



PROMOTING GLOBAL HEALTH, ONE PERSON AT A TIME

Joint MSPAS/MPH Program

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **ARC-PA awards Program ongoing accreditation**
- **Class of 2007 has 95% PANCE Pass Rate**
- **Spotlight on: Tracy DelNero, PA-C, Clinical Coordinator**

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Touro Public Health Club - Health for All

Kyla Simpson, Class of 2009 is the president of the recently-formed Touro University Public Health Club, an SGA organization. The TU-Public Health Club's purpose is to increase the public's awareness of healthy lifestyles choices for better overall health and wellness. The club actively promotes healthy eating choices and exercise in the community.

For the past six months the club has organized student volunteers to work with the Mare Island Elementary School children grades K-5. Student volunteers from all colleges meet every Wednesday and get the children to exercise and bring them fresh fruits and vegetables to eat after their activity.

"At first the children saw the fruits we were bringing them and wanted to know if we brought the whipped cream, but now the kids just enjoy eating the fruit



Tune-Up/ENCORE Celebration attended by Mare Island Elementary School children.

alone," says Simpson. When asked why she wanted to work on this issue, she replied, "I know how important healthy eating and exercise is and what it does for

me and I wanted to share it with these kids who really need it."

On June 6, the Touro Public Health Club held a TUNE-UP/ENCORE Celebration at the campus where children attended and participated in several activities and receive a certificate for their participation in the after-school program. A raffle was held and all children received a healthy prize like Jamba Juice gift certificates and reusable canvas bags.

It was clear the children had a great time. It is important to continue to support these student activities that reach out to our Vallejo community.

Way to go Touro Public Health Club!!!

ARC-PA Awards Program Ongoing Accreditation

In March 2007, the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program received notice from the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA) that the Program was awarded ongoing accreditation.

Ongoing accreditation is awarded to programs that have demonstrated meeting the *Standards* governing PA education program.

The Program was awarded accreditation until its next scheduled site visit, in 2011.

"This is great news and a testament to the hard work of the faculty and of the institution" says Lauren Padilla-Valverde, Program Director.

The Program has engaged in an ongoing self-study with regard to the *Standards* and competencies

necessary to become a physician assistant.

Changes to the clinical and didactic curriculum have been made, there is ongoing identification and development of quality clinical training sites, and faculty receive support to ongoing faculty development.

Welcome Entering Class of 2010!

See page 4 to better know the incoming class!

Class of 2007 Commencement Exercises a Success



May 6: The Joint Program Class of 2007 at the Farragut Inn.

May 6 was a great day to celebrate the graduation of the Class of 2007. Forty-four students graduated with the degrees Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies and Master of Public Health. Over five hundred attendees were present to commemorate this year's graduates.

This year's Commit-

ment to the Mission award went to **Katie Stollmeyer**, and the Leadership award went to **Emem Ekpenyong**.

The valedictorian was **Emily O'Neal**. Graduate **Connie Tam** beautifully sang the National Anthem.

Over half of the class had at least one job offer at time of graduation, exciting news that mirrors the national data on

the physician assistant profession which has grown to become among the fastest growing professions. Graduate surveys will be sent out in September; a future issue of this newsletter will have more details on the Class of '07—including where they are and what they are doing.

Congratulations Class of 2007!!!

Changes to the Joint Curriculum

The MSPAS/MPH curriculum is constantly reviewed to identify ways to improve the curriculum to ensure fully competent PAs. The Program uses monthly meetings of the Curriculum Committee and semiannual retreats to periodically review and assess the curriculum.

During the retreat, the faculty review program data, the curriculum, student program performance in the didactic year and on the Physi-

cian Assistant National Certifying Examination (PANCE), student course evaluations, and faculty evaluation of the course itself.

In the most recent monthly meeting of the Joint MSPAS/MPH Curriculum Committee, students brought to the group's attention that more emphasis was needed on pharmacotherapeutics and less on biochemistry. Important modifications to the curriculum included

increasing the number of clinical medicine, physical diagnosis, principles of pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics, clinical reasoning, and better integration of course topics.

The joint curriculum continues to be reviewed, as the Joint MSPAS/MPH Program strives to provide an excellent preparation in medicine and public health.



Spotlight on: Clinical Coordinator, Tracey DelNero, PA-C



Ms. Tracey DelNero joined the Program in February 2006 on a full-time basis. Since then, the Program has enjoyed significant growth in the number of quality clinical training sites owing to Ms. DelNero's efforts in clinical site identification and development. In line with our mission, many of these sites are in designated underserved areas of California.

I had a chance to talk with Ms. DelNero about her experiences prior to and now in the Pro-

gram. I asked Tracey why she chose the physician assistant profession, where she went to school and why she chose to delve into academia from clinical practice.

Ms. DelNero always wanted to be in the medical field, and chose to become a PA because it afforded her the flexibility she wanted for a family/career balance. She went to the Western University Physician Assistant Program and graduated in 1998. Upon graduation she focused

her practice in family and internal medicine.

Even before graduating Ms. DelNero knew she wanted to teach and began taking PA students as a preceptor once she began clinical practice. "I love teaching students, especially in the clinical year." This love of teaching helped her transition into the world of academia when she joined the Program in 2006.

-Lauren Padilla-Valverde

Meet the Class of 2009

The Class of 2009 is currently in the didactic academic phase of their training .

The class is but a few weeks away from final examinations in their third academic session.

They are a community-oriented group, having just completed months of working with the Vallejo Unified School District's

ENCORE Program and now have their sights on the clinical year component of their training program.

When talking with the faculty, whether at Town Hall meetings or individually, our students appreciate the willingness to listen to their concerns and make changes when-

ever feasible.

The Program is proud of this class that represents a diversity of experiences and rich backgrounds.



UCSF Professor Emeritus Anthony J. Trevor Joins the Program

The Program is pleased to announce the recruitment of Dr. Anthony J. Trevor, professor emeritus at UC San Francisco's Department of Cellular and Molecular Pharmacology where he teaches medical and dental students. Within the Program he is endearingly known as "Trev."

Dr. Trevor is a dynamic and

outstanding teacher and is loved by our PA/PH students.

Dr. Trevor began teaching the Pharmacology course series in January 2007. He has adapted very well to teaching physician assistant students who are learning pharmacotherapeutics in a very short period of time.

Dr. Trevor truly enjoys teaching PA students because "it is

clear PAs are very proactive in knowing exactly what is going on with the patient including how the medications are affecting their patients," and that he himself is learning about the PA model of training.

We are very pleased to have such a distinguished scholar in our program. Thank you Dr. Trevor!



"All 2005 and 2006 graduates are practicing clinically, and 65% are working in designated underserved areas of California."

Meet the PA/PH Faculty

The PA/PH faculty has grown in numbers from its original three full-time core faculty in 2003. We now have seven full-time PA faculty and two support staff.

Unique in the United States to our program is the sharing of faculty and resources in our linked program that trains both a medical provider and public health professional. Such training is not new worldwide; in Cuba, for example such a combination is essential to ensuring the health and wellness of the population.

The Program is committed to its mission of providing an excellent

curriculum for our students, and increasing the number of under-represented minorities from underserved areas, particularly in California.

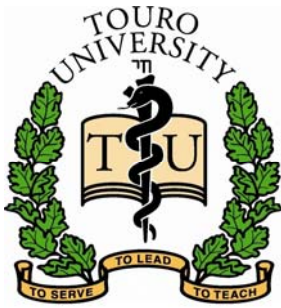
Each member of our diverse faculty has a unique backgrounds and set of experiences. Among them are graduates of PA programs at Duke, Stanford, UC Davis, and Hahnemann University.

They have worked in surgery, family practice, internal medicine and women's health. Most faculty continue to remain in clinical practice one day per week, and

most work in underserved areas.

All 2005 and 2006 graduates are all practicing clinically and 65% are working in designated underserved areas of California. The PANCE pass rate for the Class of 2007 is at 95%. A special thank you to the faculty and staff for making this program the best it can be.





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Touro Class of 2007– 95% PANCE Pass Rate
National PANCE Pass Rate is 92%
CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2007!

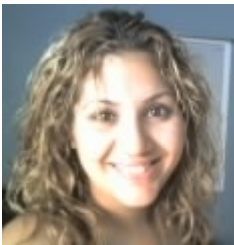
Promoting global health, one person at a time.

Focus on...

Our Staff

Our program support staff is essential in making our program run and allows the faculty to do what it needs to do in delivering the curriculum.

Erendira (Endy) Romero came to the Program in 2006. Ms. Romero is instrumental in ensuring the Program Director keeps all of her meetings and appointments, greeting all visitors and students as well as countless other tasks the Program needs completed.



The Class of 2010

Out of a field of 600 applicants, forty students were admitted to Touro University's Joint MSPAS/MPH Program this fall. On August 22, these forty will gather for new student orientation. Here are a few fast facts about the Class of 2010 to help you get acquainted.

74% are female
26% are male

If you are the average age of this class, you were born July 22, 1981. Approximately.

59% of the class has a home address in California.

Nearly a quarter of the class has an undergraduate degree from the University

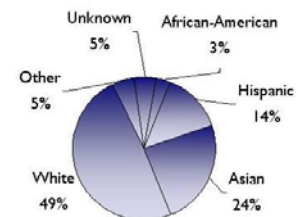
of California. Another 16% hail from the California State University system.

24% were double majors.

30 % of the class are from socio-economically underserved areas and/or are educationally disadvantaged.

The average undergraduate GPA was 3.10.

Ethnicity of Class of 2010



Touro University's Joint MSPAS/MPH Mission Statement:

To improve the health of individuals and communities with a focus on recruiting and serving underserved populations, by training clinicians who integrate the Physician Assistant and Public Health disciplines.