2014

Health Studies Program Newsletter for 2014

URI Health Studies Program

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Dear Colleagues and Friends:

As my first year as Director of Health Studies draws to close, I am so glad to be at the University of Rhode Island and to be part of Health Studies. I have been amazed with the passion of our students and with their diverse experiences and strengths. I also have been thrilled with the commitment of Internal Advisory and External Advisory boards to the program. It has been a great year!

The second class of Health Studies students graduated in May, and the major continues to grow rapidly. There will be over 250 majors in the Fall 2014 semester! Health Studies students have completed internships that have been transformative, traveled internationally, and volunteered for community-based organizations.

Health Studies, Health Studies students, and URI are committed to improving the health of Rhode Island and the nation. Thank you for your continued interest and support for the program!

Sincerely,

Molly Greaney, MPH, PhD
Welcome to Dr. Sabik

We are pleased to welcome Dr. Natalie Sabik to Health Studies and URI as an assistant professor. She has a doctorate in Psychology and Women’s Studies from the University of Michigan. Additionally, she has a MS in psychology and a MA in Women’s Studies from George Washington University.

Dr. Sabik’s research is interdisciplinary in nature and is focused on body image and health for diverse women. At URI, Natalie will continue to further her research on body image and health by studying how body image affects stress, health behaviors, and mental health among aging adults. She also will teach core Health Studies classes and advise and mentor students. Welcome, Dr. Sabik!

External Advisory Board

- Richard Esposito, RI Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals
- Candice Fioravanti, Provant Health Solutions
- JoAnna Hillman, Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Public Health Informatics
- Robert Marshall, RI Department of Health (retired)
- Ana Novais, RI Department of Health
- Edward Quinlan, Hospital Association of RI (retired)
- Kurt Rix, The Wellness Company

A heartfelt thank you to member of our External Advisory Board. We appreciate your passion, knowledge, and effort on behalf Health Studies!
Congratulations Class of 2014!

Continuing education

- Alexandra Cole (Stonington, CT) will enroll in the masters in Healthcare Administration program at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.
- Adriana Ferreira (Lincoln, RI) will be attending the New England School of Optometry in Boston, MA.
Student Spotlight: Starting a Non-profit

Bryanna Mellen, Class of 2015
Hometown: Northbridge, MA

1. What is the nonprofit you started?

I founded the On Guard Initiative with my best friend, Julie Broderick (Worcester State University) in 2012 to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and suicide prevention among correction officers (COs). My father was a CO for 22 years and he committed suicide at the age of 46. After his death, I discovered that COs are 39% more likely that any other occupation to commit suicide. The average life expectancy for a CO is only 57 years.¹ This realization was the impetus for founding the On Guard Initiative. Our goal is to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and suicide prevention among COs.

2. How are you working toward your goal?

We have had two 5k road races raising around $17,000. We will use these funds to establish support groups for COs and their families. Funds raised will also go towards providing a child of a CO with a $1,000 college scholarship.

3. What is next for On Guard?

We are planning a Family Fun Day for COs and their Families for the end of the summer. Additionally, I will be an invited speaker at the National Correction Officer Medal of Honor Conference in Nashville, TN in November! I will be giving a 15 minute presentation to over 500 COs and Department of Corrections employees from across the US.

4. What are your thoughts on Health Studies?

Declaring Health Studies as my major was probably one of the best decisions I could have made for my career. The classes were very interesting. I really loved how you can declare a minor or a double major. Being able to declare a Psychology major allowed me to engage in classes that I was really interested in and that I could also apply to my Health Studies classes.

5. What advice would you give to students considering majoring in Health Studies?

If you are considering being in the health field, I think Health Studies is an ideal path to take. It gives you the freedom to choose classes that you’re truly interested in, also while giving you skills that will help you in your career. It is an extremely practical and comprehensive major that will teach you skills that will benefit you in whatever you choose to do in the future.

http://www.onguardinitiative.org

¹ Desert Waters - Depression, PTSD, and Comorbidity in United States Corrections Professionals, 2013.
Student Spotlight: Internship Experiences

Lynly JeanLouis, Class of 2014
Providence, RI

1. Where and with whom did you do your internship?

I completed my internship as a Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Investment intern within the Community Relations Department. Carolyn Belisle, Managing Director of Community Relations, was my supervisor.

2. What did you like best about your internship experience?

I loved that my internship provided me with the opportunity to work with various health care organizations in Rhode Island giving me excellent real world experience.

3. How do your internship and classroom experiences complement one another?

My classroom experience went hand-in-hand with my internship activities. I felt well prepared with the necessary skills needed to complete various projects and healthcare initiatives within my department.

4. What advice would you give another student who is thinking about doing an internship?

Make the most of your internship! Ask questions and don’t be afraid to put yourself in an uncomfortable situation. I made sure to try to accompany my director to as many meetings as possible as well as participate in all our department events.

5. What are your thoughts on Health Studies?

Anyone interested in the non-clinical side of healthcare, Health Studies is the major for you. You will leave URI with a well-rounded education that touches upon all aspects of the healthcare industry.

I love the diverse course list that students are able to choose from within their concentrations. This independence allows students to structure their education in a way that appeals to their interest and prepares them for the real world.

I absolutely loved majoring in Health Studies. The course work is exciting and relevant to what you will experience in the work force!
Student Spotlight: Research Experiences

Duncan Stiller, Class of 2014
Seattle WA

1. What was your research project and with whom did you work?

Dr. Kathleen Gorman (Psychology) was my mentor. My project had three components. First, I completed an extensive literature review to gain an understanding of malnutrition in the developing world.

Next, I completed a practical learning experience during which I went to the Edesia, a non-profit organization in Providence, RI that produces a variety of products to combat malnutrition, specifically in children. I visited the factory and interviewed their director of operations to learn more about what they do.

The final portion of my project was the synthesis of everything I have done up to this point. I took the information from my literature review, factory tour/interview, and conversations with my advisor, and tried to figure out why so many children are starving. Obviously, that is a very challenging question to answer, but what I found is that it is NOT a lack of food. We [the entire world] produce enough food for about 12 billion people, which is close to twice the world's population. The problem is that of access and distribution. This problem is affected by politics, climate (and climate change), poverty, and simple geography.

2. What did you gain from this experience?

This project was perfect for my major. Since Health Studies is interdisciplinary, I knew that I needed to step outside of my familiar area of knowledge and do something new, but related. What I found is that malnutrition is completely entangled with public health in developing countries, especially infectious disease. This project served as the perfect capstone to my degree.

3. What advice would you give to other Health Studies students?

My advice is to: 1) join the honors program if they are eligible and 2) don't be afraid to step outside of their academic comfort zone.
Intersections Between Business and Health Symposium

This past March, Health Studies in partnership with the College of Business sponsored a symposium, *Intersections Between Business and Health*, to highlight interesting careers that emerge when unique disciplines intersect. The panel was moderated by Ed Quinlan, President, Hospital Association of Rhode Island and Health Studies External Advisory Board member.

The panelists included: Candice Fioravanti, Manager & Health Coach at Provant Health and Health Studies External Advisory Board member; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Founder, Shape Up Rhode Island; Bryan Liese, Lean Six Sigma Project Manager, South County Hospital, and Thomas Magliocchetti, Vice President of Facilities Management, Rhode Island Hospital.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this exciting event. Keep tuned for future events!

Internal Advisory Board Members

- Sue Adams, Human Development & Family Services
- Stephanie Champlin, Health Studies/Kinesiology
- Phil Clark, Gerontology
- Geoff Greene, Nutrition
- Anne Hubbard, General Studies (Feinstein Providence Campus)
- Steve Kogut, Pharmacy Practice
- Kathy Meier, URI Cancer Prevention Research Center
- Patricia Morokoff, Psychology
- Ellen Reynolds, URI Health Services
- Deb Riebe, Kinesiology
- Andrea Rusnock, History
- Abran Salazar, Communication Studies
- Donna Schwartz-Barcott, Nursing
- Alison Tovar, Nutrition
- Tony Wheeler, URI Labor Research Center

Thank you to our Internal Advisory Board Members, who generously donate their time to guide this program, as well as provide the high quality educational and research foundation from which we will launch the next generation of health professionals.

To learn more about Health Studies, please visit the web site: http://www.uri.edu/hss/health/


9. **Clark, P. G.** (2013). Professional Narratives, Patient-centered care, and interprofessional practice: why storytelling is essential in teamwork. Presentation at Brown University School of Medicine, Course on Leadership in the Health Professions, Providence, RI, September 17.


42. Regine M, Kogut S. A Markov Model to Assess the Incremental Cost Effectiveness Ratio for Optimal Statin Utilization as Compared with Current Use: An Analysis of Medicaid Beneficiaries Having Type 2 Diabetes. Value in Health. 2013. 16(3):A163


