



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH

MPH Alumni Focus

Fall 2015
Issue 8

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

DPH welcomes new biostatistics professor



Samantha Ehrlich, PhD, MPH, is a new Assistant Professor at the UT Department of Public Health. Dr. Ehrlich earned her MPH degree in Maternal and Child Health and PhD in Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley's School of Public Health. She completed her Postdoctoral Fellowship at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, California, in the Women's and Children's Health Research Section where she has subsequently worked as a Research Project Manager. Before that, she was a Consultant Research Scientist for the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Branch at the Office of AIDS, California Department of Health Services. Dr. Ehrlich also had the privilege of doing international public health work in Nicaragua and Ecuador as an MPH student. Her research centers on the diagnosis and clinical management of gestational diabetes and developmental programming for chronic disease.

Dr. Ehrlich taught PUBH 530 Biostatistics this fall and is excited to teach again. She has been a long distance runner for over 20 years and has her best and brightest ideas while running.

Click here to read her full bio and CV: <http://publichealth.utk.edu/personnel/ehrllich/Ehrllich.html>

MPH program completes accreditation site visit

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) conducted an MPH accreditation site visit at the UT Department of Public Health on October 5-6, 2015. Three site reviewers met with faculty, students, alumni, and community partners to assess compliance with the Councils' MPH program accreditation requirements. CEPH summarized their findings in a written report to the DPH in December 2015. The DPH will respond to CEPH's report by May, and CEPH will issue an accreditation decision in summer 2016. The UT MPH program has been continuously accredited since 1969. The MPH program's recent self-study report is available here: http://publichealth.utk.edu/documents/2015_MPH_Self_Study.pdf **Thanks to the six dedicated alumni who met with CEPH reviewers to provide feedback on our program: Kelly Melear-Hough, '08; Karen Pershing, '10; Michelle Smith, '15; Stephanie Welch, '97; Carlos Yunsan, '02; and Tim Young, '92.**

Connect with the UTK MPH Alumni Network!

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 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

Click [here](#) to donate to MPH program

Awards & Recognition



Amy Adams, MPH '15, earned the Certified in Public Health (CPH)



Jeanmarie Salie, MPH '15, earned the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES)

Get Social!

At your request, we created a **UT MPH Alumni LinkedIn group** to network, find a mentor, be a mentor, share a job, get connected! Click the icons below to join.



MPH alum is hired as Dean of Saint Louis University's Public Health College

After serving as Professor and Department Head at Penn State's Department of Behavioral Health, **Collins O. Airhihenbuwa, PhD, MPH**, becomes Dean of Saint Louis University's College for Public Health and Social Justice beginning January 1, 2016.

Career in Culture and Health

Dr. Airhihenbuwa's career interests began in graduate school where he noticed a tendency to quantify problems based on deficits. Having grown up in Nigeria, he observed people who did not have material wealth but had cultural wealth.

He became an early pioneer in an asset-based, culturally focused framework called the PEN-3 model. PEN-3 has been used to guide diverse health interventions worldwide, from malaria prevention in Africa to diabetes management in the United States.

"As the author of PEN-3 model and co-author of critical race theory applied to public health, my work



Dr. Collins Airhihenbuwa, MPH '81

has informed ways of addressing the intersection of culture, race and health in many NIH funded projects."

Social media: opportunities and challenges

How can we use social media positively, yet still encourage critical reflection? If everything is instantaneous, how do you assure critical reflection and discussion?

Advice to MPH alumni

"Read, read, read!" Specifically, Dr. Airhihenbuwa recommends reading outside of public health, such as literature dealing with the nature of relationships, geography, identity, race, gender, sexual orientation.

"PH is so multidisciplinary. Read broadly to understand issues and find solutions."

A couple of his favorite reads include: Paulo Coelho's [The Alchemist](#) and Chinua Achebe's [Hopes and Impediments](#). Dr. Airhihenbuwa authored the book, [Healing our differences: the crisis of global health and the politics of identity](#).

Alumni Assist with Career Workshops in 2015

Interview Skills, April 17

- **Michelle Moyers, MPH '99**, Knox County Health Department; panelist

Understanding MPH Career Options, September 30

- **Angela Powell, MPH '87**, Health Resources & Services Administration; panelist
- **Freddy Gray, MPH '93**, Oak Ridge Associated Universities; networking mingle
- **Cheryl Hill, MS-MPH '06**, Knox County Health Department; networking mingle
- **Stephanie Strutner, MPH '06**, Allies for Substance Abuse & Prevention; networking mingle

How to Search for Jobs, November 11

- **Belle McFarland, MPH '14**, American College of Cardiologists; speaker
- **Kandi Pitchford, PhD, MPH '06**, BlueCross BlueShield of TN; speaker
- **Tracy Spencer, MPH '13**, Noblis; speaker

Want to speak at an MPH career workshop or precept an intern in 2016?
Contact Julie at jgrubaugh@utk.edu or 865-974-9277

Alumni preceptors

Thanks for mentoring an MPH intern in 2015!

- **Angela Powell, MPH '87** Health Resources and Services Administration
- **Rebecca Higdon, MPH '12** UT Graduate School of Medicine
- **Stephanie Welch, MS -MPH '97** Great Schools Partnership
- **John Bailey, MPH '10** Health-Leaders InterStudy

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