

Inside this issue:

MPH Student Advisory Board New Officers	2
MPH Students win National SOPHE Award	3
Ruth Montesines — Nemours Health Disparities Epidemiology Pre-Doctoral Fellow	3
SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship in Injury Prevention	4
Student Fellowship in Patient Engagement	5
Faculty Scholarly Accomplishments	6-8

Have a great
summer!

Editor:

Dr. Gopal Sankaran
Phone: 610-436-2300
gsankaran@wcupa.edu

WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

M.P.H. CONNECTIONS

SPRING 2017 ISSUE

MPH Students inducted into Delta Omega



Pictured are Dr. Whitney Katirai, (front row; on the left), faculty coordinator of Beta Xi chapter with newly inducted MPH program students

Twelve (12) Master of Public Health program students with outstanding academic accomplishment were inducted into Delta Omega, the Public Health Honorary Society, on Friday, May 5, 2017 at West Chester University. Dr. Whitney Katirai is the faculty coordinator of the Beta Xi chapter of Delta Omega at the university. The following students were recognized at this celebratory event:

Taseer Bhatti, Odalou Bilalissa, Cynthia Coleman, Laura DelGuercio, Alison Doherty, Jasmine Howard, Mohammed Kaba, Janine Mascari, Ruth Montesines, Taylor Myers-Ackerman, , Nancy Procopio and Clifford Van Keuren.

Congratulations to all of them for their accomplishment and best wishes for success in all future endeavors!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2017-2018 MPH SAB EXECUTIVE BOARD



Anne Frame
President



Sunita "Sita" Amin
Vice President



Sharnae White
Social Outreach Coordinator



Casey Stover
Secretary



Linda McKellar
**Community
Health Track
Representative**



Daniella Pierre
**Health Care Management
Track Representative**



Ifeoma "Ify"
Chikelu
**Environmental
Health Track
Representative**

MPH Community Health Track students win National SOPHE Award



Pictured are (left to right): Ruth Montesines, Laura DelGuercio, Dr, Christine Williams (Faculty Mentor and Coach), Jordan Buckley (MPH Program Alumna and current Health Policy & Communications Coordinator at National SOPHE), and Cynthia Coleman

Cynthia Coleman, Laura DelGuercio and Ruth Montesines (all from MPH Program; Community Health Track) successfully competed in the National Graduate Case Study Competition, organized by the Society for Public Health Education, at the 2017 Annual Meeting held in Denver, CO in March. Their team placed second in this rigorous competition. Congratulations to the team and Dr. Williams! We are proud of your accomplishment!



Ruth Montesines is a Nemours Health Disparities Epidemiology Pre-Doctoral Fellow!

Ruth Montesines was recently awarded a Nemours Health Disparities Epidemiology Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. She will begin her fellowship in July 2017. Ruth adds this achievement to her numerous accomplishments as a student in the MPH program. (Community Health Track). Congratulations Ruth! Way to go!

SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship in Injury Prevention Applications Due May 31, 2017

Applications are now open for the 2017-2018 fellowship year for the SOPHE/CDC Student Fellowship in Injury Prevention!

The fellowship recognizes, assists and trains students working on research or practice-based projects in either unintentional injury prevention or violence prevention from the perspective of health education or the behavioral sciences.

Recipients of the award will receive the following:

- \$2,000 stipend
- Fellowship certificate of completion
- Free one-year SOPHE student membership
- Complimentary registration at SOPHE's Annual Conference
- An opportunity to display and/or provide an oral presentation on the project
- SOPHE and CDC recognition

Eligibility: Applicants must be a full time student (9 credit hours or more) in a masters or doctoral degree program in health education, health promotion, behavioral sciences or a related field. \

Deadline: May 31, 2017.

For more information and to apply: <http://www.sophe.org/about/awards-fellowships-scholarships/sophecdc-student-fellowship-injury-prevention/>

Student Fellowship in Patient Engagement Applications Due May 31, 2017

Applications are now open for the Student Fellowship in Patient Engagement! Please forward along to students who may benefit or to colleagues who have students who would benefit.

The fellowship recognizes, assists and trains masters or doctoral students to advance the research and practice of patient-centered health care from the perspective of health education or the behavioral sciences. This fellowship is in honor of Dr. Jessie Gruman with support from the Center for Advancing Health.

Apply if your project is focused on:

- enhancing patient/family education
- health literacy
- health communication
- cultural humility
- shared decision-making
- other variables that impact patient/caregiver interaction and promote respectful and ethical patient engagement

Recipients of the award will receive the following:

- \$2,000 stipend
- Fellowship certificate of completion
- Free one-year SOPHE student membership
- Complimentary registration at SOPHE's Annual Conference
- An opportunity to display and/or provide an oral presentation on the project
- SOPHE and CDC recognition

Eligibility

- National SOPHE membership
- Enrolled full-time student (9 credit hours or more) in a masters or doctoral degree program in health education, health promotion, behavioral sciences or a related field
- Proposed projects may be new or ongoing, and the applicant must have the primary role in conducting the project

Deadline: May 31, 2017.

For more information and to apply: <http://www.sophe.org/about/awards-fellowships-scholarships/student-fellowship-patient-engagement/>

Faculty Scholarly Achievements

Presentations

- McCown, D.** (2017). Contemplative Kids: Mindfulness in K-12 Education. Academic Enrichment and Continuing Education Seminar held on February 11th in the Center for Contemplative Studies at West Chester University, PA. 35 attended.
- Rosenzweig, S. & **McCown, D.** (2017). Near Enemies of Virtue: Insights from Buddhist Ethics for Professional Formation. Fifth Annual Conference of the Academy for Professionalism in Health Care, Chicago, IL, April 27-29.
- Sankaran, G.** (2017). Student Leaders: Uphold Social Justice and Human Rights. Global Leadership Series at West Chester University, PA on February 10th.
- Sankaran, G.** (2017). Assessing Individual and Community Needs and Assets for Health Education. CHES Test Preparatory Workshop in Philadelphia, PA on April 8th.
- Sankaran, G.** (2017). Conducting Evaluation and Research Related to Health Education. CHES Test Preparatory Workshop in Philadelphia, PA on April 8th.
- Tinago C. B.** (2017). *Critical Periods in Global Maternal and Child Health: Bridging the Knowledge Gap around Pre-Pregnancy Health*. Research presentation at West Chester University MPH Student Advisory Board Meeting, West Chester, PA, March 23rd.
- Tinago C. B.** (2017). *The Health Education Profession*. Oral presentation in HPEB 300: Introduction to Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, April 21st.
- Tinago C. B.,** Annang Ingram L., Frongillo E. A., Blake C. E., Engelsmann B., & Simmons, D. (2017). *Conceptualizations of Nutrition and Food Choice Behaviors among Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Harare, Zimbabwe*. Research and oral presentation at the Experimental Biology (American Society for Nutrition) Conference, Chicago, IL, April 22-26.

Publications

- Bill, D.** & Casola, A. (2016). Developing, implementing, and evaluating a Latino service learning project in an accelerated MPH community health course for health education students. *Pedagogy in Health Promotion: The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning*, 2(3), 1-9.

Research Grants

- Tinago, C. B.** (2017). *Understanding Conceptualizations of Nutrition and Food Choice Behaviors among Women with HIV in Harare, Zimbabwe*. FY 2018 West Chester University Research Funding, \$ 7411.00. (Principal Investigator)

Faculty Scholarly Accomplishments

Honors and Awards

Drs. James Brenner, Harry Holt and Gopal Sankaran were the recipients of Certificate of Recognition – Fifth Annual Academic Advising Appreciation Awards at a ceremony held on April 26, 2017 at West Chester University. This award signifies academic advisees recognizing the good work of faculty members who have made meaningful contributions to the lives of students on campus and helped with their academic and career planning at West Chester University (WCU). The WCU Division of Undergraduate Studies and Student Support Services and Omicron Delta Kappa (the National Leadership Honor Society) were the organizers.

Academic Seminar

Rosenzweig, S. (2017). Near Enemies of Virtue: Insights from Buddhist Ethics for Professional Formation. Held on April 8th in the Center for Contemplative Studies at West Chester University. Dr. Steven Rosenzweig is Clinical Associate Professor at Drexel University College of Medicine and Director of the Program in Professionalism, Bioethics, and Humanities in the Office of Educational Affairs. This seminar was organized by **Dr. Donald McCown**.

Mindfulness Clinic

The spring semester started with a mindfulness clinic for all Center for Contemplative staff on January 28, 2017 to learn about mindfulness itself, as well as how to guide meditation and contemplative practices. This clinic is co-directed by **Dr. Donald McCown** and Dr. Christine Moriconi.

Coordinated Events

All the events listed below were coordinated by the Center for Contemplative Studies (Co-directors: **Dr. Donald McCown** and Dr. Christine Moriconi).

PASSHE Mindfulness Conference, organized by **Dr. Don McCown**, Michelle Laurenzi, and Amy Cander from April 6 - 7, 2017 in the CCS. This event involved gathering representatives from all PASSHE schools to discuss mindfulness happenings at each school on both the academic and counseling sides. 11 schools were represented at this conference.

Visit from Master Xianqi from the Puji Monastery, organized by Ethnic Studies and co-sponsored by the CCS on April 18, 2017. Master Xianqi traveled to WCU from China to hold a panel discussion about the application of Buddhist ethic to contemporary issues.

Faculty Scholarly Accomplishments

Coordinated Events (continued)

Digital Detox Day, co-sponsored by the Counseling Center and the CCS on April 18th, 2017 in Sykes Ballroom. This event offered mindful meditation and art therapy practices. The intent was leaving electronics behind to focus on self-care for a brief portion of the day. 20 students in attendance.

#GreenlightWCU, an event sponsored by Alpha Psi Omega fraternity on May 4th, 2017. The CCS held a table on the quad promoting the CCS and mental health and wellness through yoga, mindfulness-based art therapy, and meditation. Self-guided meditation handouts were given to students as well as fact-sheets and art therapy supplies.

Community Support

Full-day mindfulness instruction conducted by **Dr. Donald McCown** and student intern Michelle Laurenzi at Wilson High School in Reading, PA on March 24th, 2017. (5 classes, 125 students)

Distinguished Speaker Series

Croce, P. (2017).. The Secret to a Soulful Life. Held on March 9th in Sykes Theater at West Chester University. 226 attended. Mr. Pat Croce is a Distinguished WCU Alum and Donor/Contributor to the Center for Contemplative Studies. This event was organized by **Dr. Donald McCown**.

Koenig, H. (2017). The Connection: Religion, Spirituality, and Health. Held on March 30th in Philips Autograph Library at West Chester University. 137 attended. Dr. Harold Koenig is Director of Duke's Center for Spirituality, Theology, and Health, and founder and former director of Duke University's Center for the Study of Religion, Spirituality, and Health. This event was organized by **Dr. Donald McCown**.

Professional Development

Dr. Chiwoneso Tinago participated in the Fall 2016 WCU Online Faculty Development Program, a two week intensive online distance education course, from October 10—November 4, 2016.

Professional Service

Dr. Gopal Sankaran continues his service on the Editorial Board of the *American Journal of Public Health* and participated in the 2017 Mid-year Meeting in Baltimore, MD, April 6-7. He also serves as the chair of the Subcommittee on Policies and Procedures of the journal.