

LSU Health

NEW ORLEANS
School of Public Health

That's a WRAP

Words from the offices of Research, Academics & Practice

August 2019

Special Issue: SUMMER RECAP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	1
SUMMER RECAP	2

IMPORTANT DATES

August

August 20—SGA Meeting, LEC 303, 12:00 PM
 August 21—Students for Sustainability, MEB S4, 12:00 PM
 August 22—Health Equity: The Groundwater Approach, HDC Auditorium, 4:00—6:30 PM
 August 26—SPH Diversity Committee, LEC 356, 12:00 PM
 August 26—Year 2 Team UP Orientation, MEB B, 4:30 PM
 August 27—Year 1 Team UP Orientation, MEB B, 4:30 PM
 August 28—Last day to add courses, Last day for course or term withdrawal with “W” on transcript

September

September 2—Labor Day Holiday
 September 4—Year 2 Team UP Orientation, MEB A, 4:30 PM
 September 5—Year 1 Team UP Orientation, MEB B, 4:30 PM
 September 6—Moodle Training, Session 1, LEC 303, 1:00 PM
 September 13—Moodle Training, Session 2, LEC 303, 1:00 PM
 September 27—Career Day, HDC 231 & 335, 9:00 AM
 September 30—Faculty Evaluations Due



SPH Fall 2019 Orientation Social—Rock-n-Bowl

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Jorge Peñas, MS, MPH (HPSM), Class of '17, graduated from LSUHSC School of Graduate Studies this summer. After four years on campus and countless hours of teaching K-12 students STEM (in particular, health sciences) and trying to improve people's health (e.g. tobacco prevention and cessation for adults) in the Greater New Orleans area through the LSU HSC Science Youth Initiative and other community outreach projects, Mr. Peñas returned to his hometown of Miami to start his new position as a Clinical Specialist - Cardiac Arrhythmias at Abbott Laboratories. *Congratulations, Jorge!*



SUMMER RECAP

The LSUHSC School of Public Health Prostate Cancer Project (PCaP) Team continued their interviewing of cancer survivors in Louisiana and North Carolina.

Dr. Peters along with Ms. Afaneh and Ms. Santa Ana were also busy this summer conducting a needs assessment for the HRSA-funded Louisiana Rural Oral Health Project.

PCaP TEAM

Left to Right: Dr. Ed Peters (PI), Hasheemah Afaneh, MPH, Class of '18, (Project Coordinator); Sydney Santa Ana, (Summer Student Worker - Drew University undergraduate); Ashley Fenton, MS, current PhD BCHS student (Graduate Assistant); Alexandra Lieberman, MPH, Class of '19



Funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's **"Lead and Healthy Homes Technical Studies"** 3-year grant, **Dr. Adrienne Katner** (Assistant Professor, ENHS) is implementing an environmental health study using community-based participatory research approaches to characterize the effectiveness of commercially-available water filters in removing lead and iron from drinking water in communities with historical water infrastructure issues. This summer, Dr. Katner and research associate Aubrey Gilliland, MPH, began testing water and installing water filters in homes with elevated lead in New Orleans and Enterprise, LA. In fall, they plan to hold focus groups in rural communities and with Spanish-speaking populations to better understand the barriers to filter use and education needed to help residents select, install and maintain the most appropriate water filters.

LEAD AND HEALTHY HOMES

SUMMER RECAP



*Summer 2019 Fellows, from left to right: **Caroline Bonaventure**, Association for Community Affiliated Plans); **James Mickler**, CDC National Center for Immunizations and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) and National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH); **Carley Boyce**, Office of Sn. Bill Cassidy, LA, Surprise Medical Bill; **Dr. Peggy Honore**, Professor, SPH, HPSM and SoM; **Michael Bates** National Hispanic Medical Association; **Nicole Rueb**, National Rural Health Association; **André Florea**, National Academy for State Health Policy*

In the summer of 2016, the [AmeriHealth Caritas Health Policy Fellowship Program](#) was launched at LSU Health New Orleans Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The program, created and directed by **Dr. Peggy Honore** and funded by AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, is open to LSU HSC medical students who are available immediately following completion of their first year of medical school for an eight week summer fellowship in Washington DC. The program aims to provide participating medical students with opportunities for real world applied experiences in the various aspects of health policy. Prior placement sites include Congressional Committees, Senate and House Offices, Congressional Research Service, National Rural Health Association, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Academy of State Legislators, and others.

AMERIHEALTH CARITAS HEALTH POLICY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Dr. Honore has also mentored Ayesha Umrigar, a PhD candidate studying genetics. Dr. Honore learned of Ms. Umrigar's interest in working for policy reform of healthcare coverage of patients whose disease/disability is a result of genetics. Subsequently, Ms. Umrigar connected with one of Dr. Honore's colleagues at the CDC's Division of Public Health Genomics, who in turn offered Ms. Umrigar an internship. Now, Ms. Umrigar is awaiting news from the CDC regarding a post-doctoral fellowship with which Dr. Honore guided her.



The **Center for Evidence to Practice** is a joint effort of LSUHSC School of Public Health and the [Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health \(OBH\)](#). OBH is dedicated to improving the quality and accessibility of behavioral health services in Louisiana, and supports our work at the state-agency level.

laevidencetopractice.com



EXPANDING ACCESS TO
EVIDENCE-BASED
PRACTICES IN
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The **mission** is to support the state and its agencies, organizations, communities, and providers in the selection and implementation of evidence-based interventions to promote youth and family well-being, improve behavioral health outcomes, and to address challenges related to sustaining quality practice.

The Center for Evidence to Practice will serve the state of Louisiana as a hub for innovation and cross-sectoral collaboration to improve behavioral health services through capacity building with service providers and university programs.

The need for a Behavioral Health Evidence-Based Practice Center was demonstrated in the 2017 Louisiana Behavioral Health Provider Survey of Youth Related Services. This statewide survey, funded by the Office of Behavioral Health and executed by **Dr. Stephen Phillippi, Ph.D.** found less than 60% of the mental health services delivered under Medicaid coverage were reporting utilizing an evidence-based practice, and even fewer providers reporting the adoption of key research supported components, like written training curricula, structured supervision, fidelity monitoring, and manualized treatment. Thus, the Center for Evidence to Practice was created in hopes of bridging gaps and bring more evidence-based behavioral health practices to communities across the state of Louisiana.



SUMMER RECAP

The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center Summer Research Internship Program cultivates the interests of high school and undergraduate students who want to pursue careers in public health, and basic and clinical sciences. During the two months, they learn research topics and techniques, conduct research with their mentors and attend weekly professional development seminars. The internship program concludes with the annual Poster Day at which all students present their research results. Public Health faculty: Drs. Tekeda Ferguson, Dan Harrington, Peggy Honore, Mei-Chin Hsieh, Elizabeth Levitzky and Edward Trapido and Ms. Martha Cuccia served as judges. Two of the five interns assigned to the School of Public Health took home first place awards.

First Place, High School Category: “Neighborhood Concentrated and Smoking among Young Adults in Greater New Orleans” by: Ms. Shaera Rahman, Rising Senior, Kenner Discovery Health Sciences Academy, Kenner, Louisiana. Mentor: Dr. [Denise Danos](#), Assistant Professor, LSUHSC SPH

First Place, Undergraduate Category: “Differences in Patient-provider Communication between Smokers and Nonsmokers” by: Mr. Brian Washington, Rising Junior, University of New Orleans. Mentor: Mr. [Michael Celestin, MA](#), Instructor, LSUHSC SPH

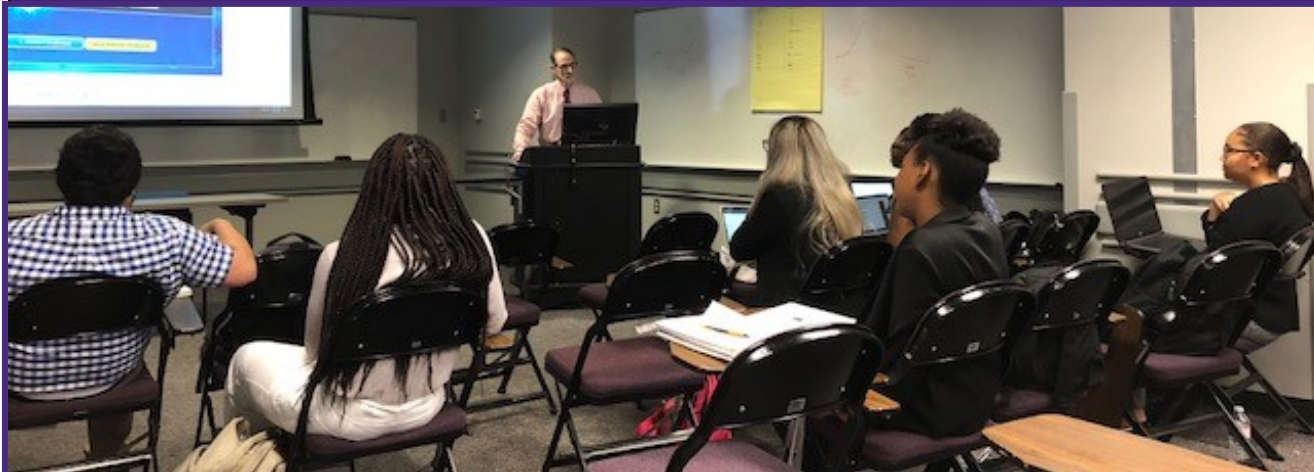
The 42 program interns were matched with mentors at one of the six schools at LSUHSC for the eight-week summer program. Mentors for the other SPH interns included [Drs. Donna Williams](#), [Dean Smith](#), [Tung-sung Tseng](#) and [Hui-Yi Lin](#). In past years, many students and their mentors have gone on to have their research presented at local, regional and national professional conferences, and published in medical or scientific journals.

Ms. Martha Cuccia, instructor at the LSUHSC School of Public Health, serves as assistant director of the Summer Research Internship Program. The program receives funding from [NIAAA](#), [Energry](#), School of Medicine and [Louisiana Cancer Research Center](#).

LSUHSC-NO SUMMER RESEARCH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM



SUMMER RECAP



Drs. Edward Trapido (Professor, EPID) and **Tekeda Ferguson** (Assistant Professor, EPID) presented an overview of public health to the inaugural class of the [School of Medicine Tiger Scholars Undergraduate Academic Enrichment Program](#). The 10 Pre-Med participants also received lectures in biochemistry, anatomy, physiology and genetics and workshops in leadership development, cultural competency, MCAT, DAT and GRE preparation from LSUHSC faculty during the month-long, academic enrichment program this June.

In early summer, **Dr. Elizabeth Levitzky**, Program Director of our BS in Public Health degree served as school coordinator for YouthForce NOLA/Junior Achievement Teacher Externship Program. Blake Thompson, a Global Justice and Social Studies teacher at Livingston Collegiate Academy in New Orleans East spent two days meeting with public health faculty and staff to learn more about disciplines within public health. Dr. Levitzky also provided an overview of the SPH to the 3 teachers assigned to Health Sciences Center schools at their campus orientation.

Mr. Thompson explained that the externship will allow him to align his classroom activities with public health concepts to *“promote not only an in-depth learning experience for students but an opportunity to engage in content that impacts humans daily.”*



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2019-2020 SGA LEADERSHIP TEAM

[Dr. Daniel J. Harrington, ScD, CIH](#) serves as Faculty Advisor.

SUMMER RECAP

17 MPH Students conducted their 200-hour Practice Experiences around the corner and around the world...

Suzzette, Addison, River Oaks Hospital

Parth Dave, AgriSafe

Amy Desselles, Ochsner Health System

Bailey Gentile, LSU SoM Dept. of Family Medicine

Anwei "Polly" Gwan, Child Family Health International

Jennifer Irving, Louisiana Environmental Action Network

Victoria Lulich, NOLA Knows, at UMC

Simran Mittal, Center for Healthcare Value and Equity and Louisiana Dept. of Health

Max Morvant, Healing Peru

Carter Pesson, Crescent Care

Khizir Qureshi, New Orleans Health Department

Cordell Ricard, New Orleans Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

Victoria Sacco, Louisiana Budget Project

Jessica Seay, Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Michael Stocker, Medical Student Missions

Rebecca Warren, Colorado State University Dept. of Environmental & Radiological Health Sciences

Simone White, Tobacco Control Initiative

