

Dean's Bulletin Board

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Photo Source: Mitchel Rosen

Unique Tour Gives Students Insight to Workplace Dangers throughout History

Students and faculty from six colleges and universities including UMDNJ, pictured above, travelled through 150 years of history and covered more than 1,100 miles by bus to explore the hazards faced by workers in industries that fueled America's industrial dominance during the 20th century.

Beginning 300 feet below the earth's surface and ending at what has been called "one of the most appalling environmental tragedies in American history," the 4th annual Historical Per-

spectives Tour began June 7 in Scranton, PA, and ended on June 11 at Love Canal in Niagara Falls, NY.

Sponsored by the New York/New Jersey Education and Research Center, the tour explored sites - including a coal mine, steel plant, chemical factory, auto manufacturing plant and Love Canal - that are historically significant to environmental and occupational health and safety.

"The tour is unique in that it brings together students from different disciplines - including nursing, medicine, occupational safety and industrial hygiene and ergonomics - to work together to examine issues from different perspectives," said Mitchel Rosen, director of the Office of Public Health Practice at the

(Tour continued on page 4)

SPH Student Is Summer 2009 Cook/Rutledge Fellow

Courtney A. Price (photo, 4th from right), currently an MPH student in Dental Public Health and one of two recipients of the Summer 2009 Cook/Rutledge Fellowship, worked this summer at the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) in its Office of Minority and Multicultural Health (OMMH) as a Cook/Rutledge Fellow.

Ms. Price was instrumental in developing a tool kit resource for NJ School Counselors entitled "Career Explorations: Exposing Diverse Students to

(Fellow continued on page 4)



Photo Source: Courtney Price

Several interns are pictured at a brown bag luncheon with NJDHSS Commissioner Heather Howard (photo, 5th from right).

OUR MISSION: "The UMDNJ-School of Public Health is a statewide, multi-institutional, multi-campus scholarly community dedicated to improving the health of diverse populations in New Jersey and elsewhere through collaborative teaching, research, and service."



Health Disparities in Camden Captured in Photo Exhibit by Whitman Park Youths

Photo Source: Whitman Park Youths



It is a good photo because it lets you know what happens when you do the wrong thing. My uncle got killed for nothing. This is a memorial to him. This is where he got shot and killed.

-- Sevin, Age 11

The digital cameras gave each child a voice. For some children who live in Whitman Park, it was the first opportunity they had to share their stories from a neighborhood where more than a third of Camden's murders occur.

In one photo, an 11-year-old posed in front of a makeshift memorial for his deceased uncle. Graffiti art and more than a dozen empty glass bottles of alcohol surround him. "It is a good photo because it lets you know what happens when you do the wrong thing," he wrote.

In another picture, a seven-year-old captured the garden he proudly tends to. "These are our plants," he wrote. "We put water in it [the garden] to feed them." The plants are seen growing in front of an abandoned house with boarded windows.

On Aug. 6, these and other children's stories came alive in the debut of the "Whitman Park Youth PhotoVoice Community Photo Exhibition" at UMDNJ. The event was held in the ground floor atrium of the University Educational Center at the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, 40 East Laurel Road in Stratford.

For seven weeks during June and July,

UMDNJ students worked with 30 children, ages six to 17, on PhotoVoice. Its theme - "If Not US, then WHO? If not NOW, then WHEN?" - speaks to the project's goal: to empower the children of Whitman Park, giving them a voice to, based upon their daily experiences, identify public health issues that stretch beyond the traditionally identified hospitals, clinics, and prescriptions.

The project is intended to be an innovative advocacy strategy that addresses the health disparities precipitated by social barriers and environmental injustices that confront Whitman Park. Project participants were assigned photo missions, to document various aspects of their lives. Approximately 30 photos were displayed at the University Educational Center.

Sarah Nezworski, a student in the Master of Public Health/Master of Science in Physician Assistant dual degree program through UMDNJ's School of Public Health and School of Health Related Professions, coordinated this project. She partnered with Hope Community Outreach Services Inc., a non-profit outgrowth of the community ministries of New Light Holiness Church of God, led by Pastor Odessa Edmond. Hope Community Outreach Services operates Hope Community Outreach

Center (HCOC - <http://hopecoc.org>) in the heart of Whitman Park, providing programs that give neighborhood youths positive alternatives to the lure of fast money and an illicit lifestyle.

Nezworski, David Pierre of the UMDNJ-Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, and Olumuyiwa Akerele of the UMDNJ-School of Osteopathic Medicine, volunteered at the HCOC's summer camp as interns through Bridging the Gaps. Each summer, UMDNJ students are placed in community agencies where they work on service projects of benefit to the Camden community. This is the third year that UMDNJ has participated as an affiliate of the Bridging the Gaps Network, a consortium of universities that encourages service learning.

"It has been interesting to see that the stories I expected are not the same stories they see," Nezworski said. "Kids are kids no matter where they come from."

But study these photographs closely. Look beyond the people and the objects in focus, and you see the stories you would expect an advocacy project to show, Nezworski added.

The needs of Whitman Park, a neighborhood in socio-economic decline, are evident. Older housing stock, a high housing vacancy rate, and lack of routine maintenance and investment in public and private properties have made this section of Camden an incubator for crime and poor quality of life for its residents, according to Nezworski. Substance abuse and drug trafficking also are rife in this neighborhood.

"This was an opportunity for these children to show and share their stories," Nezworski said, "and to get them to identify and think forward about the health-related issues most relevant to them." As demonstrated by their photos, the maintenance and cleanliness of neighborhood streets, sidewalks, homes and schools; educational options; the availability of safe recreation space outdoors; the availability of fresh, healthy meal options; and the presence of drugs, alcohol, and violence are among the children's concerns.

The project was funded primarily with a Community Based Project Program grant from the Physician Assistant Foundation. Nezworski also received funding from the New Jersey Physician Assistant Foundation, Knights of Columbus Council 5959, and other private donations.

Additional photos are on page 3. 



SPH Hosts Successful Vaccine Preventable Disease Conference



Photo Source: Dr. Marcia Sass

On Monday, July 13, 2009, the New Jersey Center for Public Health Preparedness at UMDNJ-School of Public Health tackled the controversies swirling around vaccines and recent state regulations requiring additional immunizations for pre-school and school-age children and youth, with an innovative day-long conference hosted simultaneously at Monmouth University, Montclair State University and Cumberland County College.

There were approximately 350 conference attendees across the three locations. Susan Walsh, MD, deputy commissioner, New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS), delivered the welcoming remarks. Vaccine Safety Specialist Daniel N. Salmon, PhD, MPH, US Department of Health and Human Ser-

vices, presented the opening keynote address entitled "Vaccine Acceptance, Refusal, and Public Health Implications." His presentation described vaccine safety systems and how they work at the federal level.

Other speakers included Janice Flood Nichols (photo above, left), author and polio survivor; Peter Wenger, MD, (photo above, right, televised on screen) associate professor, UMDNJ-NJ Medical School and UMDNJ-School of Public Health; Margaret C. Fisher, MD, medical director, The Children's Hospital at Monmouth Medical Center; SPH alumna Erica J. Sison, MPH, public health advisor, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; and SPH alumna Barbara Montana, MD, MPH, medical director, Vaccine Preventable Disease Program, NJDHSS.

All speakers were very well received with participants stating they were "top of their class". Ms. Flood Nichols received a standing ovation at the Monmouth University site for sharing her personal story of the loss of her twin brother to polio. Other topic areas included immunization requirements, current outbreaks of preventable diseases, and strategies to increase compliance and to address public concerns about immunizations.

More information, including a complete conference agenda is available at <http://sph.umdj.edu/news/news.cfm?newsID=300> or by contacting Juana Canela at canelaju@umdj.edu or by phone at (732) 235-4958.

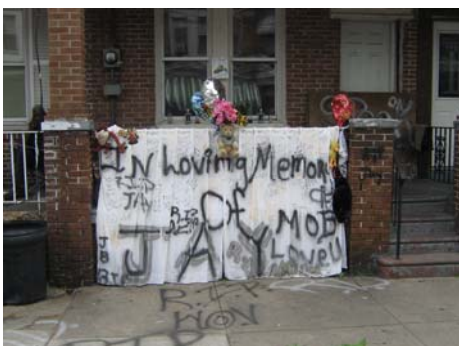


Photo Source: Whitman Park Youths

A 28 year-old man was shot multiple times while standing outside the 1200 block of Morton Street, Camden, on the evening of June 18th, 2009. This incident occurred only 12 houses down from Hope Outreach Community Center, located on 1299 Morton Street, just days before the Whitman Park Youth PhotoVoice Program began.

These photos are of the memorials, made and signed by friends and neighbors of the victim, that remain today on either side of Morton Street. They were taken as part of a neighborhood scavenger hunt, along with photos of the children and the Camden City Police Officer.

Awards - Research - Faculty News

Congratulations to the following individuals for their special achievements. If you have additional good news, please contact Wayne Dietterick at dietteawa@umdnj.edu by the 15th of the month. **SPH faculty members' names appear in bold print.** Footnotes indicate SPH adjunct faculty members, SPH faculty members who hold primary faculty appointments at collaborating institutions, and SPH students, staff and alumni/ae. Note: Any reference below to "doi:" (Digital Object Identifier System) is used for identifying content objects and where to find them on the Internet.

APPOINTMENTS/PROMOTIONS

Elisa Bandera¹, MD, PhD, associate professor, Epidemiology.

Cristine Delnevo², PhD, MPH '93, associate professor, Health Education and Behavioral Science, awarded tenure, July 2009.

Stephan Schwander, MD, PhD, associate professor, Environmental and Occupational Health.

AWARDS

Diane R. Brown, PhD, was recently recognized by the Eastern Division of the American Cancer Society for her six years of service on its Board of Directors.

Adam Finkel³, PhD, was one of the top five individuals nominated in the "Ethics" category who were elected to the World Technology Network (WTN) for 2009. The winner and short-listed finalists for each of the 20 categories, comprised of the top five individuals or corporations who received the most votes by the WTN judges (individual WTN members), were announced from the stage by Ali Velshi, CNN's Chief Business Correspondent, and James P. Clark, Founder/Chairman of the World Technology Network. The Winners and Finalists were, in the process, inducted as new individual Fellows or as new Corporate Members into the membership of the WTN, which now comprises around 1,000 members from over 60 countries around

the world.

The 2009 World Technology Awards gala ceremony took place on the evening of Thursday, July 16, at the culmination of the two day World Technology Summit, July 15 & 16, 2009 at the TIME Conference Center in New York City.

GRANTS

Dr. Audrey R. Gotsch, DrPH, CHES, received a total of \$2,650.00 from the Foundation of UMDNJ in support of the Emily & Leon Goldstein Endowed Fellowship in Public Health, providing scholastic award funds for outstanding achievement by MPH students.

Lois Grau, PhD, received \$3,300 from the Foundation of UMDNJ in support of the School of Public Health "Dominican Republic Outreach Project."

PUBLICATIONS

Djuric Z, Mirasolo J, Kimbrough L, **Brown DR**, Heilbrun LK, Canar L, Venkatramamoorthy R, Simon MS. A Pilot Trial of Spirituality Counseling for Weight Loss Maintenance in African American Breast Cancer Survivors. *J Natl Med Assoc* 2009;101(6):552-64.

PRESENTATIONS

Jonathan Foulds, PhD, MAppSci, MA, was the invited opening plenary presentation speaker at the 2009 UK National Smoking Cessation Conference, London, June 22-23, 2009.

Attendees numbered 850, making it the largest gathering ever of smoking cessation specialists in the world. Information on the event and Dr. Foulds, including an audio copy of his speech and a copy of his PowerPoint presentation are available at http://www.uknsc.org/2009_UKNSCC/speakers/Jonathan_foulds.html.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE...

Leah Z. Ziskin³, MD, MS, participated in the Memorial Ceremony Honoring the Life and Service of Parvin Saidi, MD, speaking of the contributions made by Dr Saidi to the NJ State Hemophilia Program. Dr. Saidi passed away on April 22. The ceremony was held at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, New Brunswick, NJ, June, 15, 2009. Dr. Saidi (Farmanfarmaian), one of the first female graduates of Harvard Medical School, was director of the New Jersey Regional Hemophilia Program since 1976 and was a professor of medicine at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Additional information can be found in the Spring 2009 issue of *ATHNreport*, the newsletter of the American Thrombosis & Hemostasis Network, at <http://www.athn.org/spring2009>.

¹ UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School

² Alumna

³ Adjunct Faculty



New York and New Jersey Education and Research Center

A Partnership of:
Mount Sinai School of Medicine
Hunter College School of Health Sciences
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University
UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School
UMDNJ-School of Public Health

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UMDNJ-School of Public Health. "Whether the issue is worker safety in a coal mine or the design of clothing and equipment for use in a chemical plant, the students have to consider not only protection, but functionality and whether or not long-term use could lead to injuries." Rosen is

(Fellow continued from page 1)

the chief organizer of the annual Historical Perspectives Tour.


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This year's June tour included stops at the following locations:

- June 7: Lackawanna Coal Mine, Scranton, PA
- June 8: Rivers of Steel (Homestead Steel) and the NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) Personal Protective Equipment Lab, Pittsburgh, PA
- June 9: Ford River Rouge Plant, Dearborn, MI
- June 10: Brush Wellman Beryllium, Toledo, OH
- June 11: Love Canal, Niagara Falls, NY

The 25 students and nine faculty members that participated in the Historical Perspectives Tour are from the UMDNJ-School of Public Health, Hunter College, New York University, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New Jersey Institute of Technology and the University of Cincinnati.

The New York/New Jersey Education and Research Center is one of 17 such centers supported by NIOSH and is the only one that includes five different schools within the same center. Visit the Centers' website at <http://nynj-phtc.org/>.



UMDNJ
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Dean's Bulletin Board
Editorial/Layout/Production
Wayne H. Dietterick, Marketing/Communications
Office of the Dean
Email: dietteawa@umdnj.edu
Jerry Carey, University News Service
Email: careyge@umdnj.edu

Oral Health Professions" that will be piloted in several New Jersey High Schools.

The NJDHSS-OMMH Cook/Rutledge Fellowship is open to graduate students who are NJ residents currently enrolled in an in-state or out-of-state college or university in a graduate medical sciences, law or public health program.

The Fellowship is intended solely for students with demonstrated interest and experience focusing on minority health issues or initiatives to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in health. Each Fellowship provides a stipend of \$6,000, and Fellows are expected to complete a full-time supervised ten to twelve week project at the NJDHSS in Trenton.