

# Master of Public Health

Newsletter Volume 2 - Issue 1

*The Master of Public Health Program is grooming our future public health professionals, making it one of the leading graduate schools on the west coast.*

## A Letter from the MPH Director



On behalf of the MPH students, faculty, staff, and advisory board members, let me congratulate each of the individuals who completed the degree requirements during the 2005-2006 academic year. As we bid farewell to our students, we welcome and look forward to working with students in Cohort 13, the first class to be admitted into our Health Policy and Management Option.

The MPH continues with its efforts to enhance communication with our students, faculty, and friends and are making many changes to facilitate this process. Our re-designed website plays a key role in our communication strategy, be sure to visit and find updated information about your program offerings, faculty hours, faculty advisors, the revised field work manual, and the comprehensive exam policy and instruction documents among others.

The MPH faculty also continues to disseminate information via the listserv programs. Remember that students in the MPH program are required to subscribe to the listserv to receive updated job interviews and professional development opportunities, we even have a listserv for our alumni and friends.

Let me conclude this letter by inviting each of you to schedule an *in-person* advising session with your advisors, we are here to help you, but need to meet with you in person to accurately answer the questions you may have about the program. *Welcome to a productive new year.*

- Miguel A. Perez, Ph.D., CHES

**MPH  
Office Hours  
Fall 2006**



The MPH Office will be open between 8/16/06 and 12/15/06. During this time frame, the MPH office will be open during the following hours.

**Monday** 9-11:30 a.m.  
1:30-6 p.m.

**Tuesday** 11-4:30 p.m.

**Wednesday** 8-11:30 p.m.  
1:30-3 p.m.

**Thursday** 8-10:30 a.m.  
1-4 p.m.



## Congratulations to Our 2006 Graduates

Fritzic Von Allen Jr., Jennifer Michelle Boffi, Lonnie D. Carter, Marylouise A. Castano, Paul Edward Charpentier, Patricia Ann Eyre Bergmann, Janet Elizabeth Gardner, Harnak Singh Gill,, Joseph Imuagbonrie Idoni, Vincent Richard Jenkins, Christina Beth Lehn, Rosalinda Luna,, Kimberly D. Mahan, Sandra Jean Miller, Kamryn Lee Molinari, Thida Norng-Buttke, Mato-Kuwapi Parker, Andrew Dawhaun Robinson, Kelly Mouang Saechao, Jeffrey Joseph Toomer, Inge Ann Van Hoose, Teng Vang, Yash Pal Verma. *Stay in touch through letters, emails, and our alumni listserv.*

# Faculty

## Dr. Miguel Perez Wins 3rd Fullbright Award

Dr. Miguel A. Perez received his second Fulbright Senior Specialist Award and the third Fullbright Award during his career. Dr. Perez implemented a 40 hour seminar on adolescent sexuality, provided technical assistance in the Development of a Master of Public Health Program and stated the process for a research study among first year college students at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla. During this spare time, Dr. Perez worked with Dr. Pinzon-Perez and Ms. Alonso from the medical faculty in Uninorte to write a health promotion book, in Spanish, which will be out in December of this year.

## Congratulations Dr. Vicki Krenz

Dr. Vicki Krenz won the Blue Cross National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management. The Environmental Protection agency (EPA) initiated the award to bring attention to the profound effect an individual's environment can have on his or her health and well being, and to recognize health plans and health care providers for their leadership in addressing management of environmental triggers as part of their comprehensive asthma management programs.

## Welcome Professor Mohammad Rahman

The Department of Health Science is pleased to welcome Dr. Mohammad Rahman. Dr. Rahman obtained his doctoral degree from Brandeis University in 2006. His teaching and research focuses on healthcare management and economic evaluation of healthcare organizations. He has special interest in international health in the areas of community based health insurance schemes and telemedicine. Dr. Rahman will teach in the Health Policy and Management option.



## Welcome Cohort 13

We are pleased to welcome the new students accepted into the MPH program:  
Kasia Bickel, Xi Chang, Shannon Davis-Craig, Lilia De La Cerda, Joseph Dobbins, Katrina Drake, Jordan Esraelian, Danette Flores, Michael Flores,

Ravijot Gill, Alicia Gonzalez, Kiran Grewal, Brittany Growdon, Jaswanth Guntakandia, Laura Heinze, Erika Ireland, Nafisa Jaghuri, LeePao Khang, Melanie Lane, Maria Lemus, Pete Mendibles, Nerecida Murillo, Alicia Nelson, Ana

Ortiz, Ashley Parks, Erica Peterson, Helda Pinzon-Perez, Rachel Quinto, Esther Rivera, Romina Romero-Schaffer, Laura Ruiz, Christina Sharp, Eric Solis, Beverly Tovar, Cindy Vang.

## Student Spotlight

**Lorena Vallejo** received a Graduate Student Research Merit Award from the Division of Graduate Studies.

**Andrew Robinson** has received an award from Blue Cross for his graduate project.

**Yolanda Randells** received a travel grant from the Division of Graduate Studies and from the Master of Public Health Program to present a paper at the DHPE/ CDC National Conference of Health Promotion and Education in Arlington, Virginia.

**Tara Powers** won the 2006 CSU Student Leadership Award.

**Tona Soto** received a nationally competitive scholarship from the American Association for Health Education.

**Cindy Vang** received a Graduate Equity Fellowship from the Division of Graduate Studies.

## Experience at the BRFSS Conference

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is the world's largest, ongoing telephone health survey system, tracking health conditions and risk behaviors in the United States yearly since 1984. Conducted by the 50 state health departments as well as those in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands with support from the CDC, BRFSS provides state-specific information about issues such as asthma, diabetes, health care access, alcohol use, hypertension, obesity, cancer screening, nutrition and physical activity, tobacco use, and more. Federal, state, and local health officials and researchers use this information to track health risks, identify emerging problems, prevent disease, and improve treatment.

On March 20, 2006, three MPH students, Johnny Lee, Tara Powers, and Gilda Zarate attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) conference. Gilda Zarate writes, "This conference was of great value to my development as a public health professional. It allowed me to meet the scientists directly involved in this nationwide effort to monitor the public health trends as its citizens cope with the nuances of a new century. What seem most surprising to me was the level of commitment and professionalism that the BRFSS staff has invested to generate the most qualified telephone-based survey that has served as a model to other countries and were also present in the conference to learn about the specificity and yields of this endeavor. In a more personal note, the introduction to the BRFSS and its professionals provided me with the tools and resources to re-evaluate my career objectives and values to renew my commitment with the community that I work with."

The MPH and the Health Science Department are pleased to finance their participation in this program.

# Opportunities

## Cal-EIS?

The California Epidemiologic Investigation Service (Cal-EIS) is a one-year training program for health professionals who have at least a master's degree in a field related to public health. The mission of Cal-EIS is to prepare epidemiologists for public health leadership positions in California.

Applicants with an advanced degree (e.g. masters or above) in health-related field, at least one course in epidemiology, and one course in (bio) statistics may apply. Each Fellow will receive a stipend of approximately \$40,000 per annum under contract with DHS.

The application must be postmarked by November 15, 2006, for the training year July 2007 to June 2008.

## USPHS Environmental Internship

The U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) employs Environmental Health students through its Jr. Commissioned Officer Student Training and Extern Program (JrCOSTEP). This is an excellent opportunity for students to fulfill their internship requirement, gain



valuable experience in the environmental health field, and receive an excellent salary. The deadline for 2007 summer JrCOSTEP applications is December 31, 2006. Visit <http://www.usphs.gov/html/jrcostep.html> for more information.

## Executive Healthcare Jobs

Earn a commission with competitive salary as an officer and leader in the US Navy Medical Service Corps as a Healthcare Executive in Hospitals, Medical Centers, and other state of the art facilities. Basic requirements include masters degree in health care administration, business administration, or public health. Email Lt. Victor Delatorre at [delatorre@cnrc.navy.mil](mailto:delatorre@cnrc.navy.mil) for more information.

## Scholarships

The department of health science has scholarships available. To apply please contact Dr. Sherm Sowby at [sherms@csufresno.edu](mailto:sherms@csufresno.edu) for additional information and application format.



## CDC Internship

The Internship Program for Students of Minority-Serving Institutions was developed to strengthen the academic and professional development of minority students by creating partnerships between minority serving institutions and the public health community. The program aims to place students at federal, state, and local health departments, community-based organizations and other health-related agencies for practical experience in the field of public health education and promotion. Visit [www.dhpe.org](http://www.dhpe.org) or visit Dr. Miguel A. Perez, the campus liaison, for more information.

## International Programs Scholarship Fund Gets Boost

Students planning to participate in any of the campus-sponsored Study Abroad programs will find things much easier to afford, thanks to the Office of the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. A significant allocation of financial resources has been made specifically targeted for study abroad students—that means more scholarships for students. For information and the application process, contact the International Programs Office at: **559 278-6452 or email: [bille@csufresno.edu](mailto:bille@csufresno.edu)**

## Apply Today Travel Scholarship To Boston, MA



*"The APHA Annual Meeting is the premier platform to share successes and failures, discover exceptional best practices and learn from expert colleagues and the latest research in the field."*

**November 3-8, 2006  
Boston, MA**

**To Apply:** Submit a typed essay (750 words or less) on "Why attending the 134th American Public Health Association Meeting and Exposition will benefit your academic and professional career" to the Master of Public Health Office in McLane Hall 170 or the Health Science Department Office to the attention of Dr. Miguel A. Perez. All essays should include a cover page with the applicants name, e-mail address, mailing address, and phone number as well as the applicants major/option. All essays must be turned in by **October 1, 2006**, in order to qualify. No late essays will be accepted. Two winners will be given a stipend amount of \$750.00 towards travel, lodging and conference fees. Winners will be announced by **October 15, 2006**.

# International Opportunities

The University's strategic plan for excellence envisions a diverse and global opportunity for students at Fresno State. The Master of Public Health Program is working hard to make opportunities available to students.



## Spanish for Foreigners Programs

The Spanish for Foreigners program at the Instituto de Idiomas at the Universidad del Norte in Barranquilla, Columbia combines a multidisciplinary program with a variety of social and cultural activities. Participants have the opportunity to become involved in intercultural exchange and understanding.

To fill out your application and housing form check out:

<http://www.uninorte.edu.co/extensiones/idiomas/secciones.asp?ID=4>.

## Binational Health Week

The Master of Public Health Program is proud to participate in Binational Health Week activities which are sponsored by The United States-Mexico Border Health Commission. This binational health commission was created in July 2000, with the signing of an agreement by the Secretary of Health and Human Services of the United States and the Secretary of Health

of Mexico. On December 21, 2004 the Commission was designated as a Public International Organization by Executive Order of the President. The Commission is comprised of the federal secretaries of health, the chief health officers of the ten border states, and prominent community health professionals from both nations.

The BHC has the unique opportunity to bring together the two countries and its border states to solve border health problems. The Commission provides the necessary leadership to develop coordinated and binational actions that will improve the health and quality of life on the border. This year Program Director Dr. Miguel A. Perez and Dean Ben Cuellar, will travel to Guadalajara, Mexico to participate in events related to binational health week which will be celebrated between October 8-14. Nayamin Cosio-Martinez, Johnny Lee, Angel Ponce, and Araceli Martinez from the MPH program will participate in activities throughout Fresno County during that time frame.

## Brown Bag Lunch

On November 13, 2006 we are going to have a brown bag lunch with MPH students to give them a chance to discuss different opportunities offered in the program, to answer questions you may have about the program, and to meet members of the advisory board. We will have an alumnus from the program talking about their experiences during and after they left the program. We hope to see you there. *Time: 12-1pm*  
*Location: McLane Hall 193*



## Software

The University has recently purchased a site license that makes Endnote bibliographic software <http://www.endnote.com/enabout.asp> available to all faculty, staff, and students. You will be asked to log in with your email address and password. The terms of the license allow for installation on your home computer as well as your office workstation. The URL for students to download EndNote bibliographic software is <https://help.csufresno.edu/login.jsp?https://help.csufresno.edu/students/software/endnote/index.jsp>

## MPH DEADLINES You NEED To Know

**Friday, September 8:** Fall 2006 Graduation Application Period ends.

**Friday, September 29:** Last day for Spring 2007 graduates to file for Advancement to Candidacy.

**Friday, October 6:** Robert and Norma Craig Fellowship deadline.

**Saturday, October 7:** Comprehensive Exam.

**Friday, October 20:** Graduate Student Research Merit Award deadline.

**Monday, October 30:** Committee-approved final thesis (299) final drafts due in the Graduate Office for students graduating in Fall 2006.

**Friday, November 10:** Veterans' Day. No Classes, offices closed.

**Wednesday-Friday, November 22-24:** Thanksgiving recess. Wednesday: No classes, offices open. Thursday-Friday: No classes, offices closed.

**Wednesday, December 13:** Last day of instruction.

**Friday, December 22:** Master's Degree Clearance Forms due in the Graduate Office for fall graduates. All course paperwork must be on file.

**Monday December 25-Monday January 1:** Winter Recess. Campus closed.