

3-1-2012

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

College of Health Sciences

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/chs_news



Part of the [Mass Communication Commons](#), and the [Medicine and Health Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

College of Health Sciences, "Salud y Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences" (2012). *College of Health Sciences*. Paper 13.

http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/chs_news/13

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Campus Newsletters at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Health Sciences by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.



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

March 2012

In This Issue

From the Dean's Desk
Merced Sierra
MHIRT Program
UTEP Kinesiology
WBAMC visits CHS



In the News

[UTEP Clinic Makes an Impact](#)

[Study Looks at Migrant Mental Health](#)

[Award Gives Incentive to Finish Ph.D.s](#)

[Student Health Center Offers Physical Therapy](#)

[6th Graders Learn About Health Careers](#)

Follow us on...

[Our Website](#)



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

From the Dean's Desk



[Healthy People 2020](#) was released more than a year ago. Healthy People provides 10-year national objectives addressing [42 topic areas](#) that are intended to address and enhance our nation's health. This movement encourages collaboration, informs individuals about health-related matters and provides for a data collection system to address these areas. Topic areas range from [access to health services](#) to [nutrition and weight status](#), [disability and health](#) and includes cutting edge issues like [genomics](#), [sleep health](#), and [LGBT health](#). A 335-page Guide to all of the [Healthy People 2020 Objectives](#) is available for download and easy reference.

UTEP is proud to be a [Healthy People Consortium organization](#). The Healthy People website offers a variety of [toolkits](#), [presentations and ideas](#) for advancing understanding, planning, implementation and marketing of Healthy People. [State coordinators](#) also serve as a liaison with the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. There is clearly something for everyone in this movement.

The [UTEP College of Health Sciences](#) convened a representative task force of each of our programs, departments and community partners in the Spring of 2011, under the leadership of Dr. Eva Moya to develop strategies to achieve incorporate Healthy People 2020 into the curriculum, scholarship, service activities and policy within the College of Health Sciences, School of Nursing and our community and clinical partner organizations. The taskforce made a series of recommendation to incorporate Healthy People 2020 topics and objectives into instruction, research, grant-writing, service, community education, professional development programs and policy within the College. We are now undertaking an exciting and important first action step in this initiative.

During the Spring, 2012 semester, the College of Health Sciences nine programs and departments have committed to inclusion of HP2020-related learning objectives and instructional content in 50% of the course syllabi at all instruction levels (undergraduate, graduate and doctoral). Students will soon have a working knowledge of the HP2020 initiative, be able to negotiate the website and use the available data and information to enhance their learning experiences. We anticipate that this will engage students at all levels in the HP 2020 content through lectures, lab, in-class experiences, service-learning activities, research projects, clinical experiences, portfolios, presentations, briefs, case studies, policy courses, proseminar research courses, CAPSTONE Projects, and University 1301 courses. These activities will provide a model for other institutions of higher education and will serve to advance our region's awareness and utilization of this valuable information.

The UTEP College of Health Sciences is also going to assist in translating HP 2020 materials into Spanish, a key step to disseminating Healthy People 2020 materials throughout our community. Further, the College is assisting our community partners with using the available materials. For example, the [MAP-IT tools](#) provide a valuable framework for planning and implementing interventions. We encourage those who want to get more involved in HP 2020 to sign up [for e-mail updates](#) on the HP 2020 website. And lastly, we will incorporate a section on our progress on this initiative in this newsletter from now on. So, stay tuned for more information as we embark on this exciting new venture!

Merced Sierra Makes Her Final Rounds

By Laura L. Acosta
UTEP News Service

Merced Sierra has seen UTEP's [College of Health Sciences](#) go through several transformations during the 16 years she's worked at the University.

She was hired in 1996 as an administrative secretary for the [Occupational Therapy Program](#) when Occupational Therapy and [Physical Therapy](#) were cooperative programs with the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. They would be transferred to what was then the UTEP College of Nursing and Health Sciences that same year.



Sierra would go on to see the college change its name to the College of Health Sciences in 1999 and become a separate administrative unit from the School of Nursing in 2006.

In between those two major events, she fondly remembers being in the Health Sciences Building on Campbell Street when it underwent a facelift in 2000, with new paint and refurbished floors and a working fountain in the Fountain Room that had running water and dancing lights.

Today the Fountain Room is gone and Sierra is in the middle of an extensive makeover as the building is transformed into Campbell Hall, with new laboratory and research space.

"If you look at it through the years, you say, 'Wow that's a lot of changes.' It doesn't feel like it when you're here," Sierra said with a laugh. "You go one or two years and then there's another change, and at the end you add them up."

Sierra's last day at the college is March 30. She is retiring as an administrative associate specialist, a position she's held since 2005.

Since moving to the Dean's office in 2000, she has worked under six deans, all of whom have had their own vision for the college, Sierra said.

"Merced will do whatever it takes to make things work," said Dean Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., who has worked with Sierra for the last five years. "She has wonderful relationships with everyone in the University, which has helped our college at some critical times. When something breaks or we need to have something in a hurry, she is usually able to get it done with just a phone call."

Before joining UTEP, Sierra worked at the Tecnológico de Monterrey's campus in Chihuahua, Mexico, where she had lived for 16 years. She liked the university environment so much that when she moved to El Paso in 1996, she applied at UTEP.

Over the years, Sierra has developed friendships across campus with employees in Facilities Services and Planning and Construction, who have helped her take care of the Campbell building; and friends in Business Services, who she credits with guiding her through the many administrative changes the University has gone through, which made it possible for her to do her job well.

"I've often heard from new employees that one thing that's made their job easier to learn and carry out is the people they work with every day," she said. "UTEP employees should be regarded for their dedication and commitment."

Sierra decided to retire by her 65th birthday in August to spend more time with the men in her life: her sons, Cuauhtemoc and Edson, and her three grandsons, Alex, Angel and Guillermo.

She plans to travel to her native Chihuahua and to visit her brother in Dallas, but she knows that April 2, which is the first Monday that she will not be at her desk, is going to be a hard one.

"I'm going to miss the people most of all and then of course the building," Sierra said. "I've been here forever and I'm going to miss the hectic life."

Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program Selects Class of 2012

Selected to participate in the [MHIRT](#) Class of 2012 are Miguel Betancourt (Chemistry), Jose Chavez (Biomedical Science), Leah Diaz (Social Work), Alba Dominguez-Arriaga (Nursing), Sergio Flores (Biology), Jacqueline Martinez (Public Health Sciences), Nahomi Martinez (Social Work), Brianda Prado (Kinesiology), Leann Rodriguez (Biology), Marisol Sanchez (Chemistry), and Mayra Sandoval (Psychology). During summer 2012, these 11 students will be engaged in the exploring the world of research. Upon completing the Hispanic Health Disparities and Directed Research courses, these students will be traveling to either the Universidad Central del Ecuador (Quito, Ecuador) or Universidad de Costa Rica (San Jose, Costa Rica) to participate in an international mentored research program for a period of 6 weeks. These students will also benefit from a series of MHIRT program sponsored cultural experiences and live with home stay families during their in-country stay in the international setting. Congratulations to each of these students!!! The MHIRT program is supported by Grant Number T37MD001376 from the National Institute On Minority Health And Health Disparities



TOP ROW Left to Right: Mayra Sandoval, Leah Diaz, Nahomi Martinez, Sergio Flores, Jose Chavez, Alba Dominguez, Miguel Betancourt
BOTTOM ROW Left to Right: Jaqueline Marquez, Brainda Prado, Leann Rodriguez, Marisol Sanchez.

UTEP Kinesiology Students Give strong Performance at Regional Student Bowl Competition

On March 1, 2012 in Austin Texas, as part of the Texas Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (TACSM) annual conference, UTEP [Kinesiology](#) students Brennon Barajas, Dominic Ramos, and Evelyn Rodela earned 4th place, and Ashley Konrardy, Jose Mendoza, and Karina Parras earned 9th place in the 3rd Annual TACSM Student Bowl competition. This year's coaches were Elisabeth Cavegn and Benjamin Ramirez. A total of 19 teams from universities across the state participated in the academic competition for undergraduate students. The Student Bowl is presented in a "Jeopardy" game show format and includes questions from multiple categories that span the entire Exercise Science curriculum and general undergraduate knowledge. Our UTEP students were under extreme pressure to perform as the entire state tried to unseat the 2011 defending champions. The Department of Kinesiology and the College of Health Sciences are very proud of our Student Bowl Team members Brennon Barajas, Dominic Ramos, Evelyn Rodela, Ashley Konrardy, Jose Mendoza, and Karina Parras, and Coaches Elisabeth Cavegn and Benjamin Ramirez.

Kinesiology Master of Science student Justin Porta and CHS IHS-PhD student Chandra Bulusa presented their research during a poster session at the Texas Regional Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine (TACSM) annual conference in Austin Texas, March 1-2, 2012.

National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day



According to the DHHS Office on Women's Health, National Women and Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness day is a nationwide observance that encourages people to take action in the fight against HIV/AIDS and raise awareness of its impact on women and girls. On March 8, students in the UTEP [Department of Public Health Sciences](#) collaborated with community and university partners to provide information about HIV including regional and national data and resources, interactive educational activities, and free and confidential HIV testing. Our take home message for the event was "Know Your Status." The event aligned with other campus and community initiatives that encourage taking action to reduce rates of HIV infection among all people, but especially among women of color. Black women and Latinas are disproportionately affected by HIV, and community outreach and education can facilitate increased awareness and reduction of risky behavior. During this event, 50 people were tested for HIV! Community health education events such as this one are an opportunity for students to gain practical experience, build community and personal networks, and turn "what we know" into "what we do".

Many thanks to participants from the [College of Health Sciences](#), Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center, Students for Public Health, Eta Sigma Gamma, El Paso Public Health Department (M-Factor), International AIDS Empowerment, and La Fe CARE Center for making this event possible and successful!

[William Beaumont Army Medical Center leader visits the College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing](#)

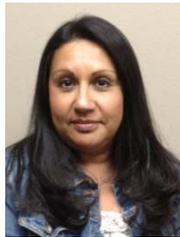


Brigadier General Dennis D. Doyle, Commanding General, Deputy Commanding General for Readiness, Western Region Medical Command; Lieutenant Colonel Michael Abel, Chief of Investigative Services and Command Sergeant Major Matthew T. Brady recently visited the University of Texas at El Paso College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing (pictured here with Dean Kathleen Curtis)

We welcome their collaboration in research and in providing clinical education for our students and appreciate their many contributions to the El Paso region!

[Welcome](#)

The [Department of Kinesiology](#) would like to Welcome Ms. Sylvia Rodriguez, our new Administrative Assistant. Sylvia has been serving UTEP since 2010 and we are very excited



that she joined our team on March 1, 2012.

The Department of Rehabilitation Sciences would like to Welcome Ms. Maureen Woodyard, our new Administrative Assistant for the [Speech Language Pathology](#) and [Rehabilitation Counseling Programs](#). Maureen is an El Paso native who worked in Los Angeles for Warner Brothers Records and Disney for a number of years before moving back to El Paso. We are very excited that she joined our team on March 1, 2012.

