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Master of Public Health

SPRING 2006

The Master of Public Health program is growing at Fresno State. Find out more about the program and the campus community inside this edition of the Master of Public Health Newsletter.

A Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the premier edition of the Public Health News, a publication of the Master of Public Health program. The purpose of this publication is to disseminate news and information relevant to our students and friends and it will be published once each semester. This is your publication and we invite you to submit your news articles to be included in future editions.

As you know, Dr. Davoli resigned as the program coordinator and is currently enjoying every minute of his much deserved sabbatical. It is my distinct

pleasure to follow in his footsteps and build upon the solid foundation he developed for the program.

This semester we will embark in improving the program, addressing your needs, and developing a comprehensive marketing approach for the program. We will also begin to explore funding opportunities for our graduate students. We eagerly await the first cohort to the Health Policy & Administration option this Fall 2006 semester. I look forward to meeting each of you in the months to come.



Peter Munoz, Tommie Clark –Davies, and Robin Woods. Picture by Tara Powers



New Degree Option

As some of you may know the Master of Public Health program will soon discontinue offering its Health Administration option and will replace it with a new option in Health Policy and

Management. This change was necessary to better address an ever changing job environment. Current students in the Health Administration option will be allowed to complete their degrees provided they have completed their Advancement to Candidacy. Students admitted for the 2006-2007 academic year will be offered the opportunity to change to the new option. Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi will serve as the option's advisor and will work closely with Dr. John Capitman and a new faculty hire to implement the new curriculum.

The Spring 2006 Graduation Ceremony Has a Time and Place:

Yes it's true, the venue for the Spring 2006 Health Science Graduation Ceremony has been picked!

This annual event will be held at Pardini's on Friday, May 19, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. The event is free to all graduating students and their families (limit four family members per graduate) compliments of the Health Science Department and the Student Health Science Association (SHSA). But no worries for those with holes burning in their pockets, the SHSA club will be raffling off various goodies through-out the ceremony for a donation to their scholarship fund. All graduates are invited to wear their gowns as Dr. Sowby comments on every graduate. This is sure to be a humorous and fulfilling event. Reservations must be made at the department office beginning in April.

Faculty News



Celebrating 20 years.....

Dr. Chris Tennant joined the Health Science faculty as an Associate Professor in the Fall of 1986 and has now completed 20 years of teaching Environmental Health/Industrial Hygiene at CSU Fresno. Dr. Tennant, a board Certified Industrial Hygienist, specializes in indoor air quality and human health and is frequently called upon by local, state, and federal agencies to solve complex indoor air quality problems.

Dr. Helda Pinzon-Perez honored with the prestigious 'TOP DOG' award

In a ceremony last October 2005, Dr. Helda Pinzon-Perez received the Alumni Association's top recognition for a distinguished alumni from the College of Health and Human Services at California State University, Fresno. The Top Dog award is bestowed upon an individual who has excelled in their chosen fields of endeavor and represents the highest honor given out by the Alumni Association. Dr. Pinzon-Perez is known for energetic personality and her compassion for students.

"We commend our faculty on their outstanding accomplishments."

Dr. Vickie Krenz voted "Most liked Professor" by students

The votes are in and Dr. Krenz was selected as one of the "Most Liked Professors" at Fresno State. Pick-A-Prof is a student's inside guide to choosing their next semester's professors and it is based on their assessment of the instructor. Dr. Krenz is the only faculty in the college of Health and Human Services to receive this honor which was published in the Fresno Bee. Congratulations Dr. Krenz!

Perspective from the "Chair"

The MPH program at CSU, Fresno is unique in many ways. We are the only CEPH-accredited MPH program north of CSU, Northridge and south of San Jose State and UC Davis. We are also the only MPH program on the West Coast with a Health Policy and Management Option.

We have great hopes for the growth of this option and know that our long standing Health Promotion option will continue to be popular. With our new faculty members and our tie in with the Central Valley Health Policy Institute, we can offer a top-notch experience to our students. Our student recruiting efforts have expanded, and we look forward to doing our part to improve the health and wellness of the San Joaquin Valley citizens. We are



pleased that so many graduates are making a meaningful difference in their workplaces and communities.

- Sherman K. Sowby PhD, CHES
Professor and Chair

Deadlines for Projects in the Master of Public Health Program

Spring ~ April 20th
&
Fall ~ November 20th

MPH DEADLINES YOU NEED TO KNOW



Wednesday, March 15: Program Course and Curriculum changes due in the Division of Graduate Studies.

Friday, March 17: Graduate Research Award application deadline.

Monday, March 20: Committee-approved final thesis (299) final drafts due in the Graduate Office for students graduating in spring 2006.

Friday, March 31: Cesar Chavez Day. No classes, offices closed.

Monday-Friday, April 10-15: Spring Recess. No classes. MPH office will be closed.

Wednesday, May 10: Last day of instruction.

Friday, May 19: Master's Degree Clearance Forms due in the Graduate Office for spring graduates. All course paperwork must be on file.

Friday, May 19: Graduate Hooding Ceremony at 7:30 p.m. Save Mart Center.

Saturday, May 20: 95th annual Commencement

May 22—June 9: Summer 2006 Graduation Application Period.

Student Spotlight

Tona Soto's work in the childhood obesity among farm workers work will be presented at the AAHE conference this April.

Yolanda Randell's work on nutrition and physical activity in African-Americans will be presented at the Directors of Public Health conference in May.

Robin Wood began a new position as a Senior Health Educator in the Health Education Department at Kaiser Permanente, Fresno. She will oversee the Healthier Living and Managing Ongoing Health Conditions.

Brandy Snowden has established the Academic Research Associate program at UMC and has developed research-related curriculum at that institution. Congratulations on a job well done!

► VISIT THE MPH OFFICE TO OBTAIN ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS, REQUEST FORMS, OR TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF DELICIOUS — ALBEIT NOT FAT FREE — CANDY.

► UNDER UNIVERSITY POLICY, ALL STUDENTS IN THE MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM HAVE **FIVE** YEARS TO COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE FROM THE TIME THEY TAKE THEIR FIRST CLASS.

No sad goodbyes for this “Doc”

Dr. Gerald Davoli steps down as the Master of Public Health program coordinator and steps in the not-so-relaxing-life of being on sabbatical.



For the last three years the Master of Public Health Program was fortunate enough to have Dr. Davoli as its Coordinator. Last December Dr. Davoli resigned his position in preparation for a much deserved sabbatical during the spring 2006 semester. During his tenure Dr. Davoli provided outstanding leadership to the program, excellent advising to its students, and was a mentor to many. Dr. Davoli will utilize part of his sabbatical to work on a Health Behavior Workbook with an emphasis in behavioral change. As part of his preparation, Dr. Davoli will work with many colleagues in the field and will visit, among other places, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We look forward to Dr. Davoli's return to the academic environment and to utilizing the product developed during his sabbatical in our classes.

“Dr. Davoli is one of our most popular professors. He has done a great job and has worked hard in helping students complete their programs.”

**APPLY TODAY
\$750 TO GO TO
WASHINGTON DC**



“Advancing the National Health Promotion and Health Education Agenda through Effective Policies and Practice.”

A chance for Health Science students to attend the 24th National Conference on Health Promotion and Education

**Directors of
Health Promotion
and Education**

**May 23-26, 2006
Washington DC**

Get in the loop! Join the MPH listserv

The Master of Public Health Program maintains a listserv to communicate important program news, job announcements, and upcoming events. All MPH students are encouraged to sign up by sending an e-mail message to

To: listserv@csufresno.edu
Subject: (blank)
Message: subscribe mph Jane Doe

Connecting students with Faculty

The following is a list of the MPH faculty and their e-mail addresses.

- Dr. Sherm Sowby, Dept. Chair**
sherms@csufresno.edu
- Dr. Miguel A. Pérez, MPH Director**
mperez@csufresno.edu
- Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi**
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- Dr. Jerry Davoli**
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- Dr. Sandi Donohue**
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- Dr. Vickie Krenz**
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- Dr. Don Matlosz**
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- Dr. Helda Pinzon-Perez**
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- Dr. Christopher Tennant**
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- Dr. Michael Waite**
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- Dr. John Capitman**
jcapitman@csufresno.edu

Funding Opportunities

The following grants are available to MPH students through the Division of Graduate Studies.

- Merit Awards
Presidents Graduate Scholars
- Need-based Awards
Graduate Equity Fellowship Program
- Research Awards
Graduate Students Research Merit Awards
Robert & Norma Craig Graduate Fellowships
California Pre-Doctoral Program
- Presentation Funding
Travel Grants
- Forgivable Loans
Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive / Forgivable Loan
- Tuition Waivers
Non-Resident
International Students

Visit <http://www.csufresno.edu/gradstudies> for more information.

To Apply: Submit a typed essay (750 words or less) on “Why attending the 24th National Conference on Health Promotion and Education 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 Friday, March 31st 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 April 7, 2006.

National Public Health Week

Get Out and Get Active!

The "Get Out There: Fun Fair" will be dedicated to providing fun, adventurous, and exciting activities that students can participate over spring break.

This "Fun Fair" will be held during National Public Health Week, Tuesday April 4th, on the USU balcony from 10-2pm. Booths will be set up by local vendors to provide students with information about

Free
Ice-Cream
April 4th
10-2pm

healthy, active ways to Get Out There. There will be games, prizes, entertainment, and best of all: Free ice-cream!

The ice-cream will be donated and scooped by the Health Science Department faculty. Come watch as they demonstrate their talented scooping abilities!



MPH Corner

This news letter will be published once a semester. We would like to include more information about our MPH students and some of their current involvements. Please help us out by keeping us updated about your interesting activities! Contact the MPH office and we'll try to get it in.

Advancement to Candidacy

MPH students should complete their advancement to candidacy requirement as soon as possible. Eligibility criteria include:

- Achieved classified standing
- Completed at least nine (9) units at Fresno State
- Attained a minimum GPA of 3.0 in coursework taken from the earliest term listed on the advancement petition
- Fulfilled the graduate writing skills requirement

The Deadline to apply for Advancement to Candidacy is the sixth week of the semester prior to the term in which the student registers for the culminating experience, and/or applies for the master's degree to be granted. Consult the class schedule for exact deadlines.

Continuous Enrollment

All masters degree students must maintain continuous enrollment from their initial point of enrollment in their graduate program. During the time that students are working towards the completion of their culminating experience, when and if they have enrolled in all course units, they are expected to maintain enrollment through "Zero Unit Enrollment" through the Division of Graduate Studies.

Build your resume, join Phi Kappa Phi

Phi Kappa Phi is the oldest multidisciplinary honor society at the Fresno State campus. The Society's mission is "to recognize and promote academic excellence in all fields of higher education and to engage the community of scholars in service to others." The motto of Phi Kappa Phi is *Philosophía Krateítō Phōtōn*, translated "Let the love of learning rule humanity." Membership is by invitation only and it based on excellent academic record. Qualified students will soon receive their invitation in the mail; be sure to accept the invitation to attend the initiation ceremony on March 29th.

International Scholar Visits Fresno

You are invited to attend a presentation by Dr. Luis Eduardo Rincon, Director, Community Health Division, Fundacion Santa Fe de Bogota on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 4:00 p.m. in PHS, Room 129. Dr. Rincon is a leader for his work in community participation

and civic engagement in Colombia and Latin America and for his work on the role of community leaders and promotoras in public health programs. RSVP via e-mail to hpinzonp@csufresno.edu no later than March 1, 2006.

Students get ahead with internship opportunities in the community

Student field work coordinator, Kara Zografos, helps students find their 'nitch' in society. She is the person that students turn to when it comes to finding the best location for their required internships.

MPH students are advised to contact Kara to begin discussing their plans and develop their goals.

Make an appointment today with Kara by contacting her at:

kzografos@csufresno.edu.

Kara will share the revised PH 285F Fieldwork Manual which contains details about the fieldwork experience.

APHA Student Update

On February 2nd, first-year MPH student Diana Traje shared her experience of winning the Health Science travel award to attend the 133rd Annual American Public Health Association's Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. "I wouldn't have gone to this event had it not been for this award," Diana said. She encouraged MPH students to become active in professional organizations.

Wellness Services at the Recreation Center

The new Recreation Center has cardio machines, free weights, three basketball courts, and even an auditorium... what could be missing? According to the University, it needs "Wellness Services." The University Wellness Services program will be beneficial because it will be able to channel all of the proactive health efforts through one conduit with hopes to increase the success of all campus health efforts. The site will be a resource hub, a place for workshops, and the organizational location for outreach activities. One can expect to see programs targeted towards each of the components of the wellness wheel. The MPH program is working with them in this process.