AHS News

JANUARY 2014

AHS IN THE NEWS

Krista Varady, assoc. professor nutrition, continues to attract a great deal of media interest in her new book, *The Every-Other-Day Diet*, which details her research-based, alternate-day-fasting diet:

- Jan. 1: Featured in an article in the *Chicago Tribune*, “Alternate-day dieting: Feast or famine”
- Jan. 5: Featured in an article in Britain’s *The Times Magazine*, “The fast diet everyone’s talking about”
- Jan. 9: Appeared on Chicago talk show “Windy City Live”
- Jan. 14: Appeared on BBC Breakfast, a morning TV program, broadcast from London to 3 million viewers throughout the U.K. (link unavailable)
- Jan. 27: Featured in an article in U.K.-based, internationally read newspaper *The Telegraph*

The media attention parallels the book’s popularity: During its first week in release, *The Every-Other-Day Diet* was among Amazon’s top 10 books sold in the U.S., and top 30 sold in the U.K.

A Nov. 27 article in the *Chicago Tribune*, “For 'Nutcracker,' the Joffrey's own Mother Ginger grooms her 118 kids,” featured MS in OT student Katie Garwood Kirwan, who is the children’s cast director for the Joffrey Ballet’s holiday-season production of “The Nutcracker.”

Sandi Yi, PhD student in disability studies advised by Carrie Sandahl, is the creator of Crip Couture, a fashion-focused “wearable art project,” which was featured in an October article in the online magazine *Majestic Disorder*. The article credits Yi with “taking back the reins and redefining how we construct our standards of beauty and social perceptions.”

NEWS

Sangeetha Madhavan, asst. professor of PT, has received a $1.03 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for her project, “Cortical priming to optimize gait rehabilitation post stroke.” Her proposal scored in the top 1 percentile. The project will be the first step towards the development of a novel therapeutic approach using brain stimulation to increase walking capacity in stroke survivors and to understand the neural mechanisms that are associated with impairment and functional recovery.

PT professor Clive Pai has received a $1 million grant from the National Institute on Aging for his project, “Perturbation training for fall-risk reduction among older adults.” His proposal scored in the top 3 percentiles. The project will investigate whether a computer-controlled treadmill can be used to deliver repeated slips that train older adults to resist falls in their future daily living.

Kinesiology asst. professor Jacob Haus was awarded a three-year, $400,000 Junior Faculty Award from the American Diabetes Association. His project is entitled, “The effect of exercise in activating ADAM10 and RAGE ectodomain shedding.”

An interdisciplinary group of UIC researchers—including Andy Boyd, asst. professor of health informatics, and Edward Wang, research assoc. professor in the college—has received a $250,000 grant
from the McKesson Foundation. Boyd is co-PI. The project, “Mobilizing for patient adherence to cancer therapies (mPACT),” aims to improve adherence to orally-administered cancer medications using customized mobile-health applications and technologies.

UIC’s online bachelor’s degree programs are No. 9 in the nation—up from No. 18 last year—among schools offering such programs, according to the latest rankings by U.S. News & World Report. That high ranking is due in part to our BS in health information management, which is one of only two online bachelor’s programs offered at UIC.

Eric Swirsky, clinical asst. professor of health informatics, is serving on the Illinois Health Information Exchange Advisory Committee for a term of two years that began July 1, 2014.

In October, the dean’s office announced the AHS Scholarship Fund Award. Now the five recipients are announced:

- Mariya Denisenko, BS, Kinesiology
- Seena Mathew, BS, Kinesiology
- Hang Nguyen, Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Alejandra Villanueva, MS, Occupational Therapy
- Sarah Yankey Frempong, BS, Health Information Management

Each student was selected for the $1,000 scholarship based on her/his commitment to academics and spirit of volunteerism at UIC and in the community. Awards come from the AHS Scholarship Fund, the only scholarship program in the college that is financed by donor-alumni from all AHS academic departments and whose awards are available to students in any AHS degree program.

Angela Odoms-Young, asst. professor of nutrition, is partnering with the Illinois Department of Human Services’ Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants and Children (Illinois WIC) to launch a program called “WIC to 5.” This is a federally funded food and nutrition assistance program that provides supplemental food, nutrition education and healthcare referrals to nearly 300,000 low-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children up to age 5 in Illinois. Angela’s project team also includes nutrition graduate student Summer Porter, MS, RD.

STUDENT NEWS

An article by Alyson Patsavas, PhD student in disability studies, was published Nov. 22 on the website the Feminist Wire. It discusses the direction of disability studies as an academic discipline and professional pathway. Alyson is advised by Carrie Sandahl, assoc. professor of DHD.

Students advised or mentored by Alex Aruin, professor of PT, are getting published!

- Bing Chen, MS in rehabilitation sciences – “Does the type of somatosensory information from the contralateral finger touch affect grip force control while lifting an object?” Neuroscience Letters, Oct. 21, 2013
- Neeta Kanekar, PhD in rehabilitation – “Frequency analysis approach to study balance control in individuals with multiple sclerosis” Journal of Neuroscience Methods, Nov. 2013
Terri Thrower, PhD student in disability studies, performed in Tellin’ Tales Theatre’s “Six Stories Up, Up and Away,” a musical production in which “six middle school students and their adult mentors with and without disabilities explore heroism against the backdrop of a wacky superhero circus.” Terri was among the mentors. In her studies she is advised by professor Carol Gill.

EVENTS
“Can older Latinos dance their way to better health?”
Presented by David Marquez, assoc. professor of kinesiology
Date: Feb 7 (Fri.)
Time: 2 to 3 p.m.
Place: AHSB Room 607, 1919 W. Taylor St.

2014 Challenge of the Deans free-throw shoot-out
*During half-time of the UIC men’s basketball game versus University of Detroit Mercy*
Date: Feb. 18 (Tues.)
Time and Place:
  - 5 to 7 p.m. - *Pre-game Reception:* Student Services Building, 1200 W. Harrison
  - 7 p.m. - *Tip-off:* UIC Pavilion, 525 S. Racine
Come to support Dean Bo Fernhall and student partner Donnie Dupaya, a senior in kinesiology, in this annual, all-in-fun competition among UIC deans. Come early to see alumna Barbara Blond, ’77, serve as torchbearer for the pre-game “Lighting of the Flame” ceremony.

“Exercise Is Medicine”
Presented by Barry Franklin, PhD
Sponsored by the departments of KN, PT and OT
Date: Feb. 27 (Thurs.)
Time: 10 to 11 a.m.
Place: CMET Room 787, 808 S. Wood St.

SAVE THE DATE!
Alumni Weekend 2014
May 2-4
The college is currently planning its second annual all-alumni reunion. The highlight will be an awards dinner on Saturday evening to recognize both alumni and faculty/staff honorees. Also in the schedule: a networking reception for new alumni; departmental showcases, many including CE opportunities; and a Sunday brunch with special focus on alumni from “milestone” years (class years ending in 4 or 9). Stay tuned for details!

Reminder:
Please submit all your events to webmaster Laura Bronkhorst for posting on the AHS Events page and/or departmental event feeds.