

# Health Science Graduate Newsletter



FALL 2009

Volume 40, No.2

October 2009

Happy Fall:

Once again, summer has evaporated and we're back in the thick of things on campus. Over the summer, we said good bye to Dr. Jack Osman. Dr. Osman decided to retire in order to spend more time on his wellness farm. Those of you who earned undergraduate degrees in Health Science may well have taken courses with Dr. Osman. While less involved with Master's students in recent years, his focus in nutrition and wellness attracted steady student interest.

Over the summer, you may also have noticed yet another twist to registration. No longer do you need to secure faculty sign-off during the drop/add period. Rather students can monitor class availability online and enter themselves into a class when room emerges, without the traditional hassle. There is, however, one exception to the new procedure. Students cannot use the online function to add 'permit only' classes. Those classes remain monitored by the Department. Only people who receive the necessary permit will be able to register for those monitored courses. Graduate students are very savvy people. It often happens that Master's students secure their permits as soon as they are available, and then wait until the very last minute to use them. Sometimes people with permits change their minds and opt not to take the class for which they secured a permit. Under those circumstances, when you are positive that you will *not* be using the permit, please contact me. The Department has no way of knowing whether you are delaying registration, planning to re-register (despite having removed yourself from the roster prior to the semester's start), or yet another possibility. Once underway, some classes move with sufficient quickness that adding them to your schedule after only one or two weeks is already too late for you to stay up to speed. If students neglect to use their permits, we may not have clarification until that 'too late to register' window has arrived. An unused permit is a spot that might have gone to a fellow student. As a courtesy to your student colleagues, please keep the communication flowing for all 'permit only' classes.

This semester also marks the first time we have students declared as 'dual concentration.' The Master's degree from our department entails 36 credits. Whether a single or dual concentration, your total credit count is unchanged. What differs is the number of credits available to you for elective courses. Dual concentration students must fulfill the requirements of the two concentrations comprising their new emphasis. With more required credits, the number of elective or discretionary courses necessarily is decreased. It is possible to shift to a dual concentration at any point in your student

career. Should your decision occur later rather than sooner in that progression, you may find yourself in the position of having to register for more than the mandatory 36 in order to fulfill requirements of both concentrations. If, however, your decision occurs early on in your Master's career, there is no reason or need to enroll in more than the 36 credits required for our degree. If you are interested in declaring a dual concentration, send me an email expressing your interest and the two elements of your dual concentration. I then examine your record to establish whether you are a full or conditionally admitted student. If a conditionally admitted student, your terms of admission will be modified to embrace both of the concentrations comprising your dual focus.

Finally, this semester brings with it the big unknown of H1N1. You will have noticed that all syllabi bear specific information – included at the request of the University – regarding University and student responsibilities in the event H1N1 makes its presence felt. The best advice is to be mindful of your particular health risks, stay in touch with your instructors should anything happen, and take care of yourself.

I hope you have a productive and healthy semester.

Dr. Radius

#### **FACULTY PROFILE**

Susan Willis is a part-time administrative assistant in the Department of Health Science at Towson University, and began working here in October, 2006. She is responsible for website updates, marketing, back up support to the full-time administrative assistant, and helping students and faculty as needed. Susan feels that she is extremely fortunate to work with a very supportive and dedicated office staff and faculty. Although Susan was born in Baltimore, MD, her family moved to Long Island, New York where she attended elementary school. She returned to Baltimore to pursue her degree in Towson University's early BS program in Nursing. Susan spent 11 years in hospital nursing, until new family responsibilities required her attention. She chose part time employment as an administrative assistant in a variety of business offices. Susan discovered that she enjoyed regular schedules and new experiences in this setting versus the hospital. While working at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS), Maryland Chapter, Susan's administrative experiences coupled with her nursing background allowed her to be promoted to the Director of Case Management. In this position, she visited clients with progressive multiple sclerosis in their homes throughout the state of Maryland. These experiences introduced her to the challenges and lifestyle changes of people with disabilities and she advocated successfully for increased funding for programs for individuals with disabilities. For Susan, working in a non-profit organization dedicated to serving those with a chronic disability, enhanced her opportunity for professional and personal growth as well as provided her the satisfaction of improving the lives of others. After eight years with the NMSS, Susan felt she needed a change. Interested in spending some time in the educational environment, Susan accepted her current

position at Towson University. At Towson, Susan finds herself drawing on many talents learned from previous employment as well as learning new skills. She enjoys helping students navigate the university system and connecting them with the resources they are seeking. Susan believes that the key element to enjoying and being successful in any job is to be open to learning new things. Towson has given her a chance to learn technology skills through website editing and working with other computer applications that were unfamiliar to her. Susan is part of wonderful team of professionals, whose focus is educating and providing students with the resources necessary for a successful future. The part time job status provides her flexibility and balance within her lifestyle. This allows her to devote time to things she enjoys such as going to the beach, getting together with family, friends and “grandpets”, reading books, supporting events that improve the lives of animals, and staying connected to surrounding communities. Susan’s employment experiences have given her opportunities to learn new skills, improve the lives of others, and recognize the frustrations as well as successes at both the management and support staff level. For her, no matter what career path or volunteer experience she chooses now or in the future, she finds that each provides the chance to broaden her knowledge and experience.

### **ASK THE VIRTUAL ADVISOR**

**How do I know what classes do or don’t count toward my degree? I was admitted in August and just about everything was filled except one course in Health Science. When I asked my advisor whether I could take that course, I had to tell her why I thought the course would make sense. Why can’t I just take any HLTH course and keep it simple?**

Your question includes quite a few important areas for students to consider. As a courtesy to its applicants, the Department accepts students on a rolling admissions basis. Rather than imposing deadlines by which materials have to be to the University, we will review and act whenever your application reaches us. Course registration doesn’t happen in such a flexible manner. The registration calendar is set by the university. This year, students received permits in March for their fall courses. Registration (and the distribution of permits) occurs on a first come, first served basis. Heeding the registration schedule is imperative to timely enrollment. You elected to apply in August – months after fall enrollment procedures were engaged. The academic calendar is posted months in advance on the University website. Periodic visit to that location is a wise idea to minimize future disappointments.

Your second concern seems to focus on what does and does not count toward a Master’s in Health Science. Because a student pays for a course – whatever the academic department -- does not guarantee that the course will be accepted toward the Master’s degree. As one example, suppose a HLTH student’s concentration is Administration. He enrolls in a class focused on school health education strategies. Why? Is there a substantive rationale for the enrollment? Or is he taking the course

because it was the only one in which he could find a slot? Your faculty advisor's job is to confirm that you have a Program of Study that makes sense for your professional and personal plans. Unless you have unlimited time and unlimited funds, always talk to your advisor *before* registering for a class. Secure your advisor's signature on your Program of Study as documentation of that approval.

**As an undergraduate, my advisor told me what to take. Since becoming a Master's student, nobody will tell me what to do. Why not?**

Welcome to life as a Master's student. Things are different at the graduate level. The job of your faculty advisor is just that – to 'advise.' As a Master's student, no one registers for you. No one tells you what to do. You and only you know your personal and professional plans. Only you know what classes make sense to achieve those goals. Your Program of Study and Student Handbook provide information regarding required courses as well as the few course sequences to follow in Health Science. If you want *advice* as to which courses to take first, later, etc., ask your advisor. For electives, look over course offerings, decide which ones you think make the most sense for you. Then make an appointment to discuss those options with your advisor. All students admitted to the Master's in Health Science receive a faculty advisor. You cannot be admitted without having an advisor. Contact that person, explain your concerns. If after taking classes you find another faculty member has a better understanding of your interests, you are 100% free to request a change in advisor. There is no problem in making that simple shift. All students admitted to the Master's in Health Science also receive the invitation to contact the graduate assistant for a binder of materials. Act on that invitation. Happily, for those who delay in acting, the Student Handbook (including Programs of Study) and recent copies of the program newsletter are available at the Department's website. Use those resources and life as a Master's student will be relatively pain free.

## **WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**

Mickey Jancewski earned both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Department of Health Science. With experience in a variety of health education positions across Baltimore, Mickey has found her niche: Director of Health & Human Services in Work Force Development at Essex Community College. In this position, Mickey oversees all non-degree health care training that Essex offers. Currently, Mickey is responsible for 24 programs in such areas as child care, ophthalmic assistant, phlebotomy and IV therapy. In part, Mickey believes that she was able to secure this position because of the wealth of experience she brought to it. Because of her professional progress, Mickey developed grant experience, worked with the school system, was involved in employee wellness and taught at the college level. In her current position, Mickey teaches only on an emergency basis. Instead her regular duties include administering the many programs offered by Essex Community College; handling student issues; and working with staff. Mickey's background in education, developed through coursework in Health Science, has been particularly helpful as it helped her learn "how to get people to learn." Mickey says that because of her Master's in Health Science, she knew how to plan programs. Indeed, she learned how to tackle real world programs from beginning to end, from conducting a needs assessment to determining needs, developing the program and then implementing and evaluating the outcome. "It's amazing. It's exactly what we learned."

## **STUDENT PROFILE**

Michelle Buzzelli is a second year graduate student, pursuing a dual degree in Health Science Administration and Community Health Education. As she has progressed through the program here at Towson, her expectations continue to change. Upon entering the program, she wanted to be a Hospital Administrator. With more time in the classroom, however, she also is enjoying the 'society' or community angle of the program. Now, Michelle's thoughts are to explore patient advocacy and perhaps government relations.

Currently, Michelle works in Planning and Business Development. She is an employee for LifeBridge Health. Recently, she has found that she likes the drama and excitement of the new health care legislation and the voice of the people. Additionally, as a result of course work at Towson, she has found that she has interests in emergency preparedness and the many aspects of health care that are patient and community focused.

Michelle enjoyed courses 645-Health Care Policy and 603-Emerging Issues in the Health of The Nation. She feels that these classes were turning points for her goals as a graduate student and as a professional.

Michelle received her B.S. HMS (Health Management Systems) degree from Duquesne University. It is a degree that is based in clinical health, business management and information systems. She is very active in recruitment for the HMS program at Duquesne, participating in college fairs across the region.

In her spare time, you can find Michelle singing in her church choir, volunteering at the soup kitchen, sipping wine with friends, and playing beach volleyball. She also enjoys outdoor adventures, traveling, and cooking or baking for family and friends. In the fall, she can be found cheering on the Penn State Nittany Lions, the Duquesne Dukes and the six-time Super Bowl Champions, the Pittsburgh Steelers! (According to Casey Fisher, our graduate assistant, he would like to have omitted the last part of this sentence. But when the Steelers miss the playoffs this year, we all can congratulate Michelle).

Michelle has found packing up and starting a new life in Baltimore to be a frightening and very blessed journey so far. Coming out of undergrad, she was a Senior of Distinction for University Services at Duquesne and received a silver medal from Circle K International for service hours.

After completing her graduate program here at Towson, Michelle plans to continue to excel in her current position and in future career positions on her way to pursuing her dream career. Although that goal changes weekly, at the present moment, Michelle would like to work more at the individual level as an advocate for patients.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL SUMMER 2009 HEALTH SCIENCE GRADUATES**



<b>Winter Minimester 2009 Health Science Course Offerings</b>			
<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>CLASS DAY/TIME</b>	<b>INSTRUCTOR</b>
HLTH 619	Organizing Systems of Care for Chronically Ill and Physically Dependent Populations	TUESDAY/THURSDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	COX
HLTH 655	Managing Conflict, Violence, Abuse in Health Care Settings	FRIDAY/SATURDAY *Contact instructor for specific dates/times	NELSON
HLTH 656	Managing Volunteers in Health Service Settings	MONDAY/WEDNESDAYS 6:00PM-9:40PM	NELSON
HLTH 691	Directed Readings in Health	TBA	STAFF
HLTH 695	Independent Study: Health	TBA	STAFF

**“Tentative” Spring 2010 Health Science Course Offerings**

<b>COURSE NUMBER</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>CLASS DAY/TIME (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</b>	<b>INSTRUCTOR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</b>
HLTH 601	Contemporary Issues in School Health Education	THURSDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	WENGERT
HLTH 603	Emerging Issues in the Health of the Nation	THURSDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	KESLER
HLTH 615	Community Health: Qualitative & Quantitative Elements	TUESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	RADIUS
HLTH 618	Introduction to Public Health	TUESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	KESLER
HLTH 625	Research Methods in Health	MONDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	JACKSON
HLTH 627	Health and Worker Performance	MONDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	AGLEY
HLTH 637	Skill Development: Leadership in the Health Care Setting	WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	NELSON
HLTH 639	Introduction to Health Behavior and Health Promotion	MONDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	WERTS
HLTH 645	Health Care Policy	WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	ALT
HLTH 649	Program Evaluation	WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	AGLEY
HLTH 651	Planning & Marketing Health in Business and Industry	WEDNESDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	CASCIANI
HLTH 691	Directed Readings in Health	TBA	STAFF
HLTH 695	Independent Study: Health	TBA	STAFF
HLTH 785	Graduate Seminar in Health	THURSDAY 7:00PM-9:40PM	RADIUS

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SCIENCE**  
**“PROJECTED” SCHEDULE OF GRADUATE COURSES**

No.	Course	Spr 10	Sum 10	Fall 10	Spr 11	Sum 11	Fall 11
501	Teaching about Sex and Drugs		X			X	
505	Drugs in Our Culture	X		X	X		X
511	Health & Later Maturity			X			X
517	Long-Term Care Ethical Problems (HCMN)			X			
519	Long Term Care Administration (HCMN)	X			X		
541	Legal & Ethical Issues in Health Admin (HCMN)	X			X		
551	Ecological Aspects of Health			X			X
601	Problems in School Health	X	X		X	X	
603	Emerging Issues in the Health of the Nation	X			X		
615	Community Health Q & Q	X		X	X		X
617	Health Administration			X			X
618	Introduction to Public Health			X			X
625	Research Methods in Health	X		X	X		X
631	Program Planning in Health Education			X			X
633	Health Care Systems			X			X
636	Intermediate Statistics for the Health Sciences		X			X	
637	Skills Development: Leadership in Health Care	X			X		
639	Introduction to Health Behavior	X			X		X
643	Health Education-Dev & Sup			X			X
645	Health Care Policy	X			X		
647	Health Care Financial Management			X			X
649	Program Evaluation	X			X		
651	Plan. & Mktg. in Health Business and Industry	X			X		
785	Graduate Seminar in Health	X	X	X	X	X	X
530	Community Planning for an Aging Society (GERO)			X			X
567	Death, Dying & Bereavement (GERO)	X		X	X		X
559	Sociology Gerontology (SOCI)	X			X		

**Courses that may be offered all semesters:** 570-579-Health Workshops, 691-Health Science-Directed Readings, 695-Health Science Independent Study, 670-679 Special Topics, 689 Field Experience, 880 Graduate Project, 897 Master's Thesis  
 HLTH 619 "Organizing Systems of Care" will be offered during minimesters using an online format.

## **NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WRITING TUTOR AVAILABLE!**

**Jaime Gertz is continuing in her role as writing lab Graduate Assistant. She has set the following schedule:**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>1:00-6:00</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>5:00-7:00</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>10:00-1:00</b>

**Jaime can be reached at <CHPwritingsupp@towson.edu>and will see students by scheduled appointment. She will also try to accommodate requests for different times as her schedule permits.**

### **DID YOU MOVE, CHANGE YOUR LAST NAME, CHANGE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AND/OR OTHER CONTACT INFORMATION?**

If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, you may be missing out on important information regarding your graduate education including:

- Employment Opportunities
- Permit Availability
- Graduation Requirements
- Program of Study Forms
- and the list goes on....

The Graduate Program in Health Science relies primarily on email for communication with students. If your information is not up to date, you may be missing out. Updating your information with the University is not enough. Please send your updated contact information to the Health Science Department via email to Casey Fisher, Health Science Graduate Assistant, at [cfishe8@students.towson.edu](mailto:cfishe8@students.towson.edu).