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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

February 2012

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From the Dean's Desk

February has marked a number of exciting developments for the health of the faculty, staff and students of the University of Texas at El Paso. UTEP is one of only a few universities where both [the University Wellness Program](#) and [Student Health Center](#) are part of the College of Health Sciences. This structure provides for easy integration of the students and faculty from our academic programs with their activities. This enhances the services we can offer and provides a great opportunity for our faculty and students to directly impact the health of our campus community.

Recent data suggests that UTEP employees do not seek preventive health screenings in sufficient numbers. This is particularly concerning, as recommended age-appropriate health screenings are covered 100% by the employee health care plan, with no deductible and no co-pay. This likely means that many of our employees only seek care when they feel ill, greatly increasing costs and possibly limiting the effectiveness of treating conditions that might be treated more easily in their early stages.

Given this as a background, Amber Bridges, UTEP Wellness Program Coordinator, invited community partners at [Providence Memorial Hospital](#) and [University Medical Center](#), and many university departments and programs to offer a series of employee health screenings. During the month of February, almost 400 employees participated in one of the five Healthy Miner program events across campus. These events engaged employees in activities to "Know Your Numbers"- recording the results of blood pressure, glucose, cholesterol and body weight testing and providing referrals to community physicians. UTEP students and faculty contributed their expertise in offering additional testing and education for stress levels, carpal tunnel syndrome, oral health, body mass index, carbon monoxide and smoking cessation. Others assisted employees to complete the [WebMD health risk assessment](#). Our partners from [Sodexo, our university food services contractor](#), graciously offered free tastings for healthy food options available on campus. Others partners provided Swimming and Fitness Center membership information and the [American Cancer Association](#) offered age-appropriate cancer screening materials. We are so appreciative of the engagement of our community partners and the participation of all of our UTEP faculty and students. And most of all, Amber Bridges and assistant, Brianda Prado provided such great leadership in organizing this event for our entire university community.

The UTEP Student Health Center has also had some exciting changes, with the recent additions of David Porras, Jr. as Business Manager and Louise Castro, RNC, FNP, WHCNP, as our new Student Health Center Director. Read about them below in this newsletter. In addition, students are now able to easily access on-site physical therapy services provided by Dan Ferraro, DPT, our newest [Doctor of Physical Therapy program](#) faculty member. The [Student Health Center now takes insurance](#) and our on-site Pharmacy makes it easy for students to receive all the services they need to stay healthy!

We look forward to many more activities, events, promotions and services to improve the health of our entire campus community in 2012!



Department Highlights

What is happening in...?

CLINICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week (NMLPW) is April 22 - 28, 2012. NMLPW provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory personnel. The UTEP [Clinical Laboratory Science \(CLS\) program](#) will take this opportunity to increase public understanding on the social aspects of tuberculosis diagnosis by developing a [Nuestra Casa Initiative presentation](#) on the diagnosis of tuberculosis. The presentation will take place on April 25th in the [UTEP Centennial Museum](#) at 4:00 p.m.

Presentations will be given by the pre-CLS and senior CLS Students. Student presentations will deliver information on how the diagnosis of tuberculosis is made. The realization that the diagnosis of tuberculosis is not a simple test and often takes up to six weeks will be one of the topics to be discussed. Other topics will include how the specimen is collected, TB susceptibility and tuberculosis resistance to antibiotic treatments. The importance of completing the regime of multi-drug therapy will be emphasized. The difference between conventional and molecular techniques in the diagnosis of tuberculosis will also be discussed.

Some of the social aspects in the diagnosis of TB that will be discussed include the presence of comorbid diseases such as diabetes and HIV and how individuals with TB are affected. Discussions will also include what we know about the latency of the TB bacterium. Lastly, limited access to the latest technology in some developing countries may limit the use of the most effective techniques to detect tuberculosis and often causes delays in appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

KINESIOLOGY

Our own Leo Settle (conditioning instructor and UTEP Track and Field Coach for Sprinters and Jumpers) published an article featured in [Techniques for Track & Field and Cross Country](#) the official publication for US Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. Way to go Leo, VERY interesting! We are lucky to have you on board and so is our track team!

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

The [MOT program](#) is excited to modify the curriculum to better prepare our students to be successful on fieldwork and the NBCOT certification examination, and to meet the needs of an ever-changing, diverse healthcare arena. Recent additions to the curriculum include courses in a Surface Anatomy and Normal Physiology/ Embryology, which are offered prior to the Anatomy for Health Sciences course. The program's sequence of courses has also been revised to better reflect our developmental curriculum design that provides a strong foundation of psychosocial factors affecting occupational performance. Several courses are undergoing revisions to improve opportunities for students to be engaged in community-centered programming. MOT professor Dahlia Castillo continues to strengthen experiential education, within the new state-of-the art simulation laboratories, providing real-life learning scenarios in an acute care setting. MOT program faculty members Drs. Stephanie Capshaw and Eugenia Gonzalez, alongside PT and SLP faculty, are making plans for the 3rd annual Rehabilitation in Global Health course to be held again this summer in Guatemala.

Program faculty will conduct prospective student interviews on March 2, and

look forward to welcoming our newest cohort of students this summer!

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCES

Six MPH graduate students working with Dr. Tomaka, Associate Professor in the [Department of Public Health Sciences](#), will be traveling to New Orleans, LA from April 11 - 13 to present at the [2012 Society for Behavioral Medicine 33rd Annual Meeting](#). This conference aims to expand the reach of behavioral medicine research and practice by creating new interdisciplinary professional relationships, developing community partnerships, and establishing connections with policymakers.

Kristen Hernandez, Sandra Bejarano, & Sujehy Arredondo will be leading an hour-long panel symposium titled: *Diversifying the Health Disparities Research and Practice Community: Student and Mentor Perspectives on the Importance of Interdisciplinary Training, Mentoring, and Partnerships*.

Francis Reyes will be presenting his work entitled: *Exposure to Border Violence and its Relationship to PTSD Symptoms and Coping Strategies Among College Students in a Border Community*. Jose Guevara will present: *Smoking Susceptibility, Social Norms, and Smoking Among Best Friends: The Role of Cultural Belonging in a Sample of Hispanic Adolescents in a Texas - Mexico Border Community*.

SOCIAL WORK

Graduate [social work](#) students will participate in Hospital Day simulations with the students and staff of the UTEP School of Nursing this semester under the direction of Donna Cude-Islas, Kathryn Schmidt and Mark Lusk. The social work students will perform bio-psychosocial assessments of the standardized patients, prepare a SOAP note of the encounter with the patient, and develop and integrate a treatment plan. The students will also practice referral skills for individuals who may need community resources, increasing their knowledge of resources available to individuals. Additionally, the social work students will gain further awareness of the role of the nurse in a hospital setting and improve their skills working as part of an interdisciplinary team.

SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY

UTEP will be well represented at the annual [Texas Speech Language Hearing Association Convention](#) in San Antonio, Texas, March 8-10th. Faculty and students from our Speech Language Pathology Program will be presenting on numerous topics to include: *The Effects of Baby Sign and Gestures on Language Development*, Vanessa Arreola and Vannesa Mueller; *Patterns of Cognitive-Communicative Change After Sports-Related Concussion*, Bess Sirmon Fjordbak and Anthony Salvatore; *Electrophysiological and Behavioral Activity in Aphasics and Normals Responding to Spoken Commands*, Patricia Lara, Samuel Riccillo, Anthony Salvatore, and Joe Tomaka; *Electrophysiological and Neuropsychological Recovery Patterns in Athletes with a History of Concussion*, Paola Sanchez and Anthony Salvatore; *Brain Maturation in Adolescent Athletes and Its Implication for Concussion Management*, Jacqueline Picone and Anthony Salvatore; *Comparison of Wii-Balance Data for Concussed and Non-Concussed Individuals*, Vanessa Fernandez-Vivar and Anthony Salvatore; *Athlete Compliance with Concussion Management Recommendations*, Daniel Peregrino; *Literacy Through Movement: A Pilot Study*, Daniel Peregrino; *Performance Comparison Between Elderly and Collegiate Athletes on the ImPACT Test*, Kevin van den Bogaard.

PHYSICAL THERAPY

The Physical Therapy Program recently hosted Deborah Diaz, PT, PhD as part of the program's Distinguished Lecture Series. Dr. Diaz is an associate professor and curriculum coordinator in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles, CA. The topic of her presentation was *Neurological Gait: Assessment and Treatment*. Students and faculty attending the presentation garnered new ideas and knowledge related to Dr. Diaz' research. Her research focus has been on balance assessment tool administration for pediatric and geriatric populations. As curriculum coordinator of her program, Dr Diaz has strong interests in student and graduate patient management skills with neurologically impaired patients, with her primary area of teaching and practice in neurorehabilitation.

CENTER FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH & EVALUATION (CIHRE)

Two new student assistants have joined the Center and will be helping its expansion.

Erika Weigend joined the [CIHRE](#) staff in January and has been a valuable asset in maintaining and improving the dissemination efforts of the Center. She is responsible for scheduling all the Healthy Exchange Seminar Series presentations on Wednesday afternoons and the monthly joint Symposium with Victoria University in Australia. She is also in charge of entering and analyzing all the evaluations for the various CHS initiatives, including the Community Academic Partnership for Health Sciences Research

Luisa Garcia has also recently joined the [CIHRE](#) staff. She is one of the graduate student researchers involved in the Texas Department of Transportation (Texas DoT) project examining the transportation of dialysis patients in El Paso and adjacent Counties. She will conduct interviews with dialysis patients and transportation providers and will analyze the qualitative data.

STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

The [UTEP Student Health Center](#), is pleased to announce the addition of our new most recent hires. Ms. Louise Castro, RN, FNP-BC, WHC-BC joined the Student Health Center as its Director during mid January. Ms. Castro is a graduate of the UTEP School of Nursing and brings over 30 years of experience to the position. She will be responsible for general oversight, direction, and supervision of all clinical and administrative functions of the Student Health Center. Ms. Castro will also provide health care services to the UTEP students visiting the Center. We are indeed fortunate to have Ms. Castro's wealth of experience in both health care delivery as well as clinic administration. Also joining the Student Health Center as its Business Manager is Mr. David Porras, Jr. Mr. Porras will be responsible for all business related functions of the Student Health Center to include billing and budget management. Prior to his position as Business Manager, Mr. Porras served in various administrative positions at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center in El Paso where he was employed for over 33 years. Welcome Louise and David!

Faculty Corner

Mark Lusk, Ph.D., professor and chair of the Department of Social Work at The University of Texas at El Paso, is the recipient of the 2012 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rio Grande Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW).

[Read more](#)