

# WLA SPOTLIGHT

## *A Report on Woodruff Leadership Academy Fellows*

Summer 2015 – Volume XXIV

### *Accomplishments, Appointments, Awards...*

The WLA was well represented in Atlanta Magazine Top Doctors 2015:

**Seth Force 2008, Jonathan Glass 2008, Michael Johns III 2007, Jonathan Kaufman 2014, Fadlo Khuri 2003, Janice Lea 2012, Michael Lindsay 2006, Sampath Prahalad 2013, David Schulman 2015, Andrew Smith 2009, Larry Sperling 2008 and Ned Waller 2007**

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**Jada Bussey-Jones 2014** was elected to serve as the national council representative to the Society of General Internal Medicine.

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Investigators at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health and University of South Florida's College of Arts and Sciences have received a five-year, \$2.5 million research grant from the Fogarty International Center to study the interaction between infectious disease transmission and agricultural practices in the Senegal River Basin. **Justin Remais 2014**, Associate Professor of Environmental Health at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health will lead the study, along with co-PI Jason Rohr, Associate Professor of Integrative Biology at USF. Agriculture is rapidly expanding and intensifying in tropical developing countries, and these are also regions where the risk of parasitic disease emergence is greatest, and also where disease surveillance, particularly for neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), is limited. Remais and Rohr will examine how environmental changes--particularly the expanding use of herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers--can affect the transmission of the parasitic flatworm that causes schistosomiasis. For more information, see [here](#).

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**Tara Adyanthaya 2012** has been appointed to two leadership positions. She is now the Vice Chair for the American Bar Association's Committee on Emerging Issues in Health Law and The Supreme Court of Georgia named her the Vice Chair of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee for the Georgia State Bar.

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**Amy Langston 2010** agreed to serve as interim chair of the Department of Hematology and Medical Oncology effective in August. She succeeds **Fadlo Khuri 2003**, who served as department chair from 2008-2015.

Amy is a highly accomplished leader in the management of graft versus host disease as well as infectious complications in patients who have undergone a bone marrow or stem cell transplant. She has published more than 90 peer reviewed papers, many of them in top tier journals including the *New England Journal of Medicine* and *Blood*, as well as numerous reviews and book chapters. She leads several national practice-impacting trials in the areas of bone marrow transplantation and myelodysplastic syndrome. Amy has held multiple major leadership roles, including chief of the section of bone marrow transplantation since 2004, and has chaired the faculty committee on appointments and promotions at the School of Medicine, as well serving as Vice Chair of the IRB.

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**Viraj Master 2014** was promoted to professor effective September 1, 2015.

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**Alex Isakov 2010** was named Medical Director of the Year by Georgia Department of Public Health's Office of EMS and Trauma.

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**Mimi Newell 2009** was recently elected to the University Senate and also made a Trustee of the American Board of Radiology.

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**Erwin Van Meir 2006** received grants from the Alan B. Slifka Foundation to study Ewing sarcoma and from the St. Baldrick's Foundation to study medulloblastoma. Both are malignant pediatric cancers.



**Mary Galinski 2003** just returned from participating as an invited speaker at the European Union sponsored 'Paramet' network meeting for PhD trainees on parasite metabolomics, which was held in Ilkley, Yorkshire, UK. This was a uniquely special opportunity, quite different from other meetings and many new relationships and some great ideas garnered as a result.

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**Craig Coopersmith 2012** received a 3<sup>rd</sup> RO1.

If two basic science investigators already share two RO1 grants, a major achievement in itself, how does one define their receipt of a third? "Remarkable, especially considering the present climate of fierce competition for NIH dollars," says Dr. John Sweeney, chair of the Emory Department of Surgery. "But, considering Dr. Coopersmith and Dr. Ford's combined track record of successful team science, it's not surprising."

The newly funded study, entitled "Targeting 2B4 Coinhibitory Signals During Sepsis-Induced Immune Dysregulation," will join the two ongoing RO1s helmed by Craig, vice chair of research of the Department of Surgery, and Dr. Mandy Ford, scientific director of the Emory Transplant Center. The three studies address different aspects of the immunological host response in sepsis.

The prior studies are investigating the interplay between cancer and sepsis and the impact of chronic alcohol abuse on the pathophysiology of the highly lethal disease, while the new study will dig deeper into the roots of the systemic immune dysregulation that switches on the immune suppression that is a major contributor to sepsis-induced mortality.

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**Douglas Lowery-North 2003** and **Greg Martin 2011** were elected to the Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee.

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**Nadine Kaslow 2004** developed *ReliefLink*, a suicide prevention app for the public.

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The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation has awarded Emory University, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Tech a grant to establish the Atlanta CF Research and Development Program (CF@LANTA RDP Program).

The \$1.8 million, four-year grant will enable the partner institutions and their investigators to expand their currently funded CF research programs and translate the results more effectively to patients.

"We have been working to build infrastructure funding for the CF program for many years," says **Nael McCarty 2012**, PhD, Marcus Professor of Cystic Fibrosis at Emory University School of Medicine and principal investigator of the grant. "The RDP mechanism will enable us to leverage the investments already made by Emory and Children's into a comprehensive CF research center."

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**Cameron Taylor 2014**, director of federal affairs, has been appointed interim VP for government and community affairs. This position was held most recently by Charlie Harman, who has joined publicstrategies360 as a government affairs consultant and in this capacity will continue to provide advice and counsel to Emory.

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Yerkes researcher **Mark Wilson 2006** was appointed to NIH study sections called Pathophysiological Basis of Mental Disorders and Addictions.

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**Chris Dente 2014** will serve as Grady's Interim Trauma Medical Director while a search is conducted for a new Trauma Medical Director. He will assist in leading the team through the transition and as we work towards successful ACS verification.

Chris has been on the Emory faculty for over a decade and has been a practicing surgeon exclusively at Grady since 2002. As Emory's Associate Director of Trauma and Associate Director of the Marcus Trauma Center, he has chaired Grady's multidisciplinary Resuscitation Committee, a committee that is in the process of developing a simulation/team training program and creating guidelines for the early care of the injured patient. Chris is also Program Director for Emory's Trauma/Surgical Critical Care Residency- Department of Surgery.

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**Mary Zellinger 2015** was selected to receive the Emory School of Nursing Alumni Association Distinguished Nursing Achievement Award. Mary has served as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Critical Care and Cardiovascular Care Unit at

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Emory University Hospital (EUH) for 30 years and has been an adjunct faculty member at the Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing at Emory University for 26 years. In her role at EUH, Zellinger chaired the Resuscitation and Nursing Champions of Quality Committees to advance quality patient outcomes. She worked closely with staff in the Cardiovascular Critical Care Unit to be the first ICU at EUH to receive Beacon Status and Outstanding Critical Care Unit designation from the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

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**Sandi Dunbar 2006**, Associate Dean for Academic Advancement in the School of Nursing and Candler Professor, was selected for the 2015 Nursing Leadership Award by the Heart Failure Society of America. She was also recently appointed to the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association (PCNA) Board of Directors.

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**Joyce Doyle 2006** has won the National American College of Physicians (ACP) Jane F. Desforges Distinguished Teacher Award and Mastership.

The Jane F. Desforges award is bestowed upon a Fellow or Master of the College who has demonstrated the ennobling qualities of a great teacher as judged by the acclaim and accomplishments of former students who have been inspired and have achieved positions of leadership in the field of medical education, primarily as teachers.

The ACP is the largest medical-specialty organization and second largest physician group in the United States, with over 132,000 members. Each year a *single* candidate is selected from nominations received from across the country for this national teaching award.

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**Greg Martin 2011** was appointed as the only US representative to the International Advisory Committee for the NIH-sponsored trials network known as PETAL, "Prevention and Early Treatment of Acute Lung Injury." Their primary role is to aid the PETAL Network leadership in identification of unmet clinical needs and to guide appropriate testing of new therapies and interventions in Acute Lung Injury and Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome.

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**Greg Martin 2011** and **Craig Coopersmith 2012** were appointed to an international task force established by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM) and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine (ESICM) to redefine sepsis. The task force began working in 2014 and the new definition will be presented in early 2016.

Following that, earlier this year the CDC invited Craig and Greg to help lead their efforts in developing a national program to identify and capture sepsis cases in hospitals throughout the US, and to provide guidance on sepsis surveillance and quality improvement.

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**Hannah Cooper 2015** is now Co-Director of the Prevention Sciences Core for Emory's Center for AIDS Research, and Director of the Program on the Social Determinants of Health at Rollins.

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**Usha Ramakrishnan 2008** has been appointed as Vice-Chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health.

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**Tom Price 2013** left The Emory Clinic as of June 1st, and is now Chief of Bronze (Geriatrics) Clinic at the Atlanta VA Medical Center. He will continue with his academic appointment at the University in the Section of Geriatric Medicine.

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**Lance Waller 2003** has been reappointed to the National Academy of Science Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics (CATS). Lance noted and the editor agrees— best acronym ever.

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**Field Willingham 2015** and his team were awarded a 0.5 million 5 year NIH grant to study pancreatitis.

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**Kimberly Rask 2004** has been appointed to a 3 year term as subject matter expert to the National Quality Forum MAP Dual-eligibles Workgroup. The workgroup advises Health and Human Services on the development and use of quality measures appropriate to the medically complex beneficiaries covered by both Medicare and Medicaid.

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## [Fellows in the News](#)



*CNN Accent Health* via YouTube | [Grace under pressure](#)

June 11, 2015

CNN Accent Health featured Winship Cancer Institute volunteer piano player Bruce Gilbert, a patient of Emory movement disorder specialist Dr. **Stewart Factor 2011**, in a story about living with Parkinson's Disease.

*Lancet Oncology* subscription required | [Uneven cost control implementation for US Affordable Care Act](#)

June 18, 2015

The 2010 US Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) has reduced many barriers to cancer care, but cost controls have not been uniformly implemented across states, Rollins School of Public Health professor **David Howard 2013** explains.

*WABE-FM* Atlanta | [Emory Expert: Court ruling helps end challenges to Obamacare](#)

June 25, 2015

Millions of Americans in 34 states, including Georgia, are buying affordable healthcare through the federal government's online marketplace. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in King v. Burwell guarantees that will continue, at least for now. **David Howard 2013**, Health Policy and Management professor at Emory University, believes the ruling will effectively end the litany of court challenges to the Affordable Care Act over the past several years, but he predicts the fight is not over, yet.

*CNN* | [A better night's sleep is all in your head](#)

June 12, 2015

According to the Centers for Disease Control, an estimated 50 million to 70 million American adults have a sleep or wakefulness disorder that can affect their lives in serious ways. "While a pill might seem easier in the moment, it doesn't help you improve the situation overall," said **Nadine Kaslow 2004**, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University School of Medicine. "So I really recommend to people that they try cognitive behavioral therapy techniques first, and see how these work for them."

*Georgia Health News* | [Alcoholics Anonymous convention hits Atlanta](#)

July 2, 2015

**Nadine Kaslow 2004** of the Emory School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences says that many people with alcoholism don't have enough positive ways to deal with stress. Based on current research, Kaslow says, "it appears that people who participate in A.A. in a committed way stay sober longer, relapse less often, are less impulsive, have better social relationships, and function better in society."

*Ivanhoe Broadcast News* via WJXT-TV | [Researchers want to pinpoint racial disparity in preterm births](#)

July 21, 2015

**Anne Dunlop 2012**, MD, MPH, associate professor at Emory School of Nursing, is an expert in preterm birth disparities. She says some risk factors are well known: early or late age at first pregnancies, short intervals between pregnancies, smoking, hypertension and infection. Education efforts haven't helped much. "It hasn't really shifted rates of preterm birth, nor has it closed the gap in rates of preterm birth," Dunlop said. Instead, Dunlop is looking to see if a combination of behavioral and environmental factors could affect a mother's genes.

*CNN* via WCSC-TV | [Sleeping Beauty Syndrome makes it hard to wake up](#)

July 24, 2015

Doctor **David Rye 2007** and his colleagues study hypersomnia at the Emory University Sleep Center, where they say they have identified a possible cause in some patients by testing cerebrospinal fluid. "Their body is producing a small protein, or what's called a peptide, that essentially mimics the effects of sleeping pills or anesthesia," Dr. Rye explained.

*Medpage Today* | [Vietnam War vets still plagued by PTSD](#)

July 23, 2015

**Nadine Kaslow 2004**, PhD, a professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University



School of Medicine in Atlanta, discusses the results of an NYU study showing PTSD symptoms still present after 40 years.

*The Wall Street Journal* | [Doctors object to high cancer-drug prices](#)

July 23, 2015

The U.S., by contrast, finds it hard to say no. "The U.S. has always taken a very hands-off attitude, that patients are going to have access to new medical treatments regardless of the cost," said **David Howard 2013**, a professor of health policy and management at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health. For a big payer like Medicare to refuse to cover a drug would be "a highly unprecedented situation," he said.

*Atlanta Journal-Constitution* | [Bragbook for July 31](#)

July 30, 2015

[Emory College of Arts and Sciences senior] **Morgan Taylor** of Emory University was named EMT of the year by Georgia Department of Public Health's Office of EMS and Trauma. **Alex Isakov 2010** [executive director of Emory's Office of Critical Event Preparedness and Response, and associate professor and director of the Department of Emergency Medicine's Section of Prehospital and Disaster Medicine] of Emory University was named Medical Director of the Year by Georgia Department of Public Health's Office of EMS and Trauma.

*Reuters Health* | [Depressed adolescents face increased heart disease risk](#)

August 10, 2015

Adolescents with major depression or bipolar disease face an increased risk of early heart disease and may need early intervention to prevent it, according to a scientific statement from the American Heart Association (AHA). Dr. **Viola Vaccarino 2010** from Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta, told Reuters Health, "Cardiovascular disease is a chronic, progressive condition that starts in youth, even if the disease becomes clinically manifest later in life. This is why identification of risk conditions such as depression early in life provides an important opportunity for cardiovascular disease prevention."

*Medpage Today* | [Medicare switches gears: Will pay for Amgen's pricey Leukemia drug](#)

August 13, 2015

**David Howard 2013**, PhD, a professor at Emory University's School of Public Health in Atlanta, Georgia, discusses the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' decision to pay for a new cancer drug in a reversal of its previous criticism of the drug.

*WXIA-TV Atlanta* | [Emory reboots Ice Bucket Challenge](#)

August 24, 2015

Emory has one of the largest centers for ALS in the country, so their lead team stood in front of Emory's School of Medicine to promote the 'Every August until a cure campaign,' encouraging people to do it again, to donate money again, to help research and find a cure for ALS. Doctors **Nicholas Boulis** and **Jonathan Glass 2008** bumped chests after getting the buckets dumped on their heads. They then issued the ice bucket challenge to the incoming class of medical students at Emory University School of Medicine, all residents in neurosurgery and neurology at Emory, administrative staff at the new Emory Brain Health Center, and the whole incoming freshman class at Emory.

*CBS News.com* | [Study finds dramatic decline in heart disease deaths, but not for everyone](#)

August 24, 2015

"Some reports suggest that diabetes and obesity may pose a greater heart disease risk in younger women than in other groups," said Dr. **Viola Vaccarino 2010**, professor and chair of epidemiology at Emory University's Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta and the senior author of the study. "Women need to become more aware of the heart risks of these conditions. We think that these trends are not related to differences in treatment and hospitalization, but rather to a lack of effective preventive strategies for young people, particularly women." A similar [HealthDay](#) article also appeared on [Philly.com](#).

*NPR Marketplace* | [The connection between market and FDA](#)

August 18, 2015



The Food and Drug Administration recently ruled on what's come to be called Viagra for women, a drug that purports to enhance a woman's sexual desire. Emory University's **David Howard 2013** discusses the pharmaceutical campaign that included a patient's story. "There is a movement in medicine away from top-down paternalism," he says. "There is a push to listen to the patient and let them dictate the terms on which a treatment is going to be judged."

*Science Daily* | [Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement Is Safe, Effective for Very Elderly Patients](#)

September 1, 2015

As part of the PARTNER-I trial, **Vinod H. Thourani 2011**, MD, from Emory University in Atlanta, and colleagues from 12 other institutions in the United States found that trans catheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) is a safe and effective way to treat aortic stenosis in nonagenarians who qualify for the surgical technique. "Historically, extreme elderly patients can be at a very high risk for open surgery," said Dr. Thourani. "We still believe that for those 90 year olds who are low-or intermediate risk, surgical options may be a viable procedure. However, with the advent of TAVR technology, we can now offer these extreme elderly patients a treatment option that otherwise would have been high-risk or prohibitive."

*Reuters Health* via Business Insider | [A specialized type of heart procedure has been declared safe for people in their 90s](#)

September 7, 2015

A modern technique for replacing heart valves without major surgery is safe even for very elderly patients, researchers say. The procedure can yield "excellent short- and mid-term outcomes in a patient population with a lethal disease that without this technology would undoubtedly die," Dr. **Vinod H. Thourani 2011** from Emory University, told Reuters Health. This story was reported in many additional outlets. [Philly.com](#)

*New York Times* | [Drug goes from \\$13.50 a tablet to \\$750, overnight](#)

September 20, 2015

Specialists in infectious disease are protesting a gigantic overnight increase in the price of a 62-year-old drug that is the standard of care for treating a life-threatening parasitic infection. The drug, called Daraprim, was acquired in August by Turing Pharmaceuticals, a start-up run by a former hedge fund manager. "I certainly don't think this is one of those diseases where we have been clamoring for better therapies," said Dr. **Wendy Armstrong 2011**, professor of infectious diseases at Emory University in Atlanta. "We've not had access to the drug for a few months," said Dr. Armstrong, who also works at Grady Memorial Hospital, a huge public treatment center in Atlanta that serves many low-income patients. [Healio Infectious Disease News](#) | [Seattle Times](#)



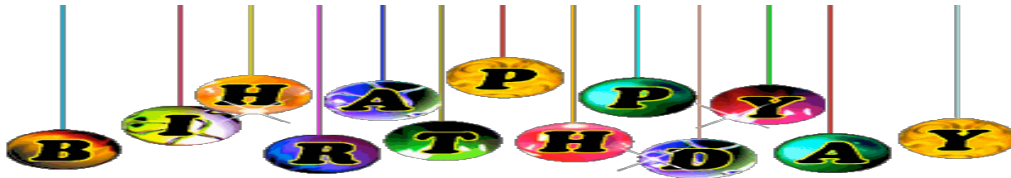
**WLA Lunch & Leadership** – Please plan to join us **Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at noon in the WHSCAB Auditorium** for what is sure to be an informative and lively session with Dr. Michael Johns, original developer of the Woodruff Leadership Academy.



**Have you used the WLA Library?**







Chakraborty, Rana	9/22	Overcash, Marc	11/11
Young, Ray	9/22	Russell-Gonzales, Tracy	11/11
Corbett, Anita	9/23	Stanley, Darryl	11/12
Wood, Stacy	9/23	Shields-Phillips, Karen	11/13
Clark-Morrison, Elizabeth	9/24	Van Meir, Erwin	11/16
Pearson, Thomas	9/26	McKenzie-Brown, Anne Marie	11/18
Ross, Michael	9/27	Shartar, Sam	11/18
Griendling, Kathy	9/29	McGorisk, Gerard	11/19
Langston, Amelia	9/29	Ometer, Lynne	11/20
Zellinger, Mary	9/29	Tomolo, Anne	11/20
Aycock, Mark	9/30	Spearman, Paul	11/21
Duke, Peggy	10/1	Belt, Judy	11/26
Lindsay, Michael	10/1	Boise, Larry	11/26
Schulman, David	10/3	Wimby, Toni	11/28
Buffalo, Elizabeth	10/3	Wright, David	11/28
Butler, Javed	10/4	McKay, Jim	11/29
Rodger, Kathleen	10/5	Connor, June	12/1
Sencer, Stephen	10/7	Grant, George	12/2
Cunningham, Lynn	10/11	Higgins, Stacy	12/3
Clevenger, Carolyn	10/12	Doyle, Joyce	12/4
Johns, Michael	10/15	Arnold, Roxann	12/7
Grider, Marilea	10/17	McKay, Maggi	12/8
Vertino, Paula	10/18	Woods, Andrea	12/8
Martyn, Kristy	10/19	Odetoyinbo, Dapo	12/10
Delman, Keith	10/21	Thourani, Vinod	12/12
O'Regan, Ruth	10/23	Coryell, Brett	12/12
Thompson, Maureen	10/24	Yount, Kathryn	12/14
Mott, Michelle	10/26	Egan, Kathy	12/14
Mehta, Aneesh	10/27	Allen, Mary Beth	12/15
Hart, Mike	10/28	Larkins, Elizabeth	12/15
Quyyumi, Arshed	10/31	Martin, Greg	12/15
Master, Viraj	11/1	Lowery, Douglas	12/17
Brat, Daniel	11/3	Buchter, Susie	12/18
Spell, Nate	11/3	Alperin, Moose	12/21
Kellner, Christopher	11/4	Waters, Roseanne	12/21
Book, Wendy	11/5	Cooper, Hannah	12/23
Galinski, Mary	11/5	Miller, Gary	12/23
Quest, Tammie	11/5	Butler, Andrew	12/23
Haley, Leon	11/6	Strait, Karen	12/24
Ryan, Deborah	11/6	Druss, Ben	12/26
Shedd, Clint	11/7	Larsen, Chris	12/26
Williams, Mark	11/7	Moore, Cindy	12/30
Price, Tom	11/9	Dunbar, Sandi	12/31
Holtgrave, David	11/9		

