



Newsletter

Department of Health Behavior and Health Education

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Spring
2009

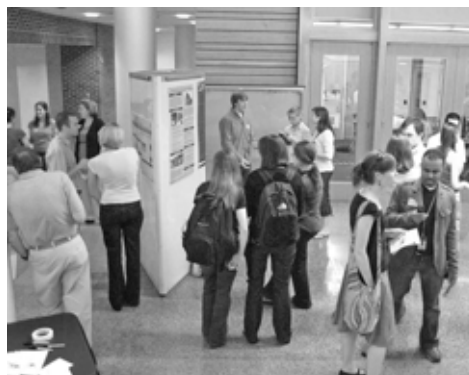
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Greetings from Chapel Hill! It's been almost four years since I've addressed our alumni through the Newsletter, and as you can tell from the length of this edition, we have lots of news to share.



There's a good chance by now that you know I have been serving as Interim Chair since September. Professor Ed Fisher stepped away from the role after being recruited into the highly prestigious position of Global Director of Peers for Progress, a world-wide peer support research effort focused on diabetes self management. Fortunately for us, Ed remains as a senior member of the faculty, where he is providing excellent collaboration opportunities to colleagues (five of us are co-investigators on the Peers for Progress Project!), research assistantships to students, and even jobs to alumni (Kate Nelson, MPH 2008, is employed as his Project Manager).

I was very happy to resume duties as interim chair as we search for a permanent replacement. Less joyful was the prospect of managing the Department during what we now know is the worst economic crisis our nation has faced in a lifetime. North Carolina has been among the hardest-hit states, with unemployment surging towards 10%, high-tech and banking industries nose-diving, and state agencies folding or laying off employees. Even at the University, where we have been somewhat more buffered than other state institutions, we have been asked to make ever deeper cuts to our state funding.

Yet even in the midst of all this bad news, there is much to inspire. Everyone in the Department has swung into action in major ways. We never did have a surplus of luxuries but, even so, staff have identified ways large and small to save every dime we can in an effort to stretch our remaining resources as far as possible. A recent faculty meeting was all abuzz as faculty swapped stories of how they were quickly redesigning grant applications to be "shovel ready" when recovery funds start getting distributed by NIH or CDC. If some of those grants "hit," that funding is bound to make an impact, both here in the Department and throughout the state, nation and globally. Here at home, faculty will be able to answer more pressing public health research questions, while students and applicants will be able to find the jobs and mentoring they need once they begin graduate work in HBHE. In the state and nation, we'll be helping to solve difficult problems. Even alumni are calling in or emailing us to make suggestions about ways to leverage University resources to help the state through this difficult time (thank you, Scott Brown, MPH 1995!).

In other buoying news, applications to our master's and doctoral programs are way up – the largest number we've ever received. The quality of those applications is also extremely impressive and, because of this surge, we've been more competitive than ever before in securing scholarships from the Graduate School and other sources. Also, even though the value of our own departmental fellowship monies are down, other universities have lost a considerable percentage of the value of their holdings while UNC has been able to limit its losses somewhat. Still, it's depressing to watch hard-earned gifts go below their initial value.

The last departure from the faculty was a number of years ago. Allan Steckler, who claimed to be retiring several years ago, sends a message to everyone, "I'm still here!" And that he is. He's been a very active contributor to the Program Advisory Committee that has helped shepherd through major curriculum changes to the MPH Program, even as he continues to teach and advise students and serve on many other committees. We've welcomed some new faces to our staff whom you can "meet" in the Staff Updates section and when you come to visit. Linda

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Cook may or may not be retiring this year (she's holding out on us), but if she does, we'll blow the budget and have a big celebration at the Carolina Inn, as we did when John Hatch and Leonard Dawson retired – and charge you an entry fee to help cover the cost, since we know you'll want to join us at whatever price we set!

Other than hiring a new department chair, we probably won't be adding new faculty in the next few years, but as you can see, we've taken Rahm Emmanuel's dictum that "you never want a serious crisis to go to waste" to heart. We are working hard and going forward with research, teaching, admissions and new ideas. If you have some extra dollars to send our way to support through one of our scholarships a struggling student, you can trust that we will husband your gift carefully and that it will be used gratefully. If you don't have extra dollars to send (and I know that many of us don't just now), that's fine, too; by all means, however, send us your news at hbhenews@gmail.com or through the mail. We love hearing from you, as you can see from our multi-page "Who's Doing What" alumni section.

Four New Faculty Join Department

Since Fall 2007, the Department has hired four outstanding new faculty members. Read on to find out all about them. We hope you'll welcome them when you meet them at APHA or other meetings, or the next time you visit HBHE.

Arjumand Siddiqi

Dr. Arjumand Siddiqi joined the faculty as a tenure track assistant professor in fall 2007. A social epidemiologist, she researches how social and economic policies shape inequities in population health and human development.

Arjumand holds an MPH from the Boston University School of Public Health and a doctorate from Harvard University (2005). Along the way she has held research, post-doctoral, and consulting roles with the MacArthur Foundation, the University of British Columbia, Teachers College at Columbia University, and the World Health Organization. Most recently, she served on the faculty of the University of Tennessee.

"For many years," said Interim Chair Jo Anne Earp, "students have been clamoring for additional faculty in HBHE who could teach courses such as the very popular Social Determinants of Health. In other words, they are interested in how policies and cultural factors affect health. Arjumand gives us depth and sophistication in this area."

Arjumand's research uses multivariate, multi-level analytical and geographic analyses to understand how cross-national policies and contextual influences impact health disparities. "How does education policy in Denmark differ from education policy in Germany, France, or the U.S.?" her work asks. "What impact do these differences in policy have on student outcomes? On student health? Do these policies have different effects on minority populations?" Her research has stretched from Finland and the Baltic Republics to the "Asian Tigers" (Hong Kong, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan), her native Canada and the U.S. Arjumand has also applied her comparative approach to Central and Eastern European countries, where she has looked at how transitions from communism to a market-based economy affect population health and educational achievement.

Already in full swing in the Department, Arjumand teaches modules in both the master's and doctoral programs for the Introduction to Public Health course. Together with her expertise as a social epidemiologist, Arjumand's skills as a

methodologist are "awesome," as one student put it. "Arjumand's sophisticated grasp of methods," said doctoral program director Susan Ennett, "and her ease in helping others grasp multi-level modeling, mean that our doctoral students have another excellent resource for helping them map out their dissertations."

"It doesn't hurt, either," says Jo Anne Earp, "that Arjumand is so extremely approachable and conversationally delightful."

Since coming to Carolina, Arjumand received a major fellowship from the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research to study international variations in socioeconomic inequities in children's health and development.

"I'm delighted to be here," she said. "The Department and School have been so welcoming, and the resources are fantastic. I'm already collaborating with many faculty across the School and in the Carolina Population Center."

Wizdom Powell Hammond

Along with Arjumand, the Department welcomed Dr. Wizdom Powell Hammond as a tenure-track assistant professor in 2007. Wizdom is also a member of the cancer prevention and control core at UNC's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. A clinical psychologist, her research investigates the interplay between social constructions of masculinity and African American men's health, as well as the impact of racial discrimination on men's trust in medical organizations and professionals.

Wizdom holds an MS and PhD in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan. Yet her interest in public health and interventions also led her to earn her MPH from Michigan's School of Public Health. Following her graduate studies, Wizdom held a postdoctoral fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at UC-San Francisco and Berkeley.



“It is well known that men under-report health problems, underutilize health services, and report more medical mistrust than women,” says Wizdom. “Men are taught from very early on to deny physical and emotional pain. Unfortunately, these social prescriptions to ‘be a man about it’ often translate into taking more health risks, forgoing necessary treatment, or suffering in silence from conditions such as depression. Men also die sooner than women, yet men have more social power than their female counterparts.”

This “gender paradox” has led Wizdom to tackle research projects that illuminate how traditional male role norms impact African American men’s emotionality, health values, behavior, and status at various ages across the life-course.

“Having Wizdom on the faculty has created a buzz around African American men’s health in the Department,” says Jo Anne Earp. “It’s a compelling and timely area of research. Even in the short time she’s been here, she’s been a magnet for other scholars and students who share her interests.”

Wizdom’s current research includes a multi-city investigation of the psychosocial determinants of health status, behavior, and care use among African American men recruited from barbershops in urban and rural U.S. communities. She is also investigating the ways in which traditional male role norms affect prostate cancer screening behavior and survivorship among African American men in North Carolina.

Wizdom is already teaching in the Department, having designed a major seminar-style module for doctoral students on social and behavioral theory. The module is part of the new year-long seminar for first-year doctoral students, Historical and Conceptual Bases of Public Health.

A native of the south, Wizdom says that coming to Carolina has been “like coming home. The university is such a warm, collaborative community, and I have felt so welcomed by senior faculty.”



Clare Barrington

Dr. Clare Barrington joined the Department as a tenure-track assistant professor in fall 2008. “Clare adds depth to the Department’s global perspective at a time when many students have a strongly expressed interest in working in international settings,” says Interim Chair Jo Anne Earp.

Clare’s work examines how social networks influence men’s HIV-related behaviors and how naturally existing social networks can help achieve health promotion goals. “Much

of my work addresses these issues in an international context, especially in the Dominican Republic,” says Clare, “though I am also beginning to focus on using social network methods to explore health behaviors among Latinos in the U.S.”

Clare has 10+ years of experience in these areas, starting in her undergrad days at Brown University, when she first got involved in working on health promotion projects in the Dominican Republic (DR). This early interest fueled her ambition to earn both an MPH (2002) and then a PhD (2007) from the Department of International Health’s Social and Behavioral Interventions Program at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Prior to joining the Department, Clare spent a year on the faculty at the University of South Carolina in their Department of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior.

Clare’s strengths as a researcher have led to collaborative work with prominent international health organizations in several Latin American locations. These collaborations included work on an innovative condom social marketing program in Cuba, a formative study examining perceptions of an HIV vaccine, and vaccine research, in the D.R., and an analysis of HIV-related data collected from female sex workers, men who have sex with men, and youth in several Central American countries.

At UNC, Clare will expand her research agenda to focus on Latino health, even as she prepares to teach a new course for HBHE in advanced qualitative methods. She is likely to teach a global health module to master’s students as well.

“I’m also working on several manuscripts right now,” says Clare. “Two of these are from my work in the DR, while another examines the role of social networks among Latinos in New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina.”

With regard to new research, Clare will pursue both formative social and behavioral research as well as intervention development efforts, particularly interventions focused on clients of sex workers. “I’m returning to the Dominican Republic soon to gather more data regarding intervention feasibility.”

“The Department is very fortunate that Clare has joined our faculty,” notes Jo Anne Earp. “She’s a great fit with other faculty and students with global health and qualitative methods’ interests, and we’re delighted to have her on board.”

Beth Moracco

Faculty, staff and alumni are delighted to welcome Dr. Beth Moracco back to the Department as a fulltime faculty member. Many of our readers are familiar with Beth, who has been affiliated with the School and the Department for over 15 years. She completed both her MPH (1992) and her PhD

(1999) here. She then held positions on the faculty in HBHE and Maternal and Child Health, and was an active member of UNC's Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC), headed by HBHE faculty member Dr. Carol Runyan (PhD 1983).

As a research scientist at Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) in Chapel Hill from 2002 to 2008, Beth led studies in violence prevention. She collaborated with department faculty throughout that time and, as an adjunct faculty member, advised on master's papers and dissertations. "Beth has been such a terrific resource for the Department," noted Jo Anne Earp. "Her expertise spans program and policy evaluation to program planning to violence as a public health issue to gender and health. She also has great facility with both qualitative and quantitative research methods and very strong teaching skills."



Beth is forging ahead on several research projects, including a CDC-funded endeavor. DELTA, as it's called, has Beth working with state-level stakeholders to develop and implement a statewide intimate partner violence prevention plan. "We're delighted that DELTA got continuation funding," said Beth. "We've been working on this plan for two years with a dedicated

group of state-level players. Having the resources to implement and evaluate the plan will help us make a significant difference in the lives of those affected by intimate partner violence."

Beth emphasizes her commitment to doing research that's applicable in practice settings. "I always try to have a balance between research and practice; the DELTA project is a good example of this, as it's designed for both evaluation and exploratory research."

"It's exciting to have Beth back in the Department," noted Professor Vangie Foshee. "We've been collaborating to adapt the Families for Safe Dates program into a Moms for Safe Dates curriculum, a program designed for families that have experienced intimate partner violence. It creates energy and new ideas when several people with overlapping interests are members of the faculty."

Beth has been co-teaching Social and Behavioral Foundations with Associate Professor Kurt Ribisl and is lead instructor for Program Planning. "I missed teaching and working closely with students when I was at PIRE," commented Beth. "I'm happy to have the opportunity to be back in a university environment where so many interesting things are going on."

Faculty News

Eng and Israel Honored with APHA Award

Professor **Geni Eng** (MPH 1978; DrPH 1983) was honored with the 2008 Tom Bruce Award from the community-based public health caucus of the American Public Health Association. Established in 2006, this award celebrates individuals who have made significant contributions to the caucus and the community-based public health movement. Eng was



recognized as a longtime advocate for the equality of community partners and the engagement of universities in the selection, design, implementation and evaluation of public health programs and research.

Sharing this year's award with Eng were Meredith Minkler, DrPH, Professor of Health and Social Behavior at UC-Berkeley, and HBHE alumna Barbara Israel (MPH 1978; DrPH 1982), who is now Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education at that rival institution, the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

"Each of these women has made individual contributions to community-based public health and to the caucus, and each alone deserves this award. However, their personal and professional collaboration has been instrumental in guiding community-based public health to the forefront of public health practice and research," said Al Richmond, chair of the CBPH caucus.

"Geni is the leading light of community-based participatory research at the University of North Carolina," says Interim Department Chair Jo Anne Earp. "It's also delightful that 'one of our own' in Michigan was also recognized with this award."

The award is named in honor of Thomas Allen Bruce, MD, a physician, educator and philanthropist who lives in Little Rock, Arkansas. From 1985 to 1997, Bruce served as program director at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, planning new initiatives, reviewing proposals, and monitoring projects in public health, leadership and rural development and, beginning in 1990, providing direction for the national community-based public health initiative.

The 17th Annual Godfrey M. Hochbaum Distinguished Lecture features Tom Coates, PhD on
What to Do Next in HIV Prevention
Wednesday, April 8, 2009
4:00 pm
Rosenau Auditorium

Faculty Updates

Noel Brewer is collaborating with health directors in 13 North Carolina counties on a social marketing intervention to increase HPV vaccination in adolescent girls. This collaboration is just one part of Dr. Brewer's research on HPV vaccine use with several populations including rural parents in North Carolina, US men who have sex with men, and parents in Botswana.

Congratulations to **Carolyn Crump** (PhD 1993) on her recent promotion to research associate professor! Dr. Crump continues to head Healthy Solutions and serve as PI of the Exchange Project.

Jo Anne Earp guest-edited the March-April 2009 issue of the North Carolina Medical Journal along with **Elizabeth French**, the Department's assistant director of academic affairs. The theme of their guest commentary is patient advocacy, which is the subject of a textbook that the two published in 2006 with alumna **Melissa Gilkey** (MPH 2005), who also contributed to this edition of the NCMJ. Indeed, many other alumnae wrote articles, including **Linda Kinsinger** (MPH 1990), **Katie Emmet Patsakhom** (MPH 2006), and **Florence Siman** (MPH 1992). Two alumni from Epidemiology were involved in the effort: Laura Hanson and Michael Pignone, who is a member of HBHE's adjunct faculty. Two second-year MPH students were also published in the journal: **Katie Cravens** and **Chloe Katz**. Recent HBHE grad Christine Nielsen (MPH 2008) is managing editor of the NCMJ.

Ed Fisher serves as Global Director of Peers for Progress, the international program to promote peer support for diabetes management. "Peers" recently announced that it is funding 14 evaluation and pilot projects on six continents at a total of \$7 million. **Renee Boothroyd** and **Kate Nelson** (MPH 2006) are key staff in the Peers for Progress Program Development Center, located in the Department. HBHE faculty members **Jo Anne Earp**, **Geni Eng**, **Laura Linnan**, **Suzanne Maman**, and **Deb Tate** all serve as faculty consultants, and HBHE doctoral student **Zulfiya Chariyeva** is helping with development of curricula and program materials. For more on Peers, go to peersforprogress.org.

At the beginning of the year **Carol Golin** was promoted to associate professor on the tenure track. Among her many projects, Dr. Golin is currently PI on several ROIs, including SafeTalk, which a number of HBHE students and alumni have worked on, and a grant to assess the needs of those infected with HIV in India. She is also director of the Social and Behavioral Sciences Core for the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) in the School of Medicine.

Laura Linnan and her team have ongoing worksite-based research taking place in fourteen North Carolina universities. Phase 1 organized employee wellness committees to help with strategic planning and implementation of a comprehensive worksite wellness program. Phase 2 enrolled over 1000 overweight employees across campuses into a group randomized trial to test two different weight loss interventions: a web-based weight loss program (developed by **Deb Tate**, Co-I) and cash incentives. Laura and her team are at the half-way mark of the five-year study funded by NHLBI; Carolyn Naseer is project manager of Way for Health.

Dr. Linnan also has three new initiatives underway as part of her ongoing community-based work in beauty salons and barbershops. One is a physical activity intervention in development that will be tested in Black barbershops (with **Wizdom Powell Hammond** and post-doc **Paul Reiter** collaborating). She also has formative research underway in Latina beauty salons (along with **Clare Barrington** and collaborators at the U of Miami, including Erin Kobetz (PhD 2004)), and an evaluation of continuing education workshops offered to licensed cosmetologists. Many HBHE students are involved in both the worksite and community-based projects.

Suzanne Maman is working on two HIV prevention projects in sub-Saharan Africa. One 5-year study in Durban, South Africa is evaluating an integrated model of HIV counseling for pregnant women that combines clinical with psychosocial support and provides ongoing support to women in the post-partum period. The second study in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is exploring venue-based approaches to work with young men to reduce HIV risk and gender-based violence. HBHE doctoral students **Allison Groves** and **Nina Yamanis** are involved in these two studies. Dr. Maman is sponsoring two MPH students to work in Durban and Dar es Salaam this summer with the field teams on these projects.

Adjunct Faculty

HBHE recently welcomed **Godfrey Woelk**, PhD to its adjunct faculty. Dr. Woelk is a senior research epidemiologist in the international health program within RTI's statistics and epidemiology unit. He has broad experience in international public health, especially in various facets of the prevention and mitigation of HIV and AIDS.

Adjunct faculty member **Mary Davis**, DrPH was recently awarded a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation that will examine the impact of local health department accreditation on health indicators and outcomes in local health departments. HBHE alums **Molly Cannon** (MPH 1999) and **Liz Mahanna** (MPH 2008), who work at the NC Institute for Public Health's Evaluation Services unit, will review data, conduct case studies, and prepare reports for the project. HBHE's own **Mike Bowling**, PhD has been named co-investigator with Dr. Davis.

Olivia Silber Ashley and Vangie Foshee Collaborate on Major Grant

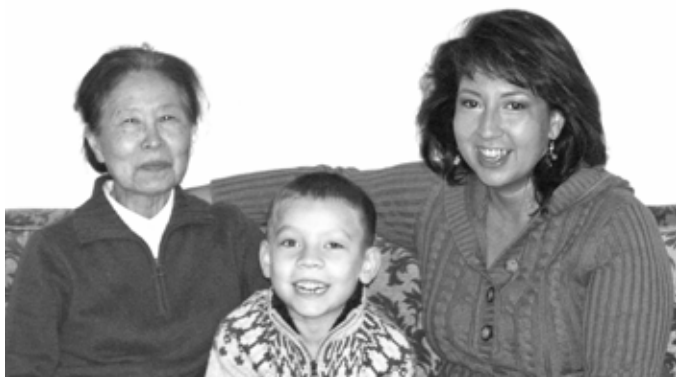
A lumna Olivia Silber Ashley (DrPH 2000) from Research Triangle Institute International and HBHE professor Vangie Foshee (PhD 1989), Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, were awarded \$2.25 million in June 2008 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to evaluate RWJF's Building Healthy Teen Relationships Initiative.

This initiative was developed by RWJF to address the need for more broad-based community efforts to prevent adolescent relationship violence, with the ultimate goal of preventing intimate partner violence.

"We're especially delighted to have gotten support for this project because of the magnitude of the effort," said Dr. Foshee. "RWJ has so far funded 11 sites across the United States. The project focuses on decreasing relationship violence and increasing positive, protective relationship skills among kids in their tweens and early teens (ages 10-14). It's a rare opportunity to be able to measure the impact of such a significant effort – one aimed at multiple social levels – and we're excited about the challenge."

"Working on this project as a Co-Investigator will be especially rewarding," said Dr. Foshee, "because Dr. Ashley is both a national leader in this area and an alumna from our program."

Olivia and Vangie will be conducting an implementation, effectiveness, and sustainability evaluation of this important national initiative.



Olivia Silber Ashley (R) with seven-year-old son, Ben, and mother, Eva Silber, who retired from RTI last year.

The Department thanks the HBHE Alumni Section for helping to underwrite the printing costs for this newsletter.

Thank you!

Staff Updates

We've seen some very fine staff members depart over the past few years, including Leslie Cornell, Lynnette Omar, Kate Shirah, and Cat Vorick. While it can be difficult when staff members leave, it also gives us a chance to work with some new people whom we'd like to introduce to you.

Not only is **Kim Chantala** new to the department, so is her position as departmental data manager. She came to us from the department of Biostatistics' Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center. Kim received her MS from the University of Colorado Health Science Center.

Megan Ellenson is a 2008 graduate of the MPH program. Meg became our new field coordinator in time for the fall semester. Meg grew up in Chapel Hill and is happy to find a job near home and be able to keep up with some of the projects she began while she was a HBHE student (*see next page*).

Native North Carolinian **Cheryl Gerringer** worked at the Injury Prevention Research Center for several years before joining the team as Departmental Manager at the end of 2008. The mother of two sons, Cheryl is a graduate of Elon University.

Helena Mullen is the Administrative Assistant to the chair. She earned her BA in English from the University of Minnesota and was a stay-at-home mom with her three children prior to joining the Department.

Even with these changes on our small staff, there are still many familiar faces. Judging by the favorable and numerous responses received from an email sent to alumni at the beginning of the year, **Linda Cook** is a name that virtually everyone remembers. Elizabeth French, Laura Pearson, Robin Perkins, and Phylliss Woody are still here, too!



Elizabeth French with Dr. Jo Anne Earp

Elizabeth and **Robin** were both presented with Employee Forum Peer Recognition awards last fall. They each received the "Call of Duty Award" intended for those employees who go above and beyond. The Department was delighted to recognize their hard work and dedication.

Recent Grad (and Now Employee) Serves State in Big Way

Megan Ellenson (MPH 2008), newly hired Field Coordinator for the Department, has been making a difference in the lives of refugees from Burma who have settled in North Carolina over the past decade. Strowd Roses, Inc., a non-profit foundation dedicated to supporting the greater community of Chapel Hill and Carrboro, funded a grant application that Meg developed on behalf of the Art Therapy Institute. Specifically, Strowd Roses is supporting an initiative, written as part of Meg's master's paper, that is helping to fund an art therapy intervention culturally tailored for refugee children from Burma living in Chapel Hill and Carrboro, NC. Within the last ten years, the population of refugees from Burma has grown exponentially, while few resources are available to help support their transition.



Meg's passion for working with refugees from Burma began during an Action-Oriented Community Diagnosis (AOCD) conducted with fellow students (and now grads) **Becky Cathcart, Caytie Decker, Anna Schurmann, Michael Schwarz, and Neha Singh**. Among the team's findings was the recognition that community members underuse services because they often have difficulty accessing health care, especially mental health services.

"Art therapy is an alternative to conventional forms of psychotherapy that is potentially less threatening and more accessible to refugee children," explains Meg. Verbal psychotherapies can be less effective with refugee children who may be unfamiliar with Western concepts and beliefs regarding mental health. "Also," said Meg, "these children may not have the vocabulary to talk about their thoughts and feelings in their native language, let alone the language of their host country."

Meg continued, "Art therapy can help refugee children construct meaning and identity, work through their losses, come to terms with traumas, and reestablish social ties broken by repression. Also, the process of art-making in a group setting can promote social and emotional development and improve self-esteem. Seen in this light, art therapy can prevent emotional and behavioral problems and aid in children's academic success."

Art therapists Ilene Sperling and Kristin Linton began weekly art therapy sessions with refugee youth from Burma in a self-contained classroom at Chapel Hill High in January after receiving additional funding from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation in December.

HBHE Meets FB!

UNC HBHE Alumni Group on Facebook

You've likely heard of Facebook even if you're not on the widely popular social networking website. The site was once mostly popular for college students and youth, but is now accessed by millions of people daily and is open for everyone over the age of 13.

The Health Behavior and Health Education group on Facebook was created in February 2008 as an online community for alumni to reconnect, meet new friends, network for job opportunities, and share relevant information. Membership is growing slowly, though we already have over 80 members, and still counting!

If you are interested in joining, all you have to do is follow these simple steps:

- 1) Create a Facebook account at www.facebook.com (it's free and fairly simple to set up).
- 2) In the search function, look up "groups."
- 3) Type in "UNC HBHE Alumni."
- 4) Then, click on the active blue link to "Join this group."
- 5) The rest is up to you... reconnect with long-lost alumni and make friends with new ones. Feel free to post on the "wall" and share pictures, links, etc.

We look forward to new members and hope you will join and spread the word. See you on Facebook!

"We were really able to see – with just a simple art activity to get to know the students and their names – how art will be a great modality for these kids," said Ms. Sperling. "Already we have images of the war in their country and also images of the refugee camps where they were living."

Meg received the University's prestigious Robert E. Bryan Public Service Award for 2008, also for her outstanding work for refugees from Burma.

"Meg is the essence of a HBHE grad," said Interim Chair Jo Anne Earp, who was first reader on Meg's master's paper. "She was the one who conceived of the idea for developing an arts therapy curriculum for refugees from Burma; it didn't emerge directly from her AOCD experience. Yet arts therapy wasn't really a subject Meg knew much about initially. She did extensive research on the topic, developed *such* an innovative set of activities, and then made the connections with the Arts Therapy Institute and the public schools to build support for the curriculum. All these efforts helped ensure that her grant was a 'home run' when she submitted it to Strowd Roses. This support, together with the additional funding from the Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, really speaks to the quality of Meg's work. We're so pleased to call her one of our own."

MPH Program Changes

The Department has made extensive revisions to the MPH program based on a comprehensive review of the curriculum. Revisions were informed by a benchmark study of program requirements from 11 peer institutions and survey results from key stakeholders (faculty, students, employers, practicum preceptors, and YOU!). In light of the most current competency requirements from, among others, the Association of Schools of Public Health, the following changes were made to the HBHE MPH program. We:

- reduced the number of required HBHE course credit hours to add more flexibility for students to pursue certificates and electives of interest,
- established new course sequencing,
- added new courses: Introduction to Public Health; Professional Development Series; Capstone I; Capstone II; Capstone Deliverable,
- allowed students to select a 200, 300, or 400 hour practicum,
- replaced the master's paper requirement with a Capstone deliverable,
- eliminated our practice and research track options,
- developed and implemented new advising and mentoring guidelines and reviewed them extensively with all faculty and students

The new capstone course will be rolled out for the first time in fall 2009. The capstone is based on the Department's long tradition of fieldwork as an important learning opportunity for students. This project gives students the opportunity to synthesize knowledge acquired in academic and other venues and apply that learning to a public health problem. Over the course of two semesters, teams of 3-6 students will partner with a defined community organization and/or research team and negotiate a set of "deliverables" based on the real-world needs of the capstone partners.

"In my many years in Health Behavior and Health Education," said Interim Chair Jo Anne Earp, "I've seen our master's program undergo quite a number of curriculum revisions. I've never seen a program modification this thoroughly or thoughtfully done. Perhaps because the process was so exquisitely participatory, with input from alumni, community partners and preceptors as well as staff, students and faculty, and so thoroughly discussed, the new program has emerged, in my mind, as the most exciting iteration of our master's curriculum as I've seen in the 35 years I've been a faculty member in HBHE." Dr. Earp urges all alumni of our MPH program to take a look at the website where many documents emerging from this process are being posted.

New MSPH to PhD Program

The master's program is not the only degree program in HBHE to undergo major changes. Starting with the 2009 admissions season, the Department is launching its new MSPH-to-PhD Program. This streamlined degree was created for applicants with a bachelor's degree (but without an MPH or other master's degree) to be admitted directly to the doctoral program.

"The new program is really designed for people who know, even before they've earned their master's degrees, that they want to pursue the doctorate," said Doctoral Program Director Susan Ennett.

"In other words," Susan continued, "some students just graduating with a BA or BS have considerable research training and skills, and a good idea of what earning a doctorate entails. Similarly, we sometimes see applicants with lots of research experience but with only a bachelor's degree. In the past, these types of applicants have turned us down to go to other competitive programs that offer master's-to-doctoral degrees."

Students in the new degree track will earn the Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degree before completing the requirements to receive the PhD. "During their first year," said Susan, "they'll take required courses with other entering master's students. During their second and third years, they'll join doctoral students in completing required courses for the PhD." Other requirements for the MSPH include a research practicum culminating in a publishable manuscript and passing their master's comps. Similar to other doctoral students, for the dissertation these students will conduct original research on a contemporary public health problem or issue relevant to health behavior and health education.

"It's important to understand," noted Susan, "that the program isn't designed to offer a stand-alone MSPH. Students wanting to earn simply a master's degree from our Department still need to apply to the MPH Program."

"The new MSPH-to-PhD program offers lots of benefits," said Associate Professor Kurt Ribisl. "It will attract applicants who know, right out of the gate, that they want to be researchers and that they want to earn a doctorate. Also, students and faculty alike will benefit from the extended mentoring opportunities the program will provide."

The program is being piloted this year, so only 3 students have been admitted to it for fall 2009. Next year, however, it will be in full swing, with as many as 5 students enrolling. "We're going to promote the program in the coming year," said Kurt, "and we hope alumni will really help us get the word out." You can learn more about the MSPH-to-PhD Program on the HBHE website at

www.sph.unc.edu/hbhedegrees_and_certificate_212_6763.html.

HBHE Students Lead in Minority Health Conference

Students in the Department played a large part in the 30th Minority Health Conference held on February 27. HBHE students Stephanie Baker and Kevin Wu co-chaired year's event, with many sub-committees headed by our students. Doctoral students, Bahby Banks and Malika Roman Isler conducted break-out sessions. HBHE assistant professor Arjumand Siddiqi gave a talk in the health and social policies section on health disparities across nations.

The topic of the conference was building health equity, especially the role of internet-based programs in improving health education and training. Barbara C. Wallace, professor of health education at Columbia University's Teachers College, delivered the keynote address titled, "Our World, Our Community: Building Bridges for Health Equality."

"Overall the conference was fantastic," said co-chair Stephanie Baker, "there has been a lot of positive feedback from on-site and on-line participants and I think we were successful at creating additional dialogue about the importance of health equality everywhere. It was especially great having so many students in our department participated with conference planning. Health Behavior and Health Education was well represented this year!"

Indeed, in addition to those student mentioned above, twenty-four HBHE students were involved with everything from publicity to fundraising to serving as committee members for the conference, which is sponsored by the Minority Health Caucus at the School.

Leah Perkinson Receives Kerr Award

Second-year MPH student Leah Perkinson is the 2008 winner of the Kathryn J. Kerr Memorial Scholarship. This award recognizes a second year master's student with a demonstrated commitment to community health education practice. "I am thrilled about it," commented Perkinson. "It's such an honor to be nominated for and receive the award."

For more than a decade, Perkinson has worked with community-based organizations advocating for social change, particularly social justice for women and the GLBTQ community. These groups include: the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Orange County Rape Crisis Center; Chatham County Family Violence and Rape Crisis Center; Helpmate Domestic Violence Agency of Buncombe County; and the Orange County Women's Center. As HBHE faculty member Dr. Beth Moracco put it, "Leah's activism is an integral part of her life."

At UNC, as a Research Assistant for the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Perkinson researched and prepared the

first comprehensive document on known North Carolina domestic violence-related homicides.

"That report," said Beth, "acted as one of the catalysts that initiated formation of the first House Select Committee on Domestic Violence within the NC House of Representatives. The report format continues to be used by the 90 domestic violence service providers in NC as well as by newspapers, television reporters and legislators."

This past summer, Perkinson was one of a handful of students selected for the Carolina Center for Public Service's Robert E. Bryan Fellowship.



Leah at Camp Dragonfly

With that funding, Leah developed and implemented Project DIVE, Developing swimming skills, and Invoking Voice t h r o u g h Empowerment, a youth development project integrated into Chatham County's Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services Camp Dragonfly. By

including swimming lessons, photovoice, and creative arts and crafts activities in the camp curricula, Project DIVE facilitates positive youth development in the lives of children ages 6-17 who are primary and secondary victims of violence.

Kathy Kerr was a 1984 MPH graduate of the Department. Until her untimely death in 1995, Kathy was seen by many of her colleagues as embodying what it means to be committed to public health causes. She was a tireless advocate on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS, injection drug users, and gays and lesbians. She also had a great commitment to women's health issues.

The Kathryn J. Kerr Memorial Scholarship was established over 10 years ago by Kathy's friends and family. Betsy Randall David, a HBHE adjunct faculty member who knew Kathy well, continues to support the award. Of this year's award winner, Randall-David writes: "Leah is just the sort of person who exemplifies the ideals and values held in highest regard by Kathy. She is a person of high integrity, deep commitment, and firmly held beliefs about the importance of doing social justice work."

Achievements of past award winners demonstrate that Perkinson is in good company. "I'm excited to learn of others who have gone before me and to find out what they're doing. As an aside, I played rugby at UNC back in 1997 with one of my Kerr Award predecessors, Kim Chapman. She's great! And I'm especially excited about meeting Kathy's parents. That should be pretty special."

Doctoral Student's Photo on Display

A photograph taken by HBHE doctoral student Lisa Parker was accepted in the Center for Global Initiatives Photography Exhibition and was on display in the FedEx Global Education Center galleries this winter. Each year the Center for Global Initiatives hosts an amateur photography competition to celebrate International Education Week. Entries are judged on both the ability to represent a cross-cultural/international experience and artistic merit.

Lisa is currently finishing up coursework and working part-time with Dr. Audrey Pettifor in the Department of Epidemiology as the project coordinator for a NIH-funded research study based in South Africa that focuses on HIV prevention among couples. She has also been involved in international projects in Malawi and the Democratic Republic of Congo. About the photograph she tells us, "During a visit to a makeshift silversmith factory in Niamey, Niger, where I worked prior to coming back to graduate school at UNC, I saw this young girl outside wearing a traditional cloth printed with AIDS (SIDA in French) messages. I found this to be striking as Niger is one of the few African countries that still has a chance to avoid a more generalized epidemic with focused prevention efforts. I felt this young girl symbolized the hope of HIV prevention."



Many Other Doctoral Students Work Abroad

Lisa is just one of many HBHE doctoral students who have worked overseas. The following list includes a few of them and their most recent international work:

Caryl Feldacker spent last summer in Malawi conducting field research for her dissertation, an exploration of the associations between people and place in the context of HIV. She successfully defended her dissertation in March.

Ali Groves is involved in research on HIV testing and psychosocial support for pregnant women in South Africa. She is also leading a project this summer to develop case studies of women's HIV testing experience under an opt-in model of HIV testing in two antenatal clinics in Durban.

Nina Yamanis spent a year in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania for her dissertation research. Her study describes geographic and social influences on HIV risk behavior among young men. In her dissertation she describes the social venues where young men at risk for HIV spend time and measures patterns of sexual partnerships among the young men in these venues.

Christina Holub assisted with initial start-up of a formative study to develop effective prevention interventions for HIV positive youth in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Her dissertation explores the role of parental monitoring on the sexual behavior of HIV positive youth in that country.

Elizabeth King received a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Fellowship to conduct her research on female injecting drug users who are also engaged in commercial sex in St. Petersburg, Russia. She is exploring the barriers and facilitators that these women face when seeking HIV prevention services.

Jamie Newman has served as the Sustainable Antiretroviral Access (SARA) project coordinator since September 2007. The SARA Project is a family-centered HIV care and treatment program in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Her dissertation research explores the relationship between social support, perceived stigma, and quality of life among HIV patients by adapting scales developed elsewhere to the DRC context.

Sarah Wyckoff has funding from the Soros Foundations' Open Society Institute for her dissertation study to examine women's experiences during pregnancy with HIV testing in Kenya.

India Ornelas is participating in the International Exchange Program at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine's Instituto Nacional de Salud Publica (Cuernavaca, Mexico).

Zulfiya Chariyeva is studying breastfeeding promotion in Upper Egypt. Zulfiya also conducted a research study in her home country of Turkmenistan to examine HIV-related knowledge and practices of street- and brothel-based sex workers.

Dr. Suzanne Maman sums it up well, "HBHE doctoral students are making very important contributions to understanding the social and behavioral determinants of health in low resource settings. Many of our students start their doctoral program with many years of international work experience. This experience helps them conceptualize important research questions and feasible study designs. The results of their research are getting published in great journals and they are presenting their findings at high profile national and international conferences."

The Department commends all HBHE students for their devotion to health programs both abroad and domestically. The efforts of the students highlighted make manifest the "Global" in the School's new name—the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health.

alumni news

From the Section President

Lindsay Bickers Bock (MPH 2004)



Hello HBHEs!

I hope 2009 has been going well for you. Along with all the other adventures this year is bound to bring, we're glad to revive the HBHE Newsletter. We've heard that you've missed getting updates about what's happening in the department and amongst fellow

classmates, so we're getting going again with an issue focused on all the transitions that have happened since we last published a newsletter. In this issue you'll find news about the School's new name, the restructured master's program, new faculty members, and research activities happening within the department. Also, as you'd expect, HBHE alums all over the country are doing exciting things. We hope to profile more of what everyone is up to as we hear from you. If you have comments, suggestions for themes for future issues, updates on what's new in your life, please e-mail us at hbhenews@gmail.com.

Also, we hope the newsletter will provide an avenue to let you know about all of the ways you can get involved with the Department as an alum. With the new master's curriculum, new opportunities abound for involvement as a practicum mentor, a capstone project host, a guest lecturer and more! And don't think you're limited in opportunities to get involved if you live outside the Triangle area. Our students are looking for practica across the US and all over the world, and recent grads are always glad to have a point of contact as they move to a new area. We're also on the look-out for alums who might like to work with the alumni section or serve on the SPH Alumni Association's Executive Board. If you're interested in serving in these capacities, e-mail me at lindseyb@gmail.com. And if you're just interested in catching up with friends, see page 8 to get info about the new HBHE alumni Facebook group, which includes events coordinated by the HBHE Social Committee. Whatever you're up to, we hope the HBHE Newsletter will help you identify new ways that work for you to give back to our community and connect with some great new people along the way.

If you have a practicum or capstone opportunity you'd like to pitch, we'd love to hear from you. Simply contact Megan Ellenson, the Department's new field coordinator, at ellenson@email.unc.edu.

Reconnecting with Bernice Otudeko

Bernice Otudeko (MSPH 1966) has lived in Mountain View, California in Santa Clara County for many years. She retired in December 2007 after 35 years of service with the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System. During her decades of service to the county, Bernice worked in various programs in the Departments of Public Health and Alcohol and Drug Services.

She tells us, "The position I enjoyed most in public health was the coordination of the Immunization Assistance Program that enforced and monitored school immunization compliance stopping measles outbreaks in Santa Clara County Schools."

During her last few years with Santa Clara, Bernice was a health educator for the Perinatal Substance Abuse Program, where she enjoyed working directly with clients teaching health and parenting classes. One of the parenting classes was a special eight week sign-up class called "Mommy and Me" where mothers brought their babies and learned ways to improve their parenting skills.

Because of her work with mothers in substance abuse treatment, Bernice realized the considerable substance abuse problem suffered by a large number of women in this country and how many children are being impacted by it. This realization and concern led her to volunteer to help with this serious social problem.

"One of the things I remember learning from Dr. Lucy Morgan," comments Bernice, "was to really pay attention to what is going on around you. Another concept I remember learning at UNC was to assist people in identifying what their problems are. By doing this you get better and healthier outcomes to improve their lives."

In looking around to see how she could use her education and years of work experiences, Bernice discovered the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program. She is assigned to Santa Clara County Superior Court's Family Wellness Court, which is a special five year demonstration grant that is testing the outcome for parent(s) and children in foster care when they are provided multiple agency support and resources.

As a CASA in Family Wellness Court, Bernice works not only for the best interest of the child, but also with parents to help them stay clean and sober. She finds the work to be both very interesting and very challenging. "I work for the best outcome for child and parent, which could be loss of parental rights to protect the welfare of the child."



alumni

WHO'S DOING WHAT

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*We love to hear from alumni!
Thanks to everyone who sent in an
update or photos. If you'd like to
share your news with us in the next
edition of the HBHE News,
please send an email to
hbhenews@gmail.com
or mail in the info on page 23.*
.....

We recently had the pleasure of speaking with **Mazie Levenson** (MSPH 1945) who tells us that she remains committed to environmental issues, especially as they relate to public health. For many years she worked as a citizen in water issues in Guilford County and was an early member of Clean Water for North Carolina for which she remains a booster. She also supports the Piedmont Land Conservancy. After many, many years in Greensboro, NC, Ms. Levenson now lives in Winston-Salem.

Lytt I. Gardner (MPH 1973) has been an epidemiologist with three different federal agencies since 1982. Most recently he has been with the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV, Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Tuberculosis at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA for the past nine years. Lytt has two daughters aged 19 (sophomore at Emory University) and 24 (2nd year graduate student in geology at the University of Georgia in Athens).

George Pakenham (MPH 1976) is one of the deputy directors of the NC Office of Rural Health Services based in Raleigh, NC.

"Life is busy and happy," writes **Susan Ford Dorsey** (MPH 1977) who remarks

on how much has changed since she graduated from HBHE. From her first job at Charlotte Memorial Hospital to working as CEO of Health Innovations, Susan is now the director of her family's foundation that she headed up in the early nineties after getting married and having her son, Tommy. Her first husband died when Tommy was five. Tammy remarried a "wonderful" man several years later. Tommy is now a freshman in high school! She also has two amazing step children, Alison and Jonny, both in their early twenties.

Salli Benedict (MPH 1978) is the project director for Threads of Hope, which strives to improve economic and health conditions for rural North Carolina women through entrepreneurship. She has three grandchildren and another one on the way. Salli just reached the thirty year mark working for UNC.

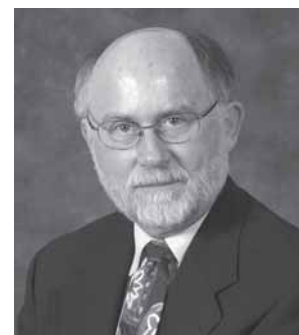
Kathryn Haynes (MPH 1978) works as executive director to the Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, developing and coordinating the implementation of waste policy for a six-state region. She lives in Raleigh, NC with her husband, Chuck Haynes, with whom she shares a love of travel, snow skiing and boating. Last year Kathryn began volunteering weekly as a truck driver for the Interfaith Food Shuttle in Raleigh, an organization that fights hunger by rescuing perishable food from hundreds of donors and delivering it to 209 programs in seven counties. She finds lifting heavy boxes of food into a refrigerator truck to be a refreshing contrast to sitting at a desk.

Debbie Pursell (BSPH 1979) lives in Loveland, Colorado and says she is looking for a public health or related job.

After a number of years working outside of health care, **Doug Eader** (MPH 1980) returned to clinical research in 2005, spent a few years as a clinical research coordinator at the Duke University Brain Tumor Center and then moved on to INC Research, a Raleigh-based clinical research organization, where he is currently employed.

Nancy Epstein (MPH 1980) confesses to living two professional lives ... simultaneously. She works at the Drexel University School of Public Health, where she is an associate professor in the Department of Community Health and Prevention. Her other professional life is as the director of Congregational Relations for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation. She is a core group member of the Drexel Center for Non-Violence and Social Justice and also serves on the board of the Philadelphia Arts and Spirituality Center. Nancy was ordained as a rabbi in 2006. She has worked as a chaplain in various hospital and geriatric care facilities since then.

Since stepping down as associate dean for the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health, **Kenneth McLeroy** (PhD 1982) has served as Professor of Social and Behavioral Health, principal



investigator on a CDC-funded Prevention Research Center, and a large (P-20) disparities grant from the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities. In addition, he is active with a number of professional journals including the American Journal of Public Health.

Patrick J. Kelly, CAPT, MSC, USN (MPH 1982) joined the Navy as a health care administrator in 1983 and is now chief of staff of Navy Medicine West. He tells us “I’ve had an unbelievably rewarding professional career and have had many good opportunities for travel, to take on challenging assignments and meet many, many good people in the Navy and at my duty stations in the continental US and the Pacific.” Pat also wrote that he “even” gets the chance to apply some of the research methods he learned long ago while working on his master’s paper with Jo Anne Earp!

Edna Davis-Brown (MPH 1983) is the director of the Behavioral and Social Science Volunteer Program for the American Psychological Association. She also serves as president of her family’s small foundation, the Gregory B. Davis Foundation, which was formed in honor of her youngest sibling who died of AIDS in 2000. She and her husband, James, live in Silver Spring, Maryland.



George Linial (MPH 1983) has served as president and CEO of the Texas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging in Austin, Texas since 2001.

Becky Raymond (MPH 1984) is married to Mike Stangl (UNC master’s in Environmental Science and Engineering, 1984). The couple lives in Averill Park, N.Y. outside of Albany and has two children, Sarah, a freshman at Guilford College in Greensboro and Dan, a graduate of Emerson College, doing a year with the VISTA Communication and Technology Corps in San Francisco. Becky works for the New York State Department of Health as a program manager in the Bureau of Child and Adolescent Health. She works closely with former HBHE faculty member **Rosalind Thomas** (MPH 1975). Mike owns a solar energy

company. Here’s a photo from a recent visit to Switzerland.



DeVetta Holman Nash (MPH 1985) is the associate director of Counseling and Wellness Services (CWS) for Primary Prevention and Wellness at UNC’s Campus Health Services where she works to promote social, personal, and academic growth of students. DeVetta received the chancellor’s Student Undergraduate Teacher and Staff Award in spring 2008. She was also recently recognized by two student groups as being a stellar faculty advisor and mentor: the NAACP and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Nansi Greger-Holt (MPH 1986) is both a health educator and a family and geriatric nurse practitioner. She lives in Chatham County, working half time as a nurse practitioner at the Minute Clinic (retail clinic in CVS pharmacies) and half time as a geriatric care manager.

Dennis Joyner (1984 BSPH, 1986 MPH) is finding that life has a way of getting more and more complicated with age. Over three years ago he became the health director in Stanly County, NC, just east of Charlotte. He writes that “After all these years, I still love working in public health and often find moments reflecting on the lessons I learned (or, sometimes should have learned) in the HBHE program.”



Kathy Teer Crumpler (MPH 1985) lives in Hampstead, NC in Pender County. She is self-employed, contracting with the NC School Health Training Center based out of Appalachian State University and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction to provide training around the state in a variety of health education and prevention programs, primarily for school teachers and staff, some community-based agency members and, most recently, parents of adolescents.

Erma Manoncourt (PhD 1986) bids us “Warm Greetings from the City of Pyramids.” She is still in Cairo serving as the UNICEF country representative and is glad to report that Egypt is a “good performing” country in reducing child mortality and is on track to meet the Millennium Development Goal by 2015. Besides overseeing work in young child survival and development, child protection, girls’ education, adolescent development and HIV/AIDS prevention, Erma also tries to find much needed time to slip away “from it all” and decompress. Where to go? “The desert of course. This one shows me at one of the Luxor sites.”



Robert Goodman (PhD 1987) is dean of the School of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Indiana University in Bloomington. The School has a large global health program which keeps him on the road. In the past year Bob has visited the Dominican Republic, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Turkey. *(There is a photo of Bob in Turkey on the cover.)*



Grace Sandeno (MPH 1987) has been at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment on and off (mostly on) since 1989. About four years ago she started managing the trauma program for the state of Colorado. Grace writes, “While I always knew, at some level, that legislation could influence the health of the public (smoking bans, for example), I didn’t realize the long-term effects that even small changes can make. Our trauma community, through a consensus process(!), came up with some of the strongest injury prevention regulations for trauma centers around the country. Level I and II trauma centers have agreed to and will be evaluated on their injury prevention efforts, which must include: prevention efforts based on needs demonstrated in their own data; efforts that are evidence-based or at least best practices; project evaluation; and technical assistance to lower level trauma facilities. This replaces a requirement to do ‘injury prevention.’” On the homefront Grace has four kids, three cats, one husband and no plans to add any more family members. The kids are now 11, 10, 9, and 5 and are (most of the time) great.

Kimbal Babcock (MPH 1988) is the emergency preparedness manager for the Coconino County Health Department in Flagstaff, Arizona. Kim writes, “Over my 20 years with the county I have worked in childhood injury prevention, HIV education, and HIV case management. I then managed the divisions of health education, clinical services, environmental services and now emergency preparedness. Either I am the ‘king of lateral transfers’ or I just can’t keep a job!”

Ann Bainbridge Frymier (MPH 1988) and **Jeff Frymier** (MPH 1988) got married in 1990 and currently live in Oxford, Ohio. Jeff is the director for human resources at Henny Penny Corporation, which builds food service equipment — their fryers can be found in KFCs and Wendys all over the world. Ann is the associate dean of the

Graduate School and a professor of Communication at Miami University. They have two children, Julia who is 12 and Nicholas who is 9. Ann says that she and Jeff have fond memories of Chapel Hill and would like to visit sometime. She also wonders what her fellow cohort member, **Jane Mezzoff**, is up to these days.... Family picture taken



in 2007 – “We haven’t changed too much since then.”



Rachmat Hargono (MPH 1988) is from Indonesia where he works at the School of Public Health at the University of Airlangga Surabaya in the Health Promotion and Health Behavior Department. In addition, Rachmat has been serving as HIV/AIDS program officer for UNICEF since August 2005; his contract with them ends in October 2009.

Cynthia Jorgensen (DrPH 1988) is going on her 20th year at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She started working at the CDC in HIV/AIDS prevention in 1989, went over to the chronic disease center for 10 years, and recently returned to the world of “sex, drugs and rock n’ roll” in the Division of Viral Hepatitis, where she heads up the education, communication and training activities. Cynthia also teaches part-time at Emory University’s Rollins School of Public Health and enjoys traveling, scuba, tennis and

gardening in her spare time.

David Banks (MPH 1989) is a registered nurse who earned his MPH as well as a master’s in Social Work prior to earning his PhD in



Education. He has held academic positions including professor at the University of Maryland’s University College. David works as a health scientist administrator and director of training in the Office of Extramural Programs (OEP) at the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institutes of Health (NINR/NIH) and is currently assigned to the Acute and Long-Term Care, End of Life, and Training Section of OEP.

Forest Hazel (MPH 1989) administers the Homeland Preservation Project as project director for the Occaneechi Band of the Saponi Nation in Mebane, North Carolina.

Ramona Locklear Joseph (MPH 1989) lives with her husband and three children (ages 16, 14, and 11) in



Phoenix, Arizona where she is a captain in the United States Public Health Service, stationed at the Phoenix Indian Medical Center and works as a certified nurse midwife.

Shirley Martin (MPH 1989) says she is happily retired in beautiful suburban Sanford, NC where she keeps herself busy doing peer reviews for the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, working as a

volunteer tax preparer with the AARP Tax-Aide program, creating a quilt for each of her five grandchildren (she's on the last one!), and gearing up to continue the quilt project for her two great-grandchildren.

Paula Poe (BSPH 1989) is still involved in catering, teaching cooking classes, speaking, and tutoring. She has a new business called Kitchen 14 Catering in Hillsborough, North Carolina where she has built a new commercial catering facility (www.kitchen14.com). Her new business partner and son, Scott Poe, who is a recent graduate of New England Culinary Institute at Palm Beach, Florida, wanted a less fluffy name for the business, which had been called Simply Irresistible Catering for many years. On another note, Paula is going to be a grandmother soon!

Mary Beth Bell (MPH 1990) spent a year living and working at the beach and is now back at UNC-Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center as a project manager for the Carolina Breast Cancer Study, Phase III. Known as the Jeanne Lucas Hopkins Study, it is a continuation of an epidemiologic study that will enroll an additional 2000 women with breast cancer from 44 counties in North Carolina over the next four years. Whenever possible, she and husband Henry still enjoy spending time at their "retirement" house near Holden Beach.

Linda Kinsinger (MPH 1990) works for the Veterans Health Administration as chief consultant for preventive medicine in the Office of Patient Care Services. In this position, she leads the National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention for the VA, a field-based national program office located in Durham, NC. The long-term goal for her group is to change VA culture so that both veterans and employees feel that health promotion and disease prevention activities are core features of the care they receive or provide in VA medical centers.

Ruth Ever (MPH 1991) has been working as the youth and family education coordinator at her local district attorney's office in western Massachusetts for the past three years. Congratulations to Ruth for winning the first annual Sara Cummings Community Leadership award! Ruth's children are now 9 and 12 years old. The family lives in a big old Victorian house that still needs lots of work, though it can accommodate visitors who are more than welcome!

Ruth says she wishes HBHE had a Facebook presence since "there's just no way that I can see for our class to reconnect except in person, and I just can't make it down to UNC anymore. I miss the intellectual/professional connection with colleagues..."

*In fact, HBHE **does** have an alumni Facebook Page. Please see page 8.*

Ashley Hanahan (MPH 1991) is a nurse practitioner for the Department of Veterans Affairs in Baltimore. She lives on a ten acre "farm" with her husband and 20 alpacas. She keeps in touch with HBHE classmates **Hayley Mark**, **Lisa (Coates) Muasher**, and **Johnsie (Page) Hubble** and still misses Chapel Hill.

Speaking of **Johnsie (Page) Hubble** (MPH 1991)... Johnsie has a job she loves as an infection control/occupational health nurse. Last year she was certified in infection control. Johnsie and her husband, Dr. Michael Hubble, published a book in the late 90s on trauma care for EMS professionals, which, of course, included injury prevention and epidemiology. The couple lives in Asheville, North Carolina, where Michael is a professor at Western Carolina University.

Debra Berry Campbell (MPH 1992) married Ted Campbell in July of 2007 in an apple orchard in Flat Rock, North Carolina. The couple lives in Asheville where Debra has been the executive

director of a continuing care retirement community since March 2005 and Tom works for the state as a hydrogeologist.



Debra and Ted Campbell

Debra tells us, "I love what I do, am thrilled to be back in North Carolina, and love living in the mountains." She also updated us on **Holly Jones** (MPH 1993) who is still the executive director of the Asheville YWCA and was elected to the Buncombe County Commission in November 2008. Holly has also served on the Asheville City Council and is well-respected in the area.

Jim Cowan (MSPH 1992) serves as allied health services director for the Rowan County Health Department (Salisbury, NC) and the coordinator for Healthy Rowan!—the community's state-certified Healthy Carolinians Task Force. As a lieutenant colonel in the Air Force Reserves, Jim is the public health director for the 315th Airlift Wing at Charleston, South Carolina AFB. In 2004, he deployed to Balad Air Base, Iraq, where he led programs that protected deployed airmen from disease and nonbattle illness and injury. The following year, he deployed to Afghanistan and served as a military medical mentor to the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Office of the Surgeon General-Preventive Medicine Directorate. He traveled extensively throughout the country, guiding the ANA in developing, fielding and funding preventive medicine policy, programs, equipment and personnel. With his wife Linda and their two sons, Jim lives in Concord, NC; their daughter is pursuing a bachelor's degree in public health education at UNC-Greensboro.

Carlton Duncan (MSPH 1992) has been detailed to the position of the director of CDC's Caribbean Regional

activities as of November 2008 after having served as the deputy chief operating officer for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention since 2004. In his new capacity, Carlton will direct and provide pivotal leadership and managerial support for all CDC functions in the Caribbean region.

Kathy Wood (BSPH 1992) works at UNC-Chapel Hill as the executive program manager of the alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate program, a NSF-sponsored initiative that works to promote underrepresented minority students into PhD programs. She particularly focuses on those students who pursue careers in academia after graduating.

Jennifer Schuster Jaeger (MPH 1993) is still in Minneapolis, Minnesota working for the Hennepin County Community Corrections department. She says that she is “applying some public health thinking to corrections. It’s lots of fun, thinking about public safety as a public good just like public health and trying to figure out how to maximize public safety.” Her home life includes a great husband and two boys, ages 7 and 5. Jennifer reports that she sees fellow alumnae **Hanna Cooper** (MPH 1993), **Stephanie Molliconi** (MPH 1993) and **Lara Pratt** (MPH 1994) around town.

Sandra Morgan Dalebout (MPH 1994) was recently promoted to director of monitoring and evaluation at Project HOPE in Millwood, Virginia. Sandy has been at Project HOPE for several years doing exciting work with her team



developing a low literacy data collection tool for use at the household level for their orphan and vulnerable children

project in Namibia and Mozambique. The project combines health education and micro-credit loans for families caring for orphaned children. The photo is from a 2008 trip to Namibia.

Heather Gray (MPH 1994) recently made a big career transition. After more than ten years as an evaluator for non-profits in New York City working with “girls at risk” (mostly teen pregnancy, substance use, HIV, and violence prevention), she now works as a life coach and writes about personal growth. For the past six years Heather has been studying and learning (and living) personal growth and working with clients “on the side.” Now she is devoting full time to this endeavor: www.spreadyourwingsandinspire.com

Leila Gupta (PhD 1994) and **Jay Zimmerman** (MPH 1992) live in Nairobi, Kenya with their two daughters Amelia (11) and Isabella (10). Jay is the regional refugee coordinator for Africa with the US State Department where he has worked since 2002. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, he was the country director for Save The Children-USA in Rwanda, Afghanistan, and Ethiopia. After graduating from HBHE, Leila worked for UNICEF in Rwanda as head of the Trauma Recovery Program and in Afghanistan as the psychosocial project manager. Leila currently provides technical support to the CDC’s HIV/AIDS project in the Kibera slums in Nairobi. She also volunteers at a local halfway house/orphanage for incarcerated women. The family plans to remain in Nairobi until 2012, so the girls can finish middle school; then they’ll bid on their next assignment for Africa or Asia.

Kathy Luchok (PhD 1994) just started a new position in January directing a program in Columbia, South Carolina to increase access to reproductive health care services in South Carolina. She has four years of funding for the program and is trying to place it at the University of South Carolina or in another agency.

Margo Michaels (MPH 1994) is (still) the executive director of the Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT), a non-profit education and advocacy organization she founded in 2004 (www.enacct.org). She is pleased to have alumna **Natasha Blakeney** (MPH 2000) serving as training director. On a personal note, Margo married her long term partner, Merav Opher, in 2007 and welcomed many HBHE friends at her celebration. The couple is expecting their first child in July.

Ann Gordon (MPH 1995) enjoys using her HBHE skills to design leadership and management programs for physicians at Kaiser Permanente. She is also involved in hospital performance improvement work. Living in Oakland, California, Ann is married to Brett Remy, a high school English teacher. The couple has a two year old daughter named Margo.



Ann and Margo

Cheryl (Allen) Moyer (MPH 1995) was accepted into the doctoral program in health services research in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and began coursework in fall 2008. She is still research director of Global REACH at the University of Michigan’s medical school’s international program, as well as research investigator in the Department of Medical Education.

Rick Neal (MPH 1995) left North Carolina in 1996 after managing the NC



Rick and Tom in Tibet

Community-based Public Health Initiative under the leadership of Jan Dodds and Geni Eng. He went on to work in Asia and Africa running public health projects with displaced people on and off until 2004.

[There's a picture of Neal in the Congo on the front cover of this newsletter.] Rick then left his fieldwork to settle in Washington, DC, where he studied international relations and conflict management at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. He got a terrific job as a humanitarian advocate with the non-profit group Refugees International. Rick met his husband Tom in 2006, and moved to Columbus, Ohio to be with him. The couple hopes to build a family this year with the help of a local adoption agency.

Bev Wiaczek (MPH 1995) is a nurse in the post anesthesia care unit (aka PACU, otherwise known as the recovery room) of a hospital in Missoula, Montana. Bev says that she is "...trying to combine my nursing and public health degrees."

Lisa Langhaug (MPH 1996) is still in Zimbabwe where she just completed work on a five year randomized control trial evaluating the effectiveness of a community adolescent reproductive health intervention among rural Zimbabwean youth. In the midst of the country's chaos Lisa finally gave up on the education system and, with the help of four other families, started her own school for her daughter Lauren who is now starting grade 6. Lisa plans to complete her own PhD by the end of March and (understandably) expects to be off the radar screen until late April. Once the thesis is in, she will turn her attention to getting another job!

Jason Smith (PhD 1996) currently serves as director of research utilization at Family Health International, where he provides strategic, technical and managerial leadership to FHI's efforts to expand and accelerate the uptake of evidence-based practices into reproductive health service delivery programs. Jason serves on the steering committee of the Implementing Best Practices Consortium, is an adjunct associate professor in HBHE, and is also an adjunct senior lecturer at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health in New York.

Benita Weathers (MPH 1996) is a senior project manager at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in the Department of Psychiatry, where she oversees all of the research studies being conducted through the Center for Community-based and Health Disparities Research. The Center studies the psychosocial effects of disease as related to health disparities



among African Americans in west and southwest Philadelphia. Here is a picture of Benita's family. The oldest child in the picture was born during her second year in the program and at that time was deemed the "HBHE Baby." She is now 13 and headed to high school next year!

Blair Benson (MPH 1997) is the executive director of the Mental Health Association in Greensboro, NC and involved with Hands of Hope.

Lumbé Davis (MPH 1997) recently celebrated her 11th anniversary with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She currently serves as a health education specialist with the division of STD Prevention. In this role, she is a project officer for the National Network of STD/HIV Prevention Training Centers. Lumbé also works on teams and workgroups committed to reducing health disparities and improving infrastructure and systems in the US-affiliated Pacific Islands. This summer she will spend three months overseas on assignment.

Wendy Sarratt (MPH 1997) is assistant director for special projects at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. She is also a student in UNC's executive doctoral program in public health leadership, expecting to earn her DrPH in Health Policy and Management in 2010.

Heidi Reynolds (MPH 1998) returned to the Carolina Population Center at UNC with the MEASURE Evaluation Project in January after spending seven years at Family Health International. Heidi is excited about her new position as senior technical specialist-HIV/AIDS. On the home front, she has completed the adoption of daughter Callia who arrived home in fall 2008. Her house is now filled with toddlers: 17 month old Nikko and 19 month old Callia.

Heather Altman (MPH 1999) lives in Chapel Hill with husband, James, and their two daughters, Sydney and Leah. For six years, Heather has worked at Carol Woods Retirement Community in Chapel Hill. She directs the Community Connections project, an initiative funded by the Duke Endowment to develop a model of collaborative, community-based services to increase coordination and support for older adults



MPH friends! From left: Sydney Altman, Debbie Grammer, Cindy (Smith) Soloe, Wendy Sarratt, Leah Altman on her mom Heather's lap, and Shelley Golden holding daughter Maya.

and those with disabilities during times of transitions. Heather often visits the SPH to encourage students to consider careers in aging services.

Alumna Achieves Recognition as Certified in Public Health

Molly Eggleston (MPH 1999) recently entered the charter class of those certified in Public Health by the National Board of Public Health Examiners.



A list of Charter Class members is available at www.nbphe.org.

The inaugural Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam was administered to nearly 700 professionals during August 2008. Professionals who sat for the exam, administered in both the US and overseas, demonstrated their commitment to furthering the profession of public health.

As clarified by Donna Petersen, Chair of the National Board of Public Health Examiners and Dean of the University of South Florida College of Public Health, "First-time test takers make history – they are a part of a landmark event in the development of the profession of public health. We are grateful to each of these pioneers, and we encourage others to register for the next examination to be held in August 2009."

Molly also works for the NBPHE – she became their first deputy executive director on October 1, 2008. The Board was launched to demonstrate that graduates from CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health have mastered required core and cross-cutting competencies and to address the need for greater recognition of public health as a health profession.

Shelley Golden (MPH 1999) has been unable to completely cut her ties from HBHE. For the past five years she has worked as a lecturer in the department, teaching HBHE 600, the department's core service course. She has recently cut back to part-time to focus on her PhD studies in UNC's department of public policy. Shelley has two wonderful children, Maya age 3 and Cian age 1, who keep her on her toes. She's been a volunteer at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center since earning her master's. She's thankful to regularly interact with other HBHE grads who provide much needed social support in the career/family/community juggling act! The latest news is that Shelley was accepted into SOPHE's policy advocacy workshop, which she will be attending later this spring in New Orleans.

Catherine Harbour (MPH 1999) completed her PhD in health communication in October 2008 and is preparing to go to Cairo, Egypt this March to study Arabic and to research the health content of media popular with Egyptian youth. She is busy trying to wrap things up at work and getting her

house ready to rent out. Catherine wrote to us asking, "Know anyone who needs a 2BR house in Baltimore for about a year?" *In Cairo, Catherine could check in with Erma Manoncourt [page 14].*

Alyssa Mansfield (MPH 1999) will graduate with a PhD in Epidemiology from UNC in May. She currently works part-time as a research epidemiologist at RTI International in Research Triangle Park, NC and will work at RTI full-time after graduation.

Peter Reed (MPH, 1999; PhD, 2004) and **Shara Merritt Reed** (MPH 2004) have recently relocated to Sacramento, California after many years in Chicago where Shara received her law degree from Loyola University. Peter became CEO and President of Sacramento – based Center for Health Improvement earlier this year. The couple has a two year old daughter, Hailey.

Cindy (Smith) Soloe (MPH 1999) is a research health analyst at RTI International. She lives in Durham with her husband and son, all of whom are eagerly anticipating the arrival of

another baby boy in May.

Nicole Angresano (MPH 2000) lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with husband, Josh, and two year old son, Lucas. She is vice president of Community Impact at the United Way of Greater Milwaukee where she oversees her branch of the United Way, which is responsible for relationships with over 130 social service partners. Nicole also leads a teen pregnancy prevention effort. She tells us that Milwaukee is on the cutting edge in terms of reducing teen pregnancy and births. Her group has set an aggressive but achievable goal to reduce births to teens by 46% by 2015. Their work has been spotlighted by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Nicole Bates (MPH 2000) graduated from the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's executive doctoral program in Public Health Leadership last year. She recently left the Global Health Council to become program officer of global health policy and advocacy for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Kristie Long Foley (PhD 2000) recently joined Davidson College as associate professor and associate director of Medical Humanities. In addition to teaching courses in global health ethics and research integrity, Kristie continues her extramural research activities. She is PI of a Fogarty International Grant to build capacity for tobacco research in Hungary (following her Fulbright in Hungary) and PI of an American Cancer Society grant focused on colon cancer treatment, surveillance, and survival among the poor. Kristie enjoys the balance of teaching, research, and administration that her new position brings. She lives with her husband, Mark, and their children, Evan and Emory, in Davidson, North Carolina.

Melissa Klein (MPH 2000) works as a communications manager for the EPA's Energy Star Program in Washington DC, conducting public education around

energy efficiency and other environmental health issues. She's also been serving as a nutrition and wellness coach (suncompass.net) since becoming certified in Integration Nutrition by Columbia University.

Ying-Chih Chuang (PhD 2001) is an assistant professor in Taipei Medical University, Taiwan where she works on research projects focused on health inequality and social determinants of health as well as training students. She was awarded a university-wide teaching award in 2007. She recently published an article in *Social Science and Medicine* about influences of social capital on smoking and drinking in the context of Taiwanese Society. Ying-Chih says she misses Chapel Hill and the people in HBHE a lot; she welcomes HBHE friends to visit her in Taiwan and promises to be a good tour guide!

Stevenson Fergus (MPH 2001) is an assistant professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He is currently working on a research project that investigates gender-based violence and HIV in rural South Africa. The photo of Steve and



his local research assistants is from a recent field visit.

Alyse (Behrman) Sabina (MPH 2001) and her husband live in St. Louis. She works for the Missouri Foundation for Health as a program officer. She develops funding programs, reviews grant applications and manages a portfolio of grantees working on obesity prevention, mental health and substance abuse, as well as women's health programs.



Mary DeCoster (MPH 2002) works at the Durham County Health Department in NC as the

program manager for the communicable diseases and maternal child health team in the division of health education, which has programs in HIV and STD prevention and testing in the Durham jail and the community, as well as school health and maternal child health. Mary recently finished a year-long program with the Southeast Public Health Leadership Institute that she really enjoyed and recommends to others who might be interested.

Lisa Fastnaught Isgett (MPH 2002) started a small business called Locus (www.locusmapping.com) that specializes in GIS and cartographic work for research and academic groups. She has plans to expand in the future. Lisa and her husband are currently living outside Kansas City, Kansas with their 4-year-old son, Will, and 2-year-old daughter, Ellie. They're expecting a third child this spring.

Karen Toll Goldstein (MPH 2002) has moved back to Washington, DC after spending a couple of year in Boston. She works for Ogilvy PR's social marketing practice. Karen wrote, "I've been at Ogilvy almost five years and am really enjoying it. In addition to doing the typical educational efforts for the public and health care providers, I am working on an interesting project to implement systems change to improve care at community health centers." She married Howard Goldstein in September 2007.

After six years of living in Washington, DC and working on social marketing campaigns at Ogilvy Public Relations, **Jennifer (Koenig) Mullen** (MPH 2002) recently moved to Atlanta, Georgia with her husband Tom and their son Spencer (age 2 1/2). They enjoy living closer to family and exploring the Atlanta area. In January, Jenny started a new position

at the National Center for Health Marketing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She is working in the Office of the Director on internal communication projects.

Keryn Pasch (MPH 2003) completed her PhD in Behavioral Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota in 2007. After



working as a research associate at the University, she completed a National Cancer Institute Cancer Prevention and Control postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas School of Public Health's Austin Regional Campus. This past fall, Keryn joined the faculty in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education at the University of Texas, Austin as an assistant professor.

After over five years as community health analyst in Flint, Michigan, **Lauren Shirey** (MPH 2003) moved to the nation's capital in time for inauguration day. She began working as a senior analyst in community health at the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in December 2008. She is excited to be serving local health departments all across the nation in her new job.



Lauren and Erika in Toronto, summer 2008

Erika Steibelt (MPH 2003) has been keeping busy as acting manager of an Ontario tobacco control training program during a year-long maternity leave. She's living and working in downtown Toronto and appreciates the

cold and snow of the North, but also wishes she could have been state-side for the big election.

Right after graduation **Jennifer Buigut** (MPH 2004) joined the CDC where she now works in the Office of the Director in “issues management,” a relatively new function within the CDC. That office also serves as the focal point for the policy analysis, technical review, and final clearance of correspondence and policy documents for the agency.



Rachel Shelton (MPH 2004) and Tom Randall got married in October 2008 on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. It was an intimate and celebratory weekend with



several fellow HBHEs in attendance, including fellow 2004 graduates **Nina Yamanis** (soon to be PhD!), **Amanda Phillips Martinez**, **Katie Giles**, and **Betty Markatos Brown**, as well as **Austin Brown** (MPH 2005). Rachel and Tom now live in Brooklyn, New York and both work in NYC. Rachel recently earned a PhD from the Harvard School of Public Health and is in her

first year of a postdoctoral research fellowship at Mount Sinai School of Medicine focusing on cancer-related health disparities. Tom is a health and science reporter for Bloomberg News.

Chandra Ford (PhD 2005) relocated to southern California to join the faculty of the UCLA School of Public Health as assistant professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, where she specializes in social determinants of HIV/AIDS disparities and in the health of sexual minority populations.

After four and a half years at the Harvard School of Public Health **Renee M. Johnson** (PhD 2005) left Harvard to join the faculty at the Boston University School of Public Health as an assistant professor. “I’ve loved my time here at HSPH, and have had the incredible fortune to have worked with Dr. David Hemenway, Dr. Deborah Azrael, and the team at Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center and Harvard Injury Control Research Center. I am delighted to say that my work with the Centers will continue even though my primary appointment will change to BU.”

Annice Kim (PhD 2005) recently returned to North Carolina after completing her fellowship with the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is currently working at RTI International on projects related to tobacco industry surveillance, financial incentives for behavioral modification, and media framing of health disparities. She lives in Durham with her husband and one-year-old daughter.

Mahyar Mofidi (PhD 2005) is a lieutenant commander with the Public Health Service. He works in Health Resources and Services where he directs dental programs designed to increase access to dental care for people living with HIV/AIDS. Since graduation, he’s published several articles. Mahyar lives in the Adam’s Morgan neighborhood in

DC with wife, Caren Rosenthal. The couple should be announcing the birth of their first child soon.

Jim Thrasher (PhD 2005) has spent much of his time since graduation living in Mexico and conducting research on tobacco policy and mass media interventions there as well as in other middle-income countries. Since leaving HBHE, he married Deborah Billings, a reproductive health research consultant and adjunct associate professor in the MCH program at UNC’s Gillings School of Global Public Health. Their child, Diego, was born in Mexico in 2006. The whole family moved to Columbia, South Carolina in 2007. Jim is an assistant professor in the Department of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior at USC.

Rebecca Williams (PhD 2005) works at the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. She splits her time between coordinating research for the Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network and running the Internet Cigarette Vendors Study, which has (since she and **Dr. Kurt Ribisl** started it in 1999) been studying the sales and marketing practices of websites that sell cigarettes, with an eye to policy issues surrounding youth access prevention and excise tax evasion. The study has had far-reaching impacts on state and federal policy, and this year has expanded to look at the relatively unexamined areas of online alcohol and drug sales as well. In early January 2009 the study’s expansion into online alcohol sales garnered media attention with a front page article in the *Raleigh News and Observer*, which was picked up by the Associated Press and several other print and television news outlets.

Cara Biddlecom (MPH 2006) recently moved from Washington, DC to Portland, Oregon where she works as the Living Well coordinator at the Oregon Public Health Division, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention Section. Her efforts are



Rachel surrounded by HBHE friends

focused on providing technical assistance and support to chronic disease self-management programs across the state. Cara also works as the lifestyle interventionist for Oregon's WISEWOMAN program.

Julie Cortese Bower (MPH 2006) lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota working as an NHLBI pre-doctoral fellow in cardiovascular disease epidemiology and prevention. Julie is also pursuing a PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Minnesota. She enjoys the Upper Midwest, though she does miss the beautiful North Carolina weather!

Jennifer Gard (MPH 2006) has spent over two years at RTI International in the Research Triangle Park office as a research associate in adolescent risk behavior research and program evaluation. She is currently working on two national evaluations designed to address attitudes and behaviors linked with adolescent dating abuse. One is a national cross-site outcome and process evaluation of demonstration projects that provide abstinence education and services for pregnant and parenting adolescents. The other is an efficacy and process evaluation of a national campaign designed to encourage parents to communicate with their children about delaying sexual activity. We congratulate Jennifer on the promotion she received last year! On a sad note, the past few months have been challenging for Jennifer as she lost her father to a rapid onset of acute myeloid leukemia before Thanksgiving. She tells us that once life slows down a bit, she hopes to volunteer with Hospice or the Ronald McDonald House in her father's memory.

Tara (Wilson) Graham (MPH 2006) works as a senior program associate for the Vera Institute of Justice in Washington, DC. She is currently providing technical assistance to all the sexual violence programs in the State of New Jersey, assisting them as they work to include primary prevention of sexual violence perpetration into their

existing work with survivors and their family members. In her spare time she is a volunteer tutor for DC high school students and also does outreach with sex workers and injection drug users in the District of Columbia.

Doug Rupert (MPH 2006) is currently working in the Health Communication and Marketing program at RTI International in RTP, NC. He designs and evaluates health communication campaigns on topics such as cancer, unintentional injury, and pharmaceuticals for the CDC, NIH, and FDA. He and his wife, Amy, recently bought their first home in Hillsborough, NC.

Nikie Sarris (MPH 2006) also works at RTI International. She will travel to Vermont in March for evaluation of that state's tobacco control program and to Montana in the late spring as part of the evaluation of the National Cancer Institute's community cancer centers program. In between those site visits Nikie has plans to take a fun trip and visit a close friend in Lyon, France for six days in May.

Samantha Woo (MPH 2006) is at the University of Illinois at Chicago within the Institute for Juvenile Research family groups. She is focused on improving literacy skills, promoting prosocial behavior, and reducing aggression. However, her days at UIC are numbered as she will enter law school at Northwestern University this fall.

Katya Roytburd (MPH 2007) received recognition this fall for getting the highest score in the nation on the Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) exam in October 2008. Katya works at the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center as project manager of a colorectal cancer screening study based in High Point, North Carolina.

Duy Tran (MPH 2007) married Shauna Smith in October 2007. For their honeymoon they visited Duy's family in Vietnam and also traveled to

Thailand. Since his mom was not able to attend the wedding in the US, while they were in Vietnam she honored the couple with a traditional Vietnamese wedding with all of Duy's close and distant relatives in attendance. It was like having two weddings, he writes. Duy enjoyed meeting up with many family members whom he has not seen since he was a little boy. He tells us that Shauna was a great sport despite not being able to communicate in Vietnamese. The two of them hope to return to Southeast Asia again soon.

Elynor (Lord) Wilson (MPH 2007) got married after graduation and moved to Greenville, NC to be with her husband while he completed medical school at East Carolina University. During the past year, she has been the eastern North Carolina regional coordinator for the heart disease and stroke prevention program (HDSP), based at the Pitt County Health Department. Elynor finds it the ideal job for a HBHE graduate, one where she uses facilitating and community change skills to help organize the eastern NC stroke network and draw together a diverse group of members across the continuum of stroke care (from pre-hospital EMS to acute care hospitalists to health department directors). She's had the pleasure of working with other HBHE graduates while in this job; **Anita Holmes** (MPH 1972) is the state-level branch head of the NC HDSP program and **David Napp** (MPH 1993) has facilitated many of HDSP's strategic planning project meetings.

Kelly Keisling (MPH 2008) recently completed a pilot program using cell phone text messages to support antiretroviral HIV patients in Johannesburg, South Africa. The pilot tested social support and tailored adherence messages produced by the reproductive health and HIV research unit. Kelly is currently consulting in Washington, DC for Population Services International on a concept paper addressing broader uses of cell phones for health programs globally.

Manuela McDonough (MPH 2008) works at the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. Its mission is to reduce poverty and improve opportunities for Hispanic Americans. Through its network of nearly 300 affiliated community-based organizations, NCLR reaches millions of Hispanics each year in 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. As project coordinator for NCLR's Institute for Hispanic Health, Manuela develops, manages, and evaluates health promotion and disease prevention projects targeting Latino communities in the United States.

Kate Nelson (MPH 2008) now works in HBHE for **Dr. Ed Fisher**, as program manager in his Peers for Progress program development center. Peers for Progress is a global initiative focused on incorporating peer support into diabetes self-management programs.

Kelly O'Daniel (MPH 2008) lives in Durham and works as the health educator for the Diabetes Empowerment Program at Lincoln Community Health Center. Kelly's job is funded by the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative; it involves one-on-one diabetes education and glucometer training as well as group classes and workshops.

Anh Tran (PhD 2008) joined the faculty at Duke University School of Medicine last October. Her appointment is split between the Division of Community Health and the Duke Center for Community Research. The Division has been a good fit for her public health background and interest in community-based health research and intervention programs. Aside from the various community health programs with which she is currently involved, one of her other responsibilities is to assist in the development of the Master of Health Sciences in Clinical Leadership program.

Alumna Dorothy Dunn Leaves Bequest to Department

Dr. Dorothy Dunn, a 1946 MSPH graduate from Health Behavior and Health Education, has left a very generous bequest to the Department.

"Establishing a scholarship for incoming doctoral students has been a critical need for many years," said Interim Chair Jo Anne Earp. "With this extremely generous gift – more than \$360,000 – we will significantly increase our ability to attract strong doctoral candidates."

"I used to visit Dorothy in Urbana," Jo Anne continued. "She shared fascinating stories with me of what the School was like in the '40s. Over all the years, Dorothy prized her education at the School and the deep ties she had with us. She also gave back in so many ways. In the '50s and '60s, she mentored recently graduated MPHers from our program. More recently, she welcomed me and several MPH students into her home, even though she was in her 90s at that point and frail."

Dr. Dunn had earned her BS from the University of Illinois and had spent several years in progressively more demanding positions within the Department of Agriculture. Yet a tip from a former sociology professor about the dynamic environment at UNC led her to apply to the new master's program in Health Education.

She would later earn her doctorate from Purdue University, but that goal would have to wait for her defining experience at UNC. With the help of a stipend from the U.S. Public Health Service, Ms. Dunn enrolled as an MSPH student. Later, after earning her PhD, she held academic appointments at Stout State University, Western Kentucky University, South Dakota State University, and at the University of Illinois. Dr. Dunn ended her career after a long tenure with the FDA.

"I can say definitively," Dr. Dunn commented several times, "that I got more out of my energy and efforts at the UNC School of Public Health than at any other school I attended."

"This bequest really speaks to the meaning of Dorothy's education here at the School of Public Health," Jo Anne noted. "It's an education that doesn't stop with the earning of the degree. The deep ties remain. I think Dr. Dunn wanted a way to recognize the opportunities she received here, and to help make those opportunities available to others. What better way of honoring a life spent in service to education and public health than to leave fellowship monies for students in a department she so admired and benefited from?"

We want to hear from you!

Please send us your latest news and any newsletter suggestions.

Include your name and how you would like it listed, your name at graduation (if different), your HBHE degree(s), and the year(s) you graduated. We would also like your email address and a phone number in case we need to contact you for clarification. Send submissions and photos to:

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or email us at
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Jill Rosenthal (MPH '92) and George Shaler (MPH '92)
Anna (MSPH '93) and James Schenck
Jennifer Schuster-Jaeger (MPH '93)
Susan Scott (MPH '00)
Anuradha Ghosh Sehgal (BSPH '94)
Jason (MPH '81, PhD '96) and Paige Hall Smith (PhD '93)
Cindy Smith Soloe (MPH '99)
David Strogatz, Rosalind Thomas (MPH '75)
Maceo Thomas (MPH '02)
Sheryl Thorburn (PhD '93)
Eugene and Anne Hall Todd
Karen Toll (MPH '02)
Anh Tran (PhD '08)
Duy Tran (MPH '07)
Barbara Wallace (MPH '79)
Laurence and Constance Wescott
David Winterle
Susan Winterle
Eva Wood (MPH '48)
Carol Ellen Woodside (MPH '91)
Jingzhen Yang (PhD '04)