

SPHHS Steps Forward to Lend Help

Tulane, LSU Students Come to GW

Turmoil and confusion were eased for 29 public health students displaced by Hurricane Katrina when SPHHS opened its doors. "We did it because it was the right thing to do," said SPHHS Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH, at a Sept. 15 reception for the students who chose to come to GW. GW has one of only 36 schools of public health in the country.

Many expressed relief that they're finally settled into school and can focus on their studies. As with other new students, Dean Katz presented each with an SPHHS "toolkit" representing the different areas of public health. Of the new students, 13 are pursuing Global Health, five are Epidemiology and Biostatistics majors, and the others are studying Health Policy, Environmental and Occupational Health, Health Services Management and Leadership, and Prevention and Community Health.

"Your determination to move forward and pursue your goals, despite the tremendous disruption that has occurred in your lives, speaks volumes about who you are and what you will be able to accomplish in the years ahead," Dean Katz told the students. On Sept. 26, GW's newest students met with the Assistant Dean from Tulane.

APHA Update

APHA Annual Meeting has been relocated to Philadelphia, December 10-14. Discounted registration fees will be accepted until November. The APHA Web site opened for housing accommodations on September 23. All previous reservations that were made for New Orleans will be transferred to a comparable hotel in Philadelphia.

On the Frontlines of a Disaster ...

The country has not previously faced the breadth of public health problems that Katrina will reap, according to **Alan Greenberg, MD, MPH**, Epidemiology and Biostatistics chair. Dr. Greenberg appeared on national media discussing the long- and short-term implications of the deadly storm.

Health dangers change as a storm crisis evolves, says Dr. Greenberg. Immediate threats include dehydration and malnutrition; enduring threats include any number of diseases, including cholera and salmonella, caused by exposure to tainted water and human waste. "The problem gets worse because the people who had the most trouble getting out of the area are children, the elderly and the poor. These are exactly the people who are most vulnerable to health threats."

Beverly Westerman, EdD, associate professor, Exercise Science, recently returned from her mission with Noah's Wish to provide animal rescues.

Brian Kamoie, JD, MPH, assistant professor, Health Policy, was featured in a *USA Today* article regarding the work of the U.S. Health and Human Services' operations center. Kamoie is a special assistant in the HHS Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and one of the staffers charged with manning the Op Center in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Richard Henry, an MPH-H Pol student, was pictured with Kamoie in the article. Henry is a senior public health preparedness advisor to HHS Secretary Michael Leavitt. He also assists in securing blood and blood products before, during and after emergencies.

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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 mcmlb@gwumc.edu; fax 202-994-8052.

Message from the Dean

The New Orleans disaster reminds us in many ways how much we are part of a larger world—wealthy and powerful though we may be, we are not immune to the forces of nature, nor to the frailties of social and political systems. Among some of the public health challenges we face: 45 million Americans have no health insurance, while health care costs continue to soar; global warming may spawn increasingly powerful natural disasters with devastating environmental impacts; HIV infection rates continue to rise; a billion people live without clean water; and, in our increasingly global society, infectious diseases such as avian flu or smallpox will respect no boundaries. To meet these challenges, we must reach not only across the disciplines of our own field, but also to colleagues in other sectors of society who have the same vested interest in a healthier world. Let us use the breathtaking scope of this disaster as inspiration to get moving on the pressing issues of the day.

Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH



Coming events ...

Oct. 12; PHSA General Meeting; 9 p.m., Ross Hall, second floor lounge.

Oct. 21-22; Colonials Weekend; Jon Stewart headlines a special event at the Smith Center at 7 p.m. (*this is an added performance*) and 10 p.m. (*this performance is sold out*), Oct. 21; Boston Pops Orchestra takes the Smith Center stage at 9:30 p.m., Oct. 22. For tickets: <https://gwired.gwu.edu/tickets/>.

Nov. 16-18, HSML Alumni Association Annual Fall Meeting; student mock interviews, Nov. 18, 9 a.m.-noon.

Nov. 17, 14th Annual Gibbs Oration, featuring Quint Studer, founder and CEO, Studer Group

Did you know ...

GWork offers current info on jobs and internships. Access **GWork** at <http://gwired.gwu.edu/career/StudentsAlumni/CareerPrep/bGWorkJobListings/>. Detailed instructions for using **GWork** can be found in the "GWork Quick Guide." **GWork** is free for GW students, and students must register online to use the system.

Register NOW for the CHES Exam

Become credentialed as a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). Take the test at GW. Request a CHES exam application by calling 1-888-624-3248 or visit www.nchec.org.



PHSA and The International Society of Health and Development's Sept. 10 Speaker Series event was featured in *The Standard*, one of East Africa's largest dailies. The event addressed gender issues and Kenya's new constitutional changes.

Erica Pearson, MPH '05, Health Pro, was selected as a DHHS *Emerging Leader*—she works at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Julie Krueger, MPH '05, MCH, was selected as one of two ASPH/NHTSA Fellows. Krueger will work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Emergency Medical Services Division in the Office of Research and Technology.

Richard Henry, MPH H Pol student, joined the Editorial Committee of *Public Health Reports* as a contributing editor.

Center for Health and Health Care in Schools (Julia Lear, PhD, director) was tapped to receive the 2005 Martin Ushkow Community Service Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on School Health. The Center also received a grant award from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to develop background papers that explore the roles of school nurses and school-based health centers in addressing childhood obesity.

Mark Edberg, PhD, associate professor, PCH, is the PI for a new \$2.3 million grant from the CDC. The grant is titled, "Primary Prevention Addressing Community Factors for Latino Youth Violence."

Susan Blake, PhD, associate research professor, PCH, is the PI for a grant to evaluate the U.S. HHS Women's Health BodyWorks Toolkit Program.

Marina Moses, DrPH, assistant research professor, EOH, was awarded a grant through the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics.

Ta-Shina Williams, MPH-HP student, was selected as a 2005 Barbara Jordon Health Policy Scholar through the Kaiser Foundation. The program provides talented minority students the opportunity to work on Capitol Hill. Williams is from New Orleans and was placed with Rep. John Lewis (D-GA).

Joel Teitelbaum, JD, LLM, associate professor and vice chair, Health Policy, presented "An Overview of Insurance Intoxication Exclusions: Implications for Law and Policy" at the American Psychological Association annual conference in August.

Phyllis C. Borzi, JD, MA, research professor, Health Policy, was elected as president of the American College of Employee Benefit Counsel.

Anne Markus, PhD, associate research professor, **Sara Rosenbaum**, JD, chair and **Harold and Jane Hirsh Professor of Health Law and Policy**, **Alexandra Stewart**, JD, assistant research professor, and **Marisa Cox**, MA, research associate, recently authored a report for The Commonwealth Fund titled "How Medical Claims Simplification Can Impede Delivery of Child Developmental Services." The report examines how federal regulations originally designed to streamline the healthcare system may unintentionally limit coverage for vital child developmental services.

Career Counseling Available

The SPHHS Office of Student Academic and Career Development Services can assist you with the following:

- Resume, Cover Letter Review
- Self-marketing Techniques
- Job Search Strategies
- Scheduling Mock Interviews
- Networking
- GWORKS Jobs Databank Information
- Alumni Informational Interviewing Program

For more information contact Jim Miller (sphjwm@gwumc.edu) or Mallory Boyd (sphmxb@gwumc.edu) or stop by Ross 221.

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SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
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On the Frontlines of a Disaster ...

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Laurel Cassidy, DrPH student, Health Behavior, coordinated the mental health response in Nashville, Tennessee for 6,000 evacuees. She continues to provide mental health services and coordination as a volunteer with the American Red Cross.

Tara Turner, MPH student, Epi/Bio, recently returned from Mississippi where she was part of a hospital support group. Turner is a pharmacy officer in the U.S. Public Health Service.

Kevin Prohaska, MPH H Pol student, was deployed to provide medical services at a Special Needs Center in Lafayette, Louisiana. Prohaska is with the Office of Human Research Protections, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.