Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall 2021 semester and Big Congratulations to everyone featured in our HPEB newsletter. It is such a joy to recognize everyone’s accomplishments and milestones. We use the term milestones a lot in our department and in academia. There are milestones in our academic programs and in our jobs and when we’ve checked off one box, off we go to the next one. (Well hopefully we first take a brief nap or walk!)

I’m one of your biggest fans and in my role, I love promoting your incredible work.

Since I was thinking about milestones, I figured I would do some research on the topic and I came across the quote that follows. I was drawn to it because it describes milestones as opportunities and not simply boxes to check off as we move from one required activity to the next. “A milestone is more than a marker alongside the road of life. It’s also an opportunity to reflect on what comes next. And as you get older, sometimes you need to work a little harder to make these moments and take the time to step outside the stream of daily life to ensure you’re still headed where you want to go.” --Adam Ruben, PhD, author and columnist

As my son approaches his 9th birthday and I witness his emotional growth over time (I’m a braggy mom, you’ll get used to my notes that mention him), I was reflecting on my role in his life and how my words and actions influence him and I’ve been paying much more attention to how I influence situations positively or negatively with him and just in general. It is natural for us to look outward at how others behave and how other people’s words and actions affect our communities and society – especially during a pandemic that has gotten so politicized when the most important message should be doing everything we can to protect people’s health and safety. We question -- what are others doing wrong or not doing that they should be doing? Continuing to focus energy on what we perceive others should or shouldn’t be doing can monopolize our thoughts and our time. So per Dr. Rubin’s quote, what moments do I want to make and where do I want to go? I want to focus on what I can do – how my actions might be able to help others and how we can all do our part. I know I’m preaching to the choir – we are public health – but often we don’t take the time to reflect on our own actions.

These words by Gabriela Mistral, the first Latin American women to receive the Nobel Prize, are beautiful and fitting:

How sad would the world be if everything was done,

If there was not a rosebush to be planted, a new enterprise to start!

Do not only be tempted by easy tasks.
It is so wonderful to do the tasks that others avoid!

But do not make the mistake of thinking that the merit is obtained only by doing great tasks.

There are small tasks that are good tasks: arranging a table, organizing a home, combing a child’s hair.

Yes, we all have those boxes to check throughout our programs and I am so impressed with everyone’s milestones especially during this very abnormal time. Let’s not forget to take the opportunity to reflect on how we want to get there and let’s find joy in the small tasks and moments along the way. Join me in making the journey meaningful – that might make those check boxes feel even more special.

-Daniela Friedman

Congratulations Are In Order!

Carrie Draper, HPEB senior research associate, has been working with the Arnold School for 10 years — 6 years with the Nutrition Center and 4 years with HPEB! Congratulations Carrie!

Dr. Chiwoneso Tinago, doctoral graduate of HPEB, has been promoted to associate professor with tenure at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Her promotion recognizes her contributions to teaching, service, and research, including receiving a Grand Challenges Exploration grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop and test an intervention to support the mental well-being of adolescent mothers in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Megan Weis, HPEB alum and adjunct instructor, received the 2021 Gerry Sue Arnold Alumni Award.

Dr. Alycia Boutté, HPEB alum, is now the Training Program Coordinator at the National Institute of Mental Health in the Office of Fellowship Training

Dr. Caroline Bergeron, HPEB alum, has taken on the position of Senior Research Advisor for the Labour Program at Employment and Social Development Canada. She was also selected as an honorary graduate from the University of Montreal's Communication Department as it celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Jaron King, HPEB doctoral student, is a new 2021-2022 recipient of the HPEB Mary Elizabeth Newton Endowed Fellowship.

Dr. Aaron Guest, HPEB alum, is co-editor of a new book entitled, “Healthy Aging through the Social Determinants of Health.”

Dr. Lee Pearson was recipient of a 2021 Faculty Service Award for leadership on the Future Planning Group working to keep our campus community safe during the pandemic.

Dr. Xueying Yang is recipient of the 2021 American Public Health Association HIV/AIDS Section’s Excellence in Abstract Submission among New Investigators Award.
Congratulations Are In Order! Cont.

Dr. Tracey Thomas, HPEB alum, started a new position as Assistant Professor in the Master of Public Health Program at the University of Puget Sound.

Dr. April Winningham was selected to serve as Assistant Scientific Review Officer for the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Extramural Research Program Office.

Upcoming Dissertation Defenses

Akeen Hamilton: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) knowledge, willingness to use & uptake among black heterosexual men (Dissertation Defense, October 4, 2021)

Jennifer Mandelbaum: Adolescent nutrition facts label use, dietary behaviors, and body size perceptions in the U.S. and globally (Dissertation Proposal, September, 21, 2021)

Funding News

Dr. Caroline Rudisill received funding from the Prisma Health Research Seed Grant Program to lead the evaluation of a technology and electronic health record-based strategy to screen for and intervene on social determinants of health-related needs. Read here.

Dr. Shan Qiao and team secured funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote COVID-19 vaccinations among underserved communities. Read here.

Dr. Brie Turner McGrievy and team secured funding for an R01 grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease. The grant is entitled, “Targeting important behaviors for weight loss through the use of social gaming and points: The Social Pounds Off Digitally (Social POD) study”

Dr. Lucy Ingram received funding from AARP to conduct a “Qualitative Assessment of Health of Older African Americans in South Carolina: Understanding Disparities in the Context of COVID.” Dr. Ingram, Dr. Daniela Friedman, and Dr. Sue Levkoff (College of Social Work) also secured an R13 grant from NIH’s National Institute on Aging to implement conferences focused on training underrepresented scientists in using Alzheimer’s disease registries.

Dr. Xiaoming Li (with Drs. Jiajia Zhang and Bankole Olatosi in the Arnold School of Public Health) secured funding for an R25 training grant from the NIH’s National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases entitled, “Big Data Health Science Fellow Program for Infectious Diseases.” Read here. Dr. Xueying Yang was selected as a Fellow of the R25 Big Data Health Science Center Program.

Carrie Draper, HPEB senior research associate, and her SNAP-Ed program team awarded grants to local food policy councils. Read here.
**HPEB in the News**

Pam Metz, beloved office manager, is celebrated by the Arnold School for her years of services to HPEB. [Read here.](#) Click [here](#) to watch a video tribute to Pam for her retirement.

**Dr. Chengbo Zeng**, HPEB alum, is recognized for his graduation from the doctoral program and for securing a postdoctoral position at Harvard University’s Department of Global Health and Social Medicine. [Read here.](#)

**Dr. Debbie Billings** (adjunct associate professor) and **Drs. Salima Kasymova and Jean Marie Place** (HPEB alum) were featured for their work focused on the effects of the pandemic on academics who mother. [Read here.](#)

**Dr. Jean Marie Place**, HPEB alum, is featured for her work among other faculty for addressing how her university, Ball State, could play a more effective role in addressing the problem of addiction. [Read here.](#)

**Neha Jaggi Sood**, HPEB MPH alum, is featured for her work in health communication at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. [Read here.](#)

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**Publications and Presentations**


Publications and Presentations Cont.


Contact Us

Please send submissions for News and Kudos to Celia Shoffner in HPEB so that we can share and celebrate your work!

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