Joella really got our Division ready and functioning for telework. She was with me until the bitter end on March 13th in the office and has continued her magnificent support since. Thanks to Joella we have great virtual happy hours and are able to continue to connect.

You the bomb Joella!
Kudos to Laura Seipp!

Thank you for listening and being a great friend and co-worker. I would not have kept my sanity without you. You are always supportive, understanding, and encouraging and for that, I am grateful.

Laura Seipp
Thanks to Jon Shinnick for the great care he gives the Epidemiology and Human Genetic Program students and faculty.

Jon Shinnick
Thanks to Justine Golden for keeping the Gerontology Program running so smoothly.
Thanks to Lauren Schmand for supporting us and being such a whiz at scheduling all our Gero meetings.
Many thanks to Joella Trenchard for all her support and help for the Gero Division.

We’d be lost without her.
Kudos to Sunita Shakya for her expert analyses and balancing work and life with twins.

Sunita Shakya
Susan Holt is a wonderful administrator for the Division of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics. If I have an administrative issue or an issue that I don’t know who to go to about, Susan almost always knows what to do or who would know what to do. She also answers “stupid” questions with great patience. And although it’s like herding a group of preschoolers on an outing, she’s great at being gently persistent in getting all the faculty to complete tasks they are supposed to do. She’s a great person and I always enjoy seeing her in the hallways. And she makes the best Christmas cookies on the planet!
Thank you for your speedy help with all of our new student email requests.

Chantel Todd
KUDOS!

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Thank you for jumping in to help us with our inter-institutional enrollment requests and Blackboard issues.

Tia Hanle
We recently submitted the Claude D. Pepper Older Americans Independence Center competing renewal grant in October 2020. Many countless days, nights and weeks were spent preparing this grant for what will hopefully be its 6th cycle – this work would not have been possible without the administrative staff who were always willing to stop what they were doing to help! I love this department because staff are always willing to work together no matter what – even if it is not in their job description!
Thank you for keeping the Preventive Medicine Residency running smoothly from afar in pandemic times. You have successfully built a virtual application and interview process, and kept residents on track with all of their training requirements. Your work is very much appreciated!

Lauren Schmand
Thank you for continuing to keep my diverse portfolio of projects in good financial and administrative order – I appreciate all of your efforts to track down grant funds when checks don’t arrive, and to keep up with the many requests and requirements from SPA and SPAC that seem to have increased exponentially during the pandemic.

Laura Seipp
Congratulations! NICE GOING!
GREAT! Way to Go!
Yea! FELICITATIONS
CHEERS Take A BOW! BEST WISHES!
Thank you for making sure that my grant and contract submissions over the past year have been submitted perfectly – even when they have a rapid-turnaround, unusual requirements, and/or challenging funders. I appreciate your hard work and persistence in getting each job done.

Monica Martinez
Kudos to Justine for her expert assistance this application cycle for the Doctoral Program in Gerontology.

Justine Golden
Kudos to Kara for her amazing organizational skills working with the Beta Tau chapter of Delta Omega.

Kara Longo
UMB STAFF SENATE UPDATES
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2020 Successful Fundraisers:
• School supplies for students in West Baltimore
• Thanksgiving meals and Christmas for the Community Engagement Center
• 100 cold weather kits for our homeless population
Susan Holt started serving as Staff Senate Liaison for the newly formed Citizen Advisory Committee that is headed by Interim Chief Thomas Leone. They meet monthly to discuss safety on campus.

On December 14th, Staff Senate President Kristy Novak gave birth to our newest little senator, “Hanna Olivia Novak.” While Kristy enjoys her family, Christina Fenwick is serving as President while she is on maternity leave.
thank you
Kudos to Tina for putting together EPH Weekly and giving our brains some exercise with the weekly word jumble.

Tina Kramer-Merriken
Kudos to Jay for his compassionate and supportive leadership of the department as we continue to persist through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jay Magaziner
Kudos for their work on research projects during the pandemic. This has been a trying year. Projects were paused, some restarted, new ones began. Their adaptability and good humor helped get us through it!
Many thanks to Debbie Stevens for taking over the telephone surveys this past year. You have been an absolute life saver during a busy time and I appreciate it so much!

Deborah Stevens
THANK YOU
Thank you CTRIC for continuing to give 100% during this pandemic!!
I would like to give kudos to Chantel Todd. Chantel is a pleasure to work with. She is always willing to go the extra mile for the faculty and staff and does it with a smile.
I cannot imagine having gone through 2021 without Kassy Santoni by my side. She transitioned to a telework setting without skipping a beat and made sure many of us transitioned smoothly too. Kassy worked closely with vendors and IT to acquire hardware, quickly learned new technology, and transferred software licenses from office computers to home systems. Kassy’s can-do attitude and positive energy is infectious and I look forward to our meetings every week.
A special shout-out to Laura Seipp for her dedication to Mother Earth. While most of us practice basic recycling, Laura goes the extra mile gathering things not allowed in single-stream recycling programs (plastic bags, bubble wrap, cartons and wrappers not coated in plastic, paper towels) and taking it to a recycling and compost center in her neighborhood.
I would like to express my appreciation to the CTRIC staff for their excellent collaboration on several of my research projects. They have made insightful and timely contributions.

Specifically, I would like to single out Tsion Girmay, Sandra Ononogbu, and Gulam Muhammed Al Kibria.
A huge to THANK YOU to Justine Golden, the most outstanding academic coordinator. She has been an amazing source of support for the gerontology doctoral students going above and beyond over the past year. She always puts the students first and she has organized numerous virtual Gero Fun Dates with games and activities that add a much-needed respite where we can have some fun, laugh and learn more about each other in the process- priceless!

Justine Golden
I would like to acknowledge Joella Trenchard, Gerontology Division Manager, for her outstanding work, dedication to the division, and patience in working with the many challenges we are all facing as result of the pandemic. It is a joy to work with her!!

Joella Trenchard
I would like to acknowledge all of the pre – and post – doctoral fellows in the Epidemiology of Aging Training Program. They are an amazing group of up and coming scientist that are going to advance research and practices to improve the well being of this growing demographic. Thanks to all of you for your commitment to this field of study!
Thank you to Kara Longo and Andrea Manning. During the upheaval of the last year, you have shown that you are a lean, mean caring machine! You rolled up your sleeves, buckled down and kept this ship afloat. We couldn’t have done it without you.
MPH Students:

You are beginning your journey into this profession with the best teacher ever—lived experience!! You will graduate with a crystal clear understanding of the impact of policy, societal structures and present-day as well as historical injustices on the health of the public. We know that you are all weathering the storm in the best way you can and for that, we thank you!
To the Faculty:

During the past year, I have heard from you countless times. I know that you were purchasing new equipment, attending webinars and consulting with peers. All because you were worried that you could not give students what they needed during these difficult times. But in the words of Jodi Picoult: “The fact that you worry about being a good teacher means that you already are one”. Thank you for everything that you do for the students!
To our Gerontology PhD Students, we are so impressed at your resilience and ability to continue to achieve great things during these difficult times!
I would like to express my appreciation for Alison Lydecker and her thoughtfulness and willingness to offer insight and help on projects.
I would also like to express my appreciation for Georgia Papaminas and her dedication to the Diabetic Foot study and its study participants as well as her ability to just roll with all the changes we have had to make this past year.

Georgia Papaminas
thank you
Lyndsay O'Hara for being a quintessential team player and lending her expertise to any and all projects.
Gwen Robinson for carrying all projects on her shoulders and making it seem effortless although it clearly requires a lot of effort!

Gwen Robinson
Jennifer Kirk and Rashmita Bajracharya are doing an amazing job leading and coordinating the Epidemiology of Aging Training Program Seminars.
Cindy has been such a great mentor. I am grateful for all her support, words of encouragement, and kindness. Her perseverance and integrity are just a few qualities that continue to inspire me. Working with Cindy is a breath of fresh air. I am thankful for her guidance and leadership.

Cindy Geppi
Laura is a pleasure to work with. I am thankful that Laura makes the work environment such a positive place to be. Laura is always willing to lend an ear and offer advice. She always has a tip to solve a problem. I appreciate her commitment, communication, and guidance.

Laura Seipp
Kudos to our fantastic EHG and Gerontology graduate students!
Kudos to Monica Martinez. She has helped all faculty with grant submissions and with other related work. She is always patient and kind during the stressful time and ready to help.

Monica Martinez
Kudos to Dr. Gruber-Baldini for being a great Program Director

Ann Gruber-Baldini
KUDOS!

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We are grateful for all the work you have done to support public health throughout the pandemic!

I am especially thankful to Yasco and Mabel for their unwavering commitment to sew thousands of cloth masks [literally 😊] that were donated to our hospitals and local communities between April and September 2020. I am also grateful to Malcolm for his prompt answer to the April 2020 system’s call to help as a technician to support the surge of clinical lab activities, as needed.

A special shoutout also goes to Yasco, who, as an essential employee in our Division, helped us oversee the functionality of our facilities and monitor the health of our research subjects in vet resources while lab-based research activities had been halted to a bare minimum during the pandemic!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU!!!
Big thank you to Anne Sullens for all of her help, guidance, and patience as we navigated the minefield that was the Pepper Center renewal together. It was the ultimate bonding experience!
A shoutout to the Gero staff for all of their hard work and perseverance through this past year. Despite the difficulties, all of you showed up and kept things moving seamlessly through telework. I am so proud of us and all that we have accomplished this past year.
A BIG THANK YOU to Lauren for practically making it seem like we never left the office – so responsive, available, and quick with everything. We are so lucky to have you.

Lauren Schmand
A sincere thank you to Liz and Tiffany for all of their work with getting the shadow system implemented during what was the most bizarre summer ever and all of your efforts to keep it updated now!
Kudos to Tina who has done so much for making EPH Weekly so engaging to read every Monday – I’m not usually a newsletter reader, but I really love those jumbles. Also thank you to her for being so flexible with me as it took me way too long to send my kudos to her.

Tina Kramer-Merriken
I just wanted to thank Alan Rathbun for being such a great colleague who has always been encouraging in his own special way and has provided plenty of good distraction from the difficult days with talks about our investing strategies.
Jessica Brown has been like a lifeline to me during the pandemic and telework. I look forward to her check in emails because I know she’s busy, but she always takes the time to send me notes just to let me know she is thinking of me. It means the world to me and has been a bright spot this past year.
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