



>>Take Note

Dean Petersen Featured in USF AlumNews National Issue

Dean Donna Petersen was featured in the most recent issue of USF AlumNews. President Judy Genshaft announced that Dean Petersen has been appointed as the new Interim Executive Director of USF World and of the Patel Center for Global Solutions. For the complete article please click here: <http://usfalumni.net/s/861/internalsmcolumn.aspx?sid=861&gid=1&pgid=252&id=3784&ecid=3784&crld=0>.

Communication to PERT Certifiers for Spring 2009 (12/20/08-05/06/09) - Certification Deadline is Friday, August 14, 2009

The *SPRING 2009 PERT* effort reports are currently under review and will be released as soon as they have been verified by Research Administration and Compliance. At this time you will need to make sure that you can access GEMS - Self Service without any problems. The instructions for accessing GEMS - Self Service is noted below:

Access to PERT reports

You may access the PERT system and your effort report via:

- Through GEMS/GEMS Self Service:
<https://gems.fastmail.usf.edu/psp/gemspro/?cmd=login>
- You will need your userid (**11 digit emplid**) and password. If you don't remember your ID and password, or if your password has expired, you can get the information by contacting the IT helpdesk <<http://itsupportservices.custhelp.com>> or send request to helpdesk@admin.usf.edu or by contacting Betty Persky.
- *Please remember it could take up to 24 hours to have your password reset and obtain access to your PERT report. If you are having problems accessing GEMS, please contact Betty Persky at 974-4609.*

Thank you for all of your assistance on this very important compliance request.

>>Students continued...

NEW! COPH Students are encouraged to participate in the second annual **Graduate Student Research Symposium** see online application at <http://www.grad.usf.edu/programs/research-week-present.php> and website at http://www.grad.usf.edu/research_symposium.asp.

Key Dates:

Application Deadline:Friday, August 28, 2009
Compliance Form Deadline:..... Friday, September 11, 2009
Event Date:..... Thursday, October 8, 2009
Awards Ceremony Date:..... Friday, October 9, 2009

Student Service Opportunities:

The USF Health Service Corps

(see <http://www.hsc.usf.edu/ahec/servicecorps.html>) enables COPH Students to engage in a wide variety of meaningful and FUN health-related service activities with other USF Health students. The summer listing of service events and projects is now 'live' at [Service Corps Events and Projects](#) page and students may also check out the calendar format at [USF Health Service Corps Calendar](#). Students are always welcome to send questions or suggestions pertaining to student service to Ellen Kent, MPH, Coordinator for the USF Health Service Corps at ekent@health.usf.edu or stop by room 2150H anytime.

And, here is a fantastic service event that COPH students may wish to participate in!

Saturday, August 15th, 10 am - 2 pm. Back to School Health Fair at Beth Shields Middle School in Ruskin.

Information for student volunteers: *Non clinical activities:* Up to 4 COPH or other graduate students can assist with health education exhibits regarding prevention of the flu, fitness, nutrition and safety; please sign up with Ellen Kent, MPH, at ekent@health.usf.edu.

>>Students



Student Research and Funding Opportunities:

COPH students are encouraged to check out the comprehensive web site of student research at <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/fundingopps.html> which provides links to COPH student funding opportunities at the COPH, USF, as well as external private foundations and federal funding agencies. This comprehensive web site also includes Glossaries of Grant Terms and Free Web-based Guides to Writing Grant Proposals. In addition, students may wish to visit the COPH Student Research & Service Resource Center adjacent to Mrs. Kent's office (room 2150H). The next deadline for [Student Honorary Award for Research and Practice "SHARP"](#) applications is Tuesday, September 8, 6 pm (since the first Monday of the month falls on Labor Day); see also <http://health.usf.edu/publichealth/officeresearch/sharp.html>. Please note: We advise each student to submit his/her SHARP application 8 weeks prior to the conference during which he/she will be presenting their research, to ensure that there is sufficient time for (a) the application to be reviewed and (b) for the student to work with their departmental administrator to ensure that their TAR form is entered into the university system. Feel free to contact Ellen Kent, MPH, Coordinator, Student Research Grants at any time at ekent@health.usf.edu or in room 2150H for advice or further assistance!

>>Alumni News

Manoj Agravat (EPB) was recently hired as the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Coordinator with the Pinellas County Health Department.

>>Global Scene

Dr. Wayne Westhoff's student, Linell Fromm, is spending four months in Sri Lanka working as a contractor with the Asian Development Bank. Dr. Westhoff receives frequent posts from Linell describing her life in the real world of international work. We believe her perceptions are instructive for those interested in international work, so are publishing selected stories this summer and fall. Dr. Westhoff will make her writings available in his course, Global Health Applications in the Field.

Communication Anecdotes:

May 17th The civil war is over and there is dancing in the streets. Flags are everywhere. Television commercials praise the soldiers. Fervent plans are expressed to help the internally displaced people. The Sri Lankan president is being universally praised for his cleverness. After the celebrations, the heavy lifting will begin. My supervisor agreed in principle today to my plan for attacking my library development scope of work. We had a good laugh. We don't use terms around here such as "plan of attack", or "within shooting distance of our goal" for obvious reasons.



Sri Lanka off southern tip of India



>>Global Scene continued...

May 20th I spent the day in my un-air conditioned office swatting mosquitoes, and developed a mammoth headache, probably as a result of the nonstop explosions of firecrackers and the blaring television in the building's breezeway where the Institute of Education staff stood transfixed watching the Sri Lankan president addressing Parliament. It was also not a good day to be a foreigner. Barack Obama had not called the president of Sri Lanka to congratulate him, and hard feelings were evident.

Some miscommunications are amusing while others are absurd. On Saturday I had a long but gratifying trip to the ancient city of Kandy in the interior of Sri Lanka. Sunnil, my driver, was pointing out sites of interest along the way. In the late afternoon on the road back to Colombo, Sunnil said urgently, "What do you call '*birds flying at night?*'" He was asking in earnest and I thought he had completely lost his mind. I asked him to repeat the question, not sure I actually heard him say, "*birds flying at night.*" But yup, that's what he said, even with more urgency, and I had no idea what he was talking about. Two seconds later we passed a forest completely covered with huge bats hanging off every branch of every tree! "Ah", I said, "no wonder you were asking about *birds flying at night.* Bats! We call them bats, and yes those trees have more bats than I've ever seen in my life."

Two days earlier, the cleaning lady was in my apartment. In her first week cleaning for me, I left clean sheets on the bed for her to change. I did the same the second week, except this time, I hadn't made the bed, just left it a crumpled mess with the clean sheets on top of the bed. She made the bed with the old sheets and then ironed the clean sheets and returned them to the top of the bed. One miscommunication was sublime, the other absurd.

Deepti Shukla, MPH Class of 2006 (I²IT program) and her husband and baby have moved from India to Perth, Western Australia as permanent migrants. Deepti writes: "We have been in Australia for 1.5 months and we are almost settled in our jobs and home. I feel graduating from USF and I²IT transformed my professional and personal life. You must be aware that I found my husband at I²IT. And, the MPH degree with all the IT toppings gave my career a boost in which I am excelling. I worked for Ipas (ed. note: an organization that works to advance women's reproductive rights) until January 2008. In June 2009, we moved to Australia. Presently I am working as a consultant in the Australian Institute of Holistic Medicine. I am helping them with their databases, proposal writing, and quality control. It's not core public health domain but I am using all the skills I have gained. And, I am enjoying my work. I had hardly worked 5 days as a volunteer before I was hired by the Institute. I work part time in their office and a lot of time from home, as I take care of the baby, as well. So that's my story. I am glad I did the MPH with all the IT toppings. I can't explain in words how far I have come in my IT knowledge. I just love it. I am thankful to all of you at USF and I²IT for the support and guidance. You guys are gems."

Cheers!!!

Thanks and Regards

Deepti

We would like to know about any international initiatives you may be working on! Please send information and photographs for the [Global Scene](#) to Barbara Kennedy (bkennedy@health.usf.edu)

Important Dates

Tuesday, August 18, 2009 - 8-5 - College of Public Health Annual Cleaning Day

Fall 2009 Field Experience Orientation:
Wednesday, August 19, 2009, COPH 2004
9:30 am Domestic
11:00 am International

Friday, August 21, 2009 - 8:30 am, COPH 1023- Fall 2009 COPH Student Orientation

Monday, August 24, 2009 - First Day of Classes - Fall 2009

Thursday, August 27, 2009 10:30 am, COPH 1023 - Town Hall Meeting with Representative Kathy Castor