Meet the New MPH Director
Terry Brandenburg, MPH, CPH

Terry joins us from the West Allis Health Department where he served as the Health Commissioner for the past 23 years. He has extensive experience working with community partners locally as well as nationally. In addition to Director of the MPH Program, Terry will serve as the Director of the Division of Education within the Institute for Health and Society.

Terry completed his MPH through a distance based program at the University of North Carolina, so he brings a first hand understanding of what it is to be a distance learner. He looks forward to getting to know all of the students over the coming months.

In addition, Terry was intimately involved in the MPH Program’s most recent accreditation process. He served as a host for MPH students completing their field placements at the West Allis Health Department.

Please join us in welcoming Terry to the program.

Institute for Health and Society Update

Dear MCW MPH Faculty, Staff, Students and Alumni:

I am honored and privileged to write to you as the new director of our Institute for Health and Society. We are comprised of terrific faculty, staff, students and community partners in strong programs with solid support.

The Master of Public Health Program, its faculty, staff, students and alumni are a priority to the Institute. With this in mind, we have selected a highly qualified individual with extensive public health leadership experience, Terry Brandenburg, as the successor to Jane Kotchen. Jane’s passion and dedication to the program catalyzed numerous course improvements, an increase in faculty members, and ultimately securing a 7 year accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. I am confident that you will find the very same enthusiasm and commitment exhibited by Terry.

Thank you for contributing to this vital component of the Institute. I look forward to learning about the important public health work that each of you are achieving and wish you continued success.

With appreciation,

John Meurer, MD, MBA
Join Us—We’re Social!

In September, we surveyed many of you to find out about your interests in connecting via social media. The results varied quite a bit, so we decided to offer you several different options to connect. If you have any additional feedback or suggestions regarding how we can best serve you via social media please email mph@mcw.edu.

Fall 2011
Katie Lohse and Alexandra Ostromecki, two MPH program candidates, participated in the newly-created Wisconsin Center for Public Health Education and Training (WiCPHET) joint internship project for their Field Placement during the Fall 2011 semester. The project was a joint collaboration among WiCPHET, Scenic Rivers Area Health Education Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse, and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Katie, Alex, and four other public health graduate students from these universities worked on health-related issues in the Scenic Bluffs region of Wisconsin, mainly in the city of Cashton. The Field Placement began with a week-long immersion in the community in August. All of the participating students and mentors stayed in the region and met with various community members and organizations. Some of these included Scenic Bluffs Community Health Center, St. Joseph’s Health Services Gundersen Lutheran, Organic Valley, and a Bishop and other members from one of the local Amish communities.

After the week-long immersion, the graduate students paired up according to their interests. They then began working on issues and opportunities that had been identified by the students and the community. The groups tackled issues such as food security, maternal health, and domestic violence resources for the region. The students worked closely with community members and organizations in the area to accomplish projects and form relationships. On December 5th, the students presented a report back to the community which was well-received. Those involved hope to continue with the internship project by recruiting new students and continuing the relationships and projects that were formed for semesters to come.

Summer 2012 Opportunity
Our MPH program will host a WiCPHET Group Field Placement with the Milwaukee Health Department starting next summer. Students will assist the health department in conducting a community health assessment for approximately six months, June through December, and the Field Placement will include the following components:

- An immersion experience in which students will spend 3-5 days in Milwaukee, meeting individuals from the Milwaukee Health Department, local communities, and other entities in order to learn about the community and project.
- Regular meetings via distance technology with fellow students, faculty and project team members.
- Planned trips back to the community throughout the project to attend important meetings or accomplish other tasks.
- A final report developed for the City of Milwaukee and the Health Department.
- A $1,000 stipend to cover expenses.

Students interested in this opportunity should contact the Field Placement Coordinator, Jessica Gillis, at jegillis@mcw.edu.
Certification in Public Health

Why Certification:
Public Health professionals assure healthy communities. Becoming Certified in Public Health helps the public health profession by setting standards consistent with the expectations of the public. Becoming a Certified in Public Health professional is an investment in your career, livelihood, and future. It also:

- Sets a standard of excellence in the field of public health.
- Improves the quality of public health service for communities and the nation.
- Fosters an environment of life-long learning.
- Encourages the recognition of a professional community.
- Opens doors for participation in workshops, conferences and other professional activities.

How to Become Certified:
Register online at www.publichealthexam.org, and take the exam at one of the 300 test centers across the U.S. or at a site oversees. The exam is offered every February. The registration period for 2012 has ended, but we encourage students and alumni to consider certification.

For additional information go to www.publichealthexam.org

MPH Program Updates - Faculty and Staff

Robert Dedmon, MD, MPH (1991)

On November 9, 2011, Dr. Dedmon was inducted as a Fellow of the Faculty of Travel Medicine at the Royal College Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Congratulations to Dr. Dedmon! This is a huge accomplishment.

Nicole L. Weber, MS—MPH Program Educational Specialist

Nicole is a PhD Candidate at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee in the School of Education. She published Closing the Gap: Using a Series of Social Networking Environments to Collapse Time and Space by Giving and Receiving Social Support in the Global Media Journal in Fall 2011. The article is available online.

2012 Conferences

WPHA-WALHDAB 2012 Annual Conference
The Changing Face of Public Health: Preparing for the Future
Wisconsin Dells, WI • May 21-23, 2012

APHA Midyear Meeting
The New Public Health: Rewiring for the Future
Charlotte, NC • June 26-28, 2012

APHA 140th Annual Meeting and Exposition
Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan
San Francisco, CA • October 27-31, 2012
MCW Graduation - May 18, 2012

Due to large attendance, the graduation ceremony is held off campus at the Milwaukee Theatre. Several hotels are within walking distance of the Theatre, and a list of these hotels is available on the MPH Graduation Information webpage at [www.mcw.edu/mphprogram/CurrentStudents/GraduationInformation.htm](http://www.mcw.edu/mphprogram/CurrentStudents/GraduationInformation.htm). Graduates will receive invitations to the luncheon that precedes the graduation ceremony and should contact the Graduate School at [gradschool@mcw.edu](mailto:gradschool@mcw.edu) if they do not receive one. These will be sent out as we get closer to May.

Join us for our annual **End of the Year Celebration** the evening before graduation, **Thursday May 17, 2012**. This year our students and graduates will have the opportunity to present their Capstone or Field Placement projects during the first portion of the evening. If you are interested in this opportunity please contact us at [mph@mcw.edu](mailto:mph@mcw.edu) for additional information. For those interested in attending please watch for emails from the MPH Program. The reception is open to all students, alumni, faculty, staff, graduates, family and friends. It is a fun event in which you get to interact with each other in person and celebrate another successful year.

If you will be graduating this spring please watch for emails from the MPH Program and the Graduate School.

### Changes to APHA Membership

- Two categories were expanded to include broader definitions of qualifications.
  - Student membership will include part-time students who are taking at least 6 credit hours.
  - The Transitional member category is now Early Career Professional and will offer more opportunities to new public health professionals. The category is open to anyone who has graduated in the last 24 months and you can stay in this category for three consecutive years.
- Three membership categories have been discontinued: Consumer member, Contributing member and Premium Student member.

As of January 1, 2012, a new member will have to select from this revised menu of member types. All existing members will have to confirm their existing category, or select a new category, as their current membership expires in 2012.

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<th>Member Type</th>
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<th>New 2012 Price</th>
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<td>Student</td>
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<td>$61</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Please tell us about your accomplishments. We would love to share your public health stories and accomplishments. Email [mph@mcw.edu](mailto:mph@mcw.edu).