

**POINTS OF  
INTEREST:**

**Department Updates**

**Featured Faculty**

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

**Study Room Available 3**

**Save the Dates 3**

**California Health Collaborative 4**

2345 E. Ramon Ave.  
M/S 30  
Fresno, Ca 93740

559.278.4014  
[www.csufresno.edu/  
publichealth](http://www.csufresno.edu/publichealth)

## Burn Awareness: A Public Health Issue

According to the CDC, everyday 435 children ages 0 to 19 are treated in emergency rooms for burn-related injuries and two children die as a result of being burned.

### Quick Facts About Gasoline and Scald Burn Injuries

- Each year in the United States, 1.1 million burn injuries require medical attention. Approximately 4,500 people die. And up to 10,000 people die every year in the U.S. from burn-related infections.
- The Shriners Hospitals for Children specializing in treating burn injuries have admitted more than 10,000 acute pediatric burn patients since 1994.
- Kids ages 13 and older are in the highest at-risk group for gasoline and other flammable substance burns.
- According to the Consumer Products Safety Commission, in one year approximately 1,270 children under age 5 were treated in emergency rooms for injuries resulting from the misuse of gasoline and unsecured gasoline cans.
- Children ages 10-14 are almost four times more likely to get in trouble with gasoline.
- Every day, more than 300 young children with scald burns are taken to emergency rooms.
- The mortality rates from scald burn injuries are highest for children under the age of four.



Prevention Tips- To prevent burns from fires:

- **Be alarmed.** Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home — on every floor and near all rooms family members sleep in. Test your smoke alarms once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- **Have an escape plan.** Create and practice a family fire escape plan, and involve kids in the planning. Make sure everyone knows at least two ways out of every room and identify a central meeting place outside.
- **Cook with care.** Use safe cooking practices, such as never leaving food unattended on the stove. Also, supervise young children whenever they're near cooking surfaces.

# A Personal Experience-Xi Chang

*“Western health care practices do not adjust for other cultural health practices and this issue needs to be acknowledged by public health professionals and health care providers.”*

*Xi Chang  
Masters of Public Health  
Graduate Student*

Xi Chang presented at the American Public Health Association (APHA) 2009 Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. This is what he had to say:

This presentation has provided me the opportunity to report on one of the Hmong public health issues in the Central Valley. Though the research project focused primarily on Hmong prenatal health practices and perceptions, I think that the bigger picture shows that Southeast Asians and other refugee groups are struggling with the current health care system in California in terms of receiving adequate and appropriate services. Western health care practices do not adjust for other cultural health practices and this issue needs to be acknowledged by public health

professionals and health care providers.

Due to the limited time for the presentation, the biggest effect of the presentation was increasing awareness of Hmong prenatal and health practices and perceptions. It is critical to understand their perspectives on practicing health care and how it differs from standard western health care. The broken health care system in America does not have any current policies that are sensitive to or address Hmong or any other cultural groups’ traditional health care practices. The added newspapers’ articles help highlight the Hmong cultural health care practices being integrated into western health care system as a beginning step to cultural difference inclusion.

The opportunity to present at the APHA 2009 Meeting was a great learning experience for me. I enjoyed the different environment where the meeting took place and the diverse public health professionals’ inputs to the research work I do. The most important outcome of this presentation was to be able to voice out Hmong public health concerns to the general population. In conclusion, I strongly believe that the more efforts we, as public health professionals, put into addressing a certain public health issue, the more likely that issue will be addressed and fit the that subgroup’s need. This presentation was a step towards that goal.

Funding for this trip partially provided by the Division of Graduate Studies.



## Featured Faculty— Dr. Vicki Krenz

Dr. Vickie Krenz has been a professor and researcher in the Department of Public Health since 1990. In addition to her teaching and research, she has been graduate coordinator for the health promotion option and a member of the Academic Senate. She has been appointed as the next MPH director starting in August 2010.

Dr. Krenz has worked with diverse groups on public health issues including ac-

cess to services, tobacco prevention, nutrition, teen pregnancy prevention, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, agricultural pesticides, asthma and barriers to cervical cancer screening among Latinas.

Dr. Krenz is well-known and respected for her work among the Hmong, migrant and seasonal farm workers and Native Americans in the Central Valley. She also works with numerous organizations and serves on several committees to help

improve the health and well being of Fresno County residents.

Dr. Krenz currently serves as a community health advisor for the students with last names T-Z. Her office is in Science II, Room 327.



# Department Updates

Congratulations to **Derek Shaffer** on being awarded an Undergraduate Research Award to work with Dr. Miguel A. Perez on a research study entitled “Spirituality and Sexual Behaviors: An Exploratory Study.” Fresno State is one of three campuses nationwide that will be collecting information in this topic.

**Children of the Valley Report now available:** This report summarizes the results of a study conducted by the Central California Children’s Institute between October 2008 and January 2009. The purpose of this study was to determine the most critical issues facing children in the San Joaquin Valley and the role that the Children’s Institute might play in addressing those issues. The report may be downloaded from: [www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs](http://www.csufresno.edu/ccchhs).



\*\*\*\*\*

**MPH Application**– The deadline for the applying to the MPH is **March 1st**. Applications may be submitted by using [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu). Contact Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi for additional information at 278.5387.

## Study Room Available

Beginning January 2010, the Department of Public Health will have a study room available for students within our department. The room in McLane Hall J-wing Room 15 will be open between 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM. We appreciate your efforts in keeping this study space pleasant. To book this study space, please contact our office at 559.278.4014.

## Focus on our Partners



The California Health Collaborative (*Collaborative*) changes lives by Improving health and wellness. Guided by this mission, the *Collaborative* is committed to empowering Californians to achieve optimal health and thereby improving their quality of life. This is accomplished by serving the needs of individuals with limited access to healthcare resources and who most often confront barriers related to culture, language, immigration status, income, gender, geography, and/or education.

Since its creation in 1982 as 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the *Collaborative* has crafted a foundation of programming that is responsive to existing and emerging health issues. These programs, collectively and in partnership with a diverse group of principal stakeholders, offer a mechanism by which the *Collaborative* can mobilize systematic changes that result in a sound state of health and wellbeing for all Californians.

For an opportunity to intern with the California Health Collaborative contact the internship coordinator Ms. Manal Samaha at 278.8854 or via e-mail at [manal@csufresno.edu](mailto:manal@csufresno.edu).

## American Heart Month

Cardiovascular diseases, including stroke, are our nation’s No. 1 killer. To urge Americans to join the battle against these diseases, since 1963 Congress has required the president to proclaim February “American Heart Month.” The American Heart Association (AHA) works with The Obama-Biden Administration to draft and sign this annual proclamation. During American Heart Month, thousands of AHA volunteers visit their neighbors. Their goal is to raise funds for research and education and pass along information about heart disease and stroke. For more information visit the AHA’s Web site ([www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)).



## National Cancer Prevention Month

If your New Year’s fervor to get healthy is already losing steam, February — National Cancer Prevention Month — is a great time to give yourself a second chance. The American Institute for Cancer Research’s three

Guidelines for Cancer Prevention Month — can help you focus on what’s most important.

- 1) Choose mostly plant foods, limit red meat and avoid processed meat.

- 2) Be physically active every day in any way for 30 minutes or more.
- 3) Aim to be a healthy weight throughout life.

For more information on how to prevent cancer, visit the AICR Web site ([www.aicr.org](http://www.aicr.org)).



## Save the Date

### February 16

Time: 1:00-12:30 & 6:00-7:30 (males only)

7:30-9:00 (females only)

Event: Playing the Game

Location: Satellite Student Union

Contact: Dr. Gregory Thatcher

### February 20

Time: 8:00-1:00

Event: Health Center Tours

Location: Three FQHC in Fresno County

Sponsor: Central California Public Health Training Academy

Contact: Mr. Anthony Gentile

### March 20

Time: 8:00-3:00

Event: Professional Development

Location: California Health Collaborative

Sponsor: Central California Public Health Training Academy & Master of Public Health

Contact: Mr. Anthony Gentile

### April 19 & 20

Time: check with MPH director

Event: Comprehensive Exam

Sponsor: Master of Public Health Program

Contact: Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi

### April 20

Time: 10:00-2:00

Event: Health Fair

Location: University Dining Commons

Contact: Dr. Jerry Davoli

### May 6

Time: 1:00-6:00

Event: Graduate Research and Creative Arts Symposium

Location: Henry Madden Library

Sponsors: Division of Graduate Studies, Henry Madden Library, Doctoral Program in educational Leadership