



# MPH NEWSLETTER

May 2009

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The spring semester is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful semester so far here at the University of Illinois at Springfield with many things being accomplished. Its great to know that all of the MPH alumni received the previous newsletter sent out earlier this semester.

We also would like to congratulate our newest MPH graduates from this Spring 2009 semester. Congratulations to:

- 1.) Deepti Namineni
- 2.) Danielle Sharpe
- 3.) Siva Yedlapati

### Recent News!

The Master of Public Health Program at UIS offers five graduate certificates for specialized study in public health. These certificates may be taken by either degree or non-degree seeking students. The five graduate certificates are: community health education, epidemiology, environmental health, environmental risk assessment, and emergency planning and homeland security. Individuals who have bachelors degrees from accredited colleges and univer-

sities are eligible to apply to the certificate programs. Student will be assigned a faculty adviser within the appropriate area of specialty after being admitted to the graduate certificate program.

Credit hours taken for the certificates may be applied to an MPH degree. Certificate students will need to formally apply for the MPH and must meet all department requirements before acceptance into the MPH degree program.

## *SPRING 2009 HEALTH FAIR FOLLOW-UP*

This year's annual health awareness day was held on Wednesday April 8, 2009. It was a huge success! The health fair is grateful to have Viraj Perera, Amber Pyke, and Lenore Killam as our key volunteers. Other volunteers joined us during the day. Dr. John Lee was our guest speaker who spoke about dealing with the freshman 15 (pounds that is). He also spoke about the

advantages and disadvantages of the use of creatine and protein powder supplements. The health fair exhibitors included many health organizations around Springfield such as the American Lung Association, Fit Club, Memorial Rehab Services, Planned Parenthood, Sangamon County Department of Public Health, UIS Health Service, and others. The attendees

filled out an evaluation form and received raffle tickets for a chance to win prizes from the health fair. The health fair was well advertised and many people of all ages came out to receive vital information on what to do to maintain good health. Preparing for a good health fair is not easy. However, we expect an even larger and more successful turnout next year!

## *DEPARTMENT FACULTY INFORMATION*

Dr. Sharron LaFollette - Chair & Associate Professor, MPH Department - Toxicology & Risk Assessment

Dr. Kathy DeBarr - Associate Professor, Public Health - Community Health Education

Dr. Mark Edgar - Assistant Professor, Public Health - Public Health Policy and Administration

Dr. Shahram Heshmat - Associate Professor, Public Health - Public Health Economics

Dr. Josiah Alamu - Lecturer, Public Health - Epidemiology



L.A.H. Impact is a volunteer organization set up by three UIS students (LeDora Williams, Ashley Boateng (MPH graduate student), and Heather Cofield) wanting to impact our community as well as the

## *L.A.H. Impact*

African community. They have volunteered in various places throughout Springfield, but wanted the opportunity to carry their outreach to Africa. Ashley and LeDora will both be making the first annual trip to Africa to volunteer in an orphanage and HIV/AIDS facility. Heather will be taking the journey in the summer of 2010 to volunteer in a school. While in Africa they will be living with a host family and be fully submerged in the African culture. L.A.H. Impact was formed so that UIS students can better afford the expenses of volunteering in Africa. They have begun fundraising and need to raise \$5,000 to pay for airfare and registra-

tion for this year's trip. Throughout the year they will have various fundraisers, write grants, and accept donations for next summer's trip. Interested students can use this opportunity for college credit or just a way to give back. L.A.H. has set up criteria that students have to meet in order to receive funds from the organization. Their hope is to raise awareness of the issues in Africa and for the students to have a better understanding of the world around us. For more information or to make donations please contact UIS Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center.

## *Josiah Alamu Just Received His PhD*



Dr. Josiah Alamu, lecturer of Public Health, received his masters degree in Public Health from the University of Hawaii in Manoa. His past positions include:

1. Environmental Health Officer at Ibadan, Nigeria
2. Pharmacist at the orthopedic hospital at Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria
3. Production pharmacist
4. Lecturer at the School of Public Health in Gambia West Africa
5. Research Assistant at the University of Iowa in the Division of Hospital Epidemiology.

We would like to congratulate Dr. Alamu for just receiving his PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Iowa in Iowa City on April 17, 2009. He defended his thesis on Antimicrobial use among children in the pediatric intensive care unit. He also plans to publish his research in the Journal of Infection Control and Hospital Epidemiology. Dr. Alamu started the PhD program in Epidemiology at the University of Iowa in 2003 and finished in 2008. The thesis paper took him three years to complete it. In addition to Dr. Alamu receiving his PhD, he has over 20 years of experience working in the field of public health.

## *MPH ALUMNI GIFT FUND*

To our beloved alumni, you are making us so proud. We know how much you are contributing to your communities and to the people you serve. You help our department's reputation grow each day through your professional service and commitment.

Please help us add to your numbers. There is such a dire need for public health professionals. We think putting up some posters around campus recognizing the role of public health in the quality of our lives would help interest undergraduates in this career. Please consider a donation to help us increase awareness of our department on campus and the roles of public health professionals in general in building a healthier world community.

We would also love to provide scholarships for MPH students and to have money available to help MPH students with unexpected financial needs. Everything from helping to buy books, pay for travel expenses to conferences, prepare presentation materials, and maybe even take a licensure exam..

You can help with all of these by giving to the Public Health Unrestricted Fund. Make your gift online at [www.uis.edu/development](http://www.uis.edu/development) or by sending in a check. Either way, be sure to add a comment about how you would like your money to be used. We will try to honor every request. And thank you in advance for your support — a gift of any size helps.