

# Educational Programs Alumni Newsletter



## Message from our Director, /Associate Chair.....

Dear Alumni:



This inaugural newsletter marks the start of a new era for the Department of Community Medicine (CMED) and our degree programs. CMED has a young and highly talented faculty, who are known for conducting research that is of regional, national, and international significance. This year, CMED won the Dean's award for excellence in research. Consistent with the missions of the Health Sciences Center, we are equally dedicated to teaching and service. We have plans to add a doctoral program in the public health sciences and establish a School of Public Health. Our goal is to have the doctoral program in place in two years, and the new school within four. Such developments will increase the opportunities for new students, greatly enhance the value of your WVU degrees, and hopefully encourage you to strengthen your ties with us.

As we move forward, we shall increasingly look to you for intellectual and financial support. We also want you to help us recruit new students! Many of you operate on the front lines of public, community, and school health. This perfectly positions you to assess educational and training needs in this ever changing world, with its frightening new perils and stimulating new opportunities. We want to be proactive as we expand our mission. So please feel free to send us your thoughts on ways that we can improve the content and delivery of our programs.

In my new position, I have had the privilege of meeting only a few of you. This situation will change as I move about West Virginia and beyond. I wish you great success in your lives and careers. Remember that our identity and yours are closely linked. As we continue to remind you, so do likewise.

Ian R.H. Rockett, PhD, MPH  
Director of Educational Programs  
Associate Chair, Community Medicine

### Biosketch

**Ian Rockett is the new Director of Educational Programs in the Department of Community Medicine. He also is Professor and Associate Chair. A native of Australia, Dr. Rockett came to West Virginia University from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, where he was Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Bureau of Evaluation, Research, and Service. His teaching focuses on epidemiology and demography, and his research interests include the epidemiology of injury and drug abuse, life table applications, and suicide misclassification. Dr. Rockett received a PhD from Brown University, an MA from the University of Western Ontario, and an MPH from Harvard.**

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## Welcome!!!

Welcome MPH and MS alumni, new and old, to our first Alumni Newsletter.

We hope to bring you lots of updated news, events, and useful information

This first issue of the newsletter will deal primarily with an introduction to the CMED Alumni Association and an update upcoming events.

If you have any suggestions, comments about our newsletter or to express and interest in our Alumni Association, please email Melissa R. Baker, MPA Sr. Program Coordinator at [mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu) or Ann DeFelice, Program Assistant II at [adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu)

## New Faculty

Dr. George Kelley has joined our team at the Department of Community Medicine.

Dr. George Kelley is a Professor and Director of the Meta-Analytic Research Group in the Department of Community Medicine here at West Virginia University (WVU) in Morgantown. He came to WVU from Massachusetts General Hospital's Institute of Health Professions in Boston, MA, where he served as Associate Professor and Director of the Meta-Analytic Research Group. He holds the Doctor of Arts degree in Exercise Science from Middle Tennessee State University, the Master of Science degree in Exercise Science from Washington State University, and the Bachelor of Science Degree in Physical Education with a minor in Health Education, from Boise State University. Dr. Kelley teaches PUBH 611 – Applied Biostatistics for Health, within Educational Programs. His research includes, but is not limited to, use of the meta-analytic approach for examining the effects of physical activity on health-related disease. Dr. Kelley has a consistent record of external funding as a Principal Investigator from sources as diverse as the National Institutes of Health, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (R01 mechanism), Department of Defense, and American Heart Association.



## Coming Soon.....

The Department of Community Medicine's website will be featuring an Alumni Page.

If you have any suggestions or ideas for this page, alumni activities or awards, please email Melissa R. Baker, MPA at [mabker@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:mabker@hsc.wvu.edu) or Ann DeFelice at [adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu) with your comments.

Faculty, students and staff would be very happy to see you!!!!!!

If your employment has changed, please notify us of your current place of employment so that we can recognize your accomplishments as a member of WVU's CMED alumni.

## Success Stories.....



One of our recent MPH graduates is Tara Williams.

Tara is currently employed as a Health Communication Fellow with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In this position, she serves as a Project Administrator in the Health Communication Research Branch (HCRB). The research conducted in HCRB aims at improving the effectiveness of NIOSH communication efforts to decrease occupational illness and injury.

Here is what she has to say about how the program has impacted her career.

### How has the MPH enhanced your career???

In my current position, I assist in designing and implementing communication interventions targeting various occupational groups, from farmers to nurses to industrial hygienists. In designing effective communication materials, it is necessary to understand your target group. For example, knowing how to conduct needs assessments has been beneficial in understanding our target groups, particularly in assessing attitudes and barriers to following safety recommendations on the job. The information from the needs assessments are then used to form the basis for the communication materials. Additionally, the classes in the MPH program, as well as my practicum experience, have provided a strong foundation in public health theory that has been useful in designing these communication interventions.

Through all phases of the research conducted in health communication here at NIOSH, the concepts learned in the MPH program have been beneficial to my success.

If you would like to speak about your program experience, please contact Melissa R. Baker, MPA at [mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu) or Ann DeFelice at [adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu)

### UPCOMING EVENTS Spring 2003

#### January

- 13 First Day of Courses
- 20 RECESS
- 22 Colloquium- Dr. Ian Rockett

#### February

- 7 West Virginia Univ. Day
- 26 Colloquium-Dr. George Kelley

#### March

- 15 Spring Break
- 26 Colloquium- Dr. Ray Goldsteen

#### May

- 2 Last Day of Classes
- 17 Alumni Day
- 18 Commencement

### For Updated Faculty Research Activities.....

Please check out our website at [www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/cmed](http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/som/cmed)

## Information Update

We would like more information on our alumni.....

Please email Melissa R. Baker, MPA, Sr. Program Coordinator at [mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:mbaker@hsc.wvu.edu) or Ann DeFelice, Program Assistant II at [adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu](mailto:adefelice@hsc.wvu.edu) with updated email and mailing addresses, phone numbers.

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## News from CMEDSA

The mission of our student organization is closely aligned with the goals of the student caucus. Because of our departmental and school support, our student organization is fortunate to have the opportunity to impact the health and well being of the citizens of our community through a myriad of service activities. In the past year we have:

- ⇒ Developed hypertension educational materials for Morgantown Health Right
- ⇒ Prepared dental care packets which included educational information about dental hygiene for Morgantown Health Right
- ⇒ Volunteered distributing alcohol education on High Street, "Angels on High Street"
- ⇒ Deigned a commemorative display for Health Sciences on September 11, which included educational information on violence, equality, and how to talk to children about terrorism
- ⇒ Developed lesson plans for all 4th grade classrooms in Monongalia County about medication safety
- ⇒ Donated health related books for children and adults to the Monongalia County Library
- ⇒ Developed an educational display and handouts for Work AIDS Day in addition to handing out condoms in order to promote safe sex
- ⇒ Collected food and monetary donations for Scott's Run Thanksgiving Food Drive
- ⇒ Sent over 20 students to various public health conferences around the country including the APHA conference
- ⇒ Educating school age children in their schools about health issues
- ⇒ Volunteering at numerous health fairs.

In summary, the CMEDSA along with Ruth Kershner, EdD, have worked diligently to espouse the philosophy of health education and service that they believe is essential to the mission of Public Health.

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