



The Harbinger

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to Spring 2007! This is going to be an exciting and important year in the history of our department and our university.

January 2007 marks the beginning of a year-long celebration of the founding of San José State University 150 years ago. SJSU began as Minn 's Normal School – a place where young women learned to be teachers. We are the oldest public university west of the Mississippi. The Health Science Department began in the 1960s – a blend of programs in school health education and home economics, with the word “science” thrown in to make it sound more serious! We’ve come a long way!!! And we have much to be proud of and much to be grateful for.

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Our 2006-07 Program Directors



Dr. Edward Mamary **MPH Program Director**

Happy New Year! On behalf of the MPH core faculty, welcome back from your winter break. I hope everyone is rested and ready for a very busy semester. The MPH Program has much to accomplish this semester. In December, we submitted our preliminary self-study report for our CEPH accreditation. The accreditation self-study is an ongoing cyclical process that allows for planning, reflecting, and improving the MPH program.

The report will be available for your review early in the semester – please take time to read through it and provide us with your comments. You will also have an opportunity to provide comments to CEPH until 30 days before the site visit which is scheduled for May 14th and 15th. If you wish, you may send your written comments to the Council on Education for Public Health, 800 Eye Street, NW, Suite 202, Washington, DC 20001-3710.

Over the break, I had the pleasure of representing the Health Science Department at the San Jose Statue University's *Achieving Greater Expectations Institute*. The Institute was designed to provide an active and collaborative learning opportunity for ten teams of approximately 100 faculty, administrators, staff, and student members engaged in campus planning related to student engagement, inclusion, and achievement. An aim of this initiative is to enhance student learning and developing a sense of belonging to SJSU, thereby promoting student success. [See page 3](#)

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Dr. Daniel Perales
MPH Distance Program Director

The MPH Distance Education Program began accepting applications on October 1, 2006 for its first class that will enter in fall 2007. During January and February, Dr. Perales and MPH alumnus Valodi Foster will host MPH Distance Program information meetings in Modesto, Salinas, Sacramento, and Chico. Application deadline is April 15, 2007. Dr. Perales will be traveling to Emory University in Atlanta in February to visit colleagues and discuss their MPH distance education program and learn how to apply their experience to the SJSU program.



Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda,
Gerontology Program Director
Interim Co-Directors, HS Undergraduate Program

Welcome HS and Gerontology Students to the Spring 2007 Semester! Happy New Year!

I hope all of you had a safe and sane break and are ready to hit the books again.

This semester promises to be very exciting with many important events scheduled. I urge you to take advantage of all the lectures, celebrations, and activities that have been

planned at the department, college, and university levels.

Gerontology News: There is an end in sight. Yvonne Shiveley was one of 16 December graduates who completed her HS degree with a Minor in Gerontology. Additionally, four post-baccalaureate students recently completed their Certificate in Applied Social Gerontology: Jee Kajihara, Wendy King, Diane Lewis, and Libby Tait. Congratulations to all of you! Mark your calendars for April 9-13 when we will observe Careers in Aging Week.

Enjoy the new term.

Message from Chair of MPH-SA *By: Marianne S. Szeto*

Happy New Year! On behalf of the MPH-SA, I would like to welcome you all back to a new and exciting spring semester. I hope that everyone enjoyed the well-deserved winter break with family and friends and that you are all feeling refreshed, rejuvenated, and eager to learn!

The new year is not only a time to reflect on our personal and professional goals, but also to make plans on how to achieve those goals. One goal that I hope we all share is to seize the many opportunities that the MPH program offers. This semester, we look forward to our second global health week, our ninth annual Sexual Diversity Workshop, the graduation of 23 MPH students, and many other exciting events. Our faculty, classmates, community members, and public health leaders work hard to bring these events to life. It is important to support their efforts with our attendance and participation. I urge each of you to get involved, make connections, and most importantly, have fun!

Good luck with the new semester!



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Our team, representing the College of Applied Sciences and Arts (CASA), had the task of refining our plans to achieve our Vision & Goals 2010 - strategies, actions, and measures that CASA needs to conduct in order to foster student success. Our team developed the following strategies for achieving inclusive excellence through a focus on **communication** and **diversity**: Using the theme "Our CASA is Your CASA," we will:

1. Sponsor CASA Day: Involve all departments and schools in a set of activities to present a multidisciplinary approach focusing on and celebrating diversity. Student organizations will be actively involved in planning and implementing these events and activities.
2. Design a strategy for developing a shared college diversity statement to expand on the CASA college vision and mission.
3. Explore innovative practices for involving students in governance. Check the MPH listserv for CASA Day event announcements!

An outcome of the *Achieving Greater Expectations Institute* initiative is CASA's co-sponsorship of our 9th Annual Sexual Diversity Workshop. The MPH-SA Sexual Diversity Committee will still take the lead, but will coordinate the event with CASA. Co-sponsorship with CASA has allowed us to bring nationally renowned speaker Cheryl Jacques to SJSU as our guest speaker for the event, which will be held on Monday, April 9th. As stated on her website, she is a national leader in the gay civil rights movement and was the first openly gay State Senator in Massachusetts history. She is the former President of the Human Rights Campaign and successfully spearheaded the defeat of the Federal Marriage Amendment. She appears frequently as a commentator on such shows as the CBS Evening News, NBC Nightly News, ABC's World News Tonight, The O'Reilly Factor, CrossFire, ABC's Good Morning America, Nightline, Fox News, CNN, NPR and many other television and radio broadcasts. Those who heard her speak at the SOPHE Annual Conference in Boston last fall know what a dynamic and thought provoking speaker she is. I would like to thank the CASA team, led by Dean Inger Sagatun-Edward, for supporting this event and Frank Strona, your MPH-SA co-chair, for endorsing Cheryl Jacques as the speaker for the Sexual Diversity Workshop.

Other events to look forward to include Global Health Week the first week in April and our MPH Master Class in May with Dr. Patricia Mail who is the past-president of the American Public Health Association.

This semester is also a time to be thinking about your involvement in the MPH Student Association. I want to thank all the student leaders for their dedicated service to the MPH Program. With many students graduating in May, new leadership positions will be available. There is room for everyone to participate in the MPH-SA leadership. Please contact either Frank Strona or Marianne Szeto, your dedicated MPH-SA co-chairs, to volunteer. Remember, nothing *FUN* or *EXCITING* happens unless a student leader makes it happen! I am looking forward to seeing all of you as the semester begins.

Edward Mamary, DrPH
MPH Program Director

Continued from Page 1 (Dr. Roe) The visionary individuals who founded our department saw a horizon far beyond what was evident to others at the time. Dr. Richard Bonvecchio, Department Chair in the late 1970s, was among the first to realize the potential of the new opportunity to develop accredited MPH programs in community health education outside of schools of public health. Against all odds, he gambled that SJSU could do it – and indeed, despite significant resistance from “The School” in the area and concern within the university about the resources it would require, he founded the program that we cherish today. He recruited Dr. Sam Radelfinger from Stanford to design and establish the program. The structure, dynamics, and core content of our program is remarkably true to what Sam designed almost 40 years ago. Sam recruited Dr. Helen Ross from UC Berkeley to get the new program ready for the challenging accreditation review by the Council on Education for Public Health. Her brilliant mind for curriculum and program planning guaranteed that the SJSU MPH program was among the first to receive the new accreditation status – a designation we have carried with pride ever since.

Rich Bonvecchio passed away this year after a long life filled with love, family, work he believed in, faith, and community. How pleased he would have been to have visited our department one last time. He would have loved to talk with our undergraduates and learn of their diverse backgrounds, their busy and interesting lives, and their plans for the future. He would have thoroughly enjoyed the Health Fair, their Internship Expo, and the 21st century way they think and act! He would have been delighted to see our MPH program flourishing under the also visionary leadership of our current MPH Director, Dr. Edward Mamary . He would wish us well in our big ventures in 2007 – our CEPH accreditation site visit and review and the launch of our first distance program cohort. And he and Sam and Helen would all just shake their heads in wonder at an MPH student body that includes people from Kenya , Tibet , Fiji , Iran , India , Egypt , and Mexico , not to mention San Francisco , San José , and Santa Cruz ! I think he would have been very pleased at how it all turned out.

As we celebrate our university’s 150th anniversary, we will also be undergoing our accreditation review by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This final part of the three-step process focuses on educational effectiveness – does what we do meet our educational objectives, and how do we know that? You can view the full report on the SJSU website (www.sjsu.edu/wasc). Follow the links to the 5 essays of the Educational Effectiveness Report – and see if you can find all of the places in which the Health Science Department appears. We may be small, but what we do is based on our core values, our principles, and clear educational goals. We make choices that matter!

So – welcome back. I am glad that you are here.

Kathleen Roe

