

E C O P H

December, 2019

Academic Newsletter

VOL. 3

SEASON'S GREETINGS



As we near the end of 2019, it is a good time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to look forward to the future. This has been a year of tremendous growth and maturation for Ensign College. We have graduated another terrific cohort of capable students who are already making a profound difference in the world by using what they gained during their MPH studies at Ensign College. We also have students who are looking to graduate in the next few months busy completing their semester activities and preparing to engage in field attachments and thesis work. And finally, we welcomed and matriculated a new cohort of students who are demonstrating that they are continuing the tradition of excellence established by their predecessors.

This year we also welcomed students and faculty members from around the world, including those from the University of Utah, Brigham Young University, Utah State University, Geneseo State University and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. Our wonderful Ensign College team welcomed and hosted these guests as they engaged in courses, engaged community service and research. We also hosted guests from the University Center for Global Surgery and the University of Utah Junior Scholars program. Welcoming friends and colleagues from around the world continue to make Ensign College an institution of global importance.

During the upcoming year, we have much to anticipate. We will continue to develop the Leadership Corps that provides training and practical experience for students in the MPH program, coupled with service that advances the mission of Ensign College and supports activities with our community partners. We are working to extend the Health 2 Go program as we work on a strategic plan for implementation on a national scale. We are pursuing credentialing of our MPH Program, which we run under the authority of KNUST, through the Council on Education for Public Health. We also look forward to finding more ways in which we can partner with our Ensign College Alumni to improve the institution and to provide continued opportunities for them to advance their capabilities as public health professionals.

For those who are able to visit Ensign College at our global campus in Kpong during 2020, be prepared to see construction of the Institute for Community Health and Development building. Active construction will begin in January 2020 – and it will be a remarkable building that will support new and innovation activities at Ensign College. Please stay connected with us as we continue to grow the programs and activities at Ensign College. We are increasing the number of workshops, special presentations, educational programs and events that are all designed to help us achieve our mission of advancing health, driving development, and creating capable professionals who positively impact the lives of people, families and communities.

Thanks to everyone who makes it possible for Ensign College to be an institution that is continually engaged in making the world a better place. And especially, we offer our deepest gratitude to Lynette and Robert Gay for providing the vision that has led to what Ensign College has become, for continuing to be deeply engaged in guiding us as we seek to expand our impact, and for their ongoing, generous support.

Warmest wishes to all of you who are our Ensign College family and friends.

Stephen C. Alder, PhD
President, Ensign College of Public Health



WELCOMING THE MATRICULATING CLASS OF 2019 (COHORT 6)



Matriculation for new students of ECOPH was held on the 28th September, 2019. The President and the Registrar in their speech respectively congratulated the students on joining the institution. The President in his speech stated that Ensign College is leading the way in the area of Public Health through the introduction of the “Health2Go” initiative which seeks to equip community health volunteers with high quality training to deliver primary healthcare to hard-to-reach communities in the country. He further commented on the newly instituted Leadership Corps program which is first in ECOPH and is aimed at helping students improve upon as well as be equipped to take on leadership roles in various fields. For the first time since the college’s establishment, there was an enormous intake of female students as compared to previous years; a total number of fifteen female students out of twenty matriculants. The SRC also welcomed the students into the Ensign community and advised them to be diligent and to fully engage themselves in activities on campus. The Registrar, Mr. Patrick Kuma administered the Matriculation Oath to officially confer student membership status on the new matriculants in line with ‘Article 30’ of the ECOPH statutes.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

In the third year of disbursement at the Ensign College of Public Health, the Kenneth Young Scholarship which is an annual generous donation was received by 3 students. An award amount of GHs 2,250 per student was made available to the three benefactors this academic year 2019/2020. A word of appreciation from one of the beneficiaries “ I am most grateful to the Young Family for this opportunity which has helped me to subsidize my Public Health education ”



Hi Colleagues,

I just joined WHO Department of HIV and Global Hepatitis Program as a Consultant. I will support the Democratic Republic of Congo National AIDS Control Program to implement and optimize effective and efficient HIV testing Services and linkage to care to meet the first 90. I will be working closely with the Global Fund, USAID, PEPFAR,UNAIDS,UNICEF, local implementing partners and other stakeholders. I will not be where I am today without the excellent training received at ENSIGN!

Dr. Francois Chimoun, ECOPH Alumnus Class of 2017,
Native of Cameroon.



"BUILDING ORGANISATIONS IN VOIDS OF ACCOUNTABILITY"

The Ensign College of Public Health in partnership with David Eccles School of Business (The University of Utah),held a seminar on December 11, 2019 to highlight and sensitize organizations on how working methods and innovations can help managers improve the effectiveness of work systems. Prof. Jason Snyder from the David Eccles School of Business - The University of Utah, was the main speaker.



On the evening of Friday, the 19th of July, 2019 the interim executive body of the Ensign College of Public Health Alumni Association formally launched the Alumni Association. Present at gathering was Dr. Mrs Lynette Gay (Founder of the College), Prof. Steve Alder (President of the College), Prof. Badu Akosa (Chair of the Board of Governors), some other members of the board of governors, some alumni and students. Dr. Edward Kofi Sutherland, the Chair of the Alumni Association gave a brief history of how the association began in June 2018 and some milestones achieved since its inception:

Milestone One – Creation of a constitution for an Alumni membership of 89 people who currently hail from six different countries in West Africa: Ghana, Gambia, Guinea, Cameroon, Nigeria and Liberia.

Milestone Two – Creation of a common communication platform aside the Class Whatsapp Groups for All the Cohorts (1,2 and 3) to share and receive information on Public Health Issues as well as to network.

Milestone Three - Creation of a common Alumni member registration portal which helps provide basic information on some demographics of Ensign Alumni to enhance planning and networking programs.

Milestone Four – Creation of a virtual Alumni relations Office: alumni.relations@ensign.edu.gh for official correspondence with all Alumni. Each registered member received a personalized letter to communicate confirmation of their registration from the Alumni Chair and have been assigned Alumni ID numbers.

Milestone Five – Creation of an Alumni Webpage that will be linked to the main Ensign College of Public Health website.

6th Milestone – The Official Launch.

Dr. Sutherland emphasized that the plan of the interim executive body is to put in place stronger administrative structures over the next year which will enable alumni work in tandem with our Alma Mater, the Ensign College of Public Health to achieve its mission and vision.

ECOPHAA was then officially and fully “ACTIVATED”!!!

KNOW THE MEMBERS OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE BODY OF ECOPHAA

- Dr. Edward Kofi Sutherland – Chair, Class of 2016*
- Mr. Gideon Kwarteng Acheampong – Chair elect, Class of 2016*
- Mr. Kwame Semanu Asiemoa Junior – Vice Chair, Class of 2017*
- Mrs Josephine Amankwah – Treasurer, Class of 2017*
- Mr. Jerry Selase Sifa – Secretary, Class of 2018*
- Mr. Emmanuel Kofi Bondah – Special Committee Member, Class of 2018*



ECOPHAA

ACTIVATED !!

ENSIGN COLLEGE DONATES TO KPONG PRESBY JHS

The Management of Ensign College of Public Health on September 18th, 2019 donated a set of Volleyball jerseys to Kpong Presby JHS in a short ceremony during the worship session of the school. Mr Prosper Elogo Adikpe, Headmaster of the School in his brief remarks expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the Management of Ensign College of Public Health, Kpong for the Love and supports shown them.



BREAST SCREENING EXERCISE



As part of the efforts to reach out to women and help create more awareness, Ensign College of Public Health on Saturday, 26th October 2019 organised a free breast screening exercise, dubbed the "Ensign Breast Cancer Screening" at the school's Auditorium. Volunteer and help us offer support for today and hope for the future.

GRADUATION 2019

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Another exciting graduation ceremony for Cohort 4 graduands was held on the 20th of July, 2019. ECOPH conferred the Master of Public Health degree on twenty students with a call on the students to impact positively on public health and health care delivery within the nation and worldwide with the knowledge they have acquired. In a welcome address Prof. Stephen C. Alder charged the graduating class of 2019 to embrace adversity as an opportunity to find the greatness within themselves and use that greatness to make the world a better place.



**- Best Thesis award 2019 :
Dr. Mary Dsane**

"DEVELOPING THE LEADER IN YOU"

ECOPH held the maiden edition of the program series on leadership for both first and final year MPH students on Saturday, the 16th of November, 2019. The Leadership Seminar was organized at the Auditorium with the theme "Developing The Leader In You". The seminar was led by the College President Prof. Stephen Alder who also doubled as the main speaker. He provided guideline solutions on how to handle leadership challenges we face in our everyday life. Participants at the seminar were put in small groups to create five- minute oral presentations focused on leadership development planning and action.



“ORAL & POSTER PRESENTATION AT THE APHA 2019”

By Dr. Steve Manortey & Dr. Edward Sutherland

Dr. Stephen Manortey made an oral presentation at the International Health session of the just-ended American Public Health Association (APHA) conference held in the USA. Where he highlighted the impacts of the “HEALTH-2-Go” project, a flagship project of Ensign College of Public Health currently being run in 26 selected rural communities in Ghana using the Community-Based Health Agent (CBA) model. The primary goal of the project is to complement national effort in improving the health outcomes of children under the age of five (5 years) and pregnant women in these deprived rural communities.

Dr. Edward Sutherland also did a poster presentation at the same conference on a research work done by a team from Ensign College and the University of Utah (Center for Global Surgery / Division of Public Health) in collaboration with the Volta River Authority Hospital on the topic “Knowledge, Attitude and Practice about breast health in peri-urban and rural areas in Eastern Ghana.” Findings from this project will inform measures to help improve clinical care-seeking behaviours of women on breast cancer; a canker that is affecting the quality of health of women in the sub-region.

2019 KNUST MEDICAL ELECTIVE PROGRAM

As part of the ongoing annual program, Ensign College of Public Health in September admitted seven (7) final year medical students from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology School of Medical Sciences for a three-week intensive program where the students were exposed to concepts and competencies in Public Health that can be applied in their professions as medical doctors. In addition, these students were assisted to finish work on their final research projects.

During the course evaluation, they expressed their love for the serene learning environment at Ensign and hope to be back in the near future to pursue their MPH. They equally expressed their appreciation to faculty and staff for the support offered them.



Election of New Executives for the SRC 2019/2020

The Ensign Students’ Representative Council (ESRC) is a student run organization that serves as an academic and social support system for students. This year’s election campaigns were keenly contested with 10 contestants vying for executive positions. They all presented good manifestos at the conference hall with the chief electoral officer, David Biney Myers stressing on the importance of all students to cast their votes. The newly elected executives are Stephen Korzi - President, Sonita Twum Barima - Vice President, Laretta Elloh-Donkor -Secretary, Ama Korantema - Organiser, Angela Otukuor Agor - Treasurer, Victoria Partey Newman - Gender Commissioner.

We wish them all the best and hope they strive for excellence in their tenure.



A RECAP OF MAIN ACADEMIC EVENTS 2019/2020 FIRST SEMESTER

August 31, 2019	Orientation for new students
Sept 2, 2019	Registration begins for all students
Sept 5-7, 2019	Registration ends for all students
Sept 14, 2019	Research proposal submission (Year II)
Sept 28, 2019	Matriculation for new students
Oct 3-5, 2019	Lectures/Research proposal presentations in class
Oct 10-12, 2019	Lectures/Mid semester examinations
Oct 30, 2019	IRB meets students/Approvals of proposals (Year II)
Dec 4, 2019	Academic Board Meeting
Dec 5-7, 2019	Final Exams
Dec 16, 2019	Christmas break begins for students



Managing Editor

Doreen Adwoa Afriyie Berchie

Putting together articles for this newsletter was an interesting but challenging pursuit but our passion held the reins. This edition would not have been successful without continued support from the entire team, most especially our Faculty Patron, Dr. Edward Kofi Sutherland and the Webmaster, Michael Blay. It is my hope that you find joy and pleasure in the Academic News as displayed from this semester. Even as I and Maxmilliana prepare to handover, we wish our successors well in furthering Ensign's literature course and development.

Share literary works and contributions in the form of pictures, stories and articles as well as poetry. Send to:

newsletter@ensign.edu.gh

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