

# PREVENTION SCIENCE

Graduate Programs Newsletter

Spring 2024, Vol 4, Issue 3

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Jacqueline (Jacky) Fuentes**, an alum of our first PREV MED cohort and Counseling Psychology PhD student at the University of Georgia, just defended her dissertation - *El Derecho de Permanecer: Amplifying the Voices of the Working-Class Latinxs Experiencing Housing Displacement*. Congratulations Jacky!

Congratulations to PREV alum **Maggie Osa**, along with two of our PREV faculty members (Nichole Kelly and Elizabeth Budd), on their recent publication on reducing weight stigma!

Kelly, N. R., Osa, M. L., Luther, G., Guidinger, C., Folger, A., Williamson, G., Esquivel, J., & Budd, E. L. (2024). Preliminary evaluation of a brief worksite intervention to reduce weight stigma and weight bias internalization. *Evaluation and Program Planning*, 104, 102434.



## ALUM SPOTLIGHT

**Anna Cahn, PhD, RDN** (pictured above, far right)

**Anna Cahn** earned her PhD in Prevention Science in 2021 (PREV MS in 2020). She is also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist (RDN). Anna is currently an Assistant Professor in the Food Science and Nutrition Department at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Her main responsibilities are to teach undergraduate and graduate nutrition classes, perform research, and serve the department, college, university, and the profession of dietetics. The classes she teaches range from Introduction to Human Nutrition to Community Nutrition. She advises students both at the undergraduate and graduate level in their research experiences and studies. Anna also performs prevention, wellness, and nutrition research, including projects related to cancer prevention for wildland firefighters, and the utilization of beef to increase whole grain consumption for children and emerging adults. She continues to volunteer professionally with the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) with the NDTR and RDN entry level exams where she is a professional item writer and is on the exam panel—a position she has been working in for 8+ years.

In April 2024, Anna received the **Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year Award** through the California Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Congratulations Anna!



Congratulations,  
*Graduating Ducks!*

## 2024 COMMENCEMENT

Commencement is on Monday, June 17, and we encourage everyone to attend to congratulate and support their peers! The College of Education's ceremony will be held at 1:00pm on the Knight Library South Lawn. More information can be found [here](#).

## PROGRAM NEWS & UPDATES

Admissions to the Prevention Science program for the 2024-2025 academic year are underway! **Applications for the MS and MED programs are being accepted now through June 30, 2024. Please share our program with colleagues or education departments that may be interested in sharing it with prospective students! <https://education.uoregon.edu/prevsci>**

## GRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM

Congratulations to all our PREV students who presented posters at the 2024 UO Graduate Research Forum!

- **Filip-Bogdan Serban-Dragan**
- **Xiaoqi Ma**
- **Mandi Ward**

Congratulations to 3 of our PREV students who won the 2024 Diversity in Research Leaders for Change Award at this year's UO Graduate Research Forum. Their panel presentation titled "Suicide Prevention Among Vulnerable Populations: Risk and Prevention Strategies in the Youth, Aging, Disability, and Neurodivergent Communities" was selected as the Winner of the Gender or Caregiving Community topic category. Panel members included PREV PhD students **Marielena R. McWhirter Boisen** and **Vivian Koomson**, and PREV MS student **Alyssa Callender** (pictured below).



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## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING,  
GRADUATE STUDENT: **Esmeralda Castro**, PhD student, was just awarded the Graduate Student Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Education. Congratulations Esme!

Congratulations to all our PREV students who presented at the annual Society for Prevention Research Conference in Washington D.C:

- **Filip-Bogdan Serban-Dragan**
- **Lauren Berny**
- **Xiaoqi Ma**
- **Avery Turner**

Congratulations to **Filip B. Serban-Dragan**, MS student, who was on the winning SPR Cup team, Global Fusion: Research United, at this year's SPR Conference!



Congratulations to **Zach Farley** and **Mandi Ward**, current PhD students, on their recent publication.

Farley, Z.S., Ward, M., Giuliani, N.R., Budd, E.L. Physical activity moderates the association between school start time and sleep duration in a cross-sectional national sample of adolescents. *Journal of Activity, Sedentary and Sleep Behaviors*. **3**, 11 (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s44167-024-00050-y>

Congratulations to PhD student **Rebecca Gordon** on her recent publications and presentation.

Gordon, R., Kosty, D., & Khurana, A. (2024). The mediating role of child delay of gratification in the link between early and prolonged poverty exposure and adolescent allostatic load. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 106990.

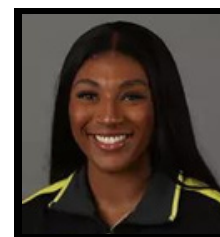
Ruttle, P. L., Jolly, D., DuBois, L. Z., Phan, J. M., Moody, S. N., Gordon, R. E. F., Shirtcliff, E. A. (2024). Hormonal changes during adolescence through a social justice lens. *Reference Module in Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Psychology*. Elsevier. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-323-96023-6.00125-1>

**Jaida Ross**, a PREV MEd student and member of the UO Track & Field team, set the collegiate record (19.71 meters) in the women's shot put in April. She followed that up with wins in both the shot put and discus events at the Pac-12 Championships. In the NCAA Prelims, Jaida broke her own shotput record, throwing for 20.01 meters and becoming the first collegiate woman to surpass 20 meters and only the 5th woman in the world to throw over 20 meters. This past weekend, Jaida also won the NCAA National Championship in the shotput. In the coming weeks, Jaida will be participating in the the US Olympic Trials in June. Congratulations Jaida!



Doctoral candidate, **Lauren Berny**, recently had her research highlighted in an article by Around the O, "[Social connection is a key for youth suicide prevention efforts.](#)" The story was also highlighted on [KGW News](#), a Portland, OR news station.

Congratulations to **Annika Williams**, MEd student, on her 8th place finish in the heptathlon at the NCAA National Championship!



**Audrey Sileci**, a PREV PhD student, received a Graduate Student Research Grant from the [Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies \(CLLAS\)](#) for her work on Miles de Manos (Spanish for "thousands of hands"), a cognitive-behavioral preventive intervention for caregivers and educators that aims to promote child protection in Central America. This grant will allow her to travel to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to conduct focus groups with parents and caregivers to understand the impact of the intervention in their lives and the lives of their families. She is conducting this research with the [Center for Equity Promotion](#).