

# MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

*43 Years of Instruction, Research, & Service*

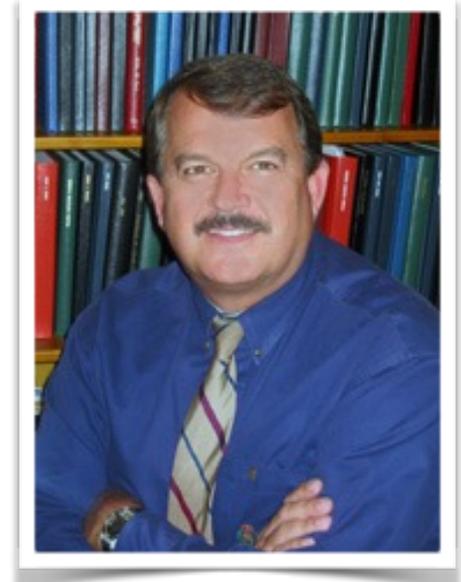
## Dr. Gregory Petty Retires after 32 Years at UT

**Dr. Gregory Petty** will retire this December after 32 years of work at UT, most recently with the Department of Public Health as a biostatistics professor. During his time at UT, Dr. Petty has served on the Board of Delegates for the National Safety Council as Technical Advisor for Research for the College and University Strategic Advisory Group for Education Activities. He has also represented the Department of Public Health in UT's Intercollegiate Graduate Statistics Program. A veteran of the United States Navy Nuclear Submarine Service, Dr. Petty has authored over 100 articles, books, and technical reports, and he has made over 90 presentations at conferences across the state, region, and nation. In his retirement, Dr. Petty plans to study occupational work ethic with former doctoral students and focus on world wide applications for his research.

Recently, Dr. Petty was asked to name the most enjoyable aspect of teaching. His response: "Without question - the students." And he offered the

following advice for MPH students "Public Health is a broad field. Pick an area or subject that you enjoy, learn to love it, and never have to work again. Because if you love what you do - you will never see your job as work." He also added, "I have been very fortunate during my tenure here at UTK. I have worked with some great people and have had some fantastic opportunities. It is amazing for me to realize how much things have changed - and how much I have changed. The University of Tennessee, the students, the faculty, and the administration, allowed me to change with the times and I embraced each new day with wonder and thankfulness. Thank you all!"

The Department of Public Health thanks Dr. Petty for his expertise and guidance as a colleague, professor, advisor, and mentor. On behalf of the department, **Dr. Paul Erwin** shared the following. "One of the things I appreciate most about Dr. Petty is how he has managed to re-align his skills and expertise as he has moved



Dr. Gregory Petty

across various departments and programs over his time at UT. He may not have started out in public health, but we have certainly benefitted from his willingness to become 'one of us.' Something else we will miss as he retires: his kindness. We wish him all the best as he moves to this next phase of his career."

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations to all students who passed the Public Health Comprehensive Exam (COMPS) this semester, and congratulations to those graduating in December. The Department of Public Health wishes you good luck and great success as you move forward to new endeavors!

If you plan to take COMPS this spring, email **Dr. Brown** (kcbrown@utk.edu) before the holiday break to let her know. Date of the examination and more information will be announced soon after the break.

The three-year Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation process is underway with committee members carefully reviewing documents for the self-study. Updates and requests for student involvement will be announced in the coming semester.

## NEWS FROM PHGSA

Thank you to those who donated to the Fall Food Drive Competition between Public Health/Nutrition and Kinesiology. Together, we collected over 300 cans!

All are invited to the Public Health Holiday Party, December 3rd at 5:00pm in Market Square. Wear your tackiest holiday sweater, and join us for hot chocolate and ice skating.

Congratulations to the newly-elected 2015 PHGSA officers!  
 President.....**Elizabeth Conner**  
 Vice President.....**Elena Stewart**  
 Secretary.....**Amy Adams**  
 Treasurer.....**Courtney Williams**  
 Philanthropy Chair.....**Michelle Wright**

From all MPH students, thank you to the 2014 officers, **Claire Mason, Belle McFarland, Hopelyn Clift, and Alex Hirschy** for your time and hard work with the PHGSA.

# Who's Going Where? Spring 2015 Field Placements

This spring, 13 MPH students will complete their Field Practice. This 360-hour experience in a community health setting typically occurs in the final semester before graduation, giving students the opportunity to apply and strengthen public health skills before entering the workforce. With the help of Field Practice Coordinator **Julie Grubaugh**, the 13 students have found placements across Tennessee and in Maryland as diverse as their interests. Look for their Field Practice presentations to be given in late April or early May 2015.

## **Bethesda, MD**

Kari Olson, VPH  
*Walter Reed National  
Military Medical Center*

## **Blountville, TN**

Hopelyn Clift, HPM  
*Sullivan County Health  
Department*

## **Oak Ridge, TN**

Alex Hirschy, HPM  
*Oak Ridge Institute of  
Science and Education,  
ORAU (placement  
pending)*

## **Nashville, TN**

Grey Clevenger, HPM  
*Tennessee Department  
of Health*

## Tyler Dinwiddie, HPM

*Health Leaders  
InterStudy*

Holly Tucker, CHE  
*Tennessee Department  
of Health*

Kathryn Webb, CHE  
*Prevent Child Abuse  
Tennessee*

## **Knoxville, TN**

Yusof Al-Wadei, HPM  
*University of  
Tennessee Student  
Health Clinic*

Hannah Ashitey, HPM  
*University of  
Tennessee Medical  
Center*

John Crawford, VPH  
*UT College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
HABIT Program*

Kasey Fristoe, CHE  
*Great Schools  
Partnership*

Todd French, VPH  
*UT College of  
Veterinary Medicine  
HABIT Program*

Adam Keck, HPM  
*University of  
Tennessee Medical  
Center*

## Faculty and Students Present Research at APHA

The 142nd annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference was held in New Orleans, LA on November 15-19. UT faculty and students from the Department of Public Health not only attended, but also presented recent work in poster sessions.

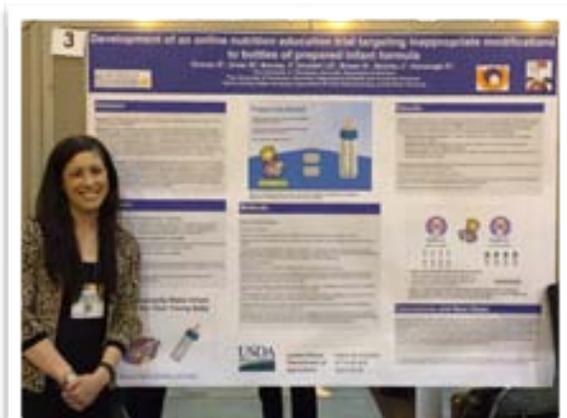
Dual Nutrition/Public Health students, **Amber Ford**, **Rebecca Graves**, and **Randa Meade** attended the conference, and Rebecca presented a poster titled "Development of an online nutrition education trial targeting inappropriate modifications to bottles of prepared infant formula." Posters were also presented by doctoral students, **Lisa Acuff** and **Chenoa Allen**. Lisa presented "Family support,

sense of control, and self-rated physical health in adults with chronic disease: A mediation analysis," and Chenoa presented "Immigration paradox in Latinos: A search for explanations."

Faculty members, **Dr. Kathy Brown**, **Dr. Jennifer Jabson**, and **Dr. Laurie Meschke**, attended the conference as well. Dr. Jabson presented two posters titled "Psychosocial factors that influence and contribute to sexual minority women's health: A qualitative interview study" and "Gay acres: Urban and rural differences in health indicators among sexual minority individuals." Dr. Meschke had two posters as well, titled "Responsibilities and emotion work as antecedents of health risk for Hmong American adolescents" and "Nonmedical use of prescription drugs among young adults in Appalachia."



Doctoral Student Chenoa Allen (left) and Program Director Dr. Kathy Brown (right) with Acting Surgeon General Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH



MS-MPH student Rebecca Graves with her poster

This year's attendees agreed that the APHA Conference was a worthwhile experience providing valuable networking and learning opportunities. Next year, the conference will be held in Chicago on October 31 - November 4, 2015. The call for abstracts will close in February 2015. All students interested in developing posters or presentations for next year are encouraged to speak with their faculty advisors.

# Recent MPH Events

## Second MPH Career Guidance Workshop

The most recent MPH Career Guidance Workshop focused on the job search process. Attendees learned about search strategies, revisited action plans created during the first workshop, and heard from four alumni of the UT MPH program about their job search experiences. According to evaluation results, almost all 13 attendees found the workshop components valuable or highly valuable. The third workshop, to take place in the spring semester, will focus on resume/cover letter writing. (Top right picture: UT MPH alumnus, **Greg Nichols '10**, discusses his job search process with workshop attendees.)



## Presentation at NCFR Conference

MPH-CHE student **Amanda Letheren** (pictured middle-left) and **Dr. Meschke** recently presented their research at the National Council on Family Relations in Baltimore, MD. Their presentation focused on emotion work and depression in Hmong American adolescents.



## Guest Speaker

**Dr. Jeanita Richardson**, Associate Professor at the University of Virginia, School of Medicine (pictured middle-right), spoke to faculty and students of the Department of Public Health on November 6th about the importance of School-Based Health Care and how to navigate the school system as a public health professional. Find more information about Dr. Richardson's work in her books: *School-Based Health Care: Advancing Educational Success and Public Health* (2011) and *The Full-Service Community School Movement: Lessons from the James Adams Community School* (2009).



## PHGSA at the Love Kitchen

On Wednesday, November 19th, MPH students participated in a service activity sponsored by the PHGSA. Students gathered at the Love Kitchen and prepared food for Knoxville residents. Look for more service opportunities with the PHGSA to come in 2015! (Pictured at right from left to right: **Yijia Zhang, Belle McFarland, Claire Mason, and Kathryn Webb.**)

### MPH Memos Fall 2014

#### Editor

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#### Program Director

*Kathy Brown, PhD,*  
*MPH*

#### Department Head

*Paul Erwin, MD, DrPH*

## Cultural Competency Training in January

In a recent survey distributed through the UT MPH listserv, students indicated an interest in cultural competency training. In response to this interest, the Department of Public Health will offer the Cultural and Linguistic Competency Express - a program facilitated by **Dr. Marsha Spence**, of the Department of Nutrition, and her training team. The program will take place in the multipurpose room on the 1st floor of the **Black Cultural Center on January 6, 2015 from 9:00am-5:00pm**. Students who complete the training will receive a Cultural and Linguistic Competency Express certificate, and lunch will be provided to all participants. To register for the training, go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/25TZ7LR>. Space is limited to first 18 students who register. Contact **Michelle Wright** ([mwright57@vols.utk.edu](mailto:mwright57@vols.utk.edu)) with any questions.