

# WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY PROGRAM?



## Congratulations!

### Fall 2011 Anticipating Graduates

Wajiha Abbas  
Chidiebele Agha  
Ogheneruona Agori-  
Iwe  
Timothy Antlitz  
Rebecca Arbuthnot  
Lashonda Armstrong  
Mia Bae  
Hafsatou Barry  
Manjeet Birring  
Andrea Calizo  
Jasmine Ellison  
Yao Gnangui  
Danielle Greenhowe  
Sarah Haynie

Isidore Iwuagwu  
Desiree Johnson  
Ilana Katz  
Charles Kuo  
Claude McKay  
Janet Olanbiwonnu  
Victoria Omopariola  
Victor Peterson  
Elizabeth Pickett  
Methzli Rodriguez  
Bakari Smith  
Nicholas Vespucci  
Ho Vu  
Tak-Ching Zhang

## Reminders

### Spring 2012 Internships **Act Now!**

The deadline for ALL Spring 2012 internship paperwork (this includes the application and letter of intent) is Tuesday **December 13<sup>th</sup>**.



### End of the Semester Celebration Coming Soon!

Don't miss out on a chance to congratulate your friends on a major accomplishment, and enjoy good food and conversation.

**Date:** Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 4:30 pm

**Location:** Fireside Lounge in Commons

Winter 2012 Course  
January 3<sup>rd</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>

### **HAPP 380** **Global Issues in Health and Disease**

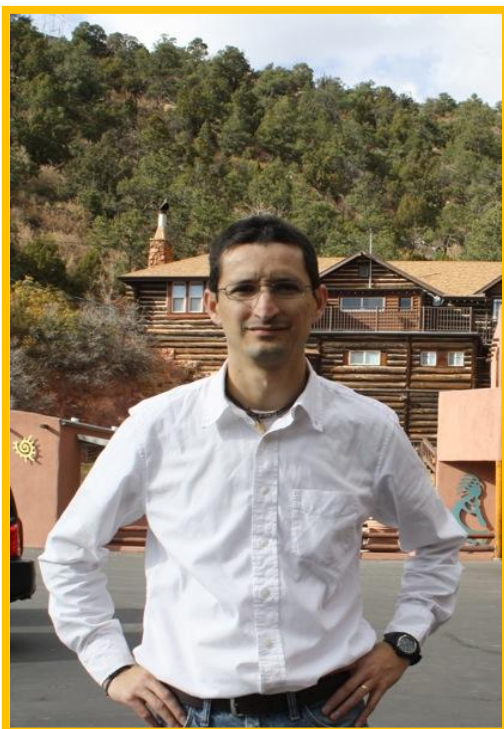


**Mon-Thurs**  
**9:00am-12:10pm**  
**Physics bldg, 201**

All advising appointments are now  
made online at:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/happ1>

Please make sure you sign up **BEFORE**  
your registration date



← Who is that guy?

The new HAPP Associate Director, **Dr. Luis Pinet-Peralta!**

Dr. Pinet-Peralta has a PhD in Public Policy, Health Specialty and Master's Degree in Emergency Health Services from UMBC. He also has a Bachelors Degree from the University of Alabama, Interdisciplinary Studies Program with concentrations in Biomedical Sciences, Biology, Psychology and Emergency Medical Services.

He has extensive teaching, administrative and practical experience in health, disaster and emergency medical services and has been a lecturer at UMB and UMBC.

He has worked as a consultant on pharmaceutical operations for rural medical services in Mexico and has assisted with operational procedures in rural emergency medical services. His research interests include disaster management policies, emergency medical systems in Mexico and pre-hospital care in the U.S. and Mexico.

You may see him teaching HAPP 100 or HAPP 496 and may possibly even see him for advising. Either way, take some time to get to know him and help us welcome him (you can find him in PUP 222)!

## Apply to be part of the International Field Research (IFR) trip to Switzerland! HAPP/SOCY 403/663 offered spring 2012

(double click the image to learn more)



The application can be found at <http://www.umbc.edu/happ/ifr/images/application.pdf>

IFR counts as a 3 credit culture course! Sign up now!

## A message from your HAPP Council of Majors

Greetings to all! The members of your HAPP Council of Majors are looking for heroes. This year, as we strive to meet our goals, we are led by an amazing team: Vice President Yasmin Teymourian, Secretary Alana Moore, Treasurer Oriaku Okpa and Public Relations Chair Nikita Bhandari. Through the participation and enthusiasm of the officers, students, and faculty, HAPP COM has seen our Wednesday meeting attendance increase to new highs.

As part of our goals this semester, the council of majors has incorporated professional development workshops into our meetings. These workshops have addressed topics like How to Get an Internship, Interview Skills, and The Importance of Networking. We intend to have more like these going forward. For future meetings, we have scheduled guest speakers to cover the graduate school application process. We have also done community outreach through volunteering. Most recently, HAPP COM sponsored the November 1st on-campus American Red Cross Blood Drive. Members assisted in recruiting and registering over 50 donors. Your efforts were greatly appreciated by the Red Cross.

These are exciting times for the council of majors, so do not miss the opportunity to participate. Other student members have already made their marks by creating a logo, coining a slogan, and developing a mission statement. HAPP council of majors belongs to you the student and can be a great resource.

Meetings are held weekly during Wednesday free hour and will be announced via the HAPP listserv. If you are not already on the list, sign up at <http://www.umbc.edu/happ/COUNCILOFMAJORS/HAPPcouncilhomePAGE.htm>

Best Wishes  
David Edwards  
President, HAPP COM



## Sign Up for the HAPP listserv

To subscribe to this important HAPP listserv, please visit the following URL and click the icon that says submit. To unsubscribe just click “unsubscribe” on the left hand side of the page.

It's that easy! <https://lists.umbc.edu/lists/subscribe/happinformationhotline>

## My study abroad experience

### Spotlight: Mary Kearns

I had been looking forward to study abroad since my dad told me such a thing existed back when I was in middle school. I had known since entering college that I wanted to go to New Zealand. After all that time, it still didn't hit me until a week before I left: I was going literally halfway across the world for five months, and I knew nobody. Leaving all of my friends and family behind was upsetting and sometimes tearful, especially with the 18-20 hours of planes to dwell on it. However, once I arrived and made a few friends, I never looked back.

My life at Victoria University of Wellington, in the capital city of New Zealand, was almost completely opposite of my life at UMBC. I was living in a house with ten other international girls from all over the U.S., Taiwan, Vietnam, and Germany instead of my two-bedroom apartment with one roommate from high school. I was living a ten-minute walk away from a major metropolitan city while I had always shunned city living back in Maryland. I was without a car, or any friends with a car, and had to rely on public transportation including buses, cable cars, taxis, planes, and ferries to get me from place to place. However, it was a wonderful experience and I miss it every day.

I spent as much time traveling as possible. New Zealand, in my opinion, is the most beautiful place in the world. Every way you turn, you're greeted with a fantastic landscape. In addition, New Zealand is a country that tries to preserve its landscapes and its greenery; there are over 200 species of ferns within the country, approximately 100 of which are only found in New Zealand. I only had to walk a few feet down the road where I lived to get a view down the coastline, and a five-minute walk placed me in the Botanic Gardens where I would walk around for hours on a clear afternoon. The variety of scenery is astounding for a country smaller than California; I traveled from beaches to glaciers to deserts to fishing towns to large cities and much more.

School at Victoria University was also a new experience. Although our degree in HAPP focuses on the U.S. healthcare system, I was able to study the New Zealand healthcare system through a sociology class on health and illness. It was humbling to be so uninformed of their system, but I was able to learn quickly and also compare its system to the U.S. system through one of my research papers. It gave me a completely different experience about physicians, health insurance, and health-related facilities; it was helpful to see a different system, especially when the U.S. is going through major healthcare changes today. Understanding the pros and cons of another country's healthcare system could be a marketable talent in the upcoming years of possible healthcare upheaval.

Overall, my experience in New Zealand was much more than I could ever have hoped for or imagined. If you have a chance to study abroad, I would take it in a heartbeat—you will grow, learn and experience so much in a few short months.

If you're interested in my experiences and/or pictures from New Zealand, you can check out my blog at [kiwimary.blogspot.com](http://kiwimary.blogspot.com).



## Spotlight: Priyanka Oza

“Different countries come with their own food, culture and lifestyle; India is no different. While it can be argued that India is becoming more and more westernized, lifestyle changes are still evident in comparison to the U.S. While India’s urban lifestyle is highly similar to the American lifestyle, some things have definitely not changed.”

The paragraph above is from a paper I wrote during my junior year (2010-2011) studying abroad in India. Now, some will say I am a cop-out: I am 100% of Indian heritage and choose to study there. I know the language, I have been there at least six times before and my entire family lives there. Why did I choose to spend so much time in a country that in reality is not new to me? The only answer I have to date is the longing for a new experience. My whole life I have lived between two cultures. To be honest, the fight to live up to your parents’ expectations and preserving your cultural identity that totally defers from the dominant one, can be overwhelming; all day every day. My past visits to India had left me completely unsatisfied. Being completely sheltered by my family left me wanting more, a complete experience. Hence, I decided to throw myself into the environment, without any help or support. So what did I learn besides how to budget a week long spring break trip in under \$200 (including shopping)? Keep reading!

The State of Maharashtra (MH), where I studied, is a hub for students from all over India and the world. Pune, a city in MH, is the world’s third largest fastest growing city. Apart from being an educational hub, Pune is a great place for study abroad students to learn and observe policies affecting India as a whole. Pune is westernized just enough for you to feel at home, with a tint of conservatism that flashes every now and then to remind you that you are, actually, across the world.

India is witnessing a huge urban migration which is resulting in the rapid growth of urban slums. My trip to Mumbai, specifically Dharavi, made me realize how important it is as a professional in public health to understand the psychology of the people before implementing policy. To be honest, prior to my visit, I expected to see starving, homeless children and adults sitting around idle. I was in for a huge reality check; Dharavi as a slum community is thriving. Business is being done at every corner, pottery, recycling plants and the selling of home-made snacks to name a few. Many residents have even been able to build decent homes for themselves in the community. Once again, very few residents actually want to leave the area. The only thing left is for the government to recognize this and keep it in mind while making policies. “My people are thriving living in the slums, they need better sanitation and clean water, not government housing,” said the director of a NGO that advocates the rights of slum-dwellers. I concluded that looking at communities from the inside, strengthens your understanding of their actual needs versus what we as a society may assume. Apart from traveling, the majority of my time went to interning with local public health NGOs. Charitable clinics in India are working to serve low-socioeconomic and rural populations that may or may not have access to health care in their home-towns. Lack of adequate treatment is a huge problem for children living in such areas.



Studying abroad in India allowed me to learn more about my culture and country, as well as gain a better understanding of myself as a first generation Indian. I am absolutely horrible at putting into words how necessary of an experience this was for me, because yes, it is just that complicated. I highly recommend it! You will not be disappointed, I promise!

If you want to read more about my experience and fun stories please read my blog: [priyankainpune.wordpress.com](http://priyankainpune.wordpress.com)

