

Network

Honors, Collaborations Mark End-of-Year Events

Graduate Student Tapped for University Honor

Exercise Science MS student Lisa Anderson received the coveted Philip Amsterdam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. She was one of three individuals tapped for the distinction. Anderson has been the graduate teaching assistant for Applied Anatomy and Physiology I and II for two years. President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg presented the honor, which included a monetary award of \$2,500, during a special ceremony April 22.

Faculty Member Nabs National Scholar Award

Marina Moses, DrPH, Department of EOH, won the Pfizer 2005 Scholar in Public Health Award. The \$130,000 award funds a two-year project in Public Health Preparedness with Arlington County. These nationally competitive grants (two in the country!) are awarded to individuals pursuing community-based, public health practice research intended to foster collaborative partnerships between accredited schools or programs of public health and state and local departments of public health.

Motion Technology Arrives at GW

GW's Exercise Science program is part of an interdisciplinary effort to bring "motion capture" technology to campus. Thanks to funding by the University's Advisory Council on Research, GW will set up a Motion Capture and Analysis Laboratory in the coming months. Also collaborating are Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, Orthopaedic Surgery, Psychology, Physical Therapy, Anthropology, and Theatre and Dance.

The system uses computers, infrared sensors, cameras and specialized "markers" placed on the body to translate live action movements into computerized three-dimensional simulations of those movements.

Research Day Winners

The 10th Annual GWUMC Research Day marked the first-ever presentation of awards by the GW Public Health Alumni Association. Serving as judges for the awards were members of GW's chapter of Delta Omega, the National Public Health Honor Society. On hand to offer recognition were Anna Samedova, MPH '02, PHAA president; Mary Frances Kornak, MPH '92, treasurer; Venessa Perry Hadley, MPH '99, immediate past president; and Nse Obot Witherspoon, MPH '00, secretary.

SPHHS students garnering recognition included:

- MPH student Amii Kress, Epi, best oral presentation; MPH students Hala Maktabi, Epi, and Kenneth Hance, Epi, finalists, oral presentation
- Florencia Gonzalez, MPH '04, HPDP, best poster presentation

2005 Commencement/Celebration Schedule

Public Health Student Association/Delta Omega Reception

May 18, 6 p.m., Alumni House

Doctoral Hooding

May 20, 4 p.m., Lisner Auditorium

SPHHS School Celebration

May 21, Noon, Lisner Auditorium (students arrive at 10 a.m., guests arrive at 11 a.m.) SPHHS Reception follows, Marvin Center

University Commencement

May 22, Ellipse, processions step off at 9:30; ceremony at 10 a.m. (Alternate site: MCI, 11 a.m.)

Network

The newsletter for and about the students, faculty and staff of the GW School of Public Health and Health Services, 2300 Eye Street, NW, Ross 106, Washington, DC 20037.

Network is published by the Office of Communications and Marketing for SPHHS; send questions and articles to mcmladb@gwumc.edu; fax 202-994-8052.

Message from the Dean

As you will read in *Network*, there is much to celebrate within our School—in research, with faculty, students, programs and more. So much exciting work is going on and we are moving forward at a rapid pace. What also is evident is that we are modeling the practices that ensure success in the public health field—true collaboration with others and a passion for improving the lives of our fellow human beings. There are many opportunities available to us when we reach beyond the boundaries of our single area. And, when we find common ground with others, we can truly pursue the goal of good health for everyone. To the graduates, our best wishes for success in your fields. To all faculty, staff and students, let us continue to ask the tough questions, pursue research, reach across the table for collaboration, and remain committed to our building a healthier world.

Dean Ruth J. Katz, JD, MPH



We Want to Hear About Your Summer Experiences!

Students participating in summer programs, traveling abroad, conducting research and more are encouraged to send pictures and a synopsis of your experience to be considered for publication in *Network*, *Progress* and *GW Medicine and Health* magazine.

Pictures need to be high resolution; digital preferred. Send information to Linda Dent at mcmlldb@gwumc.edu or contact Mallory Boyd, sphmxb@gwumc.edu for questions.

Coming events ...

Wed., May 11, Global Health and the National Hispanic Council on Aging are co-sponsoring the first-ever *Hispanic Elderly Policy Symposium*—a designated White House Conference on Aging; Kaiser Family Foundation Public Affairs Center, 1330 G Street NW. For info, carolina@nhcoa.org.

★ Student, Staff and Faculty Spotlight ...

- **Rebecca Love**, graduating in May with an MPH in International Health Policy, was awarded a \$5,000 grant by The Meatless Monday Campaign Inc. to bring the Meatless Monday message to two children's health centers in Washington. Love was one of six graduate public health students selected.
- **Erica Pearson**, graduating in May from the MPH program in Health Promotion, has been accepted to the prestigious Emerging Leaders Program at the DHHS.
- **Kristen Moore**, graduating in May with an MPH in Epidemiology, has been accepted to the CDC/CSTE Applied Epidemiology Fellowship program. Her placement is with New York City's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Waterborne and Enterics Unit in the Bureau of Communicable Diseases.
- **Robert Burke**, PhD, interim chair HSML, chair-elect of the APHA Gerontological Section, was a member of the National Public Health Week Planning Committee. The committee was tasked with helping to develop the message for the week.
- Professors **Todd Miller**, **Wayne Miller**, **Pat Sullivan**, **Alex Dickman** and **Susan Heiser** (Ex Sci) were awarded a grant from the International Racquet and Sports Clubs Association to study barriers to commercial health club membership.
- **Charlotte W. Collins**, JD, associate professor, HSML, addressed the Congressional Black Caucus Health Brain Trust on April 7 regarding the elimination of health disparities. She also recently completed her service as a member of the Commonwealth Fund's Task Force on the Future of Health Insurance. The Task Force, begun in 1996, held its final meeting in Washington, DC on March 28–29.
- **Joel Teitelbaum**, JD, LLM, associate professor and vice chair, Health Policy, lectured at Harvard Medical School on "Health Care Civil Rights for Racial and Ethnic Minorities: History, Present-Day Status, and Reform." The lecture was given as part of Harvard's Minority Health Policy Seminar Series, supported by the Commonwealth Fund Harvard University Fellowship Program and California Endowment Scholars in Health Policy Program.
- **Tee L. Guidotti**, MD, MPH, chair, EOH, was an invited observer for TOPOFF3, the emergency preparedness simulation exercise conducted last month by the Department of Homeland Security. He also was an invited speaker at the American College of Physicians meeting in San Francisco on the basics of bioterrorism.
- A recently released study by the Department of Health Policy looks at the relationship between Medicaid and National Security, specifically as it affects child health policy. A copy of the study can be downloaded at www.gwumc.edu/sphhs/healthpolicy/. Another study released by Health Policy looks at whether lifestyle may have more of an impact than medication in the treatment of diabetes.
- **Ayman El-Mohandes**, MD, MPH, interim chair, PCH, has prepared a report suggesting that pregnancy-related health interventions work best when multiple risk factors are dealt with simultaneously and when intervention efforts continue after a baby is born. The report, "An Integrated Psycho-Behavioral Intervention During Pregnancy Has Significant Effects in Reducing Risks During the Post-Partum Period in African-American Women" will be presented at the annual meeting of the Pediatric Academic Societies, May 14-17 in Washington, DC.
- The SPHHS **Forum for Collaborative HIV Research**, in partnership with the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, sponsored a workshop on the "Development of Laboratory Technologies for Monitoring HIV Treatment in Resource Limited Settings," following the Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections. In partnership with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, the Forum also organized a workshop on "Pediatric Formulations for Antiretroviral Treatments" in conjunction with the Sixth International Workshop on Pharmacology of HIV Therapy in Quebec City, Canada. The Forum has published a related report, "Integration of Buprenorphine into Primary HIV Care." Visit www.hivforum.org for information.

New PHSA Officers

President: Nisha Sachdev, Glocal Health Promotion
Co-VPs: Elisse Collins, Health Promotion and Artisha Polk, Biostatistics
Secretary: Maggie Iverson, Health Promotion
Treasurer: Meg Demeranville, Health Promotion
Social Chair: Megan O'Connell, Health Promotion
Alumni Liaison: Jenn Dorr, Epidemiology
SPHHS Senators: Megan O'Connell, Health Promotion, and Jenn Dorr, Epidemiology