



# Public Health Monthly Newsletter

Volume I | Issue VI | Public Health Monthly Newsletter

## *Announcement*

The Public Health Monthly Newsletter is a place to stay updated on the latest information regarding all things Public Health. The Newsletter will introduce you to an array of fulfilling internship, job, seminar, and volunteer opportunities.

If you are interested in being featured for the student spotlight, or you would like to submit any information please email Dr. Torres at [mtorres@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:mtorres@mercyhurst.edu) or Katie Reisinger at [kreisi62@lakers.mercyhurst.edu](mailto:kreisi62@lakers.mercyhurst.edu) by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.

Follow us on Facebook for more updates on things happening within the department: [@MercyhurstPublicHealth](https://www.facebook.com/MercyhurstPublicHealth)

## *Inside This Issue*

### **PG. 2**

Details on the latest intern, job, and volunteer opportunities to gain relevant experience in the field.

### **PG. 3**

Important department events and updates are highlighted here. Turn to page 3 to find out more.

### **PG. 4**

Get to know your fellow Public Health majors and learn about Scholar Bowl!

## Intern & Job Opportunities

### PACT Community Research Associate

- The Center for Family Research is seeking Community Research Associates (CRAs) for the Parents and Children Together (PACT) Project
- They are a behavioral science research center at the University of Georgia. Their research is guided by a concern for the difficulties faced by African American families living in the rural South.
- Athens, GA
- <https://www.ugajobsearch.com/postings/77619>

### AHEC Scholars Program

- The program prepares health professional and allied health students interested in rural and underserved care to provide continuously improving care in a transforming health care system.
- Free program that will make you more marketable
- Deadline for applications 04/30
- To apply and more info can be found here: <https://www.paahecscholars.org/>

## Seminars and Speakers

**Earth Day Speaker** – Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Walker Recital Hall

- Saving Our Synthetic Seas – Marcus Eriksen, research director and co-founder of the 5 Gyres Institute

## Department Announcements

The following students have been selected to help represent the Public Health Department in various capacities for the 2019-2010 school year:

- Karrah Savage and Jaqueline Rogers – work study students will be in charge of social media, newsletters, bulletin boards and recruitment events.
- Hannah Buncher – new twitter writer
- Karrah Savage - Foundations of Public Health New Teaching Assistant and Tutor
- Brett Conrad - Scholar Bowl Coordinator

## Volunteer Opportunities:

### Naturalization Ceremony & Hospitality

Approximately 45-50 new American citizens typically coming from 15-22 countries are officially naturalized as U.S. citizens at the Erie federal courthouse nearly every month. Welcoming them on this milestone occasion fits with our Mercy tradition! Several students and employees are requested for each opportunity. If you are interested, please sign up with the link below. Email Colin Hurley at [churley@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:churley@mercyhurst.edu) with questions.

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wo3\\_7x\\_JReiKvCnd9OgSL3RBBbQetwspoidWtoBM41I/edit?hl=en\\_US&hl=en\\_US#gid=2027095870](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wo3_7x_JReiKvCnd9OgSL3RBBbQetwspoidWtoBM41I/edit?hl=en_US&hl=en_US#gid=2027095870)

Our first **Public Health and Nursing Networking and Mentoring Event with the ACHE Healthcare Professionals** was held this past Thursday evening, and it was a great success! After a panel presentation, our students had an opportunity to discuss career options and network with healthcare professionals!

**Congratulations to our Public Health graduating seniors! Best of luck with all of your future endeavours. You will be greatly missed:**

- |                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| • Paige Baiocchi    | • Marlena Krzyszczyk   |
| • Kierra Bielye     | • Julianne Mooney-Ryan |
| • Craig Carter      | • Katherine Reisinger  |
| • Shelby Chesko     | • Brennan Russell      |
| • Nellie Dephtereos | • Mackenzie Ryburn     |
| • Adama Diallo      | • Emily Skamla         |
| • Mariale Duron     | • Victoria Triaga      |
| • Emely Figueroa    | • Prapti Sharma        |
| • Sydney Fitch      | • Julia Vicaretti      |
| • Joshua Froess     | • Joshua Wahl          |
| • Carrie Hamelin    | • Christopher Wandel   |
| • Nina Hollopeter   | • Carilyn White        |
| • Rachel Hull       |                        |
| • Sarah Kosiorek    |                        |

CLASS OF  
**2019**

## Upcoming Dates & Events

### Public Health Club:

- **Beach Cleanup** – Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM – We will head out to Presque Isle to enjoy the spring weather and help to clean up the beaches.
- **End of the Year Party** – Tuesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM – We will be having a dinner and celebrating the end of another great school year!

### Academic Calendar:

- **April 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Break
- **Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Spring classes end
- **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** – Reading Day – No classes or finals! Use this day to prepare for finals week.
- **May 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>** – Finals week – check the exam schedule: login to my.mercyhurst.edu > menu > academics > registrar > final exam schedule
- **May 12<sup>th</sup>** – Graduation

## Field Experience and Research Showcase

Not sure if you should do an internship? Not sure what internships seem interesting to you? If you are considering your options for internships or field experience, start by coming to hear from current Public Health seniors about their positive experiences!

### Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7 PM in Hirt 313

Presenters will include:

- Craig Carter - WIC program field experience
- Christopher Wandel - Regional Science Consortium field experience
- Brennan Russell - Erie County Health Experience
- Matthew Dempsey - American Intercontinental Healthcare Group field experience
- Rachel Hull - Erie County Health Experience
- Marlena Krzyszczak and Adama Diallo - Research project
- Monica Wiczorek - research project
- Julianne Mooney-Ryan – A semester at WIC

### Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup> from 5 – 7 PM in Hirt 313

Presenters will include:

- Carrie Hamelin - WIC field experience
- Joshua Wahl - Field experience
- Shelby Chesko - Field experience City of Erie Police Department
- Paige Baiocchi – Drop in clinic for the homeless
- Nina Hollopeter - Go Girls field experience with the Regional Science Consortium
- Carilyn White - research project
- Emily Skamla - Hardwiring Health: The Making of a Healthier Generation
- Joshua Froess - Health Inequity in the City and Rural areas of Erie County
- Natcha Tabkhan - research project

Each senior will have an engaging presentation to share and will be happy to answer any questions you have about how they found their internship and what it was like.





## Scholar Bowl

**Congratulations to the 2019 Scholar Bowl Case Study Winners!** This past weekend 6 Mercyhurst Public Health Students attended the national public health competition at St. Louis University which is done every year in April. The winning team included **Karrah Savage, Joshua Froess, Matt Dempsey, Hannah Buncher, Nina Hollopeter and Jaqueline Rogers.** They competed against top universities such as Brown University, Johns Hopkins, The Ohio State University, George Washington University, etc.

Students received the following case study scenario a month in advance: your university has received a \$10,000 grant from the state health department. Your job is to identify a public health problem of interest within the community in which your university resides and develop an intervention to address it. Your intervention should be rooted in Community-Based Participatory Approach and should focus on social determinants of health (SDOH).

The group met to investigate what issue in the community was most significant. They focused on food deserts in Erie, PA. Their problem was the lack of access to healthy foods. They focused to intervene in three census tracts in Erie PA, which are the ones with the lowest socio-economic status, lower educational level and were considered as food deserts. Using community based participatory action research, they created an intervention consisting of creating healthy corners in 6 corner stores, a blood pressure initiative, etc.

There were a total of 6 judges that rigorously evaluated each team's performance, content accuracy, evidenced

based approach, creativity, and feasibility. The team received 84 out of 86 possible points. The announcement was made on Saturday afternoon. After the announcement, the second and first place winners presented in front of the larger audience of participants and faculty advisors and responded to tough questions. Our students rock!

## Student Spotlight



**Name:** Sydney Fitch  
**Major:** Public Health & Environmental Science  
**Graduation Year:** 2019  
**Hometown:** Warren, PA  
**Extracurriculars:** Public Health Club and work study, Tri Beta, Phi Eta Sigma  
**Future Aspirations:**

I am going to stay at Mercyhurst for graduate school to get my Masters in Secondary Education. My ideal job is to teach middle or high school students and share my passion for environmental science with young minds.

**Why did you choose to study public health?**

I chose to study public health because it is a very diverse field that is a new and upcoming need for the future. I love that it is the science of preventing disease instead of treating it. We are continually creating new and innovative ways to protect vulnerable lives.

**What is special to you about the department?**

I like how approachable and understanding our faculty is. If you ever have a question, problem, or idea they are open to listen and engage in conversation based on their strong, individualized backgrounds.

**Do you have a favorite memory within the department?**

When I was able to work with the USCRI of Erie around Christmas time. We organized an Angel Tree for the youth involved in the community through the USCRI. We compiled a list of children and distributed it to the department to get each child a gift. It was moving to see so many Mercyhurst students want to give to children of immigrant or migrant status in Erie.

**How have you prepared yourself for your future career?**

I have had internships at an Oil Refinery in the Environmental Department doing water quality and air quality measurements as well as volunteering with local organizations like the USCRI, the Second Harvest Food Bank, Red Cross, and many more. My experiences have taught me how well Public Health and Environmental Science blend together, where we work to create a safe and healthy environment for people to thrive.