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LECTURE SERIES EXPLORES THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
“Passion for Public Health” Series Begins Tuesday, Feb. 28

San Diego— (Thursday, February 16, 2006)—With images of Hurricane Katrina still lingering and the threat of avian flu looming, San Diego State University’s Graduate School of Public Health will present a timely lecture series on the future of public health.

The series, titled “A Passion for Public Health,” will feature experts from a variety of areas, including Dr. Harvey Fineberg, president of the Institute of Medicine in Washington D.C.; Dr. Mark Horton, California state health officer; and Meredith Minkler, professor of health and medical sciences at U.C. Berkeley’s School of Public Health. All of the lectures are free and open to the public.

“Our school is truly excited to host public health experts in our lecture series,” said Ann de Peyster, interim director of the Graduate School of Public Health. “We’ve taken care to not only present a wide perspective of views in public health, but also provide our students with an idea of what their future careers will encompass.”

Fineberg, former dean of the Harvard University School of Public Health, will be featured in the first lecture at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 28 in Hepner Hall, room 221. His lecture, titled “Why Prevention is a Hard Sell,” will explore the inherent challenges to be expected when educating the public on infectious diseases, obesity, chemical toxicity and other preventable illnesses.

Horton will speak about how California is preparing for the health challenges of the 21st century during “Emerging Health Issues in California” at noon on Friday, March 24 in Hepner Hall, room 221.

The final lecture in the series will feature Minkler discussing community-based participatory research and its role in public health. “Putting Communities First: Context, Challenges, and New Directions for Health Promotions” will take place at noon Wednesday, April 26 in Student Services East, room 1500.

“People often don't pay notice to something until it hits us between the eyes and touches our deepest emotions,” de Peyster said. “The astounding numbers of deaths, related illnesses, and prolonged homelessness and other misery resulting from highly visible

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health-related disasters in recent years just have to make us stop and think about whether this could happen to us and how we would react. People with a public health mission can be a whole lot more effective at what we do if the general public is more aware and more knowledgeable.”

The SDSU Graduate School of Public Health was founded in 1980 as part of the university's new focus on health and human services. One of four nationally accredited schools of public health in California, the school provides many opportunities for undergraduate and graduate education, research and community involvement to advance the state of knowledge in different health disciplines and to improve the population's health. The Graduate School of Public Health introduced a new master's degree specialization in fall 2005 that is designed to produce public health leaders specifically trained to protect communities and respond to the unique health threats posed by disease outbreaks, acts of terrorism or massive natural disasters. For more information on the school or the lecture series, please visit <http://publichealth.sdsu.edu>.

SDSU is the oldest and largest institution of higher education in the San Diego region. Founded in 1897, SDSU offers bachelor's degrees in 81 areas, master's degrees in 72 and doctorates in 16. SDSU's more than 33,000 students participate in academic curricula distinguished by direct faculty contact and an increasingly international emphasis that prepares them for a global future. For more information, visit www.sdsu.edu.

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