



# News

Department of Health Behavior and Health Education

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

**Spring  
2010**



## Linda Cook Retires after 35 years

*Department throws a big party for her*

*"I can't imagine the department without you!!" writes  
Kate Karriker-Jaffe (PhD 2006) from California.*

*From Joaquin Montero (MPH 1990) in Chile: "I'm so grateful for your kindness and your help during my MPH years."*

*And from Charles Llewellyn (MPH 1980) in Tanzania:  
"Without you, Linda, I never would be where I am, sitting in Dar es Salaam managing the USAID Health program."*



Close to 200 faculty, alumni, students, staff, family members and friends gathered in Chapel Hill on Saturday, September 26 to wish Linda Cook a happy retirement after 35 years as the Department's Student Services Manager. Guests arrived from all parts of the U.S.—California, Arizona, Michigan, Georgia and every place in between—and from across four decades of graduates to celebrate Linda's life and work.

"The outpouring of affection and admiration expressed for Linda by so many generations of students was a delight," commented Professor **Allan Steckler**. "If there had ever been any doubt about just how much Linda has contributed to this Department and to our students (and I'm not sure there ever was any doubt), this gathering puts into perspective exactly how significant she has been to so many."

Department Chair **Jo Anne Earp** agrees. "Ever since Linda told us she was retiring, I've been trying to figure out how we can compensate for her loss to the Department. Linda's time here, combined with her dedication to our students, all add up to something that goes far beyond institutional memory, far beyond just doing a job. We're talking about someone with an 'at her fingertips' knowledge of 20, 30, or 40 students per cohort times 35 cohorts plus those students' boyfriends and girlfriends or husbands and wives, plus their children and grandchildren - names, ages, where they live, what they're doing, who keeps in touch with whom. We're talking about a historical geography that spans the globe."

For more info on the party, including more pictures, go to: [http://www.sph.unc.edu/hbhe/party\\_for\\_linda\\_cook\\_september\\_2009\\_12855.html](http://www.sph.unc.edu/hbhe/party_for_linda_cook_september_2009_12855.html)

The 18th Annual  
Godfrey M. Hochbaum  
Distinguished Lecture

**Meredith Minkler, DrPH**

*Partnering with communities to  
promote healthy public policy*

Thursday, March 18, 2010  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield Auditorium  
Michael Hooker Research Center



Greetings from Chapel Hill! The year 2009 ushered in major changes at every level. The nation elected a new president, weathered (and continues to weather) the deepest recession the U.S. has experienced in decades, and is preparing for the first major overhaul of health care since the 1960s. Here in the Department and School, these events have given us teachable moments at each turn in the health care debate.

In the patient advocacy course I teach, each seminar session this past fall inevitably returned to health care reform and the importance of message framing in this context. How do we create an effective frame for a public health issue (health care reform) to advocate well for populations rather than individuals?

Nowhere was the importance of message framing more evident than with the abrupt change in breast cancer screening recommendations. For years, health educators have looked for ways to help women over age 40 get screened annually for breast cancer. We worked hard to get insurance companies to cover the cost of screening, reduce the stigma associated with breast cancer, help women get into the habit of getting annual mammograms, and convince physicians to recommend screening for all their women patients over 40, regardless of their insurance coverage or race.

Then, with almost no preparation, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force told the public this past November that breast cancer screening is only for women over 50, but not over 74... and then only once every other year... and then only when women are at high risk of breast cancer.

Surprise! The backlash to these new guidelines was intense and furious. “My mother’s life was saved by early screening.” “My life was saved by early screening.” And then, from Marsha Blackburn, Republican Congresswoman from Tennessee, “This is how rationing begins.”

As Ellen Goodman wrote in her column for the *Seattle Times* (Nov. 26, 2009), the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force “dropped these guidelines onto an unprepared public like leaflets from a helicopter of experts who didn’t understand the conditions on the ground.”

These are essential words for us in public health. Our aim is to protect whole populations on the basis of data. Yet many people are moved to action by compelling stories that may or may not have much at all to do with population data. The implication for us in public health is that we need to continue honing our ability to understand the populations we work with, craft clear, trustworthy messages, and frame these compelling messages in ways that “start where the people are.”

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## HBHE News

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Goodman goes on to tell us, “No one wants scientists who bow to politics.... But facts do not speak for themselves. They need to be delivered by people who can listen, frame a message, and prepare the job.”

In this context, I am all the more satisfied that the Department has developed health communication as one of its key strengths. Several faculty have achieved national prominence in this area. Noel Brewer’s research on the uptake of HPV vaccine by both girls and boys is one example, focusing as it does on decision-making and health communication around a controversial but recommended preventive health measure. Deb Tate’s research on obesity and new media spans the gamut from prevention to treatment, with one grant targeting preventing weight gain in young adults and another helping adolescents lose weight. Carol Golin’s research on crafting safer sex and adherence to medications through motivational interviewing messages for HIV positive patients is a third example.

Our recently developed interdisciplinary health communications certificate offers specialized training to graduates in this critically important area. Two of our second year MPH students, Emily Brostek and Mohamed Jalloh, will graduate with the certificate this spring, well prepared to undertake a range of assignments—from health reporting to launching media campaigns—based in sound science and theory about how the public absorbs and understands information.

Read on for more news from the Department, news that we hope is set in an appealing frame. As the months go by, we hope to hear stories back from you about how health care reform may be affecting your work and lives. Write to us at [hbhenews@gmail.com](mailto:hbhenews@gmail.com).

# Alumni Spotlight

Many HBHE alumni work in and around the nation's capital. Here are updates on three HBHE graduates.

These days, it seems like everyone's eyes are on Washington and the health reform debate. **Greg Millett** (MPH 2005), Senior Policy Advisor for the White House's Office of National AIDS Policy, is on the front lines of national health policy.

Reporting to AIDS Czar Jeff Crowley, Millett's responsibilities include AIDS policy research and helping to shape the Obama Administration's National HIV/AIDS strategy. He also helps inform HIV/AIDS policy and legislation, including the Ryan White Care Act.

Walking through the gates of the White House complex every day and passing well-known administration officials like David Axelrod and Robert Gibbs in the hallway has been "an incredible experience" for Millett. "The biggest treat, though," he says "has been greeting the President with other White House staff as he returned home on Marine One, as well as seeing Bo Obama frolicking on the front lawn of the White House!"

Millett has found his HBHE education invaluable to his work, both at CDC and the White House. In developing a National HIV/AIDS Strategy, his office has been traveling across the country to hear community recommendations—a task for which Millett's community diagnosis work as a MPH student prepared him well. Millett's coursework in participatory research and joint research projects with HBHE and Epidemiology have also been invaluable in his work. As Millett notes, "there is a lot that a person can do with simply an MPH from UNC HBHE."

Amidst the politicking of national health care reform, **Frederick Isasi** (MPH 1999) tries to inject a public health perspective into the debate. For the past three years, Frederick has served as Senior Counsel for Healthcare to Senator Jeff Bingaman, a New Mexico Democrat and a key voice on the Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committees, which were central to the reform debate in the Senate. Frederick's job is to advise the Senator on any timely policy issues related to healthcare. As a result, in the past year he's clocked a lot of hours on the job and relies heavily on his downtime with his dog Winston (as in Winston-Salem, his hometown) to keep him energized and optimistic. His public health training is also a source of motivation. "The dominant narrative on Capitol Hill," he notes, "derives from a medical model. The solution to nutrition problems, for example, is to tell people to eat better. Public health has a different, richer story to tell about root causes of poor



Frederick Isasi (right) with Senator Bingaman and members of the Alzheimer's Association

nutrition, which include the environment and access to healthy foods."

Frederick's current job follows positions in health law and Medicaid advocacy in D.C., as well as earning a law degree from Duke. He acknowledges that the path for an HBHE graduate in Washington can be difficult, because the training focuses more on critical thinking than specific knowledge bases. But difficult paths also provide unique opportunities, and are applicable in a wide array of situations. "With a background in public health," he says, "the skill set you have offers you the chance to end up in a very interesting place." When the destination is the U.S. Senate, "interesting" is an understatement at best.

**Anne Goddard** (MPH 1984), president and CEO of ChildFund International (formerly known as Christian Children's Fund) visited the School in January to hold small discussion groups with students and faculty and to deliver a public lecture focused on NGOs and public health.



As president of ChildFund, Goddard leads an organization that works in 31 countries assisting more than 15 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin.

Anne tells us that she is leading ChildFund during an unprecedented period of growth. Founded in Richmond, Virginia, in 1938, ChildFund now has an annual revenue of almost \$230 million. It also ranks 85<sup>th</sup> among the 400 largest charities and 19<sup>th</sup> out of 51 in the international category by the Chronicle of Philanthropy based on private revenue sources only.

"We were delighted to host Anne for her public lecture. It's exciting that our grads hold such positions of leadership throughout the world," commented Department Chair Jo Anne Earp, "It's a terrific opportunity for current students and faculty to connect with a well recognized global public health leader who is also an excellent alumni connection."



## Deshpande Foundation Grants Awards to Four HBHE MPH Students

Over seven weeks last summer, five students from the School experienced what it's like to take a health education program from research to practice in a global context. HBHE MPH students **Yasmin Cole-Lewis, Daniel Cothran, Jessica Feingold, and Jessica Izquierdo**, along with Maternal and Child Health doctoral candidate Rajeev Colaco, received a Deshpande Foundation grant to implement a men's intervention in partnership with the Family Planning Association of India (FPAI). The Deshpande Innovators Program funds social entrepreneurs to create and implement programs in northwestern Karnataka, India.

"Gender inequality norms are widely recognized in India as a pressing social problem," said team member Daniel Cothran, "one that can translate into domestic violence as well as the spread of HIV."

The team of five UNC students aimed to counter these gender inequality norms by launching an interactive program, "Partners for Gender Progress," focused on promoting gender equality among young men. The overall aim of the intervention was to reduce intimate partner violence and HIV risk through educational games and role-plays.

"We had what was, in retrospect, a very ambitious plan," said team member Jessica Feingold. "We wanted to move from formative research to curriculum adaptation to peer educator training to program implementation, all in the seven weeks we planned to be in India."

"This meant that we had to develop recruitment strategies and make logistical preparations here in the U.S., even as we knew that we couldn't completely prepare for the challenges we would meet on the ground."

Once in India, the UNC team collaborated with the Family Planning Association of India and other stakeholders to design and execute the formative research phase of the project, which included focus group discussions with rural and urban young men and women to understand local gender norms and violence/HIV prevention needs. The team subsequently adapted a previously developed evidence-based gender equality curriculum so that it reflected local language usage as well as regional gender and cultural contexts.

We didn't stop there, though," said team member Jessica Izquierdo. "We wanted to make the curriculum—which we titled *Jotegoodu*, meaning "fraternizing" or "coming together for a cause"—sustainable. So we also developed a train-the-trainer manual, so that future peer leaders could conduct the activities and sessions in the curriculum without any outside support."

"That's right," said team member Yasmin Cole-Lewis. "But we also wanted to take advantage of current technologies to support change. So we developed cell phone text messages as a way to reinforce program messages. Text messages were sent to program participants and included information about HIV and gender inequality."

Subsequently, program partners helped choose six students from three Indian colleges to be peer leaders. These six students, along with several Family Planning Association of India staff and community members, participated in 20 hours of training in the *Jotegoodu* curriculum, in which they were introduced to content materials, research and facilitation skills, and an opportunity to practice the interactive activities that *Jotegoodu* provides.



The Deshpande group in India: Jess Feingold, Daniel Cothran, Rajeev Colaco, Yasmin Cole-Lewis, and Jessica Izquierdo (seated) with some of their hosts in Karnatka

Thirty male students, ages 18-25, are now participating in the program, with peer leaders conducting weekly educational sessions. A monitoring and evaluation plan will help the team assess both knowledge and skills gained by participants as well as help identify places where *Jotegoodu* needs further adaptations to better address needs of the local population.

Partners for Gender Progress is making plans to expand the program in the upcoming academic year by training more peer leaders and making the program available for a larger number of students.

"The experience of adapting and implementing the *Jotegoodu* health education program was both challenging and invigorating," says Daniel Cothran. "It was brief," he notes, "but the project went a long way in readying all five of us "Deshpande Innovators" to address the newest generation of public health challenges."

## Awards and Accolades

### Steckler and Eng Awarded SOPHE's Highest Honor

Professors **Allan Steckler** and **Geni Eng** (MPH 1978; DrPH 1983) were both honored with the Society for Public Health Education's Distinguished Fellow Award for significant and lasting contributions to SOPHE and to the profession of health education. Typically, only one individual is recognized with the award each year. But this year's award season brought a small avalanche of nominations for both faculty members.

"I was aware that my colleague John Allegrante at Columbia was nominating Allan for the award, and so I was pleased to second his nomination," commented Department Chair Jo Anne Earp. "Then I heard that Geni, too, was being nominated. How extraordinary, to have two faculty members from the same department competing for the same major award in the same year!"

"From what I understand, the SOPHE Awards Committee would have been hard pressed to choose between two such strong candidates under any circumstance. But the fact that they came from the same department (practically next-door neighbors here in Rosenau Hall) made the choice even more dicey. I'm so glad the committee had the wisdom to choose them both! What a strong valediction of both Allan and Geni's scholarship *and* our department's standing in public health in the U.S. and around the world." The awards, the Society's highest honor, were presented at the organization's annual meeting in Philadelphia in November 2009.



The nomination of Professor Allan Steckler as a 2009 SOPHE Distinguished Fellow was led by John Allegrante, PhD, Professor and Chair of the Department of Health and Behavior Studies at Columbia University's Teachers College and a long-time leader within SOPHE. "Dr. Steckler's teaching, mentoring and scholarly contributions to the profession of health education," writes Dr. Allegrante, "are among some of the most original and in some of the most pressing areas of emerging public health concern, and his commitment to SOPHE has been both tireless and of the highest quality."

Department Chair Jo Anne Earp also wrote a nominating letter for Allan. "He is a well-regarded scholar whose work has helped advance the field on multiple fronts," she writes, "an outstanding mentor, whose thoughtful guidance and support have helped launch the careers of many researchers and practitioners, and a talented leader whose service 'close to home' here at UNC, as well as on national and international levels, has helped shape the profession."

"This year SOPHE is celebrating its 60th anniversary," notes Allan. "Receiving SOPHE's Distinguished Fellow Award is a great honor and I am very grateful for it. I am particularly pleased that my long-time colleague and friend Geni Eng is also receiving this award."

Geni Eng's nomination as a SOPHE Distinguished Fellow was led by Barbara Israel, DrPH, Professor in the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education at the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a HBHE grad (MPH 1978; DrPH 1982). She described Geni as one of "the key leaders in the field, contributing her expertise in numerous areas, including the conceptualization and application of lay health advisor models, the conceptualization and measurement of community competence, the development and implementation of university-community models of engaged scholarship, and the application of community-based participatory research approaches to understanding and addressing racism and health disparities."

Meredith Minkler, DrPH, Professor and Director of the Department of Health and Social Behavior in the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health, agrees. "Geni's enduring contributions include the exceptional quality of her teaching and mentoring, which has produced many of the top scholars in health education. Her creativity is demonstrated in her theory-driven community intervention studies that set a very high bar for the field."

"I am so very, very fortunate," writes Geni, "to be part of a network of such stellar colleagues in our field and especially here at UNC Health Behavior and Health Education."

## Student Awards and Scholarships

Students faced a challenging year financially in 2009. Belt tightening across the University translated to fewer courses, support staff and funding opportunities.

It probably comes as no surprise to *HBHE News* readers that the number of research and teaching assistantships available at UNC dropped, even as student needs increased. This environment meant that the Department's student awards were all the more precious, allowing us to give an added level of support to outstanding (and often very needy) students. Read on for a glimpse of the terrific students supported by departmental awards in 2009.



Morgan Awardees Messenger, Smith, and Brostek

### Lucy Morgan Award Winners

**Emily Brostek** is a second year MPH student with a BA (2006) from Colby College in Philosophy and Human Development. After graduating, she spent two years as Special Assistant to the President of the Franklin Community Health Network, a large, rural health system in Maine. Here in the Department, Emily is pursuing a Certificate in Health Communications to go with her MPH. She has been a leader in organizing the School's upcoming Annual Minority Health Conference to be held February 26, 2010. The theme of the conference is "Building Community in the Age of Information: Fighting Health Inequality in the Modern World." The conference will explore the tools, opportunities, and challenges available to us as we work to build community and improve health in minority communities.

*"Emily is an exceptional scholar whose integrity, leadership and commitment to the practice of health education make her the essence of a Morgan awardee."* – HBHE faculty member

**Joy Messenger** is a second-year MPH student. A graduate of Nazareth College, she came to UNC to serve as an Americorps VISTA volunteer at APPLES Service Learning. Joy is com-

mitted to social justice, community empowerment, HIV/AIDS education, and LGBT activism.

*"Joy's energy and passion about effecting community change and improving the lives of the LGBT population is infectious. Talking to her about these issues and the things we can do to solve problems truly makes one believe that positive change is possible."* – HBHE student nominator.

### Lucy Morgan and Kathy Kerr Award Winner

**Justin Smith**, a second-year MPH student, was both a Lucy Morgan Award winner and a Kathy Kerr Award winner, which speaks to how very highly regarded he is by one and all in the Department.

A graduate of the sociology and community health programs at Brown University, Justin is an emerging leader in HIV/AIDS education and prevention. After enrolling in HBHE, Justin continued in his role as project coordinator for STYLE (Strength Through Youth Livin' Empowered), a model program to encourage college-age African American men who have sex with men (MSM) to learn their HIV status and obtain services. This project is run by David Jolly, HBHE grad (PhD 1993) and now associate professor and chair at North Carolina Central University.

Over the summer, Justin was named "best LGBT young adult leader" by readers of *Q-Notes*, the largest LGBT news publication in the Carolinas.

*"Justin will often work late to ensure that he is providing the best possible care for his clients or educational messages to his community."* – HBHE student

*"As an MPH student, Justin is proving to be a promising young scholar who demonstrates not only discipline and perseverance for all the tasks required, but also a special sense of humanity toward working with LGBT communities of color."* – HBHE faculty member

### Ethel Jean Jackson Award

**Allie Lieberman** and **Sabrina Boyce**, both of them second-year MPH students, were joint winners of the Ethel Jean Jackson Health Education Practice Award. During discussions on *The Ghost Map*, a summer reading book in their first week at HBHE, Allie and Sabrina began to share a vision: that graduate students from disciplines across UNC could come together to serve the community and eliminate disparities. From this vision, the Consilience for Community Development (CCD), an interdisciplinary learning community, was born. Co-founded in their first months at UNC, Allie and Sabrina have been passionate about this endeavor, working tirelessly to build connections with other grad students for the benefit of their community. They successfully established CCD's first project, through which CCD members work with a Durham



organization that aims to facilitate re-entry into the community of women who have been incarcerated. Sabrina also received an award from the Koehler Endowment for Professional Development in Nutrition and Women's Health this fall.



Lieberman and Boyce with Ethel Jean Jackson (MPH 1974)

### Barnhill-Hatch Scholarship

This year's Barnhill-Hatch scholar is **Arcenia Lampkins**. A 2005 graduate from UNC-Chapel Hill with a BA in Biology and Afro-American Studies, Arcenia immediately joined the Peace Corps after she graduated, spending her two years of service in Ecuador. Her work there focused on a range of projects—encouraging healthy living through community cooking, gardening and nutrition classes; developing and implementing a non-traditional early childhood education curriculum for low-income mothers; helping run a micro-credit financing initiative; and other initiatives as well. On returning to the U.S. Arcenia worked as a prevention program coordinator for the Regional HIV/AIDS consortium in Charlotte, North Carolina, a non-profit organization that provides services to those infected with and affected by HIV.

### Hochbaum Award

This year's Hochbaum Award for an entering doctoral student went to **Shyanika Rose**. With degrees from the University of Pennsylvania (BA, Anthropology) and the University of South Florida (MA, Anthropology), Shyanika joins the doctoral program with more than 10 years' experience as a senior research scientist with Battelle. She has expertise in conducting interviews, surveys, focus groups and literature reviews; developing study designs and data collection instruments; conducting qualitative and quantitative analysis; and producing reports and presentations of research and evaluation findings. Shyanika intends to pursue her interests in minority and adolescent health at UNC, even as she extends her abilities as a methodologist. On a lighter note, Shyanika is the second Rose to pursue her doctorate in the Department. Husband John Rose just graduated with his PhD in 2009!

Together with these major department awards, our students tracked up scholarships, assistantships, publications and presentations in 2009. **Jessica Kadis** (MPH 2009) received a five-year Merit Award from UNC's Graduate School to begin doctoral work in HBHE while **Ann Gottert** (MPH 2009) received a one-year Merit Award, also to pursue doctoral work. These are extremely competitive awards.

**Lindsay Moriarty** was awarded a 2009 Robert E. Bryan Fellowship. This University-wide award supports students who propose innovative public service projects that address identifiable needs within North Carolina. **Lojuan Kennedy Maring** was selected for a prestigious Compton International Fellowship for a summer 2009 internship in Masindi, Uganda where he worked on antenatal and postnatal care for women.



Lampkins and Casey

### Spotlight on Outstanding Entering MPH Student SPH Alumni Award

This year, recognizing that the economy has hit students and applicants especially hard, the Gillings School of Global Public Health created an annual Alumni Award so that finances wouldn't be a barrier for financially needy top applicants to come to Carolina. **Jillian Casey**, a first year MPH student in HBHE, was among the first students chosen to receive the award.

As an undergraduate Sociology student at Carolina, Jillian made her mark as someone who was smart, creative, and compassionate and who used her talents to reduce the impact of HIV/AIDS in global settings. A four-time volunteer with a community health organization in Arusha, Tanzania, Jillian personally designed and implemented health education programs relating to HIV/AIDS and sexual health for young adults. In fact, she returned to Tanzania in summer 2009, following through on a commitment she had made to those children to return to their village to check on their well-being.

Casey, continued on page 22

## Earp Returns as Department Chair

By now the news has likely reached you. Jo Anne Earp, who served as Interim Chair of the Department for the 2008-2009 academic year, has been appointed permanent chair for the next two years. The selection followed an extensive search by a committee led by Dr. Dianne Ward, professor of nutrition at the School. As *HBHE News* readers know, Jo Anne was chair of the department from 1996 to 2005 and served as interim chair (or I-Chair, as she called it) since fall 2008.

Commenting on the economic constraints at Carolina over the past 18 months, Jo Anne spoke enthusiastically of the continuing commitment to excellence by all departmental faculty. "Our collective efforts have helped protect and extend our excellence as one of the (if not *the*) top-ranked departments of health behavior and health education in a school of public health in the U.S. I am honored to continue leading and supporting this admirable group."

"Jo Anne's wide-ranging experiences in service, research, and teaching, her wisdom about graduate education, her understanding of the department, her knowledge about how UNC and the School work, and her abiding commitment to the Department's mission and its people, including our alumni, will be of special value in these trying financial times," said Barbara K. Rimer, DrPH, Dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health and Alumni Distinguished Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education.

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## Faculty Updates

*Recent research, publications, and activities by department faculty offer a glimpse into just how broad our reach is globally as well as closer to home. Faculty research crosses many disciplinary boundaries and speaks to many audiences. We've listed half-a-dozen news pieces under adolescent health, but we could just as easily have classified them as violence prevention, medical decision-making, community-based approaches to public health problems or tobacco prevention and control. At the same time, our work is anchored in a public health perspective, a spirit of collaboration, and a dedication to achieving greater levels of social justice.*

### Global HIV/AIDS Prevention

Findings from Assistant Professor **Clare Barrington's** research on social networks and HIV/AIDS prevention in the Dominican Republic appeared recently in *Social Science and Medicine* (2009), where Clare and colleagues reported that men were more likely to use condoms consistently when they thought that some or all their male friends also did so. This finding was particularly strong for men with denser social networks and for those with friends who encouraged condom

use. Clare's findings have strong implications for HIV prevention efforts with men.

With funding from NIMH, Assistant Professor **Suzanne Maman** is carrying out an intervention development study to identify and characterize high HIV/AIDS transmission venues in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for young men, ages 15-19. Suzanne also recently received funding under the Recovery Act to extend her research in South Africa, where she is conducting a randomized controlled trial examining the efficacy of an integrated model of HIV support for women attending antenatal care.

Assistant Professor **Wizdom Powell Hammond** expanded her research in men's health into the global realm last summer when she was awarded a UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health Faculty Travel Award to develop a partnership with the University of Kwazulu-Natal in South Africa to conduct cross-cultural investigations of masculinity, health behavior, and health status among African American and black South African Men. She also received new funding from the UNC Center for AIDS Research Development (CFAR) to examine the contribution of masculine role norms to sexual risk behavior among African American men.

### Violence Prevention

Work done by Research Associate Professors **Beth Moracco** (HBHE MPH 1992 and PhD 1999) and **Mike Bowling** on domestic violence protection orders has been having an impact in North Carolina. Three major policy changes in the state stem directly from their work:

- Newly adopted forms now prompt judges to ask about and list firearms available to domestic violence perpetrators.
- The NC Governor's Crime Commission is now exploring the possibility of tracking civil and criminal domestic violence data, a major step ahead in establishing the prevalence of domestic violence.
- The NC's Administrative Office of the Court now makes statewide data on domestic violence protection order filing and disposition rates available online.

In other news from the Department on violence prevention, Professor **Vangie Foshee** (HBHE PhD 1989) is using funds from the CDC to initiate research on Family-Based Dating Abuse Prevention for Latino Teens. Using a randomized controlled trial study design, Vangie will develop and evaluate an adolescent dating abuse prevention program targeted at Latino mothers of 12-15 year olds who have left an abusive partner.

### Adolescent Health

*Social Science & Medicine* recently published findings from research done by HBHE post-doctoral fellow Paul Reiter,



Assistant Professor **Noel Brewer**, and colleagues. The article, “Parents’ health beliefs and HPV vaccination of their adolescent daughters,” represents the first major paper in the literature on correlates of HPV vaccine uptake by adolescents.

In other work focused on adolescent health, Professor **Susan Ennett** (HBHE PhD 1987) is Co-PI on a new NIH-funded RO1, a randomized controlled trial targeted toward developing and evaluating a home-based, parent-child intervention designed to increase the likelihood of an alcohol-free childhood. She is working with Dr. Chris Jackson, a public health analyst at Research Triangle International and adjunct faculty member in HBHE. In other news, Susan contributed an invited chapter to the Surgeon General’s Report, *Preventing Tobacco Use among Young People*, the first update from the Surgeon General on this topic since 1994. The impact of this report is likely to be measurable for many years to come.

Professor **Edwin Fisher** recently had a major article published in *Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine*. His study showed that the kind of community health worker interventions for which our department has long been well known was successful in reducing re-hospitalization for asthma by 50% among Medicaid-covered, urban children from low-income homes. Important beyond asthma control, this finding adds additional weight to the growing body of systematic evidence supporting the effectiveness of community health worker interventions.

Associate Professor **Kurt Ribisl** served as a member of the Executive Working Group for the G8-sponsored *Global Symposium for Examining the Relationship between Online and Offline Offenses and Preventing the Sexual Exploitation of Children*, held April 5-7, 2009 in Chapel Hill. As a member of the Executive Working group, he helped develop a working draft of the Ministerial Declaration, a document that could be used by the Law Enforcement Projects Subgroup of the G8. UNC’s Injury Prevention Research Center (directed by Professor **Carol Runyan** (HBHE PhD 1983)) hosted this major event.

Kurt also participated as a Substance Abuse Policy Research Program (SAPRP) member. This group prepared agendas, which were to be used as a “roadmap” for federal and private funders interested in supporting policy research on alcohol, tobacco and drugs. SAPRP held a Congressional briefing in October on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. More than 80 Congressional staff, federal agency representatives and advocacy groups signed up for the briefing.

Professor **Carol Runyan’s** research on work-related injuries among minors, disseminated through meetings, task forces, and in the *Journal of Adolescent Health* (2009) and the *American Journal of Industrial Medicine* (2008), was influential in a recent decision by the NC Legislature to double its penalties for child labor violations.

## Health Disparities and Insurance Reform

Recent work done by Assistant Professor **Arjumand Siddiqi** and colleagues weighs in on the timely topic of health reform. Her recent article in *Social Science and Medicine* demonstrated that universal health insurance would have a major influence on reducing disparities in access to primary health care between immigrants and non-immigrants. In another recent publication (*J Epidemiol Community Health*), Dr. Siddiqi and an epidemiology student colleague (Q. Nguyen) demonstrate that there is no necessary biological link between race and health, but that the link between race is context-specific, even in two societies that are similar in many respects. Her findings have significant implications for healthcare access and policy.

**Wizdom Powell Hammond** published a paper on medical mistrust among African American men in the *American Journal of Community Psychology* (forthcoming).

## Promotions and Recognition

Assistant Professor **Noel Brewer**, whose research focuses on medical decision making, was appointed to the FDA Advisory Committee on Risk Communication as well as to the editorial board of the journal *Medical Decision Making*.

Congratulations to **Susan Ennett** on her recent promotion to full professor. Congratulations also go to **Beth Moracco** on her promotion to research associate professor.

Professor **Carol Runyan**, Director of the UNC Injury Prevention Research Center (IPRC), recently received news from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the Center would be refunded for a total of \$4.8 million. This vote of confidence came in a year when only three of nine university-based injury prevention centers were funded nationally by the CDC.

## Global Health Notes

The Department has continued to develop strength in the area of global health. Assistant Professor **Suzanne Maman** carries out research on HIV/AIDS in several African countries, spending several months a year in total in Africa, as well as doing qualitative methods training in China and Thailand. Assistant Professor **Clare Barrington** focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention in Latin America, particularly the Dominican Republic, although Clare has made several visits to Guatemala as well as Nicaragua and Cuba. Suzanne and Clare also support the field work of many MPH and doctoral students who, within the past twelve months, have carried out research or completed practica in Russia, Turkmenistan, India, Malawi, South Africa, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Vietnam, Thailand, and other locales.

Professor **Ed Fisher** continues as Global Director of the *Peers for Progress* initiative, an endeavor that involves organiza-

tions in many countries around the world in using peer support and social networks to help individuals manage their diabetes.

Associate Professor **Carol Golin** has initiated research efforts in HIV/AIDS prevention and control with colleagues in India, even as Research Associate Professor **Beth Moracco** has recently embarked on a collaboration with IntraHealth to begin evaluating their efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in Rwanda and Armenia. Several faculty members (**Geni Eng, Beth Moracco, Clare Barrington, Vangie Foshee**) also carry out research with immigrant populations in NC and the southeastern U.S., particularly Latino communities. See page 4 for a student report on recent global health endeavors.

## Golden Receives Service Award from Rape Crisis Center and Induction into Frank Porter Graham Honor Society

**I**t's been a year of accolades for Shelley Golden (MPH 1999), lecturer in the department and doctoral student in Public Policy at UNC. In April 2009, Shelley was inducted into the University's Frank Porter Graham Honor Society. Created in 1990 in honor of the former UNC system president and US Senator for North Carolina (1949-50), the Soci-



Shelley with her family

ety inducts a select few UNC graduate and professional students each year in recognition of their extraordinary service to society.

Shelley was recognized for both her service to the University (she is past president of the School's Alumni Association) and to the Orange County Rape Crisis Center (OCRCC), where she has been a leading volunteer and board member for many years, having just concluded a term as president.

A scant five months after being inducted into the honorary society, Shelley received the Orange County Rape Crisis Center's (OCRCC) Margaret Henderson Award for Service and Self Care. A nonprofit, volunteer agency established in 1974 and based in Chapel Hill, NC, OCRCC provides services to rape survivors and community education in awareness and prevention of sexual violence. Shelley recently completed a term as the organization's president. She is also one of the original and ongoing members of its diversity committee.

"Shelley has been able to apply her cutting-edge knowledge about intimate partner violence – and how to prevent it – to improve both the Center and the lives of the women (and men) who need its services," says Department Chair Jo Anne Earp. "She has attracted highly qualified staff to the OCRCC, gotten the word out about rape and interpersonal violence as major public health and social justice issues, and garnered significant resources for the agency in the form of grants and major contributions."

Shelley's other nominators praised her as "the ultimate ambassador for UNC Chapel Hill, bringing the knowledge and skills of the University into the community."

## Deborah Tate receives major funding for obesity prevention research

**N**ew findings show that young adults are at high risk for weight gain. On average, the 18-35 year old population gains thirty pounds in young adulthood, a change from previous generations that did not tend to start gaining weight until later middle age. With excess body weight leading to a host of health problems from heart disease to diabetes, researchers are actively studying this population to help determine the best interventions.

*Prevention of weight gain is appealing because promoting long term weight loss maintenance is difficult. ~ Deborah Tate*

Assistant Professor Deborah Tate recently collaborated with Dr. Rena Wing from Brown Medical School to adapt and augment an intervention focused on helping dieters keep the pounds they've shed from coming back. They have recently received funding for a multi-center trial with a coordinating center at Wake Forest to study two alternative methods for applying a self-regulation approach to preventing weight gain in young adults over a three year period. One of the interventions focuses on helping young people make small, consistent daily changes in eating and exercise. The other strategy tests the effect of periodic larger changes. Both approaches showed success in the 4-month pilot study. Deb and her colleagues will now have the longer-term RCT to see which is more efficacious over a period of five years. The grant is part of a U01 funded by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute that includes six grants, each studying a different approach to weight control in young adults. Deb serves as chair of the intervention sub-committee consortium for the overall U01 grant.

# MPH Program News

The newly updated MPH Program swung into its second year, all pistons firing. For starters, MPH Program Director and Associate Professor **Laura Linnan** is publishing results of the MPH Program assessment process in an upcoming issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*. Co-authors include the hard-working members of the MPH Program Advisory Committee, including Professor **Allan Steckler**, Assistant Professor **Suzanne Maman**, Field Coordinator **Meg Ellenson** (MPH 2008), Assistant Director of Academic Affairs **Elizabeth French**, Associate Professors **Lynn Blanchard** (MPH 1985, PhD 1989) and **Mike Bowling**, **Nina Yamanis** (MPH 2004, PhD 2009), **Stacey Succop** (MPH 2008), **Amy Davenport** (MPH 2005), and Associate Professor **Beth Moracco** (PhD 1999).



Mohamed Jalloh

In other news, the Department held its second annual Practicum Day on November 13, 2009. Practicum Day is a conference experience held annually in November. Students apply skills in poster preparation and making professional presentations. Practicum Day allows students to present and celebrate their work and accomplishments, while also thanking faculty,

community partners, and preceptors. The events also helps first year MPH students learn about possible practicum opportunities, lessons learned, and what to look for in an excellent practicum.

Practicum Day 2009 was a huge success, with students speaking to a packed house filled with faculty, other students, preceptors and guests from the community.

Year Two of the new MPH program also meant the launch of the Capstone course and Capstone experience. Our 43 second year master's students were matched with one of ten possible organizations. Students are working in teams with community partners from all over the state (see below). By the end of the school year, teams will produce "deliverables" that help meet the partnering organization's needs while also sharpening students' HBHE-related skills and abilities. Several of our preceptors this year are HBHE grads, including **Sally Herndon Malek** (MPH 1990), **Florence Siman** (MPH 1991), and **Lindsey Bickers Bock** (MPH 2004).



Second-year MPH students Emily Werder and Sarah Satinsky at HBHE Practicum Day 2009

## Capstone Projects 2009-2010

Partnering Organization	Project Working Title	Community Partner	Faculty Advisor
NC Division of Health: Tobacco Prevention and Control Branch, NC Dept. Health & Human Scvs	MBTL: Making Bars and Restaurants Tobacco-Less	Sally Herndon Malek Director	Susan Ennett Professor
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DELTA)	The DELTA Project	April Burgess-Johnson Associate Director	Beth Moracco Research Associate Professor
UNC Campus Community Partnership (UNC CCP)	Community Engagement Through a Healthy Community Assessment in Caswell County to Engender Citizen Participation for Relevant Change	Will Lambe Associate Director, Community and Economic Development Program, UNC School of Government	Lynn Blanchard Clinical Associate Professor
UNC Institute on Aging	Stay Strong, Stay Active, Stay Standing: Preventing Falls Among Older Adults	Ellen Schneider, Associate Director for Operations and Communications	Brenda DeVellis Professor
NC Comprehensive Cancer Program	B-CRAT, Behavioral Cancer Risk Assessment Tool	Walter Shepherd Program Director, NC Comprehensive Cancer Program	Jo Anne Earp Professor; Deborah Tate Assistant Professor
United Way of NC (2-I-I)	Improving Reach and Effectiveness of NC 2-I-I	Marti Morris Director, NC 2-I-I	Kurt Ribisl Associate Professor
American School Health Association (ASHA)	Thank You for Being a Friend: Sexual Health of Older Individuals	Lynn Barclay President and CEO	Suzanne Maman Assistant Professor
Chatham Habitat for Humanity	Healthy Homes, Healthy People	Anna Schmalz Community Development Coordinator	Allan Steckler Professor
Duke Student Health	Hooking Up, Stressing Out, and Sleeping In: The Culture of Sex, Stress, and Sleep at Duke University	Lindsey Bickers Bock Health Education Specialist	Vangie Foshee Professor
El Pueblo, Inc.	Evaluation and Adaptation of a Reproductive Health Peer Education Curriculum for NC Latino Youth	Florence Siman Director of Health Programs	Clare Barrington Assistant Professor



# Doctoral Program News

## Bumper Crop of Doctoral Candidates Graduate from Program

The Department saw the departure of fourteen doctoral students in 2009 as they defended their dissertations and graduated with their PhDs. We'll miss seeing them in the halls of Rosenau but are thrilled for their success. Special kudos go to recent



Jennifer Gierisch (left) at Commencement with Caryl Feldacker, Cherie Rosemond and Kristin Sullivan

grads **Jennifer Gierisch** (PhD 2008, MPH 2000) and **Linda Ko** (PhD 2008), who are both recipients of the Graduate School's highly prestigious Impact Award. Conferred on only 10-to-15 doctoral level graduates each year across all 70 doctorate-granting departments at UNC, this award goes to graduating master's or doctoral students who produce a sterling piece of scholarship that is likely to have a strong, beneficial impact on the people of North Carolina. Last year, Linda received her award for her research on *Health Communication and Fruit and Vegetable Consumption* and how it relates to colorectal cancer. Jennifer will be honored this spring (2010) for her research on mammography maintenance. Other HBHE alumni who received this award in the past include **Chandra Ford** (PhD 2005), **Mahyar Mofidi** (PhD 2005), and **Danielle Haley** (MPH 2006).



Above: Linda Ko  
At left: Cherie Rosemond, Liana Richardson, John Rose and Yvonne Ferguson (PhD 2006)



**In other doctoral program news...** 2009 saw finishing touches to the revised doctoral curriculum. Two courses merged into a new year-long modular required course, Development and Evaluation of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Interventions (HBHE 811 and HBHE 853).

The modular format for the new course mirrors that of two other year-long courses initiated in 2007 and 2008. Doctoral students now have the opportunity to get to know *many* faculty early in their doctoral programs, including: Arjumand Siddiqi, Clare Barrington, and Wizdom Powell Hammond (who teach Empirical, Conceptual and Theoretical Foundations); Susan Ennett, Vangie Foshee, Bob DeVellis, and Mike Bowling (instructors for Advanced Research Methods); and Deb Tate, Susan Ennett, and Geni Eng (Intervention Development and Evaluation).

Caryl Feldacker, *Is It Who You Are or Where You Live? A Mixed-Method Exploration of Associations between People and Place in the Context of HIV in Rural Malawi*

Christina Holub, *Parental/Caregiver Influence on Sexual Risk Behaviors among HIV-Positive Young People in Kinshasa, the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Malika Roman Isler, *The Perception and Social Construction of HIV Prevention in the Black Church*

Delesha Miller Carpenter, *Understanding the Effects of Conflicting Information on Medication Adherence for Vasculitis Patients*

Jamie E. Newman, *Psychosocial Characteristics of Patients in a Family-Centered HIV Care and Treatment Program in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo*

India Ornelas, *Perceived Racism and Substance Use among Latino Immigrant Men*

Kathryn R. Martin, *The Influence of Community Socioeconomic Status on North Carolinians' Health Related Quality of Life*

Sarahmona Przybyla, *Examining Correlates of Serostatus Disclosure and Sexual Transmission Risk Behaviors among People Living with HIV in North Carolina*

Heathe Luz McNaughton Reyes, *Adolescent Alcohol Use and Dating Violence Perpetration: Three Studies Examining Concurrent and Longitudinal Relations across Grades 8 through 12*

Liana J. Richardson, *The Social Context of Pregnancy and Adverse Birth Outcomes: The Role of Race, Place and Time*

John M. Rose, *A Process Evaluation of the North Carolina BEAUTY and Health Project - a Community-Based Cancer Prevention Study*

Cherie Rosemond, *Implementing Person-Centered Care in Nursing Homes*

Kristen Sullivan, *Spouse Abuse by Army Soldiers: Sex Differences and the Organizational Response*

Nina Yamanis, *Geographic and Social Influences on HIV Risk Behavior among Urban Young Men in Tanzania*

## From the Section President

Lindsey Bickers Bock (MPH 2004)

Hello HBHE alums and friends!

In October 2009, I ran and completed the Chicago Marathon. The race was an amazing physical challenge and a great



opportunity to raise funds for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, but also a great analogue for the work we do in public health. Using many of my HBHE skills, I was able to promote the importance of critical research and patient

support while training; by the time I crossed the finish line, I had raised over \$4500 for the cause. Thanks to all the HBHE alums and faculty members who supported me along the way!

This year, the current master's students have been running their own race, embarking on the first round of the department's new Capstone projects. With the new Capstone requirement, all second-year students are working in teams with a community partner to produce a set of negotiated deliverables. Capstone projects replace the community diagnosis and the master's paper with real-world opportunities to participate in community assessments, intervention development, grant writing, evaluation design, and dissemination work. Thanks to the many alumni who are participating in this new learning opportunity as community mentors!

As we talk about going the distance, we can't overlook the myriad contributions that Linda Cook made to the department over her 35 years of working within the School of Public Health. It was wonderful to celebrate with so many alums at Linda's retirement party in September. To read more about the festivities, you can visit the webpage listed on page 1.

We are looking forward to a new year that includes many exciting opportunities to engage alums. In particular, the alumni group is restarting HBHE Career Day this spring. Alumni have a wide array of experiences to share with current students. You are the ones best equipped to help show students the variety of career options that exist after graduating from HBHE, point out ways to hone their resumes and develop interview skills, and help them build networks leading to new practica and jobs in a tough economy.

If you're local, mark your calendar for Monday, March 1, and let us know if you'd like to be involved in the planning process (email [hkm@unc.edu](mailto:hkm@unc.edu)).

If you're not in the Triangle area, we'd still love to hear whether you'd be willing to be a contact for students looking for employment in your area or if you could offer long-distance advice on resumes, interviewing or career selection.

Please continue to keep us posted on all the great things you're up to this year and things you'd like to see the department do to help you and keep you connected. As HBHE grads and public health professionals, we're in this marathon together!

Best wishes,

*Lindsey*

## MPH Grad (and Now Doctoral Student) Receives Acclaim for Historical Preservation with Local Community

First year HBHE doctoral student Emily Eidenier (MPH 2009) had her master's paper research featured by UNC's North Carolina Collection this past summer in Wilson Library. The exhibit, "We're All Family Here: Preserving Community Heritage in the Rogers Road Neighborhood of Chapel Hill," focused on an African American community in Chapel Hill from the nineteenth century to the present.

"It was about African-Americans bringing life to a farm-viable community in North Carolina after emancipation, and a celebration of a long-standing tradition of supporting one another through conflict and hardship," said Linda Jacobson, North Carolina Collection Gallery assistant keeper. "We focused on the recent conflicts, too . . . That helped bring [current] residents together to pursue a number of goals."

Those goals include fighting placement of a proposed solid waste transfer station in the neighborhood and advocating for municipal water and sewage services.



Emily Eidenier holds a copy of her book about the Rogers-Eubanks neighborhood in Orange County, NC.

*Eidenier, continued on page 22*

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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 22.

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**Clarence Pearson** (MPH 1952) now serves as AARP's Representative to the United Nations and the Council on Foreign Relations and continues to promote in new ways the importance of early childhood health education. In the opening sentence of his Letter to the Editor published in the *New York Times* (July 16, 2009), Clarence states "As comprehensive health care reform takes center stage, President Obama and our legislative leaders once again are facing the inevitable challenges of paying for health care. Emphasis on the importance of early childhood health promotion, health education and disease prevention will have an impact on a person's health over a lifetime, probably more than any short-term medical intervention solutions being proposed." As a result of his perspective, Clarence was asked to serve as Senior Advisor to the President/CEO of the National Restaurant Association (NRA). It represents the 940,000 restaurants in the U.S. Clarence is working with NRA staff and the board of directors on a program to develop more effective ways that the organization's members can be engaged with youth-serving organizations and schools in the members' local communities to work together to eliminate the problem of childhood obesity. Clarence has also accepted a position of adjunct professor of education at Columbia University. Along with his wife and business partner, Laurie Norris, he is in the final

stages of completing the fourth in their series of global health books published by Jossey-Bass/John Wiley & Sons, Inc., *Urban Health: Global Perspectives*.

This fall, Clarence shared a speech with us that he delivered at the NC Chapter of a SOPHE meeting in 1989. In the speech, Clarence talked about the complexity and enormity of the U.S. health care system at that time, representing 11.5% of the country's GNP. He noted that 95% of those moneys were used for curative services. The small remainder went toward prevention and health education. In 2009, health care spending is estimated at almost double what it was 20 years ago, and the vast majority is still spent on curing illnesses rather than preventing them.

**Tom Hurt**, EdD (MPH 1960) wrote us a wonderful letter after the revived HBHE newsletter came out last spring. He would love to hear more about alumni from the 1960s to learn where the post-Chapel Hill road led them. Tom credits the MPH he received in the department with making his career, saying that his three university teaching positions (at East Tennessee University, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and James Madison University) would not have been possible without it. He's been retired since 1996 and lives in the Cookeville, Tennessee area.

After leaving Chapel Hill, **Lowell Woodward** (MPH 1966) served in the U.S. Public Health Service in Washington, D.C., where one of his main efforts was to inform the public about Medicare, which had just been implemented in 1965. He continued to work on Medicare education efforts with the Illinois Department of Public Health for several years until he relocated to Laredo, Texas in the early 1970s. In Laredo, he was the chief of the model cities health com-

ponent of the then, city-county health department. This project was developed jointly with Project HOPE, which delivers health education, medicines, medical supplies and volunteer help where needed around the world. In fact it was Project HOPE's first land-based project. A few positions and many years later, Lowell ended his public and community health efforts as the chief operating officer of the newly established Gateway Community Health Center that began as a migrant farm worker health clinic at the Laredo health department where he had worked earlier. His final health education endeavor was as lead grant writer for a Robert Wood Johnson Type 2 diabetes prevention grant that called for the use of specially trained health assistants to teach patients how to properly maintain their health. The Center was fortunate to receive this prestigious grant in 2005. It has since gained an excellent reputation for its effective and innovative program. Lowell was kind to send a couple of articles that he authored during his career, one for *Public Health Reports* (1969) and another for *Health Services Reports* (1974), in which we learned about the groundwork in community public health that was laid at that time.

When **O.J. Sikes** (MPH 1967) retired from the UN in 2001, he was planning to relax and enjoy hosting an internet radio show about cowboys and their music—not at all related to his career (except for a few environmental lessons he inserts now and then). But three months after retirement O.J. was





in Honduras on a UNFPA assignment. Since then, he has done consultancies in Papua New Guinea, Peru, Fiji, Mexico, India, Bolivia and at UN headquarters. The work has included program review and planning, evaluation and resolution of personnel issues in field offices. Meanwhile, the radio show is still going strong, on the air 24/7 at <http://bostonpete.com/>. This year, he even added a show on Bluegrass music, drawing on his NC roots. When he's not travelling, O.J. is at home in New Jersey where he does his show by remote from the basement. He assured us that he doesn't wear the cowboy hat when doing consultancies!

Shortly after earning her master's, **Gloria Clark Lightwine** (MPH 1968) went from working in El Paso, Texas on a one year project with a group from Washington, D.C. that focused on behavioral changes of health care in five projects over the entire United States to joining Project HOPE in its first land-based project in the U.S. based in Laredo, Texas. During this time she married David Lightwine and lived in Nicaragua for two years where David was an assistant director of the Peace Corps and she volunteered as a physician's assistant and held four weekly rural clinics with a medical group in Managua. She then worked for the Oklahoma State Department of Vocational Education in the Health Education division guiding and supervising all of the community college and vocational high school level courses for practitioners of various types of health care. Thereafter Gloria did health care work for the state of Mississippi until retiring from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in 2006. She and David have two daughters and two granddaughters.

In October **Katherine Crosson** (MPH 1974) was honored with the Gold Star Award from the Cancer Patient Education Network. Kathy serves as the associate director for the Center for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety at the Agency for Healthcare Research and



the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland. In 1987, Kathy convened the first meeting of what was to become the Cancer Patient Education Network (CPEN). The group met annually to share best practices, learn about leading edge educational technologies and interventions, and identify learning needs. The meetings grew to include educators from the entire group of NCI comprehensive cancer centers. CPEN established long-range strategic plans and eventually became a free standing organization, working in partnership with, but also independent from, the NCI.

**Henry Debnam** (MPH 1974), Area Director for Cumberland County Mental Health Center in Fayetteville, North Carolina was awarded the NC Council



of Community Programs' prestigious Allan D. Spader Award for outstanding leadership. The Spader Award recognizes leaders in North Carolina who have collaborated with others on issues of importance to the Mental Health/De-

velopmental Disabilities/Substance Abuse System. Hank was honored at a special awards banquet on June 1, 2009, hosted by the North Carolina Council of Community Programs. One speaker at the awards banquet described Hank's many contributions saying, "Hank's leadership has impacted the success of the Cumberland Mental Health Center to the point his peers throughout the State of North Carolina point to Cumberland County as a model. Through his leadership, support and direction, remarkable changes have occurred." Hank is married to Alisa Evans Debnam, MPH, who is the executive director of The Council for Allied Health in North Carolina. They are proud parents of two daughters: Deidra, a junior at UNC-Chapel Hill, and Diana, a middle schooler at Village Christian Academy in Fayetteville.

**Jim Burdine** (DrPH 1979) has been appointed Assistant Dean for Public Health Practice at the Texas A&M Health Science Center's School of Rural Public Health. In addition to serving as assistant dean, Jim continues in the roles of director and co-PI of the school's prevention research center, the Center for Community Health Development. Jim is also co-author of a chapter in DiClemente, Crosby and **Kegler's** (DrPH 1995) second edition of *Emerging Theories in Health Promotion Practice and Research* and co-editor of a theme issue of the *Journal of Primary Prevention* focusing on community-based participatory research and community health development.

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Health Education has never lost its grip on **Lynn Iler** (BSPH 1982, MPH 1986) even though she's taken an employment break for the last nine years. Lynn writes to say, "I was fortunate to begin my career in wonderful jobs in Texas and Ha-

Health Education has never lost its grip on **Lynn Iler** (BSPH 1982, MPH 1986) even though she's taken an employment break for the last nine years. Lynn writes to say, "I was fortunate to begin my career in wonderful jobs in Texas and Ha-

waii with dedicated health education mentors who taught me well. I loved working in the field, but when my husband, Jeff Good, and I had children, I decided to work part time and then quit paid work entirely as our children entered their teens. Throughout these years I have continued to use the tenets I learned so well at UNC's SPH. Community organizing skills have informed most of my volunteer work including teaching adult ESL classes and helping

nity-based approaches for racial and ethnic populations (Springer Publishing Company). The text is intended to inspire new approaches to diabetes prevention and control in communities of color grounded in policy and environmental change strategies and the social determinants of health. Leandris works for the CDC as chief of the Community Health and Program Services Branch of the Division of Adult and Community Health.



high school students find college scholarships. Now living in the Washington, D.C. area, my son, daughter, and I spent time last summer working with the non-profit Highland Support Project in Guatemala. This incredible group uses grassroots organization to work with women who are survivors of the country's civil war. We worked with families to build stoves in their homes, but more importantly we built relationships. (The photo shows children from one of our families playing with me.) After nine years fully engaged in parenting teens and volunteering in the community, I'm in job search mode, eager to return to the field of health education."

**Leandris Liburd**, PhD (MPH 1982) released a new book this fall called *Diabetes & Health Disparities - Commu-*

**Edna Davis-Brown** (MPH 1983) is the director of the Behavioral and Social Science Program at the American Psychological Association. She leads a CDC-funded initiative that uses over 300 psychologists, anthropologists, sociologists, and public health professionals who provide program planning, implementation, evaluation and technical assistance for HIV/AIDS prevention services to CBOs around the U.S. and in U.S. territories. She also serves as president/CEO of the Gregory B. Davis Foundation ([www.gbdf.org](http://www.gbdf.org)) which preserves the legacy of her younger brother, Gregory, who died of AIDS in 2000. GBDF recently received a grant from GlaxoSmithKline to implement free monthly clinics and health forums addressing health disparities in eastern North Carolina. She and her husband James live in Silver Spring, Maryland.

**Anne Callan Cunningham** (MPH 1983) is the director of client services at Room at the Inn, a shelter for homeless, pregnant women in Greensboro, North Carolina. After leaving Chapel Hill, she earned her MSW at the University of Michigan and is currently working on a certification in substance abuse counseling at East Carolina University. Anne writes, "Even though I work primarily as a social worker these days, I use community organization concepts and behavior change strategies all the time, so I am very thankful for all I learned from teachers and fellow students in Health Education!" Anne is happily married and mother to three sons (two in college and one in middle school).

**Jeff Levin**, PhD (MPH 1983) accepted the post of distinguished chair at Baylor University, where he is University Professor of Epidemiology and Population Health, professor of Medical Humanities, and director of the Program on Religion and Population Health at the Institute for Studies of Religion. He also holds appointments as adjunct professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Duke University Medical Center and as scientific chair of the Kalsman Roundtable on Judaism and Health Research at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. After a decade



in academic medicine, Jeff relocated to a farm in Kansas where he spent the past dozen years writing, lecturing and

consulting on topics in alternative medicine, mind-body healing, and spirituality and health. His most recent book is the forthcoming *Divine Love: Perspectives from the World's Religious Traditions*, an edited academic work on the interface of moral theology and comparative religion. Jeff moved to Texas with his wife, Dr. Lea Steele, a neuroepidemiologist and human ecologist, last fall to take the position at Baylor.



**Anna Schenck**, PhD (MSPH 1983) was appointed director of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health's Public Health Leadership Program (PHLP) and Professor of the Practice in early December 2009. After eleven years at the Carolina Center for Medical Excellence as a senior scientist and research director, Anna is looking forward to an academic position. She hopes to contribute to the PHLP's mission by creating opportunities for faculty and students to work collaboratively with those delivering public health services. She also plans to increase PHLP's research base.

**Pete Hunt**, MEd (MPH 1986), a health scientist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH), received the 2009 Outstanding School Health Educator of the Year Award from the American School Health Association. Pete was recognized for his many years contributing to CDC/DASH efforts to define the roles and responsibilities of state health and education agencies in building effective approaches to school health. The award also praised his work developing and implementing DASH's school-health technical guidance and professional development for state and local education and health agencies. He was cited for developing school health-related tools and resources, including the *Health Education Curriculum Analysis Tool*, to help school districts select or develop more effective health education curricula. Pete lives with his wife Holly in Suwanee, Georgia.

**Jess Shatkin**, MD (MPH 1988) leads the educational efforts of the New York University Child Study Center. In addition to directing one of the largest training programs in the country in child and adolescent psychiatry at the NYU School of Medicine, Jess is the director of undergraduate studies for the first child and adolescent mental health college minor in the country (the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Studies [CAMS] Minor) at NYU. His major clinical interests are Autism Spectrum

Disorders, Mood and Anxiety Disorders, Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, and Oppositional Defiant and Conduct Disorders. Jess has published in the areas of child mental health policy, complementary and alternative medicine, sleep medicine, and medical education. He released a book this fall, *Treating Child and Adolescent Mental Illness* (W. W. Norton and Co.), that teaches parents, therapists, and doctors everything they need to know about psychopathology in kids. He also hosts "About Our Kids," a weekly national radio call-in program on the Sirius/XM Satellite Radio Network (Sirius 114 & XM 119) which airs live each Friday morning from 8:00-10:00 a.m. eastern time and is repeated regularly throughout the week. Jess lives in Greenwich Village with his wife, theater director Alice Jankell, their daughter, Parker, son, Julian, and dog, snake, and hamster.

**Erica Salem** (MPH 1989) is approaching her 20th year with the Chicago Department of Public Health where she is assistant commissioner of health, focusing on organizational transformation and financial management. Her twins, Charlie and Sophie, are about to turn 8 and are counting the years until they are old enough to apply to HBHE. While awaiting the much anticipated return of the HBHE Newsletter, Erica has been reconnecting with cohort mates (**Martha Tenney**, **Rima Affifi** and **Cathy Sarri**) on Facebook and enjoyed a visit last year catching up with **Jess Shatkin** (MPH 1988).

**Kendra Hatfield-Timajchy** (MPH 1991) continues to work in the Division of Reproductive Health at the CDC. Her current projects include two mixed-method research studies, one on barrier contraceptive use among urban African-American and Puerto Rican young adults and another on dual protection among African-American women. Last March, Kendra started teleworking from Syracuse, New York (with monthly trips back to Atlanta) so that she can be closer to her husband, Mano, an engineer at

Lockheed Martin in Syracuse. Kendra sees **Kathie Sunnarborg** (MPH 1990), **Jane Mezo**ff (MPH 1988), and **Amy Lansky** (MPH 1991, PhD 1996) from time to time at the CDC and reports they're all doing well.

**Kate Fothergill** (MPH 1992) completed her doctoral degree at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Jo Anne Earp caught up with her at the annual APHA meeting this year where Kate presented a poster on "Living Arrangements During Childrearing Years and Later Health of African American Mothers."

**Amy Lansky** (PhD 1996, MPH 1991) has been promoted to Deputy Director of the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention at CDC. She oversees CDC's domestic HIV program in the areas of surveillance, epidemiology, and laboratory science. Quite a few HBHEs work in the Division, including **Greg Millett** (MPH 1995, currently at the Office of National AIDS Programs at the White House), **Lytt Gardner** (MPH 1973), **Jane Mezo**ff (MPH 1988), and **Rhondette Jones** (MPH 1993).

**Sheryl Thorburn** (formerly Bird; PhD 1993) married Bob Quintero, an attorney for the Oregon State Lottery, on December 12, 2009 in Salem, Oregon. She and her new husband traveled to Rome for their honeymoon. The couple, along with Sheryl's daughter, Kate, will continue to live in Corvallis, Oregon where Sheryl is an associate professor at Oregon State University.





Since the spring HBHE newsletter, **Gina Upchurch** (MPH 1993), executive director of Senior PharmAssist of Durham, NC, has been honored with three distinguished awards: the Women of Vision Award of Excellence from the Durham Alumnae Chapter of Bennett College for Women; a Jerry Nance Community Service Award from the Durham-Orange County Medical Society; and the Jim Long Outstanding SHIP Service Award from the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program of North Carolina. Gina fits her director duties in between advocacy efforts for health care reform at the county, state and national levels, taking some weeks off each year to return to Botswana where she has stayed involved with the community since her days with the Peace Corps.

Congratulations to **Margo Michaels** (MPH 1994) and Merav Opher on the birth of Liam Baruch Opher-Michaels in June 2009! Baby Liam is growing daily and both moms are doing well! Margo, founder and executive director of Education Network to Advance Cancer Clinical Trials (ENACCT), and **Natasha Blakeney** (MPH 2000), the organization's program director, presented results from ENACCT's flagship Pilot Education Program at APHA's annual meeting in Philadelphia this year. The presentation was titled "ENACCT's Pilot Education Program: A Community-Centered Model for Enhancing Cancer Clinical Trials Participation among Medically Underserved Populations."



Liam, Margo, and Merav in October

**Sandy Diehl** (MPH 1994 in MCH) and Scott Coulthard had twins, Cameron May and Andrew Diehl Coulthard, in September. When they were first born, Scott mentioned that "At least they harmonize when they cry, which is kind of cute even at 3:30 a.m." Sandy continues to work for the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center as one of three SPEED outreach coordinators.

With Karen Glanz's departure from Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health, **Michelle Crozier Kegler** (DrPH 1995) has become director of Emory's Prevention Research Center and of the Community Engagement Core of Emory's CTSA grant. Michelle was already leading Emory's Department of Behavioral Sciences and Health Education's doctoral program. As if these responsibilities weren't keeping her busy enough, Michelle is lead evalu-



Michelle Kegler and Nina Wallerstein at APHA

ator for a Gates Foundation project to promote tobacco control in China.

**Barbara Alvarez Martin** (MPH 1995) is a senior research associate at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. Recently, her group received a R25T for a post-doc training program that has a particular focus on cancer survivorship.



This fall **Julie Sweedler** (MPH 1994) left her job at UNC Health Care in Chapel Hill and accepted a two year contract to work in Botswana. She is helping to start a state-of-the-art non-profit hospital in the capital city, Gaborone, as director of education. Bokamoso Private Hospital is owned by the two largest health insurance companies in the country. They are investing in it so that their insured don't have to travel to South Africa for specialty care, as is now the case. Julie reflects on the fact that it is a rare opportunity to participate in starting a hospital anywhere, let alone in southern Africa. She arrived while the hospital was still being built. It is slated to open mid-January 2010. Among other things, Julie is setting up a digital library, fostering community partnerships and coordinating continuing medical education for hospital providers.

Julie says that it is an especially exciting time to be involved with Continuing Medical Education (CME) in Botswana as the country has historically had no formalized CME requirements for physicians. This year a bill is being considered in Parliament to require registered doctors to obtain 20 CME hours per year. Bokamoso Private Hospital will require their medical professionals to achieve 50 CME credits per year. Julie says it is challenging to research and start a CME program from scratch, especially with the slow internet bandwidth available in the country. On the other hand, there *is* internet, something she didn't encounter in previous visits to Africa.

Julie is also using her time in Botswana to explore the country and region—she has met with women's groups, visited hospitals outside the city center, and recently went to a game park in South Africa where she was lucky enough to spot two endangered black rhinos. She sends a big "hello" to all her fellow HBHEs and adds that she would welcome visitors. She can be reached at [julie.sweedler@gmail.com](mailto:julie.sweedler@gmail.com).

Barbara is herself a cancer survivor who wrote us about a tool that she credits with being important to her cancer care and survivorship: a blog on a personalized website called CaringBridge.org. "It has played an incredibly therapeutic role for me," wrote Barb, "and yet I have been amazed that not a single oncology doctor or nurse to whom I have mentioned it has been familiar with it. It has served as an important mechanism for social support, as a personal information 'gatekeeper' and 'control valve,' and even as a therapist of sorts (through



Josh (4) and Lanie (8) decorated their mom's lovely bald head last summer

the blog/journal function). I think my cancer recovery and survivorship has been stronger as a result." She went on to say, "As a public health researcher and now cancer survivor, I am doubly interested in how to improve quality of life for cancer patients and survivors. Although I can only speak from my own experience, little seems to be done by health professionals once the chemo is over or the surgery has been performed to support the long-term psychological and emotional healing of the patient. I have been surprised at how this simple 21st century technology has been able to fill some of this need for me."

**Amy Glenn Vega** (BSPH 1995) has authored a series of educational novellas for nurses called *Nursing Novellas*. The series is published by Pritchett and Hull Associates, Inc., in Atlanta, and the first two titles were released in June 2009. <http://nursingnovellas.com/>

Amy lives in Fayetteville, NC, working full time as an education director at Southern Regional Academy of Health Care Education.



**Lumbé Davis** (MPH 1997) is still a health education specialist within CDC's Division of STD Prevention. She recently returned from a three month temporary assignment with the Global AIDS Program at CDC-Rwanda, part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. During her time there, she worked on a rapid HIV testing training curriculum for non-laboratory personnel. The training program is part of a national initiative to increase access to testing.

**Renee Johnson** (MPH 1998; PhD 2005), now an assistant professor in the department of community health sciences at the Boston University School of Public Health, recently received a \$75,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to examine violence experienced by lesbian, gay and bisexual youth in Boston public high schools. Renee will use data from the 2008 Boston Youth Survey to examine victimization of lesbian, gay and bisexual students and to quantify how those experiences relate to emotional distress. Renee is also planning to assess the ways in which schools have adopted recommendations from the Massachusetts State Board of Education to ensure that lesbian, gay and bisexual youth are safe and supported through anti-harassment policies, diversity training, provision of counseling, and founding of student groups. Renee tells us that "this research is important because LGB youth are more likely than their peers to be bullied or assaulted at school, even in Massachusetts, where same-sex marriage is legal." The two-year grant was awarded through RWJF's New Connec-

tions: increasing Diversity of RWJF Programming. New Connections is designed to expand the diversity of perspectives that inform RWJF programming and introduce new researchers and scholars to the Foundation. Renee is one of eight research professionals nationwide to receive New Connections funding this year.



Lumbé (leftmost) in Rwanda with a local staff member after Sunday dinner at his home

**Margaret Clawson** (MPH 2000) says that after almost considering a new career field, she finally (on her fourth try!) found a job in public health that she really enjoys. Margaret works with Dr. Karen Glanz, who is at the University of Pennsylvania, managing the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey (NEMS) trainings and technical support. She was conducting in-person trainings and now mostly runs the online NEMS course that will launch in January. She says, "It has been quite a learning experience to develop a decent interactive online course." The other part of her job is coordinating a weeklong Built Environment Assessment Training Institute. Luckily the job offers lots of flexibility, which is welcome since Margaret and her partner, Margaret Kaniewski, have a full house to manage! They adopted two boys, Roberto (3 years old) and Alejandro (3 in February), from Guatemala a few years ago and Margaret K. gave birth to the couple's third son, Oliver, on November 1, 2009.

In October **Stephen Hodgins** (DrPH 2000) moved to Washington, D.C. to



work as technical director for the new USAID-funded Maternal Child Health Integrated Project (MCHIP). For the six years prior to this position Steve was based in Kathmandu as chief of party for Nepal Family Health Program, a USAID-funded project of John Snow Inc. Research and Training Institute.

**Robin Argue** (MPH 2001) has been in Honolulu for over four years, working at the Hawaii State Department of Health Injury Prevention and Control Program. She coordinates a five year CDC-funded grant focused on building the core capacity of the university's injury program. Last year she was elected to the Executive Committee of STIPDA (State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association). Robin often hangs out with MPH cohort member **Deborah Zysman** and occasionally crosses paths with fellow HBHEs **Angela Sy** (PhD 2005) and **David Kingdon** (MPH 2003).

**Meg Meador** (MPH 2001) now lives in the North Pole. Actually, a town in Alaska called North Pole. She wrote about what she's learned after spending a year in Alaska, "Alaska is an extreme place. And hence, so then are the people drawn to this northern expanse. There's no shortage of free thinking and eccentricity here. Our friend's neighbor actually has a tattoo of every species of salmon he's ever caught, and people driving high-end SUVs dumpster dive." Meg also shared a few amusing nuggets:

- *I never understood the practicality of putting heaters in closets until my friend's jeans froze to the wall.*
- *Water does, in fact, disintegrate when thrown into the air at -30°.*
- *Athabaskan is difficult to learn: "Do'eent'aa?" = "How are you?" "Eszoonh, do'eeslst'aa'e = "I'm fine."*
- *Moose meat does not taste like chicken.*

Her husband Ashley is now home after a third tour of duty in Iraq and back to leading the medevac company at Fort Wainwright. During the past year, while

Ashley was deployed, Meg held down the home front with sons Morgan (now in kindergarten) and three-year-old Owen. In addition to parenting and managing households, she taught four online Critical Thinking courses with the University of Phoenix, continued to serve as the Family Readiness Group leader for spouses in Ashley's company, and volunteered with To Love a Child Educational Foundation International for which she published the group's HIV prevention curriculum.

**Maggie Haines Amanti** (MPH 2002) lives in Largo, Florida with husband Francisco and two fabulous daughters, three-year-old Lily and 18-month-old Ginevra (Gigi). Maggie recently completed her medical residency in family practice and started working for a non-profit organization called Tampa Family Health Centers in October. The TFHC has clinics scattered around Tampa that are aimed at providing access to health care for un- and underinsured patients, including a large migrant population in the area. Maggie says that the Gulf Coast of Florida is fantastic, but she misses NC and hopes to make it up for a visit sometime!

**Nina Yamanis** (MPH 2004, PhD 2009) successfully completed the doctoral program in HBHE this summer and then travelled to Greece where she and Joon-Suk Lee had a beautiful wedding with many HBHEs in attendance. Nina is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Duke Global Health Institute where she is continuing to study hard-to-reach populations at risk for HIV in Sub-Saharan



Nina and Joon being showered with rice as the priest leads them out of the church

Africa and most recently in China. She continues to collaborate with Dr. Suzanne Maman, assistant professor in HBHE, and their colleagues in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where they are currently piloting a microfinance/health intervention to change social norms regarding sexual risk behaviors and partner violence among small networks of urban young men. Their work was recently featured in the Injury Prevention Research Center's winter newsletter: <http://www.iprc.unc.edu/pages/newsletters/newsletter/newsv14n2.pdf>

**Austin Brown** (MPH 2005) and **Betty (Markatos) Brown** (MPH 2004) are very excited to announce the birth of Nora Elizabeth Brown on November 14, 2009. Austin, Betty, and Nora live in Carrboro, NC and are all doing well.

**Catherine Aspden Grodensky** (MPH 2005) and husband Joel welcomed son Charles Abraham Grodensky, better known as Charlie, on July 6, 2009. Catherine is currently working as manager of the UNC Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) Social and Behavioral Sciences Core, directed by Associate Professor Carol Golin.



**Karen Isaacs** (MPH 2005) graduated from Wake Forest University School of Medicine with an MD and got engaged in May 2009. She's now in a family medicine residency program in Wilmington, NC.

In early December 2009 **Darcie Mersereau** (MPH 2005) was promoted to vice president for health programs at Special Olympics International in Washington, D.C., where she oversees a health program that conducts health screenings for Special Olympics athletes, trains healthcare providers in working with patients with intellectual



disability, and collects data from health screenings to improve health policies for this population. The health program operates in more than 100 countries worldwide. Darcie adds that this position never would have happened without her time in HBHE!

**Emily (Johnson) van Schenkhoef** (MPH 2006) has been working as the policy specialist for the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence since her graduation from HBHE. Recently she's been working on one of the first social marketing campaigns designed to prevent violence against women by targeting boys ages 11-14. Emily tells us, "Personally, I am very busy and happily raising my almost two-year-old daughter, Estella Kay van Schenkhoef, who was born February 4, 2008. I never would have thought I would love being a mother so much."

**Allie (Park) Crouch** (MPH 2007) and her husband Edward moved to New York City after Edward finished both his JD and MBA at Georgia State and got the "job of his dreams" in management consulting in Manhattan. Luckily, Allie could keep her position as a senior research project coordinator at Emory University and work from home in Manhattan. She is the program coordinator for the CARES (Cardiac Arrest Registry to Enhance Survival) Program, which is a model national out-of-hospital cardiac arrest registry. Based out of Emory, the program is fully funded by the CDC and endorsed by the American Heart Association. CARES published an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (2008) and had another article in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine* (2009), with Allie as an author on both.

**Duy Tran** (MPH 2007) and Shauna Smith's daughter Madeline Xuan Tran was born on July 2, 2009. Reports say that Madeline is a happy, healthy baby with her father's hair and mother's eyes.

Duy continues to work as an epidemiology analyst for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

**Jessica Bates** (MPH 2008) works at the CDC through a Presidential Management Fellowship. She's currently educating communities affected by chemical pollution. Jessica recently co-authored a monograph with UNC's Philip Sloane, MD, MPH (Department of Family Medicine/Sheps Center) entitled "Effective clinical partnerships between primary care medical practices and public health agencies," and presented a poster with a similar title at APHA this fall.

**Arin Ahlum Hanson** (MPH 2008) is an education and outreach coordinator at Living Beyond Breast Cancer, a national nonprofit based outside of Philadelphia whose work is focused on education and support of women after

**Margot Sue Mahannah** (MPH 2008) is based in Washington, D.C. where she works for Population Services International (PSI) as an associate program manager for Uganda and Kenya. She travels about 15% of the year to provide technical and programmatic assistance to these programs. Margot's work with PSI focuses primarily on AIDS education and prevention, malaria prevention, and a host of maternal-child health issues.

**Anh Tran** (PhD 2008) is now program director of Duke University's Master of Health Sciences degree program in Clinical Leadership. In addition, she's an assistant professor in the Division of Community Health in the Department of Community and Family Medicine.

**Emily Waters** (MPH 2008) completed a year-long fellowship in Zambia with HIVCorps, after which she stayed on in Lusaka at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) to coordinate a circumcision study.

**Emily Eidenier** (MPH 2009) is currently pursuing her doctorate in HBHE. The big news from Emily and her husband James Pearce is the birth of Isabel Amina Pearce, who was born early in the morning on December 8, 2009 at UNC Hospitals.

After graduation last spring, **Kevin Wu** (MPH 2009) moved to Oakland, California where he serves as an analyst/

program coordinator in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco. His work revolves around health services delivery reform, particularly the advancement of the patient-centered medical home (PCMH) model among primary care practices across the country. One current project is the evaluation of the PCMH demonstration project in Greater New Orleans, the only such demonstration project in the country serving safety-net populations. Kevin



Arin with alumnae Chandra Ford (PhD 2005) and Rebecca Cashman (MPH 2009) at the HBHE social at APHA 2009

breast cancer diagnoses. She coordinates outreach programs for medically underserved women. In addition, Arin facilitates an interfaith dialogue and service program with high school youth from five diverse faith traditions through the Interfaith Center of Greater Philadelphia. Last spring, she helped teach an introduction to community health course at Drexel University's School of Public Health for their first year MPH students.

has found this work very enlightening and engaging and credits his time in the HBHE MPH program for leading to this wonderful opportunity. Other than



Kevin Wu

working, Kevin is running again and hopes to complete his first marathon in 2010. He claims to have discovered many more hours in the evenings and weekends that weren't there while he was in grad school, and he looks forward to following the UNC men's basketball and women's soccer teams to more national championships soon!

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Keep in touch with HBHE alums on Facebook by joining the group **UNC HBHE Alumni**

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## Congratulations to Sandra Quinn!

An assistant professor in HBHE from 1995-2000, Sandra was recently promoted to Professor in the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh.



## Casey continued from page 7

In another effort, as an intern with the Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation in South Africa, Jillian helped evaluate clinical services for pregnant women living with HIV so as to improve future treatment retention rates and outcomes. At UNC, she demonstrated strong leadership potential as a cabinet member at the Campus Y Center for Social Justice and as co-chair of their Health Focus committee. As well, as an employee of the ARC of Hunterdon County in Clinton, New Jersey, she provided direct care services to people with disabilities.

Tragically, Jillian's parents both died last August in a car crash, leaving Jillian, her older brother (age 23) and her younger brother (age 16) to figure out a road map forward.

Jillian knew, even before graduating from Carolina in 2009, that she wanted to pursue an MPH in our Department. Our strengths in global health, combined with the excellence of our reputation in training analytic practitioners, led her to place us first on her list. Without support from the Annual Alumni Award, however, as an out-of-state student, this would not have been possible.

*"I wish there were words for how grateful I am for all of your efforts to find funding for me," writes Jillian, "so that I can continue my time as a proud Tar Heel. My mother's excitement resonates with me as I think of how happy she'd be to know that her daughter found such a warm home at this school."*

## Introducing HBHE's new Student Services Manager, Paige Eppenstein Anderson



Paige Eppenstein Anderson

joined the department as student services manager this fall. She came to us from the School's Office of Student Affairs where she'd been working since relocating to Chapel Hill from Boston, Massachusetts in summer 2008. While she's not assisting students or answering questions and processing folders from applicants, Paige is working on her research as a doctoral candidate in higher education administration (Boston College). She holds a Master's in religious studies from Harvard University. "Paige has already become indispensable to the department," remarked chair Jo Anne Earp, "she's a wonderful addition to our team."

## Eidenier continued from page 13

The exhibit was based on Emily's book, *Rogers Road*, available online at <http://www.lulu.com/>, which she completed as part of her master's work. Emily received support from a UNC Robert E. Bryan Fellowship (2008) to complete the work and, more recently, a grant from the Chapel Hill Historical Society to distribute the book in Orange County.

*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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Campus Box 7440  
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7440

or email us at  
[hbhenews@gmail.com](mailto:hbhenews@gmail.com)

*Thanks to everyone who wrote!*



## In Memoriam

Former HBHE faculty member and alumna **Harriet Hylton Barr** (MPH 1948) died December 14, 2009. Harriet gave more than 50 years of service to the department and school, starting as a health education assistant under Lucy Morgan. Harriet received her MPH in the department and worked her way up to clinical associate professor and then to director of the School of Public Health's public relations office, becoming assistant dean for alumni affairs until her retirement in 1994. Harriet contributed to the department and School in numerous ways. She was committed to HBHE's undergraduate program for over fifteen years and also integral to the creation and maintenance (throughout her life) of the Lucy Morgan Award, which now allows HBHE to award \$5500 each to three rising second year MPH students. She revitalized the School of Public Health's Alumni Association (SPHAA), ensuring that the organization had a human face and was highly effective. In 1994 Harriet received the SPHAA's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the leadership she gave the organization and the enduring commitment she had demonstrated to the School over many years. Eventually that award was renamed in honor of Harriet. It is presented along with the Greenberg award every year during the Foard lecture in the spring by the president of the School's alumni association.

**Michelle Mayer**, PhD (MPH 1992) was 39 years old when she died October 11, 2008 of scleroderma. Michelle had been a research assistant professor in the School's Department of Health Policy and Management until she retired due to her disease, which she fought against with vigor since receiving her diagnosis at age 27. She and husband Bill Steinbach had two children, Amelia and Aidan. In late 2008, HPM faculty voted to name a Program on Health Outcomes lecture in her honor. Michelle was praised in the national press ("Being Difficult" in the *Washington Post*) for her frank article on being a "difficult patient" that appeared in the September 2008 edition of *Health Affairs*. She also engaged and enlightened many people with her "Diary of a Dying Mom" blog that honestly and eloquently discussed parenting, dying, friendship, and life: <http://diaryofadyingmom.blogspot.com/>.

**Mary Lou Tripp McCurdy** died on September 1, 2009. She was a long-time resident of Chapel Hill, NC. She served as HBHE faculty member Harriet Barr's secretary for over ten years. Mary was an inspiration to many through an indomitable spirit that allowed her to conquer 15 of 16 cancer diagnoses and surgeries over a period of 26 years, while still maintaining an amazingly active, joyous and vital life.

**Lynnette Omar** died August 1, 2009 after a long battle with kidney cancer. She served as business manager in HBHE for two years until September 2008 when she could no longer work full time. Before coming to HBHE, Lynette was the assistant director for administration at the Injury Prevention

Research Center for over five years. She received her master of health administration/hospital administration from George Washington University and a BA in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania. She is survived by her husband and their eight children.

**Joan Phillips-Trimmer** (MPH 1987) died in December 2008. After getting her master's degree, she served as a health educator at West Point and with the US Coast Guard in New York and New Jersey. Joan subsequently returned to Chapel Hill and worked in the health department of Chatham County. Joan was instrumental in getting the Chatham County school system to adopt their integrated pest management program, which helped in reducing the amount of pesticide exposure for children at school. She was also involved in the Health Department's indoor air quality programs. When she died, Joan was a student in the UNC School of Social Work's Triangle Distance Education master's of social work program. This year her mother, Carol Phillips Oettinger, established a scholarship in the UNC School of Social Work to memorialize Joan. Joan is survived by her husband, Michael Trimmer.

**Margaret Pollard** died in September 2009. Her relationship with HBHE was as a clinical assistant professor, although her work in public health reached in many directions. A graduate of North Carolina Central University (BS and MS in public health), she was the first director of public health education at Wake Area Health Education Center (AHEC) and helped shape AHEC public health initiatives in the early years of the program in North Carolina. Margaret served as a Chatham county commissioner for 10 years (during which time she served as a preceptor on several HBHE field projects) and worked for decades as a community organizer. Her activism was recognized by the School when she received the Eunice Tyler Service Award. This fall, in honor of Margaret and her commitment to education, the Chatham County School Board selected the name Margaret B. Pollard Middle School for a new school in the county.

**Jacqueline S. Scott** (MPH 1965) passed away on August 2, 2009 in Durham, NC. Jackie was born in Sylvester, Georgia on August 6, 1926 and grew up in Atlanta. She graduated from the University of Georgia with a BA in Journalism. While working at the Richland-Lexington Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association in Columbia, South Carolina, she attended post-graduate studies at the University of South Carolina. She then attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on full scholarship, receiving her MPH in 1965. After graduating, Jackie moved to Macon, Georgia to become the first health educator of Macon-Bibb County. Jackie served in that capacity until June of 1993. She received many honors for her work in the community and, upon her retirement, the Mayor of Macon declared her retirement date "Jackie Scott Day." She and husband Tom Scott had three daughters.





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**MANY THANKS** to all of our 2009 donors who generously provided support to HBHE students. If, for any reason, you know of a name we have omitted, please let us know and we will gladly recognize that person or group in the next issue of *HBHE News*.

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Jay L. Allen (MPH '62)  
Lynda Anderson (PhD '84) & Kenneth  
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Robert E. Aronson (MPH '86)  
Eileen D. Barrett (MPH '97)  
Lisa Cohen Barrios (DrPH '96)  
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Anna (MSPH '93) and James Schenck  
M. Kate Shirah (MPH '02)  
O.J. Sikes, III (MPH '67)  
Jason (MPH '81, PhD '96) and Paige Hall  
Smith (PhD '93)  
Cindy Smith-Soloe (MPH '99)  
Scott & Ann Stoioff  
Elizabeth J. Stoller (MPH '84)  
Barbara J. Taylor (MPH '69)  
Maceo M. Thomas (MPH '02)  
Rosalind Thomas (MPH '75) & David Strogatz  
Sheryl Thorburn (PhD '93)  
Eugene & Anne Hall Todd  
Anh Nhat Tran (PhD '08)  
Duy T. Tran (MPH '07)  
U.S. Charitable Gift Trust  
Gambrill Hollister Wagner (MPH '97)  
Laurence & Constance Wescott  
David Winterle and Carey Dawson  
Susan B. Winterle  
Eva Higdon Wood (MPH '48)  
Carol Lane Woodell (BSPH '88)  
Mary E. Worstell (MPH '76)  
Jingzhen "Ginger" Yang (PhD '04)