

Public Health Happenings

The official electronic newsletter of the
University of Connecticut Graduate
Programs in Public Health

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“Public health is the foundation for a brighter tomorrow. When we invest in the safety and well-being of all Americans, we enrich our communities, bolster our economy, and strengthen our Nation....we recognize public health professionals and all who care for the welfare of others, and we recommit to doing everything within our power to build a world where every child can enjoy the limitless possibilities of a healthy life....”

From a proclamation in recognition of National Public Health Week 2015 by Barack Obama, President of the United States of America.

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NEW STUDENT CONVOCATION

Hello Public Health Students, Alumni, Faculty, and Friends! Please join us in welcoming our incoming MPH students at our New Student Convocation and Reception on **Thursday, August 27th, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**, at UConn Health in the Low Learning Center. We are honored to have **State Representative Matt Ritter**, Public Health Committee Chair, as our keynote speaker. His remarks on public health policy issues currently on the Committee's agenda will undoubtedly be of interest to all of us. (For some background information on Representative Ritter, go to <http://www.housedems.ct.gov/ritterm/>.) **Jonathan Noel, MPH (2009)**, a UConn alumnus and current doctoral student in public health, will also be a featured speaker. Samia Hussein, a second-year MPH student, will be a student speaker.

We hope to see you there!

Morgan Spencer, MPH, MPA, CPH | Program Coordinator

PHSO WELCOMES NEW STUDENTS

The Public Health Student Organization (PHSO) is a student group created in 2006, with a mission to strengthen student experiences in the MPH program through relationship building and networking. The PHSO enhances students' experience by providing mentors, hosting socials and seminars, offering opportunities to participate in community service events, and supporting students throughout their graduate studies, as well as working with program staff to address student needs and concerns.

The 2015-2016 PHSO Executive Board would like to welcome students, faculty, and staff, to the new Fall 2015 semester:



Samia Hussein,
President, '16



Mitchell Irving
Vice Pres., '16



Andrew Lyon
Treasurer, '17



Claire Gerber
Interim Secy, '16

Membership is open to all public health students, including both dual degree and PhD students! We encourage you to get involved with the organization by serving as an officer, participating in events, or volunteering within the field of public health. Please contact us at phso@uchc.edu or find us on Facebook. Be on the lookout for announcements regarding our first monthly meeting for the semester! We hope to see you soon!

SELF-STUDY REPORT SUBMITTED

Periodically, all accredited MPH programs must go through a self-evaluation process to maintain their accreditation with the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH). David Gregorio, Program Director, and Morgan Spencer, Program Coordinator, are pleased to announce the June 24 submission of the 2015 UConn Graduate Program in Public Health preliminary self-study. The accreditors will review the document for completeness and return with comments and suggestions in late August. The final report will be submitted by October 19, 2015.

The preliminary self-study has been sent via email to program stakeholders in PDF format, and it is also available on the program website. Your feedback would be most appreciated. If you would like to make any edits/feedback/suggestions please highlight and comment (using acrobat or acrobat reader will work) on the document and send back to Morgan Spencer at MHSpencer@uchc.edu. If you have issues with the PDF format, please contact Morgan and she will send you a copy as a Word document.

This extensive project involved considerable input and assistance from faculty, alumni, students, program staff, and UConn administrators. Morgan and David would like to thank everyone for the support and assistance provided throughout this lengthy process.

COMMENCEMENT DINNER AND AWARD CEREMONY 2015

This year's commencement dinner, celebrating the achievements of the 28 students who completed their degrees during the 2014-2015 academic year, took place at Wampanoag Country Club in West Hartford on May 5, 2015. In addition to recognizing the outstanding work of all the students, it was a time to highlight some truly exceptional achievements through our annual awards ceremony. The awards are highlighted below.

MUVIHILL MEDAL

Each year, the **Mulvihill Medal** is awarded to the outstanding graduating MPH student based on GPA, the quality of the capstone project, and the student's overall body of work. The award is named for James E. Mulvihill, who served as vice president, provost and executive director of UConn Health Center from 1980 to 1992, and his wife, Mary Jane Mulvihill, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the Health Center during his tenure and subsequently earned her MPH from the program in 1998.

Anita Chandrasekaran, MD, MPH (2015) was the recipient of the 2015 Mulvihill Medal.



Anita Chandrasekaran with her major advisor, Stephen Schensul

In addition to her outstanding academic record, she was recognized for the excellence of her thesis, *Assessing Knowledge and Attitudes of the Human Papillomavirus Infection and Vaccine among Adolescents in Hartford, CT: A Report Based on the Work of MPH Students in a Practicum Conducted in Association with the Department of Health and Human Services of the City of Hartford*. Steve Schensul was her major advisor. The thesis evolved from the work Anita did for her group practicum project in spring of 2014.

SUSAN S. ADDISS AWARD



Maria Restrepo-Ruiz receives the Addiss Award from Jane Ungemack

The **Susan S. Addiss Award in Applied Public Health Practice** recognizes the student whose academic career best describes the public health career of Susan S. Addiss—public health advocacy, leadership, demonstrated commitment to the community, and academic achievement. For the first time, two outstanding graduating students received the award: **Cynthia Fortner, MPH (2014)** and **Maria Restrepo-Ruiz, MS, MPH (2014)**, both August 2014 graduates.

JOAN SEGAL OUTSTANDING FACULTY AWARD



David Gregorio presents the faculty award to Scott Wetstone

This award is given each year to a faculty member who is nominated by students or other faculty for their excellence in public health teaching. **Scott L. Wetstone, MD** is the recipient of the 2015 Outstanding Faculty Award. Over many years, Dr. Wetstone has done the seemingly impossible—he has taught biostatistics and epidemiology to hundreds of students and actually made it fun for many of them!

CHARLES HUNTINGTON POSTER AWARD



Matthew Cook, President of Beta Rho Chapter of Delta

Omega, presents the poster award to Nancy Wong

Initiated in 2014, the Charles Huntington Poster Award is given to the student judged to have done the most outstanding job on his or her capstone poster. This year's recipient was **Nancy Wong, DMD, MPH (2015)**, whose poster was entitled "Determining the Need for Diabetic Risk Assessment in an Academic Dental Clinic."

DELTA OMEGA HONORARY SOCIETY

Another annual highlight of the Graduation Dinner is the induction of new members of Beta Rho, the UConn Chapter of the national public health honor society, Delta Omega. Those inducted in the 2015 ceremony included:

Students

Anita Chandrasekaran, MD, MPH
Christopher Steele, MD, MPH
Ran Zhao, MD, MPH

Alumni

Kathryn Johnson, MD, MPH
Jeffrey Shaw, MA, MPH
Cyndi Billian Stern, MA, MPH

Faculty

Stephen Schensul, PhD

2014-2015 GRADUATES



At its essence, however, the ceremony and awards dinner honored the achievements of all our 2014-15 graduates. They included, from August 2014, **Cynthia Fortner, Maria Restrepo Ruiz, Tyshaunda Wiley, and Bruce Whittchen**; and from December 2014, **Susan Dang**. Those receiving their MPH degrees in May 2015 included **Rebecca Allen, Giuliana Belleggia, Allison Berken, Kaitlin Carafa, Anita Chandrasekaran, Anastasiya Domnich-Kovalesky, Christopher Heneghan, Andrea Huntley, Robyn Jennings, Kelcey Johnson, Alaina Kessler, Kelley LaFleur, Shir Lerman, Sarah Levey, Karonesa Logan, Talia Savic, Tsa Shelton, Staceyann Smith,**

Christopher Steele, Kara Vendetti, Nancy Wong, Jamie Woodside, and Ran Zhao.

MPH ALUMNI CELEBRATION AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

On Saturday evening, April 11, over 40 alumni and their guests plus faculty and program leadership gathered at Max Downtown to celebrate the program, network with colleagues, and recognize the first-ever UConn Distinguished Master of Public Health Alumni and Faculty in an awards ceremony. UConn distinguished alumni recognized at the event include **Jennifer Kertanis, MPH (1996)**, representing the public sector, and **Tracey Scraba, JD, MPH (2004)**, representing the private sector. **Jane Ungemack, DrPH** received the faculty award.

Laurene Powers, DDS, MBA, MPH (2000)

spearheaded the awards effort of the Public Health Alumni Board and provided the write-up below of the award selections, who were most worthy of the recognition they received as the inaugural recipients of the Distinguished Alumni and Faculty awards.

2015 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

JENNIFER KERTANIS: ALUMNI (PUBLIC SECTOR)



Education for future local health directors has been one of the focuses of the Master of Public Health Program since it began 31 years ago. The University of Connecticut has positively impacted our health departments with its graduates who manage diverse towns and districts with the education and passion needed in our communities. We are pleased to recognize Jennifer Kertanis, class of 1996, as a recipient of our Distinguished Alumni award.

Jennifer is currently the director of the Farmington Valley Health District, which is comprised of ten towns and over 110,000 residents. She combines her effective communication skills with leadership and experience in environmental epidemiology, hazardous waste, program planning, and advocacy.

Prior to her work in the Farmington Valley Health District Jennifer served as the Executive Director for the Connecticut Association of Health Directors. During her ten years there she co-established the

Connecticut practice-based research network and was a contributing architect of the Health Equity Index, a tool that measures the relationship between social conditions and health outcomes. Jennifer effectively worked on changes impacting local public health and represented the association on numerous statewide committees and task forces.

Jennifer has been an adjunct faculty member with both the University of Connecticut and Southern Connecticut State University.

TRACEY SCRABA: ALUMNI (PRIVATE SECTOR)

Tracey Scraba is Executive Director, Senior Counsel for Privacy and Behavioral Health at Aetna. In this capacity, she provides legal support to the Privacy Office and Aetna's Behavioral Health business by assisting with the interpretation and implementation of several state and federal laws, including but not limited to, federal and state privacy and confidentiality laws (e.g., HIPAA), autism benefit mandates, mental health parity, health care reform, mandatory reporting requirements and duty to warn situations. She also supports the business in new product development, resolution of member and provider appeals, and customer and provider contract negotiations. Tracey was selected as a 2011-2012 Emerging Leader by the Aetna Executive Committee and recently presented at the Aetna Behavioral Health Summit regarding confidentiality laws and substance abuse. Prior to joining Aetna in 2007 she was a health law attorney with Robinson & Cole in Hartford for almost three years.

Tracey earned her JD/MPH from UConn in 2004 and continued her affiliation with the University by serving as Adjunct Professor at the School of Business teaching Health Law and Public Health for over 6 years. She was nominated for the 2014 Healthcare Management & Insurance Studies Faculty Appreciation Award for her over six years of dedicated teaching in the Program. She has also presented to students in the MPH program several times over the past years and served as President of the Connecticut Public Health Association from 2005 to 2007.

JANE UNGEMACK: FACULTY



Jane Ungemack, flanked by Joan Segal (on right) and Nancy Dupont (on left)

The strength of the Master of Public Health Program is the dedication of its highly qualified faculty members. Our students are the energy of the program who implement our teachings and ideas in the public and private sectors of our communities. Jane Ungemack combines her passion and knowledge of public health with her outstanding commitment to the students. Each student is a priority to Jane. We are proud to present her with our first Distinguished Faculty Award.

Jane received a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Political Science from Chatham College in Pennsylvania. She received her Doctor of Public Health from Columbia University in New York, and completed a postdoctoral program in mental health services at Rutgers University in New Jersey.

Jane tirelessly serves on numerous committees at the University of Connecticut including chairperson of the Curriculum Committee and member of the Admissions, Executive, Advisory, and Academic Committees for the Program in Public Health. She is part of the Scientific Advisory and Executive Committees for the Ethel Donaghue Center for Translating Research into Practice and Policy.

The listing of her papers and publications fills over seven pages. She has written on important topics in substance abuse including youth, prevention, health status, treatment, cost, and prevention. Her work gives us not only information on substance abuse, but hope for our communities and youth in the future.

Jane has taught Research Methods, Psychiatric Epidemiology, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services: Programs, Systems and Policies and Health and Human Development: Clinical Epidemiology. She has been a student advisor in our program since 1998.

*By Laurene Powers, DDS, MBA, MPH
UCONN MPH ALUMNI BOARD*

JON NOEL & UPDEGROVE RECEIVE CPHA AWARDS



Jon Noel, second from the left and Steve Updegrove, far right
The Awards Committee of the Connecticut

Public Health Association (CPHA) named **Jon Noel, MPH**, a doctoral student of the UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health, the 2015 recipient of the prestigious **Michael J. Perlin Student Award**.

The award was presented on May 29, 2015 at the **2015 CPHA Public Health Awards and Networking Breakfast** at the Lyceum in Hartford, CT.

The Perlin Award recognizes a public health student who demonstrates, through student activities and/or community service, a commitment to leadership, volunteerism, and the highest educational standards. At the time of his passing, Dr. Michael Perlin was Professor Emeritus of Public Health at Southern Connecticut State University, where he distinguished himself as a respected educator, colleague and public health advocate.

At the same event, **Stephen Updegrave, MD, MPH (1993)**, Medical Director, Hill Health Center, New Haven, received the **Charles G. Huntington III Award**. Dr. Updegrave, a pediatrician, has been at Hill Health Center for 29 years, the last 11 in his current position. During his tenure there he has been the School Medical Advisor to the New Haven Public Schools and has served on many local, state and regional public health advisory councils on issues ranging from asthma and nutrition to tuberculosis and childhood immunizations. The award, which is named after Charles Huntington, PA, MPH, a former UConn MPH faculty member and student advisor, recognizes a health care practitioner who has demonstrated public health leadership and a commitment to the health and well-being of populations. At the time of his untimely death at age 60 in 2009, Charles Huntington was Associate Dean and Associate Professor in the School of Medicine. He served as President of the Connecticut Public Health Association for three years and was an active member of the Board of Directors.

ATTN UCONN PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNITY: A CALL FOR HELP!

Although it is no longer in the headlines, you undoubtedly recall that a devastating earthquake hit Nepal around noon on April 25. Thousands of people died and many more were injured. Homes, buildings, and infrastructure were badly damaged or totally destroyed. Countless people lost their homes. Relief organizations were mobilized to provide support and emergency supplies to the

people impacted. However, the media has moved on to focus on other more recent disasters and developments, and the devastation from the earthquake is not on the radar. Yet the needs are still there.

Many of our UConn students and alumni have been affected. Listed below are some links to organizations you can donate to online:

- Nepali Association of Connecticut (NACONN) will collect the money via a PayPal donation link and send directly to Nepal Red Cross society at <http://www.ctnepali.org/>
- <http://jamieleung.github.io/appeals-nepal/>
- <https://www.paypal-donations.com/pp-charity/web.us/campaign.jsp?cid=35>
- <http://www.helpnepal.net/>

Other organizations such as Save the Children are also accepting donations targeted to Nepal.

FREE ARTICLE DELIVERY FOR LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

Are you working as a public health professional based in one of Connecticut's local public health departments? Do you come across references to interesting work-related articles, but wonder how you would obtain the complete articles? Does your health department lack the funds to subscribe to research journals in your field? If so, the UCONN Health Library has a new, **FREE** article delivery service that might interest you.

Recently, the UCONN Health Library received funding to provide email delivery of articles at no cost to local public health departments in Connecticut. The service makes use of PubMed's *Loansome Doc* article ordering program, and the database, *Medline*. There are two steps to get started. First, you must register with the UCONN Health Library. Second, you must register with Loansome Doc. During the registration process, you **must add the abbreviation CPHD after your last name**. Now you are set to search for articles on Medline, and order them using Loansome Doc. Your Loansome Doc article requests are then forwarded to the UCONN Health Library where they are filled from the library's collection. Finally, just watch your email box for your articles to be delivered.

Medline is the National Library of Medicine's premier article citation database covering 1000s of journals and many topics of interest to public health professionals. Searching Medline through the PubMed search platform is free. PubMed also offers a free article ordering service called Loansome Doc. This service was introduced to support the information needs of physicians in solo practice in remote locations not served by medical libraries. Loansome Doc now enables many other health professionals to stay current with their specialties.

How do you register with UCONN Health Library?
How do you sign up for a Loansome Doc account?
Click on this link for detailed instructions: [Tell me more.](#)

UCONN Health Library's article ordering service saves local health department professionals time and money. You don't have to spend hours tracking down a library with access to your journal. You only contact one library. You can request articles any time – day or night. Medline and Loansome Doc are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. More importantly, whereas popular fee-based article delivery services may cost \$30 or more per article, there is no charge for the article copies. UCONN Health Library will send copies of articles from their collection **FREE**. This service will remain free as long as grant money is available. So, register now!

Staff at UCONN Health library would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this service. You can reach a UCONN Health Librarian at 860-679-2942. Researching public health topics and keeping current is now a lot easier for local public health professionals! Register for this free article delivery service today and start bringing current evidence to your health department.
Wendy Urciuoli, Lyman Stowe Library, UConn Health

FALL REGISTRATION HAS BEGUN!

Reminder: The fall 2015 semester begins on Monday, August 31, and Add/Drop Ends on Monday, September 14. If you still have not yet registered, please complete the self-registration process in your PeopleSoft Student Admin account. The link is http://studentservices.uchc.edu/registr/argradschool/forms/catalog_fall.pdf. Note that fee bills are not due until the first day of the semester.

Students who do not register by the September 14th deadline will be automatically discontinued by the system. This could jeopardize one's status in the program, and reinstatement is a costly and time-consuming process for both students and program staff. Moreover, it could jeopardize graduate assistantships for students receiving a stipend from the Graduate School.

The link for the fall catalog is:
http://studentservices.uchc.edu/registrar/gradschool/forms/catalog_fall.pdf.

Core MPH courses being offered are *Public Health Research Methods* on Mondays, *Health Administration* on Tuesdays, *Law and Public Health* on Wednesdays, and *Introduction to Biostatistics and Epidemiology I* on Thursdays. Public Health electives in Farmington include:

Mondays: *Public Health Agencies*
Tuesdays: *Women, Public Hlth & Reproduct'n Human Rights and Health*
Wednesdays: *Maternal and Child Health SAS Data Management*
Thursdays: *Topics in Intermediate Statistics Injury & Violence Prevention Environ'l Impacts on Children's Hlth*

Among courses offered through other programs are *Health Care Management and Organization* and *Risk Management and Insurance* through the Public Policy Program on the Harford campus (located in West Hartford); *Critical Issues in Health Promotion, Program Planning & Evaluation*, and *Special Topics in Health and Wellness* on the Storrs campus; and an online course, *Foundations of Public Health & Disability* through the Public Health Certificate in Disability Studies (PHCIDS) program. Check the Website cited above for course descriptions and complete logistics information, and register now if you have not already done so!

CAREER DEVELOPMENT NOTE

Rachel Bruno, who undertook a health literacy project for the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services as her spring 2015 group practicum, recently completed the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) online ***Health Literacy for Public Health Professionals*** continuing education training. She writes:

The purpose of this public health literacy web-based training program is to educate public health professionals about public

health literacy and their role in providing health information and services and promoting public health literacy. This free training is one that I would recommend to all public health professionals.

The training can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/healthliteracy/gettrainingce.html>. Students looking to enhance their skill sets before beginning the job search process may want to investigate this free online training course.

ATPR-CDC PUBLIC HEALTH FELLOWSHIP
The Association of Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) is pleased to announce the availability of a fellowship position through its APTR-CDC Public Health Fellowship Program. This program offers recent health profession graduates an exciting opportunity to gain practical public health experience at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Fellows gain leadership experience in public health practice and policy, have access to state-of-the-art technology and national databases, and obtain training with leading experts in the field of preventive medicine and public health. For more information visit the APTR website at www.aptrweb.org/cdcfellowship. The application deadline is **September 17, 2015**.

HISPANIC STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
The National Hispanic Health Foundation (NHHF) will award 17 scholarships to graduate students in dental, medical (allopathic or osteopathic), health policy, public health, and nursing. Eleven scholars will receive a 2-year scholarship of \$5,000 per year, and six scholars will receive a 1-year scholarship of \$2,000. The scholarships will be presented to awardees at the *National Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship Galas* in Los Angeles, CA on November 3, 2015 and New York City, NY on December 3, 2015.

The NHHF, a 501c3 entity, established “*The Hispanic Health Professional Student Scholarship*” to reward students in health policy and health professional programs for exceptional academic performance, leadership, and commitment to the Hispanic community. The application can be found on the NHHF website at nhmafoundation.org/index.php/scholarship-program.

The application deadline is **September 18, 2015**. Awards will be announced via e-mail by

October 2, 2015. The applications may be emailed to scholarship@nhmamd.org, faxed to 202-628-5898 or mailed to:

NHHF Scholarship 2015 c/o NHMA, 1920 L St. NW, Suite 725, Washington, DC 20036

DIRECTOR OF HEALTH POSITION

The Town of Monroe is seeking a Director of Health to oversee the planning, coordination, and implementation of Health Department activities. The Director of Health enforces the State Public Health code as required by the State Department of Public Health; consults with and advises the Town and the Board of Health on the development and implementation of strategic plans and policies as well as issues concerning the management and administration of the Health Department; provides for emergency preparedness planning and ensures necessary emergency response from Public Health.

Minimum qualifications include a Master’s Degree in Public Health with six years of progressively responsible experience in the area of Public Health; a current state license as a Registered Sanitarian or ability to obtain said license within two years; ability to meet qualifications for bonding and an equivalent combination of education and experience necessary to qualify for designation of Health Director as provided in the Connecticut General Statutes; and a valid Connecticut Driver’s License.

COMMUNITY HEALTH COORDINATOR

The Town of Milford is seeking to fill a 19 hour/week, professional public health position that will be responsible for developing, conducting and maintaining preventive health programs in education, treatment and practice, and associated activities. The Community Health Coordinator will coordinate activities by working in a concerted manner with individuals and community, state and federal groups and agencies. The individual is responsible for the collection, storage and follow-up of public health disease reports and other health data and information. He or she will work as a team member on the health department’s public health preparedness activities. The position reports directly to the Director of Health.

Candidates must have at minimum a bachelor’s degree in public health or related field, with experience and demonstrated ability in writing, obtaining, and managing grants preferred. Required or preferred knowledge, abilities and skills include:

- Knowledge of communicable diseases and core public health functions, with experience in a public health agency preferred.
- Excellent grant writing and management skills
- Strong oral, interpersonal, and written communication skills.
- Computer proficiency in word processing programs, Power Point, spreadsheet and other document formatting techniques; software experience, including Microsoft Access, strongly preferred.
- Ability to organize and facilitate groups
- Strong initiative and ability to work independently as well as in a team.

The salary is \$26/hour, with no benefits. To apply send a cover letter, resume and fully completed job application (available from segal@uchc.edu) to: Deepa Joseph, Director of Health, City of Milford Health Department, 82 New Haven Ave., Milford, CT 06460. The position will remain open until filled.

PREVENTION COORDINATOR

The Town of Enfield, CT is seeking a Prevention Coordinator for its Social Services Department, Youth Services Division. The Prevention Coordinator serves as the Town's substance abuse prevention specialist and leads the Enfield Together Coalition's prevention and intervention efforts. The Coordinator is responsible for implementing the Coalition's strategic plan, including developing, researching, coordinating, and implementing the environmental strategies that are identified through a community needs assessment process. The Coordinator will also evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies through data collection, analysis, and monitoring of the implementation plan. The Coordinator will chair the Enfield Together Coalition, and work closely with the community, including the school and police departments, town council, parents, youth, business community, and other youth servicing agencies. The Coordinator will maintain contact with federal (SAMSA) and state (Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services) agencies and maintain knowledge of current resources.

The position requires a bachelor's degree (master's preferred) in the field of substance abuse prevention, public health, or social work plus two years' experience in program planning and evaluation, implementation, prevention work, data analysis, and community organizing. Demonstrated

ability to work with youth, parents, and community is also required.

Minimum requirements include:

- Ability to work with a variety of different populations - school, police, youth, parents, youth services and state agencies.
- Knowledge of environmental strategies to substance abuse prevention.
- Ability to mobilize a community around youth substance abuse and experience in organizing and implementing community events and oversight of community projects and interventions.
- Strong organizational skills
- Excellent writing and oral presentation skills
- Commitment to professional growth in the area of substance abuse prevention and environmental strategies.
- Ability to work independently
- Highly organized
- Ability to communicate and work effectively with others.
- Computer skills in Microsoft Office, Excel and ability to learn and utilize electronic data reporting systems
- A valid driver's license

You may apply online at www.enfield-ct.gov/jobs or fax your resume or application to 860-253-6264.

PART-TIME COMMUNITY EDUCATOR

The Sexual Assault Crisis Service of the YWCA New Britain is hiring a part-time Community Educator. This position is responsible for running primary violence prevention programs for the purposes of preventing sexual violence, increasing the awareness of services for victims, and educating the community on issues of sexual victimization and violence. This position additionally provides outreach and intervention services to communities in the New Britain and Hartford region.

To be eligible a candidate must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree in a related field and have reliable transportation enabling travel on a daily basis. The community educator will have on call responsibilities on the 24-hour crisis hotline, and be expected to work on certain holidays, evenings and weekends as necessary. Applicants must be self-starters, highly organized, and have strong knowledge of sexual assault issues and other related issues. State certification as a Sexual

Assault Crisis Counselor is strongly preferred; otherwise candidates will be trained from within. All interested applicants are encouraged to apply by submitting a cover letter and resume to Caitlin Sorge, Director: CSorge@ywcanewbritain.org (no phone calls, please).

DIRECTOR JOB IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE Community Mental Health Affiliates (CMHA), Inc. has an opening for the position of Director of the Substance Abuse Action Council (SAAC). The major responsibilities on the position include:

- Develop community networks of collaborators and organizations in the prevention, treatment and recovery segments of the towns served by SAAC.
- Work with the vice president of external relations to set the strategic agenda of SAAC, including the program's annual budget.
- Coordinate the activities of the SAAC to build a regional coalition of community organizations united to address substance abuse and prevention issues and to serve as a community information connection to CMHA leadership and programs.

Minimum requirements for the position are as follows:

- Education-- Bachelor's degree in Social Service or related discipline or equivalent experience; and intermediate or advanced experience with Microsoft Office including Word, Outlook, Excel and PowerPoint,
- Credentials and Licences—Prevention Certification (if not currently held, CMHA will support and fund the pursuit of prevention certificate); and valid driver's license and reliable transportation.
- Experience—Successful experience in developing social programs at the community and/or agency level, preferably a minimum of five years, including two years in community organizing and three years in managing staff; successful experience in grant writing and reporting.
- Competencies—Excellent collaborative interpersonal skills and the ability to work with many community leaders and

organizations in furthering SAAC's mission in the communities it serves; ability to think strategically and to facilitate groups and constituencies in the integration of drug prevention programs in schools, municipal and other community organizations; excellent oral, presentation and written skills; knowledge of substance abuse prevention/treatment; demonstrated ability to provide staff supervision to maximize staff performance and productivity; ability to travel and meet during evenings and weekends; knowledge and ability to establish appropriate courses of action for self and subordinates to accomplish goals within realistic target dates; ability to ensure the security and confidentiality of client information and records in a manner consistent with professional and CMHA codes of ethics; and awareness/sensitivity to issues related to client diversity.

The position listing can be found at www.ctclearinghouse.org/Files/customer-files/1361-SAACjobdescription.pdf. Interested applicants can apply for the position on line at www.cmhacc.org under the Employment tab. Contact Alexis Newton in Human Resources at 860-826-1358 x. 1221 or anewton@cmhacc.org with any questions.

COUNCIL COORDINATOR

The **Haddam-Killington Early Childhood Council**, which is committed to fostering the social-emotional development of young children, is seeking an energetic, self-directed individual with strong people skills and good organizational ability to serve as a part-time coordinator. Desired skills and qualities include strong oral and written communication skills; a working knowledge of the needs of young children and families; a working knowledge of community, Middlesex County and state resources for children and families; excellent organizational skills; skills in building and maintaining relationships with a wide variety of individuals and organizations; strong facilitation skills; ability to work cooperatively with other staff and the community; early childhood background, or willingness to learn; experience in fundraising, including grant applications and grant reports; a working knowledge of computers and relevant software; flexible schedule (can work some nights and week-ends); bachelor's degree; ability to

work independently and as a team member; familiarity with the Haddam-Killingworth community, or demonstrated ability to learn about the community quickly; and supportive of the mission of the Haddam-Killingworth Early Childhood Council. Experience in community collaboration/outreach and a non-profit background are desirable.

The position requires approximately 10 hours/week, with salary commensurate with experience (no benefits). To apply, contact Kathryn Glendon, MPH, CHES, Director of Programs, Healthy Communities-Healthy Kids Coalition, Youth and Family Services of Haddam-Killingworth, Inc. For further information on the Council, go www.hc-hk.org.

SOPHE POSITION OPENING

The Society for Public Health Education, Inc. (SOPHE), the world's only independent 501c3 organization for health education/promotion professionals, is seeking a **Health Communications and Technology Coordinator** to assist in the development of membership, marketing, and communication strategy related to health promotion/disease prevention. This position coordinates member and stakeholder communications and publicity; maintains the website; promotes community engagement via social media; tracks communications and marketing data for email and social media; and creates and disseminates communications. This individual supports SOPHE's externally funded grants and provides cross-departmental technical support for the creation, updating, and evaluation of communications. Candidates who want to play an integral part in a fast-paced team that is dedicated to growing the health education profession and impacting the public's health are encouraged to apply. For further information on this Washington, DC-based position, go to: <http://careerhq.asaecenter.org/jobs/7357759/health-communications-technology-coordinator>.

CT AMERICORE POSITION

The Connecticut AHEC Network has an AmeriCorps job opening for a college student or graduate interested in engaging youth in service learning public health activities with the goal of improving their academic performance and economic futures. The AmeriCorps member is responsible for the implementation of the Youth Health Service Corps and/ or Collegiate Health Service Corps Program within designated schools in an AHEC

regional office (located in Hartford, New London, Shelton, Waterbury, and Willimantic).

Responsibilities include:

- Work with school liaison to recruit economically disadvantaged middle school, high school and/ or college students to participate
- Conduct student volunteer trainings and coordinate CPR trainings
- Oversee the implementation of Service Learning Projects
- Provide support services to students
- Monitor students' civic and academic engagement
- Introduce various health/public health careers
- Coordinate trainings, field trips and speakers
- Implement specific workshops and projects including Public Health Ambassadors Program
- Support youth as participants in National Service Days; MLK Day of Service and Global Youth Service Day
- Utilize AHEC Nation Database and My CHSC Database to manage and track student participation in the program and program outcomes
- Conduct program assessments
- Recruit and engage community partners, maintain contact with volunteer site coordinators, monitor service placements
- Undertake grant writing to support service learning activities
- Participate in AmeriCorps large service project and biweekly statewide trainings
- Assist AHEC centers with ongoing community initiatives and regional events

The Americore member must complete a 10-month commitment, beginning August/September 2015, and complete 1700 service hours over 44 weeks of service. Benefits include a \$12,530 stipend (paid biweekly) and a \$5,730 Education Award (paid upon completion of the service commitment of 1700 service hours). Send resumes to Celia Meyer, cmeyer@nwctahec.org. For further information call 203-758-1110.

CPHA CALL FOR STUDENT ABSTRACTS



Every year, during the Annual Conference of the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA), students are given the opportunity

to present their work in front of hundreds of public health professionals from across the state. Take advantage of the [Student Poster Session](#) to present your research, thesis, community project, or academic experiences related to this year's conference theme, *Healthy By Design*.

The conference will be held on **Friday October 23, 2015** at the **CoCo Key Conference Center** in Waterbury, CT from **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** For more information about poster submissions and student registration, please visit the [Student Poster Session](#) webpage. You should complete and submit the [Student Poster Submission Form](#) **before Friday, October 2, 2015**. If your poster is selected, you will receive a confirmation via email. If you have questions contact Jon Noel, noel@uchc.edu

APHA REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration for [APHA's 143rd Annual Meeting and Exposition](#) opened on June 2. The meeting will take place October 31 – November 4 in Chicago. Hotel rooms have been reserved for APHA attendees and will fill up quickly, particularly those at the lower price or those closest to the convention center. [Check out the APHA website](#) often for detailed information about the Annual Meeting, and check future *Public Health Happenings* for details on the UConn Alumni Reception we are planning in Chicago during the meetings.

QUALITY & DISPARITIES REPORTS

Each year since 2003, the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has produced the *National Healthcare Quality Report* and the *National Healthcare Disparities Report*. These reports to Congress are mandated in the Healthcare Research and Quality Act of 1999 (P.L. 106-129). Beginning with the 2014 reports, findings on health care quality and health care disparities are integrated into a single document. The new *National Healthcare Quality and Disparities Report* (QDR) highlights the importance of examining quality and disparities together to gain a complete picture of health care. The QDR provides a comprehensive overview of the quality of health care received by the general U.S. population and disparities in care experienced by different racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic groups. The report is based on more than 250 measures of quality and disparities covering a broad array of health care services and settings. The report can be downloaded from the following website:

<http://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqdr/nhqdr14/index.html>.

STATUS OF INJURY PREVENTION IN US
According to *The Facts Hurt: A State-By-State Injury Prevention Policy Report*, deaths from injuries are up significantly over the past four years in 17 states, with the majority of states scoring 5 or lower out of 10 on an Injury Prevention Score Card. The US injury-related death rate is 58.4 per 100,000 people. Injuries are the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1 to 44 – and are responsible for nearly 193,000 deaths per year. The *Facts Hurt* report was released in late June by Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF)

Drug overdoses are the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States, at nearly 44,000 per year. These deaths have more than doubled in the past 14 years, and half of them are related to prescription drugs (22,000 per year). Overdose deaths now exceed motor vehicle-related deaths in 36 states and Washington, DC.

In addition to drug abuse, the report discusses other injury prevention issues such as motor vehicle deaths, homicides, suicides, falls, and traumatic brain injuries. It also provides a series of specific, research-based recommendations for reducing the harm caused by a range of types of injury and violence – with a focus on prevention.

Jeffrey Levi, PhD, executive director of TFAH, comments:

This report illustrates how evidence-based strategies can actually help prevent and reduce motor vehicle crashes, head injuries, fires, falls, homicide, suicide, assaults, sexual violence, child abuse, drug misuse, overdoses and more. It's not rocket science, but it does require common sense and investment in good public health practice.

The report is available on TFAH's website at www.healthyamericans.org.

If you are interested in learning more about injury and violence prevention, Garry Lapidus, PA, MPH will offer his highly-rated elective, *Injury and Violence Prevention*, during the fall 2015 semester on Thursday evenings. An alumnus of the UConn MPH program, Garry is Director of the Injury

Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID RESOURCES

On July 30, 1965, President Lyndon Johnson signed the law creating the Medicare and Medicaid programs—key components of the current US healthcare system. As the programs' 50th anniversary nears, the Kaiser Family Foundation offers [several resources](#) that look at the programs' past and future, including videos that are available to share at in-person events or with online communities:

- **Six new articles** authored by Foundation staff and published in the journal *Generations* reflecting on Medicare's history, evolution and future, the Medicare and Medicaid partnership, the role of private plans, Medicare's role for women, and public opinion about the program;
- A **documentary video** that provides a brief history of both programs;
- **Interactive timelines** that chart key developments in Medicare and Medicaid;
- An **animated video** timeline of the history of Medicare;
- **Video profiles** of people discussing their experiences with Medicaid coverage; and
- A **report** on Medicaid's accomplishments and challenges, and the issues that lie ahead.

For further information visit Medicare & Medicaid at 50 and Beyond at www.kff.org.

STUDENT NEWS

Operation Unisson, founded by UConn MPH graduate (2014) and current public health PhD student **Paola Chanes-Mora**, was one of five local charities that benefitted from the sixth annual CT Walks for Haiti held on April 25 in West Hartford. For more information on Operation Unisson, go to <http://operationunisson.org/about-us/>.

Ailton S. (Santo) Coleman, MPH defended his doctoral thesis in public health, "The Role of Fathers on Masculinity and Obesity in African American Adolescent Males," on July 15. Ann M. Ferris, PhD, RD served as major advisor. Associate Advisors were James M. O'Neil, PhD and Marysol



Asencio, DrPH....Santo was recently certified in public health (CPH).

Shristi Rawal, a PhD candidate in Public Health, defended her dissertation "Implementing a Standardized Taste and Smell Protocol in the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey: Examining Prevalence, Risk Factors and Health Implications of Taste and Smell Alterations," on June 29. Dr. Valerie B. Duffy, Professor of Allied Health Sciences on the Storrs campus, was her major advisor.



Rachelle Jean-Paul, who just completed her second year in the program, was recently hired by Community Health Centers, Inc. in Middletown as a Research Assistant at the Weitzman Institute.



MD/MPH May 2015 graduate **Talia Savic** completed her practicum this spring in Riobamba, Ecuador, where she worked on an Independent Practicum with the Cachamsi program, a Water Purification/Filter Administration project in the nearby indigenous communities in Cacha, Ecuador. For students interested in global public health, there are opportunities to continue with the project as an Independent Practicum, Field Experience in Public Health, or perhaps even a Capstone Project. If interested, contact Joan Segal at segal@uchc.edu.



Talia spoke about her experience in global health to potential students admitted to the program for the fall 2015 semester at an Open House on Friday, April 10. Also participating was **John Basso**, who discussed his own practicum project, a health and needs assessment of Marangu, Tanzania.

Congratulations to Shanon McClure and her husband on the birth of their first child, a daughter Leah, who is now five months old.



ALUMNI NEWS

After 20 years as a public health leader in Connecticut, **Baker Salisbury, MSW, MPH (1996)**, has retired. In February 2015, he wrapped up eight years as Director of Health for Ledge Light Health District and was looking forward to some exciting travel plans and to tending to his beautiful gardens. Before joining Ledge Light, he was Director of Health and Social Services for the Town of East Hartford. Baker also played a pivotal role as President of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health and helped lead a charge to develop its Health Equity Index. The Board and Staff of Ledge Light Health District and colleagues from across the state joined together to wish him well at a reception at the Griswald Inn in Essex on March 19... **Steve Mansfield, RS, MPH (2006)** has been appointed the new Director of Health for Ledge Light Health District.

Jennifer Bard, JD, MPH (1997) has been appointed Dean of the University of Cincinnati School of Law, as of July 1, 2015. At the time of her appointment, she was serving as special assistant to the provost for academic engagement at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, where she was the Alvin R. Allison Professor of Law and directed the JD/MD program as well as the Health Law concentration program. She also has been a member of the faculty at the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. She is an elected member of the American Law Institute.

Jason Ryan, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Director, UConn Heart Failure Center, Pat and Jim Calhoun Cardiology Center, presented a talk, "Preventing Heart Failure Readmissions," on March 12 at UConn Health.

Paula Schenck, MS, MPH (1998) presented on "Indoor Exposures to Mold/Moisture and Human Health" on Wednesday, May 6 at UConn Health. The presentation was part of the Division of Occupational & Environmental Medicine's Colloquium Series.

Melissa Touma, MPH (2014) was appointed Program Coordinator, Quality Improvement & Performance Improvement for the Connecticut Department of Public Health... Congratulations to Melissa and her husband, Justin



Beaudreau, on their July 18 marriage in Danbury, CT.

With sadness we report the passing on March 16 of **Edith "Gay" Sudarsky, MPH (1981)** at age 92. Gay joined the MPH program when she was 58, and upon graduation assumed the position of director of the Greater Hartford Chapter of the American Cancer Society. She was active in community organizations, including Child and Family Services, West Hartford Children's Museum, Connecticut College, the Loomis-Chaffee School, the League of Women Voters, Bushnell Memorial, and many others. She and her husband Joseph Sudarsky created a golf tournament, which has now been running for 25 years, to benefit UConn cancer research. Her funeral was held in Hartford on March 18.

FACULTY NEWS

Our sincere condolences to **Jennifer Cavallari, ScD**, Assistant Professor, Division of Occupational, and Environmental Medicine, Department of Community Medicine, whose father passed away in early June. Our thoughts are with her.

Audrey Chapman, PhD, Professor of Community Medicine, presented a seminar on "Human Rights Requirements for Achieving Universal Health Coverage" for the UConn Human Rights Institute in Storrs on March 11. The event was co-sponsored by the Research Program on Economic and Social Rights (ESRG) and the Research Program on Global Health and Human Rights.

David Gregorio, PhD, MS, Professor of Community Medicine and Director of UConn Graduate Programs in Public Health, has been elected president-elect of the Association of Prevention Teaching and Research (APTR) for 2015-2016 and will serve as president in 2016-2018.

Julie Robison, PhD, associate professor in the UConn Center on Aging and co-instructor of the public health elective in gerontology, has received Fellow status from the Gerontological Society of America (GSA). The GSA is the world's oldest and largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to research, education, and practice in the field of aging. The GSA fellowship is an acknowledgment of Robison's outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology. She will be honored during the

Society's 68th Annual Scientific Meeting this November in Orlando, FL.

Helen Swede, PhD, Assistant Professor of Community, presented at UConn Health's Breast Program Medicine Research Conference on Friday, March 13. In a talk entitled "Emerging Concepts in Breast Cancer Outcome Disparities," she reviewed the long-term epidemiologic trends in survival disparities, persistent gaps in the literature, and novel hypotheses and recent findings from her research program on the impact of co-morbidities as an explanatory factor in disparate survival.

Joan Segal, Editor

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