



HPMB online!

ISSUE 25

FALL SEMESTER 2012

Department of
Health Policy
Management &
Behavior

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings, once again, from the HPMB department!

The Fall semester is now in full-swing, and we could not be more proud of our department's new and continuing student body. In September, we welcomed a new cohort of 35 MPH students to join our 42 continuing MPH students with concentrations in HPMB. Several new DrPH students are also concentrating in our department and our faculty continues to play an active role in our growing undergraduate program.

The HPMB concentrations ("Health Policy and Management" and "Social Behavioral and Community Health") continue to be so popular among students for many reasons. As the national debate about how best to provide afford-

able and high quality health care to the population continues, it is an important and exciting time to be studying healthy policy and health care management.

Many of our faculty and alumni have made important contributions to this debate, and I have no doubt that our future alumni will continue to be leaders in analyzing and implementing health care policies that will have profound effects on all of our lives. In addition, as the burdens of chronic illness and health disparities continue to increase, the need for well-trained public health professionals who can develop, implement and evaluate health promotion strategies within vulnerable communities is now greater than ever. It gives me great pride to know that the stu-



dents we train will be at the forefront of these efforts.

Of course, the strength of our HPMB concentrations also rests on the excellence of our faculty, and this Fall we have several reasons to be thankful about the HPMB faculty. First, we are thrilled to have 4 new full-time faculty on board in the HPMB department. Assistant Professors Bozlak, Hastings, Potworowski, and Qian

...Continued on page 2



HPM: 531 Childhood Obesity class

celebrates

Food Day 2012

...Full story on page 10

(introduced on page 3) have provided the department with a new vitality while also allowing our department to expand its expertise into critical new areas, such as adolescent health, mental health disparities, decision-making in health care organizations, and patient-centered outcomes research.

Sadly, however, this semester we must say goodbye to our colleague Tim Hoff, who will be starting a new position at the Northeastern University School of Business in January. We are extremely thankful to Professor Hoff for all that he has done for the HPMB department. He has been a leader in the department for over 14 years and has helped to raise the profile of the department regionally, nationally, and internationally. Moreover, throughout his tenure in HPMB, countless students have bene-

fited from his meticulous and rigorous teaching. We wish Tim the best of luck in Boston, and we look forward to keeping in touch in the future.

So, while the HPMB department looks a bit different than it has in recent years, we continue to grow and thrive, and our goals remain the same: to provide the emerging public health workforce with the highest-quality education that is possible, while also conducting cutting-edge public health research.

I look forward to keeping in touch, and working with, as many of you as possible in the HPMB community. As always, you can stay informed about developments in the HPMB Department by visiting our website, by sending us emails, or by stopping by in person. And, as your careers advance, please keep us informed. Personally, I have found

“LinkedIn” (www.linkedin.com) to be a great way to stay in touch with formers students and staff. If you have an account, or if you decide to open one, please be sure to connect with me and others in the HPMB community.

We hope that you enjoy the current issue of HPMB Online. Thank you, once again, to Linda Gauvain-McNulty and Jessica Giffin for producing it. And, thanks to all those who contributed material for this issue.

Best regards,



Benjamin (Ben) Shaw, Ph.D., MPH
Associate Professor and Chair

Dr. Jurkowski Receives the Tom Bruce Award of Honor

Janine Jurkowski, PhD, MPH, was awarded the Tom Bruce Award of Honor by the Community-Based Public Health Caucus (CBPH), which is affiliated with the American Public Health Association (APHA).

The Tom Bruce Award is presented at the annual APHA meeting in recognition of an individual's leadership in community-based public health and recognizes “an individual who has made a significant contribution to the CBPH Caucus and the CBPH Movement.”

The award was presented at the APHA Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA on October 30, 2012.

Dr. Jurkowski's work within in the Caucus and her research approach earned her this award. Her most recent project, Communities for Healthy Living (CHL), a Community-Based, Participatory Research (CBPR) intervention research project engages low-income parents of Head Start children as experts and decision makers throughout the research process. This grant was funded

under ARRA and supported by a grant from NIH.

The CHL project was the lead program and one of the three programs supporting the University at Albany being named to the 2012 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll.

New course offering

HPM 669 Topics in Adolescent Health

This course will examine the primary causes of morbidity and mortality in the U.S. adolescent population, highlight the policies and programs designed to improve the health of this population, and detail the innovative asset-based and Positive Youth Development approaches to adolescent health promotion.

Meet the New HPMB Faculty



Professor Qian will teach Economic Evaluation next semester

Feng (Johnson) Qian is a new faculty joining the division of Health Policy and Management this September. He is originally from Shanghai, P. R. China and received medical education and residency training in cardiovascular surgery from Shanghai Medical University, P. R. China.

He got a master's degree in clinical science

from National University of Singapore and then obtained a PhD degree in health services research and policy from University of Rochester.

His research interests include patient-centered outcomes research, comparative effectiveness research, health care disparities, medical technology assessment, medical decision making,

and global health. He will teach Economic Evaluation (HPM635) and Economic Analysis (HPM511) next year.

In his spare time, Johnson enjoys traveling, exercising, cooking, going out with friends, and spending time outdoors with his wife Joy and their three boys -- 5-year-old James and 8-month-old twins Jason and Jeffrey.

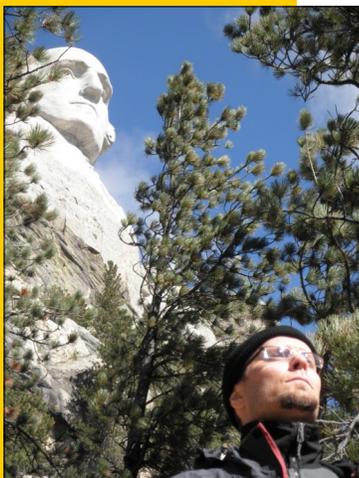
Christine Bozlak was most recently working as the "Advocacy Program Manager" (i.e. Policy Manager) for the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (www.clocc.net), a nationally-recognized childhood obesity prevention program of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital in Chicago. She was

also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health after receiving her PhD from UIC in 2010.

"I have flown two small planes... under supervision, of course!!"
-Christine Bozlak

In her spare time, Christine enjoys playing tennis, one day car trips to new places, playing outside with her family and sleeping in until 7 am when her son allows it!

Something you may not know about her is she has flown two small planes (under supervision, of course).



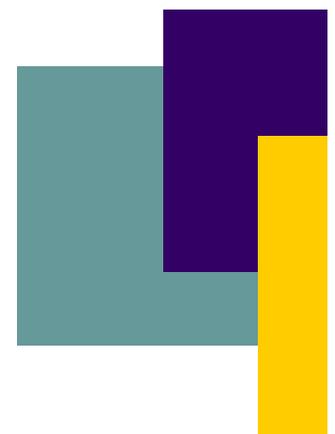
"Two Georges"

Georges Potworowski joins the department Health Policy & Management track as Assistant Professor.

He was most recently a Postdoc in Family Medicine at the University of Michigan.

In his spare time, Georges likes to go skiing,

hiking and play tennis. A fun fact about Georges is that he lived in Australia for a year when he was in grade 5, and came back speaking English with a ridiculous hybrid accent.





Dr. Julia Hastings awarded grant to research co-morbid depression and diabetes among African Americans

The National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities awarded Dr. Julia F. Hastings a three-year Disparities Research and Education Advancing Mission (DREAM) K-22 grant to study the social service needs, illness perceptions, and chronic disease management ca-

capacity among African Americans and Caribbean Blacks diagnosed with co-morbid diabetes and depression.

The lack of research on the depression and diabetes co-morbidity is due primarily to rather small samples of Black Americans in available

data sets from which to draw meaningful conclusions.

The proposed research aims to provide a more detailed examination of these chronic conditions with special attention on how health insurance may enhance or detract from service delivery.

“The experience for both the Vietnamese and American students is beneficial to foster a greater understanding of public health issues”

Dr. Dewer receives grant to teach Health Promotion to Hanoi Medical University students via webinars & Skype

The funding from the Vietnam Education Foundation is provided to develop curricula in Vietnamese Universities.

The graduate course, Health Promotion: Preventing Death, Disease and Disability, is making a contribution in the Hanoi Medical University’s curricula in that it will add to the teaching of health promotion issues and interventions in different countries (e.g., the United States and Vietnam) and different contexts. It is being offered to undergraduate and

graduate students in the Hanoi Medical University through webinars, Skype sessions and online.

health issues, delivery systems, as well as of students from across the globe.

Since the course is delivered in English, as per the grant specifications, the course will also assist in the development of English conversational skills of the Vietnamese students.

This is the second grant that Dewar received from the VEF. Last year she assisted in the development of curricula at Hanoi Medical University in general public health.



The experience for both the Vietnamese and American students is beneficial in that there would be a fostering of greater understanding of methods and principles of analysis of public



National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) releases report



“The old adage still holds true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors (NACDD) released in October its timely report on the critical link between public health and healthcare.

David Hoffman currently serves as Policy Committee Chair for NACDD and led the team preparing the paper and stated, “We are hopeful that this concrete information will answer many of the questions about the value of promoting health and preventing disease. The old adage still holds true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” he said.

The paper will be circulated to more than 3,000 of NACDD’s state members working in chronic disease, as well as their national and state partners.

The report provides strategic keys to moving forward in the chronic disease areas of diabetes, heart disease, cancer and dementia as well as associated risk factors such as nutrition, physical activity, and tobacco use.

Integral to these keys are assurances that legislators consider health in all policies; focus on promoting health across the age spectrum; move forward based on science; address disparities; and rebalance the investment in prevention to improve quality of life and control healthcare costs.

The Capital Region Refugee Roundtable

Russell Altone, HPMB’s part-time faculty member, is currently serving as leader of the Health Action Team of the Capital Region Refugee Roundtable.

The group includes concerned individuals, community-based organizations, governmental and not-for-profit agencies, health care providers, academic institutions, faith-based community representatives, and refugee community representatives working together

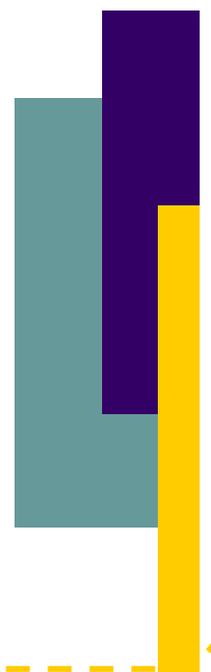
to support refugees as they resettle locally.

“The Capital Region Refugee Roundtable strives to strengthen collaboration and enhance community wide support networks”

The Capital Region Refugee Roundtable is organized around action teams created to better understand specific challenges faced by refugees of various cultural and language

groups, raise awareness, strengthen collaboration, enhance community-wide support networks, and take action to address barriers and gaps in services .

Participants are continuously being recruited. Students and faculty who may be interested in becoming involved with the Health Action Team or the Capital Region Refugee Roundtable are urged to contact Russell for more information:
ealtone@albany.edu



HPMB Student Affairs Committee



The HPMB department recently restructured its Student Affairs Committee. The main charge of this committee is to make recommendations to the HPMB Chair and faculty regarding issues that impact student life and academics in HPMB.

The committee consists of first and second year students in the department as

well as HPMB faculty members. The current faculty members on this committee are Christine Bozlak, Tim Hoff, and Dave Hoffman.

Students were asked to nominate themselves or someone they felt would be a good representative of the student body.

The current student representatives are Beth Meah

(2nd year, HPM), Kalie Hess (1st year, SBCH) and Laura Santacrose (1st year, SBCH).

The Student Affairs Committee will meet once per semester and the student reps on the committee will also have the opportunity to attend and report at one faculty meeting per semester.

Center for Global Health welcomes faculty member from Sweden



Dr. Lena Andersson

The Center for Global Health and the Department of Health Policy and Management are pleased to have Dr. Lena Andersson as a visiting professor from the University of Gothenburg (Sweden) during the Fall 2012 semester.

Dr. Andersson is a faculty member in the department of Social Medicine at University of Gothenburg and her time at UAlbany is supported by the American-Scandinavian Foundation.

Her research interest is in Global Mental Health and she has conducted research in South Africa, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka. This fall Dr. Andersson

taught a seminar on Global Mental Health for SPH students and faculty. The seminar included discussions on the role of stigma in Global Mental Health and how it can create barriers to treatment. Other discussions centered on mental health's impact on communities, families and the overall population, as well as mental health literacy.

Dr. Andersson says that the opportunity to teach at SPH is "a fantastic opportunity as a teacher" because she has the opportunity to work with students and be part of the faculty, as well as share research and learn more about others' research.

Dr. Andersson has also been

a mentor for SPH students completing international internships at Gothenburg University as part of its ongoing partnership with UAlbany. The student interns had the chance to visit various Public Health agencies in Sweden, as well as meet the health planners that create the health policy and the users of the healthcare system.

Carol Whittaker, Director of the Center for Global Health says, "We are so fortunate to have Dr. Andersson with us this semester to bring these issues to the attention of students interested in global health. We look forward to continuing our collaborations with her."

"We are so fortunate to have Dr. Andersson with us this semester to bring these issues to the attention of students interested in global health"

- Carol Whittaker

Q&A with Dr. Wilma Waithe

Q: How did you begin your career in Public Health?

I began my career in public health as a nutritionist designing and conducting nutrition workshops and food demonstrations in neighborhoods across New York City, first with the Cornell Cooperative Extension Service, then as director of nutrition services with the New York City Head start.

Q: What changes have you seen in the field and what skills are important for the public health leaders of tomorrow?

Over the years, the changes to the field have been subtle in many ways but very influential. First, in an increasingly cost-containment health and health care environment, greater attention is focused on designing programs and interventions that will make a difference. This means that public health leaders of the tomorrow will be entering work environments in which they will have to be very budget-savvy, and be willing to justify, on a regular basis, the public health need for the programs they seek to design, implement, and evaluate. Second, given the trend in public health in which chronic diseases are the leading causes of morbidity and mortality, public health leaders of tomorrow will need to pioneer more effective ways to partner with and engage communities (particularly vulnerable communities) around health improvement strategies that are within community and individual control. They will have to operate from more of an asset-based paradigm than is currently the case. Third, the boundaries of public health jobs are blurring. With globalization, the complexity of social determinants of health, and emerging public health issues, public health leaders of tomorrow will need more expansive portfolios of transferrable skills if they are to be successful in helping to advance a more robust public health agenda. Finally, technology has become an important driver in public health and health care. Public health leaders of tomorrow will be depended upon not only to maximize the use of technology, but extend its use beyond what is currently recognized as standard information technology practice in public health.

Q: What are your research interests? My research interests include the intersection of relationship and learning in partnership development, minority health, and the power of self-reflection.

Q: What do you like best about teaching at the graduate level?

I am excited and honored to be part of a learning culture that supports and prepares students to understand and help solve current and emerging public health problems. On one hand, teaching, for me, is about finding the best ways to share my 30 plus years on the frontlines of public health work with students in ways that facilitate learning. On the other hand, it is about taking advantage of lessons learned from students' thoughtful expressions of their perceptions of what's right and what's wrong in the classroom to improve the quality of teaching and the learning environment. I find the dynamic process of co-learning that teaching represents interesting and inspiring.



Q: What other public health activities are you involved in? Currently, I am involved with the University's Center for the Elimination of Health Disparities and the CUNY (City University of New York) Institute for Health Equity, which is based at Lehman College. Although not a direct public health activity from the perspective in which the question was posed, as an avid traveler, I am always observant of, intrigued and sometimes transformed by the cross cultural interactions my travels engender. For example, my most recent travel adventure has convinced me of the need to learn Mandarin Chinese.

Q: What professional advice do you have for current students and those who are about to graduate?

I think the most salient advice I can offer current students and those who are about to graduate is this: Take care to be fully present in each moment. This is where you live life at its fullest, where your potential is realized, and where you can understand your relationship to everything and everyone around you. Learn as much as you can, from everyone you can, whenever you can, and use the knowledge gained however you can to effect positive social change.

Dr. Gallant & alumni Jennifer Kahn Marshall study worksite health promotion policy



“Worksite health promotion interventions are increasingly being looked to as a way to reduce health care costs by improving employee health behaviors”

HPMB alumna Jennifer L. Kahn-Marshall, MPH, CHES recently co-authored a paper with Associate Professor Mary P. Gallant which investigates the evidence regarding the effectiveness of environmental and policy changes in worksite health promotion. This publication is the culmination of an independent study project that Ms. Kahn-Marshall undertook with Professor Gallant when she was a student here.

For this project, Ms. Kahn-Marshall reviewed the worksite health promotion literature published between 1995 and 2010 and identified 27 studies that evaluated the effectiveness of worksite health promotion programs that utilized environmental and/or policy changes in the workplace, either alone or in combination with individually focused health behavior change strategies. Her review of these studies led to the conclusion that there is limited

evidence of the effectiveness of environmental and/or policy changes alone to change employee behavior, but more promising results were found with multicomponent interventions that combined environmental/policy changes with individual behavior change strategies.

Worksite health promotion interventions are increasingly being looked to as a way to reduce health care costs by improving employee health behaviors. The implementation of worksite environmental and policy changes has gained attention as a potential alternative approach to traditional individually-focused worksite health promotion programs. This study illustrates, however, that the evidence base for these types of programs is weak, and there is a strong need for improvement in the design and evaluation of future health promotion programs focusing solely on environmental and/or policy changes.

Student News: James Onisk’s summer internship

I spent the summer of 2012 in Washington, DC at a healthcare lobbying/advocacy firm called Strategic Health Care. There, it was my responsibility to help research healthcare voting history of members of Congress in order to identify potential targets in getting the Huntington's Disease Parity Act passed.

Along with that, I was responsible for tracking health care trade associations opinions and support/opposition to the passing of the Affordable Care Act and

their reasons why. Lastly, I attended congressional hearings on Capitol Hill and wrote summary reports for our clients.

I encourage all students who would not prefer to work at a state or county health department, or stay in the Albany area to look into finding internships in other cities and regions. Not only does it look good on a resume, but you learn a variety of different aspects of the health care system.

- James Onisk, 2nd year HPMB student



Meet your Graduate Assistants



Tiffany on her visit to China!

Tiffany Valentín is a first year MPH student. She was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Tiffany studied at Ithaca College where she graduated with a B.S. in Public and Community Health.

She spent time during undergrad in Beijing, Shanghai, Chengdu and Chanshu studying traditional Chinese medicine.

Her current concentration is Health Policy and Management because she

would like to learn more about health initiatives that are currently being implemented and whether or not they could be improved.

Tiffany came to SUNY University at Albany to learn how she can help to improve the health of historically underrepresented groups. In her spare time she enjoys cooking and going out with friends.

Tori Roggen is a first year MPH student in the Health Policy and Management track. She grew up in Troy, NY and later Saratoga Springs, NY. Tori attended Purchase College as an undergraduate and received her B.A. in Public Health through the individual studies program in May 2011.

During her undergraduate years she worked at the College's Wellness Center designing and implementing

programs to create a healthier campus community. Tori also had the opportunity to intern at the NYSDOH Office of Health Emergency Preparedness. That internship and the mentors she worked with there were a major influence in her decision to come to the School of Public Health.

After graduation Tori hopes to work in the public sector in a position where she can take an active role in finding



solutions to the problems we face in Public Health. In her spare time she enjoys taking road trips, camping and skiing. Tori was also engaged in December and is looking forward to working on planning her wedding.

"My internship at NYSDOH was a major influence in my decision to come to the School of Public Health"

- Tori Roggen



Jessica Giffin is a second year MPH student in the Social Behavior & Community Health track.

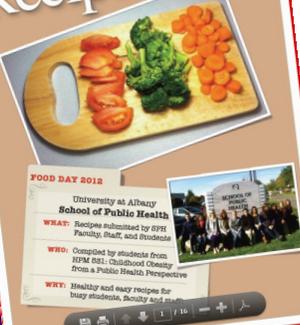
As a seasoned GA in the department she has been busy updating the website, working with faculty and planning social events like the Halloween potluck & May picnic. Jess is also the Public Relations

Officer for the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) and actively promotes opportunities for students to socialize outside of class.

Jess is looking forward to these last two semesters and to start her career as a public health professional!

HPM 531 celebrates FOOD DAY 2012

Recipe Book



This semester, students from HPM 531: Childhood Obesity from a Public Health Perspective have been working on a number of projects in recognition of Food Day 2012. Foodday.org describes the day as a "nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable, and sustainable food"

The class decided to collect donations of healthy foods to give to a local

food pantry, compile a healthy cook book from recipes submitted by School of Public Health faculty, students, and staff, and host a healthy taste-testing event at the School of Public Health campus.

All of the projects came together on October 24th, Food Day 2012, when the class sent donations to the food pantry, and handed out rec-

ipe samples as well as hard copies of the cook book.

The class was absolutely overwhelmed by the support and turnout for their event, and want to thank everyone who assisted with or contributed to making Food Day at the School of Public Health such a success! The [recipe book](#) is available on the HPMB website.



"Food Day is a nationwide celebration and a movement for healthy, affordable and sustainable food"
-www.foodday.org

Anticipated December Graduates!

- Michael Braco Bismarck
- Lynsey Cross
- Kristina Dallas
- Chris Hensel
- Gena Gerstner
- Martin O'Mally Hester-Laraway Monahan

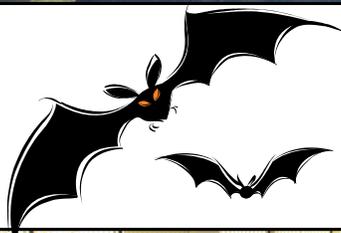
- Caitlyn Huntington
- Heidi Iyok
- Sarah Johnson
- Karli Keator
- Karen Kirschner
- James Onisk
- Kaleigh Reid

We wish you the best of luck on all your future endeavors!!

Spring 2013 course schedule

Course	Day/s	Time	Call #	Instructor	Room	Title
HPM500	W	5:30-8:20	3660	Potworowski	C4	Health Care Organization, Delivery & Finance
HPM501	M	1:00-3:50	9670	Weller	C1	Introduction to Health Policy Analysis
HPM525	W	1:00-3:50	8825	Grosvenor	C4	Social & Behavioral Aspects of Public Health
HPM528	W	5:30-8:20	9671	Young	C1	Managing LTC Services
HPM550	T	5:30-8:20	7548	Jones	C1	Financial Management of Healthcare Institutions
HPM612	W	1:00-3:50	8571	Weller	C2	Applications in Health Policy Analysis and Evaluation
HPM627	T	9-11:50	6159	Bozlak	C1	Program Development in Health Promotion
HPM635	Th	4:00-6:50	8572	Qian	C1	Economic Evaluation
HPM645	Arr	Arr	6402	Winjum/ Whittaker	Online	Topics in International Health
HPM647	M	4:00-6:50	3662	Shaw	C4	Program Evaluation
HPM650	M	4:00-6:50	3663	Potworowski	C3	Strategy & Leadership Applications in Health Mgmt.
HPM669	W	5:45-8:35	9714	Hastings	HS210	Poverty, Behavioral Health and Health Policy (crosslisted with SSW781)
HPM669	Th	1:00-3:50	9676	Bozlak	C2	Topics: Adolescent Health
HPM669	T	5:30-8:20	9886	Fishman	C3	Topics: Public Health and Addiction
HPM697	Arr	Arr		see schedule	ARR	Independent Study
OTHER SPH COURSES:						
EPI500	M,W	10:30-11:50	7510	Grubert	C4	Principles of Epidemiology - Non-majors
EPI551	T,Th	2:30-3:50	8570	Kuznetsov	C4	Basic Principles of Stat. Inference
SPH680	M	9:00-10:20	3668	Eidson	Aud	Seminar Public Health
SPH685	F	10:00-11:30	7996	Dewar	C4	Capstone Seminar (To be taken in last semester)
SPH701	Arr	Arr	3675	Sherman	Arr	Topics Public Health Practice
Dept. undergrad courses						
SPH341	T,Th	8:45-10:25	5602	Maniccia	FA114	Promoting Healthy People
SPH342	T,Th	11:45-1:05	7614	Maniccia	HU116	How U.S. Healthcare Works
SPH343	M	4:15-7:05	9591	Gerstner	PC355	Mass Media and Health Behavior
SPH460Z	T,Th	10:15-11:35	8989	Sherman	ED0022	Evidence Based Public Health
10/30/2012						

HPMB Halloween Potluck photos!



UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

PLEASE SEND ANY JOB, RESEARCH, OR PUBLIC HEALTH RELATED UPDATES TO:

HEALTH POLICY MANAGEMENT & BEHAVIOR

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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