unwrap the annual report and discover some of the reasons we are on the leading edge of health innovation. We strive to equip our students with the tools for success through outstanding academic programs, research opportunities and real-world experiences. Our faculty is renowned in their fields, and they continue to be on the forefront of creating models of educational, research and clinical practice that influence the lives of thousands.

Once again, the 2014-2015 academic year has seen record-breaking enrollment in the Department of Health and Human Performance. Both the Master’s in Sport and Fitness Administration and the Athletic Training program have nearly doubled their enrollment since last year, while our other programs continue to experience steady growth. Our research funding productivity is at an all time high, and we participated in a record number of community events. Our faculty continues to work with researchers and physicians from the Texas Medical Center, NASA and across the country. See how our alumnus, Dr. Katharine Forth, was selected to participate in the inaugural Texas Medical Center Accelerator (TMCx) program to promote and develop new medical technologies. Read about our innovative experiential learning course, developed in conjunction with the Houston NCAA Final Four Organizing Committee and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee.

I think you will be impressed to see the accomplishments of our faculty and students in the following pages. Our goal is for students to step out with a head start in their chosen fields. I am confident their education in HHP will give them the knowledge and opportunities for a successful future.

As always, I would love to know how you, as an HHP alumnus, are making us Cougar Proud! Let me hear from you at clayne2@uh.edu.

Dr. Charles Layne
Professor and Chair
Guillaume Spielmann, post doctoral student, & Hawley Kunz, graduate student, are preparing a specimen for testing in the LIP.
Dr. Yoonjung Park’s current studies are in collaboration with researchers at the Texas Medical Center, NASA and the College of Pharmacy at UH. The collaborative project, which studies the role of aerobic exercise in atherosclerosis-mediated coronary artery function, is funded by the Cardiovascular Research Foundation (CVRF).

Park’s group currently focuses on changes in vascular function and structure in various pathophysiological conditions. Some changes being studied include metabolic disorder and atherosclerosis-induced vascular dysfunction in heart, cerebromicrovascular dysfunction in Alzheimer’s disease and ocular vascular adaptation to space flight.

He is also interested in investigating roles of physical activity and exercise training in the prevention and/or treatment of impaired vascular function in those conditions and underlying mechanisms at molecular, cellular and intact tissue levels, such as isolated resistance vessels.
**Dr. Thomas Lowder** and his team are examining a rare and incurable disease that affects women, lymphangioleiomyomatosis (LAM). The treatment options are limited to a small number of pharmaceutical treatments and lung transplantation. Even with transplant, the disease returns, making it not only a potentially lethal disease but also one of chronic and progressive loss of pulmonary function. Lowder’s investigators have been using exercise as a means of disease management. To date, all of his patients are improving in some or all measures of pulmonary function. In collaboration with the LAM Foundation, he is working with women across the U.S. and throughout Latin America and Europe, providing individualized training sessions twice weekly.

“These ladies often have a long-scale and more difficult time with sleeping at night. Oxygen desaturation is a huge problem, particularly at night, often waking up gasping for breath,” he said. "We hope to find a way to improve their quality of life. We aren’t trying to cure the disease, but rather turn it from a fatal condition to a manageable disease.”

**Dr. Melissa Markofski**’s global research hypothesis is that diseases typically connected to aging are not necessarily related to aging directly, but rather to age-associated changes in exercise and physical activity, nutrition and body composition. Her research uses molecular techniques and evidence-based functional outcomes to examine the post-exercise nutrition response and the link between physical activity and inactivity patterns with biomarkers of disease risk.

Markofski is also interested in the mechanisms for exercise to reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases and to improve the prognosis of people with chronic diseases. Her current projects examine the impact of physical activity and body mass index on muscle and monocyte cell-surface receptors and pathways associated with inflammation and disease progression. By better understanding the effect of exercise on these receptors and pathways, we can better understand how exercise affects chronic disease development.
Dr. Richard Simpson’s work is predominantly focused on how exercise and stress impacts the immune system. Major cross-cutting themes of his work are aging (immunosenescence) and cancer. Simpson and his team study how single exercise bouts can be used to augment the recovery and expansion of specific immune cells that can be used therapeutically to treat patients with hematologic malignancies. An additional focus is how exercise can be used to negate the onset of immunosenescence during the natural course of aging.

Dr. Mitzi Laughlin and a team of graduate students are investigating the energy system contributions during maximal exercise. Methods to calculate the aerobic and anaerobic (lactic and alactic) system contributions have been developed, but have not been widely embraced due to additional data collection required and the complexity of the mathematical calculations. Laughlin’s team is testing elite runners to determine the feasibility of the mathematical calculations and the reliability of the energy systems contribution during maximum tests.

Laughlin is also part of an international team examining the changes in muscle strength and performance and the mechanisms behind these changes during space flight. The teams are integrating their research goals to perform this International Space Station (ISS) project. The results from strength and neuromotor control tests conducted before, during and after six-month missions aboard the ISS should provide a systematic assessment of changes in muscle strength, performance and coordination throughout long-duration space flight.

He is also interested in how exercise training can contribute to improved patient survival and quality of life through modulation of immune and inflammatory pathways at all phases of the cancer care continuum. His current work includes three NASA funded projects that aim to 1) examine the effects of long duration space flight on astronaut immune function and illness rates, 2) characterize behavioral and psychiatric risks associated with extreme isolation and confinement and 3) determine the effects of simulated microgravity and acute radiation exposure on viral infectivity and host immune evasion.
Dr. Adam Thrasher is leading a research program to better understand how Parkinson's disease (PD) affects gait and balance and to develop rehabilitation technologies to treat postural instability in this population. His team, which includes clinicians from the Methodist Neurological Institute, is recording muscle activity in the lower extremities under different experimental conditions to develop new theories on how the central nervous system behaves as PD progresses. Thrasher, in collaboration with Dr. Beom-Chan Lee, is developing a device that uses vibrotactile feedback to provide guidance while standing and walking to prevent falls. Thrasher and Lee are also investigating the rehabilitative effects of treadmill training on PD in collaboration with Dr. Mon Bryant from the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, Houston. In addition to these projects, Thrasher is studying the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of surgically implanted medical devices such as deep brain stimulators and intrathecal drug delivery pumps. These devices are a modern breakthrough in the clinical treatment of chronic neurological disorders.

Dr. Stacey Gorniak’s team of researchers is working with clinicians to validate an innovative battery of hand function assessments for elite musicians and non-musicians, who are recovering from repetitive stress injuries. The study, in conjunction with the Center for Performing Arts Medicine at Houston Methodist Hospital, aims to establish clinical best practices and techniques to assess hand function, leading to improvements in treating and preventing upper extremity disability. Gorniak is also investigating declines in sensory, motor and cognitive functions in patients diagnosed with type 2 diabetes (T2D). Her group is measuring changes in cognitive and motor behaviors in a cross-sectional population here in Houston. The researchers strive to evaluate the effects of vascular and neurological dysfunction on overt behavior in patients living with T2D. A goal is to better understand how bimanual function is affected by diseases such as PD and multiple sclerosis.
The development of wearable biofeedback technology is a research focus of Dr. Beom-Chan Lee. His work includes the design, development, and assessment of vibrotactile-based biofeedback systems that can be used to provide motion guidance during balance and gait exercises. His recent work reported that people with Parkinson’s disease had the smallest position error between the target and participant movements when performing weight-shifting balance exercises assisted by motion guidance through vibrotactile biofeedback.

He has also developed an experimental system inducing a simulated fall and investigated the effect of vibrotactile cueing as a function of location of the cueing stimulus and lead-time on recovery strategies from a treadmill-induced fall. Study outcomes demonstrated that vibrotactile cueing improves recovery from trip perturbation more efficiently than adaptation based on learning.

Dr. Charles Layne is leading a collaboration with the Memorial Bone and Joint Research Foundation to assess the clinical and biomechanical outcomes of patients who have had total hip replacements. This project focuses on identifying the recovery curve of hip replacement patients as they perform a variety of balance tasks and walk both over ground and on a treadmill. Providing information about the time course of motion recovered after surgery can be used to guide physical rehabilitation decision making.

He is also investigating the prioritization of the use of various sources of sensory information during the production of coordinated movement. By simultaneously modifying different sensory signals, it can be determined which inputs we use to guide our actions versus ones we ignore. Projects involving muscle vibration, reversing visual prisms, visual flow fields generated by the Oculus virtual reality system, and galvanic stimulation of the vestibular system during posture and locomotion tasks are currently being performed. Additionally, in partnership with Texas Children’s Hospital, Layne is exploring the gait and posture characteristics of patients with Rett Syndrome, a neurodevelopmental disorder that manifests itself in an array of movement and cognitive disorders.
Dr. Daphne Hernandez has found that food insecurity is the lack of resources or access to healthy, affordable food. It can lead to a host of unhealthy consequences, but the roads that lead there can be very different. Understanding those differences may provide a clearer picture of hunger in families and a better way of responding to families’ needs. She has been examining factors within the family environment that can lead to food deprivation. Aside from financial strain, a mother’s poor health may determine whether her family is at risk of falling into the most extreme category of food insecurity, very low food security.

These families reduce not only the quality of their food intake but the quantity as well. Linking food assistance programs with established social services that specialize in physical health, mental health and substance use assistance, rather than having food assistance programs work in isolation, could help to alleviate the most severe type of food insecurity.

Dr. Dan O’Connor is in the fourth year of leading a multidisciplinary team of researchers from UH’s Texas Obesity Research Center (TORC) and Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics (TIMES). The four-year, $4.25 million CDC-funded, childhood obesity research demonstration project is being conducted in California, Massachusetts and Texas.

The UH team serves as the central evaluation center for the entire initiative. Their aim is to determine how community-based prevention programs affect child and family behaviors and body weight. The project enrolled more than 3,000 families and involves programs delivered by primary care physicians, childcare centers, public schools and community organizations. The investigators are currently receiving and assessing data for documenting and summarizing the project’s findings and provide recommendations for effective methods to prevent child obesity.
Happier Meals was a study of Dr. Tracey Ledoux’s that developed and tested a vicarious learning video to teach parents responsive feeding strategies. Its purpose was to overcome common mealtime challenges with preschool-aged children. The video was developed using community-based participatory research methods and pilot tested with a web-based randomized controlled trial. The video showed preliminary effects in the desirable direction on parenting behaviors, and parents were satisfied with the video and content. Ledoux and Jessica Robinson, her project coordinator and nutrition student, worked with a scriptwriter in California, actors from a local talent agency and UH media services to produce the video, which is now available on YouTube.

Ledoux and O’Connor have completed a collaborative study about a weight loss and weight management program for women with mobility impairments. Currently, the team is actively recruiting women from the Houston area for the pilot test phase, which is delivered through Second Life, an online 3D multi-user virtual environment.
Dr. David Walsh has examined sport and its ability to impact the quality of life of an individual as he or she transitions to retirement. He interviewed more than 250 individuals in a Texas retirement community with the overarching question: Does sport have the capacity to influence the development process of a person later in life?

“People shared experiences of when sport played a significant role in life-events and changes, which brought tangible and intangible losses to participants, particularly to their sense of self,” he said. “Sport was found to be a resource-rich system they sought because of what they thought it could do for them—bring self-confidence, social interaction and physical activity.” His study found that when sport was applied to these challenging transitions, particularly during retirement, the adjustments were smoother. Participants felt as if they belonged to a community, were escaping perceived chaos or given more control in their lives. Walsh determined that the study can inform sports managers to design sport for this population with the intent of enhancing their quality of life.

Dr. Mike Cottingham’s research focuses on the intersection of consumer behavior, disability sport and perceptions of disability. His theoretical focus examines the use of supercrip spectatorship. This research has been well received by academics and practitioners and is used to more effectively understand how disability is internalized and what presentations of disability may more effectively address professionalism in sports and stereotypes about disability. Cottingham also directs Adaptive Athletics at UH, a student program that provides opportunities for sport participation.

Cottingham has received a grant from the NCAA to examine national youth participation in disability sport and funding from the U.S. Tennis Association to promote wheelchair tennis at UH. His findings have been published in journals in the fields of sport management, disability studies and rehabilitation.
Dr. Don Lee’s research interests generally fall into sport consumer behaviors, particularly in the areas including game attendance, team merchandise purchasing and media sports consumption. In addition, he has been working on measurement aspects of sports behaviors as well as branding. He has been conducting his research primarily through quantitative analyses such as structural equation modeling, factor analysis, multivariate analysis of variance and/or repeated measures ANOVA. One of his recent branding/co-branding research aims was to identify antecedents to team brand perception and authentication.

Lee has recently accepted a doctoral student who has interest in sports fan behaviors, investigating structural relationships among various antecedents and their impact on game consumption.

Dr. Demetrius Pearson’s recent research on “Ethnic Diversity and American Basketball: A Socio-Cultural and Historical Analysis” examines the history of the sport since its inception to the current day, and studies the changes in ethnic diversity in the game through the years.

His research extensively reviews the history of basketball, involvement of ethnic players and teams in basketball through the ages of segregation and integration, ending with integration in the professional leagues. It concludes that basketball has been one of the most ethnically diverse American team sports since its inception even though “Jim Crow laws” inhibited interracial competition in many areas. Basketball has been an American export for more than a century and has gained such popularity worldwide that close to 20 percent of the NBA’s professional players are international.

“Right Place, Right Time: The Galvanization of Brooklyn During The Robinson Years” (2014) chronicled the experiences of Jackie Robinson and the success of the most iconic National League baseball franchise, the Brooklyn Dodgers. It fills in the gaps left by the recent Robinson biopic entitled "42" released in 2013.
The Master’s of Athletic Training (MAT) program has just completed its first year, and is under the direction of Dr. Josh Yellen, program director and clinical assistant professor, and Dr. Mark Knoblauch, clinical education coordinator and clinical assistant professor.

Each semester, MAT students develop and conduct a case study with a focus on athletic-related populations or conditions in high school or college settings. From the six studies required for the program, one must be submitted for publication. Five students from the first cohort submitted their case studies, and all five were accepted for presentation as either an oral presentation or a poster presentation at this summer’s Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association annual meeting in Houston.

The following students' research was selected as oral presentations

“Common Plantar Digital Nerve Pain Due To Lumbopelvic Dysfunctions in a Collegiate Baseball Player”
Nicole Cascia

“The Outcomes of Conservative Treatment of Os Trigonum Syndrome in an NCAA Baseball Player”
Will Ryan

“Vasovagal Syncope, Grand Mal Seizures with Ventricular Pauses”
Allison Crandell

The following students' research was selected as poster presentations

"Unique Shape of a Tibial Plateau Fracture in an 18-Year-Old Football Athlete"
Matt Barnes

“Iliacus Avulsion Located By Symptoms of an Iliac Crest Contusion”
Karson Payne
Matt Barnes followed the case of an 18-year-old male high school football tight end who received a blunt force trauma from another player to the lateral side of his knee, while the leg was partially weight bearing. Fractures to the lower extremity are particularly challenging, as extended rehabilitation is often required for weight bearing bones of the body. He documented the evaluation and rehabilitation of the uncommon tibial plateau fracture. At 14 weeks post-injury, the patient had full AROM and strength and received clearance to return to full activity.

Karson Payne studied a case where an athlete, presented with signs and symptoms of a hip contusion resulting from a collision during a game, was diagnosed with a complete rupture of the iliacus muscle from the iliac fossa. The case presented is the only known case documented in an athletic population. Her study observed the physician’s treatment of the rare condition with the injection of platelet-rich plasma (PRP) to the injured area. The athlete returned to his practice schedule after four weeks, following a comprehensive evaluation and treatment.

Drs. Knoblauch and O’Connor are pursuing funding to test the effectiveness of a laser thermometer to determine an athlete’s body heat as they cross the finish line. The handheld laser would be aimed at the back of the throat, in order to provide the accurate body heat temperature. A quick assessment will assist in immediate monitoring of any elevated temperature associated with heat illness.

If the oral thermometer correlates with the core body temperature, the laser could replace the more invasive and time-consuming rectal reading, considered the gold standard, for rapid results at athletic events. If successful, the mass technique of the laser thermometer could be used in other industries as well.
Dr. Layne prepares for commencement with HHP graduates in the Field House.
The Houston Texans Sports Medicine staff chose Matt Barnes, a master of athletic training (MAT) student, to serve in an internship with the organization through May 2016. The MAT program is partnering with the Houston Texans, as well as other agencies, to provide students valuable experiences in one of the fastest-growing professions. This is the first time the Houston Texans have had a formal clinical affiliation agreement with an athletic training education program.

Nadia Agha and Rachel Graff, graduate students, have won the highly competitive National Cancer Institute Summer Research Experience in The University of Texas MD Anderson’s Cancer Prevention Research Training Program (CPRTP). Agha and Graff worked this summer under the guidance of a faculty mentor at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. In addition, they collaborated on an independent research project.
Adaptive Athletics at UH was named the 2015 Club of the Year by the UH Sport Club Program. The student organization served more than 180 athletes with disabilities in the last year and acts as a living lab for innovative research on disability sport. It is under the direction of HHP’s Dr. Mike Cottingham (pictured in the white shirt.).

As part of the Texas Chapter of the American College of Sports Medicine’s (TACSM) Spring 2015 Lecture Tour, Dr. Edward Coyle, professor and director of the Human Performance Laboratory, University of Texas, Austin, lectured on the physiology of endurance athletes titled “Physiology of The Marathon: How Fast Might They Go?”

NASA astronaut and U.S. Marine Corps Col. Randolph Bresnik spoke to Dr. Layne’s space flight analogs class about the agency’s work to send humans to Mars by the 2030s. He also discussed how NASA helps prepare astronauts for long-term space flight, by exposing them to extreme environments, such as caves and an underwater laboratory. Bresnik trained as a "cave-a-naut" in the extreme environment training of the European Space Agency’s Cooperative Adventure for Valuing and Exercising human behavior and performance Skills (CAVES), in Sardina, Italy. This was the first space flight analog of its type, living deep beneath the surface of the Earth. He is pictured with some students from the class and Dr. Lauren Merkle (far right), education lead for Biomedical Research & Environmental Sciences, Wyle Integrated Science and Engineering Group.
NASA-Funded Research

Nadia Agha is working on Dr. Richard Simpson’s Salivary Markers project to determine if space flight-induced immune dysregulation increases infection susceptibility or poses a significant health risk to crew members onboard the International Space Station. Any findings of impairments in immunity will allow countermeasures to be developed to help mitigate, especially as NASA plans for extended space flights, particularly manned missions to Mars.

Rahul Goel was selected as a prime crewmember for the next Human Exploration Research Analog (HERA). In this unique, modular three-story habitat at the NASA-JSC, investigators address risks and gaps associated with human performance during space flight. The HERA is an analog for simulation of isolation, confinement and remote conditions of mission exploration scenarios. He works in the CNBR with Dr. William Paloski.

Lauren Gulley is researching the sensory-motor changes that occur during bed rest, in particular the T-reflex. This research will help understand the similar sensory motor changes that occur in microgravity. Her work is conducted at the CNBR with Dr. Charles Layne.

Hawley Kunz is studying the number of functional T-cells in Dr. Richard Simpson’s Salivary Markers project that are specific for three latent viruses in astronauts on the International Space Station. The goal is to gain a better understanding of how the immune system responds to the stresses associated with microgravity, and how well these virus-specific T-cells are able to control the reactivation of these latent viruses.

Stefan Madansingh is designing experiments to understand the relationship between sensorimotor adaptation and risk of falls in astronauts after living in microgravity, using classical motor control techniques and virtual reality. He is also involved in comparing the effects of a 70-day head down bed rest and six-month space flight on sensorimotor control and functional performance. He works in the CNBR with Dr. William Paloski.

Preteesh Leo Mylabathula is currently working on measuring Natural Killer Cell Cytotoxicity changes in modeled microgravity using a rotating wall vessel. The aim is to understand changes in the immune system in astronauts during space flight. He works in the LIP with Dr. Richard Simpson.

Bridgette Rooney conducts research in the LIP with Dr. Richard Simpson, analyzing the phenotypical and physiological differences in immune bio markers between ground-based controls and NASA astronauts to determine the affects of microgravity and space flight on the form and function of the human immune system.

David Temple is investigating the effects that vestibular stochastic resonance might have on improving locomotion during an adaptation task. This research has the potential to help astronauts improve their locomotor strategic adaptation capabilities during gravity transitional periods, as well as help other populations of individuals with certain balance dysfunctions. His work is conducted at the CNBR with Dr. Charles Layne.
Student Honors and Awards

Excellence in Undergraduate Studies
Laura Record, Exercise Science
Ryan Lafley, Fitness/Sports
Yanely Alonso, Nutrition
Tyler Little, Sport Administration

Mary Louise White Scholarship
Bernadine Asias
Shailee Ghandi

American Kinesiology Association's National Undergraduate Scholar
Sina Mirab

Excellence in Master of Arts in Sport & Fitness Administration
Darren Randle

Sport and Fitness Administration Scholarship
Destiny Morton
Alex Russell
Alexandra Stine

Doctoral Student Research Achievement Award
Nadia Agha, Pre-Candidacy
Hawley Kunz, Post-Candidacy

Degrees Conferred

Undergraduate
Human Nutrition & Foods  130
Kinesiology - Exercise Science  228
Kinesiology - Fitness and Sports  28
Kinesiology - Sport Administration  72

Graduate
Doctor of Philosophy  2
Master of Arts  3
Master of Education  6
Master of Science  4
John Austin Bigley
“NK-cells and Exercise: Potential Implications for Cancer Immunotherapy”

Stuart Matthew Clark Lee
“Skeletal Muscle Growth Factor Response to Cutaneous Stimulation of The Plantar Surface of the Foot”
Internships

In the past year, 90 students entered and successfully completed internships in sport management. This constituted more than 52,000 hours of hands-on experience and learning development in the sport industry. More than 1,500 hours of service-learning experiences were generated by students in the community at locations such as the Special Olympics, the YMCA and the Houston Texans Foundation. HHP students are prepared through an internship prep course in which students seek service learning, prepare video resumes as well as traditional cover letters and resumes, career assessment exams and mock interview sessions by local sport professionals like the Rockets, Texans and Dynamo. UH Athletics leads the way in providing our students with opportunities to develop their skills. See page 25 to learn more about an experiential learning course, developed in conjunction with the Houston NCAA Final Four Organizing Committee and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee.

The MAT program has formed clinical affiliation agreements with seven organizations in Houston for clinical education experiences and assignments. Many students have had the opportunity to gain other experiences with medical staffs of the Houston Marathon, The Half Iron Man in Galveston and the Sugar Land Marathon, as well as participate in events hosted by the Greater Houston Athletic Trainer Society. Students complete up to 1,400 hours of clinical education with partner agencies that also include Memorial Hermann Medical Group, Memorial Hermann Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, the Ironman Sports Medicine Sports Institute and the Sugar Land Skeeters.

The UH Dietetic Internship offers two unique internship tracks, which provide a minimum of 1,200 hours of supervised practice in a wide variety of nutrition and dietetics specialty areas. The Houston-based onsite track provides interns with the opportunity to complete rotations within the Houston area including Memorial Hermann Health Care System, The Methodist Hospital, Texas Children’s Hospital, MD Anderson Cancer Center, NASA, Children’s Nutrition Research Center and Baylor College of Medicine, among others. The Distance track provides rotation opportunities in various facilities throughout the nation, usually in the region where the intern is geographically located, allowing for flexibility without the need for relocation.

Exercise Science students have had many opportunities to complete internships that have ultimately assisted them in either obtaining full-time positions after graduating or continuing onto graduate school. Students interested in physical therapy are required to have completed a number of internship or observational hours before applying to graduate physical therapy programs. Many of our students have successfully received those hours at the Pain and Rehabilitation Solutions under experienced medical and rehabilitation professionals.
Making Good on a Promise

Although Jonathan Perry and his artist friend, John Painter, were from different generations, they forged a close friendship and made a promise with far-reaching impact. The two friends collaborated on paintings and drawings and made a promise that if any of the artwork was sold, half the proceeds would go to cancer research.

Painter had beaten cancer multiple times, only to succumb to complications this June. True to his word, Perry has donated proceeds from the sale of some of the paintings to further research being conducted in HHP.

“We would have ‘art days’ whenever we could on weekends, where we would work on each other’s art,” Perry explained. “Sometimes we came up with masterpieces, other times just odd mash ups. Due to his medication, John had difficulty holding a steady line, which seems to compliment my OCD about geometric shapes and lines.”

Perry also arranged an art show of various artist’s, where a portion of the proceeds benefited the department.

To see the full collection of Painter’s work, contact Perry at walwynperry@gmail.com.
Whole Foods Market Picks Shasta's

Shasta's Culinary Workshop was selected by Whole Foods Market to be the recipient of a series of Whole Foods Market Community Giving Days. A Community Giving Day is held at each store four times annually, where at least five percent of after-tax profits go back into the communities. During each day, students from Shasta's are at the Whole Foods Market store providing nutrition advice and demonstrations to customers.

“With the proceeds, the Shasta’s Culinary Workshop plans to build a small, manageable cooking herb garden outside the UH classroom kitchen, which will allow for teaching opportunities that support a healthier lifestyle, in addition to growing simple organic herbs used for food production,” said Kendall Smith McDermott, marketing team leader for Whole Foods Market, Kirby/Southwest Region. “The students are not only learning graded skills, but skills for life!”

The garden can also be used as a teaching garden for the UH Elementary Charter school and the preschool located next to the kitchen.

“It is my hope that each UH nutrition student learns to grow herbs locally and feels comfortable enough to teach their future clients simple gardening skills when they are active in their careers,” said Ann Svendsen-Sanchez, instructor for the commercial food production class.

Shasta’s Culinary Workshop is a student operated café on the UH campus, where HHP nutrition students learn commercial food production in a commercial kitchen setting.

Graffiti Run Houston

HHP sponsored the third Graffiti Run Houston on the UH main campus on December 7, 2014. Each year, part of the proceeds from the 5K run has benefitted HHP’s undergraduate scholarship fund. The third event completed the scholarship’s endowment, which began with the efforts of the HHP faculty and staff. The accomplishment has truly been a community engagement, where thousands of Houston-area participants and the UH community made the colorful run a destination event.
The Houston Rockets' Blacktop Battle

The department partnered with the Houston Rockets to host its Blacktop Battle 3 ON 3 basketball qualifying tournament in the Melcher Gym in March. Each team consisted of three players from UH faculty and staff. The Rockets provided the overall tournament winners a free slot in its annual 3 ON 3 Blacktop Battle tournament conducted on the streets around the Toyota Center in April. The newly formed HHP Sport Administration student club, the Houston Institute of Sport Administration (HISA), assisted in organizing and conducting the competition. HISA is under the direction of Dr. David Walsh.

CFF Great Strides

The annual Cystic Fibrosis Great Strides walk was sponsored by the department for the eighth year, May 9, 2015 on the UH main campus. This year there were 750 participants and more than $800,000 was donated. The 5k walk raises funds for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation which has invested hundreds of millions of dollars to support cystic fibrosis research and drug development. More than 125,000 people participate in the events, held at nearly 600 locations across the country each year.

To learn more about finding a cure for CF and to locate a walk near you, visit http://cff.org.
Cougar Cup

"Murderball" returned to campus as the Adaptive Athletics at UH student organization welcomed participants and spectators for the 2015 Wheelchair Rugby Cougar Cup Tournament, Feb. 27–March 1, 2015, at the UH Campus Recreation and Wellness Center. Six teams from across the country gathered at UH to compete against other wheelchair athletes for the coveted Cougar Cup prize.

Wheelchair rugby earned the moniker "murderball" because of the aggressive play of the athletes. The award-winning student organization is under the direction of Dr. Mike Cottingham.

Super Four Experience

Planning has been ongoing this past year to provide a once-in-a-life-time opportunity for students in HHP and UH's Conrad N. Hilton College. Students will gain experience and training with two of the largest events in North America by partnering with the Houston NCAA Final Four Organizing Committee and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee.

Beginning in fall 2015, students will work closely with both the Houston NCAA Final Four Organizing Committee and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee and staff in the areas of event planning, event management, sport marketing and communication, budgeting, project management, facility management and guest services, and sport governance, among others.

Training will involve behind-the-scenes access to planning and event logistics meetings, direct involvement with event management and execution, and administrative support. Classroom instruction will reinforce degree plan course concepts and skills (e.g., sport marketing) with practical projects and learning opportunities integrated with the field training.

Each semester will be specifically tailored to the requirements and needs of the events as well as the degree plan courses. Instructors will collaborate on the delivery of the courses and will supervise the student experience. Executives from both the Houston NCAA Final Four Organizing Committee and the Houston Super Bowl Host Committee will champion this program and provide guidance and access for students and communication with UH instructors on the needs of the events.
Salivary Markers Project on the ISS

Dr. Richard Simpson, pictured at the left, was interviewed on NASA Space Station Live for his research on the immune system’s response to long duration space flight. Simpson is the principal investigator of the Salivary Markers experiment on the International Space Station (ISS). Drs. Thomas Lowder, Mark Clarke and Dan O’ Connor, and HHP researcher, Dr. Guillaume Spielmann, are among the co-investigators in the project.

The aim of the study is to determine if space flight induced immune system dysregulation increases infection susceptibility or poses a significant health risk to crewmembers onboard the ISS. The investigation utilizes a longitudinal, repeated measures design to determine the effects of long-term exposure to microgravity on a host of salivary antimicrobial proteins (AMPs), latent viral reactivation, antibacterial properties of saliva, and blood markers associated with innate host immune defense.

Sport Management in the Top 20

HHP’s bachelor of science degree in kinesiology with an emphasis in sport administration recently received a rating of #17 in the nation by the Sports Management Degree Guide. Noting the competitiveness of the field, the guide emphasized that earning a bachelor’s degree from a reputable program is essential to stand out in the competition. A point system based on the institution’s student to faculty ratio, net tuition and retention rate (percentage of full time freshman students who returned for their sophomore year) was used to name the 50 most selective colleges for sport management.
HHP Faculty and Student Sweep Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Awards for 2014-2015.

**Dr. Charles Layne**, HHP chair, received the Bluebonnet Award. The recipient is a recognized individual who is not a dietitian, but who has contributed significantly to the promotion, recognition or progress of nutrition and dietetics in Texas.

**Ms. Caryn Honig**, HHP nutrition program faculty, was awarded the Outstanding Nutrition Educator Award, which honors a registered dietitian who has made a major contribution to nutrition education of the public and/or health professionals.

**Ms. Claudia Scott**, HHP nutrition program faculty, is the recipient of the Outstanding Educator-DPD Award, which recognizes the teaching, mentoring and leadership activities of the faculty in an ACEND-accredited and approved dietetics education program.

**Ms. Annabella Bruzual**, nutrition program student, won the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award for 2014-2015 by both the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Houston Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. These awards recognize the emerging leadership and achievement of students in ACEND-accredited dietetics education programs and encourages their participation in the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.
Dr. Tracey Ledoux was awarded the Ross M. Lence Award for Teaching Excellence in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at UH. The CLASS Teaching Excellence awards are given annually to faculty members who distinguish themselves by their contributions in research, teaching, service and leadership.

In the past academic year, Ledoux was also named a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, recognizing her dedication to the dietetics profession and to the health of the nation, and was selected for the E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program awarded by the Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Mike Cottingham and Dr. Dan O’Connor each won the Outstanding Faculty Award given by the University of Houston Alumni Association and the Student Alumni Connection.

The Outstanding Faculty Award highlights the awardees’ accomplishments at the University and is awarded in recognition of excellence in teaching and efforts in building a sense of community among students. The student body nominates the awardees, and nominees are limited to faculty with a consistent pattern of teaching excellence and commitment to strengthening the bond between students and the University.

The recipients were honored at the University of Houston Alumni Association’s 61st Annual Awards Gala on May 2, 2015, at the Westin Houston Hotel, Memorial City.
The Wii Performance course, first unveiled in 2009, is now listed in the 2014 Gamer’s edition of the Guinness Book of World Records as the world’s first Wii-based university course. The video game system serves as a personal trainer and tracks a person’s movements and measures daily exercise against personal fitness goals. HHP saw the trend early and quickly became an innovator in game-based fitness courses.

“Using the Wii to exercise is especially relevant for individuals who don’t have access to a park or a gym,” said Jessica Wheeler, program coordinator.

Quizzes are given to ensure that students comprehend these concepts as well as how to properly care for and operate the equipment. Students keep nutrition and food journals, study Body Mass Index, and participate in VO2 testing, which measures their oxygen usage and aerobic fitness.

“Being recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records is certainly a unique honor for an academic department,” said Dr. Charles Layne. “We are always looking for ways to more effectively serve our students’ overall wellness needs. We are pleased to be acknowledged as being on the cutting edge as indicated by this singular world record.”

White House Summit

Dr. Mike Cottingham, HHP assistant professor, participated in the White House Summit on Improved Health and Fitness for Americans with Disabilities. The purpose of the Summit was to share best practices for implementation of the I Can Do It, You Can Do It! (ICDI) Program in K–12 schools, colleges and universities, and community-based settings, and to encourage stakeholders to commit to disability inclusion in physical activity, nutrition and obesity programs.

Cottingham (pictured above, second from the left) also gives direction to the Adaptive Athletics at UH student organization (See page 16.).
Multimedia Outlets Feature HHP Faculty

Many times, multimedia outlets seek our faculty’s expertise for publication across many forums, locally, nationally and internationally.

In her study published in the *Journal of Preventive Medicine*, Dr. Daphne Hernandez investigated family stressors that may have an impact on children being overweight or obese. The findings captured the attention of the media including *U.S. News and World Report, Time, The Times of India, The Dublin News* and the *Argentina Star.*

Hernandez was interviewed on the “Houston Matters” radio segment concerning Houstonians’ food insecurity, and Dr. Stacey Gorniak also appeared on “Houston Matters” to discuss her research concerning the effects of diabetes on motor skills.

The “UH Moment” frequently highlights HHP academic programs and research projects, including Hernandez food insecurity research and Dr. Thomas Lowder’s study of women diagnosed with LAM, a rare lung disease, which affects women almost exclusively. The Super Four Internship Experience (See page 25.) for HHP sport administration students who will participate in Houston’s hosting of the 2016 NCAA’s Men’s Basketball Final Four and the 2017 Super Bowl LI was recently featured as well.
The MAT program, which is the first of its kind at UH and in the Greater Houston area, has garnered attention locally and nationally in its first year. Drs. Josh Yellen and Mark Knoblauch, and MAT students, have participated in numerous sport radio broadcasts, discussing the program and one of the fastest growing professions--athletic trainers. The program has also been highlighted frequently in the National Athletic Trainers’ Association’s magazine, NATA News. UH News releases have featured the new program for audiences within the UH community and beyond.

Nicole Cascia, Dr. Yellen, Sarah Strickland & Jeremy Jackson, athletic trainer for Pasadena High School and creator of the Sports “Medicine Broadcast.”
Wheelchair Rugby Camp

The Adaptive Athletics at UH student organization conducted its third Wheelchair Rugby Camp at the UH Campus Wellness and Recreation Center, July 29-August 2, 2015. Athletes with disabilities from six states gathered to participate in the rigorous sport. This summer, Scott Hogsett, from the Academy Award nominated film “Murderball,” served as one of the coaches.

The Adaptive Athletics events always attract media coverage, and this year was no exception. Interviews and games were taped and broadcasted by NPR and KHOU Houston Channel 11, among others who featured the competition during the weekend.

See page 16 to read about the latest award given to the student organization, which was founded in 2013.

Multi-Cultural Legacy

Dr. Demetrius Pearson was featured in the documentary film, "Cowboys of Color: A Multi-Cultural Legacy (Volume 1)." The documentary won the Best Texas Film award at the Texas Black Film Festival for the documentary film series, "Cowboys of Color: A Multi-Cultural Legacy (Volume 1)." Coy Poitier, pictured on the right with Pearson, and Jacolby Percy co-directed the film.

Pearson is a recognized and sought after expert in the historical account of African-American involvement in sport, including North American rodeo, as well as their depiction in contemporary sport films. His research focuses on competitive sport forms and fitness administration, as well as the sociocultural and historical aspects of organized sport.
Katharine Forth (Ph.D. ’05), a neuroscientist who did post-doctoral work at NASA, and her cofounder, Erez Lieberman-Aiden, used technology they learned at NASA to develop a scale called the iShoe to measure balance from 1 to 10. The idea is to give users, especially seniors, a way to gauge their balance, catch problems early, and ultimately seek ways to improve steadiness so they can remain more mobile.

The iShoe was one of 22 out of 270 companies worldwide that was chosen to be in the inaugural class of TMCx, which is an initiative of the Texas Medical Center. The TMCx is an early stage business incubator and the largest of its kind in the nation. The idea behind the intense six-month course is to nurture companies with new medical product ideas, giving them free support so they can flourish and commercialize.

Houston Texans quarterback, Case Keenum (‘10), led his team to his first NFL win in a 25-13 victory over the Baltimore Ravens. “I couldn’t put it all into words, how special it was for me,” Keenum said later at the interview podium. “Arian Foster (Texans running back) said he was going to punch me if I cried.”
Dr. Jeremy Houser (Ph.D. ‘07) was honored with the Excellence in Teaching award at the A.T. Still University in Kirksville, MO. The associate professor was recognized for “successfully integrating osteopathic philosophy and principles in teaching.”

Dr. Kelley Strohacker (Ph.D. ‘13) was named assistant professor in exercise physiology at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where her research focus is the physiological and psychosocial responses to acute and chronic exercise.

Dr. Heather Adamus-Leach (Ph.D. ’13) begins this fall at Colorado State University as assistant professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science.

Andrew Abercromby (Ph.D. ‘06) has been named the lead scientist at the EVA Physiology Laboratory in the Biomedical Research and Environmental Sciences Division at the NASA-Johnson Space Center.

NASA's Prestigious Silver Snoopy

Dr. Meghan Everett Downs (Ph.D. ’12) received NASA’s prestigious Silver Snoopy award given to no more than one percent of eligible recipients among employees and contractors for outstanding achievements related to human flight safety or mission success. It is given for professionalism, dedication and outstanding support that has greatly enhanced space flight safety and mission success, and is given personally by NASA astronauts, signifying their own recognition of excellence.
Dr. Marc Hamilton joins the HHP faculty this fall as professor in nutrition/obesity and as director of TORC. He was professor of inactivity physiology in the Pennington Biomedical Research Center at Louisiana State University. Hamilton received his doctorate in exercise science from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and his master’s in exercise physiology in kinesiology and health education from the University of Texas, Austin.

Dr. Craig Johnston will be assistant professor for nutrition/obesity studies. He also served as assistant professor at Baylor College of Medicine’s Department of Pediatrics-Nutrition and Children’s Nutrition Research Center, Houston. Johnston earned his doctoral degree from the University of Kansas, Lawrence in clinical child psychology. His master’s in clinical psychology is from Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield.

Dr. Emily LaVoy (Ph.D. ’14) earned her doctorate from HHP in kinesiology, where she was a postdoctoral research fellow, research assistant and teaching fellow. Her master’s of science with an emphasis in immunology is from Northern Michigan University, Marquette. LaVoy will serve as assistant professor in exercise physiology.

Dr. Kristen McAlexander (Ph.D. ’10) joins the faculty as an instructional assistant professor. She has been an assistant professor at Our Lady of the Lake University, San Antonio, Texas and at Schreiner University, Kerrville, Texas. McAlexander earned her doctorate in kinesiology from UH and her master’s in kinesiology from Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. McAlexander’s bachelor’s degree in journalism is from Texas A&M, College Station.

Dr. Pranav Parikh will be an assistant professor, teaching courses in biomechanics and motor behavior. Before joining HHP, he was a postdoctoral fellow at Arizona State University. Parikha received his doctorate from the University of Iowa in human motor control/neuroscience and his master’s in biomedical engineering and biotechnology from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

Sakeena Andrade
Adviser

Morissa Lathan
Adviser

Naomi Trevino
Adviser


Dr. Markofski is presenting her work at the HHP Research Symposium.


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS


**OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

Dr. Lowder is assisting a patient with a workout.


**Ly, N., & Ledoux, T. A.** Psychosocial predictors of excess gestational weight gain. Poster presented at the UH Undergraduate Research Day. 2014.


Dr. Gorniak is being interviewed about her diabetes research.


Dr. Cottingham is being interviewed on television.


Lowder, T. W. The positive impact of a supervised exercise training program in women with LAM. LAMposium International Research and Patient Conference. Chicago. 2015.


Kunz, H., Spielmann, G., Pistillo, M., Reed, J., Ograjsek, T., & Simpson, R. J. The impact of workload and training status on salivary antimicrobial proteins following acute exercise. Psychoneuroimmunology Research Society annual meeting. 2014.


Gorniak, S. L. Diabetes, difficulty and complexity. School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, University of Nebraska-Omaha, Omaha, NE. October 2014.


Laughlin, M. S. The NASA Athletic Training Experience a non-traditional setting, health science and technology program. Eagle Mountain-Saginaw ISD, Fort Worth, Texas. September 18, 2014.

Laughlin, M. S. Athletic training and sports medicine at NASA-JSC. Fort Bend ISD, Sugar Land, Texas. March 27, 2015.


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**FUNDED GRANT PROPOSALS**


**Cottingham II, M.** Examination of sport participation rates of youth with disabilities. National Collegiate Athletic Association. 06/12/2014- 08/19/2015. Total budget: $30,505.


**Gorniak, S. L.** (PI) Interaction of postural stability, cognitive function, and body composition in overweight and obese individuals. HHP Summer Research Program (May 2014-September 2014) Total Budget: $3,500 (IDC: $0).

**Laughlin, M. S.** Feasibility and reliability of energy system contributions during exercise. CLASS Research Progress Grant $3,845.


**Layne, C. S.** Space Life Sciences Graduate Research Stipend 1. National Aeronautics and Space Administration. 9/1//2014-5/30/2015. $19,997 (IDC included).


**Layne, C. S., & Simpson R.** Student support for immunology discipline activities. NASA-JSC’s Immunology Laboratory, University Space Research Association. 2/16/2015 – 9/30/2015. $21,899.

Park Y. (PI) The study of mortality rate and modified factors in arterial function with coronary artery disease through cardiac rehabilitation intervention-The role of Liver X Receptor (LXR) and Uncoupling Protein-2 (UCP-2). Cardiovascular Research Foundation. June 2015-May 2016. Total budget: $20,000.


ACHIEVEMENTS & MILESTONES

Alastuey, L. Featured faculty member (UH Commission on Women Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award), UH Cougar Trading Card Scholarship program. 2014-2015.


Cottingham II, M. Named Research Fellow by The Institute for Human Centered Design. 2014.

Cottingham II, M. Appointed to the review board of The Review of Disability Studies.


Cottingham, M. Became member of the East Coast Athletic Conference Inclusive Sport Advisory Council.

Guined, J. Accepted to participate in First Manned Commercial Suborbital Research Program to Qualify Scientist-Astronauts at the Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. Daytona Beach, Fla. December 29, 2014.

Gorniak, S. L. Reappointed to Houston Methodist Hospital as a visiting scientist with the Center for Performing Arts Medicine (via Department of Orthopedics) through December 31, 2015.

Gorniak, S. L. Reappointed to the UH Intellectual Property Committee through August 31, 2017.


Hayes, M. S. Received the UH Women and Gender Resource Center’s 2015 Distinguished Service to Women Award. August 2015.


Honig, C. Won the Outstanding Nutrition Educator Award from the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2015.


Knoblauch, M. Named to the Southwest Athletic Trainers’ Association (SWATA) Competency Workshop Committee.

Layne, C. S. Named co-chair of UH Faculty and Staff Health and Wellness Committee.

Layne, C. S. Received the Bluebonnet Award from the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2015.


Ledoux, T. A. Received the UH College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Ross M. Lence Teaching Award. 2015.

Ledoux, T. A. Finalist nominee for the UH Teaching Excellence Award. 2015.

Ledoux, T. A. Named a Fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, recognizing her dedication to the dietetics profession and to the health of the nation.
Ledoux, T. A. Selected for the E. Kika De La Garza Fellowship Program awarded by the Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Lee, D. Appointed to the review board of the Journal of Applied Sport Management.

O'Connor, D. Named Outstanding Faculty by the UH Alumni Association.


Pearson, D. W. Received the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (NASSS) Presidential Citation for Outstanding Service at annual conference. November 7, 2014.

Pearson, D. W. Received the Texas Association for Health, Physical Education Recreation and Dance (TAHPERD) Leadership Award via Sports Leadership Committee. December 5, 2014.

Scott, C.Named the Outstanding Dietetic Educator of the Year Award for Texas. 2015.


Simpson, R. J. Promoted to associate editor of Exercise Immunology Review.


Yellen, J. Chair of the College Athletic Training Committee for the Greater Houston Athletic Trainers Society. 2015.

Yellen, J. Named to the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association (SWATA) Competency Workshop Committee.

PUBLICITY


Scott, C. Named the Outstanding Dietetic Educator of the Year Award for Texas. February 2015.

Shasta’s Culinary Workshop


Walsh, D. W.


Yellen, J., & Knoblauch, M. Participated in the “Sports Medicine Broadcast.” A podcast for athletic trainers with Jeremy Jackson from Pasadena High School. Pasadena, Texas. January 21, 28; February 11, 18; March 6, 11; and April 14, 2015.


Agha, N. High levels of aerobic fitness are associated with fewer senescent T-cells and a lower prevalence of latent cytomegalovirus infection in healthy men. Placed second in the Elevator Speech Contest at the HHP Research Symposium. October 2014.

Agha, N. Received the National Cancer Institute’s R25E Summer Research Experience in The University of Texas MD Anderson’s Cancer Prevention Research Training Program. Houston. 2015.


Beitzel, A. (Ledoux: mentor) Provost Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) awarded in fall 2014 to serve in spring 2015 semester as a nutrition major.


Bruzual, A. Received the Outstanding Dietetics Student Award from the Texas Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2015.


February 2015.


Dao, D., (Hernandez: mentor) UH Provost Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) award recipient.


Graff, R. Received the National Cancer Institute’s R25E Summer Research Experience in The University of Texas MD Anderson’s Cancer Prevention Research Training Program. Houston. 2015.


HHP 2015 Outstanding Student awards
- Laura Record - Exercise Science
- Ryan Lafley - Fitness/Sports
- Yanely Alonso - Nutrition
- Tyler Little - Sport Administration

Mary Louise White Scholarship
- Bernadine Asians
- Shailee Ghandi

American Kinesiology Association’s 2014 National Undergraduate Scholars
- Sina Mirab
- Gina Vaidya
- Cheryl Woolf
- Robin Pham

Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS)
- Yanely Alonso
- Angelina Beitzel
- Misha Chishty
- Denny Dao
- Jonathan Perry

Excellence in Master of Arts in Sport and Fitness Administration
- Darren Randle

Sport and Fitness Administration Scholarship
- Destiny Morton
- Alex Russell
- Alexandra Stine

Doctoral Student Research Achievement Award
- Nadia Agha - pre-candidacy
- Hawley Kunz - post-candidacy


Madansingh, S. (Graduate Student): Candidacy project accepted as a published manuscript. Student is first author (Madansingh and Gorniak 2015, Journal of Applied Biomechanics (in print)). Role: Advisor, senior author on manuscript.


Najjar, R. Won the third place in the Collegiate Climbing Series (CCS) National championship competition in San Diego. April 17, 2015.


Ryan, W. Master of Athletic Training student selected to join the Southwest Athletic Trainer’s Association Student Senate. March 17, 2015.


Younes, L. Awarded the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Scholarship (PURS) from the UH Honors College. $1,000. May 2015.

**GO COOGS!**
Dettmer, Marius (Ph.D. ’13) Recieved a post doctoral position in movement science at the University of Potsdam, Germany.

Diaz, Julie Walker (’04) Named Galveston County Director of Parks and Senior Services.

Downs, Meghan Everett (Ph.D. ’12) received NASA’s prestigious Silver Snoopy award given to no more than one percent of eligible recipients among employees and contractors for outstanding achievements related to human flight safety or mission success.

Forth, Katharine (Ph.D. ’05) Her iShoe balance scale has been selected for the Texas Medical Center’s TMCx program for startup companies that can save lives. 2015.

Gentry, Christiana (’14) As Miss Texas Czech-Slovak Queen, she was named first place runner up as the 2014 Miss Czech Slovak US and won first place in the talent competition. CA.

Houser, Jeremy (Ph.D. ’07) was honored with the Excellence in Teaching award at the A.T. Still University in Kirksville, MO, where he is an associate professor.


LaVoy, Emily (Ph.D. ’14), Appointed assistant professor at UH (tenure-track) in the Department of Health and Human Performance.

Mattox, Matt (’05) Named offensive co-coordinator at University of Tulsa, Oklahoma.


Rector, Jerrald (M.S. ’11) Completed his doctorate in biobehavioral immunology at the University of Birmingham, UK.


Spielmann, Guillaume (M.S. ’11) Appointed assistant professor at Louisiana State University (tenure-track).

Strohacker, Kelley (Ph.D. ’13) Named assistant professor in exercise physiology at The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.
Some HHP faculty, staff and students gathered on the new TDECU Stadium field for a group photo. TDECU, the largest credit union in the Houston area, was awarded the naming rights to the new 40,000-seat facility, which opened Aug. 29, 2014, when UH hosted UTSA in a nationally-televised game.
FACULTY

Lisa Alastuey, Clinical Associate Professor
Sharon Bode, Clinical Associate Professor
Whitney Breslin, Visiting Assistant Professor
Christopher Connaboy, Visiting Assistant Professor
Michael Cottingham, Assistant Professor
Carla Ferrell, Lecturer
Jon Gray, Instructional Associate Professor
Kevin Haubrick, Clinical Assistant Professor
Daphne Hernandez, Assistant Professor
Jong-Hee Kim, Visiting Assistant Professor
Mark Knoblauch, Clinical Assistant Professor
Mitzi Laughlin, Research Assistant Professor
Stacey Gorniak, Assistant Professor
Charles Layne, Professor, Depart. Chair
Tracey Ledoux, Assistant Professor
Beom-Chan Lee, Assistant Professor
Don Lee, Assistant Professor
Thomas Lowder, Assistant Professor
Joanna Macsas, Instructional Assistant Professor
Melissa Markofski, Assistant Professor
Daniel O’Connor, Associate Professor
William Paloski, Professor
Yoonjung Park, Assistant Professor
Demetrius Pearson, Associate Professor
Constance Raineri, Instructional Assistant Professor
Claudia Scott, Clinical Assistant Professor
Richard Simpson, Associate Professor
Ann Svendsen-Sanchez, Lecturer
Adam Thrasher, Associate Professor, Associate Dept. Chair
Josh Yellen, Clinical Assistant Professor
David Walsh, Clinical Assistant Professor

STAFF

Sakeena Andrade, Academic Adviser
Todd Boutte, Academic Program Director
Kourtney Brumfield, Academic Adviser
Courtney Carr, Payroll Coordinator
Alisha Davis, Administrative Coordinator
Stephanie Davis, Assistant Business Administrator
Alma Gonzalez, Academic Adviser
Martha Hayes, Communications Manager
Morrisa Lathan, Academic Adviser
Prashant Mutgekar, Programmer Analyst
Ola Okubanjo, Academic Adviser
Naomi Trevino, Academic Adviser
Lesley Watkins, Academic Adviser
Randi Betts, Director, Administration & Academic Affairs
Jessica Wheeler, Program Coordinator
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