

PUBLIC HEALTH HAPPENINGS

UCONN Program in Applied Public Health Sciences March, 2019

“Learning in deed, is learning indeed”

Results of a 2018 Strada-Gallup Alumni Survey confirms what John Dewey and many others already know; 6 aspects of supportive relationships and experiential learning stand out as critically important to a student’s satisfaction with their educational experience and their well-being later in life. The big 6 are:

- My professors cared about me as a person.
- I had at least 1 professor who made me excited about learning.
- I had a mentor who encouraged me to pursue my goals and dreams.
- I had a job or internship that allowed me to apply what I learned in the classroom.
- I worked on a project that took a semester or more to complete.
- I was active in extracurricular activities and organizations.

Neither an institution’s ranking nor the reputation of its faculty affected judgments about personal well-being, satisfaction with work lives or attachment to an alma mater, as much as a student’s experiences and relationships while in school. Graduates who answered yes to the first three questions above were 2-times more likely to report being engaged in their work and thriving in their well-being. An effect of similar magnitude was found with affirmative answers to the latter 3 questions. “When it comes to finding the secret to success, it’s not ‘where you go,’ it’s ‘how you do it’ that makes all the difference in higher education.¹

The Program in Applied Public Health Sciences continues its transition to a competency-based curriculum. Classroom sessions, to the extent they will occur, increasingly will be accompanied by problem-based learning and field experiences that reflect real world problems and the realities of public health practice. Recall of subject matter will be replaced by critical thinking needed in assessing and responding to the varied conditions that affect health of communities. Measures of success will rely less on examination (what students know) than demonstration (what students do). Students will be encouraged to assume personal frames of reference in choosing their path through and beyond this program, while faculty and community stakeholders, for their part, will seek meaningful and sustainable engagement with students as their advisors, mentors and eventually colleagues. If successful, UCONN’s Program in Applied Public Health Science will be recognized for its impact on student lives and our students, in turn, will be recognized for their impact on the community’s well-being. During the upcoming summer and fall sessions, we’ll be introducing new courses emphasizing practice-oriented activities. This summer, Greg Rhee is offering an applied research experience (Multivariate Analysis of Population Health Data) for students interested in the analysis of large public health data systems. In the fall, Darcy Costello will offer an intermediate statistics seminar (Multivariate Approaches to Interpreting Public Health Data) that focuses on real world data issues. David Gregorio is introducing an interdisciplinary practice opportunity (Systems, Strategies & Solutions – Interprofessional Service Collaborative) that will recruit up to 10 public health, law, social work, public policy or medical/dental students who will work collaboratively to develop systems-level public health interventions. Students selected for this initiative will enroll, tuition free, for 1 graduate credit per semester, receive a \$500 honorarium for each semester in which they participate, and be recognized by our program as Interprofessional Practice Scholars.

¹ Great Jobs Great Lives, the 2014 Gallup-Purdue Index Report, 2014, Washington DC: www.gallup.com.

In the days ahead, you're likely to be called upon for insight and investment in this undertaking. There is much to do and many opportunities in which to contribute. We trust you'll be ready to serve.

Welcome, Doug

Doug Brugge, formerly Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine at the Tufts School of Medicine, has joined us as Department Chairperson. Doug conducts research and teaching about occupational and environmental health and has an impressive record of research funded by multiple NIH institutes. Over the last decade, his primary focus has been on traffic-related air pollution and his work has entailed leading complex coalitions of university-based researchers and students, community-based organizations, government agencies and others. His approach to work reflects a sincere commitment to translating research into policy and practice. Doug is an experienced mentor of students and junior faculty members and his managerial style is VERY collaborative. He holds a Ph.D. in biology from Harvard University and an M.S. in industrial hygiene from the Harvard School of Public Health.

With Dr. Brugge's arrival, Tom Babor returns to the department faculty after an 18-year stint as Department Chair. We welcome Doug and say thanks to Tom for his many years of service.

2019 Summer & Fall Course Offerings

As warmer days arrive you can begin to consider summer and fall enrollment! The following is a list of courses, full descriptions and requirements will be available shortly. Stay tuned.

SUMMER 2019		
Course #	Course Name	Instructor
PUBH 5407	Practicum in Public Health	Brown
PUBH 5497	Multivariate Analysis of Population Health Data	Rhee
PUBH 5498	Field Experience in Public Health Systems	Brown
PUBH 5499	Capstone Project in Public Health	Gregorio
PUBH 5501	Foundations of Public Health and Disability	Lutz
Fall 2019		
Course #	Course Name	Instructor
Monday		
PUBH 5414	Health Economics	Rhee
PUBH 5431	Public Health Research Methods	McRee
PUBH 5440	Public Health Issues in Genetics	Swede
PUBH 5497	Principles of Interprofessional Public Health Practice	Bermudez-Millan
Tuesday		
PUBH 5202	Eliminating Social Inequity and Health Disparities	Brown
PUBH 5403	Health Administration	Mohamed-Abouh
PUBH 5497	Public Health Ethics	Chapman
Wednesday		
PUBH 5406	Law and Public Health	Lazzarini
PUBH 5432	SAS Programming and Data Management	Paturzo
PUBH 5477	Food, Health and Politics	Bermudez-Millan
PUBH 5497	Multivariate Approaches to Interpreting Public Health Data	Costello

Thursday		
PUBH 5408	Epidemiology/Biostatistics I	Wetstone
PUBH 5452	Injury and Violence Prevention	Lapidus
PUBH 5497	Global Health Promotion and Intervention	Ha
Variable days		
PUBH 5407	Practicum in Public Health	Brown
PUBH 5495	Independent Study in Public Health	Staff
PUBH 5497	Systems, Strategies & Solutions – Interprofessional Service Collaborative	Gregorio
PUBH 5498	Field Experience in Public Health	Brown
PUBH 5499	Capstone Project in Public Health	Gregorio
PUBH 6490	Public Health Doctoral Research Seminar	Babor
GRAD 5950	Master’s Thesis Research	Staff
Online		
PUBH 5478	Epidemiology of Substance Use Disorders & Psychiatric Co-Morbidities	Wu
PUBH 5480	Clinical & Social Service Systems Research in Alcohol & Addiction Science	Babor
PUBH 5501	Foundations of Public Health and Disability	Lutz
PUBH 5503	Disability Law, Policy, Ethics & Advocacy	Lutz

Public Health is a Public Good

In December, our department staff delivered mounds of toys to UConn’s Burgdoff Health Clinic. In February, Barbara Case and Vonnie Pawlukiewicz delivered 123 emergency sleeping bags to HPD Officer Jimmy Barrett of the City of Hartford for use by the homeless on behalf of the Department of Community Medicine and the Public Health Student Organization. Along with the sleeping bags, much-needed blankets and hoodies were delivered. Clothes and toys also were delivered by Barbara Case and Robin Odell to the Open Door Soup Kitchen in Winsted, CT. The impact of these efforts by students, staff and faculty cannot be overstated.

Statement on Professionalism and Academic Integrity

The Graduate School of the University of Connecticut and the Program in Applied Public Health Sciences view professionalism and academic integrity as essential elements of an effective practitioner. Professionalism and academic integrity are expected in all students enrolled in its classes. Academic integrity connotes honest, trustworthy, fair, respectful, responsible and moral action in interactions with faculty, staff, fellow students, community partners, others in the academic world and the population at-large.

Given the significance of this subject, it’s important that we recognize and avoid those activities and behaviors that constitute a breach of academic integrity. It occurs whenever

1. You plagiarize by using verbal, written, or visual representations of ideas, works, phrases, paragraphs, or entire documents that were the product of others as being your own work;
2. You submit the work of another person as your own and misrepresent that work product as the result of your sole, independent effort;
3. You accept and/or provide unauthorized assistance from others in completing quizzes, tests, or exams, or specific course assignments/projects;
4. You impede the scholarly performance of others by hindering their access to information to which they are otherwise entitled (e.g., removing or damaging shared educational materials, such as reserved textbooks), provide them false information regarding a course/program requirement, or foster distractions that undermine performance.
5. You fabricate background work and other resources as being authentic material;
6. You submit the same work product for more than one venue (i.e., course, publication, etc.) without the prior approval from each respective party involved;

7. You promote or engage in unethical activities related to the professional standards and practices of this program (i.e., expectations regarding internships, practica, externships, clinical field placements, etc.);
8. You claim title or status to which you are not entitled;
9. You undertake research activities that do not comply with the established university policies pertaining to the Use of Human and Animal Subjects;
10. You fabricate or falsify data used in the work you present;
11. You assist other student(s) in engaging in academic dishonesty;
12. You influence or attempt to influence through the use of bribery, threats, or any other means of coercion an administrator, faculty member, student, or staff person responsible for processing grades, evaluating student performance, or maintaining records;
13. You obtain, without permission, the content of an academic evaluative or testing material;
14. You fail to address others whom you suspect of being dishonest in their academic performance or interpersonal behavior;
15. You are unresponsive/uncooperative to the questions of others who suspect you of being dishonest in academic performance or interpersonal behavior.

Need a few dollars?

We are looking for individuals interested in supporting the teaching of our foundational courses on the Farmington and Storrs campuses. Compensation is \$5,000 for a semester long commitment as teaching assistant to Drs. Mohamed-Abouh (PUBH 5403 on either campus), Wetstone (PUBH 5408 on either campus), Bermudez-Millan (PUBH 5497 in Farmington) and McRee (PUBH 5431 in Farmington). Self-nominations are welcome, by forwarding a brief message to Holly Samociuk at samociuk@uchc.edu.

Know an exemplary student or colleague?

Nominations are open for *Delta Omega/Beta Rho*, public health's Honor Society. The Delta Omega Society and our Beta Rho Chapter recognize the academic and practice achievements of students, faculty, and public health professionals that have advanced our field. Nomination forms can be obtained by contacting Lisa Cook at: lcook@uchc.edu.

Alumni News: We extend our congratulations for always making a difference

- Dr. Fawatih Mohamed-Abouh ('16) has accepted a position as Community Epidemiologist, jointly supported by the Ledge Light Health District and Lawrence + Memorial Hospital of New London.
- SIHA (Social Intervention for Health Action), a public health initiative that aims to improve the lives of Muslim and Arabic speaking women who are recent immigrants to greater New Britain area, under the leadership of Dr. Fawatih Mohamed-Abouh ('16), is a recipient of the \$15,000 grant from the Community Chest of New Britain and Berlin.
- Lauren Davis ('14) is an Environment, Health and Safety Specialist at United Technologies Research Center, East Hartford, CT.
- Chelsey Hahn ('17) has accepted a position as Farm Educator at the 4-H Education Center at Auerfarm, Bloomfield, CT.
- Jess Hoag ('17), with Helen Swede and David Gregorio, is publishing a paper, "Serious Adverse Events in African American Cancer Patients with Sickle Cell Trait and Inherited Hemoglobinopathies in a SEER-Medicare Claims Cohort," in *British Journal of Cancer*.
- Kelley LaFleur ('15) has obtained the distinction of Diplomate of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, Certified Medical Nurse. Kelley also was a presenter at the Annual Meeting of the New England College Health Association.
- Jennifer Martin ('09) has accepted a position as Infection Control Practitioner at Hartford Hospital.
- Marco Palmeri ('17) was appointed Director, Bristol-Burlington Health District.
- Cindy Pileski ('05) has accepted a position as Regional Sales Director for the Northeast at Livongo.

- Susan Roman ('07) was promoted to Director of Care Coordination at CT Children's Medical Center, Hartford, CT.
- Haley Root ('17), with David Gregorio, is publishing a paper "Application of a Preventive Training Program Implementation Framework to Youth Soccer and Basketball Organizations" in *Journal of Athletic Training*.
- Morgan Spencer ('06) began her two-year term as President of the Connecticut Public Health Association.
- Jennifer Succi ('17) was recently elected CPHA President-elect.

Student News

2019 Match Day proved to be momentous for our MPH/MD candidates:

- Lauren Branche will begin an Obstetrics-Gynecology residency at UConn.
- Alexis Cordone will begin an Emergency Medicine residency at Yale.
- Yumi Kovic will begin a Psychiatry residency at UMASS.
- Daniel Madden will begin an Emergency Medicine residency at Baystate Medical Center.
- Richika Makol will begin a Pediatrics residency at LA Children's Hospital.
- Jessica Malcolm will begin a Pediatrics residency at Yale.
- Andria Matthews will begin a Family Medicine residency at UConn.
- Ye Sun will begin a Pediatrics residency at Montefiore Medical Center.

Faculty News

- Angela Bermudez-Millan will present her research, "Inflammation and stress biomarkers mediate the relationship between household food insecurity and insulin resistance among Latinos with type 2 diabetes," to the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Nutrition in June.
- Angela Bermudez-Millan, Bonnie McRee and Scott Wetstone were recently recognized by Craig Kennedy, University Provost for teaching excellence.
- Tom Babor is co-author of *Drug Policy and the Public Good* and *Setting Limits: Gambling, Science and Public Policy* (both with Oxford University Press).
- Toan Ha submitted a proposal (HIV Risk among Young Women Workers in the Industrial Zone in Vietnam) for funding by the National Institute of Mental Health and a K-Award application (Prevention of HIV among young women workers in the Industrial Zones of Vietnam) to the NIH.
- Zita Lazzarini and David Gregorio will present "The Design and Delivery of a Required University-Approved Certificate in Social Determinants of Health and Disparities for all UCONN Medical Students" at the 2019 Association for Prevention, Teaching and Research Annual Meeting.
- Joleen Nevers was on the planning committee and panelist for the Annual Meeting of the New England College Health Association.
- Greg Rhee's paper, "Association between Industry Payments to Physicians and Gabapentinoid Prescribing," will appear in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Public Health Practice Opportunities

Eastern Highlands Health District is recruiting a Community Health & Wellness Coordinator to lead the district's community health programs. Interested parties can apply online at www.mansfieldct.org.

The Connecticut State Department of Public Health offers internship experiences for students interested in public health careers. Information can be obtained at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DPH/Workforce--Professional-Development/WPD-Home/Student-Internships>.

The Ledge Light Health District is recruiting an Environmental Technician. Interested individuals can apply via email to smansfield@llhd.org and must submit a letter of interest, resume and the completed LLHD

Application for Employment, available at <http://ledgelighthd.org/assets/Files/Ledge%20Light%20Employment%20Application.pdf>).

Town of Windsor Health Department is looking for an undergrad/graduate student to work 31 hours a week from May thru August in the environmental health division. The new hire will be involved in code enforcement, inspection, mosquito control and program development, while working alongside the code enforcement inspector and health inspectors. There will also be periods throughout the summer in which work with the public health nurse and the health director will be required. An on-line application is available at www.townofwindsorct.com/human-resources.

Hartford HealthCare Medical Group is seeking a primary care office manager to be responsible for the organization and coordination of office operations, procedures and resources to facilitate organizational effectiveness and efficiency. Provides day-to-day operational, technical and problem-solving leadership on administrative matters including, but not limited to: patient flow, office operations, customer service, health insurance, billing/coding requirements, and EMR functionality and utilization. Supervises the administrative and clinical staff and practice operations including scheduling, work flow, service delivery and employee performance. Interest parties can apply through: <https://hartfordhealthcare.org/health-professionals/for-job-seekers>.

Keep in touch

You can visit our program website at: <https://health.uconn.edu/community-medicine/m-p-h-program/> or the Department of Community Medicine at: <https://health.uconn.edu/community-medicine/>. You can reach the program at 860-679-5470; the program Director, David Gregorio at (gregorio@uchc.edu) or Barbara Case at (bcase@uchc.edu).