Greetings and welcome to our Spring 2017 issue of the MPH VOICE! We invite you to journey with us through activities and events at LIU Brooklyn and also through Belgrade, Serbia and meet our collaborators from ECPD – European Center for Peace and Development, and Institute for Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut.” Let’s read what our students were all about this spring... Happy reading!

I have a question! What happened? Why isn’t school as fun as it used to be when we were children? Is it because we are now required to work, work, work without a morning snack and chocolate milk? Or is it because a nap-time is now frowned upon?

As we got older and matured, fun was transformed into something else. What is that? Grad school can be “fun” when reading The MPH Voice - especially The Student’s Corner :). It is also fun when working with diverse people, or when getting a shot of “80-Proof” water with classmates. Actually what graduate students find to be fun or exciting that elementary school does not offer, is the flexibility in classes, opportunity for becoming a professional in a field of study, and the fact that everything we learn in class will be applicable in our immediate future? For these reasons and more, grad school can still be fun! I bet you have some more things that make grad school fun for you...let me hear from you - email me at David.Thomas@my.liu.edu with your thoughts on what makes graduate school fun!
Our MPH Students in the Spotlight...

By Halyna Dyatlova, MPH

Spring is the most wonderful time of the year. Yes, summer is just around the corner and another school year is almost gone. Looking back, we realize how great 2016 and beginning of 2017 have been for us, and we are very proud.

Our current MPH students

We thought it would be interesting and informative to share some of our experiences in our studies here in MPH program at LIU Brooklyn. We would like to share some of the activities and projects through the thoughts of our classmates. Here is what they said:

Amee Sheth: Coming from a family of diligent social workers and a Dentist by Profession, I would want to focus my career on improving and highlighting the importance of Prevention Global Health and to sharpen skills in areas such as biostatistics and epidemiology, as well as to learn new skills in areas as diverse as health systems and policies, environmental health, or epidemic control. I enrolled myself in the master's program in Public Health to gain the real-world skills necessary for a public health professional, to address health inequity on a local, national, and global scale.

Juthi Ghosh: There are variety of clubs at Long Island University available for students. Public Health Club, for example, where I have an honor to hold a position of President of the Club. The Club is open to all health-related and non-health-related students enrolled in programs. The Club is run by the students in the MPH Program, and under the advisement of Professor Brian Gilchrist. We plan and hold many exciting events and activities throughout the academic year. The Club participates in walks to raise awareness about disease prevention, and collaborate with our students in MPH 740 in organizing health promotion programs on campus. In October we regularly attend the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) Conference, which provides an opportunity to network with Public Health students and professionals nationally, to hear others’ as well as to share our experiences.

Ketki Joshi: From all the classes that I have taken so far the Research methods was the most interesting class. The class provided me with a strong foundation about the entire research process like its design, data analysis and writing the research paper itself. The class struck a perfect balance between lectures, group assignments and some fun activities. The Epidemiology and the Public Health Policy and Advocacy are other two classes which I enjoyed because of informal and conversational style approach of teaching by our Professors.

Naiya Patel: My research experience as a Graduate Assistant (GEA) in the department is priceless. By holding a GEA positions, you get to sharpen your research skills, which include but are not limited to, literature review, manuscript writing for publication, data collection, analysis, etc. It also allows you to learn how to search and review literature and particular articles from certain journals, and finally compile annotated bibliography, and select and present the references. Being guided by a faculty member is a wonderful experience of learning outside the regular curriculum, when you have the privilege of sharing your own ideas and creativity while exploring and learning new things.
Public Health Club

By Naiya Patel, MPHc, Secretary of the club

I feel honored to pen down my experience with public health club this semester as a Public Health Club secretary. It was a great experience but as they say efforts pay off. I still can’t forget how Juthi and I struggling through our semester work, but still having time to prepare poster boards for Public Health club! Regardless of the struggle, we are happy to be part of it.

This semester Public Health Club participated in two health fairs. “Let it go” and Alpha Chi club health fair. Both were a wonderful experiences. Public Health club partially funded “Let it Go” Program. Juthi and I, on behalf of the Club, supplied materials for the program - from tablecloth to program incentives, such as stress balls, brochures, pens, balloons, and others.

For the future we are planning to conduct weekly meetings and we call for more volunteers and particularly MH students to join us. The meetings will be held in a designated space on campus. Our long term goal is to expand the club with motivated students who can boost the club objectives with their creative ideas and advance the club. We want to serve LIU Brooklyn student community in the best possible way we can.

Global Internships in Public Health - in Belgrade, Serbia

Nizam’s Internship Story:

The past two months, I have been in Belgrade, Serbia to complete the 200 hours required for my practicum course. My experience has been educational and exciting. During my first week, I completed an analysis of the Public Health system and cancer screening programs in the Republic of Serbia to get a better understanding of Public Healthcare structure.

Over the following weeks, I attended several health promotion events in the city, organized by Institutute for Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut” in Belgrade, Serbia

Nizam, Haunya and David at the Breast Cancer Screening/Promotion Event, organized by Institutute for Public Health of Serbia “Dr Milan Jovanovic Batut” in Belgrade, Serbia

One of the stations at the LET IT GO program was devoted to mental health and depression
HALYNA’S Internship Story:

This spring, 2017, I have traveled to Belgrade, Serbia, to complete my internship component of the practicum course. The time that I have spent in Belgrade has been an amazing experience. After researching current public health issues in Serbia, I decided to further explore the smoking prevention in Serbia. After analyzing Serbia’s public health system, visiting a few health promotion awareness events, and health fair in Belgrade, I worked on developing a brochure for smoking prevention in adolescents, but for school teachers. It includes an analysis of smoking prevalence and patterns of smoking in the country and suggested materials for recommendation for a smoking prevention program. This leaflet is designed for teachers with an objective to provide knowledge and skills to implement programs on smoking prevention to students. It will allow teachers to increase students’ knowledge on the health consequences of tobacco use, change their beliefs, attitudes and intentions, and develop norms and skills to identify and resist social influences.

Now, aside from the work, I would like to share some of my other experiences while exploring this beautiful Capitol of Serbia. Kalemegdan Park was the very first place I visited when I arrived to Belgrade. It is considered to be the largest park in the city and probably the most important historical monument, being a part of the Kalemegdan Fortress. One of the places in the park occupies the Belgrade Zoo, which is the only zoo in the area surrounding Belgrade, so it is one of the must-go places. Another interesting part of the fortress, which occupies most of its area, is a military museum, interesting historical place.

Another memorable event was a ballet performance at the National Theatre in Belgrade. In fact, it was my very first ballet experience. The graceful dancing that I observed, in which dancers performed motions that seem almost unnatural for the body; the way that dancers floated through the air – seem to defy gravity or spin on the tips of their toes...It was an amazing experience. During an intermission we visited a museum of the history of this theater, which is located on the first floor of the theater. The museum included some pictures from the period of construction of this building, pictures of famous choreographers, producers and writers etc. Definitely a must-visit place if you happen to visit Belgrade.

Knez Mihailova Street, Pedestrian zone, Belgrade, Serbia

Oh, and let me tell you about my fantastic dining experiences! Knez Mihailova Street is the main pedestrian and shopping zone in Belgrade. Most of my free time in Belgrade, I spent in this area. An interesting fact – this street is considered a landmark in Belgrade, as it was named after Mihailo Obrenović III, Prince of Serbia, and it features a number of buildings and mansions built during the late 1870s. Just taking a walk alone on this street is a pleasure; exploring beautiful architecture and famous buildings; stopping by one store after another for shopping; taking a break at one of the quiet and peaceful restaurants, lined up one after another, with pretty outdoor sitting areas; or just sitting down and having a delicious meal. The best part about this beautiful area is that it is closed off for traffic – this street is reserved for pedestrian only and thus, is very quiet and safe.
WHO IS WHO IN THE ECPD?

The European Center for Peace and Development is partner of Long Island University, which provides an opportunity for collaboration with the Institute for Public Health of Serbia “Milan Jovanovic Batut” in Belgrade. While interning at the “Batut” we had weekly meetings with Dr. Ljiljana Milosevic at ECPD, which allowed us to meet people who work there and to get to know our Serbian partners better. Here we present them to you:

Irena Vukšić - Assistant for ECPD International Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies

Irena, what is your role at the ECPD?
Irena: My role in the ECPD concerns the organization and realization of Postgraduate student programs and keeping record of the same.

Tell me about an accomplishment you are most proud of!
Irena: Being a member of a successful team, taking part in organizing International Postgraduate and Doctoral studies and providing unique chance for studying under supervision of the World’s renowned university professors makes me proud and feel enriched with new experiences.

How would you describe Belgrade to a visitor?
Irena: As a center of lively living in the Republic of Serbia, Belgrade is the city in which people always live to the fullest and despite all the changes and challenges, it has remained unique and unrepeatable. A walk through the intricate maze of a city is amazing, magical journey, a pleasure impossible to resist. As a chronicle of the times that have passed, left an indelible mark in the hearts and souls of each of us who have lived here.

What motivates you to work hard every day?
Irena: My belief in better solutions is a contribution, which I want to give to my team.

Describe your best professional development experience?
Irena: Enjoyment in combining different characters with the aim of creating innovative organizational solutions would be one of my professional development experiences.

Marija Radaković - Member of the Youth forum Organization team

Marija, what is your role at ECPD?
Marija: I’m part of the Youth Forum organization team, working on the preparation and implementation of each stage of the event, which includes, among other tasks program planning and all logistic and promotional activities.

Tell me about an accomplishment you are most proud of!
Marija: Apart from my official job at ECPD, I have started an online artistic platform with two friends of mine – Dunja and...
**DID YOU KNOW?**

The 5th Global ECPD Youth Forum “YOUTH AS PEACEBUILDERS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE” will be held in Belgrade, Serbia, on October 28 through 29.

By Halyna Dyatlova, MPH

The European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD) is an international educational and research institution in Europe that has been actively involved in the issues of human security, reconciliation and tolerance as preconditions for a stable peace and sustainable development in the Balkans, as well as the international cooperation in the transfer of knowledge. In 2013, ECPD started to host Global Youth Forum for Peace. In 2014, ECPD, along with VAMK University (Finland) established an official global partnership with our Brooklyn Campus, Long Island University, to strengthen and expand the mission of promoting global peace set forth by the United Nations. This 5th Global ECPD Youth Forum will be focusing on how young men and women can contribute to building a culture of peace and sustainability from local to global level and engaging a greater responsibility worldwide. In addition, this forum will also address aspects of education, cultural diversity, active citizenship and skills for sustainable development as the main sub-themes.

Annual Youth Forum always welcomes everyone from around the world. So, my fellow classmates, if you are working at the heart of social innovation and bringing change in your communities, you are more than welcome to join this forum in Belgrade, in October, 28-29, 2017. You will have a perfect opportunity to share the experiences, views and exchange ideas with students, postgraduate students and young professionals on the following topics:

- Peace and education as inseparable aspects of civilization.
- Unity in diversity: building bridges for inclusion.
- Young global citizens in the quest for sustainable suture.

Based on the participation and acquired knowledge and skills during the Youth Forum, the participants will receive an international Certificate issued by the ECPD.

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**C.H.E.S. CERTIFICATION**

**Why Become C.H.E.S.?**

By David Thomas, MPH

What is CHES? The “CHES” stands for Certified Health Education Specialist. This credential means an individual has successfully passed a competency-based examination demonstrating skill and knowledge about the Seven Areas of Responsibilities for Health Educators. These areas are the following: Assess Needs, Assets, and Capacity for Health Education, Plan Health Education, Implement Health Education, Conduct Evaluation and Research, Related to Health Education, Administer and Manage Health Education, Serve as a Health Education Resource Person, and Communicate and Advocate for Health and Health Education. The competency exam is offered by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing Inc., more information about it on their website at [www.nchec.org](http://www.nchec.org). CHES – speaks about Health Education professional, even before meeting a potential employer. CHES accentuates an individual’s ability and dedication to continued professional development. After initial certification, to maintain the certification, each Certified Health Education Specialist must earn a total of seventy-five continuing education contact hours every five years. Forty-five of the seventy-five continuing education contact hours must come from NCHEC preapproved designated providers (Category I), while the remaining thirty hours can come from other claimants (Category II). To complete all seventy-five hours, Health Education professionals must obtain it through the preapproved designated providers. Only fifteen hours can be carried over to the subsequent certification cycle. After recertification, CHES can apply for Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES).

One added advantage of becoming certified is that there are businesses in health and industry that specifically hire CHES. CHES helps individuals stand out among the qualified. For more information feel free to contact Dr. Bojana Beric at Bojana.Beric@liu.edu.
Keeping Up With Alumni

By David Thomas, MPH

In this issue we have wonderful and exciting news from the class of 2013-2016!

* Felix Ollennu lives in New Jersey while continuing his career in the medical setting while also got married in August 2016.
* Neha Chopra was recently married in September 2016, lives in New Jersey, and working for the New Jersey Department of Health.
* Caitlyn Meadows was married in August 2016 and is living in Toronto, Canada. * Carly Michel is working for the New York City school construction authority.
* Lauren Loor recently moved to Maui, Hawaii. While she lived in New York, she worked as a Nutrition Instructor at the New York Common Pantry.
* Shannon Givens has been a Scientific Operation/Program Manager at NIH/NCI (Rockville, MD) (since graduation in June 2014) and volunteers as an NIH FAES Teacher's Assistant for Field Research Class and Takoma Park Church.
* Daryl Elizabeth Johnson lives in San Diego, California and works as an emergency management coordinator at UC San Diego Health.
* Vinessa Gordon has been working as Education and Community Outreach Coordinator at Arthur Ashe Institute for Urban Health in New York, since February of 2016.
* Dora Izaguirre-Anariba – started her residency program in Internal Medicine at Wyckoff Heights Medical Center in New York, on July 1, 2016.
* Rajkumar Doshi - will start working at North Shore University Hospital as a research associate starting March 1. He lives in Jersey City. Fun fact - He loves to sing when driving alone/bathing, but he is way out of tune all the time.
* Cherubin Dorcent - currently working full time as a care manager and also working on a research project with Dr. Gilchrist (condom usage among Caribbean men). He still lives in Brooklyn NY. Fun fact - He likes to travel and exercise.

We would like to have more news and announcements about our Alumni. Please send us a blurb with where you are now, and share any news in your life!

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS & MEMBERSHIPS

Our global partner is the European Center for Peace and Development (ECPD), established by United Nations University for Peace. To learn more about what they do, click here.

Partnership with ECPD has allowed us to establish collaboration and working relationship with the Institute for Public Health “Milan Jovanovic Batut” in Belgrade. To learn more, click here.

The Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) is an organization engaged in addressing global health challenges, which was established in 2008 with generous funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation. To learn more, click here.

The membership with CUGH gives all of us at LIU the opportunity to be a part of the dynamic association of more than 145 organizations globally, mainly Universities. CUGH membership includes various benefits. Click here to read more about the benefits.

INTERNSHIPS

HRTP – Health Research Training Program – deadline August 15th, 2017 (Fall term)
SOPHE Internship – deadline June 1st, 2017 (Fall term)
Global Health Fellows Program II – internships available all year around
FELLOWSHIPS
By Halyna Dyatlova, MPH

Global Health Fellows Program II fellowships
Dr. James A. Ferguson Emerging Infectious Disease Fellowship
HIV/AIDS Public Policy Fellowship
CSTE Fellowships
CDC Fellowships and Internships
Center for Global Development

Cancer Research Fellowship, Internship and Training
Emory Healthcare Administrative Fellowship
Health and Aging Policy Fellows Program
Administrative Fellowship at Palomar Health
Administrative Fellowship at Henry Ford Health System

MEET THE FACULTY

Bojana Beric-Stojisic, MD, PhD, CHES
Associate Professor & Department Chair
718-246-6312
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Courses taught: MPH 740 (Program Planning); MPH 798 (Capstone Seminar)

Jelena Malogajski, MD, PhD
Assistant Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 610 (Epidemiology); MPH 735 (Research Methods); MPH 750 (Public Health Policy)
Joyce Y. Hall, MPH
Director of Practicum & Career Development
Adjunct Assistant Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 799 (Public Health Field Practicum); MPH 575 (Grant Proposals)

Janice Blake, MPH, CHES
Director, HRTP: A Public Health Internship Program NYC Department of Health & Mental Hygiene Adjunct Associate Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 600 (Foundations of Public Health)

Aicha M. Diallo-Bennett, MPH, CHES
Community Engagement Director Arthritis Foundation, Greater NY Adjunct Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 745 (Organizing and Teaching for Health)

Kevin Konty, ABD, MS, MA
Director, Research and Analytics New York City Office of School Health
Adjunct Assistant Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 615 (Biostatistics)
Jolanta Kruszelnicka, MS, LEED AP
Environmental and Occupational Health Educator
Adjunct Assistant Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 625 (Environmental Health)

Vanessa Mejia, MPH
Youth Services Program Manager Diaspora Community Services, NYC
Adjunct Assistant Professor
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Courses taught: MPH 620 (Theory); MPH 755 (Health Communications)

Renata Schiavo, PhD, MA
Adjunct Associate Professor
Founding President, Health Equity Initiative; Principal, Strategic Communication Resources; Senior Lecturer, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health; Editor-in-chief, Journal of Communication in Healthcare: Strategies, Media, and Engagement in Global Health
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Courses taught: MPH 530 (Global Health)

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