

# MPH Memos

The University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health

Spring 2018

Issue 2



## Dates to Remember

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*Spring Break- 3/12-3/16*

*PHGSA Meeting- 3/22,  
HPER room 235*

*MPH Career  
Development: Mock  
Interviews- 3/23*

*Public Health Week-  
4/2-4/8*

*Comps- 4/6*

*TPHA East TN Regional  
Meetings- 4/6*

*Classes End- 4/27*

*Exams- 5/1-5/8*

*Graduate Hooding- 5/10*



## Public Health In Action!



By: Kelsey Gordon

In the spring of 2017 Tennessee legislature authorized the leaders of all state college and universities to adopt policies and procedures to prohibit smoking on campus property except for in designated smoking areas. With this authorization, it has allowed the University Tennessee Knoxville (UTK) to consider revision to the alcohol and smoking policies on campus.

Since June 2017 Morgan Hartgrove, President of the Student Government Association as well as a student in the College Scholars Program, has been working with Vince Carilli, Vice Chancellor for Student Life, on recommendations for updates to the current smoking policy.

According to the American Nonsmokers' Rights Foundation (ANRF) there are several other universities throughout the country who have already begun taking the steps towards a smoke free campus setting. "As of January 2, 2018, there are now at least 2,106 100% smoke free campus sites. Of these, 1,771 are also 100% tobacco-free, 1,686 also prohibit e-cigarette use, 868 also prohibit hookah use, and 220 prohibit smoking/vaping marijuana." If you would like to read more about universities going smoke free: <http://no-smoke.org/goingsmokefree.php?id=447>. From these varying levels of prohibition, it is recognized that smoke free can mean a lot of different things and, by definition, can fall within a wide spectrum, it just depends on what the best fit is for each school.

UTK has not made their final decision on which route they will go with UT going smoke free, or which level they will choose to introduce to the policy if they decide to push for a smoke free campus.

If this is a topic that you feel strongly about, a good point of contact would be the Division of Student Life.





## Community Outreach



Check out these public health related volunteer opportunities!



Inskip Elementary School of Knoxville will be hosting their second annual health fair on Saturday, April 21 from 10-2. The Department of Public Health has been asked to participate by sponsoring a table. This is an opportunity to introduce the field of Public Health to the Inskip neighborhood and share your Public Health interests and expertise. Please let Laurie L. Meschke know if you are interested in helping for an hour or two ([llmeschke@utk.edu](mailto:llmeschke@utk.edu)). The more the merrier! We will finalize the details and strategy together as a team.

The Pedal for Alzheimer's is a non-profit that was born out of last year's Pedal for Pat campaign. This is a volunteer opportunity that would involve having students help with event planning, staging, support, and social media. Last year the organization raised over \$100,000 in support of Alzheimer's, if you are interested in the opportunity to assist with this year's campaign please contact Claire Holladay, the President of the Public Health Graduate Student Association, for further details ([chollad1@vols.utk.edu](mailto:chollad1@vols.utk.edu)).





# MPH on the Go

By: Kelsey Gordon



## Department of Public Health Research Day

On February 23, UT graduate public health students and faculty gathered together at the Black Cultural Center for a full day of research presentations of all different variety and interests.

Students presented on various different health impacts throughout different populations, research done on insurance impacts within the healthcare system, a lit review on stereotyping in military families, and one student presented a research idea for their PhD dissertation. Overall, there was a total of twelve interesting research presentations completed.

Student Presenters:

- Emma Barnes- “Exploring the Relation between Emotion Work and Depression in Hmong American Adolescents”
- Rebecca Elias- “Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and the Tennessee Department of Corrections”
- Brandy Fuesting- “The Impact of Within Group Stereotypes on Military Communities: A Systematic Literature Review”
- Adeline Grier- “Perceptions of Food Pantry Usage and Food Acquisition Behaviors Among Food Pantry Users in East Tennessee”
- Tom Hansen- “A conceptual model for predicting risk tradeoffs in radiation policymaking”
- Deborah Kirkland- “A systematic Review of Interventions that Increase Earlier Uptake of the HPV Vaccine in Girls 9 to 17-years-old in the United States”
- Katrina Proffitt- “Examining the Interventional Gap Between Health and eHealth Literacy”
- Aubrey Ray- “Effectiveness of Type 2 Diabetes Self-Management Education in Appalachia: A Systematic Review”
- Jennifer Russomanno- “Using Facebook to Recruit Hard-to-Reach Populations Background”
- Anisha Singh- “Assessing the Health Impacts of Flooding in Florida”
- Skyla Smith- “Examining Predictive Modeling-Based Approaches to Characterizing Health Care Fraud”
- Augustus White- “The Medicaid Expansion: Modeling of Important Factors in State Decision Making”

Skyla Smith, an MPH student who is currently working on insurance fraud research, reported, “Research day was a great way to see what everyone is working on in the department. The diversity and range of research was eye-opening and quite amazing! It reiterated our potential in public health and the vast range of opportunity we will be exposed to. I also won in the raffle drawing and that never happens! So, it was an all-around great day!”

Aubrey Ray, a DrPH student who presented at research day stated, “Participating in Public Health Research day was a great experience for me. Having an opportunity to present my research, respond to questions, and learn about other students’ research helped me to identify my own strengths and areas of improvement as a researcher and presenter. As a result, I feel much more prepared to present my research at regional and national conferences.”

Thank you to all Faculty and Staff that helped make this event happen!



## Announcement

### Food Safety Summer Internship 2018

There are three summer internships available:  
Distributed across Knox County Health Department (KCHD), East Tennessee Regional Health Office (ETRHO), and Central Office in Nashville.

Internship includes a stipend of \$4,000  
Internship length is 8 weeks, full-time  
Applications available beginning March 1  
For more information: Kelsey Gordon  
[kgordo10@utk.edu](mailto:kgordo10@utk.edu) or Paul Erwin [perwin@utk.edu](mailto:perwin@utk.edu)

## What are you doing over Spring Break?

Going to  
Pennsylvania for the  
veterinary SAVMA  
Symposium

-Steffi Sellge

Going to Tampa, FL and  
family is coming to visit

-Hannah Robinson

Traveling to Hong  
Kong!

-Tsz-Kiu Chui

Working and writing  
my first major paper

-Victor Brown

Wedding Cake Tasting!

-Alyssa Howard

Stay Safe and Have Fun!!