



# NewsCatcher

The latest news about our SPH community



May 7, 2015

## Got News?

E-mail  
[sphnews@uw.edu](mailto:sphnews@uw.edu)  
to submit your news!

## SPH in the News

[Obesity substantially ups prostate cancer risk in African-American men - KING 5](#); interviews **Wendy Barrington** (Epi)

[Blocking smartphone use by teen drivers may reduce crash risks - Reuters](#); cites research by **Beth Ebel** (Epi, HServ) and **Laura Blonar** (HServ)

[Climate change may speed asthma spread - Scientific American](#); quotes **Joel Kaufman** (DEOHS, Epi)

[Why pregnant women in Mississippi keep dying - Washington Post](#); cites research by IHME

[Recently Awarded Grants & Contracts »](#)

[Foundation Funding Opportunities »](#)

## Who Knew??



**MPH student Linda Oseso** (Epi) holds the national record

for the hammer throw in Kenya. Linda was co-captain of the Kenyan team for the Commonwealth Games in Scotland and the African Championships in Morocco in 2014. The aspiring Olympic athlete and former undergraduate star at UC-Berkeley tossed the 8.8-pound device nearly 200 feet. See [a video of her](#) in action.

## SPH Excellence Awards

Celebrate students, staff and faculty at the School's annual [Excellence Awards: Recognizing and Celebrating Outstanding Achievement](#). The event, from 3-6 pm May 15, is at the Center for Urban Horticulture and is open to the entire SPH community, its friends and family.

## On the Calendar

**May 11, 4:30-7pm**  
[The Global Healthies: Student, Medical Resident,](#)

## Congrats!



The WA State Public Health Association named **Beti Thompson** (HServ) a [2015 Health Champion](#) for working "tirelessly to improve the health of medically underserved populations."



**Amanda Fretts** (Epi) and colleagues won best poster (clinical category) at the Network for Minority Investigators Annual Workshop and Meeting of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases.



**Judith Wasserheit** (GH, Epi) made a list of [300 women leaders in global health](#). She was nominated in a Twitter campaign that used the hashtag #wgh300.



PhD student **Sean Harris** (DEOHS) won the second-place student poster award in the In Vitro and Alternative Methods Specialty Section at the Society of Toxicology Annual Meeting.



The [UW ranked third](#) among 59 universities in a student-led report on approaches to global equity and biomedical research.

## Making a Difference



SPH students from Nepal are raising funds for relief efforts in the wake of the devastating earthquake there. "Every penny is worth it," says PhD student **Archana Shrestha** (Epi), who notes the cost of a typical meal is only 20 cents. "We hear stories of people starving in the hills," she said. Shrestha and other members of the UW Nepalese Student Association have set up the [Nepal Earthquake Relief Fund](#) to raise money for food, shelter and supplies. After the relief effort, the long-term effects of the disaster will become apparent, the students say. "I think this is going to fundamentally change our careers in many different ways because the priorities have changed," says **Biraj Karmacharya**, who is pursuing a PhD in Epi and an MPH in Global Health. [Read more](#). Pictured: MPH student **Aradhana Thapana** (GH), **Biraj** and **Archana**.

## Around the Water Cooler



Senior **Saloni Parikh** (Public Health) is [featured on the UW's home page](#) this month. She combines passion for global health and computer science in an HIV research project in Kenya that uses cellphones to track data.



**Jennifer Otten** (HServ) is part of a UW team studying the impact of the minimum-wage increase in Seattle. Find out more about her work, which includes nutrition and food waste, in [the latest SPH Close Up](#).



[View photos](#) from the 2015 Workers' Memorial Day event honoring those who died from work-related injuries or illnesses. **Nancy Simcox** (DEOHS) and graduate students **Kat Gregersen**, **Eddie Kasner**, **Trevor Peckham**, **Dan Grinnell**, and **Ryan Bibadi** organized the event.

[and Fellow Poster Session and Awards Ceremony](#)

**May 13, 6:30-8pm**  
[Why Is It So Hard to Lose Weight?](#) - Ellen Schur

**May 17-21**  
[A Climate Ride to Benefit the New SPH CHANGE Center](#)

**May 19, 3-5pm**  
[Town Hall Meeting to Unveil Plan for Phased Development of South Campus](#)

**May 21, 4-6pm**  
[Second Annual SPH Undergraduate Symposium](#)

*We'll keep you busy: take a 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).*



MPH student **Paul Nevin** (GH) travelled to Kenya, thanks to a fellowship from the Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting. His feature story, [Seattle group's training program saves lives of moms and babies in Kenya](#), appeared on page one of *The Seattle Times*.



**Dorian Varga** recently joined Health Services as new marketing and student recruitment specialist for the MPH (COPHP, in-residence, eMPH), MS and PhD programs. She joins us from Bioengineering, where she was senior academic counselor.



**Devina Wijaya** is the new Administrative Coordinator in the Dean's Office. She recently worked for Rod Asher and Associates on Mercer Island, where she was Executive Assistant to the President.



The school's first-ever alumni reunion in 45 years was a great success, with about 120 attendees. Check out slides and photos from the event at our [Reunion Page](#). Meet several of our alums in these [brief video clips](#).

Sent to you twice monthly by the Office of the Dean, [University of Washington School of Public Health](#)

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