

Health Science Graduate Newsletter



SPRING 2009

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Happy Spring:

If it's 70 degrees one week and icy the next, it must be almost spring in Baltimore. Another semester has begun with the usual excitement and uncertainty that Mother Nature provides. For those new to the University, you can obtain up-to-the-minute information about closings by going to the University's homepage. In addition, it's a good idea to sign up for the University's special alert system. The latter links the University to any telephone lines you indicate. At no additional cost, you will receive updates about the timing of University closings due to weather as they become available.

Beyond dealing with Mother Nature, this spring brings us the opportunity to welcome a new faculty member to the Health Science Department. Dr. Emiko Takagi joined the Department with the beginning of the New Year. Take a minute to learn about her from the article below. Also of interest may be news about the Visiting Scholar who visits the Health Science Department on Monday, 6 April. Anyone interested in public health, service learning, and education will enjoy Dr. Richard K. Riegelman's thoughts on the topic when he addresses the University community at 4pm in Burdick 111. Further information about Dr. Riegelman's visit appears later in this newsletter.

Finally, if it's a new year, it also means that the time will soon be here to register for both summer and fall courses. During the coming summer graduate term (session 4), the Department has taken the unusual step of offering HLTH615 Community Health: Qualitative and Quantitative Elements (aka Q&Q). Permits for the spring '09 section of Q&Q evaporated within 20 minutes of their becoming available. In equally short time, the waiting list grew to 14 people. Had the waiting list been extended, it would easily have grown to over double that amount. To meet this student need, we will have one summer section of HLTH615. Content of this course will be identical to that which you have in a regular fall or spring semester. The main difference will be the number of weeks to the semester and the intensity of each class. While ordinarily a 14-15 week term, the summer session includes only 10 weeks. A lot of material in a short time, admittedly. But if your thought is to take care of the program requirement when other demands in your life are reduced, summer '09 may be the optimum time for that registration. Take care.

Sincerely,

Dr. Radius

FACULTY PROFILE

Emiko Takagi is an Assistant Professor in the Gerontology Program here at Towson University. Dr. Takagi joined the Department of Health Science starting this spring 2009. Originally from Japan, Dr. Takagi spent seven years in Los Angeles prior to moving to Northern Virginia one year and a half ago. Her most recent educational experiences include obtaining a Master's Degree in gerontology from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Southern California.

This semester, Dr. Takagi is teaching Death and Dying (GERO367), Physical Health and Aging (GERO374), and Introduction to Gerontology (GERO101). Her interests in community health include researching how older adults balance between informal care (e.g., family care) and formal care (e.g., community-based home care services). Recent changes seen by Dr. Takagi in the field of health science broadly defined relate to a wider usage of biomarkers in national surveys of older adults, as an attempt to simultaneously examine environmental, social and biological factors of health in older adults. Outside of her professional life, Dr. Takagi enjoys movies, cooking/eating, playing the viola in orchestra, and walking outdoors.

Eventually, Dr. Takagi is interested in developing a cross-national study that examines the ways in which older adults utilize their informal and formal care resources for health maintenance. Also, she wants to become a better teacher who can motivate people to become more interested in aging issues. Right now, Dr. Takagi says: "I want to survive my first semester at Towson, and then I will think about my future beyond that!"

ASK THE VIRTUAL ADVISOR

I graduated from Towson not long ago. I used to receive regular information as part of the Program's list serve. Now, roughly one year later, that flow has stopped. I never changed my Towson email address. Why have the emails stopped?

The problem is the email address. Students have Towson accounts for only a limited period of time. While you are actively enrolled, the account is active. It does not exist in perpetuity. Once you graduate or leave the program, the account will eventually be closed by the University. If you want to receive emails from the Department, it is always a prudent strategy to provide not only your TU account but also any other email addresses at which you are willing to receive Departmental information. On a related note, remember also that the Department knows of changes in your postal mailing address only if you inform the Department of those changes. If you enter a new address to your University record via PeopleSoft, please remember to send that same information to the Department. Otherwise you are at risk of missing out on any materials that might be sent to you via snail mail.

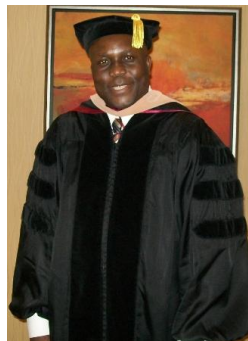
A college closer to my home than Towson offers classes in biostatistics, research methods and other topics similar to those required by the Master’s in Health Science. Can I take those courses at that college, and transfer the credit to my Towson Program of Study?

While you are able to transfer up to 9 credits to your Towson Program of Study, none of those transfer credits can be a required course. Nor can they be earned in a course which is available in the Towson curriculum. Transfer credits are reserved only for classes that are electives. Required courses cannot be transferred from another institution. Likewise, transfer credits must reflect content areas that you otherwise would not have available via Towson’s curriculum. Before spending your time and money on credits that will not transfer, always be sure to talk to your advisor or to Dr. Radius to confirm the credits’ applicability as well as the process to be followed in order to apply credits earned at schools other than Towson to your Master’s in Health Science.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

It’s not unusual for prospective students – and even those already in the program – to ask how they might use their Master’s degree. To provide some information in that regard, we thought you might enjoy some “Where are they now?” information about recent graduates of the Master’s Program in Health Science. As will become apparent, we have students who are hugely talented, creative, and making their Master’s degrees work for them. Something, we’re sure, you’ll be doing as well.

Uzoma “Max” Nwachinemere



A graduate of the Master’s Program in Health Science, Max recently completed his Doctorate in Management from the Institute for Advanced Studies at Colorado Technical University-Colorado Springs. Subsequent to attending Towson’s Master’s program, he also earned a second Master’s in Management from the University of Maryland. Max has worked in the ambulatory care environment for the past four years. Currently, Max is employed with Fresenius, a healthcare firm that has facilities across the nation and provides medical treatments to individuals with chronic kidney failure. He is responsible for managing the overall operations for nursing services and care for six hemodialysis facilities in the Baltimore area. Part of his responsibility includes ensuring safe and therapeutic nursing management of end stage renal disease patients (ESRD). Max also

has oversight responsibility for confirming that Fresenius's policy and procedures are in accordance with state and federal regulations for patient care and services (Medicare, OSHA, or other governing agencies) as well as all financial operations.

In light of his current position in the hemodialysis industry, it is not surprising that Max's doctoral research focused on hemodialysis work environments and ways to improve such environments to achieve better patient outcomes and increased nurse satisfaction. The topic of his doctoral research was "Hemodialysis Nurses' Work Environment: An assessment of nurses' perception of magnet hospital characteristics." Max enjoyed this experience, noting that it provided him with information he could use in his current profession. For Max Nwachinmere, it all began in Health Science!

STUDENT PROFILE

Sara Cain is a recent addition to the Health Science graduate program at Towson University. With a concentration in health care administration, Sara's Master's coursework began this past fall. Two classes she particularly enjoyed were health administration and health care systems. Sara felt that both experiences provided her with further knowledge about the health care system, and helped build a solid foundation for her future in health care administration.

In May 2009, Sara earned her Bachelor's of Science degree from Towson University in Health Science with a concentration in school and community health education. During her undergraduate career, she was inducted into Eta Sigma Gamma (a health science honorary society recently introduced to all Master's students), an organization in which she remains an active member.

Currently, Sara works for a not-for-profit organization called Adventist HealthCare. Her position has her stationed at a support center located in Rockville, Maryland not far from where she lives. As Employee Wellness Coordinator, Sara's responsibilities entail running various health programs for all 7,000 plus employees of Adventist HealthCare at different locations throughout the Maryland area. Sara says: "I love every minute of my job. It allows me to give back to health care employees and take care of them so they can continue to take care of others."

Sara's future goals include learning more about the complicated US health care system. One day, she hopes to become an administrator at a hospital or health clinic. It is from that sort of administrative position that Sara expects to continue to make an impact on the health care system by delivering quality care to consumers.

When Sara is not giving back to the employees of Adventist HealthCare or spending time with family, she typically can be found relaxing with close friends.

UPCOMING CAMPUS EVENTS IN HEALTH SCIENCE

When: Monday, April 6, 2009 at 4pm

Where: Burdick Hall 111

Visiting Scholar comes to Health Science: Dr. Richard Riegelman and the Future of Public Health

Like many schools around the country, the Towson campus is now engaged in serious attention to issues of civic engagement. Monday, April 6, the Health Science Department is honored to sponsor Richard K. Riegelman, M.D., M.P.H., and Ph.D. as a University Visiting Scholar. A Professor of Epidemiology-Biostatistics, Medicine and Health Policy as well as founding dean of the School of Public Health and Health Services at The George Washington University, Dr. Riegelman provides real world insight into the marriage of research and practice, promoting expansion of civic engagement at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His particular expertise in public health education promises special relevance to anyone interested in careers in or related to health care, health literacy and professional development. Dr. Riegelman's one-day visit to the Towson University community culminates in a public address on the topic of *Making a Difference in Undergraduate Education: The Place of Public Health and Service Learning*.

By inviting Dr. Riegelman to the Towson campus, the Health Science Department brings together colleagues (academic, student *and* practitioner) to create an environment and learning opportunities that facilitate discussion of how disciplines can work together and of ways to enhance our ability to contribute to society. There has perhaps never been a more appropriate time to address public health within our community. Awareness of public health as a field of study, as an arena for employment opportunities and as a critical contributor to the nation's health has increased dramatically. As reported in the *Washington Post*, "Public Health is a hot field." Adding further importance to Dr. Riegelman's visit, our country faces a tremendous need for public health workers. It is projected there will be a dramatic workforce shortage by the year 2020. As Maryland's metropolitan university and largest health care workforce producer in the state, Towson's invitation to Dr. Riegelman demonstrates departmental leadership in meeting this growing need. Please join your Health Science colleagues as we learn from Dr. Riegelman about the promise and challenge of public health on Monday, 4pm, in Burdick 111.

Summer 2009 COURSE SCHEDULE

| CLASS | TITLE | INSTRUCTOR | TIME | LOCATION |
|---|---|-------------------|---|-----------------|
| HLTH 501 | Teaching about Drugs and Sex | Deitra Wengert | Monday/Wednesday 6:30PM-9:20PM | Burdick 110 |
| HLTH 573 | Survey of Emerging Technologies for Health Education | Niya Werts | Tuesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | Burdick 108 |
| HLTH 601 | Contemporary Issues in School Health | Deitra Wengert | Tuesday/Thursday 6:30PM-9:20PM | Burdick 110 |
| HLTH 615 (Permit Required) | Community Health: Qualitative and Quantitative Elements | Susan M. Radius | Tuesday/Thursday 6:00PM-8:40PM | Burdick 112 |
| HLTH 655 | Managing Conflict, Violence, Abuse in Health Service Settings | Wayne Nelson | Friday (5/29) 6:00PM-9:40PM Saturday(5/30, 6/6, 6/13) 9:00AM-4:00PM | Burdick 110 |
| HLTH 656 | Managing Volunteers in Health Service Settings | Wayne Nelson | Friday(7/17) 6:00PM-9:40PM Saturday(7/18, 7/25, 8/1) 9:00AM-4:00PM | Burdick 112 |
| HLTH 657 | Health Advocacy Across Service Settings | Wayne Nelson | Friday(6/19) 6:00PM-9:40PM Saturday(6/20, 6/27, 7/11) 9:00AM-4:00PM | ES0101 |
| HLTH 691 | Directed Readings in Health | Susan M. Radius | TBA | TBA |
| HLTH 695 | Independent Study in Health | Susan M. Radius | TBA | TBA |
| HLTH 785 (Permit Required) | Graduate Seminar in Health | Susan M. Radius | TBA | Burdick 119 |
| *Consult Online Course Catalog for session dates and further details | | | | |

Tentative Fall 2009 COURSE SCHEDULE

| Class | Title | Instructor | Time | Location |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| HLTH 615 (Permit Required) | Community Health: Qualitative and Quantitative Elements | Susan M. Radius | Tuesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 112 |
| HLTH 618 | Introduction to Public Health | Daniel Agle | Tuesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 119 |
| HLTH 617 | Health Administration | Wayne Nelson | Tuesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 108 |
| HLTH 625 (Permit Required) | Research Methods | Emiko Takagi | Thursday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 108 |
| HLTH 631 | Program Planning in Health Education | Staff | Wednesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 112 |
| HLTH 633 | Health Care Systems | Donna Cox | Tuesday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 110 |
| HLTH 639 | Intro. to Health Behavior and Health Promotion | Niya Werts | Monday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 112 |
| HLTH 643 | Health Education: Curriculum Development and Supervision | Deitra Wengert | Thursday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 110 |
| HLTH 647 | Health Care Financial Management | Sharon Buchbinder | ONLINE | ONLINE |
| HLTH 691 | Directed Readings in Health | Susan M. Radius | TBA | TBA |
| HLTH 695 | Independent Study | Susan M. Radius | TBA | TBA |
| HLTH 785 (Permit Required) | Graduate Seminar | Susan M. Radius | Thursday 7:00PM-9:40PM | BU 112 |
| *NOTE: Course offerings, class times, instructors, and locations are subject to change. | | | | |

PROJECTED SCHEDULE OF GRADUATE COURSES

| No. | Course | Sum 09 | Fall 09 | Spr 10 | Sum 10 | Fall 10 | Spr 11 | Sum 11 | Fall 11 |
|-----|---|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|--------|---------|
| 501 | Teaching about Sex and Drugs | X | | | X | | | X | |
| 505 | Drugs in Our Culture | | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| 511 | Health & Later Maturity | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 517 | Long-Term Care Ethical Problems (HCMN) | | X | | | 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 | | | X |
| 601 | Problems in School Health | X | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 603 | Emerging Issues in the Health of the Nation | | | X | | | X | | |
| 615 | Community Health Q & Q | | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| 617 | Health Administration | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 618 | Introduction to Public Health | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 625 | Research Methods in Health | | X | X | | X | X | | X |
| 631 | Program Planning in Health Education | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 633 | Health Care Systems | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 636 | Intermediate Statistics for the Health Sciences | X | | | X | | | X | |
| 637 | Skills Development: Leadership in Health Care | | | X | | | X | | |
| 639 | Introduction to Health Behavior | | X | X | | | X | | X |
| 643 | Health Education-Dev & Sup | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 645 | Health Care Policy | | | X | | | X | | |
| 647 | Health Care Financial Management | | X | | | 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 | X | X |
| 530 | Community Planning for an Aging Society (GERO) | | X | | | X | | | X |
| 567 | Death, Dying & Bereavement (GERO) | | X | 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 mini-mesters using an online format.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION (SOPHE)

Get a taste of Southern hospitality as SOPHE welcomes health professionals to its 2009 Midyear Scientific Conference in New Orleans at the Sheraton Hotel, May 6-9.

For business or pleasure, New Orleans is an ideal venue for SOPHE's 2009 Midyear Scientific Conference. Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, New Orleans is a vibrant, unique city known for its multicultural heritage, Creole cuisine, jazz and Mardi Gras. Offering a plethora of opportunities to sight-see, enjoy exceptional restaurants, and explore a variety of shops, New Orleans is a traveler's delight. A small sampling of these sites include the Aquarium of the Americas, the Audubon Zoo, the National World War II Museum, shops along Magazine Street and jazz clubs on Bourbon Street. While the list of what to do in New Orleans is long, this city can be summed up in one word – exciting!

SOPHE looks forward to seeing you at the 2009 Midyear Scientific Conference, May 6-9 at the Sheraton Hotel. This conference is a good choice for professional development. *For more information, visit www.sophe.org*

SOPHE Health Literacy Guide Available

To address the challenges associated with low health literacy, SOPHE has developed a comprehensive resource guide, *Improving Health Literacy: Tips, Tools & Resources for Health Educators*. The 20-page guide is designed specifically to aid health educators and health providers in understanding the problem of low health literacy and implementing effective strategies to address it.

The resources listed in the guide are divided into three sections: Resources for developing easy-to-understand health education materials; Curricula and tools for community health educators; and Tools for advocating for health literacy improvement. Two hand-outs are also included for creating plain language health education materials and implementing advocacy and outreach efforts to improve health literacy. *To order a copy of this literacy guide, visit <http://www.sophe.org/store.asp>*

SOPHE Joins Child Injury Prevention Efforts

On December 11, 2008, Elaine Auld, SOPHE Chief Executive Officer, represented SOPHE at the release of the World Health Organization/ UNICEF World Report on Child Injury Prevention and CDC's launch, "Protect the Ones You Love: Child Injuries Are Preventable." This initiative aims to raise parents' awareness about the leading causes of child injury in the U.S. and how they can be prevented.

The World Report concludes that if proven prevention measures were adopted across the globe, at least 1,000 children's lives could be saved every day. It lists the top five causes of injury deaths as road crashes, drowning, burns, falls, and poisoning. It additionally highlights effective strategies for injury prevention, such as laws on child-appropriate seatbelts and helmets. The report also identifies approaches that either should be avoided or are not backed by sufficient evidence to recommend them -- such as its conclusion that public education campaigns on their own do not reduce rates of drowning and that airbags in the front seat of a car could be harmful to children under 13 years. *To view the report and related materials, visit: www.who.int/entity/violence_injury_prevention/child/injury/world_report*

Economic Crisis Hurting U.S. Preparedness for Health Emergencies

In December 2008, Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) released their annual report, "Ready or Not? Protecting the Public's Health from Diseases, Disasters, and Bioterrorism." For the past six years, this report has demonstrated a steady improvement of our nation's public health preparedness level. This year, that no longer is the outcome. According to the report, the progress that was made is at risk not only because of federal budget cuts, but also because of the current economic crises which has caused states to cut their budgets as well.

"Ready or Not?" describes the nation's preparedness level state-by-state and scores each state on a level from 1-10, with 10 being the highest level. The report shows that more than half of the states scored seven or lower and that the major gaps with the nation's preparedness efforts are surge capacity, rapid disease detection, and food safety.

For the complete report with key findings and scores for every state, visit TFAH's Web site, www.healthyamericans.org OR RWJF's Web site, www.rwjf.org.

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.