



September 6, 2012

## Got News?

E-mail  
[sphnews@uw.edu](mailto:sphnews@uw.edu)  
to submit your news!

## SPH in the News

[Fudge factor: Americans in denial about weight gain, study says](#) - *NBCNews.com*; cites research by the **IHME**

[Kids who watch age-appropriate TV, movies sleep better](#) - *USA Today*; cites research by **Michelle Garrison** (HServ)

[People who walk a lot have lower risk of diabetes](#) - *Fox News*; cites research by **Amanda Fretts** (PhD grad, Epi)

[Victory by total medals or just gold?](#) - *Wall Street Journal*; quotes **Chris Murray** (GH)

## Who Knew??



**Mark Oberle was once known as "Jimmy**

**Carter's bird-watching instructor."** Mark (DO, Epi, HServ, GH) got to know the former president during his years with the CDC in Atlanta. He also wrote a [guidebook on Puerto Rico's birds](#), now in its third edition. This cartoon of Mark entering bird data on a computer appeared in a syndicated newspaper cartoon in the early 1980s.

## On the Calendar

**Sept 13, 10:00**  
[Native Women's Wellness](#)

**Sept 13, 12:00**  
[Vaccine Hesitancy: Building Solutions for WA State and Beyond](#)

**Sept 21, 12:00**  
[New Student Orientation](#)

**Sept 22, 8:30**  
[SPH Day of Service](#)

*We'll keep you busy: take a look at the [SPH Events Calendar](#).*

## Opportunities

Check out the [SPH job listings page](#) for national and local public health jobs and opportunities.

*Missed an issue of NewsCatcher? [Find it in the](#)*

## Congrats!



**Beti Thompson** (HServ) and **Pamela Mitchell** (HServ) were elected to the Washington State Academy of Science for their "distinguished and continuing scientific achievements." They join 33 others who will be inducted later this month.



MIT's *Technology Review* has named **Abie Flaxman** (GH, IHME) to its list of the world's top innovators under the age of 35. Abie uses math in new ways to measure health statistics; he joins a group that includes the founders of Google and Facebook.



**Renee Heffron** (PhD Grad in Epi, GH postdoc) was one of two UW students to receive the 2012 Graduate School Distinguished Dissertation Award. The honor comes with a \$1,000 prize.



Several PhD students in Biostat received Student Paper Awards at the annual meeting of the Western North American Region of the International Biometric Society. **Arie Voorman** and **Jane Lange** tied for first in the written competition while **Peter Chi** was runner-up. Peter plans to finish his PhD this winter, and has secured a post as Assistant Professor of Statistics at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for Spring 2013.



**Jen Balkus** (PhD, MPH in Epi) was winner of the best overall scientific abstract award at this year's annual meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. She now works as a staff scientist at the Hutch.

[See recent SPH grants and contracts »](#)

## Making a Difference



The work of former SPH Professor **Palmer Beasley** directly saved more than a million lives. The epidemiologist and UW grad (MS, Preventive Medicine '69) discovered the link between hepatitis B and liver cancer and found the virus could be passed from mother to child. Professor Beasley died Aug. 25 at the age of 76. While on the SPH faculty, he spent more than a decade conducting research in Taiwan. As [The Seattle Times reports](#), Dr. Beasley found that a shot of immune globulin at birth protected babies. He successfully pushed the WHO to include hepatitis B shots in its global immunization program. In 2009 he talked about his work in a [video interview](#).

## Around the Water Cooler



The Gates Foundation kicked off a [monthly podcast](#) to offer an inside look at how it operates. The show's first guest was **Chris Elias** (GH, MPH grad), who recently took over as president of global development. His topic: How the foundation develops funding strategies.

**Trina Sterry** (DEOHS) is the new manager of the

[Archive](#) (UW netID required).



Environmental Health undergrad program. She most recently worked in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences.



SPH kicked off a radio campaign on KUOW this week with Public Health – Seattle & King County. Seven public health messages will air through early December covering topics from tobacco-free places to the dangers of distracted driving.



**Michael Morgan** (DEOHS) has retired and was given professor emeritus status after 37 years of teaching and researching.



Fogarty Leadership Fellows **Malaika Schwartz** (MPH Epi), **Elisabeth Vodicka** (MHA) and **Elizabeth Clark** (MD/MPH) conducted research this summer in Peru. They looked at pharmacy services and information systems, public health surveillance, chronic diseases and HPV vaccination programs.

*Sent to you twice monthly by the Office of the Dean, [University of Washington School of Public Health](#)*

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