Celebrating Over 50 Years of Public Health Education
Dear Friends of the College of Public Health:

It is a pleasure to share this semester's issue of our College Newsletter with you.

As always, there are some wonderful achievements—by our faculty, staff, students, and alumni—that we are celebrating.

At the same time, this past semester has been made much sadder by the loss of two long-time faculty members—Dr. Tiejian Wu and Dr. Albert Iglar. A brief note about each is included on the next page. While this Memoriam is limited, it gives you a sense of the richness of each of their lives and the remarkable contribution that they have made to many hundreds of students.

Elsewhere in this Newsletter, you will find many significant accomplishments. You can read about Dr. Allan Forsman, our new “iTunes Hit” on page 6 and about a remarkable opportunity that our students had to present before Tennessee’s Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee on page 16. You can review (and for some of you, re-live) the incredible semester that we have had in the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series—where else could a Hollywood actor, a U.S. Ambassador, an asthma researcher and a Mathematician hold audiences enthralled. Throughout the document, you can find many examples of successful faculty and student research, and snippets of information about where some of our alumni are today.

All in all, I think that you will agree that this has been a remarkable semester for the College and that we remain a place where students get “A World-Class Education in a World-Class Environment.”

Please stay in touch with me and let me know what information you would like to see in our next Newsletter.

For those of you who may be gone over the summer, I hope that you have a great vacation, and I look forward to seeing you, or at least hearing from you, in the fall.

Best wishes,

P.S. My most sincere thanks to Janet Stork for once again putting together an informative and beautiful newsletter!
In Memoriam-Dr. Tiejian Wu & Dr. Albert Iglar

Dr. Tiejian (TJ) Wu, a faculty member in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, lost his battle with lung cancer on February 7, 2011. Despite many challenges, he remained active with his research and with student mentoring until the time of his passing and always had a positive attitude.

“TJ was such a thoughtful and caring person, and he had a constant smile and good word for everyone. He also had a tremendous devotion to his family, craft and work. We miss him badly.” Dr. Robert Pack (Associate Dean of Academic Affairs)

“I first met Dr. Wu the summer of 2002 when he greeted me with his “signature” smile. For the more than eight years that I knew him, that smile characterized his positive and supportive personality, even during the difficult times he faced with his illness. One time Tiejian came to my office and immediately started talking to me. Noticing the puzzled look on my face, he started laughing, explaining that he had inadvertently been talking to me in Chinese. We had a really good laugh. Tiejian was such a talented and supportive colleague. I am going to miss him a lot.” Dr. Jim Anderson (Interim Chair-Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology)

One of TJ’s research passions was adolescent obesity. We have recently learned that an RO1 research proposal that he had created and championed had been funded by the National Institutes of Health. This on-going work will continue to remind us of his passion, his expertise, and his commitment.

We have all lost a friend, a colleague, and a good person. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and his daughter.

Dr. Albert Iglar, a valued member of the faculty of Environmental Health from 1970-1999, passed away on Tuesday, February 22, 2011. Dr. Iglar was one of the longest serving faculty members in the College, teaching almost every course in the Department of Environmental Health, and touching the lives of thousands of students. During his tenure he also served as Interim Chair of the Department.

His areas of interest included air and water pollution, industrial hygiene, and urban development. He was also very involved in both university and community service. He served on the Air Pollution Control Board of Tennessee for many years, with a major impact on that issue, as it evolved to become a focus of public health attention.

His passion and legacy is perhaps summed up best in a quote from an article he wrote in 1975:

“Let’s dedicate ourselves to making funds, man-power, knowledge, and resources available to maintain a healthy nation. In order to accomplish this objective environmental health and public health must be part of all appropriate legislation and funding at the state and national levels. If we are not able to maintain health and well-being, all else will be in vain!”

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and colleagues.
Welcome!

Ginny Kidwell (Pictured Left) recently returned to ETSU from the Tennessee Department of Economic & Community Development to become Program Director for the Tennessee Institute of Public Health. She is responsible for the development and day-to-day operation of the Institute. In addition to her recent experience in regional industrial recruitment, she previously served as director of ETSU at Greeneville and the Tennessee Institute for Economic Development. She has a strong background in state and local government with a focus on legislative and public policy development. She holds a MALS degree from ETSU and a B.S. in Education from UT. Ginny resides in Greeneville, TN, with her husband Robin.

Cindy Taylor (Pictured Right) joined the Skin Cancer Prevention Lab on October 11, 2010. She was hired as Project Manager for the 4.5-year grant “An Appearance-Based Intervention to Reduce Teen Skin Cancer Risk.” She recently moved to Gray, Tennessee, from Delaware with her husband, Shane, daughter, Mallory 15, and son, Gavin 10. She also has a 21-year-old daughter in the Coast Guard stationed in Marquette, MI. She had 15 years of service with the State of Delaware before moving to Tennessee. She has an Associate’s degree in Office Systems and is working toward her bachelor’s degree at ETSU.

TN LIFEPATH

Sean Hoyle (Pictured Left) has been recruited to be the Project Coordinator for the Tennessee LIFEPATH Public Health Training Center and will focus on logistics, operations and interactivity with the Center’s students. He is an ETSU business school graduate who comes to the Center after a 2-year tenure with the Coordinated School Health evaluation team. His last job with CSH was as a Data Coordinator. Sean currently resides in Johnson City, TN.

Paula Masters (Pictured Left) joined the College of Public Health as the Director of the new Public Health Training Center-LIFEPATH. She is an ETSU College of Public Health graduate with both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Health Services Administration. Paula was a Regional Health Promotion Coordinator for 4 years prior to joining the team. She lives in Johnson City, TN, with her husband, Chris, and daughter, Ayla.

LIFEPATH stands for Long-Distance Internet Facilitated Educational Program for Applied Training in Health and is funded by the Health Resources and Services Administration. It is part of ETSU’s ongoing efforts to meet the training needs of the existing public health workforce.
Career Development Activities for Students

Recent graduates and current students have both asked for more help in preparing to enter the job market. To this end, two programs were developed and implemented this semester:

- The Department of Health Services Administration kicked off its “Breakfast with the Expert” program in February 2011. The program, led by faculty member Tim Baylor and geared toward students, brings local public health leaders to campus to discuss career development and cross-cutting competencies in health policy and management.
  1. Tim Attebery, VP, Wellmont Cardiovascular Services, discussed “professionalism in the workplace” on February 1st.
  2. Brenda Newas and Lance Beus, with Blue Ridge Medical Management, presented about career options in medical group practice management on March 1st.
  3. Gary Mayes, Regional Director of the Sullivan County Regional Health Department spoke on “Public Health: Are You Ready” on April 5th.
  4. To finish the semester, on May 3rd, Tim Burchfield, owner of Chick-fil-A of Johnson City, will talk about “Effective Leadership: Breaking the DNA Code of the Workplace.”

- This “Breakfast with the Expert” program has been an excellent supplement to the “Career Development Series” coordinated and presented by the Public Health Student Association. Through this Series, Dr. David Magee, Director of Career and Internship Services, presented three evening programs on 1) Resumes and Curricula Vitae; 2) Interview Skills and Networking; and 3) Corporate Etiquette, Strategies and Culture.

Congratulations and Thanks!

Dr. Amal Khoury and Dr. Brian Martin held leadership positions within APHA sections and participated in business meetings of those sections at the APHA Annual meeting in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Terry Lancaster was awarded the Student Choice Award during the Centennial Opening Celebration.

The ETSU Centennial Steering Committee voted to fund two mini-proposals submitted by the Dean’s Office to highlight and expand the College’s role in the ETSU Centennial events.

ETSU recently honored faculty and staff members at the annual service awards breakfast held on Tuesday, November 23, 2010. A total of 228 employees were recognized at the event for a total combined 4,425 years of service to ETSU and the state of Tennessee. This event is sponsored by the Human Resources department. The following individuals from the College of Public Health were recognized:

### 20-Year Awards

Pictured Left to Right: Brian Evan-shen, Joel Hillhouse, Eric Mustain

### 5-Year Awards

Pictured Left to Right: Timothy Aldrich, Jamie Collier, Terry Lancaster, and Tricia Metts
College of Public Health Professor Becomes a Hit on iTunes University

By any measure, Dr. Allan Forsman has enjoyed the kind of notable career where success is the rule rather than the exception. He is a respected associate professor in the East Tennessee State University Department of Health Sciences, which is housed in the ETSU College of Public Health. He has worked at NASA as a researcher on the effects of gravitational biology. He still consults for the space agency on occasion.

But becoming a hit on iTunes? Being downloaded by listeners tens of thousands of times in a week, even those in other countries? That one caught Forsman by surprise.

“I started out doing this for students here on campus,” said Forsman, “but pretty soon after we started with iTunes University, I started getting e-mails from students from all over telling me how useful it was.”

Useful is the operative word, as Forsman isn’t uploading tunes to iTunes U, but education – in the form of audio lectures and video demonstrations for the classes he teaches on anatomy and human physiology. Working with the ETSU Office of eLearning, Forsman makes anatomy and physiology and human anatomy course lectures available by podcast on iTunes U, as well as many dozens of instructional videos using human anatomical models.

Apple maintains rankings that track the popularity of iTunes U downloads worldwide. Consider that during a recent week, Forsman held the top two spots for the most downloaded anatomy material and occupied four of the top six positions – Stanford University inhabited the other two. Listeners downloaded Forsman 65,000 times one week this winter; during a two-week period there were 100,000 downloads of the ETSU professor.

Forsman receives rave reviews from students, too. One listener from Arizona, a nurse of 27 years who had returned to pursue her degree as a nurse practitioner, left this message at iTunes U:

“I really want a good review of anatomy and this by far has been the most interesting as well as fun to listen to. … I live in Arizona so there is no way to actually go there [to ETSU] for class. Thanks so much!”

Another listener was from essentially halfway around the world:  

I don’t go to ETSU, but I’m a first-year med student in Australia – and found his podcasts on iTunes U. I can’t say just how amazing I thought his musculoskeletal anatomy lectures were. Not to mention he makes it interesting and has a sense of humor.

And finally this, from London: Hello there, I’m listening to your podcasts from AP1 (anatomy and physiology) back in 2007 and I had to tell you that you have been a GREAT help to me! Especially with the ribs … long story but you are amazing, keep doing what you are doing. We’re listening and learning.

Regardless of Forsman’s far-flung success on iTunes U, he uses the tool first and foremost to help students who are enrolled in his classes at ETSU. He records all of his lectures and usually has them available for current students to stream the same day of class or at least the next day via ETSU’s Desire to Learn course site.

With his daughter’s help on the production end, Forsman’s downloadable videos demonstrating anatomical models now top 80. He has made over 400 lectures available for download.

Students aren’t the only ones who are admirers of virtual Forsman. A colleague from Naugatuck Valley Community College, located in Connecticut, found Forsman’s work on iTunes and sent an e-mail. His request: Would Forsman mind if he placed the podcasts and videos on the Naugatuck Valley Web site? Forsman gave him his blessing, and the material is still there to augment the education of students in Connecticut.
Presentations by Faculty

Dr. Brian Martin presented “Using tele-health to affect cardiovascular outcomes in rural areas: The case of southern Appalachia” at the 2010 American Public Health Association meeting in Denver, CO (Nov 8-12, 2010). Co-authors for the presentation were Karen Cober, RN, MSN, Dr. Amal Khoury, and Dr. Chul-Young Roh.


Dr. Chul-Young Roh- “Measuring job satisfaction levels of emotional labors and public service motivations: Case of social workers in community hospitals.” Midwest Political Sciences Association’s 69th Annual Conference (March 31-April 3, 2011) in Chicago, Illinois.


Dr. Amal Khoury- “Delivery of breast cancer screening: Role of provider and practice characteristics.” 138th APHA Annual Meeting (November 6-10) in Denver, Colorado.

Dr. Hadii Mamudu- “Stakeholder analysis of the development and implementation of the Tennessee Non-Smokers Protection Act,” at the Southern Political Science Association annual conference in New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Rob Pack - “Prescription Drug Abuse” at the Middle Tennessee Grand Division Meeting in Franklin, TN.

Ms. Paula Masters, Dr. Brian Martin and Dr. Michael Stoots each presented a section at the Tennessee Public Health Association East Tennessee Grand Division.

Dr. Randy Wykoff spoke at the Virginia Rural Health Summit and as part of the NACCHO “Survive and Thrive Workshop” for new Local Health Officials. He provided a regional overview for two groups of U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Officers who were coming to Appalachia to work with the Remote Area Medical group.

College of Public Health Grand Rounds

Dr. Amal Khoury - “Improving breast cancer screening: Individual, provider and social factors”

Dr. Chris Pritchett -“Chronic Pseudomonas aeruginosa infections: Use of signature-tagged Mutagenesis to identify novel virulence factors”

Dr. Brajesh Dubey - “Environmental risk assessment of waste materials: Issues and challenges”

Dr. Kesheng Wang - “Genome-wide association study of alcohol dependence: a meta-analysis”

Dr. Andromeda Nauli - “Dietary fat processing and utilization”

Dr. Hadii Mamudu - “Tobacco control: Global, State, and Local strategies”
ETSU Appoints Counts as Director of Special Projects for Vice President for Health Affairs

Scott Counts, an alumnus of the College of Public Health, has been named the director of special projects for East Tennessee State University’s office of the vice president for health affairs.

As director of special projects, Counts will assist Dr. Wilsie Bishop, ETSU’s vice president for health affairs and university chief operating officer, in developing and directing projects related to health affairs, facilities and budget management. He will supervise the daily operations of the vice president's office and assist Bishop in achieving the university’s planning initiative.

Counts is a familiar face to many at ETSU. He became director of the BucSports Athletic Medicine Center in 2003 and remained there until accepting his new appointment. He is also an alumnus who holds two degrees from ETSU. He earned a master’s degree in public health with a concentration in health care administration and a bachelor’s degree in physical education with a concentration in athletic training and sports medicine. Counts also earned a certificate in business administration for physician practice from Auburn University.

Health Care Journal Names Study by ETSU’s Dr. Brian Martin One of Top Publications for 2010

A health care journal has presented an award of excellence to an East Tennessee State University assistant professor of public health for a study of variables that affect the delivery of quality primary health care. Dr. Brian Martin, an assistant professor in the ETSU College of Public Health’s Department of Health Services Administration, was one of only three winners chosen to receive a Highly Commended Award at the Literati Network Awards for Excellence 2010. Martin and his co-authors, Dr. Leiyu Shi of Johns Hopkins University and Ryan Ward, a former graduate assistant in ETSU’s Department of Health Services Administration, received the award for their study of how the race and gender of patients, as well as the language they speak, affect their assessment of the quality of primary care they receive.

Their study was published in the *International Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance*, and some of their findings are unique. Martin said that he and his colleagues found that language barrier—but not necessarily gender or race—may be a key predictor. Martin cautioned that there needs to be additional study of the relationship of race and gender as they relate to quality of care, as it is well-documented that minority populations experience disproportionate health disparities, and that several variables can contribute to health disparities. He said that should further study confirm their findings on the relation of language to health care quality, it could have serious policy implications for providers, as the percentage of patients who do not speak English continues to grow.

The providers who would be most affected, Martin said, are primary care physicians in smaller practices. Martin, who is the coordinator of the Master of Public Health program, has conducted previous research on cost of health care and access to it.
ETSU Study: Smaller Hospitals in Rural Areas Usually Operate More Efficiently than their Larger Counterparts

A researcher at East Tennessee State University's College of Public Health measuring the technical efficiency, or operating efficiency, of nonprofit hospitals has found that smaller hospitals in rural settings have an edge over larger ones.

Dr. Chul-Young Roh, an associate professor in the ETSU Department of Health Services Administration, concluded that not only size but also location are significant variables in determining whether nonprofit hospitals are likely to operate efficiently. Roh’s research paper was published in a recent issue of the journal *Public Performance & Management Review*. His co-authors are Drs. M. Jae Moon of Yonsei University and Changhoon Jung of Inha University, both in South Korea.

The researches determined that large, nonprofit hospitals generally operate more efficiently when located in urban areas. Even though hospitals with larger numbers of beds should realize economy of scale, the reverse actually proved true in rural settings: as bed counts go up, efficiency typically goes down. Roh said that small, community hospitals generally are more efficient that their counterparts of medium and especially large size. A hospital’s number of acute care beds were used to categorize its size.

Employing a well-regarded research analysis tool called data envelopment analyses, Roh used a wide range of variables to assess technical efficiency. Some of those variables were the number of inpatient days, the number of full-time physicians and other employees, the number of hospital beds, the number of outpatient visits and outpatient surgeries, the amount of charity care provided and a hospital’s current assets—a key diagnostic measure of a hospital’s financial health.

ETSU Public Health Student Association Organized World Food Day Effort

The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) at ETSU organized activities in conjunction with World Food Day to heighten awareness of a problem that plagues the region, the nation, and the globe: hunger.

PHSA members collected donations of non-perishable food items by placing designated bins around campus. Donations were given to Good Samaritan Ministries, a faith-based ministry in Johnson City that helps those in need through education, mentoring and social services, including the delivery of food boxes and meals.

In addition, members of the PHSA set up a display table to provide some context of world hunger. The table was located on the patio terrace outside the Cave in the D.P. Culp University Center and featured plates of food representing the calorie intake of countries in which people are chronically hungry, with contrasting plates that represent the typical American diet. Members also handed out “Monopoly money” with hunger statistics, and a photo exhibit illustrated the diet of people in various countries and amount of money spent on food in a given week.

The PHSA is a student organization for undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students enrolled in the ETSU College of Public Health.
East Tennessee Hosts “An Evening of Health, Wellness, and the Arts”

On January 27th, the ETSU College of Public Health hosted a remarkable “Evening of Health, Wellness, and the Arts.” This three-part evening was designed to bring the “patient’s voice” to Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series. [http://www.etsu.edu/cph/speakersseries.aspx](http://www.etsu.edu/cph/speakersseries.aspx)

1. The evening began with “Dispatches from the Other Kingdom: The Cancer Journey,” a remarkable five-person story theatre performance. “Dispatches from the Other Kingdom” was conceived and directed by Dr. Joseph Sobol with members of the [ETSU Storytelling Program](http://www.etsu.edu/cph/speakersseries.aspx) (Pictured Left). Dr. Sobol, an ETSU professor and director of the nationally known Graduate Program in Storytelling, worked with students to create the theatre piece based on cancer patients’ own personal narratives. The patients’ stories are being collected as part of a groundbreaking collaborative research study with the ETSU School of Medicine and Department of Oncology, funded by the National Institutes of Health.

2. During the intermission, the audience was able to view a set of remarkable black and white photographs taken at the Niswonger Children’s Hospital, conceptualized and curated by members of the Gold Humanism Honor Society at the James H. Quillen College of Medicine, under the direction of GHHS President Jacqueline Vidosh. The GHHS is an honorary organization that recognizes outstanding senior medical students for their compassion and commitment to their patients.

3. The evening concluded with “My Brain Tumor: A Mind Expanding Comedy” written and performed by California-based actor [David Nathan Schwartz](http://www.etsu.edu/cph/speakersseries.aspx) (Pictured Left). This play was developed while Mr. Schwartz was recovering from a brain operation and subsequent vocal paralysis. Mr. Schwartz, a professional actor whose film credits include *I Am Sam*, *the Sweetest Thing* and *Hurt*, reports that the play was developed in an attempt to channel “the surreal experience” into a theatrical event. Its original production garnered awards for acting, writing and direction, and it has been performed at venues across the country.

Approximately 300 students, faculty, staff and members of the general public attended the event, and the response was extremely positive. One participant wrote, “Incredible vicarious experience, gives new perspective on being alive” while another added, “His story was riveting-I could go with him on his journey, very believable, incredible cast of believable characters.” Yet another wrote, “All of the stores spoke so movingly of the emotional impact of cancer and as a caregiver these stories all greatly touched my soul.”

Perhaps the evening was best summed up by one participant who wrote, “Portraying the medical/health care field through the arts sheds light on critical issues that occasionally are overlooked by the medical/health profession. Providing a night with the arts can inspire health care practitioners to re-evaluate certain aspects of the system (by seeing it through a different lens).”

The “Evening of Health, Wellness, and the Arts” was co-sponsored by the College of Public Health, the Public Health Student Association, the Gold Humanism Society and the Division of Hematology/Oncology at the James H. Quillen College of Medicine, master’s program at the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education.
Ambassador Eric Goosby, the man who is responsible for leading all international HIV/AIDS efforts by the U.S. government, presented “A Global Partnership to Fight HIV/AIDS” on Thursday, February 17 as part of the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series.

Ambassador Goosby has over 25 years of experience of working with HIV/AIDS, ranging from his early years as a clinician of treating patients in San Francisco when AIDS first emerged to serving as the first director of the Ryan White Care Act at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He previously served as deputy director of the White House National AIDS Policy Office, and directed the Office of HIV/AIDS Policy of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He played a key role in the development and implementation of advances in the HIV/AIDS national treatment plans in South Africa, Rwanda, China, and Ukraine.

The Lecture and subsequent discussion addressed a significant number of important global health issues related to HIV/AIDS and other emerging infectious diseases.


Dr. Castillo-Chavez, a professor of math biology at Arizona State University (ASU), is known internationally for his use of mathematical modeling to better understand disease and epidemic outbreaks.

Castillo-Chavez is director of Arizona State’s Mathematical, Computational and Modeling Sciences Center, which brings together quantitative scientists and mathematicians with the goal of producing solutions to problems in the biological, environmental and social sciences. The ASU professor has a special interest in understanding how and why disease spreads in communities.

“The prevalence of massive local systems of transportation in major cities enhances the impacts that millions of daily interactions between individuals have on the transmission dynamics and evolution of diseases like influenza or rotavirus or tuberculosis, to name a few,” Castillo-Chavez said. “In Mexico City, for example, more than 5 million individuals travel in packed subway cars for over an hour each day, establishing an ideal environment for the transmission of communicable diseases.”

The lecture prompted some thought-provoking discussions on the current risk for disease spread and what can be done to prevent epidemics.

This Leading Voices lecture was sponsored by the College of Public Health and the Public Health Student Association. Co-Sponsors included the Institute for Quantitative Biology and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences.
Recent Publications by Faculty


Dr. Jim Florence- “Community as Classroom: Teaching and learning public health in rural Appalachia,” in Journal of Public Health Management & Practice.

Dr. Chul-Young Roh- “Measuring economic performance of Colorado community hospitals using the Malmquist productivity change index,” in International Review of Public Administration.

Appalachian Student Research Forum

The College of Public Health had a remarkable showing at the Appalachian Student Research Forum held on March 24, 2011. Students in the College presented a total of 19 posters and two oral presentations. (http://www.etsu.edu/studentresearch/documents/2011_ProgramBook.pdf) These included (in alphabetical order):

Katie Baker working with Joel Hillhouse and others; David Blackley and Megan Quinn working with Bruce Burlington and Toni Bounds; Ralitsa Borisova working with Bert Lampson; Brandon Farmer working with Allan Forsman; Yi He, Phani Veeranki, and Sumati Dadkar, working with Hadii Mamudu; Nicole Holt and others working with Tiejian Wu and others; Tracy Holt and Meng Liu working with Xuefeng Liu; Sumati Kadkar, Phani Veeranki, and Yi He working with Hadii Mamudu; Nathan Kahre working with Chris Pritchett; Meng Liu working with Xuefeng Liu; Brittanny Moore (Biology), with Ef-fiong Otukonyong; Heath Nier working with Allan Forsman; Lok Pokhrel working with Brajesh Dubey; Lok Pokhrel working with Brajesh Dubey (oral presentation); Megan Quinn and David Blackely working with Tim Aldrich and Toni Bounds and others; Sucheta Raghavendra and Phani Veeranki working with Tim Aldrich; Kasie Richards working with Deb Slawson, Xuefeng Liu and others; Rupesh Shirore, William Hudson, and Mona Olaimi working with Chul-Young Roh; Rupesh Shirore working with Tim Aldrich; T.U. Silva working with Brajesh Dubey; and Phani Veeranki, Yi He and Sumati Dadkar working with Hadii Mamudu (oral presentation).

Congratulations, especially to our three award winners: (http://www.etsu.edu/studentresearch/documents/Award_Winners_2011.pdf)

Undergraduates: Biomedical Sciences
Second Place: Heath Nier Faculty Sponsor: Allan Forsman
Title: “The Effects of Spaceflight on Mucin Production in Mouse Uterine Tissue.”

Graduate Students, 1-2 Years: Natural Sciences & Mathematics
Second Place Group A: Ralitsa Borisova Faculty Sponsor: Bert Lampson
Title: “Isolation of a Rhodococcus Soil Bacterium that produces a strong antibacterial compound.”

Graduate Students, more than 2 years: Arts & Humanities and Social & Behavioral Sciences
First Place: Katie Baker Faculty Sponsor: Joel Hillhouse
Title: “A dual process model of pathological tanning behavior.”

This showing reflects the great work our students are doing and documents our on-going commitment to including students in our research activities. We recently documented that 85 percent of our funded research projects in the College involve students.

Congratulations to all participants-faculty and students.
ETSU Study Highlights Mother’s Role in Influencing a Daughter’s Likelihood to Become Indoor Tanner

When it comes to indoor tanning, mothers can have a seismic effect on whether their daughters adopt the practice, according to a new study by researchers at East Tennessee State University’s College of Public Health.

Katie Baker, a second-year doctoral student in the College of Public Health, published her findings in the current issue of Archives of Dermatology, a journal of the American Medical Association that provides information concerning the skin, its diseases, and their treatment. Her co-authors are Dr. Joel Hillhouse, a professor in the ETSU Department of Community Health, and Dr. Xuefeng Liu, an assistant professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology. Hillhouse is also director of the ETSU Skin Cancer Prevention Lab, where Baker is a graduate assistant.

In a study of more than 200 female college students, Baker uncovered some striking trends among young women who, after reporting to be tanners, said their first indoor tanning encounter was a shared mother-daughter experience.

Skin cancer is the most rapidly growing cancer in the nation, particularly among women ages 15-39, Baker said, citing data from the World Health Organization and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC).

“When Dr. Hillhouse and I started looking at the data, the numbers just jumped right out at us,” Baker said. “It comes down to behavioral modeling and permissiveness — if a mother expresses permissiveness toward the behavior, the daughter is more likely to adopt it. Another little snippet we found is that women who started indoor tanning with their mothers started tanning two years earlier than women who went by themselves or with a friend. The average age for those women who started earlier was 14.5.”

Baker stressed that Hillhouse’s research has shown parents are willing health educators when it comes to their children. Statistics from the IARC reveal that women who began indoor tanning before the age of 35 have a 75 percent increased risk of melanoma.

Along with parents, physicians, too, can educate young patients and parents against those dangers, Baker said. She said Archives of Dermatology is the ideal publication for the ETSU paper.

A Greeneville native, Baker has been on the academic fast track from the outset of her college career. After earning her bachelor’s degree from Furman University and a master’s in public health from the University of Alabama-Birmingham, she returned home to Northeast Tennessee and ETSU. She is the first Niswonger Foundation Scholar in the ETSU College of Public Health and a Quillen Scholarship recipient. Baker also recently received the Outstanding Doctor of Public Health Student Award.
The faculty and staff of the College of Public Health would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the December 2010 graduating class. During ETSU’s December Graduation, the College conferred degrees on 40 students, including 17 master degrees and 23 undergraduate degrees.

Master of Public Health
- Ashley Morris Alexander
- Melissa Renea Hamilton
- Abigail R. James
- Rahul Nayani
- Rachel Elizabeth Swafford
- Jerrod Adrian Wright
- Ashley Nicole Carnett
- Rachel Ann Hudak
- Badal Kalamkar
- Mona L. Olaimi
- Twanda Demetrias Wadlington
- ShaoQing Gong
- Jennifer Renee Hunt
- James Matthew McDaniel
- Katie A. Skelton
- Justin Taylor Wolfe

Bachelor of Science-Health Sciences
- Joshua Buckner
- Rebekah Salling
- Beena Patel
- Nunu Thirakul

Bachelor of Science-Public Health
Concentration: Community Health
- Haley Greenlee
- Jessica Ringhoffer
- April Kincaid
- Zachary Vandergriff
- Jennifer Bannister
- Heather Reynolds
- Tabetha McGill
- Christopher Hanor
- Priti Mistry
- Joshua Russell

Bachelor of Science-Environmental Health
- Jennifer Bannister
- Thomas Jarratt
- Jason Panganiban
- Jennifer Bannister
- Heather Reynolds
- Tabetha McGill
- Christopher Hanor
- Priti Mistry
- Joshua Russell

Pictured Above:
- Haley Greenlee with Dr. Randy Wykoff
- Mr. Mike McKamey with Thomas Jarratt
- Dr. Randy Wykoff with Rahul Nayani
CPR Events Offered Through Public Health Student Association

The Public Health Student Association participates in several CPR events throughout the academic year. Students are trained through the American Heart Association to be certified instructors who enter university and community settings to teach CPR. This service allows students to gain valuable knowledge and a set of tangible skills that they can use to help educate their fellow Tennesseans. The program has been so successful that past students have taken their knowledge directly to the field, fulfilling the program’s ultimate goal of saving the life of another by responding to an individual in an emergency situation using proven American Heart Association standards and techniques.
PHSA Nashville Trip 2011

The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) sponsors a legislative trip to Nashville for its members each spring, which presents the unique opportunity for the students to witness our state’s house and senate engaged in the legislative process. PHSA members have the opportunity to meet with senators such as Rusty Crowe and the Commissioner of Health Susan Cooper, and are able to have open discussion with them related to anything from politics, policy, personal stories and aspirations. Each year brings with it the potential for new and exciting learning experiences and this year was no exception. Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey took a few moments to meet each of us, our organization was given the privilege of presenting before the Senate General Welfare, Health and Human Resources Committee on issues we will be facing when we begin our careers, and we had the great honor of meeting the Governor of our great state, Mr. Bill Haslam. In the morning we converged on the capital building to observe a General Assembly Meeting in progress and had the great privilege of meeting with Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey. Mr. Ramsey was kind enough to allow each of us to introduce ourselves and explain to him who we were and where we were from. He also gave us a personal history of himself and his ties with our area. As a gift, we gave him a PHSA t-shirt which he placed under the Tennessee State flag where it remained throughout the session.

After the General Assembly meeting, four members of the Public Health Student Association, Emily Miller, Manuel Gonzales, Magdaline Hatzikazakis, and Amisha Patel addressed the General Welfare, Health and Human Resource Committee regarding health issues facing our state and us as future professionals … “These concerns related to infant mortality, childhood obesity, and the impact of our aging population.” Following this committee meeting Senator Rusty Crowe invited us into his office for a discussion regarding public health, politics and music. He was very encouraging and enthusiastic for our choice of professions, and even shared some stories related to his musical career and played some songs that he had written.

Another great honor was being able to meet, and have a brief discussion with Governor Bill Haslam. Not only did Mr. Haslam express his appreciation for our recognizing the efforts Tennessee has made to address the issues of concern presented before the General Welfare, Health and Human Resource Committee, he was pleased to see that the Public Health Student Association was showing interest in the legislation of Tennessee. He also offered encouragement for us as we continue our education and begin our careers.

Meeting with Commissioner Cooper is always a pleasure and very uplifting due to her kind nature, passion and commitment to her job, and her candid advice and encouragement for those of us who are aspiring to work in the public health field. Some advice …. To be a good leader one would want to “give the people who work with you the tools to do what they need to do.” “Never be satisfied with status quo.” At the end of the day she and her staff always ask themselves, “Who did we help today?” The commissioner left us with a few last inspiring words that were both empowering and uplifting, being sure to let us know that we “can always do something.”

We had a wonderful trip this year! The Public Health Student Association would like to thank our dean, Dr. Randy Wykoff, our instructors, the departments of Community Health and Health Services Administration, Dr. Mike Stoots and Mr. Mike McKamey, and participating members because without each of you this trip would not have been possible.

*Article submitted by: Mikki Johnson-Maczka*
Pictured Left:
PHSA Members
With
Commissioner of Health
Susan Cooper

Pictured Right:
PHSA Members
With
Governor
Bill Haslam

Pictured Above:
Left: Emily Miller, Magdaline Hatzikazakis, and Amisha Patel present before General Welfare Committee
Right: The Presentation team consisted of (left to right) Amisha Patel, Manuel Gonzalez, Magdaline Hatzikazakis, and Emily Miller
In spring 2004 I completed my B.S. in Public Health with a concentration in Patient Education from ETSU. That same year I was hired as a Public Health Educator for Washington County Health Department. As a Health Educator I conduct information and outreach projects for a variety of programs that include chronic disease prevention, tobacco control, teen pregnancy prevention, and rape/violence prevention. In January 2011 I also began facilitating for the Washington County Health Council and work closely with this grass-roots organization to implement large scale health promotion activities throughout the county.

I appreciate that the College of Public Health prepared me from a theoretical standpoint through the coursework and then allowed me to implement classroom-based skills in a practical setting during my field placement. Professional networking during my internship led me to interviewing for the health education role I have today. For this reason I count my field placement as one of the highlights of my undergraduate career. Currently I am working toward completing a master’s degree. I have once again chosen the College of Public Health to help me expand my professional skills and am excited to continue my education.

Community-based public health education is an exciting career for me. Every day I use the skills and theory approaches to planning, implementing, and evaluating health education programs that I gained from my time at ETSU. My professional goal is to make a difference in my community by educating people about living happier, healthier lives.

I appreciate that the College of Public Health prepared me from a theoretical standpoint through the coursework and then allowed me to implement classroom-based skills in a practical setting during my field placement.

-Christen Minnick
Student & Alumni News

Andrew Eubanks obtained employment as the local administrator for eMDee Clinica, a private family medicine practice in Bristol, VA.

Congratulations to Phani Veeranki whose research project “Stakeholder analysis of adoption and implementation of state-wide smoke-free policy in a tobacco-producing state,” was accepted to serve as a paper for panel discussion at the 2011 MPSA conference in March 2011.

Ashlee Hill obtained employment at Indian Path Hospital.

Katie Baker, Emma Apatu, David Blackley, Billy Brooks, Nash Aragam, and Megan Quinn spent January 17, the national Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, by volunteering at various nonprofit organizations throughout the area. An article and pictures were featured in the Johnson City Press.


Leslie Hammond, AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer and MSEH graduate, coordinated an effort to raise community awareness about the environmental impact of pollutants dumped into storm drains. An article on her efforts was published in the Johnson City Press.

Katie Skelton, a recent graduate with a master’s in Public Health, obtained employment at the Susan G. Komen Tri-Cities as Education and Outreach Coordinator.

Liang Wang- “Prevalence and risk factors of maternal depression during the first three years of child-rearing,” was accepted for publication in the Journal of Women’s Health.

Liang Wang- “HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Appalachia: Fighting obesity for our children,” was featured in the American Public Health Association Student Assembly Winter 2010 issue of News & Views, the Student Assembly Newsletter.

Jodi Southerland-A revised version of her article on Polypharmacy and Geriatric Populations (PUBH6130 Integrative Project) will be published in the next edition of Highlights-Rural Health Association of Tennessee (RHAT).

Thomas Jarratt, a recent MSEH graduate, obtained employment at Premium Waters, Inc. in Greeneville, TN.

Please send articles and news clippings about our Students and Alumni to Janet Stork at storkj@etsu.edu
ETSU Doctoral student Liang Wang received remarkable back-to-back recognition from the American Public Health Association!

Not only had he won one of only 5 "2009 Greg Alexander Outstanding Student Paper" awards from the Maternal and Child Health Section of the American Public Health Association, he won the award again in 2010! He was the only student in the country to win the award both years.

His 2010 paper, co-written with Dr. Tiejian Wu, was titled, "Effects of maternal depression on the development of childhood obesity" and was presented at the 138th annual meeting of the American Public Health Association in Denver. His 2009 paper, "Prevalence and risk factors of maternal depression during the first three years of childbearing," was co-written with Dr. Wu, Dr. Jim Anderson and Dr. Jim Florence. It was presented in Philadelphia.

He is shown with Dr. Cathy Taylor, Assistant Commissioner for Health Services, Tennessee Department of Health after receiving the award in Denver.

Degrees Offered

BS Public Health
- Community Health
- Health Administration

BS Health Sciences
- Human Health
- Microbiology

BS Environmental Health
- Environmental Health Practice
- Occupational Safety and Health

MPH
- Biostatistics
- Community Health
- Environmental Health
- Epidemiology**
- Health Services Administration **

MS Environmental Health
- Administration
- Specialist

DrPH
- Community Health
- Epidemiology

PhD Environmental Health

Graduate Certificates
- Biostatistics**
- Epidemiology**
- Gerontology
- Health Care Management**
- Rural Health

** Programs available on-ground and online.