



MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

“Growing a Healthier Valley”

Volume 3—Issue 2

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Spring time is usually thought about as a time for

change, a time for nature to renew its splendor, and a time for us to re-assess our priorities. It is, therefore, befitting to dedicate this issue of *Public Health News* to the subject of change.

As most of us already know, Dr. Sherman Sowby will retire at the end of the Spring semester ending a 30 year illustrious teaching career. Many of you have had the pleasure of having Dr. Sowby in class and have benefited

A Time For Change

from his mentoring over the years. Dr. Sowby's impact on students' lives have been documented in the written comments on student evaluation which make frequent reference to his outstanding teaching abilities, his humor, his fairness, his enthusiasm, and his ability to increase knowledge of and interest in the subject matter. Dr. Sowby's contributions to teaching and student development do not end in the classroom. He is also recognized for his many other activities that assist students during their university experience and in their career's after graduation. Dr. Sowby has served as a very able, informative, and inspiring mentor to every faculty member in the department. The insights and help he has freely given have been

invaluable to faculty development. Dr. Sherm Sowby is a superior teacher, student advisor, and mentor to all of us who teach. He will be missed and we hope he never forgets he has many friends and homes in Fresno.

The department has nominated and the dean confirmed Dr. Miguel A. Perez as the new chair of the Health Science Department. Dr. Perez will take over his new responsibilities on August 1st.

Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi has been nominated as the new Master of Public Health Program Director. Dr. Kotkin-Jaszi is a beloved instructor who brings many years of experience to her new position. We are confident that the next few years will bring many positive changes to the program.

Thank you

I wish to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and appreciation to each of you for your support during my tenure as MPH director. The last two years I have been proud to serve and shepherd some exciting changes to our program including a new option in health policy and management, the creation of the Blackboard site which greatly facilitates communication between faculty and students, providing funding for graduate students to attend professional conferences, mentoring some of you in the publication process, and obtaining funding to provide scholarships to incoming students in cohort 15. Please remember that any changes to the program, any opportunities that

have been created and any demand we have made of you were for the purpose of improving the quality of the program. As I look back in the last 24 months one of the most challenging accomplishments was the completion of the accreditation process. We submitted a self study during the fall 2007 semester and anxiously await the site visit scheduled for April 7th and 8th. We will be calling on most of you to assist us during the visitation

time. Many issues remain for the new MPH Director, Dr. Suzanne Kotkin-Jaszi, to attend including the addition of a two year option, the creation of a new option in the program, and the establishment of a scholarship fund for our current students.

It has been a pleasure working for you during the last two years. I look forward to seeing each of you on graduation day.

Miguel A. Perez, Ph.D., CHES

MPH NEWS**ADVANCEMENT TO CANDIDACY**

The “Petition of Advancement to Candidacy” form serves as a guideline for progress toward and completion of the degree. Please complete this step early in your program.

Paperwork

“Petition of Advancement to Candidacy” form. If transfer work is listed on the petition: Course description and master’s degree program description demonstrating that the course could have been used toward the master’s degree at the other institution; the course numbering and grading systems; information clarifying whether the institution used the semester or quarter system; and two official transcripts of transfer work (on file in the Office of Admissions and Records at Fresno State).

Eligibility

- The student must have achieved Classified Standing.
- Completed at least 9 units at Fresno State toward the proposed program.
- Attained a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in coursework taken from the earliest term listed on the advancement petition.
- Fulfilled the graduate writing skills requirement.

Deadlines

The sixth week of the semester prior to the term in which a student registers for the culminating experience, and/or applies for the master’s degree to be granted. Consult the Class Schedule for exact deadlines.

Procedures

The student should:

1. Schedule an appointment to meet with his or her graduate adviser and complete both sides of the “Petition of Advancement to Candidacy.”
2. Obtain the signature of the graduate program adviser and/or coordinator/director; and if required, that of the department chair, and college/school dean.
3. Return the advancement to candidacy to the Division of Graduate Studies Office for final approval.

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT**Returning Graduates**

Students who wish to attend classes after an absence from Fresno State of one semester or more must file an application for admission @ www.csumentor.edu.

- A) Only one semester break— Full application, no application fee.
 - B) More than one semester break –Full application, plus application fee.
- Applicants absent one semester only are exempt from the application fee providing no academic work was taken in the interim at any other institution.
 - Students absent one semester on an approved planned educational leave are not required to file an application for admission and are exempt from the application fee.

Retrieved from: <http://csufresno.edu/are/graduate/returning.shtml>

Student Achievements

Anthony Gentile (cohort 14) got a job with the Fresno County Office of Education in the Safe and Healthy Kids Department, in the Wellness & Nutrition program as a Project Specialist.

Chia Thao (cohort 14) attended the annual meeting of the Society of Public Health Educators in Alexandria, VA.

Robin Woods (cohort 10) presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association held in Washington, DC.

Brittany Growden (cohort 13) attended the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association held in Washington, DC. The MPH program was happy to support her trip.

Alicia Gonzalez (cohort 13) presented a paper at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association held in Washington, DC.

Nayamin Martinez-Cossio (cohort 11) will coordinate a project developing advocacy training curricula for indigenous migrants in the central valley. The project is funded by The California Endowment.

Tommie Clark-Davis (cohort 11) has been awarded the Faculty International Development Award (FIDA) to participate in the Summer Session of the University Abroad Consortium (USAC) program in Accra, Ghana.

Ashley Park (cohort 13) has been promoted to the position of Chronic Prevention Coordinator in the Community Health Division of Monterey County Health Department.

Peter Munoz (cohort 13) has been promoted to the position of Assistant Disaster Preparedness Coordinator.

Lali Witrago (cohort 12) has been appointed to the Editorial Board for the MPH Newsletter.

Eiji Yamashita (cohort 12) work with Sentinel Newspaper on a special report on “Toxic Addiction” in the Valley.

Gilda Zarate (cohort 12) published a peer-reviewed paper in Salud Uninorte.

Chia Thao (cohort 14). She is very excited to be part of the MPH staff and eager to help each and every one of you. Do not hesitate to contact her if you have any questions about the MPH program. Chia is a Ronald E. McNair and Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral scholar. She also in the A Nonprofit Management & Leadership program at Fresno State.



STUDENT WRITING**Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Internship Update**

My summer internship was an amazing experience. I had the opportunity to work with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which is a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. I was allotted this experience through my involvement with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities National Internship Program (HNIP). It was a great honor being selected as a Washington, D.C. intern and able to network with students from the fifty states and Puerto Rico. This particular program is one of the very few that pay for travel and housing expenses. They also pay a biweekly salary, which is dependent on college level and hours worked. From start to finish, this was the most memorable internship experience.



My job over the summer was to conduct statistical analysis of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) and the Patient Health Questionnaire- 8 (PHQ-8) data. This information was provided through an intra-agency agreement between SAMHSA and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). I was to search for new and interesting data that could emerge from the national dataset pertaining to depression and its correlates. I also conducted extensive literature reviews concentrating on anxiety, depression, chronic disease, BRFSS and PHQ-8. The data I helped analyze with major help from the CDC, RTI International, and SAMHSA will contribute to a body of research that will soon be federally published and will clearly state the relationship between mental health and health. I was also given the opportunity to learn the inner-workings of SAMHSA by reading printed material, going to various departmental meetings and networking throughout the different centers that comprise the agency. All the opportunities mentioned were granted by my supervisor and mentor Dr. Olinda Gonzalez. She was an inspirational figure that guided me throughout my summer internship. Dr. Gonzales and I established such a great relationship that she has asked me to return the summer of 2008 to conduct further research on new and excited data.

My summer in the nation's capital is one I will never forget. I had to opportunity to see the White House, the Smithsonian museums, and the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. I was able to see the 4th of July firework over the Washington monument and experience the Capital Building while the US senate was in session. Not only did I have a great time seeing the historical sights, but was able to discover where my passion lies concerning my professional career. My summer internship has provided me with sufficient information to want a career in the public service field. I want to help my fellow man and affect how policy is dictated. I envision this to occur through my participation in the federal government.

-Michael Flores (cohort 13)

APHA Student Membership

Students in any health related program are encouraged to be involve in professional organizations. APHA is the oldest, largest and most diverse organization of public health professionals in the world. Students who become a members of

APHA will become members of APHA-Student Assembly. You will be part of the largest student-led organization in the country. If you have any questions about this organization or how to become a student member, please contact your campus liaison representative:

Leepao Khang
leelee@csufresno.edu

Council on Educational for Public Health Site Visit

On April 7-8, four representative from the Council on Educational for Public Health will visit California State University, Fresno as part of the accreditation process. This important event will include meetings with faculty, administrators, students, and alumni who will provide supplemental information to the one found in the self-study. Everyone is invited to provide input to the accrediting body and may do so by writing to Council on Education for Public Health 800 Eye St. NW, Washington, DC 20001. Visit our office to review the entire self-study document. Due to the site visit, no office hours will be held on April 7th and 8th. We will return to our regular office schedule on April 9th.

Do you have any information you would like to share in our next issue? If so, send us your article or information that you would like to share. Please contact Chia Thao at chiathao@csufresno.edu. You may see it published in the next issue of **Master of Public Health News**.

Professional Development Opportunity

Graduate students in the MPH are required to complete 180 hours of Fieldwork experience as part of the academic curriculum. For the last five years the program has maintained a great partnership and been able to provide paid internships through the Directors of Health Promotion and Education's Internship Program for Students of Minority-Serving Institutions which is designed to place qualified students in professional work environments in a variety of federal, state, and local health departments, community-based organizations, and other health-related agencies. For additional information contact Dr. Miguel A. Perez at (559) 278-2897 or mperez@csufresno.edu.

Scholarship

The Master of Public Health program is pleased to announce the availability of **\$3,000 scholarships** available to incoming students. Selection criteria include being accepted to the Master of Public Health Program, have a GPA of at least 3.5, be active (officer) in student, community or professional organizations. For more information, please contact Dr. Perez at (559) 278-8324.



CDC Student Educational Employment Programs

The student educational employment program consists of two programs:

- **Student Careers Employment Program (SCEP)** offers students the opportunity to gain valuable work experience directly related to their academic field of study. The program can also lead to permanent employment at CDC upon graduation and completion of 640 work hours.
- **Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP)** offers students temporary employment from summer jobs to positions that last as long as the employee is a student. STEP offers maximum flexibility for students looking for temporary employment — schedules are flexible and the work does not have to be directly related to the student's academic field of study.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.opm.gov/employ/students/index.asp>

CDC Training Opportunities

The Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (OMHD) supports training opportunities for qualified students at all levels of their education in order to increase the capacity of the organizations in which these students will work in the future. Whether you are looking for summer internships or a year-long fellowship, you can gain valuable public health experience in one of the following programs:

1. **Prevention Research Center Minority Fellowships**
2. **Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education**
3. **Presidential Management Fellowship**
4. **Statistics Post-doctoral Research Program**
5. **Sustainable Management Development Program.**

Additional information, visit: http://www.cdc.gov/phtrain/public_health_training.html

Public Health Education Job Opportunities

American Public Health Association

<http://www.apha.org>

Society for Public Health Education

<http://www.SOPHE.org>

Health Education Professional Resources

<http://www.nyu.edu/education/hepr/>

Rollins SPH (Emory) Public Health Employment Connection

<http://cfusion.sph.emory.edu/PHEC/ph.ec.cfm>

Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workplace

<http://phpartners.org/jobs.html>

Important Dates

January 15: Graduation application period begins (ends Feb. 1)

January 21: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. No classes, offices closed

February 1: Deadline to apply for spring graduation.

February 8: Campus deadline to apply for the Chancellor's Doctor Incentive Program

February 18: Presidents' Day. No classes, offices closed

March 3: Deadline for Summer and Fall 2008 graduates to submit an Advancement to Candidacy

March 17: Committee-approved [thesis](#) final drafts due in the Graduate Office for review for spring graduation

March 17-Friday, March 21: Spring Recess--No classes, offices open

March 31: Cesar Chavez Day. No classes, offices closed

April 1: Application deadline.

April 7 & 8: Accreditation Site Visit (*MPH Office will be closed*)

May 12 Office closes for the Summer.

May 16: Master's Degree Clearance Form due in the Graduate Office for spring graduates. All course paperwork must be on file.

May 17: 97th Commencement.

MPH Office Hours Spring 2008

McLane Hall 170

Monday 8:00AM—4:00PM

Tuesday 8:00AM—5:00PM

Wednesday 10:00AM—5:00PM

Thursday 11:00AM-4:00PM

Friday: **MPH Office Closed**

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