Daniel A. Okun, PhD, UNC Kenan Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of environmental engineering, was honored in September 2006 with the International Water Association’s prestigious Grand Award, a tribute to his outstanding international achievements as a water engineer and scientist. Okun accepted the award at the opening ceremony of the World Water Congress in Beijing, China.

In May 2006, he also received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Environmental and Water Resources Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers. A pioneer of integrated water management, Okun spent much of his career studying the interdependencies between water supply and waste water disposal. His extensive résumé includes global experience in water resource management, a wide variety of consultancies, and an extensive list of honors and publications. His contributions have been both diverse and insightful.

Okun served as chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering at the UNC School of Public Health from 1955-1973. He retired from teaching in 1982 but continued to consult with engineering firms, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Agency for International Development, and he provided services to water-related organizations in 89 countries throughout the world.

For more information on these and many other faculty, student and staff awards, honors and recognitions, visit www.sph.unc.edu/school/recognitions.

**Awards and Recognition**

**2006 – 2007**

**Within the School and University:**

Susan T. Ennett, PhD, associate professor of health behavior and health education, and Aaron E. Blair, PhD, an alumnus of the School who earned his MPH from the Department of Epidemiology, were this year’s recipients of two prestigious School honors—the Greenberg Alumni Endowment Award for excellence in teaching, research and service and the Barr Distinguished Alumni Award for achievements and contributions to the field of public health.

Lawrence Kupper, PhD, Alumni Distinguished Professor of biostatistics, received UNC’s 2007 Distinguished Teaching Award for Lifetime Achievement, in recognition of teaching excellence.

Karl Umble, PhD, program planner and evaluator for the North Carolina Institute for Public Health (NCIPH), received the 2007 Balderson Award for Support of Public Health Leadership Development at the National Public Health Leadership Network annual conference in St. Louis. The award honors an individual who promotes training programs for public health leaders.

The University named five endowed distinguished professorships in the School of Public Health in 2006-07:

- Michael D. Aitken, chair of the School’s Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering (ESE), has been named a board-certified member of the American Academy of Environmental Engineers. He joins fellow ESE professors Drs. Phil Singer and Francis DeGiano in this prestigious professional society.
- Joseph Ibrahim, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of epidemiology
- Barry Popkin, PhD, Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor of global nutrition
- Mark Sobsey, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering
- June Stevens, PhD, American Institute for Cancer Research Distinguished Professor of nutrition

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- Margaret “Peggy” Bentley, PhD, associate dean for global health and professor of nutrition, was selected as an ambassador in the Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research at Research America. Ambassadors support research efforts by reaching out to policy makers, media and the public and explaining the hope and importance of research.
- Francis DeGiano, PhD, professor of environmental sciences and engineering, received the A.P. Black Award from the American Water Works Association for outstanding achievement in water supply research. The award recognizes outstanding research contributions to water science and water supply, rendered over time. Former winners from UNC include Drs. Russ Christman (1987), Phil Singer (1995) and Mark Sobsey (2001).

- Michael Kosorok, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of Biostatistics. The award was elected as a fellow of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. Kosorok joined four faculty in the department who have received this honor, including Drs. Joseph G. Ibrahim, Alan F. Karr, Danya Lin and Pranab K. Sen.

- Lisa LaVange, PhD, professor of biostatistics and director of the UNC Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center, is president of the Eastern North American Region (ENAR) of the International Biometric Society (IBS). UNC School of Public Health has a strong presence in membership of the society, with four School alumni or faculty—including Jim Grizzle, Peter Imrey, Gary Koch, and the late Bernard Greenberg—having served as the society’s president. IBS is the largest professional organization of biostatisticians in the world, drawing its 5,800 members from more than 25 countries.

- Sheila Leatherman, MSW, health policy researcher at the School, was awarded the title of Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Leatherman received the honor in recognition of her valuable contribution to reform of the British National Health Service.

- Danyu Lin, PhD, and Donglin Zeng, PhD, professors in the School’s Department of Biostatistics, were awarded the title of Honorary Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Lin is the Dennis Gillings Distinguished Professor of biostatistics.

- Philip Singer, PhD, Daniel A. Okun Distinguished Professor of environmental engineering and director of UNC’s Drinking Water Research Center, received the acclaimed Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize for excellence in water research from the National Water Research Institute. Dr. Singer also received the 2006 Gordon Prize for his contributions to water-related organizations in 89 countries throughout the world.

- Pranab K. Sen, a world-renowned statistician, received this honor, including Drs. Joseph Ibrahim, Mark Sobsey, and Barry Popkin.

- Margaret “Peggy” Bentley, PhD, associate dean for global health and professor of nutrition, was selected as an ambassador in the Paul G. Rogers Society for Global Health Research at Research America. Ambassadors support research efforts by reaching out to policy makers, media and the public and explaining the hope and importance of research.

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Danyu Lin, PhD, and Donglin Zeng, PhD, professors in the School’s Department of Biostatistics, were accorded a rare honor for non-Britons—to read a paper to the Royal Statistical Society (RSS). The paper, given at the RSS Ordinary Meeting in London in January 2007, presented a new statistical methodology used to solve difficult public health problems such as reliable assessments of treatment effectiveness, precise descriptions of the effects of environmental and genetic factors on disease development, and accurate predictions of patient outcomes. Lin is the Dennis Gillings Distinguished Professor of biostatistics. Thomas Ricketts III, PhD, professor of health policy and administration and director of the North Carolina Rural Health

Philip Singer, PhD, Daniel A. Okun Distinguished Professor of environmental engineering and director of UNC’s Drinking Water Research Center, received the acclaimed Athalie Richardson Irving Clarke Prize for excellence in water research from the National Water Research Institute. The prize recognizes outstanding researchers who have demonstrated excellence in water-science research and technology. Singer also received the 2006 Gordon Maskew Fair Award from the American Academy of Environmental Engineers (AAEE), given to a board-certified member of the Academy who has made a substantial contribution to environmental engineering through exemplary professional conduct, recognized achievements, and significant contributions to the control of the quality of the world’s environment.

Dr. Thomas Ricketts III

Research Program and Policy Analysis at UNC, has been named editor of the North Carolina Medical Journal. Ricketts had been associate editor for the past four years.

Dr. Jim Grizzle, Peter Imrey, Gary Koch, and Alan F. Karr received the honor in recognition of their valuable contribution to reform of the British National Health Service.

Dr. Margaret Bentley

Dr. Lisa LaVange

Dr. Lawrence Kupper

Dr. Peggy Dilloway-Anderson

Dr. Michael Kosorok

Dr. Mark Sobsey

Dr. Phil Singer

Dr. Pranab K. Sen.

Dr. Margaret Bentley

Dr. Lisa LaVange

Dr. Lawrence Kupper

Dr. Michael Kosorok

Dr. Mark Sobsey

Dr. Phil Singer

Dr. Pranab K. Sen.
Honor Roll of Donors

Several students from the School were honored at spring 2007 student recognition ceremonies for their research, leadership and service. Among winners of the UNC Graduate School’s Impact Awards were Lynnete Phillips; Danielle Haley; David Rosen, Sheryl Abrams, Emily Bobrow, Melissa Roche and Katherine Karriker-Jaffe. Phi Beta Kappa inductees this year included Lilly Penelope Clark; of Washington, D.C.; Victoria Yizhi Ding of Hattiesburg, Miss. and Raleigh, N.C.; and Kristen Elizabeth Ziara, of Okemos, Mich.

April Clark, Robin Hunt and Jessica Thompson, graduate students in the School’s Department of Health Policy and Administration, won third place in a national health care competition sponsored by the National Association of Health Services Executives.

Doctoral candidates Elizabeth J. King (health behavior and health education), Abigail Norris Turner (epidemiology) and Emily Bobrow (maternal and child health) presented research at the Global Health Council’s 34th annual international conference on global health, May 29 – June 1, 2007, in Washington D.C. The presentations completed the students’ participation in the National Investigators in Global Health (NIGH) Program, a competitive abstract submission and selection program designed to highlight exemplary research, policy and advocacy initiatives of new and future leaders in global health and empower participants with global health advocacy skills. GHC selected 14 out of 300 abstracts for inclusion in the program. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill had three participants, the highest number from any university.

Brad Wright, doctoral candidate in health policy and administration, received an award from Kaiser Family Foundation for an essay outlining the health policy platform of an imaginary 2008 presidential candidate and proposing a strategy for communicating the plan to the public.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

I write to compliment you on your most recent issue on health disparities. As a courtesy, many schools of public health share their alumni magazines with each other. Given the consistently interesting coverage in Carolina Public Health, I examine every issue. I was moved to write this time due to the importance of the subject of health disparities and, frankly, its timeliness for those of us living in Michigan. Last November, the state’s voters passed a citizen’s initiative that limits health care spending. Despite being relatively new at the job, Dean Rimer has rapidly emerged as one of the leaders among the deans of the nation’s public health schools. UNC is fortunate to have her at the helm.

Kenneth E. Warner, PhD
Dean and Awad’s Distinguished University Professor of Public Health
University of Michigan

“YOUR GIFTS ARE INVESTMENTS AND WE THANK YOU FOR EVERY ONE OF THEM. The return on your investment will be far more than the gratification of public health researchers, teachers and students, though you will have that in abundance. Your return will be sold information on your gift’s impact — discoveries made, students trained, publications made possible, clinics supported, lives touched and the public’s health transformed. You will know that your gift — your investment — has made a difference in the protection of the world’s health and America’s future.”

— DEAN BARBARA K. RIMER

School of Public Health
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