

HHP TODAY

HEALTH and HUMAN PERFORMANCE

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From the Chair



Dr. Charles Layne

▶ The beginning of the 2011-2012 academic year has taken off at full speed! We continue to improve upon the quality of our program offerings, some of which were highlighted in HHP's

successful inaugural Educational Showcase. Students who received a department Summer Curriculum Development award and their professors presented the results of their summer-long projects to faculty and students.

In this issue, we are pleased to announce that Dr. Dan O'Connor and a team of UH researchers have received a four-year grant from the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

The newsletter also highlights our first students to receive scholarships through our new college, CLASS. Learn about our newest faculty member, Dr. Stacey Gorniak on page 3.

Allow me to direct your attention to Shone Gipson's "Why I Give" statement below. In these difficult economic times that include reduced funding from the state, we need your support to help us continue to build strong programs that prepare our HHP students for the competitive workplace. Please go to our Web page at <https://giving.uh.edu/class>, or return the envelope included with your newsletter. ■



Why I Give Shone Gipson, Buffalo Bills Football training staff

"Through the support of the Barry C. Pelton Scholarship I was able to achieve my academic goals, and have been able to make a difference in others' lives. In HHP, I received an education that I rely on daily. I want to be sure that someone else can have the same experience I had. Giving back supports the faculty, the buildings and the infrastructure for learning. Keeping HHP and the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences on top, benefits both current and future alumni."

Read his story on page 2.

Researchers to Evaluate CDC Childhood Obesity Programs

▶ Projects and programs to combat childhood obesity have made great strides in health and behavior, yet the epidemic persists. Indeed, First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" initiative has made the issue of childhood obesity a focal point and national priority.

The CDC has awarded HHP \$4.25 million over four years to create an innovative evaluation method that will examine and compare three comprehensive childhood obesity programs. The goal is to provide evidence-based recommendations to policymakers as part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Childhood Obesity Research Demonstration Initiative to support the effort.

"Resolving this critical issue will require efforts that target multiple sectors and layers of society, as well as changes in public policy," said Dan O'Connor, HHP associate professor and principal investigator. "Intervention efforts mean more than encouraging children to 'eat less and exercise more.' Our evaluation of these multifaceted programs must reflect the complexities of the problem and interventions if we are to gain valid and useful information."

O'Connor and a multidisciplinary team of health researchers from UH's Texas Obesity Research Center (TORC) and Texas Institute for Measurement, Evaluation and Statistics (TIMES) will



Dr. Dan O'Connor

serve as the evaluation center component of the overall project.

These programs will be aimed at underserved children between the ages of 2 and 12. They will be disseminated not only among families and schools, but also through health care providers, community and faith-based organizations and the private sector, as well as incorporate changes in public and institutional policies. From the data, the UH team will provide a comprehensive evaluation of the various aspects of each program's delivery, effectiveness, feasibility and sustainability.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to have a significant impact on a growing epidemic in our country," said Dr. Layne, chair of HHP. "That Dr. O'Connor has been able to assemble such an incredibly diverse and talented team of investigators from UH is a testament to the Tier One faculty who choose this city and this university to pursue their great work." ■

- Marisa Ramirez

Faculty Focus: Rey Treviño

► Dr. Rey Treviño has been assistant professor in HHP's sport and fitness administration program since 2006. During that time, he has taught every subject in sport administration, including finance, governance, organization and administration of athletics, and he is the director of HHP's Sport Administration Internship Program.

Originally, Treviño was a nuclear engineering major at Texas A&M University, where he earned his bachelor's in applied mathematics. While there, he discovered his love for math, statistics and teaching. It was also where he was introduced to educational technology, a subject that interested him enough to remain at A&M and pursue it for his graduate work.

Treviño studied for his master's during the early 90s, just as the commercialization of the Internet was beginning to emerge. He learned technology using what we would now call old-school techniques. When he began, slides were created as individual pieces of film in holders that were placed into slide projectors. He has continued to

utilize evolving and fast-paced technology to deliver creative, interactive classroom and online courses to his students.

As Treviño considered his doctoral studies, he knew he wanted to combine education with his love for cycling. A mentor introduced him to the perfect fit, sport management, and he went on to earn his Ph.D. at the University of Northern Colorado in 2001.

When asked what he would tell a prospective student about the HHP program, he said, "Selling someone on a program is one thing, but making sure it fits is something else."

Treviño goes on to cite the uniqueness of HHP's program as offering students exposure to the broader opportunities in sport administration to assist them in deciding on a specific career path.

Through course offerings and experiential learning situations in the internship program, his students are prepared to pursue and perform the job of their dreams.



Off campus, Treviño is a national level cyclist. He officiates and serves with The Texas Bicycle Racing Association (TXBRA) and USA Cycling, providing leadership for determining the criteria for the development of riders. ■

Alumni Spotlight: Shone Gipson



► The Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society and the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation honored the Buffalo Bills Football training staff as the 2007 NFL Athletic Training Staff of the year. Today, HHP alumnus, Shone Gipson,

is in his eighth season as an assistant athletic trainer for the New York-based football club.

As a certified and licensed athletic trainer, he works under the direction of the head trainer, supervising the care of their professional athletes in the NFL. He is responsible for the prevention, evaluation, management and rehabilitation of injuries with the organization's sports medicine department.

Gipson is from Bay City, Texas and received his bachelor's degree in kinesiology from UH in 1999. During his time in HHP, he received the Professional Football Athletic Trainers Society Ethnic Minority Scholarship and the Barry C. Pelton Scholarship for outstanding work in kinesiology.

In 2002, he earned his master's degree in secondary education from Stephen F. Austin State University, and interned with the Washington Redskins, the New York Giants and the Buffalo Bills.

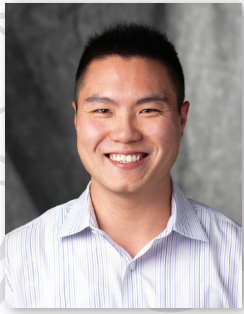
While attending Bay City High School, Gipson was a student athletic trainer, and soon realized this was what he wanted as a career. Mike O'Shea, the head athletic trainer at UH, introduced him to HHP Professor Joel Bloom who recommended the field of kinesiology. "It was a subject matter that truly intrigued me, and one that has shaped my career," he said.

Gipson believes the high standards of academics and practical experiences he received from HHP professors prepared him for the position he now holds. He says, "They were genuine, fair, and went the extra mile to help me succeed in my undergraduate education. Their guidance was invaluable to me as a young professional. I can truly say I have the position I've always dreamed of having because of the University of Houston."

His dreams do not stop there; one day he would like to be a head athletic trainer in the NFL. ■

HHP Students Receive CLASS Scholarships

The department just completed its first academic year (2010-2011) as a member of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS). We congratulate these HHP students who are the first to receive scholarships through our new college!



CHI HSIEN LEE
LEONARD RAUCH SCHOLARSHIP



KWAME MENSAH
CLASS SCHOLARSHIP



DARREN RANDLE
E. VIRGINIA BARNETT SCHOLARSHIP



HAILEE SHUTTLESWORTH
GMM SCHOLARSHIP



KARIM SADIWALA
INDIA STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

Welcome New Faculty

► This fall, Dr. Stacey Gorniak joined HHP as assistant professor of motor behavior. She received her doctorate in kinesiology from Pennsylvania State University in 2009.

Prior to coming to UH, she was a post-doctoral fellow in the department of biomedical engineering at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner Research Institute and in the functional electrical stimulation group at the Cleveland Veterans Affairs Medical Center, both in Cleveland, Ohio.

Gorniak's research focuses on understanding healthy and pathological neuromuscular control. She will teach motor behavior courses and conduct research in the Center for Neuromotor and Biomechanics Research (CNBR) located in the Texas Medical Center.

Her work has included collaboration with the Center for Neurological Restoration at the Cleveland Clinic Main Campus

and the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health in Las Vegas. Other recent collaborative research efforts have included work with the University of Florida and Columbia University.

The effects of aging and neurological disorders on bimanual hand function have been the focus of Gorniak's most recent studies.

Building on her experiences in clinical populations, she is interested in investigating how neural disorders such as stroke, traumatic brain injury, and diabetic neuropathies affect functional hand use, particularly in actions of daily living.

"I'm looking forward to collaborations within the CNBR as well as collaborations with the Laboratory of Integrated Physiology (LIP) on the impact of diabetes and other immune mediated neuromuscular disorders on fine motor function," she said. ■



Welcome, Dr. Gorniak!

<http://hhp.uh.edu>

For questions or comments:
Martha Hayes, Editor/Designer
mshayes@uh.edu
713.743.0327

<http://hhp.uh.edu>     

The University of Houston is an EEO/AA institution.

Learn about HHP research projects at <http://hhp.uh.edu/grants>

CNBR

CENTER FOR NEUROMOTOR AND BIOMECHANICS RESEARCH

LIP

LABORATORY OF INTEGRATED PHYSIOLOGY

TORC

TEXAS OBESITY RESEARCH CENTER

UNDO

UNDERSTANDING NEIGHBORHOOD DETERMINANTS OF OBESITY

RESEARCH

HHP and the Houston Wellness Challenge

► HHP dietetic interns are providing nutritional input for the Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce's Wellness Challenge. The 90-day program is from September 12 to December 10.

The chamber is challenging Houston residents to live healthier lifestyles to prevent absenteeism, rising insurance and medical costs, increase productivity in the workplace and to set a positive example for the next generation.

Houston Mayor Annise Parker launched the challenge in a ceremony held at city hall. The mayor, Houston city council members and 15 Houston corporate executives were invited to participate as role models.

A group of the department's interns and Dr. Sharon Bode, HHP professor and director of the Dietetic Internship Program, also attended the event.

During the challenge, the interns will give each participant a complete assessment, create specific menus for them and monitor their progress regularly.

The Dietetic Internship Program is a CADE accredited, post-baccalaureate supervised practice program.

You can learn more by visiting their website at <http://tiny.cc/HHP-DIP>. ■



Left-right: Sarah Seppa, Katie Kissane, Elizabeth Jarrard, Jenna McClure, Dr. Bode, Paulina Noriega, Ana Cardoba, Danille Tank, Stephanie Ross



Left-right: Jenna McClure, Mayor Parker, Sarah Seppa