

Master of Public Health Program's Second Year 2015-2016

The MPH program began its second cohort of students in August 2015; we have 7 new MPH students in Abilene and 18 new students in Lubbock. The new cohorts join 15 second year MPH students in Lubbock and 22 MD/MPH students—for a total of 62 MPH students! GSBS held student orientation August 17-18th in Abilene and Lubbock for all GSBS students—including the incoming MPH students.

Student Orientation 2015 Events.....see page 3

Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)

In June the MPH program received word from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)—the accrediting body for programs and schools of public health—that the application letter for accreditation and invited the TTUHSC MPH program to attend the CEPH workshop. July 30-August 1, Dr. Theresa Byrd (Department Chair), Dr. Samira Kamrudin (MPH Program Co-Director, Lubbock), and Dr. Julie St. John (MPH Program Co-Director, Abilene) attended the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) Accreditation Workshop to learn about next steps and the process for the self-study.

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Congratulations to the recipients of the MD/MPH Scholarship:

Michael Russell
Anna Hollingsworth
Jordana Faruqi
Carlos Martinez

Coming Soon ...

- Master of Public Health Online Degree!
- School of Public Health Building in Abilene!

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



We in the Department of Public Health are so excited to start our second class! We have high expectations for our students, and know that they will be some of the best public health professionals out there! All of the faculty, both full-time and part-time, have done

an exceptional job of pulling together and working out the curriculum and student policies—a special thanks to Drs. Kamrudin and St John who serve as co-Directors of the MPH program! We are very grateful to our part-time faculty, all of whom have full time jobs in their own schools and departments, but who have been very generous with their time and attention to the program.

As we begin this second year, we are starting our self-study for the CEPH accreditation. We will be calling on all faculty, staff, students, our Community Advisory Board, and others in our community to help us assure that

we are meeting the highest level of academic excellence. We expect our site-visit from CEPH in December of 2017, and we should receive our accreditation decision in June 2018. Our accreditation will then be back-dated to April 2015.

We are happy to announce that we intend to start a completely online MPH in the Fall of 2016. This will be especially helpful for students living and working in rural areas who may not be able to get to Lubbock or Abilene to take in-person classes. Also, in addition to the current MD/MPH program, we are working to develop an MPA/MPH program and a JD/MPH program with TTU.

As you can see, we are staying very busy. Please feel free to contact us with ideas, advice, or general support! Please let us know how we can better serve the Rural West Texas community.

Theresa Byrd, RN, MPH, DrPH

ABILENE BREAKS GROUND~ New Future SOPH Building in Abilene



PHOTO COURTESY of <http://dailydose.ttuhs.edu/news/story/ttuhs-breaks-ground-in-abilene/>

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) hosted a groundbreaking ceremony at the Abilene campus for a new building that will house the future School of Public Health. On May 20, 2015, in spite of the rain, TTUHSC hosted the ceremony in the School of Nursing building, using a sandbox to symbolically break ground for the new school. Speakers included TTUHSC President Tedd L. Mitchell, M.D., TTU System Regent Tim Lancaster, and Michael Molina, TTU System Vice Chancellor for development. The new building came about from support from various stakeholders and donors in the Abilene community.

The new public health facility will house an expanded nursing simulation center, TTUHSC offices, an inviting outdoor meeting, multiple classrooms, a Dean's suite, and fifteen faculty offices, twenty-nine offices for public health support staff, and study space complete with public art and the latest technology for health care education. The expansion will offer amenities for students of the future School of Public Health, as well as the schools of nursing, pharmacy, and graduate school of biomedical sciences.



PHOTO COURTESY of <http://dailydose.ttuhs.edu/news/files/2011/03/abilene.jpg>



STUDENT ORIENTATION 2015 ~Lubbock and Abilene



August 17, 2015, the MPH program in Abilene hosted a TTUHSC Abilene campus-wide social reception following the Texas Department of Transportation ribbon cutting ceremony held in the SOP foyer. Representative Susan King and Dr. Tedd Mitchell congratulated the TTUHSC campus on the success of having a Health Science Center sign on Interstate 20.



Following the reception, the MPH program, in collaboration with the Office of Institutional Advancement, hosted a dinner for sixty donors, stakeholders, and students to honor the inaugural class of MPH students in Abilene. Speakers included Dr. Theresa Byrd (Department Chair), Dr. Tedd Mitchell (TTUHSC President), Taylor Lenzmeier (BS, CI-CPT, Lubbock MPH student, President-TTUHSC Student Public Health Association), Veronica Escalona (new MPH student in Abilene; Health Administration Specialist, Abilene-Taylor County Public Health District),



Abilene campus



Lubbock campus

Dr. Tedd Mitchell addresses new and returning students.



August 18, 2015, new MPH students in Abilene and Lubbock joined second year MPH students and guests in Lubbock via TechLink to take the Public Health Oath during the MPH Program Family night celebration event. The Public Health Student Association organized the event and speakers included: Dr. Theresa Byrd (Department Chair), Dr. Tedd Mitchell (TTUHSC President), Taylor Lenzmeier (BS, CI-CPT, Lubbock MPH student, President-TTUHSC Student Public Health Association), and Dr. Brandt Schneider (Dean, GSBS).

Events

Public Health Week April 6-10, 2015 Lubbock, TX



Student Public Health Association organized a Public Health Week in April. Booths were set up for information on vaccines, STIs, and alcohol use including flyers about the MPH program.

Prevention on the CDC “Solve the Outbreak” website (<http://www.cdc.gov/mobile/applications/sto/web-app.html>) and presented their “solutions” to their peers.

On June 9, 2015, Dr. Kamrudin and Dr. Byrd hosted a similar event with high school juniors and seniors participating in the Big Country Area Health Education Center Summer camp in Abilene, TX. Thirty-five students participated in the outbreak investigation case studies and also learned about public health disciplines and career opportunities.

Abilene Updates

- Julie St. John, DrPH, MA, spent a week in the Dominican Republic in June and conducted public health training workshops and focus groups and met with potential student practicum sites.
- On June 22, 2015, Dr. St. John presented her talk entitled, “Engaging the Heart and Soul for Communities for Healthier Families,” at the Healthy Texas Mothers and Babies Conference in Houston, TX. Approximately a hundred CHWs and other healthcare professionals attended the session.
- June 24-27, 2015, Dr. St. John participated in the Border Health Initiative work group meetings sponsored by the National Rural Health Association in Washington, D.C.
- July 12-15, Dr. St. John attended the annual National CHW Unity Conference in Memphis, TN. Dr. St. John taught two invited sessions: 1) Grant writing: Do's, Don'ts, & Getting it done; and 2) Laughter therapy: saving your sanity through laughter.
- In other news, Dr. St. John was appointed to the Health Equity Council of the National Rural Health Association (term August 2015-August 2017).
- Katharine Nimmons, Dr. Christopher Beaudoin, and Dr. Julie St. John and colleagues had a manuscript accepted for publication in the Journal of Cancer Education entitled, “The Outcome Evaluation of a CHW Cancer Prevention Intervention: Testing Individual and Multilevel Predictors among Hispanics Living along the

Disease Outbreak Investigations



On April 24, 2015, Dr. Kamrudin and Dr. St. John hosted a “Disease Outbreak Investigation” activity at McMurry University in Abilene; twelve students attended the event. Students worked in groups on disease outbreak case studies hosted by the Center for Disease Control and

WELCOME...New Faculty



Hafiz M. R. Khan, Ph.D.

Dr. Hafiz Khan is an Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the Department of Public Health at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). Prior to joining TTUHSC, Dr. Khan was serving as an Associate Professor and Graduate Program Director in the Department of Biostatistics, Robert Stempel College of Public Health & Social Work at Florida International University. Dr. Khan was on the faculty of the School of Health Related Professions at Rutgers University from 2006-2009.

His contributions include over 75 peer-reviewed scientific research publications in statistics, biostatistics, biomedical fields; and 62 peer-reviewed scientific research abstracts in several conference proceedings. He has also presented more than 80 scientific research works in several biostatistics and biomedical research communities.

As a Statistical Methodologist, he has advised more than 50 graduate students on their research projects, theses, and dissertations. Dr. Khan leads as a professional Editorial Board Member for several reputable journals. He serves as an Associate Editor of Computational Statistics. His research interests in statistical methods include: Healthcare data analysis; Statistical modeling; Bayesian predictive analysis.

Faculty Spotlight



Debra B. Reed, PhD, RDN, LD

Professor and Helen DeVitt Jones Chair
Nutritional Sciences Graduate Advisor
Texas Tech University (TTU)
College of Human Sciences
Department of Nutritional Sciences
2004 - Present

Education and Training

- BS Food & Nutrition & Home Economics Education, TTU
- Dietetic Internship, University of Arizona
- MS Food & Nutrition, TTU
- PhD Community Health Sciences, University of Texas Health Sciences Center, School of Public Health

Professional Background

During her early work with the NHLBI-funded Child and Adolescent Trial for Cardiovascular Health (CATCH) Project, Debra was a faculty member at the University of Texas School of Public Health and the Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Currently at TTU's main academic campus, Debra's research interests are focused on the development and testing of web-based educational interventions for preschool parents, including military parents. She recently received the President's Teaching Award and the Integrated Scholar designation <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/scholars/2015/index.php>. For the TTUHSC Department of Public Health, she provides guest lectures for the Introduction to Public Health and Public Health in Practice courses.

For a list of current Faculty, go to: www.ttuhscc.edu/gsbs/publichealth/PHfaculty

Student Public Health Association

Our biggest accomplishment so far, was organizing Public Health Week in April. All week we had a table in the foyer of the Academic Classroom Building at TTU Health Sciences Center, with information on vaccines, STIs, and alcohol use including flyers about the MPH program.

We also hosted a showing at Alamo Drafthouse of the film documentary, "Waiting Room" and worked with the Office of Global Health for a lunch presentation. For our work during this week, the Student Public Health Association will be acknowledged in the APHA newsletter in July 2015, so keep an eye out for that!



(Alamo Drafthouse)



We hold monthly meetings and invite speakers like Dr. Philip Huang, MD/MPH, Medical Director and Health Authority for the Austin/Travis County Health Department, and Dr. Brie Sherwin, J.D. / Ph.D. / M.S., Assistant Professor of Law at TTU School of Law and inaugural faculty of the MPH program, to discuss their work and to show the different dimensions of public health to our members.

We have a Facebook page, but unfortunately as of right now it is members only. However we would like to make one for all audiences at some point.

Future projects include, fundraisers for the community and continue raising awareness on public health topics.



(TTUHSC Student Public Health Association)

Student Spotlight



Taylor Lenzmeier, B.S., CI-CPT
President,
Student Public Health Association

I grew up in Gunter, Texas, a small 2A country town which is about an hour north of Dallas. Sports were the biggest passion in my family growing up. I played football my freshman year in college for New Mexico State University where I had a career ending injury that led me on the career path that I am now following. I currently work as a Corporate Wellness/ Exercise Specialist for Wellness Today and as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Garrison Institute on Aging. My ideal career would be to run a wellness program for a major

corporation or university. I am also particularly interested in community outreach programs. My bachelor's degree is from Texas Tech University in Nutritional Sciences with an emphasis in Health and Wellness, and I am currently enrolled in the Public Health program here at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. I am also working towards a master's in STEM Business Administration from the Rawls College of Business. I will graduate with both master's degrees in spring of 2016. I want to bring business and public health together to reduce the healthcare costs that this country is now struggling to keep up with and to change the way workers are treated in their respective worksite environments.

Master of Public Health Degree Program

The completion of a minimum of 42 semester credit hours of required coursework. The MPH degree plan includes a core set of requirements that focus on the five (5) Core Disciplines in Public Health: Biostatistics; Environmental Health; Epidemiology; Health Policy Management; and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

Required Courses

- Introduction to Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Introduction to Epidemiology
- Basic Environmental Health Sciences
- Management and Policy Sciences
- Introduction to Biostatistics
- Introduction to Public Health
- Responsible Conduct of Research
- Issues in Rural Health
- Public Health in Practice
- Community Based Research Methods

Sample of Elective Courses

- Making Change at the Community Level
- Planning and Developing Health Promotion Interventions
- Program Evaluation
- Advanced Epidemiology Methods
- Intermediate Biostatistics
- Epidemiology Research Methods

* *Public Health Practicum*

* *MPH Culminating Experience*

For more information go to:

www.ttuhs.edu/gsbs/publichealth

Need to know...

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For information about the practicum
and the requirements go to:

<http://www.ttuhs.edu/gsbs/publichealth/Practicum>

Interested in being a preceptor?
(806) 743-4042
Jackie.chavez@ttuhsc.edu

Links to Public Health Careers & Resources

*American Public Health Association (APHA): www.apha.org

*A Guide to Public Health Careers; Industries and Sectors That Attract Public Health Professionals:

<http://www.publichealthonline.org/careers>

*Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov>

*National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO);

The National Connection for Local Public Health: www.naccho.org

For additional links and resources go to: www.ttuhs.edu/gsbs/publichealth



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