

EMORY

Public Health

SPRING 2012

Rollins School of Public Health

Local Impact

Strengthening
Atlanta's Public
Health Workforce



Inside the Fish Bowl | Learning From a Distance | Top Alumni Honors

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◀ Examining Communities from Within

Though he didn't know it at the time, Tim Puetz practiced public health as a U.S. Army officer in Afghanistan, where the military helped build roads between villages to increase security, commerce, and access to health care. As a student at Rollins, Puetz is learning how to affect change within communities through the Socio-Contextual Determinants of Health certificate program. For the full story, see page 16.

On the Cover Julie Straw 12MPH has sought to reduce health disparities for most of her life. Drawn to Rollins for its commitment to engaging students in the local community and workforce, Straw created a program to train teens as peer health educators, providing important lessons to carry with them through life. See page 6 to learn more about how students like Straw help strengthen the nonprofit sector in Atlanta.



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EMORY

**ROLLINS
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Every day, Rollins students and alumni are building public health capacity throughout the nonprofit sector in Atlanta and across the state.

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Students in the Socio-Contextual Determinants of Health certificate program learn to examine health and community from the inside out.

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The RSPH Practical Experience Program employs more than 400 students throughout the Atlanta area in partnership with approximately 50 employers. As they often attest, our students contribute much-needed skills, ideas, and manpower to help the nonprofit sector operate daily.

Building workforce capacity

Every day, Rollins students and alumni are building public health capacity in our city and across our state. CDC, our next-door neighbor, employs more than 400 alumni, many of whom give generously of their time to mentor students. Less than five miles from Rollins are other major partners—CARE USA, the American Cancer Society, the Arthritis Foundation, the Carter Center, the Task Force for Global Health, the Georgia Department of Public Health, and local health departments—where students and alumni work together in this public health capital of Atlanta.

Our students' engagement in the workforce keeps growing. Last year, Rollins established the federally funded Emory Public Health Training Center, which places students at local and state agencies to spearhead projects that support underserved populations. The RSPH Practical Experience Program employs more than 400 students throughout the Atlanta area in partnership with approximately 50 employers. As they often attest, our students contribute much-needed skills, ideas, and manpower to help the nonprofit sector operate daily. Nancy Paris, president of Georgia CORE (Center for Oncology Research and Education) and a longtime member of the RSPH Dean's Council, states, "I value every day the high caliber of students from Rollins. As a leader in health care, that's important to me. It's imperative to provide the highest quality education possible to sustain our workforce in Georgia."

This issue is dedicated to our current and future students and alumni who are the workforce of the present and future that assures the conditions of health throughout the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. Curran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James W. Curran, MD, MPH

James W. Curran Dean of Public Health



Gary Miller will use funding from the Georgia Research Alliance to secure an imaging system to screen for chemicals that may help protect the brain from Parkinson's disease.

Miller named GRA Distinguished Investigator

The Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) has named Gary Miller as a 2012 Distinguished Investigator. Miller, associate dean for research and Asa Griggs Candler Professor of Environmental Health at Rollins, is one of only six researchers so named in the organization's 22-year history.

GRA's distinguished investigator program supports scientists who are considered rising stars in their fields of study. The designation, which includes a monetary award, encourages universities to retain outstanding talent and invest in the infrastructure and technology needed to advance research toward commercialization.

"This designation is rarely given for good reason," says Susan Shows, senior vice president of GRA. "We initiate programs that display promise to cultivate a researcher who is of major value to the mission of their university as well as the state of Georgia."

The \$500,000, five-year award from GRA encourages experts from academia and industry to advance discovery that positions Georgia as a leading state for science- and technology-based economic development. By nominating Miller for the award and matching GRA's investment, Emory raises its profile as a leader in emerging technologies in vaccines and therapeutics.

Miller, a neurotoxicologist, directs the Emory Parkinson's Disease Collaborative Research Center, involving scientists from other disciplines in and outside of Rollins. He is widely known for his research on the impact of toxins on Parkinson's and has created a unique mouse model to develop biomarkers of exposure, risk, and early disease. He also is using the mouse model to test whether

a novel therapeutic agent can restore function to the area of the brain damaged by Parkinson's.

The disease occurs when the brain cells that produce the neurotransmitter dopamine begin to waste away, for reasons unknown. Without sufficient dopamine, the nerve cells cannot properly send messages, leading to eventual loss of muscle function.

With the GRA endowment, Miller will be able to secure a high-content imaging system to screen a large library of chemicals. The goal is to identify compounds that may protect the brain and even restore motor and non-motor functions in Parkinson's patients.

"It would be great to improve the storage and transport of dopamine for Parkinson's therapies, but we'll be just as excited to find compounds to be used in treating addiction, depression, or other disorders," says Miller. "The support from GRA significantly complements what we already are doing in drug discovery. To be given an opportunity to generate intellectual property that economically impacts the research enterprise is highly motivating."—*Tarvis Thompson-Pace*

YOUR OPINION COUNTS

Please take our short reader survey for *Emory Public Health*, and you'll be entered in a drawing to receive a tote bag full of RSPH goodies. We'll get your valuable opinion, and you'll get some mementoes from Rollins. Drawing to be held June 1. To get started, visit svy.mk/readpublichealth.

United Way partnership targets families to reduce secondhand smoke exposure

The Emory Prevention Research Center (EPRC) is taking another step to reduce secondhand smoke exposure.

Funded by a \$6.75 million grant from the National Cancer Institute, EPRC will test an intervention to help callers to United Way 2-1-1 make their homes smoke-free. United Way 2-1-1 is a 24/7 helpline and website that connects people in need with community resources such as food and utility assistance, housing, and health care.

“Most smokers are aware of the negative effects of smoking for themselves and are responsive to messages about protecting their loved ones,” says Michelle Kegler, EPRC director and associate

professor of behavioral sciences and health education. “This project focuses on creating rules about not smoking in the home rather than asking smokers to quit.”

The new research builds on EPRC’s pilot work with Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute and the CDC-funded Cancer Prevention and Control Research Network (CPCRN) to test the intervention at local Georgia health departments. Kegler’s team now is working with CPCRN partners at the University of North Carolina, the University of Texas Health Sciences Center, and Washington University. The United Way 2-1-1 sites in Atlanta, North Carolina, Houston, and Missouri will participate as well.



“This project focuses on creating rules about not smoking in the home rather than asking smokers to quit,” says EPRC director Michelle Kegler.

“One key component to a thriving community is living a healthy lifestyle,” says Milton Little, president of United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta. “We are proud to be part of a program that could improve the quality of life for so many families and households.”

Emory public health leaders named to state board

RSPH Dean James Curran was among the voices in Georgia calling for the creation of a state Department of Public Health. Today, Curran is one of nine health leaders appointed by Governor Nathan Deal to the Georgia Board of Public Health, which advises the new department.

The board and the department have strong ties to Emory. Brenda Fitzgerald 77M, department commissioner, trained at Emory and Grady Memorial Hospital. Serving with Curran on the public health board are James Smith and Gary Nelson. Smith, retired associate director of radiation in CDC’s Center for



Brenda Fitzgerald

adjunct professor in behavioral sciences. Phillip Williams, dean of the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia, also serves with Curran on the state board. Last year, Curran and Williams co-wrote an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Environmental Health, is an adjunct professor at Rollins in environmental health, while Nelson, president of the Healthcare Georgia Foundation, is an

editorial calling for establishing a state health department led by a commissioner who reports to the governor.

Until last summer, public health was a division in the state’s Department of Community Health. A 2010 report issued by the Georgia Public Health Commission recommended elevating the Division of Public Health to department status to streamline the state’s response to new and persistent health problems.

The advantages are clear, as Fitzgerald notes. “A new stand-alone department will provide public health more agility to better meet the health needs of all Georgians.”



mHealth campaign promotes diabetes awareness in India

RSPH researchers are part of a new global initiative that uses mobile text messaging to raise diabetes awareness in India. Led by Arogya World, a U.S.-based nonprofit organization, the mobile health (mHealth) project aims to reach 1 million rural and urban consumers during the next two years.

It is one of the first nationwide diabetes mHealth campaigns in a developing country. Arogya World is implementing the campaign in partnership with Rollins and organizations from multiple sectors in India and the United States, including LifeScan Inc., Aetna, Biocon, and Ipsos.

Linelle Blais, director of the Diabetes Training and Technical Assistance Center at Rollins, and program associate Mallory Waters TIMPH worked with Arogya World to develop the mHealth messages in 12 commonly used languages. Arogya World's Behavior Change Task Force, which includes experts from the United States, United Kingdom, and India, reviewed the messages for cultural relevancy and technical accuracy.

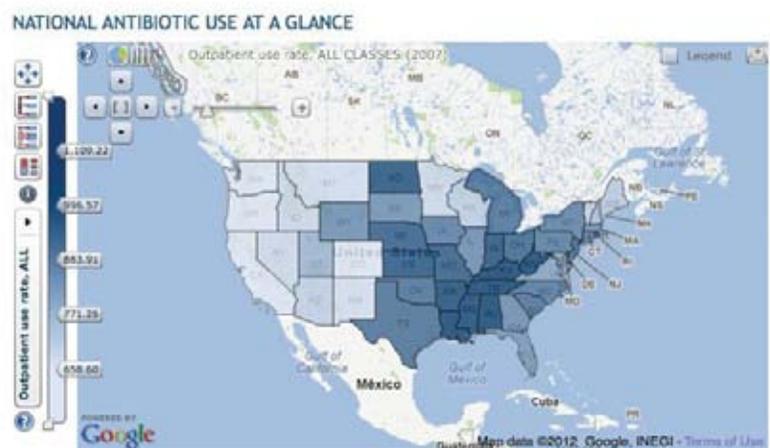
“While most people in India don't have access to computers or smartphones, they do use regular cell phones,” says Waters. “Many of them don't know that diabetes can be prevented. By using targeted text messages, we can educate them by providing information and cues to action for healthy eating and physical activity.”

According to the World Diabetes Foundation, more than 50 million people in India live with diabetes—the largest global population with the disease. It is one of the major causes of premature illness and death worldwide, with 70% of current cases occurring in low- and middle-income countries like India.

Arogya World, Rollins, and their partners will work with the market research firm Ipsos to measure how effectively mHealth increases diabetes awareness and adoption of healthy lifestyles in India. As Nalini Saligram, founder of Arogya World and a member of the RSPH Dean's Council, notes, “Tough challenges in global health can be best addressed through public-private partnerships—no one organization can do it alone.”—*Jennifer Johnson*

First-ever index for drug resistance

Keith Klugman, William F. Foege Chair of Global Health, and Ramanan Laxminarayan, director of the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy in Washington, D.C., have developed an index to track drug resistance. Similar in concept to the cost-of-living index, their tool aggregates information about resistance trends and antibiotic use (shown right) into a single measure over time. The Drug Resistance Index, says Klugman, will make it easier to communicate resistance trends to inform national policy-makers. Read the full story at bit.ly/drindex.



Courtesy the Center for Disease Dynamics, Economics & Policy.



LOCAL IMPACT



*Strengthening
Atlanta's public
health workforce*





**STORIES BY PAM AUCHMUTEY,
PATRICK ADAMS 09MPH,
AND SYLVIA WROBEL**

ACT



In his first year at Rollins, Logan Kirsch 13MPH has already made an indelible mark on Georgia. Kirsch provided the skills and man-hours to launch a new website for Georgia CORE (Center for Oncology Research and Education). It is the state’s first comprehensive cancer information website, designed to support the agency’s mission of improving cancer care quality through research and education.

Nancy Paris, president of Georgia CORE and a member of the RSPH Dean’s Council, has worked with a number of Rollins students. In search of someone to help develop the website, she gave her wish list to the school’s Office of Career Services.

Paris didn’t have long to wait. “Here comes Logan, who had established a nonprofit to support young adult cancer patients after a friend was diagnosed with cancer in his teens,” says Paris. “He was exactly the kind of person we need. He is committed to addressing cancer-related issues and recognizes the value of research.”

Atlanta health agencies often rely on Rollins students to fill their staffing needs. Kirsch is one of more than 400 students hired through the RSPH Practical Experience Program, which matches students with paid work opportunities at local nonprofit agencies and businesses and also at Emory and CDC. Through these partners, students gain valuable experience, often from alumni leaders in the Atlanta workforce.

Students offer much in return by sharing their knowledge and skills with agencies that often lack the human resources they need to accomplish their goals. Just as important, students serve the community by promoting health in different ways.

Kirsch came to Rollins after graduating from the University of Michigan to pursue his interests in science, medicine, and social justice. The school’s emphasis on community engagement was of prime interest.

Before starting class last fall, Kirsch joined new and returning students for RollinSteer Day, an annual day of service in Atlanta. He volunteered at Covenant House Georgia, which provides shelter and services for homeless and runaway youth.

“It was a great day from the beginning,” says Kirsch. “It showed me how Rollins is engaged in the community to help people with the greatest need.”

Turn the page to learn how Rollins students and alumni are impacting Atlanta’s nonprofit community.

Clockwise from top left: Student and Carter Center staff member Adam Weiss; alumna Meridith Rentz of MedShare; student Logan Kirsch with mentor Nancy Paris at Georgia CORE; Kate Huber, a Kaiser Permanente intern researching the Atlanta BeltLine; Samantha Collado, Kristen McLean, and Amanda Gurin, student interns with Mental Health America of Georgia; and alumna Lenette Golding (center) with students Bill MacWright and Alina Shaw at CARE.



Get the Digimarc Discover app and scan this photo to learn more about becoming a student at the Rollins School of Public Health.

Grooming Teen Ambassadors for Health

Julie Straw developed a weekly after-school program to encourage healthy relationships for teens who live near Good Samaritan Health Center in West Atlanta.

Julie Straw MPH has sought to reduce health disparities for most of her life. During her formative years in Michigan, she went on mission trips to Bolivia and Uganda and worked with inner-city youth in Detroit. In college, she taught HIV modules to orphaned teens in South Africa.

At Rollins, her interests spawned the Community Health Ambassador (CHA) program to train local teens as peer health educators. Straw partnered with the Good Samaritan Health Center in West Atlanta to create the program under the auspices of the Emory Public Health Training Center. Established in 2010, the center is a learning community that builds competence in the domestic public health workforce, in part by enabling

students to work in underserved areas. Straw was the first RSPH student awarded a summer field placement in Georgia by the center. Drawn to Good Samaritan at a Rollins career fair, she developed the CHA program to fill a need for encouraging healthy relationships among teens.

Straw worked with community members to organize the CHA program and cover topics identified by teens and their parents: dating violence, healthy eating, HIV prevention and stigma, safe sex, mental illness and suicide, substance abuse, and peer and gang violence. Students graduated from the program after eight weeks.

“Julie took on an incredibly complex task of developing and executing a mentorship program,” says William Warren MD, president and founder of Good Samaritan. “The teens who participated truly seemed to enjoy their experience. If they enjoy it, then they likely will remember what they were taught and carry these lessons through life.”—PA

TAKING CARE IN TRAINING FUTURE LEADERS

Like many a college graduate, Bill MacWright 12MPH didn't know what he wanted to do with his life. A professor at Rutgers urged him to travel to figure it out.

That advice eventually led MacWright to the slums of Nairobi, where he established a microfinance project to help HIV-positive Kenyans start small businesses to provide income for food and medicine. The successful project brought him to Atlanta and RSPH.

"I realized I didn't know how to measure the impact of the project on health, which was my main concern," says MacWright. "Just because the people seemed healthier and their bank accounts were more full wasn't enough for me."

For the past year, MacWright has interned with CARE's Window of Opportunity program, which promotes optimal infant and child feeding practices in five countries. Lenette Golding 03MPH, senior communications adviser, mentors MacWright and three other Rollins students. To enrich their work, she stresses public health competencies in the field and requires students to publish their research.

This spring, Alina Shaw 12MPH is presenting research conducted with CARE Peru at three conferences and looking to publish her research after graduation.

"Lenette is a fantastic force in encouraging us to pursue our interests and figure out what we want to do," says Shaw, who is leaning toward a PhD in medical anthropology. "She created this amazing experience for us to see every level of CARE."

Lenette Golding (center) is mentor to Bill MacWright and Alina Shaw at CARE headquarters in Atlanta.

Golding gains much in return. "I really enjoy working with students," she says. "I get satisfaction in knowing they've been able to rise to the challenge, and they usually exceed my expectations."—PA



MPH student Momoko Kitami is working on an Atlanta study looking at pregnancy risks for women over 40.

Building Health Capital Locally

For the past few years, residents living in Atlanta's historic Fourth Ward district have seen quite a bit of change in their neighborhood thanks to the Atlanta BeltLine, a redevelopment initiative to create more green space and connect neighborhoods along a former railroad corridor.

Kate Huber 12MPH spent time at a new skate park talking with residents to gather information for a survey conducted by the Georgia Tech Center for Quality Growth and Kaiser Permanente. Huber's questions to residents focused on social capital—how people in communities help each other.

The Atlanta BeltLine survey is one of several projects led by Michele Marcus, professor of epidemiology, at the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research.

Momoko Kitami 13MPH, a Woodruff Scholar and physician from Japan, is working with Marcus and Atlanta obstetrician Annette Miles on a study looking at pregnancy complications and outcomes for women over 40. The research will provide valuable data to better inform these women about potential risks.

"Dr. Marcus is helping me learn how to form research questions, analyze data, and consider all of the details and processes that go into research," says Kitami, who was paired with her mentor through Rollins' Scholars in Action program. "Dr. Miles has come to see certain patterns among her patients, but it's hard for her to take the time to conduct the research. We're helping her answer those questions."—PA

Moving Mountains to Prevent Disease

Adam Weiss 13CMPH brings a wealth of field experience to his first-year class at Rollins because of his full-time job: assistant director of Guinea worm eradication programs at the Carter Center.

Weiss first learned of the disease in 2003 as a Peace Corps volunteer in rural Ghana. By his

“kinship model” of health delivery that he tailored to fit his nation’s context.

That program’s success—more than 90% of communities achieved treatment coverage of 90% or greater annually—led to a senior post in Atlanta with the Carter Center’s programs

in river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and schistosomiasis.

Although they work on different diseases, Katarbarwa has much to teach a young colleague. “Adam and I often chat away about dealing with government ministries and how to, let’s say, get a car imported into the country,” he says. “Most people don’t think of these things as public health. But it can be very challenging. And you can’t succeed in



Moses Katarbarwa (left) and Adam Weiss are health leaders at the Carter Center, one of Rollins’ public health partners in the Atlanta community.

second year, he’d become the Peace Corps’ Guinea worm coordinator for the nation.

When his Peace Corps service ended, he remained in Ghana five more years as a Carter Center consultant,

helping design and implement interventions that resulted in disease eradication. After serving for a year in Ethiopia—and likely witnessing the last case there as well—Weiss returned stateside to pursue his MPH and join the Carter Center team in Atlanta. Like dozens of Rollins students before him, he is learning from leading experts in health, human rights, and conflict resolution.

One of those colleagues is medical epidemiologist Moses Katarbarwa 97MPH, who joined the Carter Center in his native Uganda to map the prevalence of river blindness, the second leading infectious cause of blindness worldwide. He also directed a WHO/TDR-sponsored program to control the disease using a community-based

public health unless you know who can move mountains.”—Patrick Adams 09MPH



ROLLINS *by*

967 master’s degree-seeking students

134 Career MPH distance-learning students

137 doctoral students

32 Masters International students who will enter the Peace Corps after graduation; 40 MPH students are Returned Peace Corps Volunteers

24 MD/MPH students

43 dual-degree students - medicine, nursing, business, law, theology, physician assistant, and physical therapy

114 international students



Meredith Rentz is CEO of MedShare, an Atlanta nonprofit that ships surplus medical supplies to underserved nations.

SHARING AN ABUNDANCE OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

The staff and volunteers at MedShare hate to see anything go to waste. Each year, Rollins students and alumni are among the 10,000 Atlanta volunteers who sort and pack surplus medical supplies for shipment to hospitals and clinics in underserved countries. The organization's mission speaks volumes to Meridith Rentz 97MBA 97 MPH, who joined MedShare as CEO last year.

"It was too good to be true," says Rentz of the opportunity that draws on her expertise in business and health.

When MedShare began 14 years ago, founder A.B. Short sought advice from public health pioneer William Foege on how best to operate the organization. Foege advised him only to ship supplies that hospitals need. Thus MedShare created an online inventory that hospitals use to place orders. Since 1998, the organization has shipped \$93 million in supplies and equipment to 88 countries to save lives and preserve the environment.

"We want every U.S. hospital to have a responsible, high-quality way to recover surplus supplies and avoid sending them to landfills," says Rentz.

Since graduating from Emory, she has applied her dual skill set as a senior manager in health care strategy with Deloitte Consulting and as administrative vice chair with Emory's Department of Medicine. She subsequently became chief operating officer with the Points of Light Institute, which combines volunteerism and civic engagement to build a healthy society.

Today at MedShare, Rentz oversees staff and operations at warehouse facilities in Atlanta and California with an eye toward expanding to New York and Florida. She often travels to the countries that MedShare serves. At every location, Rentz ensures that the nonprofit works effectively at the nexus of business and health.

"The intersection of both provides powerful solutions for people in need in the United States and other parts of the world," she says.—PA

the numbers – 2012

More than **5,900** alumni in more than 110 countries

More than **2,800** alumni in Georgia

More than **400** alumni at CDC

175 full-time faculty; more than **600** faculty and staff

421 adjunct faculty, including more than **200** from CDC

Ranked **1st** in global health applications and **2nd** in overall applications – *Association of Schools of Public Health*

Ranked **6th** among schools of public health – *U.S. News & World Report, 2011*

Making Healthy Living Easier

Brigitte Ulin 97MPH and Eric Pevzner 98MPH have much in common. A week apart in age, the CDC colleagues became friends as students at Rollins. When Ulin won a highly competitive Presidential Management Fellowship, she encouraged Pevzner to apply. Both of their fellowships led to successful careers with CDC and their continued involvement with students from Rollins.

Last June, Ulin was in Washington, D.C., when the National Prevention Council released the first ever National Prevention Strategy. Created under the 2010 Affordable Care Act, the strategy's overarching goal is to increase the number of Americans who are healthy at every stage of life.

Then deputy director in the National Prevention Strategy Unit of CDC's Office of the Associate Director for Policy (OADP), Ulin worked closely with U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and the National Prevention Council to develop the strategy. Working with Ulin on the project were Lauren Gase 08MPH, a health scientist in OADP, and Kristina Robinson and Nicole Levidow, second-year students at Rollins.

Levidow's work at CDC—which includes creating materials to educate people about the National Prevention Strategy and coordinating communication with the National Prevention Council—is especially relevant, given her plans to attend law school. “The strategy includes public health prevention through federal law,” says Levidow. “We've never had prevention legislation like this before. It's an exciting time for public health.”

Last fall, Ulin became a senior adviser with CDC's Division of Community Health to implement the Community Transformation Grant (CTG) program, funded by the Affordable Care Act. CTG communities seek to improve health and wellness by implementing strategies included within the National Prevention Strategy. Examples include promoting healthy eating by developing small grocery stores where families live and protecting people from secondhand smoke exposure.



Colleagues Eric Pevzner and Brigitte Ulin, who met as students at Rollins, have enjoyed successful careers with CDC.

“The CTG awards bring the National Prevention Strategy to life by empowering communities to work across sectors to make healthy living easier for all Americans,” says Ulin, who eventually will return to her position with OADP.

Pevzner too has worn different hats at CDC, where he currently serves as TB/HIV team leader for the International Research and Programs Branch within the Division of TB Elimination.

In recent months, five Rollins students have worked with Pevzner to fine-tune U.S. guidance for providing integrated services for prevention of infectious diseases among persons who use drugs illicitly. Students are spreading out across Atlanta to meet with local and state health experts to solicit their feedback to make the guidance more relevant.

“The students are working to design some additional practical guidance to help state and local programs use it effectively,” says Pevzner. “Because the students come from different disciplines—behavioral sciences, epidemiology, and health policy—they challenge us to look at our work from different perspectives.”

That's one reason he remains committed to Rollins, whether teaching a class, mentoring a student, or serving with the RSPH Alumni Association Board and Career Advisory Network like Ulin before him.

“I had an incredible experience as a student at Rollins and benefited



Get the Digimarc Discover app and scan this photo to learn about the Office of Career Services at Rollins.



Nurturing Strong Communities

In 1980, the Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS) was formed to meet the basic health needs of Atlanta’s Korean population. Today, the agency provides that and much more, says associate director Marianne Chung oOC o2MPH.

Formerly run by volunteers, CPACS has 10 departments and 100 full- and part-time staff who provide health and social services, primarily for Asian and Pacific Islander refugees and

immigrants, to build strong communities.

“I came in as the health programs director, but very soon I learned in nonprofit work you have to be a jack-of-all-trades and know about everything,” says Chung. “I started doing more than health work and saw how health is connected to everything.”



Alumna Marianne Chung serves as associate director of the Center for Pan Asian Community Services.

Rollins students often assist Chung, who exposes them to the center’s

multiple facets. Last summer, Phillippa Chadd 12MPH, one of the first students placed in Georgia through the Emory Public Health Training Center, worked on Project Grow to involve youth in community gardening.

The contributions of students like Chadd are invaluable to CPACS, also home to the Institute for Asian American Community Research. Advancing research is high on CPACS’ wish list.

CDC is working with CPACS to evaluate its breast care program for uninsured women and develop an evidence-based model. The program has several pluses: a visible presence in a diverse community, strong partnerships, and a cache of self-collected data.

“I love what I do. But as a community-based organization, we can only go so far without sound data and best practice models,” says Chung. “We need documentation and new models of evaluation to prove this is a novel area of practice.”—PA



Pevzner and Ulin place a high value on mentoring students from Rollins. The students, says Pevzner, “challenge us to look at our work from different perspectives.”

from several great mentors,” Pevzner adds. “I enjoy working with bright students who challenge me with their ideas and questions. They allow me to give back to Rollins and provide me with many rewarding experiences.”—PA



Driving Research on Latino Health

Brianna Keefe-Oates is one of five graduate students who gathered data to update the health status of Latinos in Georgia.

Georgia has the country's third fastest-growing Latino population, but the last report on their health status largely was based on 2000 census data and did not account for the impact of the economic recession or Georgia's strict immigration law. It was time,

the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia (HHCGA) decided, to provide updated health information on the state's Latinos.

Coalition leaders needed an experienced research partner. After just one call to Emory's Office of University-Community Partnerships, a committee of health experts helped HHCGA write a successful grant proposal. The Healthcare Georgia Foundation provided \$150,000 to HHCGA to update its *Report on the Health Status of Latinos in Georgia* in collaboration with Rollins.

Project director Karen Andes, assistant professor of global health, has studied Latino health issues for more than 25 years. Under her guidance, five Emory graduate students conducted the research, with each student responsible for specific health issues such as maternal and child health or chronic illness. Brianna Keefe-Oates MPH sought data from the 2010 census; reports, databases, and websites; and journal articles to research HIV/AIDS and domestic violence.

"I've learned a lot about the specific health needs and challenges that Latinos in Georgia face," says Keefe-Oates, who is from California. "A lot of services that exist in California aren't available in Georgia, where the Latino population is fairly new."

All of the students are working with Andes to prepare a report that will debut at the Latino Health Summit, organized by Emory's Urban Health Initiative and being held at Rollins in June.

Heidy Guzman, HHCGA executive director, welcomes the students' contributions. "They are helping describe and improve the health status for a growing segment of Georgia's population."

—Sylvia Wrobel

Advancing Mental Health for Georgians

From its office in downtown Atlanta, Mental Health America (MHA) of Georgia reaches out to partners, practitioners, consumers, and families across the state. That's a big task for a small nonprofit that relies on Rollins students to advance its work in education, outreach, and advocacy.

First-year students Amanda Gurin and Samantha Collado fill different roles at the agency. Collado writes grant proposals and markets various programs, including Mental Health First Aid, which teaches college students, faith group members, employees, and the general public how best to help someone in the early stages of mental illness or in a mental health crisis. Gurin, who serves as the agency's communications and outreach coordinator, is responsible for all social media and writes a monthly newsletter for mental health professionals and consumers throughout Georgia.



Raymond Kotwicky has helped define the field of community psychiatry.

Kristen McLean, a second-year student, is a veteran of MHA of Georgia, which she joined in fall 2010. She primarily serves as project manager for the RESPECT Seminars, a training program for state health care employees that emphasizes respect from the patient's perspective in the health care setting. McLean also supports Kids on the Block, a puppetry program that teaches elementary and middle school students about mental health.

In February, the students joined Sarah Schwartz, executive director of MHA of Georgia, at the state Capitol for an annual rally on Mental Health Day. Schwartz began partnering with Rollins after she spoke to students attending the school's monthly Mental Health Concentration lecture. Following her talk, a student asked her about interning at MHA of Georgia.

"It's been a terrific partnership. I've been thrilled with the students I've had from Rollins," says Schwartz, the agency's only full-time staff member. "Some of our programs would not be as far along as they are if it weren't for our students. They provide resources that allow us to move forward and take our programs to new levels."—PA



Samantha Collado (left), Kristen McLean, and Amanda Gurin join mentor Susan Schwartz (center) for Mental Health Day at the Georgia State Capitol.

LIVING THE DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY

Raymond Kotwicki o4MPH knew quickly that a Boston residency in internal medicine wasn't for him. There wasn't time to fully learn why a patient needed his insulin dosage adjusted or why another stopped taking her blood pressure medication. What about the patient's social support system, income source, and where he or she lived?

"I realized that what I enjoyed most about the practice of medicine was talking to people and listening to their stories," says Kotwicki. "So I switched to psychiatry."

His decision ultimately led him to a postdoctoral fellowship in community psychiatry and public health at Emory. One of 11 such programs in the nation, Emory's program stands out as the only one that requires completion of an MPH degree.

During his two-year fellowship, Kotwicki divided his time between the sidewalks of downtown Atlanta, sharing coffee and conversation with the homeless, and the halls of the state Capitol, shaking hands with legislators to advocate for the indigent mentally ill.

"We want to train leaders in community psychiatry—leaders who not only can treat people, but who also can change and improve the mental health establishment," says

Kotwicki, who now directs the fellowship program. Nine fellows have completed the program since it began in 2001.

After his own fellowship, Kotwicki served on the Emory faculty and continued seeing patients at Grady Memorial Hospital, where he put together an "assertive community treatment team" that combed Atlanta by van to treat mentally ill people on the street and refer them to services for treatment, food, and clothing.

His efforts did not go unnoticed. In 2007, Kotwicki was recruited to serve as medical director and vice president for clinical affairs at Skyland Trail, an Atlanta-based psychiatric treatment center for adults. Under his guidance, Skyland Trail staff developed a successful clinical model known as "recovery communities." In this model, small groups of patients with similar backgrounds and diagnoses are treated individually while supporting one another in their recovery.

"We know from research studies that having good support and identifying people they can trust and count on helps someone with mental illness get better," says Kotwicki. "That's the most visceral sense of what community is—people who are there to help one another because they care for each other."—PA

Maya Angelou said, “I did then what I knew how to do. Now that I know better, I do better.”

This could well sum up the experience of the more than 100 students enrolled in the Rollins certificate program in the Socio-Contextual Determinants of Health, led by behavioral scientist Hannah Cooper. They enter as passionate students, filled with a desire to aid communities by advancing social justice and eradicating health disparities, but thanks to the certificate program, they leave Emory better equipped to do so.

“During my last deployment to Afghanistan, nation building and stability operations became priorities for the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF),” recalls second-year student Tim Puetz. “ISAF would build a road between two villages. This increased security, commerce, and access to health care. Villages would begin to change. Men had jobs. Children went back to school. Women gained social status. This is the [military] concept of ‘winning hearts and minds.’ Little did I know I was living public health.”

Puetz served as an officer in the U.S. Army for almost eight years, first in the Medical Service Corps as a laboratory science officer conducting environmental medicine research and then in the Infantry doing long-range reconnaissance during a combat tour. Following his



KEEPING THE FISH

~~~~~ IN THE ~~~~~

# FISH BOWL

**Students learn to examine health and community**

**from the inside out** BY LORI SOLOMON ooc 99MPH

~~~~~

service in Afghanistan, Puetz enrolled in the MPH program under the GI Bill.

“A lot of people think soldiers fight like in the movies, but military service is very much a public health project,” says Puetz. “In my

first few days at Rollins, I was lucky enough to hear Dr. Cooper describe how policies and laws that you might not see affect health, and right there I jumped into the program.”

Now in its second year, the Socio-



Tim Puetz volunteers with the ArtReach Foundation, which assists people affected by trauma through art therapy.

Contextual Determinants of Health certificate program builds students' abilities to understand the policies and factors that may affect a population's health and how to intervene to affect change.

"People scratch their heads when they hear the term 'socio-contextual determinants of health.' It is an abstract concept, but Dr. Cooper can ground that idea, and her passion rubs off on students," says Puetz, who also holds a PhD in biopsychology. "We look at the built environment—the structural—the social environment—people's interactions and social network—and policies that trickle down to affect individuals' health. We take this into other classes and the world around us to see how the larger decisions we make can impact health."

While requisite community work is a longer-term goal of the program, requirements

currently include completion of selected classes, participation in colloquia and journal club, and a thesis or capstone project. Topics covered by guest lecturers so far include "How house construction isolates and endangers people—and what we can do about it" and "A socio-psychobiological approach to racial disparities in cardiovascular health."

"You may read about welfare policy in class, but working in the community allows you to see how that policy plays out," says Cooper. "You can learn in class, but in the community you can draw your own conclusions, and that is vital."

Being able to examine broad political or social policies and assess their impact on a group's health is a critical skill. New careers are emerging that require a multi-faceted perspective to assess and intervene in areas that impact health and community well-being.

"Jobs in this area didn't exist 20 years ago. It is important that students are equipped to fill these jobs. The resources are here at Emory, and this program brings them together,"

Cooper explains. "The certificate program transforms students' understanding of what public health can be and what they can do personally in public health. There are expanded job opportunities in agencies not traditionally thought of as public health on the surface, such as housing and urban development."

Puetz is already putting what he has learned in his certificate classes to use in the field. As a contractor with the Carter Center's Mental Health Program, he is working with the Republic of Liberia's Ministry of Health and Social

"You may read about welfare policy in class, but working in the community allows you to see how that policy plays out. You can learn in class, but in the community you can draw your own conclusions, and that is vital."

—HANNAH COOPER, DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIO-CONTEXTUAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Welfare to examine the impact of national pharmaceutical supply chain policy on the availability and accessibility of psychotropic medicines.

The application of lessons learned from the certificate program extends to caring for local communities as well through Puetz's work with the ArtReach Foundation, an Atlanta-based nonprofit that uses art therapy to help heal people affected by the traumatic effects of war, violence, or natural disaster. As research coordinator, Puetz leads the development of evidenced-based research to aid in expanding the program to additional populations and contexts, including returning U.S. veterans.

"When I was 6, I couldn't understand why I couldn't take my fish out of the fish bowl. Then one day I took the fish out of the fish bowl, and I had my answer: You can't truly appreciate the fish outside the context of its environment," explains Puetz.

"As a young public health practitioner with a laboratory science background, I couldn't understand why I couldn't take an individual out of the environment and learn everything I needed to know. Then I took the certificate program and I had my answer. You can't truly take people outside the context of their family, institution, community, or country." ■



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photo to learn about
the CMPH program.

Melissa Alperin and other instructors teach distance-learning students in class at the beginning and end of each semester. In between classes, students converse and complete their coursework online.

Learning From a Distance

THE CAREER MPH PROGRAM BRINGS WORKING PROFESSIONALS
TOGETHER VIA ONLINE CLASSROOM

BY KERRY LUDLAM



Kendolyn Smith, a pharmacy consultant and public health educator in Atlanta, is the first graduate of the CMPH program.

By day, they are state and county health directors, policy advisers, food inspectors, IT experts, veterinarians, nurses, and physicians, among many others. By night, on weekends, and even during lunch breaks, they are students in the Career Master of Public Health (CMPH) program, one of a few of its kind in the country.

Marking 15 years of distance learning and some 250 alumni at Rollins this year, the CMPH program attracts public health professionals from all over the country, as well as Canada, Africa, and Europe. In fall 2011, 65 new students enrolled—a record number. CMPH students earn the same MPH degree as traditional students but in an online format, allowing them to maintain their work schedules while applying what they learn on the job.

The program grew from the smaller Graduate Certificate Program at

Emory (GCPE), developed by CDC to further train public health professionals. The intent all along was for the GCPE to become a full degree program. Students in the GCPE, along with students from graduate certificate programs at other schools, had the option of continuing on for a full degree.

“From the beginning, we had commitment to continue the program,” says CMPH chair Melissa Alperin, among the first GCPE instructors. “While the program originally was intended for CDC employees, we quickly began to see a need beyond that.”

Under the leadership of Kathy Miner, now associate dean for applied public health, the first cohort of GCPE students enrolled in 1997. Two years later, the CMPH program welcomed its first students, including Kendolyn Smith, an Atlanta pharmacist.

A new concept

Smith spent the early part of her career in pharmaceutical sales and training at AstraZeneca. She climbed the corporate ladder at a furious pace but wanted to continue her education.

“I knew that in order to advance professionally, I needed to continue with a graduate degree, but I wanted to continue working while I did it,” says Smith. “Professionals want to work hard contributing to their professions but also find balance when it comes to pursuing quality education to enhance their skills. The CMPH program made that possible for me.”

In 1999, distance learning was still a new concept to many institutions.

“When I joined the program, I remember feeling that it was amazing to be part of this first group,” says Smith, who now has a doctorate of pharmacy and works in Atlanta as a consultant pharmacist and public health educator. “The CMPH program is a trailblazer for distance learning programs. It really led the way in developing a curriculum to educate working professionals. Emory set the stage for people to value distance learning.”

CMPH students meet at Rollins twice each semester, at the beginning and end of the term, on weekends. Outside of the classroom, students receive most of their instruction online. Students primarily use Blackboard to turn in assignments, view lectures, discuss coursework, and connect with faculty and classmates. Such online tools make it possible for students like Shella Farooki, a



CMPH graduate Dave Westfall teaches health care management to current students. He also serves as a district health director with the Georgia Department of Health.

“I am much more confident in who I am in relation to my career. I can already tell that the CMPH program is setting the foundation to grow my leadership skills.”

—CMPH student Lydia Hoffhines

teleradiologist in Dublin, Ohio, to earn an MPH from Emory.

“I became interested in Rollins because it was the most career- and distance-friendly program, and the school was ranked No. 6 in the nation,” says Farooki. “Reputation is key for me since I am using this opportunity to make a new career pathway for myself and bridge public health with radiology and clinical medicine.”

While the CMPH program format is far different from how Farooki earned her undergraduate and medical degrees, she has adjusted well to distance learning.

“I love the face-to-face time on campus the best, but when we need to connect as a team for a group project, we have conference calls and communicate by group Wiki,” says Farooki. “Some classes require discussion board postings, so we do that as well. Often, we have more relevant and succinct discussions online than we would in a classroom setting.”

Choosing a path

While many universities offer a certificate program in public health or a generalist MPH degree program, Rollins’ CMPH program offers different concentrations of study. Through the years, the concentrations have changed based on funding and interest. Currently, students can choose from three

tracks: applied epidemiology, prevention science, and applied public health informatics, new this year.

“Public health informatics is an emerging field, and everyone needs to be more knowledgeable in this area,” says Alperin of the new concentration. “We received funding in 2009 from the Public Health Informatics Institute at the Task Force for Global Health to create the curriculum. We pulled together informaticians from all over the country—from academia and practice at the federal, state, and district levels—to help us create a curriculum structure that could be used in a number of ways.”

Though Farooki began in the prevention science track, she switched to applied public health informatics, which is a better fit given her background in diagnostic radiology, a field constantly transformed by technological advances.

“Informatics is more pertinent to my specialty and allows me the opportunity to seek some innovative positions in the future,” says Farooki. “This is not a technical track where you sit down and write code for hours. The instructors stress that informaticians are the bridge between public health and informatics, so we need to take our clinical experience and figure out which informatics solutions, if any, are applicable to the problem at hand.”

Because the CMPH program is aimed at professionals with

Lydia Hoffhines inspects a restaurant in northeast Georgia, the territory she covers as a state environmental health specialist.



at least three to five years of experience, most students have existing career and family demands.

“I had to get organized and stay organized,” recalls Smith, who at the time managed six direct reports at AstraZenca. “I was online and connected all the time. But I was so interested in the program and what I was learning that I did what was necessary to meet the requirements of the courses.”

Farooki also found a way to maintain her coursework. “I do a lot of my studying after 9 at night,” she says. “During the day, I take my two daughters to and from school, and I work from my home. Sometimes I have to study on weekends, depending on what assignments are due. Staying on top of due dates and being organized are key.”

Immediate rewards

As with any education program, the intent is for students to use what they learn. C MPH students don’t have to wait for graduation day to use their newfound knowledge.

“We want students to use what they’re learning immediately,” says Alperin. “For example, in the spring, I teach a questionnaire design and data analysis class. One week we’re learning about questionnaire development, and the next week students are telling me that they’re developing a

questionnaire for work. They’re able to immediately apply their skills, and that’s just one example.”

Lydia Hoffhines, who entered the C MPH program last fall, has seen immediate benefits in her work as a state environmental health specialist for northeast Georgia. In her informatics class, she learned how to build better systems through databases, which is helping her recognize and address deficiencies in collecting and reporting data in her job. And she has developed a new appreciation for analytic reasoning and quantitative methods used in biostatistics and epidemiology.

“It’s beneficial to understand these concepts in case of a foodborne illness outbreak,” says Hoffhines, the recipient of the David J. Sencer MD MPH Scholarship, which targets local and state public health professionals in the workforce.

Thus far, the C MPH program has exceeded her expectations in building her professional self-esteem. “I am much more confident in who I am in relation to my career,” she says. “I can already tell that the C MPH program is setting the foundation to grow my leadership skills.”

As Alperin counts off all of the graduates who have gone on to serve as state or district health officers, emergency preparedness coordinators, ministers of health, and policy makers, she notes proudly, “Our alumni not only strengthen their careers but also the practice of public health.” ■

Gates Foundation grant expands fellowship program



The Foege Fellowship Program brings health professionals from developing countries to study at Rollins. The current fellows are Joseph Davies of Sierra Leone (left), Herty Herjati of Indonesia, Asrat Amnie of Ethiopia, and Andrina Mwansambo of Malawi.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded a \$1.1 million grant to expand the William H. Foege Fellowships in Global Health. The new funding will increase the number of fellows each year and help fulfill a program goal of maintaining ties with fellowship alumni, says Deborah McFarland, associate professor in the Hubert Department of Global Health and director of the Foege Fellowship Program.

“This grant will allow us to plan a meeting to bring all of our fellows and alumni together as part of the warranty that we have for the program—to keep them connected to Emory and us to them,” says McFarland. “We also will use it as a lever to support and develop a one-year MPH program in global health for fellows who are unable to come

for the two-year MPH program.”

The Foege fellowships were established in 2003 through a \$5 million endowment from the Gates Foundation. They are named to honor the career achievements of William Foege, Presidential Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Global Health at Rollins and senior medical adviser to the Gates Foundation’s Global Health Program.

Fellows in the program come from developing countries to study at Rollins, where they partner with mentors at CDC, the Carter Center, the Task Force for Global Health, and CARE USA.

Current Foege Fellows include Andrina Mwansambo, a physician and leader in HIV/AIDS policy from Malawi; Herty Herjati, a physician and maternal health specialist from

Indonesia; Joseph Davies of Sierra Leone, who has worked with CARE USA; and Asrat Amnie, a physician and public health official from Ethiopia.

Since arriving at Rollins last August, Amnie has learned new methods to complement his clinical skills and improve health in his home country and around the globe.

“When I first worked as a hospital surgeon, I realized that people suffered more from deficiencies than diseases,” he says. “I began to realize that improvements in public health and public policy were things people needed to overcome this.”

After accepting a government position as a regional public health director, he traveled widely, and his interest in global health and its impact on disadvantaged populations grew. In that role, Amnie worked closely with the Carter Center. On a trip to Atlanta, he visited Emory and subsequently was nominated for a Foege fellowship by the Carter Center.

“When I finish my studies, I would like to live and work globally on behalf of the underserved and for the good of humanity,” Amnie says. “I want to improve public health in developing countries by translating research into policy and practice and working to bridge the gap between public health and clinical medicine.”—*Maria Lameiras*

Livingston Foundation creates PhD fellowships

Shuo Chen and Matthew Magee spend a lot of time in front of computer screens. They are not posting to Facebook or watching videos on YouTube. Rather, they are mining data for their respective research projects on brain mapping and tuberculosis.

Each is a PhD student, Chen in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics and Magee in the Department of Epidemiology. And each is now a Livingston Fellow, having been chosen as an inaugural recipient of a scholarship for doctoral students made possible by a gift from the Livingston Foundation.

“Now I can buy a very fast PC,” says Chen, who also has received awards from the Organization for Human Brain Mapping and the American Statistical Association. He will need that fast PC to continue his work collecting neuroimaging data using 3D images of the brain. His research involves analyzing activity and interactivity of different regions of the brain, both in rest mode and task-induced mode when prompted by stimuli. Chen’s goal is to draw population-level inferences from his findings that could improve disease diagnosis and prognosis and lead to personalized treatment plans for people with brain disorders and diseases, such as depression.

Before coming to Emory, Chen—originally from China—worked as a biostatistician at Vanderbilt University, where he earned his MS degree in biomedical informatics.

Magee’s dissertation focuses on treatment outcomes for tuberculosis patients with diabetes. The patients he studies are in Tbilisi, Georgia, where he travels two to three times a year to collaborate with the Georgia National Center for Tuberculosis. Using the Livingston funds for travel expenses



Livingston Foundation trustees Charlie Gregory (standing, left), Greg Gregory, Michael Golden, Milton Brannon, Jonathan Golden (seated, left) and Greer Brannon met recently with Livingston Fellow Shuo Chen.

and supplies is an obvious choice. “But the money also will make my research go further,” Magee explains, “because it will allow me to add a new design to my cohort study, perhaps to do more chest radiographs.”

Magee, who has an MPH degree in epidemiology from the University of Illinois at Chicago, also draws support from a research development award from Emory’s Laney Graduate School.

Based in Atlanta, the Livingston Foundation chose to provide scholarships for doctoral students after its chair, Jonathan Golden, learned of the need from Lawrence and Ann Estes Klamon, fellow members of the RSPH Dean’s Council and co-chairs of the RSPH Campaign Committee. Golden presented the idea of creating the Livingston Scholars Fund to the foundation’s board of trustees.

“The opportunity to help attract the best and brightest doctoral students to Rollins was an easy, win-win decision,” says Milton Brannon, president and treasurer of the Livingston Foundation. “The school is a leader in developing scientific talent, and we are proud to play a role in that effort.”

—Jennifer Wheelock



Shuo Chen



Matthew Magee

Presswala joins development team

Kathleen Presswala, an Atlanta native experienced in serving the nonprofit sector, has joined the RSPH as director of annual giving. She is part of the fund-raising team led by Kathryn Graves, associate dean for development and external relations.

Presswala comes to Rollins from the Atlanta Ballet, where she served as the annual giving officer. She began her fund-raising career in Boston as a development associate for Elderhostel after graduating from Bowdoin College.

She subsequently returned to her home state to attend law school at the University of Georgia and serve as a legal assistant with Waffle House. During law school, she interned with public defender offices in Athens and Atlanta, where she assisted clients beset by difficult circumstances.

“I enjoyed the work, which was both challenging and affecting,” she says. “It was hard to leave at the end of the day because I knew my clients were spending the night in jail.”

Her appreciation for the arts drew her back to nonprofit fund-raising with the Atlanta Ballet, where she supported dancers and donors by staffing events, conducting research, cultivating supporters, writing letters, and licking stamps.

“The ballet had a small development team, and everyone pitched in to help,” she says. “It was our

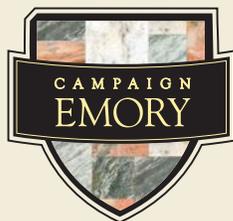


Kathleen Presswala, a Georgia native and UGA law school graduate, has spent her career as a fund-raiser in the nonprofit sector.

way of sharing our passion for the dancers and their artistry.”

At Rollins, Presswala will grow annual giving by finding ways to connect alumni and friends of the school with students, faculty, and programs that interest them. The work allows her to apply the analytical skills that she learned in law school to fund-raising for the RSPH, for which she has quickly developed a passion. She likens her new role to the one she held as a public defense intern: “I want to do good—not for me but for the community and the world.”

To learn more about annual giving opportunities at Rollins, contact Kathleen Presswala at 404-712-8687 or kathleen.presswala@emory.edu.



RSPH campaign support tops \$162 million

To date, the RSPH has raised more than \$162.5 million—108% of its \$150 million goal for Campaign Emory. This extraordinary support has enabled Rollins to meet some, but not all, of its campaign goals. Efforts continue to increase support for scholarships, faculty research and programs, unrestricted endowment, and other priorities. As of

March 31, the university had raised \$1.42 billion, 89% of its \$1.6 billion goal.

To learn more about the Campaign Emory, visit campaign.emory.edu. To make a gift, contact Kathryn H. Graves, Associate Dean for Development and External Relations, at 404-727-3352 or kgraves@emory.edu.

Celebrating Emory's history

The year 2011 ended in historic fashion when Emory observed its 175th anniversary. To mark the occasion, the university named 175 Emory makers of history, including nine leaders who are associated with Rollins.

THOMAS FORT SELLERS SR. 32M 60H

A public health leader in Georgia for 42 years, Sellers invented a tool for diagnosing rabies. His son, Thomas F. Sellers Jr. 47C 50M, the former chair of Emory's Department of Community Health, is an RSPH founding father.

VIRGINIA BALES HARRIS 71C 77MPH

During her 35 years at CDC, Harris led important work in TB, breast and cervical cancer, stroke and heart disease, and smoking cessation. She also helped update the agency's master building plan and secure funding for new facilities. Today, Harris serves on the RSPH Dean's Council and as alumni chair for Campaign Emory.

EUGENE GANGAROSA

A world expert in waterborne diseases, Gangarosa joined Emory in 1982 to direct the community health program, which led to the school's formation. He and his wife, Rose, established the Eugene J. Gangarosa Chair in Safe Water and the Rose Salamone Chair in Environmental Health to advance study in those areas.

PATRICIA LOTTIER 84MPH

A former nurse, Lottier and her husband took ownership of the *Atlanta Tribune* when it was a fledgling newspaper for the city's black business community. Now a magazine, the *Tribune* has a healthy following of print and online readers.

WILLIAM H. FOEGE 86H

Foege is widely known for his role in the successful campaign to eradicate smallpox. He led CDC and the Carter Center, founded the Task Force for Child Survival (now the Task Force for Global Health), and served as a Gates Foundation adviser. He also is Presidential Distinguished Professor Emeritus of International Health at Rollins.

O. WAYNE 86H AND GRACE CRUM 95H ROLLINS

The RSPH is ranked No. 6 in the nation, thanks largely to the generosity of the Rollins family. Their gifts made possible the construction of the Grace Crum Rollins and the Claudia Nance Rollins buildings, an endowment for faculty development,

and the Center for Public Health Preparedness and Research.

ISAM VAID 93OX 95C 99MPH

Born in Pakistan, Vaid founded the Oxford College Muslim Student Association in 1991 and started the Emory chapter with four friends in 1993. He is now an adviser for religious life at Emory and serves on its alumni board.

AJAY PILLARISETTI 03B 07MPH

Pillariseti and three other students founded Campus Moviefest in 2001, when they arranged to provide fellow students with everything they needed to make a movie in one week. Since then, more than 350,000 students worldwide have received the necessary training and technology to tell their stories through film. Campus Moviefest is based near Emory in Decatur, Georgia.



Ajay Pillarisetti, Patricia Lottier, Isam Vaid, and Virginia Bales Harris attended the university's 175th anniversary celebration, each wearing a gold medal presented to Emory makers of history.



Rebecca McQueen 79MPH had the honor of carrying the RSPH gonfalon during the opening and closing of the 175th anniversary convocation in Glenn Auditorium. McQueen is the first RSPH alumna to lead the Emory Alumni Association as president.

For the complete list of the 175 Emory makers of history, visit bit.ly/Emory175.



Graduates of the MD/MPH program gathered for their first alumni reunion at Rollins last fall. Established in 1996, the program graduated its 100th student in 2011.

Strong Partners in Health

Rollins and the School of Medicine observe a milestone in training physicians grounded in public health

Rollins and the Emory School of Medicine have been strong partners in health education from the start. The master's program that evolved to become the RSPH is rooted in the medical school, where faculty members pushed to start a training program in community health. Years later, Bill Eley 83M 90MPH, executive associate dean for medical education and student affairs, advocated creation of a joint MD/MPH

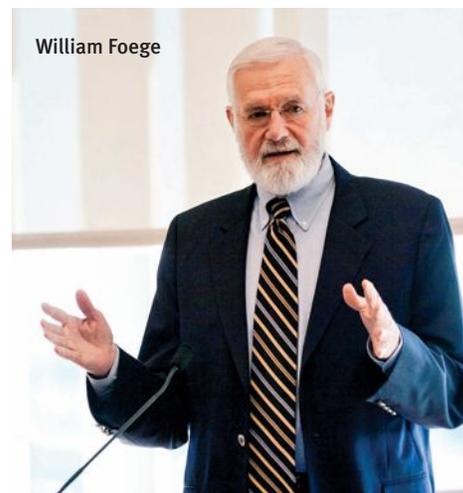
degree to broaden medical students' perspective of public health.

But he admits he made a mistake. "I vastly underestimated how popular it would become," said Eley during a reunion of MD/MPH graduates last fall. More than 100 students have completed the five-year program since it was formed in 1996.

John McGowan, an epidemiologist and physician, keeps close tabs on MD/MPH students as their program coordinator at Rollins, where 24 currently are enrolled and supported with funding from both schools.

"We bring in good people and let them pursue their interests, and then they go out and do wonderful things," McGowan said.

William Foege is also a believer in the combined strengths of medicine and public health. A pioneer in both fields, Foege improved health worldwide as director of CDC, executive director of the Carter Center, and founder of the



William Foege

Task Force for Global Health.

"I want to remind you to live life large," Foege told the MD/MPH students and graduates who gathered for the reunion. "There are 10 million children in this world who will die of preventable things this year. We have to feel an obligation to change that."—*Pam Auchmutey*

Harris receives Turman Award

One of the mantras that has sustained Virginia Bales Harris 71C 77MPH during her successful career at CDC and longtime alumni leadership at Rollins is: “Never underestimate what people can do.”

That phrase applies to her own life as the recipient of the 2012 J. Pollard Turman Alumni Service Award, presented by the Emory Alumni Association. Named for the Emory graduate who became an influential humanitarian in Georgia, the award includes a \$25,000 grant to Emory from the Tull Charitable Foundation, which Turman helped create. Emory President James Wagner presented the award to Harris during a ceremony in March.

“It feels really special to be recognized by people you honor and respect,” says Harris.

Her association with CDC began in 1970, when the chemistry major went to the agency in search of part-time work as a student. She learned much from the best and brightest, including then CDC director David Sencer, who later insisted that Harris enter the MPH program that he co-founded with Emory faculty and which evolved into the RSPH.

During her 35 years at CDC, Harris championed programs dedicated to chronic illness education and prevention, including those for breast cancer, cervical cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, tuberculosis control, and smoking cessation for teenagers. Under CDC Director Jeffrey Koplan, Harris helped update the agency’s master plan and secure funding for new facilities visible from Emory today.

At the same time, she remained committed to Rollins, where she has held many volunteer leadership positions, including her current roles as RSPH alumni chair for Campaign Emory and Dean’s Council member. After retiring from CDC in 2005, Harris was named to the YMCA National Board of

Directors and has been instrumental in developing the organization’s Activate America Program to help combat obesity and chronic disease.

“It was serendipity for me that I ended up in a place where my Emory education, my passion for science, public health, public policy, and service all came together at the same institution,” she says. “Working with Emory has been in some ways a release valve for me, a way of continuing to meet new and different kinds of people who are involved in my field but in a much broader sense.”

Harris was inspired to serve by her mentors, including her parents and David Sencer at CDC, who paid for her graduate education at Emory. Sencer himself once said of Harris, “Over the years, Ginny has continued to prove that she is capable of exceeding expectations and has become



a role model for young people entering the public health field at CDC.”

In that spirit, Harris is matching her Turman award grant and designating that the \$50,000 be used to support scholarships for students at Rollins.—*Pam Auchmutey*

To make a gift for student scholarships, please contact Michelle James, director of alumni and constituent relations, at 404-727-4740 or mjames4@emory.edu.

Among those honoring Turman Award recipient Virginia Bales Harris (center) were James and Berta Laney, former Emory president and first lady; RSPH Dean James Curran; Emory President James Wagner; Larry Prince, Tull Charitable Foundation board chairman; and Bobbi Cleveland, Tull Foundation executive director.

The Best Jobs in the World

The RSPH Alumni Association honors two CDC leaders in public health preparedness and sickle cell disease

Ali S. Khan

DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

A few years ago, Ali S. Khan OOMPH had to decide whether to give up teaching or practicing medicine. His duties as director of CDC's Office of Public Health

Preparedness and Response and U.S. assistant surgeon general didn't leave time for both. Fortunately for Rollins, Khan chose to remain in the classroom.

"Teaching exposes me to some brilliant students," says Khan, who co-teaches the course, Emerging Infectious Diseases. "I'm always



"Teaching exposes me to some brilliant students. I'm always learning from them," says Ali S. Khan, director of the Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response at CDC and an adjunct faculty member.

learning from them."

Guiding students in and outside the classroom is one of the many accomplishments for which Khan received the 2011 Distinguished Achievement Award. It was the first time the award was given to a current faculty member and commencement speaker. Khan addressed the Class of 2011 last May.

The popular teacher and CDC leader grew up wanting to become a



As a student at Rollins, Melissa Creary co-founded the nonprofit Shadow Blossom, which tackles hidden health and social issues.

Melissa Creary

MATTHEW LEE GIRVIN AWARD

Melissa Creary OOC O4MPH first worked on sickle cell disease in the laboratory, where she made a discovery: She wanted to work more with people than with cells.

That revelation led her to take a community approach as a health scientist with CDC's Division of Blood Disorders, for which she has received much recognition, including the 2011 Matthew Lee Girvin Award, honoring younger graduates who improve the lives of others. Girvin, a 1994 alumnus, died in a 2001 helicopter crash while on a U.N. surveying mission in Mongolia.

Within her first year at CDC, Creary helped launch a working group that created a community of agency experts. She developed award-winning web pages; created partnerships with health care providers, researchers, and community groups; and published a paper that she and her colleagues presented at professional meetings. Her paper captured the attention of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, with which she is collaborating on a two-year national pilot program to determine the prevalence of sickle cell disease

physician. Near the end of his residency in internal medicine and pediatrics at the University of Michigan, one of his mentors steered him toward public health. In 1991, Khan joined the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS) at CDC.

Since then, Khan has been instrumental in upgrading local, state, and national public health systems to detect and rapidly respond to bioterrorism. He also created the critical agent list, forming the basis for biological terrorism preparedness. When the nation's first anthrax attack occurred in 2001, Khan directed CDC's operational response in Washington, D.C.

He also has led responses to other public health emergencies, including Ebola hemorrhagic fever, the Asian tsunami, and the initial response to Hurricane Katrina. He designed CDC's

joint global field epidemiology and laboratory training program and participated in the eradication of Guinea worm disease and polio. He also helped design and implement the President's Malaria Initiative.

Through it all, he has maintained close ties to Rollins by mentoring students, participating on the Alumni Campaign Committee, and serving as RSPH Alumni Board president.

Khan credits his EIS training in surveillance and his studies in biostatistics at Rollins as the basis for his public health accomplishments. Both prepared him for a leadership role that he relishes.

"I have the best job in the United States—ensuring the health security of the nation," he says.—*Pam Auchmutey*

and other inherited blood disorders.

Creary, who was diagnosed with sickle cell disease when she was 3, views the pilot project as a platform for spreading information and improving current interventions to combat a disease once believed to affect only blacks. The disease in fact affects people of different races and ethnic backgrounds.

Outside of CDC, Creary is a board member with Sickle Cell Empowerment for Liberated Life, former chair of the Caucus of Emory Black Alumni, and a fund-raiser for the Susan G. Komen Foundation. She remains active in ShadowBlossom, a local nonprofit that she

co-founded with Xanthia Berry 04MPH and Cassandra Martin 04MPH to tackle hidden social and health issues.

Last fall, Creary spent five weeks in Brazil to work on her Emory doctoral study of sickle cell disease. She is examining the political and cultural histories of the disorder in Brazil and in the United States and their respective impact on governmental intervention in each country.

"I never knew having sickle cell would lead me down this path," says Creary. "I am humbled to be a voice for a population that doesn't have a strong voice. I hope to always be the sickle cell girl."—*Pam Auchmutey*

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RSPH Leadership on the Emory Alumni Board

Lisa Carlson 93MPH

Amri Johnson 96MPH

Upcoming Events

Spring Diploma Ceremony

Monday, May 14

Rollins School of Public Health

Alumni Reunion Weekend

September 28-30

Rollins School of Public Health

Dean's Reception

American Public Health Association

Monday, October 29

San Francisco

For information:

alumni@sph.emory.edu or 404-727-4740

From cow barn to politics

Jiri Karas knows where the history starts in the Czech Republic. Last fall, he shared that history with students at Rollins.

Born in 1942, Karas came of age under Communist rule. When his father refused to join the Communist Party, the family was jailed save for Jiri. Eventually, he worked in a cow barn for 18 years until Czechoslovakia broke free from Communist rule in 1989. He went on to serve in the Czech Republic parliament and rose to become the first Czech ambassador to Belarus.

Helena Karasova 09MPH, who translated for her father while he spoke at Rollins, worked and played in the cow barn as a child and learned to stand up for what is right.

“By watching my father, I learned the significance of becoming involved politically,” she says. “It is too easy to disagree with politicians verbally, but it is a real challenge to make change.”

That belief led her to Rollins. “I was inspired by the stories of faculty members in the Hubert Department of Global Health who demonstrate their devotion to changing the lives of those most in need,” says Karasova, who is now married to a Colombian journalist.



Jiri Karas and daughter Helena Karasova 09MPH



Lisa Carlson 93MPH



Mark Kashdan 95MPH

advertising, social media, and the web,” he says.

BRIAN G. SHELTON 92MPH was featured in an *Atlanta Business Chronicle* article, “Microbiologist captures unique astral images,” last November. Shelton has dabbled in astrophotography for more than a decade, using telescopes to photograph the sun, moon, planets, and stars. He became interested in outer space as a way to explain the origin of life.

When Shelton is not looking up through a telescope, he is looking down through a microscope. As CEO of Pathogen Control Associates Inc., he and his colleagues investigate biological agents such as the one that causes Legionnaires’ disease. Shelton was the first to show an association between Legionella concentrations in cooling towers or decorative fountains and risk of disease. Pathogen Control Associates also helped identify anthrax contamination in news media facilities and post offices after 9/11.

LISA CARLSON 93MPH was elected to the Executive Board of the American Public Health

Association at the 2011 meeting in Washington, D.C. Carlson is the grants administrator for the Emory Transplant Center and a longtime alumni leader at Rollins.

MARK KASHDAN 95MPH serves on the Board of Directors of Embraced Atlanta (embracedatlanta.org), a non-profit that distributes slightly used or surplus orthopaedic and prosthetic devices to people unable to access or afford them. He is a senior attorney in the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Health and Human Services, at CDC and lives in Atlanta with his wife and two children.

DAVID B. FEIG 98MPH was named one of “Seattle’s Top Doctors 2011” by *Seattle Met Magazine*. Read about him at bit.ly/seattledocs.

1980s

DR. DON A. FRANCO 85MPH is the author of *Poverty—Hunger—Disease—and Global Health* (Yawn’s Publishing 2011), his third book on poverty and health. He also has published extensively on food safety and public health microbiology. Franco is a former Rollins adjunct faculty member who lectured on *Campylobacter* for several years under Eugene Gangarosa, now professor emeritus of global health.

1990s

DR. ROBERT J. DAVIS 90MPH has written *Coffee is Bad Good for You* (Penguin 2012), an evidence-based guide on what’s believable and what’s not when it comes to popular diet and nutrition claims. Davis, who has taught “Mass Media and Public Health” at Rollins for four years, finds his students continue to be enthusiastic. “It’s pretty much the only course of its kind in the country—covering the intersection of health with news, entertainment,

2000s

DR. AUDREY SCHUETZ 00MD/MPH 07MR is a certified diplomate of the American Board of Medical Microbiology. Schuetz is assistant director of the Clinical Microbiology Lab at Weill



David Feig 98MPH



Audrey Schuetz OOMD/MPH
07MR



Christopher Kuzawa 01G 01MPH
07MR



Olivia Long 01MPH and family

Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital.

DR. NICOLA DAWKINS 01G 01MPH 11B is one of three authors whose book won the 2011 Outstanding Publication Award from the American Evaluation Association. She co-wrote *The Systematic Screening and Assessment Method: Finding Innovations Worth Evaluating* with Laura Levitorn and Laura Kettel Khan.

Dawkins is a behavioral scientist and principal at ICF International (formerly Macro International) in Atlanta. She provides technical direction for ICF's research community and has led multiple projects implementing the Systematic Screening and Assessment Method. She pursues research on obesity, women's health, and health equity.

CHRISTOPHER (CHRIS) W. KUZAWA 01G 01MPH is a lead author of a study suggesting that men's bodies evolved hormonal systems that help them commit to their families once children are born. The study was featured in a *New York Times* article, "In Study, Fatherhood Leads to Drop in Testosterone,"

last September. Kuzawa is an anthropology professor at Northwestern University in Illinois. His PhD student, Lee Gettler, is the other lead author, along with Thomas McDade and Alan Feranil. To read about their study, visit nytimes.com/2011/09/13/health/research/13testosterone.html.

BORN: To **OLIVIA CHELKO LONG 01MPH** and her husband, Adam, a daughter, Odessa Catherine Long, on Jan. 22, 2010, in South Korea. Odessa joined her brother, Hamilton. The family returned to the States in 2011. Olivia is now executive director of AIDS Athens in Athens, Ga.

JEAN O'CONNOR 98C 01L 01MPH was named deputy director of the Oregon Public Health Division. She leads policy, program, and strategic initiatives, including preparedness and accreditation efforts, for the state's public health system. O'Connor previously worked on preparedness and tobacco policy at CDC.

LISA ANN ROTONDO 01MPH moved to Washington, D.C.,

last fall to serve as deputy director of the Neglected Tropical Disease Program at RTI International.



Daughter of Pooja S. Atwal
03MBA/MPH

BORN: To **POOJA S. ATWAL 03MBA/MPH** and her husband, Parm, a daughter, Raina, on May 20, 2011. Pooja is an executive vaccine specialist at Merck Vaccines. The family lives in Arlington, Va.

MELISSA CREARY 04MPH 18G was featured in *Ebony* magazine regarding her work and experience with sickle cell disease. See page 28 to learn more about Creary, recipient of the 2011 Matthew Lee Girvin Award.

DR. EDGAR SIMARD 04MPH is a senior epidemiologist with the American Cancer Society, Intramural Research Department. His research focuses on cancers among

people with HIV/AIDS as well as the impact of interventions such as prevention, screening, and treatment on cancer incidence and mortality patterns. He also serves with Emory's Winship Cancer Institute.

KATHERINE (KATIE) WOOTTEN 05MPH is associate director, Secretariat, of the Suicide Prevention Resource Center (SPRC) at the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention. She writes that the White House recently selected SPRC as a Champion of Change, part of President Obama's Winning the Future across America initiative. Wootten notes that SPRC was recognized for its role in taking a public health approach to suicide prevention. To learn more, visit whitehouse.gov/champions/suicide-prevention/suicide-prevention-resource-center.

DR. GINGER MERRY 06MD/MPH worked in Uganda last fall for Imaging the World, which deploys low-cost portable ultrasound machines to resource-constrained areas. The images are obtained by volume-based ultrasound (cine clips) and sent for



Lisa Rotondo 01MPH



Edgar Simard 04MPH



Ryan Holman and Dawn Hall 07MPH



Angela Clements 08MPH and Maurice Johnson Jr. 07MPH

remote interpretation. The long-term project will create an improved, sustainable,



Ginger Merry 06MD/MPH as project manager for breast ultrasound imaging in Uganda

and cost-efficient approach to diagnostic imaging. Merry is the project manager for the breast ultrasound component, aiming to increase early detection and treatment of breast cancer in Uganda. She is a radiology resident at UCSF and will begin a breast imaging fellowship at Northwestern University in July.

MARRIED: DAWN HALL 07MPH and Ryan Holman on Oct. 9, 2010. She is a behavioral scientist at CDC in the Division of Cancer Prevention. The couple lives in Smyrna, Ga.

health educator for Inova Health System in Springfield, Va., and Maurice is a research analyst for Westat in Rockville, Md. The couple lives in Arlington, Va.

MARRIED: MAURICE JOHNSON JR. 07MPH and **ANGELA CLEMENTS 08MPH** on July 30, 2011, at Callanwolde Fine Arts Center in Atlanta. Angela is an HIV

MARRIED: SAMANTHA FREEMAN 08L/MPH and Oran Ebel on Oct. 30, 2011, in New York City. She is a contracts specialist in the grants office at NYU School of Medicine.

Alumni Deaths

PATRICIA A. NATHAN 84MPH of Tutu, the Virgin Islands, in August 2011 at home of pancreatic cancer. The family held a celebration of life ceremony with festive colors. Survivors include her parents, Godwin and Victoria Stevens; a daughter and son-in-law; two grandchildren; and many nieces, nephews, and godchildren.

SAMEE CHARLOTTE ELLERBEE 11MPH of Thomaston, Ga., on Aug. 2, 2011, of cancer before completing her MPH degree. She was a pharmacist who graduated from the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy in 1974. Among other positions, she worked at Eisenhower Army Medical Center at Fort Gordon near Augusta, Ga., for 17 years and retired in 2008. While there, she became a certified diabetes educator and coached diabetes patients after her retirement. Survivors include her husband, Steve; her brother, Clay Smith; and three nieces.



MARK A. CHEN 08MPH and four other Rollins graduates met at the 2011 U.S. Public Health Service Scientific and Training Symposium in New Orleans last June. Pictured are: LTJG **Candis Hunter** (formerly **Mayweather**) 09MSPH, LT **Mark Chen**, LT **Erica Bushong 08MPH**, LT **Erin Grasso** (formerly **McKay-McElroy**) 08MPH, and LT **Aaron Niman 08MPH**. They are assigned to ATSDR, FDA, CDC, CDC, and EPA, respectively.

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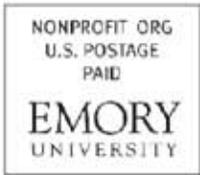
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15 Years of Distance Learning

By day, Lydia Hoffhines inspects restaurants in northeast Georgia, one of her duties as a state environmental health specialist. By night and on weekends, she is a student in the Career Master of Public Health program, one of a few of its kind in the country.

To learn more about distance learning at Rollins, see page 18.

