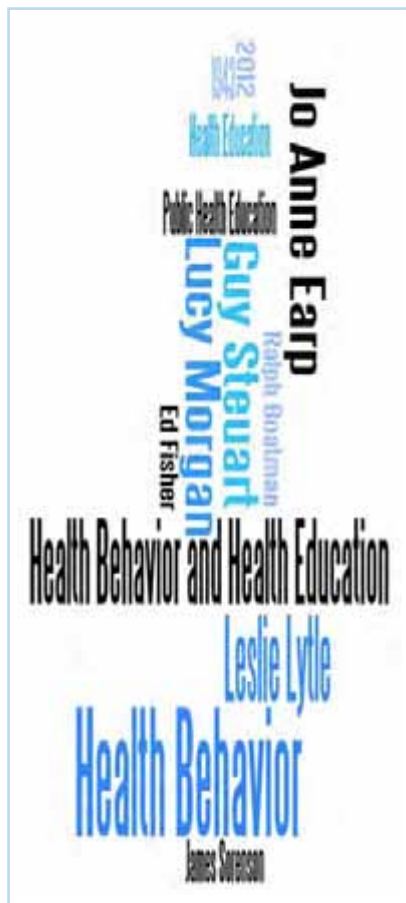


## WHERE IN THE WORLD ...?

### MPH students set new record for international practica

Each summer, our master's students put their knowledge and skills to work through summer practica. The practicum offers an opportunity for students to undertake an individualized, mentored field experience in an array of public health settings and topical areas across the United States and around the world.

The number of students with practica outside the U.S. has increased since 2000, with the MPH Class of 2012 setting a new record for international practica. Approximately 18 (35%) students completed their practica around the globe, including in Peru, Senegal, and Australia. Read on to learn more about their experiences and to find out where in the world HB students practice public health!



## Practicum Spotlights

### REBECCA WOODRUFF

Orange County Department on Aging  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina



Although Rebecca Woodruff (pictured 2nd from right) did not have far to travel to her practicum in Chapel Hill, she found it rewarding to have the opportunity to explore the greater Orange County

area. "I never left Chapel Hill-Carrboro-Hillsborough during the school year," Rebecca explained, "so it was fascinating to explore the rural, northern part of the county." At the Orange County Department on Aging, Rebecca conducted formative research for the 2012-2016 Master

Aging Plan. Through working on this strategic plan, published every five years to prepare for the increasing needs of the aging population, she gained firsthand experience in both quantitative and qualitative research methods.

What's more, Rebecca's work with the Department of Aging didn't end with the end of summer. "I'm one of the lucky HBHE students who was able to stay on with my practicum location for my Capstone project. After spending the summer working on the Master Aging Plan, I became very invested in its success. It was gratifying to see the strategic planning process all the way through to the end." Her preceptor, Janice Tyler, agreed, "Rebecca was a joy to work with, and we are especially pleased that she continued on with our Capstone Team. This provided wonderful continuity for our project."

*Practicum Spotlights continues on p. 31*

**S**TARTING in July 2012, the department will officially adopt its new name: **Health Behavior**. This big change coincides with a momentous change for me personally. As of October 1, I will step down as department chair, assuming a position as a half-time faculty member.

Although I won't wax elegiac about "the good old days," I cannot resist a few words about how far we've come since I joined the then-called Department of Health Education (HEED) in 1974. In so doing, I want to convey the dynamism of our field, our department's leadership in it, and how adoption of our new name helps us shape our future.



**Early Days.** When I first arrived, the department had four faculty, all men:

- ♦ South African firebrand department chair, **Guy Steuart**, who made community diagnosis the hallmark of our MPH training program;
- ♦ the cerebral, theoretically-inclined **Godfrey Hochbaum** who, after escaping Austria in the early 1940s, worked as a member of the US Public Health Service to develop the still widely used health belief model;
- ♦ Kentucky native **Leonard Dawson**, who chain smoked in the classroom while introducing master's students to concepts of community engagement in the rural south;
- ♦ **John Hatch** (DrPH 1975), a doctoral student when I first arrived, had worked closely with Jack Geiger in Mound Bayou, Mississippi in the 1960s to establish the first community health center in the U.S., arguably as foundational a step for health educators as when John Snow removed that famous pump handle in London in 1854 to stop the spread of cholera.

Given that I had spent almost 2 years in the civil rights movement in Mississippi and Louisiana in the mid-1960s, I'm convinced Guy hired me as much or more for my activist background as for my ability to lead the department in creating a research agenda, which I was ostensibly hired to do. Be that as it may, I was appointed head of HEED's small doctoral program within months of arrival. As Guy Steuart asked me to do, I worked to formalize a doctoral curriculum, created a course in research methods, and netted my first NIH grant—on controlling hypertension through family members' monitoring of patients' medication adherence.

**Linda Cook** also joined the department in 1974. After a brief stint as Guy's secretary, she was promoted to department registrar where she remained, helping to shepherd generations of students through our programs, until her retirement in fall 2009.

By the end of my first academic year, I was thrilled to welcome a woman colleague to the ranks when **Roz Thomas** (MPH 1975) joined HEED as a clinical faculty member and MPH field coordinator. She served on the faculty till 1991, when she left for Albany, New York with her epidemiology professor husband, David Strogatz (MSPH 1978 and PhD 1983—both in EPID).

In the late 1970s, the department began to expand its research mission with the arrivals of **Allan Steckler**, **Tony Whitehead**, and **Brenda DeVellis**. Brenda reacted gallantly to the need to teach sex ed to undergrads (and regaled us all with stories of squirming students) while establishing her national reputation as a researcher in the area of stress and coping. While Tony finished up his dissertation in anthropology at Pittsburgh before joining us to teach our first qualitative methods course, Allan and Leonard became fast friends and began designing, and then teaching, a course on citizen participation on community boards. In HEED "community engagement" and "participatory action" (à la Sol Alinsky) were the watchwords of the day, several decades before these perspectives were embraced by HHS, CDC and NIH.

In the same era, I pushed ahead with health services research while heeding the demands of some trail-blazing grad students to develop a course in women's health. I taught that course with **Geni Eng**, Roz in the early years, and Brenda every year throughout the 1980s and '90s until **Beth Moracco** took it over in the 1990s.

**What's in a Name?** In the mid-1980s, the department recruited **James Sorenson** to the faculty as our chair. Jim led us through a year-long process that ended in the adoption of a new name that both honored our history as the premier master's training program for health educators in a school of public health *and* that recognized our incipient strengths and future

*Earp continues on page 28*

# New Faces on the Faculty

BREAKING NEWS, MAY 2012...

## Health Behavior chair search is successful

This fall the department will welcome **Professor Leslie Lytle, PhD**, as its new department chair. Currently Dr. Lytle is at the University of Minnesota as a professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health in the School of Public Health and as executive director of the Rothenberger Institute. Dr. Lytle's research focuses on designing and evaluating programs, approaches and environments to help youth and young adults stay healthy and maximize wellness. She is particularly interested in understanding the causes of obesity and in examining individual, social and environmental approaches for preventing obesity. Dr. Lytle teaches courses in theories of health behavior change, community nutrition interventions, and behavioral and social aspects of health. She received a BS in Medical Dietetics from Pennsylvania State University and is a registered dietitian. She earned a masters degree in Education from Purdue University and her doctoral degree in Health Education and Health Behavior from the University of Michigan. We look forward to getting to know Dr. Lytle and introducing her to you in the future.

*Last August the Department welcomed two new additions to the faculty. For those of us who have haunted the halls of Rosenau for some years, our hellos were also a "welcome back!"*

### Angela Thrasher

As many readers already know, **Angela Thrasher** earned both her MPH (1997) and her PhD (2006) from our department. As a doctoral student at Carolina, she pursued a long-standing interest in HIV/AIDS among vulnerable populations; her dissertation focused on the quality of treatment received by racial and ethnic minority groups. In particular, her work identified perceived discrimination and healthcare provider distrust as factors that indirectly contribute to poor medication adherence by HIV+ patients.



Upon graduation, Dr. Thrasher was named a Kellogg Health Scholar for a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Center on Social Disparities and Health at the University of California at San Francisco, followed by a three-year stint as a research fellow at UCSF's Center for Aging in Diverse Communities. While there, she blended her interests in HIV/AIDS health disparities with an expanding research agenda aimed at increasing our understanding of how perceived discrimination impacts health across the life course. As Dr. Thrasher puts it, "perceived discrimination can result in any number of stress responses that can erode health. Depression, adverse coping behaviors such as alcohol abuse and smoking—these are just two of the major pathways by which perceived discrimination may trigger potentially damaging stress responses." Hypertension, self-reported poor health, and even premature mortality are also implicated as outcomes of this dynamic. Up until this point, research has emphasized the impact of discrimination as a *chronic* social stressor. Yet to date, very little research has been done that could illuminate how time and stage of life mediate the links between per-

*Thrasher continues on page 31*

### Jason Smith

Along with Dr. Thrasher, the department also welcomed Dr. **Jason Smith** to the faculty in fall 2011 as a clinical associate professor. Dr. Smith, who also earned his MPH (1981) and PhD (1996) from Health Behavior, held senior research and administrative posts with Family Health International (FHI) for 20+ years, most recently serving as their Director of Research Utilization. At FHI, he managed research and service projects in more than a dozen countries in Africa and Asia, including Cameroon, Egypt, Ghana, Madagascar, South Africa, Zaire, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Indonesia, and Viet Nam. He has specific expertise in strengthening the uptake of research, particularly with regard to service delivery in clinical and community sites around the world. As a measurement expert, Dr. Smith has also made important contributions to maternal and child health outcomes in Africa, serving, for example, on the senior management team of the Gates Foundation-funded project, Averting Maternal Death and Disability, which promoted service based on "gold standard" measures in the field.



Jason Smith at the Taj Mahal

center brings with it a lot of benefits," said department chair

In 2010, Dr. Smith joined UNC-Chapel Hill as the Deputy Director of the MEASURE Evaluation Project at the Carolina Population Center, where his portfolio includes capacity-building, data use and knowledge management. His faculty appointment in Health Behavior comes on top of this full-time appointment. "Having faculty members in the department who simultaneously have major leadership roles at a UNC research center brings with it a lot of benefits," said department chair

*Smith continues on page 31*



## WORKSITE WELLNESS

### NC Prevention Partners

North Carolina Prevention Partners has a long history of working closely with the Health Behavior Department. President/CEO Meg Molloy and Senior Health Promotion Manager Melva Fager Okun both received doctoral degrees from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and serve as adjunct faculty in our department. In addition, a number of our graduates have moved on to successful careers with NC Prevention Partners. **Ingrid Morris** (MPH 2003), **Lindsey Bickers Bock** (MPH 2004), **Anne Thornhill** (MPH 2006), **Whitney Davis** (MPH 2008), **Amy Meador** (MPH 2011), and now **Hannah Prentice-Dunn** (MPH 2012) work on a range of diverse projects to promote NC Prevention Partners' mission to reduce preventable illness and early death in North Carolina caused by tobacco use, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and obesity. NC Prevention Partners also mentors a number of our MPH students each year through their competitive internship program.

NC Prevention Partners is now working with the department in a new way to tackle worksite wellness. In 2010, the Carolina Collaborative for Research on Work and Health (CCRWH) was created to stimulate interdisciplinary research on work and health-related issues. Dr. Laura Linnan, CCRWH Director, explains that the Collaborative, "helps connect local private and non-profit organizations like NC Prevention Partners, contributes to research, and builds the evidence base for work and health issues."

Molloy and Davis joined CCRWH to support NC Prevention Partners' *WorkHealthyAmerica*<sup>SM</sup> program. "Laura graciously invited us to be a member of her worksite collaborative," Meg Molloy explained. "We are developing an internal, applied prevention research agenda that we hope will offer faculty within the Collaborative opportunities to partner with us on shared research endeavors." *WorkHealthy America*<sup>SM</sup> is an evidence-based, user-friendly tool that assesses an organization's wellness policies, benefits, and environments for tobacco, nutrition, and physical activity. NC Prevention Partners then works with each organization to improve policies to promote health for their employees. Whitney Davis explains that *WorkHealthy America*<sup>SM</sup> aims to encourage participating organizations to offer strong incentives for employees to use preventive and disease management benefits. Businesses can then lower their health care expenses and help employees be healthier and more productive."

NC Prevention Partners oversees many initiatives to improve worksite wellness. The Healthy NC Hospitals project works with acute-care hospitals in North and South Carolina to promote tobacco-free and healthy nutrition environments. North

Carolina's public schools work with the Zone Health program to encourage schools to adopt employee wellness initiatives. More than 60 State agencies work with NC Prevention Partners to encourage physical activity and nutrition among state employees.

NC Prevention Partners also "walks the talk," promoting wellness at their own worksite by providing employees with fresh fruit, 30 minutes of paid exercise time each day, and a unique health benefits package. ~ **Lindsay Herendeen**

### Annie Goes to Washington

**Anne Thornhill** (MPH 2006) led a NC Prevention Partners project that won a 2011 Healthy Living Innovations Award from the US Department of Health and Human Services, which recognizes innovative community health projects. NC Prevention Partners, in partnership with the NC Hospital Association and The Duke Endowment, created the *Healthy NC Hospitals Initiative: Healthy Food Environment Project* guiding all 127 acute care hospitals



Kathleen Sibelius, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with Anne Thornhill (R)

in North Carolina to establish a healthy food environment. As a result over 200,000 hospital employees across the state now have access to delicious, affordable and healthy foods at their workplace, and are offered insurance benefits, incentives and education to improve nutrition behaviors. 500,000+ meals are served each week through NC hospitals, and the project has changed norms making the default food choices a healthy ones. Last October Anne travelled to Washington, DC to accept the award for her team.

## GLOBAL REACH

### Thai Scholar Connection

The Peace Corps turned 50 last year, a birthday celebrated with retrospectives, reunions, ruminations on its impact, and renewed plans for the future. Professor *Emeritus* **Allan Steckler** and his wife Barbara aren't *quite* ready to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as Peace Corps volunteers. But having spent a year in Thailand with the Peace Corps in 1965-66, they were among the earliest cohorts of volunteers.



Barbara and Allan Steckler in Thailand with Poo Nitirat, far right

More than 45 years later, Steckler's experience in Thailand continues to have an impact, most visibly in the deep ties he has helped create between Carolina and several Thai universities.

"Back in the late 1990s when I was Associate Dean for Global Health, an opportunity arose to have UNC faculty work with faculty at Mahidol University in Thailand on a maternal and child health teaching project. Because of my earlier Peace Corps work there, I volunteered to set things in motion on our end."

With support from FHI360 and the Kenan Institute Asia of UNC's Kenan-Flagler School of Business, Steckler and colleagues (including Dr. Trude Bennett from MCH) spent two successive summers in Bangkok co-teaching with faculty at Mahidol Faculty of Public Health on the topics of women's health, program planning, and evaluation. The students were health professionals from a number of Asian countries. Central elements from the teaching program were later integrated into a newly formed MPH program launched at Mahidol in 2001.

Since that time, the department has sustained this connection, hosting ten scholars from both Mahidol and Thammasat

Universities. "Every one of our visiting Thai scholars has been a seasoned public health professional, has held an advanced degree, and was strongly recommended by faculty colleagues in Thailand," notes Steckler. "They have *much* to share with us." In turn, they are able to join research projects closely aligned with their interests, audit advanced research methods courses, use the University's superb library collections, and forge collaborative relationships that endure for decades. "Sometimes the visiting scholars hosted by the Department are completing their doctorates at Mahidol or Thammasat Universities. So I've been able to work with them while they're here to help shape their dissertation proposals or collaborate on publications. Other times, they have come to the department to earn an MPH here and then go on to get a PhD." Professor **Edwin Fisher** has extended this Thai connection, collaborating with Thai faculty from Mahidol and Thammasat Universities on Global Peers for Progress and mentoring visiting scholars when they come to UNC.

This long-term scholarly exchange has helped strengthen public health infrastructure in Thailand. Indeed, every one of the visiting scholars now holds a faculty position at a Thai university, thereby reaching a new generation of public health professionals. What's more, as Steckler noted, many (maybe even all) faculty members in a Thai school of public health are public health officers and can be tapped to help out with disaster management.



Tippanarat Vichayanrat

No doubt the Peace Corps claims Allan Steckler as one of their own as it measures its impact across 50 years and into the future. Health Behavior, which has adopted many Peace Corps "alumni" in its almost 70 years, *also* has lots to celebrate in the enduring legacy of Steckler's work with Thai public health scholars. Read on for updates from the scholars themselves!

### Thai Scholar Updates

**Chainarong "Chai" Apinpath** (MSc) spent AY 2009-10 in HBHE and is now assistant professor of public health at Thammasat University, Rangsit Campus.

**Chantima Charanasri** (MEd, DrPH) is an assistant professor at the Boromrajonani College of Nursing in Saraburi.

**Chuleekorn Danyuthasilpe** (DrPH) is a lecturer and associate dean for academic and service affairs at the Faculty of Nursing, Naresuan University in Phitsanulok Province. She wrote:

*I still remember the valuable time I spent in HBHE developing my dissertation with Professor Allan Steckler. While there, he supported me to learn from other public health friends in a group. I never felt alone and always knew that the HBHE department was my home. I'm now working as a member of the Faculty of Nursing, Naresuan University in Thailand, where I devote my time to nursing students and applying public health science and nursing science.*

# Student Awards

## School and University-Wide Recognitions

*The U.S. has been struggling through a down economy since 2008 yet the public-mindedness of the School's supporters continues to flourish. For the second year in a row, several students from each department across the School received support from two new scholarship funds, the **Gillings Award** and the **Annual Fund**. Contributions from grads such as our alumni made it possible for students to receive the advanced training they need to make a difference in the health of the public.*

### School of Public Health Gillings Award, Fall 2011

#### Marissa Hall, MSPH/PhD Program

- ♦ BA, International Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ♦ Work experience in Guatemala and as a researcher with SciMetrika
- ♦ Interested in studying violence prevention, reproductive health, and mental health
- ♦ Awarded a Harry A. Guess Scholarship for 2012-2013



Marissa Hall, left, and Jennifer Delcourt attended HB Career Information Day, January 2012

#### Lauren Hill, MSPH/PhD Program

- ♦ BA, Public Health Studies, Johns Hopkins University
- ♦ Peace Corps volunteer, Togo, community health and AIDS prevention
- ♦ Interested in decision-making and HIV prevention, testing, and treatment in global contexts

### School of Public Health Annual Fund Award, Fall 2011

#### Chelsea Kolander, MPH Program

- ♦ BS, Human Biology, University of California, San Diego
- ♦ At UCSD, served as a member and president of Vox®, Planned Parenthood's youth advocacy group, and as an outreach coordinator for Student Health Advocates
- ♦ In fall, 2012 will work with the Graduate School recruiting and counseling Native American students
- ♦ Interested in sexual health, Native American health



#### Jill Mead, MPH Program

- ♦ BA, Anthropology and Spanish, Washington University in St. Louis
- ♦ Peace Corps volunteer, Paraguay, sanitation and nutrition
- ♦ Fulbright Scholar, Argentina; studied migration of Paraguayan women to Buenos Aires
- ♦ Interested in migration and health

### University Cancer Research Fund (Pre-doctoral Traineeship), Fall 2011

#### Joseph Lee, PhD Program

- ♦ BA, Spanish, Latin American Studies, Duke University
- ♦ MPH, Maternal and Child Health, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ♦ Research Specialist, Tobacco Prevention and Evaluation Program, UNC School of Medicine
- ♦ Research focus is on tobacco prevention and control

## Department Awards and Scholarships

*The new School-wide scholarships have boosted our ability to help recruit and fund strong applicants, but departmental scholarships continue to be invaluable. They give us full agency in recruiting outstanding students—we can simply decide to recruit an applicant with these funds, rather than submitting an application on the student's behalf to compete for funding at the School or University level. In competing with other top universities for excellent applicants, time and flexibility can be of the essence. These awards, funded by alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of the department, give us both.*

### Awards for Entering Students

***Hatch-Barnhill Award** is conferred on an outstanding entering MPH student with a demonstrated commitment to working with underserved populations. The department used funds from its own coffers to "top up" the Hatch-Barnhill award sufficiently to bring two new students to Carolina. Both **Adrienne Gill** and **Chaunetta Jones** entered the MPH Program in fall 2011.*

#### Adrienne Gill, MPH Program

- ♦ BS, Biology, Duke University
- ♦ Worked with patients and families facing mental illness at the Olin Neuropsychiatry Research Center, Hartford Hospital's Institute of Living, Hartford, CT
- ♦ Interested in promoting and improving the health of children and teens in Latino communities
- ♦ Works with Professor Clare Barrington on a social network project to reach Latino men for HIV testing and earlier linkage to care





At the HB 2012 student award celebration, from left: Chassidy Hanley (Barr awardee), Chaunetta Jones and Adrienne Gill (Hatch-Barnhill awardees)

### Chaunetta Jones, MPH Program

- ◆ BA, Anthropology and African-American Studies, Oberlin College
- ◆ MA, Cultural Anthropology, Rutgers University
- ◆ PhD, Anthropology, Rutgers University, expected Fall 2012. Dissertation on economic inequality and collective negotiation of HIV/AIDS treatment in South African township
- ◆ Winner of Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Fulbright-IIE Doctoral Research Fellowship, Minority Academic Careers Fellowship *and* Lucy Morgan Fellowship (Spring 2012)

**Godfrey M. and Lore Hochbaum Scholarship** was conferred on two outstanding incoming doctoral students who came to Health Behavior in fall 2011: **Catherine Jo** and **Paul Fleming**

### Paul Fleming, PhD Program

- ◆ BS, Political Science and Spanish, University of Illinois-Urbana
- ◆ Peace Corps volunteer, Nicaragua
- ◆ MPH, Behavioral Sciences and Health Education, Emory Univ.
- ◆ Research interest in how social constructions of masculinity influence men's health behaviors and interventions that can lead to gender equitable norms improve men's health



### Catherine Jo, MSPH/PhD Program

- ◆ BA, Public Policy, Duke University
- ◆ Four years' experience, American Cancer Society, as manager of emerging science and trends *and* manager of international tobacco control
- ◆ Research interest in exploring ways to combat smoking and obesity among youth



Two MPH Capstone teams. Not departmental awardees this year, but smiling anyway !

## Awards for Continuing Students

*The last newsletter reached you in early 2011, before our spring awards had been announced. This time around you see two years' of recipients of the following departmental awards.*

**Lucy S. Morgan Fellowship.** The department's oldest and most prestigious scholarship for master's students, the Morgan awards recognizes first-year students for their exemplary scholastic achievement, integrity, leadership, and commitment to health education practice. To see an overview of all Morgan Fellows since the award's inception almost 25 years ago, find the Morgan Award booklet on our website.

### Spring 2011



Two of the 2011 Morgan Fellows *and* this year's Minority Health Conference co-chairs, Kea Turner, left, and Turquoise Griffith, the latter with her Frank Porter Graham Award for Public Service

### Turquoise Griffith, MPH Program

- ◆ BA, Psychology, World Arts and Cultures, UCLA
- ◆ Experience working to reduce impact of HIV/AIDS
- ◆ At Carolina, volunteered with SHAC and co-chaired the 2012 Minority Health Conference; also worked with Dr. Carol Golin on improving ART adherence among prisoners with HIV/AIDS;
- ◆ Recipient of the Hatch-Barnhill Scholarship (2010) *and* the Kathryn J. Kerr Memorial Scholarship (2011)

### Suzannah Johnson, MPH Program

- ◆ BA, International Affairs, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ◆ Peace Corps volunteer in Niger focused on diet, nutrition, and uptake of breastfeeding
- ◆ Peace Corps recruiter, UNC-CH
- ◆ Summer practicum in Senegal with ChildFund International, led by HB alumna Anne Goddard (MPH 1983)



### Kea Turner, MPH Program

- ◆ BS, Tulane University
- ◆ Teach for America, Chemistry teacher, New Orleans (Teacher of the Year, 2007)
- ◆ MAT, Education, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ◆ Co-chair, 2012 Minority Health Conference
- ◆ Selected as a 2012 Presidential Management Fellow in the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services



2012 Morgan Fellows  
Laura Villas-Torres,  
Chaunetta Jones and  
Amanda Houpt with 2012  
Barr awardee, Chassidy  
Hanley

### Amanda Houpt, MPH Program

- ◆ BA, English (*summa cum laude*), Smith College
- ◆ Extensive experience in domestic violence prevention
- ◆ Coordinates HAVEN, a UNC program that supports student survivors of sexual assault

### Chaunetta Jones, MPH Program

*Read about Chaunetta at the Hatch-Barnhill Award*

### Laura Villa-Torres, MSPH/PHD Program

- ◆ BA, Sociology, Universidad Autonoma Metropolitana, Mexico
- ◆ MA, Gender, Society and Public Policies, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Argentina
- ◆ 10 years' experience working with Ipas
- ◆ Interested in reproductive health
- ◆ Recipient of inaugural Earp Award (Fall 2011)

**Harriet Hylton Barr Memorial Award.** For the past 3 years, friends and family of Harriet Barr (MPH 1947) have contributed funds in her memory, allowing us to support one first-year master's student with a scholarship for scholastic achievement, leadership, and commitment to health education practice. Last year's recipient, **Sadiya Muqueeth** finished her MPH this spring. **Chassidy Hanley** (pictured at right with **Barbara Barr** and **Jo Anne Earp**) just finished her first year in the program. Harriet's daughter, Barbara, attended this year's student award celebration



### Sadiya Muqueeth (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BSPH, Public Health, Johns Hopkins University
- ◆ Experience with leading a CDC social entrepreneur rural development initiative in Paraguay
- ◆ At Carolina, active with Minority Health Caucus and MPH Professional Development Committee

### Chassidy Hanley, MPH Program

- ◆ BA, Black Studies, UC-Santa Barbara
- ◆ Experience as HIV counselor in San Francisco
- ◆ At Carolina, volunteers with SHAC's HIV clinic and served as a first-year MPH cohort representative for the department. Also volunteered for the 2012 Minority Health Conference; she and Adrienne Gill will co-chair the 2013 conference

### The Ethel Jean Jackson Health Education Practice Award

recognizes students who demonstrate commitment, sensitivity, and effectiveness in health education practice, particularly with under-represented communities. 2011 awardee **Marcia Perritt** just completed her second year in the MPH Program and will now spend a year in City and Regional Planning to complete the dual MPH/ MRP degree. **Jill Simmerman**, shown at right with **Ethel Jean**, graduated this spring.



Marcia, top left, with her capstone team (clockwise from top right): Rebecca Woodruff, Delta Omega inductee Hannah Prentice-Dunn, Laura Major, and Phoebe Goldberg



### Marcia Perritt, MPH/MCRP

- ◆ BA, Communications, Huntingdon College, Alabama
- ◆ AmeriCorps volunteer, NC Rural Communities Assistance Project
- ◆ Designed and implemented a *promotoras* program to improve housing for 500+ Latino residents in Chatham county, NC

### Jill Simmerman (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BS, Environmental Science, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ◆ Worked with East Durham Children's Initiative as an MPH student: coordinated building a playground; recruited students to a kindergarten readiness program; facilitated the Hunger-Free Summer Program; and more



**Kathryn J. Kerr Memorial Award** recognizes a second-year MPH student who has demonstrated outstanding dedication to community health and activism. Kathy's parents, **Fran and George Kerr**, attended this year's student award ceremony, as they have done almost every year, bringing granddaughter **Shannon Kerr**, a Carolina undergraduate, with them. For an update on the first 10 years of Kerr awardees, find our Kerr Award 10-year retrospective online.

*Thank you, friends and family of Kathy Kerr!*

**Turquoise Griffith** is the most recent Kerr awardee. She is profiled as a 2011 Lucy Morgan Fellow (page 7).



Turquoise, center, with Fran and George Kerr at this year's student award celebration

### **Leonard Dawson Public Health Education Award**

#### **Leah Gordon, MPH Program**

- ◆ BA, *magna cum laude*, Community Health and International Relations, Tufts University
- ◆ Project coordinator at UNC-Chapel Hill for a research study based in Nicaragua
- ◆ Received a Robert E. Bryan Public Service Fellowship from the Carolina Center for Public Service (2011) and a Latino Migration Award from the UNC Institute for the Study of the Americas (2011)
- ◆ The Dawson Award extended Leah's summer practicum efforts with the NC Farm Worker Health Program in eastern NC, where she worked to reduce barriers to primary care for Latinos

### **Delta Omega**



From left: Lilli Mann, Christa Martens, Jenna Garrett and Sadiya Muqueeth (Barr awardee). Lilli and Jenna were inducted into Delta Omega this spring

Delta Omega is an honorary public health society established in 1924 to encourage excellence in scholarship and research and to recognize academic and professional achievement in the field of public health. Students selected for membership have demonstrated academic excellence, public health leadership qualities, and a desire to follow a career in public or allied health.

#### **Megan Clarke (MPH 2011)**

- ◆ BA, Communications, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ◆ Interested and experienced in reducing sex trafficking and homelessness
- ◆ Now the rural sexual assault response team coordinator with the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault

#### **Amy Henes (MPH 2011)**

- ◆ BA, English and Spanish, Amherst College
- ◆ Interests in health communications, chronic disease prevention, evaluation
- ◆ Now a senior program analyst with the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), working on tobacco and diabetes prevention projects

#### **Elizabeth King (PhD 2010)**

- ◆ BA, Slavic Languages and Psychology, University of Kansas; MPH, Epidemiology and Public Health, Yale University
- ◆ Dissertation: "HIV Service Utilization among Female Sex Workers in St. Petersburg, Russia: Individual and Contextual Influences on access to Testing and Treatment Services" (Suzanne Maman, dissertation committee chair)
- ◆ Completing her second year as a post-doctoral fellow at Yale University's Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS

#### **Kate Krieger (MPH 2011)**

- ◆ BA, English, Willamette University
- ◆ 5+ years' with Planned Parenthood
- ◆ Now a public health analyst at RTI International in the Women, Children, and Families Program

#### **Jenna Garrett (MPH 2012)**

- ◆ BA, *magna cum laude*, Psychology and Spanish, Notre Dame University
- ◆ Interested and experienced in advancing sexual and reproductive health in global and domestic settings

#### **Lindsay Herendeen (MPH/MCRP 2012)**

- ◆ BS, *magna cum laude*, Environmental Science, Allegheny College
- ◆ Finishing a dual degree at Carolina: MPH, Health Behavior/MRP, City and Regional Planning
- ◆ Interested in shaping the built environment to better support physical activity

#### **Lilli Mann (MPH 2012)**

- ◆ BA, Sociology and Hispanic American Studies, College of William and Mary
- ◆ Interested and experienced in Latina health issues

2012 Inductees continues on next page

### Hannah Prentice-Dunn (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BA, Biology and International Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill
- ◆ Interested in chronic disease prevention related to physical activity and nutrition

### Petra Stankard (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BA, Religion, Vassar College
- ◆ 5 years' experience with Africare and PSI
- ◆ Interested in HIV prevention and maternal health in global settings

#### 2011 Award for Academic Excellence

### Ashley Leighton (MPH 2011)

- ◆ BA, *summa cum laude*, Psychology, Connecticut College
- ◆ Interested in women's health, violence prevention
- ◆ Worked as project coordinator, Cervical Cancer Free, NC, led by Professor Noel Brewer
- ◆ Working for Professor Kurt Ribisl on his multi-site tobacco control project

#### 2011 Service Award

### Jillian Casey (MPH 2011)

- ◆ BA, Sociology, UNC-Chapel Hill (*Phi Beta Kappa*)
- ◆ Interested in HIV/AIDS prevention in global settings, sexual health among young adults
- ◆ Prevention associate, National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD), Washington, DC



Above: Jillian Casey with her adviser Jo Anne Earp  
Left: Brenda, Buescher; center, with her capstone team: Anna Stein, Clayton Velicer, Amy Reid, Pat Tang



#### 2012 Award for Academic Excellence

### Brenda Buescher (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BA, Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
- ◆ Interested in program policy; practicum with the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, DC, working with CDC, NIH and other agencies to review new regulations

#### 2012 Service Award

### Trent Johnson (MPH 2012)

- ◆ BA, Communications, UC-Davis
- ◆ At Carolina, SPH Student Government Co-president; SHAC volunteer

### SPH CLASS OF 2012 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### Spearheaded and Supported by HB Students



Applications to our programs have steadily increased over the past few years reaching an all-time high this past year. At the same time, funding has not kept pace with the number of highly qualified students we want to recruit and admit, meaning that many top recruits enroll elsewhere. You can make a difference with your support. If you're interested in donating to the department, please be sure to designate Health Behavior as the recipient of your gift. If you want to support a specific scholarship, please indicate that desire as well.

Our students are keenly aware of the need for scholarship funding and this year the School's Student Government, co-led by HB students **Clayton Velicer** and **Trent Johnson**, created a class of 2012 scholarship fund to benefit an incoming student in fall 2012. Students sold tee shirts, designed by Trent (and modeled above by students and Paige Anderson), for \$20.12 each to raise money for the scholarship fund. The School's Alumni Association pledged matching dollars per shirt sold. At last count, over \$10,000 has been raised to award not one but two scholarships this fall! Not only that, Health Behavior students, faculty, and staff—plus at least a couple of alums—were the biggest sellers *and* purchasers of the shirts.



Clockwise from top left:  
Lindsay Herendeen and Hannah Prentice-Dunn;  
David Jolly and Mike Bowling;  
Jill Simmerman, Becky Bowden and Ellen Roberts

# Faculty Updates

## PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Laura Linnan**, **Kurt M. Ribisl**, and **Christine Rini**. Linnan was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2011. In spring 2012, Ribisl was promoted to full professor and Rini to research associate professor.

## RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations also go to **Laura Linnan** for having been selected for UNC's 2011 Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award, which goes to only one faculty member, one student, and one staff member from across Carolina each year. First presented in 2000, the Bryan Award honors those who have demonstrated outstanding service to the state of North Carolina through working in partnership with community members. Laura was recognized for the programs she tested in North Carolina that help low-income workers lose weight and become healthier. "The reach of Dr. Linnan's efforts means that she has changed community college work cultures across the state even as she has helped change dietary patterns of college employers," said Chancellor Holden Thorp of Dr. Linnan's work.

**Kurt Ribisl** was one of 8 faculty from across the School (one from each department) selected by students to receive the School's inaugural Teaching Innovation Award. The award, presented in February 2012, was part of the School's newly instituted "Celebrate Teaching" month. "The winners of our innovative teaching award exemplify faculty members who strive for high quality learning among students," said Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD, professor of epidemiology and nutrition and associate dean for academic affairs at the School.



Associate Professor **Noel Brewer** was honored in 2011 with UNC's Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty, which recognizes outstanding tenure-track or recently tenured faculty. Only four individuals from across the University are selected for this award each year. With expertise in the psychology of medical decision-making, Brewer conducts research that is "demanding, meticulous, creative" (as one of his nominators wrote) and that "influences disciplines far beyond the field of public health." Brewer was recognized for his work on perceptions of increased risk leading people to practice protective behaviors, such as getting vaccinated or screened, and how anticipating regret over a bad decision can be the most powerful motivator. As a Hettleman prize recipient, he delivered a public lecture to the University community in spring 2012.

Professor **Geni Eng** (MPH, 1978; DrPH, 1983) received the 2011 Association of Schools of Public Health/Pfizer Faculty Award for Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice. The award recognizes faculty members from accredited ASPH-member schools whose careers have advanced and integrated scholarly public health practice through research, teaching and service.

As generations of her students know, Eng is an internationally respected health disparities researcher whose innovative use of community-based participatory research methods has helped answer questions about the effectiveness of lay health advisor interventions in many health contexts.



Professor Geni Eng and Dean Barbara Rimer

"We are thrilled Dr. Eng has been recognized for her outstanding work in the public health practice field," said Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD, the School's associate dean for academic affairs and professor of epidemiology and nutrition. "Geni is an inspiration to our faculty and students."

Eng accepted the award in November 2011 at an ASPH reception and awards ceremony this past year in Washington, D.C. held in conjunction with the annual APHA meeting.

Assistant Professor **Wizdom Powell Hammond** was one of 15 U.S. citizens to be chosen as a member of the 2011-2012 class of White House Fellows. The most selective program for leadership and public service in the U.S., President Lyndon B. Johnson created the fellowships in 1964 to give promising American leaders "firsthand, high-level experience with the workings of the federal government and to increase their sense of participation in national affairs." Those chosen as Fellows spend a year working full-time with senior White House staff, cabinet secretaries, and other top-ranking government officials.

Powell Hammond, whose research focuses on masculine role norms and health care-seeking behaviors among African American men, was placed with the U.S. Department of Defense. Along with the other members of her cohort, Powell Hammond is also taking part in an education program focused on leadership, policy formulation and current affairs.

**William Friday**, JD, *president emeritus* of the UNC System (1956-1986) and husband to **Ida Friday** (MPH 1947), played a significant role in establishing the White House Fellows program.



The University has awarded Professor **Susan Ennett** a Senior Faculty Research and Scholarly Leave (i.e., a highly coveted—and competitive—sabbatical) for Spring 2013. She will use the protected time to start a research study focused on alcohol initiation in the family context, specifically how families socialize children about alcohol use. Ennett also plans to refresh her popular course on adolescent health risk behaviors. That course hasn't been taught in recent years, as Ennett has devoted time to heading the doctoral program and teaching in three doctoral methods courses.



Susan Ennett with PhD advisee Stephanie Baker

Associate Professor **Suzanne Maman** is this year's recipient of the Edward G McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching. This award recognizes one faculty member each year in the School of Public Health for excellence, dedication and innovation in teaching and mentoring. As department chair Jo Anne Earp notes, "Suzanne is both the face of global health in HB and one of the School's finest teachers and mentors. Such is her reputation that the department gets many more top-tier global health applicants to our PhD Program each year than we can accommodate." Many current students and recent grads nominated Maman for the award. "I love working with our students in the classroom and through my research," said Maman. "The students in our program come to us with so much experience, and that experience is such an asset both in terms of what it brings to discussion in the classroom and the value it adds to the research I conduct. The close relationships I develop with the doctoral and master's students who work with me adds such an important dimension to my work and to my life. I am honored to have been nominated for this award by my students."



Suzanne Maman with sons Emile, left, and Miles

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## FAREWELLS

Even though Professor Emeritus **Allan Steckler** officially went into phased retirement in 2006, he has continued to grace our classrooms. This spring he emptied out his Rosenau Hall office and plans to fully retire from teaching. Read more about Allan and what he's up to on the facing page.

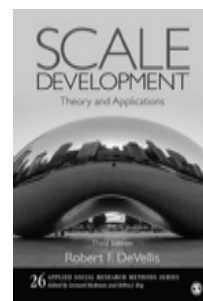
The department bid adieu to Professor **Carol Runyan** (PhD 1983), who served on the faculty in HB since 1986 and as director of UNC's Injury Prevention Research Center (UNC-IPRC) since 1989. In summer 2011, Runyan, a national leader in the area of injury prevention, joined the faculty at the University of Colorado as professor of Epidemiology and

Community and Behavioral Health at the Colorado School of Public Health and as a professor of Pediatrics. She also directs the University of Colorado's Pediatric Injury Prevention Education and Research Program, which works in collaboration with Colorado Children's Hospital.

"Carol and a handful of colleagues are really the ones who put injury on the map as a public health problem," says department chair Jo Anne Earp. "She was able to secure funding to support her research, even when it wasn't readily available. Similarly, she led development of UNC-IPRC into the powerhouse it is today. She has left large shoes to fill at Carolina."

## NEW BOOKS

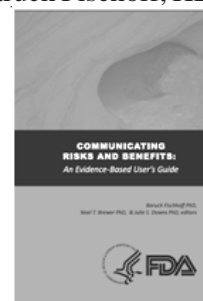
Age recently published the third edition of Research Professor **Bob DeVellis's** classic text on measurement, *Scale Development: Theory and Application* (2011). Widely adopted across graduate courses in departments of public health, psychology, nursing, education, and marketing, *Scale Development* is a tried-and-true standby for applied researchers across the social sciences. DeVellis has served on the Board of Directors for the American Psychological Association's Division of Health Psychology (38) and is the recipient of the 2005 Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association of Rheumatology Health Professionals.



In other book-publishing news, Professor **Kurt Ribisl** is a co-editor, with University of Edinburgh colleague Ethel Quayle, of *Understanding and Preventing Online Sexual Exploitation of Children*, published by Routledge/Taylor and Francis. This book arises out of Ribisl's interest in cybercrime and his work co-authoring a draft Resolution for G8 countries on ways to prevent the sexual exploitation of children online. The resolution was endorsed by the G8 Justice and Home Affairs Ministers at a 2009 meeting in Italy. Alumnae **Megan Clarke** (MPH 2011) and Carol Runyan (PhD 1983) along with Kurt and Des Runyan co-authored a chapter on "A public health approach to addressing Internet child sexual exploitation."



The FDA published *Communicating Risks and Benefits: An evidence-based user's guide*, by Baruch Fischhoff, HB faculty member **Noel Brewer**, and Julie Downs in 2011. Brewer comments: "We encounter risk communications every day. 'Don't drink and drive.' 'Get a flu shot.' 'Practice safe sex.' Some of these messages are effective. They can help change beliefs or behaviors. But some can go spectacularly wrong. This publication summarizes



## ALLAN STECKLER,

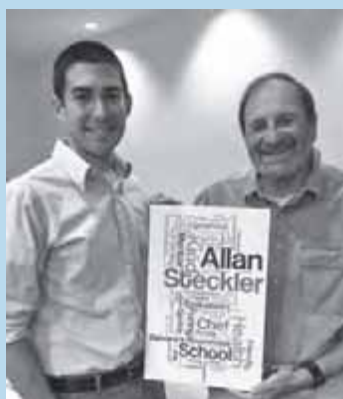
### *Congratulations on your retirement*

It's true, you do remember having heard the news—back in 2006—about Allan Steckler's retirement. But this time, it's real. He's ready to hit the links, spend time with the grandkids, and (he can't help himself!) work on a short history of the department. Truth be told, Allan *did* retire 6 years ago, but he's been contributing to HB's teaching mission so much that we'll forgive you if you didn't remember it. Read on for a tour of Allan's many achievements and contributions.

### Education and academic appointments

- ♦ Earned both his BS (1964) and MPH (1965) from the School of Public Health at UCLA. After service in the Peace Corps in Thailand, he earned his DrPH (1971) in Community Health Education at UCLA's School of Public Health.
- ♦ Joined the faculty at Carolina in 1976; served as acting chair from 1985-1986; served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the School (1992-1999); advocated for an SPH Office of Global Health (est. 1999) and became the School's first Associate Dean for Global Health (1998-2001).

Allan will give the 20th Annual Godfrey M. Hochbaum Distinguished Lecture on Friday, October 19, 2012



At the final meeting of HBHE 741, which Allan co-taught with Laura Linnan, he was presented with a "Happy Trails" cake and a wordle, made by Trent Johnson, pictured at left.



WORKING with Allan has been a privilege. Whether it was working on our process evaluation book, developing a new class, or revising the MPH curriculum, I could always count on Allan to be fun, thoughtful, productive, and to have wonderful instincts for what works. A few people warned me of how challenging it is to co-edit a book; yet working with Allan was a highly collaborative, energy-producing, joyful experience! His scholarship on organizational change, institutionalization, and process evaluation has led our field. On top of this, his humble, engaging work style has made him a sought-after mentor for students and collaborators at UNC and nationally.

~ Laura Linnan, colleague of 13 years

Steckler continues on page 26

what we know about effective risk communication for practitioners working across many fields. It aims to help them formulate risk communication plans when working under deadlines in a complex, messy world, where problems may unfold quickly."

## NEWS ABOUT BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS

The *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* recently published a major review article (2011) by Professor **Ed Fisher** and colleagues summarizing the evidence for behavioral interventions across a broad spectrum of diseases (cardiovascular disease and diabetes, cancer and HIV/AIDS) and risk factors, including tobacco use, poor diet, physical inactivity, and excessive consumption of alcohol. Fisher and colleagues documented: the significant impacts of behaviors on health; the success of behavioral interventions in disease prevention and management as well as quality of life; and improvements in the health of populations through behavioral promotion programs.

"The evidence strongly points to the cost effectiveness and value of behavioral interventions," Fisher noted, "especially relative to other common health services." But the benefits of behavioral interventions don't stop there. "Behavioral interventions help improve quality of life across a number of indicators, helping to improve prevention, disease management, and well-being across the life span."

Fisher is global director of Peers for Progress. Peers' mission is to accelerate the availability of best practices in peer support around the world. In the department he teaches a graduate seminar in social and peer support in health with an ecological and global perspective.

The North Carolina Breast Cancer Screening Program (NC-BCSP), designed in the early-1990s to address health disparities between African-American and white women in eastern North Carolina, has been designated a Research-tested Intervention Program (RTIP) by the National Cancer Institute, making information about the program available to others throughout the U.S. NCI's RTIP designation refers to a searchable database of cancer control interventions that gives program planners and public health practitioners immediate access to a select catalogue of high quality, research-tested, easily disseminated materials that have been vetted by an expert panel.

Originally developed and implemented by Professor and Chair **Jo Anne Earp** and colleagues, including HB Professor Geni Eng, NC-BCSP continues to be requested by community organizations.

The multi-year study was sponsored initially in 1993 by UNC Lineberger Cancer Center's NCI-funded breast cancer SPORE (Special Program of Research Excellence) grant and, later,

Faculty continues on page 26

# Alumni News

FROM THE SECTION PRESIDENT



Alison Hilton (MPH 1996)

Hello Fellow Alumni,

Here is a short quiz for you. Match the data in the righthand column with the question in the column on the left:

1) Approximate number of living HB alumni	A) 59
2) Number of NC counties in which HB alumni live	B) 40
3) Number of states in which HB alumni live	C) 1,703
4) Number of countries in which HB alumni live	D) 50

**Answers: 1 (C), 2 (A), 3 (D), 4 (B)**

Are you surprised by these figures? Jerry Salak, director of alumni and donor relations for the School, shared them with over 70 students at the department's Career Information Day 2012 in January. The Health Behavior alumni section and the department, with some financial support from the School's Alumni Association Governing Board, sponsor several activities a year, such as Career Information Day (CID), with the goal of connecting alumni with each other and with students. For CID, 30 local alumni came to participate in panel discussions, critique resumes, and offer career advice to students who are always very appreciative of the chance to network with and learn from their predecessors. For future Career Information Days, I hope to take advantage of remote technology to include alumni who can't attend in person. If you would be interested in participating in the January 25, 2013 CID, whether you live near Chapel Hill or not, please let me know. My email address is: [hiltonwohl@gmail.com](mailto:hiltonwohl@gmail.com).

We also host alumni socials here in the Triangle and at the APHA annual meeting. Last October, about three dozen alumni and faculty members gathered at Vimala's Curryblossom Café near campus for our local event and approximately 100 alumni, students, faculty, and friends of the department attended the annual HB social at APHA, held in Washington, DC in 2011. Finally, this newsletter is another way the alumni association and department keep us all in touch.

In addition to HBHE alumni activities, the Alumni Association of the Gillings School of Global Public Health maintains an online alumni community at: <http://www.sph.unc.edu/alumni/>. If you haven't logged in lately, please do so and make sure your information is current. This is how the department and the school keep in touch with you! Another new develop-

## IN MEMORIAM



Alumna, friend, and colleague **Marci Kramish Campbell** died in December 2011 after living with cancer for almost two years.

She graduated from Duke University in 1974, then met and married her husband, Tom Campbell, with whom she had three children. Earning both of her graduate degrees—a MPH in Public Health Nutrition (1977) and a PhD in Health Behavior and Health Education (1992)—from UNC's School of Public Health, Marci joined the Nutrition faculty here in 1993, where she taught and conducted research until her death.

As a member of both UNC's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, as well as co-director of the LIVESTRONG Survivorship Center of Excellence at the Lineberger Cancer Center, Marci was committed to reducing risks for cancer, especially among low-income and minority populations. She was known for her work in developing innovative, research-tested interventions for an impressive number of health risks and conditions.

Marci believed passionately in the power of the community, the importance of resolving health disparities, and the mentoring of students and fellows.

### Other deaths

**Margaret "Peg" Boverman** (MSPH 1945) died September 2011

**Jennie Stout Case** (MSPH 1945) died late December 2011

**John M. Hanna** (MSPH 1954) died June 2011

**Gina Marie (Tonge) Jacobs** (MPH 1982) died March 2011

**Paul E. Lanham** (MSPH 1969) died October 2011

**Douglas K. MacDonald** (MSPH 1950) died October 2011

**Dan K. Stamps** (MPH 1983) died May 2012

ment is the formation of regional alumni groups. Contacts for these groups, which are open to alumni from all SPH departments, can be found on the School's website also.

Please let me know if you have suggestions about new ways in which we can help build connections between alumni and students, wherever they may be in North Carolina, the United States or overseas. Thank you for your ideas, updates, involvement, and continued support!



# Alumni Updates

.....

We love to hear from our alumni!  
Thanks to everyone who sent in an  
update or photos )or both!). If you'd  
like to share your news with us in the  
next edition of HB News,  
please send an email to  
**hbnewsletter@unc.edu**  
or mail to the address on page 25

.....

## '60s

Last year **Don Erickson** (MPH 1965) was elected chairman of the board of the Wyoming Health Information Organization. WyHIO is a non-profit organization facilitating telehealth efforts in Wyoming. Although Don is retired, he also serves as president of the Wyoming Housing Opportunities Association, which develops and operates affordable/low income housing in the state.

**Rob Merolla** (MPH 1966) wrote to say that he retired from all forms of educating others in 1996 and instead began educating himself. He now finds no need to confront large groups anymore. He added,

"My jewelry business keeps me busier than I like, but it is lucrative. And it's a kick to see something you made being worn by a stranger. An ego trip for sure. And at 80, ego tripping is easier than going anywhere. My health is good and I have no restrictions on what I want to do, so retirement is, as I thought it would be, the best job I've ever had."

## '70s

**Lytt Gardner, PhD** (MPH 1973, PhD in EPID 1981) is still hard at work at the CDC as an epidemiologist in the Division of HIV/AIDS, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta. Since 2007 he has been the project officer for a behaviorally-focused HIV prevention trial in six large HIV clinics in the U.S.,

called the Retention in Care project. The project is now in its fifth year and the last 10 months of data collection. The trial is designed to determine if either minimal extra attention (mostly phone calls and emails from a supportive interventionist) or extensive extra attention (skills building with concrete behavioral goals) will improve attendance at regular HIV primary care visits. The project is jointly funded by CDC and HRSA. Lytt's daughter Emily has been accepted to several Health Behavior MPH programs and will soon be making a decision about where she will be going. He added that "UNC and Gillings have a strong following in our Division—recent UNC PhDs should apply for an EIS match."

Last September **Kathy Parker** (MPH 1976) spoke at a 50th anniversary celebration of the Peace Corps at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health. Her theme was the early days of the Corp, "1960s - Laying the Foundation," when she was a PC volunteer in Cote d'Ivoire working in rural areas on health education issues, such as guinea worm treatment and, especially, prevention. Kathy did more than the customary 2-year stint with the PC. She spent 3 years in Togo working on in-country training for health education programs and was involved with Peace Corps/Washington many years later training PCV as community health educators in several project countries. All in all, she has spent most of her 45 plus year career in global public health development, retiring from the CDC in 2004. Kathy continues to consult occasionally in global health programs and to volunteer in the areas of HIV/AIDS and on other social justice issues.

June 1, 2011 was proclaimed "Rosemary Summers Day" in Orange County, NC to honor alumna **Rosemary Summers, DrPH** (MPH 1977) who retired from the

Orange County Health Department (OCHD) last year after serving as its Health Director for over 13 years. During her tenure, she led the OCHD in becoming an accredited health department. Her dedication and commitment to the county's health was also recognized with an Outstanding Health Director of the Year award from the NC Association of County Commissioners and the Health Director of the Year award from the NC Association of Local Health Directors in 2003. Rosemary is credited with not only having made an impact in Orange County, but also on the entire NC public health community for over 30 years.

**Thomas Syre, Sr, PhD** (MPH 1979) is now in his third year of teaching health



education in the MPH program at Haramaya University in eastern Ethiopia with over 16,000 full-time students in attendance. Recently, as founding editor, he

established the second periodical in the history of the university, titled the *Harar Bulletin of Health Sciences*. This a third career for Tom. After serving as a department administrator in two medical schools and administrator of an inner-city neighborhood health center, he spent close to twenty years teaching health services administration and public health courses, retiring as an associate professor from James Madison University in Virginia to teach in east Africa. In addition, he now does faculty capacity building and teaching in Ethiopia. Tom invites you to Google "Harar Bulletin" and [www.Haramaya.edu.et](http://www.Haramaya.edu.et) for more information about life in Ethiopia and the significant health and medical issues arising from the traditions and culture of the country. Ethiopia is considered one of the slowest developing countries in the world due to food insecurity as a result

of drought, AIDS, TB, malaria, harmful traditional practices to children including female genital mutilation, high infant and maternal mortality rates, and high unemployment. This was not Tim's first time in Ethiopia; he served as a Peace Corps volunteer there with the WHO Smallpox Eradication Program prior to entering the MPH program in health behavior.

**'80s**  
**Jim Burdine** (DrPH 1980), assistant dean for public health practice and professor at the Texas A&M Health Science Center School of Rural Public Health, has been named to a three-year term on the Advisory Council of the Association for Community Health Improvement (ACHI). ACHI, an affiliate of the American Hospital Association, is considered the premier national association for community health, community benefit, and healthy communities professionals.

**Charles Llewellyn** (MPH 1980) continued his semi-retirement in international health consulting to USAID Missions in Angola, Benin and Mali in 2011. He also did a short term assignment to document



the success of the Ethiopian Family Planning program for FHI. His most notable experience was to investigate and advise the US

Military and Malian MOH on a cholera epidemic in Timbuktu, which has been closed to tourists because of recent guerrilla activity! He used his health education training to develop an improved cholera communication strategy, while playing [Belgian comic book character] Tin Tin. Otherwise, he and his wife enjoy their home in Beaufort, NC.

**Patsey Moseley** (BSPH 1981, MPH 1983) and **Edna Davis Brown** (MPH 1983) are both from a small town in Northampton County, NC called Garysburg. As previously mentioned in

these pages, Edna and her husband, James Brown, started a family foundation to honor her brother Gregory after he died of AIDS in 2000. In 2010, the Gregory B. Davis Foundation ([www.gbdf.org](http://www.gbdf.org)) received a small grant from GlaxoSmithKline to offer free monthly clinics, community health forums, and also to expose Northampton County area youth volunteers to various areas of health and science. They used some of the funds to bring several student volunteers to UNC to learn about the Schools of Public Health and Medicine. The foundation also received a small grant from Morehouse School of Medicine to expand a Cancer Coalition in Northampton and Halifax Counties. In 2010 they partnered with the LCCC and the Roanoke Valley Cancer Coalition. Alumna **Alexis Moore** (MPH 1997) represented the LCCC in the partnership's effort to build the capacity to learn about and use evidence-based approaches to improve breast and cervical cancer screenings.

**Ken McLeroy** (PhD 1982), Regents Professor at the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health, served as co-author (with Bruce Simons-Morton and Monica Wendel) of a volume entitled *Behavior Theory in Health Promotion Practice: Multi-Level Applications*, published in November 2011 by Jones and Bartlett. He also co-authored two articles for the *American Journal of Public Health* in 2011, one on "Advancing the Science of Community-Level Interventions" and the other on the "Role of Reporting Standards and the Adoption of the PRISMA Statement." In addition to serving as co-principal investigator (with fellow alumnus **Jim Burdine**, DrPH 1980) for A&M's CDC Prevention Research Center grant, he has recently received a grant to host a conference in Montreal with the Canadian Institutes for Health Research on population health research. In addition, Ken is working with the Legacy Foundation on two evaluation projects and serves as PI on a National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities center grant (P20).

**Lucas Owuor-Omondi** (MPH 1982) lives in the Guateng province of South Africa where he is regional malaria program coordinator with Lutheran Communion in Southern Africa. He sent a note to be shared with all of you:

*Dear Jo Anne, Geni, and fellow Alumni:*

*We are informed that in the Kingdom of God, every morning the Good Lord sends out two Angels, with a basket each, to literally all the four corners of the world. One of the baskets is marked "Requests" and the other "Appreciations". It is notable that whereas the basket marked Requests is always full, the basket marked Appreciation is at times empty when the Angels return at the end of the day!*

*I returned Saturday from Mozambique full of joy and feeling more confident. Two days before I had received the good news from South African Embassy in Maputo that I had finally been awarded the much coveted, much sought-after South African Work Permit and Residency for three years, renewable. The very high rating of my degree from UNC, my track record and what, according to the Consul, I was going to contribute to the southern African region, were my strongest defenses. The realization that I could now focus and settle down to some serious work without having to run out of the country every twelve days was electrifying!*

*However, my joy would not be complete without sharing it with you all and thanking you (putting something in the basket marked "Appreciation") for having come to my rescue during one of my greatest moments of need. A true living reminder that what matters is not what or how much one gives, but how one gives!*

*Let us now work together towards making the southern African health behavior alumni chapter a reality!*

If you're interested in starting up a HB alumni group in your area, be it in southern Africa or somewhere in North Carolina, please write us at [hbnewsletter@unc.edu](mailto:hbnewsletter@unc.edu). We're happy to make introductions!

In early 2011 **Anna Schenck**, PhD (MPH 1983, Epidemiology PhD), director of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's Public Health Leadership Program (PHLP), was appointed director of the North Carolina Institute of Public Health and associate dean for public health practice in the School.

March 2011 marked three years at the National Cancer Institute for **Carmen Moten**, PhD (MPH 1984). She is program director and health scientist administrator in the Disparities Training Branch of the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities. In these roles, Carmen plans, develops, and manages programs that address the clinical, behavioral or population science research designed to eliminate cancer and comorbid health disparities, and serves as co-program director on a geographically-based disparities research initiative. She tells us that she enjoys her current position and admires the research and training initiatives supported by the NIH at academic institutions as well as in public/private organizations.

Prior to joining NCI she was program director of the Primary Care, Health Disparities, and Socio-Cultural Mental Health Services Research Programs branch in the Division of Services and Intervention Research at the National Institute of Mental Health where she spent over 9 years of her career.

**Joseph F. Naimoli** (MPH 1984) recently completed his first year on assignment as a CDC Health Scientist to the staff of the USAID Assistant Administrator for the Obama Global Health Initiative (GHI) in Washington, DC. In May of 2011 Joe's 2009 publication, "Global health partnerships in practice: taking stock of the GAVI Alliance's new investment in health systems strengthening," in the journal *Health Policy and Planning*, was named one of the ten best resources on current global health initiatives on country health systems.

**Becky Raymond** (MPH 1984) and husband, Mike Stangl (MSENV 1986) made a substantial gift to the School in sup-

port of international students. One of the benefactors of their generosity was then-MPH student **Esther Majani** of Tanzania who graduated in May 2011 and returned home to Dar es Salaam.

Last fall Radio Lab of NPR aired **Susan Schaller's** (MPH 1984) story of a language-less man learning language [www.radiolab.org/people/susan-schaller/](http://www.radiolab.org/people/susan-schaller/). It's a story about Susan's experience teaching language to a 27 year-old man who did not have language that she adapted into a book called *A Man Without Words*. Initially published in 1991 by Summit Press with a forward by renowned neurologist and author Oliver Sacks, the University of California Press is publishing it this fall with an added chapter and a new afterword. This year should also see the beginning of a related film project. Susan says the new edition will still say she earned her MPH from UNC adding, "I couldn't have done it without you all. I will give a book gift to any alum who writes me." On the domestic front, Susan's twins will graduate from university this year!

In May 2011 **Lucy Siegel** (MPH 1984) started working at IntraHealth in Chapel Hill, NC as the director of program development.

**Kathy Teer Crumpler** (MPH 1985) is self-employed as a contract trainer and curriculum specialist. The latter work is primarily in school health, promoting evidence-based curricula such as Making Proud Choices, Parents Matter, Reducing the Risk. She's heavily involved with Lifelines, a high school suicide prevention curriculum, which also includes Lifelines Postvention—training school staff to use best practices following a suicide or other traumatic death in a school community.

**DeVetta Holman Nash** (MPH 1985) received UNC's 2012 University Diversity Award, which "recognizes significant contributions to the enhancement, support and/or furtherance of diversity on the campus and in the community." She is the associate director of the Center for Healthy Student Behavior, part

of UNC-CH Student Health Services.

**Kim Caraganis** (BSPH 1987) is executive director of a Chatham County, NC private non-profit known as Chatham County Together. Its mission is to mentor and guide children and youth to help them reach their full potential and become healthy, positive members of their communities. [www.chathamcountytogether.org](http://www.chathamcountytogether.org)



**Chanuatong "Kai" Tanasugarn** (DrPH 1987) *See story on page 5.*

**'90s**  
**Elise Jensen** (MPH 1990), who is in her second year in Kabul as director of USAID's PEPFAR program in Afghanistan, recently provided an update of her work since graduation.

"After graduating from HBHE, I worked for the State of West Virginia, first as a community health educator and then as the director of the Office of Rural Health Policy. When my husband Peter was relocated to the north of the state, I took a job with Project Hope, a small international PVO located in western Virginia. I served as the head of their domestic health programs, supporting activities in Newark NJ and along the U.S. -Mexico border. Over time I transitioned to become their regional director for Africa. Along the way I provided technical and managerial oversight to MCH and Child Survival Programs in Central America, Haiti, and East and Southern Africa. After 7 years with Project HOPE I moved back overseas with my family, joining USAID/Malawi to manage their HIV/AIDS program. We then served in Tanzania where I served as director of USAID's PEPFAR program."

Her next assignment, beginning this summer, is as office director for USAID's health program in Ethiopia. Elise and Peter, who works in small scale sustainable agriculture, have two daughters: Mali, majoring in environmental studies at Colgate, and Kate, a freshman in high school in Dar es Salaam, where



Peter is residing during Elise's Afghan assignment.

Elise added, "I *still* use what I learned [as an MPH student] and consider it one of the most rewarding professional opportunities that I've had. If I could figure out how to pay for a doctorate while putting my own kids through college I'd be back knocking on your door!"

**Anne Phillips** (MPH 1990) lives in Nashua, New Hampshire. About three years ago she made a job switch from a community-based pediatric clinic for very low income and at risk families in NH's largest city to a position as program officer at NH Charitable Foundation, one of the state's most respected organizations.

"The foundation is incredibly rooted in all of the regions of the state and, along with the usual functions of a community foundation, one that has always taken a leadership role in bringing together public and private partners to solve New Hampshire problems and bring change," wrote Anne.

Her responsibilities fall into three major areas: managing the grant making portfolio in the southern part of the state; serving as the Foundation's health "point person" (she's the only one at the Foundation with a public health background); and working on nonprofit capacity building statewide.

Anne finds the work interesting. As a community foundation the group's grant making spans the entire nonprofit sector: arts and culture, environment, health and human services, education, and public policy. This breadth provides Anne the opportunity to work outside of health and public health. She says she really enjoys working for a statewide organization. "It's a real privilege—to work with both our generous donors and help them meet their philanthropic goals, and work with the amazing leaders of our nonprofit sector." Anne and husband Lincoln are talking about building a house in the area, which happens to be within striking distance of New York City, Lincoln's hometown.

**Amy Lansky** (MPH 1991, PhD 1996) sent us a great picture from a November 2011 trip that several graduates from the class of 1991 took to celebrate a few 50th birthdays. The women enjoyed a mineral springs spa and were convinced of the karmic benefit to having been there on 11/11/11. The other highlight of the trip was a fabulous yard sale on which they descended like locusts wiping the place clean and causing one person to ask, incredulously, "Where did these people come from?" Although local folks seemed to think it might be outer space, they are really from: Portland, OR (**Michelle Bressler**); Knoxville, TN (**Betsy Hobkirk**); Boston, MA (**Eve Nagler**); Silver Spring, MD (**Carol Woodside**); Atlanta, GA (**Amy Lansky**); Pittsboro, NC (**Karen Strazza**); and Austin, TX (**Carmen Retzlaff**). HBHE bonds are strong!



1991 HB grads celebrate  
11/11/11 at the spa

On another note, Amy is serving as an at-large director on the Gillings School of Global Public Health Alumni Association Governing Board (chair of alumni support).

**Celette Sugg Skinner** (PhD 1991) leads a research team that received a five-year, \$6.3 million grant from the National Cancer Institute to establish The Parkland-UT Southwestern PROSPR Center – part of a three-site network for optimizing colon cancer screening

through personalized regimens. Research conducted through the Center will reach more than 32,000 Dallas County residents



age 50 and older who are seen in Dallas County's safety-net hospital, making it unique among the NCI-funded centers due to its focus on people who lack insurance or are underinsured. At University of Texas, Southwestern, Celette heads the Division of Behavioral and Communications Sciences in the Medical School's Department of Clinical Sciences; she also serves as associate director for Population Sciences for the Harold C. Simmons Cancer Center. Similar to Amy Lansky, Celette serves on an alumni committee as a member of the Gillings School of Global Public Health's Public Health Foundation Board.

After last year's stint as the CDC's acting chief operating officer, **Carlton Duncan** (MSPH 1992) accepted a position working with the King Center as the CDC advisor for public health equity. Prior to working as CDC's acting COO, Carlton served as deputy COO for seven years. He was involved in the early days of HIV prevention with what is now known as the Centers' Division of Adolescent and School Health. He helped develop CDC's School Health Education Program to Prevent the Spread of AIDS.

In late December, **Holly Jones** concluded what she described as an "incredible journey" as executive director of the YWCA of Asheville, a job she held for nearly sixteen years. At the beginning of this year she took on her new role as regional manager for the YWCA of the Southeast Region, working with 23 local YWCAs in seven southeastern states to strengthen their organizational capacities and enhance the YWCA's collective voice. Holly was happy to report that she was able to base the SE Regional Office in Asheville and didn't have to move.

**Christopher Kigongo** (MPH 1993) left for Uganda last June to attend to the small, private school he started there in 2002. Naama School, in Chris' village of Mityana, was established with the proceeds of his medical clinic and now has over 500 students. Plus, two more schools in neighboring villages are in the works. Chris believes that the students should be allowed to attend whether they could afford it or not, and so they have. When it was first started, over one third of the students were HIV orphans. It is a remarkable success story that came about largely because Chris continued to provide funding after he came to the US through his own financial means, even though he was supporting his own five children at that time. Naama School has many advocates now and a number of Duke students have visited it over the years. Chris notes that Naama students have scored very well on the Ugandan state exams.

**Gina Upchurch, RPh** (MPH 1993) was the featured guest speaker at UNC's Department of Public Policy's spring commencement ceremony in May 2011. She was invited to speak in light of her experiences creating a successful nonprofit organization (Senior PharmAssist) that addresses a critical public policy issue and community need.

**Kathy Luchok** (PhD 1994) continues to direct the South Carolina Access Initiative for which she has received additional funding. She reports that her husband Chris is working internationally on nanotechnology issues, something which takes him—and sometimes the entire family—around the globe. Their children Vivien (14) and Aidan (11) are doing well. Vivien has been accepted into the Carolina Ballet Summer Intensive program for 2012, giving her mother an excuse to visit her old stomping grounds in the Triangle.

**Lisa Pullen-Davis** (BSPH 1996, PhD 2003) recently joined the Durham Diabetes Coalition as senior project manager. For the project, supported by a grant from the Bristol Myers Squibb Foundation, Lisa will convene the Com-

munity Advisory Board to oversee the Durham Diabetes Coalition. She will be working closely with project leadership and investigators to supervise the creation of community survey tools, develop the interventions and changes to patterns of care, and convey to all stakeholders the metrics for measuring and evaluating the interventions. With expertise in diabetes, community-based research, minority health, qualitative methods, and training design and facilitation, Lisa has trained health care professionals, community members, and students on the application of materials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention project, Diabetes Today, to form and catalyze diabetes coalitions in communities across the United States. She also has extensive experience through her participation in *A New DAWN*, a church-based diabetes study with 24 sites across North Carolina for which she served as Principal Investigator. In this secondary analysis she evaluated the role of goal setting in promoting physical activity among African American women with Type 2 diabetes. Previously, in Durham County, she directed a multi-site randomized trial designed to prevent childhood obesity and collaborated with *LinCS 2 Durham* to address HIV issues.

**Susan Sherman, PhD** (MPH 1996) is an associate professor of epidemiology at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where she has worked for the past decade. Her research in Thai-



land, Baltimore, and India focuses on designing socio-economic HIV prevention interventions with sex workers and drug users. The most exciting news in Susan's life is the August 2011 birth of her son, **Miles Jackson Bruno!**

**Amy Denham, MD** (MPH 1997) was appointed medical director of the cancer prevention and control branch of the North Carolina Division of Public

Health. She continues to practice medicine at UNC School of Medicine's family medicine department on a part-time basis.

**Eileen Barrett, MD** (MPH 1998) had been working for the Indian Health Service as a general internist for over five years when she decided to take some time off (for yoga, skiing, and travel) and to do some international volunteer work. She set out in January 2011, volunteering as an internist at the Kwai River Christian Hospital on the Thai Burmese border. Illnesses she saw there included malaria, TB, worms, aplastic anemia, malnutrition, and HIV/AIDS. She also volunteered with the Thai Burmese Border Health Initiative, an NGO providing care coordination and direct care to Burmese refugees along the border. When she returned state-side last spring, Eileen once again worked as a hospitalist at another Navajo Area IHS hospital. She and her husband Sam McBride, who practices family medicine, plan to return to the Thai Burmese border yearly to continue their volunteer work. In fact, they went again in April 2011 during which time Eileen added dengue and leptospirosis to the list of illnesses she saw. She was elected president of the New Mexico chapter of the American College of Physicians; her term expired last fall. When Sam and Eileen are home in Gallup, New Mexico they love to spend time with their dog named Petey.

**Heidi Reynolds** (MPH 1998) has been working on the MEASURE Evaluation Project based at UNC for the last 3+ years as a technical specialist for HIV projects. She writes that she really enjoys her work on HIV M&E with her colleagues at MEASURE. Heidi has two 4 year olds, a boy and a girl, exclaiming "It's a full life!"

After a decade with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where she worked primarily on global immunization and HIV prevention activities, **Meg Thorley** (MPH 1998) left the federal government in 2009 to pursue graduate work, earning a Master of



Science degree in the Human Dimensions of Ecosystem Science and Management from Utah State University in May 2011. Last fall Meg moved to England to begin her doctoral studies in the Department of Land Economy at Cambridge University. Dr. Douglas Crawford-Brown (*Professor Emeritus*, Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health; Executive Director, Cambridge Centre for Climate Change Mitigation Research) will be her advisor. Meg plans to focus her research on the impact of characteristics of the built environment on human and environmental health.

Congratulations to **Jay Bernhardt** (PhD 1999) for receiving the Everett M. Rogers Award from the Public Health



Education and Health Promotion Section of the American Public Health Association during the Annual Meeting in November 2011. The

award is given to an individual who has made outstanding contributions to advancing the study and/or practice of public health communication. Jay is professor and chair of Health Education and Behavior at the University of Florida where he also directs the Center for Digital Health and Wellness. He lives in Gainesville, Florida with his wife Sheryl, daughter Lila, and son Nate.

After many years working at the North Carolina Institute of Public Health **Molly Cannon** (MPH 1999) joined the Futures Group in Chapel Hill, which does global health programs, often in conjunction with other global health NGOs, such as John Snow, Inc. Molly was appointed to the HBHE adjunct faculty this spring and also serves on the department's admissions committee, along with **Debbie Grammer** (MPH 1998).

**Elena Carbone** (DrPH 1999) has spent 12 years in the University of Massachusetts-Amherst's Department of Nutri-

tion, during which time she's assumed virtually every position in the department, including interim head. She was recently appointed to serve as director of community research engagement for the Honors College at UMass. Her goal in this position is to identify faculty doing community-engaged research and to develop means to get outstanding honors students involved in such research. Last summer Elena was fortunate to participate in training grants that took her to two countries she'd never visited before: Russia and Vietnam. She currently has a grant to work with a local medical center examining the understandability and impact of materials developed in response to BMI legislation passed in Massachusetts in 2009 that requires schools to collect height and weight data of 1st, 4th, 7th and 10th graders, calculate their BMIs, and send screening reports to parents.

**Molly Eggleston** (MPH 1999) is in the first 812 member cohort of Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES) credential holders. The MCHES certification, awarded by the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Inc. (NCHEC) has elevated the professional standards to an advanced-level, endorsed individual performance, and designated those who demonstrate knowledge and skills essential to the advanced-level sub-competencies in the health education profession.

**Rachid Lamjaimer** (MPH 1999) reports remaining faithful to his HBHE education in the more than ten years since leaving the US. He's currently with the Peace Corps Health Program in Morocco, which has a focus on health education and behavior change. Rachid's main responsibilities involve training, site identification and site placement, and monitoring of the volunteers' work.

**Cindi McPherson Melanson** (MPH 1999) just wrote to tell us that she's accepted a position at the Harvard School of Public Health as director of administration for the health policy and administration department. She and her husband are both from the Boston area and ex-

cited about returning "home" with their two children. Through mid-June Cindi will continue in her job as management branch chief at the CDC where she also oversees some of the organization's management- and leadership-focused fellowships: Public Health Prevention Service, Presidential Management Fellows Program, and Emerging Leaders Program. Earlier this spring Dean Barbara Rimer hosted a reunion of School alumni in Atlanta that Cindi attended along with other HB alums, including **Lillie McCall Allen** (MPH 1975), **Scott Brown** (MPH 1995), **Lumbé Kibebe Davis** (MPH 1997), **Stacey Hoffman** (MPH 1999), **Rhondette Jones** (MPH 1993), **Amy Lansky** (MPH 1991, PhD 1996), **Jane Mezzoff** (MPH 1988), **Kathy Parker** (MPH 1976), and **Felicia Solomon Tharpe** (2002).

'00s

Chicago-based Pioneer Network appointed **Peter Reed** (MPH 1999, PhD 2004) executive director in May 2011. Luckily for Peter and his wife **Shara** (MPH 2003), they did not need to relocate, so continue to live in Sacramento, California. Pioneer Network is a national resource to the field of aging and long-term care, a clearinghouse for ideas on aging, and a facilitator of partnerships focusing on issues of culture change and person-directed transformations throughout the continuum of care. Also in 2011, Peter was appointed to the Board of Directors of the American Society on Aging and was elected to the Executive Committee of the Sacramento County Adult and Aging Commission. He is also a fellow with the UNC Institute on Aging.

**Nicole Bates, DrPH** (MPH 2000, HPM DrPH 2008) of Alexandria, Virginia ran the Boston Marathon this spring! She also got promoted to deputy director for program advocacy with the





Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, leading global strategies on vaccines and child health.

In April 2011 **Jennifer M. Gierisch** (MPH 2000, PhD 2008) was appointed assistant professor in the Department of Medicine at Duke University. She is also core investigator at the Durham Veteran Affairs Medical Center's Center of Excellence for Health Services Research in Primary Care and the Evidence Synthesis Program. At present, Jennifer is leading an initiative on identifying effective strategies to improve cardiovascular risk factors in people with serious mental illness. This spring she taught the theory module of Theoretical and Conceptual Foundations to first-year doctoral students in our department, filling in for Wisdom Powell Hammond, who is on leave until September as a White House Fellow.

From 2003 through 2009, **Stephen Hodgins** (DrPH 2000) led John Snow Inc.'s work in Nepal, supporting the ministry of health in maternal, newborn, and child health and family planning, especially at the primary care and community levels. While his focus has been primarily on service delivery, it has also included attention to household practices. One aspect of his work in Nepal involved introduction of new interventions. For example, he pioneered community-based distribution of misoprostol late in pregnancy, for women to use immediately after delivery to prevent postpartum hemorrhage. Although circumstances are improving, most Nepalese women still deliver at home *without* a skilled health worker. Steve is now moving this initiative forward as a national program. He has supported similar work in piloting, operations research and introduction of the antiseptic, chlorhexidine, for application to the umbilical cord stumps of newborns to prevent sepsis. On the implementation side, his work has focused on issues related to scale-up. There has also continued to be a strong applied research element. Late in 2009, Steve moved to Washington, DC to take up responsibilities as

technical director of USAID's Maternal Child Health Integrated Program, maintaining a similar technical focus to that of his earlier work. Some areas he's currently giving attention to include community health workers (and community-based service delivery), service delivery integration, and program performance metrics. He has an adjunct appointment at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, where he gives occasional lectures.

**Anne Mejia-Downs PT, MPH, CCS** (MPH 2001) took advantage of an invitation by the American Public Health



Annie, left, receiving a mentoring award from the American Physical Therapy Association in spring 2011

Association to join a delegation of health researchers to Cuba to study their public health system. She spent a week there in May 2011 visiting health care facilities, community clinics, and a medical school, and meeting with high-level officials including the Public Health Minister. Anne was impressed by the use of the country's few resources to create an efficient and organized public health infrastructure. This is achieved by an emphasis on primary care (including mental health and dental care) and by addressing the whole person and family instead of solely medical needs. She was also impressed with the requirement of daily physical education at every grade level, including technical and professional schools, and saw this reflected in low numbers of obese individuals. The visit was reported on the University of Indianapolis (where Annie is on faculty) website: <https://news.uindy.edu/news/?p=10616>

A few months after her trip to Cuba, Annie was diagnosed with breast cancer and began receiving treatment, which ended in December. Fortunately her cancer is in total remission and she reports that she is feeling well. In fact, earlier *this* year Annie stopped by Rosenau



Hall to say "Hi" while she was in Chapel Hill visiting her sons and twin grandchildren (pictured above in a family photo) and she looked vibrant and strong and, of course, had a smile on her face.

**Jamie Newman** (MPH 2001, PhD 2009) and husband **Seth Murray** (UNC Anthropology PhD 2008) are pleased to announce the birth of their son, **Eneko Graham Murray**. Baby Eneko was born on April 23, 2011 at UNC Hos-



pitals, 10 days after his due date. Eneko is proud to have **Jim Thrasher** (PhD 2005) as his godfather. Jamie recently celebrated 10 years at RTI International where her two main projects include developmental outcomes of babies born less than 27 weeks gestational age in the US and HIV in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cameroon, and Burundi.

**Piya Siriphant** (PhD 2001) is one of our Thai scholars discussed in the article on page 5; Piya's update is on page 27.

Since 2008 **Ada Goldovsky** (MPH 2002) has worked as an on-site contractor to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Office of Crisis Management, preparing emergency operation plans, developing trainings, and conducting evaluations. She says she *loves* her job because she gets to see the impact of her efforts and improved or-

ganizational coordination. Ada wrote, “It also gives me the opportunity to apply knowledge from my UNC course work, such as: program management, community diagnosis, and empowerment education. Applying Carol Runyan’s teaching of the ORID facilitation method has been key in helping with organizational shifts.” In addition, Ada is mom to a toddler who (when she wrote to us) was still keeping her up at night. “If I could only apply behavioral change theory on her and change her waking habits.”

**Aviva Grasso** (MPH 2002) and husband Glenn moved to New York City last summer for her position as director of alcohol policy at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Aviva says she looks forward to seeing HBHE friends who happen to be in NYC—something that didn’t happen much when she lived in New Hampshire!

*If you’d like to contact Aviva or another HB grad, write us at [hbnewsletter@unc.edu](mailto:hbnewsletter@unc.edu).*

**Felicia Solomon Tharpe** (MPH 2002) got married October 8, 2011! She lives in the Atlanta area and works as a public health advisor with the CDC in the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control. She was one of several alums who attended an Atlanta reunion this spring (*see entry for Cindi Melanson*).

A while back **Maceo Thomas** (MPH 2002) sent us an article he penned for a community paper about why he chose to be arrested for DC autonomy. The article, “Why I chose to get arrested” can be found on the DCvote website ([www.dcvote.org](http://www.dcvote.org)). DC voting rights are taken for granted across the country and Maceo has gotten involved with DCVote, an organization working to bring attention to the fact that the 600,000+ DC residents have less authority to develop their city budget than the rest of the country. Maceo’s “day job” may be as a realtor, but in his heart he remains a health educator and community-based participatory organizer.

After completing a 2-year fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program **Julie Harris** (MPH 2003) started a position as a scientist at Kaiser Permanente’s Division of Research in Oakland, CA. She is building a program of research around the ethical, legal, and social implications of Kaiser’s biobank program and is also involved in a program grant through the Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (UC-Berkeley and Kaiser are some of the sites). As a result of the latter grants she periodically runs into **Erin Kobetz** (PhD 2004), one of the grant’s PIs. She also sees fellow Bay Area resident **Kate Karriker-Jaffe** (PhD 2006) from time to time and used to see **Angela Thrasher** (MPH 1997, PhD 2006) fairly regularly until Angela moved back to NC. On the home front, Julie got married in 2010!

**Pornruedee “Poo” Nitirat** (MPH 2003, PhD 2007) is one of our Thai scholars discussed in the article on page 5.

**Sarah Przybyla** (MPH 2003, PhD 2009) is a research assistant professor at the University of Mississippi. She is moving to New York later this year to begin a post-doc at SUNY-Buffalo in STD research.

**Katie Giles** (HBHE 2004) is a project manager at the Harvard School of Public Health Prevention Research Center, where she oversees research on interventions to reduce childhood obesity in school, afterschool and community settings, as well as cost effectiveness analyses of such interventions. Katie is planning a September wedding to Peter Downing in Maine.

**Amanda Phillips Martinez** (HBHE 2004) is a senior research associate at the Georgia Health Policy Center at Georgia State University in Atlanta. She provides evaluation and organizational development training to rural health organizations receiving federal grants. Amanda and her husband Miguel have a three year old daughter named Stella and in March welcomed baby Louisa into their family.

**Rachel Shelton** (MPH 2004) is an assistant professor at Columbia’s Mailman School of Public Health in New York City where she conducts research related to understanding and addressing cancer disparities. She and her husband Tom live in Brooklyn and welcomed a baby girl, **Violet Mae Randall**, in June 2011.

Last summer **Nina Yamanis** (MPH 2004, PhD 2009) joined the faculty in the School of International Service at American University in Washington, DC as an assistant professor. This spring she taught two classes, Health in the Developing World and Micropolitics of Development.

**Jingzhen Yang** (PhD 2004) and Dr. Kele Ding were married in May 2011. Kele is an associate professor of Health Education and Promotion (School of Health Sciences) at Kent State University and has known Ginger since her days at Indiana University. Until this year Ginger has been an associate professor at the University of Iowa in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health, chaired by our own **Edith Parker** (MPH 1989, DrPH 1995). She will join Kele this summer at Kent State.

Last summer **Mahyar Mofidi** (PhD 2005) was promoted to the commander rank in the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. In addition, he received the Junior Officer of the Year Award for the entire USPHS! The award recognizes a junior officer who has made a significant contribution to the overall mission of the Corps. The USPHS mission is to protect, promote and advance the health and safety of people in the United States. The mission is achieved through: rapid and effective response to public health needs; leadership and excellence in public health practices; and advancement of public health science. Mahyar is responsible for providing national direction, program planning and technical assistance to the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program on oral health-related matters. Mahyar serves as chief dental officer for the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration’s HIV/AIDS Bureau.



In March 2011, **Eric Pevzner** (PhD 2005) wrote: “I was working in Viet Nam and I got an email from HBHE alum **Amy Corneli** (PhD 2004) who was in Kenya. Amy was surprised to get an immediate response from me (because it was middle of the night in the US) so I explained I was working in Viet Nam. Amy informed me that **Christina Wong** (PhD 2007) was also working in Viet Nam. So, I was able to email Christina and we took a break from our work and met for dinner a few times before we both departed Viet Nam to return to our families. The HBHE alumni network is alive and well.”



After spending the last few years working on childhood obesity prevention in rural New Mexico, **Emily Pilitch** (MPH 2005) moved across the country last August to start a PhD program at the Tufts University Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy in the Agriculture, Food and Environment Program. She looks forward to bridging her public health knowledge with her expertise in food and agriculture policy to help address issues of food insecurity and childhood obesity from policy and built environment perspectives. Emily encourages those of you who live in (or visit) the Boston/Cambridge area to get in touch with her!

For the past three years **Katie Sterba** (PhD 2005) has worked as an assistant professor at the Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. Her research is in cancer survivorship with a focus on developing and testing interventions for families at the end of treatment. Her family really enjoys living in Charleston, SC, where they get to spend a lot of time at the beach (Lilly is 9 and Annie is 5).

Graphic warning labels on cigarette packages were introduced in Mexico last fall, the result of research by, among others, **Jim Thrasher** (PhD 2005), a faculty member in the University of South Carolina Arnold School of Public Health's Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior. Working with colleagues from Mexico's National Institute of Public Health, he conducted studies with adolescents and smokers throughout Mexico to determine the most effective imagery and text for that country's warning labels, which occupy 65% of the package. They presented their findings earlier this year to Dr. José Angel Córdoba Villalobos, Mexico's Minister of Health, who unveiled the pictorial warnings in March. The new labels began appearing on cigarette packages last September.



**Betsy Havens, JD** (MPH 2006), an Equal Justice Works fellow with Florida Legal Services, used her expertise in public health to present the Plaintiffs' rebuttal in a case that “laid to rest the outrageous claim that Applied Behavior Analysis is experimental.” Betsy wanted readers to know that, “As a first year attorney focused on poverty health law, I cannot emphasize enough just how critical my public health training is to my job on a daily basis. ...My wonderful experience and training from the HBHE program, especially AOCD and CBPR, has helped me greatly thus far in my career.”

**Deanna Kepka** (MPH 2006) is a post-doctoral Cancer Prevention Fellow at the National Cancer Institute where she engages in health services research with a specific focus on cervical cancer screening and prevention among vulnerable populations. She received her PhD in Health Services from the University of Washington in 2010. She also has a 3-year-old son, Jonah, and 8-month-old (when she wrote to us several months ago!) daughter, Evelyn.

**Carolyn Timberlake Thorp** (PhD 2006) moved to Pittsburgh, PA with her family last September where she began a joint position as assistant professor in the Department of Pharmacy & Therapeutics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy and core investigator at the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System's Center for Health Equity Research and Promotion (one of the VA HSR&D Centers of Excellence). Her husband, Josh Thorpe (PhD 2005 from UNC School of Pharmacy), took an identical joint position at the rank of associate professor. The couple has two children: Anna (5) and Nicholas (3). The family is enjoying life in Pittsburgh.

In true procrastination form, honed during a year of Program Planning, **Abby Zeveloff** (MPH 2006) and **Ryan Morgan** (MPH 2007) are happy to announce they were married in June 2010. Following graduation from HBHE, both returned to Carolina for a Masters in Social Work. Ryan now works as a mental health therapist and substance abuse counselor with Wake County and Abby is a clinical social worker at Duke University's Infectious Diseases Clinic. Instead of writing papers, they now spend most weekends on home projects.

**Michele Lanham** (MPH 2007) and **Raphael Louie, MD** (MPH 2010) were married March 2011 in Durham, NC in a ceremony at Blacknall Memorial Presbyterian Church with a reception at the Nasher Museum of Art. That June, they relocated to Lebanon, NH, where



Raphael began a general surgery residency at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. Michele continues to work for FHI360 from New Hampshire.



Michele and Rafe are enjoying their new home and exploring New England.



Congratulations to Josh and Juliana!  
Don't miss the brief marriage and birth announcement list on the facing page!

Things are going well in South Africa for **Joshua Murphy** (MPH 2007) who married **Juliana Thornton** (MCH MPH 2010) in December 2011 at a small farm in Limpopo, South Africa. Josh is a health systems analyst at the Anova Health Institute, a USAID/PEPFAR-funded organization based in Johannesburg ([www.anovahealth.co.za](http://www.anovahealth.co.za)). Julie is at Tshikululu, Corporate Social Investments. Josh and Julie spend their time house-hunting and taking care of their dog Maya. Josh exhorts fellow grads to "Stop by!"

**Elynor Wilson**, nee Lord (MPH 2007), currently lives in Greenville, NC with her husband, Richard Wilson, MD and their toddler daughter, Margaret. While her husband completes his medical residency in family medicine, Elynor continues to work as a heart disease and stroke prevention regional coordinator based at the Pitt County Health Department. In her (limited!) spare time, Elynor feels fortunate to teach yoga in her community; she even had one of her baby yoga classes featured on the local news in March 2011. To see a video, visit [www.quietudeyoga.webs.com/](http://www.quietudeyoga.webs.com/).

**Christina Wong** (PhD 2007) *did some work in Viet Nam last year where met up with **Eric Pevzner** (PhD 2005) with whom she is pictured on page 23.*

Congratulations to **Mel Downey-Piper** (MPH 2008) on several counts! We know of three things in her life that happened last fall. First of all, she was appointed to the Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians. Only one Healthy Carolinians Coordinator in North Carolina is chosen to represent all state partnerships, so Mel's appointment is an honor for Durham County.

Mel also wrote and published a major report on the health of Durham County to which **Colleen Blue** (MPH 2006), **Mary DeCoster** (MPH 2002), and **Gary Rozier** (SPH faculty, advisor, collaborator) also contributed.

And, last but not least, Mel and **Carey Downey-Piper** had a son, Dylan! He was born in October and is two years younger (by just a few days) than his sister Logan.



The Piper-Downey family in late 2011

**Arin Ahlum Hanson** (MPH 2008) was promoted at Living Beyond Breast Cancer (LBBC), which has received its first federal grant from the CDC to develop programs for young women affected by breast cancer. Arin will lead the three year project that will include a needs assessment, program plan, intervention and evaluation. She exclaimed, "I'm very excited but a little overwhelmed!" Arin finished the revision and reprinting of LBBC's resource for African American women, *Getting Connected: African Americans Living Beyond Breast Cancer*, which involved 5 focus groups and at least 3 photo shoots in 3 different cities over one-and-a-half years.

**Linda Ko** (PhD 2008) is at the Hutch! In early 2011 she became an assistant professor in the Department of Health

Services at the University of Washington's School of Public Health. She also became a member of UW's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center.

**Delesha Miller Carpenter** (PhD 2009) was appointed research assistant professor in the Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy at UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy where she is almost completely supported on a KL2 grant until 2014. This spring she received a \$50k pilot award from TraCS to improve inhaler technique for Latino children with asthma. Lesha was a visiting scholar at UCLA this spring collaborating with sociology faculty members John Heritage and Tanya Stivers.

**India Ornelas** (PhD 2009) and HB Adjunct Associate Professor **Krista Ferreira**, PhD, whose primary appointment at UNC is associate professor in the department of public policy, co-authored the lead article on the health of children of immigrants in the Spring 2011 issue of *Immigrant Children*, titled "The Physical and Psychological Well-Being of Immigrant Children." The publication is produced by The Future of Children, a collaboration of the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs at Princeton University and the Brookings Institution.

**Liana Richardson** (PhD 2009, Anthropology MA 2006) was appointed assistant professor in the Sociology department at Carolina, where she will continue to conduct research on determinants of low birth weight and teach courses on the social determinants of health. Liana was recently elected a Fellow in the Carolina Population Center.



Arin, left, with Megan Landfried (MPH 2008) at our department's 2011 APHA reception

# '10s

**Peter Balvanz** (MPH 2010) was awarded the GEAB Impact Award in spring 2012 for a project on the *Effects of Land Loss on African-American Farmers and Their Hope for the Next Generation*. He led two community-focused studies investigating the effects of land loss among African-American farmers and their descendants. The study team of graduate students focused primarily on northeast North Carolina, and the research method involved the active participation of farmers, and children or grandchildren of farmers. Each of the two studies included at least five sessions, during which participants would create a photo topic relating to land loss, snap and share photos, then choose a group member's photo that best captured the topic to serve as a discussion-starter. The project's goal was for participants to develop action steps to curb land loss.

After graduation **Emily Brostek** (MPH 2010) returned to her native Maine and started working for MaineHealth's Learning Resources Centers. After enjoying over a year there as a health educator she advanced into a job as training institute manager for Hardy Girls Healthy Women, which is proving to be a good fit for her.

**Raphael Louie** (MPH 2010) *see Michele Lanham* (MPH 2007)

**Liz Mosley** (MPH 2010) wrote to say that she is settling into her job at FHI360, and into her new life in Raleigh. "I certainly miss the HBHE department," she added, "but am lucky enough to be surrounded by HBHEs at work: **Liz Green** (MPH 2010), **Peter Balvanz** (MPH 2010), **Karah Fazekas** (MPH 2007), and **Emily Burrows** (MPH 2006), to name *just a few!*"

In addition to the new babies and marriages announced in the *Alumni Updates*, we have a few more people to congratulate...

## Congratulations!

### Baby announcements

**Lisa Tobe** (MPH 1997) would like to introduce her son Zachary "Mateo" Tobe (*at right on his mama's lap*). Despite undergoing treatment for Hodgkin's Disease while a graduate student at UNC, Lisa gave birth to Mateo in November 2009. She says she's having a blast with her little boy! Lisa works as a consultant in Louisville, Kentucky.

**Jeremy and Anne Thornhill** (MPH 2006) welcomed Amelia Rose in April 2011.

Student Services Manager **Paige and Janice Anderson** welcomed Logan Daniel on May 3, 2011.

Doctoral student **Sarah Wyckoff and David Malone** welcomed Aoife Elizabeth on March 25, 2011.

**Amy and Doug Rupert** (MPH 2006) welcomed twins Alexander William and Nicholas Howard on June 14, 2011.

**Chot and Katie Emmet Patsakham** (MPH 2008) welcomed Noah in December 2011.

Assistant Professor **Clare Barrington and Marino Drake** welcomed Amalia Teresa in February 2012.

Associate Professor **Suzanne Maman and Massai Charles** welcomed Marie Lena on March 20, 2012.

### New Marriages

**Dave Andrews** (MPH 2011) and Sherree Ferrell Andrews. **Marian Sadler Arledge** (MPH 2011) and Will Arledge.

MPH Program Manager **Megan Ellenson Landfried** (MPH 2007) and Erik Landfried (MCRP 2007), May 2011 in Durham, NC, where they live.

**Ellie Morris** (MPH 2008) and Mike Nutt (MLIS 2011), May 2011.

**Julie Hammer Piercefield** (MPH 2008) and Michael Piercefield married in 2011. The couple lives in Indianapolis and Julie works in child and adolescent programs for the Indiana State Department of Health.

**Michael Schwartz** (MPH and MCRP 2008) and Jessica Luginbuhl (MPH in MCH 2007). They live in Oakland CA.

**Christine (Nielsen) Seed** (MPH 2008) got married and moved to California.



Aoife Malone



Marie Charles



Nick (L) and Alex Rupert



Katie and Noah

We want to hear from you!

Send your latest news, address updates, photos, and suggestions to

[hbnewsletter@unc.edu](mailto:hbnewsletter@unc.edu) or

Health Behavior News  
Department of Health Behavior  
UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health  
Campus Box 7440  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7440

### Scholarly Contributions/Achievements

- ♦ An expert in school and community health, Allan has published over 80 peer reviewed articles, guest edited many journal special issues, and co-authored a widely used textbook with Laura Linnan, *Process Evaluation for Public Health Interventions and Research* (2002).
- ♦ Associate editor of *Health Education Research* for 6 years; member of *HER*'s editorial board for another 5 years.
- ♦ Recipient of the Society for Public Health Education's **Distinguished Fellow Award** (2009).

*Allan's early scholarship and influence contains all the seeds that would take root and flourish in his later work: his belief in the value of highly trained health educators so evident in his curriculum design work and evaluation; his belief in the power of research to transform communities, as manifested in his process evaluation research that helps practitioners handle the "messiness" of program implementation; and his perception that organizations have a powerful influence on individual behaviors, as evidenced by his work with public schools, where policy decisions are local and often highly charged.*

~ Jo Anne Earp, colleague of 36 years

### Teaching/Mentoring Contributions

- ♦ Taught qualitative method, intervention methods, and professional development. Most recently, was a core teaching team member for HBHE 740-741, Health Behavior/Health Education Practice.
- ♦ Chaired 18 doctoral dissertations, including those of **James Burdine** (1979), **Ken McLeroy** (1982), **Bob Goodman** (1989), **Michelle Kegler** (1995), **Jason Smith** (1996), and **Thomas McQuiston** (2000).
- ♦ Helped establish robust relationship with Thai universities, mentoring many Thai scholars (*see page 5*).
- ♦ Recognized with the UNC School of Public Health's McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching (1995).

*Allan Steckler understands the challenging world occupied by health educators and he is their champion in every sense of the word.*

~HBHE alum

Faculty, from page 13

by funding from the Kate B. Reynolds and Komen foundations. During the decade-long study, NC-BCSP trained more than 200 community members from five rural eastern North Carolina counties as lay health advisors or community outreach specialists; in the community, NC-BCSP was known as the Save our Sisters program.

"While we reduced the racial gap in screening in all five counties, and actually closed it in two of them, I am proudest of the fact that the greatest gains in mammography screening were made by the lowest-income, least-educated women, the very group NC-BCSP had targeted at the outset of the study," Earp noted.

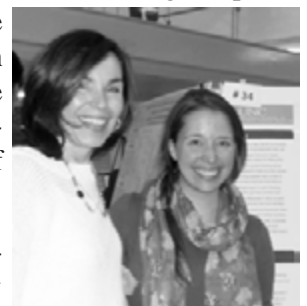
Many outstanding HB students (now alumni!) worked on NC-BCSP over the years, including **Kristen Trangsrud (MPH 1995)**, **Amy Vincus (MPH 1995)**, **Valerie Flax (MPH 1996)**, **Alexis Moore (MPH 1997)** (its program manager for many years), **Nicole Bates (MPH 2000)**, **Meg Meador (MPH 2001)**, **Heidi Lennartz (2002)**, and **Erin Kobetz (PhD 2004)**.

Other "Research-Tested Intervention Programs" based in the department include Dean and Alumni Distinguished Professor **Barbara Rimer's** PRISM Project. Professors **Karl Bauman** (Emeritus), **Vangie Foshee** and **Susan Ennett's** Family Matters Project and Vangie Foshee's **Safe Dates** Program have been listed by the US Department of Health and Human Services' (DHHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration as Model Programs.

Speaking of Vangie Foshee, Hazelden Publishing recently reported that an estimated 600,000 individuals (students and adults combined) in the United States and in Australia, Canada, Chile, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the United Kingdom have participated in *Safe Dates*, the teen dating violence prevention program developed by Foshee, Ennett, Bauman and other colleagues.

Even as the evidence base continues to grow for public health interventions that draw on peer support, Research Associate Professor **Chris Rini** is looking at the finer grained details of social support, i.e., when, in the context of a marriage or domestic partnership, it can be effective, and under what conditions it can backfire. "Those who are effective at supporting a loved one through a cancer diagnosis, treatment and follow-up," says Rini, "communicate caring and provide valuable coping resources. At the same time, ineffective support can be intrusive, misguided, or make recipients feel incompetent or indebted, adding to their burden of stress."

Rini notes that traditional measures of *enacted social support* have thus far assumed that enacted support is inherently good,



Chris Rini with advisee  
Rebecca Woodruff (MPH 2012)



and that getting more of it is better; i.e., the measures have not differentiated between ineffective and effective support. Yet, for her recent study of married or partnered cancer survivors who had undergone stem cell transplants (a life threatening treatment in and of itself), Rini measured both the quantity and the effectiveness of enacted support. In doing so, she found that effective support by a domestic partner was beneficial regardless of whether survivors received a lot or a little of it. However, when partner support was *ineffective*, receiving a larger quantity of that support actually led to significantly greater distress (*Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*, 2011). “These findings suggest that interventions aimed at reducing or preventing persistent distress after such harrowing treatments should target types of partner support that have been shown to be effective,” says Rini.

Building on these findings, Rini is beginning a line of research on how to increase the effectiveness of social support to improve psychosocial and behavioral outcomes among cancer survivors and people coping with chronic illness.

A recent article in *AIDS and Behavior* by Assistant Professor **Clare Barrington** and colleagues (2012) further establishes the evidence base she has been building in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala and other countries in Central America and the Caribbean on ways to use social networks to curb HIV transmission. Her most recent findings, from El Salvador, showed that transgender persons living in the city of San Salvador consistently reported higher rates of HIV risk behavior than the rest of the study population and were significantly more likely to be involved in sex work. At the same time, transgender respondents’ social networks were efficient at recruiting other transgender persons into the study. Barrington’s findings suggest that transgender social networks could provide an effective and culturally relevant opportunity for HIV prevention efforts in this vulnerable population.

*Thai scholar updates, from page 5*

In Fall 2011, the National Cancer Institute awarded **Kurt Ribisl** and colleagues a \$6.67 million grant to examine how states and cities can ramp up policies to curtail tobacco marketing at retail outlets. “The point of sale is where tobacco companies spend the overwhelming majority of their annual marketing budget,” Ribisl noted. “Tobacco companies do this because, up until very recently, they’ve also enjoyed the greatest freedom from regulation at the point of sale.”

With the passage in 2009 of the federal Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act, the tables may be turning.



Kurt Ribisl with his Counter Tobacco Capstone team: Allison Schmidt, Meredith Kamradt, Jenny Brown, Amber Anderson, and Linnea Warren

This new legislation may outlaw advertising near schools and public playgrounds and gives states and communities new authority to regulate tobacco sales and marketing. As good as this news may have been, Ribisl points out that “Tobacco compa-

nies have a long history of subverting the spirit, if not the letter, of the law, so it will be important to identify what policy mechanisms are most effective in reducing people’s exposure to tobacco ads, raising tobacco prices, and reducing retailer density.” To that end, Ribisl’s project aims to document how states and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration are implementing the new regulations and how tobacco companies are responding to the new restrictions. He is particularly interested in examining disparities in tobacco marketing to discover whether neighborhoods with high levels of minority populations are subject to more aggressive marketing campaigns than other neighborhoods.

**Pornruedee “Poo” Nitirat** (RN, MS, HBHE MPH 2003, HBHE PhD 2007) is an assistant professor at the Phra-pok-klao Nursing College in Chanthaburi Province.

**Piya Siriphant** (DDS, MPH, HBHE PhD 2001) is chair of the Oral Health Promotion Group and on the Faculty of Dentistry at Thammasat University Rangsit Campus.

**Chanuatong “Kai” Tanasugarn** (MPH, HBHE DrPH 1987) is an assistant professor of Health Education and Behavioral Sciences on the Faculty of Public Health and associate dean for International Affairs at Mahidol University. *Pictured at right during a recent visit to Chapel Hill.*

**Dr. Manirat “Mani” Therawiwat** (MSc, PhD) is assistant professor of Health Education and Behavioral Science on the Faculty of Public Health at Mahidol University.

**Weena Thiangtham** (MS, DrPH) is an assistant professor of Public Health Nursing at Mahidol University.

**Tippanarat Vichayanrat** (DDS, MSD), who is on the Faculty of Dentistry in the Department of Community Dentistry, Mahidol University wrote, “Thank you very much, Allan and everyone at HBHE department. It was a memorable time, and wonderful experience as a visiting scholar at UNC. I learned so much and, most importantly, Allan, you are the best motivational teacher!!!”

**Dao Wiangkham** (MSc) is in the Department of Nursing at Naresuan University.



Drs. Steckler, Tanasugarn, and Earp

aspirations to be a hub for interventions research for health behavior change informed by behavioral and social science theories and methods. In the latter half of the 1980s, we became the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education.

As the faculty at that time understood, words matter. The choice of a name telegraphs an entity's mission and focus. In adopting a new name, we signaled our abiding commitment to producing top-flight practitioners while making strategic decisions that would put us on the map as a research powerhouse.

In short order, the department did just that, phasing out our BSPH degree program, doubling enrollment in our doctoral program and increasing the size of our master's cohorts, boosting significantly the department's research portfolio, and developing clear areas of research strength. New arrivals to the faculty in the 1980s included **Geni Eng** (1984), who had just come through our MPH and doctoral programs; **Vic Strecher** (1984), at that time a recent University of Michigan grad with strengths in behavioral interventions focused on smoking cessation; **Betty Mutran** (1985) with research expertise in aging; **Carol Runyan** (1986), who eventually came to lead the Injury Prevention Research Center at Carolina; **Karl Bauman** (1987), who joined us from MCH and who innovated the widely adopted Family Matters program; and **Bob DeVellis** (1988), who brought expertise in chronic disease determinants together with a reputation as a measurement and scale development guru. 1991 saw the arrival of **Chris Jackson** to the tenure-track faculty, bringing strength in adolescent and child health. By 1994, the department's research had grown to the point where we needed a statistician on the faculty. We were far-sighted in hiring **Mike Bowling** (1994), initially associate director at IPRC, who brought strengths in injury and violence prevention research, as well as teaching excellence to our own BIOS 101 course. Starting in 1987, Geni Eng took over as head of our MPH program for 17 years, initially supported by **Ethel Jean Jackson** as MPH field coordinator and clinical faculty member. **Sandra Crouse Quinn** would later join the department (1995) as a tenure-track faculty member, leading the year-long field course and directing summer practica. In the meantime, Vic Strecher started up the Health Communications Research Lab, where a number of students who later became faculty in our department and elsewhere got their start in health communications.

Some of the doctoral students moving through our programs at that time were so outstanding that we started scooping them up as faculty, too. The 1990s saw the arrival to the regular faculty of such great grads as **Vangie Foshee** in 1991, **Carolyn Crump** in 1994, **Susan Ennett** (my first recruit to the faculty in my role as department chair!) in 1996, and **Beth Moracco** (PhD 1999) from 1999-2002. (Of course, to our delight, Beth returned to us in 2008 and is now director of our master's

program). **Lori Carter-Edwards** joined us in 1997 from Epidemiology, staying until 2002. Some great, long-time staff members joined us in the 1990s as well. **Laura Pearson** came on board as a dedicated administrative support specialist in 1995, while **Melinda Walden** served as our department manager for 10+ years until her retirement in 2001. Also in the early 1990s I stepped away from 17 years in my role as a core faculty member of the RWJ Clinical Scholars Program in the Medical School.

**Becoming Department Chair.** In 1996, after an unsuccessful national search for a department chair, Michel Ibrahim, the School's dean, offered me the post. At that time, I had been a faculty member at Carolina for 22 years. I had served on dozens of committees and had developed and taught several courses, including research methods, intervention evaluation, women's health, and the doctoral professional development seminar series. In addition I was in the midst of leading a 10-year, NCI-funded research project focused on reducing disparities in mammography screening among African American and white women in eastern NC. Through all the years—whether as researcher, instructor, committee member, or as a representative of the department—I had made it a personal mission to do three things: (1) recruit the finest applicants into our programs; (2) advocate for resources to ensure that high quality teaching and mentoring would remain a core part of what we did; and (3) (most of all!) cultivate students' intellectual and professional growth so they could lead in whatever setting they chose.

I took a deep breath and said “yes” to Michel's offer. While trying not to lose sight of the student-centered mission I had lived by for so many years, I knew I had to keep my eyes on an even larger set of tasks: protecting and building the finest faculty in health behavior and health education in the U.S.

The department by that time had acquired a strong reputation both for its public health research contributions *and* for its outstanding master's and doctoral training programs. With this knowledge, and supported by the clear-eyed advice and wisdom of the faculty at that time, I put the department into non-stop recruiting mode, believing that this would be the way to ensure our status as a world-class department well into the future. I also bolstered the department by adding two superb staff members: administrative assistant **Lou Asmuth**, who would initiate a scholarship in my name when she retired in 2001, and **Anne Menkens**, a research associate earning her PhD in English who contributed to many projects I initiated as chair.

Through a formal search in 1999, we hired **Kurt Ribisl**, **Laura Linnan** and **Mark Daniel** to the tenure-track faculty. Kurt and Laura, now both full professors, built strength across the University in tobacco control, e-health, health communications, and policy (Kurt) as well as community-based interventions, worksite health, and cancer prevention (Laura).

Mark, a social epidemiologist, was one of the “greats” who got away; he is now the inaugural Head of the School of Population Health at the University of South Australia in Adelaide. The faculty and I also continuously scanned the environment for additional terrific individuals to further develop strength in specific research areas and to help with our teaching mission. **Carol Golin** (2001), appointed jointly with Medicine, brought strength in patient/provider communication and HIV/AIDS prevention among very vulnerable populations. **Lynn Blanchard**, a “double” HBHE grad (MPH 1985 and PhD 1989), came back to UNC in 2002 to “spread the word” about community engagement as director of the Carolina Center for Public Service; the department also gained by giving her a faculty appointment. **Shelley Golden**, an MPH grad (1999), joined the faculty as a lecturer in 2003 to lead the department’s school-wide core course (HB 600) in social and behavioral sciences. And of course in 2003 the department was spectacularly successful in hiring **Barbara Rimer** as a tenured full professor. Soon after arriving, she became Alumni Distinguished Professor and then, in 2005, Dean of the School. This era also saw the addition of such staff greats as **Leslie Cornell** as our manager, **Cat Vorick** as our administrative assistant, **Robin Perkins** as our accounting technician and HR administrator, **Elizabeth French** as a research associate, and **Karen Strazza** (MPH 1991) as our MPH field coordinator. Leslie has retired, Cat is now a human resources director in the School of Pharmacy, and **Kate Shirah** (MPH 1996) took over as MPH field coordinator from Karen after Karen accepted an appointment with the UNC Injury Prevention Center (she’s now at RTI). But Robin still helps to keep the finances straight; and Elizabeth, who worked with me to develop a book and a course on patient advocacy, is now our assistant director of academic affairs.

I stepped down as department chair the same year Barbara became Dean, but not before completing a blaze of hiring. 2004 saw the arrival to the tenure-track faculty of **Deb Tate** (respected for her new media interventions to prevent and reduce obesity) and **Noel Brewer** (a psychologist who has made his mark in decision-making around cancer prevention and risk perception). They were joined by **Suzanne Maman** in 2005. She helped us build strength in global health with her research in Tanzania, South Africa and Thailand. All three are now tenured associate professors whose research has made a demonstrable impact on the public’s health.

**New Department Chair, New Directions.** In 2005, **Edwin Fisher**, professor of psychology at Washington University in St. Louis and associate director of cancer control at Washington University’s cancer center, joined the faculty as our new department chair, becoming President of the Society for Behavioral Medicine the year after he arrived. He continued the departmental focus on strategic faculty recruitment through a participatory process that helped us more clearly define our areas of research strength.

If I could have drawn a social network map of our department’s research projects at that time (or now, for that matter), it would have shown a dense cross-hatching of high-impact collaborative endeavors undergirded by the social and behavioral sciences in public health. We distilled this complex map of interests and connections down to three strategically focused areas: *health communication, interpersonal and social processes in health and illness*, and *engaging communities* across domestic and global settings.

Under Ed’s leadership, the department recruited **Wizdom Powell Hammond** and **Arjumand Siddiqi** as tenure-track faculty in 2007 and **Clare Barrington** in 2008. While Arjumand left the department in 2010 for an academic appointment in her native country, Canada, both Wizdom and Clare continue to strengthen the department in men’s health and reducing health disparities (Wizdom) and HIV/AIDs prevention among high risk populations in Central and South America (Clare). Staff additions at that time included **Lynette Omar** as manager and **Phylliss Woody** as administrative assistant. Lynette retired in 2008, and Phylliss in 2010. All were saddened by Lynette’s too-early death from kidney cancer in 2009.

Those years also saw the renewal of our training programs. Susan Ennett, who had taken over leadership of our doctoral program from Brenda in 2004, led our review of that program, developing new courses for all core requirements, and modularizing several classes to take advantage of faculty expertise in each area of concentration. In effect, these major changes helped ensure that our department would lead in the preparation of doctorally-trained researchers in our field for years to come. Based on high impact academic, government and nonprofit research placements of our grads over the past five years, it would appear we have achieved our goal.

For her part, MPH Program Director Laura Linnan undertook a comprehensive assessment of our time-honored MPH program. With data from multiple stakeholders—faculty, students, preceptors, and alumni going back 10 years—she and the MPH Program Assessment Committee crafted a bold new curriculum, crowned by a year-long Capstone experience for students. The result has been beyond impressive. When I attended Capstone Pitch Day this year, I was amazed at the number of exceptional organizations competing to have a group of our students work with their agencies in the coming year. I had a similar experience at Capstone Celebration Day, when the sum totality of all that our graduating MPH students had learned, accomplished, and contributed to the people of North Carolina washed over me as team after team presented their work.

Meanwhile, Kurt Ribisl’s leadership of the Admissions Committee for 8 years helped attract the best students in the nation’s applicant pool (we now receive 400+ applications a year), creating a deeper level of diversity in our student body along



the way. Even as other leading universities, seemingly awash in recruitment dollars, worked hard to scoop up top applicants, Kurt and the faculty, acting as recruiters, were able to show applicants why they'd be wise to choose Carolina. As one current student put it recently, we are a Research I powerhouse with the feel of a liberal arts college. Kurt left no stone unturned to compete for University Merit and other scholarships for our students, while he and I both advocated for development of new scholarships. The School has responded energetically. Even through a terrible recession, Dean Rimer and the GSGPH leadership have been able to roll out several new awards, some of which you will find profiled in this edition of the Health Behavior newsletter.

**New Old Times.** 2008 ushered in major changes once again. In a move that sealed the department's international preeminence as a research hub in the area of peer support, Ed Fisher brought Peers for Progress to our department and became its global director. Leading this endeavor demanded Ed's full attention, leading him to resign his post as department chair while continuing as a full professor. In his directorship of Peers for Progress, supported by the American Academy of Family Physicians, Ed and his team are using the global diabetes epidemic as a starting point to marshal the evidence base for what peer support can do to protect and enhance health. More broadly, the Peers for Progress group aims at nothing less than establishing peer support as a core component of health care and prevention worldwide while building a global network of peer support organizations to advance that mission. Many department faculty have been involved with Peers for Progress, including Clare, Geni, Laura, Deb, Suzanne, and me.

Just as I resumed the role of department chair in 2008, the nation entered the worst financial collapse since the Great Depression (and no, it wasn't causal). Over the past four years, the department has seen an almost 30% decline in its state funds. Yet using the resourcefulness that has always been a hallmark of Health Behavior, we were able to keep (almost all) the faculty and staff intact.

**Here comes the future.** Now it's time to turn the page once again. This past year, the whole department engaged in a name evaluation process where we decided that *yes*, it *was* time to adopt a new name, one that looks to, and helps us *create*, that future.

The Department of Public Health Education (and then *Health Education*, and then *Health Behavior and Health Education*, and now *Health Behavior*) was founded in 1943, almost 70 years ago. I have been at Carolina for 38 years, more than half its existence. In that time, I served on or led the doctoral dissertation committees of students who would later become members of our outstanding faculty: Carol Runyan, Vangie Foshee, Carolyn Crump, Susan Ennett, Beth Moracco, Jason Smith, and Angela Thrasher. I participated or led in the hiring

of more than half the current faculty. I taught or mentored hundreds of students, and closely followed the careers of many others. I hired almost every member of our current staff, recruiting them from dozens of applicants. I regretted when strong faculty left for other appointments (Guadalupe "Suchi" Ayala, Mark Daniels, Chris Jackson, Megan Lewis, Sandra Quinn, Carol Parks-Bani, Carol Runyan, Arjumand Siddiqi, Vic Strecher). I grieved at the deaths of such stalwarts as Guy Steuart, Godfrey Hochbaum and, most recently, Leonard Dawson. And with pride I watched, participated in, and led our efforts to grow our faculty and student body, both in numbers, and in national and international prominence.

Taking part in, at times leading, this evolution of faculty, students, staff, programs and research has provided me with the most rewarding professional life imaginable. And yet, even with all the changes I've recorded here, a thread that binds this story together is the essential HBHE (now HB) perspective. Throughout my time in this school, our faculty and programs have upheld a set of core values: the importance of social intelligence, self-awareness and humility in our approach to research and practice; the need to be skeptical about taken-for-granted assumptions, using science and data to challenge strongly held beliefs; an understanding of the interplay between individuals and their environments; the value of "starting where the people are" (thank you, Guy Steuart) as researchers and practitioners; the belief, undergirded by evidence, that we *can* make the world healthier and more equitable so that more of us (ideally, *all* of us) can achieve our full potential; and the embrace of advocacy in our work to achieve those changes. These have remained, and will remain, bedrock values well into the future, regardless of the name on our letterhead.

As I conclude my tenure as department chair, I say *congratulations* to the students who just graduated with degrees in Health Behavior and Health Education (the last cohort to do so under that name), and *welcome* to our newcomers, who enter the door as faculty and students in Health Behavior. Most importantly, I say *thank you* to generations of loyal alumni who have demonstrated their steadfast support for years—throughout all our changes. Your many forms of "giving back," including your gifts to the department and your hiring of our graduates, demonstrate your trust in our leadership and your confidence in our future. Before I step down, though, I have one request to make, **please save the date** for an all-out celebration—of our department, of our history and future, and of my time as a faculty member and chair. Beginning with the Foard Lecture on April 11, 2013, continuing with a symposium on **Friday, April 12**, and concluding with a celebratory dinner that same evening, we will gather to discuss the state of our field, look to the future, and celebrate an astonishing community of practitioners, researchers and supporters that extend across decades. I look forward to celebrating with you.

## BRENDA BUESCHER

White House Office of Management and Budget  
Washington D.C.



For her practicum Brenda Buescher returned to Washington, where she worked before enrolling in the MPH Program, to gain experience at the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). “I already had legislative experience,” she explained, “but this was my first executive

branch experience. I want to work on policy development, so being back in Washington for the summer was great for networking and getting ideas for potential jobs.” Through her practicum, Brenda was able to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and the Food and Nutrition Service of USDA to review new regulations and approve proposals for research and program evaluation. Her favorite project was with CDC where she developed a process evaluation incorporating children’s books into diabetes prevention efforts for Native American communities.

## RYAN ROWE

UNCWater Institute  
Kisumu and Nairobi, Kenya

Ryan Rowe designed an independent research study that sent him traipsing around Kenya for his practicum experience. Working with the Water Institute at UNC, Ryan was hosted by *Safe Water & AIDS Project* in Kisumu, Kenya and *Carolina for Kibera* in Nairobi, Kenya. “I personally interviewed [representatives from] about two dozen different organizations over a period of about two months,” Ryan explained, “I wanted to explore and understand the efforts of different institutions to improve access to clean water in these two communities.” His experience helped him improve his qualitative research skills, adapt his interviewing techniques to the local context, and collaborate effectively with grassroots organizations. Ryan hopes his work will help kick-start a project addressing water-related issues in Kenya.



*Another compelling experience I had was when I met and interviewed a group of homeless men about their life on the streets. This photo is taken inside the Kisumu landfill, which is where the men gather to talk and sleep at night. ~Ryan Rowe*

## CLAIRE CHU, CHRISTA MARTENS, SARAH WELLER

Peers for Progress/ReMeDi  
Real del Monte, Mexico

Three student—Claire Chu, Christa Martens, and Sarah Weller—teamed up to create a program plan to implement a social support network for people living with Type II

*Practica, from page 1*

Diabetes in Real del Monte, Mexico. “Real del Monte is located about 2,800 meters above sea level and is a beautiful mountain mining town,” Claire explains. The team completed a series of interviews and focus groups to develop a plan that would work for town residents.



*Caught during the rainy season, from left: Sarah, Christa, and Claire*

Not only did this practicum experience provide the team with opportunities to advance their qualitative research skills, but team members also found that the lessons of our practicum experience expanded our knowledge of global health and our positions as culturally competent public health practitioners.

*Thrasher, from page 3*

ceived racism, stress, and poor health outcomes. Thrasher’s research spans that gap.

Another interest that emerged from her graduate work at UNC is measurement. Dr. Thrasher is in the process of discovering how, and under what conditions, self-report measures can be adapted for more effective use with racial, ethnic, and socio-economically diverse populations.

“Angela is a wonderful addition to our faculty,” department chair Jo Anne Earp remarked. “She adds depth to several areas of departmental strength, including health disparities research, the study of measurement issues, and a life-course approach to health.”

Dr. Thrasher agrees, saying: “It is great to be back in the department. The training I received as a master’s and doctoral student was an excellent foundation for my career, and I look forward to again being part of such a strong community, one committed to understanding and eradicating health disparities through research and practice.”

*Smith, from page 3*

Jo Anne Earp. “In the case of Jason, we look forward to having him as a guest lecturer, as an employer of our students, as a research collaborator, and as a first-rate advisor to all of us in conducting research and outreach in settings around the world. When you consider that up to a third of our MPH students now do their practica in global settings, you can understand what an asset Jason will be to Health Behavior.”

For his part, Jason is “delighted to be back in my home department. The education I got in the health behavior and health education has given me a very interesting life. At this point in my career, it seems like the right time to give back... to share some of what I’ve learned with students, as faculty shared their expertise with me. I’m looking forward to interacting with students and also toward collaborations with my faculty colleagues.”



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