Welcome to our second year of Public Health Matters, the official newsletter from the Wayne State graduate programs in public health! We hope to keep our readership informed of all of the latest and greatest happenings in public health education here at WSU. Please enjoy this issue.

✓ Fellowship Awarded
MPH Graduate Student Officer Kim Campbell-Voytal (PhD, RN) was awarded a fellowship in the Grant Generating Project at Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Family Medicine.

✓ Welcome New MPH Faculty
Samiran Ghosh (MS, PhD) recently joined our MPH team of biostatisticians as an assistant professor. Dr. Ghosh’s graduate studies focused on statistics in medical and industrial research, and he believes that teaching is an integral part of a successful academic career.

✓ Congratulations Dr. Schwartz
Kendra Schwartz (MD, MSPH) has accepted a position in the Dean’s Office as the Assistant Dean of Clinical Education and will begin her new position in early March. Dr. Schwartz is an accomplished researcher, physician and educator, and we are fortunate that she will remain on our MPH faculty so that our students can continue to benefit from her expertise.

Fall 2012 MPH Research Projects
The MPH research project is the culminating experience of the MPH Program. Working closely with an advisor, students complete a scholarly research paper and present their findings. The MPH project allows students to apply public health theory, science and practice to a personally relevant public health topic.

❖ Nabeeel Qureshi: A survey of patients with tongue cancer
❖ Yana Smolitsky: Work related exhaustion in nursing home staff and intent to leave employment: is there an impact on overall safety?
❖ Reda Awali: Psychosocial factors and salivary cortisol in working African American women during pregnancy
❖ Lisa Brannack: Our daily bread nutritional advocacy program
❖ Tareheh Jaafari: Association between childhood behaviors and elevated blood lead levels in children in southwest Detroit
Bragging Rights

Alumnus Shawnita Sealy-Jefferson (MPH, PhD) recently joined the Department of Family Medicine and Public Health Sciences as a post-doctoral research fellow. She completed her PhD in epidemiology in September, 2012, and is interested in researching the social determinants of racial and ethnic health disparities. Welcome back, Dr. Sealy-Jefferson!

MPH student Sudha Mudumana (PhD) has been selected to be an intern for the PRIME Net Center in Practice-based Research and Learning. MPH faculty Victoria Neale (PhD, MPH) received a recent Center grant award from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality that includes funding for an MPH student internship. Congratulations, Dr. Mudmana!

MPH student Yinka Warritay (MD) is working with Mark Upfal (MD, MPH) on a grant studying healthcare workers’ perception, acceptance and treatment of a latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI).

Student Corner

MPH Student Organization

The PHSO has partnered with several medical student organizations and continues to develop programs that benefit the health of our students and community. They continue to participate in the “NFL Huddle” at Detroit Lions Alternative Education Middle School, facilitating discussions about healthy food choices and providing examples of healthy snacks.

Pictured above are MPH students accompanied by NFL Huddle Mascot Rudy

They also co-sponsored a lunchtime “Food for Thought” lecture on the criminalization of HIV/AIDS, promoted a flu shot clinic for MPH students, and during December, collected donations for the Mercy Primary Care Center’s Program for homeless individuals and families.

News of the PHSO’s good works is spreading, and they have received numerous requests to organize other health events. In addition to the events already being planned, the PHSO is busy preparing for National Public Health Week in April. Go PHSO!

PHSO Board

We ♥ our practicum preceptors

In this issue we are featuring an interview with one of our community preceptors Denise White Perkins MD, PhD.

Full Name: Denise White Perkins
Place of Employment: Henry Ford Health System
Length of time at current employment: 15 years
Job title: Senior Staff Family Physician and Director, Institute on Multicultural Health
Brief description of what you do: I see patients and precept medical students/residents in the family medicine clinic at Detroit Northwest, direct the Institute on Multicultural Health (IOMH), and am also course director for our system’s healthcare equity campaign.

Please briefly state what you like or enjoy about working with our practicum students
I enjoy helping the practicum students understand the multifaceted nature of healthcare disparities. Students get to see how our health system team and community partners collaborate and learn to apply the concepts and skills that they have learned to our healthcare organization. I find WSU practicum students to be hardworking and insightful, with a strong dedication to social justice, and this inspires me.

We hope you enjoyed this issue of Public Health Matters. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact the editor, Juliano Binienda, PhD, 313-577-5987, jbinien@med.wayne.edu or the assistant editor Elissa Firestone 313-577-1051; efiresto@med.wayne.edu