

Carolina

PUBLIC HEALTH

GILLINGS SCHOOL of GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH
THE UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA at CHAPEL HILL



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STUDENTS

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WINTER 2011-2012 • VOLUME 2 • NUMBER 1

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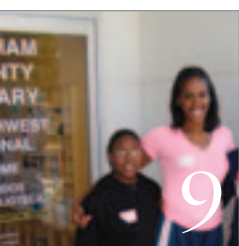
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As we went to press, we learned of the death on Dec. 14 of nutrition professor and cancer researcher Marci Campbell, PhD. Read a short tribute on p. 10.

We dedicate this issue to her.



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PHOTO BY CAITLIN KLEIBOER



Dr. Barbara K. Rimer

In spite of serious budget cuts over the last three years, our faculty and staff members remain dynamic, committed and focused upon teaching the next generation of public health leaders and solving some of the great public health challenges—here in North Carolina and around the world. In this issue of *Carolina Public Health*, we place our students at center stage. Many of them are here through the generosity of donors. Thank you for enabling them as the next generation of problem solvers.

Our students offer an antidote to gloom and cynicism about the state of the world. These smart, highly motivated, socially networked, exuberant young people give me hope that the world may be in better shape when it is in *their* hands. With skills and knowledge acquired at our school, there's no stopping these young people.

In our classes, students learn, as have many of our readers before them, the discipline and skill of identifying a research problem. They master evidence-based methods that separate science from

really matters. Their passion propels our students through classes, exams, labs, fieldwork, theses and dissertations. They learn on their own, with and from people in communities, from one another, and especially, with faculty mentors who often become lifelong colleagues.

Remarkable personal transformations occur as students experience the world through public health. As have many of our readers, these students will become professors and practitioners, health department directors, government leaders and entrepreneurs, physicians, dentists and nurses who understand populations and individuals, and so much more. We take pride in all they accomplish. Recently, one of our alumni, Garry Conille, MD, MPH, became prime minister of Haiti. Never has public health been more important. Our faculty, staff, students and alumni are on the front lines, solving the world's greatest public health problems.

Barbara K. Rimer

“The world may be in better shape when it is in [our students'] hands.”

speculation. In collecting and analyzing data, they come to understand the nature of public health problems and what might be done to address them. Often, these questions and problems have real-world application to public health practice, and that



Spotlight on our students

Dr. Peggy Bentley (far left), in Senegal

Why public health?

The answer is evident to the more than 1,700 students at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. They want to stop the spread of disease, end poverty, promote health and education, stop wars — *save the world*.

“Disease and poor health limit opportunities for individuals and societies, especially among vulnerable populations,” says Jess Edwards, doctoral student in epidemiology. “Public health removes these barriers.”

“The need for good health is a crucial component of people’s well-being around the world,” says Kimberley Geissler, doctoral student in health policy and management, “and the cost of poor health, both physically and financially, is often staggeringly high.”

Students’ research contributes significantly to the School’s overall research endeavors, and it provides them with the valuable experience of conducting research under the mentorship of experienced faculty members. Training grants and research assistantships support students, as do gifts to the School — through scholarships, travel

funds, research support and technology improvements. It is appropriate to feature students’ research in this issue, which focuses especially on the School’s research and on the donors who make much of it possible.

Whether students are earning degrees in epidemiology or environmental sciences and engineering, nutrition or health policy and management, their enthusiasm is contagious. Sometimes, a student’s asking *Why not?* can open the door to creativity and innovations that would not have occurred without the question.

“It is such a gift to be on the faculty of a school of public health that attracts students and postdocs who are not only the best and brightest but who are committed to making a difference,” says Eugenia Eng, DrPH, professor of health behavior and health education.

“It is through following their careers that I can behold the real and meaningful impact from our work,” Eng speaks knowingly. She recently received the ASPH/Pfizer Faculty Award for Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice.

Michael Aitken, PhD, chairs the Department of Environmental Sciences and Engineering, which attracts students with a wide range of scientific interests, from ecology to engineering. “Many students choose our department because we’re based in a public health school,” he says. “They want to make a difference, and they perceive that public health focuses on that. They have a connection to the ‘human side’ of the fields we represent, which is different than the culture of other programs.”

Here, students are challenged to make their research count — to choose topics for class work, theses and dissertations that anticipate public health problems and accelerate public health solutions. Our students’ many awards at the UNC Graduate School’s annual Impact Awards ceremony (see <http://gradschool.unc.edu/student/awards/impact>) reflect the impact of their research.

—Ramona DuBose

Urooj Amjad, PhD

*Postdoctoral research associate
Environmental Sciences and Engineering/
The Water Institute at UNC*

Urooj Amjad's original inspiration for working on water issues was to explore water's use as a tool for cooperation rather than conflict. In 1998, she researched Israel-Palestine water management issues. In emphasizing cooperation, she explored her related interest in how societies adapt to difficult political, economic and environmental circumstances.

"Water management is a window to understanding these complicated and life-relevant issues," Amjad says. "Inspiration for continuing my research on water issues evolved toward providing water services for all household water users and the efficient



Dr. Urooj Amjad

management of our resources. As a society, we design formal and informal rules to guide our behavior for desirable outcomes. Understanding the relationship between the intentions, rules that get us there, and the desirable outcomes are motivation for me to analyze institutional behavior, regulation and policy, as I did more recently in the fully privatized water sector in the U.K."

“Water management needs to be understood as part of a wider system. One of the Water Institute at UNC's research programs now examines how decision-making works and the role information plays in contributing to improved water, sanitation and hygiene. These background motivations form part of my growing interest in the relationship between water, energy and food. —Urooj Amjad”

Kang Chang

*Master's student
Environmental Sciences
and Engineering*



Kang Chang

Chang writes:

I was raised in a typical suburban community. As I grew older, I became aware and concerned with the disparity in the quality of life of people around the world. This became evident through the types of questions people asked themselves. My questions revolved around How should I best live my life? or What should I do to be happy? Others of my same age must ask How can I make money to pay for my mother's medication? or Will this job pay enough so that I can send my children to school?

How is one to feel about these very different realities? I don't know the answer. I do know that, by chance, I am part of a very small percentage of the global population with the advantages to respond to these inequalities.

I believe everyone should have the right to grow in an environment in which they can achieve to the best of their abilities. This is a distant dream for the current state of the world, but I believe it is a goal worth striving toward. Oftentimes, we are kept from the dream by environments that cause poor health outcomes or vulnerability to poor health outcomes. Improving water and sanitation

Rainwater is collected for household use in this West Bank town of Beit Sahour, Palestine.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SHADE



PHOTO BY KANG CHANG

Chang hopes to reduce disparities between his life and that of this Cambodian boy.

is a cornerstone to basic public health. I am especially interested in the role of water, sanitation and health in economic development. My studies at UNC have allowed me the opportunity to begin bridging my knowledge gap so I might understand ways to develop proactive solutions to complex water and sanitation problems.

Extraordinary peers and eminent professors at this world-class public health institution have given value to my years at school beyond just the classes. UNC is a place in which I have taken a step closer to achieving my own potential. This experience is a gift and a call — giving me the opportunity to grow such that I, too, can help others achieve their potential.

Kapuaola Gellert

Doctoral student
Epidemiology



Kapuaola Gellert (left) with mentor Dr. Anna Maria Siega-Riz

“ I realized I could help Hawaiians the most if I left Molokaʻi to pursue my doctorate in epidemiology at UNC. —Kapuaola Gellert ”

“My Auntie Dot died of lung cancer soon after I entered college,” Kapuaola Gellert recalls. “She never smoked. Her death made me wonder whether Hawaiians have a higher incidence of cancer compared to other ethnic groups.”

The loss of her aunt was the beginning of Gellert’s interest in epidemiology, leading her to complete a Master of Public Health degree. After graduation, she worked with the Native Hawaiian Health Care system, Na Puʻuwai, serving the islands of Molokaʻi and Lanaʻi. “During the three years I lived on Molokaʻi,” she says, “I developed a healthy lifestyle program, which included visits by doctors and dietitians from Oahu to evaluate the medical conditions of the program’s participants. The results showed statistically significant improvements in the participants’ blood pressure, cholesterol and weight. I realized I could help Hawaiians the most if I left Molokaʻi to pursue my doctorate in epidemiology at UNC.”

On Molokaʻi, Gellert met Ron Aubert, PhD, alumnus of UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health’s epidemiology doctoral program, who was working as a consultant on the island. Aubert became Gellert’s

mentor and introduced her to UNC, and subsequently, to Anna Maria Siega-Riz, PhD, professor of epidemiology and nutrition and associate dean for academic affairs at the School. “Dr. Siega-Riz has advised me while I collaborate with colleagues on Molokaʻi to develop research plans focused on the Hawaiian community,” Gellert says.



Gellert helped shoppers make healthful choices in Molokaʻi.

Gift L.F. Kamanga, MSc

*Doctor of Public Health student
Health Policy and Management,
Executive Leadership Program*

Donald and Jennifer Holzworth Merit Scholar



Gift Kamanga

Gift Kamanga believes in his potential to contribute to the well-being of his society. He remembers having that goal as early as age 10, and having it clarified when his grandmother died of antepartum hemorrhage in a place where there was no hospital. Many of his relatives—some of them family bread winners—also have died from preventable infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS.

“When I joined the Malawi College of Health Sciences,” he says, “I saw a way to contribute. I am particularly passionate about advancing interventions with vulnerable groups in the areas of sexual and reproductive health. Public health requires multi-sectional collaboration and good leadership. I am aspiring to be one of the top leaders to bring about this effective coordination.”

“Public health requires multi-sectional collaboration and good leadership. I am aspiring to be one of the top leaders to bring about this effective coordination. —Gift Kamanga”

Caitlin Kleiboer

*Master's student
Health Behavior and
Health Education*

“I have a long-standing passion for two things: public health and photojournalism,” says Caitlin Kleiboer, Master of Public Health candidate in health behavior and health education at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. “At Carolina, I am exploring the intersection of these two disciplines.”

Kleiboer, an Americorps VISTA volunteer in 2009–2010, earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Michigan. It was there she became interested in social justice and began to use photography as a tool for change. “Through domestic and international work, I kept returning to the nagging questions in my head about the links between poverty and disease,” she says.

She credits her public health class in qualitative research methods with teaching her how to develop interview questions that get to the heart of individuals' experiences with their health. In her photojournalism class, she gains firsthand experience in long-term documentary projects. As a research assistant in the dean's office, she has explored how social media can help students and educators, artists and scientists across the globe connect on important issues.

“Photography is not going to end war or poverty,” Kleiboer says. “It will not cure disease. But time and time again, it has made a difference. I want to make a difference in the field of global health through my photographs.”



PHOTO BY CAITLIN KLEIBOER

This mother and child took part in a UNC malaria vaccine trial in Lilongwe, Malawi, in August 2011. One child in Africa dies every minute from malaria, according to the WHO.

“Photography is not going to end war or poverty. It will not cure disease. But time and time again, it has made a difference. I want to make a difference in the field of global health through my photographs.”

—Caitlin Kleiboer



Kleiboer at work in Kenya

Layla Lavasani, MHS

Doctoral student
Maternal and Child Health



Layla Lavasani

Layla Lavasani, who received her master's degree in international health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, works to reduce maternal and child morbidity and mortality in resource-poor settings. Her areas of technical expertise are in monitoring and evaluation of maternal and newborn health programs, survey design and implementation, and quantitative methods and analyses.

Lavasani's work has taken her to Afghanistan, where she supported the design and implementation of a national disability assessment and later developed facility and household-level surveys for assessing maternal and neonatal care services in two prov-



PHOTO BY LAYLA LAVASANI

Lavasani worked to improve children's nutrition in Senegal.

inces. Recently, she traveled to Senegal and Indonesia on a UNC-ChildFund project aimed at improving maternal child health and nutrition.

“At UNC, I continue to be inspired by my mentors, Dr. Peggy Bentley and Dr. Cyril Engmann, who have worked tirelessly to improve the lives of vulnerable populations through innovative solutions,” Lavasani says.

Bentley is professor of nutrition and associate dean for global health at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Engmann is clinical assistant professor of pediatrics in the UNC medical school and adjunct assistant professor of maternal and child health in the public health school.

Lavasani's work has taken her to Afghanistan, where she supported the design and implementation of a national disability assessment and later developed facility and household-level surveys for assessing maternal and neonatal care services in two provinces. Recently, she traveled to Senegal and Indonesia on a UNC-ChildFund project to improve maternal and child health and nutrition.

Meghan Lewis

Master's student

Public Health Leadership Program

Meghan Lewis says one of the highlights of her time at UNC was a summer 2011 practicum as a Public Health Leader in Practice with Cabarrus Health Alliance, in Kannapolis, N.C. Lewis worked with Barbara Shepard, the program director of the Healthy Cabarrus Initiative, a partnership certified by the North Carolina Governor's Task Force for Healthy Carolinians (www.healthycarolinians.org).

Lewis was part of a state-mandated Community Health Assessment, reporting statistical indicators to a planning council. She was asked to lead discussions about what the indicators meant for the county. After one such presentation, council members began a conversation that led to new funding being allocated to meet a need in the county.

"Being a part of that experience reminded me why I chose public health," Lewis says.

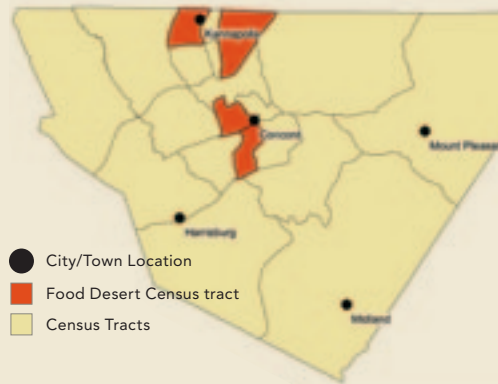
The experience gave her a chance to learn more about the community assessments initiative sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the important role assessments play in improving health. Her interest in evaluation led her to write a master's paper about her work in Cabarrus County. "It is my hope that after this research method is piloted in Cabarrus, it will be a useful tool for other counties in the state," she says.



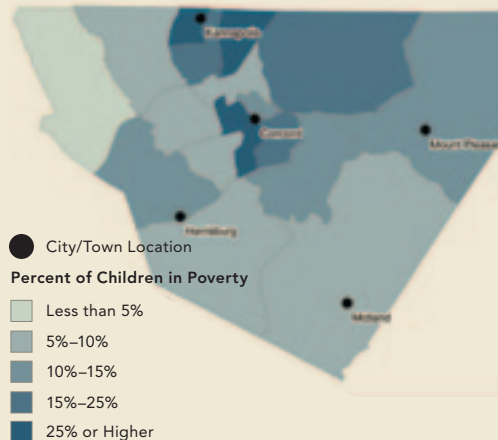
Meghan Lewis

Maps Lewis developed during her practicum in Cabarrus County, N.C.

Food Deserts



Percent of Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Line, 2005–2009



Jon Hibbard

Doctoral student

Biostatistics

2011–2012 Fryer Fellow

I saw firsthand the passion in the department for making humanitarian contributions to society.

—Jon Hibbard



My training allows me to start conversations, improve the body of knowledge in the field and propose new ways of looking at old data. This ultimately leads to innovative programs that are both effective and efficient in their use of resources. —Meghan Lewis

Jon Hibbard started out as a mathematician, pure and simple. It's a subject he loves. But when one of his friends underwent a career change and began to work as a nurse, he was jealous of how fulfilled his friend felt at work and of the positive impact he was having.

"This led me to wonder whether I also could use my training to have impact on health matters," Hibbard says. "And then I found biostatistics!"

Hibbard says he was thrilled to be offered a place at UNC. "When I interviewed at the school of public health," he says, "I came away with a flavor of the school's academic rigor. Since enrolling, I have not been disappointed. I am loving my new direction—and the UNC school of public health!"

Hibbard received a Fryer Fellowship in Biostatistics, established by Diane Fryer Medcalf in 2003 in memory of her late husband, John Fryer, PhD. Dr. Fryer was a research professor of biostatistics at UNC and taught in the department for many years before his death in 2001.

Hibbard (left), with Diane Fryer Medcalf

PHOTO BY TOM FULDNER

Camille McGirt

*Undergraduate
Health Policy and Management*



Camille McGirt

“The girls who participate in “Healthy Girls Save the World” say they enjoy the program. We have reached out to about 60 girls, with the goal of reaching 500 by December 2012. —Camille McGirt”



McGirt held a “Healthy Girls” workshop in Durham, N.C., in October 2011.

Camille McGirt spent the 2010–2011 academic year as an intern in Washington, D.C. “I met so many inspiring people [at the White House and on Capitol Hill],” she says. “I participated in several service projects and even helped with the First Lady’s ‘Let’s Move’ campaign.”

When McGirt returned to North Carolina, she was motivated to spread the “Let’s Move” message (see www.letsmove.gov). She decided to implement a program in her community, Durham, N.C., to address childhood obesity. “Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled,” she says. “In North Carolina, the numbers are even more alarming.”

The program she started, “Healthy Girls Save the World,” promotes healthy bodies, healthy minds and healthy relationships for girls ages 8 to 15 in North Carolina. The program provides information about exercise and nutrition and integrates lessons on self-esteem, good study habits, and the importance of respectful and positive relationships.

In November 2011, McGirt was awarded the Robert E. Bryan Social Innovation Fellowship from UNC’s APPLES (www.unc.edu/apples), a program that builds sustainable service learning partnerships. She will use the \$1,500 prize to fund more workshops for young women.

Read more about our students on pages 22 and following.

UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL NEWS

APRIL — DECEMBER 2011

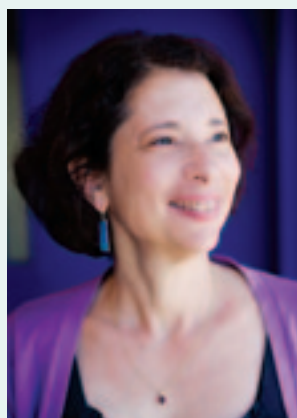
For more information on these topics and other news, please see www.sph.unc.edu/news_events.

Friends, colleagues mourn loss of Dr. Marci Campbell

MARCI CAMPBELL, PHD, PROFESSOR OF NUTRITION, died Dec. 14 after facing cancer with grace and caring for almost two years. She was program leader for cancer prevention and control at UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and member of the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention.

Throughout her career, Dr. Campbell was committed to reducing risks for cancer, especially among low-income and minority populations. She was known for her work in developing innovative, research-tested inter-

ventions for an impressive number of health risks and conditions. She worked with many organizations, including churches, community groups and voluntary



Dr. Marci Campbell

health organizations, and had collaborators around the world. In 1984, she was awarded the Order of the Longleaf Pine, one of the state's highest civilian honors, for her work to improve the health of North Carolinians.

Read more at www.sph.unc.edu/news. Tributes may be offered online at <http://marcicampbellremembered.web.unc.edu>.



Dr. Alice Ammerman

Inaugural training institute connects research and practice

UNC'S CENTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION AND DISEASE PREVENTION (HPDP), led by nutrition professor Alice Ammerman, DrPH, hosted 34 researchers from across the U.S. for the first Training Institute for Dissemination and Implementation Research in Health. The Institute, a five-day workshop that aims to introduce resources, enhance skills and provide strategies for those involved in dissemination and implementation research, is sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the U.S.

Department of Veterans Affairs. HPDP was selected to host the inaugural event because of its experience with dissemination and implementation research.

Among the public health school's speakers were Dean Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH; nutrition faculty members Marci Campbell, PhD, and Carmen Samuel Hodge, PhD; health policy and management faculty members Kristen Hassmiller Lich, PhD, Joseph P. Morrissey, PhD, and Bryan Weiner, PhD; and Timothy Carey, MD, director of the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research and adjunct epidemiology faculty member.

Ammerman also contributed to an Institute of Medicine policy report on childhood obesity. See <http://tinyurl.com/IOM-childhood-obesity>.

UNC, NC community colleges partner to prevent cancer

AS PART OF THE UNIVERSITY CANCER RESEARCH FUND'S (UCRF) Health-e-NC program, public health researchers and others from the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center are partnering with the state's community colleges to assess needs and preferences for adopting and implementing evidence-based interventions for cancer prevention.

"We received overwhelming participation in our initial health survey — 100 percent of the state's community colleges responded," said Laura Linnan, ScD, CHES, the project's principal investigator and professor of health behavior and health education. "This level of participation in a survey is fairly remarkable. We were extremely grateful for the excellent response."

The UCRF was established by the North Carolina General Assembly in 2008 to accelerate the battle against cancer in North Carolina.



Dr. Laura Linnan

Sobsey co-authors WHO report on household water treatment

MARK SOBSEY, PHD, Kenan Distinguished Professor of environmental sciences and engineering, is co-author of a newly published World Health Organization (WHO) report, "Evaluating Household Water Treatment Options: Health-based Targets and Microbiological Performance Specifications."

The document is the first to offer global criteria for evaluating whether a house-

hold water treatment option reduces waterborne pathogens sufficiently to protect health. The resource is especially intended for settings in which water quality laboratories may have limited capacity and incremental improvements of household water treatment could have a substantial impact on public health. See the report at <http://tinyurl.com/WHO-Sobsey-water-treatment>.



Dr. Mark Sobsey

Millikan awarded \$19M to study breast cancer

ROBERT MILLIKAN, PHD, DVM, Barbara Sorenson Hulka Distinguished Professor of Epidemiology, has partnered with scientists from Roswell Park Cancer Institute and Boston University to conduct an ambitious study of breast cancer among younger African-American women.

Data from UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center's Carolina Breast Cancer



Dr. Robert Millikan

Study show that African-American women younger than 45 are more likely to be diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer than are women of European ancestry. The current five-year project was

awarded \$19.3 million from the National Cancer Institute to understand this significant health disparity. The basal subtype, more common in younger, African-American women, may explain why these women are more likely than white women to die from breast cancer.



Stephanie Watkins

Mothers with breastfeeding difficulties more likely to suffer postpartum depression

WOMEN WHO HAVE BREASTFEEDING DIFFICULTIES in the first two weeks after giving birth are more likely to suffer postpartum depression two months later compared to women without such difficulties. For that reason, women with breastfeeding difficulties should be screened for depressive symptoms, according to a new study led by Stephanie Watkins, MSPH, MSPT, epidemiology doctoral student at UNC Gillings School

of Global Public Health. Watkins also found that women with severe postpartum breast pain were twice as likely to be depressed as women who did not experience pain.

U.S. adults not just eating more, but more often ...

OVER THE PAST 30 YEARS, adults in the U.S. have been eating more and eating more often, say UNC researchers. "First, the food industry started 'super-sizing,' then snacking increased, and we were convinced we needed to drink constantly to be hydrated," said Barry Popkin, PhD, one study's senior author and W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of nutrition. "This study shows how the epidemic has crept up



Dr. Barry Popkin

on us. Negative changes in diet, activity and obesity are leading to explosions in health-care costs and causing us to become a less healthy society."

... and eating snack foods makes the problem worse

A HIGH-FAT DIET can be bad for your health. However, a snack-food-based "cafeteria"-style diet of highly palatable, energy-dense foods is even worse, according to a study by UNC nutrition researchers. They showed that rats that ate snack foods commonly eaten by children and adults in the U.S. ate more, gained more weight, had more tissue inflammation and were more intolerant of glucose and insulin (warn-

ing signs of diabetes) than rats with high-fat diets.

The study, featured on the cover of the June 2011 issue of *Obesity*, shows that the "cafeteria diet" (CAF), which mimics buffet-style access

to junk food such as cookies and processed meats, contributed more to diet-induced obesity than common high-fat diets typically used in rodent studies. Rats fed the CAF diet consumed about 30 percent more calories than those eating high-fat or high-sugar diets, says Liza Makowski, PhD, UNC nutrition assistant professor and the study's senior author.



Dr. Liza Makowski



Dr. Andrew Olshan



Dr. Ivan Rusyn

Olshan, Rusyn serve on NRC committee

A PANEL OF THE National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council finalized a report in spring 2011 evaluating the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) assessment of formaldehyde, a chemical commonly used in industry and medicine. Andrew Olshan, PhD, professor and chair of epidemiology, was a vice-chair of the 15-person panel, and Ivan Rusyn, PhD, professor of environmental sciences and engineering, was a panel member.

The report is available at <http://tinyurl.com/formaldehyde-report>.

NC Breast Cancer Screening Program a national model

THE NORTH CAROLINA BREAST CANCER SCREENING PROGRAM, designed to address health disparities between African-American and white women in eastern North Carolina, has been designated a Research-tested Intervention Program (RTIP) by the National Cancer Institute, making program information available to others throughout the U.S.

Led by Jo Anne Earp, ScD, professor of health behavior and health education, and developed by Earp and other UNC faculty members and students, the program continues to be requested by community organizations nearly two decades after its launch. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/nc-bc-screening>.



Quynh Nguyen

Study: Nearly one in five young adults has hypertension

IN A STUDY PUBLISHED in the journal *Epidemiology* (see <http://tinyurl.com/young-adult-hypertension>), UNC researchers analyzed data from the National Institutes of

Health-funded National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. They found that 19 percent of the more than 14,000 men and women participants who were between 24 and 32 years old in 2008 had elevated blood pressure (hypertension). About half of those had been told by a health-care provider that they had the condition.

"The findings indicated that many young adults are at risk of developing heart disease but are unaware they have hypertension," says epidemiology doctoral student and lead author Quynh Nguyen.

Water and health conference brings international experts to Chapel Hill



Dr. Jamie Bartram

MORE THAN 450 ATTENDEES, including the world's leading water experts, gathered in Chapel Hill, N.C., Oct. 3–7, 2011, for the second annual conference on "Water and Health: Where Science Meets Policy." Hosted by the Gillings School of Global Public Health's Water Institute at UNC and the College of Arts and Sciences' UNC Institute for the Environment, the conference focused upon water-related research, policy and practice.

Jamie Bartram, PhD, director of the Water Institute and professor of environmental sciences and engineering at UNC's public health school, and Lawrence E. Band, PhD, director of the Institute for the Environment and Voit Gilmore Distinguished Professor of Geography, were co-directors.

Attendees from nearly 35 countries represented a wide range of organizations, including the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, CARE, U.S. Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Save the Children, The World Bank and others.

Sponsors included the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Procter & Gamble Children's Safe Drinking Water program, Pfizer Inc., International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials, Aquatest, *Environmental Science & Technology* journal, FHI 360, Neerman Research & Consulting, ProCleanse Water Filtration, Suez Environnement/United Water, and Water and Sanitation Rotarian Action Group.

Pfizer Inc. sponsored a keynote lecture by Jeff Chapin, senior designer at global design firm IDEO (www.ideo.com). Chapin designed an award-winning, low-cost latrine—40,000 of which have been sold in rural Cambodia. See a video of Chapin's talk at <http://tinyurl.com/unc-water-chapin-talk>.

"The water and health conference is part of an ongoing effort to bring UNC's WaSH [water, sanitation and hygiene] expertise to bear on the growing challenges of providing safe water and adequate sanitation to the people of North Carolina, the nation and the world," Bartram says. "It is *the* annual event in the field where real issues are tackled with imagination, innovation and commitment."

The 2012 conference is scheduled for Oct. 29 – Nov. 2 in Chapel Hill. Learn more at www.waterinstitute.unc.edu.

UNC GILLINGS SCHOOL OF GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

MAY – NOVEMBER 2011

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



Dr. Wizdom Powell
Hammond



Dr. Eugenia Eng



Dr. Bahjat Qaqish



Dr. Noel Brewer



Dr. Barry Popkin



Dr. Bonnie Rogers

Powell Hammond selected as White House Fellow

WIZDOM POWELL HAMMOND, PHD, assistant professor of health behavior and health education, was named to the 2011–2012 class of White House Fellows, serving in the U.S. Department of Defense. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/powell-hammond>.

Eng receives ASPH/Pfizer award

EUGENIA (GENI) ENG, DRPH, professor of health behavior and health education, received the 2011 Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH)/Pfizer Faculty Award for Excellence in Academic Public Health Practice. The award recognizes those whose careers have advanced and integrated scholarly public health practice through research, teaching and service.

Qaqish wins author award

BAHJAT QAQISH, MD, PHD, associate professor of biostatistics, received the American

Society of Radiologic Technologists' Jean I. Widger Distinguished Author Award. He co-authored "Survey of R.T.s with doctorates: Barriers to conducting research," which appeared in the May/June 2010 issue of the journal *Radiologic Technology*.

Brewer wins Hettleman Prize

NOEL BREWER, PHD, associate professor of health behavior and health education, received the 2011 Hettleman Prize for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill. Brewer conducts research that is "demanding, meticulous, creative" and that influences disciplines far beyond the field of public health, says department chair Jo Anne Earp, ScD.

Popkin named Kenan Professor, wins lifetime achievement award

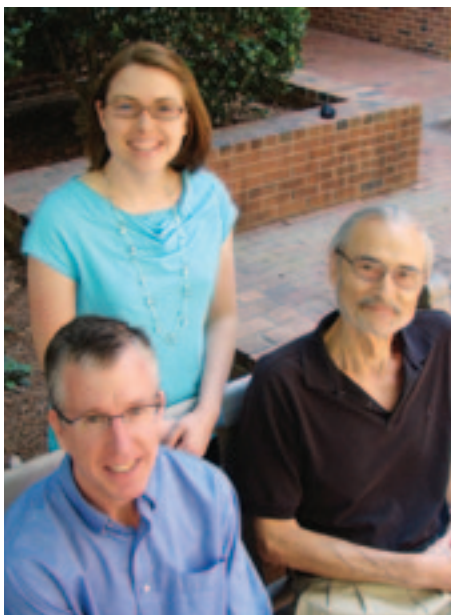
BARRY POPKIN, PHD, was named a W.R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of nutrition, effective July 1. The Kenan Professorship

is an endowed faculty position awarded to outstanding scholars and teachers. Popkin has been a nutrition faculty member at UNC since 1977.

Popkin also received the Obesity Society's 2011 Mickey Stunkard Lifetime Achievement Award, presented to those who have made outstanding contributions to the field of obesity through scholarship, mentorship and education. He presented the Stunkard Lecture at the Society's 2011 meeting, held Oct. 1–5 in Orlando, Fla.

Rogers to lead NIOSH board

BONNIE ROGERS, DRPH, associate professor of public health leadership and nursing, was appointed in June as chair of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's Board of Scientific Counselors. NIOSH is part of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



(L–R) Dr. Jon Hussey, Amanda Holliday and Dr. Gerardo Heiss

Heiss, Hussey and Holliday honored for teaching and mentorship

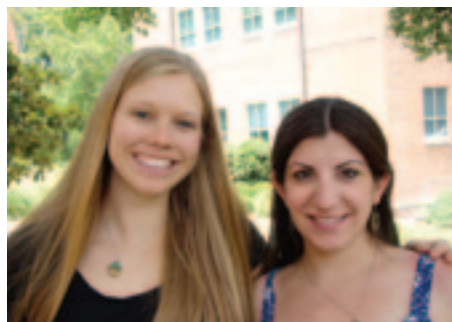
THREE FACULTY MEMBERS were honored at the School's May 7 commencement for their roles in developing the next generation of public health leaders. Gerardo Heiss, MD, PhD, was presented with the John E. Larsh Jr. Award for Mentorship, and Jon Hussey, PhD, and Amanda Holliday, MS, received the Edward G. McGavran Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Aitken and Olshan reappointed as chairs

MICHAEL AITKEN, PHD, professor of environmental sciences and engineering, and Andrew Olshan, PhD, professor of epidemiology, have been reappointed for five years as chairs of their respective departments. Dean Barbara K. Rimer praised them as 'outstanding' leaders. Both began their terms as chairs in 2006.

Viera honored with faculty award

ANTHONY VIERA, MD, MPH, received the UNC School of Medicine's Dr. James W. Woods Junior Faculty Award. Viera is co-associate director of the Health Care and Prevention Master of Public Health concentration in the School's Public Health Leadership Program. His current research



Bonnie Lyon and Dori Steinberg

examines better ways to measure blood pressure and assess people's overall cardiovascular disease risk.

STUDENTS

Fifteen students received 2011–2012 Gillings Merit Scholarships. They are Valerie Smith (biostatistics); Wendy Marth (environmental sciences and engineering); Alexandre Lockhart (epidemiology); Marissa Hall and Lauren Mary Hill (health behavior and health education); Autumn Locklear, Makenzie McIntosh, LeVelton Thomas and Kerone Walker (health policy and management); Molly Ruben and Melissa Sanchez (maternal and child health); Stephanie Mazzucca and Emma Tzioumis (nutrition); and Jennifer Neumann and Scott Owens (Public Health Leadership Program).

Representatives from UNC's Department of Biostatistics were in top form at the 2011 Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM), held July 30 – Aug. 4 in Miami. Graduate students won a video competition, a statistics team bowl competition and individual bowl awards. Participants in the video, "A Statistical New World," included director Diana Lam and fellow students Eric Jay Daza, Christian Douglas, Alison Wise, Jennifer Clark, Supratteek Kundu and Annie Green Howard. The JSM is the largest gathering of statisticians held in North America, attracting more than 6,000 people. The video is available at <http://tinyurl.com/StatisticalNewWorld>.

Explore the School through social media!
Visit www.sph.unc.edu/connections.



Dr. Michael Aitken



Dr. Curt Rhodes



Pearl Kaplan



Claire Lin

Pearl Kaplan, master's degree candidate in environmental sciences and engineering, received a Fulbright grant to conduct research in Montréal, Canada, on the toxicity of ozonated wastewater containing pharmaceuticals.

Elaine Lo, second-year Master of Public Health student in health behavior and health education, was selected for the Graduate Education Diversity Internship Program, sponsored by the American Evaluation Association.

Bonnie Lyon and Dori Steinberg received 2011–2012 Gillings Dissertation Awards to advance their dissertation research. Lyon, in environmental sciences and engineering, is evaluating public health impact of ultraviolet treatment of water. Steinberg, in nutrition, studies whether daily self-weighing by adults affects weight loss.

Shoshana Goldberg, master's student in maternal and child health, was selected as an American Public Health Association (APHA) student fellow for 2011–2012.

Diana Chirovsky, MS, and Ching-Ching (Claire) Lin, MHS, health policy and management doctoral students, received



Diana Chirovsky



Emma Din



Dr. Andrew Olshan



Lisa Perry

fellowships in global health economics and outcomes research sponsored by Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS).

Dio Kavalieratos, doctoral candidate in health policy and management, was selected for a one-year term as the student member on the *American Journal of Public Health* editorial board (<http://ajph.aphapublications.org>).

Anand Kurup, a health policy and management student in the School's executive doctoral program in health leadership, was first prize winner in the public health section of the 2011 British Medical Book Awards. A resident of Geneva, Kurup was recognized by the British Medical Association for *Equity, Social Determinants and Public Health Programmes*, co-authored with Erik Blas (World Health Organization, 2010).

ALUMNI

A 1999 alumnus of UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health was named Haiti's prime minister on Oct. 4. **Garry Conille, MD, MPH**, senior U.N. development specialist and former aide to president Bill Clinton, received a Master of Public Health degree in health policy and administration (now HPM).

He most recently served with the U.N. in Niger and as an adjunct research scientist on community health care at Columbia University Earth Institute.

Denise Jean Jamieson, MD, MPH, 1991 maternal and child health alumna, received one of UNC's five 2011 Distinguished Alumni Awards. She accepted the award on Oct. 12, during University Day, an annual event commemorating the University's founding.

Emma Din, a May 2011 health policy and management graduate, received a Fulbright fellowship to teach English in Colombia from July 2011 to May 2012.

Three recent alumnae received fellowships from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Undergraduate alumnae Rachele Bowman (2010) and Katie Byerly (2011) are part of the CDC's Public Health Associate Program. Elise Lockamy, MSPH (2011), was awarded a three-year CDC Public Health Prevention Service Fellowship.

Alyzza Dill, health policy and management alumna, was selected as a 2011 Barbara Jordan Health Scholar. She served during the summer in the office of U.S. Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., of Illinois, learning about health policy issues that affect racial and ethnic minorities and underserved communities.

Mahyar Mofidi, PhD, DMD, received the Junior Officer of the Year Award from the United States Public Health Services Commissioned Corps. Mofidi received master's (2000) and doctoral (2005) degrees from the School. He serves as chief dental officer for the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's HIV/AIDS Bureau.

Curt Rhodes, PhD, founder and international director of Questscope (www.questscope.org), a nonprofit social development organization, was named a Social Entrepreneur of the Year in October 2011 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship (www.schwabfound.org). Rhodes received a master's degree in parasitology and laboratory practice from the School in 1976.



Charletta Sims Evans



Dr. Denise Jamieson



Dio Kavalieratos



Brittan Wood

STAFF

Brittan Williams Wood, MPH, received the Charles G. Jordan Memorial Award at the N.C. Public Health Association/Southern Health Association joint conference in Charlotte, N.C., on Sept. 22. Wood, accreditation administrator with the School's N.C. Institute for Public Health, also won the N.C. Public Health Association's Special Award and "Public Health All Star" citation.

Lisa Perry, maternal and child health business manager, received the School's 2011 Staff Excellence Award. The annual award recognizes excellent attitude, leadership and outstanding initiative.

Charletta Sims Evans, MEd, was named the School's new assistant dean for student affairs, effective Oct. 3. Evans leads the Office of Student Affairs, providing student outreach and recruitment, advising and counseling on academic and career choices, managing orientations and commencement, and conducting other duties. She succeeds Felicia Mebane, PhD, who had served in the position since 2005.

Annual Research Report 2010–2011

An interview with Sandra L. Martin, PhD



Dr. Sandra Martin

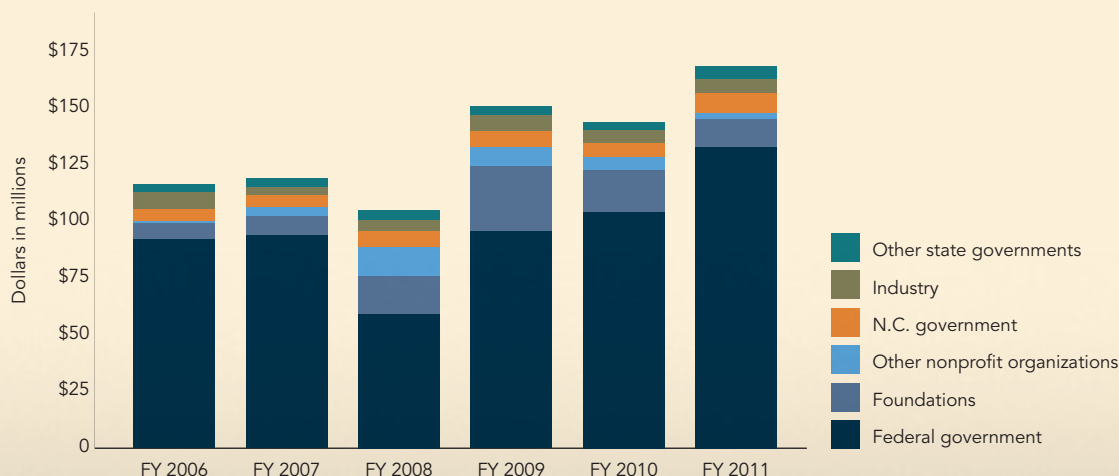
Martin has served since 2007 as associate dean for research at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Having joined the School's faculty in 1990, she is professor and associate chair for research in the Department of Maternal and Child Health. Recent honors include UNC's Carolina Leadership Council Faculty Mentoring Award for 2010 and nomination for the Best Paper of Year Award (2011) from the journal *Violence Against Women* for her work on "Substance use by soldiers who abuse their spouses."

How would you characterize the School's research efforts over the past year?

We are doing very well. We received \$165 million in grants and contracts this year to fund an amazingly broad and rich research program. We averaged 2.65 grants/contracts per faculty member — which is impressive, considering how much work goes into writing proposals. About 80 percent of our research was funded by the federal government. The fact that we don't know how much federal support will be available in coming years underscores the importance of our individual and corporate donors.

Types of funding for grants and contracts awarded to principal investigators at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (fiscal years ending June 30)

The majority of external funding in fiscal year 2011 (80 percent) was from the federal government.



How has the economy affected funding for School researchers?

There is no doubt that this economy is very challenging, but I'm so pleased to tell you that this year, our faculty members have been awarded a record amount of research funding—quite an accomplishment in light of today's harsh economic realities. What does one say about research that continues to be supported despite a decrease in the overall research dollars available from funders? I see it as testament to the innovative and important nature of the research being done here at Gillings School of Global Public Health.

Is there opportunity for students to be involved in faculty members' research at the School?

Absolutely. The research conducted at our School not only helps to find solutions to some of the most vexing public health problems; it also serves as an ideal training ground for our students. Most of our research projects include student research assistants. Working alongside faculty members, students get real-world research experiences—valuable training that will help them to develop into independent researchers.

What about funding for students?

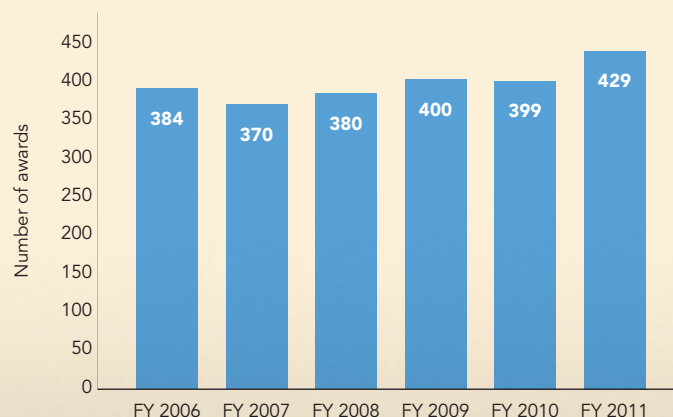
Our faculty members have a strong track record in the area of training-grant funding, awards that help to fund many of our students' educational experiences. This year, we received more than \$4.4 million for training grants from the National Institutes for Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other nonprofit agencies.

“The research conducted at our School not only helps to find solutions to some of the most vexing public health problems; it also serves as an ideal training ground for our students. —Dr. Sandra Martin”

Our training grants focus on infectious disease, maternal and child obesity, environmental health, cancer, health disparities, toxicology, mental health services and systems, and reproductive, perinatal and pediatric health. The grants provide support to cover tuition and stipends as well as training-related activities for our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows so they can enter the workforce as highly trained leaders in the field of public health.

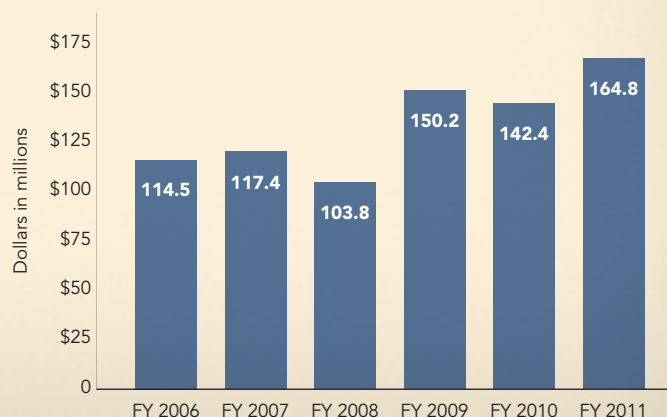
Number of awards for grants and contracts to principal investigators at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (fiscal years ending June 30)

Principal investigators at the School were awarded 429 grants and contracts during fiscal year 2011, an average of 2.65 per faculty investigator.



Dollars awarded from grants and contracts to principal investigators at UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health (fiscal years ending June 30)

Members of the School's faculty were awarded \$165 million for grants and contracts in fiscal year 2011.



“YOUR GIFTS ARE AN INVESTMENT IN IMPACT. You help us recruit and retain the strongest faculty, support innovations in research, practice and teaching, and train the next generation of public health leaders. Your support enables us to achieve the bottom line on our most important balance sheet — to find solutions to some of the greatest health threats and problems across North Carolina and around the world. That’s the difference your gifts make and the difference we can make together!”

— BARBARA K. RIMER, DRPH
DEAN AND ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR



Gillings School of Global Public Health
HONOR ROLL
of Donors and Partners

JULY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011



Layla Lavasani (center, right), in Senegal

PHOTO BY PEGGY BENTLEY

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Jill & Michael Edwin Kafrissen
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

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\$250,000 to \$499,999

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San Francisco
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\$50,000 to \$99,999

American Chemistry Council
American Diabetes Association
Cannon Foundation
Coca-Cola Company
The COPD Foundation
Mathile Institute for the
Advancement of Human
Nutrition
Medical University of South
Carolina
Mid-Course Coalition/Baker
Botts LLP
North Carolina Coalition Against
Domestic Violence

North Carolina Public Health
Foundation
Penn State University
Barry Michael Popkin
Research Triangle Institute
Right to Care
Triangle Community Foundation
United Health Foundation
University of Georgia
University of Massachusetts

\$25,000 to \$49,999

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Health Officials
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LP – US
Boston University
Brigham and Women's Hospital
Carolinas Center for Medical
Excellence
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Jackson Medical Mall Foundation
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Deniese May Chaney
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
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Cynthia Girman
Peggy & Cam Glenn
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Jo Eaddy & Gerardo Heiss
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Betty Kenan
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Anne & Jonathan Kotch
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Terese S. & Mark H. Merrill
Stephen Allen Morse
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Christopher J. Sandt
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WakeMed
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in honor of Dana Quade*
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OMG Center for Collaborative
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Julie & David Potenziani
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Akenji Satia
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Anna Maria Siega-Riz
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Paul Edward Stang
Lydia Lansangan Tiosejo
*in honor of
Dr. Norman F. Weatherly*
Together Rx Access
John Chester Triplett
David Marc Turner
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*in memory of
Marilyn & Al Tyroler*
University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute

Alice D. White
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\$1,000 to \$2,499

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Martha Ann Keels
Joann C. & Ralph Cook
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in memory of Al Tyroler*
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Georgia G. dela Cruz
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Ramona & Alan DuBose
Jo Anne & Shelley Earp
Sara Anne Ephross
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MaryAnn Cross Farthing
Edwin B. Fisher
Lyne Gamble & Kathryn Yandell
Jay Marshall Goldring
Andrea & Michael Griffin
Barbara & Jim Grizzle
*in memory of
Regina Elandt-Johnson*
Priscilla Alden Guild
Leslie & Philip Gura
Nancy Haigwood
*in honor of
Benjamin Paul Scandella*
Richard Hammel
Rosanne Hanratty
Lucy S. & C. David Hardison
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Zhong (seated at table, right) provided health information to earthquake victims in China in 2008.

Victor Wenze Zhong *Doctoral student, Nutrition*

Sanofi/UNC Global Nutrition Scholar

“ I was so impressed by the power of scientific research and its role in improving people’s health that I decided to devote myself to public health research in the future. ”



Victor Wenze Zhong

Victor Zhong’s interest in public health was triggered by a national catastrophe. A destructive 8.0-magnitude earthquake occurred in China’s Sichuan province on May 12, 2008, killing more than 86,000 people.

“My strong compassion and sense of responsibility were stimulated when I heard that public health and reconstruction work required more volunteers,” Zhong says. Despite the risks from frequent aftershocks, he organized a voluntary service team of eight undergraduates and went to affected areas to provide assistance.

He is most proud of a statistical analysis he and his group conducted from first-hand data in the field and the subsequent submission of proposals to local governments. Some of the proposals, such as sterilizing water regularly and giving sufficient first aid, were adopted.

When he began work as a research assistant in Tongji Medical College’s public health school, he was attracted to a project about diabetes, an illness from which a dear friend was suffering.

“Diabetes undoubtedly has become a worldwide epidemic and a leading threat to human health and development,” Zhong says. “The world calls for more people to join the battle against diabetes, taking up the challenge as a lifetime career. I am one of them.”

Read about the impact of diabetes worldwide on page 23.

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About diabetes See the feature on Victor Zhong on page 22.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that occurs either when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. Insulin is a hormone that regulates blood sugar.

According to the World Health Organization:

- 346 million people worldwide have diabetes.
- In 2004, an estimated 3.4 million people died from consequences of high blood sugar.
- More than 80 percent of diabetes deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.
- Diabetes deaths are expected to double between 2005 and 2030.
- Healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay the onset of type 2 diabetes.

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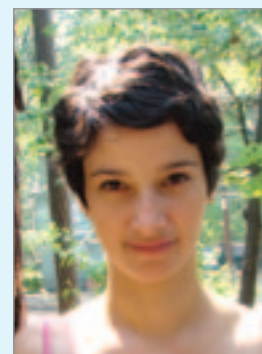
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Carolina Batis *Doctoral student, Nutrition*

“Research is enjoyable. The whole process—from coming up with an idea to finding the best way to present results—requires a lot of thinking and creativity. Both are skills that I like practicing and developing.”



Carolina Batis

Batis' research has shown that Mexicans who immigrate to the United States may adopt diets that raise their risk of obesity and heart disease. Hear her describe her study in a video at <http://tinyurl.com/Batis-UNC>.

Read more about Batis online at www.sph.unc.edu/cph.

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Mehul Patel *Doctoral student, Epidemiology*



Mehul Patel

Patel's current research examines care practices by North Carolina's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel for people possibly having strokes. He finds that better trained emergency workers increase the likelihood that life-saving treatments will be given in a timely way. "Stroke continues to affect the lives of many North Carolinians," he says, "and improving quality of care can make an important difference in health outcomes."

Read more about Patel online at www.sph.unc.edu/cph.

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Jonny Crocker *Doctoral student, Environmental Sciences and Engineering*

Annual Fund Scholar

“Frequent infectious disease from lack of safe drinking water is a constant obstacle, keeping children from attending school and adults from working. I hope to spend my career working on solutions to alleviate the disease burden, helping these individuals reach their full potential.”



Jonny Crocker

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About diarrheal diseases

According to the World Health Organization, diarrheal diseases:

- Are responsible for 4.8 percent of the global disease burden (2.2 million deaths each year).
- Cause 7.2 percent of the disease burden in developing countries, where children under age 5 suffer the most.
- Caused 2,464,425 deaths worldwide in 2008—919,190 in Africa alone.
- Are attributable to environmental factors, including unsafe drinking water and poor sanitation and hygiene, in 94 percent of cases.

Read more about Crocker online at www.sph.unc.edu/cph.

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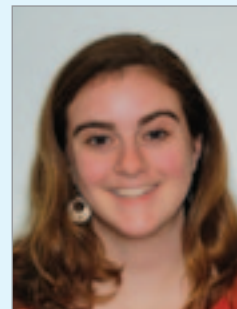
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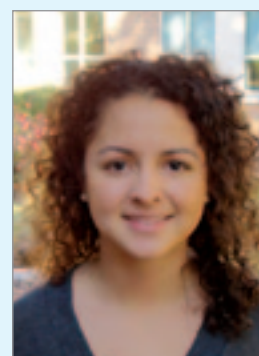
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Lexie Perreras Master's student, Health Behavior and Health Education

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"I'm confident that the knowledge and skills I acquire at UNC will enable me to use my education as a form of service to justice, especially for the underrepresented," Perreras says. She has studied links between discrimination and health in Chicago and Guatemala.



Lexie Perreras

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Nora Rosenberg *Doctoral student, Epidemiology*

Winstanly Scholar / Cornoni-Huntley Scholar



Nora Rosenberg

"A colleague once described an ideal career as one that combines 'the world's great need with *your* great joy,'" Nora Rosenberg remembers.

"I am fortunate to have found this type of career." Rosenberg works in parts of sub-Saharan Africa heavily affected by HIV, where the need for public health solutions is great.

Read more about Rosenberg online at www.sph.unc.edu/cph.

Heather Wasser *Doctoral student, Nutrition*

“Think how truly remarkable it is,” Wasser says, “that in one short year, an infant transitions from a single food source (ideally, breast milk) to an omnivorous diet (ideally, one that is nutritionally adequate). He or she also moves from only being able to suck and swallow to developing a pincer grasp, a palmer grasp, and complete self-feeding!” Wasser thinks the most significant lesson she learned from Professor Peggy Bentley is the importance of culture and context on this transition.



Heather Wasser

Read more about Wasser online at www.sph.unc.edu/cph.

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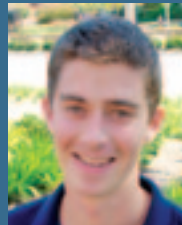
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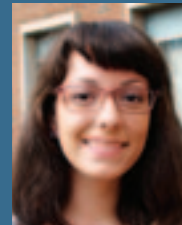
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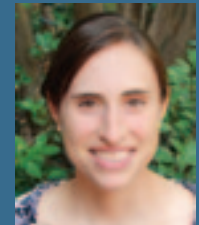
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Sciences
and Engineering



Mugdha Gokhale
Epidemiology



Chelsea Kolander
Health Behavior and
Health Education



Katie Lesko
Epidemiology



Wendy Marth
Environmental
Sciences
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**Florence
Masese-Amadi**
Maternal
and Child Health



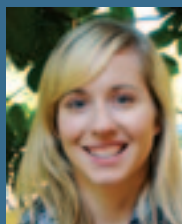
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Front cover (clockwise from top left): Victor Wenzel Zhong (NUTR) in China, Patsy Polston (ESE) in India, Mary Aaroe (ESE) in Lumberton, N.C., Abhinav Komandur and Alyson Malone (ESE) in the lab at UNC

Back cover (above): Jonny Crocker (ESE) in El Salvador