



updates

winter 2008

SPHCM—a major player

Expertise. Leadership. Remarkable partnerships.

These strengths have led to key roles for the School and our Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences in two large-scale interdisciplinary efforts to improve the public's health.

The National Institutes of Health's National Children's Study is a \$3.2 billion effort to track children's health from womb to adulthood, the longest term study of children's health and development ever conducted in the US. It will attempt to unravel the complex links between environmental, social, psychological, and genetic factors and chronic children's health problems such as asthma, obesity, autism, diabetes, injuries, and schizophrenia. Professor **Elaine Faustman** received a \$26 million, five-year grant to lead the Pacific Northwest Center, which joins 21 other centers nationwide in this ambitious undertaking. Our Center will manage data collection, recruit local participants, and encourage community involvement, working with Public Health-Seattle & King County, the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, and groups in Oregon. Professors **Tom Burbacher** and **Shirley Beresford** will serve as co-directors.

Another multi-million dollar grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences will fund three new research centers called DISCOVER—Disease Investigation through Specialized Clinically

Oriented Ventures in Environmental Research—designed to bridge the gap between basic research and clinical treatment of diseases caused by environmental factors. DISCOVER centers will help define the role of environmental agents in the onset and progression of human disease. Professor **Joel Kaufman** will lead the UW Center (the other two are at Johns Hopkins and Columbia), which will involve faculty from across the campus in an extensive effort to find out how pollutants in the air cause inflammation and vascular dysfunction in our bodies—and exacerbate cardiovascular disease.

Both studies promise to have far-reaching effects on our understanding of environmental and other factors affecting human health and on public policy and community education.



Lisa Younglove

inside

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from the dean

It's impossible not to be proud of the faculty, students, and staff who bring our School such credit. This issue of *Updates* is full of award news—grant awards and recognition for achievement. I wish we had room to do more than just list them, but I hope *Updates* gives you at least an idea of the distinction of our faculty and the range of their areas of expertise.

Our School's reputation is, of course, sustained and enhanced by those achievements. The 2007 *US News and World Report* graduate school survey again ranked us fourth in the nation, second among publicly funded schools. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* ranked our School second among 375 universities in this country on its 2007 Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index. Faculty members are judged on as many as five factors, including books published, journal publications, citations of journal articles, federal grant dollars awarded, and honors and awards. In disciplines ranked, our Departments of Biostatistics and Epidemiology and our Nutritional Sciences Program were third.

On the home front, our School remains among the top five schools at the UW in externally funded research. Virtually all of that funding is from peer-reviewed research proposals by individual faculty members, and our ranking means we make a major contribution to the UW's record-breaking level of research funding of more than \$1 billion for the most recent fiscal year.

In other news, we continue to explore expanding our undergraduate offerings, particularly in Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, Global and Public Health, and Nutritional Sciences. As noted on page 7, we have developed a proposal to establish an Undergraduate Program in Nutritional Sciences that will focus on the connection between nutrition and world health and complement our



Dean Lamont

kudos!

Kathy Hall,
Communications
Director, DEOHS,
and graphic artist
Cathy Schwartz
won Best of Show
for the
department's 2007
calendar at the
Society for
Technical
Communication
Puget Sound
publications
competition.

strong graduate offerings. Interest in such a program is intense; a currently offered UW class in basic nutrition fills to capacity every year—470 students!—with still others unable to get in.

Also on track is the design process for space in the UW Tower (formerly Safeco Tower). Our two floors in that building will accommodate projects in Biostatistics and Health Services. Although this space helps reduce our off-campus rentals, it does not alter our critical need for a new public health building. We and the University lose millions of dollars a year in indirect cost recovery when faculty must submit their grants through other institutions due to lack of space on campus.

In another outstanding effort, our School has the highest participation rate on campus so far in the UW Faculty-Staff-Retiree Campaign for Students, coming in third (after Arts & Sciences and Medicine) in total number of gifts and pledges raised. This is extraordinary given the relative size of our School; it is also a wonderful tribute from our faculty and staff to our students.

And that brings me full circle. We have plenty of challenges—lack of state funding high among them—but we have a remarkable School, and it's a pleasure to bring you up-to-date on some of our activities.

—Pat Wahl, Dean

students

arcs fellows

The ARCS Foundation provides scholarships and fellowships to academically outstanding students around the country in the fields of science, engineering, and medicine. An ARCS Fellowship is more than an academic honor; it helps us recruit top-notch students and provides needed funding for three years of graduate education. Congratulations to our new first-year fellows!

Dodie Arnold (GO-MAP/Epidemiology) is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Xavier University of Louisiana in New Orleans. At Xavier, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Spanish. Dodie earned her MSPH from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee and is training for a career in epidemiology and international health.

Nicole Basta (Epidemiology) earned an MPhil degree in epidemiology from Cambridge as a Gates-Cambridge Scholar after graduating *magna cum laude* with a BA in ecology and evolutionary biology from Princeton. She has been conducting outbreak investigations as a Florida Epidemic Intelligence Service Fellow and is now pursuing a PhD, focusing on the mathematical modeling of infectious diseases.

Katherine Guild (Pathobiology) graduated from Sarah Lawrence College with a BA degree in natural sciences. She then pursued her interest in parasitology at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Following her graduation from Tulane, she worked in the field of parasite

immunology and is now a doctoral student in Pathobiology.

Beth Thielen (Pathobiology) received a BS degree in microbiology with *summa cum laude* honors from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. She is currently a MD/PhD student studying the human protein APOBEC3G (A3G), involving anti-viral activity against HIV-1 and other viruses. Recently Beth was first author on a paper describing a novel mechanism for regulating A3G in cells.

community service award

At this year's Health Sciences Martin Luther King, Jr. Tribute, **Peter Kithene** (Health Administration) received a Community Service Award for founding the Mama Maria Clinic (<http://www.mamamaria.org/index.htm>) in his rural Kenyan village. The clinic provides medical care and HIV/AIDS education to the entire village but focuses on widows and orphans, the people who bear the brunt of losses from the ravages of disease and poverty. Peter was also named one of six CNN Heroes for his work.

more good stuff

MPH student **Janessa Graves** (DEOHS) presented two posters at the American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting last November, was awarded a 2007 APHA Environment Section Student Scholarship, and received funding from APHA's International Health Section for a community-based research grant for work in rural Kenya.



Courtesy D. Arnold

Dodie Arnold



Courtesy N. Basta

Nicole Basta



Courtesy of K. Guild

Katherine Guild



Courtesy B. Thielen

Beth Thielen

faculty

congratulations

Norman Breslow, Professor of Biostatistics, was named the recipient of the 2008 Zelen Award from the Department of Biostatistics at Harvard, the 2008 Greenberg Lecturer in the Department of Biostatistics at the University of North Carolina, and the winner of the 2008 Callaert Leadership Award in Biostatistical Education and Dissemination from Universiteit Hasselt, Belgium.

The Coalition for Excellence in MCH Epidemiology presented **Irvin Emanuel**, Professor Emeritus of Epidemiology, their 2007 Zena Stein and Mervyn Susser Award for Lifetime Achievement for his contributions to the health of women, children, and families.

DEOHS Professor **Richard Fenske** received major awards in two disciplines for his contributions to the assessment and mitigation of human exposure to chemical hazards. He received the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health Award for Scientific Achievement and the Jerome J. Wesolowski Award from the International Society of Exposure Analysis.

Amy Hagopian and **Mary Anne Mercer**, faculty in the departments of Global Health and Health Services, received the American Public Health

Association's (APHA) International Health Section Distinguished Service award last November.

The UW Northwest Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, directed by DEOHS Adjunct Assistant Professor **Catherine Karr**, received the EPA's Children's Environmental Health Excellence Award for its leadership in protecting children from environmental health risks.

The September 24, 2007 issue of *Pacific Northwest* magazine featured **Laura Koutsky**, Professor of Epidemiology, in a cover article on her groundbreaking research on the human papillomavirus (HPV), which led to the first HPV vaccine.

Christopher Murray, Professor of Global Health, and **Edward Wagner**, Professor of Health Services, were elected to the Institute of Medicine. **Chris Murray** also delivered our Fall Quarter Distinguished Faculty Lecture, *Evaluating the performance of national medical care and public health systems*.

Sarena Seifer, Research Associate Professor of Health Services, received the Tom Bruce Award from APHA's Community-Based Public Health Caucus for her significant contributions to community-based public health.

Judith Wasserheit, Professor and Vice Chair of Global Health, was named an ambassador in



Garvin Sisk

Norman Breslow



Mary Levin

Irvin Emanuel



Ly Pham

Catherine Karr

Research!America's Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research. Ambassadors work to increase awareness about the critical need for investment in research to improve global health.

Governor Gregoire recently appointed **Carolyn Watts**, Professor of Health Services, to the new Health Insurance Partnership Board, which was created by statute during the last legislative session. The Board's responsibility is to make health insurance more affordable for low income employees of small businesses.

Noel Weiss, Professor of Epidemiology, received the 2007 Lilienfeld Award from the American College of Epidemiology at its annual meeting last September. This is the College's most prestigious award and is given for lifetime achievement.

APHA recognized **Michelle Williams**, Professor of Epidemiology, with the Abraham Lilienfeld Award for excellence in teaching of epidemiology during her career and for her far-reaching impact on training the next generation of epidemiologists.

Andrew Zhou, Professor of Biostatistics, is the first statistician to win a Research Career Scientist award from the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), presented for outstanding scientific achievement and contributions to the VA's research program.



Leslie Wall

Janet Basemen



Courtesy of H. Rodriguez

Hector Rodriguez

transition

Frederick Connell, Professor of Health Services and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, was selected as a 2007 Fulbright Scholar. He is currently spending a nine-month sabbatical as visiting professor at the BP Koirala Institute of Health Sciences School of Public Health in Dharan, Nepal, the country's only school of public health.

Patrick Heagerty, Professor of Biostatistics, was named founding director of the Center for Biomedical Statistics (CBS). The CBS will allow the Department of Biostatistics to better respond to requests for statistical assistance from biomedical researchers at the University, from early planning stages of health sciences research through publication of study results.

new faculty

Welcome to faculty who joined the School between July 1 and December 31, 2007.

Epidemiology

Janet Baseman, Assistant Professor
PhD, Epidemiology, UW

Pamela Charney, Lecturer part-time
PhD, Nutrition, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey

Global Health

Stephen Lim, Assistant Professor
PhD, Epidemiology and Health Economics, Monash University, Australia

Health Services

Hector Rodriguez, Assistant Professor
PhD, Health Policy, Harvard University

Steven Zeliadt, Research Assistant Professor
PhD, Health Services Research, UW

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!

James Anderson (PhD, Biostatistics, 1979) was named a 2007 Distinguished Scientist by the University of Nebraska Medical Center where he has been Group Statistician for the Children's Oncology Group and PI of the Statistics and Data Center grant since December 2005. He expressed his gratitude for the training he received as a graduate student in Biostatistics.

Leighton Chan, MD (MPH, Health Services, 1996) is Chief of the Rehabilitation Medicine Department at the National Institutes of Health and has been elected to the Institute of Medicine.

Charles Hobson, MD (MHA, Health Services, 2001) is the Director of the Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Research Labs at the University of Florida. He also teaches in the Interdisciplinary Family Health Program and guest lectures in international health in the School of Public Health.

Wayne Martin (MS, Radiological Sciences, 1990) was named Black Engineer of the Year for Community Service. An environmental scientist at the US Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Wayne was honored for his efforts to increase involvement of under-represented minorities in the engineering and scientific fields and for his leadership and significant contributions to the Tri-Cities community.

John McDonald (PhD, Biostatistics, 1980) is Professor of Longitudinal Social Statistics at the Institute of Education, one of the colleges of the University of London. He is Director of

Methodology for the Centre for Longitudinal Studies, which houses three internationally renowned birth cohort studies: the 1958 National Child Development Study, the 1970 British Cohort Study, and the Millennium Cohort Study.

and from Epidemiology:

Andrew Brockenbrough, MD (MS 2005) practices internal medicine, specializing in nephrology, as a member of the medical staff at Auburn Regional Medical Center in Auburn, WA.

Victor Legner, MD (MS 2006) is a physician in San Diego whose interests focus on outpatient geriatrics and pre-operative evaluation of the older adult, designed to improve surgical outcomes and post-operative health.

Christian Loch (MPH 2006) works at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Public Health Sciences Division.

Jason Newson, MD (MPH 2002) is Director of the Bay County Health Department in Panama City, FL.

Christina Nicolaidis, MD (MPH 1999) is Associate Professor of Medicine at Oregon Health & Science University.

Ryan Stern, MD (MPH 2004) has joined the medical staff at Auburn Regional Medical Center in Auburn, WA as a surgeon of otolaryngology.

Sarah Weihe, MD (MPH 2004) is a pediatrician and public health researcher at Children's Health Services Research Program at the Indiana University School of Medicine.



a special event ... a lively reunion

Our School co-sponsored a sold-out appearance by best-selling author Michael Pollan at Town Hall Seattle on February 13. He discussed his new book, *In Defense of Food*, in which he takes on the Western diet and way of eating, and held a stimulating conversation with KUOW host Steve Scher. (Listen to his interview on KUOW at <http://www.kuow.org/defaultProgram.asp?ID=14335>.) Before the program we held a reception for alumni and friends.

The reception gave us the opportunity to focus attention on our plans to establish an Undergraduate Program in Nutritional Sciences that will meet the strong demand for skilled professionals in nutrition and provide a rich learning experience with an emphasis on the connection between nutrition and global health. For more information, write to us at infoSPH@u.washington.edu or call 206-616-7197.

Pollan reception attendees included, l to r: Kathy Kingen, Barbara Lloyd, Mary Porter, June Bartell, Marilyn Ferguson-Wolf, Michael Pollan, Jonathan Gorstein, The Honorable Booth Gardner, Sarah Potts, Cory Potts, William Potts, Susan Potts, Pat Wahl

Gravin Sisk

get certified in public health (CPH)

A new credentialing opportunity for public health professionals is now available. The certification exam is rooted in the five basic core competencies of public health to reflect its interdisciplinary nature. If you earned a graduate-level degree from our School, you may take the exam at one of 300 testing centers nationwide in August 2008.

See <http://www.publichealthexam.org/> for details.

2008 distinguished alumni award

Remember—nominations are welcome for the 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award. The Alumni Advisory Board is looking for SPHCM alumni with a demonstrated record of distinguished service and achievement in public health in any public health discipline and in any setting, with any or all of the following credentials:

- humanitarian contributions
- a record of improving the impact of public health
- advancement of the field through research or practice
- exceptional resourcefulness, innovation, or creativity

Make your nomination online (<http://sphcm.washington.edu/daa/>) or call 206-685-6699 for a nomination form.



mark your calendar

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

Thursday, May 1, 3:30 pm

Stephen Stewart Gloyd Endowed Lecture
Featured speaker: David Cay Johnston
Hogness Auditorium, A420 Health Sciences

Thursday, May 8, 3:00 pm

MPH Practicum Reception and Career Fair
316 South Campus Center

Friday, June 13

SPHCM Awards Ceremony and Graduation Celebration
Hogness Auditorium, A420 Health Sciences

DEOHS = Department of Environmental and
Occupational Health Sciences
APHA = American Public Health Association

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



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