Global Public Health Newsletter
The University of Montana

GPH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

One of the conversations happening at universities across the country is how better to prepare students to enter their professional careers directly after graduation. Internships are one of the best ways to gain experience critical for landing post-graduate dream jobs. And why not gain credit for the work you do?

Because local is part of global, the GPH program created an internship program starting with seven local organizations. These opportunities reflect the diversity of GPH students; some will work directly with care recipients, while others will pursue careers in health advocacy or public-health policy.

The Director’s Internship Challenge is raising funds to award students $500 toward unpaid internships. GPH stakeholders are challenged to match the Director’s $500 donation or a portion of it. Use the “donate” button at http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth. Be sure to designate Internship Challenge in the comments.

GPH also maintains a list of outstanding national and international internships. See list on Page 2.

For more information about internships contact Program Coordinator Kelly Yarns @ kellyyarns@mso.umt.edu or see the GPH website: http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/

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2019 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Keep your Wednesday evening’s free for the 2019 Spring GPH Lecture Series: “Global Public Health: Experiences and Insights!” The talks are presented by people working in the field of Global Public Health. Spring 2019 series topics include: community development in Morocco’s Atlas Mountains; public health challenges of migration; untangling the mystery of community behavior change; health education through the Peace Corps; addressing maternal mortality, Borneo: the interconnection of environmental & human health, Montana to Mali: a UM grad’s journey to a global health career; how Special Olympics fosters systems change; what global health research teaches about Montana health care; rural healthcare in India; a Global Grizzly Ugandan experience; and more! Talks are Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in Gallagher #123.

The 2018 Spring Lecture Series was recorded by Missoula Community Access Television and are available online at the GPH website or mcat.org (thanks MCAT!)
“I am emerging as a more informed, passionate, and active global citizen.” -GPH student

I grew up in Arlee Montana, a small town 30 minutes north of Missoula. I attended the University of Montana, initially studying political science and French. I returned for an additional year of pre-medical study to qualify for medical school. I had my first experiences with global health research working as a research assistant to Dr. Peter Koehn on his transnational competency work. After completing my undergrad, I moved to Washington DC where I worked at the National Institutes of Health on a project that took me to Mali. During this year I also applied to medical school. In the fall of 2004, I began my studies at Montana State through the WWAMI program. In the fall of 2007, I returned to Mali for a year. I helped conduct one of the earliest trials of using intermittent preventive treatment for malaria in school children. With this came abundant clinical experience and a front line education in health disparities.

In 2008, while seeing patients on the pediatric ward, I was increasingly concerned about the number of patients dying from poverty. They simply could not afford their diagnostic work up or treatment. I wrote an email home and within days several friends and family members had donated a few thousand dollars to help pay for care. At the end of rounds, the pediatric team would assess the needs of patients and determine who would need financial support. We would go and purchase the studies and medicines needed to continue patient care. The program became a huge success. Mali Medical Relief Fund was born! Patients benefited from the care they received, and the medical team is able to do much more to help patients in financial difficulty.

We continued our work even after I left to return to the USA. We had a reliable team of physicians and medical students who continued to refer patients and provide care. Over the years, we have benefited from generous donors who have helped our organization grow. The Mali Medical Relief Fund now supports 5 sites around the country and is able to provide complex surgeries including brain surgery, complex orthopedic surgeries, and even prostheses.

I completed my training in pediatrics and pediatric emergency medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, MD. My day job is that I am an attending pediatric emergency medicine physician at Providence Sacred Heart in Spokane Washington. I continue on as the Chief of Operations and Chair of the board of Mali Medical Relief Fund. I am thrilled to be a part of the global health external advisory committee. I had such a wonderful start to my career at UM. I hope many others are able to join in the exciting field of global health.
As a Global Public Health minor I have experienced the importance of public health, especially in global settings. So, when I found out that the University of Montana offered Global Public Health as a minor, I knew it was a perfect fit.

My goals are to graduate this spring and then apply to medical school. As a doctor, I plan on working both domestically and globally. The Global Public Health minor will provide me with the knowledge and cultural understanding needed to be successful in my future goals.

As a Global Public Health minor I have had my world view expanded, and my eyes opened to global issues and their complexities. I have also been equipped to begin to unravel those complexities and succeed with my goals. I am excited to continue my education this year and continue my growth within Global Public Health!
IN THE NEWS:
GPH GRADUATE TEAGUE RUTHERFORD

Global Public Health minor Joshua “Teague” Rutherford started a four-year program at the Arizona School of Dentistry and Oral Health this fall. He also plans to pursue a Masters degree in Public Health. Teague graduated on the spring 2018 Dean’s list with a Human Biology bachelor’s degree, and minors in GPH and Native American Studies. Teague plans to return to a Montana reservation as the first dentist from the Fort Belknap reservation.

Teague, along with fellow GPH minor and Global Grizzly Andrew Honkin, volunteered in a rural hospital in Iganaga, Uganda, during the summer of 2017. Teague reflected that the dental care he observed in Uganda reminded him of his home on the Fort Belknap Reservation. While there are more dental resources at Fort Belknap, there is a strong need for dental education, a better dentist to patient ratio, and education about diets high in carbohydrates. Global Grizzlies is a student group who organize an annual month-long volunteer experience abroad. Both Teague and Andrew were awarded the GPH program’s External Advisory Committee Award, a $500 award to support an experiential learning experience for GPH students.

Teague and Andrew teamed up to present an hour-long talk about their experience as part of the Spring 2018 Global Public Health Lecture Series. These talks were recorded by Missoula Community Access Television (MCAT) and can be viewed via the GPH website.


RACHEL SCHMOKER, 2015 GPH GRADUATE
AND PEACE CORP VOLUNTEER IN ZAMBIA

Rachael Schmoker, 2015 GPH graduate, is in her second year in Zambia as a Health Extension Agent with the Community Health Improvement Project, a Peace Corp project. Rachael is keeping a blog called Under the Baobab Tree about her experience. https://rschmokerpeace-corps.wordpress.com/about/

One of her main projects is to help fund and build a Health Post.

Donations can be made here: https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/projects/completion-of-the-health-post-project-pp-18-611-021/
Ariana Valenzuela has a deep passion for helping others and values preventative health. She plans to pursue a Master’s degree in Public Health after she graduates with her Anthropology undergraduate degree in the spring of 2019. Ariana has an interest in studying infectious diseases and epidemiology and hopes to work toward protecting people from their devastating effects. In her own words: “I am excited to be a part of preventative medicine in hopes of creating a healthier population…”

Ariana is inspired by her grandmother who immigrated to the United States’ from Sinaloa, Mexico and worked very hard to raise her family. She got her first taste of working internationally while excavating 17th and 18th century human remains at an archeological site in Poland as part of the Slavia Foundation 2017 field school.

The GPH Minor “has helped me expand my Western perspective of health and health policy and enabled me to view health as an interconnected issue involving culture, wealth, environment, ethics and policy.” - GPH Student

Sophia Deroo chose to work toward the Global Public Health Minor because of her long-time passion for health and nutrition and first-hand observations of social inequality both in the United States and abroad. She was awarded a Koehn/Ngai Scholarship for Fall 2018. Sophia is also the first GPH Intern working with girls through the YWCA in Missoula. Because local is part of global, the GPH program is partnering with local health related organizations to provide experiential learning experiences for our students.

“Food has been a big part of my life because I grew up with a French father and an Argentinian mother who both love to cook. Also, as I traveled the world, I had the wonderful opportunity of eating a number of different cuisines. To me, food is one of the most important aspect of health in a society,” said Sophia. She discovered her passion for health as a teenager when her mother began working with a nutritionist.

Sophia credits the combination of her interest in people’s well-being and her pursuit of her major in political science with drawing her to the minor in GPH. She believes that politics and health are related nationally and globally. “The global title of this degree really stood out to me because I grew up traveling around the world to countries such as Thailand and Indonesia where public health is a major concern,” she said. While traveling she noticed a strong connection between people’s health and how their governments invest in short and long-term well-being.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2019 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

When: Spring 2019
Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Where: Gallagher Business Building, #123
What: A series of talks given by professionals working in the field of Global Public Health!

Available as a 1 credit course: PSCI 191
Free and Open to the Public!

O P P O R T U N I T I E S

Scholarships and Awards

The Global Public Health Program has two affiliated scholarships/awards:
- The Peter H. Koehn & Phyllis B. Ngai Scholarship
- The Global Public Health External Advisory Committee Award

2018 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

A special thank you to all of our 2018 GPH Spring Lecture Series speakers. The series was a great success! The lectures covered a wide variety of topics. Sarah Webb of Days for Girls spoke about economic empowerment of women through accessible menstrual hygiene solutions. Food and Nutrition topics included former Public Health Department Sanitarian, Joe Russell speaking on food safety in the Republic of Georgia and Professor Nora O’Brien of Cork, Ireland, presented her research on nutrition in rural Ethiopia. Other topics included education for deaf or blind Kenyan children, the likelihood of global pandemics, poverty as an illness in Haiti, advanced cardiac care in developing nations, an update on the Global AIDS crisis, and other challenging developing world health topics. Videos can be accessed at http://hs.umt.edu/globalpublichealth/lecture-series/videos-2018.php

GPH ALUM MADISON SCHWARZKOPH ACCEPTED INTO WWAMI MEDICAL PROGRAM

“The GPH minor truly helped me to prepare for my trip with Global Grizzlies as well as my interview for medical school. I loved that I was able to explore other topics I was passionate about while completing my prerequisites for medical school, and plan to continue to use what I learned as a physician to help others in Montana, the United States, and around the world.” — Madison Schwarzkoph

Madison Schwarzkoph began the University of Washington’ School of Medicine WWAMI Program last August. WWAMI (Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho) is a competitive regional medical education program heralded as one of the most innovative medical education and training programs in the country. Each state supports the medical education of its students who, as part of the medical education, complete clinical rotations to a variety of sites and environments within the five-state region to learn and experience very different facets of medicine. One of the goals of the program is to alleviate shortages of healthcare programs in rural and underserved urban areas. The program has been recognized by the Association of American Medical Colleges with the Outstanding Community Service Award and has been identified as the nation’s top primary-care, family medicine and rural medicine training school by U.S. News & World Report for the past 23 years.

New Program Coordinator

I’m Kelly Yarns and I joined the Global Public Health Program as program assistant for the 2017-2018 academic year and have returned as the Program Coordinator for the current academic year. I have extensive program development experience combined with a deep interest in traditional health modalities. I am trained in Western Herbal Medicine and am a massage therapist. I turn to plant allies whenever possible, preferring those that I can harvest in the wild or grow. I enjoy everything that gets me out from under a roof and into wild places in all weather.

Organizing the Lecture Series was delightful. I enjoyed meeting our speakers and hearing about their experiences in Global Public Health. Meeting with the local organizations who have agree to partner with the GPH program to offer internship opportunities for our students is another highlight of my work with GPH. Each of these organizations offers a unique experiential learning opportunity for Global Public Health students.

Growing up in a medical family, I had never really considered the public health aspect of health care. Working with the GPH program has opened my eyes to the vast body of knowledge and experience that work on the public level to keep our human communities healthy.

I graduated from UM in 2009 with a Bachelor’s degree in Economics and minors in mathematics and International Development Studies.