Many students enroll in the EVMS/ODU Master in Public Health Program. They have varying interests and skill sets. Some come from Pre-Med degrees and decide they really love Public Health but do not want to be a doctor and others decide they love both fields of work. The MD/MPH program offers just that. When Eric Chow, MD, MPH was asked about the EVMS/ODU MPH program, this is what he said.

"I am a graduate of the MD('13)/MPH('10) program at Eastern Virginia Medical School and Old Dominion University. The path that I took to choose medicine as a career was not ordinary and took many years of tossing around career ideas before I came to a decision. I am a California boy at heart growing up in Los Angeles and then attending Stanford University for college. I knew from the beginning that I had a knack for languages and had a tremendous interest in biology. By the time I finished college, I spoke French, Spanish, Russian, ASL and 3 dialects of Chinese. I tossed around the idea of working as an ambassador, microbiologist or conservationist but it wasn't until I worked at the Institute of Medicine in Washington, DC that I knew that being a public health professional with a medical background was the way I needed to go.

At EVMS, I had an opportunity to do an international practicum with the program director at the time, Dr. David O. Matson in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. While my interests were in infectious diseases, my public health work in the Congo concentrated on obstetric fistulas which is a medical condition that has huge ramifications for developing countries. I have a strong belief that every medical doctor should have a background in public health because everything that we do requires the skills that are taught in a public health program. I learned SAS for large data analyses, leadership from the school's top administrators and how to integrate public health into medicine from leaders in the field. EVMS/ODU offers a myriad of opportunities and weaves the public health that you know into the fabric of your medical knowledge. When you finish, you have the ability to treat not only the patient but the public as a whole. Now as a Combined Internal Medicine and Pediatrics resident at Brown University, I bridge the two parts of my brain together and am able to understand diseases on a very different level. Eventually, my plans are to pursue further training with the Epidemic Intelligence Service at the CDC and perhaps round off my training with an infectious disease fellowship. EVMS/ODU helped me achieve these goals and pointed me in directions I never thought possible."
The College of Health Sciences lost a distinguished member of its faculty last month with the passing of Dr. James Alan Neff. He left an indelible impression on those he worked with and taught. He was 62, and married with two sons.

Dr. Neff was a social-behavioral scientist with specialized training in medical sociology, public health, methodology statistics and evaluation research.

His academic credentials included a Masters in Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center, School of Public Health; a post-doctoral scholar at the University of California, School of Public Health; and both a M.S. and Ph.D. in Sociology from Florida State University. He was recognized as a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior.

To many at the College of Health Sciences, he will be remembered for his steadfast dedication and commitment to high standards for the college's graduate programs in public health and health sciences research.

"He had a stellar dedication to his students both in and outside of the classroom," said Dr. Deanne Shuman, chair of the School of Community & Environmental Health. "He was happily willing to meet with students and they always learned something new or left his office with an idea to pursue to advance their learning or research."

One of his former students, Dr. John S. Hudson, fondly remembers the guidance he received from Dr. Neff. "He made me think... harder and deeper than anyone else," he said. "When I would say something stupid, he would say 'Well, let's think about that.' I called him out on it one time and he responded with that belly laugh that only he could do. I told him I was going to steal that line for future use, which I have done, and now it has even more meaning."

Dr. Mariana Szkle-Cox, an associate professor for the School of Community & Environmental Health, expressed her sadness at losing a "wonderful colleague and a friend."

"Jim will be greatly missed -- his level of engagement and seriousness of intent, his ready availability to speak with students and colleagues, and his apt observations and great sense of humor," she said.

Dr. Neff focused his research on such topics as health disparities, alcohol and substance abuse, and substance abuse prevention and treatment approaches. A great deal of his research dealt with minorities. He also was a faculty member in the EVMS/ODU Joint Graduate Program in Public Health.

He was heavily published both in books and many journals. He tackled such subjects as mental retardation and HIV/AIDS. He authored refereed papers submitted to national and international conferences; most recently, he presented on the "Effectiveness of a Brief Screen and Intervention for Heavy Drinkers in Dental Practice" at the American Public Health Association conference in November 2013 in Boston.

Dr. Neff's contracts, grants and sponsored research were extensive. Among his awards, in 2013 he received the Poster of Distinction award from the American Academy of Health Behavior.

Dean Shelley Mishoe, says the loss Dr. Neff will be deeply felt, but his impact on the College of Health Sciences and the School of Community & Environmental Health shall endure.

"We are saddened by the loss of Dr. Jim Neff, but heartened by the outpouring of emails and shared memories," she said. "We will miss the teaching, mentoring and research that Jim contributed to this college. More importantly, we will miss Jim, the person who made us think and made us laugh. His sudden death made us cry and his memory will live on in those he touched and impacted."
Hey Graduates of 2015! Don’t forget to be checking the Commencement Site and your EVMS email for announcement updates and Regalia information. Check out this website to find out what the mandatory rehearsal times are and to make sure you have completed everything to walk across the stage!

2015 Employment Fair

Employers will recruit students and alumni from most EVMS academic programs in mid-March. As we get closer to the date, the following webpage will display the list of employers and the disciplines they are looking to hire: www.evms.edu/jobfair. On this page you can also view preparation tips to arrive ready to knock their socks off.

Save The Date!
Tuesday
March 17, 2015
2:00-6:00PM
Lester Hall
Room 104
Questions?
cers@evms.edu

Awards, Publications and Presentations!

Publications by Dr. Beydoun

Nguyen V, Beydoun H, McShane M, Blando J. Disparities in Hospital Services Utilization Among Patients with Mental Health Issues: A Statewide Example Examining Insurance Status and Race Factors from 1999-2010. Journal of Health Disparities
Research and Practice.

Presentations by Dr. Beydoun:

Campbell A, Beydoun H, Gemeda M. Variables Influencing Student Perceptions of Mistreatment. 2015 Northeast and Southern GSA/OR Joint Spring Meeting, April 16-18, 2015, New Orleans, LA.

Beydoun MA, Fanelli Kuczmarski MT, Beydoun HA, Rostant O, Evans MK, Zonderman AB. n3 to n6 dietary fatty acid ratio is associated with longitudinal change in depressive symptoms among US women. 73rd Annual Meeting Scientific Meeting, March 18-21, 2015, Savannah, GA.

BeydounMA, BeydounHA, DoreGA, Fanelli-Kuczmarski MT, EvansMK, ZondermanAB. Total serum cholesterol, atherogenic indices and their longitudinal association with depressive symptoms among US adults. 73rd Annual Meeting Scientific Meeting, March 18-21, 2015, Savannah, GA.


This publication is also listed under Dr. Beydoun's accomplishments. Viann Nguyen-Feng, MPH 2012 and Dr. Blando also worked on this publication.

MD/MPH: A five year dual degree program for students admitted in the EVMS MD Program. The MPH degree supplements the MD students' medical education with skills involving the health of populations.

To see the detailed curriculum and information regarding tuition and the application process, please visit us online at www.evms.edu/mph or call us at 757-446-6120.

Follow us on Facebook for public health job postings, scholarship information, events and up to date program information.