Dear Graduate Student,

Thank you for expressing an interest in our graduate program in the Division of Kinesiology and Health, University of Wyoming. Following is a list of the graduate faculty members in the Division of Kinesiology and Health, some information about their areas of research interest, and two or three of their most recent publications. I am providing you with this information so that you can identify a faculty member under whom you think you would like to study. Once you identify the faculty member (or members) with whom you think you would like to study, contact them directly via e-mail. Let them know who you are and what you are interested in studying. That faculty member(s) will then contact you to discuss the possibility of pursuing the M.S. degree under her/his supervision. Your admission to the graduate program in Kinesiology and Health is very much dependent upon you having a faculty member who is interested in supporting your application packet and serving as your graduate advisor.

If you have other questions about contacting one or more faculty about your interest in their area of research expertise, don't hesitate to call or e-mail.

Sincerely,

Derek Smith

Derek Smith, Ph.D., Director
307-766-5271 (tel); 307-766-4098 (fax)
smithdt@uwyo.edu
GRADUATE FACULTY, RESEARCH INTERESTS, AND RECENT PUBLICATIONS

TAMI BENHAM DEAL, P.E.D., Professor – Motor Development and Health Education
benham@uwyo.edu

MARK BYRA, Ph.D., Professor – Physical Education Teacher Education
byra@uwyo.edu
Dr. Byra’s research interests revolve around the Spectrum of Teaching Styles, models of teaching, student interest and engagement in physical education, development of pre-service teacher knowledge, and the development of knowledge and skill in coaches.

BOYI DAI, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Biomechanics
Dr. Dai’s research interests revolve around injury biomechanics, sports biomechanics, and ergonomics. Dr. Dai utilizes motion, force, electromyography measurements, and musculoskeletal modeling to understand the mechanisms of exercise, sports, and work related injuries and provide information for injury prevention and post-injury rehabilitation. He has investigated the injury mechanisms of ACL injuries, ACL re-injuries, and low back injuries and has also conducted technique analysis for elite discus and javelin throwers.
KAREN L. GAUDREULT, Ph.D., Assistant Professor - Physical Education Teacher Education
klux1@uwyo.edu

Dr. Gaudreault’s research interests involve the socio-political factors influencing the work lives of physical education teachers. More specifically, Dr. Gaudreault investigates the low status and marginalization of physical education as a subject matter in schools, how PE teachers navigate these obstacles in their working environment, and how teaching a low status subject impacts the nature of PE teachers’ work.

Dr. Gaudreault is the Director and Principal Investigator for the Healthy Pokes program. Healthy Pokes is an after-school enrichment program for at-risk youth focusing on the development of healthy behaviors in the areas of: physical activity, nutrition, and behavioral health. In addition to investigating physical education teacher socialization, Dr. Gaudreault also works with the Healthy Pokes team of co-investigators on various studies to investigate the impact of Healthy Pokes on the children’s health and well-being.


EMILY H. GUSEMAN, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Physical Activity Epidemiology and Exercise Physiology
guseman@uwyo.edu

Dr. Guseman’s research interests center around the development of obesity and metabolic syndrome during childhood and adolescence, especially around the time of puberty. More specifically, her research focuses on how stress and psychosocial functioning, sleep habits, and physical activity influence metabolic health, and how these relationships vary as children grow and mature. She is also interested in medical management of pediatric obesity and family-based interventions to prevent excessive weight gain and improve child health.


JAYNE JENKINS, Ph.D., Professor – Physical Education Teacher Education
jenkins@uwyo.edu

Dr. Jenkins’ research interests revolve around curriculum and instruction. Investigations include pre-service teacher development (e.g., pedagogical content knowledge) particularly in terms of observation and peer coaching as well as curriculum design, development, models, and instructional models.


Ingersoll, C., Lux Gaudreault, K., & Jenkins, J. M. (2014). There is no lack of people to go to for support: Policy, Community, and individual influences on one pre-service teacher’s knowledge development.

CHRISTINE PORTER, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Public Health  
cportel2@uwyo.edu

Dr. Porter is working to understand and (following Kurt Lewin's theory that the best way to understand something is to try to change it) organize social change that addresses health disparities. Her research uses community-based participatory action research (CBPR) approaches to such change and investigate public health strategies for supporting for the public's creation of its own health. She is particularly interested in documenting, assessing, and furthering sustainable food systems approaches to eradicating hunger, obesity, and inequity. She feels fortunate that she is able to pursue these interests with many partners as she is the project director and principal investigator for Food Dignity (www.fooddignity.org).


TUCKER READDY, Ph.D., Assistant Professor – Exercise Psychology and Sport Sociology  
tucker.readdy@uwyo.edu

Dr. Readdy’s line of research is centered on coach and athlete motivation within the collegiate sport context, including how coach-athlete interactions can optimize player performance through enhancing their autonomy, competency, and relatedness to others. Other potential research themes include self-concept and identity in the transition into and out of collegiate sport, the psychological and sociological effects of the increasing professionalization of youth and collegiate sport, and the psychosocial stressors encountered by collegiate coaches.


DEREK SMITH, Ph.D., Associate Professor – Exercise Physiology/Physical Activity and Health  
smithdt@uwyo.edu

Dr. Smith’s current research interests and projects are centered around the cardioprotective benefits of a habitually physically active lifestyle and effective strategies to promote the adoption and maintenance of a physically active lifestyle in youth and adults. Three areas of current investigation include: (1) the efficacy of theory-based internet-delivered physical activity behavior change programs in sedentary and overweight adults; (2) the efficacy of a web-based physical activity tracking tool and a school community-based participatory research approach to increase physical activity levels of K-12 schoolchildren; and (3) the influence of habitual physical activity on select cardiometabolic disease risk factors – inflammation, oxidative stress, insulin resistance and fibrinolysis.


**TRISTAN WALLHEAD, Ph.D., Associate Professor – Physical Education Teacher Education**

gwallhead@uwyo.edu

Dr. Wallhead’s research interests include (1) examining the efficacy of sport-based curricular models such as Sport Education and Teaching Games for Understanding in facilitating student learning, and the role of physical education curricular models in promoting extra-curricular youth physical activity.


**QIN (ARTHUR) ZHU, Ph.D., Associate Professor – Motor Learning and Control**

gzhu1@uwyo.edu

Dr. Zhu’s area of expertise is motor learning and motor control. His research focuses on the coupling of perceptual and motor learning, especially how motor skills could be acquired through the crosstalk between perception and action. He is also interested in the control aspect of motor skills where the maximum efficiency could be evaluated with consideration of physical law and environmental factors.


Zhu, Q., Shockley, K., Riley, M.A., Tolston, M.T., & Bingham, G.P (2013). Felt heaviness is used to perceive the affordance for throwing but rotational inertia does not affect either, Experimental Brain Research, 224, 2, 221-231.