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Education, Health, and Human Sciences

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7-2012

## The Connection, July-September 2012

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences

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# The Connection

Quarterly Newsletter for the **College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences**

*"Enhancing quality of life through research, outreach, and practice."*

Volume 3 - Jul-Sep 2012

## Mission Statement

To promote a healthy, educated, and civil society; to encourage life-long learning; and to enhance the quality of life within the diverse, global community by preparing professionals to lead and serve by conducting research and by engaging in service and outreach activities.

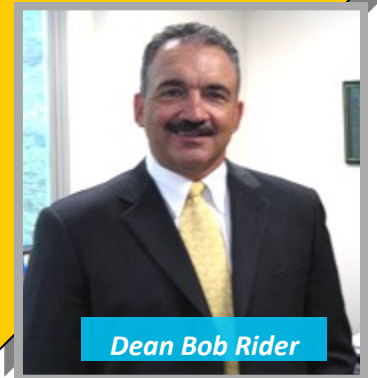


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## From the Dean's Desk

I don't know about you, but it seems as though the Fall semester keeps arriving sooner and sooner each year. It's hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the start of the Fall 2012 term and soon campus will be all abuzz with current and new students quickly scurrying to class. I'm sure many of you remember doing this yourselves! This issue of connections features two of our most prominent departments; Nutrition and Public Health. You will read about the wonderful accomplishments of students and faculty alike. As dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences I couldn't be more proud of my colleagues for the manner in which they teach and mentor our students. The successes of these young women and men are a direct result of the wonderful attention paid to them by our faculty and staff. Both of the departments depicted in this issue of connections, just as the other six departments, typify the professional and caring manner in which our students are treated. I hope you have memories of how you were treated as a student here and that they are equally gratifying to those being created on our campus as we speak. Whatever successes we enjoy and whatever accomplishments we achieve are only due to the support our students, faculty and staff receive from you, our incredible alumni and friends of the College. I sincerely hope that you will continue your support of this important work and if not presently participating in this regard, will seriously consider giving to one or more of the outstanding programs in the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Thank you all for everything you do for us and the University of Tennessee and Go Vols!



Sincerely,  
Bob

## Vision

*Our vision for the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences at the University of Tennessee is to be nationally and internationally recognized for our rich academic programs, highly qualified faculty and staff, and diverse and academically talented student population.*

**Nutrition By Dr. Jay Whelan****Commencement/ Spring 2012-Top Grads:**

Hannah Schmitt Carlton  
Renee Taylor-Sapp

**Student Awards:****Ellen Neal Memorial Scholarship, Knoxville District Dietetic Association**

Award amount \$500.00

**Jane R. Salvage Scholarship**

Award amount \$2400.00

Meredith Howell

**EMM-RIS Student/Postdoc Abstract Competition****Experimental Biology 2012 San Diego, CA**

\$500 award

Chunzi Liang, PhD Student, Michael B. Zemel, Advisor University of Tennessee

**William Harris III Undergraduate Research Award**

Megan Johnstone (PhD student, Fall 2012)

Project: *Effect of Branched Chain Amino Acids on Mitochondrial Metabolism and Cell Cycle in Cancer Cells*; Faculty Advisor: Michael Zemel

**ESPN AWARDS \$2,500 :**

Matthew Goff, PhD Student

Rui Li, PhD Student

Renee Stancliffe, MS student

Yi Zhao, PhD student

**EURCA competition project:**

Nancy Childers – Project “Development and Testing of an Online Training Module on Celiac Disease for Public School Personnel.” Mentor: Dr. Melissa Hansen-Petrik

Anna Lavender - Project “The Link Between Obesity and Breast Cancer: Effects of Environmental Carcinogen B(a)P on Stromal Cells.” Mentor: Dr. Ling Zhao

Barrett Updegraff – Project “A one nucleotide substitution within the iNOS gene promoter enhances crosstalk between two distinct signaling pathways”. Winner of the William Harris

Award at EURCA. Mentor: Dr. Jason Collier

**Society for Nutrition Education Foundation Scholarship**

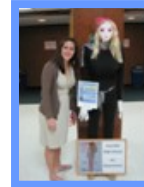
Katelyn Parker, MS student awarded \$500

**Outstanding Student Award for the State of Tennessee from TDA (now TAND)**

Angela Sberna, MS/MPH student

**Eating Disorder Awareness Event for the Eating Disorders Coalition of Tennessee, Knoxville Region EDCT Volunteer Award**

Renee Taylor-Sapp

**TDA scholarship**

Award amount \$500.00

Chrystal Haire, MS/MPH student

**Special events in labs:**

HEAL Lab—Hollie Raynor

<http://heal.utk.edu/>

**Promoting Health Weight Colloquium—Marsha Spence****HealthyWeightColloquium.html**

Marsha Spence, Let's Move State Coordinator for the Tennessee Academy of Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, worked in collaboration with over 30 event at Victor Ashe & Chilhowee Parks on May 5, 2012. Over 1,000 children physically active.



<http://nutrition.utk.edu/seminars/>

Nutrition & Dietetics, and Shannon Looney, Let's Move Dietitian for the Knoxville organizations to plan, organize, implement, and evaluate the Let's Move! Knoxville and their families were in attendance to learn about healthy eating and fun ways to be

**FRUVED—Sarah Colby**

We aren't collecting any data under review and will be work in July in Washington DC



<http://www.utk.edu/tntoday/tag/fruved/>

at this time. We still get asked to do volunteer events as Fruved in the community and have been doing that through the spring and will continue into this fall. We have articles applying for a USDA/NIFA grant in June to expand the project over four years at four different Universities (including UT). Katelyn Parker will be presenting the results of the pilot at the Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior conference.

**ICAN Lab—Katie Kavanagh** <http://web.utk.edu/~ican/>**Faculty Awards:** Faculty pictures can be found at <http://nutrition.utk.edu/faculty/index.html>

**Dr. Sarah Colby:** Society of Nutrition Education and Behavior's Mid-Career Achievement Award, 2012

**Dr. Jason Collier:** Mary Helen Byers Award – CEHHS Recipient of a Professional Development Award – UTK Graduate School

**Dr. Katie Kavanagh:** Knoxville District Dietetic Association Outstanding Dietetic Educator, Tennessee Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Outstanding Dietetic Educator, Outstanding Dietetics Educator for Area 5 of the Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors Dietetic Practice Group of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

**Dr. Michael Zemel:** Retiring, Professor Emeritus

**Dr. Ling Zhao:** Professional Development Award, UT Graduate School

**Student Research:**

Zixin “Violet” Lou collaboration with Dr. Zen Guo, Professor, West China School of Public Health, West China Medican Center, Sichuan University )

Zixin Lou, will be completing her dissertation from data gathered in both China and the United States. Working with both university students and new mothers, she will compare breastfeeding knowledge and beliefs between university students in both countries. In addition, she will explore these factors, and actual breastfeeding behaviors, in a sample population of new mothers from both countries.



## Public Health By Dr. Paul Erwin

### Building stronger connections to Public Health Practice and the Public Health Workforce

Two initiatives in the past year highlight the increasing emphasis which the Department of Public Health (DPH) has placed on its relationships with governmental public health agencies: 1) the establishment of the Academic Health Department with the Knox County Health Department, and 2) the first-ever Public Health Summer Academy for public health practitioners with the East Tennessee Regional Health Department.

*The Academic Health Department:* In 2011, the DPH entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Knox County Health Department (KCHD), formalizing a long-standing set of relationships by establishing the Academic Health Department (AHD). The conceptualization of an AHD was a response to the Institute of Medicine's (IOM) landmark study on *The Future of Public Health*. Among the many deficiencies identified by the IOM included a disconnect between academic programs and actual public health practice, with

ramifications for workforce training and education, research, and resources. Imagine an academic program in medicine or nursing and the critical role which a teaching hospital plays in the educational experience – the AHD is the public health corollary to what this teaching hospital is for medical and nursing students. This provides a practice setting where public health graduate students can apply what they are learning in the classroom to real problems. At the same time, the AHD provides the KCHD opportunities to have direct input on curriculum to improve the alignment between what is being taught in the classrooms with what the realities of public health practice require. The benefits expand in other directions as well: the practice site has access to students, who not only contribute to the work of the agency, but serve as a source for future employment; and, the faculty have access to programs and data which can facilitate practice-based research. The UT-Knox County AHD is the

first Academic Health Department formed in the state of Tennessee. In establishing the AHD, the DPH and the KCHD created a shared position, a staff person (Julie Grubaugh) who manages field placements for Master of Public Health Students at UT, and who coordinates student experiences for a variety of academic programs for the KCHD.

One outcome of the AHD is Public Health Grand Rounds (PHGR), one hour learning sessions that highlight "Practice-based Research to Improve the Public's Health." Acknowledging that there are often disconnects between research and what is actually going on in the practice setting, PHGR bridges this gap by bringing together researchers, practitioners, and students to address research questions that begin with the practitioner, and the answers to which will help them do a better job, improve a program, or evaluate its effectiveness. More information on the AHD and on the PHGR is available at <http://publichealth.utk.edu/>.

*Public Health Summer Academy:* This summer, DPH faculty led sixteen East Tennessee Regional (ETR) Health Department employees in a week-long Public Health Summer Academy (PHSA) held at the university. ETR employees traveled from 7 counties plus the Regional Office to participate in half-day intensive trainings on the core disciplines of public health. Participants held a variety of positions, including nutritionists, office supervisors, social counselors, health officers, public health representatives, and nurses.

Faculty instructors Drs. Denise Bates, Paul Terry, J. Chen, and Margaret Knight, taught key concepts from Community Health Education, Epidemiology/Biostatistics, Environmental Health, Health Planning/Administration, and Program Evaluation. Dr. Paul Erwin, Department Head, facilitated daily discussions relating material to challenges he faced in his former role as ETR Director, one of the distinguishing strengths of the Academy.

One person said, "This week has been an ah-hah moment and affirmation about why I do what I do and how I can improve. It gave me 'props' to do better. It encouraged me to probably go back to school." 75% of participants said as a result of PHSA, they will seek additional coursework or pursue a degree in public health.





# FAQ's

## One Year of Progress

### What have you done so far to help with the Top 25 goal?

The following are some of the major strategic actions we've taken over the past year. In most cases, the results will not show in the metrics until a few years down the road, but we're laying the groundwork for that improvement now.

- Expanded the number of graduate-student instructors, which gets more students in the classroom and off the waiting list and supports graduation goals
- Enrolled new, high-quality graduate students for the CIRE program, which will contribute to success in the number of graduate degrees awarded
- Hired new Governor's Chairs, who are contributing to our success in research and graduate student recruiting
- Formalized a partnership with Y-12 National Security Complex, which will enable us to develop joint research projects
- Expanded research services, including programs to increase faculty success in producing proposals to secure external funding
- Revised the drop policy to limit the number of courses students can drop and encourage them to carry a minimum of fifteen credit hours per semester, which supports graduation goals



## Upcoming Events



## Student Awards Ceremony

November 1, 2012 in the UC Ballroom

### SAVE THE DATE

College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences  
2012 Dean's Board of Advisors  
Fall Meeting

- Thursday, September 6 from 2:00 – 5:30pm
- Reception & Dinner 6:00—8:30 p.m.
- Friday, September 7 from 8:30am – 4:30pm

For questions, please call 865.974.3968

### EHOH

2013

Educators Hall of Honor

The preparation of Educators has been a tradition at the University of Tennessee since 1880. The Educators Hall of Honor allows donors to offer a tribute to those special individuals who have inspired, shaped, and transformed them. Individual plaques are displayed prominently in the Claxton Complex for each inductee. You may nominate an educator of your choice in three categories; as an individual educator, as an individual who is not considered an educator, and a group, organization, or school.

Call for more information at 865-974-3968;

Visit the Hall of Honor at [http://cehhs.utk.edu/alumni/hall\\_of\\_honor.html](http://cehhs.utk.edu/alumni/hall_of_honor.html).

Projects and  
Updates  
Submit to:

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phowell3@utk.edu  
865-974-3968