

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2007



University of Iowa

MPH News



UI College of Public Health

Message from the Director

Greetings to all alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends of the University of Iowa Master of Public Health Program. There is much to celebrate since our last newsletter.

The first cohort of practicing veterinarians arrived on the UI campus for two weeks in June to begin a two-year program of study with all but 12 credit hours taken on-line. They will meet again next summer on the ISU campus. This primarily distance-based program, developed specifically for DVMs, is unique nationally. We have already admitted several students for the next cohort beginning June 2008.

In addition, we now have an official UI dual degree in Law and Public Health (JD/MPH). While we already have several alumni who completed both degrees, the new dual degree option will facilitate students' progress through both programs.

Our students and alumni continue to gain internal and external recognition through academic achievement, public health practice, and outreach. We can only acknowledge recognition we hear about, so please let us know when you have items to share.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the annual newsletter. If you are

feeling particularly creative, we are seeking a catchier name than "MPH News." You can submit as many entries as you can come up with!



Mary Aquilino, PhD, RN, FNP

Assistant Dean and Director of the MPH Program

New Dual Degree in Law and Public Health

Beginning Fall 2007, UI law students will have an opportunity to pursue a combined JD/MPH degree.

Students completing the combined degree will develop special expertise in public health legal issues as well as prepare for leadership roles in both the public and private sectors.

Graduates of the program will be able to serve either as a public health professional having strong

preparation and competency to deal with legal and policy issues, or as lawyers specializing in health care issues in a public health setting.

The public health component of the dual degree is 42 semester hours, focusing on courses related to public health and law. Several courses will be cross-counted, allowing students to obtain both degrees in as little as four years.

For additional information about the JD/MPH degree, please contact:

Lily French,
Assistant to the MPH Director
319/384-5991 or
lily-french@uiowa.edu

Or visit our website at:
http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/ MPH/about/combined_degrees/jd_mph.html

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NAME THIS NEWSLETTER!!

"MPH News" has got to go and YOU could win some fabulous MPH prizes just for being the person to re-name it!

Submit entries by December 1st, 2007 to Lexie Just lexie-just@uiowa.edu

Where are they now?

Ann Garvey (12/03, General) Iowa Department of Public Health, Des Moines, IA, State Public Health Veterinarian.

Keri Mercer (12/03, Community and Behavioral Health) Holden Comprehensive Cancer Center, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA, Cancer Information Specialist.

Bobbi Buckner Bentz (5/04, Policy and Administration) Cornell College, Mount Vernon, IA, Dimensions Program Coordinator; University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, PhD Candidate in Community and Behavioral Health.

Srinivas Bodapati (5/05, Epidemiology) Sound Shore Health System, Mount Vernon, New York, Internal Medicine Resident.

Robin Epp (7/05, Occupational and Environmental Health) Iowa Methodist Medical Center, Des Moines, IA, Medical Director of Occupational Medicine.

Andrew Paulsen (5/07, PharmD/MPH) Pharmacy Services, Rockford, IL, Nuclear Pharmacist.

Profile: Jeremiah Garza (CBH, 5/02)

In May, Jeremiah received an Outstanding Alumni Award at the College of Public Health Graduation and Honors Dinner.

Jeremiah writes, “ In addition to enjoying my first year of marriage, I’m continuing my work in public health addressing childhood obesity prevention in South Los Angeles. My responsibilities include supporting an interdisciplinary community collaborative to create sustainable environmental changes that improve healthy eating and physical activity.

One key project involves mobilizing community residents to address inadequate access to high quality, affordable food in their neighborhood. As a result, some colleagues from local youth engagement organizations and I are working with youth to help them gain the knowledge, confidence, and skills necessary to become effective participants in policymaking. This summer our youth leaders are producing short videos entitled *Where I Get My Five Fruits & Vegetables a Day*, and will share issues raised by their work during a City Council-sponsored community forum in October. A highlight of the work will be a discussion on a small neighborhood retail makeover that will serve as a model for providing other corner-store grocers with the support and assistance

needed to manage the challenges of offering and promoting fresh produce. I serve as their public health mentor, helping them deepen their work by linking their insights with technical assistance providers, up-to-date research, and local, state, and national policies. Helping youth develop questions they can ask politicians about how to sustain their efforts has been immensely rewarding, as the youth have already chosen to work proactively with local jurisdictions to encourage more corner-store grocers to offer and promote fresh produce.”



Jeremiah Garza with new wife Ivy Chang

“I’m proud of my Iowa education as it provided me the training necessary to substantially contribute to community-directed efforts in creating positive social change.”

New Alumni: Fall 2006 through Summer 2007

We are proud to report that we have reached **196** total MPH graduates!

Congratulations to our newest MPH alumni:

Fall 2006

Community and Behavioral Health: Eva Brummel, Andria Timmer; **Epidemiology:** Lindsey Diers, Mrinalini Joshi, Tina Luse, Natalie Rice; **General:** Shawn Messer, Jasleen Modi, Michael Post; **Maternal, Child, and Family Health:** Lisa Weimer; **MD/MPH:** Liberty Balbort; **Occupational and Environmental Health:** Thomas Hart; **Policy and Administration:** Bren Lowe

Spring 2007

Agng Studies: Gary DeSmidt, Stephanie Shaw; **Community and Behavioral Health:** Lilian Hu; **DVM/MPH:** Cameron Norton; **Epidemiology:** Diana De



Mary Aquilino, MPH Program Director with Susann Smith (General, 5/07), Shawn Messer (General, 12/06) and Norma Miller (General, 5/07) at the College of Public Health Graduation and Honors Dinner.

Salvo Von Stein, Kevin Furness, Philip Polgreen, Bret Powell, Philip Van De Griend; **General:** Norma Miller, Susann Smith; **Health Communication:** Jay Cooper; **Maternal, Child, and Family Health:** Preeti Satyanarayana; **MD/MPH:** Cari Wilcox; **Occupational and Environmental Health:** Clay Baldwin, Ellen Ireland, Sydney Switzer; **PharmD/MPH:** Andrew Paulsen, Adrienne Peters; **Policy and Administration:** Rob Fernandez

Summer 2007

Community and Behavioral Health: Gunjan Maniktala; **Epidemiology:** Nadira Ahmad, Joseph Avila, Kristin Wyant; **Policy and Administration:** Taylor Heim

First MPH Cohort of Professional Veterinarians

Nine veterinarians recently became the first cohort of students to pursue the newly offered MPH for practicing veterinarians degree. This collaborative degree with Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine will prepare practicing veterinarians for new career opportunities and the ability to respond to public health challenges such as zoonotic diseases, food security, food-borne illnesses, bioterrorism, and environmental health.

Students arrived in Iowa City from across the United States for the first summer institute in June. Upon completion of the summer institute, they returned home to begin taking distance education courses.

Next summer the group will meet again, this time at Iowa State University for the second two-week institute, and will complete the program in May 2009.

Applications are currently being accepted for the second cohort, to begin coursework at the University of Iowa in June 2008.



Jeffrey Nelson, Brenda Rivera-Garcia, Jennifer House, Patricia Rasmussen, Adrienne Dunham, Shannon Tucker, Nancy Belsley, and Peggy Brinkman (not pictured: Cynthia Stansberry)

“The distance learning program affords me the opportunity to further my interest and education in public health while not having to give up my home and community life. I appreciate that the program is tailored to veterinarians and builds upon skills I already possess.”

Cynthia Stansberry, DVM

“I am stressed beyond belief right now with work and school, but I still think this is the best thing I have done since veterinary school. It has been energizing to be involved with groups of people who have a similar focus again. I don’t get discussions like I have encountered in these classes in my normal daily life. I really appreciate all the University of Iowa and ISU have done to develop this program, because before this there would have been no way for me to go to graduate school and be able to work full time to support myself. This option isn’t easy, but the best things in life usually aren’t.”

Shannon Tucker, DVM

Student Honors and Recognition

USPHS Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice Award: Andrew Paulsen, Adrienne Peters

Public Health Honor Society (Delta Omega) Inductees: Mrinalini Joshi, Matthew Lozier, Preeti Satyanarayana, Andria Timmer, Philip Van De Griend

Deans Achievement Award: Lilian Hu

Milford E. Barnes Award: Philip Van De Griend, Ellen Davis

MPH Policy and Administration

Awards: Matthew Wyatt, Rob Fernandez

MPH Scholarship Award Recipients:

Adrienne Dunham, Natalie Glass, Hana Hinkle, Ariel Hoy, Rose Kim, Bethany Lewis, Matthew Noble, Brenda Rivera-Garcia, Arick Sabin, Ulrike Schultz, Anjali Shivshanker, Maryn Torner, Matthew Wyatt

2007 Hill’s Pet Nutrition Innovations in Public Health Award: Aleisha Nessel

Recent Publications: Ortiz EJ, Kochel TJ, Capuano AW, Setterquist SF, Gray GC. Avian Influenza and Poultry Workers, Peru, Influenza & Resp Viruses. 2007; in press.

Poli MA, Rivera VR, Neal DD, Baden DG, Messer SA, Plakas SM, Dickey RW, El Said K, Flewelling L, Green D, White J. An electrochemiluminescence-based competitive displacement immunoassay for the Type-2 brevetoxins in oyster extracts. J AOAC International 90:173-178, 2007

UI President’s 2007 Award For Outreach, Public Engagement: Yolanda Villalvazo

CDC World Rabies Day, Global Communications Award: Brenda Rivera-Garcia

MPH Alumni Staying Connected

MPH alumni are invited to check out the new virtual gathering place built just for University of Iowa grads—OnIowa.com, the University’s official online community. Hawkeyes now have a place to connect to friends, former classmates, and their alma mater. It’s free, exclusive and secure. OnIowa.com offers plenty of fun, easy-to-use features, including: a per-

sonal Hawk Page to display your news, keep track of your contacts, and stay up-to-date with your friends’ postings; an Alumni Events Calendar that lets you search and register for alumni events in



your area; and an e-mail forwarding service that offers a free, personalized University of Iowa alumni e-mail address.

Registration is easy. Simply visit www.OnIowa.com, click on “register now”, and follow the registration instructions.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

MPH Program
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Do you have news to share?
Let us help you spread the word
in the next MPH News.
Contact: Lily French
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**UI College of
Public Health**

Public health: life's safety net

Practicum Profile

Bradley Randles (MD/MPH student)

Brad spent the spring semester completing his practicum in Thailand at KAVRU (Kamphaeng Phet Virology Research Unit), an extension of AF-RIMS (Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences) assisting with the initiation of an avian flu study.

Brad worked with KAVRU staff scouting for the best sites in which to enroll study subjects and helping to coordinate the other numerous logistical efforts that go into carrying out an overseas venture. Effort was spent obtaining human and poultry demographic information from the local Ministry of Agriculture, local municipal offices, and local public health offices. KAVRU staff and Brad personally visited many villages in Kamphaeng Phet province to determine which are the most suitable for the study. Brad also had the opportunity to participate in KAVRU's current dengue surveillance study among primary school children.



Brad Randles completing his practicum experience in Thailand

According to Brad, "Field research presents with many great challenges and rewards; KAVRU has provided a great chance to experience each. The Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases is carrying out one arm of its prospective study of avian influenza in Asia based out of KAVRU. KAVRU has completed many population-based virology studies since the early 1980's, including trials of the Hepatitis A vaccine, Japanese encephalitis vaccine, and expected next year is a large trial of a new Dengue vaccine."

Several other MPH students have also worked (or are currently working) with the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases and Dr. Gregory Gray on similar Practicum projects studying avian influenza. These students include:

Laura Lee (Epidemiology student): Kamphaeng Phet, Thailand.

Whitney Baker (Epidemiology, 12/05): Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Kristin Wyant (Epidemiology, 7/07): Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Matthew Noble (Epidemiology student): Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Sam Messer (General, 12/03): Jakarta, Indonesia

Laurie Leder (Epidemiology student): Fort Dietrick, Maryland

Ernesto Ortiz (General, 5/04): Lima, Peru