Welcome Day is on Monday, March 23rd, 2015. Come and meet our prospective students!

Rankin/Skatrud Travel Stipend Award

Congratulations to Jessica Cathey Smith and Shannah Eggers on being awarded the Rankin/Skatrud Research Travel Award for 2015. Their advisors are Marguerite Burns and Kristen Malecki, respectively.

Jessica plans to use the funds to attend the AcademyHealth Annual Research Meeting in Minneapolis this June. She is submitting one of her dissertation chapters, which evaluates the effect of discontinuing Medicaid coverage for a highly abused class of prescription drugs, benzodiazepines, on the rate of inpatient hospital admissions for abuse of narcotic pain medications and benzodiazepines.

Shannah plans to use the award to fund a trip to the SER 2015 meeting in Denver this summer. She submitted an abstract entitled “Urbanicity and bicycle helmet use; Findings from the Survey of the Health of Wisconsin.”

This is the fifteenth year of competition sponsored by the John Rankin Memorial Fund for grants to support conference-related expenses for pre- and post-doctoral students having accepted abstracts for presentation at scholarly conferences.

These stipends are provided in memory of the valuable contributions to mentoring of research trainees provided by John Rankin, M.D. (1923-1981) and James B. Skatrud, M.D. (1947-2006). Dr. Rankin was chairman of the UW Department of Preventive Medicine and Dr. Skatrud was chief of Respiratory Diseases.
March Seminars

**If not otherwise indicated, Monday seminars are in room 1309 HSLC from 12—1 pm and Wednesday seminars are in room 132 WARF from 12—1 pm**

**Monday 3/2:** Lois M. Quinn, PhD, Senior Scientist, Employment and Training Institute, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, “Wisconsin's Mass Incarceration of African American Males: What Can We Learn from Milwaukee and Ferguson?”

**Wednesday 3/4:** Wale Shiyangbola presenting on “Variation in Patterns of Care for Ductal Carcinoma In Situ in the National Cancer Data Base.

**Monday 3/9:** Brad Astor, PhD, MPM, Associate Professor, Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine and Population Health Sciences, UW-Madison.

**Wednesday 3/11:** Student panel coordinated by Professor Nieto, Jessica Gorzelitz, Unnur Gudnadottir, Hilary Joyner, Christine McWilliams, and Amy Schultz on Research Experiences Working on SHOW.

**Monday 3/16:** Merlin Chowkwanyun, PhD, RWJ Health and Society Scholar, Department of Population Health Sciences, UW-Madison.

**Wednesday 3/18:** Paul Creswell will be presenting his dissertation, “Personal Bankruptcy and the Health of Families and Children.”

**Monday 3/23:** Philip M. Farrell Population Health Distinguished Alumni Lecture presented by Molly Carnes, MD, MS, Professor, Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry and Industrial & Systems Engineering, UW-Madison, “Diverse Leadership in Academic Medicine Improves Population Health: How Can it Be Achieved.” *Please note that this seminar will be held in Room 1325 HSLC.*

**Wednesday 3/25:** Sophia Johnson presenting “The Job Talk: Excerpts from a Presentation with Discussion.”

**Monday 3/30 & 4/1:** No Monday or Wednesday Seminar over Spring Break

PhD Students featured on InsideUW and awarded predoctoral funding

Rachel Bergmans and Valerie Stull won an exciting award for their work on food insecurity and sustainability through edible insects called mealworms. They were awarded predoctoral funding through the UW Office of Sustainability’s Climate Quest prize. To earn this award, they competed with over 60 teams nationally with several presentations and grant submissions. To make their work valuable both globally and locally, Rachel and Valerie have travelled to Africa several times. Their advisors are Kristen Malecki and Jonathan Patz, respectively. Rachel and Valerie were recently featured on InsideUW and in UW-Madison NEWS. Congratulations, Rachel and Valerie!

DuGoff named 2015 New Investigator by AcademyHealth

Eva DuGoff recently received a 2015 New Investigator Small Grant Award from AcademyHealth to study Socioeconomic Factors and Pay for Performance Measurement in the Medicare Advantage Program. For more information, click here.

Best of Luck, Quinn!

As you all know, our Assistant Graduate Program Coordinator, Quinn Fullenkamp, will be leaving to accept a position in the office of the Secretary of Faculty in Bascom Hall. Quinn will be greatly missed for his commitment to and knowledge of students, the graduate program and the department. He’s always been willing to help anyone or be of assistance in any way he can. We will also miss his clever sense of humor and ability to make us laugh. No one can make emails as funny and interesting as Quinn. Best wishes, Quinn. We love you!
**Spring Graduation**

Are you planning on graduating this spring? If so, please contact Kathy Rutlin by Friday, March 13th with a filled out *Request to Graduate* form (on the website) and appropriate *Warrant Request* forms, which are available on the PHS website.

![Hat and graduation cap icon]

Gone are the days of having to produce and submit a bound, paper copy of your thesis or dissertation for display in the 7th floor Commons area. We are pleased to report that theses and dissertations can now be submitted to the Graduate Program Office by CD!

At the time of submitting your signed MS or PhD warrant to the Graduate Program Office, you will be required to provide an electronic copy of your work on CD which will then be made accessible online. These documents will be available for anyone to view them at the links below. These links will be posted on our website, in the Academic Guide and in the three-ring binder in room 730.

Questions? Contact Kathy.

https://uwmadison.box.com/PopHealthMSTheses
https://uwmadison.box.com/PopHealthPhDDissertations

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**Summer & Fall Advising**

Advising for the Summer and Fall 2015 semesters will begin **Friday, March 16th** and run until **Monday, April 6th**. Please arrange to meet with your advisor and fill our the necessary forms in order to enroll in courses. The first day of Summer registration will be **Monday, March 23rd**, and the first day of Fall registration will be **Monday, April 6th**.

All forms must be submitted to Kathy Rutlin or 740 WARF by 2:00pm on April 7th. These forms are available on the PHS website under **Current Students > Advising and Resources > Forms** and can be completed electronically.

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**Abstract Deadline**

Just a reminder that the 2015 Welcome Day Poster Session (Monday, March 23rd) is approaching!

The deadline to submit an abstract is **Friday, March 6th**. Please use this link to submit your abstract. Please limit abstracts to 500 words. Everyone is encouraged to participate in this event!

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**Upcoming PHSSO Events**

The next PHSSO meeting will be this **Wednesday, March 4th at 1:15pm** in room 758 after the student seminar. Lunch from Panera will be provided.

The next **PHSSO Happy Hour** will be this **Friday, March 6th at 5:00pm** at Oliver’s Public House (across the street from The Blue Moon).

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**ANEWC published in APHA**

The Assessing the Nutrition Environment of Wisconsin Communities (ANEWC) project has been highlighted in APHA’s *The Nation’s Health* in the March issue. Jennifer Valdivia, Ana Martinez-Donate, Amy Meinen (director of Wisconsin Obesity Prevention Network), and Bev Hall (ANEWC Waupaca Eating Smart community partner) were all interviewed for the article. The article is now available on the APHA website.

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**Human Genetics Journal Club**

After a semester-long hiatus, the Human Genetics Journal Club will be meeting again this semester. We are a group of graduate students, post-docs, academic staff, and faculty from various departments (Population Health Sciences, Biostatistics and Medical Informatics, Genetics, Animals Sciences…) that meet informally to discuss recent papers from the human genetics literature. Our focus is primarily on genetics of complex diseases, and recent developments of high interest in human genetics research. We focus on emerging topics in genetic epidemiology study design or analytic methods, multi-disciplinary approaches to current topics, technological advances in genomics, policy/ethical implications of the research, and more. We always welcome suggestions from participants for interesting topics to discuss.

**The next meeting will take place on March 6 from 3-4 p.m. in room 1205 of Microbial Sciences, with an optional follow-up discussion (and socializing) at The Sett in Union South.** If interested, please send an email to Corinne Engelman (cengelman@wisc.edu) to be added to our email distribution list (used only to send the article prior to our discussion).