

Careers, Research, International Health at the Forefront

Students Travel, Work in Haiti

Eleven MPH students in the Department of Global Health, accompanied by Associate Professor William F. Waters, PhD, recently returned from a week-long mission in Haiti. The team conducted participatory, community-based needs assessments and trained supervisory personnel in focus group discussion methodology. The team identified two priority areas needing immediate attention: drinking water and sanitation systems, and reproductive health. The team also observed local health promoters and met with Dr. Paul Farmer, founding director of Partners in Health.

Students on the team included Kaitlin Christenson, Michael Doney, Elizabeth Friedman, Kristin Harris, Ruth Long, Nida Parks, Dina Passman, Sara Marques, Bryan Schaaf and Izetta Simmons. GWUMC's International Medicine Programs supported the trip in collaboration with Project Medishare, an NGO based in Thomonde.

Project Medishare representatives had requested support from SPHHS for the town of Marmont, particularly in the construction and equipping of an outpatient clinic. The students have already raised more than \$1,000 for the effort and are now raising an additional \$3,000. The team also presented 44 pairs of eyeglasses donated from a 2004 GWUMC drive.

"Our time in Haiti is what public health work is about: involving the community and getting at the issues as they see them," says Simmons, who will return for a summer internship. "The Haiti trip was a life-changing experience," says Schaaf.

9 Quick Tips for Successful Abstracts

GWUMC's Annual Research Day is Friday, April 22. Abstracts are due **Monday, Feb. 14**. Following are some tips to ensure a successful abstract.

1. Abstracts convey what was done, how it was done, what was found and why it is important.
2. Step back from all the details. Focus on the most important aspects—the "pearls."
3. Consider the audience; what will get their attention?
4. Follow the requested format. For example, the Research Day abstract requests Project Objective, Methods, Results and Conclusions.
5. Use headings to make abstracts easier to follow.
6. Be extremely clear and concise.
7. Observe word limits.
8. Review the abstract: Does it answer the questions in tip #1?
9. Have other people read the abstract; ask them to answer the questions in tip #1.

The abstract form with criteria and instructions was distributed via the SPHHS Listserv. It is also available from sphjwm@gwumc.edu.

Career Workshops Give SPHHS Students an Edge

SPHHS is offering workshops in February:

- *The Art of Negotiating a Job Offer*, Wednesday, Feb. 16, Ross 224, 5-6 p.m.
- *Building Your Network*, Tuesday, Feb. 22, Ross 105, 5-6 p.m.
- *CV or Resume—Which One is Right for Me?!?!?*, Monday, Feb. 28, Ross 224, 5-6 p.m.

For details on other workshops, check out <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/info/springcampaign/>.

Network

The newsletter for and about the students, faculty and staff of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services, 2300 Eye Street, NW, Ross 106, Washington, DC 20037.

Network is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing for SPHHS; send questions and articles to mcmltdb@gwumc.edu; fax 202-994-8052.

A message from the dean

Uniquely located in the Nation's Capital, GW's SPHHS offers an academic program unmatched by any other school of public health. We are at the heart of activities, resources and decision-making that drive the future of public health and health services, with unparalleled opportunities to do work that will impact the health of millions worldwide. At GW, we are committed to providing the best possible learning experience for our students—real world, practical training and research opportunities at national and international health organizations; Capitol Hill; the National Institutes of Health; federal, state, and local health agencies; numerous healthcare systems; and a wide variety of health advocacy and health policy groups. In the classroom, in research and in community service, our students, our staff and our faculty truly reflect the School's new tag line: *SPHHS... the Capital Connection to a Healthier World.*

Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH



Meet the Dean!

Meet-and-Greet with Dean Ruth J. Katz, Tuesday, Feb. 8, 5-6 p.m., Levine Student Lounge.

Network with Alumni

5th Annual GW Student-Alumni Washington, DC Networking Night; co-presented with the Office of Alumni Programs; Wednesday, Feb. 23, 7-9 p.m., Marvin Center Grand Ballroom. This event brings GW students together with alumni representing a wide range of industries and professions to network and discuss career opportunities in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. GWorld ID required. Business attire requested. Light refreshments will be served. Students: RSVP to netnite@gwu.edu. Alumni should contact the Office of Alumni Programs.

Get In the Know

By signing up for the SPHHS Listserv, students will receive up-to-the-minute information on workshops, seminars, job opportunities, internships and more. Send a request to be added to Listserv along with your full name and gwu email to sphrak@gwumc.edu.

Save the date!

April 2—SPHHS International Night Show and Reception, 6-9:30 p.m., Jack Morton Auditorium, MPA Building. Become a part of the School, share performing arts talents representative of various countries. Contact Jim Miller for more details at sphjwm@gwumc.edu.

April 4-8—National Public Health Week. More details to follow in future issues of *Network*.

Student and Faculty Spotlight ... Kudos to

- Congratulations to the following SPHHS students on being selected for the Tauber Scholarship awards: Elizabeth Berard, MPH International Health Policy; Margaret Demeranville, MPH Health Promotion/Grad Cert Health Policy; Karyn Downie, MPH Health Policy; Jessica Eichelberger, PA/MPH Community-Oriented Primary Care; Abby Fairbank, MPH Health Promotion; Monica Garcia, MPH Maternal and Child Health; Stephanie Hart, MPH International Health Promotion; Melissa Honig, MHSA; Katherine Iossi, MPH Community-Oriented Primary Care; Rebekah Krampf, MPH Maternal and Child Health/Grad Cert Epidemiology; Andrea Maresca, MPH Health Policy; Jennifer Wallace, PA/MPH Maternal and Child Health.
- Martin Ruiz-Beltran, DrPH student, Global Health, and an officer in the U.S. Public Health Service, was recognized with a Joint Service Achievement Medal. The award was presented to Ruiz-Beltran while he was in Afghanistan.
- Jeffrey Levi, PhD, associate professor, Health Policy, and deputy director of the Center for Health Services Research and Policy, was selected as a research scholar by the GW Institute for Public Policy.
- Geoffrey Konopka, MPH (COPC) was selected to attend the Loma Linda University “Healthy People 2005” Symposium in March. He was awarded a travel scholarship to attend the symposium.
- Associate Dean Rebecca Parkin and Lisa Ragain, MPH, Epidemiology, recently published a book, *Risk Communication for Emerging Contaminants* through the American Water Works Association Research Foundation.
- Brian Biles, MD, MPH, professor of Health Policy, coauthored a Web-exclusive article for Health Affairs based on research funded by The Commonwealth Fund, *Medicare Advantage: Déjà vu All Over Again?*. The article analyzes the challenges facing the implementation of the Medicare Prescription Drug Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003. He also coauthored a December 2004 issue brief for The Commonwealth Fund, *The Cost of Privatization: Extra Payments to the Medicare Advantage Plans—2005 Update*. It is available at www.cmwf.org.
- Associate Dean John GH Palen, PhD, MPH, PA; Associate Professor Jeffrey Levi, PhD; Assistant Research Professor Sara Wilensky, JD; and Kaiser Family Foundation’s Jennifer Kates authored a policy brief, *Integrating HIV Prevention Services into the Clinical Care Setting in Medicaid and Ryan White CARE Act Programs: Legal, Financial and Organizational Issues*. It is available at www.kff.org.

Coming Up!

- **Feb. 8**—Health Information Partners (HIPS) will host a community forum on HIV, 4-6:30 p.m., Washington Highlands Library, 115 Atlantic Street, SW. HIPS is a community health information outreach coalition working to improve health literacy and overcome health information access disparities.
- **Feb. 9**—EOH Dept Seminar, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Ross Hall Room 643; John Balbus, MD, Environmental Defense; “Nanotechnology Innovations and Toxicology.”
- **Feb. 16**, EOH Dept Seminar, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Ross Hall Room 643—Stephanie St. Pierre, MDiv, American Indian Community House (NYC), “Health Ethics and Native Communities: PCBs in Mohawk Women and Children”
- **Feb. 16**, Health Policy Seminar, 6 p.m., GW Hospital Room 6121—Dr. Robert Wilensky, battalion medical officer in Vietnam, will be discussing his new book, *Military Medicine to Win Hearts and Minds: Aid to Civilians in the Vietnam War*.
- **Feb. 23**, EOH Dept Seminar, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Ross Hall Room 643—Chuck Engel, MD, MPH, Walter Reed Army Institute, “The history and characteristics of battle health syndromes.”
- **March 2**, EOH Dept Seminar, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Ross Hall Room 643—Tee L. Guidotti, MD, MPH, EOH/GW, “New American Thoracic Society (ATS) guidelines for noncancer asbestos pulmonary diseases.”
- **March 3**, Health Policy Seminar, 6 p.m., Marvin Center Room 403—Jack Geiger, MD, MSci. Hyg. ScD (hon), a pioneer in community health and advocate for civil and human rights, will speak about his personal and professional experiences.

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