

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

MARCH – SEPTEMBER 2010

Read more at www.sph.unc.edu/recognitions_and_awards.

FACULTY

Sobsey invited to NASA's first LAUNCH event

Mark Sobsey, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering, was one of 10 innovators chosen to participate in NASA's inaugural LAUNCH event, held March 16–18, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Sobsey presented his proposal for simple, accessible and affordable tests to assess water quality and safety.



Dr. Mark Sobsey

Sen selected for prestigious Wilks Medal

Pranab K. Sen, PhD, Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor of biostatistics, was selected as the 2010 recipient of the

American Statistical Association's S.S. Wilks Medal, one of the most prestigious awards in the field. His research, published over the course of 50 years, has influenced generations of statisticians. Sen, a member of the UNC biostatistics faculty since 1967, is the first from the department to receive the medal.



Dr. Pranab Sen

Gillings Innovation Labs awarded



Dr. Eric Donaldson



Dr. Rebecca Fry



Dr. Suzanne Maman



Dr. Jill Stewart

The School funded four new Gillings Innovation Laboratories last spring.

Awardees, all assistant professors, include:

- Eric Donaldson, PhD, epidemiology;
- Rebecca Fry, PhD, environmental sciences and engineering;
- Suzanne Maman, PhD, health behavior and health education; and
- Jill Stewart, PhD, environmental sciences and engineering.

Read more about the Gillings Innovation Lab Awards at www.sph.unc.edu/accelerate.

Randolph reappointed to national board

Susan Randolph, MSN, RN, was reappointed to the National Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (NACOSH).

Randolph is clinical assistant professor in the Public Health Leadership Program.



Susan Randolph

Swenberg honored with Greenberg Award

James A. Swenberg, DVM, PhD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering, received the School's Bernard G. Greenberg Alumni Endowment Award for excellence in teaching, research and service. Director of the UNC Curriculum in Toxicology, Swenberg studies

the mechanisms of carcinogenesis, with an emphasis on the role of DNA damage and repair. He has mentored more than 40 graduate students during his two decades at UNC. The award was presented at the School's 2010 Foard Lecture in April.



Dr. James Swenberg (left), Dr. Mike Aitken



Dr. Lisa LaVange

**LaVange
reappointed to
health commission**

Lisa M. LaVange, PhD, was reappointed to the N.C. Health and Wellness Trust Fund Commission. LaVange is Professor of the Practice of biostatistics and director of the Collaborative Studies Coordinating Center. The commission works to improve North Carolinians' health by establishing partnerships to address access, prevention, education and research issues.

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**Herring, Preisser,
Zhou elected
as ASA fellows**

Three UNC biostatistics faculty members have been elected as fellows of the American Statistical Association. They are Amy



Dr. Amy Herring



Dr. John Preisser



Dr. Halbo Zhou

Herring, ScD, associate professor; John Preisser Jr., PhD, research professor; and Haibo Zhou, PhD, professor.

**Popkin awarded honor by Britain's
Nutrition Society**

Barry Popkin, PhD, Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor of Global Nutrition,



Dr. Barry Popkin

is the 2010 recipient of the United Kingdom Nutrition Society's Rank Prize, the society's highest honor. He accepted the award in June 2010 in Edinburgh, Scotland. Popkin's Nutrition Society Lecture was

titled, "Contemporary Nutritional Transition: Determinants of Diet and its Impact on Body Composition."

**Zelman, Herring
honored for
teaching, mentoring**

Two prestigious faculty awards were presented at the School's 70th commencement ceremony last spring. William Zelman, PhD, professor of health policy and management, received the John E. Larsh Jr. Award for Mentorship, and Amy Herring, ScD, associate professor of biostatistics, received the McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching.



Dr. William Zelman

**Gentry awarded
Moldova medal**

Bill Gentry, lecturer in health policy and management and director of the Community Preparedness and Disaster Management program, received Moldova's "Honorary Rescuer" medal in May 2010. Gentry has a long history of emergency preparedness and response efforts in the country.



Bill Gentry



Dr. Penny
Gordon-Larsen

**Gordon-Larsen
receives Obesity
Society award**

Penny Gordon-Larsen, PhD, associate professor of nutrition, has won The Obesity Society's 2010 Lilly Scientific Achievement Award. Gordon-Larsen accepted the award, funded by the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Co., at the Society's October conference in San Diego.

**Peterson presented with prestigious
Allan Rosenfield Award**

Herbert B. Peterson, MD, Kenan Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Maternal and Child Health, received the 2010 Allan Rosenfield Award for Lifetime Contributions to International Family Planning. The award is presented annually by the Society of Family Planning (SFP).

Peterson, also professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the UNC School of Medicine, is known internationally for his work in women's reproductive health, epidemiology, health policy and evidence-based decision-making.



Dr. Herbert Peterson

PHOTO BY TOM FULDNER

Halpern honored for leadership, teaching

Carolyn Halpern, PhD, associate professor of maternal and child health, received the national Association of Teachers of Maternal and Child Health's 2010 Loretta P. Lacey Maternal and Child Health Academic Leadership Award.



Dr. Carolyn Halpern

STAFF

Cilenti leads NC Healthy Start, receives women's health award



Dr. Dorothy Cilenti

Dorothy Cilenti, DrPH, deputy director of the School's N.C. Institute for Public Health, was appointed chair of the N.C. Healthy Start Foundation's board of directors in July. She has served on the

Healthy Start board since 2007.

Cilenti also received a \$305,000 grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau. The project, Women's Integrated Systems for Health (WISH) Distance Learning Initiative, will address the need to better integrate public health and mental health systems to improve women's health.

Stevens honored for local health efforts

Rachel Stevens, EdD, RN, received the 2010 President's Award from the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) in August in recognition of her service. Stevens was



Dr. Rachel Stevens

deputy director of the School's N.C. Institute for Public Health and clinical instructor of public health nursing before retiring in 2003.

Perry receives Staff Excellence Award

Chris Perry, assistant director of School communications, was selected for the School's 2010 Staff Excellence Award, which



Chris Perry

acknowledges excellent attitude, leadership and initiative. Perry is credited with "beyond-the-call" efforts on the School's website content, including a recent major redesign of the site.

STUDENTS

Public health students recognized for work benefiting North Carolina

UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health students won four of 16 Impact Awards, presented by UNC's Graduate School in spring 2010 to recognize student research that benefits North Carolina citizens. The awards, sponsored by the Graduate Education Advancement Board, were given last spring to:

- Jennifer Gierisch, PhD, health behavior and health education alumna;
 - Maiysha D. Jones, environmental sciences and engineering doctoral student;
 - Kathryn Remmes Martin, PhD, health behavior and health education alumna; and
 - Stephen Richardson, environmental sciences and engineering doctoral student.
- Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/nc-impact>.



Maiysha Jones

Two inaugural Gillings Dissertation Awards presented

Stephen Richardson (environmental sciences and engineering) and Natalie The (nutrition) received Gillings Awards in spring 2010 for their research, respectively, on solutions to soil contamination and the associations among weight, diabetes and physical activity across race and ethnicity in the United States.



Stephen Richardson



Natalie The

Three students win Fulbright awards

Jacqueline S. Knee, MSPH, and Bachelor of Science in Public Health alumnae Melissa Asmar and Erin Shigekawa were selected to receive Fulbright public health scholarships. Knee is examining sanitary conditions of stored rainwater in Thailand; Asmar conducts research on nutritional changes in the national diet in Germany; and Shigekawa studies chronic kidney disease in Taiwan.

ALUMNI

Brostrom selected for Barr Award

Richard Brostrom, MD, MSPH, received the 2010 Harriet Hylton Barr Distinguished Alumnus Award for his achievements and contributions to the field of public health. Brostrom, medical director of the Division of Public Health for the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is also medical director of the commonwealth's programs in tuberculosis control, public health bioterrorism preparedness and tobacco control. His award was announced at the School's 2010 Foard Lecture.