

# MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee Department of Public Health

SPRING 2015  
ISSUE 1

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2  
Deadline to Sign Up for  
MPH Comp. Exam

March 4  
MPH Resume & Cover  
Letter Workshop

March 16-20  
Spring Break

March 27  
TPHA Spring Regional  
Meeting

April 1  
MPH Comp. Exam

April 3  
Spring Recess

April 6-12  
National Public Health  
Week- APHA

April 17  
MPH Interview Skills  
Workshop

April 24  
Field Placement  
Presentation  
Classes End

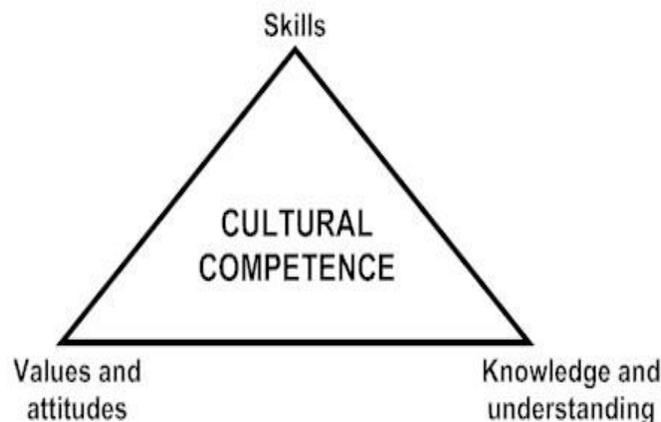
April 27  
Field Placement  
Presentation  
Study Day

April 28-May 5  
Exams

May 7  
Graduate Hooding

## Department of Public Health offers Cultural Competency Training

The Department of Public Health (DPH) began the New Year with an exciting opportunity for its students. On January 6, the DPH and Nutrition department collaboratively hosted the Cultural Competency and Linguistic Express, a state-funded training session to increase cultural awareness, competence, and communication skills. Public Health Nutrition faculty, Dr. Marsha Spence, led the session with assistance from two MPH students. The session lasted from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and offered a light lunch from Jason's Deli. Students received excellent information and useful tools, such as a packet that included information for resources for cultural awareness, a personal planning tool, and take home materials from session participation. Five public health students and two faculty participated. Interactive group activities demonstrated communication barriers and provided appropriate approaches to bridging that communication gap within our field. It also provided an opportunity to get to know peers and learn about the new opportunities. While the session focused on teaching how to interact appropriately with diverse populations, it also emphasized the importance of developing an understanding of self. The session helped us to enhance ourselves as public health professionals. The DPH hopes to offer this again in the future.



"The cultural competency training was a great experience because it addressed the importance of being aware of cultural differences and ways in which to improve cultural competency skills in public health practice."

- Elizabeth Conner (MPH Student)

## Re-Accreditation Update

An online survey for current MPH students will be conducted during March. Please participate by responding to the survey. These data will be included in the self-study document as well as to inform the MPH continuous improvement effort. A draft of the self-study will be available for review late March. Students are encouraged to review the

### 3<sup>RD</sup> Annual Public Health Research Day, 2015

This year's **Public Health Research Day** was held at the Black Cultural Center on **February 13**. There were 16 presentations by students and faculty, both within and outside the department. It was an excellent opportunity for presenters to practice presentation skills, share their research interests, and receive valuable feedback from peers. Department Head **Dr. Paul Erwin** was pleased with the level of engagement by students and faculty. **Dr. Terry** facilitated the event and commented, "It was a day for letting us trumpet our Department's research prowess through our voices." The **16** research presentations included students and faculty. Participating MPH students in the picture from left to right : Rebekah Kennedy, Kasey Fristoe, Sara Hay, Michelle Hammett, Elizabeth Connor, Ben Doty, Sanya Sharma, Jennifer Russomanno, and Chenoa Allen, other presenters were Lisa Acuff, Claudia Geary, Kristin Clay, and Jade Parry. A special thanks to **Dr. Jennifer Jabson**, **Dr. Carol Myers** and **Dr. Laurie Meschke** for sharing their research work with us.



### MPH SPRING FIELD PRACTICE PRESENTATION

On April 24 and 27, MPH interns will present their internship to faculty, students and preceptors. These presentations are highly valuable way for students to start thinking about different types of internships, examples of projects, and in some cases, network with prospective preceptors.

#### Field Placement Dates:

- April 24, 1:30-3:30pm (HPER 239)
- April 27, 11:00am-1:00pm (Sequoyah Room, Vet Hospital)
- April 27, 2:30-4:30pm (HPER 243)

A list of interns and field placement sites is available on the DPH homepage at <http://publichealth.utk.edu>

#### *SHARE YOUR NEWS IN MPH MEMOS*

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## 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.

The self-study for the program accreditation process will be available for student and faculty review in late-March.

Students planning to take the MPH Comprehensive Exam this spring (April ) must sign up with Dr. Brown in HPER 390 by March 2.

Students planning on summer field placement must request an appointment with Julie Grubaugh (Field Practice Coordinator) ASAP. Email [jgrubaugh@utk.edu](mailto:jgrubaugh@utk.edu) or call 974-9277.

Reminder to sign up for the MPH Resume & Cover Letter Workshop - The workshop is on Wednesday, March 4 from 2:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at UT Career Services. The workshop focuses on tailoring resume and cover letters to specific Public Health position. It's sure to be a valuable experience for all! RSVP at- [http://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\\_405EzF919BsgapL](http://utk.co1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_405EzF919BsgapL)

## NEWS FROM PHGSA

### Welcome New Officers

President – Elizabeth C. Corner

Vice President – Elena Stewart

Secretary – Amy Adams

Treasurer – Courtney Williams

Philanthropy Chair – Michelle Wright

### 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.