

# Healthviews

SPRING 2013 >> VOLUME 11 >> ISSUE ONE

## CELEBRATING 40 YEARS of Excellence in Teaching, Research and Service



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MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN RECEIVES HONORARY DEGREE





# Healthviews

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The School of Public Health is one of seven health sciences colleges at UIC providing a system-wide approach to healthcare.

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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 key-

note 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

### OPPOSITE

Photo taken by Allison Flynn, MPH '13, during a trip India and it won first prize in the 2013 UIC SPH International Night photo contest. Allison worked with a community health and development project in the Himalayan foothills where she conducted a study on maternal health practices. Part of her work included interviewing traditional birth attendants about their practices and beliefs.





# STUDENT GROUPS INVALUABLE TO UIC SPH AND PARTICIPANTS

**U**IC 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 leaders were particularly active,” says Anna Kate Anderson, Assistant Director of Student Services. “They held events and service days to increase knowledge, start discussions, and search for solutions to various public health issues. I look forward to seeing what events next year’s groups will organize!”

#### 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.

#### 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.

**“Student groups are a vital and vibrant part of the student experience.”**



#### 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 student group when you were at UIC SPH, tell us about it by emailing [TellSPH@uic.edu](mailto: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.

#### Wesley Epplin, MPH '11

Project Coordinator, MidAmerica Center for Public Health Practice



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 illness 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



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.

#### Gabriel Illa

Bachelor of Arts candidate



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



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, MHA '13



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



# 40 Years of GROUNDBREAKING PROGRAMS



Alumnus Steven Jacobsen (PhD '90) receives the Dr. Jacob Brody Epidemiology and Biostatistics Achievement Award from Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf.

**“As the school celebrates its 40th year, I am excited about the future.”  
-Paul Brandt-Rauf**

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 uncompromising 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



Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf is joined by Dr. Bruce and Mrs. Janet Douglas (MPH '78).



Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Laureate, delivered a powerful and inspiring keynote address.



President of the University of Illinois Alumni Association, Loren Taylor, presents Stephen Thompson (PhD '00) with the Constituency Leadership Award.



Alumni enjoying the cocktail reception at The Field Museum.



Lanny Passaro, joined by Associate Professor Emerita Sylvia Furner (PhD '87, MPH '85), received the Champion of Public Health Award for his philanthropic commitment to UIC SPH.



Dr. Naomi Morris Maternal and Child Health Achievement Award recipient, Shirley Fleming (DrPH '94).





Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Achievement Awardee, Laurel Berman (PhD '06, MS '02) and Health Policy and Administration Achievement Awardee, Memoona Hasnain (PhD '01).



Distinguished Alumni Achievement Awardee, Cynthia Summers (DrPH '04) is joined by her family at The Field Museum.



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 '87), 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." ■

## Awards

Laurel Berman (PhD '06, MS '02)  
Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Achievement Award

Charlesnika Evans (PhD '07, MPH '99)  
Rising Star Award

Shirley Fleming (DrPH '94)  
Dr. Naomi Morris Maternal and Child Health Achievement Award

Memoona Hasnain (PhD '01)  
Health Policy and Administration Achievement Award

Steven Jacobsen (PhD '90)  
Dr. Jacob Brody Epidemiology and Biostatistics Achievement Award

Lanny Passaro  
Champion of Public Health

Allen Smart (MPH '95)  
Dr. Naomi Morris Community Health Sciences Achievement Award

Cynthia Summers (DrPH '04)  
Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award

Stephen Thompson (PhD '00)  
Constituent Leadership Award



Charlesnika T. Evans (PhD '07, MPH '99) receives the Rising Star Award from Alumni Board Member, Philip Ricks (PhD '08, MPH '98).



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



Allen Smart (MPH '95) receives the Dr. Naomi Morris Community Health Sciences Achievement Award from Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf.



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



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



# 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 Leadership. “The public

health and faith communities, while sometimes viewed as extremely different entities, one as a science the other as a religion, often do work together. However, their partnership usually revolves around a crisis,” says Rani Saxena, Program Manager who has been at MCPHP since 2001 and played a significant role in developing the Institute. “This Institute hopes to create a dialogue and foster relationships so that the public health and faith communities better understand one another, thus providing the opportunity to collaborate more effectively.”

The Institute is comprised of seven sessions, held monthly from March – September 2013 at the UIC School of Public Health. The recurrent theme of the

Institute is Aligning Perspectives to Eliminate Health Inequities and the thirty-five participants in this year’s cohort will learn how to identify and utilize the unique assets that both disciplines use to eliminate the root causes of health inequities – the preventable and unjust differences in health status based on the social conditions in which people live. The Institute is co-sponsored with the Center for Faith and Community Health Transformation, which is a joint project between 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.

Participants take part in a group activity designed to promote intergroup dialogue.

“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 to attend the trainings, 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 commu-



Rev. Dr. Shirley Fleming (DrPH '94) leads a presentation.

nity-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 on-going 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.midamericacphp.com](http://www.midamericacphp.com) or contact Rani Saxena at [rmishra@uic.edu](mailto:rmishra@uic.edu).



Institute participants engage in a group discussion.



2013 Douglas Passaro  
Global Horizons  
Scholarship Awardees

Named in memory of Dr. Douglas Passaro, Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Attending Physician in Infectious Diseases at the UIC Hospital from 2001 to 2005, this award supports graduate students for health-related, hands-on field experiences to carry on Doug’s work and passion promoting global health.

**NAME:** Adrienne Banks  
**LOCATION:** Panajachel, Guatemala  
**PROJECT:** Adrienne will be pursuing an internship with the Naturopathic Medicine for Global Health organization to gather and analyze information to capture determinants of health, risk factors, population needs, and health delivery outcomes in an underserved indigenous Mayan population.

**NAME:** Alyssa Budoff  
**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.

**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.

Making a Difference in the Health of

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> year of an ongoing UIC post-earthquake public health project. The UIC team, which included MPH candidates Alyssa Budoff, Jasmine James, Hira Khan, Dr. Vinodee Dissanayake, and Dr. Deborah Kleiman, 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.



Dr. Janet Lin (top left) and the students who joined her in Haiti.

2013 Passaro Scholarship Awardees with Associate Dean for Research Geri Donenberg (left) and Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf (right).



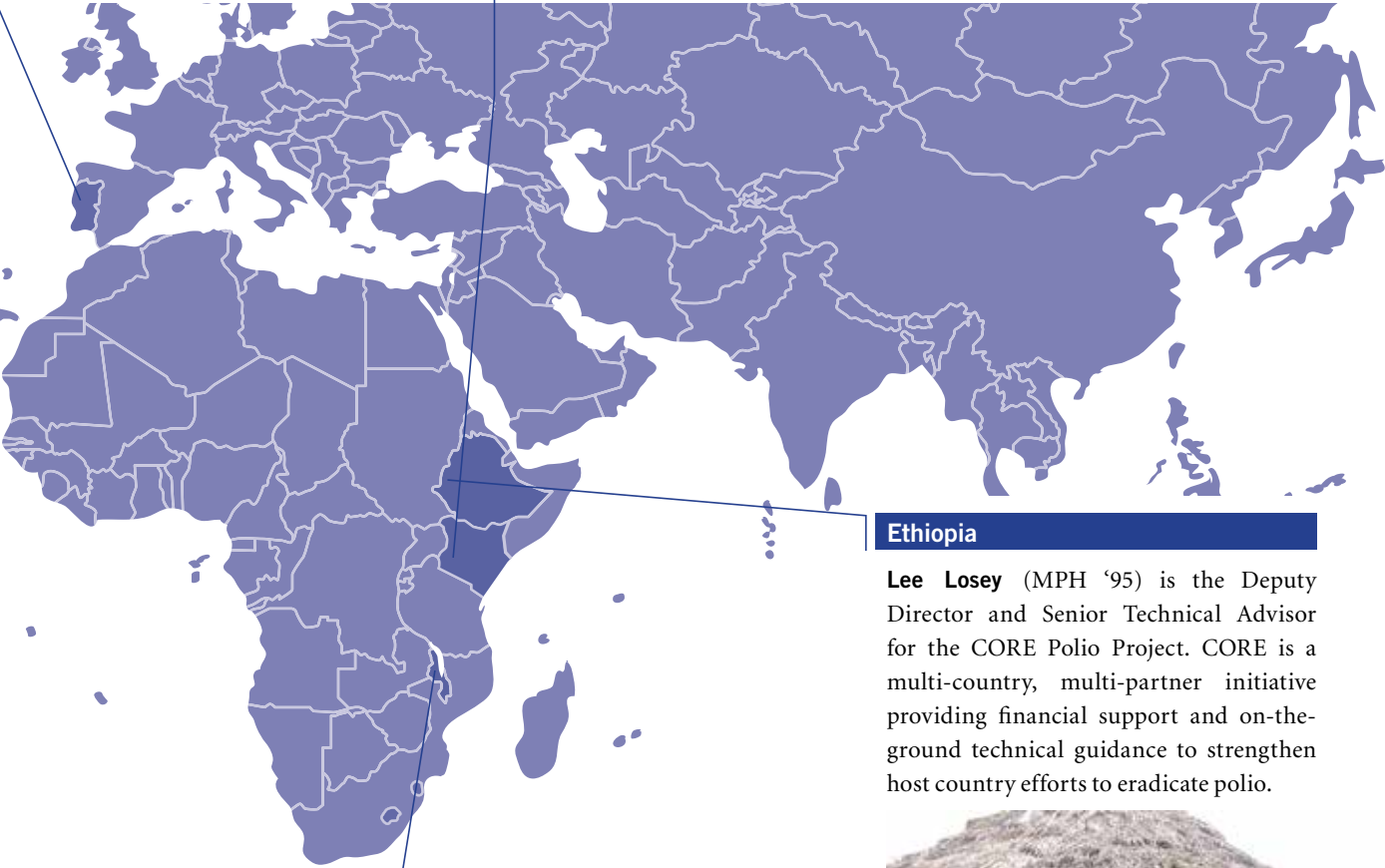
Populations Around the World

**Portugal**  
**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.

**Kenya**  
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.”



Marisa Young



**Ethiopia**  
**Lee Losey (MPH ‘95)** is the Deputy Director and Senior Technical Advisor for the CORE Polio Project. CORE is a multi-country, multi-partner initiative providing financial support and on-the-ground technical guidance to strengthen host country efforts to eradicate polio.



Lee Losey



Brian Barg

**Malawi**  
MPH candidate in Community Health Sciences, **Brian Barg,** is spending 27 months in Malawi with the UIC SPH Peace Corps Masters International (PCMI) 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 area of focus for health volunteers: HIV Mitigation, Healthy Homes & Communities, and Life Skills for Healthy Behaviors.



# ALUMNI MAKING A DIFFERENCE AT THE CDC



Susie McCarthy

**U**IC 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. UIC 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 UIC 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 UIC SPH alumni share the work they are doing at the CDC and explain how UIC 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



Mikyong "Meekie" Shin

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." UIC 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 advanced public health courses had a community component to them that added to the richness of my learning experience. Books, articles and lectures can only teach so much; working with real populations of people around UIC added to that teaching."

## Mikyong "Meekie" Shin (DrPH '06)

Prior to earning her DrPH in epidemiology, Mikyong "Meekie" Shin worked as a nurse to treat women who had difficulty getting pregnant. Her experience got her thinking: "how can I address health factors that could prevent women from becoming infertile?" Shin enrolled at UIC SPH and immediately began working with Arden Handler, DrPH, Professor of Community Health Sciences and Co-Director of the Maternal and Child Health

Program, to analyze data on the impact of poverty on infant mortality rates. She quickly saw the large-scale benefits of working in public health because "as a nurse, I could help one person at a time; in public health I am able to help entire communities." After earning her degree, Shin took a position with the CDC as an epidemiologist and has worked on issues ranging from birth defects to youth tobacco usage. She currently serves as content expert for complex health and environmental data where she monitors the relationship between health effects and environmental hazards. She works with multidisciplinary national workgroups, which consist of epidemiologists, engineers, and informatics specialists in charge of developing the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. "Epidemiology is important because it measures the science to determine trends, which then drives the public health messaging. Public health is the action plan that allows people, neighborhoods and communities to live healthy lives."

## Kira Christian (MPH '01)

Kira Christian found her way into the field of public health through her love of animals. While pursuing an undergraduate degree in chemistry, she became peripherally interested in epidemiology and public health. While many of her undergraduate classmates pursued medical school, Christian chose public health because she was interested in learning more about how animal health affects the health of humans. "UIC 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 Hershow, 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 UIC 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. "UIC 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 Hershow, 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 Ghanain, 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. ■



Kira Christian



Philip Ricks



# Minority Healthcare Leadership Passes the Torch

DJ Wells, Interim Executive Director of the Urban Health Program

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

**“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 their futures.”**

educational leaders that explored ways to combat persistent health disparities in minority communities.

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 their futures.”

“We look forward to this growing far beyond a one-day event,” noted Dr. Ebbin 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. ■



Congressman Danny K. Davis (center) with other community leaders at the Passing the Torch ceremony.



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- Invitation to **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.
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- 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.

DEVELOPING  
LEADERS AND  
POLICIES



## 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 undergrads 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,



Jim and Sylvia Furner



Sylvia Furner (center) with her children, Tracy Stein (left) and Brian Furner (right), meet Jamesetta Mator and Christina Yang, the 2013 scholarship recipients.

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 an 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](http://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." ■

### Ways to Give

**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](mailto:SPHAdvancement@uic.edu) or 312-355-4501.



■ **Col. Damon T. Arnold** (MPH '92) has just published a book entitled *The Theory of Social Disruption*.

■ PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences, **Yuka Asada**, received the Honorable Mention Award (Best Student Abstract 2012) by the School Health Section of the American Public Health Association.



Amanda Bennet

■ Five alumni from UIC SPH's Community Health Sciences (CHS) division were invited to present at the 2012 Chicago LGBTQ Health and Wellness Conference. **Alana Aziz-Bradley** (MPH '12), **Jenny Byelick** (MPH '11), **Ashley Dyer** (MPH '11), **Elena Grossman** (MPH '11), and **Sara Lake** (MPH '11) presented *LGBTQ Youth in Humboldt Park: A Community Assessment* of their work at the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos Puerto Rican High School.

■ **Justine Bandstra** (MPH '10), **Ashley Bergeron** (MPH '11), **Heather Drummond** (MPH '11), **Jenny Drzewiecki** (MPH '10), **Ashley Dyer** (MPH '11), **Danielle Falknor** (MPH '11), **Elena Grossman** (MPH '11), and **Kelly Schulz** (MPH '11) are currently volunteering with Partners in Health Engage Chicago chapter. PIH Engage is a grassroots movement of people working together to advocate for the human right to health and these alumnae are working specifically on PIH's efforts in Malawi.

■ **Jessica Barnes** (MPH '13) was recently hired on as a research coordinator at the University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Medicine for the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) where she will work to improve the medical care of Latinos in Illinois by providing enrichment programs that strengthen the pipeline and increase the number of Latino applicants pursuing healthcare careers.

■ The Surgeon General of the United States recently awarded, **Dr. Carl C. Bell**, Director of the Institute for Juvenile Research and Professor, a Certificate of Appreciation for his scientific, public health, and strategic contributions to the development and release of the 2012 National Strategy for Suicide Prevention.

■ PhD candidate in Community Health Sciences, **Amanda Bennett**, won the *Best Abstract Award* at the Maternal and Child Health Epidemiology Conference for her abstract entitled "Does a medical home mediate racial disparities in unmet healthcare needs among children with special healthcare needs?"

■ **September Cahue** (MPH '05), Research Associate, and **Caryn Etkin** (PhD '06), Director of Research, at the American Joint Replacement Registry (AAJR) attended the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Annual Meeting at McCormick Place in March 2013. AJRR 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 Fahs-Beck Fund for Research and Experimentation. The Fund was established with The New York Community Trust for Dissertation and Faculty Research in the Human Services.

■ **John J. DeNardo** received the Career Achievement Award at 37th Annual Meeting of the Chicago Health Executives Forum in February 2013.

■ **Katy Drazba** (MPH '10) is a Research Associate at Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Baton Rouge, LA where she coordinated an American Heart Association study that visited/surveyed 569 grocery and convenience stores in the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Area. She used the data to help the Mayor's Healthy City Initiative to characterize the food (retail and restaurants) and physical environment of East Baton Rouge Parish.

■ **Ashley Dyer** (MPH '11) is a Research Project Coordinator for Northwestern University's Institute for Public Health and Medicine: Center for Health Care Studies - Program in Maternal and Child Healthcare. In addition she has been organizing as a community organizer for Partners in Health, which focuses on building awareness about local/global health equity.

■ **Adeyemi Fatoki**, M.D., (MPH '95), who is board certified in Family, Bariatric and Addiction Medicine, has just published a book: *The Fatoki Protocol, Its All About the 1/3 - Protocols that Help you Live Healthy, Lose Weight and Keep it Off for Life*.



Mark Finn

■ **Mark Finn** (PhD '83), CIH, 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

■ The American Society of Criminology held a special session at its annual meeting on November 14 celebrating 30 years since **Paul Goldstein** introduced the tripartite framework for understanding the relationship between drugs and violence.

■ **Elena Grossman** (MPH '11) is now Program Manager for Building Resistance Against Climate Effect (BRACE) at the UIC School of Public Health.

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

■ **Merle R. Kataoka-Yahiro** (DrPH '90) is an Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene. Her research focuses on self-management, quality of life, and decision-making among the Asian Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian populations living with chronic kidney disease and related co-morbidities.

■ **Jewel Maeda** (MPH '98) is currently working as certified nurse midwife in Heber, Utah. In June 2012 she presented on postpartum hemorrhage in Sangihe, Indonesia as part of the Project Hope/US Navy Pacific Partnership.

■ **Jeanine Menczywor Donnelly** (MPH '05) is currently the Manager of the Community Pediatrics Training Initiative at the American Academy of Pediatrics. Her program supports a visiting professorship program to bring in community health/advocacy experts to strength pediatric residency training in these areas.

■ **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 distinguished 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 Ambassador Dan Mozena 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 Orris** represented the World Medical Association and the World Federation of Public Health Associations at the negotiations that set a 2020 deadline for the elimination of Mercury Sphygmomanometers and Thermometers from health care globally.

■ **Beth Pellettieri** (MPH '10) is currently a Knight-Wallace Fellowship Affiliate at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and Chair of the Chicago Volunteer Doula, 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 Slutkin**, Research Professor and Executive Director of Cure Violence, is featured 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 SPIG.

■ **David Townes**, MD, (MPH '98) is currently an Associate Professor in the Department of Global Health at the University of Washington School of Medicine/School of Public Health and is the Public Health and Medical Technical Advisor at the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance at the United States Agency for International Development in Washington, DC.

■ As an advocate of higher education, **Philip I. Waitzman**, MBA, (MPH '08), MA, LSW, joined All Campus, LLC. As a business partner and Senior Vice President of Strategic Alliance and Enrollment, Waitzman leads the company's departments focused on new student engagement and solidifying business partnerships.

■ **Zabelle Zakarian** (ScD, MPH '76) will depart in June 2013 for Kenya to serve as a Peace Corps Volunteer. She will work to support efforts to prevent HIV, malaria and parasitic diseases; promote hygiene and safe water supplies; educate young people how to protect their health and lead healthy lives; and develop primary care programs in maternal and child health and nutrition.

■ **Kendall Ziegler** (MPH '10) is the Operations Manager & Communications Coordinator for the Michigan Alliance for the National Children's Study at Michigan State University. She also serves as a Program Evaluator for The Breastfeeding Initiative at Michigan State University and a Survey Specialist for the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.



Daniel Swartzman



# 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](http://publichealth.uic.edu/alumni).

## ALUMNI LEARNING SERIES

Alumnus 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.

## HEALTHY SPIRITS



Dean Paul-Brandt Rauf joins  
Professor Emeritus Ed Chen  
and Associate Professor and  
Division Director Ron Hershow  
at the Healthy Spirits event  
on November 14, 2012.



Guests attend the  
Healthy Spirits event on  
February 13, 2013.



Alumni and guests attend  
the Healthy Spirits event  
on May 15, 2013.



# 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:



Apurba Chakraborty

## 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 Ruestow

Title > **Racial Disparities in Discharge Location Following Hospitalization for Traumatic Falls Among the Elderly (2000-2009)**

Maternal and Child Health - Melissa Heim Viox

Title > **Pricing and Availability of Healthy Foods in Dollar Stores in Chicago's South Side**



Melissa Heim Viox



Eric Umar



# 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. Baum Golden



Clockwise from top, left:

2013 graduates; UIC SPH Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf introduces special guests University of Illinois President Robert A. Easter, UIC Chancellor Paula Allen-Meares, Marian Wright Edelman; 2013 recipient of the Bernard H. Baum Golden Apple Award, William C. Kling, JD; Student celebrates graduation and Mother's Day; Marian Wright Edelman, JD, received an honorary degree and delivered the commencement address.

Opposite:

2013 recipient of the Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award, Jessica Barnes, MPH

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 graduate, Jessica Barnes. The Alan W. Donaldson Award is presented to a student chosen for academic excellence, quality of leadership and community service. Ms. Barnes was selected because she is a successful academic with a strong focus on commu-



nity-based issues and has demonstrated a keen ability to lead. "I'm proud to be joining the public health field, which is truly devoted and diverse, 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), 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 our 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. ■

Whether you're a member of the class of 2013 or one of the first graduates of 1973, tell us what you've been up to by emailing [telISPH@uic.edu](mailto:telISPH@uic.edu).



# UIC SPH CELEBRATES 40 YEARS

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.

## AMERICAN OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CONFERENCE



Alumni and friends at the American Occupational Health Conference in Orlando on April 29, 2013.

## 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 PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION



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



Dean Paul Brandt-Rauf is joined by Illinois Department of Public Health Director, LaMar Hasbrouck, and Illinois Public Health Association President, Mike Bacon.

## 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.



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