

2016

Health Studies Program Newsletter for 2016

URI Health Studies Program

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HEALTH-E-NEWSLETTER

UPDATES FROM THE URI HEALTH STUDIES PROGRAM

Note from the Director

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

This past year has been a period of continued growth for Health Studies. The number of majors and graduates continued to increase. We now have 374 majors, and there are now more than 150 URI graduates who have earned a bachelors of science in Health Studies!

We have two new assistant professors joining the Health Studies faculty. I am thrilled that Drs. Cohen and Meucci will be arriving this fall. They bring a range of teaching experiences and research interests that will both benefit and strengthen the program,

Our students continue to inspire us by conducting independent research, participating in competitive summer programs, excelling in internships, and traveling internationally to promote health and wellbeing.

I feel privileged to be the director of Health Studies, and to work closely with Dr. Sabik, assistant professor, and Ms. Stephanie Champlin, Health Studies advisor. We appreciate the departments and colleges across URI that provide our majors the opportunity to grow academically through an interdisciplinary program. Additionally, I appreciate the continued guidance from the internal and external advisory boards.

I encourage our Health Studies graduates to keep in touch. I look forward to receiving your updates, as your careers unfold.

Thank you for your interest and support of Health Studies!

Sincerely,

Molly Greaney, PhD, MPH



Inside

	<u>Page</u>
FAQ	2
Student highlights	3
Student profiles	6
Health Studies symposiums	9
Advisory boards	10
Faculty research	11

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS HEALTH STUDIES?

Health Studies is an interdisciplinary program designed to prepare students for non-clinical careers in public health, health education promotion, health services, and health-related research working in for-profit companies, hospitals and community health agencies, and not-for-profit organizations.

WHAT COURSES DOES THE CURRICULUM REQUIRE?

Students take courses in anatomy & physiology, statistics, ethics, and epidemiology, as well as core Health Studies classes (HLT 100, 200 and 450). These courses provide a foundation and then build students knowledge and skills in interdisciplinary research, professional writing and verbal communication, etc. .

DO STUDENTS HAVE A “SPECIALIZATION”?

Yes! In addition to taking core classes, students each take six classes within their selected specializations: health promotion, health services or global health.

WHAT IS THE DIVERSITY OF STUDENTS WITHIN THE HEALTH STUDIES MAJOR?

About three-quarters (77%) are women and about half self-reported as racial./ethnic minorities. Health Studies is one of the most diverse majors at URI

ARE THERE PROGRAMS FOR FIRST YEAR STUDENTS?

First year students majoring in Health Studies are enrolled in URI 101 with other majors. This class is designed as an introduction to the university. In addition, there are also Living and Learning Communities (LLC). A LLC is entire residence hall, or a portion of a residence hall, that is assigned by academic college, major, or academic interest. Students residing in an LLC attend some classes together, but also form study and academic support groups, share access to Residential Academic Mentors (RAMs), and attend faculty-sponsored programs within their residential communities.

HEALTH STUDIES WELCOMES TO DRS. COHEN AND MEUCCI

DR. STEVE COHEN

Dr. Cohen has a doctorate in Population Health from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health and a MPH in Biostatistics and Epidemiology from Tufts University. Dr. Cohen brings eight years of experience in teaching and research from his previous faculty positions at Virginia Commonwealth University and Tufts University.

Dr. Cohen's research focuses on the impacts of population aging on health and health care in the United States, with an emphasis on health disparities in older adults. At URI, Steve will expand his research on informal, family caregiving to older adults living with chronic diseases and disabilities



DR. MARISSA MEUCCI

Dr. Meucci received her Ph.D. In Health Services Research from the Brown University School of Public Health and a master's in Physical Therapy from Boston University.

Dr. Meucci's research focuses on examining health care services and policies that improve the safety of community-dwelling older adults enabling them to successfully "age in place." She has a particular interest in disparities in access to needed health care services among vulnerable populations. At URI, she plans to further her research on the availability and effectiveness of home and community-based interventions

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

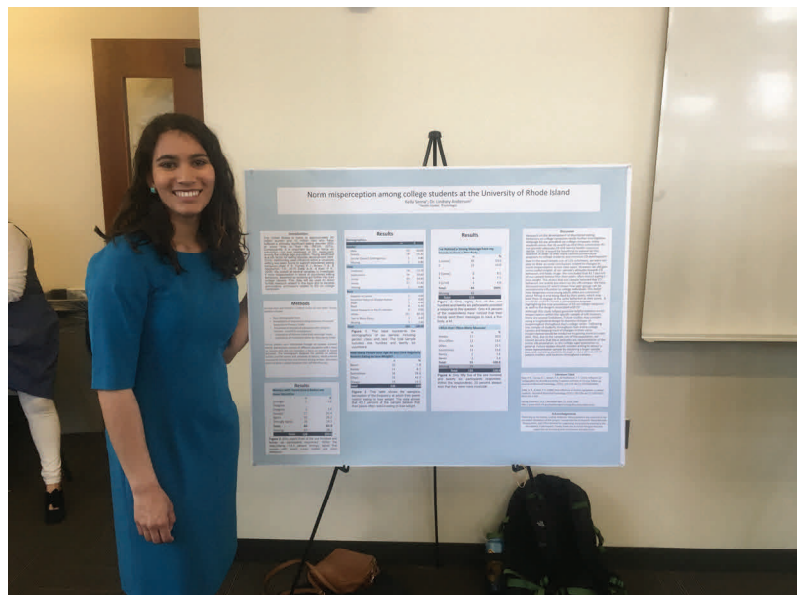
STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH

Health Studies majors presented their research at the College of Human Science and Services (HSS) Research Night this past spring

Justyna Falat '17, Jessica Magagnos' 17, Corey Silvia '16 presented results of their study examining whether college-aged individuals' self-worth is contingent on social media feedback. They found that exhibiting control over a social media account, and using that account to heighten one's social status, can predict if an individual's self-worth is contingent on the feedback they receive. Dr. Natalie Sabik oversaw the research.

David Molina '16 presented the results of research he consulted as an intern the Brown School of Public Health under the supervision of Dr. Eric Loucks. Using longitudinal data from study that began in 1960, he and his colleagues examined how neighborhood factors affected individual's (n=89) systolic and diastolic blood pressure measurements in childhood and adulthood.

Kelly Serna '16 presented results of a study examining whether peer misperception development of eating disordered behaviors among college students. URI undergraduate students (n=126) were surveyed on eating behaviors, weight loss behaviors, and body image. Analyses determined that there was no association between peer norm misperception, which may be due to the small sample. Dr. Lindsey Anderson oversaw this study.



STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS



SERVICE TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Health Studies major, **Portia Eastman '17** is organizing a service trip to Costa Rica. For January 2017 As part of her honors project She is working with Habitat for Humanities Global Village program to bringing 13 students with and URI faculty member. The URI group will work on building a home for a family, and learning about culture and community for 9 days. Interested students should contact Dr. Greaney for more information.

MAJORS PARTICIPATING IN PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Two majors, **Portia Eastman** and **David Molina**, were selected to participate prestigious summer programs funded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention . Portia will participate in the Future Leaders of Public Health at the University of Michigan. attend the Summer Public Health Scholars Program at Columbia University, Congratulations!



A URI BIG THINKER

Sarah Ogundare'16 was named a URI Big Thinker by the University. Sarah wants to take a holistic approach to health in her career that includes the spiritual aspect. Sarah is inspired by several mission trips she has completed with her church. To read Sarah's profile, see: <http://www.uri.edu/who>

INTERNSHIPS

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Majors are encouraged to complete an internship for credit during their senior year to gain “real world experience”. Students have completed internships at hospitals, community-based organizations, non-profit organizations, etc. Students can complete internships during the summer and in their hometowns.

A sample of internship sites:

- Abacus, American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, Apple Rehab
- Blue Cross Blue Shield RI, Bradley Hospital, Butler Hospital, Hearts in Action
- RI Department of Public Health, RI Blood center, Year Up Providence,



RACHEL JURZYK '17

Interned at Social Enterprise Greenhouse (SEG) in Providence, RI this past semester SEG is "a network of business and community leaders who contribute time, expertise and money to create jobs and support positive social change through social enterprise. Rachel assisted in the planning of Health and Wellness events, and gained valuable skills in the design and health and wellness workshops,

MELISSA BANN '16

Served as legislative intern for the Rhode Island State Government under the supervision of Senator DiPalma. As an intern, Melissa researched and tracked legislative issues with an emphasis on health care,. Melissa and Senator DiPalma wrote an op-ed that will be featured in the Providence Journal regarding children and health within Rhode Island

STUDENT PROFILE

GIANA PELLA '16

Hometown: Narragansett, RI

Specialization: Global & Environmental Health



WHY DID YOU CHOOSE URI?

URI has a large campus with a variety of majors to choose from, as well as events and clubs that are open to all students. When I was deciding on colleges, I wanted the opportunity to be part of a university that would both challenge me and broaden my horizons, academically and socially.

WHY DID YOU MAJOR IN HEALTH STUDIES?

As a sophomore, I decided to change majors, and I saw that Health Studies was a new option to the university. I was interested specifically in international health, and when I saw the option to specialize within the major, I knew that I could use the knowledge from a Health Studies degree in my future career

HAVE YOU COMPLETED AN INTERNSHIP?

I completed an internship with Plan International USA, which is an international development nonprofit organization located in Warwick, RI. They have offices in over 50 countries, and their staff works towards improving quality of life for communities in developing nations by addressing issues such as clean water, sanitation and access to health care.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE BEST PART OF MAJORING IN HEALTH STUDIES?

The variety of classes and the flexibility to specialize in the specific discipline that I am interested in. This made me more invested in my academics because I knew that I could choose the direction of my major to my individual interests.

Please see the Health Studies web site for student profiles web.uri.edu/health-studies.

HEALTH STUDIES CAREER EVENTS

Each semester Health Studies hosts a career-related event.

The fall event was a **Mock Interview Night** at Roosevelt Hall. Participating students had the opportunity to complete two interviews with a healthcare professional and receive immediate feedback. Many thanks to the volunteer interviewers for a great learning experience for our students!

- Mr. Scott Asadorian, Vice President & Chief Operating Officer, RI Blood Center
- Ms. Candice Fiorvanti, Director of Customer Integration, Consumer Medical
- Ms. Lisa Holland, President, StayFit Plan
- Mr. Jake Northup, South County YMCA
- Mr. Kurt Rix, Program Director, WellSolutions
- Ms. Ellen Reynolds, Director, URI Health Services
- Ms. Nicole Pineault, Director, Donor Resources, Rhode Island Blood Center.

The spring event, **Health-related Careers across the Lifespan**, was sponsored by Health Studies and Human Development and Family Studies. The interactive event started with a panel presentation with speakers providing an overview of their career trajectories and was followed by lively question and answer sessions hosted by each of the speakers. A great big thank you to all of the speakers and students for a successful evening!

- Ms. Catherine Allen, Director, North American Family Institute
- Ms. Catherine Calise, Substance Abuse Specialist, URI
- Ms. Kathleen Garland, Past Director, Senior and Human Services for the Town of North Kingston
- Mr. Jame Nyberg, Director, LeadingAge Rhode Island

We would like to thank all the volunteers who make these events possible and Dean Lori Ciccomascolo for her support .

Stayed tuned for future events!



ADVISORY BOARDS

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR BOARD MEMBERS. WE APPRECIATE EFFORT ON BEHALF OF HEALTH STUDIES!

EXTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

- Ms. Candice Fioravanti, Consumers Medical
 - Ms. JoAnna Hillman, CarnegieLearning
 - Dr. Robert Marshall, RI Department of Health (retired)
 - Dr. Ana Novais, RI Department of Health
 - Mr. Edward Quinlan, Hospital Association of RI (retired)
 - Mr. Kurt Rix, The Wellness Company
-

INTERNAL ADVISORY BOARD

- Dr. Sue Adams, Human Development and Family Studies
- Ms. Stephanie Champlin, Health Studies and Kinesiology
- Dr. Phillip Clark, Gerontology and Human Development and Family Studies
- Dr. Geoff Greene, Nutrition and Food Sciences
- Ms. Kathryn Meier, Cancer Prevention Research Center
- Dr. Patricia Morokoff, Psychology
- Ms. Ellen Reynolds, Health Services
- Dr. Deb Riebe, Kinesiology
- Dr. Andrea Rusnock, History
- Dr. Abran Salazar, Communication Studies
- Dr. Donna Schwartz-Barcott, Nursing
- Dr. Alison Tovar, Nutrition and Food Sciences