Welcome to the second edition of the MPH Memos Newsletter for Spring 2020. I hope you were able to enjoy your spring break and are ready to continue classes online.

As you know, the biggest “public health in action” story right now is COVID-19, and it is impacting communities around the world, including our UT community. Please remember to practice good public health practices like covering your mouth when you sneeze, staying home when you’re feeling sick, and washing your hands often. Take care of your neighbor and protect the vulnerable. To highlight the impact, I have kept prepared stories and covered them with a cancelled note.

Our GSS Senator, Ashlyn Schwartz, is part of the GSS Equity & Diversity Committee, which put out a statement at https://gss.utk.edu/covid-19/ urging students to “critically assess sources of information for fact verses fiction.” Be sure to read and share reliable sources like these in regards to Coronavirus updates.

- Knox County Health Department’s COVID-19 page: https://covid.knoxcountytn.gov/
- University of Tennessee COVID-19 page: https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus

MPH students pursuing a Health Policy certificate may have had Dr. Carole Myers from the Department of Nursing for some courses. Dr. Myers co-wrote a piece on following public health guidelines in Knox News Sentinel: https://www.knoxnews.com/story/opinion/2020/03/25/everyone-has-responsibility-control-covid-19-pandemic-staying-home/2913406001/

The Fall 2020 time table is up, so you can search courses on my.utk.edu This is a great time to check in with your advisor! Consider a Zoom meeting.

We still have many Departmental stories and highlights to share. Remember you can always submit stories and ideas to me at cbmiller@vols.utk.edu or through this survey, which is always open for your feedback: https://memossurvey.questionpro.com.

Thank you for reading, and take care!
Departmental News: Student Satisfaction Survey

Be on the look out soon for a link to the annual student satisfaction survey. It will be sent via the Listserv. Share your experiences and help our program improve for future students!

Departmental News: E&D Book Club Suspended

Please be advised that the Equity & Diversity Committee will suspend the Spring 2020 Book Club for the rest of the semester. You can still search for and read the free ebook of “White Fragility” by Robin DiAngelo on UTK Library’s One Search here: https://www.lib.utk.edu/.

Contact co-chairs Darrian Nash (dnash6@vols.utk.edu) or Dr. Jabson Tree (jabstree@utk.edu) with questions. Wish Darrian best wishes—she finishes with her MPH in May!

Public Health in Action: CORE-19 Team

Relationships make a difference! Dr. Brown received texts and calls from the City of Knoxville and the Knox County Health Department last week. Each was asking for assistance wading through the emerging and mounting information and data related to Covid-19.

The Public Health response? Put together a team of people best able to provide a breadth of expertise and input. What was born is the CORE 19. “The Coronavirus-19 Outbreak Response Experts (CORE-19) team at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville is a network of researchers in public health, economics, public policy, agriculture, veterinary medicine, and other disciplines who seek to provide timely and evidence-based information for policymakers, industry, and the public on pressing questions regarding the global pandemic.”

Public Health and College of Veterinary Medicine public health faculty serving on the steering committee include Drs. Brown, Kintziger, A. Odoi and Souza. Faculty serving as content experts include Drs. Barroso and Ehrlich. Go to http://core19.utk.edu/policy-briefs.html to see what can be done in a week!

Important Dates

April 3, 2020    Spring 2020 Comprehensive Exams (via ZOOM)
April 6—12, 2020 National Public Health Week (http://www.nphw.org/about-nphw)
April 24, 2020    Last day of classes for Spring 2020
May 7, 2020—CANCELLED  Graduate Hooding Ceremony —CANCELLED

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.
Intern Presentations will now be held via Zoom only. Please email Julie Grubaugh, jgrubaugh@utk.edu, for the Zoom link.

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**MPH Intern Presentations**  
**Spring 2020**

**MPH Intern Presentation Schedule**

**Tuesday, April 28, 9:00-11:00 A.M., BCC 102**
- Cassandra Framstad, USDA Food Safety Inspection Service, Jackson, TN
- Nick Koncar, Knox County Health Department
- Jennifer Lord, UT Biomedical and Diagnostic Sciences
- Catherine Miller, Knox County Health Department
- Darrian Nash, UT Medical Center

**Thursday, April 30, 2:30-4:30 P.M., BCC 102**
- Simrah Ali, UT Center for Health Education and Wellness
- Jessica Brooks, Franciscan Health, Indianapolis, IN
- Anna Sachs, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Nashville, TN
- Tamarra Spalding, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN
- Meghan Zimmer, USDA Food Surveys Research Group, Beltsville, MD

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Students, preceptors, and faculty invited!

Preceptors may request a parking permit by emailing Chris Maguire before April 14th, cmaguirz@utk.edu.

Questions? Contact Julie Grubaugh, jgrubaugh@utk.edu or 865-974-9277
PHSGA’s first event had a great turn out of students from the department.

A brief introduction of the board was given as well as a layout of the events for the rest of the semester was provided for students!

We welcome more attendance at our future events to both members and non-members! If you wish to be a member, contact one of the board members to get more information.

Additionally, on behalf of the entire PHSGA, we would like to thank everyone who joined us at our first event of the year and looks forward to seeing you at future events!

- Ahmad Mitoubsi, PHGSA President
  amitoubs@vols.utk.edu

National Public Health Week (NPHW) events

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville has cancelled all events through the end of the Spring semester. For updates, visit utk.edu/coronavirus.

You can celebrate NPHW on your own!
  Learn more here:
  http://www.nphw.org/nphw-2020
Departmental News: Farewell

Chris Maguire has been our Accounting Specialist II for the Department. Many graduate students may know her from working with Chris on travel awards and parking passes, among other things! Chris wanted to share the following farewell message with the Department:

I am moving to the Anthropology Department as of 3/19/20; I will be their new Accounting Coordinator I. While I will miss folks from Public Health, especially our amazing students! - I am very excited about this opportunity, as this a promotion for me. And as a plus, I am not leaving UT, and will be just across the road on Cumberland! My email will remain the same; please reach out and KIT!

You can reach Chris at cmaguir2@utk.edu. Best wishes in your new position, Chris!

Public Health in Action: Healthy People 2030

On March 31, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will unveil the latest edition of Healthy People!

The event is at the George Washington University, and you can attend in person or via webcast. You can find out more and register for the event at:


Campus Events: International Women’s Summit

On Saturday, March 28, UT will host the 1st Annual International Women’s Summit in Mossman Hall from 10AM to 2:30PM.

The purpose of this event is to foster unity for all women on our campus and community and create new conversations on issues that affect our community.

This year’s conference theme is Women Speak: A Chance to Share Knowledge and Stories.

You can register here: https://forms.gle/X2PdQLHzHMiaWWsC7

You can keep up with other campus events at https://calendar.utk.edu/

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville has cancelled all events through the end of the Spring semester. For updates, visit utk.edu/coronavirus.
All in-person Graduate and Professional Student Week (GPSAW) events have been cancelled. GPSAW week will still be celebrated online from March 30 to April 3rd. Find out more here: https://gss.utk.edu/gpsaw/
Student Highlight: Zhannae Cummings

CM: Hey, Zhannae! You were nominated to be highlighted in the Memos. Please introduce yourself!

ZC: I am a first year MPH student with a Community Health Education concentration and Health Policy Certificate. I got my B.S in Exercise Science and Secondary Education from Lee University in Cleveland Tennessee. I was a part of the first generation of my family born in U.S, more specifically Orlando, Florida aka Disney World. The rest of my family is from Jamaica. I call both places home and recently caved into making Tennessee my 3rd home. They say home is where the heart is and I can confidently say that mine is in all three places.

For fun, I like to do almost anything as long as it’s with people I enjoy. I love love love going to concerts. I have seen Beyoncé, Chris Brown, Bruno Mars, Usher, and Post Malone (x2), just to name a few. I enjoy going to coffee shops and exploring all the different ones that exist in the area. I am big Spongebob (got the tattoo to prove it) fan, sports fan, and doggie fan. Being the typical Florida girl at heart, I love the beach. But being here in Tennessee has made me grow a love for hiking, too. I also visit Cleveland at least once a month because my besties are there and I have withdrawals sometimes. I also love spending money on things I don’t need but can find any reason in the world to justify my purchase. I’m a dangerous person to go shopping with.

I am working as a GRA for Dr. Meschke, for the CDC Rape Prevention Education (RPE) program that funds statewide sexual and dating violence prevention program for adolescents and young adults through state departments of health. We are creating measures to evaluate various curriculums, creating trainings, and other various tools to help those receiving the trainings and those administering the trainings.

CM: Awesome! Why did you choose to pursue an MPH?

ZC: I chose MPH because I realized that the audience I want to cater to, low SES minority, will probably not step foot in a gym. I want to help this population with their fitness and nutrition and it dawned on me that I probably won’t reach them the way I want to by just being a personal trainer. I want to educate them and help them and I feel like public health will give me that avenue to do so.

CM: What kind of public health work most interests you?

ZC: I guess a “health educator” would be the most appropriate title for what I want to do but I’m not sure. I have always said I want to teach but not in a classroom setting. I’m a boots on the ground type of girl. I want to be a first person of contact and I think health educators often times get to be that person. I know who I want to cater too, the question I’m still trying to answer is “how?” Stay tuned.

Thank you so much for sharing with the Memos, Zhannae!
Department Highlight: Graduate Research

Several Department of Public Health students presented posters at the 2020 College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences (CEHHS) Graduate Student Research Colloquium on March 11th. Read more: https://cehhs.utk.edu/2020/03/20/16th-annual-graduate-student-research-colloquium/ Congratulations to all who presented! Here are a few pictures from the event.

Ashlyn Schwartz, PhD in Public Health student, won the Graduate Student Colloquium Travel Award, ranking in the top two posters selected by CEHHS faculty. Her poster was entitled: “Childhood ADHD Symptoms after Prenatal Opioid Exposure: A Meta-Analysis.” Congrats!

Above: Aubrey Ray Dalana, DrPH student, shares her poster: “From Learning Objectives to Outcome Evaluation: Strategies for Assembling Measures for Evaluation of Sexual Violence Prevention Programs” which documents her work with Dr. Meschke and their research team evaluating the Tennessee Rape Prevention Education program. This work is done in partnership with the CDC and the State Department of Health.

Right: Catherine Miller, 2nd year MPH student in the CHE concentration, presented her poster “Strategies for an Expedited Community-Based Participatory Approach to Planning,” which documents her work with Dr. Meschke on a HRSA-funded program planning grant.

Above: Kayla Simon (HPM) and Sierra Turner (CHE), 1st year MPH students, share their poster: “Designing a Wellness Intervention for Pregnant Women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus,” which documents their NIH-funded research with Dr. Ehrlich.

Left: Femi Onaade (HPM) 2nd year MPH student, shares her poster: “Validation of the Fitbit Charge 3 in Women with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus Preparing for a Behavioral Physical Activity Intervention,” which documents her NIH-funded research with Dr. Ehrlich.
Department Highlight: PUBH 201

Many MPH students may be unaware of the Department of Public Health’s Undergraduate Minor in Public Health program. You can learn more about the program here: https://publichealth.utk.edu/5-2/ug-minor/. You may know Julie Grubaugh as your MPH Field Practice Coordinator, but she is also a Lecturer and serves as the instructor for PUBH 201, one of the required courses for the undergraduate minor. Here’s my interview with Julie! Hi, Julie, please tell us about yourself!

JG: My first career was as a sign language interpreter! After earning my MPH, I worked at Knox County Health Department for seven years as the Academic Health Department Coordinator.

CM: Awesome! Please tell us about PUBH 201.

JG: There are 359 students this spring. I anticipate over 1,000 students will take the course in 2020! Since it is designated as a Social Science General Education course, and it is available in-person or online, students from all majors take it. Often students decide to add the public health minor after taking it. Students learn about the real-world connections between public health and everyday life.

CM: That is great. Why is PUBH 201 a valuable course for any undergraduate?

JG: Students who go into business, engineering, architecture, education, finance, and any other fields will be able to apply what they learned to their professional and personal lives. For example, a manager will see how workplace policies influences her employees’ health. Healthcare providers will consider the root causes of their patients’ health, such as housing, employment status, and other social factors. Students will be able to evaluate the credibility of sources of health information and know where to find evidence-based recommendations.

Comprehensive Exams

Best of luck to students taking the MPH Comprehensive Exams on April 3rd!

Be sure to check the Canvas site for details on the transition to Zoom. If you are not on the Canvas site, contact Dr. Brown at kcbrown@utk.edu as soon as possible.

A small group of students are studying together for the Comprehensive Exams (via Zoom!) on a weekly basis. If you would like to be added to the GroupMe, contact Catherine at cbmiller@vols.utk.edu.
The Center for Career Development is still open and available to support students. Graduating students, we encourage you to take advantage of their resources. Utilize their Zoom Drop In Hours, events, job boards, Virtual Career Fairs, or Virtual Resume Reviews. Find more information at their website: https://career.utk.edu/

Departmental News: Congratulations!

Jiah Ronya’ Toms-Calloway is a 2nd year MPH student in the CHE concentration. She and her husband, Demetrius Telvion Calloway, welcomed a baby girl, Royal Leeor Calloway, on March 21st at 10:49pm. Congratulations!
Departmental Highlight: Spring Break Plans!

2 nights in a cabin with friends and family
- Anonymous Faculty/Staff

Traveling to Chicago for the first time with friends—will be there for St. Patrick’s Day!
- Madelyn Howe, HPM

Wedding, snowboarding, and working
- Matthew Pettepher, HPM

Studying for Comps
- Molly Rigell Peek, CHE

Spend time with family and friends! Go on a few hikes in the Smokies, spend a weekend in Asheville, and work on my garden! Confirm my Field Placement and meet with my preceptor to set goals for my summer FP.
- Anonymous HPM student

Visiting family in North Carolina and going to the Biltmore
- Kayla Simon, HPM

Get some pleasure reading in
- Jeremy Kourvelas, CHE

I imagine some of these were altered due to COVID-19, but thank you for sharing your plans!