

MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

Instruction

Research

Service

FALL 2014
ISSUE 2

Career Guidance Workshop 'Highly Valuable' for Students

On September 19th, more than 20 MPH students gathered in the Black Cultural Center for the first of four MPH Career Guidance Workshops, a series spearheaded by Julie Grubaugh and Dr. Jennifer Jabson to help students understand, prepare for, and succeed in the job search process.

The workshop opened with UT Career Services' Mary Beth Browder's interpretation of the COMPASS personality/career interest inventory students had completed as part of the workshop registration. Then, four professionals representing distinct areas of the public health field provided a panel discussion. Panelists included David Hall, COO of UT Medical Center, Lizzy Miller, Training and Implementation Specialist with UnitedHealth Group, Peggy Lewis Smith, Associate Director of the Health Communication and Technical Training Program at Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and Stephanie Welch, Vice President of Operations for Community Schools with Great Schools Partnership. The panelists described entry and mid-level MPH jobs in their industries including salary ranges and required skills. They also shared tips for interviewing and succeeding as a new employee.



Panelists share advice during the 1st MPH Career Guidance Workshop.

Following the panel discussion, Dr. Jennifer Jabson led students in creating personal action plans. Dr. Jabson challenged students to consider their "Big Orange Idea" and then list concrete short and long term objectives for turning these ideas into realities.

According to the workshop evaluation, 95% of attendees found the panel discussion and action planning to be "valuable" or "highly valuable." When asked his opinion of the workshop, Tyler Dinwiddie, MPH-HPM

student, said the "the event was extremely informative and well-worth my time. The input from each of the panel discussion leaders was valuable. I wish I had 3-4 hours to spend with each of them!"

Workshop #2 will build on ideas presented in the first workshop, although students who did not participate in Workshop #1 are still encouraged to attend. Workshop #2 will be held in Career Services, 100 Dunford Hall on November 21st from 1:30-3:30pm. Events include "hands-on" job searching and a panel discussion with UT MPH alumni who will speak about the job search process. Please RSVP to Hopelyn Clift at hclift@vols.utk.edu, and please bring a laptop with wifi capability. Like the first, Workshop #2 is sure to be a valuable experience for all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Department of Public Health invites all students to **Brown Bag Research Days** held on the 4th Wednesday of every month in the Department of Public Health conference room at 12:00pm. These gatherings allow Public Health students and professors to share current research projects (at any stage) and receive feedback from colleagues. The next one is October 22nd. Bring your lunch and learn from your peers!

Share your news in MPH Memos with Kathryn Webb, editor. Email kwebb14@vols.utk.edu

NEWS FROM PHGSA

Next Meeting - October 23rd at 3:30pm in the Dept. of Public Health

PHGSA will host a **COMPS Study Session** on October 23rd from 6:30-8:30pm in HPER 235. Bring your study materials and PHGSA will provide light refreshments.

Tour the Knox County Health Department on November 12th from 9-10:00am or November 14th from 1-2:00pm. Discover how programs of the health department relate to your career interests and to the 10 Essential Public Health Services. RSVP to Claire Mason at cmason10@vols.utk.edu.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 22

Public Health Brown Bag Research Day

October 23

PHGSA Meeting & PHGSA Comp. Study Session

October 31

MPH Comp. Exam

November 12 & 14

PHGSA Tours of Knox County Health Dept.

November 15-19

APHA (in New Orleans)

November 21

MPH Career Guidance Workshop #2

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

Spotlight on Washington, D.C. Field Placement

MPH-CHE student Belle McFarland completed her field placement in Washington, D.C. with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) this past summer semester. As several MPH students search and prepare for spring field placements, Belle agreed to offer insight on her experience.

What did you do as an intern at NAMI?

I had quite a busy summer as an intern. Primarily, my tasks were content writing for [NAMI's] new website, updating educational materials, developing a social media plan for Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, and data entry and analysis of a pilot program evaluation survey. I also helped prepare for and implement a training workshop for state NAMI program trainers, Training of Trainers event.

What was your most valuable learning experience as an intern?

The most valuable experience I gained from NAMI was the ability to work collaboratively with others. Some of the web content writing was completed as a group, and I had not realized before how helpful this is. It was great to bounce ideas off one another until we got the wording exactly right.

What was your most challenging experience as an intern?

The most challenging task was completing the data entry for close to 2,000 evaluation surveys. This task became very tedious and tiresome. I never thought I would be finished, but I was persistent and completed the task. The data analysis I provided has already been used by NAMI to make adjustments to the program.

How did the MPH program prepare you for your internship?

My MPH classes definitely prepared me very well for the content writing aspect of my internship. From my classes, I knew the appropriate reading level, tone, and format for



Belle McFarland, MPH-CHE student

the materials I created.

How has your experience with NAMI affected your future in public health?

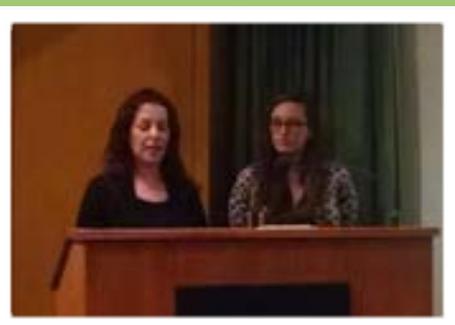
My experience at NAMI confirmed that pursuing my MPH was the right move. I am more confident than ever that public health education is the career for me. I am excited and eager to start my new career when I graduate in December.

What advice do you have for students beginning their internships in the spring?

I would definitely encourage students to get to know their preceptor and managers within the organization. It was really helpful talking to my preceptor and the director of the education department about their experiences, and what had brought them to NAMI. I would also tell students to go in excited and ready to work. Take full advantage of any opportunities that may come up. And if there is a task you want to do, speak up. Preceptors and other supervisors are really impressed when interns take the initiative and ask to participate in different tasks.

A list of past field placements is available to students on Blackboard under MPH Graduate Forum.

MPH Student and Alumna Lead Discussion at UTM



Kim Parks, MPH '14 & Kasey Fristoe, MPH-CHE student

Medical Humanities is a series hosted by UT Medical Center where issues of ethics and medical practice are presented and discussed. MPH-CHE student Kasey Fristoe and MPH alumna Kim Parks facilitated the most recent discussion about *The Waiting Room* - a documentary about an overburdened public hospital and the patients in need of care.

The Department of Public Health encourages students to

seek involvement in community events such as this. If you are interested in learning about ways to get involved contact Dr. Erwin (perwin@utk.edu) or Dr. Brown (kcbrown@utk.edu).

Spring 2015 Course Update

The following courses will be offered during the spring 2015 semester. This list does not include undergraduate courses.

509	Erwin, Thursdays, 5:05-6:20pm
510	Chen, Wednesdays, 5:05-7:45pm
525	Decker, Mondays, 12:20-3:20pm
527	Knight, Tuesdays, 2:10-4:55pm
530	Golden, Tuesdays, 5:05-7:45pm
537	McNeely, Mon & Wed, 9:05-11:00am
540	Terry, Wednesdays, 10:10-1:10pm
541	Erwin, Fridays, 10:00-12:00pm
542	Terry, Thursdays, 12:40-3:25pm
550	Brown, Tuesdays, 2:10-4:55pm
552	Mesohke, Thursdays, 9:40-12:25pm
555	Jabson, Mondays, 5:05-7:45pm
609	McNeely, TBD
656	Barroso, Thursdays, 11:10-1:55pm