UTAH STUDENTS BRING PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO MALI

Excerpted from an article by Kim Krisberg from the May 2004 issue of The Nation’s Health, p. 13

Utah public health students are learning first-hand how to build a public health system from the ground up, while at the same time helping to improve the health of people living half a world away. In January, a group of public health students from the University of Utah at Salt Lake City traveled to the Ouelessebougou region of Mali, a country in West Africa, to assess the region’s public health needs and help develop public health interventions. The project began after Stephen Alder, PhD, director of graduate studies for the university’s public health program, was contacted by the Ouelessebougou-Utah Alliance, a non-profit organization formed in the mid ’80s that works cooperatively with villagers in Ouelessebougou. Realizing that more than health education and direct treatment was needed, alliance mentors called on Alder to bring a public health approach to their work, Alder said.

To conduct an assessment of public health needs in Ouelessebougou, Alder decided to involve public health graduate students. The four students who went to Ouelessebougou with Alder had to provide their own financial support and spent about seven months preparing for the expedition, learning about the culture and preparing health assessment forms. During their week and a half in Ouelessebougou, the students traveled to 12 of the 25 villages that are members of the Utah alliance, and with the help of interpreters, interviewed more than 500 people, according to Alder. It was the first time an in-depth public health assessment had been done in the region.

“W e push our students to have a combined classroom and real-world experience as part of their education,” he said. “Public health is truly a public activity.” Jamie Clark, one of the students who traveled to Mali, said she gained a new appreciation for public health after traveling to Ouelessebougou. In building a public health system in Ouelessebougou, public health workers will have to focus on basic issues that the United States was dealing with 150 years ago, she said. Both Clark and Alder said even though the people of Ouelessebougou lived in conditions considered to be extremely impoverished, they were very happy people. “I knew that they were going to be poor and sick, but I didn’t know that they were going to be happy,” Clark said. “This is their way of life, this is all they know and they were just genuinely happy people.” Alder and the students who went to Mali are currently analyzing the information gathered from the trip and developing public health interventions in collaboration with the Ouelessebougou-Utah Alliance staff members working in Mali. Alder said he wants to continue the work in Ouelessebougou by making it an annual event in which different students will be involved each year.

For more information, call (802) 587-3383 or email steve.thiese@hsc.utah.edu.

PALS FINDS AFFORDABLE MEDS FOR SENIORS

Excerpted from an article in Metropolitan Universities News 1.1

When James Hightower, health sciences student, and Marshal Davis, health sciences professor, started the PALS (Prescription Assistance Line for Seniors) program last fall at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, they never imagined it would grow into a program that now helps more than 500 seniors in Arkansas find affordable prescription medications. PALS is a free service for senior citizens who need assistance in finding and applying for programs, many offered by pharmaceutical companies, that offer free or reduced cost prescription medications. “With Davis’ assistance, I started the PALS program as my senior project to try to save a few seniors we know some money on their prescriptions,” said Hightower. “More seniors are finding out about it now by word-of-mouth and a recent story that appeared in newspapers across the state, and the phones are ringing off the hook.” Davis, Hightower, and Teresa Anders, health sciences student, staff the PALS hotline, 501-569-3505, from 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The
MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

We had the pleasure last week of hosting Ira Harkavy, Associate Vice President and Founding Director of the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania as a Walker-Ames Lecturer at the University of Washington (UW). Established in 1936 by a bequest from the estates of Maud Walker Ames and Edwin Gardner Ames, the Walker-Ames Fund has brought to Seattle many outstanding scholars to present lectures about their respective fields of expertise. CCPH and the Department of Health Services in the UW School of Public Health and Community Medicine nominated Harkavy because of his leadership and extensive experience in building community-university partnerships.

Harkavy has been instrumental in working to involve colleges and universities in democratic partnerships with local public schools and their communities. The West Philadelphia Improvement Corps, a seventeen-year partnership to create university-assisted community schools that connect the University of Pennsylvania and the West Philadelphia community, emerged and developed from seminars and research projects he directs with other colleagues at Penn. Harkavy received his B.A. and his Ph.D. in history from the University of Pennsylvania. He teaches in the departments of history, urban studies, and city and regional planning. During his Walker-Ames lecture, Harkavy discussed why university-community-school partnerships have become increasingly significant in the past decade. He traced the development of the engaged, democratic, civic university in the United States from the colonial college to the modern research university. He also described obstacles to significant university engagement and the long distance colleges and universities need to travel to become truly engaged, truly democratic institutions. Finally, he examined how academically based university-community partnerships can help universities increase their contributions to knowledge, student learning and development, and democracy in the 21st century.

During his week-long visit, Harkavy peppered his lecture, seminars and conversations with examples of university-community-school partnerships underway in Philadelphia. The Sayre-Beacon Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program immediately caught our attention as a promising model for university-community-school partnerships, community health improvement and interdisciplinary collaboration. This middle school-based center is working to bring to bear the University of Pennsylvania’s many health resources as well as those of other local partners to improve the health of children and adults in the Sayre community of West Philadelphia. According to the Philadelphia Health Management Corporation’s health survey, major health problems in West Philadelphia include high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes, among others. A school is an ideal location for a community health promotion center because it is not only where children learn, but also where the community gathers. Sayre’s status as a community school is an added asset; the school is open during the summer and five days a week until 8 pm to serve the entire community. Launched in 2003, the program is already linked to the core educational missions of both Sayre Middle School and the University of Pennsylvania – a key strategy for sustaining the program. The program’s health promotion and disease prevention activities are becoming central to the educational experience of Penn nursing, medical, dental, public health and arts and sciences students and to the Sayre students. The program actively engages Sayre students in health promotion and service delivery activities through core middle school subjects of science, social studies, math, language arts and other subjects. Similarly, Penn students in the health professions are learning about health promotion and health education through a wide range of curricular and volunteer opportunities. For example:

• Ten medical students are working with close to 90 6th, 7th and 8th graders on a weekly health promotion and disease prevention curriculum that has been integrated into the school day with emphasis on bolstering science, math and language arts skills.
• Masters in public health students have developed an adult education program to educate parents and other community members about nutrition and health.
• Twelve nursing students, as part of their sophomore clinicals under the guidance of the Sayre school nurse, conducted school day screenings and health education with over 200 middle school students.
• Dental students provided dental screenings during the school day for about 75 students and after-school dental education for over 300 students, parents and community members.

The program also demonstrates the varied and creative ways that community service can be linked to university coursework in the arts and sciences. In a class on “Urban Environments: Child Lead Poisoning”, for example, Penn undergraduates engage middle and high school students to study the history and epidemiology of lead poisoning, and investigate pathways of exposure. Penn students also collaborate with Sayre teachers and students in community education and problem solving designed to reduce lead exposure in their homes and neighborhoods. In a class on “Beginning Ceramics: Hand-Building” Penn students learned the basics of ceramics by working with students at Sayre on constructing art to beautify the school landscape. Together, they created a ceramic tile mural on one of the walls of the school building.

For more information about Harkavy and the Center for Community Partnerships at the University of Pennsylvania, visit http://www.upenn.edu/ccp/.
For more information about the Sayre program, visit http://www.upenn.edu/ccp/Sayre/
MEMBERS IN ACTION
CCPH Member Maralynne D. Mitcham and David R. Graber recently published an article in the March/April 2004 issue of “Holistic Nursing Practice”. Here is an excerpt from the article:

Compassionate Clinicians Take Patient Care Beyond the Ordinary  This study sought to identify specific actions, interventions, and interpersonal relationships with patients exhibited by a group of compassionate healthcare clinicians. Researchers interviewed 24 hospital clinicians who were identified by administrators as being exemplary in caring and compassion. Analysis of qualitative data indicated that the clinicians do not attempt to distance themselves, but develop warm, empathic relationships with patients. Participating clinicians did not appear to sacrifice objectivity in practicing compassionate care, but were able to integrate the mind and heart in their work. Based on the qualitative analyses, researchers developed a preliminary model of affective clinician/patient interactions.

CCPH Member Jerry K. Burik, Hon Keung Yuen, and James S. Krause recently published an article in the Spring 2004 issue of “Topics in Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation”. Here is an excerpt from the article: Physical and Psychosocial Well-Being Among Adults with Spinal Cord Injury: The Role of Volunteer Activities  The purpose of this study was to investigate the association of volunteering with the personal well-being among adults with spinal cord injury (SCI). Four hundred forty-seven unemployed adults with SCI completed the Life Situation Questionnaire-Revised. Of these participants, 88 were performing volunteer activities (19.7%) and 359 were not performing volunteer activities (80.3%). Results indicated that individuals who participated in volunteer activities reported higher levels of overall quality of life, current adjustment, and general health with fewer depressive symptoms and hospitalizations than those who did not volunteer. The primary implication of this study for health care professionals who work with adults with SCI is that participation in volunteer activities is an important rehabilitation goal that is associated with favorable outcomes, even in the absence of gainful employment.

continued from front page

two students are paid by the UALR Health Sciences Department. “It’s incredible how many seniors in our community are struggling to buy the medications they need to survive and we want to help every single one of them,” said Davis. The PALS team researches each individual’s medication needs and finds the most cost-effective way to obtain them. Once they determine the best solution, the team helps the individual complete the necessary applications and makes a follow-up call a few weeks later to confirm the senior received what they wanted. Davis estimates they spend an average of three hours on each case. The team also assists with renewing their necessary applications and makes a follow-up call a few weeks later.

MAY HEALTH OBSERVANCES & CAMPAIGNS

National Stroke Awareness Month  - Stroke is the third leading cause of death overall in the U.S. and a leading cause of disability. Stroke caused more than 163,000 deaths in ‘01. Each year about 500,000 persons suffer a first stroke and about 200,000 suffer a recurrent stroke.

American Stroke Association
http://www.strokeassociation.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=1200037
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - http://www.cdc.gov/ncdpn/purpose/i/stroke_awareness_month.htm

High Blood Pressure Education Month  - Approximately 50 million persons in the United States aged 6 years and older have high blood. High blood pressure increases the risk for diseases of the heart and stroke, the first and third leading causes of death in the United States, respectively.

American Heart Association - http://americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=2114
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - http://www.cdc.gov/ncdpn/purpose/i/bloodpressure_education_month.htm

National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month  “Osteoporosis and low bone mass are a major public health threat effecting 44 million American women and men age 50 and older. One in two women and one in four men in this age group are at risk for osteoporosis-related fractures....” (NOF)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - http://www.cdc.gov/ncdpn/purpose/i/osteoporosis_month.htm

National Arthritis Month  - “In conjunction with National Arthritis Month this May, the Arthritis Foundation (AF) is urging Americans to take action to limit the impact of arthritis on their lives. To start, log on to http://www.arthritis.org/ for simple steps to improve health and quality of life for those at risk or suffering from this disease. Or call 1-800-283-7800 and request a free copy of the leaflet, Simple Strategies for Change.” (AF)


SUBMISSION GUIDELINES
We welcome announcements, comments and questions from you! Please forward them to the PM Editor at cpchpm@u.washington.edu.

Below are some simple submission guidelines:
- Please limit announcements and questions to not more than 150 words.
- As for articles and editorials, not more than 250 words;
- Provide the names of all authors, their current institutional affiliations and/or photos;
- Explain all abbreviations and unusual terms when first used.

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UPCOMING EVENTS!

CCPH SPONSORED EVENTS
For more event listings, see CCPH’s website at http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/conferences.html

May 25-28, 2004: First Conference of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. The conference is co-sponsored by l’Universite de Montreal & McGill University. On May 26th, CCPH Program Coordinator Jen Kauper-Brown will give a presentation as part of the session entitled “Adapting University Incentives to Applied Research” (Sponsored by the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation). To learn more about this conference, visit: http://www.chera.ca/conference/. To learn more about CCPH work on recognizing and rewarding community-engaged scholarship, visit http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/scholarship.html.

June 10-13, 2004: The Institute for Community Research Conference on Crossroads: Critical Issues in Community-Based Research Partnerships in Hartford, Connecticut. CCPH partner Kari Hartwig (Yale University) and program coordinator Jen Kauper-Brown will present a workshop entitled “A Skill-Building Workshop on Community-Based Participatory Research Partnerships.” CCPH program coordinator Jen Kauper-Brown will also speak about “The Toolkit for Community-Engaged Scholarship: Successfully Navigating the Faculty Promotion and Tenure Process” as part of a panel on the barriers and challenges - in academic and funding environments - to effective community-based research practices. CCPH will also have a poster presentation. To learn more about this conference, visit: http://www.incommunityresearch.org/news/crossroads.htm

28-30, 2004: Improving the Health of Our Communities Through Collaborative Research in Portland, Oregon. Sponsored by the Northwest Health Foundation, with CCPH among the co-sponsors. CCPH is organizing a two-part workshop on funding resources for community-based participatory research. Session proposals are due by May 21, 2004. For more information, visit http://www.nwhf.org.

October 6-10, 2004: CCPH and The Network: Toward Unity for Health are cosponsoring an International Conference: Overcoming Health Disparities: Global Experiences from Partnerships Between Communities, Health Services and Health Professional Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, USA that will replace our individual conferences for that year. For more information, visit http://www.ccpph.info. For more information on The Network, visit http://www.the-network.org. The deadline for poster abstracts is July 1st. For more information on submitting a poster abstract, visit http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/abstracts.asp?id=19&aid=19. Register by July 1 to receive the “early registration” discount at http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/.

OTHER EVENTS

June 1-4, 2004: Global Health Council’s 31st Annual Conference International Conference: Youth and Health: Generation on the Edge in Washington, DC. The conference will provide a “forum for the exchange of ideas and lessons learned regarding health-related interventions initiated for youth, and increasingly by youth.” Health professionals and young people are invited to submit abstracts for presentation at the conference. http://www.globalhealth.org/view_top.php3?id=223


6-8, 2004: AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in San Diego, California. AcademyHealth is the professional home for health services researchers, policy analysts, and practitioners, and is a leading, non-partisan resource for the best in health research and policy. http://www.academyhealth.org/arm/abstracts/index.htm

10-12, 2004: 3rd International Conference of the International Society for Equity in Health (ISEqH), Pathways to equity in health: Using research for policy and advocacy in Durban, South Africa. For information contact Leslie Nunez at leslie.nunez@utoronto.ca


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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Students Call for Substance Abuse Training  A new health website is working to improve substance abuse training at college campuses nationwide. The site is designed to help students advocate for substance abuse training at their schools and increase access to educational resources. http://www.hpssat.org

Feeding Minds, Fighting Hunger is a worldwide educational initiative about hunger issues for school children of all ages. The project provides classroom materials for teachers to help children and youth discuss and understand the problem of hunger in the world, with the hope of preparing them to help create a world free from hunger. http://www.feedingminds.org

Community Problem-Solving Website  Here you can access, at no cost, information to support your learning and effectiveness, including useful tools for problem-solving in your community of field. To visit the website, go to: http://www.community-problem-solving.net/

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Conflicts of Interest Panel Releases Report  The Panel was established as part of the agency’s inquiry into its own conflict of interest policies, after concerns were raised in the media and Congress that some NIH employees had financial relationships with industry that could affect their work as government employees and that represented potential or actual conflicts of interest. The complete story is at: http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/washhigh/2004/050704/4.htm

House Republicans Introduce Higher Ed Bill  The “College Access and Opportunity Act of 2004” intends to expand access to higher education for low and middle income students by “strengthening Pell Grants, student aid, student access” and “reducing loan costs, fees and red tape for students and graduates.” The legislation includes several provisions of interest to medical schools and teaching hospitals. http://www.aamc.org/advocacy/library/washhigh/2004/050704/5.htm

Campus Compact Honors Six U.S. College Students with National Community Service Awards  These recipients represent a wide range of community service interests and have addressed each of these issues in unique and effective ways. To find out more about the award recipients, visit: http://www.compact.org


GRANTS ALERT!

Steps to a HealthierUS Cooperative Agreement Program Announcement - Deadline: May 27  Awards will be provided to large city/urban communities, state-coordinated small city/rural communities, and tribal consortiums. An interactive Internet Webcast with more information about the RFA will be available following the RFA announcement. Stay tuned to the HealthierUS Web site for updates and more specific information. http://www.healthierus.gov/steps/fundingupdate.html or http://www.cdc.gov/od/pgo/funding/04234.htm.


Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Research: Health Protection Research Initiative Institutional Research Training Grant [RFA-CD-04-003] - Deadline: June 21  CDC announces the availability of FY 2004 public health research funds for institutional training grants to eligible institutions to develop or enhance training programs to provide research training opportunities for individuals, selected by the institution, who are training for careers in specified areas of health protection research. http://grants2.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-CD-04-003.html

VHA Health Foundation Inc. to Award Grants for Innovative Models of Health and Healthcare - Deadline: June 22  The Foundation will award grants ranging from $100,000 to $250,000 to United States healthcare providers through its Creating Better Health Through Innovation initiative to implement or enhance promising health and healthcare initiatives at the local level. For more information, visit: http://vhahfcallforproposals.asp


Applications Invited for Nature of Learning Grants Program - Deadline: June 28  Grants of up to $5,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis to provide start-up expenses associated with new programs. In addition, grants of up to $3,000 will be awarded on a competitive basis to provide continued support to existing Nature of Learning programs. http://www.nfwf.org/programs/tmol.htm
CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS


Maternal & Child Health (MCH) Institute - Deadline: May 31  The Institute is a scholarship funded by Colgate-Palmolive to assist state MCH directors and state American Public Health Association Affiliates in collaboration with community and civic leaders from public and private sectors and the grassroots to achieve the Healthy People 2010 MCH objectives - Building Healthy Communities to Improve MCH. [http://www.apha.org/ppp/maternal](http://www.apha.org/ppp/maternal)

Nicholas E. Davies Award of Excellence for Public Health Call for Nominations - Deadline: June 15  The award recognizes effective, operational systems that use individual patient data to promote an organization’s mission and to further the health of the public. [http://www.himss.org/asp/awards.asp](http://www.himss.org/asp/awards.asp)

2004-2005 Call for John Glenn Scholars in Service-Learning - Deadline: June 18  The John Glenn Institute for Public Service and Public Policy at The Ohio State University will recognize ten scholars whose scholarship efforts contribute to advancing the understanding of or adoption of service-learning, with specific emphasis on K-12 education. [http://www.glenninststitute.org/glenn/scholars_index.asp](http://www.glenninststitute.org/glenn/scholars_index.asp)

NetAid Announces New Awards Program to Honor Young People Fighting Global Poverty - Deadline: June 30  The “Global Action Awards” competition honors young Americans who have made significant contributions to the fight against global poverty. For details, visit: [http://netaid.org/youth/awards/global_action/](http://netaid.org/youth/awards/global_action/)

Web Marketing Association’s WebAward Competition - Deadline: June 30  Winning a WebAward is a marketing opportunity to promote the award winning Web site as well as the talented individuals responsible for its creation. A nonprofit category is included. [http://www.webaward.org](http://www.webaward.org)

Monroe E. Trout Premier Cares Award - Deadline: July 31  The award recognizes exemplary, innovative efforts that provide the medically underserved with better access to healthcare and demonstrate superior health outcomes. [http://www.premierinc.com](http://www.premierinc.com)

PUBLICATIONS

Family & Community Health Free Trial Issue  The journal offers in-depth focus on a single, timely topic in each issue, such as diet and nutrition, disaster management, age-specific strategies, women’s health, and more. To request a free-examination issue, call toll-free 1-800-638-3030 or visit [http://www.lww.com](http://www.lww.com).

Race and Research: Perspectives on Minority Participation in Health Studies  A teaching text and resource guide for students, health professionals, public health researchers, and the general public that extends the discussion of environmental factors that influence ethnic minority participation in health studies. [http://www.apha.org](http://www.apha.org)

BOOKS ON FACULTY PROMOTION & TENURE BY ROBERT M. DIAMOND:

Aligning Faculty Rewards with Institutional Mission: Statements, Policies, and Guidelines  This book is a proven guide for developing a coherent faculty rewards system. Starting with revising the institutional mission statement and following the process through the development of department guidelines, it offers samples of actual documents in use at a wide range of institutions that have matched their policies with their practices.

Preparing for Promotion, Tenure, and Annual Review: A Faculty Guide, 2nd Edition  This new edition contains a number of additional resources - such as post-tenure review, teaching with technology, dealing with changing guidelines and policies, and suggestions on how annual review materials can be used as a foundation for the promotion and tenure portfolio.

Serving on Promotion, Tenure and Faculty Review Committees: A Faculty Guide, 2nd Edition  This book is organized into two parts:

**Part I** includes some basic principles for committee members; important consideration of such issues as existing policies and statements relating to promotion and tenure and the priorities of the institution and academic unit; and documenting and assessing faculty work.

**Part II** includes disciplinary statements on the work of faculty; useful references and resources; and examples of how to document a range of non-research-related faculty scholarly and professional activities.

For more resources on faculty promotion and tenure, particularly around community-engaged scholarship, visit the CCPH website at [http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/scholarship.html](http://depts.washington.edu/ccph/scholarship.html).