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

College of Health Sciences

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# Salud y Saludos

The E-News of the College of Health Sciences

Salud y Saludos

December 2011

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### Calendar of events

Jan 2, 2012

Return from Holidays

Jan 13, 2012

MHIRT Program Applications Due

Jan 13, 2012

CHS Welcome Back Meeting

Jan 16, 2012

Martin Luther King Day

Jan 17, 2012

First Day of Spring Semester Classes

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### From the Dean's Desk

Our [December 2011 Commencement](#) observations were spectacular. With over 130 graduates overall, we celebrated the first cohort of graduate students to complete the new Master of [Social Work](#) (MSW) program. These 7 talented students completed an accelerated program in just 18 months!

University President Diana Natalicio, Dean Kathleen Curtis, Department Chair Mark Lusk, MSW Program Director Dr. Candyce Berger, all of the graduate social work faculty, as well as dozens of family members and friends celebrated this landmark event at the Friday evening Induction Ceremony and Saturday Graduate Hooding and Commencement ceremonies. We are most excited for our community that will benefit from the infusion of the next generation of well-prepared members of the social work profession. The UTEP MSW program is the only one in the U.S. to provide a focus on border issues and the socio-cultural context that characterizes our region.

Our celebrations also included degrees awarded to the second cohort of [Doctor of Physical Therapy](#) students (13 new DPT grads, bringing the total now to 27). We are eagerly awaiting May 2012, when our first [Master of Rehabilitation Counseling](#) students will complete their degree program and join our regional workforce.

Our [College of Health Sciences](#) graduate student enrollment has grown by 70% since May of 2010, when these three new programs first opened their doors. We are so proud of the efforts of our students, faculty and staff to promote the success of our new graduate degree programs and enhance the regional health and human services professional workforce.

Each of these new programs were first proposed in 2007 and received final approval in 2009-10 as the first in El Paso. With the leadership of our program directors Dr. Candyce Berger ( Master of Social Work), Loretta Dillon (Doctor of Physical Therapy) and Dr. Tim Tansey (Master of Rehabilitation Counseling), each has progressed rapidly to become a highly visible and competitive graduate degree program at the [University of Texas at El Paso](#).

On behalf of our academic and clinical faculty, our staff and students, we extend our congratulations to all of our Fall 2011 graduates and our warmest wishes for a healthy, happy holiday season and New Year!

### Congratulations to our CHS Graduates!

Students were honored both at the CHS Pre-Commencement and Graduate Hooding Ceremony held at Magoffin Auditorium and the evening Fall Commencement Ceremony - Class of 2011 held at the

Don Haskins Center.

Our Fall Commencement Ceremonies are unique in that the ceremonies include graduates from Summer 2011. With students from both summer and fall participating, the College of Health Sciences had approximately 132 students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas.

Total number of degrees earned by students for Summer 2011 and Fall 2011.

Degree earned	Number of students
<a href="#">Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Ph.D.</a>	2
<a href="#">Doctor of Physical Therapy</a>	13
<a href="#">Master of Social Work</a>	7
<a href="#">Master of Public Health</a>	2
<a href="#">Master of Occupational Therapy</a>	13
<a href="#">Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology</a>	6
<a href="#">Master of Science in Kinesiology</a>	7
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion</a>	13
<a href="#">Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology</a>	64
<a href="#">Bachelor of Social Work</a>	5
Total	132

## Program Highlights

### First Master of Social Work Students Graduate from UTEP

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, the first cohort of MSW students graduated from the new Master of [Social Work Program](#) at UTEP. Founded two years ago, the MSW program is the first such program in west Texas. The degree program is focused on training social workers to work in bi-lingual, multicultural environments such as El Paso. Students in the program have been placed at internships at local hospitals and agencies including Beaumont Army Hospital, University Medical Center, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and related agencies. The seven students graduating this year represent the first cohort of what is a very fast growing program. Currently 54 students are enrolled in the MSW degree program.

#### Graduating this year are:

Claudette I. Barragan  
Ramón Castañeda  
Selena A. Finley  
Velia Herren  
Daisey K. Lobatos  
Raquel del Consuelo Orduño  
Amanda Volker

Ms. Barragan was Graduate School Banner Bearer at the Winter 2011 Commencement. Ms. Orduno and Ms. Volker were named as Outstanding MSW Students of the Year.  
Best wishes to the Inaugural MSW Class of 2011!



## Student News & Leadership

As the semester came to an end, the College of Health Sciences was proud to announce its outstanding Undergraduate and Graduate students from the graduating class of Fall 2011 during its Honors Reception. Eighteen students were recognized for their excellent academic performance as well as community involvement and scholarly contributions.



### **Kinesiology**

Thalia Duarte - Cum Laude

Eduardo A. Lizarraga - Cum Laude

Luis A. Ponce - Cum Laude

Rosemary Saucedo - Cum Laude

Ryan P. Sorenson - Cum Laude

Audrey L. Vasquez - Cum Laude

Christian I. Carrasco - Cum Laude; Undergraduate Student Marshal of Students

Joseph A. Cole - Magna Cum Laude; Undergraduate College Banner Bearer

### **Health Promotion**

Adriana Martinez - Cum Laude; Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Noah A. Munoz - Magna Cum Laude; Outstanding Undergraduate Student



**Master of Public Health**

Marcelo Korc - Outstanding Academic Achievement

Alma X. Ortega Gomez - Outstanding Academic Achievement

**Master of Occupational Therapy**

Lynette Camacho - Graduate Student Marshal of Students

**Master of Social Work**

Raquel del Consuelo Orduño - Outstanding MSW Student 2011

Amanda Volker - Outstanding MSW Student 2011

Claudette I. Barragan - Graduate School Banner Bearer

**Interdisciplinary Health Sciences, Ph.D.**

Holly J. Mata - In recognition of her work through research and practice, towards the elimination of health disparities and her support of her fellow students.

Daniel Medrano Jr. - In recognition of his scholarly contributions to the prevention of sports related knee injuries.