

PUBLIC HEALTH NEWSLETTER

MERCYHURST UNIVERSITY



2019-2020
Academic
Year



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Intern and extern details, job openings info, volunteer information, speakers/seminars, upcoming meetings/events, details on our t-shirt design contest

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Public Health Club blood drive, details on the department's trip to Yucatan, Mexico and meet our newest student additions to the program

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Get to know your fellow Public Health majors and faculty through the spotlight page



ANNOUNCEMENT

The Public Health Newsletter is a place to stay updated on the latest information regarding all things Public Health.

If you are interested in being featured for the student spotlight or would like to submit any information please email Jackie Rogers at jroger98@lakers.mercyhurst.edu or Karrah Savage at ksavag15@lakers.mercyhurst.edu.

INTERN/EXTERN OPPORTUNITIES & JOB OPENINGS

Association of State Public Health Nutritionists: Health Equity Internship Program

- Created to support the diversification of the public health and health-related workforce.
- Federal, regional, state & local health agencies provide real-world work experience to students to complete health equity projects in multiple areas.
- 12 weeks
- <https://asphn.org/health-equity-internship-program/>

Maternal Child Health Careers/Research Initiatives for Student Enhancement (MCHC/RISE-UP)

- Provides opportunities for enhanced public health leadership training to focus on elimination of health disparities and promotion of health equity.
- Weekly seminars through distance learning, three leadership experiences
- 10 weeks
- <https://explorehealthcareers.org/enrichment/maternal-child-health-careersresearch-initiatives-for-student-enhancement-mchcrise-up/>

UPCOMING SPEAKERS/SEMINARS

Seminar Series in Biology- Friday's at 4pm in Zurn 114

- October 18th- Speaker and Title are TBA

Pre-Health Seminar Series- Wednesday's at 4pm in Zurn 114

- Oct. 16th- Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine; Presenter: Jack Ogden
- Oct. 23rd- Personal Statements 101: the good, bad, and ugly; Presenter: Michael Elnitsky



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Habitat for Humanity: Rent-A-Habitator

- Students volunteer to do yard and housework for Mercyhurst professors.
- Upcoming dates:
 - Saturday, Oct 19th 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm
 - Sunday Oct 20th 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm
 - Saturday, Oct 26th, 10m-12pm, 12pm-2pm
 - Sunday, Oct 27th, 10am-12pm, 12pm-2pm
- Contact Julia Wrest at jwrest02@lakers.mercyhurst.edu or Abby Springer at asprin94@lakers.mercyhurst.edu for further information on signing up or transportation details.

Belle Valley Elementary

- Help with the garden at Belle Valley Elementary school.
- When: Wednesday, Oct 16th 4:00pm-5:30pm
- Transportation is provided.
- Contact Sarah Bennett at sbennett@mercyhurst.edu if interested.

MEETING DATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

Graduate School Fair

- When: Wed, Oct 16th 12:00pm – 3:00pm
- Where: Student Union, Mercy Heritage Room

Scholar Bowl Club Meeting

- When: Wed, Oct 16th at 7pm
- Where: Hirt 314

T-Shirt Design Contest!!

The Public Health Department is excited to announce the creation of our very own, personalized clothing for the University! We have decided to let the students lead this project, so it is now a design contest! Any student who would like to participate must create a design that they feel would look best on t-shirts for the Public Health department. Once you are finished with your designs, email them to Karrah Savage at ksavag15@lakers.mercyhurst.edu. The contest will end on November 1st and the winner will be picked on November 8th.

Public Health Club: Blood Drive

The Public Health Club collaborated with the American Red Cross to bring a blood drive to the Student Union in September. Elizabeth Becker, Public Health club president explained the importance of the blood drive by stating, "I was so glad to have the opportunity to volunteer at the recent Red Cross Blood Drive as president of the Public Health Club. There is currently a critical blood shortage nationally, so it is more important than ever to donate if you can. I was very excited to see such a great turnout for the blood drive, as many were eager to donate. I encountered a good mix of returning donors, as well as several first-timers. Donating blood is truly giving the gift of life. I think it is great that we were able to incorporate the public health department with the blood drive as it gave the volunteers an outlook on how beneficial blood drives are for communities. I love that the university allowed such an event to take place on campus, as it also brings members of the Erie community together." Hannah Buncher, vice president of Public Health Club also added, "It was great to see both the Erie and Mercyhurst community come together for such an important cause".



Spring Break 2020 Trip to Yucatan, Mexico

If you're looking for a meaningful, beneficial and fun way to spend spring break 2020, the Public Health Department is offering an immersive trip to Yucatan, Mexico. Opportunities on this trip include; observing/assisting in village health clinics, community health outreach and education, be God's ambassadors through service & mercy, and cross-cultural and inter-professional experience

Trip details and deadlines:

- Trip dates: Feb. 29-Mar. 7, 2020.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE: 4PM ON OCTOBER 18TH, 2019. Due in person or via email to Dr. Beatriz Torres (mtorres@mercyhurst.edu) or to Colin Hurley (churley@mercyhurst.edu)
- Trip participants will be notified by Oct. 23rd after approval of team roster by the Dean of Global Programs
- If a student is selected and chooses to participate, a deposit of \$300 towards the total cost will be required by October 30th to reserve a spot. Important university & program paperwork will then be distributed and needed to be completed by established deadlines.
- Total Trip Cost: \$2400 (includes all air & ground travel, hotel, tours, food, program and supervision). The deadline will be Jan. 31, 2020 for final payment.

For further details or to answer any questions regarding the trip, please contact Dr. Torres (mtorres@mercyhurst.edu) or Colin Hurley (churley@mercyhurst.edu)



'Welcome', to our Newest Public Health Students!

Mitchell McQuaid, Gabrielle Herald, Lauren Wagner, Braeden Nearhoof, Alvin Vincent, Heather Holley, Aija Greer, and Talia Defay



New Public Health Student Spotlight:

Gabrielle Herald

Year: Sophomore
Major: Public Health
Hometown: Grove City, PA

Area of interest in public health: Last year I was a communication major. However, I decided to switch to public health to pursue speech pathology.

Reason for getting involved in public health: With a public health background I plan to apply to a grad school where I can achieve my overall goal.

Extracurricular activities: Sailing club and Laker Student Media



Faculty Spotlight:

Megan Ferri
Education

Background:
 “Medical school: LECOM Bradenton, MPH at Nova

Southeastern University Kiran C. Patel School of Medicine, bachelor’s degree from Washington and Jefferson College and also attended University of Hawaii at Manoa”.

What is your concentration? “There are a few areas I have experience in. My MPH thesis focused on Public Health concerns in Refugee and Migrant populations so Global Health is a major one. I currently work in Medical Informatics, so I have experience in that area. Also, my clinical background in family medicine has given me insight into areas such as Infections/Chronic Disease and Vaccine-preventable diseases”.

What was your first exposure to public health? “My first little bit of exposure came during medical school, but it was just a taste. I really became interested in public health when I entered residency and was confronted with the epidemic of chronic illness that is overwhelming our population. I wanted to learn ways in which we could prevent these diseases from developing in the first place rather than playing catch up trying to reverse their course”.

What is your favorite subject to teach and why? “That is a really hard question because I really, truly enjoy many areas of Public Health. One course that I think is particularly fun is Foundations of Public Health. Foundations allows a certain flexibility to focus on current public health events as they happen, which helps to make class more exciting. Learning about concepts and events in real time brings the material to life’.



Student Spotlight:

Hannah Buncher

Year: Junior
Major: Biology and Public Health with a concentration in epidemiology

Involvement on Campus: Student Government Senator for Zurn College, Resident Assistant, Vice President of Public Health Club, President of Pre-Health Honors Society, President of Tri Beta, Lab Assistant in the Biology Department, Marching and Athletic Band, Co-coordinator of Scholar Bowl Club.

Why you chose Mercyhurst: “I loved the campus community and immediately connected with both Biology and Public Health faculty!! There are also TONS of ways to be involved on campus!

Best memory you have with the department: “Going to the Public Health Scholar Bowl in St. Louis the past two years!!”

Plans for after graduation: “Attending medical school, but I am also applying to some graduate programs in both the biological sciences and public health! (most likely in epidemiology)”