



# MPH Memos

The University of Tennessee | Department of Public Health



Spring 2018  
Issue 3

## Dates to Remember

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*Graduation Luncheon- 5/10*

*Graduate Hooding- 5/10*

*Memorial Holiday- 5/28*

*Full and 1<sup>st</sup> Sessions Begin- 5/31*

*Independence Day Holiday- 7/4*

*Summer Comprehensive Exam- 7/17*

*Full and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sessions End- 8/10*

*Summer Graduation Date- 8/11*

*Fall Comprehensive Exam- 11/2*



Public Health In Action!



By: Kelsey Gordon

In Public Health, when learning of the social determinants of health, that health starts in our homes, schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, and communities. Right here, in East Tennessee over 200,000 people throughout 18 different counties go hungry on a daily basis, 1 in 4 children are at risk of hunger.

Kicking off the Month of May the local organization, Second Harvest Foodbank of East Tennessee is looking to collect \$200,000 in donations to help feed hungry children this summer.

This organization is best known for its food for kids and summer pantries programs throughout the local schools. The food for kid's program provides food for children in need over weekends when they are not able to get the free school meals. They just launched the summer pantries program that keeps food stocked at the schools so that kids and families in need can access them during the summer break.

They also announced their summer "Music Feeds" schedule <https://secondharvestetn.org/events/2018-05/> where tickets can be purchased for the concerts they will be hosting, at the Tennessee Amphitheater, as a benefit and fundraiser for the Second Harvest Foodbank. Engage in the fight against hunger while having some good summer fun!

If you are interested in volunteering or submitting a donation go to this website: <https://secondharvestetn.org/>



# Getting the Job You Want: Recap of Our Spring Interview Event



By Sharena Domingo



March 23<sup>rd</sup> marked the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Graduate Public Health Interview Skills Workshop, an event commonly referred to as the Mock Interviews. Created to help graduate students develop their professional skills, the afternoon included a large group interview, small group interviews, as well as cover letter and resume preparation. The event was kicked off by Career Consultant Simone Stewart, who shared some useful tips for de-stressing and preparing for interviews.

Panelists for the both the large and small group interview hailed from various sectors of Public Health, showcasing the multifaceted merits of an MPH. Backgrounds for panelists and interviewers included:

- Director of the Heart, Lung & Vascular Institute at UT Medical Center
- Consultant Educator for childbirth and parenting
- Associate Director for UT's Center for Health Education & Wellness
- TN Department of Health Epidemiologist
- Director of Market Access Regional Insights for the Decision Resources Group

The large group interview was conducted in an intimate setting, allowing the three panelists to give each interviewee: an in-depth analysis of the strengths of their responses, suggestions to improve, and what interviewers from their respective sectors may look for.

The large group interview was made even more memorable by an alumnus' donation of their Public Health graduate hood (\$50 value), which MPH student Jennifer Schablik (right) won in a raffle drawing!



After a brief break, the event segued into the small group interviews. These interviews were conducted in two ways: a one-on-one ratio of student to interviewer, or two students with one interviewer. Students who participated in this mock interviewing activity had the opportunity to simulate interviews for a wide variety of positions based on their desired career path: Associate Director, Epidemiologist, Market Analyst, Health Education Center Coordinator, and Director for Cardiovascular Services.

Filled with creative activities to enhance a graduate student's professional development, the Interview Skills Workshop was both productive and engaging. Between participating in interview simulations, and receiving feedback from hiring managers, students expanded their professional network and repertoire.

## Getting the Job You Want—What’s in store for next year?

Written by Julie Grubaugh



The UT Department of Public Health’s Career Development Committee has surveyed students who attended and who did not attend our department’s 2017-2018 career events. Thank you to the students who gave input to help us make these events more accessible and valuable to you. Our department will continue to collaborate with the UT Center for Career Development.

Based on student feedback, we will make the following changes to next year’s programming:

- Allocate a 509 seminar session for our career consultant to provide career guidance
- Add additional networking opportunities
- Eliminate the large group interview simulation in favor of one-on-one interviews

Special thanks to the 2017-2018 career development committee

### Students

Sharena Domingo, CHE  
Claire Holladay, CHE  
Margaux Joe, HPM  
Amanda Letheren, DrPH  
Jennifer Schablik, HPM  
Skyla Smith, HPM

### Staff

Julie Grubaugh, MPH Field Placement  
Coordinator  
Simone Stewart, Career Consultant

### Faculty

Dr. Rob Lieberthal

# Save the Date

## Mark your calendar for next year’s career events!

### Fall 2018

- A 509 seminar session (date TBA)
  - Learn how to job search, tailor your resume and cover letter and interview tips
- Public Health Vols to Vols  
November 2, 2018 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm
  - Talk with public health alumni to gain inside information on career opportunities
  - Practice informational interviewing and networking skills
  - Receive resume feedback

### Spring 2019

- Public Health Career Mingle  
March 29, 2019 (target date)
  - Panel of professionals
  - Facilitated networking
  - Receive resume feedback



# MPH on the Go

By: Kelsey Gordon



## MPH Field Practice Presentations

Every semester it is required that UT Graduate Public Health students deliver an oral presentation about their field practice experiences. Students and faculty gathered together for a few days of intriguing internship presentations that delivered culminating experiences from a variety of different locations and backgrounds.

Every semester it is highly encouraged to attend these internship overviews, especially for those that have not yet completed their internships and are looking for ideas on where they want to apply.

Students that presented:

- C.J. Whitfield- Healthcare 21 Business Coalition
- Rebecca Elias- Sycamore Institute, Nashville
- Whitney Rumsey- Tennova Turkey Creek Medical Center
- Emma Barnes- Vanderbilt Health Services, Nashville
- Rachel Wojciechowski- Summit Strategic Solutions
- Reantha Pillay- A Step Ahead
- Rebecca Nowack- Knox County Health Department
- Skyla Smith- Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation
- Tykeara Mims- UT Office of Emergency Management
- Taylor Young- Nashville Civic Design Center
- Quinten Ash- CDC, Atlanta
- Kirk Sowell- UT Medical Center

## **Intern Award Recognition**

Reantha Pillay and Rebecca Nowack received the Kathy Darnell Ebener Intern Awards this spring, a \$500 award.

The award is based on demonstration of leadership and utilizing evidence-based practices in program, policy or initiatives that promote health for underserved, high risk and vulnerable populations.

Kathy Ebener, a generous donor, and friend to the department, serves on our College's Dean's Board of Advisors as a public health committee member.

Read more about the award here - [https://publichealth.utk.edu/ebener\\_award/](https://publichealth.utk.edu/ebener_award/)



C.J. Whitfield, Rebecca Elias, Whitney Rumsey, and Emma Barnes



Rachel Wojciechowski, Skyla Smith, Rebecca Nowack, and Reantha Pillay



Tykeara Mims, Quinten Ash, Kirk Sowell, and Taylor Young

## Announcement!

Congratulations on completing another semester towards your degree! For some of you it was your final semester and graduation is just ahead – more congratulations!

I know many of you are aware of pending changes within the program. I wanted to give you some history and assurance. In November 2016 the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) released revised criteria for accreditation of MPH programs. Every accredited program is required to comply with the new criteria and submit evidence of such by December 2018. This necessitated a thorough and complete review of core and concentration curricula. Several students served on the committee that conducted the review which began in December 2016. The committee continues its work and is preparing documents for CEPH. It was both challenging and at times, difficult to reconcile the needs of three concentrations, three dual-degree programs, current and future students. While we will not be making sweeping changes, there are some. We intend to preserve those elements that are strengths of the program and add others that improve and enhance the quality of the University of Tennessee MPH program. Change is stressful. Assumptions and casual comments often contribute to uncertainty and insecurity. No degrees are affected, nothing is changing mid-stream that might affect your ability to graduate on-time. If you have questions, please stop by my office or reach out to your advisor. I am happy to discuss this and anything else about the program with you.

I hope each of you has a wonderful summer – I look forward to seeing some of you in class.

- Dr. Brown, MPH Program Director



## What are you doing over the summer?

Getting Married!

-Kirk  
Sowell

Going to South  
Africa to visit family.

-Reantha  
Pillay

Taking a cross  
country road trip to  
Alaska.

-Skyla Smith

Climbing and  
Hiking

-Claire  
Holladay

Spending time with  
family and friends,  
camping, crushing  
Monday night trivia, and  
weekends on the lake!

-Rebecca Nowack

Congratulations Graduates! Stay Safe and Have Fun!!