

MPH Memos

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Fall 2009

Issue 1

Welcome to New MPH Students

Fifteen new students began their MPH graduate studies during either summer or fall 2009. Sixty-four MPH students are enrolled for fall 2009, with one additional person inactive for the semester. Nine of the 64 students are public health nutrition majors who are pursuing the dual MS-MPH degree. Of the three concentrations of study, Community Health Education has 27% of the total enrollees, Health Planning & Administration 39%; and Veterinary Public Health has 34%.

During academic year 2008-2009, 24 students earned the MPH degree at Tennessee, bringing the total to 1148 graduates since the first MPH degree was awarded in 1971. For the past five years, there has been an average of 26.8 MPH graduates per year.

New PHAPC Chairperson Selection

Dr. Gorski, who has chaired the Public Health Academic Program Committee (PHAPC) since April 1993, announced that after sixteen years, she is stepping down to spend more time with her CHE functions. During her service as chairperson, the MPH program added the Veterinary Public Health concentration, removed industrial hygiene and gerontology as concentrations, and developed many polices. At the PHAPC meeting on September 14, 2009, Dr. Gorski was presented a plaque in recognition of her many years of service. Thank you to Dr. Gorski for all her time and effort. We would like to welcome Dr. John New as the new chair of the committee.

New PHAPC Representatives

CHE: Reginald Tooley & Jada Johnson
HPA: Jon Arena & Jennifer Ward
VPH: Bonnie Price & Dr. Tinsley Youmans

Please see your reps if you have any issues that need to be brought before the governance committee.

Important Dates to Remember

September 21—Graduation fee due (\$30 at Bursar's office, 211 SSB or on CPO)

October 2—Deadline to sign up with Dr. Hamilton for Comprehensive Exam on November 6

October 15-16—Fall Break

October 16—Deadline to order cap, gown, and hood for graduation ceremony. Order at UT Book & Supply Store

October 30—Deadline to register for Graduate Hooding Ceremony. To register and for more information visit <http://gradschool.utk.edu/hooding/hoodinginfo.shtml>

November 6—MPH Comprehensive Exam

November 7-11—American Public Health Association annual meeting, Philadelphia

December 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, & 10—Final Exam Period

December 11—Graduate Hooding Ceremony at 4:30 pm in Thompson-Boling Arena.

Public Health Faculty Search

A national search is underway for recruiting a health administration faculty member for appointment at the rank of assistant professor by August 1, 2010. Extensive advertising activities to announce the availability of the position occurred during early fall. The search committee is chaired by Dr. Charles Hamilton. Other members include: Dr. Betsy Houghton, Dr. Paul Erwin, and Shambrekia' Wise, who is representing HPA students. Position announcements will be provided upon request. Recommendations of qualified applicants are invited.

Interim Report Approved by Accrediting Council

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) during its June 2009 meeting determined that the MPH program has demonstrated compliance with Criterion 1.6 (Resources). This decision was based on a May 2009 interim report to the Council addressing adequacy of UT public health faculty resources. Effective summer 2008, CEPH extended national accreditation of the MPH program through July 1, 2015, which is the maximum term possible. As a condition of the accreditation action, the Council requested two interim reports. The second report profiling plans to increase diversity of faculty (Criterion 4.3) is due May 2010.

Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium, Friday, September 25, 2009 at the Howard Baker Center and Online

This is the second of a series of biannual colloquia about promoting healthy weight particularly for the maternal and child population, including their families. The targeted audience is parents, practitioners, and researchers. This colloquium will focus on infancy and how parenting, nutrition, and physical activity relate to healthy weight gain. Speakers include a Parent Panel with their experiences and perspectives and Dr. Jane Heinig from the University of California-Davis. UT speakers include Dr. Dawn Coe from Exercise, Sports, and Leisure Studies and Dr. Hillary Fouts from Child and Family Studies. Participants can attend the colloquium live at the Baker Center or online with real-time interaction with the speakers. For more information about the colloquium, view the archive of the March colloquium, or register for the colloquium, please visit the website at: <http://nutrition.utk.edu/seminars/HealthyWeightColloquium.html> The registration deadline is September 18, 2009.

Don't forget to visit the Graduate Forum on Blackboard

News of Interest

Public Health Students were represented at the Association of State and Territorial Public Health Nutrition Directors Annual Meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico in June. **Shannon Looney**, 2009 MPH alumnus, and **Stephanie Joyce**, 2009 Public Health Nutrition alumnus, presented posters. Shannon's poster session was titled "The Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium Series: Continuing Education Opportunity for Parents, Health Professionals, and Community Members." Stephanie's poster session was based on her thesis research and was titled "Conversations: The Commitment to Breastfeed Among Low-Income Women in East Tennessee." **Drs. Marsha Spence** and **Betsy Haughton** from the Public Health Nutrition program also participated. The meeting focused on "Guiding the Winds of Change in Public Health Nutrition" and included presentations from federal partners, state and local agencies, academic institutions, and non-profit agencies.

UT's College of Veterinary Medicine is promoting the *One Health Challenge: Obesity Awareness* in order to further the One Health Initiative of One Health, One Medicine. The purpose of the *One Health Challenge* is to promote collaboration and partnerships among the various health professions, while understanding the important connection between human and animal health. Various events will be held, with plans to include nutrition, public health, nursing, and any other health related students. For more information, contact Leslie Sadeghi (lsadeghi@utk.edu) or visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/onehealthchallenge/>

MPH students were represented at the annual meeting of the Tennessee Public Health Association in Franklin, TN on September 2-4, 2009 during the poster/presentation sessions. As an outcome of a planning assignment for **Dr. Gorski** in PH 552 (spring 2009), **Hannah Shinault** (PhD candidate in Communications), two MPH/CHE students, **Jada Johnson** and **Julie Morgan**, and two dual MS/MPH students, **Amanda Brokaw** and **Lusi Martin** presented on "Achieving True Improvements in Breast Health." The focus was on personal and clinical prevention measures for women younger than 40 years.

Also presenting at TPHA program as a co-author, was **Jennifer Vance** (MPH/HPA, '09) for her poster with the Knox County Health Department where Jennifer completed a summer internship. The poster was entitled "TAP: The Teen Awareness Program" and "TTOPS: Teaching Teens Outstanding Parenting Skills."

Please send your suggestions, announcements, and accomplishments to Allison Turner, MPH Memos editor, at aturne26@utk.edu