

MPH Alumni focus

Spring 2012

A NEWSLETTER FOR MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Connecting you with the UTK MPH Program

Welcome to the first issue of the MPH Alumni Newsletter! As we celebrate 40 years of the MPH Program at the University of Tennessee, we recognize our growing number of graduates. By May 2012, we will have a total of 1,220 MPH Alumni. This MPH Alumni Focus Newsletter is a way to keep alumni informed about news, updates, and opportunities. The newsletter will be issued every fall and spring.

This inaugural issue celebrates the accomplishments of Dr. June Gorski, professor of Public Health in Community Health Education. We also spotlight alumni serving as preceptors for MPH students' field practice.

As graduates of the program, we hope that you stay connected with us! We welcome your comments, suggestions, and involvement. If you wish to become involved, please contact julie.hansen@utk.edu / 865-974-9277.

Your continued involvement and support will strengthen the foundation and tradition for MPH graduates to follow. Please enjoy this inaugural edition of the alumni newsletter!

To update your alumni profile visit
<http://publichealth.utk.edu/contactupdate.html>.



**"I am public health in action.
Live what you believe.
We're out there making
people's lives better."**

DR. JUNE GORSKI

After 37 years teaching at the University of Tennessee, Dr. June Gorski, Professor of Public Health in Commu-

A Legacy that Continues: Dr. Gorski to Retire After 37 Years of Teaching

nity Health Education, announces her retirement effective June 30, 2012.

Dr. Gorski received her Master of Education degree from Kent State University and DrPH from the University of California, Los Angeles. During her tenure at UT she served as an adviser to 433 CHE MPH students, chaired 5 PhD committees, and served as a member of over 30 doctoral committees. In addition, Dr. Gorski taught over 8,200 students through the years.

Her passion for health and teaching is evident in her courses which have been consistently community-based and interactive. Dr. Gorski believes that community interaction is important in health education practice. Because of her dedication to helping the community, her classes have been involved in about 90 community projects aiming to make a difference in people's health.

In addition, she has maintained the relationships and connections that she developed throughout her teaching career. These connections are motivators for her in the fields of health and education.

The Dr. June D. Gorski Scholarship Endowment, the first UTK public health scholarship, was established in 1995 to recognize graduate students in public health or health education who demonstrated a commitment to community-based initiatives through preventive measures, advocacy and collaboration. To date, thirty-one recipients have received monetary awards.

Dr. Gorski has made a tremendous impact in the department and her student's lives. The University is awarding her Professor Emeritus status with the Master of Public Health Program.

News and Updates

Our Public Health Graduate Student Association is up and running!

Alumni, please update your profile at <http://publichealth.utk.edu/contactupdate.html>

Featured Alumni Stephanie Armbrister Strutner, MPH

New preceptor shares experience

Our alumni spotlight for this inaugural issue is Stephanie Armbrister Strutner, MPH. We talked to her about her experience as a preceptor in hopes that other MPH alumni would consider this opportunity.

Ms. Strutner is a graduate of the UT Master of Public Health Program from 2006 and the current Executive Director of Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP) of Anderson County. The agency works with all sectors of the community such as government officials, parents, teachers, students, and health care professionals to implement environmental strategies and initiatives to reduce underage alcohol use and substance abuse.

Currently, Ms. Strutner serves as a preceptor to one of our MPH field practice students, Bradley Ward. Her decision to become a preceptor was her desire to give Bradley a professional experience in the field of public

health. According to Ms. Strutner being a preceptor is mutually beneficial for both the student and the agency. Not only are tasks being accomplished, but the student has the opportunity to be immersed in the professional world of public health.

Her goal is to give the student an experience similar to one she had as an MPH field practice intern, which was having the opportunity to network with other public health professionals and seeing how versatile a degree in Public Health can be. Thus, the experience gave her an understanding that a degree in public health opens up many opportunities.

Furthermore, precepting an MPH field student has given ASAP the opportunity to reach beyond what their staff can do to brand their image and create community awareness for what they do.

Ms. Strutner noted that the field student is both eager to learn and become active in day-to-day activities. Her advice to future preceptors is to create a to-do list that may be somewhat longer than what the preceptor thinks could be accomplished during the nine weeks. This challenge will provide a positive experience for both the student and preceptor.



Preceptor Stephanie Armbrister Strutner, MPH discusses survey implementation with Intern, Bradley Ward. Bradley helped coordinate student surveys in Anderson County as part of his field practice.

**To learn more about Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention of Anderson County please visit :
<http://www.asapofanderson.org/>**

Alumni Preceptors

Outstanding Preceptor Recognition Ceremony, April 5

The MPH program is proud that 3 out of 5 Outstanding Preceptors being recognized during National Public Health Week are also alumni. This year's Outstanding Alumni Preceptors include:



Kathleen Brown, PhD, MPH, CHES, Director of Community Assessment and Health Promotion, Knox County Health Department

Shannon Reynolds, MPH, Manager of Network Development, The University of Tennessee Medical Center

Anne Washburn, MPH, Director, Communication and Outreach, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center

Outstanding Preceptor recognition occurs each year during National Public Health Week at the end of the 509 Seminar class. Those named as outstanding preceptors have precepted at least 3 MPH students and have demonstrated exceptional commitment to engaging students in a challenging and beneficial experience. Also considered is their: personal role modeling of professionalism; guidance of growth and development by the student intern; overall quality of the internship provided; and sharing helpful evaluation comments with the student.

To date, about half of all Outstanding Preceptors who have been recognized are also alumni. Over time, we hope more alumni will become preceptors. **If you are interested in becoming a preceptor for a current MPH student, please contact the field placement coordinator, Julie at julie.hansen@utk.edu / 865-974-9277.**

40th Anniversary of MPH Degree

In October 2011, the Department celebrated 40 years of the nationally-accredited Master of Public Health Degree at the University of Tennessee. This two-day celebration included an opening presentation by the past president of the American Public Health Association and current Vice President for External Relations and Preventive Medicine Advisor at the Public Health Institute of California, Carmen Nevarez, MD, MPH.

Alumni Webpage Coming Soon!

<http://publichealth.utk.edu>

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