Welcome, new students, and welcome back, returning students, for the Fall 2019 semester!

There are a lot of exciting things going on in our Department and around our campus this semester, and I am excited to pull many of them together here.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of CEPH accreditation (since 1969!). Did you know we have the first and longest-standing nationally accredited program outside a school of public health?

The MPH Memos is a newsletter meant to connect, highlight, and inform MPH students at UTK.

My name is Catherine Miller, and I am happy to serve as Editor this year. You can contact me at any time at cbmiller@vols.utk.edu with suggestions, ideas, and entries for Memos.

Important Dates

Be sure to frequent the Graduate School page for information and important deadlines related to graduation. It is your responsibility to meet the posted deadlines for your anticipated graduation date. https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduation/graduation-deadlines/

<table>
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<tr>
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<td>Sept. 20 &amp; Nov. 22</td>
<td>Academic Program Committee Meeting</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Department of Nutrition Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium</td>
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<td>Sept. 27</td>
<td>Equity &amp; Diversity Committee Meeting, 1—3PM, Public Health Conference Room</td>
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<td>Oct. 7</td>
<td>Public Health GSA Meeting, 4:25—5 PM, HPER 393</td>
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<td>Oct. 16</td>
<td>Virtual Open House, 10 AM, Registration link</td>
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<td>Oct. 17-19</td>
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<td>Nov. 2-6</td>
<td>APHA Annual Meeting</td>
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<td>Nov. 15</td>
<td>Fall 2019 Comprehensive Exams</td>
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Upcoming Campus Events

**LGBTQ+ Graduate Student Mixer**
https://www.facebook.com/events/364159364267580/

When:
Sept. 19, Oct. 24, and Nov. 12
11 AM—1 PM

Where:
Hodges Library, Mary Greer Room

**Career Conversations Series**
https://career.utk.edu/

Sept. 11 - Museums, Archives, & Libraries
Sept. 18 - Social Services and Nonprofit
Oct. 23 - Law Enforcement and Forensics
Nov. 6 - Supply Chain
Nov. 13 - Government, Law, & Politics

When:
4—5:30 pm

Where:
Student Union,
Center for Career Development, Room 225

**Joint Meeting: College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Public Health**

When:
Oct. 2, 12-12:50 PM

Where:
TBD

What:
The College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Public Health team up to raise awareness about rabies in the Southeastern US. [Dr. Marcy Souza](mailto:marcy.souza@vols.utk.edu) will discuss the effects of rabies on wildlife and the environment in the Southeast.

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**Committee Update: Academic Program Committee**

The Academic Program Committee (APC) is the governing body for the MPH Program.

Each concentration and the dual degree programs has both faculty and student representatives.

Julie Grubaugh serves as internship coordinator and Dr. Brown as Chair.

The committee is responsible for maintaining accreditation, setting policy, reviewing curriculum and any other issue that may present. It meets twice each semester.

The next meeting is Friday Sept. 20.

Meet your student representatives! Please contact your representative with concerns you have about your academic program.
Have you spent time on the Field Placement page on the Department website?

Head to [https://publichealth.utk.edu/current-students/fp/](https://publichealth.utk.edu/current-students/fp/) for loads of field placement information and forms.

What is the Field Placement?

MPH students convert academic theory to public health practice by completing a 360-hour field practice in a community health setting. The field practice provides a bridge for students to join a growing talented and competent public health workforce.

Does the Field Placement benefit the organization the student works with?

Organizations indicate MPH students increase capacity, add fresh perspective, and make a positive impact. Preceptors from each organization are matched with qualified, work-ready graduate students who accomplish measurable, achievable objectives that satisfy both curriculum requirements and organizational needs.

What happens after the Field Placement?

Over 30 percent of Community Health Education (CHE) and Health Policy and Management (HPM) students who completed their field practice during spring 2012 through spring 2015 became employed by their field practice site. Others used field practice as a springboard to employment elsewhere, while a smaller group pursued further education.

Contact Julie Grubaugh, MPH Field Placement Coordinator, at jgrubaugh@utk.edu with questions!
The fall 2019 Comprehensive Exam will be administered on November 15th.

A study group meets every Thursday from 3:30—5:30 PM in HPER 239 to study. Contact Jiah Toms at jtomss2@vols.utk.edu for updates and information.

If you plan to graduate in Fall 2019 and will be taking your comprehensive exams in Fall 2019, you should have notified Dr. Brown by September 5th and have submitted your Admission to Candidacy Form.

If you plan to graduate in Spring 2020 and will be taking your comprehensive exams in Fall 2019, you should have notified Dr. Brown by September 5th and should be completing your Admission to Candidacy Form in consultation and with approval from your advisor.

Contact Dr. Brown at kcbrown@utk.edu with concerns and questions related to the Comprehensive Exam.

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Public Health Graduate Student Association (PHGSA)

One of our goals this fall is to provide unity amongst all MPH and DrPH students through social events. All events are open to all MPH and DrPH students, faculty, and staff. For more information on PHGSA or PHGSA events, contact our President, Jiah Toms at jtomss2@vols.utk.edu.

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<th>What</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Exam study sessions</td>
<td>HPER 239</td>
<td>September 12—October 31</td>
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<td>3:30—5:30 PM</td>
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<td>Volunteer opportunity</td>
<td>Smokey’s Closet</td>
<td>October 11</td>
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<td>Breast Cancer Walk</td>
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PHGSA Membership

PHGSA members’ main role is to retain, maintain, and unify all Public Health Students. Members also help us advertise, set-up, and plan PHGSA activities. We also welcome and encourage all members to attend our monthly meetings, provide us with any feedback, and event ideas. Members could potentially take on roles as: Reporter, Flyer Creator, Event Photographer, Event Leader, Social Media Manager, and Event Photographer.

The next PHGSA meeting will be held on Monday, October 7 from 4:20-5:00 p.m. in HPER 393.

To become a member, pay $10 per semester or $20 for the year either in cash or a check payable to PHGSA to a PHGSA Executive Board member or send via Venmo to @PHGSA-UTK.

Jiah Toms, PHGSA President
We are so excited to welcome new MPH students this semester! Below is a picture from New Student Orientation in August, where new students met faculty and current students and got prepared to start classes.

New students got a chance to ask a panel of current students questions about their experiences, pictured left.

We asked new students some “get-to-know-you” questions. We asked:

*Where is “home” for you?* Some answers were:

- Knoxville, TN
- Durham, NC
- Clearwater, FL
- Phoenix, AZ
- Chattanooga, TN

What are you most excited for about this semester?

- Getting to meet everyone
- Learning more about One Health
- Being one step closer to graduation
- Expanding my knowledge
- Meeting new people, getting out into the community, and seeing what it is like to be a public health professional
This edition, we are highlighting 2016 CHE concentration graduate, Claire Holladay! Claire completed her field placement at the Knox County Health Department (KCHD) as an epidemiology intern.

**What did you do there?**

CH: At KCHD, I wrote an economic impact report and analyzed and mapped Knox County birth certificate data.

**Why KCHD?**

CH: I knew I wanted to do my field placement in epidemiology at KCHD and voiced my desires early on and sought guidance on how to best tailor my resume and cover letter for this placement.

**What are you doing now? How did you field placement help you get there?**

CH: Having my field placement at KCHD was foundational to obtaining my job as an epidemiologist at the Kentucky Department for Public Health. My field placement allowed me to use software like ArcGIS, Excel, and SAS to complete my projects while having guidance from my preceptor. Also, having two professional quality deliverables helped demonstrate my ability to autonomously handle and manage projects, which is a crucial component of epidemiology and public health in general.

**Any suggestions for current students?**

Let your preceptor know your post-graduation plans early on! They want to help support you and your professional development, so be direct and open about your desires for your future career!

“Viewing the field placement as a job instead of a class allowed me to start working as a public health professional with the guided support of my preceptor, helping in the transition to become a full-time professional.”

-Claire Holladay, MPH
This edition, we are highlighting our support staff, Wendy and Chris! We are so thankful for all they do behind the scenes.

**Chris Maguire**

**What is your role in the department?**
I am the Department’s Accountant. I manage and track Public Health’s budget.

**What are some of the main things you do?**
I reconcile the ledgers for all PH’s accounts: departmental and grants, hire folks, arrange travel, and purchasing.

**What is one question you get asked often in your work?**
“Can you let me in my office? I forgot my keys/I locked myself out/I lost my keys.”

Or: “How much money do I have for...”

**What is one interesting thing about you?**
Some may not know that I am also a UTM student, as well as a UTK staff.

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**Wendy Smith**

**What is your role in the department?**
I am the Admissions Coordinator (I follow students through the application process all the way through graduation), and I work with class scheduling, room scheduling, and am the Webmaster/social media guru.

**What is one question you get asked often in your work?**
“Can you let me register for this class?” (Note for everyone: To speed up the process, approach the instructor first. I need an email from the instructor of the class giving permission to lift any type of hold.”

**What is one interesting thing about you?**
I show dogs in AKC obedience and rally; volunteer at Horse Haven where I help train and take care of abused horses, and I am a published author (I have an article published in a history magazine for children).
Departmental SAS Trainings

Mandi Casteel (pictured left) is the Department of Public Health’s SAS Support Graduate Assistant!

On Wednesday, September 11th Mandi hosted a SAS Programming 101 training. Five graduate students from our department attended the training. The attendees learned the basics of SAS, from navigating through the program interface to hands on experience writing and running original code.

The training is an excellent way for beginners, or those needing a refresher, to get familiar with SAS.

Mandi plans to host the training at the beginning of every semester, so if you missed this one, be on the lookout next semester!

You can contact Mandi at acastee2@vols.utk.edu at any time for support and questions related to SAS.

Committee Update: Equity & Diversity Committee

Pictured left: New MPH students participated in an equity and diversity training at the New Student Orientation in August. Dr. Jabson Tree and Darrian Nash, co-chairs of the E&D Committee, and Aubrey Ray, DrPH student, facilitated the training.

The first E&D Committee meeting is Sept. 27th from 1-3 PM in the Public Health Conference Room.

The committee will also meet on: Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 22, Jan. 31, Feb. 28, Mar. 27, and Apr. 24.

Contact co-chairs Dr. Jabson Tree at jabstree@utk.edu or Darrian Nash at dnash6@vols.utk.edu for more information on the E&D Committee!
APHA: American Public Health Association

APHA’s Annual Meeting will be held November 2—6 in Philadelphia. APHA says: “APHA's Annual Meeting and Expo is the largest and most influential annual gathering of public health professionals. Nearly 13,000 attendees join us each year to present, learn and find inspiration.“

You can register as a student for $292. A couple of MPH and DrPH students from our Department are going to present and participate!

The American Journal of Public Health (AJPHA) hosts a monthly podcast in tandem with its monthly journal release. Check it out and keep up with public health research and happenings!

Thank you so much for reading the MPH Memos newsletter!

Please contact Editor, Catherine Miller at cbmiller@vols.utk.edu, with feedback and suggestions and entries for future editions.

Be on the lookout for the next edition in October 2019!
The Department of Nutrition is hosting the third Promoting Healthy Weight Colloquium on Friday, Sept. 27th. You can join at the Four Points by Sheraton or via Webcast. Kaela McIver, a MS Nutrition-MPH student in our Department will be presenting. Another presenter, Paula Reichel from Partnership for a Healthier America, will be presenting in PUBH 509 (Graduate Public Health Seminar) on Thursday, Sept. 26th in HPER 235 from 5:05–6:20 PM.

We hope you will take advantage of these incredible learning opportunities!