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# Health SPHere: Fall 2006

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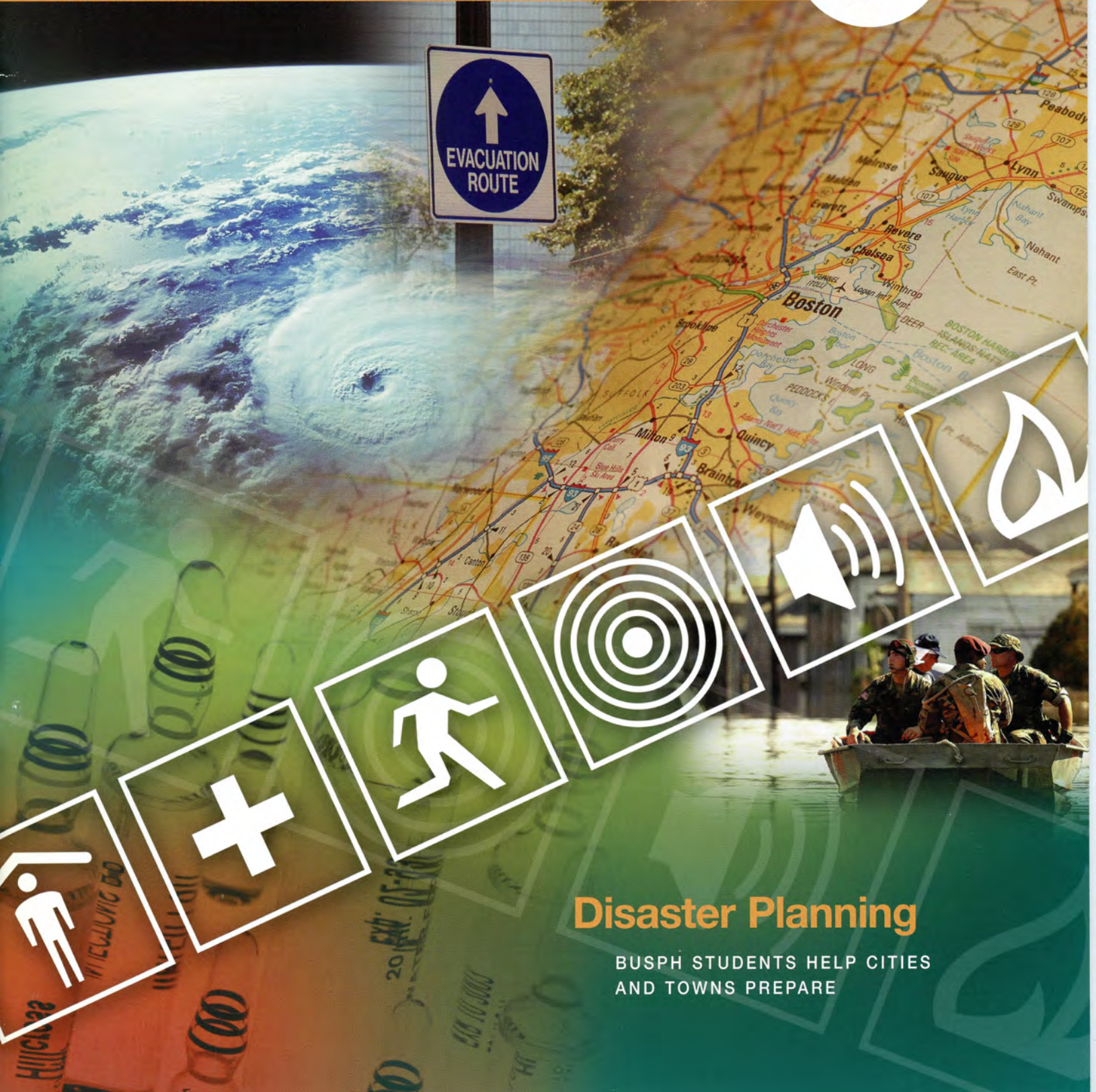
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*Boston University*

# health sphere

BOSTON UNIVERSITY • SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Fall '06



## Disaster Planning

BUSPH STUDENTS HELP CITIES  
AND TOWNS PREPARE



# :inside

BOSTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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## health sphere

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## :: from the Dean

One of my most important roles as dean is to fill leadership positions with outstanding people who can guide and strengthen our efforts in achieving the School's strategic goals. I have recently made a number of appointments at BUSPH and am very excited about the quality and commitment of the people who are joining the School's administration. They will make positive contributions especially in two areas of the School's strategic plan: becoming better connected to the community at large and being more interdisciplinary in our teaching and research activities.

The appointment of Harold Cox as our new associate dean of public health practice is a tremendous leap in our effort to bolster the practice program at the School and to be actively involved in public health in Greater Boston and beyond. Harold has been chief public health officer for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, since 1996. He is widely respected for his work to improve the delivery of public health services and for his advocacy on behalf of vulnerable populations. He joins the BUSPH faculty with more than twenty-five years of experience in public health practice.

I am delighted, also, to announce new leadership for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Deborah J. Bowen, a professor at the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine, will become chair on January 1, following the completion of a Fulbright fellowship in Eastern Europe. Deborah is widely recognized for her work in cancer and health behavior change, and her research will undoubtedly introduce new opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration with BU's School of Medicine. I offer my appreciation to Associate Professor Alisa Lincoln, who has served capably as the department's chair *ad interim*.

In addition, the Department of Biostatistics has undergone a change in leadership that virtually ensures its continued growth and success. Lisa Sullivan, associate professor and assistant chair of the department, became chair on July 1 when former chair Adrienne Cupples stepped down to take a well-deserved leave to pursue research into the genetics of coronary heart disease at the University of Leeds in England. Lisa is a gifted teacher who has won the BUSPH Norman A. Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching and the University's Metcalf Award. She assumes her new post with the hearty support of her colleagues.

In an effort to strengthen interdisciplinary teaching, Wayne LaMorte, professor of epidemiology and also a recipient of the Scotch Award, has been named to the newly created role of assistant dean of education. Wayne will foster interdisciplinary connections among the faculty and integrate technology into the School's curriculum.

Another of our important goals is to encourage alumni to stay connected to BUSPH. Therefore, I invite you to two events this fall. The first is the William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health, September 28 and 29, which will focus on the science and public health policy surrounding AIDS in the developing world. Also, please attend our reception on November 5 during the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Boston. (See the inside back cover for details on both of these events.)

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# Disaster Planning

## BUSPH Students and Alumni Help Cities and Towns Tackle Emergency Preparedness

By Cynthia K. Buccini

Five years ago, preparing for disasters was a small part of Steven Ward's job as director of the Board of Health in Watertown, Massachusetts. Much of it involved regularly updating plans on handling emergencies like flu outbreaks and toxic spills and ensuring food, water, housing, and transportation were available to residents when hurricanes, blizzards, or floods struck.

But cities and towns across the country stepped things up after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, and the anthrax scare the following month. Communities began drafting and implementing complex emergency preparedness plans, each with its own federally imposed deadline, and conducting drills to make sure the plans worked. Though many communities were already stretched thin (public health departments in smaller towns may have only one or two employees), some Massachusetts towns have had an easier time drafting emergency preparedness plans, training personnel, and communicating among one another—thanks to the efforts of BUSPH students and recent graduates.

Steven Ward ('95) had the help of Teresa Wood ('06), from January through June. "I can say with certainty we wouldn't have met the deadlines without Teresa's work," he says. The students, meanwhile, have gained valuable experience in an important area of public health

and, for some, an interest in making a career of the work. "I know I will take away a greater understanding of local public health," notes Wood, "and the incredible burden health departments assume when it comes to emergency planning."

### A Helping Hand

To help cities and towns better prepare for major disasters, in 2003 the Massachusetts Department of Public Health divided the state into seven emergency preparedness regions. Each receives funds—which became available after September 11—through the department from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration.

As assistant emergency preparedness coordinator for the Cambridge Department of Public Health, Alison Minkoff ('05) works with the region's coordinator, Mary Clark, to make sure the region, comprising the twenty-seven cities and towns that surround Boston, is ready to handle the worst, including bioterrorism attacks. "There were a lot of lessons from September 11 that put emergency preparedness in the forefront," Minkoff says. "We're there to help the health departments



and to keep them working on emergency preparedness, because they have other duties. They do food inspections; they deal with animal control issues. It's good to have us there coordinating the efforts."

Each community in these regions is required to create an all-hazards plan, which is a comprehensive document that spells out how to manage special populations—such as the elderly or the disabled—in a disaster; how to open and operate temporary clinics to dispense medicines and vaccines; and how to set up a chain of command in a public health emergency. Minkoff helps oversee those efforts and is responsible for establishing a medical reserve corps—a cadre of volunteers who are mostly health professionals—that can mobilize quickly to deliver medical care, interpret for non-English speakers, or provide administrative support during an emergency. "After Katrina, there was a huge push to make sure there are medical volunteers available," she says.

The region is working to establish a region-wide public health mutual aid agreement, which will allow communities to share public health personnel and supplies when local capacity is overwhelmed. "It's very important when something happens, and you don't have the resources in your city or town, to be able to pull upon neighboring communities," Minkoff says. "You don't want to isolate yourself."

It's a big job, but that's why Minkoff, who completed her own practicum in Watertown under Ward, enjoys it. "It keeps you on your toes. Every day is different." Her work was made easier this year by four BUSPH students who were regional liaisons during a January-through-June internship: Angela Li ('06), Shaina Zamaitis ('06), Kristy Kade ('06), and Teresa Wood. The students have helped communities update their all-hazards plans, recruit and train volunteers for the medical reserve corps, write press releases, do mass mailings, and coordinate drills.

*Alison Minkoff ('05), assistant emergency preparedness coordinator for the Cambridge Department of Public Health, makes sure the region comprising twenty-seven Massachusetts cities and towns is ready to handle the worst.*

*Four BUSPH students worked as regional liaisons during a six-month internship for the Cambridge Department of Public Health. Clockwise from front left, Kristy Kade ('06), Angela Li ('06), Teresa Wood ('06), and Shaina Zamaitis ('06).*

Minkoff says her agency works closely with the BUSPH practicum office. "We realized there was a lot of interest in local health among students," she says. "This gives them the opportunity to work hands-on in local health and emergency preparedness."

The work undertaken by Minkoff and the students has been "incredibly helpful" to the region, notes Clark. "They're following up with individual communities about where they are on plans or the problems they are having," she says. "Or if there are particularly good solutions to problems, they're able to report back so that we can share them with the rest of the region. That was the other reason for having the liaisons; there wasn't a consistent way of getting information from community to community. But with someone who is working with a number of communities, ideas bubble up and we're able to send them back out to the rest of the region, come up with best practices, or identify problems that people might run into."

Clark says the interns bring more than a broad knowledge of public health to the job. "They also bring enthusiasm, which has been helpful for departments that have been trying to slog through this on their own. They're all exceptionally committed as well. To have someone who is really committed to helping local departments solve the problems or do that work that needs to be done has taken a great burden off the departments."

Ward also has high praise for the students. "They're quick studies, and they can focus," he says. "They can deliver the product for us. They do well in a stressful, pressure-packed environment."

*continued on next page*

## The Best Experience

Wood, who was assigned five cities and towns, became interested in local public health after a stint at the Arlington, Massachusetts, Board of Health in the summer of 2005. "I knew this internship would allow me to continue working at the local level while learning an area of public health I knew very little about: emergency preparedness," she says.

As part of her internship, Wood helped her communities with their continuity-of-operations plans, which enable health departments to continue to deliver essential services in a disaster. "These plans are particularly important in pandemic flu planning because we anticipate a 30 to 40 percent absentee rate," she says. "Departments will need to know who is next in line to assume a specific role should someone be unable to come to work." She also helped Minkoff recruit volunteers for the medical reserve corps, sending mailings to almost 2,000 nurses and holding orientation sessions.

The internship helped Wood land part-time jobs as a health compliance officer in Arlington, Massachusetts, and as a public health program specialist with the Newton, Massachusetts, Department of Health and Human Services. "There's something new going on every day in a local health department," she says. "I like that I am not tied to a desk and that I get out into the towns. I've learned so much in the last six months that I'll use throughout my public health career."

Zamaitis had six towns to work with. Among her tasks was teaching public health officials an "incident command system," or how to set up a chain of command in an emergency. She also conducted a drill in which Somerville officials can practice what to do in case of a flu outbreak. Zamaitis, who plans to attend law school in 2007 and practice health care law, extended her internship to September. "I felt the longer I stayed on, the more I was learning," she says.

Kade, whose concentration was international health, says she sought the internship because she wanted to learn about a different aspect of public health. She was responsible for five small towns on the South Shore,

many of which have few resources. Crafting a continuity-of-operations plan, particularly for local public health departments with a single employee, was a struggle. "I spent a lot of time with them, brainstorming, thinking about essential services, and turning to other departments in town—who could do water testing, who can help with special populations, like the homebound." Diplomacy is an important skill to bring to the job, Kade notes. "These departments have full plates, but you're asking them to do more."

Li, an environmental health concentrator, says she wanted experience in local public health issues. "I had hoped to do a practicum in a health department," she says, "and this opportunity enabled me to work with seven." Among other duties, Li designed emergency planning brochures for residents of Needham and Westwood and helped organize a special-populations

**"I had hoped to do a practicum in a health department, and this opportunity enabled me to work with seven."**

breakfast in Westwood. "It was a successful meeting that helped get those people who are responsible for caring for others—nursing home managers, day care operators, schools, fire and police—thinking about what they would do in case of an emergency."

The region plans to continue employing BUSPH students for emergency preparedness planning. "The feedback we've gotten is that they've been extremely helpful to the cities and towns, because people don't necessarily have the resources to hire an extra staff," Minkoff says. "And it's given students a lot of responsibilities and the ability to work on their own and within groups, and to really get a sense of the local public health structure."

The interns say they've gained an appreciation for the work that local public health officials do. "It was an eye-opening experience," says Kade, whose internship led to a job as program manager at Harvard's Center for Public Health Preparedness.

Clark, who has been regional coordinator since 2003, agrees. "For me, it's been a tremendous education to see how much work each of these local departments does with a small staff and very little recognition," she says. "It's true that if local public health is working, you don't see it."::



# Drinking and Learning

**Do Hangovers Affect Student Performance?**

By Chris Berdik

The bartenders serving beer at Boston University's School of Public Health are exact with their pours, down to the milliliter. They have to be. These brewskies are for science, part of research seeking a more complete understanding of "a few too many."







While most alcohol studies focus on how intoxication affects an individual's reaction time and ability to understand and process information, Jonathan Howland, a BUSPH professor of social and behavioral sciences, has spent the last decade investigating how similar impairments may result from drinking small amounts of alcohol, as well as the next-day, hangover effects. Most recently, he's been studying how heavy drinking affects the academic performance of college students on the morning after.

Funded by a five-year grant from the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, part of the National Institutes of Health, Howland wants to know how a night of binge drinking affects a college student's ability to recall recently acquired information—such as a class lecture—and more long-term learning, such as material for the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). Howland and co-investigators have also been testing the effects of hangovers on basic neurocognitive function and reaction time. While the study is still in the data-gathering stage, Howland's hypothesis is that impairments will be found, which brings up the other goal of his research: getting college students to consider the consequences of heavy drinking.

"We're hoping to speak to undergraduates, to say that when you go out and party, you may be affecting your ability to learn or perform academically," he says. "And that should go on your list of reasons not to party too hard."

The idea that heavy drinking can degrade next day's work performance may seem self-evident, but much of Howland's research over the years has focused on the hidden risks of what most people—and current legal standards—consider normal, acceptable behavior. Previously, for instance, he found that individuals performing on occupational training simulators were impaired even when drinking relatively small amounts of alcohol.

Underlying Howland's research is a concern for under-recognized (and under-studied) sources of error in safety-sensitive systems such as commercial transportation or nuclear power generation. The alcohol exposures he studies focus on behaviors that are within bounds of federal regulations on occupational alcohol use. Although these exposures are less risky than working while intoxicated, many people at low risk could be more problematic than a few people at high risk.

"We're saying normal, nondeviant drinking by nondependent people could be more of a problem than people realize," he explains.

Since the fall of 2004, Howland and his research team have been recruiting Boston-area college students over age twenty-one to spend two nights, one week apart, at Boston Medical Center's General Clinical Research Center (GCRC) to study the effects of hangovers on their ability to learn and perform academically.

**"When you go out and party, you may be affecting your ability to learn."**

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons at four o'clock sharp, up to five study participants check in at the GCRC and are promptly served a dinner of pizza or deli sandwiches, salad, and cookies. The early dinner is necessary, explains project manager Sara Minsky ('96), "because we have to wait four hours between the subjects' last meal and the time they're dosed."

For three nights prior to their night at the GCRC, each participant has kept a sleep log (they're required to sleep eight hours each night between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.). They've also agreed to abstain from alcohol, caffeine, and medication for the twenty-four hours before their stay. With dinner over, the lesson begins—a taped, half-hour public-health lecture by Paula Quatromoni ('01), a Sargent College assistant professor of health sciences, and a textbook chapter on the same topic. They have an hour to read and take notes before all their study aids are removed.

“Happy Hour” at the GCRC starts promptly at 8:45 p.m. The participants gather around a table in the kitchen along with one research staffer whose job is to note what time they finish a beer and to radio to the beer pourer in another room that a study subject (known by number) needs another dose. While participants aren’t allowed to eat anything during the hour, they can watch television and there are plenty of videos to choose from.

The group has been randomly divided into those who get a strong European beer (7.3 percent alcohol) and those who drink a nonalcoholic beer. Dosage is determined by body weight in order to target a final blood-alcohol level of .12 after an hour of drinking. In the next week, the randomized groups will be reversed, with those in the alcohol group getting placebos and vice versa.

“I wouldn’t say it gets rowdy, but as the night progresses people start feeling good and joking around,” explains Minsky. “It’s supposed to be a relaxed atmosphere. Like you’re at a party.”

The party ends at 9:45 p.m. After drinking, everybody is given a Breathalyzer test to ensure that they’ve reached the target blood-alcohol level. A nurse or emergency medical technician is always present to ensure safety.

Bedtime is 11 p.m. All the students are awakened the next day at 7 a.m. and given questionnaires to rate their thirstiness, headache, tiredness, nausea, and other hangover symptoms. After breakfast, they sit for three hours of testing consisting of a quiz on the previous day’s lecture, a practice GRE, a reaction-time test, and a battery of computer-based tests of neurocognitive function.

**“We’re saying normal, nondeviant drinking by nondependent people could be more of a problem than people realize.”**



*BUSPH researchers are investigating the next-day effects of heavy drinking on undergraduates. From left to right: Sara Minsky, Alissa Almeida, Jacey Greece, and Professor Jonathan Howland.*

“We always get jokes about how we must have students lined up around the block for free beer,” says Howland, who notes that participants are also paid \$300. “But the fact of the matter is that it’s a substantial commitment, and students are busy. We’re taking a big chunk out of two of their weeks.” About eighty students have completed the experiment; the goal is to bring 200 participants through the study.

With the data still being collected, Howland expects to report his findings in a year or two. In the meantime, he says they’ve already found significant decrements in the reaction time under alcohol-versus-placebo conditions. In addition to contributing to the data on academic performance, participants are given the choice of having a cheek swabbed so that their DNA can be studied for possible genetic links to hangover incidence. In Howland’s study, about 24 percent of the participants who have received alcohol report no hangover symptoms from heavy drinking.

“People don’t really understand the physiology of hangovers, and nobody really knows what to do about them,” says Howland. “There are a lot of folk remedies, but none of them stands up to randomized trials.”

# Bringing a Public Health Perspective to Big Pharma

New Academic Track Introduced at BUSPH



One-eighth of total spending on health care in the United States—\$250 billion in 2005 alone—is for prescription drugs. The complexity involved in developing, testing, regulating, and evaluating drugs—as well as paying for them—has created an acute need for experts who can inform pharmaceutical health policy and management across the health care spectrum. Lewis E. Kazis, director of BUSPH's Center for the Assessment of Pharmaceutical Practices (CAPP), talks with *Health Sphere* about a new academic track established at the School to address this national need.

**Q: Please tell us about the new track in pharmaceutical health policy and management that BUSPH is launching this fall.**

**A:** For MPH students concentrating in the areas of health services, epidemiology, biostatistics, or international health, the School has established a track that will lead to a certificate in addition to the professional MPH degree. This track focuses on building expertise in pharmaceutical health care management, policy, epidemiology, statistics, and international health, which will allow graduates to work as analysts in a variety of settings.

**Q: Who will oversee the new program?**

**A:** The program is administered centrally through the Department of Health Services. The three other departments—Biostatistics, Epidemiology, and International Health—also provide oversight, along with the School's Center for the Assessment of Pharmaceutical Practices, which conducts research to promote the safe and effective use of medicines. Educating public health practitioners for this sort of work is part of CAPP's mission.

**Q: Why do this at BUSPH?**

**A:** There are a number of reasons. The most important, perhaps, is that we have a notably strong team of experts in this field—including economists, government policy experts, epidemiologists, and statisticians—who will bring a wide range of experience and skills to the classroom. We also have an international health expert on the team, who can address pharmaceutical issues for developing nations. No other school of public health is offering this kind of specialized training, so it's an important niche for us to fill. And our market research tells us that there is a strong job market potential for MPH graduates with this type of training.

**Q: Where are the jobs?**

**A:** Graduates might work in the public sector shaping health care legislation on a Senate subcommittee in Washington. They also could work for an HMO in formulary management, deciding which drugs to approve for coverage. They could work for pharmaceutical companies, helping them make better public health-based decisions about which medications to develop. They could also work for consulting companies involved in drug research, hospitals, community-based health centers, or patient advocacy groups. And this is in no way a complete list.

**Q: Isn't this a topic that would be better taught at a pharmacy school?**

**A:** Pharmacy students certainly get some of this, but their training is much more biomedically oriented. BUSPH will bring the perspective of looking at how a policy or decision affects populations—either large groups or smaller cohorts—by age, gender, or ethnic group. Public health practitioners also bring the watchdog mindset to their work. They are trained to ask complex questions: Is this the best way to use our collective resources? What effect will this decision have on poorer or elderly populations? The field needs more of this kind of insight. The track also provides training in data analysis and interpretation using pharmacy databases with techniques derived from statistics, epidemiology, and established approaches in international health.

**Q: What specific skills will students learn?**

**A:** They will learn to understand the political and financial contexts in which drugs are developed—why a certain drug languishes while another gets heavily promoted. They will learn about the regulatory processes for launching and marketing drugs and about health insurance and issues regarding access to medications. They will understand what goes into formulary management and how to evaluate the very complicated issue of a drug's cost-effectiveness. Students will learn about which statistical tools to use in clinical studies that evaluate the efficacy of one drug versus another. They will consider the epidemiology of drugs.

Separately, some students will focus on the international context of drug policy and programming issues in developing and developed countries. We also will teach them how to use and interpret secondary databases as rich resources for evaluating the effectiveness and value of medications.

**Q: What do you mean by "secondary database," and how can it help in evaluating drug effectiveness?**

**A:** First of all, when a drug is approved by the FDA, it is often based on a very limited type of study. Drug makers conduct randomized clinical trials, and those studies generally involve a small, somewhat homogeneous, and very selective group of patients.

What frequently goes unanswered is the effect the drug has when it is administered in a more general population, within a wide range of ages, or to people who might be taking other medications. We can use databases from commercial and federal sources, such as Medicaid or Veterans Affairs, to gather details that clinical trials alone can't tell us. These databases tell us how medications were prescribed, the dosages, whether there are side effects that have been observed, and if other medications were prescribed at the same time.

Our research at CAPP follows the use and effects of drugs over time, which enables us to determine if the drugs continue to be as safe and effective in certain populations as they appeared to be in the clinical trial. These kinds of comparisons help us understand the benefit and cost of one drug compared to another. We can learn if people taking the drug need to see a doctor more or less often, or if the drug results in more frequent hospitalization. Certain drugs require more intense monitoring, and there are clearly costs for that. These are important questions for patients and for the cost of health care.

**Q: Must students have pharmaceutical training to pursue this certificate?**

**A:** Not at all. We want to welcome students to the program at all levels. We will offer some supplementary courses to those students who need the additional background.

The fact that the track is likely to attract people with such different backgrounds offers a tremendous opportunity for interdisciplinary collaboration. I envision MPH students right out of college sitting in class alongside nurses or MDs and lawyers who might be interested in some of the regulatory issues. It will create quite an unprecedented mix.

**Q: Will students get any hands-on training?**

**A:** Absolutely. Students will participate in a practicum as part of the certificate program, working at a pharmaceutical or consulting company or a state or federal agency. We already have a number of companies in the pharmaceutical industry that are eager to take practicum students.

**Q: How will this fit into the larger picture of the curriculum at BUSPH?**

**A:** The School is striving to enhance its interdisciplinary approach to public health education. This track will create excellent connections for the Department of Health Services with the departments of biostatistics, epidemiology, and international health. It is amazing how much more quickly you can get to an effective solution when you involve a bunch of sharp minds with different areas of expertise.::

*Note:* Faculty members of the executive committee for the new track are Sue Fish ('92), associate professor of biostatistics; Sue Jick ('91), associate professor of epidemiology; Joe Massaro (GRS'94), assistant professor of biostatistics; and Brenda Waning ('96), assistant professor of international health. Also involved in developing the program were Gary Young, chair of the Department of Health Services, and department faculty Jim Burgess, Graeme Fincke, Donald Miller, and Alan Sager.

# Commencement 2006

Helene Gayle, MD, MPH, president and CEO of CARE USA, presented the address at BUSPH's twenty-eighth Commencement Convocation, held on Sunday, May 14, at the Boston Sheraton Hotel. About 160 of the School's 300 graduates received diplomas, cheered on by 700 family members and friends.

Gayle told graduates that when she was growing up she had considered herself an anti-establishment activist and never thought much about a career in medicine or public health. But by the time she was a junior in college, she said, "I began to see how a career in health could be an amazing path for contributing to social change . . . and that social change was better achieved by being *for something* rather than being *against everything*."

Gayle said that choosing a career in public health "is important affirmation" that the world can solve some of its most pressing problems. "We can beat back the pandemic of AIDS . . . and one day find a vaccine to prevent it. We can dramatically reduce—and someday eliminate—the societal scourge of extreme poverty. We can spread the moral truth that *where you live* should not be the deciding factor in *if you live*."

"If there is one lesson I've learned in all my diverse experiences—and one lesson I hope you've learned in your time here—it is this: *we can do this*."

Student speaker Joel Boutin told fellow graduates that the history of public health accomplishments in the last century and a half have arisen through understanding and intervention. Public health, he said, is "about applying our understanding through effective intervention so as to provide for the well-being of our brothers and sisters. And not just with whom we share citizenry, but with whom we share this common generation and this earth."



Helene Gayle, far right, president and CEO of CARE USA, gave the keynote address at the twenty-eighth Commencement Convocation of Boston University School of Public Health, held at the Boston Sheraton Hotel on May 14. Pictured with Gayle are, from left, Leah Gassett, recipient of the Katherine Skinner Memorial Prize, and student speaker Joel Boutin—both of whom received MPH degrees—and BUSPH Dean Robert F. Meenan.



Proud recipients of doctoral degrees are, from left, Elizabeth Victoria Lawler, John Cole, Marlene Anderka, and Stephen Wooley.



*Breanna Hoff helps Douglas Carl Fiero arrange his hood at the BUSPH graduation ceremony. Both were awarded MPH degrees.*



*Desiree de la Torre, awarded an MPH degree, flashes a Commencement Day smile.*



*Graduates, from left, Victoria Feng, Dennis Espejo, and Charmaine Lastimoso join retiring BUSPH Associate Dean for Students Gail Douglas before the Convocation ceremony at the Boston Sheraton Hotel.*



*Elaine Alpert, 2006 recipient of the Scotch Award for Excellence in Teaching.*

## FOUNDATION GIFT SUPPORTS OUTREACH TO LATINO COMMUNITY

With support from the John W. Henry Family Foundation and in collaboration with the federally funded Partners in Health and Housing Prevention Research Center (PHH-PRC), BUSPH is launching a new initiative to increase awareness among Latino parents about available health care options for their children.

The program will train Latino community leaders who live in East Boston public housing developments on how best to inform parents about the Commonwealth's MassHealth and Children's Medical Security Plan. Outreach activities will target families that live in the Orient Heights and the Maverick Landing Boston Public Housing Authority developments, which have Latino populations of 60 and 50 percent, respectively.

The immediate goal of enrolling 40 uninsured children and parents in public health insurance programs is being funded by a grant of \$25,000 from the foundation, which was established in 2005 by Red Sox owner John W. Henry. "We are enthusiastic about participating in this project, which will immediately help a number of Boston families secure essential health care services and has the potential of substantially increasing awareness about available services among families of limited financial means," says Neal Merbaum, executive director of the John W. Henry Family Foundation. The Henry Family Foundation supports education, medical care and research, and issues related to child care for underprivileged and working families.

"Through the PHH-PRC, Boston University School of Public Health is working on a number of projects that involve members of the community in addressing public health issues where people live," says C. Robert Horsburgh, Jr., director of the PHH-PRC and chair of the School's Department of Epidemiology.

"Approximately a third of East Boston residents today are Latino, and Latino children are far more likely than whites to be uninsured. Children without insurance are significantly more likely to be in poor or fair health, to not have a regular physician, and to seek emergency care rather than other health care services," observes Horsburgh. "We hope this program will begin to change these trends."

The PHH-PRC is one of 33 research centers across the nation established by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to promote disease prevention and management and is the only such center specifically focused on public housing. The center is an equitable partnership among Boston University School of Public Health, Boston Housing Authority, Boston Public Health Commission, and a committee of public housing residents and community activists.

## BUSPH NAMED "ENGAGED INSTITUTION"

Boston University School of Public Health has been named one of twelve institutions—chosen from twenty-seven applicant schools and graduate programs of public health—to participate in the Engaged Institutions Initiative Focused on Eliminating Health Disparities. Funded by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, the national initiative is intended to help participating institutions and community partners eliminate racially and ethnically based health disparities.

"Given our commitment to this work in the Boston community, we are thrilled to be part of an initiative that should make a significant national contribution to addressing race-based health disparities," says BUSPH Dean Robert F. Meenan. "The additional resources will bolster the work we are doing in research, prevention, and health awareness with Boston residents, as well as enable us and our community partners to be more effective."

"This award will help us take important steps toward realizing the goals of the BUSPH strategic plan, a focus of which is to strengthen our partnerships in the community," notes C. Robert Horsburgh, Jr., chair of the Department of Epidemiology at BUSPH and director of the School's Program to Eliminate Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities. "It recognizes the commitment of a large number of BUSPH faculty and students to addressing this critical issue in Boston's neighborhoods. We are fortunate to have so many committed community partners who are willing to work with us to achieve these goals."

## WATMAN JOINS BOARD OF VISITORS



Kenneth Watman, deputy director of strategic planning for the U.S. Air Force, has joined BUSPH's Board of Visitors.

Watman has an extensive back-

ground in the analysis of complex problems of defense and domestic policy and strategic planning. He is the former dean of the Center for Naval Warfare Studies at the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island.

He began his career in Los Angeles at the RAND Corporation, where he was engaged in strategic planning for the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force. He then was deputy assistant secretary of defense for requirements in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where—among other duties—he oversaw analyses of major defense problems. Before joining the Naval War College, he was deputy chief of intelligence program assessment and evaluation for the Central Intelligence Community Staffs. In that capacity, he conducted assessments of major U.S. intelligence programs and participated in strategic planning for the intelligence community.

Watman has a doctorate in political science from Ohio State University, a JD from Case Western, a master's in clinical psychology from Ohio State, and a bachelor's in history from Kenyon College. He has lectured widely on analytical methods, strategic planning, and U.S. defense policy. He brings experience in both preparedness studies and in the management of academic institutions to BUSPH's Board of Visitors.

### THREE DEPARTMENTS GET NEW LEADERS

Dean Robert F. Meenan has announced the appointment of new chairs in three of the School's eight academic departments: Biostatistics, Health Services, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

#### BIOSTATISTICS



Associate Professor Lisa M. Sullivan became chair of the Department of Biostatistics on July 1.

Sullivan is the recipient of the School's Scotch Award and the University's

prestigious Metcalf Award for her ability to teach statistics to students at all levels. In addition to her teaching and administrative role as chair, she directs the NHLBI-funded Summer Institute in Biostatistics, which brings accomplished students from colleges around the country to Boston University to learn about biostatistics. As an active researcher, she is involved in a number of projects, including the Framingham Heart Study. Sullivan is also statistical consultant to *Circulation*, the journal of cardiovascular medicine.

The departing chair of the biostatistics department, Professor L. Adrienne Cupples, will take a leave from BUSPH to pursue research on the genetics of coronary heart disease, a topic she has studied as part of the department's ongoing involvement with the Framingham Heart Study. She will serve a six-month appointment as visit-

ing professor in the faculty of medicine and health at the University of Leeds Academic Unit of General Surgery, Medicine, and Anaesthesia, in Leeds, England.

#### HEALTH SERVICES

Professor Gary Young, acting chair of the Department of Health Services since September, was appointed chair effective April 1. Young stepped in as acting chair when Associate Dean of Research Mark Prashker accepted additional responsibilities for the areas of institutional development and alumni relations.

Previously co-director of the department's doctoral program in health services research, Young is also associate director of the Center for Organization, Leadership, and Management Research, a BUSPH-affiliated Center of Excellence in the VA Healthcare System.

Young's research and publications focus on organizational, managerial, and legal issues associated with the delivery of health care services. His work has appeared in professional publications such as *Journal of the American Medical Association*, *Health Services Research*, *Inquiry*, *Health Affairs*, *Medical Care*, and *Strategic Management Journal*. He has received numerous awards for his research, including the John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

#### SOCIAL AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Deborah J. Bowen comes to BUSPH from the University of Washington's School of Public Health and Community Medicine, where she has been affiliated with the social and behavioral sciences MPH track and taught in the graduate certificate program in public health genetics. She will assume her new role in January following the completion of a Fulbright fellowship in Eastern Europe this fall.

Bowen is widely recognized for her work in cancer and health behavior change and has been principal investigator of several NIH-funded grants, including communication about the risks of breast cancer, dietary change, and other health-behavior topics. She received a PhD in health psychology from the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Maryland. Her professional honors include Outstanding Health Psychologist of 1997 from the American Psychological Association. She also was chair of the health promotion review committee for the National Cancer Institute of Canada.

### HEGGENHOUGEN NAMED EDITOR OF NEW ENCYCLOPEDIA

Professor of International Health H. Kristian Heggenhougen has been invited by Elsevier Press to be the editor-in-chief of the seven-volume *Encyclopedia of Public Health*, which will cover what he calls "the waterfront of issues within the field." The new encyclopedia will include a vast range of entries on topics such as cancer, AIDS, weight management, religion and healing, air pollution, gang violence, homicide, terrorism, pesticides, eating disorders, mortality rates, global warming, famine, and neurological disorders.

Approximately 600 scholars and public health professionals are expected to contribute to the encyclopedia, which will be released in 2007 as both a hardbound and an online resource. Entries will include illustrations and cross-references. The online version will contain video clips, sound files, rotating images, and references to Web sites and links to other sources—features Heggenhougen expects will keep the encyclopedia at the forefront of public health knowledge.

Two additional members of BUSPH's faculty will serve as editors: Gerald T. Keusch, associate dean for global health, is on the editorial advisory board, and Davidson H. Hamer, associate professor of international health, is a co-editor of a section on infectious diseases.



Also contributing to the encyclopedia are Richard W. Clapp ('89), BUSPH professor of environmental health, who is addressing nuclear power in public health and environmental and occupational cancer; and Taryn Vian, BUSPH assistant professor of international health, who is writing a chapter on corruption in public health.

For more information on the *Encyclopedia of Public Health* and its contributors, visit [www.elsevier.com/homepage/about/mrwd/pubh](http://www.elsevier.com/homepage/about/mrwd/pubh).

## BUSPH WELCOMES RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Health and Disability Research Institute (HDR) has joined BUSPH as one of the School's research centers. Previously affiliated with Sargent College on Boston University's Charles River Campus, HDR focuses on interdisciplinary clinical research and health services and disability research.

The unit of nine faculty and staff will work with members of BUSPH's faculty and the School's Health and Disabilities Working Group. The addition of HDR to the School also opens up possibilities for collaborative projects with clinical departments within Boston Medical Center, particularly in the areas of rehabilitation medicine, endocrinology, clinical epidemiology, and geriatrics.

The institute is directed by Alan Jette, a BUSPH faculty member since 1993 and dean of Boston University's Sargent College of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from 1996 to 2004. Stephen M. Haley, professor of rehabilitation sciences at Sargent College, is the associate director. HDR moved to its Medical Campus location in July.

## CELEBRATING A PARTNERSHIP

The BU Schools of Public Health and Social Work marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of their dual master's degree program with a national conference on May 19.

"Public Health Social Work in the Twenty-First Century" attracted 300 social workers, public health professionals, educators, clinicians, government officials, and donors to Boston University. Conference organizer Betty Ruth (SSW'84, SPH'85), an associate clinical professor of social work and director of the joint MSW/MPH program, described the event as the first interdisciplinary meeting of these two fields in decades.

Ruth, who was the fourth person to graduate from the program, says changes in health care have spurred the creation of nearly twenty similar programs across the country.

Leonard Glantz—BUSPH associate dean for academic affairs, who helped establish the joint program—notes that, historically, the two professions have dealt with similar problems but from somewhat different perspectives. "The public health approach has been sanitation and health care," he says, "and the social work approach has involved getting into individual homes and making sure people have access to services."

The all-day event was sponsored entirely by program alumni. Speakers included Elizabeth Clark, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers, and Patricia Volland, senior vice president for administration and finance at the New York Academy of Medicine.



Betty Ruth and Leonard Glantz

## THE TERRI SCHIAVO CASE ONE YEAR LATER

The debate surrounding Terri Schiavo—the severely brain-damaged forty-one-year-old woman who was at the center of a bitter legal battle at the end of her life—was the focus of the second annual Health Law Conference.

"The Terri Schiavo Case: One Year Later," organized by BU's School of Law and School of Public Health and held in March, examined the legal, medical, ethical, and political lessons learned from the highly publicized case. Speakers included lawyers, health law scholars, and medical experts, among them Ronald Cranford, a physician who examined Schiavo in 2002. In addition, Circuit Judge George Greer—who ruled that Schiavo's feeding tube should be removed—was awarded the School of Law's N. Neal Pike Prize for Service to People with Disabilities.

U.S. Representative Barney Frank of Massachusetts, who led the Democratic charge against the emergency federal statute granting the federal courts jurisdiction to review the Schiavo case, delivered the keynote address on whether the government should be involved in personal medical decisions.

## CONFERENCE EXAMINES TROUBLING BIRTH DATA

Teams of maternal and child health advocates from across New England gathered at the BU Medical Campus on January 30 to consider the lifetime impact of discrimination and disparity on birth outcomes and infant health. The conference, "The Impact of Inequality on Birth Outcomes: From Analysis to Action," was coordinated by the School's Department of Maternal and Child Health.

The event featured presentations by Michael Lu, assistant professor in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine,



Keynote speakers at "The Impact of Inequality on Birth Outcomes: From Analysis to Action," Michael Lu, UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, far left, and James Collins, second from far right, Northwestern University Medical School, with BUSPH Department of Maternal and Child Health conference organizers Jo-Anna Rorie, Milton Kotelchuck (chair), and Deborah Allen.

and James Collins, associate professor of pediatrics at Northwestern University Medical School's Division of Neonatology, Children's Memorial Hospital.

Research conducted by Lu and Collins has shown that minority women are more likely to deliver lower-weight infants than their white counterparts, despite access to prenatal care. The researchers have looked at a wide range of possible explanations for continuing disparities in the face of more or less equal financial access, and they concluded that racism and health disparities take a toll on the health of women over a lifetime.

**MCCLOSKEY GUIDES STUDY-ABROAD HONORS PROGRAM**

Associate Professor of Maternal and Child Health Lois McCloskey has played a leading role in the development and launch of Health and Community, an initiative of the International Honors Program (IHP) at Boston University. IHP is a comparative study-abroad program for top-tier undergraduate students in the United States.

Health and Community offers undergraduate students the opportunity to develop a global understanding of significant public health issues in comparative contexts. Through academic coursework, guest lectures, field site visits, case studies, and family homestays, students are part of a community of learning that promotes exploration and respect for multiple perspectives and combines experience-based and academic knowledge. The comparative, multidisciplinary approach attracts and prepares top-notch students for lifelong learning and careers in public health, medicine, and community development in local and global settings.

Under McCloskey's direction, BUSPH hosted the two-week launch of the field-based global health education program in Boston. Students and traveling faculty were then expected to spend a month each in India, China, and South Africa, studying the impact of globalization on health, culture, and health systems; community health field research methods; and biologi-

cal and behavioral perspectives on public health problems. In May, McCloskey visited Cape Town, South Africa, with thirty-two students and traveling faculty in preparation for the 2007 program.

**EH ALUM RECEIVES OZONOFF AWARD**



Steven Ward ('95) is the 2006 recipient of the David M. Ozonoff Unsung Hero Award, presented by BUSPH's Department of Environmental Health in March. The honor was

established in 2003 to recognize individuals whose contributions to the field of environmental health exemplify the principles and dedication demonstrated by EH Chairman Emeritus David Ozonoff, but whose ongoing efforts have not received sufficient recognition.

Ward is director of public health in Watertown, Massachusetts, where he has worked for the past nine years. Previously, he was a health officer in Braintree and a sanitarian in Framingham. He is a past president of the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, on whose executive board he now serves. He is a certified health officer and a registered sanitarian, with bachelor's and master's degrees in biology and a master's degree in public health.

Throughout his nineteen-year career in public health, Ward has served on numerous state and local boards and committees. He has been instrumental in the development of the Coalition of Local Public Health, which brings together organizations representing local practitioners such as the Massachusetts Public Health Association, the Massachusetts Environmental Health Association, the Association of Public Health Nurses, the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, and the Massachusetts Health Officers Association.

**OZONOFF APPOINTED CHAIR EMERITUS**



Dean Robert F. Meenan has announced the designation of Professor David Ozonoff as chairman emeritus of the School's Department of Environmental Health. The

honor recognizes Ozonoff's years of exemplary service as chairman of the department and as a colleague, mentor, and senior member of the faculty.

**IH STUDENT NAMED SCHWEITZER FELLOW**

International Health concentrator Kerry Woodham has been named a Boston Schweitzer Fellow for 2006-2007. Launched in 1991, the US Schweitzer Fellows Program allows students in the health professions and related fields to carry out direct-service projects in underserved communities.

Woodham is one of twenty-five graduate students selected from health and human service schools in the Boston area to participate in the year-long program. Her work as a Schweitzer Fellow focuses on helping immigrants learn more about nutrition and physical health issues that are unique to the United States. She will spend more than 200 hours providing nutrition classes and individual assistance at Boston-area immigrant service agencies; her goal is to offer newly arrived immigrant and refugee families a measure of control over this important aspect of their health. Recipients of the Schweitzer award receive a stipend of \$2,000 each.

A Boston resident, Woodham spent last year in Perm, Russia, working on a street-children's project called Love's Bridge.



## LAMORTE NAMED ASSISTANT DEAN FOR EDUCATION

Wayne LaMorte, PhD, MD, MPH'94, professor of epidemiology, has been appointed BUSPH's first Assistant Dean for Education. The newly created position is intended to help the School reach its strategic goal of emphasizing interdisciplinary efforts and integrating programs across the public health curriculum. LaMorte will continue the work that Lisa Sullivan began as Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education, but his charge has been broadened to include graduate education as well. His primary responsibility will be to facilitate collaboration among colleagues and to keep the curriculum fresh and relevant.

The 2005 recipient of the School's Scotch Award, LaMorte is known throughout the Medical Campus for his strong interest in public health teaching and overall ability to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches to teaching. He has worked closely with Rob Schadt, manager of educational technology at BUSPH, to make his own teaching clear, efficient, and engaging.

LaMorte trained as a surgeon and has devoted much of his career to conducting and supervising research in surgery at Boston University School of Medicine. He became increasingly interested in public health and earned his MPH at the School in 1994. In his new capacity, LaMorte will work with members of BUSPH's faculty to further enrich their teaching skills across all programs of study.

## ROSENBLOOM NAMED CHAIR OF SPAULDING REHAB BOARD

David Rosenbloom, PhD, professor of social and behavioral sciences, has been named chairman of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Network's Board of Trustees. The announcement was made by Judith C. Waterston, president of Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital Network, a member of the Partners HealthCare System.



At BUSPH, Rosenbloom directs Join Together, a program that helps communities throughout the country prevent and reduce substance abuse. He is also the principal investigator and director for the NIH/NIAAA Youth Alcohol Prevention Center, the only prevention center of its kind funded by the NIH at a school of public health.

Rosenbloom was commissioner of health and hospitals for the City of Boston from 1975 to 1983. In that capacity, he served as the city's public health officer and CEO of Boston City Hospital. In 1989, he cofounded Community Medical Alliance, a specialized HMO serving people with catastrophic medical conditions and severe disabilities.

From 1984 to 1988 he was vice president, and then president, of the Health Data Institute, a private company that pioneered the clinical analysis of medical claims data and developed managed care tools and techniques used throughout the country today. He also cofounded *QuitNet.com*—the nation's largest smoking cessation service—and served as its chairman from 2000 to 2005.

He served previously as Spaulding's vice chair of the Board of Trustees.

## ALUMNA TAKES ON NEW ROLE AT BUSPH

Harriet Brand ('93), who was administrator for the BUSPH Department of Health Services since 1998, is the new director of alumni relations for the School. Before joining health services, Brand was a project coordinator and a statistician at the Center for Health Quality, Outcomes, and Economic Research at the Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford, Massachusetts.

As alumni relations director, Brand will work closely with the School's Alumni Board. "It is important to find creative ways to cultivate relationships between students and alumni that are mutually beneficial and have a positive impact on the School," says Brand. "I am very excited about the challenges of strengthening alumni ties to their alma mater and the prospect of broadening their scope of activities in relation to BUSPH. I certainly want to hear from fellow alumni who wish to share their ideas for future programs."

Alumni are encouraged to contact Brand by e-mail at [hbrand@bu.edu](mailto:hbrand@bu.edu), by telephone at 617-414-1401, or to visit her in the Talbot Building.

## KEUSCH LEADS BROWN INAUGURAL SYMPOSIUM



Gerald T. Keusch, BUSPH associate dean for global health and assistant provost of the Boston University Medical Campus, cochaired one of the four academic symposia held in

April in celebration of the inauguration of Robert A. Brown as Boston University's tenth president.

"BU and the World" featured Elie Wiesel, BU's Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities, and Jeffrey Sachs, director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University. In addition, Medical Campus Provost Karen Antman cochaired the "BU and the City" symposium. The inauguration was held on April 27. Archived webcasts of all symposia activities and the inauguration ceremony itself are available at [www.bu.edu/inauguration/multimedia](http://www.bu.edu/inauguration/multimedia).

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# Cinéma Vérité

Documentarian Lisa Russell ('98) Uses Film to Expose the Truths of International Health Crises

By Kelly Cunningham

Filmmakers and public health practitioners don't often have a lot in common. Sure, both have messages to share, but the world of buzz-loaded screenings and slick editing tactics is light-years away from that of policy-reform activism and third-world medicine.

Unless, of course, you're Lisa Russell.

"I really never thought I'd blend the two," says Russell ('98), who entered BUSPH's international health master's degree program with plans to do fieldwork for a nongovernmental organization. "Filmmaking was my outside hobby, while [public health] was my career, my academic interest." As she proceeded in her coursework, she took a class in media advocacy. "We were learning how to use various media to advocate for public health," she recalls, "which led me to take a class in PSA production." The symbiosis of Russell's dual passions clicked when, after receiving her degree, she co-produced a World AIDS Day report for a London TV channel. "I spent three weeks in Brazil working on that piece with a filmmaker, and that was the point where I said, 'OK. This is what I want to do.'"

In 2001, Russell moved to New York City and founded Governess Films, a collective of women filmmakers. "We didn't necessarily want to create a production company where we would all make one project, because we each had our own interests," says Russell. "But by coming together we can help each other out with connections, resources, and training." Since the formation of Governess, Russell has directed, produced, written, and edited, telling stories of AIDS activists in Africa and refugee resettlement.



Lisa Russell ('98) with secondary-school children in Ghana, where she filmed footage for the Massachusetts-based AIDS organization Safe Haven Project.

These days, Russell puts in close to sixty hours per week, whether shooting and editing her own films, working on film projects for clients such as Family Health International and the United Nations Population Fund, or writing grants for nonprofits and producing live television. "I really don't have an average day," she says, though her recent weeks have consistently involved screening and discussing her latest film, *Love, Labor, Loss*, which documents the realities of obstetric fistula in Niger. The condition, which is characterized by a hole that develops between the birth canal and the bladder or rectum, is caused by days-long obstructed labor. According to Russell, it affects up to 100,000 women yearly and often results in incontinence and social isolation, despite the simplicity of fistula repair.

This film, says Russell, exemplifies the difficulty of balancing her duties as a public health advocate and her sensibilities as an auteur. "It's very hard for me to walk between these two worlds sometimes. The public health community is very careful about how they relay information to constituents. But in the filmmaking world, the school of thought is that you need to tell a story; you need to engage people and that's not always the safest way. There are some parts of my fistula film that go into the extreme of how bad fistulas can be. My intent, to show kind of the worst of the worst, is to make a stronger argument for prevention. But some agencies would rather

tell a safe story: the woman goes in, she has a simple fistula, she gets it repaired, she goes back home, and everything's great. But in Niger it didn't happen like that."

Russell attributes a good deal of her eyes-wide-open approach to her education at BUSPH. "What's great about BU is that you'll be sitting in a class next to the minister of health from, say, Malawi—you get to meet and interact with and learn directly from people who are representing the countries that you might have an interest in," she says. "It's the next best thing to having tons of field experience."

After a recent series of *Love, Labor, Loss* screenings, a friend jokingly remarked, "You're becoming the public health filmmaker!" and Russell realized that it's true. And, she says, maybe the two disciplines aren't such strange counterparts. "The issues that are being addressed in international health are so dynamic and so interesting. When you're able to capture the essence of what's happening with some of these issues and relay it in a very different medium, I think you mobilize a greater amount of support."

# ::class notes

## Environmental Health

**Julie Jefferson ('82)** loves being director of epidemiology and infection control at Rhode Island Hospital. "Infection control is my niche," says Julie, "and having an MPH puts what I do in the context of public health, not medicine." She spent five years as an army operating-room nurse, then transferred to the reserves and retired as a lieutenant colonel after twenty-one years of service. She is especially proud of her daughter, Anne, who is at the Naval Academy Preparatory School and is set to enter the Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

**Mark Vedrani ('03)** has a new job as an associate EHS consultant with the national consulting firm Environmental and Occupational Risk Management, Inc., which provides strategic environmental, health, and safety management consulting and technical services to companies in the high-tech, biotech, and pharmaceutical industries in the U.S. and abroad. Mark works in industrial hygiene but hopes to move into biosafety and emergency planning.

**Sigalle Zitomersky Reiss ('05)** married and recently moved to Westwood, Massachusetts. She continues to enjoy working at the Taunton Board of Health, where she is the assistant executive director.

## Epidemiology/Biostatistics

**Ruth Karacek ('90)** is the director of community-based primary care services at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, a new position that covers all primary care contracted programs with community health centers throughout the commonwealth. She is also excited about the nonprofit volunteer organization she established, HUGS Foxboro (Help Us Get Safe), which assists local families affected by domestic violence. The organization's active, community-based board—which includes the chief of police—provides families with personal care items, lock changes, transportation, and referrals for assistance and counseling.

**Alexander Orlega ('94)** moved to California in October 2004 and lives in West Hollywood. He is an associate professor in the Department of Health Services at UCLA School of Public Health.

**Scott Troppy ('98)** has begun a doctoral program at Harvard School of Public Health's Department of Society and Human Development, where he is focusing on health and spatial disparities. Scott is an epidemiologist with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, working in the Office of Integrated Surveillance and Informatics Services, Bureau of Communicable Disease Control. He has completed his ninth year of corporate fund-raising for Share Our Strength/Taste of the Nation, an event aiming to reduce childhood hunger that has raised more than \$100,000 to benefit the charity.

**Ryan Bearer ('01)** misses Boston, though he's been rather busy since Commencement. He graduated from Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2005, completed a transitional year at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital (part of Detroit Medical Center), and is doing an anesthesiology residency at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. Ryan, who lives in suburban Detroit, still manages to find time to review abstracts for the APHA national meeting.

**Mark Marsico ('02)** of Philadelphia has worked for Merck for four years. Formerly involved in clinical neuroscience, he has recently become senior epidemiology program coordinator. He writes that he would welcome the opportunity to share news of Merck's research activities with current and past MPH students. Mark and his wife, Aimee, joyfully welcomed Benjamin James in March 2006.

**Suyong Yun ('03)** has moved from Philadelphia to Durham, North Carolina, where she is a senior clinical scientist for GlaxoSmithKline. She runs drug interaction and pharmacokinetic studies. Having earned a PhD in pharmacology, Suyong says she now wishes she had known about public health earlier. "BUSPH is my favorite school," she writes.

## Health Law, Bioethics, and Human Rights

**Richard Grant (MED'74, SPH'83)** teaches geriatrics and developmental disabilities at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia. He says he uses the principles he learned in Health Law to teach medical students how to think beyond the purely clinical issues to the legal complexities of practicing modern medicine.

A native Angelena, **Caroline Chan (LAW'90, SPH'91)** recently became a partner at Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith in Los Angeles. Her practice focuses on civil appeals and writs. She is certified as a specialist in appellate law by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization and was previously a judicial research attorney for the Court of Appeals in California.

**Stephenie Wing-Yuen Yeung ('96, LAW'99)** is a member of the litigation services department and the intellectual property practice group at the law firm of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis in Philadelphia. Her practice focuses on issues related to intellectual property, from securing patent and trademark rights from the U.S. and international patent and trademark offices to protecting those rights through litigation in American courts. "It's really interesting," she says. "To be a patent litigator you have to learn new things all the time, like how magnetics work or what the genomic structure of an agricultural product looks like." When she's not practicing law, Stephenie takes courses at the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College in Philadelphia. She's due to receive an associate's degree in culinary arts this fall.

**Jana Meyer ('04)** loves her job as a business consultant for Kaiser Permanente, working on changing paper medical records to electronic databases. She writes, "My co-workers are great; the culture of the company is really progressive and proactive; and it's only two miles up the street from where I live in West L.A." She ran two marathons last year and recently joined a basketball league in Hollywood. Jana would love to hear from other BUSPH alumni in the area at [janalouymeyer@hotmail.com](mailto:janalouymeyer@hotmail.com).

## Health Services

**Sharon Kernan ('85)**, immediate past president of the Rhode Island Health Association, is assistant administrator for family and children's services at the Rhode Island Center for Children and Families. She develops and manages the Medicaid program for children with special needs, which includes family assessments and home- and community-based support services. "It's the most exciting place to be in state government," she notes. "We have more leverage to make things happen."

**Whitney Robbins ('88)** reports she is alive and well in New Mexico. She spent the better part of a year establishing the group *De Colores*—a mental health treatment program for abused children and their families—and now sits on the board. In the summer of 2005, she worked in Harvard's College Horizons program, which helps promising Native American youths with the college application process. This past summer, she worked for the same program at the University of Puget Sound and at Rice University. The all-volunteer effort works with the American Indian Graduate Center in Albuquerque.

**Elizabeth Shelov ('92)** is a health policy analyst for the state of Rhode Island. Her work follows the calendar of the General Assembly as it passes legislation; she works with specialists from all areas "making the donuts," as she says—setting minimum standards for licensure and quality of care.

**Bonnie Powell ('93)** reconnected with BUSPH this past spring by joining the Alumni Board. She is the principal of *Compass Senior Advisors*, which specializes in long-term-care planning and health insurance advisory services. She helps clients navigate the complexities of Medicare, Medicaid, and Medicare Part D and, where appropriate, recommends long-term-care insurance to protect their independence and the ability to age in place.

**Laura Housman (CAS'88, SPH'94, GSM'00)** is director of managed care marketing at Genzyme Genetics in Westborough, Massachusetts, where she works with medical directors, nurse managers, and managed care staff to develop coverage contracts. She also provides strategic direction and tactical support for her staff of ten, who market Genzyme's cancer and reproductive services to health insurers.

**Dipesh Navsaria ('95)** is a resident in pediatrics in Madison, Wisconsin. After receiving an MD in December 2005 from the University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana, Dipesh "picked up a master's degree in library and information science," with a specialization in children's literature. He says that "the MPH/MLS combo leads to a very interesting synergy."

**Sanjukta Pal ('96)** is a project team leader for the data analysis services section at the Massachusetts Peer Review Organization in Waltham, Massachusetts. Previously, she worked at Children's Hospital, Boston.

**Lauri Harbison ('99)** recently moved to Hamilton, New Jersey, with her husband, whose new job is nearby at Bristol-Myers Squibb. Lauri had been working with Elder Affairs while living in the Boston area but is now at home with her two daughters, Catherine and Mary, and anticipates looking for employment again soon. She reports that the family has "really enjoyed the change from small-condo-in-Quincy to house-with-yard-in-residential-neighborhood."

**Julie Ward ('00)** of Newburyport, Massachusetts, is project manager at the Institute of Health Policy and Practice at the University of New Hampshire, where she enjoys teaching in the Department of Health Management and Policy at the School of Health and Human Services. Julie is also starting coursework toward a doctoral degree.

**Kristi Kangas ('01, SSW'01)** has been promoted from community coordinator to program manager of the injury prevention program at Children's Hospital, Boston.

**Spenser Weppier ('05)** is adjusting nicely to life in Burlington, Vermont, where he works for the Health Care Administration. For now, he deals with hospital oversight of budgets and health care expenditures and with hospital discharge data. His division provides the governor and the state legislature with information regarding health care spending and insurance. Considering the unique role Vermont is playing in health care these days, Spenser feels that his office has its work cut out for itself in the year ahead. He also sees himself becoming more involved in the political arena.

**Victoria Nethercot ('06)** married Mark Bohm and moved to Vancouver, British Columbia. She promises to keep BUSPH informed of her whereabouts, both personal and professional, as her life unfolds.

## International Health

**Ghulam Nabi Kazi ('97)** writes that he has returned to his home in Islamabad from "very peripheral parts of Pakistan." His career has taken him from dermatology to hospital administration and, finally, to public health and health financing. After receiving a master's degree from BUSPH, Ghulam was a public health writing specialist for a firm in Phoenix, Arizona. He then returned to being additional director for planning and development in the provincial department of health. He next joined WHO as national program officer for tuberculosis control and later became provincial operations officer for the Sindh province in 2001. In the fall of 2005, he resigned from the government and joined WHO as national professional officer in the Country Office. Shortly after beginning this position, Pakistan was struck by the worst earthquake in its history, and Ghulam "got into the [public health] act almost immediately." He finds his work—which now involves developing research proposals and writing and editing papers—to be highly rewarding. He is married to a fellow physician, Khowla, who is also "acquiring a taste for public health," he says.

# ::classnotes

**Marjan Faraldooni ('01)** is one of three employees completing the initial round of the high-potential employee program at Tatweer, the driving force of Dubai Holding entities that will establish new markets to serve the development of Dubai.

**Alanna Shaikh ('01)** recently moved back to the United States to begin a position as senior desk officer for International Medical Corps. Previously, she lived in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, where she worked on the Health Family Project, a USAID-funded health project that serves four countries in Central Asia.

**Bridgit Adamou ('05)** lives in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, with her husband, Boureima Adamou. Since May 2005, she has worked for Pathfinder International in Watertown as program coordinator for the COMPASS project in Nigeria.

## Social and Behavioral Sciences

**Sharon Marable ('92)** is assistant medical director of the Rhode Island Department of Health and the president of the Rhode Island Public Health Association. She oversees medical policy and planning, primary care, women's health, health promotion, and chronic disease prevention. Her job entails enhancing the health of the people of Rhode Island by establishing medical and public health linkages between health plans and government offices. She would like to establish contact with fellow BUSPH alumni who are interested in health policy development and government. Sharon can be reached at [divinedoc@hotmail.com](mailto:divinedoc@hotmail.com).

Returned Peace Corps veteran and former BUSPH Health Housing Fellow **Liane Adams ('97)** is headed in a new direction these days. After spending seven years in Nigeria as a child survival specialist, she has settled into her new job as nutritionist for the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation in New Mexico. She'd very much like to hear from fellow classmates and friends at [lianeadams41@yahoo.com](mailto:lianeadams41@yahoo.com).

**Armand Pires ('98)** has recently been promoted to principal at the Joseph L. McCourt Middle School in Cumberland, Rhode Island. He had been assistant principal at North Cumberland for the past two years and previously was an assistant principal at King Philip Regional High School. Armand is also a doctoral candidate at the University of Rhode Island. He is surprised how his studies in health promotion/disease prevention prepared him for his job. "When you train in SB, you get a global perspective on problems," he says. "You think in large environmental terms, instead of just trying to fix the immediate problem. That helps when you're running a school."

Past BUSPH alumni board member **Susan Dodge (SSW'98, SPH'99)** is program director for the Women's Lunch Place, a daytime shelter in Boston for poor and homeless women and their children. WLP serves meals, holds activity groups, provides medical services and referrals, and focuses on job and housing readiness. "It's an amazing place," reports Susan, "where anyone is welcome."

**Leah Spielberg ('05)** recently married Steven Juntunen and is enjoying life in Boulder, Colorado, where she is a grants manager at the People's Clinic.

## In Memoriam

The BUSPH community was greatly saddened to learn of the April 10, 2006, death of Gurrach Galgallo ('96). He and thirteen others were killed when their airplane crashed while landing near Marsabit, Kenya, in heavy rain. Galgallo and his colleagues, including fellow government ministers and members of parliament, were traveling to northern Kenya to mediate a feud between two rival communities near the border with Ethiopia.

As a member of Kenya's parliament, Galgallo was committed to strengthening health services and educational opportunities in his home district of Moyale, one of the country's most rural, remote, and underdeveloped regions. He proposed a framework for decentralizing health services and participated in Kenya's National Constitutional Review Convention. As a physician and social activist, Galgallo worked to improve the nation's water supply and to increase hospital staff and add dispensaries throughout rural areas. He also initiated fund-raising to support secondary education.

In 2005, Galgallo received a BUSPH Distinguished Alumni Award for his dedication to promoting the overall health and well-being of his community and beyond.

# Fall Events at BUSPH

## Who Will Live?

**Power, Politics, and the Future of Global AIDS Treatment**

The William J. Bicknell Lectureship in Public Health  
September 28 and 29, 2006

Boston University School of Public Health  
Medical Campus  
670 Albany Street, Boston  
First-floor auditorium

This is a two-day event focusing on the science and public health policy issues of AIDS treatment in the developing world.



**Thursday, September 28**

**4 to 6 p.m.**

**Lecture:**

“Evolution of Antiretroviral Resistance in African HIV Strains: Implications for ARV Rollout”

Bruce Walker, professor of medicine, Harvard Medical School; director, Partners AIDS Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital

**Friday, September 29**

**8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

**8:30 a.m.** Continental breakfast

**9 to 10 a.m.** Lecture, followed by panel discussion and audience Q&A

**Lecture:**

“Global AIDS Treatment: An Ethnography of Power, Practice, and Imagination”

Jim Yong Kim, founding chief, Division of Social Medicine and Health Inequalities, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston; former director, HIV/AIDS Department, World Health Organization

Panel discussion with international health experts

*All Bicknell Lectureship events are free and open to the public.*

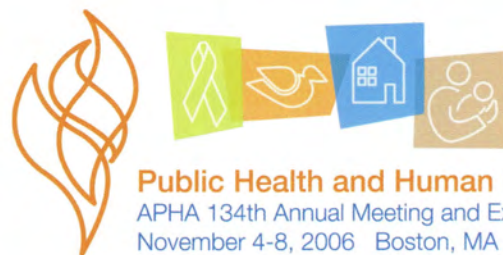
## APHA Annual Meeting in Boston

BUSPH Alumni Reception

Sunday, November 5, 2006  
5 to 7 p.m.

One Sherborn Street  
Metcalf Trustee Center, Ninth Floor

For information or to list your event if you are presenting at the conference, visit <http://sph.bu.edu/apha>.



**Public Health and Human Rights**  
APHA 134th Annual Meeting and Exposition  
November 4-8, 2006 Boston, MA





## Harold Cox is New Associate Dean of Practice at BUSPH

Harold D. Cox, formerly the chief public health officer for the city of Cambridge, Massachusetts, has been named associate dean of public health practice.

Cox, who has a master's degree in social work from the University of Texas, has more than twenty-five years of professional experience in direct services, administration, and advocacy in a variety of health care settings. He is known as a tireless advocate for the rights of vulnerable populations and for his work to regionalize the delivery of public health services for the commonwealth's 352 cities and towns.

Cox is a member of the Statewide Commission on Health Disparities and a past president of the Massachusetts Public Health Association and of the Multicultural AIDS Coalition. He received the Milton and Ruth Roemer Prize for Creative Local Public Health Work from the American Public Health Association and the Rebecca Lee Award for outstanding commitment to public health from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.



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