

10-1-2011

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

UTEP 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

UTEP College of Health Sciences, "Salud y Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences" (2011). *College of Health Sciences*. Paper 7.

http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/chs_news/7

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.



In This Issue

From the Dean's Desk

Community Update

Research Activities

Program Highlights

Faculty Corner

Student News



Calendar of events

October 14, 2011

1:00-4:00 pm Graduate Programs Showcase (HSN Building)

October 15, 2011

Orange and Blue Day (HSN Building)

October 19, 2011

4:00pm (HSN Building) Gold Nugget and Friends of the College of Health Sciences & School of Nursing.

October 20, 2011

5:00pm (Campbell Bldg) Special presentation by 2011 Gold Nugget Award Recipient: Dr. Patricia Bender Kricos.

October 26, 2011

1:00-5:00pm (HSN Building) Career Fair

From the Dean's Desk

In this, our first newsletter of the 2011-12 academic year, I have the distinct honor to write about some tremendous successes and exciting developments, including the [Grand Opening of the new Health Sciences and Nursing building](#).

Summer 2011, as anticipated, was a busy time, with getting settled in the new Health Sciences/Nursing building as well as planning and carrying out the move of another 50+ faculty and staff into various locations in the Campbell Building. As the Campbell building is prepared for major renovations, faculty and staff in the UTEP Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, UTEP/UT Austin Cooperative Pharmacy program and the UT School of Public Health- El Paso Campus, moved into newly updated and consolidated office areas. Planned renovations will include updated research and teaching laboratories and new outpatient clinic areas for the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences as well as a rewired videoconferencing classroom facility for the Cooperative Pharmacy program. Originally housing the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing, this historic building is a landmark in downtown El Paso.

Thus, following our June, 2011 move, our College academic and research programs are now in two locations, one on campus and one on Campbell St, about a mile away. This has presented some challenges to our communication and College operations. In August, 2011, the College instituted a new *Technology initiative* to insure connectivity and to leverage the power of mobile technology to assist faculty and staff to continue to thrive in productivity and innovation. Our department chairs, program directors, dean's office and all administrative support staff have all been provided webcams to personalize and facilitate verbal communications and minimize travel needs. So, don't be surprised to be invited to *Skype* or *lluminate* the next time you schedule a meeting with our College leaders.

In addition, our [2011-12 iPad Program](#) recently invited a select group of 11 faculty and staff to participate and carry out various technology-driven projects. Over the course of the 2011-12 academic year, each of the program participants will explore the capacity of the iPad2 to facilitate their advising, teaching, research or community engagement. We are eager to watch their ground-breaking work in health professions education by harnessing the power of this exciting

In the News

[El Paso Times: UTEP's new health sciences building paves way for growth](#)

[UTEP Celebrates New Health Sciences and Nursing Building](#)



[El Paso Inc: New Nursing, health sciences building for UTEP](#)

Follow us on...

[Our Website](#)



[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

technology. Faculty will use the capacity of the iPad2 to collect and store field data, to create mobile data collection tools, to hold mobile reference libraries and maps, and to enhance communications and dissemination of their work worldwide.

Our summer international research activities also broke new ground for UTEP College of Health Sciences--in Ecuador, Costa Rica, Chile and Guatemala. A total of 8 College of Health Sciences faculty and 15 UTEP students participated in mentored research and study-abroad experiences in these four international sites. We look forward to further development and enhancing collaboration with our international partners as we build on this summer's successes. Our [Minority Health International Research Training \(MHIRT\) program](#) will soon begin the Summer 2012 recruitment process.

And lastly, I am delighted to report that the College of Health Sciences student enrollment is at an all-time high. For the second year, the College of Health Sciences has experienced significant and unprecedented enrollment growth. Based on Census day statistics for Fall 2011, the College of Health Sciences experienced 15.7% total enrollment growth since Fall 2010. Fall 2011 total enrollment increased from 1653 to 1912 students. This reflects an additional 259 students since Fall 2010, 183 at the undergraduate level and 76 at the post-baccalaureate and graduate levels. The College's growth rate for 2010 was similar, at 14.2%.

Three new graduate programs, the [Master of Social Work](#), the [Master of Rehabilitation Counseling](#) and the [Doctor of Physical Therapy](#) programs have contributed a total of 130 new graduate students--resulting in a staggering 77% *growth* in enrollment of graduate students in the College since these three programs began 15 months ago in Summer 2010. This growth in professional education program enrollment will result in a major increase in UTEP's capacity to meet the health-related workforce needs of our region.

Until next time,

Kathleen Curtis, PT, Ph.D.
Dean, College of Health Sciences

Community Update

Conference on Hate Crimes

The El Paso Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation teamed up with the UTEP Department of [Social Work](#) this month to sponsor a **Hate Crimes Roundtable** Wednesday September 15 on the UTEP Campus.

Hate crimes are criminal offenses against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender's bias against a race, religion, disability, ethnic origin or sexual orientation.

The conference brought together federal, state and local law enforcement with victim's assistance personnel. The meeting also

included UTEP professors and students who spoke about the history of hate crime and its current manifestations in American society.

Among the presenters were Saeed Mody, Trial Attorney with the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington D.C. The FBI was represented by Peter Kaupp of the Civil Rights Unit of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington D.C. El Paso County District attorney Jaime Esparza discussed hate crimes in Texas.

UTEP faculty and students discussed hate crimes against minorities. Hilda Ontiveros spoke about hate crimes against Hispanics. Maceo Dailey discussed hate crimes against African Americans. Kathryn Schmidt spoke about hate crimes against women, and sexual minorities. Victim's assistance from law enforcement and social services also discussed programs and services to survivors of hate crimes.

Mark Lusk, professor of [Social Work](#), who helped to coordinate the conference, observed that "this is a result of a unique partnership between the law enforcement, social services and the academic community to raise awareness of hate crime legislation and the prosecution of hate crimes, while also considering the origins and treatment of hate crimes nationally and locally."

Research Activities

CHS Delegation Visits Universidad Nacional de Loja in Ecuador

A CHS delegation that included Dr. Kathleen Curtis, Dean, Dr. Meg Weigel, Associate Dean, and Dr. Rodrigo Armijos, Associate Professor of Public Health Sciences visited [The Universidad Nacional de Loja](#) (UNL) in southern Ecuador in July. The UTEP delegation met with several UNL officials, including Dr. Gustavo Villacis-Rivas, the university President, Dr. Max Gonzalez-Merizalde, Director of the Center for Amazonian Studies, Dr. Amable Bermeo-Flores, Dean of the College of Health Sciences, and Dr. Tito Carrion, Director of Research. The purpose of the visit was to plan future collaborative activities including faculty and student training and exchanges and joint research projects related to environmental health, infectious disease prevention and control, and traditional medicine, among other topics. During this trip the UTEP team also visited research facilities at the UNL including the botanical research gardens shown in the photo below.



Program Highlights

UTEP Master of Occupational Therapy Program Accredited for 10 Years

The Master of [Occupational Therapy \(MOT\)](#) program at [The University of Texas at El Paso](#) has been approved for accreditation for 10 years, the maximum period available. The Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE) granted the accreditation following review of a self-study submitted by the program and a site visit in March.

"This recognition is a tremendous achievement for the program and ensures that UTEP will continue to excel in preparing the occupational therapy workforce to meet our 21st century needs," said Kathleen Curtis, Ph.D., dean of the College of Health Sciences. "This is great news for our university, our faculty and students, and especially for the future recipients of their care in our region."

As a result of accreditation, graduates of UTEP's MOT program are eligible to take the certification examination for occupational therapists administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). Successful completion of this exam makes a graduate eligible to apply for licensure in a particular state to practice occupational therapy. The UTEP MOT program graduates about 15-20 students per year, many of whom stay in the El Paso/Las Cruces area to meet the health care needs of this region.

"Accreditation assures students that our program is meeting the same standards as other programs across the country - that when they graduate from the UTEP MOT program, they will be just as qualified, if not more so, than other MOT graduates in other parts of the country," said program director Stephanie Capshaw, OTD. "The fact that we were granted the maximum 10-year accreditation term speaks to me that ACOTE recognizes the work that we are doing here and is confident in the occupational therapy education that our students are receiving."

The UTEP occupational therapy program was first established as a cooperative program with The University of Texas Medical Branch

(UTMB) in 1991. Administrative control of the program transferred to UTEP in 1997. In 2005, the program moved from a bachelor's level program to an entry-level master's program, which can be completed in about two-and-a-half years. Fifty-three MOT students are currently enrolled in the program.

Occupational therapy is a profession that focuses on health and well being through participation in occupation, or activities of everyday life. Occupational therapists work with clients whose participation has been limited by physical, cognitive, psychological, or social barriers. Capshaw said UTEP MOT graduates typically secure employment in hospitals, outpatient rehabilitation clinics, skilled nursing facilities, public schools, early intervention agencies, pediatric clinics, and mental health hospitals, clinics and agencies. Occupational therapy recently was ranked as one of the "150 Best Recession-Proof Jobs" and was named to *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Careers 2011" list.

Faculty Corner

Derek Acosta, MS

Derek Acosta earned his B.S. (2007) and M.S. (2011) degree in Kinesiology from the University of Texas at El Paso and joins the Department of Kinesiology as a Lecturer. He has held positions with the Institute for Policy and Economic Development, the Department of Kinesiology, and has experience in clinical rehabilitation. He will be teaching a variety of Kinesiology courses and his interests are in wellness and chronic disease prevention.

Dr. Erin Barnes, Ph.D, CRC, OWDS

Dr. Erin Barnes joined the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program faculty this Fall. She received her doctorate in Rehabilitation Counselor Education from The University of Iowa in 2011. Dr. Barnes is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Her research interest surrounds motivation, specifically behavioral intentions. She is also interested in professional identity development among rehabilitation counselor trainees.

Elizabeth Camacho, BS, ASCP

Ms. Elizabeth Camacho joined the Clinical Laboratory Science Program faculty this Fall as the student Clinical Coordinator. Elizabeth is a certified Medical Technologist [MT(ASCP)] and received her Molecular Diagnostics Certificate from Michigan State University. Elizabeth comes to us with a wide range of clinical experiences from Cancer Treatment Center, Providence Memorial Hospital and Las Palmas Medical Center.

Dr. Allison Carson, PT, DPT

We welcome a new clinical assistant professor who is an alum of our program, Dr. Allison Carson. Dr Carson received her Bachelor of Science in Health Care Sciences from The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and her Master of Physical Therapy from The University of Texas at El Paso. She completed a Doctor of Physical

Therapy Degree with Arizona School of Health Sciences. Dr Carson currently works in a geriatric PACE program. Her clinical experience includes acute care, out-patient orthopedic and neurological rehab, in-patient and outpatient wound care, and the home health settings. She has served as a Clinical Instructor for greater than 10 years to PT students who are participating in their acute care and neurological rotations.

Elisabeth Cavegn, M.S., PTA

This fall, Elisabeth Cavegn started working as a full-time Lecturer for the Department of Kinesiology. Elisabeth earned her B.S. (2007) and M.S. (2011) degree in Kinesiology from the University of Texas at El Paso and is also a licensed physical therapist assistant. As a Lecturer, Elisabeth will be teaching a number of undergraduate Kinesiology courses. Ms. Cavegn's interests are in the use of alternative physical activity practices for controlling chronic disease conditions.

Pedro Del Corral, M.D., Ph.D.

Dr. Pedro Del Corral completed his undergraduate education at The University of Iowa in Interdepartmental studies with an emphasis in exercise science. He then pursued a double major Master's of Science in Physical Education (Exercise Physiology) and Physiology at Ball State University, where he worked in pediatric exercise physiology. He then attended Medical school intermittently while pursuing a funded Ph.D. from The University of Tennessee and postdoctoral training at The University of Maryland Medical School and the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He also completed training or held positions at The NIH Clinical Center, John Hopkins School of Public Health, and the USDA. In Fall 2011 Dr. Del Corral accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position at University of Texas at El Paso.

Scott Douglas, Ph.D.

Dr. Scott Douglas joined the faculty as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Kinesiology. He earned his B.S. degree in Economics from the University of Utah, his M.Ed. from the University of Montevallo, and his Ph.D. in Sport Pedagogy from the University of Alabama. He has had a long career as an athlete and administrator with the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic programs. Dr. Douglas has spoken to audiences all over the world and has a national reputation in adaptive sport programs. His research interests are in the areas of coaching expertise and adapted physical activity. Scott remains active playing basketball and tennis, whitewater rafting, hand cycling, and hiking.

Kathryn Schmidt, Ph.D.

Dr. Kathryn Schmidt has been appointed Assistant Professor of Social Work. She earned the Ph.D. and M.S. at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill in Sociology and the Master of Social Work (MSW) at New Mexico State University. Her undergraduate training was at Indiana University. Kathryn's research interests focus on LGBTQI people's access to and use of social services. She is investigating hate crimes, bullying, and other emotional and physical violence against people based on sexual orientation or gender. She is co-investigator on the SABES 2 study of college students' sexual

attitudes, behaviors, and experiences. The project is helping describe problems and inform efforts to prevent sexual assault and other negative consequences of sexual activity. Kathryn's practice experience as a social worker includes work with bereavement of adults and children at a hospice and work at the policy level and direct services related to sexual and family violence.

Christina Sobin, Ph.D.

Dr. Christina Sobin joined the faculty of Public Health Sciences this Fall as Associate Professor in a joint appointment with the Department of Psychology. She received her doctorate in Psychology at New York University, and had a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship at the New York State Psychiatric Institute and the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons. She also held an appointment as Clinical Scholar at the Rockefeller University in New York. Her research interests include developmental cognitive neuroscience; stress and the developing brain; the effects on neurocognitive development and function of low-level toxic exposures and stress in minority and underserved children.

[Dr. Loretta Dillon Appointed Interim Program Director, Physical Therapy](#)

Dr. Loretta Dillon has recently been appointed Interim Program Director, Physical Therapy. Her appointment follows the recent announcement of the retirement of Dr. Mary Carlson as Program Director.

[Dr. George King Appointed Interim Chair, Department of Kinesiology](#)

Dr. George King has been appointed Interim Chair, Department of Kinesiology. Dr. King will replace Dr. Darla Smith, outgoing Department Chair, who recently announced her retirement.

Student News & Leadership

Students for Public Health @ Minerpalooza

Students for Public Health (SPH) participated at this year's Minerpalooza and brought with them fun healthy messages with the game "Health Behavior Plinko". Each player was given plinko chips to place in any slot which randomly lands a healthy (e.g., +3 points for wearing a seat belt) or unhealthy (e.g., -2 points for eating fast food) behavior for points. Every player was a winner even if they had a negative score! Prizes included beads, hand towels, pens, Frisbees, water bottles, and glow in the dark bracelets. The game attracted about 400 individuals of all ages, from grandparents to their grandchildren. SPH would like to thank the eight volunteers who

helped out at this successful event: Anabel Cardiel, Leilani Attilio, Amir Kamel, Sandra Bejarano, Sujehy Arredondo, Frances Reyes, Julio Ramirez, and Jose Guevara. SPH would also like to thank MFactor of El Paso for lending SPH the plinko game and Leticia Paez, Dean Curtis, and Brian Carter for donating all the prizes. Without all of your help this would not have been possible!



Social Work Student Association Raises Spirits and Fun at Minerpalooza

The Student Association of Social Workers started the academic year on the right foot with a strong showing at Minerpalooza. By operating a dunking booth, SASW provided a fun and refreshing environment for the more than 30,000 people that attended this year's event. SASW members sat on that lonely wooden plank, waiting to see if the next thrown ball would mean they would be taking a dip in the water. From the start to the end of Minerpalooza, people were lined up, ready to test their softball throwing abilities.

The huge success of this event has shown how SASW has matured into an ever growing organization both in the College of Health Science and UTEP. In addition, Their active participation and university- wide presence reflects the growth of the Social Work Department and the support that students receive from the faculty. Prof. Cude-Islas, Dr. Lusk, Dr. Lucas, Dr. Berger and Dr. Moya could all be seen helping out at the booth. The nearly 60 SASW members include social work students from both the junior and senior levels of the undergraduate BSW program.



Go Miners!

First Tailgate a Success

By Gerard Ross

The College of Health Sciences (CHS) and School of Nursing (SON) held their very first tailgate at the new Health Sciences & Nursing building in celebration of UTEP's first football game of the season. The tailgate was wildly successful with over 80 people in attendance. The goal was to get as many student organization leaders, faculty, and staff from both the CHS and SON out to enjoy some food, fun, and games.

In the spirit of the game, all the guests had to score a touchdown with a pass to the CHS's inflatable football players. As soon as they scored they were given a Healthy People 2020 "Healthy People in Healthy Border Communities" wrist band and they were ready to party.

Once inside, Sandella's Flatbread Café made sure all of guests were well fed so that they could get down to the serious business of playing bean-bag toss and ladder toss or just plain old shooting the breeze over a cool glass of lemonade.

Dr. Natalicio, Dean Curtis, Police Chief Walsh, and Paydirt Pete were among the VIP's at the tailgate. Dr. Natalicio and Paydirt Pete took some time out to have a photo-op with a group of very excited nursing students, as well as faculty members and their children. Dean Curtis even managed to win second place in thrilling hula-hoop competition. Many guests participated, but after about a minute it was a dead heat between the Dean and the Physical Therapy Graduate Students.

It was a great time, but it was also for a good cause. Each guest was also asked to bring one sport related toy or book that will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House on Stanton St. By the end of the day the tailgate had collected a huge basket of goodies for the children.

