Wow, what a year it’s been! The 2012/2013 academic year marked the school’s 40th anniversary and we’ve had so much to celebrate! It’s been such a pleasure for me to hear from alumni from all over the world who have contacted me upon learning of the school’s anniversary. At our gala celebration at The Field Museum, we had over 700 guests in attendance, making our event one of the largest alumni events in UIC’s history!

I am pleased to share this Spring 2013 issue of Healthviews with you. You’ll find stories about how our students, alumni and faculty are making a difference in the world, whether it’s by joining a student group (page 2), working for the CDC (pages 12-13) or establishing a scholarship fund (pages 16-17). Our school is about so much more than educating future public health professionals, and I hope you’ll learn about some of the ways we are having a larger impact. On pages 8-9, you can read about our new Institute for Faith and Public Health Leadership and on page 14 you’ll learn about a ceremony we held to “pass the torch” to two recently appointed leaders in eliminating health disparities.

You’ll also see that UIC SPH was honored to have two amazing women join us this year in celebration: Ms. Leymah Gbowee, the 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, was the keynote speaker at our gala on April 13, 2013 (pages 4-8) and Mrs. Marian Wright Edelman was the keynote at our Commencement Ceremony on May 10, 2013 (pages 20-21). I have followed both of these women in their work for social justice and it was truly inspiring to have them in attendance at a UIC SPH event.

Thank you for joining me in a year of celebration and I look forward to partnering with you in the years to come.

Paul Brandt-Rauf, DrPH, MD, ScD
Dean, UIC School of Public Health
Public Health Student Association (PHSA)

PHSA, the student governing body at UIC SPH, acts as a liaison between students and faculty. The organization’s mission is to foster student involvement in the school community. All current UIC SPH students are considered active PHSA members, providing them with a democratic forum to express opinions, suggestions, and concerns with UIC SPH administration. Members have access to other students and mentors within the school for networking opportunities and their involvement provides them with the opportunity to have an impact on academics and student affairs.

Radical Public Health (RPH)

RPH is an association of students, alumni, faculty, and staff that seeks to address the systemic, underlying causes of public health challenges and to consider more radical solutions. RPH hosts group discussions, guest lectures, film screenings, teach-ins, and panel discussions on relevant issues.

If you were a member of a student group when you were at UIC SPH, tell us about it by emailing TellSPH@uic.edu!

As a new public health professional, what issue would you like to see UIC SPH address in the next 40 years?

UIC community weighs in...

UIC SPH should dedicate resources to ending the injustice of mass incarceration, which has vast negative health and social consequences and is unfairly and disproportionately applied to Blacks and Latinos living in impoverished neighborhoods. Achieving our goal of health equity will require us to replace the morally reprehensible, costly, and ineffective war on drugs with fair, compassionate, and health-focused practices for dealing with drug abuse and addiction.

Gabriel Ilia
Bachelor of Arts candidate

I would like for UIC SPH to address the issue of health care coverage for under-represented populations. Although the Affordable Care Act helped expand coverage for millions of Americans, there is still a real need for the current system to evolve into a more inclusive environment for populations such as LGBTQ or immigrant groups to receive access to care.

Wesley Epplin, MPH ’11
Project Coordinator, MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice

I hope the School of Public Health continues to increase its influence and position as a thought leader and facilitator in addressing health inequities. We need to engage locally and globally in research and practice that advocates for health as a human right that is available and accessible to all.

Heather Drummond, MPH ’11
Coordinator of Student and Alumni Relations, Community Health Sciences Division

With the push for quality initiatives and outcomes outlined in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, I believe UIC SPH should address this through more education and awareness for students on the implementation and management of primary prevention/intervention programs so that when we get into the public health workforce we can better serve the underserved, minority and aging demographics.

Sarah Acosta, MPH ’13

As a world class institution, UIC SPH should continue educating students about the tools public health professionals use to analyze and understand causes and risk factors of disease.

Koffitse Atchon, MD
PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences

In the next 40 years, I would like UIC SPH to continue increasing awareness on mental health, and to take action in addressing mental health illnesses at a community, national and global level. One way UIC SPH can engage in this effort is through a development of a concentration or program, specifically focusing on mental health.

Priyang Baxi, MPH ’13
2012-13 President of the Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health

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Asian American Public Health Student Organization (AAPHSO)

AAPHSO was founded to provide service opportunities, engaged research, and social outlets for all students at UIC SPH who are interested in Asian American public health issues. The mission of the organization is to promote the health and well-being of Asian American communities and to increase awareness about the significant public health issues they face.

Global Health Student Interest Group (GHSIG)

GHSIG is an association of students, faculty, and staff who share an interest in global health. It is dedicated to learning, educating, and promoting awareness about international health affairs.

Minority Students for the Advancement of Public Health (MSAPH)

MSAPH works to strengthen the minority graduate experience by providing opportunities to build supportive networks and social bonding within the UIC SPH community. MSAPH assists minority graduate students in achieving academic and professional success in the field of public health by providing positive role models for students through the Mentor Program and leadership opportunities to enhance their future professional growth.

STUDENT GROUPS

INVALUABLE TO

UIC SPH AND PARTICIPANTS

UIC SPH students are encouraged to be active participants in one of the student organizations housed at the school. In addition to offering numerous social opportunities, student organizations assist in facilitating communication among students, faculty, and administration. They provide a valuable service to UIC SPH by promoting leadership development, community spirit, and social and cultural interaction. “Student groups are a vital and vibrant part of the student experience. This year the student groups and their involvement in the school community are particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of the student experience. This year the student groups and their involvement in the school community are particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of the student experience. This year the student groups and their involvement in the school community are particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of the student experience. This year the student groups and their involvement in the school community are particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of the student experience. This year the student groups and their involvement in the school community are particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of the student experience.

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40 Years of GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
School of Public Health marked 40 years of teaching, research and service with a gala that was held on April 13, 2013 at The Field Museum in Chicago. More than 700 alumni, donors, faculty, staff and friends of the school were in attendance for a program that included a Nobel Peace Laureate as the keynote speaker and an awards presentation. UIC’s Chancellor Paula Allen-Mears, Provost Lon Kaufman and President of the University of Illinois Alumni Association Loren Taylor were also in attendance for what turned out to be one of the largest alumni events in UIC’s history.

“As the school celebrates its 40th year, I am excited about the future,” said Paul Brandt-Rauf, Dean of the UIC School of Public Health. “I believe the school will continue to be at the forefront of addressing public health issues by continuing to expand partnerships with communities, government agencies, employers and other stakeholders. A priority of mine is that our practice and service translate into real solutions that will make the world a better place.”

The event’s keynote speaker was 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, a Liberian peace activist, social worker and women’s rights advocate. Gbowee is best known for leading Christian and Muslim women in a nonviolent movement that helped to end Liberia’s 14-year civil war in 2003. “We clearly recognize that public health cannot be achieved without the full participation of women and a recognition of their equal status in a society,” said Brandt-Rauf, recognizing Gbowee’s successful efforts to lead women and assert their rightful place in a peaceful and healthy society.

Allen-Mears said she was honored to have a Nobel Laureate participate in a UIC event. “At UIC, social justice is essential to the fiber of who we are. After all, Jane Addams’s legacy is the foundation for this institution, and as the first woman awarded a Nobel Peace Prize, she was an uncompro-mising advocate of justice for all. Ms. Gbowee is in excellent company!”

In honor of the school’s anniversary, special awards were presented to alumni with distinct achievements. Cynthia Summers (DrPH ’04), who received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award, was truly humbled by this recognition. “The honor awarded me tonight is an incredible gift I will always treasure. So as I receive this highly valued acknowledgment from this excellent university, I am grateful to be here with all of you.”

Lanny Passaro, a donor and friend of the School of Public Health who established the Douglas Passaro Global Horizons Scholarship in honor of his late son, received the Champion of Public Health Award. In the six years since the inception of this scholarship, 24 students have been awarded funds enabling them to work abroad to improve the lives of those living

“As the school celebrates its 40th year, I am excited about the future.”
-Paul Brandt-Rauf
in communities in need. “I am deeply honored to be selected to receive this award,” says Passaro. “I consider it a challenge to become worthy of being called a “champion” of public health but the truth is that I am just one advocate out of many who value public health organizations as one of the great assets of our country. I consider the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health to be one of the world leaders in public health education and research.”

During the past four decades, Brandt-Rauf said, the school’s faculty and students have been involved in improving the quality of the air we breathe, radically reducing violence around the world, slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS, and contributing to the health of an aging population. Associate Professor Emerita Sylvia Furner (MPH ’85, PhD ’97), says UIC SPH can treasure its role in preparing more than 4,000 alumni for positions in public health. UIC SPH graduates fill the ranks of city, county and state public health offices as well as the Centers of Disease Control, the nation’s preeminent public health organization. “There’s a ripple effect we’ve created over these 40 years that we can be proud of,” Furner says.

As for the future, SPH recently launched a Bachelor of Arts degree program in public health, and Brandt-Rauf looks to continue translating the School’s research and education initiatives into a better world. “This school is committed to not only thinking great thoughts, but in doing practical work with those great thoughts,” Brandt-Rauf says. “That’s the legacy we’ll work to advance.”

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Chancellor Paula-Alten Meares addresses the crowd of more than 700, which she described as one of the largest alumni events in UIC’s history.

Jamila R. Rashid, Dr. Deborah Umrani and DJ Wells attend the cocktail reception.

Jonathan Dupps, left, is joined by staff at the Center for Employee Health Studies program at UIC SPH.

LAUREL BOLTON (MPH ‘95) RECEIVES THE DR. NAOMI MORRIS COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM DEAN PAUL BRANDT-RAUF.
Faith and Public Health Leaders Working Together

Located at the UIC School of Public Health, the MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice (MCPHP) has been training public health professionals since 1991. MCPHP collaborates with local, regional and national partners to improve population health through public health workforce development, and offers a continuum of consulting services, technical assistance for practice organizations and systems evaluation. By linking workforce development initiatives to the strategic needs of partner organizations, MCPHP provides customized solutions to address the current challenges of public health practice.

Last year, MCPHP piloted a new program called the Institute for Faith and Public Health Practice. MCPHP where he helped with the implementation and evaluation of the Institute had his practicum placement with the Advocate Health Care and the UIC Office of Community Engagement and Neighborhood Health Partnerships. Rev. Kirsten Peachey is the Director of Congregational Health Partnerships and Co-Director at The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation. She knows firsthand how this partnership is making a difference. "The Institute is focused on promoting health equity in communities that face the social stresses that have a profound impact on the health of the people who live there. We believe that the work that needs to be done to create healthy, thriving communities can't be done by public health or faith communities alone," explains Peachey. "People of faith bring a unique perspective, voice, and set of capacities—what we call 'moral imagination' and 'spirit power'—and public health has critical tools, resources and science to create the kind of transformative change that we are after. We need both." Peachey and other members of her cohort believe that the Institute provides a venue for people of faith and public health practitioners to learn about each other's languages and perspectives so that they can work together in a way that taps into their deepest strengths, leverages those places where their capacities overlap, and makes space for their unique contributions for leadership.

"The Institute for Faith and Public Health Leadership provides a great opportunity for leaders in both fields to work more effectively together to build upon the assets that each can provide to one another in addressing community problems," explains Sophie Naji, Program Coordinator for MCPHP. "The projects participants are asked to complete through the series are the building blocks to setting up more formalized partnerships into the future." Over the seven-month period, the Institute gives participants, who come from as far as Michigan and Indiana, the opportunity to pause and listen to the rich wisdom found both in our faith traditions and in the voice of public health that speaks to social justice. UIC SPH faculty, doctoral students and masters level students play a significant role in the Institute.

One such student is Steven Binns, who just earned his MPH in May 2013. Binns had his practicum placement with the MCPHP where he helped with the implementation and evaluation of the Institute in 2012. The idea for his capstone, titled "Faith and Public Health Collaboration: Theory for Advancing Practice," came from the growth that he saw in the Institute between its first implementation in 2012 and planning for the current 2013 program. "There was a lot of excellent work that came out of the first Institute, but the team saw areas for improvement and a number of changes were made," explains Binns. He strongly believes the Institute is meeting several crucial needs in the faith and public health communities. Chief among them is building the comfort level and familiarity between faith and health organizations. "The faith-public health literature states that distrust between these disciplines unfortunately hinders partnership in many places. The collaborative work pursued by the leaders in this Institute demonstrates how these partnerships are not only promising, but possible." Participants from the faith community, like Rev. Dr. Shirley Fleming, utilize the spiritual practices of faith traditions to reflect on and find sustenance for this challenging work. Fleming, who earned her DrPH from UIC SPH in 1994, currently works for the Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation and Advocate Health System where she works to foster collaborations that help extend the reach of public health into communities. "We must align what we know and do more intentionally and creatively to address the root causes of health inequity," explains Fleming. Through her work, she provides tools and resources to analyze the needs and assets for creating community-level interventions and identifies key strategies to mobilize around the root causes that create and sustain health inequities.

At the end of the seventh session, participants receive a Certificate of Completion and have the opportunity to access ongoing leadership development opportunities through The Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation and the MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice. For more information about MCPHP, visit www.midamerica/php.com or contact Rani Saxena at rsaxena@uic.edu.
Making a Difference in the Health of Populations Around the World

Haiti

Janet Lin, MD, MPH, led a group of UIC SPH students in a Disaster Risk Reduction project in Delmas, Port-au-Prince, Haiti in March 2013. This is the 3rd year of an ongoing UIC post-earthquake public health project. The UIC team, which included MPH candidates Alyssa Budoff, Jasmine James, Hira Khan, Dr. Vinodette Dissanayake, and Dr. Deborah Kleinman, worked in partnership with the local community to train leaders in the principles of Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR). This allowed the group to develop the capacity to engage community members in disaster risk reduction strategies and programming.

NAME: Janet Lin
LOCATION: Delmas, Port-au-Prince, Haiti
PROJECT: Alyssa will be working on a community Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) project under the mentorship of Janet Lin, MD, MPH, director of health systems development in the Center for Global Health at UIC. Alyssa will develop an evaluation strategy for a Training of Trainers program in community engagement, thus seeking to understand the successes and challenges of this training in different seasonal contexts.

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NAME: Unnati Patel
LOCATION: Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
PROJECT: Unnati will be collaborating with Bal Sansar Sanstha, which works directly with female sex workers in a rural village to promote HIV/AIDS prevention methods. She will conduct a cross-sectional study of the female sex worker population and on the behavioral and social determinants correlated with HIV/AIDS prevalence.

NAME: Evan Sorley
LOCATION: Hyderabad, India
PROJECT: Working with SHARE India, Evan will be leading a case-control study designed to estimate prevalence of immunization for diphtheria among diphtheria patients, compared to prevalence of immunizations of controls; assess the degree of knowledge, awareness and attitudes about diphtheria immunization among patients; and determine factors associated with low knowledge, awareness, and negative attitudes.

NAME: Lee Losey
LOCATION: Ethiopia
PROJECT: Lee is spending 27 months in Malawi with the UIC SPH Peace Corps Masters International (PCMID) program. In his role as Community Health Advisor, Brian is helping the community where he lives to identify needs and work on implementing projects within 3 main areas of focus for health volunteers: HIV Mitigation, Healthy Homes & Communities, and Life Skills for Healthy Behaviors.

Madagascar

MD/PhD candidate in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Marisa Young, is in Kisumu, Kenya working with Dr. Robert Bailey to scale-up infant male circumcision services in western Kenya and conduct operations research. She was awarded the prestigious Haenszel Research Award and presented via Skype from Kisumu findings from her pilot study, "Introduction of infant male circumcision services for HIV prevention in western Kenya: safety and factors associated with parental uptake."

NAME: Marisa Young
LOCATION: Kisumu, Kenya
PROJECT: Marisa has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for Research on Health and Aging of the Institute for Health Research and Policy, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for 2013-2014. She will travel to Portugal to assess the capacity of government and community-based service providers to offer evidence-based health promotion programs for older adults. As part of that process, she will begin adapting her award-winning Fit and Strong! physical activity and behavior change program for older adults for use in Portuguese communities.

NAME: Susan Hughes
LOCATION: Portugal
PROJECT: Susan Hughes, Professor of Community Health Sciences and Director of the Center for Research on Health and Aging of the Institute for Health Research and Policy, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant for 2013-2014. She will travel to Portugal to assess the capacity of government and community-based service providers to offer evidence-based health promotion programs for older adults. As part of that process, she will begin adapting her award-winning Fit and Strong! physical activity and behavior change program for older adults for use in Portuguese communities.

NAME: Adrienne Banks
LOCATION: Panajachel, Guatemala
PROJECT: Adrienne will be collaborating with the Mayan population.

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ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE CDC

Susie McCarthy

Mikyong “Meekie” Shin

UC SPH alumni work in a variety of organizations all over the world. Over the past 40 years, more than 4,000 alumni have been prepared for positions in public health. UC SPH graduates fill the ranks of city, county and state public health offices as well as the Centers of Disease Control (CDC), the nation’s preeminent public health organization. The CDC is home to more than 30 UC SPH alumni where they work to create expertise, information, and tools that people and communities need to protect their health – through health promotion, prevention of disease, injury and disability, and preparedness for new health threats. These four UC SPH alumni share the work they are doing at the CDC and explain how UC SPH helped them advance their career in public health.

Susie McCarthy (MPH ‘00)

Susie McCarthy joined the CDC in 2000 and is a Health Education Specialist in the Scientific Education and Professional Development Program Office. She works with the Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services. “I love teaching and facilitating, so I am able to use those skills working with the fellows in our program at CDC, who we’re training as part of the public health work force,” says McCarthy. In her previous role as a project officer in CDC’s Division of Population Health, she helped health departments address chronic diseases by looking at behavioral and environmental factors. McCarthy believes that public health is a career that allows professionals to be compassionate in whatever work they end up doing. “My job as an educator is to provide people with the resources they need to lead a healthy life.” CDC provided her with a variety of opportunities to gain practical experience in public health in the neighborhoods and communities around the university. “Several of my classmates pursued medical school, Christian chose public health because she was interested in learning more about how animal health affects the health of humans. “UC was a perfect fit for me because I liked its diversity and urban focus to study epidemiology,” she says. As a graduate student, Christian worked with Ron Hereshow, MD, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Director of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division, and other professors on a variety of diverse subjects, and after graduation went on to veterinary school. She now serves as a Veterinary Medical Officer where she is part of the Global Disease Detection Operations Center, a team that monitors impending outbreaks, mainly in developing countries. “Countries that don’t have a robust public health infrastructure are at significant risk,” explains Christian, who says that working at the CDC has allowed her to bring her expertise in veterinary medicine to a position that will have a real impact on all populations. She’s also excited about the very real possibility of eliminating canine rabies. “While human rabies is rare in the US, we still see tens of thousands of deaths, mostly in children, in Africa and Asia.”

Philip Ricks (PhD ’08, MPH ’98)

Philip Ricks’ parents were medical professionals (his dad was a doctor and his mom a nurse), so he always knew he would work in a health-related field. However, it was his involvement in the AIDS activist group ACT UP that made him realize that he wanted to work in public health. “I saw the importance of population health, not just treatment, and knew that public health was the field I wanted to work in.” Ricks came to UC SPH to earn his MPH but, after working for the World Health Organization for several years, he realized that obtaining a PhD would allow him to become the leader on projects he cared so much about. “UC SPH was the place where being passionate about your work was applauded,” Ricks recalls. He worked with Sylvia Furner, PhD, Associate Professor Emerita, and Ron Hereshow, MD, Director of the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division, and considers them to be “two of the greatest mentors one could ever hope for.” As an Epidemiologist within the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Surveillance Branch, Ricks focused analyzing national surveillance data on healthcare associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, but has also allowed him to do a “detail” to Chad where he worked on an evaluation and assessment of national data management and surveillance of acute flaccid paralysis, vaccination coverage, and notifiable disease incidence. His work has taken him to the Philippines, Mozambique and Namibia to lead outbreak investigation and surveillance assessment projects. Most recently, he has become the new CDC Resident Advisor for Malaria in Ghana, where we will work with Ghanaim, US, and international organizations to reduce malaria illness and deaths. Because of his commitment to his alma mater, Ricks was invited to join the alumni board and has worked to build meaningful connections between the school and the large alumni base located in Atlanta.
Minority Healthcare Leadership Passes the Torch

ON FEBRUARY 22, 2013, IN RECOGNITION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH, THE UIC URBAN HEALTH PROGRAM (UHP), THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND MALCOLM X COLLEGE PARTNERED TO HOST PASSING THE TORCH: MINORITY HEALTHCARE LEADERSHIP LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD. THE EVENT WAS A RENEWAL OF A SIMILAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UHP AND MALCOLM X COLLEGE FROM 2010 AND 2011, AND WAS SCHEDULED SO AS TO BE THE CULMINATING SESSION OF THE 5TH ANNUAL MINORITY HEALTH IN THE MIDWEST CONFERENCE, A UIC SPH STUDENT-ORGANIZED, DAY-LONG GATHERING OF HEALTHCARE AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS THAT EXPLORATED WAYS TO ADDRESS THE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH AND TO NETWORK WITH, STUDENTS TO LEARN FROM, AND TO NETWORK WITH, PEOPLE WHO CAN HAVE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON THEIR CAREERS AND FUTURES.

“It was a chance for our students to learn from, and to network with, people who can have a profound impact on their careers and futures.”

As part of Passing the Torch, U.S. Congressman Danny K. Davis (D-IL 7th District), shared his insight on how community leaders can play a role in eliminating health disparities, and symbolically “passed the torch” of leadership to two recently appointed leaders in this cause, Illinois Department of Public Health Director, Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, and Malcolm X College President, Dr. Anthony Munroe, who is a member of the UIC SPH Executive Advisory Board. The program also featured a panel of current healthcare and educational leaders who shared their insight on how best to pursue careers and positions of leadership in healthcare.

“We are very excited to be renewing this partnership,” noted UHP Interim Executive Director DJ Wells. “What an outstanding opportunity for our students, and the students from Malcolm X College” to be able to hear from leaders who have already traveled the path our students want to travel. It was a chance for our students to learn from, and to network with, people who can have a profound impact on their careers and futures.”

“We look forward to this growing far beyond a one-day event,” noted Dr. Ebin Dobson, Executive Director of the Health Professions Pathways office at Malcolm X College. “This event is a renewal and a solidifying of our commitment to work with UIC’s Urban Health Program to establish a pipeline for our students to achieve their educational and professional goals, and to become the healthcare providers and leaders that our community so desperately needs.”

“Mentorship is an important part of what we are doing with this event,” explained IDPH Regional Health Officer Joe Harrington. “We know that Congressman Davis is an outstanding mentor for people of this community, and we hope to be able to capture his energy and establish mentoring relationships up and down the pipeline, encouraging young professionals to step up to the challenges facing us today and tomorrow, encouraging graduate and professional students to reach back and work with undergraduate students, and encouraging us all to work together to assure everyone’s success in meeting educational goals and addressing community health needs.”

The Passing the Torch ceremony was a successful close to the event and organizers look forward to continuing the momentum of these partnerships through future events and initiatives involving students, community members and healthcare professionals.

We invite you to join the Founders Circle

THE IMPACT OF FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Founders Circle members invest in the future. Your support helps transform student ambition into action, ensuring that the UIC School of Public Health continues to maintain the highest level of distinction envisioned by its founders. Our members’ generosity creates opportunities for our students, faculty, and staff in many ways:

- Need and merit based tuition scholarships
- Merit based awards
- Research grants
- Student travel stipends
- Building updates and renovations
- Technology upgrades

We invite you to join the Founders Circle

BENEFITS OF FOUNDERS CIRCLE MEMBERSHIP

Founders Circle members enjoy many advantages, and are privy to a number of special invitations and engagement opportunities:

- Invitation to the ANNUAL FOUNDERS CIRCLE RECEPTION, including a “State of the School” presentation by Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf and featuring UIC SPH senior faculty and administrators.
- Invitation to an ANNUAL UIF AT UIC DINNER, which celebrates the impact of UIC’s most generous donors, alumni, and friends.
- Exclusive invitations to PRIVATE RECEPTIONS at UIC SPH hosted lectures.
- SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS from Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf with up-to-date information on programs, priorities, issues, and events on campus and regionally.
- SPECIALIZED NAME TAGS provided at UIC SPH events.

WAYS TO JOIN THE FOUNDERS CIRCLE

Membership in the Founders Circle recognizes donors who make annual gifts of $500 or more. Joining is easy:

- Gifts to all UIC School of Public Health funds qualify for membership.
- Employer matching gifts count toward annual membership.
- Gifts can be made over multiple months via automatic credit/debit card payments.
- University of Illinois faculty and staff gifts may be made over multiple months via automatic payroll deduction.
- Membership in the Founders Circle must be renewed each year.

For more information about the Founders Circle, contact the Office of Advancement at SPHAdvancement@uic.edu or 312-355-4501.
Dr. Sylvia Furner Establishes Scholarship Fund to Assist Undergrad Students

Dr. Sylvia Furner has a long history at UIC. She began as an undergraduate student in 1981 where she studied biology and remains as Associate Professor Emerita in the School of Public Health. Throughout her thirty-plus years at the university, Dr. Furner has always valued education and now she can see the impact that education has on undergraduate students that are the recipients of the Sylvia E. and James M. Furner Public Health Scholarship.

Dr. Furner has been a long-time donor to UIC and the School of Public Health, providing support annually for many university programs. Most of her philanthropy has supported initiatives to enhance graduate student experience at UIC SPH. When it was time to decide which student population would benefit from her additional philanthropy, Dr. Furner knew that the school’s new undergraduate program was a perfect fit. “I’ve spent my entire career at the graduate level, but I’ve always had an interest in working with younger students,” she explains. In 2012/13, two undergraduates would become the first recipients of her newly established endowment fund.

The fund is also named after Dr. Furner’s late husband, Jim, to whom she was married for 43 years. Dr. Furner met Jim when they were undergrads at Southern Illinois University. “We married young, so I put my academic career on hold as we started a family,” recalls Dr. Furner. She and Jim had three children before she decided to go back to school. After obtaining her biology degree, she knew that a career in public health was the next step.

She obtained her MPH in 1985 and PhD in 1987. All of her degrees are from UIC, she is proud to say.

Immediately after earning her PhD in Epidemiology, Dr. Furner became an Assistant Professor where she was asked to lead projects that focused on the school’s work around the aging populations. In 1993, she became Associate Professor and held that position until 2011.

“It’s not the amount you give, it’s the act of giving. This is so true in what public health is all about.”

In addition to serving as a member of the faculty at the School of Public Health, Dr. Furner has held several administrative positions. In 2006, she was the school’s Interim Dean, playing a crucial role in the school’s transition from Dean Scrimshaw to Dean Brandt-Rauf. She served two terms as Senior Associate Dean (1996-2006 and again 2009-2010) and as Acting Division Director of Epidemiology and Biostatistics (1995-1996 and 2001-2002).

She has also served the UIC and public health communities in a variety of roles, such as a Faculty Fellow for the UIC Honors College and the NCAA faculty representative for student athletes. Her role as a member or Chair of Council on Education for Public (CEPH) Site Visit Teams for Accreditation of schools or programs of public health has afforded her the opportunity to visit and learn from more than 20 different universities. She also serves as an application reviewer for ASPH/CDC internships, and a manuscript reviewer for numerous public health journals.

Despite all of her experience in the field of public health, it was a life-changing trip to Tanzania that had a significant impact on her and Jim. While on a African safari, they visited a primary school where they witnessed the harmful and unjust effects of poverty. They became aware of how they could make a difference in the lives of these children by reaching out to their friends and raising money for the school. “Jim called our friends and family members and they were compelled to give,” remembers Dr. Furner. They created a not-for-profit organization (www.kibaonifoundation.org) that has successfully raised funds for projects such as new latrines, water reserve tanks, solar panels, new dining room/kitchen facilities, classroom renovations, and scholarships for students wanting to pursue secondary or university education.

Jim was so invested in the school that he went back to visit so he could see first hand the impact the foundation was making. His last trip to the school was in 2010, where he helped out by painting classrooms and meeting with students, parents and faculty about other ways the foundation could be of help.

In 2011, Jim lost his battle with Leukemia but his family vowed to keep his legacy alive by continuing to support the Tanzanian school. Because of Jim’s dedication to young students and his unwavering support of Dr. Furner’s passion for public health, Dr. Furner knew that Jim would love the idea of investing in undergraduate public health students.

“There are many students that want to pursue a college degree but they just don’t have the resources to do so. I want to give them a chance because I hope that they will eventually give back,” says Dr. Furner. It’s this “cycle of philanthropy” that she wants to cultivate. “It’s not the amount you give, it’s the act of giving. This is so true in what public health is all about.”

There are many ways in which a donor can make a gift to UIC SPH.

Donors can make a gift by check, recurring online donation, payroll deduction, or employer matching gift.

An endowed or planned gift demonstrates your farsighted commitment to UIC SPH. These gifts have specific tax advantages and often include lifetime income to a beneficiary or beneficiaries named by the donor.

For more information, contact the Office of Advancement at SPHAdvancement@uic.edu or 312-355-4501.
Amanda Buntu

Amanda Buntu

Five alumni from UIC SPH’s Community Health Sciences (CHS) division were invited to present at the 2012 Chicago LGBTQ Health and Wellness Conference. Aluna Aziz-Bradley (MPH ’12), Jenny Beylick (MPH ’11), Ashley Dyer (MPH ’11), Elena Grossman (MPH ’11), and Sara Lake (MPH ’11) presented LGBTQ youth in Humboldt Park: A Community Assessment (11) presented at the 2012 Chicago LGBTQ Health Sciences (CHS) division were in- n (MPH ’11), (MPH ’11), and (MPH ’11), and (MPH ’11) is now Program Manager for Building Resistance Against Climate Effect (BRACE) at the UIC School of Public Health.

Krush Kapur (PhD ’10) has recently accepted a position with the Division of Biostatistics (Psychiatry) at Boston Children’s Hospital at Harvard Medical School.

Meric R. Kataoka-Yahiro (PhD ’09) has recently been accepted as a Research Associate, and Caryn Etkin (PhD ’06), Director of Research, at the American Joint Replacement Registry (AARR) attended the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting at McCormick Place in March 2013. AARR is the clinical data registry for total joint arthroplasty.

Lorraine Conroy has been accepted as a member of the 2013-2014 class of Fellows in the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine (ELAM) Program.

Sarah Davis Redman, a PhD student in Community Health Sciences, was awarded the Fall 2012 Chancellor’s Award for Graduate Research, for her research on “Media Influence on HPV Vaccine Decision-Making.” She was also awarded a dissertation grant from the Fabs-Rick Fund for Research and Experimentation. The Fund was established with The New York Community Trust for Dissertation and Faculty Research in the Human Services.

Mark Finn (PhD ’03), CHS, has been elected Chair of the American Board of Industrial Hygiene. Dr. Finn is a Principal Consultant with ENVIRON International, an environmental, health and safety consulting firm.

Alexis Munoz, PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences, has been selected as a recipient of the Abraham Lincoln Fellowship for Fall 2013. The Abraham Lincoln Fellowship is the most disting- guished award that UIC offers to entering graduate students.

M. Sophia Newman (MPH ’11) won a Fulbright Fellowship to Bangladesh, where she is conducting research on mental health. She has presented with American Embassy Dan Morena at “Making Diplomacy More Disability Inclusive,” an American Embassy roundtable discussion, and has organized a workshop entitled “Mental Health for All: Leadership for Mental Health System Development,” at BRAC University.

Peter Oppenheimer represented the World Medical Association and the World Federation of Public Health Associations at the negotiations that set a 2020 dead- line for the elimination of Mercury Sphygmomanometers and Thermometers from health care globally.

Beth Pelletier (MPH ’10) is currently a Knight-Wallace Fellowship Affiliate at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Chair of the Children’s Volunteer Doulas, Inc. Board of Directors.

The Society for Public Health Education has appointed Jesus Ramirez-Valles, Professor and Division Director of Community Health Sciences, to serve as the interim editor-in-chief of Health Promotion Practice (HPP).

Sandy Slater, Research Assistant Professor, Health Policy and Administration, has been selected to serve as a member of the Institute of Medicine’s Committee on Physical Activity and Physical Education in the School Environment.

Gary Stuckin, Research Professor and Executive Director of Cure Violence, is fea- tured in a new book titled Everyday Heroes: 50 Americans Changing the World One Nonprofit at a Time.

While at the APHA conference this year, Daniel Swartzman, Associate Professor Emeritus, was re-elected as the Chair of the Health Policy and Management Council and elected the Program Chair-Elect of the Ethics SPG.

Amanda Buntu
Engage: 2013 Events

When: August 23, 2013
5 pm – 6:30 pm
Alumni Reception
at New Student Orientation
UIC School of Public Health
1603 W. Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612

September 10, 2013
5:30 pm – 8 pm
Healthy Spirits

September 21, 2013
9:30 am
Annual Alumni Bike Ride
Chicago, exact route TBD

October 16, 2013
8:00 pm
Founders Circle Reception

November 4, 2013
APHA Alumni & Friends Reception
Boston, MA

December 11, 2013
6 pm – 8 pm
Alumni Learning Series
UIC School of Public Health
1603 W. Taylor Street
Chicago, IL 60612

For more information on these events, visit publichealth.uic.edu/alumni.

UIC SPH Celebrates its 8th Annual Student Research Day

On April 9, 2013, the UIC School of Public Health held its 8th Annual Student Research/Practice Awards Day. This event is held each year during National Public Health Week and honors students whose research addresses a variety of critical public health issues. Undergraduate, Master’s and Doctoral level students displayed their research, which ranged in topic from health disparities in the Latino community to food justice on the south side of Chicago.

All students were on site to present their work to a panel of judges, fellow classmates, faculty, alumni and other members of the SPH community. Many thanks to the awards ceremony keynote speaker, Dr. Basmattee Boodram (PhD ’09); Research Assistant Professor in the Center for Community Outreach Intervention Projects.

Congratulations to these students who were the recipients of the following awards:

Research in Public Health: Undergraduate level - Gabriela Illa
Title: Female sex Workers and Public Health: Facing Stigma in Order to Achieve Humanization

Research in Public Health: Master’s level - Rani Gallardo
Title: Examining Factors associated with High Levels of Breast Cancer Beliefs among Hispanic Women

Research in Public Health: Doctoral level - Eric Umar
Title: Use of respondent-driven sampling to reach Men who have sex with Men in Malawi: Strategies to Understand HIV Prevalence and Risk Factors

Public Health Practice: Master’s level - Manie Grewal
Title: Abortion Perceptions in India: Participatory Research is Promising, More Action is Needed

Public Health Practice: Doctoral level - Apurba Chakraborty
Title: The Epidemiology of Yersiniosis in Illinois and Missouri, 2005-2011

Global Health - Maggie Kaufmann
Title: Migration, Masculinity, and HIV Risk Among Tajik Male Migrants in Moscow, Russia

Towards Health Equity - Peter Runstine
Title: Racial Disparities in Discharge Location Following Hospitalization for Traumatic Falls Among the Elderly (2000-2009)

Maternal and Child Health - Melissa Heim Vixo
Title: Pricing and Availability of Healthy Foods in Dollar Stores in Chicago’s South Side

Alumni Notes

Alumna Lee Losey, far right, is joined by Dean Paul Brant-Rauf and fellow alumni before he delivered the keynote at the Alumni Learning Series on February 13, 2013. Mr. Losey spoke about his work to eradicate polio.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013

The University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health held its 40th commencement ceremony on May 10, 2013 and was honored to have Marian Wright Edelman, Founder and President of the Children’s Defense Fund (CDF), as its speaker.

“It is a great honor to have Marian Wright Edelman as our commencement speaker because the School of Public Health, as is true for all of UIC, believes in the power of knowledge to promote social justice, and no one embodies and exemplifies that spirit better than Marian Wright Edelman,” said Paul Brandt-Rauf, Dean of the School of Public Health. “She has been a tireless voice for the underserved and disadvantaged and an especially strong advocate for the health and welfare of children and families.” It is most appropriate that she receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters because her whole career has been devoted to championing humane treatment of all people.

Mrs. Edelman has been an advocate for disadvantaged Americans for her entire professional life. Under her leadership, CDF has become the nation’s strongest voice for children and families. CDF’s Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start, and a Moral Start in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities. In her address to the graduates and their families, Mrs. Edelman stressed the importance of working to keep children and youth safe from gun violence. “American children under the age of 15 are seventeen times more likely to die from guns than any other industrialized country. It’s time we stop the killing of children in the U.S.,” Edelman said. Her words were often met with applause, especially when she said that all children deserved to live in a world where they were valued enough to receive a quality education, access to healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and a meaningful sense of purpose.

Mrs. Edelman has received over a hundred honorary degrees and many awards including the Albert Schweitzer Humanitarian Prize, the Heinz Award, a MacArthur Foundation Prize Fellowship, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award. At the School of Public Health commencement, Mrs. Edelman received an honorary degree, which was presented to her by University of Illinois President, Robert Easter, and UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares. “It is most appropriate that she receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters because her whole career has been devoted to championing humane treatment of all people,” said Brandt-Rauf.

An important part of the commencement ceremony is the presentation of two awards, both named in honor of UIC SPH founders. The Bernard H. Baun Golden Apple Award which was awarded to William C. Kling, JD, Clinical Assistant Professor in Health Policy and Administration. Professor Kling was selected for this prestigious award due to his outstanding teaching and service to students. Students said they nominated him because he is a committed mentor and exemplifies a passion for public health and policy that inspires those around him.

The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award, named for UIC SPH’s first Associate Dean, was given to 2013 MPH graduates and diversity, and committed to public service,” said Barnes.

The ceremony concluded with graduates being encouraged to stay connected with their alma mater. Tracie Smith (MPH ’03), a member of the UIC SPH alumni board, spoke to the Class of 2013 about ways to stay involved. “Many of you received a scholarship during your time at UIC or benefitted from an internship or alumni provided,” Smith said. She urged the graduates to get involved, even during their very first year as alumni, by hosting a student intern at their place of employment, referring a future student to UIC SPH, or giving back by volunteering or donating to the school.
Throughout the 2012/13 academic year, UIC SPH celebrated its 40th anniversary with students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends. Here are some highlights of events that took place.

**Founders Circle Reception**

Founders Circle members join Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf for a special reception on March 13, 2013. See page 15 for more information about joining the Founders Circle.

**American Occupational Health Conference**


**American Public Health Association**

Alumni and friends attend a reception held during the APHA Conference in San Francisco on October 29, 2012.

**ACHE Congress Reception**

Alumni, students and preceptors of the Master of Healthcare Administration program attend a reception during the American College of Healthcare Executives Congress in Chicago on March 12, 2013.