

MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

SPRING 2016 Issue 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12
Research Day

February 24
Interview Skills
Workshop

March 14-18
Spring Break

March 25
Spring Recess

April 1
Spring MPH
Comprehensive
Exam

April 29
Classes End

April 29, May 5 & 9
Field Practice
Presentations

May 3-6, 9, 10
Final Exams

May 12
Graduate Hooding

May 14
Official Graduation
Date

Public Health Graduate Student Association (PHGSA) Wants to Know What Lights Your Fire

2016 brings new learning opportunities, a new PHGSA board, and a new opportunity for you to get involved. The board has brainstormed new ways to connect our fellow health students with the professional development and community outreach opportunities that they are most passionate about.

Our first step: getting your feedback.

- What other campus organizations do you want to partner with?
- What community leaders and organizations do you want to hear from or connect with?
- What topics or projects "light your fire?" How can we connect you with opportunities to engage in the things you're most passionate about?
- Where would you love to volunteer for a few hours?

Three ways to give your feedback:

1. Attend the PHGSA town hall meeting on Thursday, February 11 from 3-4 p.m. in Room 220E in Hodges Library (Second Floor, Commons North area).
2. Respond to our online survey – coming soon!
3. Speak with a PHGSA officer or faculty advisor – our info is below.

Not a PHGSA member? It's okay! We want to hear from you, and you're always welcome at PHGSA meetings and events!

Here's a preview of upcoming events and projects – make sure your voice is heard as we plan these opportunities:

- April 6-10: National Public Health Week events and activities.
- Regular community service opportunities throughout the entire year.
- Social events – network with each other and community leaders.
- Panel discussions or interactive workshops.
- New student orientation (fall 2016).
- Comps study parties in the spring and fall.

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Thank you,
The 2016 PHGSA Board

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Students Practice Tailoring Resumes and Cover Letters



On January 26, twelve MPH students attended a hands-on, highly practical resume and cover letter workshop. The resume workshop is the third in an annual four-part career development series that prepares MPH students for identifying and attaining their career goals. Public health faculty, **Dr. Laurie Meschke**, shed light on how to obtain stellar recommendation letters, and career specialist, **Mary Beth Browder**, revealed tactics to assure students' resumes and cover letters are well-crafted and tailored to a position.

In case you missed it, here are some highlights...

Recommendation letters - Who do you ask? Ask professors and employers who have seen you demonstrate skills or knowledge related to the job requirements, ideally within the past 5 years. References are typically busy people. Support them in writing the letter by:

- Concisely summarize the most important job responsibilities and specify examples of how the reference has seen you demonstrate those skills. Attach transcripts and current resume.
- For each person recommending you, highlight different skills and knowledge you have demonstrated or different examples of these. This assures you will have a set of well-rounded, comprehensive recommendation letters that are tailored to the position and speak to your various qualifications.

Resumes - Most resumes get only a 10-15 second glance. Begin with strong action verbs, use words that match the job description, and quantify results. List experiences in chronological order, and be selective with which experiences you include. Use the same font, style, and formatting.

Cover Letters - Your cover letter allows you to connect personally and clarifies how your skill sets match the employer's needs. Address your one-page cover letter to a specific person or, if such information is unavailable, to a specific job title while remaining gender neutral. Indicate how you heard about the position, summarize key experiences that will allow you to contribute to the organization, and express desire to be considered.

After you apply - If you haven't heard back, it's okay to reach out to reiterate your continued interest in the position. If the position has been filled, consider asking for personal feedback about how you could be more competitive in the future.

Golden Opportunity: Register for the MPH Interview Skills Workshop

The interview skills workshop on **February 24** from 2-4 pm will begin with tips and tactics followed by a facilitated group interview practice where employers students respond to common interview questions, and receive immediate feedback on what worked well and what could work better. Don't miss this opportunity to learn why employers ask certain questions, what they're looking for, and pitfalls to avoid.

To register, visit <http://tiny.utk.edu/InterviewWorkshop>.

Current MPH students may request a copy of the workshop materials by contacting **Julie Grubaugh** at jgrubaugh@utk.edu. For individualized resume and cover letter guidance, contact **Mary Beth Browder**, career specialist, at the UT Career Development Center, (865) 974-5435 or mbrowde2@utk.edu.

Author: Kaitlin Dewitt

Recent MPH Events

HPM Job Faculty Search Update

After careful consideration of student and faculty input, the department has made a final selection for the HPM faculty position.

We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Rob Lieberthal**, who will be joining UTK DPH faculty beginning in August!



Congratulations to **Dr. Ehrlich** on the recent addition to her family!

Introducing **Mael Andrew Tedsen** who was born on December 9, 2015.

ALUMNI



Kasey Fristoe, CHE 15', works at UT SWORPS (Social Work Office of Research and Public Service) doing program evaluation. "One of my favorite things about my work is the variety-no day or project is the same! I am currently working on evaluations with the Tennessee Department of Education, UT College of Nursing, UT Earth and Planetary Sciences, and a UT extension office. In addition to working hard and being dependable, my advice to current students would be to expose yourself to as many career possibilities and people as possible. I used to have a negative connotation with 'networking', but in my experience most people are really happy to talk to you-so just ask! You never know what door one connection might open, or the new direction one conversation might trigger in you to explore. When I started the MPH, I would never have imagined I'd end up working as a program evaluator. Yet here I am, working what turns out to be my dream job."

Congratulations, Kasey!!

Yusof Al-Wadei, HPM 15', works at the Knox County Health Department as a Public Health Educator, focusing on physical activity within Community Health. Yusof also works under a Tennessee Department of Health Diabetes grant promoting physical activity and wellness in partnership with the Boys and Girls Club (BGC). He chairs the Health Department's Worksite Wellness Committee and serves as an advisor for the BGC Wellness Committee. Currently, Yusof is running a wellness program at all of the BGC sites promoting physical activity, nutrition, and hydration. More recently, Yusof has been working with Dr. McNeely to develop an evaluation toolkit for a grant that is being applied for in partnership between the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department and the Health Department. "Along with program evaluation skills learned while here at UT, I've had to utilize many other learned concepts and skills such as grant writing, program evaluation, and policy revision. My biggest advice to current public health students is to pay special attention to the community service learning projects and ask lots of questions. The skills you are learning and applying in these projects are the same skills you will use in the workforce."

Congratulations, Yusof!!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Anticipating graduation in summer or fall 2016? Finishing course work in the spring? If so, read on!

Please be sure you registered with Dr. Kathy Brown to take the 2016 MPH Comprehensive Exam. The exam will take place April 1, 2016 from 9:00am to 3:00 pm in HPER 390 (room will be announced on exam day).

Please also visit the Graduate School website (<http://gradschool.utk.edu/>) periodically for the latest deadlines, forms, and procedures for graduation.

Share your news in MPH Memos with **Amanda Letheren**, editor.
Email alethere@vols.utk.edu

2016 DPH RESEARCH DAY SAVE THE DATE

Calling all Public Health Students!
Save the date to attend and present* at the 2016
Department of Public Health Research Day.

When: 9:00 —2:00, Friday, February 12th, 2016
Where: Black Cultural Center

*Don't have current research? Don't worry. Talk to your faculty about getting involved TODAY!

Questions? Don't miss out. See Dr. Jabson.