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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

November 2012

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**Calendar of events**

- December 6, 2012  
4:00PM  
HSN, Room 217  
[Fall 2012 Student Honors Recognition](#)
- December 15, 2012  
3:30PM  
Magoffin Auditorium  
[Fall 2012 CHS Precommencement and Hooding Ceremony](#)
- 7:00PM  
Don Haskins  
[Fall 2012 University Commencement](#)

**In the News**

- [Health Sciences Welcomes Students from Ecuador](#)
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**From the Dean's Desk**



As we close the month of November, with only a week left in the Fall semester, we are preparing for the special events that recognize the success and achievements of our graduates. This month has been characterized by events and partnerships which expanded our community engagement, [strengthened our international collaborations](#), offered regional discussion of health issues in various forums, celebrated the distribution of scholarship support to some of our students and opened a permanent exhibit of unique neuroscience art in the Campbell Building.

[The 2012 San Elizario Health Fair](#), on Saturday, November 3, 2012, offered an opportunity for our students and faculty from various health professions education programs to participate in health promotion and screening activities for hundreds of San Elizario residents.

Our 2012 Go Blue on the Border celebration marked the second annual event on World Diabetes Day, November 14, 2012, focusing on diabetes prevention and treatment. This year's event focused on breast feeding and the development of a mother-friendly workplace policy at UTEPP and included a yoga demonstration. Congratulations to Dr. Maria Duarte, Chair of the Department of Public Health Sciences, on organizing another successful event!

Over 30 Occupational Therapy students received [HRSA Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students](#). Ms. Liz Justice, Ms. Brenda Velasquez from the UTEP Scholarship Office as well as MOT Program Director and Principal Investigator, Dr. Stephanie Capshaw, were on hand to distribute the scholarships to these elated students on November 28th.

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS), Regional and Binational Tuberculosis Program, collaborated with Dr. Eva Moya from the Department of Social Work, to host a Tuberculosis Conference at UTEP on Wednesday, November 28, 2012 focusing on tuberculosis and diabetes. This conference marked the final event in the year-long exhibition of [Nuestra Casa](#) at the Centennial Museum.

Finally, on November 29 we celebrated the opening of the permanent installation of *Brain Cartographies*, with a presentation by the artist, [Elizabeth Jameson](#). These unique images, housed on the first floor of the Campbell Building, show the artist's brain MRI images transformed through color and other design elements. The permanent

[UTEP to Provide Tour of Voices and Images of Women Exhibit](#)

[Pharmacy Today: Dr. Jeri Sias](#)

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collection features eight of Jameson's pieces, including a stunning 16-foot piece featuring a series of MRI images, entitled Carousel. This was the artist's first visit to the



University of Texas at El Paso and she promised to return!

Go Miners!

### **Health Sciences Students at San Elizario Health Fair**

Students from the [College of Health Sciences](#) programs in [Public Health](#), [Clinical Laboratory Sciences](#), [Pharmacy](#), [Physical Therapy](#), [Rehabilitation Sciences](#) and [Social Work](#), along with students from the School of Nursing and the Hispanic Health Disparities Research Center, spent the morning of Saturday, November 3rd doing health assessments and talking to parents and children about the importance of good health. [Read more](#)

### **Doctor of Physical Therapy Students**



Four second-semester [Doctor of Physical Therapy](#) students (Jose Mendoza, Marcus Scott, Raquel Cueto, and Evelyn Rodela) participated in the San Elizario Health Fair on November 3, 2012. Their focus was to educate the public on improving physical activity and exercise. The students enthusiastically explained the benefits of the 10,000 Steps Program. As part of this, they educated individuals about the use of pedometers to track activity and to set weekly goals for increasing activity. The students then quizzed the individuals to

check their recall of key parts of the information presented; if they could verbally answer the students' questions, then the individuals won a free pedometer.

The DPT students reported that it had been an excellent learning experience for them. It was their first time as DPT students to educate the public. With practice, they improved in their ability to effectively engage the public and communicate the most important elements of the program. At the end, the students reported that they felt like they had truly provided meaningful public service.

### **Go Blue on the Border**

On November 14th the College of Health Sciences celebrated [World Diabetes Day](#) in support of "[Go Blue on the Border](#)," a campaign launched in 2011 by the Paso del Norte Binational Diabetes Committee and Community Partners to raise diabetes awareness in the Paso del Norte Region. November 14th marks the birthday of scientist Frederick Banting, who along with Charles Best discovered insulin in 1922. The symbol for diabetes, a blue circle, was initially

launched in 2006 by the [International Diabetes Federation](#) (IDF). The The circle symbolizes life and health and blue reflects the sky that unites all nations. The blue circle signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes pandemic. The circle symbolizes life and health and blue reflects the sky that unites all nations. The blue circle signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes pandemic. The circle symbolizes life and health and blue reflects the sky that unites all nations. The blue circle signifies the unity of the global diabetes community in response to the diabetes pandemic. According to the IDF more than 371 million people around the world have diabetes. As the seventh leading cause of death in the United States, diabetes affects nearly 26 million Americans of all ages. The [UTEP College of Health Sciences Department of Public Health Sciences](#) in collaboration with Eta Sigma Gamma, honor society for Health Promotion students, offered a conference to about 100 students around the topic of diabetes prevention programs and initiatives. Dr. Fernando Aviles, Chief medical director for [Project Vida Health Center](#) spoke about services offered by the federally funded program to uninsured patients. Meghan Robinson, a Registered Nurse and International Board Certified Lactation Consultant, provided an insightful presentation on the benefits of breastfeeding and risk reduction of obesity and diabetes. Mr. Jesse Manciaz, Interim Director at [UTEP Human Resources](#) spoke about the steps the university is taking to create mother friendly policies on campus. The event ended with a 15-minute yoga session provided by Maricarmen Vizcaino, a certified yoga instructor and personal trainer who is also doctoral student in the [Interdisciplinary Health Sciences PhD Program](#) at UTEP College of Health Sciences and School of Nursing. To raise diabetes awareness and as part of the World Diabetes Day celebration students enrolled in nutrition classes participated in a poster contest that depicts effective diabetes prevention measures. The poster by student Griselda Hernandez was selected by the UTEP Wellness Steering Committee as the best entry.



### **Texas Occupational Therapy Foundation Grant Recipients**

Dr. Eugenia Gonzalez, OTR, PhD and Professor Katherine Lawson, OTR, LMSSW, PhD (c), faculty in the [UTEP Master of Occupational Therapy Program](#), received the first ever [Texas Occupational Therapy Foundation](#) Research Program grant at the Texas Occupational Therapy Association's 2012 Mountain Central Conference and Expo in November 2012. The primary purpose of the Texas Occupational Therapy Foundation is to promote and support scholarship and research in occupational therapy in Texas. Grant



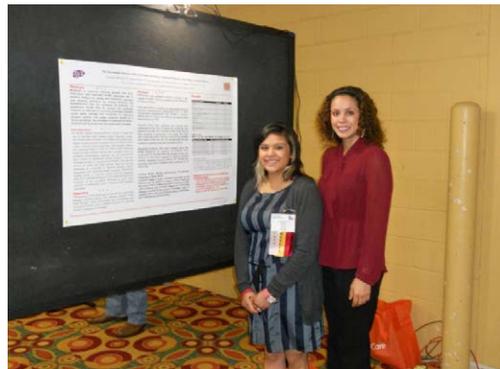
funds are generated from income proceeds from the annual TOTF "Breakfast with a Scholar" and the quilt raffle. They were awarded \$2500 to assist Professor Lawson in the completion of her dissertation research entitled "The Impact of Fear of Falling on Functional Independence". Recipients are expected to provide a preliminary report or the results of the study at a Texas Occupational Therapy

Association Mountain Central Conference within one year of the receipt of the award. Congratulations Dr. Gonzalez and Professor Lawson!

## **Texas Mountain Central Occupational Therapy Annual Conference and Expo**

Nine [UTEP Master of Occupational Therapy](#) students and four faculty attended the annual Texas OT Conference in November in Austin, TX. Dr. Two student research groups under the direction of Dr. Eugenia Gonzalez, OTR, PhD presented posters entitled "Exploring the Relationship Between Sense of Coherence and Depression in Mothers of Children with Disabilities" and "The Correlation Between GPA and Physical Activity for Graduate Students in the College of Health Sciences". Students also raised money for the UTEP Student Occupational Therapy Association (SOTA) through t-shirt sales at the conference. T-shirts were designed by current UTEP MOT students.

The Correlation Between GPA and Physical Activity for Graduate Students in the College of Health Sciences  
Jayme M. Mancera OTS,  
Amber Coltrane OTS; Not pictured: Erika Hernandez, OTS; Beau Bradberry, OTS; Eugenia C. Gonzalez, OTR, PhD



Exploring the Relationship Between Sense of Coherence and Depression in Mothers of Children with Disabilities  
Ashley Love, OTS; Rachel Williams, OTS; Not pictured: Eugenia C. Gonzalez, OTR, PhD

Back Row: Rachel Williams, OTS; Stephanie Alamaraz, OTS; Jayme Mancera, OTS; Madeline Ochoa, OTS; Ashley Love, OTS. Front Row: Daisy Yeh, OTS; Amber Coltrane, OTS.



## **PT Class of 2013 Presented a Sizable Donation to the Texas Physical Therapy Foundation**

The [Physical Therapy](#) Class of 2013 held a fundraising event earlier this

semester to benefit the [Texas Physical Therapy Foundation](#) (TPTF). On



October 26th, Nichol as Velencia (representing the PT Class of 2013) presented a check in the amount of \$2,000 to the TPTF at the Texas Physical Therapy Association's annual conference in San Antonio, TX. UTEP was commended by the speaker of the assembly and the presentation was met by a thunderous applause. The purpose of the TPTF is to conduct activities which foster

and promote physical therapy education and research by awarding and distributing grants for research studies and projects related to physical therapy, awarding and distributing grants for scholarships to individuals in physical therapy educational programs and to physical therapy professionals enrolled in advanced studies, and providing support for physical therapy educational programs and faculty.

### **Physical Therapy Pinning Ceremony Takes on New Form This Year**

Tradition dictates that every Fall semester involves a pinning ceremony for the 2nd year students in the [Doctor of Physical Therapy program](#). This ceremony is meant to be a symbolic representation of the students' transition from the study of preclinical to clinical health sciences. This year brought new tradition under the request of the Class of 2013, a white coat ceremony. In addition to being issued a lapel pin adorning the emblem of the [American Physical Therapy Association](#), this year's ceremony involved each student being robed in a white coat, the garb traditionally worn by physicians for over 100 years and recently adopted by many other health professions. The ceremony also addressed the issue of medical ethics to which each student recited the UTEP DPT Oath, stating: "As a member of the UTEP Physical Therapy Program and the APTA, I pledge, to embrace the APTA CORE Values as I enter into clinical practice for this phase of my education. I promise to be accountable for my actions while maintaining the highest integrity possible. I promise to remain altruistic and engage in excellent and compassionate patient care practices. I understand the importance of upholding this Honor Code to maintain our professional community of trust. Furthermore, my professional duty is foremost to my patients, to UTEP, and the APTA."



### **Clinical Laboratory Sciences Students are Actively Involved in the Community**

Students from the UTEP [Clinical Laboratory Science Program](#) performed 200 glucose and cholesterol tests on local residents from San Elizario. Health fair



participants were also screened for anemia and high blood pressure and blood grouping.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences Program students performed 70 glucose and cholesterol screening test for the Women's Health Initiative this past Wednesday, November 14th in the UTEP Library foyer. Students performing blood analyses were June De Antonio, Gabriela Soria, and Cornelio Sotelo.



Clinical Laboratory Sciences Students Jose Varella and Luis Santiago are working a recruitment table at an Eastwood High School college recruitment fair. The CLS program is actively involved in local college recruitment fairs and have also attended fairs at Coronado and Franklin High Schools.

CLS senior student Brianda Sarmiento is with Michael Maxwell from the Center for Career and Technology Education (CCTE). The CCTE is an EPISD high school focused on health and biotechnology careers. Brianda is helping Michael prepare for a biotechnology competition that will be held in 2013.



Brianda Sarmiento demonstrates a gram stain to Michael Maxwell and his instructor Ana Angerstein-Thompson (CLS alumni 2006) from the Center for Career and Technology Education (CCTE).

### Faculty Corner

Dr. Candyce Berger appointed Chair, Department of Social Work, University of Texas at El Paso

Candyce Berger, MSW, Ph.D. has been appointed Chair, [Department of Social Work](#). Dr. Berger joined the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) faculty in the Department of Social Work in 2008, with over 30 years of experience in Social Work professional education across five academic institutions, having served as a Lecturer at University of Southern California School of Social Work, Assistant and Associate Professor at University of Washington School of Social Work, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean at University of Michigan Graduate School of Social Work and Associate Professor with tenure at State University of New York at Stony Brook, School of Social Welfare. She has served as the Director of the Master of Social Work Program at UTEP since the program began in 2010 and has led the program's accreditation process. [Read more](#)



**David Wittenburg, Ph.D.; Associate Professor, Chair of Department of Kinesiology**



Dr. Wittenburg joined the faculty of UTEP in the fall of 2012 as an Associate Professor and Chair of the [Department of Kinesiology](#). Prior to arriving at UTEP he was an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for Exercise Science at the University of Texas at Brownsville. He graduated from Texas A&M with his Ph.D. in Kinesiology in 2000. His research concentrates on cardiovascular and hemodynamic responses to exercise in at-risk populations for cardiovascular diseases.

His work has been presented at the American College of Sports Medicine, International Obesity Conference, and Frontiers of Cardiology. David is a member of the American College of Sports Medicine and the National Strength and Conditioning Association. He has served on committees with the Texas and New Mexico Associations for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, the National Association for Sports and Physical Education.

**Sydip Bajpeyi, Ph.D.; Assistant Professor**

After completing his Ph.D. in Bioenergetics at East Carolina University in Greenville, NC and postdoctoral training at Pennington Biomedical Research Center in Baton Rouge, LA, Dr. Bajpeyi joined the [Department of Kinesiology](#) at UTEP as Assistant Professor in the fall of 2012. Dr. Bajpeyi's research focuses on understanding the effects of exercise training on insulin action, lipid metabolism and mitochondrial bioenergetics in humans, specifically in obese and type 2 diabetic populations.

