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## PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

*“Growing a Healthier Valley”*

SPRING 2007

### *A Letter From The MPH Director*

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#### MPH Office Hours Spring 2007

Office room:

McLane Hall 170

Monday:

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Tuesday:

11:00 am—2:00 pm

Wednesday:

9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Thursday:

9:00 am—6:00 pm

Friday: Office Closed



Approximately 12 years ago a group of faculty members including Dr. Ronald Schultz, Dr. Wayne Clark, and Dr. Sherm Sowby spearheaded the establishment of the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program at California State University, Fresno. From its inception, the MPH was designed to meet the needs of working professionals in the Central Valley, it is therefore not surprising that the program was designed as a part-time program where students would only be required to be on campus once a week. In the last few years the MPH has

admitted a diverse group of students including public health professionals seeking to enhance their practitioners development and a limited number of students with little or no experience in the field. This student body composition has enabled new students to benefit from the experience of more seasoned professionals while allowing established professionals to hear and explore public health issues from a fresh perspective. Recently, program faculty have received repeated calls to decrease the length of the program from its current three to two years. Last summer, the MPH director developed a plan to meet that need which is currently being studied by the faculty. Some of you are frustrated at what you perceive

as a “slow pace” of change, therefore, I wanted to take this opportunity to provide a brief update on the plan. As indicated above, the plan is under study by the faculty and we hope to take some formal action before the end of the Spring 2007 semester. As you may imagine any changes in the curriculum necessitates careful planning and additional resources to insure that changes meet the need of all of our students. In the interim, we will continue with our policy of not allowing people to take more than 2 classes per semester. Thank you for your patience and consideration, do not hesitate to contact us with any thoughts you might have about this issue.

*-Miguel A. Pérez, Ph.D., CHES*

### *MPH Advisory Board*

The MPH advisory board consists of faculty, public health practitioners, MPH alumni, and current MPH students. The purpose of the board is to provide consultation to the MPH graduate faculty on student recruitment, curriculum development, assessment, and enhancing professional skill acquisition through field training and internships. The MPH faculty and staff would like to thank all the current members, specially the chair, Ms. Carol Barney (cohort 3), for their outstanding contribution to the Advisory Board. Stay

tuned for exciting efforts by the board including professional development opportunities, fundraising, and input into the accreditation process.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS STAFF

**Managing Editor**  
Leepao Khang

**Editorial Board**  
Helen Miltiades, Ph.D.  
Felicia Greer, Ph.D.  
Chris Ortiz, Ph.D.

## MPH NEWS

### MPH Curriculum Changes

- PH 221—Health and Disease of the Body System was offered for the last time during the Fall 2006 semester. Health Promotion students need to visit with Dr. Perez to discuss a substitute class.
- PH 225—Foundations in Health Promotion has been modified from a one semester course to a two semester course (PH 225A & PH 225B).
- PH 223T, a new one unit course will be introduced and required for all students beginning Fall 2007. This course is necessary to comply with the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), which requires that all MPH programs be a minimum of 42 units.

### Preparation for the CEPH Accreditation

Spring 2007 marks the beginning of a year long process to renew the MPH's accreditation from the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH), this 18 month process will include a site visit during the Spring 08 semester. The accreditation happens once every 5 years and requires that the school or program undertake a self-evaluation, submit a self-study document, and host a team of qualified peer reviews who validate the self-study during an on-site visit to the campus. The MPH Office is pleased to have Laura Rodriguez, a MPH student, as a team member working on the self-study portion of the accreditation.

### MPH Polo Shirt

The MPH office had received many requests for making the MPH polo shirt available for purchase. Here is your chance to purchase your own MPH polo shirt and wear it proudly anywhere you go. If you are interested in purchasing an MPH polo shirt, please contact the MPH office at 559.278.8324. Price of the shirt will depend on how many people order the shirt, however, it is estimated to be about \$28.00.

### Student Spotlight

**Maribel Fernandez** received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Strawberry Commission to further support her study as a graduate student.

**Kathleen M. Cagle** and her colleagues published an article titled "Results of a Focused Scald Prevention Program" in the Nov/Dec issue of "The Journal of Burn Care and Research."

**Leepao Khang** received a travel grant from the Division of Graduate studies to present a paper at the 19th International Union on Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) in Vancouver, BC.

### Brown Bag Lunch

On Monday, April 23, 2007, the MPH Office will host its second Brown Bag Lunch event. This is the opportunity for students and faculty to meet, answer questions, and discuss different opportunities offered in the MPH program. Time & place: 12-1pm in McLane Hall 193

### APHA Student Updates

Two MPH students, Alicia Gonzalez (cohort 13) and Maria Heras (cohort 12), received the MPH travel award to attend the 134th annual American Public Health Association (APHA) conference in Boston, MA from November 4-8, 2006. This is the biggest public health conference in the nation and happens once a year. Maria Heras (Cohort 12) stated, "To say that attending the 2006 APHA Annual meeting had a profound impact on my academic and professional life would be an understatement. The conference was empowering because it gave me a glimpse of just how the work that I do at the local level benefits public health at the national and even global level. I have been fortunate enough to work in areas like teen pregnancy and HIV/AIDS education at the community based organization (CBO) level. Not only did the APHA meeting have in depth academic presentation of these subjects, but it also detailed how data was drawn from CBOs, just like the ones in which I have worked, to support their findings. Furthermore, these research projects are often used to model successful programs, sway legislation, and secure public health funding. It is often very difficult to see the fruit of your labor when you are battling in the CBO trenches. The APHA served as a rejuvenating retreat that inspired me to trudge forward in my academic career and made me excited about entering the professional world of public health. It also exposed me to the multifaceted arenas of public health in which I can look forward to exploring. I cannot thank the MPH program enough for the inspiring opportunity."

The MPH program is pleased to support student development. Congratulation to Alicia and Maria.



Photo courtesy of Maria

Tommie Clark-Davis, (cohort 11) attended the brown bag lunch last semester and this is what she had to say, "I had the privilege to attend the roundtable brown bag session with Karen Kitchen (cohort 1) on November 13, 2006 where she shared her valuable experience as Senior Health Promotion Consultant for Blue Cross of California. Mrs. Kitchen collaborates with community organizations such as the American Lung Association, American Heart Association and the American Cancer Society educating communities as well as individuals to live healthy lives. She is also very active in the advancement of public health as she volunteers to work as a preceptor providing supervision and meaningful opportunities through internships for current undergraduate and graduate students. At Blue Cross you will get the opportunity to be part of the team, treated as any other member. If you have not fulfilled your fieldwork requirement, Blue Cross under the leadership of Karen Kitchen would be a great place to gain some valuable experience. Very inspirational, wish all of you could have attended." Look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

## STUDENT WRITING

### Keeping Children Safe

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, unintentional injury is the leading cause of death for people living in the United States between the ages of one and 34. Unintentional injuries are commonly referred to as “accidents,” although they are anything but accidental. Most injuries have predictable patterns and can be prevented through a change in human behavior or by environmental modifications. Childhood injuries are especially devastating because young children are not developmentally able to protect themselves from injury. Additionally, if they sustain a serious debilitating injury early on, they lose many years of productive, quality life. The cost of medical care for injuries is very expensive, and the loss that the family experiences is immeasurable.

Some of the leading causes of childhood unintentional injury are: motor vehicle crashes, drowning, falls, burns, and pedestrian injuries. In Fresno and Madera Counties, there are many agencies that are working to reduce childhood deaths and injuries from these unintended causes. Most of these agencies collaborate via two coalitions: Safe Kids Central Valley and The Water Safety Council of Fresno County. Many agencies participate in both collaboratives.

The Water Safety Council of Fresno County was founded in 1993. They work to educate the community about risk factors and prevention of drowning and near-drowning injuries. Members include Children’s



Hospital Central California, Clovis Fire Department, Fresno County Department of Community Health, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Fresno County Flood Control District. The council has been able to provide free swim lessons to low-income children over the past two summers. They employ water safety educators who “patrol” popular swimming areas along lakes and rivers in the summer months, educating families. They also provide educational classes to parents and adult caregivers, distributing “Water Watchers” kits. For more information about the Water Safety Council’s activities or to get involved in their efforts, visit [www.watersafe.org](http://www.watersafe.org).

Safe Kids Central Valley is part of Safe Kids Worldwide, an international non-profit organization that is dedicated to preventing childhood unintentional injury. In the United States alone, there are more than 300

coalitions. University Medical Center’s Trauma Division is the lead agency for Safe Kids Central Valley. The coalition was initially founded as a chapter of the California State Safe Kids in 2001, and their target area is Fresno and Madera Counties. Members include: Fresno and Madera Departments of Community Health, Fresno and Clovis Police Departments, Children’s Hospital Central California, California Highway Patrol, Fresno and Clovis Fire Departments, and other community based organizations and non-profit agencies. Safe Kids Central Valley has active committees that initiate prevention programs in the areas of child passenger safety, falls prevention, and burn prevention. Visit their website for information on current programs, links to member agencies, links to local and national injury prevention programs and a calendar of upcoming events, [www.safekids-centralvalley.org](http://www.safekids-centralvalley.org).

Written by: Kathleen Cagle, Cohort 11

This new feature allows MPH students to publish information. If you want to publish an article in the MPH newsletter, you can send us your articles to the managing editor Leepao Khang at [leelee@csufresno.edu](mailto:leelee@csufresno.edu). You may see it

### Research Presentation

#### The 21st Annual California State University Student Research Competition

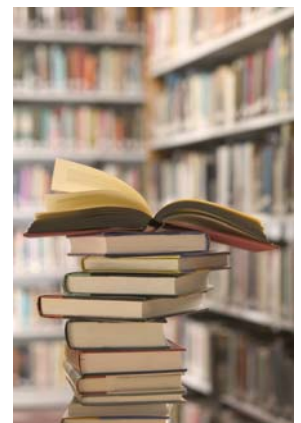
The 21st Annual California State University Student Research Competition will be held at California State University, Dominguez Hills on May 4 and 5, 2007. The purpose of the competition is promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate scholarly research and creative activity by recognizing outstanding student accomplishments throughout the California State University. Both undergraduate and graduate

students currently enrolled at any CSU campus, as well as alumni/alumnae who received their degrees in spring, summer, or fall 2006 may apply. Interested students should contact their campus coordinator for information on how to have their work considered at the campus level. Only those students endorsed by a campus coordinator can enter the statewide competition. The deadline to submit your abstract is Monday, March 12, 2007. If you need more information about the research competition, contact

Doug Carey at 278-0856 or via email [dcarey@csufresno.edu](mailto:dcarey@csufresno.edu).

#### The 28th Annual Central California Research Symposium

The symposium will be held on April 12, 2007 at the University Business Center. The purpose of the symposium is to share recent research with the community in various field, college students, and faculty as well as to encourage more research activities in the Central Valley. The deadline to submit abstract is March 19, 2007. For more information, visit <http://csufresno.edu/grants/symposium.htm>





# Opportunities

## Health Promotion Class in Espanol

Do you work with Spanish speaking clients? Do you wish to learn the correct terminology for the delivery of health promotion programs in Spanish? Then this class is for you. Dr. Pinzon-Perez will offer a health promotion course from May 21 to June 8, 2007 through the Division of Global and Extended Education ENTIRELY IN SPANISH AND ONLINE. Graduate students seeking an elective for their degree program can use this class. For more information, please contact Dr. Pinzon-Perez at [hpinzonp@csufresno.edu](mailto:hpinzonp@csufresno.edu).

## California Pre-Doctoral Program

This program is designed to increase the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of California State University students who have experience economic and educational disadvantages. Scholars and their faculty mentors are awarded \$3,000 to travel to doctoral institutions and national conferences to

enhance their entrance into doctoral study. Summer internships are also available for selected scholars. Contact the division of graduate studies for more information. The deadline is March 29, 2007.

## Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program

The Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program (CDIP) provides financial assistance to graduate students who show promise of becoming strong candidates for CSU instructional faculty positions. The purpose of the program is to increase the pool of individuals with the qualifications, motivation, and skills to teach the diverse student body in the California State University. It is a competitive program directed by the California State University but open to doctoral students across the country.

If you have questions about the CDIP please contact Chuck Radke, Division of Graduate Studies, (559) 278-2448 or [cradke@csufresno.edu](mailto:cradke@csufresno.edu)

## Student Jobs, Internships, and Career Development Programs

Ready to put that hard earned education to use? Whether you are a high school student, in your freshman year in college, working on your doctorate, or somewhere in between, the CDC have an opportunity for you. The student employment programs, internships, and career development programs guarantee valuable paid and non-paid work experience. Some of the opportunities are:

- \* Emerging Leaders Program
- \* Internships
- \* Presidential Management Fellows Program (PMF)
- \* Public Health Training Opportunities
- \* Student Educational Employment Programs
- \* Student Summer Employment Program
- \* Work Study Program

Contact the CDC organization if you are interested in working to learn more about student employment opportunities or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/employment/studentjobs.htm>

# Important Dates

**January 17:** First day to apply for a degree to be granted in Spring 2007

**February 2:** Spring 2007 Graduation Application Period ends

**February 9:** Application for the 2007/2008 Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program due

**March 2:** Last day for Summer and Fall 2007 graduates to file for Advancement to Candidacy

**March 10:** Comprehensive Exam

**March 19:** Committee-approved final thesis final drafts due in the Graduate Office for students graduating in the Spring 2007

**March 30:** Cesar Chavez Day, Campus Closed

**April 2-6:** Spring Recess—Office Closed

**May 9:** Last day of Instruction

**May 16:** Office closes for the summer

**May 18:** Master's Degree Clearance Forms due in the Graduate Office for spring graduates

**May 18:** Graduate Degree Hooding Ceremony

**May 19:** 96th annual Commencement Ceremony

**August 20:** MPH office opens

**August 23:** New MPH students orientation

**September 9:** Application for graduation in December

# Scholarships/Internships



Graduate Student Travel Grant  
Graduate Student Research Merit Award

Graduate Equity Fellowship Program

For these and other scholarships, please visit the division of graduate studies website.

Summer Internship Program (SIP) at National Institute of Health  
[www.training.nih.gov/](http://www.training.nih.gov/)

Directors of Health Promotion and Education/  
CDC Internship  
[www.dhpe.org](http://www.dhpe.org)

## Department Scholarships

The department of Health Science has scholarship available to graduate students. Contact Dr. Sherm Sowby at [sherms@csufresno.edu](mailto:sherms@csufresno.edu) for additional information.