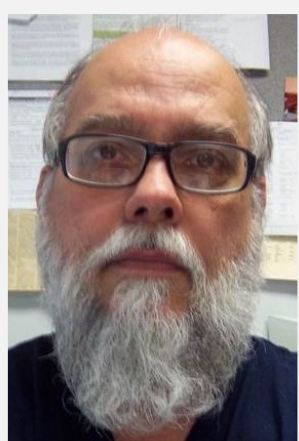


# MPH CONNECTION

The Official Newsletter of the Master of Public Health Program at Missouri State University

## FROM THE INTERIM DIRECTOR



Many changes have occurred recently in the Master of Public Health program at Missouri State University, and we are very proud of the progress we have made. The most important event has been our recent **accreditation by the Council on Education in Public Health (CEPH)**, which was awarded in December of 2012. This is important to our students because many employers require CEPH-accreditation for MPH degrees. With that accreditation, we now offer a generalist degree in public health that can be attained **almost entirely through a combination of executive-style and online courses**. The executive-style classes meet on a limited number of Saturdays each semester and are supplemented with online work. For those who prefer a more traditional setting, we vary the modality of several of our courses, rotating between online or executive style one year to a more traditional seated format on the following year. All seated classes are taught at night. In short, the MPH program at MSU is designed to be attractive to both the traditional student and the working adult student. For more information about the program and our admission requirements, please visit our web page at <http://www.missouristate.edu/mp/>.

There are more exciting changes coming to the MPH program. We are currently in the last stages of developing a new joint degrees program between the Master of Health Administration (MHA) and the MPH. If approved by the University, this program will allow students to 'double count' four courses in the two master's degree programs. With a total of 66 hours of work, the student will attain **BOTH the MPH and the MHA**. With recent initiatives in healthcare reform, we believe this interdisciplinary education and combination of degrees will uniquely qualify our graduates to be able to address many population health issues for both government and private healthcare entities. Our target date to start this program is the fall semester of 2014.

The MPH program at Missouri State University is growing, but we are accepting new students every semester. If you have any questions regarding our program, please feel free to contact me at [davidclaborn@missouristate.edu](mailto:davidclaborn@missouristate.edu) or at 417-836-8945. We would love to hear from you.

David Claborn, DrPH

## CONGRATULATIONS

Jemina Shikany's poster was selected as the top in her category at the Missouri State University Interdisciplinary Forum. The poster was entitled "Public Health Traveler's Issues and the Healthcare System in Yemen" and was based on a project she did in the MPH course International Health and Infectious Disease.

Philomina Amofah's won for her oral presentation at the same forum. It was based on research funded by the Healthy Living Alliance and was entitled "What are our children eating?: An assessment of children's diet in a Missouri community."



Pictured above are Jemina and Philomina along with Cindy Calender, Brent Jones, Wendy Castle, and Lawal Garuba at the Interdisciplinary Forum

## Recent Faculty Presentations and Publications

Brown, E., Nonnemaker, J., **Federman, E.B.**, Farrelly, M., & Kipnis, S. (2012). Implementation of a tobacco-free regulation in substance use disorder treatment facilities. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 42 (3):319-327.

**Claborn, DM.** "The impact of disasters on the risk of vectorborne diseases." Annual meeting of the Missouri Mosquito and Vector Control Association. Columbia, MO. 29 March 2013.

Allison Wilson, Philomina Amofah, and **Elizbeth Federman.** Cupcakes no more: Using community school partnerships to change birthday party policy in a local elementary school; Healthy Living Alliance. To be presented at APHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2013 in Boston, Massachusetts

**Claborn, D.M.** "An international perspective on epidemic typhus: Why global events are of importance to the American public." Annual meeting of the National Environmental Health Association, San Diego, CA. June 29, 2012.

Huang JLW, S Young, D Gordon, **D Claborn**, C Peterson, M Ramalho-Ortigao. 2012. First report and bionomics of Phlebotomine sand flies (*Diptera: Psychodidae*) in Kansas and Missouri. *J Med Entomol* 49(6): 1460-1465.

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### ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"I am a medical case manager at AIDS Project of the Ozarks. My main job is to do everything I can to help people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) focus on medical care and medication adherence. This may include providing rental assistance, attending doctor's appointments, paying for HIV medications or a myriad of other support activities. My job is essential because PLWHA can have almost normal life spans with proper treatment. In addition, adherence to an HIV medication regime can reduce the transmission of HIV by up to 93%. Some of my other duties include facilitating a support group for women living with HIV/AIDS, doing HIV and STI testing at our downtown weekend outreach and teaching a safer sex group on the Cox North Psychiatric Unit. The way I think and process while doing my job is a credit to the Public Health Program. Some days I think, "I learned that in class", but most days I don't notice because the knowledge has been integrated into the way I function as a professional."

### GRADUATE ASSISANT

My name is Christie Oestreich and I am the current GA for the Master of Public Health Program. This is my first semester in the MPH program. I got my undergraduate degree from Southeast Missouri State University focusing on Health Management and Nutrition. In my free time I enjoy running and spending time with my family and new puppy.

### GRADUATE ASSISANT

#### Travis Fisher

My name is Travis Fisher and I am in my final year as a graduate student in the Missouri State Master of Public Health program. I previously received my undergraduate degree in sociology at Missouri State University. I am currently serving as a graduate assistant for Dr. Federman from a grant provided through the Healthy Living Alliance. The Healthy Living Alliance is a community based organization which works through partnerships to help create a healthier environment for Springfield area residents. The primary objectives of the HLA are to reduce the burden of obesity through the encouragement of healthier eating and active lifestyles as well as to support tobacco-free policies in the community. It is the responsibility of Missouri State University's MPH program to develop and provide evaluation of the HLA program.

### MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

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