Two HHP faculty elected to SOPHE Board

This summer, two HHP faculty were selected to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE). Dr. Kelli McCormack Brown, interim dean and professor, was named President. Dr. Jay Bernhardt, chair and professor in the Department of Health Education and Behavior, was named Trustee for Special Initiatives.

SOPHE is a professional organization founded in 1950 to provide global leadership to the profession of health education and health promotion and to promote the health of all people. The organization promotes healthy behaviors, healthy communities, and healthy environments through its membership, its network of local chapters, and its numerous partnerships with other organizations.

Dr. Brijesh Thapa receives grant to examine human-elephant conflict in Nepal

Associate professor in the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management, Dr. Brijesh Thapa, has recently been awarded a research grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Division of International Conservation to examine human-elephant conflict in the Bahundangi village community in eastern Nepal. The project is to create a multi-pronged strategy for mitigation based on current and new initiatives implemented in Bahundangi.

The project aims to fulfill data gaps and develop a system whereby the community is self-reliant to mitigate the conflict in a sustainable manner. The long-term goal of the project is to formulate sustainable solutions in Bahundangi to decrease crop depredation and result in no human or elephant causalities.

Based on the objectives, eight activities have been formulated to be implemented during one year. The activities consist of science-based research activities such as GPS tracking of elephant movement, developing action plans and conflict mitigation frameworks, providing training, education and outreach programs, and advocating for policy at the national and transboundary levels.

Four HHP faculty nominated for the UF Science Communications Academy

As part of an effort to empower scientists to extend the reach of their discoveries to a broader audience, the University of Florida’s Office of Research and the College of Journalism and Communications recently created the UF Science Communications Academy.

This comprehensive science communications program will provide participants with a chance to share their knowledge with colleagues and students and to represent the university and their scientific disciplines in public discussions of discoveries and issues.

The first graduates will represent the university at the joint annual meeting of the National Association of Science Writers and the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing in November 2013.

Dr. Adam Barry (HEB), Dr. Michael Delp (APK), Dr. J.O. Spengler (TRSM), and Dr. David Vaillancourt (APK) were nominated to participate in the academy and to share their research with a large audience of national science writers from outlets including The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Scientific American, NPR, CNN and MSNBC.

TRSM faculty members named HHP International Educators of the Year

In November, Dr. Kiki Kaplanidou and Dr. Yong Jae Ko were selected as the HHP International Educators of the Year.

Hosted annually by the UF International Center (UFIC), the International Educator awards recognized faculty and staff who have “gone above and beyond in their efforts to bring a global perspective onto campus,” according to the UFIC website. Kaplanidou and Ko were recognized at a university-wide reception as part of the 2012 International Education Week celebration.

HHP advisor, student receive recognitions from national health education honorary Eta Sigma Gamma

This fall, Holly Moses was recognized by the national health education honorary, Eta Sigma Gamma (ESG), as the 2012 Faculty Sponsor of the Year. Moses is an academic advisor in the Department of Health Education and Behavior and serves as the faculty advisor for the department’s ESG chapter.

The National Office of ESG selected Moses for her extensive contributions to Eta Sigma Gamma and the health education discipline through her mentoring and professional contributions.

In addition, Sarah Napolitano, a student in Health Education and Behavior and two-time UF ESG president, was named the recipient of ESG’s Founder’s Award from the