

MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

FALL 2014
ISSUE 1

New Program Director and Faculty Member

The Department of Public Health welcomes Dr. Kathleen Brown as the new MPH Program Director. Dr. Brown earned her PhD in Community Health and her MPH from the University of Tennessee. Prior to this position, she served as the Director of Community Assessment and Health Promotion at the Knox County Health Department. Her work at the health department involved supervision of the Epidemiology Program and several health promotion programs including adolescent pregnancy prevention, violence prevention, and unintentional injury prevention. Dr. Brown has also worked as an instructor, academic advisor, internship coordinator, and undergraduate Community Health Education Program coordinator at the University of Tennessee in the Department of Public Health. Currently, she is teaching PUBH 550 Theory, Program Development, and Implementation. She is committed to excellence in public health practice and looks forward to contributing to the development of future public health professionals.



Dr. Kathleen Brown

The Department of Public Health also welcomes Dr. Cristina Barroso, Associate Professor. Dr. Barroso earned her doctoral and MPH degrees from the University of Texas School of Public Health with a concentration in Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences. Previously, she worked as an Assistant Professor and Southwest Borderland Scholar with the School of Nutrition and Health Promotion at Arizona State University. Before that, she was an Assistant Professor of Health Promotion and Behavioral Sciences with the University of Texas School of Public Health. Dr. Barroso's research interests include health disparities particularly among children, adolescents, and their families. When asked what drew her to the University of Tennessee, she explained, "I was blown away by the collegiality and willingness to collaborate" within this department and throughout the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences. Dr. Barroso will teach PUBH 656 Advanced Theory in the spring, and she is looking forward to "interacting with students in person." Her advice to MPH students is "pursue your passion."



Dr. Cristina Barroso

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome new MPH students! Hopefully your first semester is off to a successful start! Feel free to contact faculty members or fellow students for any assistance.

Students planning to take the **MPH Comprehensive Exam** this fall (October 31) must sign up with Dr. Brown in HPER 390 by October 3.

Students planning on a **spring field placement** must request an appointment with Julie Grubaugh (Field Practice Coordinator) ASAP. Email jgrubaugh@utk.edu or call 974-9277.

Reminder to those who registered for the **MPH Career Guidance Workshop** - The workshop is tomorrow, September 19 from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Black Cultural Center. Registrants will interact with a panel of health professionals, create a personal action plan, and enjoy a free lunch. It's sure to be a valuable experience for all!

NEWS FROM PHGSA

Who We Are

President - Claire Mason
Vice President - Belle McFarland
Secretary - Hopelyn Clift
Treasurer - Alex Hirschy

What We DO

The Public Health Graduate Student Association is a resource for students. We organize study groups, career workshops, and social activities such as tailgates and end-of-the-semester celebrations. We work with the faculty to improve the program, and we raise awareness about the Department of Public Health on campus.

Next Meeting

September 25 at 3:30 p.m. in HPER 388 - Join us!

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 19

MPH Career Guidance
Workshop

October 3

Deadline to Sign Up for
MPH Comp. Exam

October 16-17

Fall Break

October 31

MPH Comp. Exam

November 15-19

APHA (in New Orleans)

November 27-28

Thanksgiving Break

December 2

Last Day of Class

December 3

Study Day

December 4-11

Final Exams

December 12

Graduate Hooding

December 13

Commencement

MPH Student Hired by Cancer Support Community One Month after Graduating

After completing a summer internship at the UT Graduate School of Medicine and graduating with an MPH degree in Health Policy & Management, **Justin Hutchison** was hired as the Community Education Manager for Knoxville's Cancer Support Community (CSC) of East Tennessee. Justin will work with oncologists to ensure cancer patients receive holistic care through patient education and access to CSC programs addressing psychological and social aspects of health. Justin is also responsible for identifying potential donors and planning fundraising events.



Justin Hutchison,
MPH '14

Leveraging the MPH Alumni Network

How did Justin's job come about? An MPH alum who works in a partnering organization of the CSC forwarded a different CSC position (lower level administrative) to Julie Grubaugh as part of the MPH Alumni network. Knowing Justin's interests in non-profit management, Julie suggested he apply, even though he was somewhat overqualified. Justin applied, interviewed, and was subsequently invited to do a second interview for a different position not yet posted—Community Education Manager—for which he was ultimately hired.

Justin's advice to current MPH students

Most importantly, be patient! Start applying for jobs during your last semester. It is a stressful time, so do find outlets for stress. Cast your net wide within an area you will want to work, which in Justin's case was non-profit management or hospital administration. Rejection is part of the process and you will not hear back about every job that you apply for. Finally, network! Meet as many people as you can. It may not lead to immediate employment, but it can lead to an opportunity down the road. Good luck!

UT Was Well-Represented at Annual Conference

This year's Tennessee Public Health Association Conference was held in Franklin, TN on September 10-12. Adding to the diverse array of workshops and poster sessions, Department Head **Dr. Paul Erwin** led a workshop on "Evidence-Based Public Health." **Dr.**

Carole Myers of the College of Nursing hosted a workshop on the transformation of the current health care system and its impact on public health, and Program Director **Dr. Kathleen Brown** presented a poster on her work in teen pregnancy prevention with the Knox County Health Department.



From left to right: Dr. Kathleen Brown, Madē McCormick, Kathryn Webb, Elizabeth Conner, Jen Russomanno, Dr. Carole Myers, Dr. Jennifer Jabson, Dr. Paul Erwin

The TPHA Student Section held elections for student chair and three regional representative positions. Our department's **Madē McCormick**, second semester MPH student, was elected East Tennessee Representative. Madē says she "would like to see more students from UT become members of TPHA. It's a wonderful professional networking opportunity as well as an excellent learning experience." Congratulations on your position, Madē!

SHARE YOUR NEWS IN MPH MEMOS

contact Kathryn Webb, editor
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