

MPH Alumni Focus

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

Connecting you with the *UTK* MPH Program

Alumna Recognized for Leading Epi Response Team During Fungal Meningitis Outbreaks



UT public health adjunct professor and PhD alum (06'), **Dr. Kathleen Brown**, was recognized by the Tennessee Department of Health Commissioner, John Dreyzehner, MD, MPH, for the support provided by the Knox County Emergency Preparedness and Epidemiology Programs during the fungal meningitis outbreak investigation.

Tennessee was one of twenty states affected, and had the second highest number of cases (145 confirmed as of February 8, 2012). Competent investigations and information sharing resulted in identifying persons at risk for infection, referral to medical care where indicated and allaying fear associated with the exposure.

Dr. Brown directs Community Assessment and Health Promotion at the Knox County Health Department, which has a staff of 19, including 4 epidemiologists. Dr. Brown and a 6-member investigation team were presented a

Certificate of Excellence for their timely, effective response that aided the state in the 2012 meningitis outbreak. The CDC maintains updated information about the investigation [here](#).

Dr. Brown previously was recognized as an [Outstanding Preceptor](#) for UT MPH students, a rewarding way for alumni to stay connected to the MPH program. She plays a vital role in the [Academic Health Department](#) infrastructure as a shared personnel serving as both practitioner and faculty.

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
Website: publichealth.utk.edu

News and Updates

- Do you have a new job or relocation?

[click here to update your contact information](#)

- Visit our [alumni web page](#)
- University [Alumni Event Calendar](#)
- Read the [MPH Memos newsletter](#)
- View UT MPH [Alumni Profiles](#)



Check out Steve Dorman's new Alumni Profile

Alumni Serving Cherokee Indians

Early

Sheena Kanott, CHE class of 2011



Career Path:

Sheena Kanott graduated with her MPH degree in May 2011 with a concentration in Health Planning and Administration (HPA). While pursuing her MPH degree at UT, Ms. Kanott completed paid public health internships in various locations, including at Knox County Health Department, **Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) Health & Medical Division**, & Cocke County Health Council.

“These opportunities allowed me to apply what I was learning in the

classroom setting to the actual work setting.”

She currently works at the EBCI as a Program Director for Cherokee Choices. Cherokee Choices is the only diabetes prevention program available for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Community, school, and worksite based physical activity and wellness programming is offered, which includes lifestyle balance classes, adolescent and after-school programming, and running clubs.

Cherokee Choices is also in the process of starting up a new program called Nurse Family partnership, which is an evidence-based program that serves pregnant women. The goals of the program are to improve pregnancy outcomes, improve child health

and development, and improve parental life course outcomes.

Serving Cherokee Indians: In her work as Program Director, Ms. Kanott is committed to serving American Indians and clearly recognizes the inequities present in this population.

“Cherokee people were dispossessed of their labor, language, culture, and religious beliefs many years ago. We are only beginning to comprehend the consequences of what occurred long ago and still see today. Where there is dispossession there is significant damage in health, in educational levels, and in social well being.”

Message to Alumni: “Continuing education is key to keeping your

Mid



J.T. Garrett, OEHS class of 1976

Career Path:

Dr. J.T. Garrett is currently in his 43rd year as a public health

professional. He graduated in May of 1976 with his MPH with a concentration in Occupational Environmental Health & Safety (no longer offered) and later earned his EdD in Public Health. He started his career at Westinghouse Corporation as a Health and Safety Director in 1970, was later commissioned as a U.S. Public Health Officer, and **now serves as the Public Health Director for Carteret County in North Carolina.**

Serving Cherokee Indians:

“For 22 of my over 40 years in health

and public health, I have been a health director or a hospital administrator or CEO or Commissioned Officer in the Indian Health Service.” Dr. Garrett has committed a large part of his career to directly serving American Indians. He has written four books about his Cherokee ancestry that have allowed him to offer monies and services to the Cherokee Elders and the Cherokee Children’s Home in Cartaret county. He is also chair of a Nation Awareness Committee, which funds activities in four states and 22 Indian Reservations or Reserves.

Message to Alumni:

“UT has given me the education and opportunity to be and do everything I have ever dreamed of in my career and life in general!” His favorite part of his job has been “seeing children, grow into making better choices than most of their parents.”

Fast Facts: MPH Alumni Survey

Where do MPH alumni work?

According to a survey of alumni from 2006-2010:

- Government - 32.9%
- For-profit - 21.9%
- Non-profit - 19.2%
- Research/University – 15.1%
- Other – 11%

Late



1914 Andy Holt Avenue
HPER 390
Knoxville, TN 37996