



# updates

winter 2007

## *perspectives in public health*

*looking back, leading forward*

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2007, 6:00 PM  
KANE HALL, UW CAMPUS, ROOM 110



*featuring*

*Mary Selecky, Secretary of Health  
Washington State Department of Health  
“Partnerships: The Key to Improving Public Health”*

**Public Health Looking Back:  
Contributions to our Health and Safety**  
M. Ward Hinds, MD, MPH, *Former  
Health Officer, Snohomish Health District*

**Baby Teeth Are No Small Matter**  
Colleen Huebner, PhD, MPH, *Associate  
Professor, Health Services; Director,  
Maternal and Child Health Program*

**Preventive Screening for Depression  
in Adolescents**  
Ann Vander Stoep, PhD, *Associate  
Professor, Epidemiology, Psychiatry and  
Behavioral Sciences*

**Pollution and Heart Disease:  
Even Stronger Ties than We Thought**  
Joel Kaufman, MD, MPH, *Professor,  
Environmental and Occupational Health  
Sciences, Epidemiology, Medicine*

**Which Older Adults are the Healthiest?**  
Paula Diehr, PhD, *Professor, Biostatistics  
and Health Services*

**Public Health Leading Forward:  
Keeping the Profession Strong**  
Gary M. Goldbaum, MD, MPH, *Health  
Officer, Snohomish Health District;  
Associate Professor, Epidemiology*

**Distinguished Alumni Award**  
The 2007 Award will be presented to  
Natalia Kanem, MD, MPH, by David  
Shoultz, PhD, on behalf of the SPHCM  
Alumni Advisory Board (see page 6).

*Natalia Kanem*



*Dessert reception to follow in the Walker-Ames Room.*

*The event is free and open to the public; please register at [www.uwalum.com](http://www.uwalum.com).*

*More information is available online at [sphcm.washington.edu](http://sphcm.washington.edu).*

## *in side*

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## from the dean

There's nothing like creating a new department—especially one involving another school and generating so much interest—to keep things hopping. Dean of Medicine Paul Ramsey and I, along with key faculty and staff in our offices and in our new Department of Global Health, are busy working on a range of issues. Within the structure of the University's policies, we are developing our own procedures for faculty appointments and plans for the curriculum, including—eventually—an undergraduate offering in global health. The lack of physical on-campus space for the department continues to pose one of our biggest challenges.

**King Holmes**, William H. Foege Chair of the Department of Global Health, appointed **Judith Wasserheit** as Vice Chair of the department. Until her appointment, Judy was based at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, directing the HIV Vaccine Trials Network. **Stephen Gloyd**, Professor and Director of the School's International Health Program, will direct the educational component of the new department. Its service component will include the Global Health Resource Center, which is run by **Daren Wade**.

The University is also increasingly involved in global affairs beyond our new department. There is now a Vice Provost for Global Affairs, whose office is charged with bringing leadership, strategic coordination, and innovation to the global dimension of the University of Washington's mission. And the UW created the Global Support Project to analyze needs for administrative support related to global activities and to recommend mechanisms to meet them. In many cases, we are redefining how we do things at the University, and it's an exciting process.

Also in the works are other initiatives that extend our School's collaborations within the



Don Lannont

### kudos!

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* recently published rankings showing our School third in the US on the Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index.

Epidemiology and Nutritional Sciences were ranked second.

University and with partner institutions.

- We are talking with colleagues in the College of Engineering about nano-technology and its possible health effects.
- The new Dean of the College of Architecture and Urban Planning is interested in health care architecture and the design of environments in terms of public health issues, an interesting extension of our work with that College on the built environment.
- Our Chair of Biostatistics, **Bruce Weir**, and several recently hired colleagues jointly appointed in our School and the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center are building upon our already productive relationship with the Hutch, especially in the field of statistical genomics.
- Discussions are under way with the UW's Bothell Campus, our Nutritional Sciences Program, the UW's Program on the Environment, and Global Health to explore the potential for various undergraduate offerings.

And in the process our faculty, students, staff, and alumni continue to make us all proud—for reasons you will see in this and every issue of *Updates*. I look forward to keeping you informed of our progress, and I hope you will stay in touch.

—Pat Wahl, Dean

# students

## arcs fellows

A record number of our students received first-year ARCS (Achievement Rewards for College Scientists) Fellowships in 2006. The ARCS mission is to “provide scholarships and fellowships to academically outstanding United States citizens studying to complete their degrees in science, medicine, and engineering, thereby contributing to the worldwide advancement of science and technology.” Congratulations to our seven new ARCS Fellows.

**Eva Browne** (DEOHS) earned a BS, summa cum laude, in Environmental Sciences from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and has begun work toward her Master of Science in Toxicology.

**Laura DeMaster** (Pathobiology) received a BS in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University of North Carolina. She is working toward a PhD and hopes to conduct research and teach in the field of infectious disease and global health.

**Tim Menza** (Epidemiology) earned a BA, summa cum laude, in Biology from Williams College. An MD/PhD student, he is developing a novel intervention for methamphetamine use as a tool to prevent HIV and STD among men who have sex with men.

**Anne Piantadosi** (Pathobiology) received an AB in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Princeton University. Now in the MD/PhD program, she studies HIV re-infection, a recently described phenomenon with implications for HIV vaccine design.

**Catharine Riley** (Public Health Genetics) earned a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology and an MPH in Health Administration and Policy from the University of Arizona. She is now pursuing a PhD and conducting research on the public health impact of expanding newborn screening programs.

**Lori Sakoda** (Epidemiology) received an AB with honors in psychology from Stanford University and an MPH from the University of California, Berkeley. She has engaged in cancer research at the National Cancer Institute and is based at FHCRC while working on her doctorate.

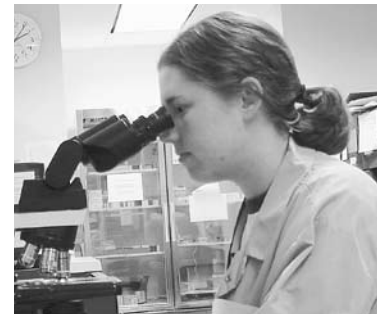
**Heidi Chen Lin Tan** (Biostatistics) graduated with a BS, summa cum laude, in Biochemistry and Cell Biology plus a BA in Mathematics from the University of California, San Diego. As she pursues her doctorate she hopes to research the design and analysis of DNA microarray experiments.

## community service award

**Chinua Lambe** received a community service award at the annual Health Sciences Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute because of his role in developing the Seattle African American Comfort Program, which provides culturally appropriate compassionate care and end-of-life services for members of the African American community. Chinua is a second-year graduate student in the School’s Health Administration program.



*Eva Browne in the lab*



*Laura DeMaster in the lab*



*Lori Sakoda at her desk*



*Heidi Tan at her computer*

Photos: SPHCM archives

# faculty

## congratulations

*The Elephant in the Living Room: Make Television Work for Your Kids*, written by **Dimitri Christakis** (Associate Professor of Pediatrics, adjunct in Health Services) and **Frederick Zimmerman** (Associate Professor of Health Services and Pediatrics), was published last fall.

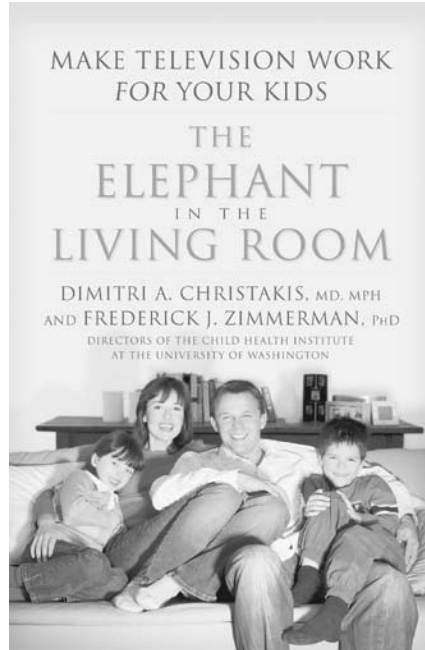
**Scott Davis**, Professor and Chair, Epidemiology, was elected a member of the faculty of the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies of the Jackson School of International Studies.

Professor of Epidemiology and Medicine and Director of the School's Nutritional Sciences Program **Adam Drewnowski** was an invited speaker at the International Congress of Obesity in Sydney and at the World Congress of Public Health Nutrition in Barcelona. He was also one of the scientific leaders of the McGill Health Challenge Think Tank in Montreal.

**Irvin Emanuel**, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology and Pediatrics, delivered the School's Fall Quarter Distinguished Faculty Lecture, "What History Tells Us About Maternal and Child Health."

Global Health Chair **King Holmes** was named the 2006 recipient of the George Brown Award for International Scientific Cooperation by the Civilian Research and Development Foundation.

The 2006 APHA Award for Excellence was given to **Aaron Katz**, Senior Lecturer in Health Services, for his contributions to higher education in public health and health policy.



*Book written by Dimitri Christakis and Frederick Zimmerman*

**Laura Koutsky**, Professor of Epidemiology, was featured in the November 2006 issue of *Seattle Magazine* as one of Seattle's most influential people for her work on HPV and Gardasil, a vaccine for cervical cancer.

## transitions

Two of the School's programs—Maternal and Child Public Health Leadership Training (MCH) and the Extended MPH Degree Program—are feeling the loss of **Michelle Bell**, Associate Professor Emerita, since she retired last August. Michelle had been a member of our faculty since 1985, teaching on policies and programs related to the health of children, adolescents, and families, with an emphasis on disadvantaged populations. Her research was based in community and school settings; in

fact, her career was noteworthy for her sustained involvement in the community through service with numerous groups addressing the needs of young people. As practicum advisor to more than 200 students—32 in MCH and 199 in our Extended MPH Degree Program—Michelle helped create and sustain the School's vital connection to the practice community in a range of public health agencies. Since her retirement, Michelle and husband Joe have been preparing to move to Harstine Island. After the move this spring, they plan to travel extensively in the US and abroad. Watch the celebration of Michelle and her career on our History Project Web site (<http://sphcm.washington.edu/history>).

**Fred Connell**, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Health Services and Epidemiology, took over as Acting Chair of the Department of Pathobiology. **Andy Stergachis**, Professor of Epidemiology (adjunct in Pharmacy) served in that role from July 2005 through June 2006.



Sidney Fox

*Michelle Bell*



Cory Bolkan



Judith Wasserheit

## new faculty

Welcome to faculty who joined the School between July 1 and December 31, 2006

**Cory Bolkan**, Research Associate, Health Services (*PhD, Human Development and Family Studies, Oregon State University*)

**Lon Cardon**, Professor, Biostatistics  
(*PhD, Quantitative Genetics, University of Colorado*)

**Steven Hecker**, Senior Lecturer, DEOHS  
(*MSPH, Industrial Hygiene, UW*)

**Alyson Littman**, Research Assistant Professor, Epidemiology  
(*PhD, Epidemiology, UW*)

**Judith Wasserheit**, Professor, Global Health  
(*MD, Harvard University*) (*MPH, Johns Hopkins University*)

## more kudos

Our MIRT (Multidisciplinary International Research Training) Program won a Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence. MIRT is directed by **Michelle Williams**, Professor of Epidemiology. Read more at [sphcm.washington.edu](http://sphcm.washington.edu).

An online course developed by the Northwest Center for **Public Health Practice**—"Emergency Risk Communication for Public Health Professionals"—received the 2006 Gold Award for Excellence in Public Health Communication from the National Public Health Information Coalition. **Jack Thompson**, Senior Lecturer in Health Services, directs the Center.

The **Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center** (PNASH), directed by DEOHS Professor **Richard Fenske**, received a five-year, \$6.8 million award from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. PNASH is one of 10 centers in the US directed to conduct research, education, and prevention/intervention programs in agricultural industries.

## making history

Take a look at the School's Web site and check out a couple of new features. We now offer podcasts, a way of delivering audio content to your computer that allows you to listen to lectures, interviews, and other news from the School (<http://sphcm.washington.edu/podcasts/>). And to celebrate our 40th anniversary in 2010 we have begun gathering materials that will help us write our history. Watch video interviews with founding faculty and others, plus highlights of retirement receptions, on our history page (<http://sphcm.washington.edu/history>).

The History Project developed from a suggestion by Irv Emanuel, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology. Shortly after the death of Russ Alexander, Epidemiology's first Chair, Irv said if the School's founders were to be interviewed, we had better start soon. Eric Swenson, a Seattle writer, and Sid Fox, a local videographer, were engaged to work on the project and conducted the first interview in November with Betty Gilson. The project is a way to recount our achievements, which are the foundation of our success and our promise.



# alumni

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

## distinguished alumni award

Please join us in congratulating **Dr. Natalia Kanem**, who will receive our School's 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award at *Perspectives in Public Health* (see cover page).

Natalia earned her medical degree from Columbia University and her MPH from our Department of Epidemiology. Her commitment to improving the health of marginalized communities extends back to her undergraduate days at Harvard. She is a pediatrician trained in epidemiology and preventive medicine, with expertise in women's reproductive health and the social consequences of HIV/AIDS and infertility.

Among her positions at the Ford Foundation, Natalia ran 17 overseas offices and was Deputy Vice President for the Peace and Social Justice Program.

Currently, Natalia is President of The ELMA Philanthropies, a foundation working to improve the health, education, and livelihood of disadvantaged youth in Africa. A tireless advocate and eloquent spokesperson, Natalia is truly a distinguished alumna of the School.

## 1970s

**Thomas Johnson** (MHA, Health Services, 1974) is Director of Legislative Relations and Analysis at Harborview, consults on government reimbursement issues, and conducts HAZMAT training.

**Bruce Lindsay** (PhD, Biomathematics, 1978) was named Head of the Department of Statistics at Penn State University. He is a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics and the American Statistical Association and has been recognized with the Humboldt Senior Scientist Research Award and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

## 1980s

**Loren Ahnberg** (MHA, Health Services 1989) retired from active duty Air Force last May after 33 years and now works as a contractor for CACI International Inc., supporting the Office of the Air Force Surgeon General.

**Andrew Olshan** (PhD, Epidemiology, 1987) has been named Chair of the Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

## 1990s

**Noel Murphy** (MHA, Health Services, 1997) is taking some time to raise two

young children but hopes to get back to part-time or project work soon.

## 2000s

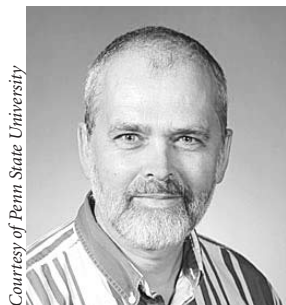
**Seth Blades** (MHA, Health Services, 2002) is President and Co-founder of Senior Transitions, a new company in Billings designed to assist seniors, providing legal and medical services and financial advisors and other experts. "It feels great to be back in Montana and using my education and experience to create something that will provide hope and assurance to people in need. I am grateful for the degree hanging in my office; it reassures my clients (and me too) that I know what I am doing. I can't thank you enough."

**Susan Christ** (MHA, Health Services, 2001) works in marketing at Providence ElderPlace and also has her own company, SPLASH Marketing Group.

**James Kile** (MPH, Health Services, 2004) is Acting Director, USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service, Omaha. He is a Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine, and in 2006 was honored with the CDC's James H. Steele Veterinary Public Health Award and the Distinguished Alumnus Award, University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Minh Duc Nguyen** (MPH, Epidemiology, 2005) is head of the National Nutrition Institute's policy unit in Hanoi.

**Tina Schwiens** (MPH, Health Services, 2001) served two years at the General Accounting Office before becoming Senior Data Consultant at OCS, a health information company in Seattle serving the home health, hospice, and private duty industries.



Courtesy of Penn State University

**Bruce Lindsay**

# development

## *making a difference*

Alumna **Margaret Stanley** (MHA, Health Services, 1977) says the fellowships she received in grad school made quite a difference in her life.

“They helped to pay for childcare for my three children,” she says. “And then I could stop worrying so much about finances and concentrate on my coursework.”

The help Margaret received played a large part in her decision to establish a new endowment for students in the School’s MHA program—she hopes the Margaret T. Stanley Endowed Fellowship will ease the way for today’s students. She’s especially pleased that the UW’s new Students First campaign matched her gift at 50%.

Margaret’s not the only donor in the family; her husband has established an endowed scholarship in mathematics, also through the Students First matching initiative. “We both have a lot of enthusiasm for the UW, and we both had good experiences there,” she said. “It just made sense for us each to endow a scholarship or fellowship in our area of interest.”

## *we’re number one!*

In our last issue we told you about the Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign for Students, an unusual opportunity to support students in the School: until December 31, 2008, you can establish an endowed fund for student support with a minimum gift (or pledge) of \$5,000, and the University will match your gift, dollar for dollar, up to \$10,000. If you make a pledge, you can fulfill it over five years (by payroll deduction, if you like).

Well, you’ve taken to this idea with great enthusiasm. Already, 30 SPHCM faculty and staff members have given or pledged \$432,000 to support our students. In fact, our percentage of participation is the highest of any unit in the UW system. For a list of these new endowments, please see the sidebar at right.

## *SPHCM Dean’s Office*

Stergachis Endowed Fellowship for International Exchange  
Founders—School of Public Health Endowed Fellowship

Lawrie G. and Gwen R. Robertson

Patricia W. Wahl

J. Michael and Gail Rona

David Shoultz and Megan Struthers

Christine Edgar and Frank J. DeMarco

Mary Richardson and Charles V. Keeran

## *Biostatistics*

Founders—Biostatistics Faculty-Sponsored Fellowship

Bruce and Beth Weir Endowment for Biostatistics

Paula Diehr Endowment for Biostatistics Students

Donovan J. Thompson Memorial Endowment

(Norm and Gayle Breslow)

Timothy and Cheryl DeRouen Endowed Fellowship  
in Biostatistics

M. Elizabeth Halloran Endowment

## *Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences*

Jack B. and Betty A. Hatlen Endowment for Students

Charles and Cind Treser Endowment for Students

David A. Kalman and Cecile Hudson Endowment for Students

## *Epidemiology*

E. Russell Alexander and Mary Jane Francis Endowment

Emily White Endowment for Recruitment

Founders—Epidemiology Faculty-Sponsored Fellowship Fund

Mark W. Oberle Endowment

James L. Gale and Virginia B. McDermott Endowment

Scott and Ardis Davis Endowment

Noel S. Weiss and Chu Chen Endowment

Walter A. Kukull Endowment

Michelle A. Williams and Todd Curtis Endowment

J. Thomas and Nan B. Grayston Endowment

E. Russell Alexander Endowment

Maureen L. Smith DiGiacomo Endowment

(Ronald DiGiacomo)

Thomas Koepsell Endowment

Jonathan and Merrill Mayer Endowment

## *Health Services*

Phillip and Eda Lee Haas Endowment

## *Pathobiology*

Kenny Pathobiology Endowed Fellowship

## mark your calendar

To learn about events the SPHCM is sponsoring, check out our *Events Calendar* at [sphcm.washington.edu](http://sphcm.washington.edu)

### Thursday, April 26

*Perspectives in Public Health* and Presentation of Distinguished Alumni Award

### Wednesday, May 16

MPH Practicum Reception and Career Fair

### Monday, May 21

Distinguished Faculty Lecture by Jeffrey Harris, Professor, Health Services

### Friday, June 8

SPHCM Awards Ceremony and Graduation Celebration

DEOHS = Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences

FHCRC = Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

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



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**School of Public Health**  
*and* Community Medicine

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Seattle, WA 98195-7230

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