



University of Connecticut

Public Health Happenings

The official electronic newsletter of the
University of Connecticut, Master of Public Health Program

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“We are now living in a new world of unique challenge and also unique opportunity for those committed to public health. The need for improvement and maintenance of public health must now be recognized, advocated and achieved by all policy-makers and decision-takers.”

The Istanbul Declaration, 12th World Congress on Public Health, April 27-May 1, 2009.

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ON NETWORKING AND ENGAGEMENT

Recently we read that 80% of the positions jobseekers find are unadvertised. How do people find them? Networking is the usual the answer. This program offers ample opportunities to network. Many students in our classes are working in the public health community, so they make great contacts. Our alumni comprise a huge pool of public health professionals, most working in Connecticut but many in other nearby states and literally throughout the country. (At one time we had three UConn grads working in the Hawaii Department of Public Health!) Some alumni are at the CDC and NIH, while others are working internationally.

Besides our students and alumni, we have a network of public health practitioner friends in a variety of public health agencies, from the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, and other state entities to local health departments, insurance and pharmaceutical companies, and local nonprofit agencies. Faculty also offer a wealth of experience and contacts and are happy to share this with their students. The program makes ample use of outside faculty for the more applied practice courses, and they too are an excellent source of information on “the real world.”

There are other ways to connect and become involved. We encourage students to participate in our active Public Health Student Organization. Sometimes it is harder for part-time students to engage in its activities, but this is a great way to make strong connections with your classmates and to make your overall experience at UConn more enjoyable and meaningful. The program also encourages students to become involved in program governance. Each of our committees—Advisory Committee, Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, Admissions Committee, and Community Partnership Committee—has active student membership. We encourage student participation and input—we really do want to know what is on your mind.

Finally, a major thrust of our program is the development leadership skills. We encourage and challenge students to become involved in organizations such as the Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA)—not only because one of us is currently the president but also for what it can do for career development and networking. The association offers internships in policy development and advocacy each year, and for other ad hoc projects such as teaching high school students about potential careers in public health. There are also opportunities to hone your presentation skills by participating in poster sessions at CPHA's annual meeting. (Last year over 60 Southern Connecticut MPH students attended the annual meeting; it would be terrific to have a greater UConn turnout at this year's conference on October 23.

At the national level, the American Public Health Association offers many avenues for leadership development through its Student Assembly (see below). There are many other ways to participate: through sections, interest groups, or caucuses; presentation of papers and posters of your work; and membership on one of the many governance committees. One of our alumni, Lynn Abrahamson, is currently chair of one of the major APHA committees (see alumni section of newsletter).

We hope you have a wonderful semester. We welcome all new public health students, we are delighted to be working again with continuing students, and we look forward to working with many of our alumni and community partners on the many pressing public health issues that concern us all.

Best wishes,

David I. Gregorio, PhD, MS
Director

Joan Segal, MA, MS
Associate Director

CONVOCATION FOR NEW PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENTS

The 2009 Convocation for incoming public health students (MPH and PhD) was held on Thursday evening, August 27, at 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Massey Auditorium, UCONN Health Center. **Rafael Perez-Escamilla, PhD** gave the keynote address, "Public health nutrition theory to practice: Is there any other way to make a difference?"



Dr. Pérez-Escamilla is Professor of Epidemiology and Director, Office of Community Health, Yale School of Public Health. Until recently he was a Professor of Nutritional Sciences and Public Health at the University of Connecticut. He is also Director and Principal Investigator (PI) for the Connecticut NIH EXPORT Center of Excellence for Eliminating Health Disparities among Latinos (CEHDL), and former Director and PI of the USDA-funded Hispanic Family Nutrition Program. He received his MS in Food Science and his PhD in Nutrition from the University of California at Davis. His public health nutrition, food security, and health disparities research work has taken him all over the world. He has been a senior advisor to community nutrition programs as well as household food security measurement projects funded by prestigious international organizations.

Dr. Pérez-Escamilla was recently appointed to the Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Sciences Pregnancy Weight Gain Guidelines Committee, and to the USDA/DHHS 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. He also serves in the Board of Trustees of the Pan American Health and Education Foundation (PAHEF). Dr. Pérez-Escamilla has been a major advisor to 30 masters and doctoral students from all over the world and has been the

research thesis mentor of five undergraduate honors students. He has published 95 research articles and over 200 conference abstracts, book chapters, and technical reports. A nationally and internationally recognized scholar, he has received numerous professional recognitions and awards as a result of his major contributions to his field of work.



Chenekwu Obidoa, MPH, MS welcomed the new doctoral students. Ms. Obidoa is a current candidate for a PhD in public health, with a concentration in social and behavioral health sciences. Chichi is no stranger to graduate programs at UConn. In addition to receiving her MPH from UConn in 2005, she earned a masters degree in Geography (2003). In 2007, she received a master's degree in International Studies from Central Connecticut State University.

While she was a student in the UCONN MPH program, Chichi was selected as a Maternal and Child Health Fellow in the APHA and also as a New Investigator in Global Health by the Global Health Council. She is an international student from Nigeria. Her dissertation examines the impact of social change on adolescents in Nigeria. Her study seeks to examine how Nigerian adolescents negotiate popular youth culture and their traditional cultures and the resulting impact of their orientation to these cultures on their sexual behaviors. This study is part of the research response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Nigeria, and seeks to add to the knowledge on the social factors that contribute to HIV/AIDS risk among Nigerian youth.

The MPH alumni speaker was **Thomas Buckley, MPH, RPh**. Tom has a long-standing relationship with UCONN, having received both his pharmacy and public health degrees from the university. In 2008 he became Assistant Clinical Professor in the School of Pharmacy, with responsibility for developing and coordinating a Public Health & Healthcare Policy course, serving as co-coordinator of the Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experiential program, and precepting the public health clinical rotation. We expect Tom to play a key role in the new PharmD/MPH program that we are developing with the School of Pharmacy.

Prior to his faculty appointment at UCONN, Tom was a Medical Outcomes Specialist with Pfizer Inc. (1999-2008). From January to April 2008, he worked at the Mae Tao Clinic, Mae Sot, Thailand as a Pfizer Global Health Fellow. This clinic on the Thai/Burma border serves Burmese refugees fleeing Burma (Myanmar) or displaced within Thailand. However, his work with the Southeast Asian population began even before that. From 2007 to present, he has served as Clinical Consultant & Evaluator for Khmer Health Advocates in West Hartford, CT.

Fall 2009 CURRICULUM UPDATES

While we have had to cancel GIS and Health Informatics this fall, we are adding one of our assessment electives, **Applied Regression Analysis**, on Mondays, 5:30-8:30.

Joe Sheehan, PhD, the instructor, has provided an overview of the course:

The world of medicine and public health can be described as “data rich and information poor”. This course is designed to prepare professionals who can extract information from existing data. Such a complex ability requires the following skills: an ability to create a conceptual model, translate the conceptual model to a statistical model, apply the model to data, test the assumptions underlying the model, compare alternative models, and interpret findings.

The focus of this graduate level course is on the analysis of multivariate data both observational and experimental. The outcome we wish to model can be measured on a continuous or categorical scale. If the outcome, the dependent variable, is measured on a continuous scale, such as body weight or blood pressure, the method of choice is multiple regression analysis. If the dependent variable is categorical, dead or alive, we use either logistic regression analysis or survival analysis.

Regression Analysis is the most common method of analyzing observational data. The course guides the student through the mathematical derivation of models, and provides skills to analyze underlying assumptions, to assess model fit, and to interpret results using observational as well as experimental data....

A copy of the syllabus is available from bcase@nso.uchc.edu.

PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ORGANIZATION PICNIC



Public health students in all programs (MPH, PhD, and Certificate) are invited to get together with faculty and staff for an afternoon of fun and food on Sunday, September 13, 12:00-5:00 p.m., at Winding Trails Recreation Center in Farmington. Friends and family are invited as

well. The price of \$15 per person includes food, soda and water (please feel free to BYOB and to come with a favorite side dish).

CALL FOR STUDENT POSTERS

The Connecticut Public Health Association (CPHA) is committed to creating opportunities for public health students. Accordingly, the Association is pleased to invite UConn MPH and PhD students, as well as other UConn students in related fields, and recent (2008/2009) graduates, to participate in a **Student Poster Session** at this year's Annual Meeting of CPHA, titled, *Protect, Promote, Prevent: Think Globally, Act Locally* on October 23, 2009 at Aqua Turf in Southington. Posters may showcase research, a community project, or a unique academic experience.

The posters will be displayed throughout the day, with specific times for presenters to explain details of their presentations. Poster presenters are asked to be at their posters during the registration period, and during the morning and afternoon breaks. Students interested in participating must complete a poster submission form by **September 25**. Those who wish to participate should email Manina.Zachary@ct.gov as soon as possible since space is limited. Questions may be directed to Manina Zachary at the above address or at (860) 509-7730. The submission form is available from M. Zachary, or from Barbara Case or Joan Segal in the MPH program office.

NOTE: *Last year the largest number of submissions came from public health students at Southern Connecticut State University. This year, let's show our HUSKY spirit and spotlight the excellent work being done in public health by UCONN students.....J. Segal, Associate Director.]*

PAID EPIDEMIOLOGY INTERSHIPS

The Epidemiology Program at the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) expects to receive federal funding for H1N1 activities that includes support for a couple of MPH students to work part time at DPH beginning as early as September. Interested MPH students should contact Matthew L. Cartter, MD, MPH, State Health Department at matt.cartter@ct.gov. (Suggestion: include resume and cover letter.)

DPH GENOMICS INTERNSHIP

The **DPH-Genomics Office (DPH-GO)** has identified a need to serve as an online resource for the many and varied genomics-related trainings, presentations, and webinars currently available for allied health, affected families, and the public. Many such resources are available on the web, yet are difficult to locate, are not valid, or are not from credible, reliable sources.

An intern is sought who, with direction from DPH-GO staff, would undertake a research, validation, and cataloguing effort that would result in an up-to-date, credible list of online genomics-related resources for posting on the DPH genomics website.

DPH-GO is located in the DPH Planning Branch and is staffed by Beverly Burke, Genomics Coordinator, and Joan Foland, Genomics Epidemiologist. DPH-GO has adopted as its mission: *To promote the responsible and effective translation of current and emerging genome-based information into health benefits for the population of Connecticut.* Activities involve education and outreach, macro-level research, surveillance, and policy

development on topics such as newborn screening expansion, family health history, and direct-to-consumer marketing of genetic testing.

If interested, contact [Kristin L. Sullivan](#), Section Chief, Workforce and Professional Development, CT Department of Public Health, 410 Capitol Avenue, MS #13 PWD, Hartford, CT 06134, (860) 509-7126.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH INTERNSHP

Central CT Health District is offering an unpaid internship for the fall 2009 semester. This is an excellent opportunity to learn how a local health department operates and to work on revising and updating the annual community health report. Applicants should have the following skills and characteristics:

1. Computers – Microsoft Office including Word, Publisher, and Excel
2. Excellent written and oral communication skills
3. Outgoing and likes to work in the community setting
4. Basic knowledge of epidemiology and research

If you are interested, please call Hilary Norcia at (860) 665-8571 or email a cover letter with resume to hnorcia@newington.gov.

STUDENT HELP WANTED: SPANISH SPEAKING

Drs. Julie Wagner and Mary de Groot are piloting an intervention to treat depression in Latinos with diabetes. The intervention combines CBT and exercise. Part of the protocol entails weekly phone contacts to support adherence to the CBT and exercise interventions. They are in need of a Spanish speaking person who has the basic clinical and interpersonal skills for these weekly phone contacts. The student's role on the project would likely start in January 2010. With five subjects participating across 12 weeks for approximately 20 minutes per phone call, plus some supervision, it is estimated that the commitment would require no more than 30 hours of work spread out over the course of the spring and summer of 2010.

While this is an unpaid position, the study directors could arrange to buy the student books, or something else that would be of benefit to him/her. There is also authorship potential for a poster or oral presentation on which Drs. Wagner and de Groot would be the main authors.

If you are interested, please contact Julie Wagner, PhD, Associate Professor, Division of Behavioral Sciences and Community Health, UConn Health Center, (860) 679-4508, juwagner@uchc.edu.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY: GLOBAL IMPACT CORPS

Unite For Sight's Global Impact Corps is an immersive global health experience for students and for professionals. All volunteers participating in Unite For Sight's international programs are Global Impact Fellows. They participate daily with local ophthalmic nurses, local optometrists and local ophthalmologists to support and assist the clinic in outreach programs that reduce all of the barriers to health care, including financial, transportation and education barriers.

Through hands-on, structured training, volunteers gain a comprehensive understanding about best practice principles in volunteerism, global health and international development. Global Impact Fellows gain skills and receive nurturing to become new leaders in international health. Additionally, the Fellows may participate in the Global Impact Lab, an optional program for volunteers interested in pursuing global health research. The online application and comprehensive details about the year-round programs in Ghana, Honduras and India can be seen at www.globalimpactcorps.org.

APHA'S STUDENT ASSEMBLY

Are you looking for opportunities to network with other students and young professionals from around the country? Would you also like to gain leadership experience through national initiatives? Then, the American Public Health Association (APHA) Student Assembly is seeking your participation.

The APHA Student Assembly (APHA-SA) is the largest student-led organization dedicated to furthering the development of students, the next generation of professionals in public health and health-related disciplines. The APHA-SA represents and serves students of public health and other health-related disciplines by connecting individuals who are interested in working together on public health and student-related issues. The Assembly aims to enhance students' professional development by providing resources, fostering diversity, and promoting opportunities.

By joining the APHA as full-time student members, students automatically become Assembly members and have access to all of its membership benefits, including access to the National Mentoring Database, publishing opportunities, advocacy training and experiences, reduced registration for APHA's Annual Meeting (which will be held in Philadelphia on November 7-11 this year), subscription to the ASPH-SA listserv, and ability to participate in community work. Committees (a total of 13) range from Action (advocacy) to Development (grant writing) to Opportunities. Students can select their scope of participation, from joining a committee to becoming a committee leader or even to running for the position on the Executive Board.

The APHA-SA listserv is used to disseminate information, resources, and opportunities that are student-specific. Students receive information about APHA, APHA-SA, and national initiatives, such as National Public Health Week and the Get Ready Campaign. Through the listserv, students also receive updates on research, leadership, funding, and career opportunities. Members in turn can utilize the listserv to announce opportunities or conferences/meetings that would be of interest to other student members.

If you would like to have a student voice and participate in APHA-SA through activities within its committees or various initiatives, consider joining the American Public Health Association. Your student membership will give you access to opportunities to help you to succeed in your educational career, as well as prepare you for your career path. For more information on APHA-SA, visit <http://www.apha.org/memborgroups/students/>. To join APHA, visit <http://www.apha.org/about/membership/>. If you have any questions, please contact Kristy A. Siegel, Chair of Student Assembly, at chair@aphastudents.org.



JOIN THE EPIDEMIC INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

Become a disease detective through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). The EIS is a two-year, postgraduate program of service and on-the-job training for health professionals interested in the practice of epidemiology.

Each year, the EIS provides about 90 individuals from around the world with the opportunity to gain hands on experience in epidemiology at the CDC or state or local health departments.

Officers in the EIS have gone on to occupy leadership positions at CDC and other public health agencies nationally and internationally. The experience and population health perspective gained are invaluable for any physician or health professional, regardless of career path.

Persons with a strong interest in applied epidemiology who meet at least one of the following qualifications may apply to EIS:

- Physicians with ≥ 1 year of clinical training;
- Persons with a PhD, DrPH, or other doctoral degree in epidemiology, biostatistics, the social or behavioral sciences, natural sciences or the nutrition sciences;
- Dentists, physician assistants and nurses with an MPH or equivalent degree; or
- Veterinarians with an MPH or equivalent degree or relevant public health experience.

Applications are now being accepted for the July 2010–June 2012 EIS Program. The deadline is **September 15, 2009**. Information about the new online application and EIS program details are available at www.cdc.gov/eis/ApplyNow.html; by telephone (404-498-6110); or by E-mail at EIS@cdc.gov.

POSITION AVAILABLE: COMMUNITY COORDINATOR AT UCONN

The Center for Public Health and Health Policy and the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities at the University of Connecticut's Storrs Campus are accepting applications for a **Public Health/Public Service Learning Community Coordinator**. This individual will coordinate the administrative activities for the Public Health/Public Service (PHPS) Learning Community and student volunteer activities for the Husky Nutrition Programs. Learning Communities allow undergraduate students with similar interests to live together in a residence hall and participate in academic and volunteer activities

Minimum qualifications include a Bachelor's degree and at least three years of related experience, which may include successful history of volunteer activity and community engagement; good communication and interpersonal skills, with ability to work effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds, university faculty, students, and community partners; ability to perform and coordinate administrative and fiscal functions with a history of progressively increased responsibility; good organizational and writing skills; supervisory ability; ability to resolve logistic problems efficiently, effectively, creatively, and independently; good computer skills, including working knowledge of Microsoft Office, database management, and an ability to learn new software as necessary; ability to work independently with minimal supervision; and ability to work flexible hours including occasional nights and weekends. The Coordinator must have demonstrated ability and willingness to travel to regional campuses. Mileage reimbursement for work-related travel is available for personal vehicle use upon proof of insurability and valid driver's license. Preference will be given to candidates with a Master of Public Health degree or advanced graduate training with a population health perspective; experience working in university residential life communities; and experience writing grants.

This position is a 12-month, end-date position, renewable annually based on the availability of funding. Send cover letter, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and contact information for three profession references to: Ms. Veronica Vernik; Center for Undergraduate Education, First Year Programs & Learning Communities, 368 Fairfield Way Unit 2232, Storrs, CT 06269-2232; or send electronically to ronnie.vernik@uconn.edu. Include the search number (**Search # 2009312**) in all correspondence. Application screening will begin in August and continue until the position is filled.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITION AT YALE

CARE: Community Alliance for Research and Education, an integral component of Yale Center for Clinical Investigations, has received substantial funding from the Donaghue Foundation to advance the Community Interventions in Health (CIH) initiative designed to improve New Haven's individual and community health and to promote health equity. To help support this project, CARE is seeking a motivated Research Assistant dedicated to the principles of community-based participatory research. Under supervision of the Research Coordinator, the Research Assistant will participate in all aspects of a large scale community-based research project targeting diet, exercise and tobacco use.

Essential duties include:

- Perform literature searches and write-up reviews.
- Assist in modification of research procedures or survey instrument.
- Assist with documenting and maintaining all study protocols.
- Assist with recruitment and screening of study participants.
- Conduct computer assisted reviews with participants.
- Download interview data and enter data into tracking databases.
- Work with community-based organizations to plan, facilitate and participate in community level work, including assisting with program and policy level interventions.
- Participate in planning, scheduling and conducting meetings/conferences.
- Prepare research-related and community correspondence materials.
- Participate in weekly staff and research meetings, complete record-keeping paperwork and perform other research-related procedures.
- Provide administrative support.
- Assist in preparing results of research for presentation and publication.
- Assist in proposal development and writing.
- Organize and manage research files.

Preferred education and experience include a Bachelor's degree in Public Health, Social Work, African American or Ethnic Studies, Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology, or a related field, and experience with community-based research and/or public health practice. **Candidates must be bilingual in Spanish.** Other skills and abilities include:

- Ability to work in an urban environment and with diverse populations
 - Excellent verbal and written communication skills
 - Organizational skills and ability to exercise independent judgment and initiative
 - Ability to schedule own work and follow through in a responsible manner
 - Experience working in a research setting
 - Good with various computer programs and the internet
 - Valid driver's license with available transportation
 - Ability to work flexible hours, including occasional evenings, and week-ends
- For more information, please contact alycia.santilli@yale.edu. To apply, go to <http://www.yale.edu/hronline/stars/application/external/index.html>. Search by STARS Req ID: 7543BR.

GRANT WRITER/ PROGRAM MANAGER FOR LGBT HEALTH PROGRAM

The Program for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Health at the Drexel University School of Public Health (SPH) is a newly developed program for LGBT health research, education and policy. The Program seeks to hire a full-time grant writer/program manager to assist with the program's grant writing activities and manage day-to-day program activities. The primary responsibilities include writing new and renewal grant proposals, preparing annual reports, and researching new sources of foundation and government support for research and other program activities. Other responsibilities include arranging meetings with program faculty, organizing a seminar series, preparing monthly reports of activities and challenges, handling correspondence, and working with the SPH's webmaster to ensure that the program's website is updated. The position provides a challenging and rewarding opportunity for a talented individual to gain valuable experience in the area of LGBT health related issues, and use this knowledge to communicate with current and potential funders. For more information on this position, please visit: www.drexel.edu, jobs, keyword LGBT

GLOBAL HEALTH CONFERENCE: CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Unite For Sight encourages you to submit an abstract for presentation at the Global Health/Innovate 2010 conference being held at Yale University on April 17-18, 2010. Abstracts should focus on one of the following categories:

1. Global Health
2. Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship
3. International Development
4. International Education
5. NGOs and Community-Based Programs
6. Eye Care
7. Scientific and Medical Laboratory-based Research
8. Clinical Research
9. Advocacy and Health Policy

Abstracts submitted by **September 20** will be considered for poster presentation. Details on abstract submission can be found at the following Website: <http://www.ghinnovate.org/submit-abstract#categories>.

2009 CPHA ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

“Protect, Promote, Prevent: Think globally, Act locally is the theme of the 2009 Annual Conference and Meeting of the Connecticut Public Health Association, which will be held on Friday, October 23, at the Aqua Turf in Southington. The morning's keynote address, **“Health Reform, Preventive Medicine and Public Health:**

The Devil is in the Details, will be presented by **Dr. Doug Kamerow**, Chief Scientist, RTI International. Dr. Kamerow is also a National Public Radio commentator; former Director of the Center for Practice and Technology Assessment at the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; and former Director, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force. The luncheon keynote speaker is **Chris Donovan, Speaker of the House, CT General Assembly**.

Several breakout sessions address major public health issues. They include:

- The Healthy Workplace: Health promotion and protection at the workplace
- Healthy Food, Safe Food
- Emerging Issues in HIV and co-morbidities
- Public Health Advocacy
- Public Health Implications for Aging Populations and the Workforce
- Community Interventions for Health
- The CARE Project, Yale University
- Water Issues at the State Level
- “Glocal” Public Health: Working Cross Culturally in Connecticut and the World
- Graduate Public Health Nursing Students and Public Health Practice: A win-win partnership

A program flyer and registration information will soon be available on the new CPHA website (www.cpha.org). In the meantime, if you would like to receive a program brochure or join the organization, please contact the CPHA office at (860) 293-1183 or eileen.kehl@cpha.info.

NEW HHS REPORT ON HEALTH DISPARITIES

On June 9, 2009, U.S. Health and Human Services (HHS) Kathleen Sebelius released a new report on health disparities in America, titled *Health Disparities: A Case for Closing the Gap*. “Minorities and low income Americans are more likely to be sick and less likely to get the care they need,” Secretary Sebelius said. “These disparities have plagued our health system and our country for too long. Now, it’s time for Democrats and Republicans to come together to pass reforms this year that help reduce disparities and give all Americans the care they need and deserve.”

A Case for Closing the Gap highlights some of the glaring disparities that exist in the current health system:

- Forty-eight percent of all African Americans adults suffer from a chronic disease compared to 39% of the general population.
- Eight percent of white Americans develop diabetes while 15% of African Americans, 14% of Hispanics, and 18% of American Indians develop diabetes.
- Hispanics were one-third less likely to be counseled on obesity than were whites -- only 44% of Hispanics received counseling.
- African Americans are 15% more likely to be obese than whites.

The report also notes that 40% of low-income Americans do not have health insurance. About one-third of the uninsured have a chronic disease, and they are six times less likely to receive care for a health problem than the insured. In contrast, only 6% of high-income Americans lack insurance. The new report is available at www.HealthReform.gov.

STUDENT NEWS

Robert Cruz was in South Africa this summer as part of a global health course he took with Yale School of Public Health. On June 18 he wrote, “Today was an amazing day. I got to go to a small village outside of Durban and meet wonderful people...with a group called Treatment Action Campaign.” He attended a training session for the volunteers who work in rural communities as community health workers educating people about AIDS & HIV. “It was a great experience and a very rewarding one,” he said.



MPH Student volunteers Robert Cruz and Kate Anderson assisted Joan Segal, President of the Connecticut Public Health Association, with the organization’s flu preparedness display at the Hispanic Health Council’s health fair on the South

Green, Hartford, on August 6.

Two MPH students have received **LEND Fellowships** in disabilities from the A. J. Pappanikou Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, UConn Health Center. They include **David (Zheng) Song**, a second-year student, and **Erin Klonoski**, who joins the program as a first-year student in fall 2009. As Lend Fellows, they will participate in the **intensive training program** in disabilities for the 2009-2010 academic year.

ALUMNI NEWS



Lynn Abrahamson is the 2009 APHA Committee on Affiliates Chair. In Connecticut, she is Director of Health of the Bristol-Burlington Health District.

Alexandra M. Hajduk, MPH (2009) is lead author of an abstract, entitled "C-Reactive Protein, Obesity, and Colorectal Cancer Mortality: A Prospective Study of the NHANES III-NDI Dataset," was accepted for a platform oral presentation at The Obesity Society's 2009 Annual Scientific Meeting on October 24 in Washington, DC. The corresponding author, Helen Swede, will present the paper at the conference. The other co-authors include Richard Stevens, Anthony Vella, and Jyoti Sharma.

Congratulations to:

- **Paul Gacek (2008)** and his wife Jennifer on the May 31, 2009 marriage in Newport, Rhode Island.
 - **Leslie Prince, MPH (2003)**, MD, and his wife Tamara on the birth of a beautiful daughter, Amelie Skye, on July 10, 2009.
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FACULTY NEWS

Mary Eberle, JD, retired from the University in June, although she is not leaving entirely. She will return on a contractual basis to oversee the reviews of mandated benefits called for by the legislature in HB5018. Mary has served as course instructor of Disabilities and Public Health, as a major advisor to MPH students, and as a member of the MPH Advisory Committee. We wish her the very best and thank her for her many contributions to the program.

Tim Morse, PhD has been elected to a national leadership position in APHA. He will serve as Chair of the Occupational Health Section.

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