

WELLSPRING

College of Health and Social Sciences Newsletter

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Mtika and Community Development

Dr. Mike Mtika (Chair of the Department of Social Transformation and Sociology Professor) published "Individuals, Structures, and Human Agency in Community Development" in *On Knowing Humanity Journal* 5(1), January 2021. He enjoyed writing this article based on research undertaken in rural Malawi. He argues that community development facilitators ought to consider identifying creative individuals in a community, enhancing their agency, and organizing around them what has been



Mike Mtika with a Food Security Beneficiary in Malawi

termed "communities of learning and practice". These communities of learning and practice become social pillars not only for community development but also in the spreading of the Good News. This is being done through Pamoza International, an organization that was started through Eastern University students who went with him to rural Malawi and got into putting their faith, reason, and justice knowledge into practice. The organization sees its Facilitators as Christian Outreach and Community Development Facilitators as they are involved in both spreading the gospel and facilitating community development.

The MSN Nurse Educator Program

Both MSN Nurse Educator program graduates, Eden Dodd and Jacqueline Raco will be presenting their capstone project posters *Let's Talk: Giving Caregivers of Adolescents Tools to Facilitate Conversations about Mental Health* and *I Want to Speak to the School Nurse Now: Teaching School Nurses De-escalation Techniques through Simulation*, as part of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society's Rising Stars of Research and Scholarship presentations at the Creating Healthy Work Environments Conference, held virtually on February 18-21, 2021.

PEP Helps With Care Packages

In support of the Mennonite Central Committee, the Center for Community Engagement & Prison Education Program participated in packing care kits for people in Philly prisons. Persons prepared the packages at home and dropped them off in an outdoor bin at the City Avenue location. Kits included underwear, lotion, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, undershirts, and feminine hygiene products--items that are not automatically provided to people in Philly facilities.



Publications and Presentations

Fitzgerald, P. (February, 2021) *Multiple Modality Simulation: Building More than A Hands-On Experience (a research study in development)*. The Society of Simulation in Healthcare's IMSH 2021 Annual Conference.

Johnson, K. and Banfield, L. (December, 2020) *Investing in Returns (a reentry workshop)*. The Philanthropy Network Sparx Conference.

Mtika, M. (2020), "Sustaining Food Security in Agrarian Households." Chapter 6 in *Advances in Sociology Research*, vol. 30 NOVA Publishers.

Turner, Y. (December, 2020) "Supporting LGBTQ clients: Spectrums of Sexuality." Keynote speaker for the Delaware County Professional Services Conference.

Alumni Spotlight

After graduating with a BS in Biology in 2018, alumnus **Kadeem Colburn** was involved with post-baccalaureate studies at the University of Pittsburgh. This fall he will be returning to the Philadelphia area to pursue Dental Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania.

Faculty of the Month for January



Melissa Snyder and Patrizia Fitzgerald in recognition of the faithful diligence over break to place the final touches on the MSN self-study for program accreditation in March.

Faculty of the Month February



Tracey Greenwood and Doug Horton in appreciation of continued perseverance and adaptability in maintaining a successful department and programs amid ever-changing expectations.

Say "Hello!" To Ashley Wiley

Please welcome Ashley Wiley. Ashley is the Academic Quality Specialist and Assistant Program Coordinator for the MS Data Science Program. Originally from York County, Ashley has spent the last 10 years at Penn State at the Mont Alto Campus, where she started out as a professional tutor and then later became a full time math professor. Ashley is from York Pa but has lived in Chambersburg Pa for the last 10 years with her husband who she met here at Eastern while they were completing their undergraduate degrees.

When not working, Ashley enjoys reading, crafting, and learning the piano. She's also a big fan of The Office. She loves to spend time with family (and her church family). She and her husband LOVE to play board games. (Fun fact: They own over 160 different games.) She and her husband also have their first, long awaited for, baby boy due in June. Welcome, Ashley!



A Message from the Dean, Trish Reger

As I write this, the sun is shining, snow is melting, and the eyes on the faces around campus are brighter! (I would normally reference smiles on faces but...). Despite the ongoing challenges brought on by the pandemic, the promise of spring brings new hope, new energy, and renewed excitement for what lies ahead. As evidenced in this newsletter, our faculty, staff, students, and alumni, continue to excel in areas of teaching and learning, scholarship, and service. Through their ongoing efforts, I am continually amazed and encouraged by the resiliency and generosity of the human spirit. I have also been reminded that perhaps more than any other college at Eastern University, CHS is well-positioned to consider and address big questions in the wake of COVID-19, specifically those related to health care and policy, medical research, and mental health.

To continue our record of achievement, we need the ongoing support of our community, now more than ever. There is no better time to get involved with the College of Health and Sciences. Here is how you can help:

- ◇ Mentor a student or recent graduate.
- ◇ Provide writing or tutoring support for classmate.
- ◇ Create an internship for a student.
- ◇ Hire a recent graduate.
- ◇ Introduce us to alumni we need to know.
- ◇ Spread the story of the College of Health and Sciences to others, personally and/or on social media.
- ◇ Participate in the Day of Giving

I look forward to connecting with you at one of the many upcoming virtual events hosted by our College or our individual academic programs. Thank you for your continued partnership in our quest to educate the next generation of leaders who enact change and impact lives.