

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.



WRIGHT STATE
UNIVERSITY

From the Director

by Richard Schuster, MD, MMM, FACP



We are always proud of our graduates, but we have a special “graduate” we would like to honor and remember. **Bill Mase** will be “graduating” from the Wright State University MPH Program and going to the University of Cincinnati to play a key role in helping them to start up their newly created MPH Program. Bill is one of the founding fathers of the WSU MPH Program and will always be remembered for really and truly creating the program. Bill Mase, Bill

Bines - Montgomery Co. Health Commissioner, Jim Luken - Miami Co. Health Commissioner, Malcolm Adcock - Cincinnati Health Commissioner, and I plugged away for over two years developing concept papers, proposals, budgets, more proposals, additional proposals, and final proposals. So many of the ideas were Bill's and so much of the work was Bill's that as he moves on to his next career in public health, it's important for us to recognize and honor him for his commitment to the community, Wright State University, and public health. Although we thought our work was done when the Ohio Board of Regents finally (and as it turns out quickly) accepted our proposal to start the program, we soon discovered that our work was just beginning. We hoped to have as many as 30 students in the program; then we hoped to have as many as 60 students in the program. We figured that 90 would do...Now we have well over 100 students in the MPH! Bill was there with new structures, new program ideas, better class scheduling, new ideas to add faculty and throughout all of this kept teaching his courses and getting terrific reviews from his students.

In the midst of this, Bill moved through his MPH at a local school in Columbus and then quickly started his DrPH program at the University of Kentucky. He will finish his doctoral program this year and will then be known to all of us as Dr. Bill. This is a tremendous accomplishment and we're extremely proud of Bill for this success.

The next big adventure for Bill will be to take all of his experience at Wright State and the specific experience he's had developing the MPH here, add his DrPH, and work with the University of Cincinnati to do it all over again. The City of Cincinnati, Hamilton County, and the University of Cincinnati will all benefit by adding an MPH to their already impressive portfolio of programs. We are pleased to see more attention, more education, and more research in public health - all of which will occur with the new UC MPH Program. We are especially pleased and proud that they've turned to the best of the best - Bill Mase - to help them lead and develop this program. One of “our boys” made good and we're delighted to see it.

We wish Bill well in this next exciting stage of his career. We wouldn't be here without him and we know he'll remember all of us as he carries the torch of public health to the University of Cincinnati.



WSU MPH Special
Points of Interest

Did you know?

- **The Student Cubicles have new PCs with the SPSS program loaded!**
- **MPH Fall Orientation will be held on September 5th from 9 am-3 pm in the IVDL Room - contact Petra Weaver for more info.**
- **Two MPH courses will be offered via IVDL Fall quarter - CMH 640 (Environmental Health) and CMH 705 (Intro to Public Health) - contact Brian Butcher for more info.**
- **Week of August 10 is National Farmers Market Week, find a local market by visiting www.ams.usda.gov/farmersmarkets**
- **September is National Cholesterol Education Month, learn more at www.nhlbi.nih.gov/chd**

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 Brian Butcher at (937) 258-5541 or via e-mail at brian.butcher@wright.edu

Faculty Spotlight

Raymond Ten Eyck, MD, MPH, FACEP



Raymond Ten Eyck is an associate professor within the Center of Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy where his main role is as the Associate Director of Public Health Practice. He has a dual academic appointment with his primary appointment in the Department of Emergency Medicine where he serves as the director of the medical simulation program. Dr. Ten Eyck is a graduate of Rutgers College and Georgetown University School of Medicine. He completed his internship in Internal Medicine at Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center and his residency in Emergency Medicine at Northwestern University. He completed a 30 year Air Force career which included serving as an emergency medicine clinician, researcher, medical educator, and administrator. He also served 14 years as the emergency medicine consultant to the Air Force Surgeon General. Dr. Ten Eyck has been associated with Wright State University for 16 years as a volunteer faculty member and as a full-time faculty member for the past two years.

As the associate director of public health practice, Dr. Ten Eyck directs the culminating experience portion of the Master of Public Health Program. This is an applied research project that consists of two courses, CMH 820 and CMH 821, which are part of the core curriculum completed by all MPH students. The culminating experience provides an opportunity for each student to address an important question in public health through in-depth research of the literature surrounding that issue and application of the appropriate research methodology required to answer the particular question that piqued his/her interest. In the process of completing the culminating experience, our students are called upon to apply the principles that they have learned throughout the MPH curriculum.

Dr. Ten Eyck has had the opportunity to participate in a number of the other activities conducted by the center. He directs the Public Health Research Design and Methods series which is offered twice a year as the classroom portion of the practice placement course (CMH 810). He teaches in the Population Health course offered to our first year medical students and in several of the introductory courses in the MPH curriculum. He has also had the unique opportunity to serve as a member of the center's research team exploring the emergency preparedness experiences of the Israeli medical system in a project sponsored by a grant from the Levin Foundation.

Dr. Ten Eyck considers his four most significant accomplishments in life to be Ashley, Thomas, Patrick and Alexander, who were the result of a joint effort with his partner of 29 years, Susan McNamara-Ten Eyck.

Congratulations to the following faculty on their recent promotions!

Dr. Richard Schuster—Promoted to full professor effective July 1st

Ken Dahms—Promoted to assistant professor effective June 20th

Public Health in Practice by Ken Dahms, JD, MA

By Tuesday, August 21, 2007, it had become clear that a serious event was occurring in northern Ohio. The event became known as the North Central Ohio Floods and it encompassed nine Ohio counties that collectively experienced their worst flooding since 1913. The epicenter of the disaster was in the town of Findlay, Ohio. Declarations of emergency were eventually issued by the governor of Ohio and the president of the United States.

On Friday afternoon August 24th, (then) MPH student Pattama Ulrich received a call from the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus (ARCGC) asking her to report to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) which had been activated to deal with the disastrous floods. Pattama's carefully planned practice placement with ARCGC (which was supposed to include training as a governmental liaison and some emergency exercises), was about to become very interesting and extremely real. From August 24th through September 2nd Pattama would spend almost 70 total hours as a governmental liaison associate for the American Red Cross (ARC), first at the EOC in Columbus, and then at the ARC's Disaster Relief Operation (DRO) Headquarters in Findlay. As Pattama noted, the lessons learned from this experience were "enormous". Instead of passively observing instruction by others, she was an actual participant in a real world emergency.

As Pattama describes it, the role of a governmental liaison is to serve as an "information bridge" between the ARC and governmental and emergency management representatives. The liaison acts not as a primary decision maker but instead as a coordinator, communicator, and problem solver. Since the onset of the disaster left no time for a formal orientation to the governmental liaison position, Pattama had to "learn on the fly". Fortunately she had the opportunity to work very closely with Dave Pillion, one of ARCGC's most experienced and high ranking volunteers, and Raymond Collier, Emergency Services Director for ARCGC (and Pattama's site preceptor for her practice placement). During the six days that Pattama served in the EOC she performed numerous tasks including: assisting with daily briefings; providing information on the number and usage of emergency shelters that had been set up in the nine-county region; manning the ARC table in the EOC while the manager participated in conference calls and joint meetings; helping to prepare for the Governor's visit to the region; tracking the status and location of emergency food vehicles; and much, much more.

On Thursday, August 30th Pattama traveled to Findlay, Ohio, to witness the flood damage firsthand and to observe the operations at the ARC's DRO Headquarters. During the afternoon Pattama received a personal briefing by the Headquarters manager

on critical issues relating to operations management, individual client services, mass care issues such as feeding and sheltering, partner services, information management issues and matters pertaining to material, staff and organizational support services. Pattama requested and was granted permission to return to Findlay that weekend (September 1st and 2nd) so that she could help with the backlog of ARC action items and assist in the winding down of emergency services activities in the region.

At Pattama's practice placement exit interview, ARCGC officials were highly complimentary regarding her performance during the disaster. It was obvious that they were sorry to see Pattama leave and were genuinely appreciative of her significant contributions to the agency's emergency relief efforts. Pattama, who received her MPH degree in June, concluded that the opportunity to apply academic learning to an actual emergency event allowed her to significantly further her skills in emergency management. The MPH Program is very proud of Pattama's accomplishments.

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.



Alumni Spotlight:

Megan Luse is a June 2008 MPH graduate. The following month Megan began working at The Center for Closing the Health Gap in Greater Cincinnati as the Community Health Program Coordinator. The mission of this organization is to lead the important efforts to eliminate racial and ethnic health disparities in Greater Cincinnati through advocacy, education and community outreach. Megan will be focusing on the "**Do Right: Eat Right, Move Right, Live Right**" Campaign, which focuses on improving nutrition and increasing physical activity in Cincinnati communities. Congratulations to Megan !!

Culminating Experience Update by Raymond Ten Eyck, MD, MPH

The end of the Spring Quarter was highlighted by a cluster of research presentations marking the successful completion of the culminating experience and the MPH program for ten of our students. Their hard work and persistence raised the number of total graduates since the first of the year to 18.

Tami Ashbridge addressed the troubling topic of human trafficking from a new perspective as she evaluated the impact of this tragedy on public health systems in her study entitled: "The Public Health Implications of Trafficking in Women and Children for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation." Tami was guided in her research by Dr. Thomas Herchline, who served as her guidance chair and Dr. December Green, the director of international studies, who served as her consultant.

Karen Sue Barcelo drew from her vast experience in dealing with the needs of families with children having special needs in her study entitled: "What are the Individual Preparations for Children with Special Health Care Needs in the Event of an Emergency." Karen Sue completed a comprehensive literature review and compiled specific condition-based check lists

under the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. Raymond Ten Eyck, and her consultant, Dr. Mary Ellen Bargerhuff from the department of teacher education.

V. Lorraine Cheek used a web-based survey tool to investigate the willingness of public health workers to respond to their relatively new emergency preparedness role in her study entitled: "Public Health Workers' Willingness to Respond in the Event of an Influenza Pandemic." Lorraine's guidance committee consisted of Dr. Brian Springer from the Department of Emergency Medicine as her committee chair and Dr. Sara Paton and Mr. William Burkhart as her consultants.

Susan Cohrs combined her interest in the risk factors involved with sudden infant death syndrome and her concerns about the link between relative risk of this tragic event and the financing of programs aimed at preventing it. Her project entitled: "Bed Sharing and The Back to Sleep Campaign, a Best Practices Review" was completed under the guidance of Dr. James Ebert, who served as her committee chair with Dr. Shalini Forbis,

from the department of pediatrics, serving as her consultant.

Dennis Hall conducted an insightful study in public health emergency preparedness. He explored the vulnerability of our water supply to terrorist threats in his project entitled: "Evaluation of Backflow Prevention as Drinking Water Protection Against Terrorism." With the guidance of his committee chair, Dr. Janet Rickabaugh and his committee consultant, Mr. Phillip Van Atta, Dennis defined the risks as well as several key strategies to ameliorate those risks.

Dionna Hatch conducted research into screening tools design to enhance early detection and intervention for young children who are at risk for developmental delay in her project entitled: "A comparison of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Scores of Somali, Latino and Other Children who are at Risk of Developmental Delay." Dionna completed her project under the supervision of Dr. Raymond Ten Eyck, who served as her guidance chair and Dr. Janet Rickabaugh, who served as her committee consultant.

(Continued on Page 5)



MPH Program adds new concentration: Global Health

We are pleased to announce the addition of another concentration to the MPH Program, Global Health. Beginning this fall, students can now select from four concentrations to fulfill their MPH requirements. In the Global Health Concentration, students learn to approach health issues with in depth understanding of the causes and possible measures to improve health outcomes and health care systems of the United States and the world. Students are prepared to assume roles as local or global leaders in interdisciplinary settings. All students will take all core courses and two required courses: Global Health: Issues in Developing Countries and Global Health Systems: Understanding Successful Health Systems. In addition to the two required courses, students choose from two electives that have been specifically selected for the global health concentration. These electives were selected after consulting with various faculty and chairs in other University departments. We have selected the best courses that we believe will give the student the background needed to be successful in global health. The concentration has been approved by CEPH.

Dr. Erie Sase is the Director of the Global Health Concentration. For more information on this new concentration contact Petra Weaver or Dr. Sase at 937-258-5555.

Culminating Experience Update - Continued (from Page 4)

Megan Luse investigated the impact of the landmark legislation in the State of Ohio which placed a state-wide ban on smoking in public places by evaluating cigarette sales data in all 88 counties in Ohio. Her study entitled: "Emerging Trends in Cigarette Sales in Ohio During the First Year Implementation of the Smoking Ban" was completed under the supervision of her guidance committee members including Dr. Marietta Langlois, who served as chair and Mr. Bruce Barcelo, who served as her consultant.

Jacquelyn Phillips used her research opportunity to explore the impact of programs designed to decrease waste of a scarce commodity in lower socio-economic groups in her study entitled: "Evaluating Patient Compliance: Effect of Appointment Reminder Systems on Attendance." Jackie's success was enhanced by her experience in public health guided by the expertise of her committee consisting of her

chair, Dr. Janet Rickabaugh and her consultant, Dr. John McAlearney.

Elizabeth Singhoffer completed a very ambitious research project working with a large database to evaluate the impact of maternal infections on the rate of premature births in Cincinnati public health clinics in her project entitled: "Preterm Birth Rates in Pregnant Women with Sexually Transmitted Infections: Cincinnati Public Health Centers 2005 and 2006 Deliveries." Libby completed her project under the guidance of her committee chair, Dr. Sara Paton and her consultant, Dr. Janet Rickabaugh.

Dennis Wein rounds out this distinguished group of new graduates with the successful completion of his research into the challenging issue of early diagnosis of sepsis in elderly patients in long-term care facilities. Dennis' project entitled: "Earlier Intervention in the Diagnosis of Sepsis as it Presents in the Geriatric Patient at the

Emergency Room" involved a combination of literature review for best practices and two focus groups involving nurses from long term care facilities. His guidance committee consisted of his chair, Dr. Larry Lawhorne and his consultant, Dr. Raymond Ten Eyck.

Speaking on behalf of the entire MPH faculty, I would like to congratulate all of these students for their perseverance and hard work. Their research has contributed to our program as well as to the community which we serve. A special thank you is extended to the guidance committee members whose experience, patients and encouragement helped these students to successfully complete their research and the MPH program.

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

Student Invitation to Research Meetings

The Center for Global Health Systems, Management, and Policy holds a monthly Research Meeting with faculty and staff involved in research. During the meetings, faculty and staff are asked to present on their research. Dr. Schuster would like to extend an invitation to the students to attend these presentations if they are interested and available. The meetings are usually held on a Friday from 10-11:30 am. Below are the presentation dates and topics for upcoming meetings.

Please contact Pam Mondini at (937) 258-5555 if you would like to attend any of these meetings.

August 29, 2008 (Friday)

John Bullock, MD, MPH, MSc: Temperature Instability of *ReNu* with MoistureLoc Contact Lens Solution: A New Theory to Explain the Worldwide Fusarium Keratitis Epidemic of 2004—2006 (**Congratulations to Dr. Bullock on having his paper accepted for publication in the Archives of Ophthalmology!**)

September 12, 2008 (Friday) - TBD

October 3, 2008 (Friday)

John Bullock, MD, MPH, MSc: Use of the Poisson Probability Mass Function in a Retrospective Evaluation of the Worldwide Fusarium Keratitis Epidemic of 2004-2006

November 7, 2008 (Friday)

Sara Paton, PhD: Low Birth Weight Registry

Graduate Notes:

Pattama Ulrich (MPH '08)

Pattama and faculty member Dr. Mark Gebhart will present the Safe House poster at the APHA 136th Annual Meeting & Expo in October 2008.

WSU MPH graduates - remember to submit any happenings since you've graduated, i.e. promotions, presentations, new job, publications, to Brian Butcher at brian.butcher@wright.edu.

Graduate & Alumni Reception - June 3, 2008



Ken tries to hold off the rain but to no avail—the rain cometh—the event must be held indoors.



It was nice to see many of our graduates and alumni attend—we look forward to better weather next year!

