



LA REVUE

The Official Student Newsletter for Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine Department of Health Policy and Management. By Students, For Everyone!

THE HALLOWEEN ISSUE

Think Piece: Housing Scare in Uptown

By: Rowan Poehler

If you have ever been Uptown to the Carrollton neighborhood, you may have seen white yard signs with a red stop sign saying, "Stop Doubles to Dorms". These signs are common in the area and have been growing in number since last summer.

The Carrollton neighborhood is a historic area west of Tulane's uptown campus. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1987 and contains over 5,000 buildings (Bruno, 2021). The neighborhood is dense with beautiful homes, large oak trees, and many longtime residents and families. Due to the proximity to Tulane and Loyola, the area also provides an abundance of housing for students.

Clashes between college students and families in neighborhoods near campuses are common, however residents of this neighborhood are more upset at the housing developers than the students who live in the houses. Developers have been buying single- and two-family homes in the area and are either tearing them down to rebuild or converting them into 6-to-10-bedroom houses designed for college students (MARI). Residents are angry about these renovations for numerous reasons. One of the biggest qualms is the removal of affordable houses from the market for city residents.

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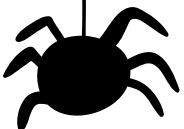
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Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Stoecker, PhD, MA



How did you first get involved in health economics?

Everyone in my undergrad was becoming investment bankers, so I decided I'd make some money! Then I took this course where two former chairmen of the Presidential Council of Economic Advisors held weekly policy debates on everything under the sun and I was hooked. I liked the idea of making people's lives better by crafting better policies. I landed an RA job working for Jon Gruber on universal health care in Massachusetts and worked for a bunch of presidential candidates on their health insurance plans. From that I realized I wanted to be the guy at the table with numbers that the policy makers turn to. After grad school I took a post-doc with CDC and got interested in vaccination policy, and now I'm pretty much living my dream. Policy makers turn to me, (in my own very, very small world of pneumococcal vaccine economics) and ask me what the numbers are!

What is one course that you think every MPH health policy student should take? What about MHA students?

Health economics (appropriately required of both)! I have a small, but extremely precious, cache of letters from former students telling me what they used from the course in their work.

What are some of your favorite New Orleans activities? Any restaurant recommendations?

It's hard to vouch for the quality of an entire menu, so instead I'll suggest some dishes: the blue crab beignets at La Petite Grocery, the fried-poached egg (just how?) at Herbsaint, the bone marrow toast at Lilette, and the meat pie at Bourrée.

How do you see health policy changing in the future?

I'm worried that we have done damage to confidence in government in this country with some of the misinformation around COVID-19 and the vaccination. Our health policy levers may not work in the future if there is an effective misinformation apparatus dedicated to undermining the effectiveness of government.

What made you switch from the government side of health economics at the CDC to the academic side at Tulane?

I get to work with a ton of people on really varied projects here. I loved the team at CDC, but all pneumococcal vaccine economics all the time makes Jack a dull boy. (To borrow a proverb.)

What current research projects are you working on? What drew you to it?

I've been doing some work on state abortion policies with Maeve Wallace that recently got cited in an amicus brief before the supreme court, which is an exciting way to influence policy. There are a couple of new pneumonia vaccines that have just made it through the FDA process and so I've presented the economics of those vaccines to the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices that sets vaccine policy in the US. We are also just starting a project with CrescentCare looking at ways to increase PrEP uptake among trans women in New Orleans. Really any of these chances to make people healthier through better policies are why I'm here.

Outside of the classroom how do you spend your free time?

I love a good game of ultimate frisbee, and I recently aged into the masters division, where I am tremendously excited to once again be one of the faster guys! I also do some woodworking and am going to make a (hopefully) lovely pair of walnut nightstands over holiday break. I am also nearly done reading my way through NPR's list of 100 greatest Sci-fi and fantasy novels.

Continued... Think Piece: Housing Scare in Uptown

By: Rowan Poehler

Large companies, such as Amicus Properties, can afford to pay top dollar for a house, add additional bedrooms, and rent out each room anywhere from \$850 to \$1500 a month (MARI). The renovation of these homes also destroys the historical architectural style of the neighborhood and eliminates green space by increasing the home size. Another concern of residents is parking in the area. The Carrollton neighborhood has very limited parking space, and these renovations have made parking an even bigger issue in recent years. A house with over six students and a one car driveway means many additional cars parked on the narrow streets and sidewalks of the area.

Student housing has been a growing issue at Tulane for the past several years. In 2016, Tulane first started making "forced triples"- putting three students in a dorm room built for two. I remember opening my email the summer before freshman year to discover that I would have two new roommates instead of the one that I expected because my class was "unprecedented both in size and quality"(Johnson, 2016). Tulane enrollment rates have been steadily increasing over the years. In the fall of 2010, 2,740 juniors and seniors were enrolled, whereas 4,076 upperclassmen were enrolled in the fall of 2020 (Office of the Registrar). The number of upperclassmen has nearly doubled over the past decade, but housing on and off-campus has not increased at the same rate. It can be very competitive to find housing within walking distance of campus and many leases are signed up to a year in advance.

In March of 2020, the New Orleans City Council approved two motions that created an Interim Zoning District (IZD) in the Carrollton neighborhood to try to temporarily combat the "doubles to dorms" movement (Hart, 2020). This new zoning measure required an off-street parking spot for every additional bedroom added to a home in the district. The City Planning Commission conducted a parking study of the neighborhood and concluded that they are "not in

support" of the parking requirement within the zoning district (CPC Report, 2020). The study listed possible consequences of the parking requirement, such as the demolition of buildings to create parking, a decrease in permeable surfaces, and an increase in flooding from additional pavement. Minimum parking requirements are frequently used in cities to prevent affordable housing from being built, to subsidize car ownership, increase sprawl, and discourage public transit use (Shoup, 2016).

The Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance, Ride New Orleans, Bike Easy, and other local nonprofits strongly advocated against the parking requirement for all these reasons. On the contrary, supporters of the "Stop Doubles to Dorms" movement state that housing costs are already increasing due to overdevelopment and want to make the parking requirement permanent to prevent this in the future (Hart, 2021).

Earlier this month, the City Council went against the Planning Commission's recommendation and passed a motion to make the parking requirement permanent (Williams, 2021). They also expanded the zoning district to include Hollygrove and Leonidas to the northeast and Black Pearl and Audubon to the south; all of these neighborhoods are farther from the universities and have fewer students living there.

As investors realize the financial benefits of catering to college students and tourists, New Orleans officials will continue to face the challenge of evaluating reasonable solutions that respect both residents and visitors. Locals with valid concerns about the changing nature of their neighborhoods deserve to be heard, just as much as college students deserve a place to live during their time in New Orleans, and elected officials must address these nuanced housing issues affecting the communities they represent. City Council should use their power to create zoning policies with less destructive side effects to address the housing concerns of New Orleans residents.

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How to Celebrate Halloween in NOLA

By: Kaylee Giacomini

There is potentially no better city in the United States to celebrate Halloween than New Orleans. From now through October 31 there is something to do every day in NOLA to get in the festive spirit. Check out some of the events and activities that you can participate in all over town!

[Krewe of BOO](#)

Krewe of BOO is New Orleans' official Halloween parade. The event is self-described as "the magnitude of Mardi Gras with the macabre theatrics of all Hallow's eve." Check out their list of events and locations [here](#). Wear a costume!

[Vampire Cafe](#)

The New Orleans Vampire Cafe's menu and theme is based on the lavish gothic vibes of if a Vampire were your dinner host. The fun is in the details, like gold cutlery instead of silver, a menu without any garlic, and cocktails based on your blood type.

[Take a French Quarter Ghost Tour](#)

There are plenty of ghost, vampire, and cemetery tours offered in New Orleans year round, but my personal favorite company to work with is Haunted History. The French Quarter Ghosts & Legends is their most popular, but they also offer an assortment of others to check out. This time of year, going in costume is encouraged. Book a tour [here](#).

[Peek a boo at the Zoo](#)

For those looking for family friendly Halloween festivities, Peek-a-boo at the Zoo is the way to go! Running until the 24th, this attraction offers kids of all ages the chance to trick or treat, venture through the maze, take themed photos, and of course see all of the animals that Audubon Zoo has to offer. More details [here](#).

[Run, Walk, or Crawl the Zombie Run](#)

The annual 2 mile zombie run is back on October 23! Participants are tasked with escaping the "zombie apocalypse" and are encouraged to come dressed for the occasion in biohazard suits, zombie makeup, and even gas masks. To make the event even more realistic, the New Orleans Rollergirls act as the Zombie Killers and chase all participants. Sign up [here](#).

[Visit an \(actual\) Haunted House: The Mortuary](#)

The Mortuary is a popular Halloween attraction in the city that prides itself with being a self guided haunted house in an actual haunted house. The popular location has been featured on a handful of ghost hunting shows and is open to the public. Buy tickets [here](#).

[Watch Rocky Horror Picture Show at the NOCHI](#)

The NOCHI hotel offers a movie series with themed dinner, and the October 30th installment just so happens to be cult favorite *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Admission includes dinner and a movie under the stars at their rooftop venue. Purchase tickets [here](#).

[Open Air Halloween Classical Concert](#)

Livaudais Hall hosts an open air concert in their courtyard each year featuring spooky decor and classic compilations of songs like Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and *The Adam's Family*, as well as haunting classical pieces. The entire venue is candlelit making for an intimate setting for those more interested in the American Gothic side of Halloween. [Tickets](#) start at \$40 for both Wednesday and Thursday before Halloween weekend.



Breast Cancer Screening During COVID-19

By: Alison Hurwitz
& Joey Ballan

As the world started to shut down at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, hospitals and outpatient clinics across the country delayed or cancelled millions of elective procedures...

These included life-saving screening services like mammograms. As safety measures and protocols were learned and implemented, healthcare providers began to offer elective procedures again. Today, mammogram rates are at nearly pre-pandemic levels. However, this doesn't change the fact that so many women, especially women in low-income communities and women of color, lost access to screening mammograms throughout the pandemic.

One study, conducted in August of this year, looked at changes in breast cancer screening utilization by analyzing data from community health centers in low-income communities [Fedewa]. The health centers observed were participating in an American Cancer Study grant to increase access to screening services. Across the health centers, breast cancer screening rates rose by 18% from 2018 to 2019, then declined by 8% from 2019 to 2020 [Fedewa].

The increase in rates at the beginning of the program means that women in these communities lacked access to screening services and were enthusiastic about utilizing the services once they were available. If trends had continued under normal

circumstances, over 60% of women in this cohort could have been screened for breast cancer in 2020 [Fedewa]. Further, the decrease in breast cancer screening utilization varied across racial and ethnic groups [Velazquez]. A study that compared screening rates from September 2019 and January 2021 found a rate of 10% among white women (71 to 61%), 15% among Asian women (87 to 72%), 20% among Latinx women (81 to 61%), and 21% among Black women (59 to 38%) [Velazquez].

In Louisiana, breast cancer screening rates in October 2021 are 29% lower than they were before the pandemic. Louisiana is among the states with the highest breast cancer death rates in the country, with a rate of 22.6% in 2018 [USCS].

To combat this high rate and help women access screening tools, the Louisiana Breast and Cervical Health Program offers no-cost mammograms and pap tests for eligible women. The program is funded by the CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) [LCPCP]. Eligibility is quantified by age and income, with women aged 21-64 eligible for cervical cancer screening and women aged 40-64 eligible for breast cancer screening. Household income must be 250% or lower of the Federal Poverty Level [LCPCP]. The NBCCEDP funds similar programs in all 50 states, DC, 6 US territories, and 13 AI/AN tribal organizations [LCPCP]. Such programs will be pivotal in reaching and surpassing pre-COVID screening levels.

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Student Spotlight: Nnenna Ukpaby

So you're SGA president, what is your favorite part about this role?

My favorite part is being able to connect with students and work with the administration to provide students with the best possible experience.

As a second year student, what is your best advice for first years in our department?

My best advice would be to remember that everyone is going at their own pace. Focus on your goals and where you want to be at the end of graduate school. Your journey is unlike others for a reason, so tap all the way into that and focus on being the best version of yourself.

Which class in our department has been the most beneficial to you? Which has been your favorite?

Health Policy Analysis. As a health policy student, I was really looking for a course that would educate me on important health issues while challenging me to think outside the box. I think that class checked all the boxes for the experience I wanted to have in a class. My favorite class has been Design Strategies for Public Health Programs. I had a great time in the course working with my team members to create a program design for addressing preeclampsia in pregnant women in minority populations.

Any upcoming SGA events you're looking forward to?

I am really looking forward to our Barcadia event. I have not seen the student body all together in a while, so I am looking forward to meeting the new cohort and connecting with some familiar faces.

It's Halloween in New Orleans! What is your favorite Halloween candy?

I really like the pumpkin shaped Reese's. They taste the same as any other Reese's but it's something about the pumpkin shape!

You've been living in NOLA for over a year, if you had to choose one what is your favorite aspect of life in the city?

My favorite thing about the city is that you can always find something to do on any given day. I've been able to make amazing memories with my friends on the days we've randomly decided to go out on the town or try a new restaurant.



SPHTM Events

Barcadia Bash

When: November 5, 7-10 pm
Where: Barcadia - 601 Tchoupitoulas St
What: Free food & 2 drink tickets
For: Students in SPHTM, bring your student ID

Homecoming Reception

When: November 12, 5:30-7:30 pm
Where: Central City BBQ, 1201 S. Rampart St
What: Free food & Drinks
For: All SPHTM, including faculty & alumni

Homecoming Tailgate

When: November 13, 4 hours before kickoff
Where: Berger family lawn
What: Free food & Drinks
For: All SPHTM, including faculty & alumni

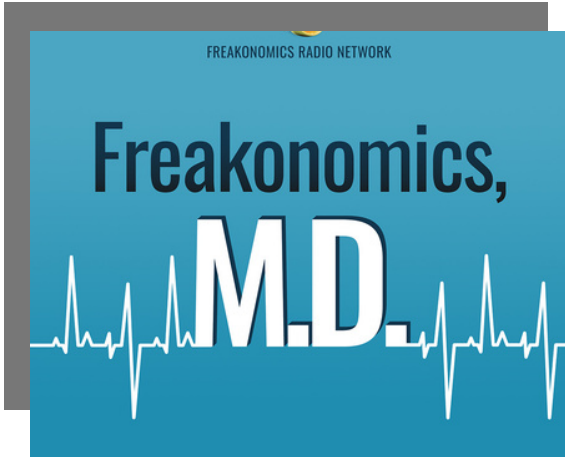
Book & Podcast of the Month

Dune

By: Frank Herbert

Dune by Frank Hebert (1965) is one of the best selling science fiction novels of all time. It tells the story of a young Paul Atreides whose noble family is sent to Arrakis (Dune) to rule the desert planet and control the production of the universe's most valuable resource- the spice melange. Deceit and treachery has Paul fighting for his life in the vast, dangerous desert of Arrakis where he meets the native Fremen people and discovers he was destined for greatness.

The book is 56 years old, yet the themes of this book are easily applicable to modern day or really any period in history. Dune explores such themes as imperialism, colonialism, environmentalism, politics, religion, and messianic figures. The story is science fiction and set on different planets, but all of the characters are very human in their struggles with how to manipulate the environment and other people. Dune is a thought-provoking, timeless book that everyone should read at least once, but if you cannot find the time, the movie comes out on October 22.



Freakonomics

Presented by: Dr. Bapu Jena

Each week, physician and economist Dr. Bapu Jena will dig into a fascinating study at the intersection of economics and healthcare. He takes on questions like: Why do kids and summer birthdays get the flu more often? Can surviving a hurricane help you live longer? What do heart surgery and grocery-store pricing have in common?

Upcoming Events in HPM

- November 1: Hunches & Lunches: Dimitris Karletsos on Generative Adversarial Networks to predict Alzheimer's disease severity
- November 8: Spring Course Registration Begins
- November 15: Hunches & Lunches: Yixue Shao on Impact of Telehealth on Diabetes Care in Louisiana
- November 18: Hunches & Lunches: Gilbert Rochon on Biogenic & Anthropogenic Disaster Resilience in Africa and in the African Diaspora
- November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break

Upcoming Conferences in Public Health

All SPHTM Students are encouraged to attend conferences throughout the year. Here are a few particularly curated to HPM to consider. Reminder that The Student Government Association has funding to provide conference reimbursements to students who travel for these events.

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo (APHA)

Where: Denver, CO & Virtual

Oct 24-27, 2021

American Medical Informatics Association Annual Symposium (AMIA)

Where: San Diego, CA

Oct 30-Nov 3, 2021

Southern Society of Clinical Investigation (SCI)

Where: New Orleans, LA

Feb 10-12, 2022

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

Where: Austin, TX

Mar 27-29, 2022

APPAM Regional Student Conferences (APPAM)

Where: DC & LA

April 2022

Tulane Health Science Research Days (TUHSRS)

Where: JBJ Building at Tulane

April 2022

Population Association of America (PAA)

Where: Online

May 2022

International Conference on Healthcare Service Management (ICHSM)

Where: Kyoto, Japan

May 2022

National Health Care For The Homeless Conference & Policy Symposium (NHCHCPS)

Where: Baltimore, MD

May 2022

Academy Health Annual Research Meeting (ARM)

Where: DC

June 4-7 2022

Harvard Annual Bioethics Conference (HU)

Where: Online

June 2022

International Conference on Health Care and Policy (ICHCP)

Where: New York City

August 2022

Your Editors



- Kaylee Giacomini
- Riley Eli Santiago
- Shelby Olin
- Kobe Walker
- Nnenna Ukpaby
- Joey Ballan
- Siddhesh Desai
- Michael Fabrizio
- Alison Hurwitz
- Andrew Kamali
- Rowan Poehler
- Sauren Stone

