



Children in the Philippines will have healthier teeth thanks to community dental care set up by Natalie Hale.

photo: Natalie Hale

The Francis Fellows: Creating Global Careers

Under the Thomas J. Francis Jr. Global Health Fellowship program, School of Public Health students are working across the globe to make a difference in people's lives. Their projects include improving prenatal care in Gabon, creating community dental care in Manila, and saving the lives of pedestrians in Lima, Peru. Major contributors to the fellowship have included the epidemiologist William Foege, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation. [Read more about how the Fellows are adding value to public health efforts and learning what it takes to succeed in the field.](#)

Alumni Profile



Transforming Health Around the World

For the past decade, **Christopher Elias, MPH 1990** in Health Services, held what he calls "arguably the best job in global health." He led

PATH, a Seattle-based international nonprofit organization which expanded under his leadership from 300 to 1,000 staffers and to more than 70 countries. Their goal is to improve people's health through sustainable, culturally relevant methods. Now Chris is taking on global challenges at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. [Read more.](#)

Making a Difference

Creating a Map of Pesticide-Free Places

Affiliate instructor [Julia Singer](#), Health Services, and student Peter Blackburn, COPHP, worked together to create the first local map of its kind - [Pesticide Free Places](#) - for King County. The interactive map

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pesticide use.

can help parents and caregivers avoid contamination for their children. It can also help grounds managers of parks and other open spaces reduce their

Teaching Safety to Immigrant Workers



Immigrant workers at [Casa Latina](#) can now learn about safety hazards and how to stay safe through a four-hour course in Spanish

developed by the [Continuing Education Programs](#) in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences (DEOHS).

Casa Latina is a Seattle-based nonprofit that offers Latino immigrants educational and economic opportunities. In a follow-up project, DEOHS Continuing Education will bring short, on-the-spot safety sessions to workers who gather near home improvement stores such as Home Depot and Lowe's.

Training Global Leaders



In its training and education work around the world, [I-TECH](#) (International Training & Education Center for Health) has

met and worked with a "wonderful cross-section of people," according to executive director [Ann Downer](#). Believing that leadership skills are learnable, I-TECH has now launched the website [everydayleadership.org](#) for global health leaders and managers. Tools include more than 60 interviews with leaders from Africa, India, the Caribbean, Europe, and the US; presentations in slide format; facilitator and participant guides; and handouts organized by training topic.

Upcoming Events

March 9

Peter A. Breyse
Memorial Lecture
*Patrick Breyse: Indoor Air
Quality & Health*

March 12

Distinguished
Faculty Lecture
*Shirley Beresford:
Socioeconomic Status
and Health*

April 19-21

HuskyFest

April 20

DNA Day Celebration
Lecture & Panel: *Gilbert S.
Omenn on Genomics and
Public Health*

June 8

SPH Graduation

see all SPH events

Alumni Updates

Nicole Basta, PhD 2011, Epidemiology, was awarded an inaugural NIH Early Independence Award for research on the effectiveness of a new meningitis vaccine in Mali. She was still a doctoral student when she won the award in fall of 2011.

Olunmi (Bunmi) Akinkugbe, MPH 2011, Health Services, a Nigerian physician, has been selected as a fellow in the ASPH/CDC Allan Rosenfield Global Health Fellowship Program. The six-month position is based at CDC headquarters in Atlanta and offers the chance to learn from global health experts there.

Alyssa Vivas, BS 2010, Environmental Health, who is enrolled at the Pacific Northwest University of Health Sciences in Yakima, was awarded the National Health Service Corps award from the US Department of Health and Human Services. All of her medical school expenses will be paid in exchange for four years of service in the Corps working with underserved communities.

Susan Ajok, MPH 2008, Global Health, has been promoted to Executive Director of the Straight Talk Foundation.

Walter Curioso, MPH 2005, Health Services, is the new General Director of the General Office of Statistics and Informatics in Peru's Ministry of Health.

James Kile, MHA 2004, works for the CDC as a veterinary medical epidemiologist, assigned to the US Embassy in Vietnam. He heads the Animal-Human Interface Initiative, seeking to strengthen Vietnam's capacity to conduct surveillance and research on influenza and other zoonotic diseases.

Bryan E. Shepherd, MPH 2001 and PhD 2005, Biostatistics, was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Biostatistics at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Diane Pilkey, MPH 1997, Health Services, is now a program analyst with HHS in Washington, DC, after stints with the Wyoming Dept. of Health and a decade as an epidemiologist with the WA State health department in maternal and child health assessment. She works in the Office of the Asst. Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

Connie Celum, MPH 1989, Epidemiology and professor at the UW, received the American Sexual Diseases Association Achievement Award in 2011. Her work has led to significant changes in strategies to reduce HIV transmission in the US and in Africa.

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