



University of Michigan School of Public Health

CRECH BULLETIN

Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health

Spring 2013

Global Public Health Practice in the Caribbean

March 2013



ANN ARBOR - Over the University of Michigan's 2013 spring break, students traveled to the tri-island state of Grenada engaging in projects with a variety of topics and issues surrounding health in an island context. Students interacted and engaged with public health organizations, tourist industry, local researchers and community-based organizations seeking to improve the health of the community. This field experience, sponsored by UM SPH Office of Public Health Practice is in collaboration with Rohan Jeremiah, PhD, MPH, Paul B. Cornely Scholar, Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health and St. George's University.

For details, visit <http://umsphfrontlines.wordpress.com/about/>.

CRECH welcomes new Postdoctoral Fellow - Shervin Assari

March 2013



ANN ARBOR - CRECH would like to extend a warm welcome to their new Postdoctoral Fellow, Shervin Assari, MD, MPH. Assari received his MD in 2002 from Shahrekord University of Medical Sciences, Shahrekord, Iran and his MPH in Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health in 2011. For the complete article, visit www.crech.org.

Fatherhood Research Panel

March 2013



ANN ARBOR - CRECH Director Cleopatra H. Caldwell joined leading researchers on March 28, 2013 at the University of Michigan in an interdisciplinary conversation on fathers, fathering, and fatherhood. Issues addressed included race, class, and ethnic differences in the practice of fathering, what constitutes "health" and "unhealthy" fathering, the significance of fathering in modern family formations, and the state of intervention practices and efforts on behalf of fathers and families. Dr. Caldwell's presentation was titled, "Involved Nonresident African American Fathers as a Protection for their Children."



American Men's Studies Association 21st Annual Conference on Men and Masculinities

April 2013

ANN ARBOR - Drs. Assari and Jeremiah, Postdoctoral Fellows, represented CRECH at the American Men's Studies Association Conference, April 4-7, 2013.

Moderating Effect of Different Masculinity Ideologies on the Effect of a Family-Based Intervention on Readiness to Reduce Drinking

Assari, S., Odukoya, E., Caldwell, C.

Reducing the Risk Factors Associated with the Use of Domestic Violence among Ethnic Minority Immigrant Men

Jeremiah, R.



American College of Epidemiology

April 2013

ANN ARBOR - CRECH Postdoctoral Fellow, Dr. Shervin Assari, was selected to serve on the American College of Epidemiology's Awards Committee (2013-15). The Awards Committee selects recipients for awards issued by the College. The American College of Epidemiology is an organization of epidemiologists that serves the interests of the profession and its members through advocating for issues pertinent to epidemiology, a credential-based admission and promotion process, sponsorship of scientific meetings, publications and educational activities, and recognizing outstanding contributions to the field. For more information, visit <http://www.acepidemiology.org/welcome-ace>.

1st Annual African American Men's Health Summit

April 2013



YPSILANTI - Men's Health Equals Great Wealth! This summit launched a community-based initiative that will empower alumni members of the Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti-Inkster Kappa Alpha Psi chapter to take a proactive approach in their management of healthier lifestyles. According to CRECH Paul D. Cornely Scholar, Rohan Jeremiah, this initiative was a culminating event that presented the results of a health needs assessment. The next steps will include developing a health education curriculum that will address their emerging health needs as well as train several members to become community health advocates and educators. To learn more about the project, please contact the Program for Multicultural Health and Community Health Services: (734) 998-4483 or www.med.umich.edu/multicultural/.

Bouchet Honor Society 2013 Conference Inducts CRECH Predoctoral Scholar, Katrina Ellis

April 2013



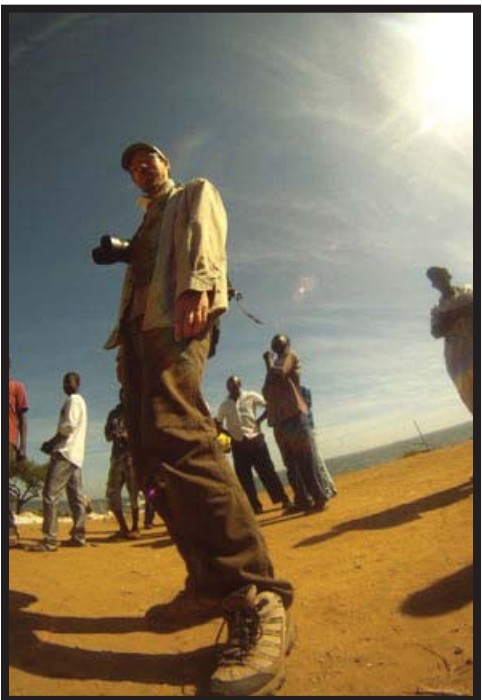
Inductees of the Michigan chapter of the Bouchet Society (Katrina Ellis, second from left).

ANN ARBOR - CRECH Scholar Katrina Ellis was selected for induction into the Bouchet Honor Society at the University of Michigan. Ms. Ellis will join a national network of scholars that exemplify a commitment to the ideals of the Society's namesake, Dr. Edward Alexander Bouchet - scholarship, character, leadership, service, and advocacy. Dr. Bouchet is the first African American to earn a doctorate from an American university. He received the PhD in physics from Yale University in 1876. Ms. Ellis attended the Induction Ceremony at Yale University April 19-20, 2013. She delivered an oral presentation at the conference titled "A Fidelity Evaluation of the Fathers and Sons Program: Adherence, Dosage, Quality and Participant Responsiveness" which is based upon work she is conducting with her CRECH mentor, Dr. Cleopatra Caldwell and members of the Fathers and Sons research team. The Rackham Graduate Honor Society Reception on April 25, 2013 honored inductees of the Michigan chapter of the Bouchet Society. For more on the Bouchet Honor Society, visit <http://www.yale.edu/graduateschool/diversity/bouchet.html>.

"Have we met?" 5 Questions with Peter Larson, PhD

By Katrina Ellis

May 2013



Peter Larson

NAME: Peter Larson

SPH DEGREE PROGRAM: PhD, Epidemiologic Science

GRADUATING CLASS: 2013

Ellis: Where are you living and working now?

Larson: I live in the sprawling metropolis of Bridgewater, Michigan, 30 minutes outside of Ann Arbor. I'm kind of planted here. I just graduated so I'm officially unemployed but I do have offers. Post graduate job searches are much more complicated than finding graduate schools!

My research is on childhood malaria in Sub-Saharan Africa and whatever position I take will certainly focus on developing country health issues. In general, my research work deals with three main areas:

- Access to health care/interventions by poor, remote and often marginalized populations;
- The health transition away from infectious disease as countries and localities develop and urbanize; and,
- How global economic disparities and political/historical differences create worldwide health disparities.

My ideal job would let me do all three.

Ellis: At what point did you realize that the work you're doing now is what you wanted to do?

Larson: The day I got off the plane in Blantyre, Malawi is the day I realized that this is what I wanted to do. It's been a long road here, but I've really never looked back.

Ellis: What led you to your area of work?

Larson: The short version is that I went looking for research projects and was introduced to my mentor by a mutual friend. He asked me if I'd be interested in doing some work on malaria in Malawi. I knew nothing about malaria and had never heard of Malawi.

The long version is that I was raised in Jackson, Mississippi. I attended Jackson Public Schools starting just after full integration (Mississippi was the last state to integrate). Even at a young age, I saw the vast differences between the welfare of racial groups based on an unjust distribution of resources and a political system that was unfairly stacked against the poor. Though I left Mississippi when I turned 18, I never forgot it. After I started travelling extensively, I found many of the same patterns elsewhere and globally.

Ellis: Twenty-five years from now, what would you like the impact of your work to be?

Larson: In 25 years, I'll be 69 years old! Hopefully, I'll be able to look back at my life and be able to say that something I did helped some kid get drugs where he wouldn't be able to otherwise. If just one kid lives where s/he otherwise wouldn't, I'll feel like this was worth it. If that kid is able to have kids, well, that's an even bigger impact.

Public health has a lot to offer the world. Though doctors get credited with saving lives one at a time, I argue that public health workers get the biggest bang for the buck. We can influence policy that saves many people at once and design delivery mechanisms for interventions which help prevent thousands from getting sick in the first place. It often seems like an uphill battle, but what we do is important.

Ellis: If you had all the money and time in the world, what would you be doing right now?

Larson: I wouldn't be looking for a job! This question, though, is really quite relevant to what I'm interested in. First, if I had all the money in the world, everyone else would have none, which pretty much parallels the vast economic disparities between the top 1% (us) and the billions of people that live on the global economic pyramid. If I had that money, I'd find ways to distribute it in a manner that was economically sustainable and finally mitigated worldwide poverty. The problem right now is that many of the people with the most money just aren't interested enough. I'd like to change that.

As for time, I'd like to plant a garden.

Check out Dr. Larson's blog at <http://peterslarson.com/>

Katrina Ellis is a CRECH scholar and third year doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the School of Public Health University of Michigan.