

PHSA..... 2
New Faculty Highlight .. 3
Online MPH..... 4
Campus Events..... 5

Public Health Memos

HAPPY FALL SEMESTER!

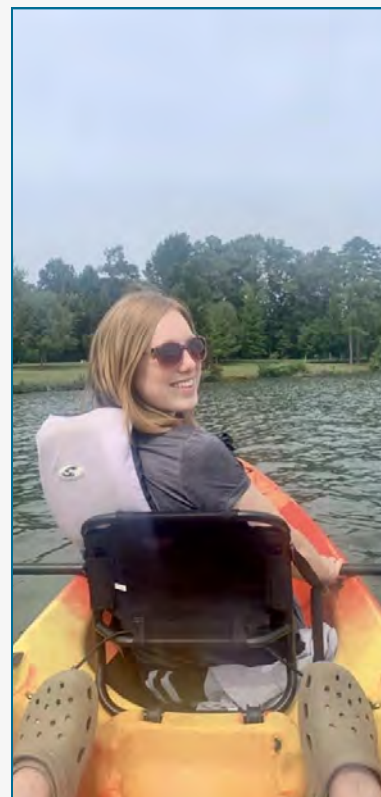
For those of you new to the Department of Public Health and/or the University of Tennessee, welcome! Go Vols! For new students and as a refresher for those returning, the memos exist to connect, highlight, and inform public health students at UTK. This includes our face-to-face and online MPH students, PhD students, and those enrolled in any of our dual degree programs. The memos highlight students, faculty, and alumni, share department updates and opportunities to get involved, public health resources, campus events, and more!

MEET THE EDITOR!

Hi everyone! My name is Peyton Prothero (she/her/hers) and I am delighted to continue serving as the editor for the Memos Newsletters! I am a second-year CHE MPH student. My hometown is Portland, Oregon and I received my B.S. in Public Health from Oregon State University (so clearly, I really love the color orange). I am also a Certified Health Education Specialist! My interests include college health and teaching and I hope to one day work at a university or a health department. In my free time I enjoy volunteering, watching documentaries on Netflix, hiking, trying new food, paddleboarding, and traveling! I love hearing from all of you so if you ever want to chat or want to provide feedback/ideas for the memos, feel free to reach out at pprother@vols.utk.edu

IMPORTANT DATES

- Fall break is **September 30th-October 1st**
- MPH Comprehensive Exam on **November 5th**
- Last day of fall classes is **December 1st**



ABOUT THE PHSA

The PHSA is a voluntary student organization for undergraduate, MPH, and PhD students at UTK. The PHSA allows students to develop leadership skills, enjoy time together, and develop health-promoting initiatives for the university community and beyond. Activities include planning and leading the new student orientation each fall, participating in campus wellness events, and engaging in other service learning activities that promote health.

For more information about joining and the 2021 officers, visit the [PHSA page](#).

PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The PHSA attended the Student Engagement Fair on August 20th and gained 40 new members! We now have nearly 70 total members with both undergraduate & graduate students combined.



#VolsGetVaxxed Paint the Rock. Sunday, September 26th. 5:00-7:00 PM.

Ijams Nature Hike & Picnic. Friday, October 22nd 9:00-10:00 AM.

Last weekend, the PHSA and folks from the Anthropology Department helped to clean up and restore the historic Eastport Cemetery in East Knoxville. Want to learn more about this project? Check out [this feature from WBIR](#).



NEW FACULTY HIGHLIGHT: DR. JENNIFER RUSSOMANNNO

Please introduce yourself!

Hi everyone! My name is Jennifer Russomanno (Jen or JR is more customary than Jennifer unless I am in trouble). I am currently an Assistant Professor of Practice and the Applied Practice Experience (APEX) coordinator here at the Department of Public Health. I have a doctorate (DrPH) and master's degree in Public Health (MPH) from this very department and also am a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES). I grew up in Toms River, NJ and completed my undergraduate degree at Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) in Madison, NJ where I majored in Filmmaking. After graduating from FMU, I worked in New York City as a film editor and visual effects designer for films and TV shows. I even have some [IMBD credits under my belt](#). After leaving the film industry, I became a meeting and event planner, planning conferences and events all over the United States and abroad for nearly 15 years. It was a great way to see the world! I moved to Knoxville in 2009 and planned to stay for a year but never left! I previously worked at UT Graduate School of Medicine for 9+ years as a Continuing Medical Education coordinator while simultaneously completing both of my graduate degrees. Before coming back to UT in my current faculty role, I spent a year as an Assistant Professor of Public Health at Lincoln Memorial University's De Busk College of Osteopathic Medicine. I also own a farm with my partner in Jefferson County, TN called 2 Chicks and a Farm. A fun fact about me is that I used to be an avid scuba diver and surfer and dove all over the world including the Great Barrier Reef in Australia and the Blue Hole in Belize.

What is your role in the department?

I am an Assistant Professor of Practice and the APEX coordinator. I currently teach PUBH 552 (Assessment and Planning) and PUBH 536 (Research Methods). My main body of research consists of examining food inequities among under-represented populations and have explored issues of food insecurity among sexual minority and gender minority people, as well as recipients of Federal food assistance programs. I am also interested in how local food systems can play a role in alleviating issues of food insecurity within their communities.



Why did you choose public health and what advice would you give new students?

I came into public health in a very non-linear way. I started as a film editor and visual effects designer, became a meeting planner, then a personal trainer and health coach, and finally a continuing medical education coordinator before realizing my true calling to be an educator of public health. Through these varied roles, I make connections to public health in almost every scenario and situation. In my opinion, public health is one of the most important professions there is. Healthy communities translate into a healthy nation. I would tell students to keep their eyes open to the world around them and to not place themselves into a box. Explore your passions and never stop learning. Find what lights you up, and pursue that avenue. Never be afraid to change course if something is no longer fulfilling to you. The world (now so more than ever) needs public health professionals that want to make the world a better and safer place for all.

What is your favorite thing about Knoxville and UTK?

I absolutely love all the outdoor activities that Knoxville has to offer. I am a huge water lover and spend most of my free time at our local lakes kayaking, fishing, jet skiing, or boating. As far as UTK, I love the spirit of the campus. The energy on campus is infectious, especially in the fall. I have never seen so much orange in one place! My least favorite part are the insane amount of hills, but they serve as a great leg workout!

ONLINE MPH PROGRAM

In case you haven't heard, the Department of Public Health launched a new online MPH program this semester! We would like to give a warm welcome to our distance education students! The online MPH program offers two concentrations: Community Health Education & Veterinary Public Health.

The online MPH brings the same pedagogy, curriculum, and faculty expertise as the existing in-person program, but it offers working adults the opportunity to advance their education and careers without relocating to Knoxville. You can check out information on the [online MPH website](#) and if you know people who may be interested, there's an online program webinar on **October 13th!** [Register here.](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

The Graduate Student Senate is sponsoring an academic support reimbursement program to help graduate and professional students with costs associated with research, academic training, and professional development. [Find more information here.](#)

The application for the Fall cycle of the [Student Faculty Research Awards](#) is now open. The deadline is October 7th. Grants up to \$5,000 will be awarded for student/faculty pairs with proposals to support research or creative projects.

The Department of Public Health is currently hiring for two open positions: Assistant Professor for Biostatistics and Assistant Professor for Health Policy and Management!



DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER TO VOTE!

September 28th is
**National Voter
Registration Day.**

The Howard H. Baker Jr
Center for Public Policy
will be hosting a voter
registration drive from 8-5.
Find more information at
the [event page](#).

Not sure if you're
registered to vote? You
can check [here](#) if you're out
-of-state or through the [TN
Online Voter Registration
System](#).



CAMPUS RESOURCES

- Need help with writing for a course, thesis, or dissertation? Make an appointment online with the [Judith Anderson Herbert Writing Center](#).
- **Graduate Commons (Hodges Library, 131)** is a dedicated space for graduate students to meet, study, and get access to technology. Study rooms are available on a first come basis.
- [The Student Counseling Center \(SCC\)](#) is offering individual, group, and couples counseling. There are in-person and telehealth options. To make your first appointment, call 865-974-2196.
- TRECS is offering free [Group Fitness Classes](#) to students who have paid their student activities fees. You can also checkout the outdoor center, UTOP, which offers trips, clinics, and gear rental. Check out the [adventure trip calendar](#).
- **The Student Health Center** is still offering the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) as well as [COVID-19 testing](#) for asymptomatic and symptomatic individuals.

CAMPUS EVENTS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Community Engagement Seminar Series: Building Knoxville Partnerships with Social Capitol.** Hosted by the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach. Thursday, September 30th 2:00-3:00 PM. [ZOOM information](#).
- **Speaker: Jim Obergefell.** Hosted by the Campus Events Board. Wednesday, October 6th 7:00 PM. Student Union Auditorium. For more information, visit the [event page](#).
- **Anthropology Lecture Series: Decolonization, Anti-racism, Abolition.** Hosted by the Anthropology Department. Thursday, October 7th 4:30-5:45 PM. Stokely Management Center, Room G2. [Event information](#).
- **VOL ACTIVE bystander training for Graduate Students.** Hosted by the Office of Title IX. Friday, October 8th 2:00-3:00 PM. [Register here](#).
- **UT CIRTL Seminar Series: Facilitating Undergraduate Evidence-Based Learning.** Hosted by Teaching and Learning Innovation. 6-session series throughout the semester on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 PM. [Register here](#).
- **2021 Engagement and Outreach Week.** October 18-22. Check out [the schedule of events here](#).