

7-2015

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

College of Health Sciences

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Recommended Citation

College of Health Sciences, "Salud y Saludos: The E-News of the College of Health Sciences" (2015). *College of Health Sciences*. 49.
http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/chs_news/49

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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
July/August 2015
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Monday, August 24, 2015

From the Dean's Desk



This summer seems to have flown by. I've met with so many enthusiastic students who attended the University New Student orientation. We are looking forward to their first Fall semester at UTEP!

It was great to visit our [MHIRT Program](#) participants and their international mentors this summer. The student participants presented their research on August 6th at UTEP in the annual Minority Health International Research Program Symposium. This was one of the best symposia yet.

I am delighted to report some outstanding news for [Dr. Sandor Dorgo](#), Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and one of the 2015 recipients of the [University of Texas Regents Outstanding Teaching Award](#). Dr. Dorgo is the first tenured faculty member in the College of Health Sciences to receive this award. Congratulations to Dr. Dorgo on this honor!

Congratulations to our traveling faculty and students who presented at professional conferences late this spring and summer. Read about their work in this newsletter. UTEP College of Health Sciences was very visible and well-represented.

And lastly, we are pleased to welcome Nicholas Tejeda, CEO, Hospitals of Providence, East Campus (formerly known as Sierra Providence Easter Medical Center) to our El Paso community. Tejeda was most recently CEO of Doctors Hospital of Manteca in Manteca, Calif. He is replacing [Sally Hurt-Deitch](#) ([Recipient of the UTEP Gold Nugget and UTEP Distinguished Alumni Awards](#)), who in April was appointed Market CEO of the Hospitals of Providence and CEO of the Memorial Campus (Providence Memorial Hospital and Providence Children's Hospital). Congratulations to both on these new appointments!



Go Miners!

Dr. Jennifer Sánchez and Ms. Stephany Martinez present at TTUHSC-EP 9th Annual Research Colloquium

Dr. Jennifer Sánchez, Assistant Professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling Program and Ms. Stephany Martinez, a current Rehabilitation Counseling graduate student recently presented at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center-El Paso (TTHSC-EP) 9th Annual Research Colloquium held during May 11-14, 2015. Their presentation, entitled "*Validating the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) as a Quality of Life Model for Adults with Severe Mental Illness*" addressed the needs of this population.

Ms Martinez commented, "Having the opportunity to present at a colloquium of this caliber was an amazing experience. Utilizing the ICF to predict the quality of life for adults with severe mental illness has application in many clinical settings and helps professionals see past an individual's diagnosis. From a student's perspective, I hope to continue this type of work so I may become more informed and to inform others of the important research that occurs within UTEP's College of Health Sciences."

The colloquium showcased students, staff, residents, post-doctoral fellows, and faculty from UTEP, New Mexico State University (NMSU), the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at TTHSC-EP. Oral presentations and poster sessions addressed a broad range of topics from the fundamental basic investigation to applied medical research.

Rehabilitation Counseling Faculty and Students Attend

Minerpalooza
Friday, August 28, 2015
(Evening)
(P-9 Parking Lot)

Fall Convocation
Thursday, September 24,
2015; 3:00 PM
Magoffin Auditorium

In the News

[UTEP MHIRT Students
Depart for International
Research Experience](#)

[UTEP, Mexican Consulate
Renew Health
Partnership](#)

[UTEP Graduate Turns
Healing into Art](#)

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the National Rehabilitation Educators Conference

Three UTEP faculty members and four students in the Master of Rehabilitation Counseling program attended the 15th annual National Rehabilitation Educators Conference, hosted by the [National Council on Rehabilitation Education \(NCRE\)](#), in Newport Beach, CA, April 22nd to April 24th, 2015. NCRE's purpose is to "promote the improvement of rehabilitation services available to people with disabilities through quality education and research." The conference theme was: Broadening Our Horizon Through Collaboration: Opening the Box and Talking. Attendees comprised Rehabilitation Counselors, Counselor Educators, and Researchers as well as undergraduate, master, and doctoral level students from across the US and internationally.

Dr. Barbara Schoen presented a poster entitled, "Creating A Clinical Teaching Laboratory Benefits the University, State Agency and Consumers". The poster provided an overview of the benefits of and methods for university rehabilitation training programs to contract with State Agencies as a Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP). An outline of the services provided by CRP's and an overview of the start-up process including potential challenges and benefits for the state, university, community and individuals served were identified. Methods for establishing accounting practices, tracking systems, and assessment measures and outcome data were included in the poster presentation.

Dr. Kristin Kosyluk also presented a poster, "Challenging Mental Illness Stigma Among College Students: Education- and Contact-Based Approaches" which included the findings of a randomized control trial that investigated the impact of contact- and education-based anti-stigma interventions on mental illness stigma, affirming attitudes, discrimination, and treatment seeking among college students.

Dr. Jennifer Sánchez gave both an oral presentation and two poster presentations. Her oral presentation, with Dr. David Rosenthal (University of Wisconsin-Madison), "Using the ICF to Predict QoL in Adults with Severe Mental Illness" examined the relationship between person-environment contextual factors, mental functioning, activity limitations, and participation as predictors of quality of life (QoL) in adults with severe mental illness (SMI). The World Health Organization International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) was used to conceptualize the impact of recovery-oriented outcomes on the QoL of adults with SMI. Research and clinical implications aimed at increasing QoL in adults with SMI were discussed. Dr. Sánchez' posters focused on: "Assessing Motivation to Exercise in Individuals with Chronic Pain: A Factor-Analytic Approach" with colleagues (Jessica Brooks, University of North Texas; Cahit Kaya, Kerry Thompson, Fong Chan, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Veronica Muller, Hunter College, CUNY) and "Therapeutic Outcomes of Co-Occurring Substance Use Disorders and Mental Illness Among Hispanics/Latinos" with UTEP Rehabilitation Counseling students (Jered Holder, Maggie Garcia, Scott Cool, Jonathan Jackson) were presented at the conference.

UTEP graduate student attendance was supported through a Rehabilitation Services Administration Long-Term Training Grant, the UTEP Graduate School and the UTEP Dodson Funds, allocated to the College of Health Sciences. Four graduate students attended. Jered Holder, co-presenter and MRC program graduate student stated, "The National Council on Rehabilitation Education Spring Conference was an amazing experience for me. The conference not only provided me with a venue to present relevant research with MRC program faculty, but it also afforded me with an opportunity to cultivate my own research interests. The variety of topics presented at the conference were an excellent source of inspiration, from which I was able to further develop my professional identity. UTEP is an institution that is committed to excellence through fostering the development of future leaders in the rehabilitation counseling profession."

Scott Cool, co-presenter and MRC student described the conference as "life changing." "I experienced how professional identity can increase opportunities within this field, and I was fascinated with other opportunities presented like international business in rehabilitation counseling and life care planning." Graduate students Agustín Barajas and Elisa Cortez also attended the conference.

**Three UTEP Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2012
Graduates Attain Clinical Specialization Certification**



Congratulations to UTEP Doctor of Physical Therapy Class of 2012 Graduates Dr Katherine Carson, Dr Marcos Lopez, and Dr Francisco (Pancho) Melendez! Each has earned certification as an Orthopaedics Clinical Specialist (OCS) after passing a rigorous national examination. Dr Carson also completed a residency at AT Stills University Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program in Mesa, Arizona, and Dr Lopez completed his residency at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center - Orthopedic Physical Therapy Residency Program in Dallas, Texas. This is an outstanding accomplishment for each of them and we applaud them for serving as role models for our current students.

Sandor Dorgo Receives UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award



[Sandor Dorgo, Associate Professor](#) in the Department of Kinesiology was recently awarded the [UT System Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award](#) in the tenured faculty category. Dr. Dorgo received this award during an award reception event in Austin on August 19th. According to William McRaven, UT System Chancellor, this award is an "important recognition of commitment to teaching through the delivery of the highest quality undergraduate instruction." Furthermore, "only a select number of faculty members from across the UT System were chosen for this honor, and to win one of these awards is truly a remarkable achievement." Congratulations to Dr. Dorgo!

MOT Students Inducted Into Pi Theta Epsilon OT Honor Society

Three MOT students, Austi Alvarez, Randy Roepke, Matthew Gutierrez, were inducted into the local chapter of the [Pi Theta Epsilon Occupational Therapy Honor Society](#). Congratulations to Austi, Randy, and Matthew!



Twenty four students of the new MOT Class 2017 began the program in late May. The new cohort includes students from 7 states (TX, NM, CA, NE, UT, OR, and HI), who have diverse backgrounds including biology, psychology, kinesiology, exercise sciences, speech pathology, health promotion, theater, English, business, technology, education and political sciences.

The MS2 students have also been busy this summer. All completed their Preceptorship (i.e., Level I clinical rotation), and started the summer courses in Graduate Projects and Community Engagement. In the latter, students are given opportunities to spend time with a community organization and the clients it serves. The experiences help the student(s) gain an in-depth understanding of the organization, the clientele, the diverse cultures and needs of the community. Most importantly, this community experience helps OT students further develop planning and services for the organization and its clients.

In addition, the Occupational Therapy program invited the American Service Dogs (ASD) Organization (located in Las Cruces) to make a presentation to the DPT and MOT students. ASD is an organization that assists individuals with physical, mental and/or emotional disabilities (e.g., veterans with PTSD) to select and train services dogs, and in turn individuals with disabilities benefit from the services and support of their service dogs

Health Promotion Student-Peer Educators promote Sexual Health Through "Sex-Positive" Norm Changes on UTEP Campus



Twenty five Health Promotion undergraduate students are currently promoting sexual health through peer education on UTEP campus. These peer educators are trained to provide health education related sexual health through the [Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program](#) which has been funded by the Paso Del Norte Health Foundation's Two Should Know initiative (PI: Eileen Aguilar, UTEP Wellness Program; Co-PI: Dr. Thenral Mangadu, Department of Public Health Sciences). The intervention, which is implemented through the UTEP Wellness Program, trains undergraduate health promotion students to (a) be health leaders on campus, (b) empower fellow UTEP students to make well-informed decisions about their sexual health and well-being and (c) influence a sex positive culture on campus and in the community. Beginning in Summer 2015, the peer educators have been conducting *The Live Well Miner Hut Outreach events and Healthy Miner Sex Positive Workshops* in addition to guiding the development of the program's digital social media component, aimed at promoting social norm changes among UTEP students. *The Live Well Miner Hut Outreach* events have been conducted on various campus locations on a weekly basis. During these events, the trained peer educators engage UTEP students in fun, educational activities that focus on sexual health (including healthy relationships and safe sex practices) STI testing dates, student health center services utilization and community resources. To date, approximately 700 UTEP students have been reached by the peer educators through the *Live Well Miner Hut* events. The Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program will launch its digital social marketing and media portals (eHealth and mHealth technologies) by October 2015.

40th Annual National Institute for Social Work and Human Services in Rural Areas Conference in Vermillion, South Dakota



Among many social work professionals across the country who practice in rural communities, Christian Salas and Elsie Munoz attended the [40th Annual Rural Social Work conference](#) in Vermillion South Dakota. Chris and Elsie are Social Work graduate students highly involved in their community and university. These graduate students were selected to present on the topic, "Social Work with Immigrants," where they were able to describe the perils that immigrants experience in their travels to the United States, explaining how social workers can effectively prepare and respond in a culturally sensitive manner. Chris and Elsie also had an opportunity to network with social workers from across the country with a mutual understanding and respect for small communities. The students were welcomed by leaders of the Lakota Tribe and learned about cultural aspects of Native American life. Alongside professors Dr. Eva Moya and Dr. Kathryn Schmidt; the team was presented with an honorary quilt representing the passing of responsibilities for the next conference. The UTEP College of Health Sciences Department of Social Work will be hosting the 41st Annual National Institute for Social Work and Human Services Conference in El Paso. The El Paso conference theme will be: "From surviving to thriving: New paradigms in rural social work." The conference will take place at UTEP on July 6-8, 2016 and will have an international focus addressing indigenous, border and rural topics. For more information on the conference contact Dr. Eva Moya emmoya@utep.edu.

What's next for our Social Work Miners? They will again be representing UTEP with a presentation on "Social Work with Immigrants," at the Annual NASW (National Association of Social Workers) conference to be held in Galveston Texas on November 12-14, 2015.