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

College of Health Sciences

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From the Dean's Desk

With one month into 2012, our Spring semester is in full swing and we are on the move again! There are many new beginnings for us as you will read in the newsletter that follows. Among the most important, however, are commitments that we can collectively make to support the sustainability of our planet and the health of our population. Small changes result in large impact when we think about ways that our organizations and even our daily habits can contribute to global change.

Here are some ways that the College of Health Sciences will promote better use of our resources and better health for all:

1. **Support local farmers and farmers markets.** This keeps local farms in business and prevents the excess packaging, needs for consumption of petroleum products and pollution associated with transporting basic foods thousands of miles to large grocery stores. Take a look at Farmer's markets and Community Supported Agriculture opportunities. Websites like [Local Harvest](#) and the [USDA Agricultural Marketing Service](#) make it easy to find these resources. Make this a regular habit.
2. **Commit to having a positive impact on the planet.** Did you know that 23 billion disposable coffee cups were used in the US in 2010, consuming 14 million tons of wood and resulting in 363 million tons of solid waste? [Read more here.](#) Use non-disposable coffee cups, an insulated container for your lunches and reusable water bottles. Avoid plastic utensils and plastic bags. At the very least, reuse or recycle them, rather than discarding them. [Unsubscribe](#) from unwanted magazines and catalogs. And remember to bring those cloth grocery bags everywhere you shop. Here are some more [great green tips.](#)
3. **Join the Meatless Monday campaign.** This [international movement](#) is gaining traction. Some have even extended this concept to other [Healthy Monday](#) campaigns. The savings are amazing. Estimates indicate that 1800 to 2500 gallons of water are needed to produce



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each pound of beef consumed. The United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization estimates that one-fifth of greenhouse gas emissions can be attributed to the meat industry. Read the [Scientific American article](#) that links meat consumption and global warming. Overall the annual beef diet of the average American releases as much greenhouse gas as a car driven 1800 miles! And of course, a diet low in saturated fats and high in fruits and vegetables lowers risk of colon cancer, heart disease, obesity and diabetes. Evidence shows that just one day a week sustains positive behavior change. Spread the word about the impact of this small change on our planet and health.

I am also delighted to welcome several new faculty and staff that have joined our ranks. Please read below about the talented new additions to our College of Health Sciences team.

Wishing you a healthy and productive 2012!

New Beginnings

As part of our new year comes new beginnings for each CHS department. What follows is a "resolution" from each of our Departments...

[Clinical Laboratory Sciences](#)

"To increase collaboration between the CLS Program and the community to bring awareness of the CLS Program and its importance in the Health Sciences."

[Cooperative Pharmacy Program](#)

"As the Pharmacy Program begins a new semester in a new location, the resolution of the Program is to provide for both students and faculty the best technology in videoconferencing to make the experience as real as possible in spite of the distance between Austin, San Antonio, and Pan Am."

[Master of Rehabilitation Counseling](#)

"The Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program resolves to improve quality of life for individuals with disabilities in El Paso and the surrounding areas by promoting the professional credentialing of rehabilitation counseling graduates and to increase the number of quality rehabilitation providers reflective of the demographics of the local community."

[Occupational Therapy Department](#)

"As occupational therapists we are concerned with the whole person- body, spirit, & mind. So our resolution is to improve our work-life balance so that we can optimize our performance both personally and professionally. "

[Physical Therapy Program](#)

"Our new year's resolution is to improve communication among all faculty with our Blackboard program website, and continue to explore ways that

technology can further improve our program."

[Department of Public Health Sciences:](#)

"Launch an ONLINE concentration in Health Promotion"

[Department of Social Work](#)

"The Department of Social Work resolves to complete Benchmark IV of the Accreditation Self-Study for the Council on Social Work Education."

[Speech-Language Pathology](#)

"Resolve to use renovated Speech and Hearing clinical facilities to increase student enrollment, improve clinical education and community service."

Research Activities

Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation CIHRE- New Contracts

The Center for Interdisciplinary Health Research and Evaluation has been awarded evaluation contracts by the Texas Department of Transportation (Texas DoT), and a consortium involving the Alianza para Colaboraciones Fronterizas (ACF) and the Universidad Autónoma de Cd. Juárez (UACJ). Both contracts will evaluate existing programs using data collected using a mixed methods methodology. [CIHRE](#) staff will provide the necessary expertise in the design of instruments, data collection procedures, and analysis of the quantitative and qualitative data generated by surveys, interviews, and focus groups.

Program Highlights

Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow Awarded to the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program

The [Master of Rehabilitation Counseling \(MRC\) program](#) and the [College of Health Sciences](#) were awarded a Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship by The University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Office of the Provost. This fellowship was one of three awarded by the Provost's to promote excellence and innovation in teaching to optimize learning for UTEP students. The Post-Doctoral Teaching Fellow will assist the faculty in the MRC program to develop and teach online coursework at the undergraduate level in the College of Health Sciences and at the graduate level in the MRC program. The fellowship is for two-years and will start in May 2012. Individuals interested in applying for this fellowship should review the position description which can be found on the UTEP Human Resources Job Opportunities webpage. Questions regarding the Post-Doctoral Fellowship should be directed to Dr. Timothy Tansey, Director of the MRC program, at (915)747-

Faculty Corner

The Department of Public Health Sciences is pleased to begin the new year with new faculty. WELCOME Dr. Mangadu! **Dr. Thenral Mangadu** has been recently appointed as Assistant Professor in the [Department of Public Health Sciences](#). During 2012, she completed her PhD in [Interdisciplinary Health Sciences at The University of Texas at El Paso](#). Dr. Mangadu also completed her MPH at The University of Texas School of Public Health El Paso regional campus. Her research interests include HIV/AIDS, woman's health, global health, structural violence, and program evaluation.

[The Physical Therapy program](#) is pleased to begin the new year with a welcome to **Dr. Daniel Ferraro**. Dr. Ferraro earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology, Athletic Training Option from the Pennsylvania State University in 2002. He received a Certification as a Strength and Conditioning Specialist from the National Strength and Conditioning Association in 2003. In 2005, he earned a Doctorate of Physical Therapy from the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, PA. He has over 7 years of clinical experience in orthopedics, practicing primarily in a private practice outpatient setting. He is a member of the APTA, Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy sections. His research interests include sports related injury and concussion management.

College Honors Two Faculty Members with Endowed Professorships

J. Edward and Helen M. C. Stern Endowed Professorship in Neuro-Science

Dr. Christina Sobin, Associate Professor of Psychology and Public Health Sciences, currently holds a joint appointment in two UTEP departments. She was recently appointed to the College's Department of Public Health Science.

As an interdisciplinary researcher, Dr. Sobin's current work on low level lead exposure in border region children spans child development, genetics, cognitive psychology, toxicology, public health and environmental policy. Establishing stronger links with our developing graduate program in Human Nutrition will facilitate research that links poor diet, genetics, child development and cognition in the underserved border population that often suffers from food insecurity. These high prevalence problems have serious consequences for the future of the residents of the border region.

In addition to her exceptional research work, Dr. Sobin also directs the UTEP Laboratory of Neurocognitive Genetics and Developmental Neurocognition. She has received over \$600,000 in research funding since 2008 to undertake her research investigating the prevalence and impact of low-level lead exposure among underserved children living in the U.S. Mexico border region. Awarding Dr. Sobin this Endowed Professorship will enable her to continue

establishing and growing the relationships across disciplines that will further advance the model of interdisciplinary teaching and research.

Peter de Wetter Distinguished Professorship in Health Sciences

Dr. Rodrigo Armijos, Associate Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, has distinguished himself internationally as a scholar in his approach to several key infectious and chronic diseases of global public health importance. Dr. Armijos has also established an impressive record of external funding to support the translation of basic laboratory research across clinical and community settings. For example, with his most recent National Institutes of Health grant for \$407,079, Dr. Armijos extended his work into environmental health and chronic disease detection and prevention in border and international populations. Dr. Armijos is also well-respected by his colleagues for in his contributions in both laboratory and field investigations to develop and test a vaccine to prevent leishmaniasis.

Dr. Armijos' record in mentoring graduate students is equally impressive. He has supervised 12 independent studies, 16 graduate theses and two dissertations during the past six years. His students have gone on to present both nationally and internationally and to publish their work in respected journals. With the funding provided by this endowed faculty position and using this model, Dr. Armijos has strong potential to spin off multiple research studies, increase sustainable funding, support student theses and provide significant benefit to the community.

Student News & Leadership

MSW Student Leah Diaz Discusses Payday Lending with Representative Naomi Gonzalez

In January, Ms. Leah Diaz, [MSW student in the College of Health Sciences](#), shared her research on Payday Lending with State Representative Naomi Gonzalez of District 76. As a [Master of Social Work](#) student, Ms. Diaz had become concerned about the effects of payday or "predatory" lending on low income residents of El Paso. She had carried out a research project with Professor Mark Lusk in which she found that borrowers quickly went underwater with payday loans as fees and interest accelerates beyond a person's ability to pay. Her research documented that payday lenders target low-income minority neighborhoods and military families.

Ms. Diaz is planning on a career in public policy after she graduates and was delighted to meet with her state representative to share her research findings.



Honors and Awards

MSW Students Inaugurate Scholarship for Professor Lusk

The [Master of Social Work Student Organization](#) in the College of Health Sciences has inaugurated the Dr. Mark Lusk Social Justice Scholarship. This scholarship was awarded in honor of "Professor Lusk's dedication to the Social Work profession and outstanding leadership and commitment to social justice." The scholarship was presented to Professor Lusk at the MSW Student Convocation in December. Professor Lusk observed, "it is very humbling to be honored by our students for the work our department does in El Paso." Individuals wishing to contribute to the fund may do so by contacting Janet Reck at jlreck@utep.edu.

Margie Padilla, Pharm.D.

Food & Drug Administration Office of Women's Health Health Education and Outreach Award Patient Safety and Clinical Pharmacy Services Collaborative January 2012

Jacquelyn Navarrete, Pharm.D.

Honorable Mention, 2012 *Pharmacy Today* One to One Patient Counseling Recognition Program American Pharmacists Association 2012

Building Evidence

Adventure for Your Future Health Career Opportunities Day

Imagine having a fairly limited understanding of health occupations and careers in one of the fastest growing industries in our country? Imagine thinking that if you don't want to be a physician or a nurse, there is no place for you in the health care sector? Many young people think this way because they have never really explored health professions from any angle other than

becoming a physician or a nurse. On January 21, 2012 that changed though. CHS Rehabilitation Sciences, Public Health Sciences, and Clinical Laboratory Science faculty and participating students treated youngsters between the ages of 11 and 13 to a whole new world of health professions. In cooperation with the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce' *ADVENTURES FOR YOUR FUTURE Camp*, approximately 100 young students from local area middle schools learned about careers in physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech language pathology, public health, health promotion, and clinical laboratory science as possible career paths for the future. Accompanied by their parents, each student learned about career activities, necessary preparation in middle school and high school to successfully compete and complete a health professions education, how to finance a University plan, and career options and benefits in health professions.



The [College of Health Sciences](#) is pleased to announce the addition of Development Director **Janet Reck**. Janet brings nearly three years of UTEP Development experience to the College and is available to assist you, our alumni and friends, in fulfilling your interest in helping the College achieve its commitment to academic and research excellence.

Going forward, Janet will be reaching out to you to discuss your collegiate experience and what makes you passionate about UTEP and the departments and programs in the College of Health Sciences. In the meantime, please consider the many ways you can get involved and reconnect with the College including:

- Attending CHS events
- Visiting the [CHS website](#)
- Scheduling a tour of our new Health Sciences and Nursing Building and the newly renovated Campbell Building
- Sharing the [CHS Newsletter](#) with other alumni, friends and your professional colleagues
- Telling us where you are now and what you're doing (Click [Here](#))
- Reconnecting with your Department or Program via [Academic Programs](#)
- Mentoring students

- Participating in our Hospital Days in the Clinical Simulation Center
- Giving a [philanthropic gift](#) such as a Naming, an Endowed Scholarship, and Endowed Academic Position, Programmatic Support
- Contact [Janet Reck](#)

Your time and involvement is greatly appreciated.

Go Miners!

Welcome!

Welcome to Building Manager and Assistant to the Dean

The start of 2012 brought two very valuable and key employees to the Office of the Dean. We wish to extend a warm welcome to Mr. **Jeffery A. Bourke**, Building Manager and Ms. **Daniela Lerma**, Assistant to the Dean. Mr. Bourke brings extensive experience in construction and building management. Prior to coming to UTEP CHS, Mr. Bourke's most recent position was that of Project Manager in the private sector with responsibility for projects at NMSU campus in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Ms. Daniela Lerma, brings over 7 years of UTEP experience to the Office of the Dean. Ms. Lerma worked as a Research Assistant for the UTEP School of Nursing from 2005-2008. During late 2008, Daniela became a full-time employee at the College of Health Sciences serving as the Compliance Assistant for the CHS Office of Student Support Center.