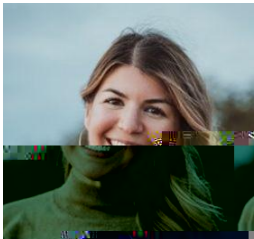


Friday, March 3, 2023

## Dental Hygiene Faculty selected as *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene* magazine's "Six Dental Hygienists You Want to Know"

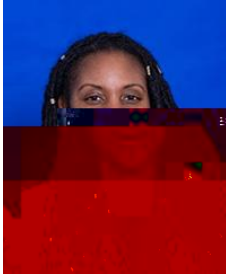


Each year, *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene* recognizes the best and brightest in the dental hygiene profession in their annual "[Six Dental Hygienists You Want to Know](#)." Hygienists are selected for making major impacts in their areas of expertise.



Dr. Mriano advocates that students focus on becoming great clinicians for the first few years in the profession to hone their skills, but get involved in the professional organizations to learn about the bigger picture of the profession such as learning about things like reimbursements, or the differences in practices between state. She said, "There's a progression of learning and only so much you can take in at once."

## Elizabeth Brown, PhD, and The Op-Ed Project



Elizabeth Brown began at ODU as the director of the B.S. Public Health Program in January 2023. She is a Public Voices Fellow with AcademyHealth and The OpEd Project. AcademyHealth is a national organization for health services research. Dr. Brown was one of only 20 researchers selected for the 2022-2023 cohort. Fellows are expected to publish at least two op-eds. [Her first piece, "Use 'racial privilege' —not race —to measure and understand health" was published by Stat News in February.](#)

Her next piece will focus on the similarities between not expanding Medicaid in southern states to the Confederate States of America. She says, "This second op-ed goes back to my policy and healthcare access roots. Essentially, the second op-ed is focused on health policy inaction (not expanding Medicaid) and perpetuating racism." Her goal is to publish this piece around the 13th anniversary of the ACA being signed into law (which was March, 23, 2010.)

She is working with two other fellows on a third piece, which will compare current US policies (leisure, mass incarceration, and education) to how slaves were treated. This piece will have a public health spin and they hope to publish during National Public Health Week.

Her advice for others who are interested in this fellowship: "Go for it! There are required meetings about four times during the fellowship year, but the networking and experience I've gained has been amazing! I've had the greatest mentorship on writing for media." The OpEd Project shops the op-ed pieces around to places for the fellows so the fellows can focus on writing about innovative ways to change the world from an underrepresented voice.

## Mobile Health Clinic to BolstR







In February, public presentations were given by the 2021-2022 School of Public Health Initiative research project awardees. This mechanism was created to develop and support collaborative public health research within and outside ODU. Each PI awardee is an ODU faculty member in the School of Community and Environmental Health, with at least one colleague on their research team outside of ODU.

**Pictured left to right, PI and project title:**

- Mariana Szklo-Coxe, "Refining and Piloting a Sleep Health Promotion Intervention for College Students"
- Michele Kekeh, "Assessing the Experiences and Perceptions of the Impact of COVID-19 on Grandparent Caregivers, Resources, and Family Dynamics: A Qualitative Study"
- Jim Blando, "Identification of Cancer Biomarkers in the Urine of Firefighters exposed to toxic combustion by-products and their Correlation with Chemical Markers of Exposure"
- Hadiza Galadima, "Examining the Role of Neighborhood Characteristics on Geographic Variation in Colorectal Cancer: A Combination of Spatial Analysis, Hierarchical Modeling, and Machine Learning Approaches"
- Craig Becker, PhD, CWP, East Carolina University (presented with Leslie Hoglund)
- Harry Zhang, "Developing a Theoretical Framework to Understand the Perception of WIC Breastfeeding Recommendations"
- Leslie Hoglund, "BeWell'r: Perceived Health Interests of College Students" (presented with Craig Becker, PhD, CWP)

**Not pictured:**

- Anna Jeng, "Assessment of Oxidative Adducts in Sperm Telomeres Induced by Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons"
- Abdullah Al-Ta'iar, "Women's Experience and Perceptions of Virtual Home Visits during COVID-19 Pandemic in BabyCare Program in Chesapeake District"

## Featured Upcoming Events

Spring Break: March 6-11

Medical Laboratory Sciences Blood Drive: March 21

Nuclear Medicine Senior Colloquium: March 30

College of Health Sciences Research Day: April 14

Reading Day: April 25

Exams: April 26 - May 3

Commencement: May 5-6

To add an event to the calendar, contact Tammie Smith at [tsmith@odu.edu](mailto:tsmith@odu.edu). Please include student association events.

## Call for stories

Share your stories about research, grants, teaching success, awards and honors, student success, alumni success, interdisciplinary collaboration, students getting experience in the field, community service,

