50 YEARS OF ACCREDITATION

The public health education program at the University of Tennessee was the first accredited program outside a School of Public Health. In 1969, the Master of Science degree with a major in public health education was accredited by the committee on professional education of the American Public Health Association.

This year, we celebrate 50 years of accreditation!

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) initially accredited the community health education program in 1982. The MPH program currently holds CEPH accreditation through 2013.

You can read more about our program’s history here: https://publichealth.utk.edu/degree-programs/mph/mph-history/

Important Dates

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The Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Office of Research and Engagement, is gearing up for UTK’s first ever STOP the Bleed training on Friday, November 1 at 5 P.M. in the Baker Center’s Toyota Auditorium.

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, has joined the nationwide effort to empower bystanders to help save lives in bleeding emergencies before professional help arrives by placing trauma kits around campus (https://prepare.utk.edu/ep/stop-the-bleed/).

STOP the Bleed training prepares our community for use of these lifesaving resources. The training is free and no medical knowledge is necessary to take the course.

Contact Dr. Ehrlich at sehrlic1@utk.edu with questions. Spread the word!
Name: Grace Carpenter  
Year: Senior  
Major: Pre-Pharmacy  
Post-graduation hopes: Attend pharmacy school and move to Michigan or Memphis  
Best part of UTK: My work study because it allows me to have a dedicated study time. Also, the special projects help me learn real-world skills I wouldn’t have learned otherwise  
Fall Break plans: work and sleep in!

Name: Carissa Britt  
Year: Junior  
Major: Psychology  
Post-graduation hopes: Attend graduate school for Occupational Therapy in Memphis  
Best and worst part of UTK: Football games!  
Fall Break plans: Go home & visit family in West TN

Name: Caden Dyer  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Communication Studies  
Post-graduation hopes: Be an educator  
Worst part of UTK: All the walking  
Fall Break plans: No plans, yet!

Name: Dylan Vongsa  
Year: Sophomore  
Major: Computer Science  
Post-graduation hopes: Take my parents out on a long vacation as a thanks for everything. After that, move into a home with my girlfriend, possibly out of state  
Best part of UTK: Fellow students and professors  
Worst part of UTK: All the hills that must be walked!  
Fall Break plans: Fit my truck. My truck is old and needs some loving.
Hey, CJ! Thank you for being a part of the MPH Memos. Please introduce yourself.

My name is CJ Whitfield, and I graduated from UT in May of 2018. I grew up in West Tennessee, moved to Knoxville to pursue my MPH degree, and now I currently reside in Nashville, where I’ve lived for the past year and a half. Prior to Knoxville, I spent 4 years at UT Martin completing my BS in Exercise Science. During my spare time, I enjoy exercising, learning, and exploring Nashville with my better half – you can catch us at the Farmers Market on most Saturday mornings!

Awesome! Why did you choose to pursue an MPH at UT?

I chose the MPH degree because I wanted to help others, and at its core, public health is about empowering and helping others. One of my favorite aspects of UT’s program was the opportunity to learn public health theories and concepts, and then apply this knowledge with the field practice experience.

Speaking of the field placement, where did you complete yours?

I completed my field practice with the Healthcare 21 Business Coalition (HC21) based in Knoxville. In short, HC21 brings leaders together to improve the health of their respective communities. Data-driven decision making was an underlying theme of my experience with HC21. Shortly after my field practice, I landed a job in Nashville as a telemedicine coordinator.

Continued on next page...
That’s exciting! What are you doing now? How has your MPH served you in that role?

I’m currently the Director of Partner Services for Wellpath, a healthcare company that provides care to incarcerated individuals, a population that experiences health issues at a greater rate than others. After HC21, I served in the telemedicine coordinator role for six months before stepping into a role as telemedicine manager, and then onto my current role.

My experience in the MPH program gave me several opportunities to engage in systems thinking, and this has served me well when faced with planning a telemedicine program or understanding the impact correctional healthcare can have on the local community.

Thanks so much, CJ! Any advice for current MPH students?

Enjoy the process, take advantage of the AMAZING faculty & staff, and continuously reflect on how you can apply the material you’re learning, both in and out of public health.

Event Recap

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

The College of Veterinary Medicine and the Department of Public Health teamed up to raise awareness about rabies in the Southeastern US. Dr. Marcy Souza discussed the effects of rabies on wildlife and the environment in the Southeast.

Recap from Faith Turner (VPH): The meeting was wonderful! We learned about the distribution of rabies in Tennessee and the public health implications of human rabies as well as what we can do to decrease its incidence. There were about 10 people in attendance, and we hope for many more in the future!
Our Department Technology Committee works in concert with College Technology Committee to use student Technology Fee as a resource to meet three of the identified priorities within our college:

1. Recruit, enrich, and graduate a diverse body of undergraduate students who are prepared to enter the global community as lifelong learners and authentic leaders.

2. Strengthen graduate education through an emphasis on excellence and improvement of the graduate student experience.

3. Strengthen our capacity, productivity, and recognition across our total portfolio of research, scholarship, and creative activity.

Our committee solicits input and requests from students and faculty in our Department to acquire equipment and resources to enhance student research skills and opportunities for experiential learning (e.g. increasing access to needed hardware, software and training, outreach and engagement).

Dr. Jiangang Chen (jchen38@utk.edu) and Wendy Smith (wsmith12@utk.edu) are current active members. We welcome the participation and appreciate any idea and input from public health students. Past requests included an iPad, radon test device, and conference meeting equipment that were used to facilitate service learning classes as well as help students to showcase their internship activity remotely.

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 jtoms2@vols.utk.edu for updates and information.

Best of luck to students taking the Comprehensive Exams this semester!

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

The 2020-2021 CEHHS Graduate Student Scholarship online Application is now open!

There are awards specific to Public Health – like the Dr. June Gorski Scholarship.

The link is here, and requires a UTK login: https://forms.gle/tHUeGd83PW4uyMhZA

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Chen at jchen38@utk.edu.
Check out this resource from the Office of Research & Engagement if you are interested in human subjects research or anticipate going through the IRB process at UT Knoxville!
Hello, Hannah! Will you please introduce yourself?

I am from a small town in West Tennessee called Savannah (Hannah from Savannah)! I spend the majority of my time reading on the couch with my dog, Pippa. However, I have recently discovered a love for Buti yoga, and it has reminded me of how much I enjoy working out. My undergraduate degree is in chemistry with a biology minor.

Thanks! Why did you choose to pursue an MPH degree?

Prior to going to veterinary school, I had a hard time choosing whether I wanted to become a MD or a veterinarian because I wanted to help both humans and animals. Therefore, when I heard about the dual DVM/MPH program I just knew that it was for me.

Health and Society was the first MPH class that I took before even enrolling in the Program, and knowing that I had that class at the end of the day got me through many days of 8 hour veterinary lectures. I was just amazed by the topics, the discussions, and the openness that happened in that room every Monday night.

As someone whose education was deeply rooted in science, it was something I had never experienced; it was a whole new magical world, and I loved it. I also never expected that I would only be doing MPH, but here I am!

What perspective does the MPH bring to the veterinary science field?

I am no longer enrolled in the DVM program, but I can definitely say that having knowledge about topics such as social determinants of health, socioeconomic status, health disparities, access to care, etc. really did change my outlook of animal owners (less assumptions).

The MPH program also introduced me to One Health and from that point on, it was impossible for me to think of animal health without viewing it together with the environment, and the effect we humans have on them and them on us.
In simplest terms, what is One Health? Why should all MPH students know about One Health?

In simplest terms, One Health is how human health, animal health, and environmental health are all intertwined and impact one another. Although the concept of One Health is new to many of us, it is not a new concept. I challenge you to google both the “history of One Health” and “Indigenous people and One Health.”

We all tend to work within our specific sectors and have limited communication with people in different disciplines. The One Health approach involves people from many different sectors communicating and working together to achieve our goal of better health outcomes. No matter your concentration in the MPH program, we are all aiming to improve health outcomes of our target communities and populations. I truly believe, that in order to efficiently reach these optimal health outcomes, we should all have at least an awareness of what One Health is because of the interdisciplinary approach that it provides.

Tell us about your summer internship at the Center for One Health Research!

There are not enough words in the world to express how grateful I am for my time at University of Alaska Fairbanks Center for One Health Research (COHR). One of my favorite parts was meeting community members at outreach events and telling them about what One Health is, the programs that COHR has already implemented, and the plans that they have for the future.

One major project, which I was a part of while there, was the organization of 13 One Health working groups. I attended the 2019 March One Health Conference, when the surveys were being completed, that prioritized the issues that ultimately became the topics of the working groups. It was a great experience to be able to see that project to completion.

One goal for us was to make the teams as interdisciplinary as possible; people that are part of the working groups are researchers, community members, doctors, veterinarians, social workers, educators, students, state officials, etc.

The working groups are conducting research throughout the year and will present at the 2020 One Health, One Future International Conference which you are all invited to attend! Here’s the link for more info: [https://www.uaf.edu/onehealth/events/2020_conference/index.php](https://www.uaf.edu/onehealth/events/2020_conference/index.php)

Here is a link to the working groups: [https://uaf.edu/onehealth/research/2019_working_groups.php](https://uaf.edu/onehealth/research/2019_working_groups.php), and make sure you check out the other projects, programs, and conferences that COHR is working on as well. Feel free to email me with any questions at handrobi@vols.utk.edu.
The Public Health Graduate Student Association (PHGSA) is currently looking for Public Health Students (MPH or DrPH) to fulfill the following leadership positions for the next term: December 2019—November 2020:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Philanthropy Chair

If interested, contact Jiah Toms at jtoms2@vols.utk.edu and include the PHGSA Leadership Form (find in an email sent to the Listserv, or request again from Jiah) by November 1st at 5PM.

The goals of PHGSA are:
- To promote and coordinate professional development and socialization activities
- To serve as the official means of communication between students and faculty/administration
- To provide resources and opportunities for academic advancement
- To create opportunities for community service and networking

Upcoming Events:

The next PHGSA meeting will be held on Monday, November 4th 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.

PHGSA will be hosting a Graduation Farewell/End of the Semester Party in December. More details to come in the next few weeks—check your emails!

Pictured left: PHGSA members volunteered at the Smokey’s Closet on October 11th. Members sorted and sized clothing at the professional clothing exchange on campus. MPH students can check out the Smokey’s Closet for their professional clothing needs!
PHGSA Continued...

Pictured right: PHGSA members walked at the Making Strides Breast Cancer Walk on Sunday, October 12th in Knoxville!

Be sure to attend PHGSA events to be entered into a raffle to win UT swag! There is one winner per event.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Ashlyn Schwartz, DrPH student, (aschwa13@vols.utk.edu) serves as our Department’s GSS Senator. Please note some updates from her!

**Teaching & Learning Innovation: The Teaching Support Awards Program**

- **Deadline:** November 11, 2019
- Provides funding to instructional faculty members, graduate student teachers, and staff members to help them enhance the learning experience for students that take their courses. Learn more and apply here: [https://teaching.utk.edu/teachingsupport/](https://teaching.utk.edu/teachingsupport/)

**Teaching & Learning Innovation: The Innovative Teaching & Learning Conference 2020**

- **Deadline for proposals:** November 8, 2019
- Conference will take place on March 31, 2020 in UT’s Student Union. This conference highlights the importance of good teaching in higher education settings by featuring the innovative teaching practices that occur in college classrooms across the state of Tennessee. The period for accepting proposals that highlight practices, pedagogies, and/or methods of delivery in the higher education context is now open. You can learn more and submit your proposal here: website: [https://teaching.utk.edu/itlc2020/](https://teaching.utk.edu/itlc2020/). Email tli@utk.edu with questions!

**Chancellor’s Excellence in Graduate Mentoring and Advising Award**

- **Deadline:** December 15, 2019
- Each year at the Chancellor’s Honors banquet two awards are presented to faculty advisors who show their commitment to the advising and mentoring of graduate and professional students at UTK. The Chancellor seeks to reward individuals who have excelled in guiding graduate and professional students toward their research and career objectives. Nominate your faculty mentor/advisor today at [https://honorsbanquet.utk.edu/advising/](https://honorsbanquet.utk.edu/advising/)
Hi, Dr. Meschke! Thank you for letting us highlight you in the MPH Memos. Please introduce yourself!

LLM: I have had a rather nontraditional career path to public health in the academy that has included study abroad, Extension, owner of a research consulting firm, and residence across 4 states. But community engagement has been a steadfast theme throughout all of my varied experiences. For leisure, I enjoy travel, baking, stitching, and gardening.

What courses do you teach in the Department? What are your research interests?

LLM: I teach Health of Adolescence (PUBH 315) for undergraduates, and Assessment and Planning (PUBH 552) and Program Development and Implementation (PUBH 550) for graduate students.

My research focuses primarily on adolescent and perinatal health. Opioid use disorder, particularly in rural Tennessee, has received most of my attention over the past several years. I also manage the statewide evaluation of rape prevention education for Tennessee.

Continued on next page...
The deadline for students who wish to apply for GSS Travel Award funding for travel January 1 – April 30, 2020 is **Monday, November 11, 2019.**

This is to allow Dr. Cihak time to review requests by the GSS deadline of November 18.

More information and the link to the GSS application can be found here: [https://gss.utk.edu/travel-awards/information/](https://gss.utk.edu/travel-awards/information/).

Remember to also submit the college travel request form simultaneously. The college form is found at: [https://cehhs.utk.edu/information-for-faculty-and-staff/](https://cehhs.utk.edu/information-for-faculty-and-staff/).

Contact gsstravel@utk.edu or Diane Booker at dbooker@utk.edu with questions.
The Equity and Diversity Committee welcomes all faculty, staff, and students to join us at our next meeting on Friday, October 25th from 1-2:30pm.

In our next meeting, we will discuss:

- The results of the Climate Survey, presented by doctoral student Maruf Khan
- Our monthly reading titled "Disarming Racial Microaggressions: Microintervention Strategies for Targets, White Allies, and Bystanders" by Sue et al.
- Suggestions for the book club that we plan to start next semester

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns, please email Darrian Nash (dnash6@vols.utk.edu) or Dr. Jabson Tree (jabstree@utk.edu). We hope to see you there!

At this month’s N.E.D. (Nutrition Education Discourse) Talk, we heard from Dr. Steve Douglas, a post-doctoral fellow in the Department of Nutrition.

Dr. Douglas discussed his research regarding novel school-based strategies to improve participation in school breakfast programs, and the relation of school breakfast programs to diet quality and eating behavior in adolescents.

About 12 were in attendance. We hope to see you at the next one on November 11th, where Dr. Melissa Hansen-Petrik, the director of the undergraduate nutrition and didactic program in dietetics, will discuss upcoming changes to the Department of Nutrition’s undergraduate dietetics program.

Contact Kaela McIver, MS-Nutrition/MPH student at mmciver1@vols.utk.edu with questions and interest!
The Public Health Graduate Student Association (PHGSA) is now taking spirit wear orders through November 4, 2019!

Use the following link (also sent by email) to see the products on sale and sign up to purchase: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FVMwyTd8QrcroT1REmqza1bycdg20BhcT7EwGbqRJw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FVMwyTd8QrcroT1REmqza1bycdg20BhcT7EwGbqRJw/edit?usp=sharing)

There are 3 options for payment:
1. Give **cash** to Jiah Toms (PHGSA President) or Breanne Tremblay (PHGSA Treasurer)
2. Give a **check** to Jiah Toms (PHGSA President) or Breanne Tremblay (PHGSA Treasurer) - make the check out to: Public Health Graduate Student Association
3. **Venmo** to @PHGSA-UTK

**Spirit Wear!**

- **Long Sleeve #1 ($15)**
- **Long Sleeve #2 ($15)**
- **Crewneck #1 ($15)**
- **Crewneck #2 ($15)**
- **Short Sleeve #1 ($15)**
- **Short Sleeve #2 ($15)**
- **Tank Top #1 ($12)**
- **Tank Top #2 ($12)**
- **1/4 Zip ($19)**
Public Health Resources

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!

Did you miss the Promoting Healthy Weight 3.0 event? You can still watch and learn about promoting healthy weight for the maternal and child health population using a socio-ecological lens at any time at: [http://mediasite.utk.edu/UTK/Catalog/catalogs/promoting-healthy-weight-3-0-fall-2019](http://mediasite.utk.edu/UTK/Catalog/catalogs/promoting-healthy-weight-3-0-fall-2019)

Thank you so much for reading the MPH Memos newsletter!

Please contact Editor, [Catherine Miller at cbmiller@vols.utk.edu](mailto:cbmiller@vols.utk.edu), with feedback and suggestions and entries for future editions.

Be on the lookout for the last Fall 2019 edition in November!