



Spring 2016

Issue #2

# Global Public Health Newsletter

## The University of Montana

### 2016 SPRING LECTURE SERIES

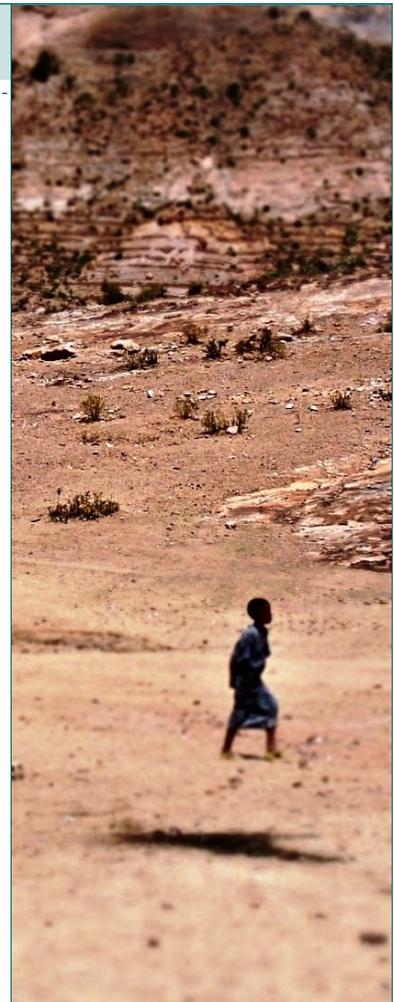
The 2016 GPH Spring Lecture Series “Global Public Health: Experiences and Insights” is well underway. Speakers in this year’s series have ranged in topics from economic development to airborne eye surgery facilities, and all the ways to measure global health that you could imagine.

This year the lecture series was honored to host two visiting speakers. Author Jeremy Smith, who spoke in February, presented on his most recent book “Epic Measures: One Doctor. Seven Billion Patients” to a large and lively crowd.

In addition, the lecture series hosted Dr. Abebaw Gebeyehu Worku on April 20th, a visiting scholar from the University of Gondar in Ethiopia. Dr. Worku presented on “Indicators of Maternal and Child Health in Ethiopia” and spoke about the health care system and his experiences in Ethiopia. UM is currently expanding a partnership with the University of Gondar.



All of the lectures are recorded and put online by Missoula Community Access Television. To view them, visit the GPH website or visit [mcat.org](http://mcat.org) (thanks MCAT!).



### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- The Africa Connection ..... 2
- EAC Chair Nancy Fitch..... 2
- Updates from Dr. Koehn .. 3
- Peace Corp Prep Program . 3
- Meet a GPH Student!..... 3
- Cara McKee in S. America . 4
- IDS Alumni in Africa ..... 4
- Faculty Update..... 4
- GPH Alumni..... 5
- Sophie Friedl in Uganda .... 5
- Faculty Update..... 6
- GH Pathway Approved ..... 6
- Opportunities..... 6

## GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT CLUB REVIVED!

The Global Health and Development Club, formerly known as the Repair the World Coalition, was created as an opportunity for Global Public Health and International Development minors to begin creating the change they want to see in the world. The club will be hosting events like movie nights, service Saturdays, and fundraisers to raise money for causes that benefit public health and international development throughout the year. Their first event this year was a screening of the film “*The Economics of Happiness*,” and they contributed to a project to develop internship and volunteer opportunities for GPH students with EAC member Montana Senator- Dick Barrett.

**The Global Health and Development Club will be active in the 2016-2017 school year and will be looking for new members! Look out for them next year!**

**For more information about the club, meetings, or events contact club president Brooke Beul: [Brooke.Beul@umontana.edu](mailto:Brooke.Beul@umontana.edu)**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

**2016 GPH  
CELEBRATION  
EVENT!**

**When:** May 11th, 5:30-7:00pm

**Where:** Presidents Room, Brantley Hall

**What:** A chance for GPH students, faculty, EAC members, lecture series presenters, and community members to mingle. GPH seniors and scholarship recipients will be recognized.

**Light refreshments will be served!**

## THE MONTANA-AFRICA CONNECTION

Much of the global public health work we learn about takes place overseas and in developing nations. Members of the GPH External Advisory Committee highlight a connection between countries in Africa and the northwest Montana region. The EAC aims to enrich the development of the GPH minor by pulling together the expertise of and experiences of its members. Many of the current GPH EAC members have been doing public health work in Africa recently, from economic development to treating Ebola.

- Tom Bulger, MD—Has worked to provide health care to semi-nomadic tribes in Kenya.
- Nancy Fitch, MD—Currently does independent consulting for health systems strengthening in Kenya and Mozambique, and has previously worked with HIV prevention and treatment programs in Rwanda and Mozambique.
- Joe Knapp, MD—Works on children's heart repairs in Ethiopia.
- Gary Peterson, DDS— Performs dentistry work in Africa.
- Gail Pohlman, RN— Spent time with the U. S. Peace Corps in South Africa working with an HIV/AIDS Outreach Project and as a Public Clinic Volunteer.
- George Risi, MD— Spent a month treating Ebola patients in Sierra Leone after the outbreak.
- Chris Siegler—Founded the Village Hope, Inc. Project in Sierra Leone, a project that aims to promote production of nutritious food and economic development (and thus health) in rural communities.
- Rose Till—A UM grad that just returned from volunteering with the CDC Ebola Response in Guinea.

*“You are actually helping people while we contemplate reality”*

## EAC CHAIR CONTINUES GLOBAL HEALTH WORK

Dr. Nancy Fitch, chair of the Global Public Health External Advisory Committee, is a family medicine specialist and an international health expert with 20 years domestic and 15 years' experience in Armenia, Rwanda, Mozambique, Ivory Coast, Swaziland, Lesotho, Liberia, Pakistan, Tanzania, Haiti and Uganda. Her technical expertise is in primary care service delivery, HIV/AIDS, maternal-child health, quality improvement, performance-based financing and health system strengthening.

After receiving her AB from Brown University, her MD from Duke University and completing her family medicine specialty training at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Fitch worked as a family medicine specialist and as Director of Curry Health Center, a comprehensive student health center at the University of Montana from 1985 – 2001. While Director, Curry Health Center achieved its first accreditation under the AAAHC, provided counseling and psychological services, initiated HIV testing and prevention services and student sexual assault prevention and care services.

Since 2001, Dr. Fitch has been working internationally in family medicine and HIV care and treatment with USAID projects and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatrics AIDS Foundation (EGPAF). She

worked as the Country Director for the EGPAF in Rwanda and Mozambique before returning to the US to serve as the Global Director of Health System Strengthening for EGPAF, where she provided technical support to programs in 14 countries in Africa.

Dr. Fitch retired in 2013 but has continued to work as an independent consultant in health system strengthening in Pakistan, Liberia and Haiti, based from her home in Montana. She is currently the chair of the GPH External Advisory Committee and is coordinating the 2016 Spring Lecture Series.

Dr. Fitch presented *“Differing Paradigms: How Can We Invest in Population Health for the Developing World?”* in the 2016 Mansfield Conference earlier this month. The conference this year, titled *Innovation & Imagination in Global Health*, “examined how new technology, new ideas, and new challenges are changing the nature of health care and how we view health both at home and across the world.”

Thanks Dr. Fitch for your contributions to global health and the GPH program! As Dr. Koehn says, “You are actually helping people while we contemplate reality.”



*EAC Chair Nancy Fitch*

## CHECK OUT GPH DIRECTOR PETER KOEHN'S LATEST WORK!

*China Confronts Climate Change: A Bottom-up Perspective.* London and New York: Routledge Advances in Climate Change Research Series (2016). 209 pp. <https://www.routledge.com/products/9781138942097>

"China's Volatile Emissions." Routledge Blog Post, February 2016. <http://ow.ly/XUebF>

Arranged campus visit by Dr. Juha Uitto, Director of the Independent Evaluation Office of the World Bank's Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Dr. Uitto delivered a campus address on "Evaluating Multilateral Agencies: Experiences from the GEF, UNDP, and the World Bank." (May 2015).

Manuscript reviewer: *Medical Anthropology: Issues and Studies*

"China and Climate Change." KGVO News Talk Radio, 18 November 2015.

"Transnational Higher Education Partnering: What Does and Does Not Work." Lead presenter, series kick-off webinar co-hosted by the APLU Knowledge Center for Advancing Development and the International Agriculture Section, 18 May 2015.

"A Bottom-up Perspective on Environmental Security in China." Invited presentation at the Asia Montana Energy Summit, Expert Conference, sponsored by the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center, University of Montana, 29 April 2015.

## MEET A GPH STUDENT!

Heidi Lissau is a junior majoring in Community Health and Prevention Sciences, pursuing a minor in Global Public Health, and working towards a Peace Corps Program Certificate with the Health Specialization. This is her second semester at the University of Montana; she completed an Associates of Science in General Education degree at Great Falls College, Montana State University before transferring here. Heidi attributes her discovery of the Global Public Health minor as one of the reasons she came to the U!

Heidi is a passionate advocate for individual, community, and population health and was amazed when she found an opportunity to study health issues on both the community and global scales. Since she began studying here, her coursework in both Community and Global Public Health has enriched her perspective on the many social, political, economic, environmental, and personal factors that intersect to shape and influence individual and population health. Most recently, Heidi has undertaken an incredible opportunity to train and work as a peer health coach through the Optimal Bear Program as part of her Peers Reaching Out (PROs) training for Community Health. Opportunities to participate in



Heidi Lissau at her graduation from MSU—Great Falls

the Optimal Bear Program are provided by the Wellness Office in the Curry Health Center. PROs are students who actively advocate for student and campus health through an array of campus activities, presentations, awareness campaigns, and one-on-one wellness coaching.

With two years of studies to go at the University of Montana, Heidi is looking forward to the many opportunities ahead. After completing her undergraduate degree, she plans to pursue a Master's in Public Health. She also plans to volunteer for the Peace Corps either before or after completing a master's degree. When she's not doing school work, Heidi likes to read, cook, and spend time in the outdoors.

## PROGRAM UPDATES THE DIRECTOR

- EAC member Brian Sippy and Director Peter Koehn met with Marci Bozeman of the UM Foundation for a useful discussion of fund-raising opportunities and approaches for the future of the GPH Program.
- The GPH program has benefitted in many ways during spring semester from the dedication and competence of program assistant Megan Schneider.

## BIG CHANGES TO PEACE CORP PREP PROGRAM

UM and the Peace Corps have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that brings significant changes to UM's Peace Corps Prep Program. The new MOU focuses on UM's PC Prep Programs specializations that coincide with the Peace Corps sector specific areas and removes the generalist certificate as well as UM's Civic Engagement specialization for students enrolling in the PC Prep program after January 1, 2016. This means UM students can earn PC Prep certificates in the work sectors of: Agriculture; Environment; Health; Education; Youth in Development; and/or Community Economic Development. In addition to course work, which now includes a broader expanse of classes, students are required to complete 50 hours of service learning the coincides with their sector-specific course work as well as take part in professional development. As part of the course work students take 3 intercultural competence courses.



For more information about the new PC Prep program, visit the PC Prep page on the IDS website: [umt.edu/PeaceCorpPrep](http://umt.edu/PeaceCorpPrep).

## GPH STUDENT CARA MCKEE HAS MEDICAL EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AMERICA



Cara enjoys the view of Macchu Picchu during her time in South America

Cara McKee is a senior in the Human Biology Major with a minor in Global Public Health. She is a peer advisor in the biological sciences department as well as a teaching assistant for anatomy and physiology. Outside of UM, she has been volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) for a year. She thinks that BBBS is a great school-based mentoring program; and loves how much fun she has with her little and the friendship they have fostered.

With partial support from an EAC award, Cara spent this past summer in Ecuador and Bolivia as part of her international experience related to the Global Public Health Program. There she spent time in clinics shadowing doctors and assisting them (when appropriate), learned how to conduct general physical exams, and gained other valuable clinical skills. By the end of her 8 weeks abroad Cara's medical Spanish was proficient enough that she could take patients' clinical histories. During her time spent in both countries, she was able to immerse herself in the culture by staying with host families, experiencing the food, and meeting locals.

During her experience in South America, Cara had the wonderful opportunity to spend time in public, private, and traditional clinics and found it extremely interesting to see the different perspectives and approaches to health. Being able to see firsthand what public health looked like in both urban and rural settings aided not only her understanding of public health in Ecuador and Bolivia, but also furthered her personal

comprehension of and connection to global health.

Cara thinks that global public health is interesting for the obvious reasons. She believes that everyone should have access to health care services and also values how much it is an interdisciplinary field. Health is not only important to how a community functions, but to how health and community function in tandem with each other. She finds it fascinating to learn how health can affect so many other fields and/or aspects of a community.

Cara was one of the lecturers for the GPH Spring Lecture Series this year, where she presented on what she learned during her work in South America. She enjoyed being a part of the series and sharing her personal experiences with other students and the community. In the future Cara hopes to continue traveling to other countries, and pursue a career in healthcare.



Cara presenting in the GPH Spring Lecture Series

## GPH FACULTY UPDATES

GPH Faculty Dr. Teresa Sobieszczyk and Dr. Joel Iverson presented in April to UM's College of Humanities and Sciences as a part of a panel called "Epidemic Measures: Zika, Humanity, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century," along with GPH Lecture Series presenter and author Jeremy Smith.

The College of Humanities and Sciences proudly presents



## UM ALUMNI JULIE DESOTO ACTIVE IN GLOBAL HEALTH

Julie DeSoto graduated from UM in 2012 with her BA in political science, and minors in International Development Studies and Arabic studies, as well as her Peace Corps Prep certificate. In 2013, she earned her master of public administration with an emphasis on international development. While at UM, Julie was very active with student groups: she served as the President of Griz for UNICEF, was Vice President of Pi Sigma Alpha Epsilon Mu, and served as an ASUM senator and student-at-large. After completing her degrees, Julie won a Fulbright Teaching Assistantship in Amman, Jordan, where she worked part time at a public health clinic serving Syrian refugees fleeing from the Syrian war.



Julie with new-found friends at Lake Burera, Rwanda on a recent trip

Currently, Julie is working in Washington, D.C. at World Vision, Inc. where she develops and manages global health programs. Julie is currently focusing in the water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) sector in East Africa. She will be traveling to Kenya and Ethiopia in May, 2016 for program start-up and field visits. She will be working to improve water access, hygiene, strengthen agriculture, and ultimately nutrition in communities that have been severely impacted by drought. These projects include installing wells in rural areas and training community health workers in proper hygiene.

Thanks for the work you do Julie!

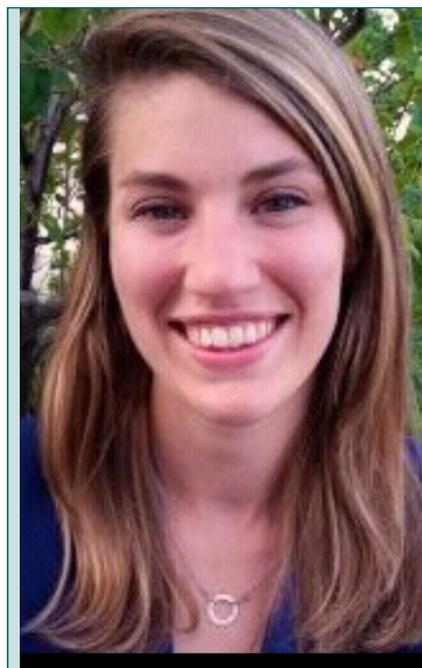
## GPH ALUMNI ACCEPTED TO UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM

Kayleigh Robbins, a GPH alumni, was recently accepted to the epidemiology program at the University of Colorado in Denver. Kayleigh graduated from UM in 2014 with a major in biology and a minor in Global Public Health. She chose to complete the GPH minor after taking Epidemiology 101. She loves that public health often addresses underlying causes for many of our health issues and decided that the GPH minor would help her expand upon that idea. During her time at UM, she was a founding leader of the Repair the World Coalition right after it was established. That year, the club worked to bring a screening of the film "Girl Rising" to UM during Tunnel of Oppression week.

Currently, Kayleigh works with a great group of people at Community Health Partners, a community health clinic located in Bozeman and Livingston Montana. They work to provide preventative healthcare to many uninsured or low income families and individuals. Community Health Partners' vision is "100% access, zero disparity for all."

Kayleigh is primarily interested in learning about controlling and preventing chronic disease. She was accepted to the Colorado School of Public Health in Denver, where she is excited to focus on chronic disease epidemiology and hopes to take advantage of research opportunities there.

Best of luck in Colorado Kayleigh!



*"As a result of the experience Sophia switched her major from Human Biology to Sociology..."*

## GPH STUDENT SOPHIA FRIEDL GOES TO UGANDA WITH GLOBAL GRIZZLIES

GPH student Sophia Friedl traveled to Uganda with UM's Global Grizzlies to work in the Gombe Hospital last summer. During her two week trip, Sophia primarily worked in the Gombe Hospital maternity ward and operating theater observing births and helping nurses.

Global Grizzlies is an ASUM student organization affiliated with the Davidson Honors College. Each year the Global Grizzlies group embarks on an international service learning program that gives students an opportunity to combine their classroom education with real-world experiences. Prior to departure Global Grizzlies are trained in Wilderness medicine skills and educated about the historical, political and social context of the destination country. The program was supported by Global Grizzlies fund raising projects such as their silent auction.

In addition, Sophia received a \$500 GPH Award from the Global Public Health External Advisory Committee to assist her with the cost of the program. As a result of the experience Sophia switched her major

from Human Biology to Sociology.

Sophia will be pursuing her masters in public health with a concentration in International Public Health at University College Dublin after graduating from UM. She plans on getting as much international experience as possible and one day hopes to work for the WHO. UCD has a sister school in Malaysia, which Sophia will explore as an option for her dissertation. Her program is one year long, after which she plans on pursuing a PhD in public health.

The GPH program inspired Sophia to focus on international work and look deeply into some of the ethical issues behind international aid and work. She hopes to gain an international perspective and then apply what she has learned in a domestic context.

Good luck in Ireland Sophie!

To learn more about the Global Grizzlies visit UM's Davidson Honors College Global Grizzlies page at:

<http://www.dhc.umt.edu/opportunities/globalGrizzlies.php>.



Sophia in the Gombe Hospital Maternity Ward

## OPPORTUNITIES

### Scholarships and Awards

The Global Public Health Program has two affiliated scholarships/awards:

- ◊ The Peter H. Koehn & Phyllis B. Ngai Scholarship - criteria revised!
- ◊ The Global Public Health External Advisory Committee Award

**Congratulations to Maddie Covey and Madison Schwarzkoph for receiving the EAC Award this year!**

### Internships

EAC member and Montana State Senator Richard Barrett and the Global Health and Development Club, along with Peter Koehn and Megan Schneider, initiated efforts to identify meaningful internship and volunteer experiences for GPH students. They developed a statement of purpose along with a cover letter. Next steps include compiling a list of prospective organizations that might be interested in sponsoring a GPH intern and following up with personal contacts. GPH minors Meghan Gaul and Samantha Croft have volunteered to help with this effort over the summer.

**GOOD LUCK IN FINALS AND OVER THE SUMMER!**

Peter, Delyla, and Megan

### Global Public Health Minor University of Montana

Director: Dr. Peter Koehn  
peter.koehn@umontana.edu  
(406) 243-5294  
LA 348

Program Coordinator: Delyla Wilson  
Delyla.wilson@mso.umt.edu  
(406)243-6752 | (406) 544-5940  
SS 302



## GPH FACULTY TO BE PUBLISHED ON EBOLA

Dr. Joel Iverson's most recent work is scheduled to be published in the forthcoming Oxford Encyclopedia of Health and Risk Message Design and Processing. The article "Constituting Ebola and Organizations: Exploring the Hermeneutics of Risk and Crisis Communication from a Constitutive Approach" (Joel Iverson, Ph.D, University of Montana; Tomeka Robinson, Ph.D, Hofstra University; Steven Venette, Ph.D, University of Southern Mississippi) explored the impact of perceived risk as well as the crisis of Ebola cases on US health organizations and the theoretical implications it has for risk and crisis communication in organizations. Congrats Joel!

## GLOBAL HEALTH PATHWAY APPROVED

The Honors College recently approved a proposal by GPH core faculty to launch an innovative "Pathway to Global Health" beginning in the 2016/2017 academic year. The Davidson Honors College (DHC) Pathway to Global Health includes seven courses taught by GPH faculty from across the university that introduce students to social, cultural, demographic, policy, science, and ethical dimensions of health and wellbeing in disadvantaged contexts. The Pathway aims to foster a unique learning environment for honors students built around transnational and interdisciplinary studies. The seven courses and instructors are PSCI 227 (Issues in Global Public Health, Koehn), PHAR 391 (Introduction to Public Health Genetics, Putnam), ANTY 349 (Social Change in Non Western Societies, McKay), ANTY 426 (Culture, Health, and Healing, Quintero), PHAR 320 (American Indian Health Issues, Belcourt), SOCI 355 (Population and Society, Sobieszczyk), and PHIL 321 (Philosophy and Biomedical Ethics, Hanson). Students who complete the Pathway will have made substantial progress toward award of the minor in Global Public Health and will be positioned to pursue meaningful opportunities in the growing international health internship and job market. The Global Health Pathway provides an undergraduate manifestation of the University of Montana's new Health and Medicine Initiative. Peter Koehn and DHC Dean Brock Tessman will work out the details surrounding rollout of the Pathway.

Megan Schneider here! I am working with Delyla and Peter as the GPH Program Assistant this semester. I am originally from Portland, Oregon and did my undergraduate degree at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. I graduated from UBC last year with a BS in Global Resource Systems. My degree focused on food system sustainability but covered subjects from urban geography to community based research. After graduating, I returned to the USA and moved to Montana searching for open spaces and outdoor adventure. Before moving to Missoula, I managed a small food production garden for a non-profit in Condon, MT called Swan Valley Connections. SvC integrates conservation and education through field courses for undergraduate students and does other biology and conservation work in the region. During my time there I was able to work with their course curriculum and helped to support students through their learning experience, as well as grow food to feed them!

I currently work for GPH and a restaurant in town. It has been a great experience to work for the GPH program; it is interesting to learn about a different perspective on health than I have been exposed to before!

I will be moving back to Portland this upcoming fall to begin my masters degree in Sustainability Education at Portland State University. I am interested in pursuing a career in community based learning or sustainability programming in higher education. When I'm not working, schooling, practicing yoga, or riding my bike you will find me hanging out with my cat Billy Goat.

Hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter! Please feel free to get in touch!

Megan  
m.schneider.gph@gmail.com

