

MPH MEMOS

University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Fall 2007

Issue 3

Dates To Remember:

- Nov. 22-23: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec. 1: 1st Registration Deadline for April 26 CHES Exam
- Dec. 4: Last day of Classes
- Dec. 4: "Admission to Candidacy" forms for Spring graduation due
- Dec. 6, 7, 10-13: Final Exams
- Dec. 14: Graduate Hooding Ceremony
- Dec. 15: Commencement
- Jan. 9: Spring classes begin
- Feb. 1: Last day to register for Spring MPH Comprehensive Exam
- Mar. 1: Last Registration Deadline for April 26 CHES Exam
- Mar. 7: Pay graduation fee for Spring graduation
- Mar. 13: Register for Graduate Hooding Ceremony
- April 4: MPH Comprehensive Exam

Accreditation Site Visit Completed

On October 29 and 30, three members of a site visit team from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) met with a variety of constituents of the MPH program to gain their perceptions. The team is responsible for assessing the UT program's compliance with national accreditation standards and will prepare a written report of their findings.

Although an official decision regarding the terms of extending accreditation will not be made until the full Council meets during June 2008, the team provided a brief exit interview which was very positive. Their findings indicate that the program is in full compliance with 18 of the 23 criteria set by CEPH and that three additional criteria are "met with commentary."

The team noted that two resource criteria related to the nine core faculty are "partially met." They cited the need for increased diversity of the MPH core faculty and that the number of core faculty does not meet the new CEPH standard of three full-time faculty members per concentration of study. Typically, a program is given two years to address these types of findings.

At present, there are two vacant public health faculty lines due to a retirement in late 2006 and a resignation during summer 2007. With successful national faculty searches, the expectations of CEPH should be met. The Public Health Academic Program Committee anticipates that an extension of accreditation will be awarded, most likely for five to seven years.

Alumni News:

Alumni recognition is well-deserved for Lee Murphy, MS-MPH, RD, who received the Outstanding Young Member of the Year Award by the Public Health/Community Nutrition Practice Group (PHCNPG) at the annual meeting of the American Dietetic Association in September. Lee is well-known within the local community as Nutritionist with the Knox County Health Department for her work in comprehensive public health nutrition, which includes serving as media spokesperson, consultant, facilitator, public speaker, and educator. She serves as a field experience adviser for UT public health nutrition students and is the Nutritionist for the local NBC affiliate television station in Knoxville. Locally, Lee served as President, Past-President, and member of the Board of Directors of the Knoxville Dietetic Association and also Chair of the Greater Knoxville Nutrition Council. Nationally, she was editor for the Networking News Column of the PHCNPG quarterly newsletter and PHCNPG State Network Coordinator for the State of Tennessee. She also served on the National Examination Committee for the Commission on Dietetic Registration. In her "spare time" Lee teaches her 2 girls healthy lifestyles by modeling healthy eating and physical activity, which includes biking, running, and swimming. Congratulations to Lee for recognition that is well-deserved!

Scholarship and Fellowship Opportunities for graduate students are listed at the following website: <http://gradstudies.utk.edu/gradfund.shtml>
Information regarding Graduate assistantships available on campus may be found at: <http://gradstudies.utk.edu/asstshipfunds.shtml>

CHE Media Advocacy In Action

This semester students enrolled in PH 550 engaged with the community in the following media advocacy projects:

Kelly Melear-Hough, Amy Webb, Isabel Huie, Rachel Radcliffe, and Sarah Zika focused on food safety and proper storage and preparation of turkey. They hope to raise awareness of this topic among the public and reduce the incidence of food borne illness during the holiday season. For guidelines please see: <http://www.eatturkey.com/>. Some important tips from this group:

- Never thaw a turkey or other poultry on your kitchen counter. It should be thawed in the refrigerator for 24 hours per 4-5 lbs. or in cold water for 30 minutes per pound, changing the water every 30 minutes.
- Fresh turkeys and other poultry should be stored in the refrigerator below 40 degrees F.
- Turkeys and stuffing should be roasted in conventional ovens at 325 degrees F until they reach at least 165 degrees F. (170 degrees for breast, 180 for thigh).
- Store leftover turkey, stuffing and other leftovers in the refrigerator or freezer within 2 hours of cooking.

Dwayne Bechtol, Julia Cawood, Rebecca Harper, Caroline Price, and Cassandra Stephens are trying to increase awareness about domestic abuse. Specifically, they are targeting educator sexual misconduct. The group's goal is to raise community awareness about this issue and bring together parents, school administrators and local police departments to combat this emerging issue. With the help of community support and interactions with local domestic abuse organizations, they hope to be able to help introduce or change legislation mandating that specially trained investigators investigate allegations of educator sexual misconduct.

Kenetra Hix, Marcy Souza, Cheri Cole-Jenkins, Jennifer Brock, and Shannon Looney are working on advocating the public health issue of dog bites that affects over 4.7 million annually. Of those, 800,000 require medical attention with over half of the victims being children. The UT College of Veterinary Medicine has developed a DogBite Prevention program to implement within elementary schools. They are advocating to all elementary schools in Knox County to implement this program annually similar to fire prevention programs in their school.

Commonly Asked Interview Questions:

When planning for a job interview, it is important to be well prepared to answer a variety of questions that may come up during the interview. The following list provides some questions that are often asked during interviews. Planning for these questions and others can help you present yourself in a positive manner and land the job you want!

Sample Interview Questions

1. Tell me about yourself.
2. What are your long-range and short-range goals?
3. Why did you choose this major? This career path?
4. Why should I hire you?
5. What motivates you?
6. What is your greatest strength?
7. What is a weakness you have?
8. Why is your GPA not higher?
9. What have you learned from participation in extracurricular activities?
10. What do you know about our company?
11. Will you relocate? Does relocation bother you?
12. Describe your most rewarding college experience.
13. Are you a team player?
14. How would you describe yourself?
15. What do you see yourself doing five years from now?
16. Do you have a geographical preference? Why?
17. What have you learned from your mistakes?
18. Why did you seek a position with this company?

*Sample interview questions compiled from printed resources, employers and UT Career Services staff.
~Don't forget to visit UT Career Services in 100 Dunford Hall or <http://career.utk.edu/> for*

*Thanks to everyone who has helped me as I have worked on MPH Memos this year. I have enjoyed learning about student and faculty accomplishments. While this will be my last issue, please feel free to send me information about your internship, presentations, conferences attended and projects. I will give make sure the information is passed on to the next editor. You may contact me with your information at mfosters@utk.edu.
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MPH Memos*