

thebulletin

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI NEWS



Alumni Profile p2 / Student Profile p2
Faculty Profile p3 / Calendar of Events p3
Class Notes back cover

points of **Pride**

- We were the first accredited College of Public Health in Florida.
- We have graduated over 2,000 masters' students.
- We offer the only Doctor of Physical Therapy/Masters of Public Health (DPT/MPH) in the country and a brand new dual JD/MPH with Stetson University School of Law.
- Our undergraduate minor in Public Health is growing.

USF Health is a partnership of the University of South Florida's colleges of medicine, nursing, and public health; the schools of basic biomedical sciences and physical therapy & rehabilitation sciences; and the USF Physicians Group. It is a partnership dedicated to the promise of creating a new model of health and health care. One of the nation's top 63 public research universities as designated by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, USF received more than \$310 million in research contracts and grants last year. It is ranked by the National Science Foundation as one of the nation's fastest growing universities for federal research and development expenditures.



from the **Dean**

In this issue we introduce you to some of the great work going on in environmental health, at the College and by our graduates.

Donna J. Petersen, MHS, ScD
DEAN, COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH



We know how vital the health of the environment is to the health of people and how fragile that relationship can be.

Through discovery, learning and outreach we continue our commitment to advance and apply knowledge to protect people from negative environmental exposures while also promoting the health of the environment itself. In conjunction with colleagues across campus and at the new Patel Center for Global Solutions, we are addressing a variety of water issues in our quest to assure sustainable healthy communities around the world. To learn more, or to share your own stories, please visit our alumni website. If you aren't already signed up, you can register easily at <http://publichealth.usfhealthalumni.net/>

We look forward to hearing from you!

Public health... it's your health.

Communicating Health Codes

When Gregg Rottler, RS, MPH, Environmental Supervisor with the Hillsborough County Health Department, Environmental Health Services division, got into the field of environmental health, he was motivated by a desire to make things better for the public.



Gregg Rottler, RS, MPH

Today, armed with a Masters in Public Health from USF's COPH, Rottler is even better equipped to communicate the ins-and-outs of environmental health codes to affected populations.

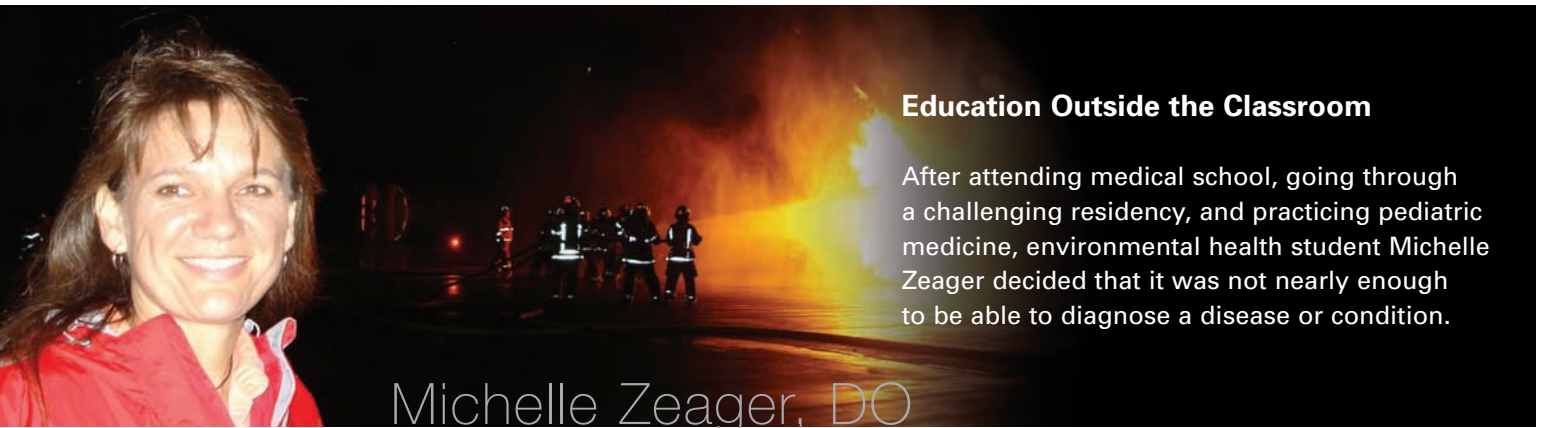
"The main goal of environmental health is to promote and protect the public's health" said Rottler. "My degree from the USF COPH has been invaluable in communicating the 'why' to the affected public. Instead of merely citing the health codes, I am now able to explain the scientific reasoning behind why the health codes are in effect."

Whether communicating through the media, online mediums, community or one-on-one meetings, the desire to protect the public's health is the driving force behind Gregg Rottler's work.

Partnerships with other agencies and organizations are key to fulfilling the goals of public health. "I was fortunate to have Dr. Boo Kwa, professor and chair of the Department of Global Health, as my advisor throughout my study at the COPH. He was immensely supportive

and always found time in his busy schedule to meet with me. We even coauthored an article on farm worker health, and collaborated on an educational program, 'The Adventures of Super-Limpio,' to educate farm workers on the importance of good hygiene in preventing enteric infections." Such collaborations are paramount to improving environmental health for the public. We are grateful for the work of Gregg Rottler and proud to have him represent us as an alum.

focus on **Students**



Education Outside the Classroom

After attending medical school, going through a challenging residency, and practicing pediatric medicine, environmental health student Michelle Zeager decided that it was not nearly enough to be able to diagnose a disease or condition.

Michelle Zeager, DO

In pursuit of an additional degree from the USF College of Public Health, Zeager left her medical practice to learn more about prevention and the underlying causes of the conditions she diagnosed.

This past summer, Zeager's field experience brought her face to face with mosquito control, immigration and border issues, outdoor air quality, waste water treatment and more! She embarked on these activities through the South Texas Environmental Education and Research (STEER) program. Located near the border of Mexico in Laredo, Texas, the STEER program consists of classroom sessions and related field work

that provide practical education and experience in the field of environmental health. Addressing many environmental health issues, STEER combines "the natural, manmade, and social aspects of environmental health," according to Zeager.

The STEER program allowed Zeager to apply many of the concepts learned at the USF COPH. "My coursework along with my involvement with STEER has taught me much about the subject of prevention that I had never learned while attending medical school." She states that, "as a student of environmental public

health, this program made the issues discussed in every class tangible."

Armed with a quality education from the COPH, Michelle Zeager desires to pursue a career in pediatric environmental health. "My main goal is to help children by educating parents and working with the environment to help prevent conditions in children and to help them lead healthier lives," states Zeager. Thanks to opportunities like the STEER program, health education has been able to move beyond the classroom, shaping views on environmental health and creating a holistic understanding of public health as a whole.

Engineering an Environment for Health

One USF College of Public Health professor is using her background in engineering to transform public health.

Amy Stuart, PhD

"I was good at math and chemistry in high school, so I began my studies in chemical engineering. However, I was always interested in environmental applications and the people part of the equation, which was often not directly addressed in my technical studies. As I moved forward in my career, I began searching for ways to directly incorporate these aspects into my work," says Dr. Amy Stuart, professor in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. This search drove her current focus on air quality and sustainability issues.

One way that Stuart has addressed the "people part" of environmental health has been to study the underlying causes of environmental health problems and then to develop ways of educating people about them. "The environment has such a large

impact on each of our lives and the life of the community. As an environmental scientist, I can make a contribution to understanding how our environment affects us so that individuals and the community can make choices that are healthier." The motivation to create a healthy and aware community is central to Stuart's work, and it is readily apparent when looking at her current projects.

One such project was made possible by a USF-funded grant under the "Sustainable Healthy Communities" initiative. It is an interdisciplinary study comparing mercury issues in Tampa and Guyana. This study focuses on the three aspects of sustainability – environmental, economic, and socio-cultural – to find out who is benefiting and who is suffering from mercury contamination. Another project focuses

on the social equity of air pollution. In this project, Stuart and her students are comparing indicators of air quality in Tampa with population demographics.

Stuart also co-leads the Environmental Research Interdisciplinary Colloquium (ERIC) series. This multi-college collaborative series brings together USF researchers and students from across the campus who are involved or interested in environmental questions. The seminar also regularly hosts local to national speakers in order to provide broader perspectives on environment research. "Environmental studies span many academic disciplines. It is important for our students to be aware of the breadth of knowledge and activities involved." More information on the ERIC series can be found at <http://netcast.usf.edu/eric>.

calendar of Events

save the date Monday, November 5, 2007

USF COPH RECEPTION
at the American Public Health
Association's Annual Meeting

When: Monday, November 5, 2007 • 6:30-8pm

Where: Grand Hyatt • Lafayette Park Room, Washington, D.C.

For additional information, contact npreston@health.usf.edu.

staying Connected

At the College of Public Health we are making a concerted effort to reconnect our alumni to the college. We have established an alumni web community for you to reconnect with your classmates, sign up for events and keep up with the college.

Please visit www.usfhealthalumni.net to stay connected with us.

Pictured at right: Chodaessie Wellesley-Cole Morgan, PhD, '05, and Lynette J. Menezes, PhD, '03 attended the reception for local alumni held at the COPH on August 14th. Sign up on the alumni website so you can receive emails about upcoming alumni events.



class Notes

- **Atif Siddiqi, MPH, '99**, is a Solution Architect specializing in data warehousing for Cerner Healthcare Information Technology Systems.
- **Walter Carfora, JD, MPH, '00**, is a Board Certified Health Lawyer and Certified Circuit Court Mediator Attorney at Law practicing Health Law.
- **Barbara Uzenoff, RN, MPH, '90**, is the manager for the Hillsborough County Trauma Agency.
- **Chodaessie Wellesley-Cole Morgan, PhD, '05**, is the director for the Office of Minority Health at the Pinellas County Health Department.
- **Mark Hunt, MPH, '90**, is the President and CEO of MedVentures Ancillary Services.
- **Lynette J. Menezes, PhD, '03**, is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and the Director of International Programs in the Division of Infectious Disease & International Medicine at the University of South Florida, College of Medicine.
- **Gregory Danyluk, PhD, MPH, '07** is the Epidemiology Manager for the Seminole County Health Department.
- **Deidre Orriola, MPH, '06**, is a Health Educator at USF Student Health Services.
- **Peter Gamache, RN, MBA, MLA, MPH, '06**, is a PhD student and research faculty at the Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute at the University of South Florida in the Department of Child and Family Studies.
- **Nicole Kleiman, MPH, '06**, is the Quality Outcome Coordinator at St. Joseph's Hospital.

For more class notes, visit <http://publichealth.usfhealthalumni.net>

thebulletin



USF Health Development & Alumni Affairs
12901 Bruce B. Downs Boulevard, MDC 70
Tampa, Florida 33612

PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA
Judy Genshaft, PhD

VICE PRESIDENT
USF HEALTH
DEAN, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Stephen K. Klasko, MD, MBA

PRODUCED BY:
USF Health
Development & Alumni Affairs
University of South Florida

EDITORS:
Leanna Baylis and
Bethany Rushing

PHOTOGRAPHY BY:
USF Health and Joseph Gamble

DESIGN BY:
G Squared Design Solutions, Inc.

First-Class Mail
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tampa, FL
Permit No. 516