Message from the Chair

In 2019 I was invited to be interviewed for an annual series focused on *Rich Thinking.* The series, launched each year on International Women’s Day, was founded by an individual who studies women and finance, is an advocate for women, diversity, and financial education, and who was previously a financial portfolio manager and investment counselor. Given that my work and experiences are not at all in these areas, I was quite surprised when she reached out to see if I would be willing to speak with her for the series. The other women interviewed were CFOs, entrepreneurs, board chairs, business experts, global strategists, and authors. So I asked her, “Did you mean to email me?” She explained that while her background was in finance, her focus was on women and promoting their work and ideas regardless of their discipline. I interpreted the series title *Rich Thinking* to be focused exclusively on money (!), and while there were interviewees from the financial sector, she had also reached out to a variety of educators and community coalition builders and included a section about ideas that benefited society by promoting public health and social justice. Once I understood the purpose of her work and these annual papers (and tried to maintain my cool and not be too embarrassed by my confusion), I was all in. These are the three questions she posed: (1) What was the best/biggest idea you have ever had? (2) How did you invest in your big idea? (3) What happened? As can often happen with semi-structured interviews and qualitative research, we ended up talking about so much more than those three questions and as you can imagine, I drifted off track with some of my comments. I also did not offer any earthshattering ideas (trust me!), but I did share with her that the best idea I ever had was to recognize that I had an amazing opportunity to work at the university – to continue learning each and every day, work with students and collaborators internal and external to the university, and conduct meaningful research. For me, this particular setting is divine! I invested time and effort in making connections, developing partnerships, and understanding other people’s and group’s needs. And then the magic started happening and the collaborations blossomed and continued on and on. As I said in the interview, “I could have told you that my best idea was to apply for the right research grants or write a certain paper to get recognition, but in fact none of that would ever happen if I didn’t have amazing collaborators.” We get into our ‘I’m so busy’ routine that it may slip our minds to follow up with colleagues and partners. Let’s take the time this summer to reconnect with friends and collaborators and … often collaborators are our friends. Learning from others, and brainstorming and reflecting together is simply the best and that is really when the *Rich Thinking* happens. Have a healthy and wonderful summer and I look forward to hearing how the rich thinking goes!

-Daniela Friedman
Congratulations are in Order!

Christiana Johnson, Doctoral Candidate, was the recipient of the Spring 2022 Butterfoss Community-based Endowed Fellowship for her research focused on structural gendered racism and the implications for Black women’s reproductive decision making.

Christiana Johnson, Jennifer Mandelbaum, and Mayank Sakhruja received the Olga I. Ogoussan Doctoral Research Award to conduct their dissertation work.

Bella Alonso, Megan Austin, and Tianyue Mi were named 2022 Outstanding HPEB Students of the Year. Link

Tianyue Mi, Doctoral Candidate, was selected as a recipient of the AcademyHealth Alice S. Hersh Student Scholarship and the International AIDS Society’s Educational Fund Scholarship. Link

Bella Alonso, MPH alum, received the 2022 Jeffrey Keith Mattison Outstanding Student Achievement Award from the Arnold School of Public Health. Link

Atefeh Aghaei, Doctoral Student, was recipient of a 2022 Delta Omega Mu Chapter Graduate Student Fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year.

Ginny Simmons, MPH alum, was accepted into the PhD program at Clemson University’s Department of Public Health Sciences in Applied Health Research and Evaluation.

Quentin McCollum, MPH alum, was recipient of the inaugural 2022 Arnold School of Public Health Alumni Award for Excellence in Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. Link

Dr. Jessica Escobar, HPEB alum, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the College of Health and Human Services Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Dr. Aaron Guest, HPEB alum, has been named the 2022 Rising Star Early Career Faculty Award from the Gerontological Society of America and the Academy for Gerontology in Higher Education.

Dr. Rachel Davis received the 2022 Arnold School of Public Health James A. Keith Excellence in Teaching Award.
Dr. Femi Adeagbo, HPEB/CHQ Postdoctoral Fellow, has accepted a tenure-track Assistant Professor position in Department of Community and Behavioral Health at the University of Iowa.

Gene Brown, HPEB Grant and Account Manager, and Maria Sophocleous, HPEB Business & HR Manager, completed the GRANT Certificate Program, sponsored by the UofSC Office of the Vice President for Research.

Tremaine Dunbar, incoming Doctoral Student, was accepted into the Grace Jordan McFadden Professors Program.

Dr. Mary Wilson received an Investigator Award at the 2022 James E. Clyburn Health Equity Lecture.

Dr. Xueying Yang was recognized for her high-quality reviews for the journal, *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Dr. Ed Frongillo is recipient of the American Society for Nutrition’s 2022 Jean-Pierre Habicht Lifetime Achievements in Global Nutrition Research Award.

Dr. Xiaoming Li was recognized by Exaly as the most highly cited lifetime *AIDS Care* author.

**HPEB in the News!**

Dr. Carolina Delgado-Díaz, Project Manager, was featured on WIS-TV promoting the mLIFE study. Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy serves as PI of this NIH-funded grant. [Link](#)

Keren Herran, Doctoral Student, was featured on the Arnold School of Public Health website. [Link](#)

Megan Austin, MPH Graduate and Incoming Doctoral Student was featured on the Arnold School of Public Health website. [Link](#)

Drs. Jennifer Fillo and Minji Kim, the most recent faculty members to join HPEB, were featured by the Arnold School of Public Health. [Link](#) [Link](#)

Wendy Clemmer, HPEB Grants Administrator, was recognized in the Arnold School of Public Health Staff Spotlight Column Series. [Link](#)

**Funding News**

Christiana Johnson, Doctoral Candidate, and Sejla Isanovic, MPH Graduate and Incoming Doctoral Student, are recipients of the 2022-23 Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Graduate Scholarship through the UofSC MCH Catalyst Program.
Kristen Wilburn Zosel, Doctoral Candidate, is receiving a grant from the Department of Defense - Defense Health Agency Military Health System Research Program to examine The Role of Social Networks on Health-Related Behaviors and Musculoskeletal-Related Medical Discharges in the Army. Link

Rochelle Altman and Camryn Garrett, Doctoral Students, were awarded a Graduate Teaching Assistant Teaching Resource Development Grant from the UofSC Center for Teaching Excellence.

Dr. Caroline Rudisill, Dr. Mark Macauda, and team were awarded a Prisma Health Seed Grant focused on Using Data to Drive Implementation - Stakeholder Perspectives on Screening and Addressing Social Determinants of Health.

Dr. Carrie Draper and team secured a grant from the Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry Campaign.

Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy and team secured an R01 grant from the NIH National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute to expand the reach of the Nutritious Eating with Soul (NEW Soul) program through a Type 2 hybrid effectiveness-implementation trial.

Dr. Xueying Yang and team were awarded an ASPIRE-I grant from the UofSC Office of Research to study Patterns and predictors of racial/ethnic disparities in HIV care continuum in the South: a big data approach.

Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy, Nkechi Okpara, and team are working with Claire Elder, Undergraduate Educational Studies student who has received a Magellan Award and will be Assessing interactions between religious practices and disordered eating in African American teenage girls.

Dr. Jennifer Fillo is mentor to Neha Rayala, an Honors College Neuroscience who received a Magellan Journey Award. Neha’s project will focus on the Dyadic influence processes among heavy drinking couples.

Kelly Buchan, ASPH undergraduate student, was awarded Honors College Research Grants for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 to continue her work with Dr. Fillo, entitled Romantic partner attempts to influence reduction in alcohol consumption: Examining drinker perceptions.

### Dissertation and Practice Experience Presentations

**Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertations:**

Kelli Dubois “Living with Ulcerative Colitis: Exploring Dietary Inflammatory Intake, Physical Activity, and Methods to Manage the Burden of Illness”

Melissa Fair “Exploration of the Role of Neighborhood Residential Segregation by Race and Ethnicity in Obesity Risk among School-Aged Youth”

**Congratulations to the following students who defended their dissertation proposals:**

Tianyue Mi “Impact of Intersectional Stigma on Health Outcomes Among MSM Living With HIV”
Nkechi Okpara “Body Image Blended with Nutrition and a Dash of Self-Compassion: A Randomized Controlled Pilot Trial for Black/African American High School Girls”


Kristen Zosel (Wilburn) “Social Networks as Predictors of Musculoskeletal Injury and Recovery in U.S. Army Soldiers.”

Congratulations to the following students who presented their practice experience:

Isabella Alonso “Humanizing Human Immunodeficiency Virus”

Megan Austin “STI Disparities and a 2Generation Approach in South Carolina”

Ashton Banks “Process Evaluation of FitnessGram Testing in South Carolina”

Molly Boyle “Practice Experience Final Presentation with Safelight, Inc.”

Julia Budiongan “Development of Recruitment Strategies and Study Protocol Materials for Pretesting Smoking Cessation Ads Among Low-income Populations”

Krysti Campbell “Development and Implementation of a Sleep Apnea Awareness Campaign”

Ben Cohen “Technology and Exercise for African American Movement (TEAM) Study & VR Technology and Exercise Among College Students Study”

Hannah Creasey “Revamping Resources in a Forensic Mental Health Setting”

Rachel Floyd “Ending the Epidemic: Educating Future Health Professionals on HIV Care”

Mark Hacholski “Increasing Glucose Control in a Refugee Population in Costa Rica During the Time of COVID-19”

Morgan Leggette “A Review on Water and Air Quality in Rural-Urban America”

Danielle Piatt “Practice Experience Working with LRADAC to Diagnose and Prevent Youth Substance Misuse”

Ali Syed “Perception of Misinformation in College Students Surrounding COVID-19 Vaccination”

Kiana White “Promoting Equity in Food Insecurity Communications to Improve Health Outcomes”

Ashley Wood “First Course: Mental Health and the Food & Beverage Industry”

Shelbie Wooten “Lettuce Dream: The Experience of Maximizing Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities in a Rural Community”
Publications & Presentations

Altman K, Yelton B, Viado HF, Carson MA, Schandera L, Kelsey H, Porter DE, Friedman DB. "I won’t use the term dumbing it down, but you have to take the scientific jargon out": A qualitative study of environmental health stakeholders’ communication practices and needs. *Journal of South Carolina Water Resources* 2021; 8(1):11-32.

Fram MS, Nguyen HT, Frongillo EA. Food insecurity among adolescent students from 95 countries is associated with diet, behavior, and health, and associations differ by student age and sex. *Current Developments in Nutrition* 6:nzac024, 2022 (DOI: 10.1093/cdn/nzac024)

Friedman DB. In the words of my mother: “I’m fighting for me but mostly for you.” *Journal of Cancer Education* 2022 April 30 Epub (DOI: 10.1007/s13187-022-02175-7).


**Photo Gallery**

*Camryn Garrett and Femi Adeagbo present their research at Discover UofSC in April 2022*
HPEB Zoom Palooza: Guess Who, Department Awards, and Intention Setting Too!

End-of-the-year HPEB photos! Look at those smiles and sighs of relief!
Dr. Mary Wilson receives an award from Congressman James E. Clyburn and Dean G. Thomas Chandler.

Celebrating the National Champions! (That’s Kamila Cordoso with Dr. Guimaraes!)

Please send submissions for News and Kudos to Krista Russel so that we can share and celebrate your work!

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Soon-to-be HPEB graduates and alumni, please continue to keep in touch with us! Please also ensure your contact information is current with the Arnold School by updating your information here: Link