



# Public Health Monthly Newsletter

Volume I | Issue V | 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 a trip to Mexico!

## Intern & Job Opportunities

### APHA - Public Health Policy Intern:

- Work with staff in the Center for Public Health Policy (Center) and receive hands-on experience and insight into the integration of science, policy and practice in public health
- Washington, DC
- Open until filled
- <https://internships-apha.icims.com/jobs/1340/public-health-policy-internship%3a-2019-summer-term-%28june-august%29/job>

### Presque Isle - Environmental Education Intern:

- Work with the Environmental Education staff to assist with programming throughout the summer.
- Contact: [adesarro@pa.gov](mailto:adesarro@pa.gov)

### Presque Isle - Water Quality Intern:

- Collect water samples at the swimming beaches and then plate and count those samples in the lab. When done with that work you will meet up with the invasive species crew.
- Contact: [hbest@pa.gov](mailto:hbest@pa.gov)

### Research Technician at the Regional Science Consortium:

- Spend the summer learning field and laboratory techniques and working with a small group to complete major research grant requirements with the Regional Science Consortium
- Contact: [amber@regsciconsort.com](mailto:amber@regsciconsort.com)

### PA Department of Health Internships:

- Offering internship opportunities throughout the department that will allow you to apply your classroom experience to real-world public health issues and enhance your educational experience
- Internship areas include Public Health – Quantitative Emphasis; Public Health – Qualitative Emphasis; Health Policy, Legislation and Administration; and Health Care and Quality Assurance
- Harrisburg, PA
- Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>
- <https://www.health.pa.gov/topics/Administrative/Pages/Internships.aspx>

## Volunteer Opportunities:

### Second Harvest Food Bank with Public Health Club

The Food Bank depends heavily on volunteers to assist in serving the community. They may ask us to assist with sorting food, packing food, or emergency bags.

- Group volunteering - 7 spots available – Thursday, March 28th 5:00 – 8:00 PM

Email [kreisi62@lakers.mercyhurst.edu](mailto:kreisi62@lakers.mercyhurst.edu) if you are interested in volunteering at the food bank!

## Seminars and Speakers

**Environment & Economy Lecture Series** – Located at Penn State Behrend Metzgar Center

- Erie's Income Inequality – Presented by Dr. Ken Louie – Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM
- Perils of Plastic – Presented by Dr. Sherri Mason – Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM
- Condor Preservation & Public Policy – Presented by Dr. Arpan Yagnik – Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 PM

## Department Announcement

**Teaching Assistant Position** – There will be a TA position open for fall semester in Foundations of Public health. If you are interested please stop by and talk with Dr. Torres.

## Upcoming Events

### Public Health Club Meeting:

- **Meeting** – Tuesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM – We are having a nutrition themed meeting with healthy recipe cook books and some food to make and try! We will be holding elections for the 2019-2020 officer positions. You can run for any of the positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you are interested, please email [hbunch25@lakers.mercyhurst.edu](mailto:hbunch25@lakers.mercyhurst.edu) by March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Public Health Department:

- **Accepted Students Day – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
We are in need of students on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup> to talk to accepted, prospective students visiting campus about the program. Please contact Dr. Torres if you are available to help!
- **Public Health Networking and Mentoring Event –** Thurs., April 11<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 PM This event is a great way for upperclassment to build their network with health care professionals. There are 15 spots available. Priority will be given to seniors, and juniors will be placed on a waiting list. The first hour will include a panel discussion, and for the second hour students, panelists and various health care executives will engage in speed networking. Food and beverages will be provided. Please RSVP to [mtorres@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:mtorres@mercyhurst.edu) by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The panelists will include:
  - **Aaron C. Phillips** - Practice Leader of Human Capital Management Practice at Decision Associates in Erie and specializes in Organizational Development, Executive Recruitment, Strategic Planning and Succession Planning.
  - **Melonie Jackson** - Vice President of Human Resources at UPMC
  - **Jean Tauber** – moderator Regent and on the Board of The American College of Health Care executives for Western Pennsylvania, the Board of Trustees for Presbyterian Homes of Lake Erie, the Foundation Board of Presbyterian Senior Care and as Board Member of the East Erie Chapter of Kiwanis International.



Senior Julianne Mooney-Ryan with Dr. Torres and a WIC staff member at an event for her field experience!

## Field Experience Positions for Fall 2019

Now is the time to apply for field experience opportunities for the fall semester! If you are interested, you will need to **send a resume and cover letter to Dr. Torres, [mtorres@mercyhurst.edu](mailto:mtorres@mercyhurst.edu) by the end of the day Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**. Interviews will then be held on April 12<sup>th</sup>. If you did not attend the field experience meeting last semester, please see Dr. Torres in her office to receive more details about how the process works. Towards the end of the semester you will have the opportunity to shadow current students in the same field experience. For more information on any of the positions please email Dr. Torres. The positions available include:

- **Women Infant and Children (WIC)** - 3 positions
  - Lactation & Breastfeeding - Analyze Breastfeeding incidence and duration rates and assist the Breastfeeding coordinator with several projects
  - Community Nutrition Education – It is preferred that this student has already taken nutrition, but it is not required
  - Outreach and Community service and Social Media
- **Erie County Health Department** - 3 positions
  - Epidemiology
  - HIV/sexual health education/outreach
  - Corry Blue Zone - this candidate must have a must have a car
- **Tom Ridge Environmental Center (TREC)** - 2 positions
  - Environmental Health Research for Regional Science Consortium - current projects include water quality and bacterial contamination, harmful algal blooms, and more.
  - Building partnership/Health education
- **Go Girls** - non-profit organization from South Africa - 1 position
  - Health education/partnership building
- **Shriners Hospitals for Children** - 2 positions
  - Healthcare Communications Internship with a Focus on Social Media - writing stories on social media platforms.
  - Clinical observation



## Mexico Trip

This past spring break, Mercyhurst students with various health field interests traveled to Mexico to engage with the local community and learn about health care outside of the classroom. It was a great way for students to work with people from diverse backgrounds and learn to look at health in a different way. Senior Biology major, Maria Montoya said, “Visiting Mexico over Spring Break was the best decision I could’ve made. This trip allowed me to consolidate my dream of becoming a health professional now that I was completely immersed in the field and experienced how big of an impact one can have by being open to help others. This was an amazing, fulfilling experience that changed my perception of the world completely.” The Senior Athletic Training major, Philip Jenny, also spoke very highly of the trip. “The Mexico trip has been an amazing both years that I have gone. Both very unique experiences both culturally and clinically! I have been able to apply knowledge from the classroom into effect down in Mexico while working alongside of mentors that I have looked up to in my profession. With the addition of Dr. Torres to this trip students will not only be able to experience clinical practice from a sports medicine aspect but also gain some public health experience. Dr. Torres has brought new life to this trip and I can't wait to see how influential this trip will be in the coming years.” Dr. Torres plans to continue this trip in the future and integrate more public health components in the future. There will be several different areas to get involved in such as sexual health education, physical therapy for children with autism, working with local doctors, and accessing

additional needs in the community. The trip also includes a day of service such as helping to pour concrete floors or painting with people in the community. If you are interested in going on the trip next year, reach out to Dr. Torres for more information and fundraising tips!

## Student Spotlight



**Name:** Brett Conrad  
**Major:** Public Health  
**Graduation Year:** 2020  
**Hometown:** Buffalo, NY

**Extracurriculars:** Public Health Club, PA AHEC Scholars program, Pre-Health society, Ski club, Sustainability club

### What are your future plans?

I definitely plan on going to grad school but I am still working out when to get my MPH. My ideal job would be with the NY state department of health or the CDC. I am planning on getting an MPH, and then an MD.

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

I chose to study public health because of the connection between individual and population health. Public health ties clinical/individual medicine into non-clinical population health. My key areas of interest are communicable diseases, and opioid overdose prevention!

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

The department is special to me because of how close everyone is in the department, and how we not only get to have in class and hands on learning, but also we have the opportunity to go on trips that are educational and fun at the same time!

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

My favorite memory in the department is when I was a freshman on the EIS conference (Epidemic Intelligence Service) trip, I got to meet Anne Schuchat (the CDC director) and we took a group picture with her!

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

I feel that the classes, faculty, hands on learning, and trips have prepared me very well for my future career! I have prepared myself by being informed on what career opportunities are available, and what the requirements are.