

MPH Alumni Focus

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

MPH Program Director to Retire; Awarded Professor Emeritus



Dr. Charles Hamilton will retire June 30 from his position as professor and director of the MPH Program, achieving Professor Emeritus rank based on his substantial career contributions to the University.

Dr. Hamilton began his UT faculty role in fall 1975 as an

associate professor of public health. He has served as the program director since fall 1982 and successfully guided the MPH Program through five self-study reviews leading to accreditation extensions by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). In preparation for his retirement, he created the framework and foundation for the upcoming 2015 self-study document. Concurrently with his responsibilities as

program director, Dr. Hamilton served as acting director of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation during 1985-86 and as head of the Department of Health, Leisure and Safety Sciences from 1986 until August 2000.

The American Public Health Association honored him with Emeritus status in 2010; and the Southern Health Association awarded Life Membership in 2012. The Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA) awarded Life Membership in 2003 and the R.H. Hutcheson, Sr., MD Career Award in 2004. The Hutcheson award in “recognition of a dedicated career in the field of public health” is identified as TPHA’s highest award. At the invitation of CEPH, he has chaired numerous accreditation site visit teams to conduct reviews of other MPH and doctoral public health programs across the US and in Puerto Rico and Canada. During the past 14 months, Dr. Hamilton served as a member of the national Master of Public Health Expert Panel of the Framing the Future Task Force, convened by the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health.

He anticipates that retirement will allow more time for traveling and enjoying his four grandkids.

Connecting you with the UTK MPH Program!

The MPH Alumni Focus Newsletter keeps alumni informed about news and opportunities. The newsletter is issued every fall and spring. As graduates of the program, your continued involvement and support strengthens the foundation and traditions for MPH graduates to follow.

Send your success stories, requests for MPH interns, jobs postings for alumni, or other news to Julie Grubaugh.

Phone: 865-974-9277

Email: jgrubaugh@utk.edu
Website: publichealth.utk.edu

News and Updates

- * Congratulations to **Cynthia Nunnally**, class of 1990, who was awarded [Outstanding Preceptor](#) by UT MPH Academic Program Committee during National Public Health Week celebration. Cynthia, an Administrator at Shelby County Health Department, is the 9th alum to be recognized.
- * UTK became a CEPH-accredited member of the [Association of Schools & Programs in Public Health \(ASPPH\)](#)
- * Visit our [alumni web page](#)
- * Read the [MPH Memos newsletter](#)

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

Alumni Working in Federal Govt.

Early

Lusi Martin, MPH class of 2010



Career Path:
Lusi is a Health Policy Analyst at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of

Community Health, Office of Policy and Partnerships, a fellowship placement through the Association of Schools & Programs in Public Health (ASPPH). She is learning complex policy analysis

strategies related to obesity and tobacco prevention. Her interests in Health Policy developed while completing Master of Public Health and Nutrition programs at UTK.

Applying the MPH to Federal Employment:

While working on her MS-MPH degrees at UTK, Lusi benefited greatly from hands-on experiences offered through her classes, partnering most often with Knox County Health Department. Her summer internship was at the Georgia Department of Community Health in Atlanta where she was instrumental in establishing the Georgia Food Policy Council.

"My strong training in the three core functions of Public Health has been instrumental in understanding the role and importance of policy in addressing public health issues, especially in vulnerable populations."

Message to Alumni:

"I've come to believe that each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint - and that the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you." -Oprah Winfrey, September 2002

Mid

Kenneth Gerlach, MPH class of 1978



Career Path:
As a Health Scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), America's public health organization, Ken works in

the immunization information systems domain with a focus on informatics. Prior to working in the immunization domain he worked in a variety of public health areas including health planning and administration, community health centers, and cancer surveillance and epidemiology. While working in

cancer surveillance, Ken served a key leadership role in the establishment of a national standard for the transmission of cancer pathology data using the HL7 standard and he led efforts to incorporate informatics principles to enhance cancer data completeness, accuracy, and interoperability.

Applying the MPH to Federal Employment:

UT's MPH provided an overall understanding of the breadth and scope of public health which has served me well working in different public health domains and in different roles. Planning and administration were skills used in all roles and in all organizations.

Message to Alumni:

"There is an avalanche of new technology and information; be creative to address the public health mission."

Fast Facts: MPH Alumni Survey

According to the new 2013 survey of alumni who graduated during calendar years 2011 & 2012:

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

- 76% High value
- 19% Neither low nor high value
- 5% Low value

[Click here to view report](#)

 Department of Public Health

1914 Andy Holt Avenue
HPER 390
Knoxville, TN 37996

Late