The Tufts University School of Medicine’s Department of Public Health and Community Medicine have exceptional faculty who are experts in their fields. This was recently confirmed with the appointment of Paul Hattis, MD, JD, MPH, Senior Associate Director of the MPH Program and Assistant Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, as a member of the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission and the nomination by President Barack Obama of Beth Rosenberg, MPH, ScD, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine, to serve as a member of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.

Dr. Hattis was nominated by Attorney General Martha Coakley to serve on the new Massachusetts Health Policy Commission, an independent state agency that has been charged with monitoring the reform of health care delivery and payment systems in the Commonwealth. The Commission is charged with developing policy that will help control health care costs while working to improve the quality of patient care. The Board has 11 members with expertise in health care policy and is chaired by Stuart Altman, PhD, Professor of National Health Policy at The Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and Adjunct Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine.

The Board membership guidelines require that there be a member with expertise in health consumer advocacy, which was fulfilled with the appointment of Dr. Hattis. Trained in medicine, law, and public health, Dr. Hattis has significant experience in the field of public health and has worked as a Senior Medical Advisor to the Department of Community Benefit Programs at Partners Healthcare System; co-chaired the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization’s Health Care Team; and conducted research that focused on educating the community about health care costs and developing ideas to reduce it.

Dr. Hattis’ response to his appointment was, “It is both an honor and a great responsibility

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Even if not explicitly identified as such, public health has been making headlines. We have had storms that remind us of the need to protect populations from environmental catastrophes of our own making, and we have had shootings to remind us of the role of science and policy in protecting populations from violence. The national debates about health reform implementation, immigration reform, and sequestration all have implications for the health of the American people. At the state level, we have had two high profile scandals (at the state forensic laboratory and distribution of tainted drugs from a local specialized pharmacy) that remind us of the need for good governance and oversight both in government and the private sector. Meanwhile, within the walls of Tufts, public health faculty and our external advisory committee have started to review what our program means by, and what it does with, its social justice mission. Faculty are occasionally asked by students, “How does Tufts live its social justice mission?” A fair question!

What all these external events remind me is that the first part of the answer to this question is that social justice is implicitly part of public health — and if we teach public health well and make this connection explicit, we have done at least part of our job.

The public health enterprise emerged from the 19th century epidemics sparked by urbanization, commerce and travel. Then and now, public health can be understood as a response to the consequences of modern times – complexity, interconnectedness, technology and wealth. One of the great insights of public health is that while technology and wealth can provide great advantages, it takes organized community action to make sure that some are not harmed more than they are helped. Acting by themselves, individuals will simply not take the steps necessary to keep their waste from ending up on someone else’s plate – and this is a bigger problem now than it was on the Stone-age savannah. How can we make sure that all are advantaged by the forces of modernity? How do we protect not just some, but everyone and especially the most vulnerable? How do we identify and address the root causes of why some people are sicker and die younger than others? How do we take the insight that we are indeed living in interconnected and crowded world and turn that into organized community action so that we do not continually trip over each other? Public health professionals ask these questions – the same ones asked by those who come from traditions of social and political activism. One need not affiliate with a particular part of the political spectrum to understand the public health enterprise as applied social justice, and to honor it as such.

More recently, the relationship between public health and social justice has come full circle, as we gain greater awareness that socioeconomic gradients are themselves root causes of health differences. Addressing this new understanding is politically and ideologically fraught. While we can all agree that no one’s excrement should end up in someone else’s food, it’s not so easy to agree on how we should share our society’s material wealth (and note I have put forward my own biases by calling it society’s wealth, and not that of individuals!). What should public health teach — and do – about socioeconomic differences? As a faculty, we are still struggling on these issues to find our voice, agree on our purview, and define the tools and skills to use.

This spring, faculty are embarking on a set of conversations among ourselves, with our external advisory committee, and, we hope, with students and alumni, about what we should be doing in and outside of the classroom to live our social justice mission in a way that is open to a diversity of ideology and opinion, is intellectually sound, and that both honors the traditions and engages the future of public health practice. On these matters, we hope everyone has something to say!

Anthony Schlaff, MD, MPH
Director, Public Health Program
Alumni Profile: Claire Berman, MS-Health Communication ‘12

Little did Claire Berman, MS’12, know that a volunteer opportunity in St. Louis would lead her to Swaziland for fourteen months and then eventually to Tufts University to pursue an Master of Science in Health Communication. After graduating from Truman State University in Missouri with a double major in English and German, Claire moved to Germany as a Fulbright Teaching Fellow. Although she liked educating people, she realized that classroom teaching was not for her. With little work experience but a burgeoning interest in working with vulnerable populations, she began volunteering at HIV-focused organizations in St. Louis, Missouri, her hometown. Her work at The Spot emerged as particularly pivotal. The Spot, a drop-in center for LGBT (lesbian, bisexual, gay and transgendered) youth, was hands-on, and allowed her to work directly with young men of color who were struggling with homelessness and social pressures after revealing their sexual orientation and/or gender identity to family and friends. This was Claire’s first formal exposure to LGBT issues, and she approached her work there as she would anything else: by slowly building rapport with the youth who visited The Spot as a way to open the lines of communication. In addition, her own family members who identify as LGBT helped open her eyes to the potential struggles faced as part of that community.

Inspired by the work she was doing in St. Louis and eager to satiate an urge to go abroad, Claire applied to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer and was accepted. While unforeseen circumstances delayed her departure date, a colleague mentioned a short-term opportunity in Swaziland with Save the Children. Intrigued, Claire inquired about the opportunity, and soon was off to volunteer in what turned into a fourteenth-month experience in Mbabane, Swaziland, serving first as an HIV Youth Program Volunteer and then as Program Manager managing a USAID grant focusing on strengthening child protection networks in communities all over the country. It was during this time that Claire became fascinated by the idea of communicating health information to vulnerable populations. She had initially planned to return to the United States and pursue a public health degree but found herself exploring health and communication programs instead.

Throughout her time in the Health Communication program at Tufts, Claire’s fascination with the field continued to flourish. She identified an opportunity to complete her Applied Learning Experience (ALE) requirement at an organization called CommunicateHealth and completed a digital storytelling project informing caregivers about ways to make households healthier for children. A natural helper and compassionate person, Claire looked for opportunities that allowed her to create safe spaces for the people with whom she worked.

After graduating from Tufts, Claire has been able to combine her creativity and skills she honed throughout her experiences by taking a position at the Harvard School of Public Health as the Director of Health Education and Communication. One of her current projects is a focus group study that aims to understand how young adults who were infected with or exposed to HIV at birth are now using technology as they transition to adulthood. She has also worked with a team of colleagues to form a youth community advisory board for the study, soliciting regular feedback from young people and getting a sense of their views about living with HIV and how the community might better serve them. Claire knows that to get the work done, the “right people need to be in the conversation.” In fact, she has started a health education and communication committee. “I come with some knowledge, but I can’t possibly know all of the critical perspectives,” Claire explains, citing this as a reason why her goal is to get the most diverse group of people on the committee as possible.

Claire’s recent appointment to the Massachusetts Commission on LGBT Youth has offered another avenue for her social justice work. Since January 2013, Claire has served on the Commission, contributing her own unique perspective. “Health communication is not necessarily a very common field to have expertise in,” she says, so she’s glad to be able to offer that specific perspective. “The Commission is made up of experts and advocates (some of whom are youth themselves) who come together and make

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According to Allen, “the City of Boston did a really good job of letting the public know that getting a flu shot this year was more important than ever. Furthermore, they coupled that communication with increased access to vaccines through free flu clinics – this was key. Unlike some communities, Boston did not seem to run out of vaccinations. So people who wanted to get the flu shot were able to get it. Similarly, Tufts University offered free vaccines to its students and employees, which I think helped immensely in preventing an outbreak. While students are typically young and healthy, they do live in close quarters. I think the ready access to flu shots, plus the fact that students were on break during the worst of it, helped the University avoid a potentially debilitating flu outbreak among students and staff.”

Without the important work of public health officials, both at Tufts and in the community at large, therefore, we might still be walking around with the public masks on, avoiding contact with our fellow Bostonians.
Every year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) holds their annual meeting each fall, where approximately 13,000 public health professionals gather to discuss everything from policy to prevention to social justice. At the last meeting, held October 2012 in San Francisco, the theme was “Prevention and Wellness Across the Life Span,” a topic very much in the news, particularly as the United States is attempting to reduce health care costs. This was a particularly exciting year for the Tufts’ Public Health Programs, because in addition to the 16 students, faculty, and alumni who presented at the APHA meeting, students participated in the Delta Omega poster contest for the first time.

Every year, Delta Omega – the honorary society for public health, of which the MPH Program is the Alpha Rho chapter – holds a competition for student posters to be exhibited at the APHA meeting. The topic can be any issue related to public health, but must have enough educational impact to “advance academia’s mission to improve education and policies for practitioners, researchers, and teachers.” The panel selects 19 students to present every year, and this year three of those students were from Tufts. This was the first year the Tufts MPH Alpha Rho Chapter nominated students for the contest and everyone put forth was selected! As Aviva Must, Dean of the PHPD Programs put it “the faculty and I could not have been prouder of our students.” Each student presented on a very different topic, showcasing the wide variety of top-notch research Tufts has to offer:

- Angela (Frannie) Koenig, MD/MPH ’14, presented “Material Characteristics Associate with Dental Cleaning in the Perinatal Period”
- Andrew Hwang, MD/MPH ’14, presented “A Survey of Drinking Water Quality in the Milot Region of Haiti”
- Maimuna Majumder, BA/MPH ’13, presented “Water Quality vs. Sanitation Accessibility: What is the Most Effective Intervention Point for Cholera in Dhaka, Bangladesh?”

According to Koenig, as exciting as presenting her poster was, being at the meeting meant a lot more. “It was exciting to see people from all over the country coming together to discuss and promote public health. I really enjoyed presenting my research in the Delta Omega Honor Society poster presentation and getting to discuss my interest with people all over the spectrum of the public health field but I think I equally enjoyed working at the Tufts info booth and chatting with students and professionals alike about the many opportunities Tufts provides.”

Eight alumni and five faculty members also presented posters at sessions during the conference. Topics ranged from “Teaching Medical Students How to Cook: An Innovative Approach Towards Nutrition Education in a Medical School Curriculum” presented by Ben Leong, MS-Biomedical Sciences/MPH ’10 to “Mobile Advantage: Context and Immediacy in Health Information Seeking” presented by Lisa Gualtieri, PhD, Assistant Professor of Public Health and Community Medicine.

In addition to the poster presentations, Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree Programs co-sponsored an alumni reception with the Friedman School of Nutrition, Science & Policy, so alumni, current students, and faculty attending the meeting could mingle, network, and talk about everything from their work to their families in an informal setting. Dean Must had high praise for this event, saying that “it was heartening to see so many alumni engaged in significant public health work—in state and local government, non-profits, and health-care,” further proof of Tufts’ excellence in education and the commitment to and love of public health that it instills in its graduates.

The 2013 APHA meeting will be in Boston, complete with an alumni reception hosted by Tufts PHPD and Friedman School of Nutrition. The theme will be “Think Global, Act Local: Best Practices Around the World.” The meeting’s location will make it even easier for the Tufts community to attend and with the school-wide focus on being both a responsible global and local citizen, it seems likely that students, faculty, and alumni will once again be highly represented among presenters.
The Applied Learning Experience (ALE) is the last chance graduate students have to hone classroom skills and to apply them to the real world – in preparation for the transition outside the walls of the Tufts University. Being a dual degree student, I had hoped to incorporate elements from both my nutrition and public health coursework in my final project, but feared such a project didn’t exist.

I met Caitlin Westfall Howe, MS/MPH ’10, the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Wellness Policy and Promotions Manager, through a classmate who had previously interned with BPS. Five minutes into my meeting with Caitlin, I knew that I had found my ALE. Finding the right project can be as much about the preceptor as it is about the project. Caitlin understood what I was trying to accomplish in a finite amount of time and, most importantly, she had been in my shoes only a few years earlier.

Caitlin had been tasked with revising the District’s wellness policy and was looking for someone to conduct the formative research that would inform the policy revision committee. The project combined both my nutrition and health communications concentrations and was of great importance to the District. Was it too good to be true? As I hurried back to campus from the coffee shop where we met, I couldn’t wait to get started.

Over the next four months, I planned and implemented a series of interviews and focus groups with child wellness stakeholders that included parents, community members, teachers, and high school students. Caitlin and I had created a timeline for the project, which allowed for unanticipated cancelations and we always had a backup plan – yet we inevitably ran into hurdles.

We held our first parent focus group at the public library in Dorchester. Only one parent arrived about twenty minutes after the advertised start time. As we munched on the snacks we had provided for our absent guests, we wondered what we had done wrong. As the semester wore on, I learned that we hadn’t done anything wrong; that this was the nature of community work. We had no budget for incentives and were asking parents to volunteer their evenings, without providing childcare or a guarantee that their suggestions would be implemented. What were we thinking?

However, Caitlin and I regrouped and, with the help of a community champion, were able to conduct two additional parent focus groups – one with English speaking parents and one with Spanish speaking parents with the help of a translator. The findings provided valuable insights; for instance, I learned that some parents, due to the busing structure in Boston, have never actually been to their children’s schools and therefore had little knowledge about its condition or policies.

We encountered another unanticipated hurdle when we learned that our research timeline overlapped with the implementation of the Healthy, Hungry Free Kids Act, which passed in 2010 but did not affect school cafeterias until the 2012 – 2013 school year. During my interviews, I heard feedback from BPS administrators that echoed concerns of administrators around the country – students were unhappy with smaller portion sizes, less meat, and more fruits and vegetables on their lunch trays. Dealing with the aftermath of a national nutrition policy change was certainly not in our plan, but proved fascinating to watch unfold in both our data and the national media.

As the semester concluded, I analyzed my findings and created a summary report with recommendations for the District. What started as a brainstorming session in a coffee shop had turned into usable and meaningful data that would inform district-wide policy! I am forever grateful to Caitlin for her guidance throughout the predictably unpredictable process of community-based qualitative assessment. We learned to plan for the worst, hope for the best, and bring tasty snacks in case your focus group subjects decide to stay home.
Kimberly Huse

On January 7th, Tufts University School of Medicine’s (TUSM) new Physician Assistant Program welcomed its first class to campus for an intense 4-day “Boot Camp” introduction to the university and the PA profession. According to program director, Richard Murphy, the 24 women and 6 men came to TUSM from as far away as California and as near as Tufts Medical Center. Ranging in age from 22 to 41, their clinical backgrounds span a wide spectrum from emergency medical technician to neuroscience researcher (see additional statistics below).

The PA Program is the first new program at TUSM to include a clinical training component since the founding of the MD Program in 1893, and is also among its first forays into inter-professional education. “The new students have already received an exceedingly warm reception by the Tufts community, including other students, administration, faculty and staff,” says Murphy. “The university has opened its educational resources to the new program to provide the academic support needed by the students.”

Characteristics of Entering Class:

- Female: 80%
- Male: 20%
- Average Age: 26 yrs.
- MA Residence: 56%
- Other Residence: 44%
- Total Applicants: 194
- Total Matriculants: 30

To learn more about the Physician Assistant Program go to http://publichealth.tufts.edu/Academics/Physician-Assistant-Program.

Fall 2012 MPH Applied Learning Experiences


Lindsey Cei: "Legal and Policy Aspects of Drug Shortages”. Preceptor: Dr. Chris Milne, Tufts Center for the Study of Drug Development


Leila Kirpatrick: “Preparedness of Public Health Labs for Bioterrorism Threats in Southern California and Mexico”. Preceptor: Esmeralda Iniguez-Stevens, California Department of Public Health, Early Warning Infectious Disease Surveillance (EWIDS)

Stephanie Movsesian: “The Development and Expansion of Boston Children’s Hospital’s Optimal Weight for Life (OWL) on the Road Waiting Room Program”. Preceptor: Jackie Ballou, New Balance Obesity Prevention Center

Eavan Muldoon: “A National Survey of Infectious Disease Practitioners on their use of Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT)”. Preceptor: Dr. David Snydman.

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Students in the Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree programs have a career gold mine at their fingertips situated on the first floor of the Biomedical Research & Public Health Building. Behind their office doors, Cynthia Dantas, Director of Career Services, and Doina Iliescu, Assistant Director of Career Services, spend their days guiding both current students and alumni in career endeavors. Cynthia and Doina are great resources and frequently help navigate students and alumni through the many resources that are available for Applied Learning Experience (ALE) opportunities, jobs, internships, and fellowships.

Before joining the PHPD team as Director of Career Services, Cynthia spent seven years at Tufts’ Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. As for comparisons between the two schools, she notes that the students she has worked with at both schools are highly motivated, committed, bright, and have a desire to make an improvement in the world.

During the past year, the PHPD Career Services Office has organized workshops and other events, including those specific to ALE planning and implementation. The workshops have run the gamut from resume-writing and interview workshops to sessions focused on self-assessment like discovering Myers-Briggs personality types.

Students may easily get caught up in school work and miss these workshops or fail to understand the importance of targeted marketing materials in the job or internship search process. But this can be the make-it-or-break-it step when it comes to releasing a polished resume into the career world. “We are excited to be working with students and to see an increase in the number of students who participate in these workshops,” Cynthia notes.

Among the many events that the Career Services team organized this year included the first annual ALE fair, which drew many preceptors and organizations from around the Boston area to meet with students in the planning phases of their ALEs. This fair offered a way for students to meet others in their field face-to-face and talk to preceptors about goals and ideas.

One of the workshops scheduled for this spring include covering salary negotiation. Cynthia noted, “A lot of students are not sure how to negotiate salary. Even if you don’t have a job on the horizon, it is good to be prepared, especially because things like finding a job you are in love with, are qualified for, and are offered, “can happen quickly.”

Cynthia hopes to continue more active outreach to potential employers, but in the meantime she encourages students to use resources that are right at their fingertips. The Career Services website contains a wealth of career development information, including a link to PHPD’s online “career network” called Career Connector. The Connector was rolled out last spring and connects students with on- and off-campus jobs, fellowships, and internship opportunities specific to PHPD students. It also houses almost 700 contacts at 500 public health-related organizations. Cynthia stated that “[Career Connector] is a one-stop career shop for students interested in finding opportunities outside the classroom.”

Cynthia encourages students and alumni to come and talk with her and Doina. “Some students feel like they have to come in knowing all the answers. Even if you have absolutely no idea about what you want to do--maybe you don’t even have a resume put together--that’s ok. We’re here to help you,” she reassures. She advises that the best thing students can do to make their job or internship search easier is to have a goal in mind, “Knowing your goal is the hardest part, but the most effective.” This is a challenge that Cynthia says plagues many students with whom she works, but that’s what makes Career Services resources so indispensable.

To make an appointment with Cynthia or Doina, or to find out more, visit publichealth.tufts.edu/student-services/career-services. You can also visit the PHPD Facebook and LinkedIn pages to stay updated on upcoming events.
Faculty Notes

Libby Bradshaw, DO, MS, Assistant Professor of Public Health Community Medicine (PH&CM) and Academic Director of the MS – Pain Research, Education & Policy Program (PREP), has overseen conversion of 4 PREP courses to a blended onsite/online format. Kudos to Libby, the Course Directors (Richard Glickman-Simon, MD, Pamela Ressler, MS, RN, HN-BC, Steve Scrivani, DDS, DMedSc, and Ewan McNicol, MS), their excellent TAs (Ali Carter, Kelly Murphy and PREP student Phuong Nguyen).

Doug Brugge, PhD, MS, Professor of PH&CM gave two talks on uranium mining at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. He was also domain editor for the Encyclopedia of Immigrant Health, (Springer Science+Business Media, New York, NY, 2012).

Alia Bucciarelli, MS, Adjunct Instructor for PH&CM, authored a feature article "Transfusion Medicine Under the Affordable Care Act," in the September 2012 issue of AABB News, the magazine for transfusion and cellular therapies professionals.

Daniel Carr, MD, Professor of PH&CM, recently testified on behalf of the American Society of Anesthesiologists at an FDA (U.S. Food and Drug Administration) workshop on possible re-labeling of opioid package inserts, and was elected VP for Scientific Affairs of the American Academy of Pain Medicine.

Sue Gallagher, MPH, Assistant Professor of PH&CM and Director of the MS-Health Communication Program and Anthony Schlaff, MD, MPH, Professor of PH&CM, Director of the Public Health Program are co-teaching a new course “Leadership and Advocacy for Public Health”. As part of the course, students will participate in the National Health Education Advocacy Summit sponsored by the Society for Public Health Education (in Washington, DC). The students will learn and practice basic advocacy skills and obtain a national perspective related to current public health issues and policies, visit Capitol Hill and the local office of Massachusetts Representative Michael Capuano to understand the interplay between state and national policy levels.

Barry Levy, MD, MPH, Adjunct Professor of PH&CM, recently completed work on editing the second edition of "Social Injustice and Public Health," which will be published by Oxford University Press later this year. He also wrote a review article on "Adverse Health Consequences of the Iraq War," which was published in a special issue of The Lancet in March on the tenth anniversary of the start of the War.

Aviva Must, Ph.D, Morton A. Madoff Professor and Chair of PH&CM, will be a member of the Scientific Advisory of the newly established Johns Hopkins Global Center on Childhood Obesity - Where Systems Science Meets Public Health.

Srdjan Nedeljkovic, MD, Lecturer for PH&CM, continues work on the BOLD (Back Pain Longitudinal Data) study evaluating outcomes of management of elderly patients with back pain. As Director of the Brigham and Women's Pain Medicine Fellowship, Dr. Nedeljkovic will accept the Fellowship Excellence Award from the American Academy of Pain Medicine at its annual meeting in April.

Pamela Katz Ressler, MS, RN, HN-BC, Adjunct Lecturer for PH&CM, attended the Narrative Medicine Workshop at Columbia University, led by Rita Charon, a national figure and pioneer in this area. Pam looks forward to using tools of narrative medicine to engage her students next summer in her Ethical and Sociocultural Aspects of Pain course.

Alumni Profile

(continued from page 3) recommendations to various State agencies about ways to help LGBT youth thrive. This includes identifying and filling gaps in research and building connections with legislators,” Claire says. She adds that examining the ways that privilege and oppression intersect is a huge part in how the commission focuses its work. “We have to be willing to ask questions and embrace discomforts we might have,” Claire says. She aims to challenge assumptions by being an everyday advocate with and for the LGBT community.

Claire offers advice for students looking for their own niche: “Look for internships and other opportunities that will give you new skills. Work backwards from the requirements you see in descriptions of jobs you’d like to have,” she adds. “Look at the skills you do have and try to assess the ones you’d like to develop. Look for an internship or ALE opportunity that will help you fill in those gaps.”

For students or alumni interested in working with similar organizations or those dedicated to social justice, Claire suggests the following as good places to research: Fenway Health, Youth On Fire, AIDS Action Committee, Next Step, Amplify Me, YWCA, Community Change, the Sidney Borum Health Center, and her own project at Harvard School of Public Health, the Pediatric HIV/AIDS Cohort Study. Claire can be reached at cberman@sdac.harvard.edu.
The Public Health and Professional Degree Programs’ Student Senate has had an eventful year filled with Trivia Nights, Debates, Happy Hours, Feedback Forums and Cookie Study Breaks!

Before the November elections, many of the PHPD students gathered to hear faculty and field experts debate question 2 and 3 on the Massachusetts’ ballot. The students heard from Michael D. Cutler, Attorney and Former Vice Chair of the Mass. Bar Association Drug Policy Task Force; Dr. John Sargent, Professor of Psychiatry and Pediatrics, TUSM; Dr. John Knight, Director of the Center of Adolescent Substance Abuse Research regarding their opinions on the “Medical Use of Marijuana.” The students also participated in a heated debate regarding “Prescribing Medication to End Life” by Dr. Marcia Angell, Senior Lecturer at Harvard Medical School and Former Editor-in-Chief of New England Journal of Medicine; Kevin Kozin, LICSW, Board Member of National Association of Social Workers; Dr. Barbara Rockett, Physician at Newton-Wellesley Hospital and Former President of Mass. Medical Society; Marybeth Singer, NP, Patient Program Manager at Tufts Medical Center - Cancer Center; and Dr. Richard Glickman-Simon, Assistant Professor of Public Health & Community Medicine.

Along with debates, the students participated in different social gatherings including Trivia Nights at Jacob Wirth and Sweetwater and Cookie Study Breaks in the PHPD Student Lounge.

This winter as part of the Senate’s community service activities, we ran a coat drive in which we collected 54 coats, 96 sweaters, 76 shirts, 44 scarves, 43 hats, 35 pairs of gloves, 27 pairs of socks, 25 pairs of pants, 4 jackets, 10 pairs of shoes, 3 dresses, 1 blanket, 1 bathrobe, and 2 vests to St. Francis House!! We were completely overwhelmed by the generosity of students, faculty and staff! These kind actions helped keep people warm this winter.

The Senate also held two student feedback forums and collected surveys from a number of students to see how we could help to better the PHPD student experience. We received constructive feedback which we have been working with the PHPD Administration to implement this spring and next fall.

This spring the Senate has been busy planning social events and lectures for students. The Senate is currently lining up some fantastic speakers for Public Health Week (April 1st through the 5th). We currently have the following lectures/activities scheduled:

- Panel Discussion on Violence & Mental Health
- Eating Healthy on a Budget: Food Demonstration
- Ergonomics Discussion
- Speaker Event sponsored by the External Advisory Committee
- Breast Cancer Fair in the Chinatown Community

The Senate’s mission is to serve as a liaison between students and administration to ensure that the students’ needs are being met. Therefore, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Senate with any suggestions you might have to help make your spring semester the best one yet.

Senate Representatives
- Kristen Miller, Senate President, MPH Candidate
- Donna Phan, Senate Vice President, MBS Candidate
- Ebaa Jastaniah, MPH-Global Health
- Kelsey Lawler, MPH-Epidemiology/Biostatistics
- Reem AlSukait, MPH-Nutrition
- Erica Ballard, MS-Health Communication
- Cheng-Han (Byron) Lu, MS-Pain Research, Education & Policy
- Meghan Hamrock, MS-Nutrition/MPH
- Glenn Gomes, MD/MPH
- Margot Raicek, DVM/MPH
- Jessica Cochrane, JD/MPH
- Mayur Patel, MD/MBA
- Alexandra Osgood, MBS
- Gary Prakash, MBS/MBA
- Ashleigh Eberly, PA

Members of the PHPD Senate: l-r Namrata Patel (MD/MPH), Donna Phan (MBS), Ebaa Jastaniah (MPH), Jessica Cochrane (JD/MPH), Meghan Hamrock (MS/MPH), Kristen Miller (MPH), Reem AlSukait (MPH), Gary Prakash (MBS), Mayur Patel (MBS), Elaine Siew (MS/MPH)
**Discounted Courses**

Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree Programs Alumni are eligible to take one PHPD course a year, a maximum of 3 overall, for 25% of the tuition rate of the course. Alumni are welcome to take more than one course per year, but only one at the discounted rate. For a list of courses visit publichealth.tufts.edu/Student-Services/Academic-Calendar-and-Course-Schedules.

**Tufts PHPD Career Services**

The Tufts Public Health and Professional Degree Programs' Office of Career Services mission is to support students and alumni in their goal for meaningful careers through education, coaching and building career connections. As alumni, career services and resources available to you include: resume/cover letter critiques, one-on-one coaching; mock interviews, alumni/employer connections, and access to Career Connector (online career management tool), “a one-stop career shop”. To learn more, go to publichealth.tufts.edu/Student-Services/Career-Services and see the article on page 8.

**Tufts Community Online**

The Tufts University Alumni Association offers all alumni a suite of free internet services designed to help foster connections among old friends and new ones as well as between alumni and Tufts. Some features include: alumni email, alumni directory, class notes, career center etc. For more information go to http://tuftsalumni.org/.

**Tufts Career Advisor Network**

The Tufts University-wide Career Advisor Network (CAN) includes advisors from each of the university’s seven schools. This network offers a look into the varied careers alumni pursue and advisors who are willing to represent Massachusetts consumers and advocate for sensible policies whose aim is the control of the growth of health care costs.”

Dr. Rosenberg was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in January 2013 as a member of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB). The CSB is an independent federal agency that investigates industrial chemical accidents at fixed industrial facilities. Accidents can be the result of deficiencies in safety management systems, equipment failures, chemical reactions or human error. The CSB is composed of 5 members who are appointed by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Members are appointed based on their technical qualifications, professional standing, demonstrated knowledge in the fields of accident reconstruction, safety engineering, human factors etc. They are also active members of the investigation in that they serve as spokespeople at accident sites, conduct community hearings, meetings and boards of inquiry.

Dr. Rosenberg’s experience in the field of occupational and environmental health includes research focused on designing effective safety systems and creating systems of production that do not harm workers or the environment. Some of her projects included investigating health and safety systems in former nuclear weapon productions sites and exploring the effect of corporate social responsibility programs in Asian garment and footwear factories. Dr. Rosenberg’s work also included studying hazards related to exposures of silica and interventions in the Vermont granite industry, which resulted in it being added to the list of substances regulated under the Massachusetts Toxics Use Reduction Act.

In a press release by the CSB, Dr. Rosenberg noted that she’s looking forward to her new role and is excited by the opportunity to promote workplace safety. Dr. Rosenberg is currently on leave from Tufts during her appointment to CSB.

To learn more about Drs. Hattis and Rosenberg’s work on CSB and the Massachusetts Health Policy Commission visit www.mass.gov/anf/budget-taxes-and-procurement/oversight-agencies/health-policy-commission and www.csb.gov.
Fall 2012 MPH ALEs
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Tufts Medical Center

Julie Myers: "An Analysis of Contracts Between Massachusetts School Districts and Commercial Beverage Companies". **Preceptor:** Cara Wilking, Public Health Advocacy Institute

Lucy Myles: “Basic Technology Transfer Project Assessment”. **Preceptor:** Jennifer King, Shelter and Settlements Alternatives: Uganda Human Settlements Network

Andrea Plant: “Development of My Care My Call: A Telehealth Intervention for People with Spinal Cord Injuries”. **Preceptor:** Bethlyn Houlihan, Boston Medical Center, New England Regional Spinal Cord Center

Paula Power: “Making Health Care Affordable: Preserving Access and Improving Value”. **Preceptor:** Kathleen Cowie, Brockton Neighborhood Health Center

Natalie Royal: “Developing a PhotoVoice Curriculum for the Alliance for Latino Health Through Faith and Action (CRUZA) Program”. **Preceptor:** Elizabeth Harden, Dana Farber Cancer Institute

Robert Sunmin Kim: “Examining Water Safety, Sanitation and Hygiene Variables and the Survey Tools Utilized to Record Behaviors Associated with Diarrhea in Rural and Urban Regions of Southern India”. **Preceptor:** Venkata Raghava Mohan, Christian Medical College, Vellore, India

Amanda R. White: "The Use of Evidence in Mental Health Policies for Children in Foster Care”. **Preceptor:** Dr. Laurel Leslie and Tom Mackie, Tufts Medical Center