



GRAND VALLEY  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
PUBLIC HEALTH

Winter 2016

A Publication of the Department of Public Health | Grand Valley State University

## A Message from the Chair...

This fall marks our third year of the public health program at GVSU. In 2015, we admitted our fourth cohort of future public health professionals! As a newer program, we are continuously growing and enhancing our program to be the best we can be.

A recent highlight includes introducing new components to our curriculum by implementing online/hybrid sections to our core courses, allowing more flexibility to our program and course offerings. Looking to 2016, new elective courses will be offered in policy, epidemiology, and urban health disparities. The program has also welcomed several new faculty members to our team in various expertise areas, growing our ability to offer more sections, smaller class sizes, and new courses.

Faculty and many of our students traveled for networking and professional development opportunities to state and national public health conferences. The [Public Health Society](#), our student organization, was instrumental in fundraising and coordinating students to attend these experiences.

Another high point from the semester was the Centers for Disease Control professional panel event, where we welcomed six CDC employees to speak to our students about their respective areas in public health and offer career advice. In the classroom, we continue to incorporate experiential learning into the curriculum giving students real world experiences to pair with their didactic learning. With the goal of having this incorporated into all courses by 2016-17.

As we continue to move towards accreditation this year through the application process, our goals are set high for both our program and our students! Here's to another great year in public health!

*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, picture, 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 [pages 10-11](#) 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 nor necessarily endorse linked websites.

## Upcoming Public Health Events & Important Dates

Jan 11-15

**MPH Info Sessions**

Times & Locations vary; for [details](#)

Jan 18

**MLK Jr. Day—no class**

Jan 19

**Practicum Bootcamp for MPH**

SCB 1008-B 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Jan 30

**[SAS Training Workshop](#)**

CHS Computer Lab 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

Feb 1

**MPH Fall '16 Application Deadline**

Apply [here](#).

Feb 27

**[Responsible Conduct of Research](#)**

Details tba

Mar 6-13

**Spring Break**

Mar 30-Apr 1

**National [SOPHE](#) Conference**

Charlotte, NC

Apr 1

**Mi PH Epidemiology Conference**

@ MSU — event is FREE for all students

Apr 22

**[MPH Research Day](#)**

Eberhard Center 215 11 a.m.—3 p.m.

Apr 30

**Commencement**

July 11-14

**[sHaPe camp](#)**

July 15

**sHaPe Alumni - Public Health Day**



## This Is Public Health



### MPH joins [World AIDS Day event](#)

On December 1, World AIDS Day, 19 of our health promotion students attended a community event organized by the [Grand Rapids Red Project](#). This community event was incorporated into their Health Education course (PH 620) and provided a chance to experience HIV awareness and education in action. As future

public health professionals, this event allowed for students to further develop their cultural competency and gain a better understanding of HIV/AIDS in Grand Rapids. The evening included first person accounts of how HIV has impacted people's lives and music to provide remembrance, support, and hope.



The [Michigan's Premier Public Health conference](#) was a highlight of the fall semester. Over 30 students attended the two-day conference held at Crystal Mountain in October!



Preparation for this fall's conferences was led by Michigan Public Health Association's practicum student, Mic Garcia, MPH '16. He wowed the students with a "David Letterman-style" Top 10 List on how to prep for conferences.

The Premier conference allowed students an opportunity to network with local and state public health professionals. Students embraced the chance to attend breakout sessions from keynote speakers on topics from the legalization of medical marijuana to the Centers for Disease Control's response to Ebola.

Practicum placement opportunities were plentiful as students explored many organizations and local health departments.



### Get Social With Us!

Grand Valley State University's Department of Public Health is active on the social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Follow us to keep up with our GV MPH activities and events, as well as local, national and global public health news, plus other helpful public health tidbits, photos, and more. Click the buttons below, or visit [page 10](#) for the links.





# This Is Public Health

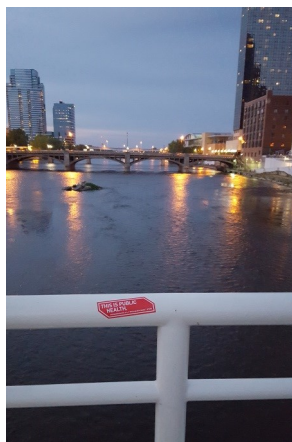
## MPH brings Public Health to ArtPrize



Our annual tradition of a community impact assignment in the PH 500—Introduction to Public Health course continued on for [ArtPrize](#) 2015! Each September, new MPH students are challenged to an exciting assignment in the field. Using the "[This is Public Health](#)" red sticker campaign, students hit the streets to educate and raise awareness with the Grand Rapids community.



Using sidewalk chalk to engage participation was a huge success. Community members were asked to chalk what public health meant to them in various locations around the city! The response was overwhelming, and even landed the class in a widely publicized Art Prize [video](#).



## PUBLIC HEALTH has MOVED!

In August, the Department of Public Health made the move to its new location, located next door to our previous offices.

[Visit our new Location:](#)

**545 Michigan Street NE  
Suite 300  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503**

## Global Connections



Dr. Molla shared an edition of the eMPHasis newsletter with the delegates

This fall, Dr. Molla assisted as GVSU played host for a visit from six professors from Nicaragua's leading and largest public university, UNAN Managua. The professors serve as mentors in the Applied Global Innovation Initiative in Nicaragua. They spent time visiting with a handful of GVSU administrators and faculty during their trip to the Allendale and downtown campuses. Since one delegate is a senior professor of public health in their school of medicine, Dr. Molla had a wonderful opportunity to engage them in a discussion on public health issues.



GVSU faculty welcomed and visited with six delegates from Nicaragua in the Cook-DeVos Center for Health Sciences

## GVSU-CHP Global Health Showcase

The [College of Health Professions](#) at GVSU, through its new Global Health committee, hosted its first-ever Global Health Showcase, featuring keynote speaker [Dr. Christopher Weis](#), from the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) (NIH). The Global Health committee was the brain-child of Dr. Azizur Molla, and he was a driving force in the creation of this wonderful conference event.



Dr. Christopher Weis spoke on "Toxicology for the 21st Century; the Science Behind the Strategy"



In addition to the many interesting oral presentations, the Global Health Showcase featured poster presentations



Dr. Jean Nagelkirk, Dr. Roy Olsson, Dr. Christopher Weis, Dr. Azizur Molla, and Dr. Ranelle Brew



The conference attracted several of our MPH students



Vice-Provost for Health, Dr. Jean Nagelkirk welcomed attendees

## Save the Date:

APRIL 22

### MPH Student Research Day

Join us April 22 as our graduating students present their research posters. The [event](#) will be held in the Eberhard Center (EC), with presentations in **Rooms 215A & 215G**, from **11:00 am to 3:00 pm**. Everyone is welcome! We encourage you to attend this event and show your support for our students!

Parking permits will be available for (non-GVSU) visitors, with prior approval. Permits will be valid for the Fulton Street lot, located south of the Eberhard Center and Fulton street. Please email [mphdept@gvsu.edu](mailto:mphdept@gvsu.edu) by April 15, for more information or to receive your Visitor Parking pass.

## Emphasis: Public Health Administration

### The Built Environment and Public Health

Lara Jaskiewicz

Public Health Administration students take a course (PA 674) that covers different ways the built environment affects our health. The built environment includes the places where we live, work and play. However, these environments are frequently regulated by agencies other than public health. For example, street design may be focused on moving car and truck traffic quickly rather than encouraging walking and cycling and ensuring pedestrian and cyclist safety. If a public health goal is to increase physical

activity, it may be necessary to examine sidewalks and streets to see if they are a barrier to exercise.

Addressing issues related to the built environment means working with governmental agencies and community stakeholders who may not be familiar with public health goals and approaches. The course covers different aspects of the built environment, the perspective of other fields, and ways that public health can work to collaborate on changes. Students in the course conduct a field assessment of the built environment to practice identifying community strengths and areas for improvement.



## Alumni Updates

Congrats to all of our graduates who are using their degree in the workplace and contributing to the field of public health!

**Bode, Bree** (MPH '15) - had an abstract selected for an Ignite presentation at the 2016 National SOPHE Annual Meeting. Her presentation is, "What would you do if you were in charge? Stakeholder perceptions of food marketing and recommendations for promotion healthy food choices in a low-income neighborhood."

**Buczkowski, Erik** (MPH '15) - Research Assistant for Quality Improvement and Accreditation; Michigan Public Health Institute

**Curtis, Kirsten** (MPH '15) - Quality Coordinator; Meridian Health Plan (Detroit, MI)

**Grove, Matt** (MPH '15) - Project Coordinator; Michigan Health & Hospital Association: Keystone Center (Okemos, MI)

**Killinger, Alicia** (MPH '15) - Community Care Coordinator; Meridian Health Plan (Chicago, IL)

**Rykse, Monica** (MPH '15) - Health Education Assistant; Mary Free Bed (Grand Rapids, MI)

**Wandschneider, Bradley** (MPH '15) - Outreach Analyst, focusing on disease management; Meridian Health Plan (Detroit, MI)

*If you are a GVSU Public Health Alumna/Alumnus, we would like to include your updates in future eMPHasis issues! Please send your news to: [kosterhe@gvsu.edu](mailto:kosterhe@gvsu.edu), with the subject, "Alumni Update"*



## Student Highlights—Practicum

Congratulations to the following students who recently completed a successful practicum experience:

**Sara Apol**—GVSU Campus Recreation

**Samantha Baker**—GRCC Exercise Science

**Jon Bialowicz**—Mercy Health Saint Mary's Pharmacy

**Hailey Brewer**—Kent County Health Department/Emergency Preparedness

**Emily Churchard**—Kent County Office for MSU Extension

**Katelin DeCamp**—Kent County Health Department/Personal Health Services

**Mic Garcia**—Michigan Public Health Association

**Mariana Guzman**—Mercy Health Dental Clinic

**Samantha Hamilton**—Family Futures Early Childhood

**Sara Henning**—Access of West Michigan NOW program

**Shayla Henrikson**—Mary Free Bed Outpatient Therapy (Post-Concussion)

**Tyler Hoerle**—Kent County Health Department/Epidemiology

**Isabel Hurden**—Mercy Health St. Mary's Hospital

**Kristin Kampenga**—North Ottawa Community Hospital/Infection Control

**Amber Lee**—Michigan Department of Community Health

**Chelsea Mahoney**—Kent County Health Department/Epidemiology

**Torya Marlow**—Grand Rapids African American Health Institute

**Kasey McCollum**—Mercy Health Research

**Ida-Sheree Miner**—Cherry Street Health Services Westside Health Center

**Sarah Nota**—YWCA Clinical Services

**Donald Nowicki**—Mercy Health St. Mary's Nursing

**Alaina O'Mara**—Kent County Health Department/Quality Performance

**Kasie Pickart**—Cherry Street Health Services Heart of the City

**Madeline Rodts**—The McCahill Group/Employee Health at Amway

**Heidi Sarles**—MI Dept. of Health&Human Services/Preventable Disease

**Brenton Spiker**—West Michigan Environmental Action Council/Policy

**Rachel Sunday**—Spectrum Health Process Improvement

**Kara Talen**—Family Futures

**Jessica Terpstra**—Ecology Center

**Isaac VanDam**—Van Andel Institute

**Lisa Wegner**—Ottawa County Health Department/Sexual Health

**Catherine White**—The McCahill Group/Health Promo at Farmer's Insurance

**Lauren Wiltshire**—Kent County Health Department/Clinical Services

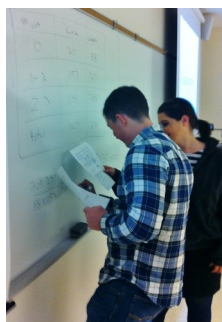
## Emphasis: Epidemiology

### MPH Epidemiology Happenings—



#### Public Health Epidemiology

Cohort 4 students are getting their first experience with epidemiology in their introductory course. With two in-class sections and one hybrid section, the



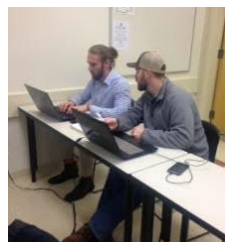
faculty have enthusiastically structured their courses to facilitate learning via group activities and student-led demonstrations of knowledge.

#### Cancer Epidemiology

Professor Karen Niemchick's class has been busy participating in hands-on activities including student presentations about gene variants associated with cancer development, evaluations of epidemiological case studies of occupational cancers, and comparisons between populations on cancers associated with alcohol consumption.

#### Public Health Genetics

Students have had the opportunity to learn about the competition that developed the knowledge of the human genome.



Professor Niemchick has enhanced the learning experience by sharing the history of this enormous advancement to our science with specific activities to build on this foundational knowledge. She has explored biotechnology and how to choose proper vectors in gene delivery. Students have learned about genetic screening tests and associated costs through their creation of informational patient brochures, and the role of epigenetics in gene-environment interaction leading to disease development.



#### Epi at APHA 2015

[APHA](#) in Chicago was an exciting and valuable conference experience! Our students and faculty attended Epidemiology Section-sponsored sessions pertaining to topics including lung cancer survival rates, psychobiological dimensions in cognitive aging, and infectious disease epidemics.



GVSU-MPH Epi students & faculty enjoying an evening reception during APHA. Epidemiologists like to have fun too!

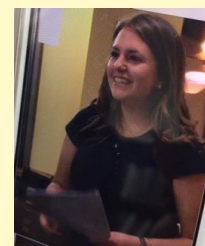
Professor Niemchick also participated in a roundtable discussion about a team-based approach to integrating evidence into population health. We all learned things that we cannot wait to take back to the classroom, as our field is always advancing.

### Student Resource

The GVSU Public Health office encourages all MPH students to stop by 545 Michigan to peruse the **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!

### Student Highlight—External Presentation

At the [Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (Nashville, TN), MPH student **Lauren Wiltshire** presented her Master's Project. It consisted of an extensive literature review that exposed major themes in food insecurity. She created an annotated bibliography of over 50 articles that supported the themes. Major themes that presented themselves were: Family structure, Gender, Socioeconomic Status, Policy and Advocacy, Chronic Illness & Mental Health, and Obesity. After identifying the major themes, she also discussed the importance that food security be accepted as a human right in order to truly achieve social justice in our communities. Well done Lauren!



## Faculty Updates

**Dr. Ranelle Brew** gave a presentation at the GVSU Global Health Showcase entitled, “Collegiate Global Service Learning: Lessons From the Field.”

**Dr. Brew** gave two presentations at APHA’s Annual Meeting, “LoWellness, Community Health Assessment Survey Partnership—A Community Organization and University Collaboration” and “Innovative Pipeline Programming into Health Careers—A Community and University Collaboration.”

**Dr. Brew** also presented on the LoWellness Health Assessment Project Partnership at the Michigan’s Premier Public Health conference and at the International Conference on Health, Wellness and Society.

**Dr. Kathryn (Katie) Barnhart** gave an oral presentation on her research findings at the APHA Annual Meeting, titled, “Falling out and getting back up: Women’s opiate overdose experiences and Naloxone accessibility.”

**Dr. Barnhart** was elected to the office of Co-Vice President for GLC-SOPHE. It is a two year appointment.

**Dr. Barnhart** was co-author of an article accepted in the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy titled, “Women’s Experiences With Feelings and Attractions for Someone Outside their Primary Relationship.” The article is published [online](#), ahead of print.

**Dr. Lara Jaskiewicz** is the lead author of an article accepted for publication in the journal Health Promotion Practice titled, “Finding food deserts: A comparison of methods measuring spatial access to food stores.”

**Dr. Jaskiewicz** has been awarded a 4 year subcontract with the Gretchen Swanson Center for Nutrition to manage the West and Northern Michigan

segments of the statewide evaluation of the Fair Food Network’s Double Up Food Bucks program.

**Dr. Jaskiewicz** gave an oral presentation at the annual APHA meeting titled, “Impact of a new local food market on low-income neighborhood availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.”

**Dr. Azizur Molla** presented his topic “Socio-economic Dimension of Indoor Radon Gas in West Michigan – A Public Health Discourse and Merit to Use HIT in Shaping Health Behavior,” at the 3rd International Conference on Health Information Technology Advancement (ICHITA).

**Dr. Molla** also presented at APHA, his work with Dr. Peter Wampler (geology department) and MPH students Alicia Killinger, Kirsten Curtis and Denielle Riley, on “Radon Gas Concentrations and Geographic Distribution in Western Michigan.”

**Dr. Molla** is heading a faculty-student collaborative project, involving Public Health and the Geology departments, on Radon Gas in a local Gypsum mine.

**Dr. Molla** is co-author of an article published in the Jan. 2016 edition of IMPACT, entitled, “Transdisciplinary Approaches to Sustainable Water Resources & Treatment in Developing Countries.”

**Dr. Molla** was nominated as Section Councilor, Environmental section for APHA, and was a nominee for the EPA’s Local Government Advisory Committee.

**Dr. Jody Vogelzang** gave an oral presentation, “International Inquiry in Central America: Do Short-term Interpretive Experiences Make a Difference in Sustainability Attitudes?” at the GVSU Global Health Showcase.

**Dr. Vogelzang** presented at the national Lilly Teaching Conference, “Over the Rubric Rainbow: Specifications Grading.”

**Dr. Vogelzang** gave an oral presentation at the APHA Annual meeting on her work on resilience in low-income elementary age students, related to her work with the 2014-15 Kick & Cook grant.

**Dr. Vogelzang** is currently leading a new version of Kick & Cook for 2015-16, focused on food landscape navigation and physical activity of unaccompanied refugee minors.

The new Clinical Dietetics program, led by **Dr. Vogelzang**, will be gearing up for an accreditation site visit this spring. She is currently preparing the self-study.

**Dr. Vogelzang** begins her term this month as President of the GLC-SOPHE, and continues in her role as section councilor for the APHA Ethics section.

**Drs. Vogelzang and Jaskiewicz** were awarded a Teaching Innovation Grant through FTLC to carry out a Design Thinking project related to emergency food in Grand Rapids.

**Dr. Jeffrey Wing** had a paper published in Environmental Research, titled: “Ethnic differences in ambient air pollution and risk of acute ischemic stroke.”



GVSU students and alumni, with Dr. Vogelzang at the annual GLC-SOPHE conference at CMU



## Course Connections

### PH 620 views the Hunting Ground on campus

On Tuesday, October 6th the PH 620 Health Education class ventured to Allendale to view a campus sponsored screening of [The Hunting Ground](#). This 2015 documentary exposes the issue of sexual assault on college campuses and has inspired changes among university policies across the U.S. The evening included a panel of GVSU and community members who discussed their work around sexual assault and Title IX, both on campus and in the Grand Rapids area.

This event provided an opportunity for students to gain additional perspectives and knowledge about sexual assault in the U.S. and engage with the panel during time reserved for question and answer. The film sparked multiple emotions, questions, and a desire for advocacy to encourage change. Sexual assault is an important public health issue and events such as this have the potential to aid students in future career tasks.

As future public health practitioners, students use their time in the MPH program to explore or discover what aspects of health they are passionate about and use this to drive efforts towards behavior change interventions and creating healthier communities.



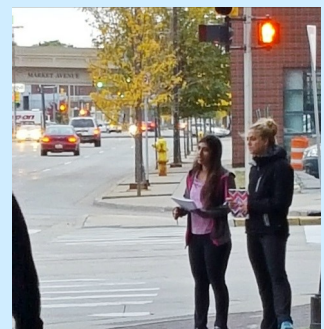
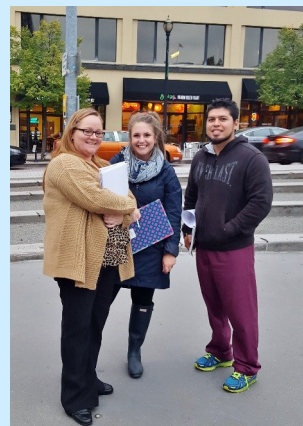
### Public Health Ethics and Law Course Welcomes Nathan Steed, JD

On November 10th, Dr. Barnhart's PH 540 class welcomed local lawyer, Nate Steed, JD. Mr. Steed provided an engaging guest lecture on public health law. Students received up to date information about health related laws in Michigan and across the U.S. The opportunity to connect with someone who is practicing law in the Grand Rapids area is a valuable experience for public health students. Thank you again to Mr. Steed for sharing his time and expertise!



### Connecting learning with the community

Health promotion students conducted observational needs assessments in Grand Rapids. Health promotion courses offer students the opportunity to practice their skills and collaborate to contemplate ways to address public health issues in the community.



“

**“Attending APHA was a great learning opportunity. It allowed me to not only connect and apply what I have been learning extensively through lecture and personal research, but also gave me the chance to explore numerous topics and design methodologies that I may utilize for my future research project.”**

*Shannon Lowell, current MPH student and attendee of the 2015 APHA Annual Meeting this fall*



## Emphasis: Health Promotion

### The Intersection of Healthy Aging and Health Promotion

Heather Wallace

The aging of America poses significant public health opportunities and challenges. In Michigan, the fastest growing population is those over the age of 85, followed by the diverse, complex and relatively healthy Baby Boomer population of people 60 and older. This growing group of older adults will represent the largest population of older adults, many of which will live longer and with more health, wealth, education and autonomy than any previous generation. In addition to the potential benefits that aging bestows, such as greater life satisfaction, most will encounter threats to health in the form of disease, disability, loss, and or financial security.

The aging of the population is perhaps one of the most complex and far reaching phenomena of modern times. The demography of a large, growing, and older and aging population has implications for current and future generations in regard to social, cultural, economic, and political trends. It is not uncommon for Americans to focus on the challenges and difficulties of late life, let alone the 'burden' of caring for people as they age. However, there are an array of less acknowledged benefits that may accompany individuals as they age as well as the larger communities in which they live.

Health promotion is one way that society can best ensure that all people, regardless of age, and perhaps even the most aged, attain and retain health and wellness across the life span. Through Health Promotion, public health practitioners enable people to increase

and maximize capacity to improve individual health. At the population level, health promotion can become both the sword and the shield in the fight to prevent late life declines in health and wellness.

A number of state and local programs in Michigan have highlighted the role of Health Promotion in cultivating, maintaining and managing health and wellness across the life course and into late life. In 2014, Gov. Rick Snyder delivered a special Message to the Michigan Legislature acknowledging the needs of Michigan's aging population. He also requested action on behalf of state and county offices to assess and better serve the needs of all Michiganders, but with special attention to older adults. In response, the state has launched a new website that serves as a clearinghouse for aging related services and support.

The Michigan Cancer Consortium ended 2015 by publishing the revised Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Plan. The plan highly emphasizes the need for health promotion in the way of health education, training, and prevention for patients and providers. Specifically, the plan underscores the need for vaccinations, including HPV, to prevent cancer and disease in later life. Colorectal screening for older, at risk adults, as well as age appropriate cancer information and education materials are further health promotion strategies identified in the plan.

Perhaps one of the most innovative and strategic health promotion programs can be found locally through Tandem365. This organization seeks to empower older adults with chronic and complex health conditions, to enhance overall health while reducing

costs. Their model has health promotion at its core by facilitating empowerment, collaboration and community involvement. Participants are supported by an integrated team of professionals and volunteers that provide sustainable and efficient person centered services that help prevent declines in health, maintain overall wellness, and facilitate independence and life satisfaction.

The richness and diversity within public health and health promotion is ample fertilizer for the growth of an equally robust and healthy population dominated by older adults. Those who obtain education and experience in health promotion and public health will be well positioned to serve the public and to add to the greatness of health and wellness across generations.

#### Related Links:

[Read Gov. Snyder's Address](#)

[State, Living Well, Aging Well website](#)

[Michigan Cancer Consortium, cancer Plan](#)

[Tandem 365](#)

#### *Have you heard?*

#### **Public Health is Expanding!**

We are pleased to announce that the GVSU public health program will be growing and headed north in 2016!

The [Traverse City Regional Center](#) will welcome a small cohort of public health students, with the Health Promotion emphasis, beginning Fall 2016 .

## Winter 2016 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/>
- GVSU Public Health Society (Student Org.): <https://orgsync.com/76721/chapter>
- GVSU—MPH Information Sessions: <http://www.gvsu.edu/grad/mph/>
- Statistical Analysis Systems (SAS) Introductory Training Workshop: [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/sas\\_flyer\\_3.jpg](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/sas_flyer_3.jpg)
- Grand Valley State University; Graduate Application: <http://gvsu.edu/admissions/graduate-application-24.htm>
- Responsible Conduct of Research: <http://www.gvsu.edu/rcr/rcr-training-and-education-at-grand-valley-state-5.htm>
- Society for Public Health Education: <http://www.sophe.org/>
- MPH Student Research Day: [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/research\\_day\\_flyer\\_april.pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/research_day_flyer_april.pdf)
- sHaPe Camp (Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration): <https://www.gvsu.edu/rmsc/shape-camp-16.htm>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthatgvsu>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Instagram: <https://instagram.com/gvsupublichealth/>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gvpublichealth>

Page 2:

- The Grand Rapids Red Project World Aids Day event: <http://redproject.org/calendar/world-aids-day/>
- The Grand Rapids Red Project: <http://redproject.org/>
- The Grand Rapids Red Project World Aids Day promotional video: <https://vimeo.com/144932573>
- Michigan's Premier Public Health conference (presentation links): <http://www.malph.org/news/michigans-premier-public-health-conference>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthatgvsu>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Instagram: <https://instagram.com/gvsupublichealth/>
- Grand Valley State University-Public Health Twitter: <https://twitter.com/gvpublichealth>

Page 3:

- ArtPrize: <http://www.artprize.org/>
- This is Public Health: <https://thisispublichealth.org/>
- ArtPrize video by Brian Kelly: <https://vimeo.com/140459940>
- Map to GVSU-Public Health location: <https://goo.gl/maps/nG224HIYgYC22>



Page 4:

- College of Health Professions: <http://www.gvsu.edu/shp/>
- Dr. Christopher Weis: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/about/od/advisor/weis/>
- National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences: <http://www.niehs.nih.gov/>
- MPH Student Research Day: [https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/research\\_day\\_flyer\\_april.pdf](https://www.gvsu.edu/cms4/asset/901E4F3D-AB8F-0321-395E6DC4B3EAB567/research_day_flyer_april.pdf)

Page 5:

- Alumni Update for eMPHasis email: [kosterhe@gvsu.edu](mailto:kosterhe@gvsu.edu)



## Winter 2016 eMPHasis Hyperlinks—continued

Page 6:

- APHA (American Public Health Association): <https://www.apha.org/>
- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: <http://www.eatright.org/>

Page 7:

- Online access to Dr. Katie Barnhart's article, "Women's Experiences With Feelings and Attractions for Someone Outside their Primary Relationships": <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/0092623X.2015.1061076>

Page 8:

- The Hunting Ground documentary website: <http://www.thehuntinggroundfilm.com/>

Page 9:

- Governor Snyder's Address to the MI Legislature on the needs of our aging population: [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/osa/140602\\_Special\\_Message\\_Living\\_Well\\_Aging\\_Well\\_Final\\_Formatted\\_457949\\_7\\_472337\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/osa/140602_Special_Message_Living_Well_Aging_Well_Final_Formatted_457949_7_472337_7.pdf)
- State, Living Well, Aging Well website: <http://www.michigan.gov/aging>
- Michigan Cancer Consortium—Cancer Plan: <http://www.michigancancer.org/CancerPlan/ComprehensiveCancerControlPlan-2016-2020.html>
- Tandem 365: <http://tandem365.com/about-us/>
- GVSU's Traverse City Regional Center: <https://www.gvsu.edu/traverse/>

Page 12:

- GVSU Public Health Society (Student Org.): <https://orgsync.com/76721/chapter>
- GVSU PHS Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/publichealthsociety>
- APHA (American Public Health Association): <https://www.apha.org/>

## Evaluating the Affordable Care Act

The students of Dr. Azizur Molla's PH 628: Health Program Evaluation conducted a study to evaluate the Affordable Care Act (ACA), a.k.a. Obama Care. This exploratory study aims to survey individuals with regard to their knowledge of the ACA, as well as their perspectives on the strengths and weakness of the ACA. It was implemented in downtown Grand Rapids, MI specifically to: i) examine the knowledge level of study population about the ACA; ii) explore the perspectives of the study population regarding the current health care program based on the ACA; iii) document the pros and cons of the ACA from the study population; and iv) convey the findings from this study to respective stakeholders (health care professionals) through dissemination of the results. This interprofessional study is being designed by individuals from a variety of professions to provide information from a public health perspective, medical perspective, and pharmacology perspective. It was a collaborative project involving graduate students, as well as two faculty from GVSU, one from the MSU College of Human Medicine, and one from Ferris State University.

Eighteen MPH students worked on this project as Research Assistants (RA) and as part of their final project for the PH 628 class. The students were involved in i) formulation of research question, ii) designing the study, iii) preparing the survey, iv) collecting data, v) cleaning, entering, and analyzing data, vi) presenting study findings to faculty from GVSU, MSU and Ferris State University. This is the first year of the 2015-2018 study.



## Department of Public Health

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MPH Program Director  
Department Chair

### Katie Barnhart

Assistant Professor

### Lara Jaskiewicz

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### Azizur Molla

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### Karen Niemchick

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### Kelly Strutz

Assistant Professor

### Jody Vogelzang

Assistant Professor  
Masters of Clinical Dietetics Program Director

### Jeffrey Wing

Assistant Professor

### Heather Koster

Department Coordinator

### Student Workers

Ellen and Russell

## 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

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# GVSU Public Health Society



This fall, the [GVSU Public Health Society](#) sent a large group of students to the [American Public Health Association](#) (APHA) Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL. The group of students spent four days at the conference as well as exploring the city. During their time at the conference students were given the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions within the field of public health. Students also visited the poster presentation sessions to get ideas for their own posters, which they hope to present at APHA in the future. Business meetings were also held where students were welcome to attend and partake in roundtable discussions. APHA was an awesome conference for the students to network and get their name out there for future practicum placement, jobs, fellowships, and many more opportunities.

Prior to APHA, PHS invited MPH student Mic Garcia to speak at one of the meetings to offer advice and help prepare everyone for the conference. This was extremely beneficial for all the students since no one had previously attended a national conference. Mic offered tips on how to make the most of their time at APHA, such as creating a personal schedule, making business cards and resumes, and managing the logistics of the conference center.

In November, we had a full room of students and faculty at a speaker's panel featuring several current CDC employees. PHS sponsored this event since many of our students have expressed interest in working for the CDC in the future. The panelists offered great career and networking advice, and offered tips on how to make ourselves stand out when applying for public health positions. Panelists also discussed the importance of adding a new skill to our resumes each week.

We recently elected new e-board members, who will be running the PHS organization starting in January 2016. We are excited to see what ideas and events they will bring to the organization. Stay tuned for upcoming meeting dates and times.

Submitted by  
Amber Lee, PHS President

## PHS Incoming Executive board:

President: Gert Wallis  
Vice President: Chris Jones  
Fundraising: Lila Gani  
Volunteer: Ashley Fife  
Secretary: Tori Alvarado  
Treasurer: Dzenisa Dzajic

## 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

**DATES/TIME:** TBA