

Network

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Welcome New and Returning SPHHS Students

Orientation Schedule Set

SPHHS faculty, staff and current students are excited about the new entering class and eager to meet new students at orientation! The lineup of orientation events is designed to introduce everyone to the School, the University and the Foggy Bottom area. Check the SPHHS Web site for the full schedule and locations—www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/sphhs_handbook/orient_convocation.html



Highlights—Monday, August 30

- 9 a.m.—*Dean's Welcome*: Have fun learning about your new classmates!
- 10 a.m.—*Jake Leg Epidemic*: Dr. John Morgan of the City University of New York will recap the scientific and social context of this epidemic. His engaging narrative will raise a spectrum of public health and health services issues that still apply today.
- 11 a.m.—*Departmental Breakout Sessions*: Get the essentials from Department faculty and discuss lessons from the *Jake Leg Epidemic* in the context of your discipline.
- 12:30 p.m.—Who can pass up a *free lunch*!?
- 2 p.m.—*Walking Tour*: Foggy Bottom and Georgetown
- 4 p.m.—*Himmelfarb Library Orientation*: Part 1, Library Tour
- 5 p.m.—*Meet-and-Greet*: Let your hair down at McFaddens, 2400 Pennsylvania Avenue. Sponsored by the student associations. (*FYI: see page 3 for a listing of SPHHS student groups.*)

Highlights—Tuesday, August 31

- 3 p.m.—*Frequently Asked Questions*: Get answers from those in the know!
- 4 p.m.—*Departmental Open Houses*: Visit department offices and get to know faculty, staff and other students. Himmelfarb staff will also be on hand to give Part 2 of the *Library Orientation*, tailored to each area of study.
- 6 p.m.—*New Student Inauguration*: Dean Ruth J. Katz will induct incoming students into the Public Health and Health Services professions with a symbolic gift. *This is a not-to-be-missed event!* A reception also follows.

Choose the Date

Library Orientation, Part 3: Conducting Research. Students are encouraged to attend one of the following sessions held in the Himmelfarb Library in the third-floor Women's Board Teaching Classroom.

- Tuesday, September 7, 5 p.m.
- Wednesday, September 8, 6:15 p.m.
- Monday, September 13, 5 p.m.
- Thursday, September 16, 6:15 p.m.

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. (ag)

A message from the dean

With the beginning of the new academic year, I am excited to see both new and familiar students' faces frequenting SPHHS classrooms and offices in Ross Hall, Building K, 2175 K Street, 2021 K Street and 2300 M Street! Though the SPHHS community is spread out geographically within the Foggy Bottom area, we are united in our recognition of the complex health problems facing our global society, in our commitment to embrace equitable and population-based prevention strategies and in our passion to better our world. There is no better time to pursue a public health education than now, and no better place to pursue this training than at GW's School of Public Health and Health Services. On behalf of the faculty and staff, I welcome you and wish you a stimulating and successful academic year.

Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH



Jessica Joy Federer in Oxford

At The George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services, anything is possible! I discovered this for myself by spending two terms at Oxford University in the beautiful but usually rainy city of Oxford. I spent my days in the old Bodlian Library and sat in the same pubs as famous figures like Tolken, Lewis and even Clinton. Joining the fencing and pistol club added to the excitement—I even managed to win a floor debate at the historic Oxford Union.

I arrived home in St. Louis just in time to help out with my dad's campaign for U.S. Congress. And, to add a little fun to my summer, I found time to put together and publish a children's book. Now that I am back home at the marvelous GW SPHHS, I will be working at the President's Council on Bioethics while I am finishing up my senior year. I cannot thank the SPHHS enough for their tremendous support and encouragement—they truly helped me achieve my dreams. ♡

Jessica Joy Federer is a BSPH student.

Mike Phillips in France

This summer I went to Beaune, France, and visited what is considered the first hospice. It was pretty dramatic to go back in time to a place that is now a museum of medicine. The methods and instruments used then are so archaic by today's measures that it reminded me of an old *Star Trek* movie. In the movie, the starship medicine man, Bones, takes a jaunt back in time to what we know as present-day Earth and is appalled at the state of medical technology.

The syringes alone would have made me feel well enough to drag myself away—they were the size of horse darts. I cannot imagine being speared by one of those things—it made me think about how far we've come. It's a great summer when you see things that are new, have some wine down along the Seine and get closer to your overall goals. This time next summer, I'll be a graduate and hopefully off to save the world—or at least part of it. ♡

Mike Phillips is an MPH student in Environmental and Occupational Health.

Yadira Almodóvar-Díaz in Nicaragua

From July 31 until August 11, I had the opportunity to participate in a reforestation and environmental health education program for youth and young adults in San Francisco Libre, Nicaragua. The program was coordinated in partnership with a United Methodist-funded and missionary-supported program called *Mujer y Comunidad* (Women and Community) and Foundry United Methodist Church in Washington, DC. The purpose of the program was to raise awareness and to develop participants' skills to manage the natural resources of the region in a sustainable manner.

Some of the activities we conducted included reforestation of urban areas, trash collection, rehabilitation of parks and group discussions/analyses based on environmental and economic challenges. The program also provided scholarships for disadvantaged youth and young adults pursuing their secondary education or their university career in exchange for their work in the reforestation project. For me it was a great opportunity to learn firsthand about the culture and history of Nicaragua as well as to share my knowledge and experience in the public health field with the Nicaraguan community. ♡

Yadira Almodóvar-Díaz is an MPH student in Global Health Promotion.



Student and Faculty Spotlight ...

Kudos to

- Mary Lynn McKeon (MPH student in IHPP) was selected by the Homeland Security Institute for its graduate internship program
- Dara Barnett and Lisa Lockwood, BS 2004, successfully passed the National Athletic Trainers' Association Board of Certification exam
- Jennifer Breedlove (MPH student in EOH) began a fellowship with the National Center for Health Statistics sponsored by the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
- Dr. Patricia Sullivan has been named director of the BS in Public Health program
- Dr. Rick Boyd has been named director of the DrPH program
- Dr. Beverly Westerman has been promoted to associate professor, Exercise Science
- Dr. Ellen Schulken has been promoted to adjunct associate professor, Exercise Science
- Dr. Ann Hsing has been promoted to adjunct professor, Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Congratulations to the HSML students placed in the following residency locations: Presbyterian Homes (PA), Washington Hospital Center (DC), Mt. Washington Pediatric Hospital (MD), Bayview Medical Center of The Johns Hopkins University (MD), Children's National Medical Center (DC), Meriter Health System (WI), Sutter Health (CA), St. Mary's-Group Practice (MD), Mt. Vernon-Cardiology (DC), Greater Southeast Hospital (DC), Children's Hospital-Austin (TX), National Lutheran Home (MD), Hunter Homes McGuire Virginia Medical (VA), Montefiore Medical Center (NY), Virginia Hospital (DC), Medical Faculty Associates (DC) and Potomac Hospital (VA)



New Program at SPHHS

The WellFit program will open August 30. This new program is a healthy lifestyle and physical activity program for adults of all fitness abilities, and is sponsored by the Department of Exercise Science.

WellFit offers professional services designed to enhance well-being through exercise, behavior modifications and stress management. Areas of focus include heart health, menopause and weight management. WellFit is targeted toward University employees, with an outreach component for the surrounding community. For further information, please contact Alex Dickman at 202-994-1424.



Carmella Peoples in Africa

Together we are 12 volunteers from all around the U.S. who have come here to work in Africa. How do I begin to explain the extreme poverty which many people face ... or the home visit we made to an HIV positive woman ... leaving her 12-year-old son as yet another AIDS orphan ... or the process of walking 45 minutes through Arusha in the afternoon heat ... where poverty and hunger is a normal part of many people's day. It's a daily struggle and a valuable experience.

Our teaching is to the local community. We have gone over and over the fact that you can't catch HIV by shaking hands or from mosquitoes and, by the third day, I think people were getting it. Others have asked very intelligent questions that have stumped me and sent me home to research a bit more for the next day—I'm learning so much.

One day we had a condom demonstration. While the church leaders would not allow us to use the church, we were able to use a fallen-down building next door. The pastor agreed with us that education is important and we found a way to compromise and he was very helpful in dividing the group into young girls, older women and then the men.

While we have faced amazing challenges and are touched in so many ways, we must walk away with a sense of pride for, in being here, we are working to change things. ♡

Carmella Peoples, MPH '04, was in the Maternal and Child Health track.

Don't Miss APHA Meeting

The American Public Health Association will host its 132nd annual meeting and exposition Nov. 6-10 in Washington, DC. GW is the host school. The meeting will feature a career mart where employers will interview job candidates on site. Erin Brockovich will keynote. Deadline for early registration is **AUGUST 27**. Visit www.apha.org.



Bryan Schaaf, Neely Dahl, Adam Benzing, Sonbol Shahid-Salles and Martha Wood in Haiti

GW's first joint public health/medical mission to the Dominican Republic and Haiti this summer laid the foundation for a formal relationship. Prior to leaving, public health and medical school students raised funds with which to buy all needed medicines.

The first week was spent with the Batey Relief Alliance in the Dominican Republic. Severe flooding had occurred in the previous month ... thousands perished and Haitians were disproportionately affected. We were asked to provide flood relief in a border town named Jimani—Haitians are stigmatized for the color of their skins as well as their African-influenced culture and language. After the flooding, Haitians were placed in refugee camps surrounded by armed guards and razor wire. Working in the refugee camps was a good opportunity for our participants.

After our work in Jimani was finished, our final destination in Haiti was the province of Thomonde. Project Medishare and Partners in Health worked side by side with community groups to create a solid healthcare infrastructure in the early 2000s, but neighboring provinces with weak healthcare systems now flood Thomonde with patients.

We were asked to work with Marmont, a poor province, to improve its system. Public health students had the opportunity to shadow health agents for the directly observed therapy teams which have all been a resounding success. There were also opportunities to go over health-related community data with administrators and explore opportunities for future public health programs. There were also daily discussions with Haitian staff about the cultural influences on patient-provider interactions.

In the end, participants saw more than 1,500 patients and added to their knowledge of public health and medicine. The new relationship between GW and Project Medishare will help to bring much needed services to the people of Marmont and, in the process, protect the sustainability of the healthcare infrastructure in Thomonde. Whether you are a public health student or a medical student, you can help make this happen—consider participating in the next such trip to Haiti. ♡

Bryan Schaaf (author) and Adam Benzing are MPH students, Global Health; Neely Dahl, Sonbol Shahid-Salles and Martha Wood all are MPHs '04, Global Health.



SPHHS-Related Student Associations

- SPHHS Advocacy Committee—Contact Rebecca Simon, rsimon@gwu.edu
- Health Services Management and Leadership Student Association (HSML SA)—President Jay Higgins, jhig7@gwu.edu; Vice President Julie Miller, jjmiller@gwu.edu; Secretary and HSMP SA listserv contact Emily Hyland, ehyland@gwu.edu; Treasurer Brian Baker, bbaker@gwu.edu; Professional Development Kelly Schirmer, kelly313@gwu.edu; and Social Chair Mike Cinkala, mcinkala@gwu.edu
- DrPH Student Association—Co-Presidents Tasmeen Singh, tasmeen@gwu.edu, and Chaya Merrill, cmerrill@gwu.edu
- Exercise Science Majors Club—Co-Presidents Erika Herman, eherman@gwu.edu, and Wendi Hausfeld, wendi@gwu.edu
- Interdisciplinary Student Community Patient Education Service (ISCOPES)—improving healthcare through service learning; contact Beth Alexander, ISCOPES@gwu.edu, 202-994-3089
- Public Health Student Association (PHSA)—President Lacy Fehrenbach, lacyf@gwu.edu; Vice Presidents Nisha Branch, nnbranch@gwu.edu, and Nisha Sachdev, nasachde@gwu.edu; Secretary Nancy Shieh, nshieh@gwu.edu; Treasurer David Escobar, descobar@gwu.edu; Alumni Liaison Jen Phillips, jenphill@gwu.edu.

Save the date!

SPHHS Convocation

• September 22

(Wednesday)

- 6:15 p.m., doors open
- 6:30 p.m., convocation begins
- Jack Morton Auditorium, Media and Public Affairs (MPA) Building
- Dr. William Waters, Department of Global Health, Keynote Speaker

The SPHHS Convocation program is an annual event that brings together all of the School's students, faculty and staff. A reception will immediately follow the Convocation at the MPA Building, 805 21st Street, 2nd floor art gallery. Classes will be suspended during this time so that ALL SPHHS students may attend this important event.

Did you know?

Tips for SPHHS students

- Subscribe to the SPHHS listserv, email sphrak@gwumc.edu
- Attend the APHA annual meeting and career mart (see page 2 for details)
- Take advantage of career development services which offer resume and cover letter reviews. Call Mallory Boyd at 202-994-2632 to set an appointment.



Opportunities

Student Assistance Needed

Local public health agencies and related organizations need student assistance in many areas of data gathering and analysis, training, community outreach, working with ethnic populations and more.

These opportunities include potential special projects and internships. Students interested in experiences at the local level should contact their faculty advisor or special project director. They will work with the dean's office to determine where a match may be made.

SOPHE/CDC Fellowship Available

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control is accepting applications for a one-year fellowship (beginning November 2004) designed to assist and train students in either unintentional injury or violence prevention. Fellows will work at their own institutions on research or practice-based projects that consider unintentional injury prevention or violence prevention from the perspective of health education or behavioral science. For further information, including stipend details, visit www.sophe.org, click on *about SOPHE*; go to *awards and scholarships*; and scroll to the middle of the page; or call Eleanor Dixon-Terry at 202-408-9804.

NCI Paid Internship Deadline Nears

The National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland offers paid six-month internships in the areas of health communications and science writing. These internships provide students who are completing their Master's or Doctorate degrees with an opportunity to be a part of vital health and science communications projects. Visit <http://internship.cancer.gov>. The deadline is **September 15** to apply for the January-June 2005 session.

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.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND HEALTH SERVICES



Coming Up!

Seminars

- **August 26**—Dr. Guohua Li, Emergency Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, "Age-Period-Cohort Modeling," 2:30 p.m., GW Hospital 6116. (Epi-Bio)
- **September 8**—Aaron Blair, PhD, NCI, "What is the future of occupational cancer epidemiology research?" 4:30 p.m., Ross 643. (EOH)
- **September 15**—Celeste Monforton, MPH, EOH Dept "Was It an Accident Waiting to Happen?—Using Enforcement Data from Coal Mine Inspections to Identify High-Risk Mines," 4:30 p.m., Ross 643. (EOH)
- **September 22**—Suzanne Proctor, MSPH, NCHS/CDC "Environmental Health Objectives Linked to Healthy People 2010," 4:30 p.m., Ross 643. (EOH)
- **September 29**—Judith Thiery, DO, MPH, Indian Health Service, "Maternal & Children's Health: Perspective of the Environment among American Indians and Native Alaskans," 4:30 p.m., Ross 643. (EOH)
- **October 6**—Margaret (Meg) T Burch, MS, ENVIRON Corporation Health Sciences Institute, "Quality-Based Critical Review of the Epidemiology of Silica, Silicosis, Smoking and Lung Cancer," 4:30 p.m., Ross 643. (EOH)

Saturday, September 11

7:30 a.m.-5:15 p.m.; *Mid-Atlantic Conference on Children's Health and the Environment*, GW's Marvin Center

Topics of discussion will include: asthma, bioterrorism, indoor air quality and school environmental health, mercury, environmental influences and neurocognitive outcomes, and the resources of a pediatric environmental health specialty unit. Full conference information is available at www.health-e-kids.org, or contact Nonye Harvey at 202-994-1166 or eohceu@gwumc.edu

Sunday, October 3

Student march against AIDS, National Rally for Decisive Global Action; students plan to join together in a global day of action to end AIDS

- 11 a.m.—Rally at the Capital;
- 11:45 a.m.—March to the White House
- 12:45 p.m.—Arrive at the White House
- 1 p.m.—Rally at the White House