

# MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

SPRING 2016 Issue 3

## PHGSA Celebrates National Public Health Week 2016

### Gearing up for National Public Health Week: The Week Before

**Community Service:** Students in the MPH program contributed 13 hours of manual labor to support Knoxville Area Rescue Ministry, a local organization dedicated to issues of homelessness.

**Promoting Healthy Weight 2.0 - Colloquium Series:** Public health students were encouraged to attend this event hosted by the Department of Nutrition. Students in the graduate seminar course had an opportunity to hear an exclusive presentation on the collaborations of farms and school systems across the country.

**Addressing Sexual Violence:** MPH students supported the university's Center for Health Education and Wellness by hosting a table at the center's Hike the Hill in Heel's walk to raise awareness for sexual assault.

### National Public Health Week Events

**Public Health Forum:** Public health students were invited to join faculty in a longstanding tradition of meeting with public health practitioners from the community for a roundtable discussion of local public health issues, trends, and needs.

**A Conversation on Public Health Ethics:** The Department of Public Health hosted a fireside chat with public health ethicist, Dr. James Thomas, PhD, MPH. He provided unique perspective on the intersection and the differences between medical and public health ethics, the APHA code of ethics for public health, and current ethical dilemmas facing our field.

**Connecting with the Community:** The faculty, staff, graduate students and undergraduates came together to represent the department at a community health fair. Hundreds of university staff, students, faculty, retirees, and even outside members of the community attended the fair hosted by the UTK College of Nursing.

**Building a Social and Professional Network:** Wednesday brought two opportunities to connect with fellow department students and colleagues during both a "de-stress day" activities designed to help us develop a mindful, relaxed presence, followed by a trivia event that evening that was attended by almost a third of the MPH student body!

**Chalk It Out:** MPH students participated in a chalk walk hosted by the university. Their artwork depicted the many facets of public health work and touted the Healthiest Nation 2030 tagline. The artwork was displayed on the main thoroughfare of the campus, seen by thousands of university students, and was accompanied by information about public health academic programs at UTK.

**Creativity and Passion through Video:** Undergraduate students enrolled in Global Public Health participated in APHA's Generation Public Health movement. In response to a call to action by the Tennessee Public Health Association (TPHA), the students created 8 videos on critical public health issues designed to educate the public and policymakers about National Public Health Week. Their videos were screened in several graduate-level classes in celebration of their hard work in relation to National Public Health Week and as an inspiration to remember the roots of our own passions.



## Join PHGSA at the Next Event!

May 6: Faculty, staff, and all students are invited to bring their families and enjoy an evening of baseball as the UTK baseball team faces off against the University of Florida. It will be a great opportunity to expand both our personal and professional networks and celebrate the end of the semester!



## Student Awards

**Congratulations** to the winners of the **June D. Gorski Scholarship Endowment** for the 2015 – 2016 Academic year! This scholarship was established by June D. Gorski, DrPH in 1995 to further the study and practice of public health. The recipients demonstrate a commitment to community-based initiatives and the promotion or preventive measures to further the mission of “healthy people in healthy communities.” Way to go, Jessica and Brittany!



*Jessica Jurcak*



*Brittany Hardwick*

**Congratulations** to **Melanie Fowler** for receiving the **Charles B. Hamilton Award**. The Charles Hamilton Award recognizes outstanding graduate students in the Department of Public Health and acknowledges Dr. Hamilton’s contribution and leadership in the Health Policy and Management area and outstanding university services. Great job, Melanie!

## Faculty Awards

Congratulations to **Dr. Clea McNeely**, **Dr. J. Chen**, and **Dr. Jennifer Jabson** on their faculty awards!

**Dr. McNeely** received the **College Senate Faculty Mentoring Award**. This award recognizes a faculty member who has mentored other faculty, especially untenured tenure-track faculty. This award identifies a faculty member who has provided counsel, guidance, support, and encouragement to untenured, tenure track faculty in their department, the college and the university.

**Dr. J. Chen** received the **Frances Speight Clark Faculty Enrichment Development Award**. This award recognizes faculty enrichment and development in departments of child and family studies, nutrition, public health, retail, hospitality and tourism management to recognize/use for outstanding achievement in a given field on a given project; seed money for new research project or to continue a project until permanent funding is secured; faculty travel to professional meetings; and funding for an international faculty exchange.

**Dr. Jennifer Jabson** received the **Irma Fitch Giffels Faculty Enrichment Award**. This award honors faculty members who recognize and encourage excellence in the departments of child and family studies, nutrition, public health, retail, hospitality and tourism management for: professional internships for faculty members; travel stipends for international research; and semester study break to allow faculty member time to concentrate on research or writing.

# MPH Opportunities and Recent Events



**Inter-professional Education Training Opportunity:** An interprofessional graduate student team, with graduate students from UT's Family Nurse Practitioner program, Pharmacy, Public Health, and Nutrition, will provide collaborative, team-based care to rural and underserved clients in community clinic settings. **We are looking for public health students!** This experience will begin with a one-day training workshop on **June 3, 2016**. After, students will see patients together in the communities surrounding Knox County for a total of 4 days. If interested, please contact **Dr. Kathy Brown** at [kcbrown@utk.edu](mailto:kcbrown@utk.edu)

## **Jen Russomanno's Testimony**

"In Spring 2016, I had the unique opportunity to be part of an Inter-professional Education (IPE) Training team through UTK's Department of Public Health. In this training, graduate students from Public Health, Nutrition,

Nursing and Pharmacy were able to get real world, hands-on experience at a rural health clinic in Monroe County. In a typical educational setting, students take classes within their given curriculum, not really having an opportunity to interact with students in various disciplines. The IPE training allowed me to interact and converse with students from other areas in the healthcare field. Having the opportunity to do this while still in school allowed me to see firsthand how integration with other healthcare disciplines must exist to ensure the best possible patient outcomes. We do not and cannot work in individual silos if we want what is best for the patient. Everyone brought their own unique experience and perspective to each case.

Together, the students (under the advisement of a faculty member) worked to diagnose patients and create treatment plans in a real world setting. While not all patients necessarily required expertise from a public health professional, it was beneficial to gain clinical experience, to read and comprehend a patient chart and to sit in with other graduate students to come up with a course for treatment. In addition, I was able to have one-on-one time with the clinic's community outreach coordinator. This gave me valuable insight into what struggles face the clinic and their patient population on a daily basis. I would recommend any student looking to gain employment in a rural area to take part in IPE training. It truly opened my eyes to real world struggles and issues facing rural healthcare providers and their patient population."

Last month, Dr. Paul Erwin and MPH Student Amanda Letheren represented UT's public health department at the Association of Schools & Programs of Public Health (ASPPH). ASPPH is the voice of accredited academic public health, representing schools and programs accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). Dr. Erwin was on a panel discussing the future of the DrPH degree, and Amanda presented her poster on nuclear waste management on the Oak Ridge Reservation.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

May 6  
UTK Baseball with PHGSA

May 3-6, 9, 10  
Final Exams

May 5 & 9  
Field Practice Presentations

May 12  
Graduate Hooding

May 14  
Official Graduation Date

***Congratulations to all graduating students  
and good luck to those taking finals!***



***Congratulations!***

