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May 16, 2022

## Recognition:

Through the Behavioral and Social Science section, the [Gerontological Society of America](#) (GSA) named **Dr. Jackie Eaton** as one of its newest fellows. Through the Social Research, Policy, and Practice section, the [Gerontological Society of America](#) (GSA) named **Dr. Caroline Stephens** as one of its newest fellows. GSA chooses fellows from across its membership sections, and

Fellow status is the highest category of membership within the Society, acknowledging outstanding and continuing work in gerontology. GSA will formally recognize Caroline and Jackie at the [GSA 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting](#), which will be held November 2-6, 2022 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

**Camille Spute** was nominated for Employee of the Month at Slate Canyon Youth Center. Although ineligible for the award as a College of Nursing rather than Juvenile Justice System employee, Camille was nominated because of her ongoing commitment to Slate Canyon. The person who nominated Camille, indicated that Camille works tirelessly to ensure that the medical needs of the youth are met. For example, she has gone into work on weekends and off-hours to assist with urgent medical concerns. Camille's knowledge and "get it done" attitude is admirable. She is the "defibrillator" for the Slate Canyon Youth Center, keeping the heart of the facility pumping.

### Grant Awards:

**Jacqueline Kent-Marvick**, PhD student and T32 pre-doctoral fellow (2019-2021), received a three-year F31 fellowship from [NIH National Institute of Nursing Research](#) in the amount of \$117,112 for her project titled *Examining Associations between Social Network Characteristics, Obesity-Related Health Behaviors, and Weight Retention among Racially/Ethnically Diverse Postpartum Women*. She will explore the associations between postpartum social networks and diet, activity, and postpartum weight retention (PPWR) by 1) quantitatively investigating how diet, activity, and PPWR at 1-year postpartum are associated with structural and functional features of social networks among a sample of racially/ethnically diverse women, 2) qualitatively exploring mothers' perceptions about the influence of their social networks on weight-related health behaviors and PPWR, and 3) triangulating qualitative and quantitative data using an explanatory sequential mixed methods design. Jacqueline's mentors include primary mentor **Dr. Sara Simonsen**, co-mentor Dr. Kayla de le Haye, sponsor **Dr. Kristin Cloyes**, and advisor **Dr. Bob Wong**.

The **Caring Connections Team** received a \$10,000 Project grant from the [Sorenson Legacy Foundation](#), and a \$1,000 project grant from the Williamsen Family Foundation to fund development of a clinician training program in Prolonged Grief Group Therapy.

### Presentations:

Utah Geriatric Education Consortium faculty and staff presented at the [American Geriatrics Society 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Orlando, Florida.

- **Stephens C**, Flint L, Baraldi C, **Utz R**, **Mooney K**, Rajeev D, **McClure M**, **Barrientos P**, **Goodwin R**, **Edelman L**. *What a Difference A Pandemic Makes! Nursing Home Stakeholder Telehealth Utilization & Perceptions During the COVID-19 Pandemic Informs Palliative Care Telehealth Intervention Development*. Poster presentation.

- **Stephens C, McClure M, Barrientos P, Goodwin R, Edelman L.** *"Your heart goes black:" The Emotional Toll of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Nursing Home Staff.* Poster presentation.
- **Savage K, Chow MC,** Butler J, **Towsley GL, Edelman LS.** *COVID – Another Blow to LTSS Nursing Workforce Challenges.* Poster presentation.
- Carrico C, McKibbin C, Bennett K, Brunner C, Thompson K, Caprio TV, Faul A. *ECHO in Action: Impact, Barriers, and Lessons Learned Across Six Age-Friendly Geriatric ECHOs.* Paper and poster presentation. The Utah Geriatric Education Consortium (UGEC) was a contributing Extension for Community HealthCare Outcomes site, and **Jacqueline Telonidis** represented the UGEC for these presentations.

College of Nursing faculty presented at the [2022 Symposium: A To Z Equity & Inclusion in Sex, Gender, & Women's Health](#). **Dr. Sara Simonsen** Introduced the Equity and Inclusion session, which included the following presentations:

- **Dr. Deanna Kepka** presented *Vaccine Access and Hesitancy*.
- **Dr. Andrea Wallace** presented *Social Determinants, Risks, and Needs – Implications for Promoting Health, Equity, and Inclusion*.
- **Dr. Valerie Flattes** presented *Disproportionate Impact of a Pandemic on Women and Underserved Communities*.

## In the Media:

[Forbes](#) named the University of Utah Health one of the best employers for diversity in 2022. U of U Health ranks 41<sup>st</sup> out of 500 recognized organizations in the nation—up from 98<sup>th</sup> in 2021—and is also the only health care provider from the state of Utah to receive the designation. “We know that to provide the highest quality of care for everyone, we must value a workplace that is diverse, with people from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences who can contribute to the most comprehensive care for our patients,” said José Rodríguez, Associate Vice President for Health Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at U of U Health. “Even with this recognition, we know we have employees from underrepresented backgrounds who still don’t feel seen or heard, and we will never stop our work until everyone in our organization feels valued,” Rodríguez added.