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## Health Education Doctoral Program Ranked First in Nation

Dr. Mohammed Torabi was driving to Indianapolis when he received a phone call and heard the news – IU's doctoral program in Health Education had been ranked first in the nation. For the new department chair, this was an important call. "While I was not terribly surprised, since we have been ranked in the top five in the past, it was great news and exciting to be the number one program in the country," Torabi recalls.

The ranking was a result of a study presented at the American Public Health Association's (APHA) annual meeting in November. The study compared 28 schools with doctoral programs in Health Education.

Conducted by Stephen Notaro and Thomas O'Rourke at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and James Eddy of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, it was the first study of its kind to use objective data rather than perceptions to achieve results.

"We conducted this study simply because no ranking existed for doctoral programs of health education and many in the field wanted a ranking," notes Nataro.

The data, gathered from 1993-1997, included eight variables; articles published, citations received, journal editorships, external funding for research, student activity, student/faculty ratio, faculty mentoring and placement, and student support. IU's program was the only one of the top 20 programs to receive a top ten ranking for all eight variables. It also placed first in editorships, third in student activity, fourth in student support, and fourth in citations.

Following IU in the rankings were the University of Texas at Houston, the University of North Carolina, University of Illinois-Chicago and University of South Carolina respectively.

Susan Thomas, a current doctoral student,

commented, "I am very excited about this ranking. It will only help in the job search process for our students to come from such a reputable program. This honor is a comment on both the quality of faculty and students of our department and I feel very lucky to be a part of it."

The health education program has been part of the HPER since its inception in 1946. Past graduates hold such prestigious positions as Deputy Director for the US Office of Smoking and Health, CDC; Senior Correspondent for NBC Sports; and Director of the Indiana University Health Center.



Above: Dr. Torabi, Dr. Crowe and Dean Mobley celebrate the success of the Health Education Doctoral Program

"Our Health Education program has a long and distinguished history, and we are certainly pleased that it has been ranked as number one. It is a tribute to our faculty, students, and alumni," says Dean Mobley.

The article will be published in the March/April issue of the Journal of Health Education. • by Hilary Tyler



# Faculty News

**William Bailey** received a \$525,000 grant from the Indiana Division of Mental Health to coordinate statewide prevention activities under Indiana's State Incentive Grant Program. IU's grant is part of the larger \$7.5 million grant received by the Governor O'Bannon's office from the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention to establish a new three-year statewide prevention initiative. Mr. Bailey was the author of the Governor's grant proposal.

**William Bailey** and **Mohammad Torabi** recently received a contract through the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to coordinate the FDA's Tobacco Retailer Inspection Program in Indiana. The value of the cost-reimbursement contract is expected to exceed \$1.7 million over the next five years. This program is an essential part of the multi-state tobacco settlement, under which Indiana will receive at least \$4.2 billion over the next 25 years. Bailey and Torabi will be evaluating the impact and effectiveness of the FDA Tobacco Enforcement efforts in addition to coordinating the project.

**David Birch** gave presentations at both the November American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, in Chicago and the American School Health Association Convention, November 1999 in Kansas City.

The presentations were on a research project he completed in 1998, "An Assessment of Elementary School Health Education in South Dakota".

In addition, **Dr. Birch** recently served on a Task Force in Washington, DC for a SOPHE project entitled "The Impact of Certification on Health Education," and on the Planning committee for an Invitational Meeting held in Reston, VA on "Future Directions in Quality Assurance in Professional Preparation in Health Education." Fall semester also found Dr. Birch giving invited presentations at the Pennsylvania AAHPERD Convention, "Maintaining Professionalism in Health Education," and at the Indiana Department of Education, HIV Update Conference "Strategies and Methods in HIV Education".

**Ruth Clifford Engs'** new book *Clean Living Movements: American Cycles of Health Reform*, was released in January by Praeger Publishing. The book discusses Dr. Engs' theory concerning the cyclical nature of health reform issues. The book was featured in the October 18th edition of *Forbes* magazine. She also has been recently quoted in the *Los Angeles Times* and various regional papers.

**Deborah Lewis Fravel** has been invited to serve on the newly-formed Family Outreach Advocacy board for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children in Washington, D.C. The board will provide oversight and establish policy for a network of national and international professionals who will be available to assist families with the trauma that occurs when children are kidnapped or otherwise disappear. Dr. Fravel also presented her research on boundary ambiguity experiences of birth and adoptive families at the International Conference on Adoption Research in August. In November, she presented a paper on this topic at the Ethics and Adoption conference in Anaheim, along with colleagues, Harold Grotevant (University of Minnesota) and Ruth McRoy (University of Texas).

**Alice Lindeman** is in the planning stages of a project with AmeriFIT to conduct a 7-month, double-blind clinical trial of their product, Estroven, with about 150 perimenopausal women. Estroven is an herbal supplement of

select vitamins, minerals, black cohosh, kava kava, puereria root and soy. The goal of the study will be to assess whether or not the supplement alleviates or reduces the frequency of cognitive, physical, and emotional symptoms associated with perimenopause.

While very happy for the step forward in **Lisa Russell's** professional career, colleagues were sorry to learn of her departure at mid-term. Dr. Russell will be telecommuting from Bloomington for several months until her move to Santa Cruz, California, where she will continue her work as a Senior Research Associate with ETR Associates. She continues her programmatic research track in systems of care for youth and adults with mental disorders; along with communication, preparedness, and response to hazards. Dr. Russell recently presented two papers, first at the Annual Hazards Research and Applications Workshop in Boulder, CO last July. In November, she presented "Evaluation Findings from Indiana's Dawn Project: A System of Care for Youth with Emotional and Behavioral Challenges" at the Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Chicago.

**Maria Schmidt** is a participant on the Infant Mental Health Development Team for an Indiana SPRANS (Special Projects of Regional and National Significance, for which Indiana was one of four states awarded funding) grant. Dr. Schmidt is also co-chair of an early childhood retreat to be held in Nashville, IN in February. In March she will speak at the Indianapolis Day Nursery Spring Conference on the topic of literacy for young children. She will also present a paper at the Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children annual conference in March.

**Catherine Sherwood-Puzzello** participates on a grant project with the Indiana State Department of Health regarding infant mental health. Last fall, the committee developed a survey to collect data from parents and providers for children with special needs. Dr. Sherwood-Puzzello presented the results of the survey to some interested groups in Indianapolis. Plans for more formal dissemination of the results are underway.

(Faculty Continued Page 3)



# Staff News



## Departmental Highlights

### Staff

**Korey Antonelli** (a recent MPH graduate) is a new staffer at the PRC. She is the Operations Coordinator for the Tobacco Retailer Inspection Program (TRIP).

Also working with Korey on the TRIP is **Jennifer Sherer**, a current MPH student.

**Susan Samuel's** son **Bobby George** graduated this past semester from IU with a BS in Biochemistry.

**Billie Pearson's** daughter **Autumn** also graduated this past semester from IU with a BS in Education, and is currently teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade on the Zuni reservation in New Mexico.

**Harriet Castrataro's** son **Giancarlo** graduated from IU in December with a BS in Computer Science. He is employed as a systems analyst at Eli Lilly Company in Indianapolis.

### Faculty

**Mindy King** and husband, **Barry** are the proud parents of a new baby boy, **Creighton Andrew**, who entered the world on January 12 at 8 lbs., 1 oz., and 22 in. long.

**Maria Schmidt** and her husband, **Bruce Stephenson**, look forward to the birth of their first child in early July.



## A Few Words From the Editor

*AHS Pulse* will be published two to three times a year and sent to students, staff, faculty, and alumni of the Department of Applied Health Science. Please feel free to contribute news items, either personal or professional. You may send information to one of our reporters or to me. The next issue will be Summer, 2000. In that issue, we will include a bibliography of recent faculty publications and a career report from the 1998 Alumni Survey.

I wish to thank the staff of *AHS Pulse* for their efforts at every stage of the publication. Special thanks to Hilary Tyler, one of our MPH students who is also earning an MA in Journalism. Hilary brings with her newsletter expertise from her three years at Physician's Health Plan, where she worked before coming to IU. We are especially grateful for her help in creating our first newsletter.

*Harriet Castrataro, AHS Pulse Editor*



## From the Chairman

On behalf of the Department of Applied Health Science, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the entire *AHS Pulse* Staff. They have gone above and beyond the call of duty in making this first issue successful and informative. I look forward to using the *AHS Pulse* newsletters as a means of informing our students, alums, staff, and faculty about the current and future trends of our Department.

*Mohammad R. Torabi, Ph.D.  
Chairperson,  
Applied Health Science*

## More Faculty Activity!

Friends and colleagues are very pleased that **Nate Shier** has regained his health and is back, hard at work! Despite his challenges, he and his graduate students recently published an article on Crude Palm Oil in the *Journal of Composition and Analysis*.

**Thomas Tai-Seale** recently completed his 12th service-learning project, this one in collaboration with the Indiana Public Health Association, the Lawrence County Health Department, and a local citizen's group. His students invested over 500 hours performing a comprehensive adult health needs assessment for Lawrence County, and presented their results to local officials, hospital executives, citizens and the press in December. Dr. Tai-Seale has also published an article on "Assigned Conversations" in *College Teaching*.

**Mohammad Torabi** was recently honored by his Alma Mater, Purdue University, where he received his doctorate in Health Education. He was selected as one of Purdue's 1999 Distinguished Alumni.

**William L. Yarber** was appointed Research Fellow of the Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender, and Reproduction, in November. He was also selected as outside consultant to provide testimony at government hearings concerning promoting responsible sexual behavior at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta and at the Office of Population Affairs in Newport, RI. He has also published several articles that will be mentioned in the next issue of the *AHS Pulse*.





# Student News

## CALENDAR

**February 17** Summer Camp Fair at IMU Alumni Hall, 11am-4pm  
**March 1** Financial Aid (FASA) forms due  
**March 1-** See your advisor for Summer and/or Fall registration (Undergraduates please call 855-3627 for an appointment)  
**March 11-19** Spring Break  
**March 22-29** Summer registration  
**March 28** Career Night at HPER  
**April 3-28** Fall registration  
**May 1-5** Exams  
**May 6** Graduation

## News & Notes

**Kele Ding**, who works at the PRC, completed his PhD in January.

**Xenia Fernandez** had a baby boy, Alan Gabriel on January 22. He weighed 7 lbs. 3 oz. And was 20 inches long.

**Mollie Howerton** earned her PhD during the summer of 1999. She is at Johns Hopkins completing an MPH.

**Kandice Johnson** earned her PhD during the summer of 1999. She is an assistant professor at Towson University.

**Lisako Jones**, a doctoral student, recently attended a McNair conference in Georgia

**Terry O'Toole** earned his PhD during the fall of 1999. He is teaching in Georgia.

**Susan Thomas**, who is completing her doctoral degree, has been awarded a three-year post-doctoral fellowship at the American Cancer Institute.

## Safety Student Wins Staff Merit Award

Don Schmuhl has been a member of the IU Police Force for 23 years. He earned his BA in Forensic studies in 1970 and has been serving students on campus ever since. In addition, Don is a student himself, working toward a Certificate in Hazard Control Technology. In his studies and in his job, he works for a safer campus by educating students about the effects of alcohol.

The fatal vision goggles, seen in the photo (right), are being worn by a junior high school student as she tries to walk a straight line while wearing the goggles, which simulate an unsafe alcohol blood level. Don pioneered the use of these goggles at IU for education and prevention. For these efforts, and for his dedication to his job, he was awarded the prestigious Staff Merit Award on November 30, 1999. Congratulations, Don!



*Above: Don Schmuhl with student using the fatal vision goggles*

## Alumni News

**Elizabeth (Maatz) Majestic** graduated from our department in 1989 with an MPH degree. She currently works for the Office on Smoking and Health, a branch of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Elizabeth is the second-in-command, and serves in the Office of the Director as the Deputy Director. At a national level, she works to prevent tobacco use among youth, to promote smoking cessation among youth and adults, and to protect nonsmokers from environmental tobacco smoke. Some of her office's responsibilities include expanding the science base of tobacco control, building states' and organizations' capacity to conduct tobacco control programs, communicating information to constituents and the public, and facilitating concerted action among CDC partners.

Two nationally recognized initiatives which she works with are The Surgeon General's Report and Healthy People 2000. A recent report on youth smoking shows an encouraging drop from 36% to 28% in high school students who have smoked in the last 30 days. We can thank people like Elizabeth and others at the Centers For Disease Control, and our own Prevention Resource Center at IU for this good news.

## AHS Students Abroad



Every spring semester several Human Development/Family Studies students go abroad to enrich their undergraduate studies. Some go through IU's Overseas Studies Program and some choose programs through other campuses. This spring we have an all-time high of 16 students studying abroad in five different countries. Elaine Broderick and Angela Miller are in Australia; Rachel Fox, Kara Pepper, and Leor Torchman are in Israel. Italy is home away from home for Julie Bloom, Dani Gorman, and Stephanie Salis. And in Great Britain, Jes Bellsey, Michelle Berk, Rebecca Greenberg, Haylee Seltzer, Alison Temkin, and Laura Tushan are representing IU. Finally, Sarah Dumas and Stephanie Neuberger are in Spain. If you are interested in studying abroad, check in with Harriet early so that you can plan your courses accordingly. And, be sure to welcome our foreign ambassadors back to campus in the fall.