News and Kudos
Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior

Please join us as we congratulate HPEB students and faculty on their accomplishments and recognitions!

Message from the Chair

This is the time of year when we start talking about New Year’s resolutions and what we plan to do differently in the coming year. That always makes me wonder – Weren’t we doing something right this year? Well … you all definitely were as you will see from the incredible work that is featured in this issue of HPEB News and Kudos. Coming into the department suite each day to learn from you and work with you is an amazing opportunity. I thank you for this. And promoting your important work is one of my most favorite activities. This will definitely continue in 2018. Congratulations on your achievements and enjoy the upcoming holiday season. - Daniela Friedman
Congratulations Are In Order!

Dr. Jessica Escobar (HPEB alum) started a new position as the Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation Advisor with Alive and Thrive in Washington, DC.

Dr. Katrina Walsemann was an invited participant for Achieving Health Equity: The Impact of the Social Determinants of Housing, Education, and Employment on Health Inequities, sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Duke University, and the Behavioral Science & Policy Association, Durham, NC. Only 50 scientists, policymakers, and foundation program officers were invited to participate in this workshop.

Dr. Katrina Walsemann was also invited to serve as a member of the program committee for IAPHS, Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Sciences Conference, in Washington, DC, this past October.

Aditi Srivastav (HPEB doctoral student) served as a guest editor and author on a special publication on Adverse Childhood Experiences in Academic Pediatrics.

Dr. Mindi Spencer was selected to join the Kellogg Fellows Leadership Alliance, Board of Directors for a two-year term starting in 2018.


Sarah King (HPEB MPH student) received the Ann Cassady Endowed Fellowship award that will be used to support her practicum work and travel to present at a conference.

Sarah King and Ellen Stowe (HPEB graduate students) and Dr. Kaczynski were runners up for the APHA Physical Activity Section best student poster presentation award for their project entitled, Walkability 101: Using multiple methods to assess the walkability of a large university campus in the southeastern United States.

Dr. Andrew Kaczynski, Dr. Morgan Hughey (HPEB Alum), and Ellen Stowe (HPEB doctoral student) received the APHA Physical Activity Section best student poster presentation award for their project entitled, ParkIndex: Key informant perspectives on the development of a standardized national park access tool.

Dr. Andrew Kaczynski, Dr. Morgan Hughey (HPEB Alum), and Sarah King (HPEB MPH student) received the APHA Physical Activity Section best student oral presentation award for their project entitled, Park Hop: Barriers and facilitators to children and families’ participation in a park-based physical activity intervention in Greenville County, SC.

Dr. Andrew Kaczynski, Dr. Katrina Walsemann, Dr. Spencer Moore, and Dr. Stephanie Child (HPEB Alum) received Honorable Mention for the Betty J. Cleckley Minority Research Award from the APHA Aging and Public Health Section for their project entitled, Personal network characteristics of Black Americans: Association with body mass index and role education.

The HPEB Center for Healthcare Quality enjoyed a special luncheon and celebration with President Pastides, Provost Joan Gabel, Vice Provosts Allen Miller and Cheryl Addy, and Dean Chandler.
We congratulate the following students who completed milestones in their academic programs during the past three months:

**Dissertation Proposals**

**Caroline Dunn:** Examining Faith-Based Communities as Leverage Points for the Prevention of Childhood and Adolescent Obesity. {October 2017}


**Dissertation Defense**

**Ebru Cayir:** “An Uphill Battle”: Psychosocial Health & Self care among Advocates who Work against Gender-Based Violence in South Carolina. {November 2017}

**Practicum Presentations**

**Joshua Peake:** Implementation of a Hypertension Management Program in the 29203 Community. {November 2017}

**Alexandra Burley:** Effects of Intergenerational Relationships and Volunteering on the Elderly in the Foster Grandparent Program. {December 2017}

**Rebekah Jackowski:** Development of Patient Education Materials for the top Five Causes of Preventable Death as Related to Medicare Annual Wellness Visits. {December 2017}

**Thomas Orton:** MoveWell {December 2017}

**Margaret Peck:** National Diabetes Prevention Program Expansion Plan for Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties of SC. {December 2017}

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Dr. Lee Pearson’s HPEB 700 class surprised him on Halloween by becoming important figures in public health. Then they gave him a Dr. Larry Green mask to wear. Our own Dr. Ruth Saunders, HPEB professor emerita, made an appearance (in the front row)!
Funding News

Dawit Alemu, Kaleea Lewis, and Jennifer Mandelbaum (HPEB doctoral students) received travel grants from The Graduate school.

Dr. Brie McGrievy received the Research Dietetic Practice Group Faculty Research Award, which provides funding for the study entitled, The Plant-based and Soul-full Study (PASS): Partnerships with local vegetarian soul food restaurants in the community to increase dietary acceptability of a plant-based diet. This study is co-led by Anthony Cirmarco, HPEB doctoral student.

HPEB in the News

Dr. Tracey Thomas (HPEB Alum) wrote a blog for graduate student professional development discussing her search for a career. Story Link

Jennifer Mandelbaum (HPEB doctoral student) wrote a blog that provides insight about the StrengthsFinder assessment for graduate student professional development. Story Link

Dr. Katrina Walsemann was featured on the Arnold School website for funding received for the enhancement of Robert Wood Johnson Foundation county health rankings. Story Link

Dr. Brie Turner-McGrievy was featured in The State newspaper for her article discussing healthy tips for eating at the State Fair. Story Link

Dr. Heather Brandt was featured on the Arnold School website for her appointment to the editorial board of the American Journal of Public Health. Story Link

Alicia Dahl (HPEB doctoral student) was featured on the Arnold School website for receiving the 2017 Emerging Scholar in Childhood Obesity Graduate Research Award. Story Link

Ashley White and Jennifer Mandelbaum, HPEB doctoral students, enjoyed this year’s APHA conference in Atlanta, GA.

Publications and Presentations


*This publication is a result of the HPEB 815 course taught by Dr. Katrina Walsemann. The course titled Theory-Driven Analysis, helps provide practical guidance for organizing, writing about, and presenting results from basic and multivariate statistical analyses.


Hughey SM, Kaczynski AT, King SB, Fair M, Wills S, & LiveWell Greenville Park Hop Team. Park Hop: Barriers and facilitators to children and families’ participation in a park-based physical activity intervention in Greenville County, SC. Presented at the American Public Health Association 145th Annual Meeting and Exposition, Atlanta, GA. November 4-8, 2017.


Dr. Lucy and Cory Ingram welcomed Corrie DeAnna into the world on November 3. She was 7lbs and 2 oz. Congratulations to the Ingram family!
Happy Holidays from HPEB!

Contact Us

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

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