



NewsCatcher

The latest news about our SPH community



June 18, 2015

Got News?

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to submit your news!

SPH in the News

[Floss or brush first?](#) - *New York Times*; quotes **Philippe Hujuel** (Epi)

[Health officials warn of spring swimming dangers](#) - *KING 5*; interviews **Tony Gomez** (HServ)

[Nepal earthquake: What we lost at the epicenter](#) - *Huffington Post*; blog post by **Mary Anne Mercer** (HServ, GH)

[Hold your horses! Equine guest attends class](#) - *HSNewsBeat*; cites **Peter Rabinowitz** (DEOHS, GH) and **Heather Fowler** (DEOHS)

[Recently Awarded Grants & Contracts](#) »

[Foundation Funding Opportunities](#) »

Who Knew??



Graduating PhD student Leila Zelnick (Biostat) counts

playing the *mbira* among her many hobbies. The *mbira*, or thumb piano, is made up of metal keys on a wooden board. Leila has played since 2007, but spent a month in Zimbabwe last year studying with master *mbira* players (see [photo of her](#) on our Facebook page). Leila will join UW Nephrology and the Kidney Research Institute to continue her research in kidney and cardiovascular disease.

On the Calendar

June 23, noon-1pm
[Hot Topics: Ending the Tobacco Epidemic](#)

June 24-25
[Future of Occupational Health Symposium](#)

June 24, 12:30-1:30pm
[Kenya Research and Training Center Weekly Seminar](#)

June 28-July 2
[Summer Institute in Statistics for Clinical Research](#)

We'll keep you busy: take a

Congrats!



Nearly 500 students graduated from the School last week, including 51 with PhDs, 268 with master's degrees and 175 with undergraduate diplomas. Check out [photos from the Graduation](#). You can also watch [the address](#) to SPH grads from Gates Foundation CEO Sue Desmond-Hellmann as well as PhD Omenn Award winner [Peter Cherutich's talk](#).



Incoming PhD student **Janeth Sanchez** (HServ) won a \$10,000 Grayston-Day Fellowship from SPH. Janeth is currently living in Clint, TX, where she works as a National Outreach Network Community/Cancer Health Educator at the National Cancer Institute.



Health Alliance International (HAI) was one of 12 global organizations to win a Recognition Prize as part of USAID's "Turning Data into Action Award." HAI was honored for its mobile phone health project with expectant mothers in Timor-Leste.



MHA student Charles Lee was nominated and appointed to serve on the American College of Healthcare Executives' Student Committee.



Winners of the 2015-16 SPH Endowed Fellowships (\$5,000 each) are MPH student **Victoria Balta** (DEOHS) and PhD student **Monisha Sharma** (Epi). Victoria is working on a project to develop a protocol for processing and testing geoduck samples for viral and bacterial contamination. Monisha's dissertation focuses on evaluating strategies to expand HIV testing and links to care in sub-Saharan Africa.



Making a Difference



Elementary school students in Seattle don't get enough time to finish their lunch, according to research from our Nutritional Sciences students. Eighteen graduate students in **Donna Johnson's** Public Health Nutrition Class - working with instructor **Mary Podrabsky** - spent the winter quarter documenting the lack of lunch time at seven city schools. They found children had only 12 minutes of "seated time" on average; district policy calls for 20 minutes. Their report was presented recently to the Seattle Public School's Wellness Task Force, and was cited by parents at a School Board meeting. The grad students also interviewed principals, crunched surveys of kitchen managers, and did a literature review to show the public health impacts of poor nutrition. Pictured are three of the grad students: **Toi Sennhauser**, **Kelsey Schmidt** and **Torissa Sorenson**.

Around the Water Cooler



William Daniell (DEOHS) is serving on the Green Duwamish Watershed Advisory Group to devise [a strategic plan](#) to coordinate projects and programs to improve the health of the entire watershed.

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 Archive](#) (UW netID required).



Cynthia LeRouge (pictured), **Douglas Conrad** and PhD student **Ann Nguyen** (all HServ) were awarded a planning grant from the National Science Foundation to launch a [Center for Health Organization Transformation site](#) at UW.



Andy Stergachis (GH, Epi, HServ) was recently named Associate Dean for Research, Graduate Studies and New Initiatives for the School of Pharmacy, where he is a professor and now has a primary appointment. **Anirban Basu** (HServ) [was recently named](#) the next Stergachis Family Endowed Director of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research & Policy Program (PORPP) and professor of Pharmacy in the School of Pharmacy.



How can big data lead to healthier communities? Read this year's issue of [Northwest Public Health](#), which includes a profile of **Daniela Witten** (Biostat), a feature on genomics and Latino health, and more. The magazine is produced by our Northwest Center for Public Health Practice.



Jeff Harris and **Tao Kwan-Gett** (both HServ) are on the interim leadership council for King County's [Accountable Community of Health](#). The county received a \$100,000 grant to build healthier communities through a collaborative regional approach.



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