

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

## Connecting you with the *UTK* MPH Program

### New faculty hired



**Dr. Jennifer Jabson** earned her PhD in Public Health and MPH in Health Promotion from Oregon State University.

Prior to her arrival at the University of Tennessee, Dr. Jabson completed her post-doctoral fellowship in socio-behavioral factors and cancer-related health disparities at Boston University

School of Public Health. She has taught a variety of public health topics including HIV & Sexually Transmitted Infections, Women's Health & Policy, Health Disparities, and Foundations of Health Education and Health Promotion.

Her primary interest is in eliminating cancer-related health disparities among medically underserved groups.

Dr. Jabson sees great value in teaching and student development; and she is excited to return to teaching after a few years of research.

[View full bio.](#)

### In Memory of Dr. John New



**Dr. John Coy New**, professor of Veterinary Medicine, passed away

suddenly on the evening of Tuesday, October 15th.

Dr. New joined The UT College of Veterinary Medicine in 1977 after completing his DVM degree at Texas A&M, serving as a captain in the US Army Veterinary Corps and earning the MPH degree from the University of Minnesota. Strongly committed to public health, Dr. New was

instrumental in creating and leading the MPH Veterinary Public Health concentration, which graduated its first students in 2005. He also co-founded [HABIT](#) (Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee).

"Dr. New was a warm, gregarious individual who always brought humor to his interactions with others," according to Dr. Charles Hamilton.

Dr. New's legacy is multi-dimensional, but he certainly will be remembered for his many contributions to fostering a strong, interdisciplinary partnership between veterinary medicine and public health.

[View additional details](#)

### 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 success stories and requests to get involved to Julie Grubaugh.

Phone: 865-974-9277

Email: [jgrubaugh@utk.edu](mailto:jgrubaugh@utk.edu)

Website: [publichealth.utk.edu](http://publichealth.utk.edu)

### News and Updates

- \* Do you have a new job or relocation?  
[click here to update your contact information](#)
- \* Visit out our [alumni web page](#)
- \* Read the [MPH Memos newsletter](#)
- \* View UT MPH [Alumni Profiles](#)
- Did you know? [Health Planning & Administration \(HPA\) concentration re-named Health Policy & Management \(HPM\).](#)

## Alumni Working in Academia

Early

### Amy Richardson, MPH class of 2009



**Career Path:**

As Program Manager at Vanderbilt University’s Institute for Global Health in Nashville, Amy directs graduate, nursing,

and undergraduate students in community health education and outreach to refugees and immigrants. She also leads training sessions, conducts assessments, and supervises student interns. Her love of global health began prior to the MPH when she taught English in Thailand and served as a Community Development Worker in Nepal.

**Applying the MPH to Academia:**

While earning the MPH, Amy worked as a graduate research assistant for the UT Center for the Study of Youth and Political Conflict. Then, she completed an

MPH internship at the World Bank, focused on the Africa Region: fragile states, conflict and social development. “My work and training in community-based research and community health education in the MPH program prepared me for my current role in bridging the worlds of academia and community.”

**Message to Alumni:**

“While at UT, I learned to navigate challenging circumstances, demonstrate flexibility, and moderate expectations. These skills have increased the satisfaction and pleasure I find in my work.”

Mid

### Idelia Phillips, MPH class of 1974



**Career Path:**

Idelia’s BS in Biology and minor in Chemistry provided a foundation for the MPH degree and subsequent work with environmental health. After earning the MPH, she worked as chief of health promotion and education at a county health department in Charlotte, North Carolina. In 1986, Idelia earned a PhD in Health Education

Administration from the University of South Carolina, subsequently working in epidemiology, waste management and environmental restoration, and academic affairs.

Dr. Phillips recently retired as Director of Technical Education at the State College of Florida in Bradenton. She currently serves as university faculty for health science, environmental science and nutrition science.

**Applying the MPH to Academia:**

“The diffusion of innovations theory from the MPH degree helped me develop and apply a model for marketing, recruitment, outreach, advising, program completion and placement strategies for technical education students as a way of tracking their academic progress.”

**Message to Alumni:**

“Professionalism has its rewards.”

### Fast Facts: MPH Alumni Survey

According to a survey of alumni from 2006-2010:

The value of the MPH degree in helping alumni achieve professional goals was rated as

- 80.3% High value
- 17.1% Neither low nor high value
- 2.6% Low value

[Click here to view the full survey report](#)



1914 Andy Holt Avenue  
HPER 390  
Knoxville, TN 37996

Late