



A Message from the Chair...

Welcome to our second year of the MPH program at GVSU and our second edition of eMPHasis! It was a full and productive kickoff year and we're happy to welcome another cohort into the program this fall. Currently the MPH program has just under 100 students in three cohorts at various stages in the program! As our first cohort is nearing graduation in April 2015, I am asking myself where has the time gone?

We have had so many highlights since our program kicked off in 2013 it's hard to list them all. From our "This is Public Health" photo shoot this summer, the global experience in Kenya, to the community-based participatory research opportunities in the field, our students are impacting the world of public health in so many ways already! This semester our first cohort enters their practicum placements, and we look forward to the stories they will share of their experiences in the field. Cohort two is now preparing to start their research and seek practicum placement sites. Cohort three can be found at local public health events throughout the community each week as they begin their journey through the MPH curriculum.

I continue to be inspired by our actively engaged students, those who traveled to our national conference in New Orleans to those who have involved themselves in the Public Health Society student organization and every opportunity in between. No matter how they are engaging through our experiential learning curriculum we are confident our students will soon be doing great work in the field!

As we approach the season of giving thanks I would be remiss not to highlight our dedicated faculty members in Public Health. Their dedication to students in and out of the classroom is tremendous and I am grateful for this! Wishing you and your family a healthy and enjoyable season into 2015!

Dr. Ranelle Brew

eMPHasis is eLinked

This eMPHasis newsletter is full of webpage hyperlinks to help you learn more about the subjects featured within its articles. eMPHasis is intended and designed to be an electronic communication, so links are embedded to bring you directly to designated webpages simply by clicking on the hyperlinked word, phrase, or web address.

For the sake of space, web addresses aren't always spelled out within the article, which if you are reading a printed version, makes it impossible to know each hyperlink's ultimate destination. On [Page 11](#) you will find the exact web address of every hyperlink found within this issue. In fact, it might be a good idea to keep that page handy for future reference!

Please Note: we do not control or necessarily endorse linked websites.

Upcoming Public Health Events & Important Dates

Jan 5	Winter Semester Begins	Mar 1-8	Spring Break
Jan 7, 21 Feb 4, 18 Mar 11, 25	RCR Winter 2015 Seminar Series Visit this website for more information FREE series, no registration required	Mar 2-8	NYC Service Learning trip Columbia University's Health Disparities conference & other events and activities. By application & invitation only.
Jan 12-16	MPH Info Sessions See Page 7 , for details	Mar 27	MI PH Epidemiology Conference @ U of M School of Public Health FREE to all students.
Jan 19	MLK Jr. Day—no class	Apr 23-25	SOPHE Conference Portland, OR
Jan 23	MPH Practicum Bootcamp For Fall 14 Cohort (#3); CHS 123, 1-4pm	Nov 1-4	APHA Conference Chicago, IL
Feb 1	MPH Application Deadline-Fall 15		



Student Highlights— Winter Practicum

This winter semester marks the first round of GVSU MPH students heading out into the field for practicum experience. Congratulations and good luck to the following students:

Epidemiology—



Erik Buczkowski
Masonic Pathways
Senior Living Services



Aaron Cooch
Kent County Health Department



Nick Dow
West Michigan Environmental Action Council



Matthew Grove
Munson Medical Center

Health Promotion—



Bree Bode
Kent County Health Department



Kirsten Curtis
Mercy Health Saint Mary's



Angelina Gero
Kent County Health Department



Alicia Killinger
Kent County Health Department



Katie Maloney
District 10 Health Department



Megan Miller
District 10 Health Department



Monica Rykse
GVSU Health and Wellness



Megan Stankey
Boys & Girls Club Commonwealth of Grand Rapids



Andrea Taylor
Kent County Health Department



Tempest Warfield
A.I.D.S. Inc / GVSU

Welcome, Dr. Li

Sheng Li, Ph.D., MD, MPH, is the newest addition to the GVSU Public Health Department. Dr. Li joined our program this fall as an Assistant Professor. He is an epidemiologist and physician by training.

Dr. Li received his PhD in Epidemiological Sciences from the University of Michigan. His areas of research include



Dr. Sheng Li

system epidemiology, environmental health, global health and public health practice. Dr. Li is interested in quantitative data analysis and multidisciplinary research. He applied both statistical modeling and novel system modeling approaches to understand mechanisms and risk factors for infectious and non-communicable diseases. His previous research has focused on influenza, measles and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Recently collaborating with Dr. Molla, Dr. Li received a Catalyst Grant from GVSU Center for Scholarly and Creative Excellence (CSCE) to develop new system modeling methods for assessing measles immunization programs and future adult vaccination strategies. Supported by the U.S. and China CDC's, Dr. Li will explore long term measles seroprevalence data to understand the

driven factors for measles' persistence in China, such as vaccination, migration and demographic transition. Immunization program assessment traditionally tend to have strong reporting bias, depending on the vaccine dose usage and the size of target population. In the study, Dr. Li will try to develop a novel system modeling approach for vaccination assessment that is independent to biased vaccine dose and population size data. This study will also serve as a preliminary work for a U.S. CDC grant application. Dr. Li welcomes students who are interested in global health and quantitative analysis to join this interesting study. Students might have a chance to visit the U.S. CDC and/or the China CDC with this project. Dr. Li also welcomes students to stop by his office to share any thoughts about public health.

This Is Public Health

[This is Public Health](#) Awareness Campaign

This fall the Introduction to Public Health courses each made their mark on the Grand Rapids community in a significant way during Art Prize. Why not take advantage of the thousands of people roaming the streets – right?

MPH students took downtown by storm, talking to the public about the [red sticker campaign](#) that is famous in the Public Health world called the “This is Public Health” Campaign! Each class took a different initiative in how to speak and promote public health. On opening day of Art Prize, Wednesday's class hit the streets in 11 different locations, armed with dry erase boards and stickers asking people to write what public health meant to them. We had some interesting responses and participants eager to share their ideas! Some were a bit apprehensive to write on the boards, but were happy to take a sticker; sharing them among the community and adding to the social media buzz with #GVSUPublicHealth.

Tuesday's class was interested in asking the public more specific questions, which they created as teams. Public Health questions across the decades created for a game of Jeopardy, and a chance for some really smart Grand Rapids citizens to shine! Photos and videos of this event can be found on the [GVSU Public Health Facebook page](#)! Like it today to learn more about this event and many other exciting events happening in the GVSU Public Health program.



MPH Partnership: Lowell Health Assessment Project

LoWellness - "Enhancing your life today and tomorrow" has partnered with GVSU's public health program for their community health assessment project. Jodie Seese, a Lowell community member and Tobacco Prevention Specialist, received a local grant to conduct a health assessment of the 14,000 residents of her hometown.

Armed with stakeholders and partners, from the local police to the Chamber of Commerce, plus key volunteers like our MPH students, this project is aimed at assessing and later addressing the health and wellness needs of their small-town community. MPH students sit on the LoWellness Advisory Board, along with Dr. Brew, and will serve as volunteers in 2015 to conduct surveys throughout Lowell. The PH 632 Social Campaigning and Distribution class will work with LoWellness on their social marketing plans and work at the Lowell Health and Wellness fair in March.

"This project is a long-term, 3-4 year project and we are thrilled to be partnering in an opportunity that will give our students experiential learning experience in

the field of public health assessment and project planning," says Dr. Brew. "I foresee this as a practicum placement site for the future, and an ongoing partnership that will allow students to network with key health care players from local institutions."



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Faculty Updates

Dr. Ranelle Brew gave three presentations in collaboration with Allied Health Sciences students on their Kenya service learning trip, at the Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference in Bellaire, MI.

Dr. Brew was elected as Michigan Public Health Association's President-Elect for 2014-2015, for a two year Presidential term, beginning July 2015.

In June 2014, **Dr. Lara Jaskiewicz** presented at the joint meeting of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society. Her

presentation was titled "Perceptions and measurements of access to fresh fruits and vegetables for a low-income neighborhood."

Dr. Claudia Leiras led a pre-conference institute, "Dissecting Desktop Data: Using Clinical Data for Outcomes Research," and gave three presentations at the American Society of Hand Therapists Annual Meeting in Boston.

Dr. Sheng Li received a \$1000 grant to include students in his CDC China project from the CSCE, as well as a \$3000 Early Career Stipend.

Dr. Azizur Molla presented two papers at the American Public Health Association's Annual Conference in New Orleans.

The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics recently recognized **Dr. Jody Vogelzang** as a Fellow. (Read more about this on [page 7](#))

Dr. Vogelzang was awarded a \$20,000 Champions for Healthy Kids grant for Kick and Cook-a-Palooza: What's in the Box?, a program she created with Dr. Dawn DeVries (TR).

The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) selected **Dr. Vogelzang** as President-Elect for 2015-16.

GVSU Public Health—Connections



MPH Fieldtrip to Lansing, MI to the [Office of Public Health Preparedness](#) May, 2014



Dr. Ranelle Brew spoke to health professionals who wanted to learn more about partnering with our MPH students, during a Practicum Networking Breakfast June, 2014



Two beautiful fall, October days in northern Michigan awaited more than twenty public health students at this year's Michigan's Premiere Public Health conference in Bellaire, MI



Pictured from left to right: Hailey Brewer, Tyler Hoerle, Kasie Pickart, Lauren Wiltshire, Joyce Gaufin, Rachel Sunday (front), and Sandra Lake (far right)

MPH at [Michigan's Premier Public Health conference](#)

GV Public Health students had their time to shine at the state conference as they networked alongside professionals from all over the state. One conference highlight included this year's keynote speaker, Joyce Gaufin, the American Public Health Association President, having lunch with the students and talking about the future of the field of public health. Students also had a fun and productive dinner at Shorts Brewery, as they met and mingled with health department directors and brainstormed ideas for collaboration. Poster presentations were also given by Dr. Brew and undergraduate students Taylor Franklin, Frankie Pollock, and Yarisbel Segura, who traveled to Kenya, East Africa on the AHS/MPH service learning trip in May (see [page 8](#)).

Attending keynote speakers, breakout sessions, expo booths and partner updates all aided in the student's growth and professional development in Public Health. We are looking forward to an even larger group at 2015's conference on October 5 & 6 at Crystal Mountain! Save the date and we'll see you there!



APHA—New Orleans

All of the MPH faculty, as well as ten MPH students, traveled to New Orleans this year for the 142nd annual [American Public Health \(APHA\)](#) Conference in November.

MPH, Year 2 student, Brad Wandschneider, shared his thoughts on the experience, "APHA was an eye-opening experience for me. It was such an incredible feeling to be surrounded by 12,000+ people that were so passionate about public health. The chance to interact with a variety of people in public health was motivating and energizing. It was exciting to see the advancements that people were making in the field and my areas of study to generate ideas for future research projects. At times, it was overwhelming, but it gave me the opportunity to go to a lot of presentations and posters to learn about current research from a new point of view. Most importantly, I was happy to see that my needs as a future epidemiologist are met in public health. I am excited to take the next step into my career and APHA made me more comfortable in taking that step."

While faculty had full schedules with workshops and participating in their alumni events and APHA sections, students were learning first-hand alongside the champions of public health. Highlight sessions included discussions from the current Surgeon General at the keynote address on opening day to breakout workshops in various areas of public health.

GVSU was highly recognized throughout this year's conference as attendees were spotted all over the convention center and throughout the city carrying our re-usable bag giveaway from the Expo booth. Faculty mingled with students at the expo booth and also spent time at Career Mart while we recruited for our open faculty positions. Sunday night, Drs. Li and Brew, shared time with the students for a wonderful Cajun-inspired New Orleans meal at Multate's.

Megan Miller said, "Attending the APHA Annual Meeting was an incredible experience - an educational and career highlight for me. My experience at the conference absolutely solidified my career choice in public health; it was amazing to be surrounded by so many passionate and knowledgeable public health professionals. The general session highlighting the works of our nation's top doctors was a



swift reminder of what public health DOES. I am very excited to see what the future holds for public health and I feel fortunate to be a part of this profession. It is difficult to put into words how much information, inspiration, and passion a few days at the conference gave me... I will definitely be in attendance next year and I encourage all public health students and professionals to attend!"

Save the date for next year's [APHA Conference](#) in Chicago! October 31—November 4, 2015!

Scenes from [sHaPe Camp](#)



**Health Educators
At Work!**

- * Oral hygiene
- * Safe Passengers
- * Nutrition
- * Bullying



**July
2014**



MPH Students:

- Bree Bode
- Kirsten Curtis
- Alicia Killinger
- Zeke Rios
- Monica Rykse
- Megan Stankey

Resolve to Become a Leader in Public Health

Grand Valley's MPH program is currently accepting applications for admittance into the Fall 2015 cohort. The application deadline is **February 1, 2015**.

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the MPH program, please consider joining us at one of our January Informational Sessions.



Monday, Jan. 12	2:00pm	Center for Health Sciences (CHS); Rm 240
Tuesday, Jan. 13	5:00pm	Allendale campus /Mackinac Hall; Rm TBD
Wednesday, Jan. 14	10:00am	Center for Health Sciences (CHS); Rm 240
Thursday, Jan. 15	12:00pm	Richard M DeVos Center ; Rm 302E
Friday, Jan. 16	3:00pm	Allendale campus /Mackinac Hall; Rm TBD

For more information, you may also want to visit our webpage: www.gvsu.edu/grad/mph. Graduate applications and admissions information can be accessed at www.gvsu.edu/admissions/graduate/apply-to-grand-valley-19.htm

Emphasis: Epidemiology

The field of epidemiology had an amazing showing at the 142nd [American Public Health Association](#) annual meeting in New Orleans, LA. A wide variety of diseases were covered representing the depth and breath of the field. Topics ranged from infectious diseases, chronic diseases, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, metabolic syndrome, asthma and respiratory diseases, cancer, the role of geography, occupation, and the environment in disease etiology, to social and health disparities.

Since epidemiology provides the methods for public health research, the session on "methods and models in epidemiologic practice and theory" offered innovative strategies for dealing with commonly encountered problems in research methodology. Some of the highlights from this session included

the use of propensity score matching to address selection bias and strategies for maximizing retention in an urban prospective cohort study. The session on using "health-related quality of life (HRQOL) measures for population health surveillance and assessment of potential public health interventions" highlighted the need for validated and reliable HRQOL measures to quantify the burden of disease in a population. Of interest was also the session on "Health Geographies – Interactions between Environmental and Individual Factors" which illustrated the importance of healthography, the interaction of individual health behaviors, lifestyle and geospatial context in public health research and practice.

For questions related to epidemiology, please contact [Dr. Claudia Leiras](#).

Congratulations Dr. Jody Vogelzang!

The [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#), the world's largest organization of food and nutrition professionals, recently recognized Jody Vogelzang as a Fellow. This designation recognizes Vogelzang's commitment to the field of dietetics and celebrates her professional accomplishments and pursuit of life-long learning.

A Fellow signifies that a member has lived up to the Academy's values of customer focus, integrity, innovation and social responsibility.

Dr. Vogelzang is a recipient of many awards and honors in the field of dietetics including Recognized Young Dietitian of the Year, Honored Dietitian by the state of Indiana, and Distinguished Member of the Dietitians in Continuing Care Practice Group. In addition, Vogelzang was recognized for her excellence in practice in Community Dietetics by the Academy, and was one of the youngest recipients ever to receive the Academy's esteemed Medallion Award.

Vogelzang has served on local, state and national Academy boards. She is currently the Director of the Master of Science program in Clinical Dietetics at Grand Valley in addition to her faculty position in the Department of Public Health.



Dr. Jody Vogelzang

Service Learning—Study Abroad

Journey to Kenya

Many apply... a select few are chosen... to brave the global world of public health in Kenya, East Africa. In May 2014, four MPH students and four Allied Health Sciences students joined together for an interdisciplinary experience that would change lives—their own, as well as many of the Kenyan's they met along the way. Traveling and working abroad is not easy, and our passionate students who had this life-changing experience can attest this is true!

The work in Kenya was demanding as we were faced with challenges to test our abilities; from safety to weather, no experience was left undone. The day-to-day work at Tigoni Hospital where the “Killer Drink” was bringing in patients affected by a poisonous liquid served in the bush, to the health education challenges at Top Mark School, every day brought new stories and memories to last a lifetime. Tourism in Kenya would also highlight the trip, as the group traveled great distances for opportunities of a lifetime. Trips to Nairobi highlights, Lake Nakuru, and the Maasai Mara region for safari gave our group vivid memories we will never forget! A global learning opportunity is not one that comes every day, and for those who experience it, they have a chance to see public health through a whole new lens.



GVSU students in Kenya

Dr. Ranelle Brew

The World Less Travelled

This summer I directed a faculty-led, study abroad program for the GVSU Honors College. It was a seven week long program to Ghana, Africa, from June 13–August 1. Fifteen students, mostly from Premed, Biomedical Sciences, and Allied Health Sciences programs participated in the experience. The study abroad program is designed to offer students an excellent opportunity to learn Ghana culture from a holistic approach that includes classroom learning, field visits, school visits, and service learning placements. Students attended class at University of Ghana in Accra, and visited several NGOs, health centers, and hospitals.

The students were divided into two groups: one group worked with Ghana Health Services, i.e. health centers, clinics and hospitals in Winneba, while the other group worked at Challenging Heights a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) working to rescue child slaves.

Students had the opportunity to work with surgeons, doctors, physician assistants, midwives, public health

nurses, physical therapy nurses and technicians. They shadowed several doctors, physician assistants, midwives, and nurses who worked in OT, ER and other healthcare service delivery units of the Winneba Municipal Hospital and Trauma and Specialized Hospital. They also worked in clinics and hospitals run by private owners, memorial trusts, and missionaries.

Students also worked at Challenging Heights; specifically in their office, schools and shelter. Students developed statistical programs to keep records, organized their records, entered data, analyzed data, developed video documentary, organized the school library, taught in classes, and worked with children in the shelter.

This trip was a life changing experience for the students. Many quickly organized fund raising events upon returning to GVSU. The students raised about \$7,000 to help the children in Challenging Heights and ISHEW, another NGO working to help provide safe water and better health.

Dr. Azizur Molla



Visiting Otoo Memorial Hospital



Going door-to-door to clean water filters



Cleaning water filters in a village



Students in the hostel's dining area

Emphasis: Health Promotion

News From Health Promotion

• On October 4, GVSU and U of M Master of Public Health students completed a **Market Basket Survey** of 17 stores as a follow-up to the household survey on food availability and procurement completed in March and July of 2014. All purchases were graded for quality and price and USDA scoring was used for the fresh fruits and vegetables. Results supported earlier research, in that smaller neighborhood stores tend to be more expensive and have less selection. The area of interest in SE Grand Rapids is a food desert and this information will be used with community stakeholders to move their vision of an acceptable food landscape to reality. Dr. Vogelzang is the principal investigator for this study.



GVSU & U of M students - Market Basket Survey



A sampling of groceries purchased for the Market Basket Survey

• On October 24, College of Health Profession students joined with the Kirkhof College of Nursing and the College of Community and Public Service in the viewing and discussion of the documentary [Remote Area Medical](#). Over 100 students took advantage of this event. Dr. Vogelzang was the facilitator for this interprofessional learning opportunity.

• In Dr. Vogelzang's class, PH 628: **Program Planning and Evaluation**, students have been working on programming for GVSU campus health and wellness. Based on the latest campus health survey, needs were identified and viable, practical programs were developed that address needs in sexual health, violence prevention, nutrition, physical activity, and mental health. All of these programs have been vetted with GVSU Health and Wellness staff for feasibility and include sophisticated evaluation methods to assess effectiveness.



The Remote Area Medical film screening & discussion was held in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences

• Dr. Vogelzang is currently working on her grant **"Kick and Cook-a-Palooza: What's in the Box?"** Four afternoons a week Dr. Vogelzang and three student workers conduct cooking classes at the three **Boys and Girls Clubs** in Grand Rapids. Recently, this program has been extended past its original program length of six weeks by the Boys and Girls Club due to high interest and impact with the kids and their families.



A child makes an "Apple Monster Mouth" using apple slices, Sunbutter colored red, and yogurt covered raisins for teeth, during Kick and Cook-a-Palooza.

Other kid-friendly recipes included Pumpkin Penne Pasta, Fruit Tacos, Gnocchi with Chard and White Beans, Crispy Chicken Fingers, and Meatloaf Muffins with Barbeque Sauce.

I'm going to make more of these with my mom when I get home!

~ Kick & Cook participant

MPH—Summer in the City



Emphasis: Public Health Administration

Policy and Health

Up through the 1950s or so, improvements in environmental health and control of infectious diseases were a leading cause of decreases in morbidity and mortality in the US. Then leading causes of death began to shift towards chronic diseases. As educational and pharmaceutical efforts grew, yet were limited in effectiveness, public health professionals began to look at other aspects of people's lives that affect their behavior.

The role of the environments in which we live on behavior, especially the physical environments, became an area of examination. Since many of the leading causes of death are diseases that are sensitive to diet and exercise, those areas were of immediate concern. However, other areas, such as alcohol use and smoking, were also of interest. It soon became clear that changes in policy would be necessary to make certain changes in health behavior.

Policy change often happens in the political arena, with laws at the federal,

state, or local level. These laws have included clean air laws governing where people may smoke tobacco as well as taxes to increase the cost of items associated with poor health. These last are called “sin taxes” as they are designed to affect only those who are engaging in the behavior public health officials wish to change. Laws can also be used to direct public employees to incorporate resources towards certain activities, such as the creation of a fund for addressing obesity, or requiring transportation departments to incorporate walking and cycling safety into their plans and road construction.

Existing policies may be found that limit a particular program's impact. This happened across the US in 2011 when health departments tried to pass policies with required nutrition standards for vending machine foods and beverages in public facilities. It turned out that states and counties had long-standing policies providing blind vendors the first choice of these contracts. The blind vendors were not in support of a policy that might

negatively impact their income, leaving public health professionals in a difficult position—pass a healthy policy and take money from the disabled, or not? This was not an easy problem, and many localities did not solve it.

However, policies such as the vending policy can be simpler when controlled at the organizational level. In these cases, policy change affects the organization, its employees, and its resources. Obtaining buy-in from key organizational leaders and staff may take time, but can impact all the organization's employees for about 1/3 of their work week. This can have a positive health impact, as shown by some worksite wellness programs.

For more information see the following resources:

[Bell J and Marion Standish. \(2005\) Communities and health policy: A pathway for change. Health Affairs; 24 \(2\):339-342.](#)

[ChangeLab Solutions](#)

[National Business Group on Health](#)

Winter 2015 eMPHasis Hyperlinks

Below, you will find the exact address of each of the hyperlinks found within this issue. Please note that we do not control or necessarily endorse these websites. It is also presumed that these links may become out of date or broken over time.

Page 1:

Grand Valley State University Department of Public Health: <http://www.gvsu.edu/sph/>

Master of Public Health, MPH Graduate Program: <http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/mph/>

Grand Valley State University-Public Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthatgvsu>

RCR Winter 2015 Seminar Series Info page: http://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/8C55EB48-9218-2FDF-51923DF040BB131E/rcr_winter_2015_seminar_series_final.pdf

SOPHE 2015 Conference: <http://www.sophe.org/AnnualMeeting2015.cfm>

APHA Conference: <http://www.apha.org/meetings/annual/>

Page 3:

This Is Public Health webpage: <http://www.thisispublichealth.org/>

TIPH Red Sticker campaign: <http://www.thisispublichealth.org/AboutCampaign.html>

Page 5:

Michigan Office of Public Health Preparedness: http://www.michigan.gov/mdch/0,1607,7-132-54783_54826---,00.html

Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference: <http://www.malpb.org/news/michigans-premier-public-health-conference>

Page 6:

American Public Health Association: <https://www.apha.org/>

APHA Annual Meeting & Exposition: <https://www.apha.org/events-and-meetings/annual>

sHaPe Camp: <http://www.gvsu.edu/rmsc/shape-camp-16.htm>

Page 7:

Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences map: <http://www.gvsu.edu/tour/chs.pdf>

Allendale Campus map: <http://www.gvsu.edu/tour/adaleweb.pdf>

Richard DeVos Center map: <http://www.gvsu.edu/tour/grcampus.pdf>

Master of Public Health, MPH Graduate Program: www.gvsu.edu/grad/mph

GVSU Graduate Admissions Application: www.gvsu.edu/admissions/graduate/apply-to-grand-valley-19.htm

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <http://www.eatright.org/>

American Public Health Association: <https://www.apha.org/>

Email for Dr. Claudia Leiras: leirasc@gvsu.edu

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Remote Area Medical film website: <http://www.focusforwardfilms.com/films/37/remote-area-medical>

EXTRA—For Information on the Remote Area Medical organization:

<http://www.ramusa.org/>

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Bell J and Marion Standish. (2005) Communities and health policy: A pathway for change. *Health Affairs*; 24(2):339-342:

<http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/24/2/339.full>

ChangeLab Solutions: <http://changelabsolutions.org/>

National Business Group on Health: <https://www.businessgrouphealth.org/>

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GVSU Public Health Society (Student Org.): <https://orgsync.com/76721/chapter>

GVSU PHS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthsociety>

NEW Student Resource!

The GVSU Public Health office encourages all MPH students to stop by 515 Michigan to peruse the new **Public Health Resource Binder**.

This awesome resource features practicum placement ideas, job postings, volunteer opportunities, and more! New entries and updates are entered into the binder each week, so plan to visit often!

GVSU Public Health Society Update

Department of Public Health

Ranelle Brew

Assistant Professor
MPH Program Director
Department Chair

Lara Jaskiewicz

Assistant Professor

Claudia Leiras

Associate Professor

Sheng Li

Assistant Professor

Azizur Molla

Associate Professor

Jody Vogelzang

Assistant Professor
Masters of Clinical Dietetics Program Director

Heather Koster

Department Coordinator

Student Workers

Allison, Macauley & Namrata

About Us

The Department of Public Health at Grand Valley State University prepares students, through our new and emerging programs, offering community-based education and research grounded in social justice.

Grand Valley State University's Master of Public Health (MPH), offered by the Department of Public Health, prepares students by enhancing career opportunities through the acquisition of quantitative and qualitative problem solving research skills, service, and experiential learning. Public health professionals promote good health and prevent disease within communities. The MPH provides graduate and community-based education and research grounded in social justice to help meet these goals.

Contact Us

Department of Public Health

515 Michigan Street NE
Suite 300
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

616.331.5570

mphdept@gvsu.edu



The [Public Health Society](#) was busy creating events for our MPH students that were social, educational, and even raised funds this year!

A fall social event at Robinette's allowed the group to unwind and relax over some wine tasting and pumpkin picking.

Students requested opportunities to enhance their education and the Public Health Society met their needs! A Grant Writing Workshop, offered in conjunction with the Public Administration department, provided students a glimpse at the grant writing process from the health care perspective. A Public Health Professionals Panel, with high level executives from Kent County Health Department, Michigan Department of Community Health and Priority Health, came to inspire students with their background and experiences in the field.

The highlight was the PHS's ability to send 10 Master of Public Health students to the national public health conference in New Orleans, through a year-long effort of grant writing and fundraising!

PHS was also involved in several other activities, including:

- Creating an APHA-inspired Food Day, featuring speakers, a film viewing, and discussions
- Campus Life Night

Following her trip to Kenya, MPH student, Kendra Mason, gave a presentation on food comparisons between the U.S. and Kenya to members of PHS.

A new executive board was recently chosen, and they are currently being mentored into their positions by the outgoing Board Members:

President—Amber Lee
Vice-President—Isabel Hurden
Fundraising—Shayla Henrikson
Events/Outreach—Lauren Wiltshire
Secretary—Kasie Pickart
Treasurer—Heidi Sarles

Thank you to our outgoing Board Members!

Katie Olson
Jen Schafer
Bree Bode
Gina Jero

GVSU Public Health Society

MISSION:

- Promote the public health profession
- Educate students about various opportunities in public health
- Provide professional development for students interested in public health careers
- Connect students interested in public health with their peers
- Improve the health of the Grand Valley State University community through health campaigns, research and policy.

DUES: \$0

MEETINGS: CHS Lobby
Second Tuesday/Month
9:00pm