2007 Annual Report
The 2006–2007 Academic Year was another great year for the Department of Health and Human Performance (HHP). Building upon the progress made in previous years, the department continued to make significant strides in the areas of research, academics, and service. This progress was reflected in 35 peer reviewed research articles; 76 scientific presentations; curriculum revisions; personnel increases, and continued improvement in the quality of graduate students. Additionally, during the past year, the department administered over $4,000,000 in funding to support research and other projects. We received funding for 18 new projects and submitted an additional 18 funding requests.

**Academics**

The most exciting academic news to report is that our new undergraduate degree track in wellness was approved by UH’s undergraduate council. We anticipate receiving the approval of the state coordinating board sometime this coming year. This new degree track is the first of its kind in Texas and, to our knowledge, the first of its kind in the entire nation! The degree integrates the unique blend of specialists on our faculty in the areas of sport administration, obesity studies, health promotion, nutrition, and traditional kinesiology fields to offer a course of study that addresses the needs of an ever expanding population that continues to adopt sedentary behaviors. This degree option is directly in-line with current societal needs and is consistent with state guidelines for wellness programs for the youth of Texas.

Our exercise science degree track was certified by the American College of Sport Medicine (ACSM). The ACSM University Connection Endorsement Program (UCEP) was developed to assure program quality and consistency for programs in health/fitness and clinical exercise physiology, and was designed to recognize institutions with educational programs that meet the knowledge, skills and abilities (KSAs) specified by the ACSM Committee on Certification and Registry Boards (CCRB). University programs certified by ACSM ensure that students receive a comprehensive, standardized curriculum that addresses the KSAs for both the ACSM Health/Fitness Instructor and the ACSM Exercise Specialist certification examinations.

The University of Houston is currently undergoing a review by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), the primary accrediting body of the university. This review will be completed during the 2007–2008 academic year. Our doctoral program in Kinesiology is also being reviewed by the National Research Council (NRC), which will ultimately rank our program relative to other kinesiology programs across the nation. This past spring our doctoral program was reviewed by Academic Analytics, a private company that reviews and ranks programs based upon a variety of measurable outcomes, including the quality of students and faculty scholarly activity. Consistent with last year’s Top 15 ranking from the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education (AAKPE), we were ranked in the top 20% of all doctoral programs. This ranking is actually more impressive than the AAKPE rankings because it included all Kinesiology doctoral programs in the country, and was based on a comprehensive data set obtained from independent, professional investigators. For those of you that remember the old Southwest Athletic Conference, we finished well ahead of our two big in-state rivals, the University of Texas at Austin Longhorns and Texas A&M University Aggies!

In May the Graduate Research Degrees committee administered our first doctoral student qualifying exam. Our students read several chapters from the book *Great Feuds in Science*, and then used these readings as the basis for answering broad philosophical questions that were formulated by faculty members from other universities. These same faculty members were also responsible for grading the students’ answers. We believe this exam provides our professors another indicator of our students’ critical thinking and writing skills. This process will now become a regular feature of our doctoral program as we train students to apply the knowledge they’ve gained, and generate new knowledge designed to address ongoing societal issues.

The HHP faculty voted in May to approve the development of two new Master’s of Science degrees. One of these programs is **Sports Nutrition and Nutritional Sciences** and the other is **Human Space Exploration Sciences**.

Our online Master’s of Education degree benefited from an active internet advertising campaign and we now have more students in the online program than traditional M.Ed. students. The first of our fully online students graduated in June.
In June, two groups of HHP faculty were awarded UH sponsored Faculty Development Initiative Program (FDIP) grants totaling $56,000 to further integrate the use of educational technology into a variety of our courses.

**Research**

We continued to have success in obtaining funding to support our varied research projects. Our department now has three grants from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Our projects continue to be funded by the Texas Department of State Health Services; Wyle Life Sciences (a NASA Life Sciences contractor); Episcopal Health Charities; POM Wonderful LLC (pomegranate fruit); Stampede Brewing Company, and the University of Houston.

**Training Interventions & Genetics Exercise Response (TIGER)** study, focusing on the relationship between obesity, genetics and exercise, is in its fourth year of operation, [http://www.uh.edu/tigerstudy](http://www.uh.edu/tigerstudy).

**Understanding Neighborhood Determinants of Obesity (UNDO)**, designed to investigate the influence of environment on obesity among minority women, was in full swing this year with several interrelated projects being conducted in both Houston and Austin, [http://hhp.uh.edu/undo](http://hhp.uh.edu/undo).

**Behavior Opportunities Uniting Nutrition, Counseling, and Exercise (BOUNCE)** program completed its third year with record attendance. The 12-week after school program had 96 participants, and the 3-week summer program, BOUNCE-Lite, had 40. The program uses a variety of physical activities, counseling, and nutrition education, and works with minority middle school girls and their mothers to determine if there are cultural factors that contribute to obesity, [http://bounce.uh.edu](http://bounce.uh.edu).

**The BAND study**, a collaboration between our department and the UH Spirit of Houston Marching Band, is designed to assess the risk factors for cardiovascular disease and obesity-related conditions of band and cheer squad members. It also introduces them to a regular exercise program that can be incorporated into their practice routine. The study enters its 3rd year this fall.

**Health Network for Evaluation and Training Systems (HNETS)**, providing research, evaluation, training and technical assistance to schools, communities and health care settings to meet their health goals, continues to be very active and received much positive publicity this summer, [http://www.uh.edu/hnets/index.html](http://www.uh.edu/hnets/index.html).

The UH Research Council approved the creation of an **Obesity Research Center** housed in the department of Health and Human Performance. Dr. Rebecca Lee was named the center’s first director. The goals of this research center include conducting basic and applied research in obesity prevention and control, as well as pursuing and advocating related programs and events. The broad purpose of the center also includes the education of students in an interdisciplinary approach to topics related, but not exclusive, to obesity-related health behaviors and related health compromising conditions. We look forward to continued growth of the center in the years to come.

We have many ongoing research projects, including one which involved two graduate students who had the opportunity to fly on NASA’s experimental research aircraft (i.e. the Vomit Comet). [http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_vomit_comet.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_vomit_comet.cfm).

Many of our research projects can be explored at [http://hhp.uh.edu/research/research.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/research/research.cfm).
Our second annual **Graduate Student Research Day** was held in October and was attended by over 300 undergraduate students. We continue to be very proud of our graduate students’ involvement in research-related work. In fact, many of the presentations that day were subsequently presented by our graduate students at national and state research conferences.

### Special Events

On October 24th we hosted a PEB on the Plaza to introduce the campus to the wide variety of physical activity courses that they can take. Soccer, martial arts, ultimate Frisbee, combative sports, golf, tai chi, yoga and spinning were demonstrated throughout the day.

On December 5th University of Houston Provost, Dr. Don Foss and Vice President for Research Dr. Don Birx visited the Department of Health and Human Performance. Following a building tour featuring DEXA scans and the **UNDO** project space, our guests visited the **Laboratory of Integrated Physiology (LIP)** where they observed end of semester TIGER student testing; experienced virtual reality; instrumented bicycling; gravitational unloading; muscle strength testing, and whole body vibration. They also learned of the HHP faculty’s involvement in a wide range of research projects.

This past year we developed a few podcasts to keep our alumni informed of some of the activities occurring in our department. These podcasts can be viewed at [http://hhp.uh.edu/podcasts.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/podcasts.cfm).

In May the **College of Education** hosted its annual fund-raising Service, Teaching, Assistance, Research, and Scholarship (STARS) banquet with rousing success. **Dr. Debbie Rhea** received the HHP Distinguished Alumni Award in front of a packed house. Dr. Rhea is currently a professor of kinesiology at Texas Christian University (TCU), [http://www.kinesiology.tcu.edu/faculty_rhea.htm](http://www.kinesiology.tcu.edu/faculty_rhea.htm), and specializes in studying eating disorders in the K–12 setting focusing on ethnic differences and effective pedagogical strategies for use in urban and large group physical education settings.

Attendees of the STARS banquet also saw long time professor, **Dr. Andrew Jackson** win the College of Education’s Distinguished Service Award for his years of valuable contributions to the college.
The University of Houston now holds graduation events in both December and May. In the past year we graduated 244 undergraduates and 38 graduate students. These former students now join the ranks as Health and Human Performance alumni! Once again graduation was a well attended and happy affair for the graduates, their families, friends and faculty. This year was no exception.
Families & Futures

Degrees Conferred

Graduate students 38
Undergraduate:
Health 54
Nutrition 46
Kinesiology/Exercise Science 72
Kinesiology/Movement Studies 24
Kinesiology/Sport Administration 48
In July Dr. Rey Treviño accepted a clinical assistant faculty position to bolster our Sport and Fitness Administration program. A large portion of Dr. Treviño’s time will be spent increasing and formalizing the internship opportunities in Sport and Fitness Administration. Raised in Corpus Christi and a graduate of Texas A&M University, Dr. Treviño returns home to Texas after working at Western Carolina University.

Dr. Dan O’Connor joined our faculty in Fall 2007 as an assistant professor specializing in measurement and experimental design of health-related projects. Dr. O’Connor earned his Ph.D. from our department under the direction of Dr. Andrew Jackson.

At the UH Outstanding Faculty Awards ceremony in May it was announced that Dr. Jill Bush and Dr. Rebecca Lee were promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. This is a great accomplishment and we congratulate them both on this outstanding achievement.

In the same awards ceremony, Dr. Brian McFarlin was named the 2006–2007 winner of The University of Houston Provost Core Award for Teaching Excellence! He is the first winner of this prestigious award in our department’s history.

In May Dr. Brian McFarlin was awarded the 2007 Faculty Research Excellence Award, College of Education.

Dr. Shreela Sharma, nutrition specialist and epidemiologist, left the faculty to take another academic position.

Clinical Assistant Professor, Dr. Faith Foreman left our faculty after many years of distinguished service, including directing the Discover U program in the Texas Medical Center.
Publicity and Outreach

On January 14th our department was featured in the Sunday edition of the Houston Chronicle in a story titled “Kinesiology Majors Have the Moves”. This story explained how the field of kinesiology was rapidly expanding and explained the many job opportunities that were available to kinesiology majors. [http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_chronicle.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_chronicle.cfm).

In April we hosted a Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) Scholar Weekend. These weekends provide opportunities for academically talented students in grades 8–11 to take short courses during weekend-long programs at University of Houston. Seventeen outstanding students from across Southeast Texas attended this inaugural event. These students were treated to a personal visit from astronaut Dr. Richard Linnehan, and a live video feed from the Johnson Space Center. [http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_duketip1.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_duketip1.cfm).

In May the department hosted the Cystic Fibrosis Walk-A-Thon, Great Strides: Taking Steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis, at Lynn Eusan Park at the University of Houston. This event raised $586,000 to support research in hopes of finding a cure for this disease. [http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_cystic_fibrosis.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_cystic_fibrosis.cfm).

In April HHP students, faculty and staff participated in the BP MS 150 2007 bike ride from Houston to Austin. The BP MS 150 is a fundraising event for the National MS Society, Lone Star Chapter and the largest event of its kind in the United States. It is a 2-day cycling adventure from Houston to Austin that raises funds to help people living with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). [http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_MS150.cfm](http://hhp.uh.edu/Currentevents/07_MS150.cfm).

The department was featured six different times on local television this past year. Additionally, our faculty and students were the subjects of many local newspaper articles in both the Spanish and English language press.


Lee, R.E. “Social Cohesion Approach to Weight Loss Research” was featured in the University of Houston 2006 President’s Report.

Olvera, N. BOUNCE-LITE was featured in Muse News, the newsletter of The Health Museum in Houston. [http://www.thehealthmuseum.org](http://www.thehealthmuseum.org).

Kurz, M. “Penguin Research” was featured in the University of Houston 2006 President’s Report.


Pearson, D. KERA-TV (PBS Channel 13) Interview for documentary “NOWHERE BUT TEXAS” featuring Cowboys of Color and Black Rodeo. Dallas & Fort Worth, TX, November 16, 2006.


Pearson, D.W. In-studio consultant for Houston PBS/KUHT (Channel 8) on documentary titled “Nowhere But Texas.” Segment discussed was “Cowboys of Color Buck Stereotypes.” June 6, 2007.

Scott-Pandorf, M. “Suited for Space”, University of Houston Magazine, Summer, 2007

Lee, R.E. Fox 26 – Health Is Power project featured on HOLA Houston – June 26, 2007

Lee, R.E. Univision (TV Channel 45) – Health Is Power project featured on Nuestra Vida – July 3, 2007

Lee, R.E. The Houston Chronicle – Health is Power – “They’re Walking the Road to Fitness” – July 7, 2007

The following is a list of last year’s productivity generated by the HHP faculty, students, and alumni. We are proud of our accomplishments in the past year!

**Research Articles**


11. Kraemer, William; Nindl, Bradley; Volek, Jeff; Marx, James; Gotshalk, Lincoln; Bush Jill; Welsch, Jill; Vingren, Jakob; Spiering, Barry; Fragala, Maren; Hatfield, Disa; Yu-Ho, Jen; Maresh, Carl; Mastro, Andrea; Hymer, Wesley C. Influence of Oral Contraceptive Use on Growth Hormone In Vivo Bioactivity Following Resistance Exercise: Responses of Molecular Mass Variants. Amer J Appl Phys Endocrin Metab, 291(6):E1177–1187, 2006.


**Books**


4. McFarlin BK (100%), Bray MS, Jackson AS, and Clarke MSF. Monocyte / Macrophage TLR4 expression and signaling: A Link between Obesity and Chronic Inflammation? Funded by NIH via RO3 Mechanism (Priority Score: 140, Percentile: 2.1) (Funded–2 years, Direct: $100,000 Indirect: $49,000).


8. Lee, R.E. Community Partner Award from Walmart awarded to Health Is Power Project, $1,000.


13. McFarlin BK. The Effect of Moderate Alcohol Consumption supplemented with B vitamins, Folic Acid, and Folate on Blood Cholesterol, C-reactive protein, Body Composition, Resting Metabolic Rate, and Fitness Capacity. Funded Stampede Brewing Company. (Direct: $9,500; Indirect: $2,375, 25%).


15. Pearson, D.W. Curriculum Development Award. Funds provided to support technology implementation in courses. Funding period: 9/1/07–8/31/08. (Award amount: $2,000). Source: Educational Technology and University Outreach.

16. Clarke, M.S.F. Curriculum Development Award. Funds provided to support technology implementation in courses. Funding period: 9/1/07–8/31/08. (Award amount: $6,000). Source: Educational Technology and University Outreach.


19. Faculty Development Initiative Program (Funded, Direct $25,000, Indirect: $0).
Submit for Funding


3. **McFarlin BK (PI, 100%), Jackson AS (Co-I), Clarke MSF (Co-I), and Bray MS (Co-I).** Does Obesity Status Influence Blood Monocytes and Adipose Tissue Macrophages in a similar manner? Submitted to National Institutes of Health (NIH) via R03 Mechanism, November, 2006, Direct cost: $100,000, IDC: $49,000 – 49%).

4. **McFarlin BK, Bray MS, and Simpson R.** Factors Predicting Chronic Inflammation, Obesity, and Exercise Response. Submitted to National Institutes of Health (NIH) via R01 mechanism on 2/1/07 (submitted 2 years, Direct: $500,000, Indirect: $245,000).

5. **McFarlin BK (90%) and Jackson AS (10%).** TIGER Study Renewal Consortium with Baylor College of Medicine (Dr. Molly Bray). Submitted on 3/1/07 (submitted, 5 years, Direct: $705,349 Indirect: $346,621).


10. **Kurz, M.J., Layne, C.S., Lau, V.** Parkinson’s Disease Gait Dynamics. Agency: University of Houston Gear Award (Direct: $75,000; Indirect: $0) submitted.

11. **Martinez, D.A.** The Expression of Extracellular Matrix & Growth Factor Genes In The Regulation Of Dense Fibrous Connective Tissues: “The Impact of An Exercise Re-Loading Paradigm On Rat Tendon And Ligament During Hindlimb Unloading.” National Space Biomedical Research Institute Synergy Grant (Two Years, $50,000).


14. **Olvera N.** BOUNCE Lite Summer Program for Minority Girls, General Mills ($10,000) submitted.

15. **Olvera N.** and Hall F. (Co-Principals). Efficacy of an obesity treatment for Hispanic families. UH Grants to Enhance and Advanced Research ($50,000) submitted.

16. **McFarlin, B.K., Bray, M.S., Clarke, M.S.F., Jackson, A.S., and O’Connor. D.P.** Weight Gain, Exercise Training, and Low-Grade Inflammation: Role of TLR4. Submitted July 10th, 2007 as A1 submission to NIH. (Direct: $266,082, Indirect: $81,602, 49%).

17. **Lee, R.E.** Physical Activity and Improving Health in Women of Color. Submitted to the USDHHS Office on


Professional Presentations


6. Gingiss, P.M., Boerm, M. Modifications in the Texas Smoke-free Ordinance Database. TX Department of State Health Services, Tobacco contractor’s quarterly meeting. American Lung Association, Houston, TX. October 20, 2006.


11. Gingiss, P.M. Changes in school tobacco programs in Jefferson County in response to needs demonstrated in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. TX Department of State Health Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Austin, TX. November 20, 2006.


27. **Banda, JA, Layne, CS,** and **Lee, RE** An accelerometer cut point for measuring the time spent in moderate or greater intensity physical activity. Annual Meeting of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine, Fort Worth, TX, March, 2007.


46. Márquez C, Popovic MR, Thrasher TA, Cameron T, Lozano A, and Chen R. Identifying movements from
electrocorticography. FICCDAT – 30th Canadian Medical and Biological Engineering Conference, Toronto, Canada (June 16–19, 2007).


50. **Layne, C.S., Nguyen, K., Forth, K.E.** Muscle contractions in response to foot stimulation as an in-flight countermeasure. International Academy of Astronautics 16th Humans in Space Symposium, Beijing, China (May 2007).

51. **Gingiss, P.M. and Alastuey, L.** After the Storms: Youth reports of their interpersonal exposure and mental health status in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. American School Health Association’s 81st Annual School Health Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii (July, 2007).

52. Dang, Q. and **Alastuey, L.** “You want me to eat that?” TAHPERD summer conference, Austin, Texas (July, 2007).


56. **Matalon, Kimberlee.** “Cerebrotendinous Xanthomatosis (CTX) and Dietary Treatment”. The United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The Expanding Spectrum of White Matter Diseases: Approaches for Diagnosis and Treatment, DeKalb, Ill. (July 19–22, 2007).


58. **Smith, D., Lee, J. and Alastuey, L.** A Local Replication of the National School Health Education Leadership Institute: First Year Results of the SALI. American School Health Association 81st Annual School Health Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii (July 2007).


Invited Professional Presentations

1. Kurz, M.J. Controlling Chaotic Biorhythms: Applications for Clinical Assessment and Rehabilitation. University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, Texas (October 2006).

2. Gingiss, P.M. Changes in school tobacco programs in Jefferson County in response to needs demonstrated in the aftermath of Hurricanes Rita and Katrina. TX Department of State Health Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Austin, TX. (November 20, 2006).

3. Gingiss, P.M., Boerm, M. Modifications in the Texas Smoke-free Ordinance Database. TX Department of State Health Services, Tobacco contractor’s quarterly meeting. American Lung Association, Houston, TX. (October 20, 2006).


7. Gingiss, P.M. (February, 2007). Tobacco ordinance data update, summary of level of protection of Texans living in cities and patterns of change from 2000 to present. Department of State Health Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Austin, TX.

8. Gingiss, P.M., Boerm, Melynda, M.Ed. (March 9, 2007). TX Smoke-free Ordinance Website. Presentation to CDC project officers: TDSHS. Austin, TX.


12. Gingiss, P.M., Mosier, V., Coombs, S., Shahzad, K. (June 2007). Texas Health Insurance Coverage for Prevention and Screening of Cancer, Cardiovascular Disease, and Diabetes. Department of State Health Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division, Austin, TX.


Published Reports


Gingiss, P.M., Boerm, M. “Changes in TX Ordinances in 2006 and Comparisons of Coverage of the Texas Municipal
Achievements and Milestones


Lee, R.E. Community Level Health Promotion (CLHP) Study Section for the NIH Center for Scientific Review, October 12–13, 2006.


Bloom, J. Selected as editor for the Physical Education Division of the TAHPERD Journal, effective December 1, 2006.

Rhode, P. Awarded a competitive position to attend the “Design, Analysis, & Interpretation of Randomized Clinical Trials In Obesity,” sponsored by the University of Alabama Birmingham, Clinical Nutrition Research Center, Hilton Newark Airport, Newark, NJ, November, 2006.

Bloom J. Selected to Chair the Senior Wellness Committee for the Mayor of Houston’s Wellness Council.

Bloom J. Re-elected as Chair of the University of Houston Undergraduate Council.

Bloom J. Nominated for the David K. Brace Award of Excellence–TAHPERD.


McFarlin, BK. UH Provost’s Core Award for Teaching Excellence (2006–2007)

McFarlin, BK. 2007 Faculty Research Excellence Award, College of Education.


Bush JA. 2007 NSCA JSCR Editorial Excellence Award.


Bush JA. Research Interest Chair, Energy and Macronutrient Metabolism Research Interest Section, American Society for Nutrition, 2007.

Bush, JA. Secretary and Treasurer, Endocrine and Metabolism Section, American Physiological Society, 2007.

Martinez, D.A. NIH Study Section Member: Special Emphasis Panel/Scientific Review Group, Physiology and
Kurz, M. Session Co-moderator and organizer, Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation IV: Gait.

Kurz, M. Biomechanics Section Editor, Journal of Sports Science and Medicine.

Layne, C.S. Reappointed UH’s representative to the National Center for Human Performance.

Layne, C.S. Appointed to serve on the proposal development team for the Houston Center for Clinical and Translational Science (HCCTS) in response to NIH’s call for Institutional Clinical and Translational Science Award (U54) RFA.

Layne, C.S. Session Co-moderator and organizer, Houston Society for Engineering in Medicine and Biology, Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation IV: Gait.


Olvera, N. awarded Phi Delta Kappa Advocate for Education 2007 Bridge to the Future Award, sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa Chapter of the Houston Area.

Olvera, N. coordinated physical activity component at Children’s Nutrition Expo at the Children’s Museum, Houston, TX (spring 2007).


Lee, R.E. Appointed UH Obesity Research Center Director (April, 2007).

Bloom, J.A. Re-elected as Chair of the UH Undergraduate Council.

Bush, J.A. Appointed Vice Chair of UH Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Bloom, J.A. Created, conducted and implemented the first Senior Water Fitness Festival for the City of Houston. This was part of the Senior Initiative for Texercise-Houston and the Mayor’s Wellness Council sponsored The Texas Department of Aging & Disability Services.

McFarlin, B.K. Named Fellow of the Obesity Society (Formally presented at the NAASO meeting in October 2007).


Kurz, M.J. Selected as a research faculty for the Center for Neuroengineering and Cognitive Science.

Bush, J.A. National Strength and Conditioning Association JSCR Editorial Excellence Award (July 2007).
Olvera, N. Phi Delta Kappa Advocate for Education Bridge to the Future Award, sponsored by Phi Delta Kappa Chapter of the Houston Area, 2007.

Dr. Dale Pease, retired professor and former department chair, will be the recipient of a TAHPERD Honor Award at the Annual Convention in Dec. 2007, Moody Gardens, Galveston TX.

Student Achievements

Chris Arellano was featured in the Houston Chronicle 10/12/2006 (Max Kurz, advisor).

Lorino AJ and JA Bush. Dose-dependent effect of pseudo ephedrine on maximal time to exhaustion and muscle fatigue. NSCA Grant, Amount Requested: $3,557.97.


Japan Bhalja awarded Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) fall 2007 Program (Thrasher T.A., supervisor).

Melissa Castillo, Nutrition major, was hired as the Coca-Cola intern for Fall 2007.

Chris Arellano, Rice-Houston Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Summer 2007 Research Program Fellowship (M. Kurz, advisor).


Ashley Hickerson, 2007 Honors College Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) (M. Kurz, advisor).

Eugene Chaung, 2007 Honors College Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) (M. Kurz, advisor).

Mamta Roopani Awarded 2007 TAHPERD Health Division Student Scholarship.

Georgia Aljawadi (Cruz) 2002 Health BS, and 2003 Health Ed, MED, is now a Doctor of Osteopathy at the University of North Texas Health Science Center–Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine, and first-year Medical Resident at San Jacinto Family Medicine Center at San Jacinto Methodist Hospital in Baytown, TX.


Syed Javed, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) Summer 2007 (Advisor: Thrasher T.A.).

Stephanie Pucek was accepted into University of Texas Medical Branch, Fall 2007.


Outstanding HHP Students – May, 2007

- Movement & Sports: Jennifer Everett
- Sport Administration: Jeremy Matthew McDonald
- TAHPERD Student of the Year: Steven Zbranek
- Health: Khurram Shahzad
- Exercise Science: Jennifer Dry
- Nutrition: Safia Hussain
- M.Ed.: Diana Abuamer
- Ph.D.: Melissa Scott-Pandorf
- GLO CPAs, LLP Scholarship awardees: Ashley Hickerson (M. Kurz, advisor)
  Daniel Wingaurd (B. McFarlin, advisor)

Graduate Student Research Award winners

- Chris Arellano
- Gabe Blog
- Alexander Hutchinson
- Melissa Scott-Pandorf
- Monique Mills
- Mark Knoblauch
- Kristen McAlexander, K.
- Lindsay Edwards

Alumni Achievements

Akilah Carter (2000) is currently a doctoral student at the University of Georgia. She presented a paper at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, International Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, November 1–4, 2006.

Michelle McNerney received an internship at NIH. Ms. McNerney is a former SURF student of Max Kurz.

Matthew T. Mahar, Professor of exercise and sport science at East Carolina University, received the UNC Board of Governors Teaching Award in May 2007, (Andrew Jackson, advisor).

Daniel P. O’Connor was hired as assistant professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance, University of Houston.

Shawn Mosley, B.S. (2000) was recently accepted to the Executive MBA program at University of Texas at Dallas. Mosley (formerly Mayberry) was a Sport Administration Program student.

Steve Zbranek TAHPERD Student of the Year

Judy Salazar and Steven Willman (2007) are Health/Fitness Program employees, Spring Branch ISD, Houston, TX.

Linda Luna (2007) Wellness/Fitness Coordinator and varsity track and field coach, Bellville, TX.