



up dates

winter 2006

up dates

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distinguished alumni award

April 26, 2006

*Help us honor
one of our own
(see page 7).*



Donn Colby

SPHCM on the move

The UW's Office of Research recently reported: "The University of Washington receives more federal research funding than any other American public university, a position it has held each year since 1974. Since 1991, the UW has ranked second among all universities, both public and private, in competing for federal science and engineering grants."

These numbers are a good index for evaluating our School. The UW is second in the nation; the SPHCM, usually ranked fourth or fifth at the UW, in 2005 was a close third. Although federal funding continues to flatten, so far the School seems to be bucking the trend, thanks to our outstanding faculty, students, and staff.

research awards by schools and colleges in fiscal year 2005

Architecture & Urban Planning	\$ 847,063
Arts & Sciences	84,435,940
Branch campuses	2,304,770
Business School	396,250
Dentistry	15,679,198
Education	16,662,904
Engineering	67,015,390
Evans School of Public Affairs	9,326,167
Forest Resources	7,181,213
Graduate School	4,049,203
Information School	1,879,930
Law	2,306,775
Medicine	470,196,732
Nursing	17,363,852
Ocean & Fishery Sciences	74,364,161
Office of Research	16,618,241
Pharmacy	15,070,029
Public Health & Community Medicine	84,063,576
Social Work	24,282,534
Undergraduate Education	141,666
Health Sciences Special Programs	41,771,822
Other Special Programs	39,898,726

(<http://www.washington.edu/research/fact.pdf>)

from the dean

The pace of change in the School seems to have accelerated dramatically in recent months. In fact, some have dubbed the convergence of major initiatives this spring as “the perfect storm,” although one with a positive outcome.

On January 19 the UW Board of Regents officially approved our plans to establish jointly with the School of Medicine a new Department of Global Health. Supported by a \$20 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—added to \$10 million given previously—and building on substantial expertise, this exciting interdisciplinary program will become a campus- and community-wide effort to address global health problems. We are actively searching for the department’s founding Chair. There is much to do as we recruit faculty; develop and consolidate educational, research, and service programs; and define our joint administrative structure and procedures. A high priority is to identify an on-campus home for Global Health’s education and service programs—still more justification for a SPHCM building!

A new building is our most urgent goal for the fundraising campaign under way at the University. Currently our faculty, students, and staff are scattered around Seattle in 13 locations, 10 of them off-campus. Consolidation would improve the synergy and collaboration that are at the heart of public health education, research, and practice. As noted, on-campus space is critical for Global Health. And our ability to serve public health professionals on the front lines would be enhanced greatly by space



Dani Lammont

kudos!

The 2005 issues of *Northwest Public Health* won an Excellence Award in the Puget Sound Technical Communications Competition.

for distance education, including a communications facility.

On the instructional front, we are working on several new programs, including a joint DVM/MPH with the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Our International Health MPH and Peace Corps Masters will move administratively to the Global Health Department, and our Graduate Program in Pathobiology will become an Interdisciplinary Program in the Graduate School, also administered in Global Health.

Meantime, we have been hard at work preparing for our reaccreditation site visit (sphcm.washington.edu/ceph/)—a process many of you assisted by providing feedback on the School—and making other changes you will note as you read through these pages. I thank you for your participation and look forward to reporting on our progress in the next issue of *Updates*.

—Pat Wahl, Dean

faculty

new faculty

Several faculty members changed status between July 1 and December 30, 2005, but we are welcoming only one new member. **Anne Turner**, Research Associate in Health Services, received her MD from Brown and her MLIS and MPH (Medical Informatics) from the UW.

transitions—dean's office

Dave Eaton, Professor of Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences, has been named an Associate Vice Provost for Research for the University. He stepped down as the School's Associate Dean for Research but will continue as Director of the Center for Ecogenetics and Environmental Health.

A newcomer to the Dean's Office (though not the School), **Emily White**, Professor of Epidemiology and Member of the FHCRC, was named Associate Dean for Research effective December 1. Her research focuses on epidemiologic methods and cancer prevention with emphasis on the role of nutrition in the etiology of several cancers—prostate, breast, colorectal, and melanoma.

transitions—biostatistics

After 12 years in the role, Biostatistics Professor **Tom Fleming** stepped down as department Chair and returned to the faculty. Under his dynamic leadership—especially in faculty and student recruitment, promoting the role of biostatistics



Val Nielsen

Anne Turner

in research settings, and building relationships with other campus and partner units—the department's reputation was enhanced nationally and internationally.

Bruce Weir has joined the School as Professor and Chair of Biostatistics. He came from North Carolina State University where he was William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor of Statistics and Genetics and Director of the Bioinformatics Research Center. At North Carolina State he established the Program in Statistical Genetics, the Summer



North Carolina State University

Bruce Weir

Institute in Statistical Genetics, the Graduate Program in Bioinformatics, and the Bioinformatics Research Center. Dr. Weir has an adjunct appointment in the UW Department of Genome Sciences.

congratulations

Epidemiology Professor and Chair **Scott Davis** accepted an appointment to serve on the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Board of Scientific Counselors for a five-year term. The Board evaluates the performance of intramural scientists and the quality of their research programs. It also advises NCI leadership on a variety of matters concerning scientific program policy.

Adam Drewnowski, Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine and Director of the School's Nutritional Sciences Program and Center for Public Health Nutrition, received the 2005 Science Trophy, a French Food Spirit Award. He was honored for his contributions to nutrition research in France and his studies on health disparities and diet quality and cost.

The School's Fall Quarter Distinguished Faculty Lecture was delivered by **Beti Thompson**, Professor of Health Services and Member of the Cancer Prevention Research Program at FHCRC. She spoke on "Community Approaches to Reducing Health Disparities," particularly among Hispanic residents living in the lower Yakima Valley.

students



2005 Tobacco Studies Scholarship Recipients (l to r): TheAnh Nguyen, Caleb Banta-Green, Megan Fesinmeyer, Sarah Ross-Viles, DeAnn Cromp, Heather Ngai

ARCS fellows

Congratulations to our 2005 first-year ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Fellows. ARCS Fellows at the UW are among the most promising graduate students in science, engineering, and medicine.

Alison Drake (Epidemiology) has a BS in microbiology and an MPH in epidemiology from the University of Michigan and is now a doctoral student. She has worked as an epidemiologist for the CDC and for Public Health-Seattle & King County.

After receiving her BA in biology and political science from Duke University, **Erin O'Brien** (DEOHS) served in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and as a Research Assistant at the University of Montana. She is pursuing an MPH.

Khanrat Piensook (Pathobiology) earned her BS, *cum laude*, in molecular biosciences/biotechnologies from Arizona State. She worked at the Bio-Design Institute to develop plant-based, orally deliverable vaccines for use in developing countries and is now pursuing her PhD.

community service award

Yolanda Sanchez (DEOHS) was selected to receive a community service award at the annual Health Sciences Martin Luther King Jr. Tribute because of her passion for environmental justice and her commitment to increasing the number of underrepresented students in the field of environmental health. She is completing a Master of Science in Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences and a Master of Public Affairs in the Evans School.



Jeanne O'Connell

Katrina students

Of the 22 graduate students who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and taken in by the UW, 11 enrolled in our School. At a luncheon in October hosted by the Dean's Office, the "Katrina Students" from Tulane and Louisiana State shared stories of their losses and fears, how they escaped and came to Seattle, and their repeated attempts to file for FEMA disaster assistance. They applauded the UW and SPHCM for making the transition as easy as possible. "Other schools of public health just weren't helpful," said one visitor. Five of these students have stayed on at the School Winter Quarter, and four hope to remain students here.

Students, faculty, and staff got to know each other at the School's first Fall Kick-off event, which replaced our traditional orientation program.

DEOHS = Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

staff

Farewell, welcome, congratulations, and thanks

Last November 1st, family, friends, and colleagues from all over the University gathered to honor **Ken Anderson** on the occasion of his retirement. Ken served the School as Director of Finance and Administration for 22 years, but his service to the UW began 10 years earlier in an unusual capacity—as Hospital Ward Secretary in the UW Medical Center while he attended graduate school.

After receiving his Master of Public Administration in 1977, he worked for the City of Seattle for a year, but he soon came back to start his real UW career as Budget Coordinator in Health Services. There was a brief side trip to Central Administration in 1979-80, but he again came back, first as the Administrator in Health Services (1980-83) and then to the Dean's Office.

Ken was celebrated for more than longevity, however. Dean **Pat Wahl** noted in her remarks that Ken was an exceptionally dedicated and

gifted member of the staff—of the University as well as the School—and was valued for his integrity, professionalism, and breadth of knowledge and experience. He was a fair, thoughtful, and generous supervisor and mentor of other staff. Former Dean **Gil Omenn**, who hired Ken in the Dean's Office, also spoke at the reception. They and other speakers expressed their great appreciation for Ken's leadership and friendship.

A month later, **Lawrie Robertson** took over as the School's Director of Finance and Administration. Lawrie is very familiar with the School, having served as Administrator of the Division of Public Health Sciences at Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center for nearly 20 years. Since many of the School's faculty are also affiliated in one way or another with the Hutch, Lawrie often worked with Ken and others on a variety of issues.

One of his first actions after joining the Dean's Office was to promote **Jeanne O'Connell** to Administrator of the School. She has been on the staff since 1990, starting as the Dean's Office receptionist and steadily increasing her areas of expertise and responsibility. **Rita Keating**, former Administrator in Health Services, stepped in as Interim Director during this period of transition for the School.



Kathy Sauber



Kathy Sauber

above: Ken Anderson with former deans Bob Day (left) and Gil Omenn (right)

at left: Ken Anderson with Dean Pat Wahl

alumni

Please keep your updates coming through the School's Web site (http://sphcm.washington.edu/alumni/info_form.asp). We love hearing from you!

1970s

Judith May (MPH, Health Services, 1975) recently became the Bioterrorism Surveillance and Epidemiology Program Manager at the Washington State Department of Health.

Robert Rogers, MD, FACP (BS, Environmental & Occupational Health Sciences, 1977), a Diplomate of the American Board of Anesthesiology and American Board of Internal Medicine, was elected President of The Chicago Medical School National Alumni Association for 2006-08. An attending physician at Cedars Sinai Medical Center, Dr. Rogers is an active member of a number of associations and is on the editorial advisory board of *Southern California Physician*. He is a voluntary faculty member at the University of California Irvine Medical Center as well as a recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award from The Chicago Medical School at the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

1990s

Maria Virtudes Hatcliffe (MPH, Health Services, 1993) is a Practical Nursing Program Instructor at San Juan Basic Technical College in Cortez, Colorado. She recently moved from Montrose, where she had spent five years as the Program Director of Hospice and Palliative Care of Western Colorado. The new position is Ms. Hatcliffe's first experience as an instructor.

C. B. Mosher (MPH, Health Services, 1998) is County Health Officer near Yosemite, a practicing physician, and a medical historian. In addition to many short stories and non-fiction works, he evolved his UW thesis into an historical novel, *A Greater Pox* (see sidebar on page 7).

Kathleen Porter (MHA, Health Services, 1999) now lives in Portland, Oregon with her partner. They recently had a daughter, Grace Marie Sommers. Ms. Porter was sorry to leave Seattle but hopes to return for alumni events.

2000s

Aliou Ayaba, MD (MPH, Health Services, 2000) serves as an HIV Care and Treatment Officer with the CDC in Rwanda and is grateful for the education he received in SPHCM's International Health Program. It helps him understand the health issues in Africa and has provided an exciting career working for UNICEF, CARE International, and now the CDC. Working with Rwandan institutions, the CDC is achieving the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief goals. Dr. Ayaba also enjoys hiking to see gorillas, the beaches of Kibuye-Amahoro and Gisenyi, and the city of Kigali.

Gloria Coronado (PhD, Epidemiology, 2001; MS, Epidemiology, 1997) was featured in the January 8, 2006 issue of *Pacific Northwest Magazine* for her work with migrant farm workers on the dangers of pesticides.

Patricia Janssen (PhD, Epidemiology, 2001) is an Assistant Professor in the University of British Columbia's Department of Health Care and Epidemiology. She has been awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award and a Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award. Dr. Janssen was the sole recipient of the Registered Nurses Association of BC's Award of Excellence in Research and was honored with the UBC School of Nursing Award of Distinction. Currently she is PI of a large CIHR-funded clinical trial of Early Labour Assessment and Support at Home: Telephone Triage vs. Nurse Visits. Dr. Janssen is also funded by CIHR for a five-year study of the safety of home birth and by the Toronto Sick Children's Foundation to study the utility of acupuncture in helping addicted pregnant women reduce their substance use.

Tracy Bergemann (PhD, Biostatistics, 2004) was hired in August 2005 as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Division of Biostatistics at the University of Minnesota.

Mary Brewer (MPH, Health Services, 2004) is Lead Public Health Educator with the US Public Health Service-Indian Health Service in Warm Springs, Oregon.

Gwyneth Moya (MPH, Health Services, 2005) just started a new job as Program Associate with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in Princeton.

Perspectives in Public Health returns!

Perspectives in Public Health is back for 2006 with an evening of celebration and networking, April 26, in the HUB East Ballroom.

Please join us as we present the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award to Dr. Donn Colby.

Donn received an MPH in 2001 through the School's Extended MPH Degree

Program in the Department of Health Services.

After practicing clinical medicine in Seattle and traveling to Vietnam as a volunteer doctor and as a tourist, Donn decided to devote his time to AIDS prevention projects and epidemiologic research in Vietnam.

His newest role, beginning mid-2005, is Acting In-Country Medical Director of the Vietnam-CDC-Harvard AIDS Partnership, or VCHAP. VCHAP provides training on HIV/AIDS clinical care and anti-retroviral drug treatment to Vietnamese physicians working in clinics funded through the PEPFAR program.

Donn has authored many articles and is truly making a difference in public health.

Dean Pat Wahl will also give us an update on the School—the Department of Global Health, new Biostatistics chair Bruce Weir, our quest for a new public health building, and more. Catch up with your fellow alums and colleagues, enjoy delicious appetizers and dessert, and help us honor Dr. Donn Colby.

details

April 26, 2006, 6:00–8:00 PM

Husky Union Building (HUB) East Ballroom

Wine and appetizers will be served before the event; a dessert reception will follow.

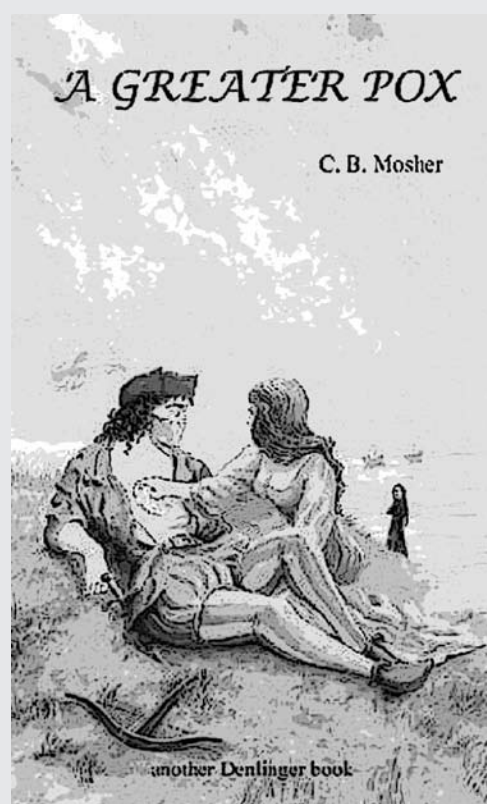
Admission is **free**. Please register before April 17 at www.UWalum.com or 206-543-0540.

questions?

Contact Karen Hanson at 206-685-6699 or klhanson@u.washington.edu.



Donn Colby



A Greater Pox, by alumnus C.B. Mosher (MPH, Health Services, 1998), incorporates public health into its plot line. It relates the adventures of a young girl from Barcelona who, in 1494, follows her boyfriend into the French Army as it invades Italy. When she has to fight a new disease that erupts within the ranks, she learns about herbal medicine, epidemiology, Renaissance pharmacology, and the 15th century equivalent of the Internet.

According to Dr. Mosher, the parallel between the newest information technology at the time—the printing press—and the Internet was predictable, but the similarity of the historic epidemic of 1494 to our current AIDS pandemic became obvious only as research for the book advanced.

The author describes his recognition of the comparability between the two epidemics as “spooky . . . and it underscores yet again the axiom about how much we can learn, or fail to learn, from history.”

mark your calendar

To learn about events the SPHCM is sponsoring, check out our Events Calendar at sphcm.washington.edu

Wednesday, April 26

SPHCM Alumni Event and Distinguished Alumni Award
Perspectives in Public Health (see page 7)

Wednesday, May 10

MPH Practicum Reception and Career Fair

Thursday, May 18

Stephen Gloyd Endowed Lecture
Featured speaker: Dr. William Foege

Friday, June 9

SPHCM Awards Ceremony and Graduation Celebration

school of public health and community medicine

Patricia Wahl, PhD, *Dean*

Fred Connell, MD, MPH, *Associate Dean
Academic Affairs*

Emily White, PhD, *Associate Dean
Research*

Mark Oberle, MD, MPH, *Associate Dean
Public Health Practice*

Christine Edgar, *Director
Student Services*

Lawrie Robertson, *Director
Finance and Administration*

Holly Weese, *Assistant to the Dean*

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*Emblem: Northwest Coast Indian symbol of physical
and mental well-being (Artist: Marvin Oliver)*



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