



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE HEALTH ADMINISTRATION & POLICY PROGRAM

SPRING 2011 NEWSLETTER



CONGRATULATIONS! Seniors Anticipating Graduation May 2011

Adunola Ademiluyi
 Emilola Ajimatanrareje
 Chidinma Ajuzie
 Natasha Amjad
 Natasha Ammenheuser
 Joshua Andrew
 Stephanie Anyadike
 Kanchan Aryal
 Pragya Aryal
 Fatou Bah
 Jasmine Batchelor
 Dianna Berger
 Celestino Canete

Aida Carayol
 Caroline Carrico
 Sabrina Chacon
 Samuel Daniel
 Zefitret Deboch
 Andrea Dhason
 Kabaye Diriba
 Ama Duah
 Lauren Dulay
 Peter Egwom
 Radmila Fishman
 Kevin Hamilton



Jaynee Jones
 William Joyner
 Philips Khuu
 Kavitt Kothary
 Emily Kulokas
 Thy Ma
 Stephanie Meshberger
 Yasamin Moghadam
 Andrew Mwangi
 Misbah Naureen
 Pamela Nomenyo
 Patricia Nwakuba

Abiola Oke
 Alec Penrod
 Alexander Post
 Christina Powell
 Kayla Preston
 Mahvish Shahid
 Gina Sim
 Monet Stanford
 Katie Stephenson
 Ami Vyas
 Christina Wong-
 buphanimitr
 Shan-Shan Wu

End of Semester Celebration



Don't Miss out on a chance to congratulate yourself and your friends on a major accomplishment, and enjoy good food and conversation!

When: May 4, 2011 at 4:30pm

Where: Public Policy Building 2nd fl lobby

ACT NOW!



Fall 2011 Internships

If you are planning to do a **Fall 2011 Internship**, and have not already completed an application and met with Joyce Riley, PUP 222, pick up an application and internship handbook from the HAPP office and sign up for an appointment as soon as possible. The deadline to sign up for a Fall 2011 Internship is July 1, 2011.

(Please note: All students will be required to participate in a weekly discussion group (HAPP 496) as a part of their internship experience and must be taken concur-

Summer Session 2011

The Following Classes will be offered this summer for HAPP:

HAPP 380

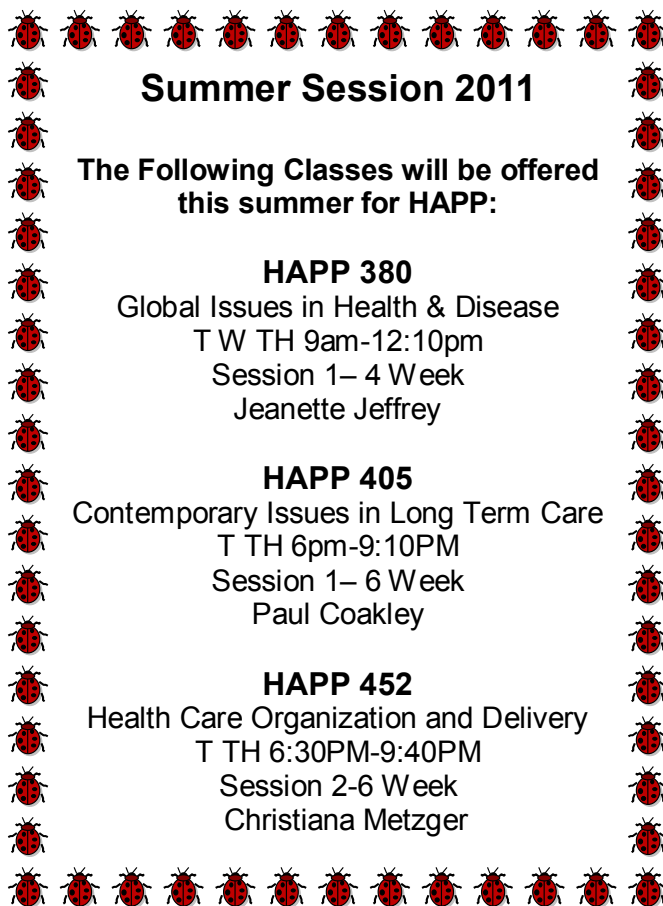
Global Issues in Health & Disease
 T W TH 9am-12:10pm
 Session 1- 4 Week
 Jeanette Jeffrey

HAPP 405

Contemporary Issues in Long Term Care
 T TH 6pm-9:10PM
 Session 1- 6 Week
 Paul Coakley

HAPP 452

Health Care Organization and Delivery
 T TH 6:30PM-9:40PM
 Session 2-6 Week
 Christiana Metzger



Kernan Hospital Internship By Philips Khuu

My name is Philips and I am currently a senior at UMBC. I am also the Vice President of HAPP com for the 2010-2011 year. I've enjoyed my time here at UMBC, both in the classroom and outside and though it was difficult at times, I managed to pull through and reflect on everything I've done. In retrospect, I can't say I would do anything different; all of the mistakes are learning experiences to grow from. One of the best experiences I went through would definitely have to be my HAPP internship at Kernan Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation Hospital in Baltimore. In all honesty, I dreaded having to complete an internship as a requirement to graduate. Much to my surprise, it was possibly the best thing that happened for me. The course itself helped me to prepare for "life", for finding a job, and learning how to write a good resume, cover letter, interviewing skills, etc.

At Kernan Hospital, I worked directly with the patient therapy manager performing administrative duties. This was anything and everything from typical clerical duties to large-scale project responsibilities. I took calls/messages, organized paperwork, created forms and spreadsheets, revised and edited hospital forms among other common tasks. I was given the responsibility to create a slideshow and help plan "PT Month," which is a celebration every year appreciating the physical therapists. I had to research and contact companies that could print the Kernan logo on gifts that were to be given to the PTs. Some items were umbrellas, candy jars, fold-out lawn chairs, and more. I also got to participate in helping revamp some information boards for the aquatic therapy pool and give ideas on the set up of the new "Wellness Cottage." The Cottage is an older portion of the building that was being unused, but now is a fitness center/gym for all employees. I was also able to attend meetings regarding future changes to Kernan, including a 2-5 year projection of a hospital-wide renovation—a huge feat to be accomplished.

I learned so much more than I ever imagined through this experience. I recognized many concepts we learned in our academic classes put to work in a real organization and learned how a manager needs to respond to those particular situations. I was given an opportunity to run errands throughout the entire facility, not just a department nor just a small office. Throughout all of this, I realized that education must absolutely extend past the classroom walls. This is invaluable experience to have and I'm very appreciative to my preceptor and mentor for guiding me through this internship. Having this course as a requirement to graduate is incredibly helpful because it allows the students a chance to learn and volunteer in any organization, which is much easier than landing a job right away.

In fact, this internship was how I got my foot in the door at Kernan. Now that the internship is over, I was fortunate enough to find an open position and applied for it. By using my knowledge from the internship seminar class, I was able to create a strong resume and develop some interviewing skills that landed me a position as an Admitting Specialist in the Patient Access Services department. I've been working at Kernan Hospital since mid-February and have continued to expand my knowledge of a working hospital facility. It feels incredible to be working at the same facility I was able to intern at and everyone should take this internship as a serious opportunity. You never know what may happen!

HAPP Council of Majors–Get Involved

Welcome back to what I hope is a great Spring semester! The HAPP council of majors would like to introduce our new officers: Oriaku Okpa as treasurer and Alpana Kaushiva as public relations chair. The council has started off the year well, with a very successful food drive last semester. With all the non-perishable collections, we donated 179 pounds to the Maryland Food Bank! We would like to give a special thank you to everyone who participated and contributed.

This semester, the council is sponsoring a winter clothing drive to benefit the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in Baltimore. The IRC is a non-profit secular organization providing relief and protection to refugee families all over the world. Donations of winter clothing will be collected through early March. Coming up in April, the council is planning events for National Public Health Week (April 4th-8th) keeping with the theme: "Safety is NO Accident: Live Injury-Free." Also in the works for this semester is a returning grad panel, where recent HAPP graduates will be available for discussions and questions regarding what they have done post-graduation and what they are currently doing now.

I hope that you all have a successful semester. The council of majors is here for you as a great resource for interests in HAPP. Our general meetings will be held monthly to discuss events and your involvement with the council. These meetings will be announced via the HAPP listserv. If you are not already on this list, you can easily sign up at: <https://lists.umbc.edu/lists/subscribe/happinformationhotline>. Also, be sure to join our HAPP COM Facebook page for the most up to date information.

Best wishes,
Ami Vyas
President, HAPP COM



The Peace Corps “The toughest job that I will ever Love”

By Kristina Peace

The Peace Corps slogan: “This is the toughest job that I will ever love.”

Guatemala is a beautiful country, rich in culture and diversity, with over 22 languages spoken. Living here has changed my world view. My experience here, as it did at UMBC, will shape my future.

I applied to the Peace Corps during my final semester at UMBC in 2008. In April 2010, a year and a half later, I was sent to Guatemala. The Peace Corps is known for a long application period, this is to test the patience and dedication of an applicant, as you need both of these qualities to work in an underdeveloped country.

After 3 long months of training in Santa Lucia and Milpas Altas, Guatemala, I was given my placement assignment—a little town in the Guatemalan highlands called San Antonio Ilotenango. Although, I was given a report about the town, I had no real idea about where I was going. I had grown close to my training town family near the capital and I didn't want to leave them to go into the unknown. A few days later, I arrived at a furniture store in Santa Cruz Quiche by hitching a ride from Antigua—a common and safe way to travel. There, I bought a bed, and headed to my new home. As expected, the owners were not home. I waited outside the building for two hours with all my bags and new furniture. As San Antonio is a small town, people had heard of my arrival. A few men came to help me move my bed and bags into my room. Later that night they invited me to watch a soccer game and to have breakfast with their family in the morning. In just a few hours I went from being isolated to being taken in by a family. Once you gain the confidence of Guatemalans, you will be invited for more coffee and sweet bread than you can handle.

My Peace Corps program is called Healthy Homes and during my first year I trained groups of mainly women on different health topics. These health topics include diarrhea prevention, HIV/AIDS, respiratory illnesses, household hygiene and nutrition. After giving about 10-20 health talks, the group members graduate and go off and train other community members on these same health topics. Education is the key to health prevention. During my second year, I will begin doing various projects with the families in my health promoter group, such as building cement floors, stoves, latrines, and water storage systems.

Many families in my site live with the bare minimum, and experience very hard lives. They have no bathrooms, stoves, cement floors, or access to water. Speaking from experience, it is not comfortable going to the bathroom in the corn-fields. Women and children have to walk down and up through the mountains to wash their clothes and bath in the polluted rivers. Women cook in smoke filled rooms on an open fire with their babies on their backs. As a result respiratory illnesses are the number one cause of death in Guatemala, for this reason stove projects are highly needed. When toddlers crawl around and play on the dirt floors in their homes, they are ingesting many germs, parasites, and microbes that live in the dirt. When women sweep their dirt floors, they are only moving all of those germs into the air to be inhaled. A “healthy home” consists of cement floors, a stove, a latrine, continuous access to water, and most importantly to have the education about why these things are crucial for well-being.

All things in Guatemala take time, something that is not intuitive to the American lifestyle. It took nearly 6 months after my arrival on site to gain direction and approval to start work on my main project, creating health promoter groups. I am currently working in one community that is a 2 hour walk away. If I am lucky I hitch a ride on a pick-up truck. I have 30 women in my group, roughly 13 of those women speak Spanish and only 8 of them can write their names. Illiteracy rates in rural Guatemala are very high. Many girls are kept out of school, and therefore never learn Spanish. As a result women are given fewer opportunities than their male counterparts. I always require a translator when I conduct field work, because most of the women I work with do not speak Spanish, but speak a native dialect called K'iche. While the women in my group may not understand me completely, it is very rewarding to work with them. If at the end of it all, I can have even the slightest impact on their lives, I will have accomplished more than I can hope for.

**This article does not reflect the views or beliefs of Peace Corps

HAPP Council of Majors Election of Officers

HAPP Council of Majors will be starting nominations for the 2011-2012 Board in April. If you are interested in serving as an officer for 2011-2012 please make sure that you sign up outside of the HAPP offices PUP 220 between April 8th-April 20th. The new HAPP COM officers will be announced at the end of the semester party on May 4th.

Why Join HAPP Council of Majors?

People join the HAPP Council of Majors because they realize they need to go above and beyond what is simply required to graduate. Healthcare is a complex institution, and in order to understand and survive within it, one must diligently seek up-to-date information about the field. The Council tries to bring this information from “real world” organizations and events into their meetings and programming in hopes that students will understand how dynamic healthcare is.

Many employers and graduate schools want to know that the candidates are doing more than the minimal. The Council of Majors is one such opportunity to go above and beyond.

Scholarships

HAPP Council of Majors Book Scholarship

This \$250 scholarship was established by the student organization to recognize outstanding academic achievement by HAPP majors. **Due May 15, 2011.**

Congratulations to our Fall 2010 Scholarship Recipients:

Philips Khuu

Alice Jiang



ALUMNI
CORNER

Check out the Alumni Corner

Visit the HAPP web site for information on past graduates.
<http://www.umbc.edu/happ/alumni.html>



HAPP Academic Policy

As shared with you previously, the university policy for third attempts to complete a course successfully requires a petition and the support of the instructor for the course. Any registration for a course resulting in a failing grade including withdrawal (W on transcript) is considered an attempt.

HAPP will not support a third attempt for courses with the HAPP designation where students have not successfully earned a C or better or withdrew from the course failing.

Please be mindful of this as you plan your schedules and register for courses.

University of Maryland Baltimore County
Health Administration and Policy Program
1000 Hilltop Circle, PUP 220
Baltimore, MD 21250
