

HMS Messenger

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2017

Special points of interest:

- Check out a new book review by HMS student Priyokti Rana!
- Meet new HMS professor Lorenzo Servitje!
- Check out the events for National Public Health Week at Lehigh on April 4th-6th!

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A Passion for Working in Health: Notes from a Recent HMS Graduate

I've always been passionate about issues regarding social justice and bioethics, and my experience in the HMS program taught me how to transform those thoughts into actions through public health work. In medical school, this led me to volunteer with an organization that mentors pregnant teenagers in the local community to educate and empower them with the resources and knowledge to care for themselves and their babies.

My interests in public health also inspired me to get involved in the field of global health. I spent the past summer after my first year of medical school in Western Kenya, working with the Massachusetts General Hospital Division of Global Health and Human Rights at a small community hospital in a rural village. In recent years, there has been a major shift in the global burden of disease. While infectious diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV used to be the leading causes of death, non-communicable diseases and their chronic complications are now taking the lead. Many developing countries are not equipped to handle the unprecedented medical challenges and emergencies that come with this transition, and

so our project focused on addressing these, with a specific focus on cardiovascular disease in Kenya.

Our team introduced the drug Streptokinase, a proven cost-effective and safe thrombolytic agent, as the new standard of care for the treatment of ST-Segment Elevation Myocardial Infarctions at Sagam Community Hospital in Western Kenya. I worked with the team to help procure the drug, develop clinical protocols and train the clinicians, nurses and pharmacists on how to use the drug safely and effectively. We also developed educational materials on the warning signs of heart attacks and worked with community health workers to spread awareness in the local community.

I think the greatest thing I learned from this experience was about how to create and promote sustainable global health efforts. From the perspective of Western medicine, I know that treating a heart attack is a life or death situation and that it needs to happen quickly. However, due to cultural and social differ-

ences, Kenyan clinicians do not practice medicine with the same sense of urgency as we do in America. We came in and essentially introduced the practice of emergency medicine, which at times, was clearly a foreign concept to clinicians in this part of the world.

In these moments, I watched the American physicians patiently step back and teach. They let the local staff take longer to do things, let them forget key steps in protocols and let them make their own decisions, and often, their own mistakes.

Continued on page 3...



A Note from the Director...



Kelly F. Austin

Assistant Professor of
Sociology &
Director of Health,
Medicine and Society

Hello HMS students, faculty, and alumni!!! Spring is just around the corner (I hope!) and there are a lot of changes in HMS to look forward to...

I am extremely pleased to announce that the expansion of the program into the HMS major was officially approved by the College of Arts and Sciences faculty at a meeting earlier in March! This means that there is only one more layer of approval needed for HMS to officially become a major in Summer/Fall of 2017! Be sure to check out the most current major guidelines online if you are a student planning to major in HMS. And also remember that HMS is a required double-major, where students must pair it with another major at

Lehigh. Please feel to contact me if you have any questions about the HMS major requirements or need advice on what major to pair HMS with.

In addition to expansion to the HMS major, our faculty is also continuing to grow! As you know, we welcomed Professor Julia Lechuga this past fall, and this coming summer, another new faculty member, Professor Lorenzo Servitje, will be joining our program! Professor Servitje will be a joint-appointed faculty member between HMS and English. Be sure to check out his short biography and description of his new course offering for fall on page 7 of this newsletter.

There are also several new

electives and course offerings available in HMS this summer and fall—so be sure to check out the upcoming list of courses online as registration approaches.

Some changes are also bitter-sweet... I will be stepping down as director at the end of the summer. While I am sad to no longer be serving in this capacity, Prof. Jessecae Marsh (of HMS & Psychology) will be taking over as incoming director, and I am confident that she will be most excellent in leading the program. Thank you sincerely for making my time as HMS director worthwhile and extremely rewarding.

-Kelly Austin

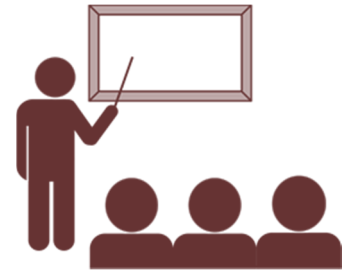
Announcements!

- Professor Julia Lechuga is looking for HMS undergraduate students to assist with her research! Research opportunities include: immersion in data collection, data entry and analysis, and opportunities to co-author conference presentations and peer-reviewed manuscripts. For more information, please contact Professor Lechuga at jul416@lehigh.edu
- Lehigh University has officially joined, as a founding member, the International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health. The International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health was founded in 2016 based on a commitment to an international multidisciplinary reflection in bioethics. The Sorbonne, the University of Montreal, Harvard University, the University of Sydney, Emory University, and the Mayo Clinic are other founding members. The Academy is focused on the current challenges confronting both private and public interests in the context of families, universities, public institutions, and all levels of government. The aim of the Academy is to accomplish an ongoing international review of seminal issues in bioethics that can benefit from a diversity of political outlook, culture, and philosophical orientation. The Academy will function as a bilingual center point for these exchanges, and will regularly host seminars to which all affiliate members are invited to participate. Additionally, Lehigh University, the Northern Plains Ethics Institute at NDSU, and the International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health, will host a seminar at Lehigh, "Controversies in Bioethics," to be held in April 2018 as part of Lehigh membership in the International Academy of Medical Ethics and Public Health.
- HMS and Journalism Professor Sharon Friedman was recently elected Secretary and Council Member of the Society for Risk Analysis. Professor Friedman also just finished a three-year term as a member of the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and its Committee on Council Affairs, as well as its Subcommittee on Fellows.



Pedagogic Highlights

In Professor Dolan's **HMS/ENG115: The Literature of Contagion**, students analyze fiction and films about historical epidemics, such as 14th-century Black Death, the 1918 influenza, and the 1980s AIDS epidemics. The centerpiece of our study of the 1918 influenza, Mullen's novel *The Last Town on Earth*, depicts a real town in Washington State that set up a reverse quarantine—keeping non-residents out—in order to protect themselves against the deadly spread of the flu. Exploring Brown and White articles reporting on the 1918 influenza here at Lehigh, students discovered that Lehigh was similarly quarantined and that Drown Hall, where our class meets, was converted into an emergency infirmary for the infected. After reading Nobel-prize-winning author Jose Saramago's book *Blindness*, about a fictional epidemic, the class will travel to the United Nations for a tour and a briefing with an NGO leader who has dealt with infectious disease outbreaks. Our study of the social patterns that accompany epidemics across historical time, and the issues that are related to the specific historical moment or location, prepares us to engage with real world, global information about preventing epidemic disease.



The goal of Professor Sirry Alang's **Social Epidemiology course, HMS 316/SOC 316/SOC 416**, is for students to understand the mechanisms through which different social factors affect health. At the beginning of the semester, each student selects a social factor and a health outcome that they are interested in. For example, one student selected social class and diabetes mortality. Over the course of the semester, she will identify mechanisms through which social class affects a person's likelihood of dying from diabetes, become familiar with different definitions and measures of social class, and explore key methodological issues around assessing the impact of social class on diabetes mortality. Finally, she will propose policy solutions or interventions that might reduce the number of diabetes deaths linked to a person's social class. Several writing and presentation assignments help students strengthen their epidemiological reasoning skills.

Using cutting-edge journal and mass media articles, Professor Friedman's **HMS/JOUR/ES/STS 323, Health and Environmental Controversies**, is exploring controversies by focusing on their impacts on society and science and on their coverage in the mass and social media. Throughout the course, Prof. Friedman emphasizes the theme of scientific uncertainty as described in the book *Communicating Uncertainty: Media Coverage of New and Controversial Science*. Key actors in these controversies are identified and include immediate stakeholders and other societal constituents such as industries, governments at all levels, courts, international organizations, citizen groups and nongovernmental organizations. Students are evaluating how public opinion and mass media coverage affect health and environmental controversies. The first major health controversy students have explored is genetic engineering. Ethical and social issues such as the impacts of genetic testing on individuals, families and privacy are studied in addition to the emerging science. Other controversies explored include genetically modified foods, bionic enhancements, stem cell research and therapy, nuclear energy and chemical contaminants.

A Passion for Working in Health: Notes from a Recent HMS Grad *Continued*

Continued from page 1...

While this really frustrated me at times, it also showed me what sustainable global health actually is about. The local clinicians needed to have those experiences and learn those lessons for themselves so they could continue this work once we left. Stepping back in those moments

fostered independence, equipped them with the skills to care for their patients and empowered them to advocate for their own healthcare system.

These are valuable lessons and ones I will remember and strive to uphold as a physician. Whatever field of medicine I choose to pursue, I know global health and public

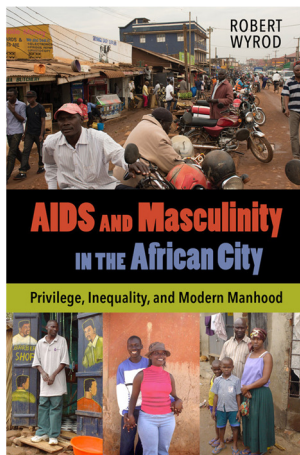
health will be integral parts of my future career, and I believe the foundation for that began in my HMS classes.

Courtney Meyer
HMS Alumni 2014
Behavioral Neuroscience Major

* Courtney is currently a second-year medical student at Albany Medical College in Albany, NY

"I think the greatest thing I learned from this experience was about how to create and promote sustainable global health efforts."

A Student's Review of "AIDS & Masculinity in the African City" - by Robert Wyrod



“The reality of widespread underemployment and unemployment also hit home for me as I remembered our Ugandan host brother often speaking about his observations and struggles with finding jobs in Kampala.”

HIV/AIDS remains a leading cause of death in low income countries and has remained a plague for much of sub-Saharan Africa. The long-term implications of the disease on gender norms and sexuality are continuing to unfold, and *AIDS and the Masculinity in the African City*, a new book by Robert Wyrod, sheds light to the significance of HIV/AIDS on shaping masculinity in an urban slum, Bwaise, located in the Ugandan capital, Kampala. The ethnographic study is nuanced in addressing the intersectionality of masculinity and authority, masculinity and sexuality, and masculinity and work in the context of HIV/AIDS.

Uganda has often been cited as an AIDS success story; the promoted intervention of "zero grazing", which encourages men to reduce their number of sexual partners, is perceived as a key of this success. However, the author claims that masculine sexual privilege persists despite the changes in sexual behavior that followed zero grazing. Although men have been consciously reducing their number of sexual partners, the prevention strategy still promotes the notion that men could and are expected to have multiple partners. These hegemonic masculine ideals are further complicated by underemployment and the lack of women's rights.

Wyrod provides a thorough analysis of the different cases he came across in Bwaise, many of which allowed me to reminisce about time that I spent in Uganda

last summer. I recall Ugandan men and women talking about their views on polygamy, which is still widely practiced in the country. Even the use of language in the book like "matatu", a public transportation vehicle, and "chapatti", a popular food in Uganda, took me back to my days in Bududa, Uganda. Wyrod also made sure to clearly show through interviews and case studies how a lack of stable income for men, who feel pressure to be bread-winners, facilitate displays of masculinity in other ways, like having many sex partners. The reality of widespread underemployment and unemployment also hit home for me as I remembered our Ugandan host brother often speaking about his observations and struggles with finding jobs in Kampala.

Wyrod also critiqued the validity of the responses he received from his subjects by citing how perceptions of him as a white researcher and married man may have changed the ways that people formulated their responses to him.

Through his conversations with men in Bwaise, Wyrod is able to truly transform the reader into the lives and logic used by men and women as they navigate intimate relationships and risks to HIV/AIDS. I read this book as part of Professor Austin's HMS class on HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis, in which we've also read texts including *Love, Money and HIV: Becoming a Modern African Woman in the Age of AIDS* by Sanyu Mojola, which highlights the social and

economic forces that have led to a rise of transactional sex, and thus HIV/AIDS, among young women in sub-Saharan Africa. While it is important to understand vulnerabilities for women (and I highly recommend *Love, Money and HIV* as well), Wyrod uniquely approaches studying HIV/AIDS through a man's perspective and successfully highlights the struggles that come with expectations of being the provider in the family despite harsh economic conditions for the current working class, specifically in Bwaise but also more broadly in sub-Saharan Africa.

AIDS and Masculinity in the African City provides a thorough and new perspective on how HIV/AIDS has altered social relations regarding gender and sexuality in sub-Saharan Africa. Wyrod immersed himself in the community in Bwaise by working as a carpenter, attending a locally formed support group for HIV positive men, making friendships in the community, and keeping in close contact with subjects over an extended period of time. He truly dedicated part of his life to gather substantive interviews, data, and observations, and has produced this compelling, readable and innovative book. He provides an honest and interesting view on masculinity and AIDS and successfully intertwines theories of sociology, global health, and gender in sub-Saharan Africa.

By Priyokti Rana
IDEAS Major
Class of '18

Meet the Faculty: Professor Jessecae Marsh

I am trained as a cognitive psychologist, receiving my Ph.D. in Psychology from Yale University in 2008. I am interested in understanding how people's beliefs about the world influence the way they reason and make decisions. I am specifically interested in two important types of beliefs: beliefs people hold about categories in the world and beliefs people hold about causality. When we look around us, we do not see just a collection of random objects, but rather things that go together in categories, like birds, clouds, or tables. Grouping the world into categories provides a structured way for people to think about the world and organize their knowledge. Causal beliefs, or beliefs about the cause and effect relationship between events, also provide structure to people's world by providing satisfying and predictive explanations for why events occur.

An important element of my research program is applying basic cognitive psychology research techniques to understand real world reasoning tasks. A rich and important area in which to do this type of research is health. Health disorders are a type of category, with diagnosis being

a process of placing people into disorder categories. Thinking about treatment and how to alleviate symptoms of a disorder is, at its core, reasoning about the causal origins of a disorder. I have conducted research that explores how health care professionals and everyday people think about the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions.

For example, I have investigated how people's beliefs about the causal factors that underlie mental health conditions influence how they think disorders should be treated. Work with a former Lehigh undergraduate suggests that if people think a mental health symptom is rooted in a physical cause, they will suggest medication as an appropriate treatment. Whereas if they think a symptom is rooted in a psychological cause, they will think therapy is an appropriate treatment. In work with another former Lehigh undergraduate, we found that people believe lifestyle modifications target the root cause and the symptoms of a health disorder, while people think medications only target the symptoms.

Understanding people's naïve beliefs about how treatments work to alleviate disorder symptoms can help us

better understand issues like treatment compliance and how people select which type of treatment to start in the first place. I have conducted similar work looking at how the diagnosis of mental health conditions is influenced by the context in which those conditions present, how expertise in the health domain changes the way people think about health disorders, and how people integrate information from different sources when thinking about a diagnosis.

My interest in exploring the health domain through cognitive psychology research is what has made me an enthusiastic member of the Health, Medicine, and Society Program. I enjoy working with students who have a drive to research basic issues of psychology and how they apply to health. Students can learn more about this intersection of psychology and health in my Health Care Reasoning and Decision Making course, cross-listed with Psychology and HMS. I am proud to be taking over as Director of the HMS program in the Fall of 2017 and look forward to working with students who are as passionate as I am about the interdisciplinary study of health.



Prof. Jessecae Marsh

Assistant Professor of Psychology & Incoming Director of Health, Medicine and Society

“I am proud to be taking over as the Director of HMS in the Fall of 2017 and look forward to working with students who are as passionate as I am about the interdisciplinary study of health.”

Apply for the Health Equity Internship for Fall!

HMS is proud to continue offering the Health Equity Internship, where students work for credit under the direct supervision of Dr. Bonnie Coyle at St. Luke's and the Hispanic Center of the Lehigh Valley. Interns perform a variety of tasks, including developing prevention programs and creating training programs to engage the local community in solving important health and social issues. For more information and to apply, visit <http://hms.cas2.lehigh.edu/content/health-equity-internship> or contact Professor Marsh at jessecae.marsh@lehigh.edu. Applications are due on April 15th.

Recent Faculty Publications

- Alang, Sirry**, McAlpine, D., McCreedy, E., and Hardeman, R. Forthcoming 2017. "Police Brutality and Black Health: Setting the Agenda for Public Health Scholars." *American Journal of Public Health* doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2017.303691
- Austin, Kelly F.**, Priyokti Rana, and Megan Bellinger. 2017. "Deforestation Breeds Malaria: Environmental Change and Infectious Disease in Poor Nations." *AIMS Environmental Science, a special issue on The Environmental Determinants of Infectious Diseases*. 4(2): 217-231. doi.org/10.3934/environsci.2017.2.217
- Austin, Kelly F.** and Maria Theresa Mejia. Forthcoming 2017. "Indoor Air Pollution as a Silent Killer: Women's Status and Solid Fuel Use in Developing Nations." *Population and Environment*. doi.org/10.1007/s11111-017-0269-z
- Austin, Kelly F.**, Michelle Choi, and Virginia Handley. Forthcoming 2017. "Trading Sex for Security: Unemployment and the Unequal HIV Burden among Young Women in Developing Nations." *International Sociology*. doi.org/10.1177/0268580917693172
- Carolan-Olah, M., Duarte-Gardea, M., **Lechuga, Julia**, & Salinas, S. Forthcoming 2017. "A Systematic Review of Interventions for Hispanic Women With or At Risk for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)." *Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare*. doi.org/10.1016/j.srhc.2017.02.006
- Carolan-Olah, M., Duarte-Gardea, M., **Lechuga, Julia**, & Salinas, S. Forthcoming 2017. "The Experience of Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM) among Hispanic Women in a U.S. Border Region." *Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare*. doi.org/10.1016/j.srhc.2016.11.003
- Cervantes, R. C., Fisher, D. G., Padilla, A. M., and **Napper, Lucy E.** 2016. "The Hispanic Stress Inventory Version 2: Improving the Assessment of Acculturation Related Stress." *Psychological Assessment*. 28(5): 506-522. doi.org/10.1037/pas0000200
- Davis, Dena**. "Implantable Devices Should Come with a Contract." 2016. *American Journal of Bioethics*. 16(8): 23-25. doi.org/10.1080/15265161.2016.1187213
- Meyerhoefer, Chad D.**, M. Deily, S. Sherer, S-Y. Chou, L. Peng, M. Sheinberg, and D. Levick. 2016. "The Consequences of Electronic Health Record Adoption for Physician Productivity and Birth Outcomes." *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*. 69(4): 860-889. doi.org/10.1177/0019793916642758
- Napper, Lucy E.**, Froidevaux, N. M., & LaBrie, J. W. 2016. "Being Blunt about Marijuana: Parent Communication about Marijuana with Their Emerging Adult Children." *Prevention Science*. 17(7): 882-891. doi.org/10.1007/s1121-016-0681-0.
- Napper, Lucy E.**, LaBrie, J. W., Earle, A. 2016. "Online Personalized Normative Alcohol Feedback for Parents of First Year College Students." *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors*. 30(8): 802-810. doi.org/10.1037/adb0000211.
- Steffen, Lloyd**. 2016. "Core Values in Bioethics: A Natural Law Perspective." *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health*. 2(2): 170-180. doi.org/10.1016/j.jemep.2016.03.009
- Steffen, Lloyd**. 2016. "Rational Religious Suicide" pages 133-142 in *Blunt Traumas: Negotiating Suffering and Death*, edited by Nate Hinerman and Holly Lynn Baumgartner. Oxford University Press.
- Steffen, Lloyd**. 2017. "Christian Perspectives on Assisted Dying: An Issue for Religious Ethics" pages 121-144 in *Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: Global Views on Choosing to End Life*, edited by Michael Cholbi. Praeger Press, Santa Barbara, CA.

Congratulations to Professors Chris Burke, Julia Lechuga, and Lucy Napper who each recently received Lehigh Community-Engaged Health Research Fellowships for their work related to studying health inequalities in the local Lehigh Valley community!!!

Welcome New HMS Faculty Member - Lorenzo Servitje!

Dr. Lorenzo Servitje will be a joint-appointed faculty member with HMS and the Department of English, arriving on campus this summer! He teaches courses in literature and medicine, medical humanities, and Victorian literature. He received his PhD in English from the University of California Riverside. Professor Servitje's research focuses on how cultural productions, such as literature and film, shape and are shaped by medicine.

He is currently investigating how we have come to think of medicine in terms of war, evident in recognizable phrases such as "The War on Cancer." Dr. Servitje is tracing this metaphor back to the nineteenth century in his current book project: "Medicine is War: The Martial Metaphor in Victorian Literature and Culture." In his nineteenth century work, he has published on the history of germ theory and cultural studies, representations of medical students in Gothic literature,

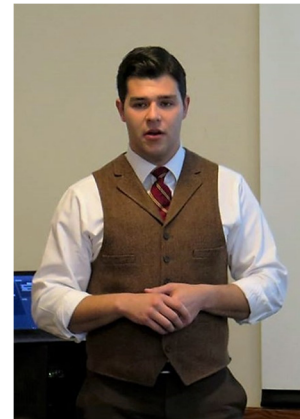
and modernist responses to tropical medicine.

Dr. Servitje also researches how contemporary popular culture responds to the biomedical sciences. This contemporary work has included articles on the history of psychopharmacology, video games, and graphic novels. He has co-edited two collections: *The Walking Med: Zombies and the Medical Image* and *Endemic: Essays In Contagion Theory*. His third collection, *Syphilis and Subjectivity* is forthcoming in early 2018 from Palgrave.

In coming to Lehigh, Dr. Servitje looks forward to teaching a variety of HMS courses and working with HMS students interested in the humanistic and cultural study of medicine. He looks forward to learning from the disciplinary expertise and interests HMS students bring coming from different majors.

Check out his new class in Fall 2017!! Professor Lorenzo Servitje's HMS 315 will address "What Zombies Can Teach Us About Medicine."

Recently popular culture has embraced the figure of the zombie with an enthusiasm that few would have predicted in the years before this zombie craze. While the zombie has a much longer history, since 2000, zombism has become understood through rubrics such as contagion, microbiology, pharmacology, and neuroscience, among other biomedical fields. What made what was once associated with voodoo and cult horror come to be understood in biological terms? What shapes the recent cultural obsession with the meanings of this abject figure—why has the zombie gone "viral"? In this class, students will examine literature, film, and biomedical prose, such as fiction of *The Zombie Autopsies* and *Zone One*; film and television like *28 Days Later*; and medical writing, including the Centers for Disease Control's *Preparedness 101: Zombie Pandemic*, along with articles from academic journals.



Prof. Lorenzo Servitje

Incoming Assistant
Professor of English &
Health, Medicine and
Society

**Check out
Servitje's new
course in Fall
2017—HMS
315 on "What
Zombies Can
Teach us about
Medicine."**

HMS Steering Committee Faculty

Kelly Austin | Director of Health, Medicine and Society |
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Sirry Alang | Assistant Professor of Sociology and Health,
Medicine and Society

Christopher Burke | Director of Community Health Re-
search Group | Associate Professor of Psychology

Dena Davis | Presidential Endowed Chair in Health, Human-
ities and Social Sciences | Professor of Religion Studies

Elizabeth Dolan | Associate Professor of English

Judith Lasker | NEH Distinguished Professor | Professor of
Sociology

Julia Lechuga | Assistant Professor of Health, Medicine and
Society and Counseling Psychology

Linda Lowe-Krentz | Director of Biochemistry | Professor
of Biological Sciences

Jessecae Marsh | Assistant Professor of Psychology

Lucy Napper | Assistant Professor of Psychology and
Health, Medicine and Society

YOU'VE BEEN READING...

THE HMS MESSENGER

THE OFFICIAL
NEWSLETTER OF

HEALTH, MEDICINE
AND SOCIETY

Please send any requests,
recommendations, or items
for the HMS Messenger or
HMS website to:

Professor Kelly Austin
Director, Health, Medicine,
and Society Program
kellyaustin@lehigh.edu

All of the events and
opportunities
presented in this
newsletter are also
posted on the new
HMS website!

Check it out at:
[http://
hms.cas2.lehigh.edu/](http://hms.cas2.lehigh.edu/)

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LEHIGH
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National Public Health Week Events!!!

“Ebola, Zika, and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases”

David M. Morens, M.D., of the National Institutes of Health

Tuesday April 4th at 4:10pm

Roemmele Global Commons, Williams Hall

“Community Based Participatory Research Approach to Reduce HIV Risk among Heroin and Crack Users on the U.S.-Mexico Border”

Professor Julia Lechuga, HMS Faculty Member

Wednesday April 5th at 4:10pm

Roemmele Global Commons, Williams Hall

“Careers in Health Panel Discussion”

Featuring multiple health professionals from a variety of health fields, many of which are Lehigh alumni!

Thursday April 6th at 4:10pm

Roemmele Global Commons, Williams Hall

Pizza, snacks, & refreshments provided!!!!

What HMS Alumni are doing...

Emily Purcell

Graduated in 2013

Biology

Is currently part of the Business Development team at an international health nonprofit based in Washington DC, called IMA World Health. Emily is busy coordinating proposals for USG and other bilateral donors (DFID, World Bank, etc.). She helps design and write the technical approach for international health/development programs in Africa, the Caribbean and South-east Asia.

Jon Glick

Graduated in 2014

Psychology

Is beginning a career in law enforcement for the City of Bethlehem. He is quickly realizing the benefit of his Lehigh education and the HMS minor. Course work in Health Psychology, Public Health, and Alcohol in Society benefit the community and citizens that he encounters each day. The HMS minor was an integral element in realizing his passion for the human services field. Jon also obtained a Masters in Healthcare Systems Engineering in 2015.

Katie Johnston

Graduated in 2012

Women's Studies & Biology

Employed as the research manager and program associate for the Boston Women's Workforce Council, which works with businesses to make Boston the first city to eliminate the gender wage gap. HMS courses showed her that meaningful change in the health of a society requires focus not on the individual, but on the social determinants of health. What she learned led her to a Masters in Public Health focused on economic, sexual and reproductive justice.