

MPH Memos

Fall 2019 Edition 3



Important Dates

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
Nov. 22	Equity & Diversity Committee Meeting, 1—3PM, Public Health Conference Room
December 4	Last day of classes for Fall 2019
December 4	Last day to turn in Admission to Candidacy Form for Spring 2020 graduates
December 6	End of the Semester Party (details on page 3)
January 8, 2020	First day of classes for Spring 2020
April 3, 2020	Spring 2020 MPH Comprehensive Exams
April 6-12, 2020	National Public Health Week

Be sure to frequent the Graduate School Graduation Deadlines page (<https://gradschool.utk.edu/graduation/graduation-deadlines/>) often to keep track of your upcoming graduation deadlines. Here are the deadlines for Spring 2020 MPH graduates:



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduation Deadlines

Spring 2020 Graduation

Non-Thesis Programs

Deadlines

- Dec. 4, 2019** Submit **Admission to Candidacy** form to the Graduate School.
- Dec. 4, 2019** Submit **Graduation Application** online at MyUTK. Non-refundable Graduation fee (\$30 for master's and \$45 for EdS) will be charged upon submission and must be paid at My UTK.
- Apr. 22** Submit **Report of Final Examination (Pass/Fail)** form by 5:00 p.m. to the Graduate School. *Original signatures are required for this form, and must be the original paper hard copy (not a photocopy).*
- Apr. 24** **Verify removal of Incompletes and NR grades** for graduation with graduation specialist.

Graduate Certificate

If you are also earning a graduate certificate in spring 2020, be sure to check the Graduate Certificate deadlines.

Financial Obligations

All financial obligations with the University of Tennessee must be paid before a diploma or transcript is issued.

For information concerning diplomas and transcripts, please contact the Office of the University Registrar at registrar@utk.edu or 865-974-2101.

For information about graduation steps, thesis and dissertation workshops and graduation forms, visit the Graduate School at gradschool.utk.edu.

gradschool.utk.edu





The End of the Semester Party
at Dr. Brown's house
Friday, December 6 at 6:00 pm!

If you are able to do so, please bring a side dish or something to share!

Please use this Google doc to sign up for food and list any food allergies/accommodations. The address is also at this link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/13VVe4gDum2Txs5DisHDTqpD8GLZ26xYsNVmj0XZBz24/edit#gid=0>

Comprehensive Exam

Congratulations

to all students who completed the Comprehensive Exam for Fall 2019 on November 15th! We hope you are enjoying being done and wrapping up the end of the semester.

The Spring 2020 Comprehensive Exam will be held on April 3rd. Dr. Brown will send out more information soon via email. If you are planning to take the Comprehensive Exam in the spring, feel free to go ahead and reach out to Dr. Brown and let her know: kcbrown@utk.edu.

Public Health Graduate Student Association (PHGSA)

A note from Jiah Toms, 2018-2019 PHGSA President:

On behalf of the PHGSA, we have been honored to serve as your December 2018- November 2019 board members. We enjoyed planning activities, providing social support, and working with the students, faculty, and staff during our term.

We are thrilled to welcome the new board and we know they will do a fabulous job.

Help us welcome **our new PHGSA Board Members:**

- ◆ President: Ahmad Mitoubssi
- ◆ Vice President: Zhannae Cummings
- ◆ Secretary: Kayla Simon
- ◆ Treasurer: Samia Tamimi
- ◆ Philanthropy Chair: Sierra Turner

As a reminder, 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

For the Field Placement segment of this edition, we encourage you to attend the Fall 2019 Field Placement Presentations, where students completing their Field Placements will share their experiences and final deliverables!

MPH Field Practice Presentations

Fall 2019



Intern Presentation Schedule

**Preceptors,
Students and
Faculty Invited!**

Direct questions to Julie
Grubaugh at 974-9277 or
jgrubaugh@utk.edu
<http://publichealth.utk.edu>

**Monday, December 9th
1:00-2:00 P.M.
HPER 232**

Brittany Blair, Boyd Center for Economic
Research

Cassandra Framstad, USDA Food Safety
Inspection Service

Sarah Schaffer, TeamHealth

THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE 

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Student Highlight: Pragma



Congratulations to Pragma Poudel! Pragma has her MPH and is a current DrPH student in the Department. In the spring, she was awarded a W. K. McClure Scholarship for the Study of World Affairs to fund research in Nepal. Those in PUBH 509 this semester may remember her sharing about that experience in Seminar this semester.

Pragma was one of eleven recipients, some of whom are pictured with her to the left. Pragma's project title was: "Epidemiology of high-risk newborns in Nepal."

The W. K. McClure Scholarship Program offers UTK students financial awards to support study, research & creative projects abroad aimed at enhancing and promoting education for world responsibility. Awards are made possible by a generous donation from the W. K. McClure family, a member of which is pictured with the recipients to the left.

Find out more about Pragma's research and contact information on her page: <https://publichealth.utk.edu/people/ppoudel/>

Graduate Student Senate (GSS)

Chancellor's Excellence in Graduate Mentoring and Advising Award

- Deadline to nominate: 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.
- **Highlight our excellent Public Health faculty by nominating your faculty mentor/advisor today** at <https://honorsbanquet.utk.edu/advising/>



Chelsea with her Preceptor, Becca Wilson

Field Placement Highlight

Chelsea Collins, MPH

May 2017 Graduate

Hi, Chelsea! Thank you for sharing your Field Placement experience with us. First off, please tell us about yourself!

CC: I was born and raised here in Knoxville and graduated in May 2017 with a CHE concentration. In my spare time, I love to be outdoors, spend time with friends, or curl up with a good book.

Why did you choose to pursue a MPH at UT? Where did you complete your Field Placement while you were here?

CC: I fell in love with health and fitness during my undergrad studies at UT, and I wanted to give back to the health of the community I was raised in. The MPH program offered a variety of opportunities for myself and my cohort.

I completed my Field Placement at Radio Systems Corporation working as their HR Wellness Intern. I facilitated company wellness challenges, delivered health education, and created an employee benefits fair.

Where are you now? How did your Field Placement lend to this opportunity?

CC: I have been working in the weight loss industry for five years, but I will now be moving back to work with my Field Placement site and their wellness associate, Vital Signs of Trinity Medical Associates. After leaving Radio Systems Corporation, my Preceptor and I kept in touch, which led to this job opportunity.

Any advice for current students?

CC: I would advise any current MPH students to focus on building and maintaining strong relationships. You never know where life will take you and what doors can open up.

Thank you, Chelsea! You can learn more about Chelsea and connect with her on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/chelsea-collins-30b474b5/>

Pictured below: Chelsea completed her FP, and now works, with Radio Systems Corporation

RADIO SYSTEMS CORPORATION



Student Highlight: APHA

Four UTK Public Health students attended and presented at the 2019 American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia in early November. Enjoy learning about their experiences below!



Ashlyn Schwartz, DrPH student, and Anisha Singh, DrPH student at APHA

Kaela McIver, MS-MPH Candidate

Poster presentation: Caregiver feeding practices as predictors for child dietary intake in low-income, Appalachian communities

The APHA 2019 annual meeting was, by far, the largest and most diverse professional conference I have been to. I learned about topics ranging from the public health advances in dentistry, to an overview of environmentally sustainable food systems, to the importance of multisector place-based initiatives to achieve health equity. Overall, APHA does a wonderful job of bringing together the intersecting fields of public health to create a collaborative effort to promote public health.

Kaela McIver

APHA Continued...

Anisha Singh, MPH
DrPH Student

Oral presentation: Effect of land use, land cover, and climate change on the incidence and outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis disease among Asian population: A systematic review

It's always a great experience presenting at APHA. The best part of APHA is the opportunity to learn from others through their comments and feedback. For me, it's one of the best mutual learning platforms where I had ample opportunity to network and practice my pitch.



Pictured above: Anisha, Catherine, Ashlyn, and Kaela enjoy dinner with Dr. Meschke and Dr. Jarvandi in Philadelphia during APHA



Pictured top right: Dr. Meschke and Dr. Jarvandi from the Department of Public Health also attended APHA

Pictured bottom right: Philadelphia was a great backdrop for the Annual Meeting!



APHA Continued...

Ashlyn Schwartz, MS DrPH Student

Oral presentation: Community Strength and Challenges Related to Opioid Use Disorder in Rural Counties of East Tennessee

Being able to present research at APHA and work towards the mission of a healthier nation was inspiring. I'm very thankful for Dr. Meschke's support and opportunity to have this experience! APHA was filled with lasting memories, professional advancements, and innovation.



Catherine Miller, MPH student

Oral presentation: Strategies for an Expedited Community-Based Participatory Approach to Planning

Presenting at the APHA Annual Meeting was a huge honor, and I am so thankful to have gotten the opportunity both to attend and present at such a large and inspiring conference and to get a better sense of all the incredible work that so many public health professionals contribute to. I left feeling further invested in and excited about the work and world of public health. I also enjoyed getting to know other students from our Department!

Event Recap: Stop the Bleed Training



On November 1st, the Department of Public Health, in partnership with the Office of Research and Engagement, hosted a free STOP the Bleed Save a Life training in the Baker Center.

Here's a recap of the event from organizer, Dr. Ehrlich:

We had 27 participants (who opted for stop the bleed training over homecoming activities on a Friday evening – kudos to them)!

The American College of Surgeons Committee on Trauma is leading the effort to save lives by teaching the civilian population to provide vital initial response to stop uncontrolled bleeding in emergency situations.

Motivated by the 2012 tragedy in Sandy Hook and multiple tragedies that have occurred in the ensuing years, what has become known as the Hartford Consensus was convened to bring together leaders from law enforcement, the federal government, and the medical community to improve survivability from manmade or natural mass casualty events. The resulting injuries from these events generally present with severe bleeding which, if left unattended, can result in death.

STOP the Bleed trainees received basic training in Bleeding Control principles so they are able to provide immediate, frontline aid until first responders are able to take over care of an injured person. In many situations, there may be a delay between the time of injury and the time a first responder is on the scene. Without civilian intervention in these circumstances, preventable deaths will occur.

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. Learn more here: <https://prepare.utk.edu/ep/stop-the-bleed/>

Student Input: Winter Break Plans!

Thank you to those who completed the survey.
Here are some of the responses!
Enjoy your winter break! The spring semester starts January 8.

“Traveling to Costa Rica for a vacation, hanging out with my family for Christmas, and helping move my partner to New Mexico for a new job!”

- Mary Kate, CHE

“Working, seeing family, eating, sleeping”

“Start studying for comps! And applying to jobs.”

- Molly, CHE

“Taking some much needed time off!”

- Kaela, CHE

“Visiting DC before my MPH Field Placement in the spring semester!”

- Meg, CHE



THE UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE

As always, thank you for reading the MPH Memos!

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 look out for Spring 2020 editions starting in January, and enjoy your break! — Catherine