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MISSION

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

VISION

*Public health and
health-related pro-
fessionals of south-
western Ohio will
have increased
knowledge, compe-
tencies, and skills.*

Wright Solutions

WSU Master of Public Health Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

SPRING 2007

From the Director by Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP



We have had a very busy and successful year in organizing the infrastructure of the MPH. Many readers know that we decided to accelerate the process of seeking accreditation by CEPH, the Council on Education for Public Health, the primary accrediting organization for public health programs and schools. We used this process to conduct a thorough and serious self-study to assure ourselves and our students that we are providing the quality education that we *think* we're providing. This process began well over a year ago. The steps of accreditation were led by Nancy Terwoord, RN, but involved many individuals including almost all of our faculty, the program administration, a number of students, and our community supporters and advisors in public health. The conclusion of this process was a 2 day site visit by a team from CEPH. The formal accreditation decision will be made this summer at the next CEPH board meeting. Until then, the conclusions must be viewed as informal or preliminary. I am pleased to report, however, that the visit went extremely well. They were impressed at how well organized the program is considering its "young" age. The passion of our faculty, staff, and students was very apparent to them. The commitment by us to the public health community and by the public health community to us was likewise apparent. We truly have a partnership. The site visitors have provided a report of their conclusions and did not find any of their criteria as being un-met. There were some areas of improvement to work on. We will need to work to expand the diversity of our students and faculty. We will be working to draw more diverse faculty to our program. Likewise we would be delighted for our current students, public health districts and departments, as well as other health care organizations to send us a more diverse group of applicants. Please help us with this – encourage others to look at our program. The site visitors were highly impressed with our educational program and likewise delighted and congratulatory to us about the extensiveness of our community service. They did inform us, however, that we must increase our focus on research. Our faculty will be expanding its energy in the near future on increasing the search for new knowledge regarding public health. Our students and the community may well become engaged with the faculty in some of these ventures and likewise we invite ideas and programs that our community supporters bring to us for future grants and research. The site visitors were impressed with our use of national competencies in public health as the basis for our curriculum, but they were disappointed that our students did not know them as vividly as they would have preferred. We will be working on tying those competencies more clearly to the students awareness as we move forward. We will update everyone on the outcomes of the accreditation process as it is finalized. We are proud of the program.

We welcome our new group of MPH students who started in the Spring of 2007. We are delighted to have expanded the program by starting two formal groups per year into the MPH; one in the fall, the other in the spring. Our class numbers are not yet finalized, but we clearly have continued growth of the MPH and we're likewise proud of that accomplishment.

**WSU MPH SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST**

DID YOU KNOW?

- **7 new MPH students began Spring Quarter '07- WELCOME!**
- **Our CEPH accreditation site visit went very well. We should hear by the end of June if our MPH program will be accredited. Watch for the announcement!**
- **Construction on Tech Center IV at Research Park is on schedule with occupancy set for July 9th. We will be doubling our teaching space & have wireless capability!**

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

Erie Sase, PhD



Eriko Sase, PhD, is the program director for Global Health Systems within the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy. Dr. Sase holds a PhD in Health Science with a concentration in International Health from the University of Tokyo. She was a research fellow in the Takemi Program in International Health at the Harvard School of Public Health prior to coming to Wright State University in September of 2006.

Dr. Sase is an assistant professor within the Department of Community Health and teaches Global Health Systems (CMH 772) in our Master of Public Health Program. CMH 772 is a new elective course which is being taught for the first time in the Spring 2007 quarter. The course introduces the principles of structures and mechanisms of global health systems focused on the developed countries. It also explores the possible approaches to improve the health systems at national and global levels from inter-related perspectives, e.g. evidence based medicine, cost-effectiveness, quality of care, equity, human rights.

Dr. Sase has been successful in obtaining two grants since starting her position. The Japanese Medical Association Research Institute (JMARI) funded a research project to study the roles of nurses/midwives during labor and delivery in the United States. She interviewed Ob/Gyn nurses, midwives, physicians, and academicians in Dayton, Boston, and San Francisco. This study drew comparisons between the regulations and performances of the nurses between the United States and Japan. Her second grant award was an UCIE Seed Grant for International Curriculum Development from Wright State University. She will use this award to expand her curriculum in the Global Health Systems course.

On May 22-24, 2007, Dr. Sase has invited an award winning researcher, Richard Cash, MD, MPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, as a guest lecturer to the Global Health Systems course, to spend time with the students in the MPH and Boonshoft Physician Leadership Development programs as well as the Center faculty. He will be presenting lectures on infectious disease controls and ethics in global health.

For more information on Dr. Sase, please visit her faculty page at <http://www.med.wright.edu/hsm/sase.html>

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

Public Health in Practice by Ken Dahms, JD

Sometimes you just never know what kind of practice placement experience is waiting for you out there. Surely this is true regarding the practice placement of MPH student Melissa Howell, Public Health Administrator for the Preble County General Health District. Toward the end of 2006 Melissa was asked by representatives of the West Central Ohio Region if she would volunteer to chair a subcommittee of the Regional Medical Response System for the purpose of creating a Regional Biological Response Plan. The Plan would identify how Public Safety, Public Health, Health Services and Support agencies centralize coordinated response in order to prevent, stop, or eliminate the spread of infectious diseases in emergency situations. Seeing an opportunity to simultaneously help the local community and to complete her practice placement requirement Melissa quickly accepted this daunting assignment. Bill Burkhart, Regional Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator for the West Central Ohio Region, agreed to serve as Melissa’s site preceptor.

The project called for the accomplishment of three main objectives: (1) the selection of a core group of regional experts to provide input, review and comment on a written regional biological response plan; (2) the generation of a written plan describing a regional approach to outbreaks and other biological events including terrorism; and (3) the dissemination of the plan to a broad audience of regional response partners by holding informational meetings throughout the West Central region of Ohio. To make a long (and, from Melissa’s perspective, very interesting) story short, the project was a rousing success. A diverse subcommittee of 19 individuals from public health, law enforcement, emergency response, hospitals, governmental agencies and educational institutions was formed to write the Plan, with Melissa as Chair. The final Plan document was 30 pages in length and its thoroughness and originality have been praised by all who have had an opportunity to read it.

And just what was the extent of Melissa’s contribution to the final product? In the words of Bill Burkhart, “I cannot stress enough what an outstanding job Melissa Howell did in overseeing the development of the plan. It was Melissa’s unique array of abilities, skills and talents that made her the ideal person for this important task . . . Melissa gained the respect and admiration of all her peers and superiors alike on this team . . .” I can personally attest to the validity of Mr. Burkhart’s high praise since I was present at the final subcommittee meeting where the members gave Melissa a long round of applause for all her hard work in bringing the Plan to fruition. This is community service of the highest order.

Congratulations Melissa!!

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



OUR NEW HOME!

Tech Center IV

**3123 Research Blvd.,
Suite 200**

Kettering, OH 45420

Alumni Spotlight by James Gross, MPH

As a Wright State MPH student I fully realized that I was preparing for the future. However, my vision of what that really meant was blurry, other than a personal goal to become a better public health leader. Little did I know that the knowledge gained from the faculty, guest speakers and my classmates prepared me for immediate changes in my daily responsibilities with my employer, the Combined Health District of Montgomery County. The timing couldn't have been better! We are currently invigorating and revamping public health in the Dayton area, and I'm fortunate enough to be a leader in this exciting undertaking. The MPH experience enhanced my ability to impact these changes in a positive manner, thereby providing the foundation for a healthier Miami Valley.

My role as the Assistant Health Commissioner is to partner with executive team members, staff, and community partners to provide leadership to the region's public health system through an organization of 400 employees with an annual budget of \$37 million. In addition to the daily administration of the organization, I am also directly responsible for the 50 employees who administer multi-county efforts involving clean air programs, emergency preparedness and response activities, epidemiology services,

public information, strategic planning, and many community collaborations, including WSU's Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy.

As the point person in the Health District's first ever strategic planning process, I have the pleasure and honor to work with approximately 30 colleagues, Board of Health members and community stakeholders in an effort to reorganize our agency and create a bold new era of public health in the Dayton area, my hometown. We are developing a strategic plan, a community relations plan, and a health disparities action plan which will collectively benefit every resident in our community. The foundation of our actions will be embodied in a mission statement, vision statement, brand platform, a new name and a new logo which will include the national public health logo.

I am also working with community stakeholders in an attempt to establish Federally Qualified Health Centers in Montgomery County. If successful, this venture will ultimately translate to enhanced health care to our underserved population. Additionally, earlier this year, through a partnership with the Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy, we developed board governance and structure for

the Montgomery County Board of Health. The bylaws and a set of authorities produced from this effort have streamlined how we do business on a daily basis. In the coming weeks I will be joining our community partners to launch the next Montgomery County Human Services Levy Campaign. This levy provides half the revenues for Health District services and supports the vast majority of human services in our community. Without its passage, many vital services will be devastated. I also look forward to working with the Center later this year in its collaboration with Israeli representatives to enhance our nation's emergency preparedness and response capabilities.

I am very fortunate and honored to have the opportunity to be a public health professional during this exciting time in public health. This opportunity is made possible though my three decades of public health service and my MPH experience which provided me with the necessary background in areas such as public health policy and economics, strategic planning and human behavior to help guide the Health District and our region's public health transformation. Without question, my MPH experience came at just the right time!

Upcoming Events.....

Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA) Conference
 May 14-16, 2007 at the Crowne Plaza in Columbus, OH
 Contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 for more information.

Deadline for Fall MPH Admissions is May 31, 2007
 Contact Petra Weaver at (937) 258-5547 for more information.

2nd Center Faculty Symposium Series & Gathering
 June 12, 2007 in the Center's Large Conference Room from 4-5:30 p.m.
 Topic: The MPH Educational Experience
 Open to All Center Faculty and Invited Guests; RSVP (937) 258-5555

Update: On May 2, the strategic plan Jim Gross mentions in his article above was approved by the Board of Health resulting in the name change of the Combined Health District of Montgomery County to:

Public Health—Dayton & Montgomery County

New Logo →



Health News & Views

by Nancy Terwoord, RN, BS, CPHQ

Have you met the new Medical Director for the Ohio Department of Health? I came across an article that highlighted Dr. Alvin Jackson at a talk he gave at a minority health awareness event recently in Stark County. I really did not know much about him, so I thought I would do a bit of checking and see what Dr. Jackson is all about. Here is what I found...

Dr. Jackson came to ODH by way of Community Health Services, a federally qualified health plan in Fremont, Ohio where he was the Medical Director. Dr. Jackson was born in Portal Georgia, the son of a migrant farm worker. When he was just a baby his mother died of burns when she caught her clothing on fire in the family fireplace. Because his father was gone much of the time Dr. Jackson was raised primarily by his grandparents and an aunt and uncle. He said it was his early experiences in the small town that played a part in his decision to become a doctor to the poor. He often joined his father working in the field in the summers and knew first hand the hard work and extreme conditions endured by these migrant workers. In the 60's, Dr. Jackson was one of about a dozen African Americans to integrate Statesboro High School, a white high school. It was right in the middle of the civil rights movement and it was a rough time in many respects, but Dr. Jackson always thought he was on a mission and stood up to threats and as well as urgings to

take simpler agricultural courses as opposed to the more difficult ones. There were many that believed he would be nothing more than a migrant worker himself. But Dr. Jackson persevered and was able to attain the honor role in high school.

He entered Oakwood College and got a scholarship the second year. He actually went after and won another scholarship to study in England in his junior year where he discovered many Europeans were interested in talking with him about what it was like to be African American in America. He was able to travel Europe during breaks and discovered how much he did not know about the world. He has been quoted as saying, "One of the things I always try to instill in people is that...no matter what situation you find yourself in, there is opportunity. And if you have an opportunity and you see it, do not miss it. Because you may not ever travel this road again."

Upon return to the US, Dr. Jackson transferred to Andrews University in Michigan and graduated with a BS in Marine Biology. He received his PhD and MD at OSU. He spent his family practice residency in Mercy Hospital in Toledo where he was first introduced to the neighborhood clinic in Fremont where he would ultimately begin his career as a physician.

Dr. Jackson quickly earned a reputation as a physician who treated any-

body and everyone - regardless of ability to pay. Once he became the medical director, he took the medical care out to the fields to reach the migrant workers. Eventually they were able to purchase a mobile health unit expanding their outreach services. The mobile unit even went to Mississippi to aid victims of Katrina. It was there that he became even more aware of the need to do better as a nation when it comes to preparation.

In 2000, Dr. Alvin Jackson won Pfizer's Ohio Quality Care Award and in 2001 he won the Department of Health and Human Services Clinician Award. Dr. Jackson was the recipient of the 2001 RWJ Community Health Leadership Award. He was awarded \$95,000 which he used to establish a foundation to support his clinic. The money was used to help migrant workers buy medications they could not otherwise afford. This award had gone a long way to grow the clinic and in 2003 RWJ gave Dr. Jackson more money to fund a focus group to study links between education and health among African Americans in the Fremont area. In May 2004, Heidelberg College awarded Dr. Jackson an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters for his humanitarian efforts with the migrant population and assistance in foreign relief affairs.

So what is Dr. Jackson going to focus on as the new ODH leader? I'll tell you in the next newsletter! Stay tuned!