

MPH Alumni Focus

Fall 2012

A newsletter for Master of Public Health alumni at the University of Tennessee

Connecting you with the UTK MPH Program

Department of Public Health Welcomes New Faculty

Dr. Laurie Meschke, Associate Professor, and Dr. Anne Kershenbaum, Visiting Professor, joined the DPH in Fall 2012. [Dr. Meschke](#) earned her PhD and MS in Human Development and Family Studies from Penn State. She was an Associate Professor with the Department of Child and Adolescent



Dr. Kershenbaum

Dr. Meschke

Development at San Francisco State University. Dr. Meschke's primary interest is in the health and well being of adolescents with an emphasis on sexual health, mental health and prenatal alcohol.

[Dr. Kershenbaum](#) earned her MD from Cambridge University Medical School in England. She also earned her MA in Medical Sciences from Cambridge University and her MPH degree from Haifa University in Israel. She is an Epidemiology and Public Health specialist and has engaged in teaching, training, research, and clinical work in epidemiology, specifically biostatistics, cancer screening, and data management.

Welcome to the MPH Alumni Newsletter!

The MPH Alumni Focus Newsletter is a way to keep alumni informed about news and opportunities. The newsletter is issued every fall and spring. As graduates of the program, we hope that you stay connected with us! Your continued involvement and support will strengthen the foundation and tradition for MPH graduates to follow.

Send your comments, news items, and requests to get involved to Julie Grubaugh. Email: jgrubaugh@utk.edu Phone: 865-974-9277

Recent MPH Graduate Wins Student Abstract Award at the American Public Health Association 2012 Annual Conference

Congratulations to Febi Pangloli, an MS-MPH graduate from May 2012, who was awarded the Student Abstract Award for her graduate research entitled "Cultural competence experience enhances organizational cultural competence in health-related academic units" by the American Public Health Association Section on Community Health Planning and Policy Development.

Her submission received the highest score for master's level abstracts based on scoring by independent

reviewers. Febi's research will be presented as a poster at the American Public Health Association's Annual Conference in San Francisco in October.

While a graduate student, she held a Graduate Assistant position with the Department where she drafted the first Alumni newsletter and developed an MPH field practice brochure. Febi completed her MS in Public Health Nutrition and MPH in Health Planning/Administration. Febi currently resides in Dallas, TX.



Febi Pangloli, MS-MPH 2012

News and Updates

- Check out our NEW website, which includes an alumni page: <http://publichealth.utk.edu>
- Update your Contact Information at <http://publichealth.utk.edu/contactupdate.html>

Alumni Roads: Life Stories from Graduates

Seeking Threads of Hope: Jon Hermanson (MPH '98)

In July of 1998, I sat quietly in the surgical recovery room of the University of Tennessee Hospital waiting to hear if my son would make it. A few hours earlier my family and I were notified my son, Erik, had been catastrophically injured in a car accident.

During those hours, I became more acutely aware that what we do in life is about those we love. That is what makes life worth living. Erik, 16, had suffered multiple injuries, but a permanent brain and brain stem injury was the most emotional and serious. but the injury was to all of us. Everyone who loved him was injured.

In the wake of everything, I made a conscious choice to view healthcare as a new opportunity and wanted to learn as much about the delivery of care in the community as possible, so I enrolled in the Master of Public Health program at the University of Tennessee. I earned an MPH in 1998.



The faculty was extremely supportive of my efforts and the issues with my son. In addition, the quality of the curriculum was significant in preparing me for my current role.

As traumatic as the event was, it also became the catalyst for a passion embedded in the development of medical devices. Since that time, as head of product development at Albahealth in Rockwood, Tennessee, I have been heavily involved in many medical textile products and devices commonly used today in healthcare settings.

Albahealth is a leading healthcare manufacturer of medical products and devices focused on patient safety and comfort. I have coordinated product development efforts at Albahealth that

have lead to 2 patents and currently 14 applied for or patent-pending products. However, I am never far from events that keep me grounded and passionate about my work.

I have several heroes in my family. My son is a hero for all he has experienced. My sister is a 13 year survivor of breast cancer. She has been the inspiration behind Lymphedema products we have developed. In addition, we lost an aunt to breast cancer and now my sister in law is dealing with breast cancer. I have family members dealing with cancer, with diabetes and many other conditions. I have been in many, many hospital settings. As I look at a patient in a bed, I see pumps, tubes, monitors and the like. But I also see love in hands holding hands.

I'd like to think that when we develop a product at Albahealth, we use the best of ideas, materials, and techniques... but we always knit in one thread of Hope in everything we make.

Alumni Becomes Certified in Public Health (CPH): Six Years After Graduation

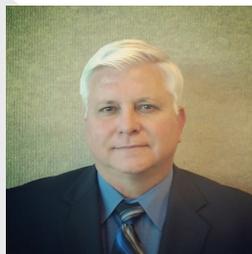
UT Department of Public Health is pleased to recognize MPH alumni Michael Outler, for becoming Certified in Public Health (CPH) by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

With this accomplishment, he demonstrates not only a mastery of the core sciences of public health, but also a strong commitment to staying on the cutting-edge of public health issues.

Employers hiring CPH professionals will be assured these candidates have a fundamental breadth and depth of core public health knowledge and will continue their education through continuing education credits. The CPH process raises the bar for public health workers by highlighting the need for a standard

benchmark for graduates and a certified dedication to the field.

“Preparing for the examination was challenging, and a very rewarding experience that allowed me to delve deeper and learn more about the core areas of public health,” Michael said of the process.



Michael is currently employed at Oak Ridge Associated Universities/Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education as a Health Education Specialist/Project Manager. He earned the MPH in 2006, and continues to educate himself in public health beyond the classroom.

The NBPHE CPH program addresses the need for greater recognition of public health as a health profession. To find out more information about the CPH exam go to: <http://www.publichealthexam.org>

Fast Facts: MPH Alumni Survey

92.3%

* Percentage of 2006-2010 MPH alumni survey respondents who indicated they would recommend the program to prospective students

82.9%

* Percentage of respondents who indicated they felt well-prepared or prepared for effective work

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