (GAFA), started and finished in front of the [UTEP Health Sciences](#) and Nursing Building. The 5K course proved to be challenging this year as it wound through the hills of the campus. The [overall male winner](#), Justice Chirchir, ran an impressive time of 18 minutes 32 seconds. The [overall female winner](#) was Kathya Garcia with an equally impressive time of 18 minutes 39 seconds. Approximately 200 participants either ran or walked the two separate courses this year. After the race, all participants and friends enjoyed some refreshments and entertainment on Curlin Plaza. Several lucky guests received door-prizes and gift certificates from a number of local restaurants. The event also had a health fair where community members received important health information as well as opportunities for free massages, glucose readings, and blood pressure checks. A special thanks goes out to Jerry Prewitt, Dr. George King, Dr. Sandor Dorgo, and all of the UTEP student and GAFA volunteers who helped with the race organization and registration. The Kinesiology Department and GAFA thank all participants for making this year's event a success and look forward to next year's 4th Annual UTEP Commitment to Fitness Run/Walk.



### **Honored for 2012 Faculty Miner Ability Award**

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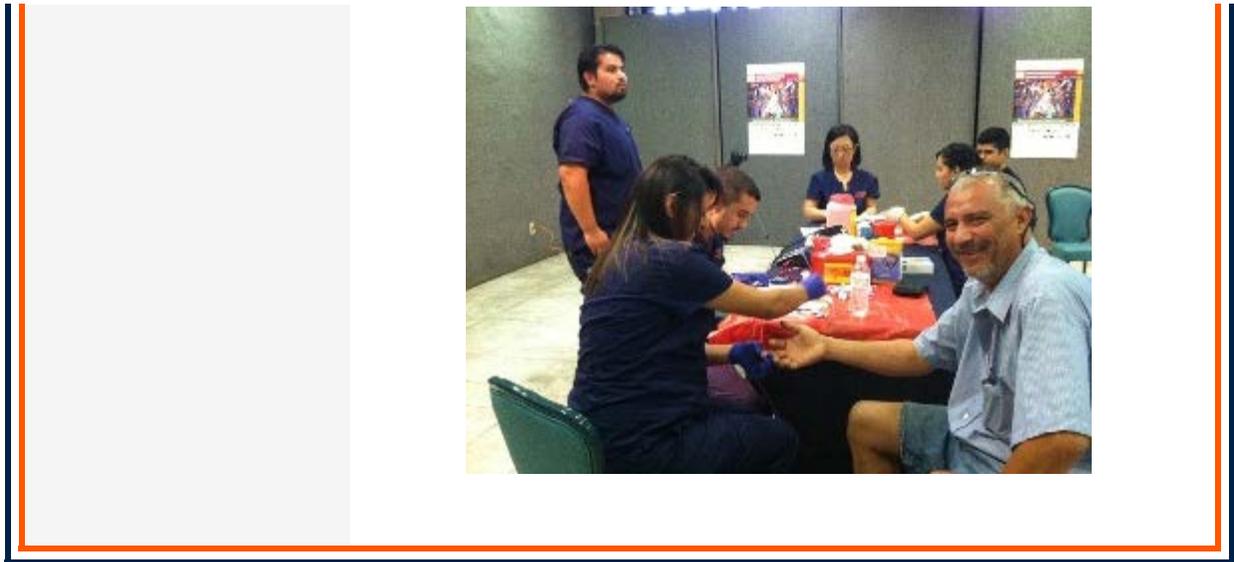


Dr. Eva M. Moya ([Social Work](#)) was recently honored by the [Center for Accommodations and Support Services](#) (CASS) for her leadership and educational contributions in serving students with special needs. Eva worked with students and staff from the CASS this semester to launch a Photovoice on the perspectives of students with disabilities. The photographs and stories of the students were presented on October 9th during the [Ability Awareness Week](#).

### **Clinical Laboratory Science Program at the Mexican Consulate Health Fair**

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On October 5th, 2012, the [UTEP Clinical Laboratory Sciences](#) (CLS) Program conducted glucose and blood pressure screening at the [Mexican Consulate of El Paso](#). Senior CLS students performed 50 tests on individuals seeking to know their glucose levels and or their blood pressure. Many of the individuals expressed that they were previously diagnosed with diabetes or had high blood pressure and they were grateful to the UTEP CLS Program for allowing them the opportunity to check their levels.



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