Welcome to the new and returning students! We continue our eighth academic year at Kansas State University, and for Spring 2011, we had 6 new admissions to our MPH degree program and 3 to our graduate certificate program. That brings our current total to 72 MPH students and 8 graduate certificate students in our program.

Congratulations to our new Graduates! In December, the university conferred the MPH Degree to four more individuals: Dr. Rachel Buffington, Dr. Tarrie Crnic, Ms. Andrea Schrage, and Ms. Megan Webb. This brings our total number of K-State MPH Graduates to 41. We presented our first two Graduate Certificates in Public Health Core Concepts to Ms. Tara Lopez and Ms. Lindsay Banks.

Changes in MPH Faculty: Welcome to Drs. Sanjeev Narayanan and Melinda Wilkerson as the newest members of our MPH faculty. Farewell to Dr. Samara Nielsen.

MPH Coordinating Committee Members: There have been some changes on the MPH Program Coordinating Committee, and the current members (and the area they represent) are:
- Food Safety and Biosecurity: Drs. Dan Fung and Deanna Retzlaff;
- Infectious Diseases and Zoonoses: Drs. Justin Kastner and Bob Larson;
- Public Health Nutrition: Drs. Tanda Kidd and Sandy Procter;
- Public Health Physical Activity: Drs. Katie Heinrich and Mary McElroy.
- Student Representative: Mr. Eric Kelly

Drs. Beth Montelone and Kimathi Choma represent One Health Kansas and Pathways to Public Health on the coordinating committee.

Accreditation Status: We continue our self-study period for accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH), and we will host the CEPH Deputy Director, Ms. Mollie Mulvanity, for a consultant visit on March 8, 2011. The Kansas State preliminary Self-Study Document will be due to CEPH on June 8, 2011, and the CEPH on-site visit will occur November 8-9, 2011, with a decision on our accreditation to be determined in Spring 2012.

Excellence in Public Health at K-State: The 3rd Annual Excellence in Public Health awards reception will be held during National Public Health Week at the Kansas State University Alumni Center on Thursday, April 7, 2011, 5:00-7:00 PM. We plan to again recognize an outstanding student, graduate and faculty member.

Assistance: Please call (785-532-2042), email (mphealth@ksu.edu), or visit us any time (311 Trotter Hall), especially if you want or need assistance in any matters. It is a pleasure to work with all of you. Thanks for all the hard work!