Summer 2007
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News & Events from Summer 2007

**Aline Gubrium to participate in the NIH Summer Institute**

The National Institutes of Health has selected Aline Gubrium to participate in their Design and Development of community-Based Participatory Research in Health to take place at the University of Chicago, July 8-13, 2007.

**Clarkson named Dean of Commonwealth College.**

Priscilla M. Clarkson has been named the new dean of Commonwealth College, according to Charlena M. Seymour, provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Clarkson has served as interim dean at Commonwealth College since 2006. She was also named Distinguished Professor in March 2007 and was associate dean in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences from 1994 to 2006 with responsibility for research for the School of Nursing from 2005-06. From 2003-06, Clarkson served as director of the Baystate-UMass Collaborative Biomedical Research Program. She has been a member of the faculty since 1977.

Seymour says Clarkson is ideally suited to lead Commonwealth College. “Priscilla Clarkson has a long and distinguished history of academic achievement, research and collaboration on the Amherst campus and will bring her experience and skills to this very important academic and administrative post,” Seymour says. “She also has earned three degrees from UMass Amherst and has used them to develop an internationally recognized career as a scientist.”

Clarkson says she is pleased to accept the appointment and the challenges it presents. “I look forward to working with Commonwealth College’s first-rate staff and faculty to create a new vision that will attract academically talented students from all backgrounds. It is an exciting opportunity to help these highly motivated students develop the scholarship, creativity, citizenship and leadership skills necessary to address the complex problems of society.”
A fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), Clarkson has served as its national president and vice president, a member of its board of trustees and as president of the ACSM Foundation.

Clarkson has supported her research with $4 million in external funding, including grants from the National Institutes of Health, Christopher Reeve Foundation, Medinova, Inc., Quaker Oats Company, Proctor and Gamble, and Whitehall Laboratories.

The major focus of her research is on the responses of human skeletal muscles to environmental challenges such as overexertion exercise that results in muscle damage or disuse that leads to atrophy. She has also studied aspects of sports nutrition. Clarkson has published more than 160 scientific articles and has given numerous national and international research presentations. She is editor-in-chief of *Exercise and Sports Science Reviews*, currently sits on the editorial and advisory boards of several other journals, and was editor of the *International Journal of Sport Nutrition and Exercise Metabolism* for eight years.

Clarkson is also interested in ballet and has co-written and co-edited books on dance medicine.

She has served as a scientific advisor to the International Life Sciences Institute and was a member of a science working group at NASA, which developed labs for the International Space Station. She was also an advisor to the National Space Biomedical Research Institute and served on a panel appointed by the governor to recommend changes in police training to prevent cases of rhabdomyolysis leading to kidney failure. Clarkson also served on the NCAA Competitive and Medical Safeguards Committee, the National Commission on Sports and Substance Abuse, and on the panel of the Committee on Military Nutrition at the Institute of Medicine. Clarkson is currently a member of the Gatorade Sports Science Institute’s research review board.

In 2005, she received the National ACSM Honor Award and was one of 12 Amherst campus faculty recognized with the new Award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research and Creative Activity. Her other honors include a Chancellor’s Medal as a Distinguished Faculty Lecturer, the ACSM Citation Award, the New England ACSM Honor Award and an Excellence in Education Award from the Gatorade Sports Science Institute.

Clarkson earned her bachelor’s degree in Zoology in 1969, her master’s degree in Zoology/Marine Science in 1973 and her doctorate in Exercise Science/Human Movement in 1977.

Kinesiology Researcher wins Fellowship from Foundation for Physical Therapy

Michael Tevald, a postdoctoral research associate in the Kinesiology Department, has won the 2007 New Investigator Fellowship Training Initiative fellowship from the Foundation for Physical Therapy.

Tevald has received $78,000 to support his research project “In Vivo Skeletal Muscle Oxidative Capacity and Physical Function in Older Humans.” The project is designed to investigate the relationship between impaired oxidative capacity and physical function in older subjects. Tevald hopes to lay the foundation for future studies to develop interventions that reverse this impairment and potentially improve physical function in the elderly.

“It is clear from the application that Michael is well-positioned to take full advantage of this fellowship opportunity to launch a stellar research career,” said foundation president and chair Richard Shields.

The purpose of the fellowship is to support post-doctoral researchers and new faculty in a mentored research experience as they begin their careers. Tevald will be mentored by Jane Kent-Braun, professor of Kinesiology and director of the Muscle Physiology Lab.

The Foundation for Physical Therapy was established in 1979 as a national, independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to improving the quality of patient care through supporting scientifically based and clinically relevant physical therapy research.


Clarkson awarded grant from the Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research

SPRINGFIELD - The Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research (CEAR) interdisciplinary postdoctoral fellows program has awarded a grant to University of Massachusetts Amherst professors Todd Emrick, polymer science and engineering, and Priscilla Clarkson, kinesiology. Their project is "Novel polymers for transfection of myoblasts and myotubes: Development of new tools for treatment of muscular dystrophy."

Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy is a disease characterized by degeneration and death of muscle fibers caused by a mutation in the dystrophin gene. Emrick and Clarkson’s study is aimed at developing novel synthetic polymers, which may allow the re-introduction of the extremely large dystrophin gene into muscle precursor cells to treat the disorder.

The CEAR Interdisciplinary Postdoctoral Fellowship Program encourages scientists, engineers and physicians to develop novel research programs that require expertise in two or more disciplines. The program’s goal is to stimulate research at the boundaries between disparate
fields in order to develop new insights and applications. The CEAR grants support a postdoctoral scientist for one year with the possibility of two, one-year extensions. “At a time when collaboration among life scientists, physical scientists and engineers is increasingly important to biomedical research, we are pleased to support interdisciplinary efforts that take advantage of UMass Amherst’s strengths and prepare young scientists to work across traditional boundaries,” says Lawrence Schwartz, science director at the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute and director of CEAR.

The Center of Excellence in Apoptosis Research is part of the Pioneer Valley Life Sciences Institute. CEAR’s membership includes 45 researchers from the Institute, Baystate Medical Center and UMass Amherst. Apoptosis, or programmed cell death, is a genetic program resident in all of our cells that allows the body to effectively dispose of defective or surplus cells. Aberrations in apoptosis have been estimated to play a role in approximately 70 percent of human disease including cancer, autoimmune disorders and cardiovascular disease. The John Adams Innovation Institute of the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative supports CEAR’s innovative programs.

About the Pioneer Valley Life Science Institute (PVLSI)
PVLSI was created in 2002 as a joint venture of Baystate Medical Center and the University of Massachusetts Amherst with the dual missions of biomedical research and economic development. Drawing on each of the founders as well as its own researchers, the Institute brings together physicians, scientists, and engineers to create interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary teams focused on the molecular mechanisms of disease and the development of new diagnostic and therapeutic tools. For more information, go to www.pvlsi.org.

Professor Buchanan was a keynote speaker at the 25th meeting for the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) held in Seattle, WA on June 7-9, 2007.
News & Events from Spring 2007

**David Buchanan and Lisa Wexler, Public Health receive a spring 2007 Research Leadership in Action grant from the Vice Provost of Research**

UMass Amherst Vice Provost for Research Awards Spring 2007 Research Leadership in Action Grants

AMHERST, Mass. – Seven faculty members at the University of Massachusetts Amherst have received a total of $43,000 from the university’s vice provost for research through the Spring 2007 Research Leadership in Action grant competition. Funds will be used as program support for conferences to be held at UMass Amherst in 2007 and 2008.

Recipients include Sonia Alvarez, political science ($25,000), David Buchanan and Lisa Wexler, public health ($5,000), Wayne Burleson and Sandip Kundu, electrical and computer engineering ($3,000), Sarina Ergas, civil and environmental engineering ($5,000) and Massimo Fischetti, electrical and computer engineering ($5,000).

Recipients will organize and host the following conferences to be held at UMass Amherst: **David Buchanan and Lisa Wexler** will host “Post-Colonial Prospects for Indigenous Circumpolar Peoples: Research Priorities in Alaska, Canada, Norway, Greenland and Russia.” The conference, tentatively scheduled for March 2008, will present current findings and lay out a research agenda to identify cultural resources that will help reduce disproportionate rates of suicide and alcohol and substance abuse in these countries.

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**Clarkson Gives Wolfe Lecture at ACSM Meeting May 30, 2007**

Priscilla Clarkson, professor of Kinesiology and interim dean of Commonwealth College, delivered the Joseph B. Wolfe Memorial Lecture on May 30 during the American College of Sports Medicine’s annual meeting in New Orleans.
The title of her lecture was “Muscle Soreness: Cause, Consequence and Cure.”

The Wolffe Lecture is the keynote address opening the conference attended by more than 4,500 participants.

Please help us all in congratulating several students in the Kinesiology Department for their remarkable work and research.

Ryan Chang received a $2000 student grant from the International Society of Biomechanics (ISB).
  Title: A Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Plantar Fasciitis.

Anita Christie received a $5000 student grant from the American College of Sports Medicine.
  Title: Factors Affecting Maximal Motor Unit Discharge Rate.

Robert Hydahl received a $5000 student grant from the American College of Sports Medicine.
  Title: SENP1, A Possible Novel Regulator of Muscle Atrophy.

Ryan Larsen received a $4,913 student grant from the American College of Sports Medicine.
  Title: In Vivo Oxidative Capacity in Young and Older Individuals.

Nina Moore received a $5000 student grant from the American College of Sports Medicine.
  Title: The Role of Zinc and Metallothioneins During Atrophy.

Ross Miller received a $863 student grant from the American Society of Biomechanics (ASB).
  Title: A Subject-specific Musculoskeletal Model of the Iliotibial Tract.

Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson is awarded $868,000 grant

Researcher Elizabeth Bertone-Johnson has received a five-year, $868,857 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institutes of Health to study women’s mental health, with special emphasis on premenstrual syndrome and the role vitamin D may play in counteracting its effects on women.

Bertone-Johnson is an associate professor of biostatistics and epidemiology in the Department of Public Health within the School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

Current estimates are that up to 90 percent of pre-menopausal women regularly experience psychological and/or physical symptoms prior to the onset of their monthly menstrual period. While the symptoms are mild in most women, between 8 percent and 20 percent experience symptoms that meet the clinical definition of premenstrual syndrome (PMS) that substantially
interferes with normal life activities and interpersonal relationships.

Premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD), experienced by 5 percent to 8 percent of women, is a more extreme form of PMS in which psychological symptoms predominate. Currently available treatments for PMS and PMDD are not effective in many women and have substantial side effects. It is therefore important to identify ways to prevent the initial development of PMS and PMDD, Bertone-Johnson says.

“Previous work by our research group suggested that high dietary intake of vitamin D and calcium may substantially reduce a woman’s risk of developing PMS,” Bertone-Johnson says. “This new research grant will allow us to further investigate the role of vitamin D, calcium and parathyroid hormone in the development of PMS and PMDD.”

Bertone-Johnson and her research team will study the relationship between blood levels of these biochemical factors and risk of these disorders in the Nurses’ Health Study II, an ongoing prospective study of more than 117,000 women. They will also assess whether several genetic factors may be involved in the development of PMS and PMDD.

This research will contribute to a greater understanding of the role of biochemical and genetic factors in PMS and PMDD, Bertone-Johnson says. Identification of factors that affect incidence of PMS and PMDD will provide women increased opportunities for modifying their risk of the disorders, with fewer drawbacks than pharmaceutical treatments.

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Dr. Chipkin is Honored by the Massachusetts Medical Society

Waltham, Mass. – May 15– UMass faculty member and Amherst physician Stuart R. Chipkin, M.D. has been honored by the Massachusetts Medical Society with its Committee Chair Service Award, an honor recognizing exceptional leadership and service to the Society. The award will be presented at the Society’s Annual Awards Luncheon, May 17, held as part of the organization's annual meeting at the Seaport Hotel in Boston.

Dr. Chipkin, a research professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Massachusetts School of Public Health and Health Sciences, was recognized for his leadership as chair of the Society's Committee on Nutrition, a committee that focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of nutrition, fitness, and healthy lifestyles. In his two years as chair, Dr. Chipkin has led the Committee in exploring ways to improve obesity prevention and treatment and promote physical activity through policy development and advocacy, media relations and public service advertising. He has also been a mentor to the medical students and residents on the Committee, encouraging working and mentoring relationships between committee members and students and residents interested in the fields of obesity and nutrition.
A board-certified endocrinologist practicing with the Valley Medical Group in Amherst, Dr. Chipkin is also the medical consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Diabetes Control and Prevention Program, is a member of the executive committee of the Diabetes Coalition of Massachusetts, and served as honorary chair (2004-2006) for the American Diabetes Association Walk for Diabetes. His research in the area of diabetes has been funded by regional and national organizations including the National Institutes of Health and his work has appeared in journals including Diabetes Care, the American Journal of Physiology and the American Journal of Medicine.

The Massachusetts Medical Society, with some 18,600 physicians and student members, is dedicated to educating and advocating for the patients and physicians of Massachusetts. The Society publishes The New England Journal of Medicine, one of the world’s leading medical journals; the Journal Watch family of professional newsletters covering 11 specialties; and AIDS Clinical Care. The Society is also a leader in continuing medical education for health care professionals throughout Massachusetts. Founded in 1781, MMS is the oldest continuously operating medical society in the country. For more information, visit http://www.massmed.org

April 19, 2007 - The Board of Higher Education approves the new Undergraduate Degree in Public Health.

A new undergraduate degree program is now offered in the Department of Public Health, leading to a Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Health Sciences. The undergraduate degree in Public Health Sciences is intended to provide students with a broad understanding of the factors that influence the health of populations. The field of public health encompasses a number of sub-disciplines, including community health education, health policy and management, environmental health, epidemiology, and biostatistics. Students may select a track emphasizing either Social Sciences or Natural Sciences to suit their individual interests and career goals. In both tracks, the curriculum is divided into four areas. These include:

1. Quantitative courses
2. Pre-requisite courses
3. Public Health courses
4. Cognate area related to Public Health

For more information about the status of the undergraduate degree in Public Health, please call (413) 545-2526.
Lauren Doscher from Kinesiology and Lily Knowlton from Human Nutrition are winners of the William F. Field Alumni Scholars.

The William F. Field Alumni Scholars Program was established in 1976 to recognize and honor 60 third-year students for their academic achievements at UMass Amherst. The program was named in honor of William F. Field, the university’s first Dean of Students, for his outstanding support of academic excellence and his personal commitment to bringing out the best in every student.

Hermence G. Matsotsa is the recipient of a 2007-2008 U.S. Student Fulbright Fellows Grant

Hermence G. Matsotsa, a graduate student pursuing her MPH in Community Health Education is the recipient of a 2007-2008 U.S Student Fulbright Fellows Grant in St. Lucia. Prior to her enrollment at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Ms. Matsotsa held a position with the Crisis Corps in St. Lucia where she worked as an HIV program facilitator and assisted the Department of Health with the development and training of a behavior change approach to HIV education and health promotion, entitled, Behavior Change and Communication (BCC). During her Fulbright Fellowship, she will be conducting a qualitative analysis of adult male sexual behaviors in St. Lucia. Her research will consists of (a) a qualitative research assessment of the sexual behaviors and social norms of St. Lucian males that place them at risk of HIV infection; and (b) an analysis of existing male gender-specific outreach and educational strategies and approaches found within St. Lucian HIV/AIDS programs.

3rd Annual Kinesiology Graduate Alumni Celebration, April 20, 2007

On Friday, April 20, 2007 The Department of Kinesiology held their third annual graduate alumni celebration. This year we honored Priscilla Clarkson. The celebration was held in the Amherst room, 10th floor Campus Center.

19th Annual Virginia A. Beal Lecture & Dinner, April 25, 2007

Through the generosity of former students, friends, and Professor Emerita Virginia A. Beal, the Department is able to offer the annual Virginia A. Beal Lecture and Dinner, featuring nationally-renowned researchers in nutrition. The event occurs each spring, and attracts alumni, students, dietetics professionals, and friends to an evening of conversation and learning.
Daniel Gerber - Receives 2007 Distinguished Outreach Teaching Award
The Outreach Awards Selection Committee is pleased to announce that they have selected Assistant Professor Daniel S. Gerber to receive the University of Massachusetts Amherst's 2007 Distinguished Outreach Teaching Award.

Professor Gerber is a faculty member of the Community Health Education Program in the School of Public Health.

His contributions and achievements will be recognized at the annual Outreach Awards Reception on April 25th.

We Congratulate on his excellence in teaching and his strong commitment to our students.

Barry Braun - Recipient of the 2006-2007 Distinguished Teaching Award
Please help us in congratulating that Associate Professor Braun as he is recognized by both faculty and students for his efforts to advance the teaching mission of this university.

Professor Braun is a faculty member of the Kinesiology Program in the School of Public Health.

He will be recognized at both the Graduate and Undergraduate Commencement Ceremonies.

Liz Bertone-Johnson - 2007 College Outstanding Teacher
The School Curriculum Committee announces that Associate Professor Elizabeth R. Bertone-Johnson has been selected unanimously as the 2007 Outstanding Teacher for the School of Public Health and Health Sciences. Professor Bertone-Johnson is a faculty member of the Biostatistics and Epidemiology Program in the Department of Public Health. Congratulations on her excellence in teaching.

Priscilla Clarkson named Distinguished Professor
Priscilla Clarkson, professor of Kinesiology and interim dean of Commonwealth College, has been appointed a Distinguished Professor by President Jack Wilson. The appointment was approved March 14 by the Board of Trustees.

Clarkson was recommended for the honor by Chancellor John V. Lombardi and Charlena Seymour, provost and senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, who called her “an international leader” in the areas of exercise-induced muscle damage and repair and the genetic underpinnings of muscle growth and atrophy. The chancellor and
provost also praised her as an “excellent role model for both students and faculty” and for service to her profession.

A member of the faculty since 1977, she served as associate dean of the School of Public Health and Health Sciences for 12 years before being appointed interim dean of Commonwealth College last year.

The author of three books, Clarkson has also written more than 200 articles for leading professional publications such as the *Journal of Physiology*, *Journal of Applied Physiology*, *Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise* and the *European Journal of Applied Physiology*. She has also presented her research at nearly 350 regional, national and international meetings.

Clarkson has supported her research with $4 million in external funding, including grants from the Christopher Reeve Foundation, Medinova, Inc., Quaker Oats Company, Proctor and Gamble, and Whitehall Laboratories.

She is a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM), the preeminent international association in sports medicine, and has held several leadership posts in the group, including president (2000) and vice president (1994-96).

In 2005, Clarkson received ACSM’s Honor Award, its highest recognition, and this year was chosen to deliver the JN Wolfe Lecture, the keynote address of the association’s international meeting.

On campus, she was recognized in 2005 with an award for Outstanding Accomplishments in Research or Creative Activity. Clarkson received the Chancellor’s Medal as a Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in 1997.


*Idali Torres, named Acting Assistant Dean for Practice & Outreach*

Professor M. Idali Torres has agreed to serve as Acting Assistant Dean for Practice and Outreach until Associate Dean Priscilla Clarkson returns from her assignment as Dean of Commonwealth College. Idali will work closely with Risa Silverman on matters relating to community and state partnerships/connections/activities and on the activation of the Office of Practice & Outreach. Room 125 Arnold will be the location for this Office.
Chasan-Taber to study how exercise can help prevent recurring gestational diabetes

Lisa Chasan-Taber, associate professor of Epidemiology, is launching a study of the effects of exercise programs on pregnant women with a history of gestational diabetes – a condition triggered by pregnancy that puts them at higher risk of developing type 2 diabetes later in life.

A five-year, $2.24 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) will fund a team of researchers headed by Chasan-Taber that is investigating the effects of a motivationally tailored, individually targeted 12-week physical activity program on risk of recurrent gestational diabetes (GDM) among women with a history of the condition.

“Focusing on women who have had gestational diabetes provides us with an excellent opportunity to intervene years before the development of type 2 diabetes,” Chasan-Taber says. “Pregnancy is a special time for women when they may be interested in adopting new behaviors. This new study builds upon our current work studying the causes of gestational diabetes and moves forward into preventing the consequences of this disease. This is particularly important as the prevalence of diabetes continues to rise worldwide.”

Chasan-Taber will work with Edward J. Stanek III, professor of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, and associate professor Barry S. Braun and assistant professor David Marquez of Kinesiology. They will enroll and follow 364 prenatal care patients from Baystate Medical Center in Springfield. Investigators from Brown University will also be involved in the design and administration of the intervention.

This study builds upon a five-year grant Chasan-Taber currently has, also from the NIH/NIDDK which studies how physical activity and psychosocial stress affect the risk of GDM among Latinas.

The goals of this latest proposal also include encouraging pregnant women to achieve the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) guidelines for physical activity during pregnancy (30 minutes or more of moderate-intensity activity on most days of the week) through increasing walking and developing a more active lifestyle.

Past News Events from 2006

Dr. Patty Freedson Appointed to President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Science Board

Dr. Patty Freedson has been appointed to the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports (PCPFS) Science Board. Dr. Freedson was selected to serve on this board due to the significant contributions she has made to the research and science of physical activity, fitness and health. Dec. 2006

The Research Council has completed its Fall 2006 round of recommendations for the combined Healy/Faculty Research Grants.

The School of Public Health and Health Sciences is proud to announce that four of its new faculty have been awarded 2006 Faculty Research Grants and congratulates them for excellent work during the transition to campus. The faculty and their projects are: Aline Gubrium, Community Health Studies Culture and health Narratives by Women on Depo Provera; Hiromi Gunshin, Nutrition Molecular Approaches to Understanding Intestinal Heme Iron Absorption in Mice, Melissa Troester, Epidemiology TP53-Dependent Gene Expression Responses to Environmental Toxicants, and Lisa Wexler, Community Health Studies Using Photovoice to Investigate Cultural Resilience in the Lives of Inupiat Young People: Is it Feasible and Suitable. These projects were selected for their merit as well as their potential to provide data leading to future external research funding. These four faculty also combine to bring considerable honor to the School as the largest single recipient of funding from the 2006 round of awards.

Torres named to Patrick’s transition team

M. Idali Torres, associate professor of Community Health Education in the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, has been appointed to Governor-elect Deval Patrick’s transition team. She will serve on a health care working group. Torres, who lives in Springfield, specializes in sexual health education, HIV prevention and Latino health issues. Before joining the faculty in 1992, she worked on community health projects focused on the Latino communities of Holyoke and Springfield. November 28, 2006.
SPHHS & SON Host talk by Gloria Feldt, former President of Planned Parenthood

Gloria Feldt, former President of Planned Parenthood, spoke on “Sexual and Reproductive Justice: A Public Health Imperative” at the University of Massachusetts Amherst Thursday, Nov. 16, 2006. The talk was sponsored by the SPHHS Center for Research and Education in Women’s Health, the School of Public Health and Health Sciences, the School of Nursing and the Women’s Studies Department. Feldt is the author of Behind every Choice Is a Story and The War on Choice. She has been called “the voice of experience” by People Magazine. Feldt discussed the imperative today for bold public health leadership to protect our advances and assure access to sexual and reproductive health services for all people.

Cunningham Named Interim Dean of School of Public Health and Health Sciences

John Cunningham, deputy provost at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, has been named interim dean of the campus’ School of Public Health and Health Sciences.

His appointment, which was announced May 12 by Charlena Seymour, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic affairs, is effective July 1.

Cunningham, who is a professor in the nutrition department, is expected to lead the school for up to two years, when a national search for a permanent dean will be conducted, said Seymour.

As interim dean, Cunningham will be responsible for leading the school’s planning initiatives, spearheading fund-raising activities and shepherding the school through its upcoming re-accreditation process.

SPHHS has 41 tenure-system faculty, 570 undergraduate and more than 400 graduate students in the departments of public health, communication disorders, exercise science and nutrition. The school also offers a distance learning master of public health degree. The Center for Nutrition in Sport and Human Performance, Center for Research and Education in Women’s Health and the Northeast Regional Environmental Public Health Center are headquartered in SPHHS.
Cunningham was appointed deputy provost in 1999 after serving nearly three years as faculty advisor to the provost. He was also acting director of the Bachelor’s Degree with Individual Concentration program in 1996-97.

A member of the faculty since 1986, he was head of the nutrition department from 1989-94 and co-director of the nutritional support service at the Shriners Burn Institute from 1986-94.

Assistant Professor Sarah F. Poissant of Communication Disorders has been awarded a 2 year, $156,792 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH).