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Inspiration + Motivation

“A life spent making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent in doing nothing.”

– George Bernard Shaw

“When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us.”

– Helen Keller

“Strength does not come from winning. Your struggles develop your strengths. When you go through hardships and decide not to surrender, that is strength.”

– Arnold Schwarzenegger

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Public Health Memos

Fall 2025, Volume III



Farewell to Fall Semester!

Public Health Vols aren't *just* focusing on finals, they are presenting at conferences, winning awards, and even publishing books that you can find in Hodges Library!

Check it all out in this edition of Memos!

Fall 2025 Graduation Ceremonies Info!

Planning to graduate??

Fall 2025 ceremonies will take place on Friday, December 12th
Thompson-Boling Arena at Food City Center

Friday, December 12

9:00 a.m. **Bachelor's and Master's Ceremony**

- College of Architecture and Design
- College of Arts and Sciences
- Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs
- College of Communication and Information
- College of Education, Health and Human Sciences
- Winston College of Law
- College of Nursing

2:30 p.m. **Bachelor's and Master's Ceremony**

- College of Emerging and Collaborative Studies
- Haslam College of Business
- Herbert College of Agriculture
- Intercollegiate
- Natalie L. Haslam College of Music
- College of Social Work
- Tickle College of Engineering

7:30 p.m. **Doctoral Hooding Ceremony**

- All doctoral programs from all colleges

Conference Opportunity at UTK!

UTK to host the 2026 Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference!

The 26th annual Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) Conference is coming to Knoxville! UT's Division of Access & Engagement, through its Office of Community Engagement and Outreach, will host the 2026 international ESC Conference OCTOBER 5–9, 2026.

Themed Changing Lives and Improving Society: Data-Driven Engagement and Innovation, the conference will feature pre-conference sessions OCTOBER 5–6 and the main program OCTOBER 7–8.

This is a great opportunity for public health students and faculty to present their work at a professional conference without the financial burden that often accompanies traveling to and presenting at conferences!



CHANGING LIVES AND IMPROVING SOCIETY: DATA-DRIVEN ENGAGEMENT AND INNOVATION

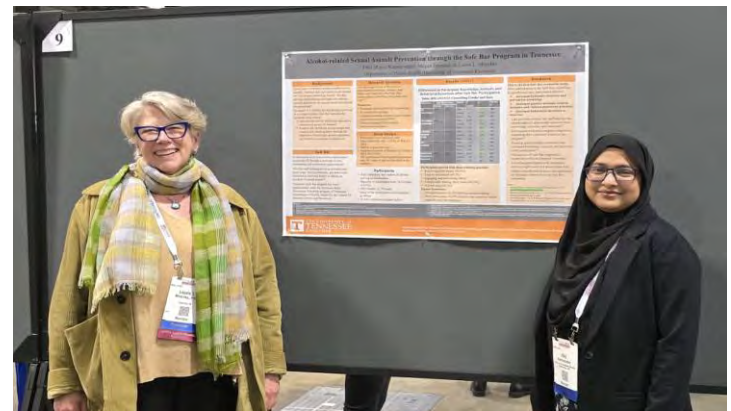
26th Annual Engagement Scholarship
Consortium International Conference

October 5–8, 2026

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
Knoxville, Tennessee

Public Health Vols at APHA!

We had Public Health Vols from all programs represent the Department of Public Health at APHA in Washington, D.C!
Congratulations to all who presented!



International Education Week!

From November 17-21, 2025, the Center for Global Engagement will celebrate International Education Week, a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education that promotes programs preparing Americans for a global environment and attracting future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and share experiences. The selected theme for this year is **Think Global. Act Local.**

Throughout the week, events will showcase global learning, cultural exchange, and the international community on Rocky Top. International Education Week reflects UTK's commitment to building a globally engaged campus and providing opportunities for students, faculty, staff, and community members to explore global perspectives, opportunities and career paths.

For more information and event details, visit [HERE](#).



Student Spotlight!

Sumon Gosh

Sumon Ghosh, a fourth-year Ph.D. student, has plenty to celebrate this fall!

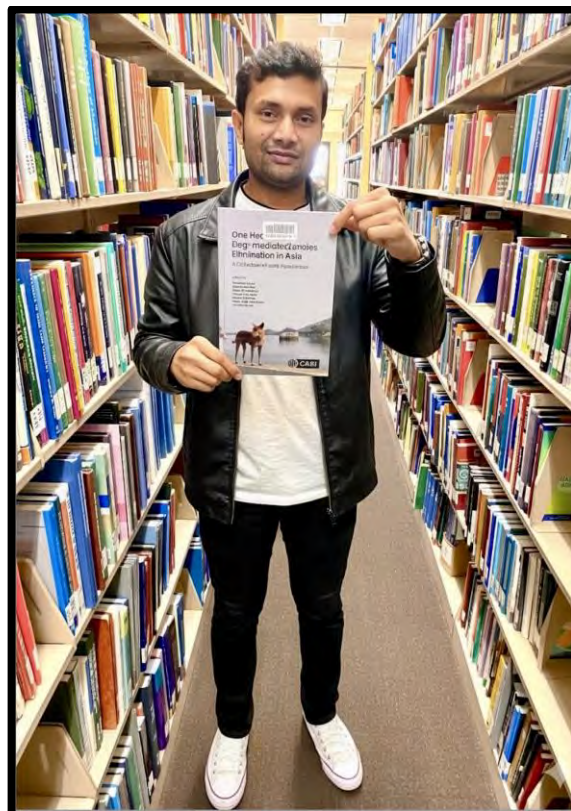
Recently, Sumon achieved two milestones in his research career- a hardback volume of *One Health for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination in Asia: A Collection of Local Experiences*, which he co-edited, has arrived on the shelves of the UTK library and he earned a spot in the finals of UTK's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition!

***One Health for Dog-Mediated Rabies Elimination in Asia* published and on the shelves!**

As a co-editor, Sumon helped assemble the work of experts across the globe who share local success stories in combating canine rabies through a One Health approach. This volume is now available in 59 libraries worldwide (including the U.S. Library of Congress) and is on display in the UTK Hodges Library!

This work highlights how integrating human and animal health strategies can drive down rabies cases. Sumon also had success in the Graduate School's Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. On October 21, Sumon delivered a concise, three-minute presentation of his dissertation research. The judges were impressed by Sumon's engaging talk and selected him to advance to the final round of the competition, which he will compete in on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations, Sumon!



Student Spotlight!

Emily Clark

Congratulations to MPH student Emily Clark on receiving the Kathy Darnell Ebener Intern award for her APEx work!

This semester, Emily has been completing her APEx with Dr. Chenoa Allen (DPH Alumni) at the University of Tennessee Social Work Office of Research and Public Service (SWORPS). Emily has worked on several projects with SWORPS, including a project assessing food access in the Beaumont/Western Heights area, a project to expand the capacity of Knoxville's Meals on Wheels, and a project to improve access to mental health services for rural Tennesseans. Through these projects, Emily has been able to work with quantitative and qualitative data to assess health disparities among vulnerable populations and help create reports and recommendations for partner organizations.

“One of my favorite products I created this semester was a concept map showing the barriers residents in Beaumont/Western Heights face to accessing healthy, affordable foods, and connecting that to the key themes that residents felt were important for a new grocery store in the neighborhood. I have really enjoyed working with SWORPS and have learned so much this semester about the importance of evaluation in promoting health equity!”

Congratulations, Emily!



Faculty Spotlight!

Drs. Perion, Russomanno, and Wagner-Greene

Congratulations to Drs. Perion, Russomanno, and Wagner-Greene on being selected for the Dean's Elevate Your Work grant for their project:

ReConnectED: A National Toolkit for Returning Adult Learners

The ReConnectED project is a multimedia toolkit to support adults with “some college, no credential” in returning to higher education through podcasts, videos, guidebooks, and a dedicated website. This initiative, designed by our awesome public health faculty, aligns with the UT's 2030 enrollment goals by addressing barriers to re-enrollment and positioning UT as a national leader in adult learner success and digital education.

Drs. Perion, Russomanno, and Wagner-Greene were the only non-tenure track professors selected for this prestigious award!

Way to go all!

