

Master of Public Health Alumni Newsletter

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SUMMER 2021



Boonshoft
School of Medicine
WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

Department of Population &
Public Health Sciences

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Marietta Orlowski, Ph.D.

One of the lessons that we learned throughout the past year is the importance of community. Through community, we provide support, celebrate success, and work together to address local needs.

You—our alumni—are a strong and valued community. Collectively, our alumni network includes 365 members working in 30 states, with approximately 50 members working in local or state public health. This past year, we watched this network provide tremendous leadership for local public efforts. We are proud of this network and hope that you are too.

Restarting the M.P.H. newsletter is just one initiative the department is taking to stay connected and keep our network strong. Look for expanded outreach efforts, alumni networking events, and much more. We hope that you will participate.

Marietta Orlowski

Marietta Orlowski, Ph.D.
Department Chair

M.P.H. FAST FACTS

365

students have graduated from the M.P.H. program.

88%

of our graduates are employed in the field within 3 months of graduation.

1st

Our program is the first and only accredited public health program in the Dayton area.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Public Health Workforce Scholarship

The Boonshoft Public Health Workforce Scholarship is in its second year. This competitive scholarship awards 50 percent of in-state tuition to Ohio public health department employees. Applicants must be employed at an Ohio public health department for at least one year to be eligible. The scholarship committee reviewed applications for 2021, and recipients were notified on June 18, 2021.

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Wendy Owen, Public Health Nurse II, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

Emily Warren, Registered Environmental Health Specialist I, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

2021 Scholarship Recipients

Lea Kelty, Community Health Advocate, Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County

Katie Burwinkel, Registered Environmental Health Specialist II, Clinton County Health District

Carrie Yeager, Environmental Health Director, Butler County General Health District

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PROGRAM UPDATE (*continued*)



Ken Dahms, J.D., M.A.

Boonshoft School of Medicine Voluntary Faculty Award

This spring, Ken Dahms was honored with the Voluntary Faculty Award from the Boonshoft School of Medicine. Dahms has been with the Master of Public Health program since its inception, first as the practice placement coordinator then as a voluntary faculty member. He has co-taught public health ethics, critical thinking in public health, and environmental health. Dahms was the director of administration for Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County from 1999 until his retirement in 2004. Through his extensive network within the local public health community, he was able to assemble a robust set of internship sites for M.P.H. students.



Timothy Crawford, Ph.D., M.P.H.

Presidential Award for Faculty Excellence: Early Career Achievement

The Presidential Award for Early Career Achievement recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service during the first four years of a junior faculty member's initial appointment. Dr. Crawford has served as the co-investigator on nine funded research projects and has published 30 peer-reviewed articles, three as first author, during his four years with Wright State. Crawford currently teaches biostatistics and applied epidemiology. He is also working on a mixed-methods research project focused on understanding how intersectional stigmas impact engagement in HIV care among older African Americans living with HIV. Timothy Crawford will receive the award in September 2021.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Joanna Nelms, M.D.

Dr. Joanna Nelms, 2014

Dr. Joanna Nelms, 2014, has been elected as the director to the American Board of Preventive Medicine (A.B.P.M.). Dr. Nelms currently serves as chief of flight medicine and physical standards at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Dr. Nelms says, "My passion toward fostering recruitment and retention within the specialties of preventive medicine imparts a commitment toward the development and propagation of both the A.B.P.M. and greater scope of the preventive medicine field."

STANDOUT STUDENTS



Leah Elliott

Leah Elliott, 2021

Leah Elliott, 2021, presented her capstone research project "The Association Between Oral Contraceptive Use in Females and the Risk of Developing Arthritis by Race and Ethnicity" at the 2021 Ohio Public Health Combined Conference. In March, Leah started a new job with the Butler County General Health District as an epidemiologist. Leah was the training supervisor for the M.P.H. department's supplemental contact tracing team, which hired and trained over 50 Wright State University students to work as contact tracers for five Dayton-area health departments.



Joshua Lassen

Joshua Lassen

Congratulations to Joshua Lassen. The fall 2021 M.P.H. student has been awarded a Wright Fellow Program scholarship from the Graduate School. The Wright Fellow Program aims to diversify the graduate student body at Wright State. Diversity can be defined as differences in ethnicity, culture, orientation, religion, socioeconomic status, gender, age, ability, experience, and thought. The fellowship provides up to \$6,000 of tuition per semester of full-time registration for up to four consecutive semesters. Only six students were awarded the fellowship for the 2021-22 academic year.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

MetroParks Adopt-A-Park Clean Up Challenge

In April, the Population and Public Health Sciences Department participated in the MetroParks Adopt-A-Park Clean Up Challenge. This is the 5th year that the department has participated in Adopt-a-Park. Faculty, staff, students, and family members joined forces to clean up the Mad River Recreation Trail. The team of 18, including 4 children, collected 18 bags of trash and 8 bags of recycling.



UPCOMING EVENTS

M.P.H. Raider Social

October 2, 2021

Celebrate homecoming at the first annual M.P.H. Raider Social. Connect with fellow M.P.H. alumni, faculty, and current students. Enjoy games and other festivities. More information to come.

Public Health Careers 101

November 4, 2021

M.P.H. alumni are invited to attend the Public Health Careers 101 panel and networking event. This event is open to graduate and undergraduate public health students interested in learning about career opportunities within public health. This is a great opportunity for alumni to network with future interns and employees. The first event was held in 2019 and drew over 100 students and alumni.

For more information on upcoming events or to be recognized in the next newsletter, please email Camille Edwards at camille.edwards@wright.edu.



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