



THE VOICE

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SPRING 2016

FROM THE CHAIR'S DESK

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Welcome to the inaugural issue of the LIU MPH newsletter – The Voice! It has been an exciting year 2015 for us: the Program has been accepted for accreditation in June of last year and the self-study is in the works! The first three global health internships were completed last summer in Belgrade, Serbia, at the Institute for Public Health of Serbia

“Milan Jovanovic Batut” via our global partner European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD) established by University for Peace of the United Nations. The first visit of the ECPD delegation to LIU Brooklyn was in September-October. Professor Brian Gilchrist and I took an active part in ECPD conferences in Belgrade at the end of October. Our faculty and students attended and presented at the APHA Annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois. We held our Third Annual Thanksgiving potluck in November. The Program has grown in last two years, more than doubled in number of students! In January, May and September of last year 2015 - 34 new professionals graduated from our classrooms with an MPH degree. More great news...

STUDENT'S CORNER

Not Just Academic

By Vinessa Gordon, MPH

When I was in the last year of high school one of my teachers asked us to write an essay about our world view. At seventeen years old I thought the world was New York and Jamaica and those were the only two places I was interested in working in. Now, I am almost at the end of my Master's program and I can not believe that in two years so much has changed. The world may have not changed much, but the way I see the world has . I feel overwhelmed when I look back at where and who I was when I began this journey and I am so grateful for all the opportunities that has been

given to me, words can not describe. There is no price tag that can be placed on the knowledge that I have gained. Every class that I have take has been a challenge , but I can walk away knowing that I have learned how to make the world a better place. I will never forget my experience in Serbia, working and contributing something in a foreign country has so far been the most fulfilling part of my experience as a student in Public Health.



EDITORS OF THE VOICE

Bojana Beric

Vinessa Gordon

PUBLIC HEALTH CLUB

Activities and Collaborations of the Public Health Club

By Roopali Shinde, MPHc



Faculty from the University of Maryland and Long Island University at APHA

The Public health club is one of the 26 clubs on campus of Long Island University, Brooklyn (LIU) and has been active for the past three years. The Club won the Educational Program of the Year award for the 2013- 2014 year and the Community Engagement award for the 2014- 2015 year. The club is run by the students in the Masters of Public Health program, under the advisement of Professor Brian Gilchrist. The officers on the General Executive board (E-board) are selected by MPH students. This year 2015/2016 the E board members are: Roopali Shinde, President, Eden Yohannes, Vice President, Vrajkumar Parikh, Secretary, Sagar Patel, Treasurer and Vinessa Gordon and Deepthi Bhukya as the Senators. At present, the Club has more than 30 members. So far in this school year we have done many activities.

A potluck was organized at the beginning of the semester for networking and welcoming new students to the Program. In the beginning of October 2015, the Club members participated in the Breast Cancer walk to raise awareness against breast cancer. In late October we attended the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference in Chicago. There we had the opportunity to attend different sessions, network with professionals in public health and gained new insights in field of public health. We also had the chance to

meet the Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy.

At the yearly campus Halloween party, we distributed free condoms, condom instruction manual and candies in goody bags to promote health. The members of the club dressed with the Halloween theme and added more charm to the party. All the materials were donated by Professor Mejia who works at the Diaspora Community Services Center here in Brooklyn. On December 1st World AIDS day we again partnered with Diaspora to manage a table in the Health Science building, we brought different incentives, goodies, pamphlets to spread awareness about AIDS, for the students on campus.

Our club also participates in an annual Thanksgiving potluck which began about three years ago and organized by the Department of Public Health. Students in the program bring different culture foods and invited friends and family members to enjoy the variety of cuisines. This past Thanksgiving potluck turned out to be one of great success. The Public health club is looking forward for more health related events in the year 2016.



Public Health Club at Halloween Party



Vraj and Roopali with the Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy

FACULTY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

A Peak in the Life of Dr. Gilchrist



What is your current involvement in the field of Public Health?

Currently, I am a tenure track faculty member at Long Island University, at the Department of Public Health. I am responsible for teaching public health courses, conducting public health research and being involved in public health community service. With that I am teaching both graduate and undergraduate courses. My research focuses on violence victimization and perpetration as a public health problem. I also volunteer with Team Wright which is a non profit community based organization. Team Wright reaches urban adolescent males through athletics, my role is to develop programs for urban youth here in central Brooklyn.

What is the most fulfilling work you have done as a public health professional?

The most fulfilling work I have done is mentoring adolescents into adulthood. Many of those relationships are continuing to be nurtured; being able to assist in the development of young men over the past 14 years, and to still be in contact with them to observe some outcomes, has been most fulfilling. One of the guys I have mentored is currently working in the President's Office in Washington D.C. So, being able to be a part of their development has been the most fulfilling so far.

Are there any surprises in your work?

Not anymore. I started at the grassroots level in communities pounding the pavement in 1991. In my early years in the field I was surprised quite often, but at this stage I have a much better understanding of the difference that we all carry, based on our culture, based on education, based on religion, and based on our experiences. I now understand that even if someone says something, or does something, or believes something

that is different from what I believe. I know that there are legitimate reasons why those differences exist. So, I am never surprised always interested.

Do you think that you should have taken a different route into Public Health?

Absolutely not! I would not have changed anything.

What is one thing you would like students to know about you?

I want students to know that my interest in them, is to help them achieve the goals that they set for themselves. Because, sometimes people want you to do what they want you to do. I want students to understand that, I want them to develop their own aspirations and help them achieve what they have identified for themselves. All of the airplanes in my office represent that I am a world citizen. I want them to join me as citizens of the world.



ALUMNI

Waves Alumni are Making

By Vinessa Gordon, MPH

Our program alumni are making innovations in the field of Public Health! This issue of The Voice is highlighting, Aicha Diallo-Bennett, a 2013 graduate of the MPH program here at LIU. Since graduation she has been working at the Arthritis Foundation-Northeast Region as a Program Manager of the New York Chapter. As part of her role at the Arthritis Foundation, she has the opportunity to oversee all of the health education programs, advocacy and policy efforts tailored to children and adults who have arthritis and other rheumatic diseases in the chapter. This allows her to tackle several angles

in the public health arena.

At this year's APHA conference, Aicha presented in a roundtable session the work that focuses on "A Nurses Toolkit for Rheumatoid Arthritis." This abstract was also selected as a finalist for this year's Aging in Public Health, Erickson Foundation Research Award in Positive Aging.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Benett-Diallo was invited by Dr. Beric to serve as a member of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) to the MPH Program. In addition, she has been working on organizing and coordinating LIU MPH Alumni activities throughout the year to reconnect with faculty and engage in networking sessions with our current students.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS & MEMBERSHIP

The European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD established by United Nations University for Peace, in Belgrade is our global partner. To learn more about what they do, Click [here](#).



Through our partnership with ECPD, we have established collaboration and working relationship with the Institute for Public Health "Milan Jovanovic Batut" in Belgrade. To learn more,

click [here](#)



INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF SERBIA
"Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut"

Consortium of Universities for Global Health. For membership click [here](#)



Fellowships

[Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship](#) – deadline January 31st, 2016

[Global Health Corps Fellowships](#) - deadline February 2nd, 2016

Internships

[SOPHE Student Internship Summer](#) – deadline February 1st, 2016

[National Association of Community Health Center](#) – deadline April 30th, 2016

Tools for the Job Hunt

[Society for Public Health Education Career Connection](#)

[Consortium of Universities for Global Health Job Opportunities](#)

[National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc. Job Posting](#)

[National Association of County & City Health Officials Careers](#)

[New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene](#)

Announcements

Certified Health Education Specialist

For information on the certification exam please review the CHES Handbook click [here](#)

The 2016 - Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) Exams will be on - April 23rd, 2016 to register for April, click [here](#)

After the February 2nd, 2016 the fees for the CHES exam will increase from \$210 to \$265

The October 15th, 2016 CHES Exam requires that you use the new study guide – for more information on the study guide click [here](#)

MEET THE FACULTY



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