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This year our department hosted a Graffiti Run that resulted in thousands of white clothed participants being transformed into a kaleidoscope of colors as they ran through the beautiful UH campus. Just as a single white light enters a prism and is transformed into the many beautiful colors embedded within, students enter our program seeking knowledge and experience that will enable them to transform the world.

This year’s Department of Health and Human Performance annual report focuses on the diverse range of events and educational activities that our students experience in preparation for bringing their own unique ‘color’ to the world.

Go Coogs!

Dr. Charles Layne
Professor and Chair
Under the direction of Dr. Daniel O’Connor, a group of health researchers from the Texas Obesity Research Center (TORC) and the Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics (TIMES) continue to carry out the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) project targeting childhood obesity. The $4.25 million study is investigating and comparing three current and comprehensive childhood obesity programs in California, Massachusetts and Texas.

The four-year project has just completed its second year, and has created project designs and evaluation plans to measure various components of each program’s feasibility, delivery, effectiveness and sustainability. The project, known as the Best Evaluation Tools and Techniques for Effective Recommendations for Policies (BETTER Policies) will provide evidence-based recommendations to policy makers as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Initiative to support childhood obesity health initiatives.

These programs are designed for underserved children between the ages of 2-12 years old. The goal is to enact changes in public and institutional policies, be available through families and schools, as well as through health care providers, community and faith-based organizations and the private sector.

O’Connor is an associate professor in HHP, whose research involves application of biostatistical models to investigate the effectiveness of clinical interventions, and to evaluate subject-level changes in health measures and health-related quality of life.
**Rehabilitation Studies**

CNBR researchers are investigating important topics in rehabilitation of severe neurological disorders in collaboration with partners at the Methodist Neurological Institute and The Institute for Rehabilitation and Research (TIRR) Memorial Hermann. Dr. Adam Thrasher is currently leading a study on how the central nervous system controls the body while walking. He and his team are using advanced technologies, such as electromyography and virtual reality, to learn more about the nature of Parkinson’s disease and characterize its specific effects on motor control.

The team is also developing new methods to clinically assess upper extremity function after a stroke. Their new protocol for measuring reachable workspace will provide a basis for high quality research into therapeutic interventions for stroke victims in the future. Researchers are also conducting studies on intrathecal drug delivery pumps, which are surgically implanted devices that deliver medication directly to the central nervous system to treat chronic pain and spasticity. These devices are a modern breakthrough in the clinical treatment of chronic neurological disorders.

**Altered Sensory Input**

Several CNBR projects are devoted to investigating the effects of altered sensory input to either the leg muscles or feet resulting from vibration on postural control. These studies involve the subjects attempting to remain as steady as possible while they are being vibrated or recover from a quick movement of the posture platform on which they are standing. Understanding how the sensory-motor system integrates altered sensory input in a way that enables it to achieve goal-directed behavior has important implications for a variety of patient populations and astronauts, who operate in the altered sensory environment resulting from the microgravity of space.

**Quantifying Hip Recovery**

An additional study being conducted by Dr. Charles Layne includes a partnership between the Memorial Bone & Joint Research Foundation and HHP that investigates the locomotion and postural control features of individuals undergoing hip replacement surgeries. By obtaining information about the patient’s gait parameters and their ability to balance both prior to their surgery and during the post-surgery recovery period, the typical rate of recovery can be identified. Quantifying the recovery process can assist the surgeon and therapist in determining if a given patient is returning to full functionality and, if not, adjust the therapeutic protocol to accelerate the recovery process.
The goal of Dr. Stacey Gorniak’s proposed research plan is to investigate declines in executive function in patients diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes (T2D). In this pilot project, investigators plan to measure changes in cognitive and motor behavior in a cross-section of T2D patients and healthy age-matched controls. The larger aim is to evaluate differential effects of vascular dysfunction on cognitive, sensory and motor behaviors in Type 2 diabetics.

Dr. Gorniak’s movement disorders work aims to evaluate bimanual upper extremity function in ecological tasks in patients with movement disorders (e.g., Parkinson’s disease, PD). Initially, the work has focused on determining the effect of medical or surgical intervention on manual function in patients with PD. She continues to work with physicians at the Cleveland Clinic to investigate the effect of physical activity interventions on manual function in patients with multiple sclerosis.
Dr. Simpson’s investigators are currently examining the impact of space travel on astronaut immunity. This NASA funded project involves the analysis of blood, urine and saliva samples collected from astronauts before, during and after a six-month mission to the International Space Station. Simpson and his team are also investigating the effects of exercise on the ability to generate specialized immune cells that can be used to treat cancer patients after stem cell transplantation. This is a collaborative effort between HHP and researchers at Baylor College of Medicine and M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston.
In order to develop proper counter measures to spaceflight-induced muscle atrophy it is important to first understand the molecular and cellular basis of the differential, fiber-type specific atrophy induced by microgravity exposure and the consequent mechanical unloading. A LIP project, under the direction of Dr. Mark Clarke, aims to explain fiber-type specific atrophy to delineate the role of myostatin/actRIIB signaling as it relates to myofiber type specific responses during postural unloading.

Dr. Thomas Lowder & Raul Amador

LUNG IMMUNOBIOLOGY

Dr. Lowder’s research focuses on lung immunobiology. He has an extensive background in viral (influenza) and atopic (asthma) diseases, and is presently working on a transgenic mouse model of lung cancer. Lowder is also investigating lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM), a rare lung disease that affects almost exclusively women and has no cure. His present studies with LAM are being performed in conjunction with investigators at the Texas Medical Center and at the National Institutes of Health.

Douglass Diak

MUSCLE ATROPHY

Muscle Atrophy

Dr. Mark Clarke
**TORC Conference**

The TORC’s biennial research conference, titled “Time for a Trans-Cultural, Transdisciplinary, Transformational Approach to End Obesity,” was held November 5-6, 2012, on the UH campus at the Elizabeth D. Rockwell Pavilion in the M.D. Anderson Library. The conference was presented together with a meeting of the Multinational Collaboration to Increase Physical Activity in Hispanics, and included investigators from the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

The keynote speaker was Leonard H. Epstein, Ph.D., distinguished professor in the department of pediatrics and social and preventive medicine and chief of the division of behavioral medicine at University at Buffalo, New York. Research presentations, panel discussions and question-and-answer periods provided a platform for exchange of obesity research, clinical management, public health and built environmental policy.

**Multinational Strategy**

Puerta Vallarta, Mexico was the site for the second annual Multinational Collaboration to Increase Physical Activity in Hispanics project. A group of HHP graduate and undergraduate students accompanied HHP Professors Rebecca Lee, Charles Layne and Daniel O’Connor, and TORC lab manager, Scher Mama to the March 2013 scientific meeting. Other Multinational meetings were held in Arizona and Texas in the past year. The collaboration is part of a $100,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) that Dr. Rebecca Lee, TORC Director, received. The obesity epidemic is a multicultural challenge shared between the U.S. and Mexico. The grant supports research between UH and the Universidad de Guadalajara to establish a multinational strategy to combat physical inactivity.
Dr. Dan O’Connor leads a multidisciplinary consortium of 10 TORC investigators from UH, Baylor College of Medicine, and the University of Maryland in the second year of a 4-year, $4.25 million CDC-funded, multistate child obesity research demonstration project. The TORC-based team serves as the central evaluation center for the entire initiative. O’Connor’s team will determine how integrated, community-based programs affect child and family behaviors and body weight over time. The project is expected to enroll more than 3,000 families in three different states and involve programs delivered by primary care physicians, childcare centers, public schools and community organizations. The primary aim is to produce a congressional report containing recommendations for effective methods to prevent child obesity.

**PREVENTING CHILD OBESITY**

**Weight Loss For Mobility Impaired Women**

Dr. Margaret Nosek from Baylor College of Medicine is leading a team of investigators from the TORC, University of Montana Rural Institute and Case Western Reserve University to develop and pilot test GoWoman, a weight loss and weight management program for women with mobility impairments. Dr. Rebecca Lee has led the TORC investigators, Drs. Ledoux and O’Connor, in providing staff, resources and obesity intervention and measurement expertise. The GoWoman curriculum is based on the National Diabetes Prevention Program and delivered virtually through Second Life, an online 3D multi-user virtual environment, where users are able to explore new settings and learn through interaction and support from other GoWoman participants and facilitators.

The Science and Community: Ending Obesity Improving Health project was completed in 2012. In continuing the significant progress made toward engaging community members in the research process, the Sustainability via Active Garden Education (SAGE) initiative was developed. SAGE promotes physical activity and healthy eating in early childcare centers through a gardening education program delivered by trained, undergraduate and graduate research assistants to local Houston preschoolers. Students learn important lessons on the growth cycle of human and plants, and about the types of nutrients and physical activity needed for their bodies to grow healthy and strong. Students also assist in maintaining the garden to make sure that it gets enough water and sunshine to grow big and healthy as well. In the program, students have the opportunity to taste various fruits and vegetables, which not only expose the children to healthy foods, but also allows them to practice their hunger and fullness cues, which is important for preventing overeating and malnutrition. SAGE is supported by a partnership from the Science & Community project, funded by UH and the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development of the NIH.

**Preschoolers & Gardening**
Degrees Conferred

Graduate Degrees

Doctor of Philosophy 2
Master of Art 6
Master of Education 7
Master of Science 3

Undergraduate Degrees

Kinesiology/Exercise Science 134
Kinesiology/Fitness and Sports 28
Kinesiology/Sport Administration 85
Nutrition 100

Graduate Dissertation and Thesis Defenses

Amir Pourmoghaddam
“SYNERGOS: An Index for Quantifying Multiple Muscle Activation”

Heather Adamus-Leach
“The Influence of Neighborhood Environment on Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in African-American Women”

Whitney Breslin
“Systemic Inflammation and Obesity-Related Disease Risk Factors in Mexican-American Children”

Katie Carpenter
“Effects of the Consumption of a High-Fat Meal on Consecutive Days on Immune Cells and Inflammatory Biomarkers”

Vladimir Ivkovic
“Effects of Tactile Cueing on Functional Movement Modulation in Parkinson’s Disease”

Chris Sunseri
“Perceived Discrimination and Weekly Stress on Physical Health Outcomes in African American and Hispanic/Latina Women: Health Is Power Study”
College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Scholarship Recipients

- Social Science Don Sanders Scholarship
  - Thu-Mai Nguyen
  - Victoria Rios

- Graduate Dissertation Completion Award
  - Marius Dettmer
  - Emily LaVoy

- Excellence in Undergraduate Studies
  - Martin Castaneda, Exercise Science
  - Jennifer Millican, Fitness/Sports
  - Julia Jarrell, Nutrition
  - Clinton Blankenship, Sport Administration

- Mary Louise White Scholarship
  - Netro McKay

American Kinesiology Association’s National Undergraduate Scholars

- Megan Frausto
- Reka Kovacs

- Excellence in Master of Education in Physical Education
  - Cheuck Yee

- Excellence in Master of Science in Human Nutrition
  - Anthony Nguyen

- Excellence in Master of Arts in Sport & Fitness Administration
  - Ashley Warren

- Graduate Awards in Other Categories
  - Kirstin Vollrath, Teaching Excellence Award
  - Douglass Diak, Dr. Andrew “Tony” Jackson Research Excellence

- Dr. Layne, Netro McKay & Dr. Gorniak

- Claudia Scott, Julia Jarrell, Audra Hollingsworth & Dr. Bode
Dissertation Completion Fellowships provide stipends to cover students’ expenses for up to a full academic year while they complete their dissertations. Two UH fellowships were awarded to HHP graduate students in kinesiology in 2013:

Marius Dettmer
“Vibration of the Foot Sole as an Intervention to Improve Older Adults’ Postural Stability”

Emily LaVoy
“The Effect of Exercise on the Expansion and Function of Tumor-Specific T-cells”
Elevator Speech

Doctoral students competed in an elevator speech contest during the fall 2012 semester. Each participant had two minutes to convince the panel of distinguished scientists that their research question is important and deserves funding to support the project.

The contest was an opportunity for the students to hone their skills at articulating the importance of their research in a persuasive and succinct way. The judges chose first, second and third place winners, each received a monetary award. Amber Chelette won first place for her presentation titled “Good Vibrations: Exploring Therapeutic Uses of Muscle Vibration.”

New Athletic Training Program

The department is proud to announce a new graduate program in athletic training beginning the summer of 2014. The UH Board of Regents has given the approval of the Master of Athletic Training degree program for the UH curriculum. The program, which is the first of its kind in Houston, is designed to prepare students for the growing demand and changing laws in healthcare and an aging population.

Dr. Joshua Yellen has been named director of the Master of Athletic Training program, and will draw program support from people associated with NASA and Memorial Hermann Hospital. The program will ultimately seek accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE), and will partner with the astronaut conditioning and rehabilitation group based at the NASA-Johnson Space Center in Houston.
The Educational Showcase was held for the second year during the fall of 2012 to highlight the success of the HHP Summer Curriculum Development Program. The program pairs a faculty member with a selected undergraduate student for the purpose of creating new curricula content. At the showcase, the students present their material in a poster format and interact with fellow students and faculty.
HHP HOSTS 4,000 RUNNERS ON CAMPUS

HP hosted Graffiti Run Houston’s first citywide event on the UH campus where more than 4,000 participants made their way through the 5K route on December 2, 2012. UH students, faculty, staff, and those from the community and nearby areas were showered with colored flour at designated points as they wound their way through the campus. For many of the participants, it was the first time to visit the campus.

The Graffiti Run organization provided a generous donation to the HHP Undergraduate Student Scholarship fund. The December 8, 2013 run is open for registration, and is expected to draw an even larger crowd. Look for details on the HHP Facebook or visit our website at hhp.uh.edu.

Below, is a before and after photo of some of the HHP faculty, staff and spouses who ran the Graffiti Run! They are: Chuck Betts (spouse), Randi Betts, Drs. Lisa Alastuey and Charles Layne, Lisa Layne (spouse), Drs. Stacey Gorniak and Daphne Hernandez, Amanda Butcher and Jessica Wheeler.
GREAT STRIDES

The annual Cystic Fibrosis Foundation’s Great Strides walk drew 850 participants and raised $887,000 to help support life-saving research, quality care and education programs for those dealing with cystic fibrosis. Nationwide, approximately 250,000 walkers participate each year.

SUGAR LAND DEGREE EXPANSION

HP’s sport and fitness administration program is expanding its presence to the UH Sugar Land campus. The extension is in conjunction with the UH Educational Technology and University Outreach (ETUO). Dr. Michael Odio (See page 30) has been named the recruiting coordinator on the Sugar Land campus. The goal is to engage the community with sport collaborations and internship opportunities for students as the department develops its degree offering to the community.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY

A wheelchair rugby camp for participants 14 years old and above was held on the UH campus this summer. HHP and its Adaptive Athletics Student Organization (AASO), under the direction of Dr. Michael Cottingham, conducted the four-day event, which was the only one of its kind in the nation. Eighteen athletes of various levels took part in the inaugural camp.

AASO’s mission is to foster the development of a UH athletics program, giving students with disabilities a chance to enhance their college experience by allowing them to competitively participate in sports similar to wheelchair rugby.
Students in the Community

The Student Nutrition Association (SNA) members participate in many volunteer events throughout the year. SNA members and HHP’s Dr. Daphne Hernandez volunteered at the 2013 Souper Bowl of Caring Kick-off for the Houston Food Bank. Souper Bowl of Caring is a nationwide, grassroots movement of caring, using Super Bowl weekend to mobilize youth to fight hunger and poverty in their local communities. In addition, the SNA supports the St. Jude’s Give Thanks Walk Houston and the Harris County Hospital District Foundation’s Annual Texas Med 5K.

Dr. Rey Treviño coordinates sport administration internships that also provide students community-centered activities, programs and opportunities to promote and foster personal and professional development, civic engagement and leadership skills. The service learning projects partner with many local and national organizations such as the American Cancer Society, Houston Amateur Sports Park, Shell Oil Company and UH Sports Medicine. During the 2012-2013 academic year HHP students logged more than 3,200 hours of service for 26 organizations.

Athlete Assessment

Under the direction of Dr. Richard Simpson, the Athlete Assessment Center (AAC) was created and is open to the public. The center is equipped to test athletes of all levels and all types. Tests available include LT, VO2 max, body fat% and many others.

Assessment packages and special rates are offered for multiple and repeat testing. Other tests are available upon request including maximal steady state, running economy, critical cycling power, team sport specific tests and more. The goal is to make the testing center a premier facility to support athletes of all types in the city of Houston.
LOCAL AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION
NASA Picks HHP Professor

Professor William Paloski is currently on a two-year loan to NASA, where he serves as the manager for their Human Research Program (HRP), with responsibility for the leading, managing and implementing all of that program’s activities. The HRP is an international, multi-center program in the Space Life and Physical Sciences Research and Applications (SLPSRA) Division of the Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate (HEOMD) at NASA headquarters. Paloski resides at the Johnson Space Center in Houston to enable close integration with the spaceflight clinical and operational communities.

Paloski will remain as a professor in HHP where his research focus applies engineering and physiological principles to studies of sensorimotor adaptation and balance control in humans.

Group Teaching Excellence

The 2013 UH Group Teaching Excellence Award was presented to HHP’s Drs. Charles Layne, Lisa Alastuey, Rebecca Lee, and to Prashant Mutgekar, Programmer Analyst 2, and Anne Ogborn (not pictured), Second Life Developer, for the Virtual Immersive Translational Applied Learning (VITAL) Project.

VITAL involved students from multiple courses working together in the virtual world of Second Life to explore and propose solutions to a health problem.

This award recognizes clusters of faculty in both formal and informal programs who demonstrate a strong commitment to teaching and student success. Groups work together collaboratively in the design, implementation and evaluation of course work to improve student outcomes and demonstrate effective and innovative teaching during a three-year period.
Teaching Excellence

Dr. Thomas W. Lowder received the UH Teaching Excellence Award for tenure-track faculty in recognition of outstanding achievement in teaching for the 2012-2013 academic year. He has been an HHP faculty member since 2009.

Dr. Lowder is widely known for his innovative and off-beat approach to teaching. He believes it is not only important to master his course’s content, but it is equally important to learn your rock-n-roll history while doing so. Who knew the metaphysical musings on Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon album intersected perfectly with functional anatomy?

UCW Post-Tenure Award

The University Commission on Women awarded Dr. Rebecca Lee the Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award - Post-Tenure. The award is presented annually to UH professors who demonstrate a solid record of representative scholarly activity and productivity that contributes to, and impacts, their discipline.

Her research is anchored in an ecological framework that incorporates environmental and individual determinants of physical activity, dietary habits and obesity prevention in ethnic minority and undeserved populations. Her work combines theory and techniques drawn from behavioral medicine, community psychology, geography, policy science, social ecology and social marketing. Lee is director of the Texas Obesity Research Center, which is housed in the HHP department.
Claudia Scott was named an ACEND Program Reviewer by the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) for a three-year term. ACEND is the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ accrediting agency for education programs preparing students for careers as registered dietitians (RD) or dietetic technicians, registered (DTR).

Scott is a clinical assistant professor and has been with HHP since 2006, when she joined the faculty as an adjunct professor. She is also the director of the undergraduate didactic program and coordinator of the UH Distance Dietetic Internship Program.

NIH Connection

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) has invited Dr. Richard Simpson to participate in a special emphasis panel review. The NIAID is a component organization of the National Institutes of Health, which is the leading supporter of biomedical research in the world.

His main research interests concern the effects that exercise, age and disease have on immune function. Simpson’s research team is focused on understanding the mechanisms by which regular physical exercise appears to negate the onset of immunosenescence during the natural course of aging. Simpson works primarily in HHP’s LIP and HHP’s newly-formed Athletic Assessment Center.
HEALTH AND HUMAN PERFORMANCE
Graffiti Run Donates

The successful 5K Graffiti Run that HHP hosted (See page 17.) not only brought thousands of people to campus, but the department received a generous gift donated to the HHP Undergraduate Scholarship Endowment by the Graffiti Run Houston organization. The HHP faculty and staff established the scholarship in 2012, with the intent that faculty, staff and HHP students would work together in a partnership to fully fund the scholarship so that money can be distributed as soon as possible to a deserving student.

HHP scholarships are also available to eligible students through the Andrew Jackson Scholarship Endowment and the Margie Sterr Scholarship. Learn more about the department and opportunities to give at hhp.uh.edu.

Exchange Program

HP's first exchange students, Brett Siders & Christiana Gentry, returned to UH for the 2013 spring semester after spending the 2012 fall semester at Edinburgh Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Their enthusiasm about the experience and appreciation for the opportunity was evident as they visited with their benefactors during lunch and an exchange of gifts. The D. Lynd and Terri K. McGowan Foundation made the semester possible through its founders, Mr. and Mrs. John McGowan, and treasurer, Sheila McCarn. The McGowan Foundation continues to provide support for the educational opportunity by sending HHP students, Ryan Lafley and Jonathan Morales, to Scotland, and bringing Rachel Laws and Lain Sutherland from Scotland to UH for the 2013 fall semester.
Dr. Christopher Connaboy will be a visiting assistant professor from Edinburgh Napier University, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. At Edinburgh, he was the director of the Military and Veterans Health Research Consortium and the Institute of Science and Health Innovation. Connaboy was also a lecturer in motor control and biomechanics, School of Life, Sport and Social Sciences at the university. Connaboy earned his doctorate in motor control and biomechanics and his masters from Edinburgh. He received his bachelor’s in sport and exercise science from Lancaster University, Lancaster, England, UK.

Carla Ferrell will be a visiting assistant professor of nutrition beginning this fall. She is a graduate of Texas Woman’s University, Denton, Texas, where she earned her master’s in nutrition and was in the Houston VA Medical Center Dietetic Internship Program. Ferrell is also a registered and licensed dietitian; and a certified Nutrition Fellow by Baylor College of Medicine Neonatal and Leadership In Adolescent Health organizations. At Houston’s Memorial Hermann Memorial City Hospital, she served as clinical manager and clinical dietitian. Her experience also includes the Houston Independent School District as a school foodservice dietitian.

Dr. Jon Gray has served as director of secondary instruction, principal and associate principal with Stafford Municipal School District. He has also served as an associate professor and graduate coordinator at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas, and as an assistant professor and master teacher coordinator at Lamar University, Beaumont, Texas. In HHP, he will be an instructional associate professor for the physical education basic instruction program (PEB). Gray received his doctorate in education at UH, and earned his masters at Texas A&M–Corpus Christi, and his bachelor’s at Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas.

Dr. Jong-Hee Kim was a postdoctoral associate at the University of Minnesota’s medical school prior to joining the department as a visiting assistant professor. Kim earned his Ph.D. from Texas A&M University, College Station. He earned both his master’s and bachelors’ in exercise physiology from Seoul National University, Korea. A focus of his research includes the investigation of the underlying molecular and cellular mechanisms associated with skeletal muscle wasting.
Welcome New Faculty

**Dr. Mitzi Laughlin** is an HHP research assistant professor. Her work involves epidemiological investigations to determine the risk factors and rates of orthopedic injuries in diverse populations, utilizing cohort groups from NASA, military and civilian populations. She has served as an astronaut strength, conditioning, and rehabilitation specialist (Group Lead) at Wyle Integrated Science and Engineering, NASA-Johnson Space Center, Houston. She earned her Ph.D. in kinesiology and her master’s in exercise science at UH. Her bachelor’s in secondary education in physical education and mathematics is from the University of Texas, Austin.

**Dr. Boem-Chan Lee** joins the HHP faculty this fall as a visiting professor of biomechanics. At the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, he was a research investigator in mechanical engineering and a graduate teaching assistant. He also earned his doctorate in mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan. Lee received a master’s in mechatronics from Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea, and his bachelor’s in electrical and computer engineering, Kangwon National University, Republic of Korea.

**Joanna Macsas** is a recent graduate from Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, where she earned a bachelor’s in kinesiology-fitness management and a minor in business. She will be an instructional assistant professor for the PEB program in HHP. Macsas has been a personal trainer for the Tarleton State Collegiate Rodeo Team and a group fitness trainer for various private organizations and corporate entities. Her experience includes the management of training facilities as well.
Dr. Yoonjung Park has accepted the position in HHP as assistant professor in exercise physiology. Park comes to UH from Texas Tech University, Lubbock, where he held the same position. He earned his doctorate in exercise physiology from Texas A&M, and his master’s from the University of Texas, Austin. Park’s bachelor’s is from Seoul National University, Korea. His postdoctoral fellowship was in the division of cardiovascular medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

Ann Svendsen-Sanchez will be a visiting assistant professor in nutrition beginning this fall semester. Her master’s degree in nutrition is from Texas Woman’s University, Houston, and her bachelor’s in nutrition is from Ohio University, Athens. As nutrition services director for Houston Food Bank, she oversaw the serving of 18 area counties by providing nutrition education to the community and access to state programs. Sanchez has also been the nutrition services director for the Texas City and the Houston Independent School Districts.

Dr. Josh Yellen has joined the HHP faculty as a clinical assistant professor and director of the master’s degree in athletic training that will be offered beginning the summer of 2014. He served as instructor, interim program director and clinical coordinator in the Department of Kinesiology & Health Studies at Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond. Yellen also received his doctorate of education in educational leadership from Southeastern. His masters in kinesiology, with an emphasis in sports injuries studies, is from California State University-Long Beach. Yellen earned his bachelor’s in kinesiology, athletic training from California State University-Northbridge.
Welcome New Staff

Dr. Michael Odio begins this fall semester as HHP’s recruiting coordinator on the UH Sugar Land campus. At the University of Florida, Department of Tourism, Recreation, and Sport Management he served as graduate teaching assistant, intern supervisor and graduate research assistant. At UF, Odio received his Ph.D. in management, his master’s in physical education/sport recreation management and his bachelor’s in sport management with a minor in business administration.

Lesley Dabney-Watkins
Academic Adviser

Alisha Davis
Administrative Coordinator

William Kurth
Academic Adviser

Amanda Clinard
Academic Adviser

Holly Rogers
Academic Adviser
**Personnel on the Move**

**Dr. Mark Clarke** is serving a one-year appointment as interim UH Associate Vice Chancellor/Associate Vice President for Technology Transfer in the Division of Research.

**Dr. Jian Liu** is now an assistant professor at Marshall University, Huntington, WV. In HHP, he served as an assistant professor in biomechanics, where he conducted his research in fall prevention and ambulatory measurement at the CNBR.

**Amanda Butcher**, Office Assistant, has left full-time work to pursue her master’s in digital media at the UH-Clear Lake. She was chosen to receive the UH Staff Excellence Award in 2011 by faculty and staff.

**Dr. Rebecca Lee** has accepted a position at Arizona State University in the College of Nursing and Health Innovation. She is the founding director of TORC, and has also overseen the Understanding Neighborhood Determinants of Obesity (UNDO) research team.

**Dr. Angela Robertson** has completed her postdoctoral fellowship in HHP, where she conducted her research in the biomechanics of the transition between walking and running in humans at the CNBR.

**Scher Mama**, TORC lab manager, is going to The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center to complete an NCI-funded Cancer Prevention Research Training Program postdoctoral fellowship.

**Dr. Jian Liu** is now an assistant professor at Marshall University, Huntington, WV. In HHP, he served as an assistant professor in biomechanics, where he conducted his research in fall prevention and ambulatory measurement at the CNBR.

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**Scher Mama**, TORC lab manager, is going to The University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center to complete an NCI-funded Cancer Prevention Research Training Program postdoctoral fellowship.
**ARTICLES**


BOOK CHAPTERS

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Lam, Eddie T. C., Cheung, S., Pearson, D. W., & Bae, S. (2013). Promotional strategies after the reorganization: The case of the AFL. Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport;84(1);A-96-97.

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS


Cottingham II, M., Byon, K.K., & Carroll, M. How to market and promote disability sport: Reactions from inside wheelchair rugby. Presented at the Sport Marketing Association, Orlando, Florida. October 2012.
PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (continued)


Wann, D. L., & **Cottingham II, M.**, & Byon, K. K. The impact of knowledge of an athlete’s physical disability on spectators’ impressions of performance and interest in consumption. The annual Western Kentucky University Sport Psychology Forum, Bowling Green, KY. February 2013.


**Cottingham II, M.,** Saltzburg, N., Byon, K., & Carroll, M. Examining the influence of relationship to disability on the motivations of wheelchair basketball spectators. Presented at the Society for Disability Studies, Orlando, FL. June 2013.


Laughlin, M. S. The science behind recess @ NASA. Faculty Lecture Series, Science Teaching Equity Project, Houston. November 8, 2012.


PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS (continued)


Soltero, E. G., Mama, S. K., Adamus-Leach, H. J., & Lee, R. E. Ethnic identity and neighborhood cohesion and trust impact body mass index and body fat in African-American and


PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
(continued)


INVITED PRESENTATIONS


Gorniak, S. L. Upper extremity sensorimotor changes in type 2 diabetics. Presented at the Texas Agricultural and Mechanical University, College Station, Texas. October 2012.


Pearson, D. W. Right place, right time: The galvanization of Brooklyn during the Robinson years. HHP Faculty Research Day. March 19, 2013.


Funded Grant Proposals

**Hernandez, D. C.** (PI) Food insecurity and obesity paradox among Hispanic mothers and children. CLASS New Faculty Grants Program. 2012-2013. $6,000.


**Ledoux, T.** (PI) Feasibility of a parent focused intervention to promote healthy child eating. UH Division of Research Small Grant Program. 2013-2014. $3,000.

**Ledoux, T.** UH Provost Faculty Travel Award to the Society for Behavioral Medicine 2013 Annual Conference. San Francisco. March 2013. $750.

**Lee, R. E.** (PI of sub-award from Baylor College of Medicine, Nosek, PI), **Ledoux, T. A. & O'Connor, D. P.** Development of a virtual reality weight management intervention for women with mobility impairments (H133G120192). National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. 9/2012-8/2015. DC: $93,692; IDC: $46,846.


**Lowder, T. W.** Development of a K-ras lung tumor model for in vivo imaging. CPRIT research grant. Amount: $25,000 (IDC $4,000).


**Layne, C. S.** Enhanced development of the Office is Scientific Data Review and Dissemination. September 2012-July 2013 - Total - 1,950,521.16 - (Direct costs - $1,200,347.44, Indirect costs - $650,173.72).
ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES


Alastuey, L. Appointed to Budget and Facilities Committee, UH Faculty Senate. 2013.

Alastuey, L. Appointed to UH Undergraduate Core Objectives Committee. 2013.

Alastuey, L. Selected to receive the 2013 TAHPERD Honor Award. May 24, 2013.

Clarke, M. S. F. Appointed to serve as a member of the Implementation Committee for the Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity (CICEP) with the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU).


Cottingham II, M. Invited consultant for NCAA Inclusion and Leadership Development group and the NCAA Student-Athletes with Disabilities Subcommittee.

Gorniak, S. L. Appointed to the Center for Neuro-Engineering and Cognitive Science (CNECS)-UH.

Gorniak, S. L. Appointed to the UH Intellectual Property Committee-Division of Research.

Guined, J. R. Appointed as adviser to the Mars One organization. Mars One is a not-for-profit organization whose goal is to establish a human settlement on Mars through the integration of existing, readily available technologies from industry leaders world-wide.

Guined, J. R. Appointed to the advisory board of the Lifeboat Foundation. The Lifeboat Foundation is a nonprofit nongovernmental organization dedicated to encouraging scientific advancements while helping humanity survive existential risks and possible misuse of increasingly powerful technologies, including genetic engineering, nanotechnology, and robotics/AI.

Guined, J. R. Selected as a commercial astronaut candidate by Astronauts4Hire, June, 2013. Astronauts for Hire is a 501(c)(3) non-profit formed in April 2010 to recruit and train qualified scientists and engineers for the rigors of spaceflight.


Korman, S. Received her Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction degree from Concordia University. December 4, 2012.


Lee, R. E. Promoted to professor, nutrition program area of HHP.

Lee, R. E. Distinguished Scholar Award, Post-Tenure presented by the UH University Commission on Women. April 23, 2013.


Lowder, T. W. Reappointed as IACUC vice-chair for another three-year term.


Paloski, W. Named section editor of Extreme Physiology & Medicine.

O’Connor, D. C. Awarded SWATA Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award.

Pearson, D. W. Article editor for SAGE Open Manuscript. SAGE Open, peer-reviewed open-access publication from SAGE Publications. October 2012.

Pearson, D. W. Article Editor for SAGE Open Manuscript. SAGE Open, peer-reviewed open-access publication from SAGE Publications. December 2012.


Pearson, D. W. Article editor for SAGE Open Manuscript. SAGE Open, peer-reviewed open-access publication from SAGE Publications. March 2013.


Pearson, D. W. Received the UH Track & Field Program Appreciation and Service Award. May 2013.


Scott, C. Appointed as a Program Reviewer for the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND). May 2013.

Simpson, R. J. Appointed as a member of the Texas Obesity Research Center (TORC) executive committee. August 2012.


**PUBLICITY**


PUBLICITY (continued)


Lee, R. E. Distinguished Scholar Award, Post-Tenure presented by the UH University Commission on Women. CLASS News. May 10, 2013.


Shasta's “Run by Nutrition Students, the Best Lunch on Campus.” UH home page. October 9, 2012.

Shasta's “Student-Run Café Open.” UH home page. Week of June 1, 2013.


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS


STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS
(continued)


Adamus-Leach, Heather J. Graduated with her doctor of philosophy in kinesiology from UH. August 5, 2013.


Adamus-Leach, Heather J. Accepted to post-doctoral program at the University of Calgary, working with Dr. S. Nicole Culos-Reed beginning September 2013.


Bell, B. Selected as the first Strength and Conditioning Intern to support the Houston Astros.


Castaneda, M. Awarded a Provost’s UH Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) for the spring 2013 semester. December 12, 2012.


Chou, W. Examining color preferences of potential consumers of a minor league baseball team. Presented at the Second Annual Texas Graduate Sport Management Symposium, College Station, Texas. February 2013.


Dettmer, M. Received a CLASS Dissertation Completion Award for his project: Vibration of the foot sole as an intervention to improve older adults' postural stability. In CLASS News. May 10, 2013.


Hartson, B. Received the President’s UH Academic Excellence Award. December 7, 2012.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS (continued)

2013 Outstanding Student Awards See page 12.


Nguyen, T. M. Awarded the Social Science Don Sanders Scholarship from CLASS.

Noor, M. Accepted to the masters in nutrition program at Texas State University beginning January 2012.


Gorniak, S. L., Parker, N., & Lee, R. E. Sitting time and future health expectations in African American and Hispanic or Latina Women. International Journal of Exercise;6(2);22.


Rios, V. Awarded the Social Science Don Sanders Scholarship from CLASS.


Salas, B. Accepted at the UT Health Science Center-San Antonio for fall 2013 to study physical therapy.


ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Banda, Jorge A. (M.S. ’07) Received his doctorate in exercise science from the University of South Carolina. July 2012.

Banda, Jorge A. (M.S. ’07) Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Stanford Prevention Research Center, Stanford University School of Medicine.

Banda, Jorge A. (M.S. ’07) Inducted into the Delta Omega Honor Society in Public Health.

Banda, Jorge A. (M.S. ’07) Department of Exercise Science Outstanding Doctoral Student Award.

Banda, Jorge A. (M.S. ’07) Arnold School of Public Health Doctoral Achievement Award.


Keenum, Case (’10)


James, Eric G. (M.S. ’06) (2012). Dynamical degrees of freedom and
response to mechanical load compared to lean mice. *Obesity*;21(1);135-143.

**Koontz-Kennedy, Jessica** (M.Ed. '08) Appointed regional ergonomic evaluator for Chevron. October 2012.

**Koontz-Kennedy, Jessica** (M.Ed. '08) Appointed regional ergonomic evaluator for Chevron. October 2012.


**Lam, Eddie T. C.** (Ph.D. '00) Was ranked number 6th nationally in terms of his scientific productivity as tracked by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAH-PERD). 2013.

**Lam, Eddie T. C.** (Ph.D. '00), Cheung, S., Pearson, D. W., & Bae, S. (2013). Promotional strategies after the reorganization: The case of the AFL. *Research Quarterly for Exercise and Sport*;84(1);A-96-97.

**Lam, Eddie T. C.** (Ph.D. '00), Cheung, S., Pearson, D. W., & Bae, S. Promotional strategies after the reorganization: The case of the AFL. American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, Charlotte, NC. April 2013.


**Miller III, Fred** (PhD. ’08) was promoted to associate professor at Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana.


ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS
(continued)


Strohacker, K. (Ph.D. ’11) Has accepted a position as assistant professor in exercise physiology at the University of Tennessee beginning the fall of 2013.


Walker-Diaz, Julie (M.Ed. '04) Appointed assistant director, Galveston County Parks and Senior Services. October 2012.

Wilson, Penny (Ph.D. '10) Interviewed in “Foods that Shrink Waistlines, Fatten Wallets” video and article. KTRK-TV Houston. November 6, 2012.


Zapalac, Ryan K. (’98, M.Ed. ’01, Ph.D. ’04) Promoted to associate professor with tenure at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. 2012.

Zapalac, Ryan K. (’98, M.Ed. ’01, Ph.D. ’04) Promoted to assistant department chair at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. 2012.
FACULTY

Lisa Alastuey, Clinical Assistant Professor  
Sharon Bode, Clinical Associate Professor  
Mark Clarke, Associate Professor  
Stacey Gorniak, Assistant Professor  
Audra Hollingsworth, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Charles Layne, Professor, Department Chair  
Tracey Ledoux, Assistant Professor  
Rebecca Lee, Associate Professor  
Jian Liu, Assistant Professor

Thomas Lowder, Assistant Professor  
Kimberlee Matalon, Associate Professor  
Daniel O’Connor, Associate Professor  
William Paloski, Professor  
Demetrius Pearson, Associate Professor, Associate Department Chair  
Claudia Scott, Clinical Assistant Professor  
Richard Simpson, Assistant Professor  
Adam Thrasher, Assistant Professor  
Rey Treviño, Clinical Assistant Professor

STAFF

Todd Boutte, Graduate Program Administrator  
Amanda Butcher, Office Assistant  
Amanda Clinard, Academic Adviser  
Lesley Dabney-Watkins, Academic Adviser  
Alisha Davis, Administrative Coordinator  
Brian Drake, Assistant Business Administrator  
Alma Gonzalez, Academic Adviser

Martha Hayes, Communications Manager  
William Kurth, Academic Adviser  
Prashant Mutgekar, Programmer Analyst  
Holly Rogers, Academic Adviser 1  
Randi Weintraub-Betts, Director, Administration & Academic Affairs  
Jessica Wheeler, Program Coordinator  
Christina Williams, Adviser