

NMSU Public Health Update

Department of Health Science

<http://publichealth.nmsu.edu>

Fall 2011



this issue

Welcome by Dr. Kittleson

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Greetings to Friends and Alums of NMSU

Welcome to the new academic year. I've been here for nearly 9 months and have been very appreciative of the support I've received from the faculty, staff, administration and students. NMSU is on the move. I'm thrilled at how much we've accomplished since I've arrived.

The wonderful news is that our MPH program received re-accreditation (note sidebar on right). The faculty deserve a great round of applause. To complete the self-study is tough enough, but they did it under extraordinary circumstances. Faculty are currently conducting the self-study for the undergraduate program (more info on page 3) The SABPAC site visit is tentatively scheduled for February 2012.



The Department has two new additions. Dr. Anup Amatya is our new biostatistician. Dr. Amatya comes to us from the University of Illinois Chicago's School of Public Health where he finished his biostatistics degree this summer. He is currently getting settled in teaching two biostatistics course (one face-to-face and the other on-line). Our second addition is our long-awaited academic advisor for our undergraduates. Linda Suffron came on board in May. Already she has made a major

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CEPH Update

In June, word was received from the Council for Education in Public Health (CEPH) that accreditation status for our MPH program was extended until 2018. Congratulations to the faculty for their hard work. NMSU continues to be the ONLY university in the country that has an MPH CEPH accredited program as well as an undergraduate approved program by SABPAC.

Speaking of SABPAC, Dr. Sue Forster-Cox is coordinating the department effort on our self-study and their site visit (scheduled for Fall, 2012). More on page 3.

Follow Us on Twitter/Facebook

The New Mexico State University's Public Health program is now on Twitter. After registering with a Twitter account, sign up to follow 'NMSUMPH'. For Facebook, go to [facebook.com/pages/141960965893661](https://www.facebook.com/pages/141960965893661)

Greetings Continued (from page 1)

impact. Linda has had numerous jobs in academic advising in Ohio, North Carolina and New Mexico.

Other exciting news is that by the time of this publication release we should have hired an epidemiologist. Dr. Satya Rao has been chairing that committee. They've been working hard over the summer and we anticipate an announcement soon.

We are also awaiting final approval to advertise for our on-line coordinator. This individual will play a critical role in recruiting and assisting our on-line students.

With this good news we had some sad news. Long-time faculty member Steve Arnold left NMSU to take a new position at Wichita State. More about Dr. Arnold can be found in the sidebar on the right.

Faculty have had a very productive year. We have seen our faculty published in 25 peer-reviewed international/national journals and they have presented 43 times at various international/national conferences. This is especially impressive considering their heavy teaching loads and service activities. It is very exciting to be part of a team that has a passion to teach, serve and conduct research.

Starting this fall, Ms. Pearl Hawe has taken over as the coordinator of our part-time instructors. She has been working hard all summer ensuring that our part-time faculty are provided the skills, assistance, and support to be effective instructors. Speaking of part-time instructors, we have hired some exceptionally talented individuals for this fall. We're thrilled that we have outstanding talents such as Drs. Dale Ritzel and Dhitinut Ratnapradipa (both of southern Illinois) and Thomas Ruiz (Las Cruces) filling in for the environmental health courses left open by Dr. Arnold's departure. Exceptionally talented instructors for our human sexuality course include Dr. Bruce Ragon (Wilmington, NC), Katy Redd (Las Cruces), Genevieve Garrett (Alabama), and Heidi Uperesa (El Paso). Heidi is also teaching a personal health course.

Additional faculty teaching our personal health course include Dr. Don Little

(Alabama), Dr. Karen Rishel (Las Cruces), and Kathleen Thompson (El Paso).

We also are delivering numerous women's health courses. Genevieve Garrett, Nicole Thomas (Twin Falls, Idaho) and Gigi Dimond (Las Cruces) are helping us immensely with these courses.

Stephen Lopez and Jo Hill (both of Las Cruces) have been doing a great job teaching the very popular drugs and behavior courses. Professor Emeritus Jeff Brandon and his wife Teresa are also teaching our stress management courses and, like all of the other instructors, have been receiving outstanding evaluations.

We also want to acknowledge Dr. Susan Cardenas (Spring, TX) who has been teaching our introductory public health courses, Drs. Janet Flores (Las Cruces) and Hugo Vilchis (Las Cruces) who are teaching our epidemiology courses. Finally we are grateful for Dr. Michael Kelly (El Paso) for his willingness to teach one of our program planning courses.

Other exciting news includes the election of Dr. Chuck Kozel as a SOPHE Board of Trustees, Professional Preparation (a national election), the selection of Dr. Cindy Kratzke as a Rising Star, and the selection of Drs. Satya Rao and Susan Wilson each as recipients of a "One Year Plus" scholarship from the College of Extended Learning, Distance Education program.

Finally we need to brag a little more. Melanie Goodman, MPH alum of 2005, was recently awarded Distinguished Alumna of the Year. She will receive her award at the Homecoming festivities this October. Melanie is the Field Representative on Health Issues for U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman.

Please keep us posted on exciting things that are happening to you so we can share them in future newsletters. If you are around campus, feel free to stop in and say hello. Also, if you have any questions, ideas, or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact me at kittle@nmsu.edu.

Mark J. Kittleson, PhD, FAAHB, FAAHE
Professor and Head

'We ARE Public Health'



Steve Arnold Departure 'a Shocker'

Dr. Steve Arnold resigned from the department in summer 2011 to accept a position as Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs in the College of Health Professions at Wichita State University (the Shockers). Losing a person of Steve's background is very difficult. He had great institutional history, a keen mind for detail, and was an individual who put others ahead of himself. Dr. Arnold arrived at NMSU in 1998 and held a number of positions in the college (besides his professorship) including both permanent and interim head of the department as well as interim associate dean of academics.

We wish Steve the best of luck. He will be missed more than he realizes.

Sad News for Public Health in New Mexico

Public health practitioners were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Dan Reyna this summer. Dan, 59, leaves behind his wife, two daughters and three grandchildren. He was heavily involved in addressing border health issues efforts.

Two MPH Graduate Students Receive Awards

Jill Hoxmeier and Rasha Arabat, both second year MPH students, received the "Preparing Future Faculty Graduate Assistantship Awards" for 2011-12. This program is intended to help prepare students for life as an academician. Drs. Susan Wilson and James Robinson are working with Jill and Rasha respectively. A total of 18 awards were given throughout the campus.

We were the only department in the university to have two such awards. Congratulations to both Jill and Rasha and congratulations also to our faculty.



Update on Faculty

Dr. Sue Forster-Cox was recently awarded the Outstanding Advisor by the university at the Fall 2011 Convocation. It's nice to see that others are acknowledging what the department has known for years.

The Department hosted two socials this spring. The AAHE Social in San Diego was well attended with people from many institutions of higher education. In addition the Department sponsored a social at the Mid-Year SOPHE in Albuquerque. A great number of faculty and students were able to attend this social, with public health instructors and practitioners from throughout the country attending.

Dr. Cindy Kratzke has an abstract accepted for SOPHE's 62nd annual meeting (Washington, DC) scheduled for late October. Her presentation is "Enhancing Cultural Competence Using an Experiential Exercise: A Lens into Cross-Cultural Collaboration."

Dr. Susan Wilson recently co-authored an article "Diabetes and stress: an anthropological review for study of modernizing populations in the US-Mexico border region". You can access it at <http://www.rrh.org.au/articles/subviewnew.asp?ArticleID=1758>

Drs. Kittleson, Young, and Robinson will be attending the *Third Annual International Conference on the Health Risks of Youth* to be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 4-7, 2012. All will be presenting various workshops or research projects.

SABPAC

The faculty and administration in the Department are presently completing the self-study for the re-approval of the Bachelor of Community Health (BCH) program. Approval is a designation awarded by the joint committee of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) and the American Association for Health Education (AAHE). SABPAC Approval is recognized as an accreditation by the profession and sets a standard for entry-level health education preparation programs.

The NMSU BCH program has been continually approved since receiving its initial approval in 1992. This present self-study is the 3rd undertaken by the Department since 1992. Typically a program is approved for 6-7 years; the last self-study done by NMSU was in 2006.

Presently, approximately 20 undergraduate programs are SABPAC Approved. NMSU is the only program in the nation with a SABPAC Approved BCH program and a Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation for the Masters of Public Health Program.

Graduate Students Update

- 17 graduate students were assigned graduate assistantships for the Department of Health Science for the academic year of 2011-12. Six are first year, nine are second year and two will be finished this fall.
- Kiran Sapkota, MPH student, is the first President of the Voice Against Cancer (VAC), a new student association on campus. Kiran's group already raised \$5,000 using social media for a global cancer project (in Nepal) to pay for screenings. Dr. Cindy Kratzke is the faculty advisor for this group.
- Aisha Kudura recently participated in an interview for a research internship at NIH-National Cancer Institute. The interview went really well and Aisha is coordinating plans for a year-long internship after she graduates.
- Melissa Bertolo is a co-author with Dr. Kratzke in an article accepted for publication in *Journal of Cultural Diversity*
- 8 of 15 presentations at upcoming Paso del Norte SOPHE Conference are being given by NMSU students. Melissa Bertolo, Elizabeth Kennedy, Luke Gray (an undergraduate), Jill Hoxmeier, Valerie Lozano, Crystal Moran (recent graduate), Beth Renick, and Vanessa Martinez (recent graduate) are all presenting.
- Stacie Powell has landed a great internship with the NM Department of Health for fall semester.

Important Dates

- MPH Face-to-Face Applications due February 15; MPH Online Applications due March 15
- October 19 Brown Bag—Beatriz Favela on SoAHEC
- November 16 Brown Bag—Dr. Hugo Vilchis on Border Epidemiological Issues
- SOPHE/APHA, Annual Conferences, Washington DC; October 26-November 3
- Homecoming; October 28-29 (Melanie Goodman receives award on October 28)



Join the Aggie Century Club

The Aggie Century Club has been designed to allow alums of our programs an opportunity to directly impact our current students. The Aggie Century Club is a commitment by alums to donate \$8.50 a month (less than two lattes) to the department to help students travel to conferences, offset expenses of guest speakers, and provide other activities to enhance the students' experience. Two alums, Warren Cox, MPH and Dr. Christopher Ledingham are our first two members.

Giving has never been more important to universities. We are asking alums to donate to the Aggie Century Club. All those who agree to donate prior to the end of the Fall Semester will be inducted into the charter Aggie Century Club. Join Warren Cox and Dr. Christopher Ledingham as members of this elite club.

For more information, go to <http://publichealth.nmsu.edu/donor>

P.S. Membership is not just restricted to alums; friends of the NMSU Public Health program are also encouraged to donate.

Our Mission: To provide academic, professional, and service excellence in preparing community health education professionals who will demonstrate competent leadership, innovation, and technical expertise at local, state, and national levels, with particular emphasis on border and rural health problems in communities along the U.S./Mexico border.

Undergraduate Students Update

- As of Fall 2011, the undergraduate program in Community Health Education has 128 official majors. An additional 30 are being reviewed for admission for the spring, 2012 semester.
- Luke Gray was the undergraduate community health representative for the College of Business' Domenici Conference. The conference, sponsored by the former U.S. Senator, only allows questions to the panelists from students. Luke made the department proud by his mature and intelligent questions (Jill Hoxmeier was the departmental graduate student representative)
- Olivia Seppi (BCH Major, ASNMSU and Sundancer) was our college's representative at a recent dean's retreat.

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575-646-4300 ph
575-646-4343 fax