



The Public Health Programs at UNC Charlotte (the MSPH & BSPH) are fully accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health



Check us out at:
<http://publichealth.uncc.edu>

Contact us at:
MSPHprogram@uncc.edu
BSPHprogram@uncc.edu

Public Health Programs @ UNC Charlotte
Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH)
Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH)

Second verse...

From the Graduate Coordinator



Welcome to the Fall edition of the UNC Charlotte Public Health Programs Newsletter. It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of our initial 5-year CEPH Accreditation. As described in more depth in-

side, we have begun our self-study process, which will conclude with a site visit in February 2014.

We need your continued support and engagement to continue this trajectory of excellence.

Cheers,

Michael E. Thompson, MS, DrPH
Coordinator, Graduate Public Health Programs

From the Undergraduate Coordinator



Greetings! The BSPH Program is successfully training scholar-practitioners in the field of Public Health. Our students and alumni are creating a legacy of excellence by co-authoring articles in peer-reviewed journals, providing information for health-related articles in local newspapers, winning undergraduate research awards, and facilitating health-related sessions at workshops.

Check us out on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Check us out on LinkedIn and Facebook.

Camina Davis, MS, CHES
Coordinator Undergraduate Public Health Programs

Introducing Gary Silverman

It is a pleasure to extend my greetings for the first time to our UNC Charlotte Public Health program graduates, current students, and other friends. I joined the Department of Public Health Sciences as the new Chair just this Fall. One of the drivers of my personal decision to make this move was the fine quality of its academic programs. In part, this recognition is because of our accreditation status, renown of the faculty, and high quality curriculum. But even more important is the quality and accomplishments of our alumni. It is our alumni who are out there making decisions that improve the quality of life for so many. It is our alumni's successes that make people aware of the accomplishments of our program. Our primary and most important program outcome is to have as graduates such a high quality group of professionals!



One of my goals as the new Chair is to increase involvement with our alumni. You can help by staying involved and sharing your ideas for how we may better link. We will be having various alumni events later this year, including co-sponsoring the Mecklenburg County Asthma Coalition's all-day awareness event on January 26th at our City Center campus, and events focusing around Public Health week during the first week of April. Please let us know about the kind of events that are of greatest interest to you. You can help in other tangible ways too, including providing internship opportunities for our current students and financial support through our new Public Health Student fund or the existing department fund. Our Facebook and LinkedIn pages should be helpful in staying connected and building a growing UNC Charlotte Public Health community. I hope to be meeting all of you soon as we move forward together.

Gary Silverman, D.Env, RS
Professor & Chair, Department of Public Health Sciences

Be a part of the discussion!

Join our

**"UNC Charlotte
BSPH Alumni
Association"**

group on...



BSPH Internship Spotlight



Nicole Wallace, BSPH (2012), earned a Program Facilitator position at *I Am My Sister* after completing a 10 week summer internship. *I Am My Sister* is a non-profit, community outreach organization targeting teen girls in North Carolina; mainly Gaston and surrounding counties. Nicole delivered teen pregnancy prevention programming, coordinated and supervised college visits, provided reports to funders, and created social marketing materials.

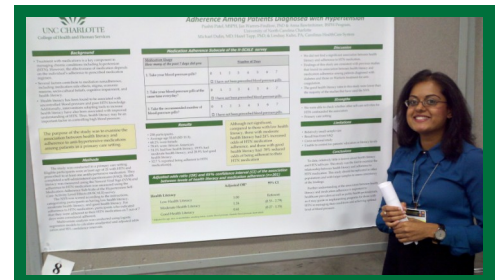
Nicole stated, “I have had to engage members of the community, both children and adults, into the mission of the program... I have had to step up in many ways [and] take on more of a leadership role”

Nicole is now enrolled in our [MHA Program](#).

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting, 2012

Summer 2012 MSPH graduate Pushti Patel and BSPH major and [Levine Scholar](#) Anna Bawtinheimer presented posters at the [American Public Health Association's 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition](#).

Anna's poster was entitled “Examining Health Literacy and Weight Management Among Adults with Chronic Disease” and described health literacy rates among hypertensive adults within a health care clinic.



Pushti's poster was entitled “Association between Health Literacy and Medication Adherence among Hypertensive Adults.”

Both conducted their research with Dr. Jan Warren-Findlow, Associate Professor, as part of a hands-on research process special topics course. See <https://apha.confex.com/apha/140am/webprogram/Session36390.html> for their abstracts.

CEPH Self-Study Begins

The UNC Charlotte Public Health Programs are up for renewal of their [CEPH](#) accreditation. The site visit is scheduled for 24-25 February 2014, but efforts to ensure our continued accreditation are well underway.

The Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accredits graduate schools and programs in public health. “UNC Charlotte is accredited as a public health program based on our professional master's degree (MSPH) in public health. The BSPH program is part of that unit of accreditation,” reports Graduate Public Health Programs and CEPH Accreditation Coordinator Dr. Michael Thompson.” Dr. Jan Warren-Findlow added, that “we anticipate including our planned PhD in public health sciences program within the unit of accreditation at our earliest opportunity” (upon graduation of its first student).

The public health faculty are actively engaged in generating our new self-study, whose preliminary draft is due to CEPH in September. Faculty-led working groups are spearheading development of the data, analysis, text, and supporting materials needed to respond fully to each of the accreditation

criteria. These working groups include – and will involve in their data gathering and validating activities – other stakeholders, including students, alumni, and employers.

In addition, Dr. Thompson recently attended CEPH Site Visitor Training. This training qualifies Dr. Thompson to serve on site visits of other programs undergoing accreditation review, but also provides invaluable insight into crafting fully responsive self-studies and preparing for successful site visits.

Information on the self-study process will be posted on the PHS website after the first of the year. Constructive comment from alumni, employers, and community stakeholders is critical to the success of this effort and the continued improvement of our programs.

Please be responsive to inquiries and requests for information. Keep us posted on changes to your mailing address and professional accomplishments. We cannot ensure that our programs meet the ever changing needs of public health practice in service to our community without your input.



MSPH Alums Complete Doctoral Training



Yohance O. (Omar) Whiteside, MSPH (2008), PhD, was recently hired as an Epidemiologist, HIV Case Surveillance Branch, at the

US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a job he has “been dreaming of since [he] took [his] first public health class in 2006.” Dr. Whiteside completed his PhD in epidemiology at the University of South Carolina’s Arnold School of Public Health. He had worked as a Senior Epidemiologist for the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology section of the Georgia Department of Public Health while completing his dissertation. While an MSPH student, Omar served as a Project Coordinator and Education Director for community-based AIDS service organizations in Charlotte.

Omar has published in several journals, focusing on topics such as the occurrence of new sexually transmitted diseases in males after HIV diagnosis and self-perceived risk of HIV infection and attitudes about pre-exposure prophylaxis among STD clinic attendees in South Carolina.

Joining Omar in the doctorally prepared ranks is Joy Thomas (nee Goens), MSPH (2009), DrPH, CHES, who completed her doctor of public health at Georgia Southern University. Dr. Thomas is now an Assistant Professor of Health Science at Columbus State University. She served as the Director of Community Based Participatory research projects in Macon, Georgia while a DrPH student and was a prevention coordinator against youth tobacco use for the Mecklenburg County Health Department and also against substance abuse and violence in Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools while an MSPH student. Joy commented that, “the MSPH training at UNC Charlotte helped prepare me to take on increasingly complex research responsibilities. I gained insight on programmatic best practices and translational research, which lead me to my job as a research project director on an NIH funded initiative to prevent diabetes in African American churches in Macon, Georgia and Hartford, Connecticut.”



Quantity AND Quality!

Our public health programs continue to grow and flourish. Since 2006, the MSPH program has seen its student body shift from primarily part-time to primarily full-time, and the numbers increase to reach our current capacity of approximately 25 students per cohort. The graduate certificate in community health also has grown, from virtually no students, to nearly a dozen, including many who subsequently migrate into the MSPH Program.

The most explosive growth, however, came in our undergraduate programs. In 2007, the BSPH Program joined the Interdisciplinary Health Studies minor (which became the Public Health minor in 2010) with 24 students. The BSPH Program is now fully subscribed at approximately 45 students per

cohort (90 students total), with nearly 300 students enrolled in the pre-major. Enrollment in the minor has more than doubled since 2008 to 330 students!

Fortunately, we have managed this impressive growth so as not to negatively impact quality. Our graduates are sought after in the workplace and our faculty recognized for the quality of their teaching. Our department received the 2011-12 Provost’s Award for Excellence in Teaching and Dr. Larissa Huber, Associate Professor of Epidemiology received both a Bonnie E. Cone Early Career Professorship in Teaching, AND the Harshini V. de Silva Graduate Mentor Award!



MSPH Program Gets Social



Jan Warren-Findlow,
Associate Professor of
Public Health Sciences

Under the leadership of Associate Professor Jan Warren-Findlow and with the help of several graduate assistants and the college’s new Communications Director, Lisa Patterson, the MSPH Program now has a Facebook page to help maintain contact with our alumni and stakeholders. Search for us under “UNC Charlotte Master of Science in

Join our new
“UNC Charlotte
Master of Science in

Public Health”

group on...



Save the Date:

Dr. Glenn Geelhoed
Mission to Health

presenting his work global effort helping those most in need:

National Public Health
Week

April 1, 7:00pm
All are welcome!