

Wright Solutions

Master of Public Health Newsletter

Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine

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MISSION

To serve as a model community-based interdisciplinary graduate education program for the present and future public health profession's leadership in Southwest Ohio and beyond.

VISION

Public health and health-related professionals of southwestern Ohio will have increased knowledge, competencies, and skills.



From the Director

by Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP

We are pleased and proud to acknowledge our multifaceted relationship with the regional public health community. In this case my definition of public health includes those districts that specifically serve a vital role created by government for insuring the safe living conditions for the 2.8 million residents living throughout southwestern Ohio. First, a reminder that our program was created in partnership with three regional health commissioners, Bill Bines (now retired), Jim Luken, and the late Malcolm Adcock. They represented Montgomery County, Miami County, and the City of Cincinnati, respectively. The program was developed with the understanding that we have a critical need for highly educated leaders in the public health community. We are proud of our origins and appreciative of their leadership in creating the program.

We have many faculty who have had extensive careers in public health teaching in our courses. Other faculty deliver single lectures providing depth to the learning of our students and to the program. Many of our faculty leading student culminating experiences and practice placements come from health districts. The success of our program is founded on the support these community partners provide. Likewise, our students have many practice placements and culminating experiences at health districts.

We have been able to serve local health districts and the Ohio Department of Health through a number of contracts and grants. Our research and consultations have substantially benefited the public health community and residents across the region. Contributing to the richness of our program is the fact that many of our students have come from the public health workforce and many career advancements have been accomplished by our students during and after their participation in the MPH program.

Our first two graduates: Jim Gross (MPH 2005) and Julianne Nesbit (MPH 2005) have both been promoted to high-level leadership positions within their health districts. Jim was appointed to serve as the Health Commissioner for Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC) just last month. Julianne was promoted to serve as the Clermont County Assistant Commissioner upon completion of her degree at WSU. Alan Pierce (MPH 2006) was promoted to Supervisor, Bureau of General Services Division of Environmental Health at PHDMC. Carole Huddleston (MPH 2006) was promoted from within PHDMC to Center for Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Services Outpatient Coordinator and Chris Schlorman (MPH 2006) has a new position as an epidemiologist at PHDMC. Both Connie Freese (MPH 2006) and Lorena Royer (MPH 2006) have been expanding their duties with PHDMC as well. Denisha Garland (MPH 2006) accepted the position of Director of Program Development with the Cincinnati Health Department. And just this past summer Melissa Howell (MPH 2007) was promoted to serve as the Health Administrator for Preble County General Health District.

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WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

WSU MPH SPECIAL
POINTS OF INTEREST

DID YOU KNOW?

- MPH graduates, Glee Wright (2006) & Chris Schlorman (2007), had their research published. The first page of their paper is framed in the Center for all to view. We look forward to seeing more of our students pursue this effort.
- Visiting professor, Setsuko Lee, Ph.D., from the University of Nagasaki, Japan will be with us from November 1-7. Dr. Lee is a renown scholar specializing in minority health, global maternal health, & human rights for the minorities in Japan.

For more information on WSU's Master of Public Health Program visit our Web site at:
www.med.wright.edu/mph

If you have any questions regarding this newsletter, please contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 or via e-mail at petra.weaver@wright.edu

Faculty Spotlight

By Marietta Langlois, Ph.D.

Marietta Langlois, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the Department of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation at Wright State University. Dr. Langlois serves as the director of the health promotion and education concentration in the Master of Public Health Program. She also directs the undergraduate health education licensure program in the College of Education and recently redesigned the program of study and prepared the program accreditation report. Dr. Langlois completed her doctorate in health promotion and education, with a cognate in health care administration, at The Ohio State University. She has an M.A. from Morehead State University and a B.S. from the University of Cincinnati.



Dr. Langlois teaches the Social and Behavioral Sciences core course, CMH 770. During the process of mapping out a risk behavior, MPH students have been known to learn a new language - words like antecedents, constructs, psychometrics, and operationalize become part of their common dialogue. She has chaired culminating projects which explored factors related to inpatient falls, pandemic flu preparedness in mothers of young children, and belief and access factors to mammography screenings. She also teaches the first research seminar from CMH 810, that introduces students to the five-chapter process of their culminating project.

Dr. Langlois works with community organizations to increase the physical activity level of children. She collaborates with a local school district in a federally funded project, Create a Classroom that Moves!, to increase the activity level of children and is beginning a similar program with an after-school program provider. She has published multiple articles on identifying and measuring theoretical variables related in cigarette smoking. In the future, she'd like to work with area public health providers in evaluating existing health promotion programs and identifying growth and efficacy opportunities.

Faculty Highlight

Dr. John Bullock, M.D., M.P.H., M.Sc., Infectious Disease Epidemiologist, with the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy has been selected for Poster presentation during the APHA 135th Annual Meeting & Exposition (November 3-7, 2007) in Washington, DC. Dr. Bullock's poster is entitled "Poisson Distribution in the Evaluation of the Fusarium Keratitis Outbreak of 2005-2006."

Public Health in Practice

by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

Did you ever pretend that you were a news reporter? How about a National Guard representative? Or maybe even a fanatical preacher? These were just a few of the roles Dennis K. Hall got to play in fulfilling his practice placement requirement for the MPH Program. Through his job at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dennis learned about a “real time” pandemic flu exercise being planned at Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County (PHDMC) for January and February 2007. This would be a huge exercise involving over 100 groups and agencies and would extend over several weeks. Dennis contacted Steve Jez and Larry Cleek of PHDMC about the possibility of helping them plan and conduct the exercise. Dennis explained that he could also assist with communication flow back to medical personnel at Wright-Patt. Steve and Larry immediately bought into this idea and Dennis’ great adventure was on!

Dennis had the good fortune to be able to participate in all stages of the exercise: he was involved in a month of pre-exercise planning and training; he spent the actual exercise in the “Simulation Cell” which was at the center of all the action; and he got to attend numerous debriefings with key participants after the exercise had been completed. It was in the Simulation Cell on the third “play day” of the exercise where Dennis assumed the role of the Rev. John Baker whose flock planned to block access to the health department in order to prevent any control strategies from being implemented. It was only later that Dennis learned the extent of the consternation and “commotion” that he had caused among the participating agencies.

Dennis learned a great deal from his practice placement. He got a first hand look at our region’s pandemic flu response capabilities. From his vantage point in the Simulation Cell,

he was able to be actively engaged in the exercise and was able to develop a good feel for how the regional participants and players were accomplishing their objectives. His attendance and participation at the numerous debriefings gave him insight into the various issues and perspectives of the participating organizations and provided him with an opportunity to learn firsthand from the many different experts involved in the exercise. As Dennis stated in his Summary, “Without question, this was a valuable learning experience and an exceptional part of the Wright State University MPH program.”

To discuss your practice placement project or to volunteer to be a practice placement site, please contact Ken Dahms, JD, MA at (937) 258-5555 or ken.dahms@wright.edu.

Congratulations!

James Gross, M.P.H. (WSU MPH class of 2005) was named as the Health Commissioner for Public Health - Dayton & Montgomery County on September 5, 2007.

See Ken McCall’s article on Jim Gross on Page 5



OUR OPEN HOUSE WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!**Lobby****Board Room
(Seats 22-24)****IVDL Room
(Interactive Video
Distance Learning &
Video Conferencing—
Seating for 30)****Ken Dahm's
Moo-office**

Here are some visuals in case you couldn't make it. Stop by and take a tour any time you are in the area!

Alumni Spotlight by Melissa Howell, MPH, MS, MBA, RN

In 1996, a nursing faculty member from WSU asked me where I saw myself in 10 years. I had just decided to further my education at Wright State University where I earned dual master's degrees in nursing and business administration. I answered that I would most likely be an administrator for a local hospital. It was the logical answer but not the correct one. In June, 2007 I completed my third master's degree in public health and became the administrator for the Preble County General Health District (PCGHD).

Ten years have passed and now I am asked many times how I came to be the Health Administrator. The logical and partially correct answer to that question is that I knew what I wanted to do and I aligned my life around that goal. The rest of the answer is that instead of working in traditional health care I was given an "opportunity" to move into the field of public health which fit my interest in the community and allowed me to exercise my skills in analysis. I've had my share of personal and professional challenges along the way but, I

was mentored by great people, had a modest degree of personal drive and kept a positive attitude towards learning. The ten year end result is that I have been the administrator for the health district for just over a year now.

Preble County is a small, rural community with no hospital and is a designated Health Professional Shortage Area. With limited resources available to us, the Preble County General Health District works to build and support collaborative efforts that promote and protect health. Some of the efforts that I am involved with include Safe Communities, geographical information system committee, Family and Children's First Council, the local emergency preparedness committee, transportation coordination, the annual county Fair, the Preble Alert System committee, and community groups such as Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce.

I have also spent a great deal of time "administering" the health district by developing policies, procedures and overseeing our 27 employees. Day to

day I work with staff, colleagues and partner agencies to promote the mission of our agency and public health objectives. Since graduating, our agency has reorganized and began the necessary steps towards accreditation. My favorite part of my job is serving others which includes inspiring others to live better healthier lives, work better and be better people.

I feel that the time I spent completing the MPH program was well spent. Alumni of the MPH program owe it to Wright State University to let those who follow in our footsteps know that finishing your degree is satisfying and can open doors for you beyond having a great career. Success is more than luck, opportunity or where you get your degree from. It is also about the help and support you receive from faculty, friends, and family along the way. My MPH experience was a joyful time of sharing and learning. I'm very proud of the education I received at WSU and the learning promoted through the university.

Commentary: Health chief wants to encourage exercise

By Ken McCall, Staff Writer - Featured in the Dayton Daily News, Friday, September 14, 2007

The outdoor recreation community gained another friend in a high place with the appointment of Jim Gross as public health commissioner.

The 51-year-old Dayton native, who's been with the combined health district (now called Public Health – Dayton and Montgomery County) for 29 years, wants to expand the agency's role beyond disease prevention, environmental health monitoring and emergency response.

That's good news because one of the first things Gross wants to do is start a communitywide campaign to combat obesity. And part of that effort will be to advocate for places that encourage people to get out and exercise.

I first met Jim nine years ago when he coached my then 11-year-old son in basketball.

As a former high school track and basketball coach, he brought a great spirit, lots of energy and a wealth of knowledge to the youngsters.

Since that year, I've seen and greeted him more times than I can count on lunchtime river corridor runs as he sails past at about twice my pace. Jim runs like a gazelle, and at 5 feet 10, 145 pounds, he's

the poster boy for the active lifestyle he wants to promote.

About a third of adults in the U.S. are already obese and another third are overweight, he says. That leaves only a third of us at a healthy weight. And, he says, the problem is getting worse every year.

"The health impact from the obesity issue is overwhelming," he says. "You can develop a long list of medical conditions and illnesses that result from being obese."

Something, he says, needs to be done right here, right now. Lots of things, actually.

"It's not a problem that can be solved by just one person or just one (program.) The obesity issue begins with the individual, but it's also impacted by that individual's family, their social network, their schools, their environment and policies at the local, state and national level."

Change all that? Talk about a daunting task.

"If it were easy it would have been accomplished in other communities," Gross says.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist, he says, to figure it out. People simply have to eat healthier and

exercise more.

But changing behavior, he admits, is a tough proposition.

Gross, who's cut way back but still runs about 40 miles a week, says people need to find at least one activity they like to do and start doing it. A lot.

People have to be motivated to make the lifestyle changes, he says, and they often need help — not only from friends and family members but also from people like city planners.

"We need to begin to get involved and try to influence all of those who design and construct a built environment," he says.

Advocating for parks and trails and sidewalks and bike lanes isn't something the health district has done in the past, he says, but if we want people to exercise more, we've got to make it easier to do. We've got to give them places close to home to run, bike, walk, roller blade, whatever.

It's a tall order, but anyone who's seen Gross run knows the energy he brings to an effort. Let's help him succeed.

Re-printed with permission from Ken McCall and DDN



**Andre' Lamar Holland—Student Assistant for MPH Program
Spring 2006 through Fall 2007**

THANK YOU for all your hard work and dedication!

Good luck on your Culminating Experience—we'll miss you!

From the Director—Continued from Page 1

The successes of our graduates become our successes and we're delighted to see them occur. As our program grows, we want to maintain our key commitment to local and regional public health districts. We look forward to a long and complex future relationship with our public health colleagues.

Culminating Experience Projects by Ray Ten Eyck, MD, MPH

Three of our MPH students have completed their culminating experience since the publication of our last newsletter. Lena Jackson delivered her research presentation in July and both Jennifer Wentzel and Chris Cook recently completed their presentations in September.

Lena Jackson's project addressed the evaluation and treatment of diabetes in an underserved population in her study entitled: Retrospective Chart Review of the Demographic Profile, Preventive Health Screenings, Management and Follow-up of Diabetes Mellitus in Hispanic-Latinos in Two Free Standing Clinics in the Midwest. Based on her literature review and research findings, Lena developed a number of specific recommendations to help clinics address diabetes management in this population in a more comprehensive and cost effective manner. Lena's guid-

ance committee was chaired by Dr. Barbara Fowler with Dr. Mariann Lovell serving as her consultant and Beatrice Harris as her site preceptor.

Jennifer Wentzel surveyed environmental health directors at local Ohio health departments to evaluate a key Public Health workforce issue in her manuscript entitled: Is there a Shortage of Environmental Health Workers in Local Health Departments in the State of Ohio? Jennifer's guidance committee was chaired by Mr. Jim Luken and Mr. Alan Pierce served as consultant on the committee.

Chris Cook combined his technical expertise in environmental health and computer systems with his in-depth research into the information system needs of environmental health departments to produce his manuscript entitled: Environmental

Health Information Systems: More than Just Gigabytes. His detailed analysis culminated in an excellent presentation to representatives of the MPH faculty and his guidance committee. Chris was mentored in his research by his guidance committee chair, Dr. Janet Rickabaugh, and his consultants Mr. Jim Luken and Mr. Gary Davis.

The MPH faculty proudly recognizes Lena, Jennifer, and Chris as the latest graduates of our program and extends our sincere appreciation to all of those individuals who supported them in their projects, particularly their guidance committee members.

For more info about the MPH Culminating Experience Project, please contact Ray Ten Eyck, MD, MPH at (937) 258-5555 or raymond.teneyck@wright.edu.

Upcoming Events.....

8th Annual Center Conference

February 20, 2008 at Sinclair College Ponitz Center, Dayton

Future Health: Is Preventive Care the Future of Health Care?

Keynote Speaker: Lewis Sandy, MD, MBA, Senior Vice President, UnitedHealth Group (United Health Care) - Economics of Prevention: How to Create a Health System that Promotes Prevention

For a tentative agenda go to <http://www.med.wright.edu/hsm/education.html>

For more information contact Lori Metivier at (937) 258-5555

Deadline for Spring MPH Admissions is November 1, 2007

Contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 for more information.