Dear Friends of the College of Public Health:

Coming to the end of the semester is a great time to look back on the semester just passed. As you can see from this Newsletter, a great deal has happened over the course of the semester and the summer that preceded it. In this Newsletter, you can read about the new faculty and staff who have joined us . . . about books, articles, and presentations by our faculty and students . . . about new grants to further our research in public health . . . about a remarkable array of awards and recognitions . . . about some activities that have raised the visibility of our students across campus . . . and even about some new academic opportunities. If you are eagle-eyed you might even spot some of our retirees wearing space suits. But that is another story.

While we have a great deal to be proud of, and happy about, there have, of course, been losses. Dr. Art Hougland, a long-time member of the faculty, passed away in August. As one of people who helped to build our current College, and as a leader in the broader ETSU community, he will be missed. There have also been a number of faculty who have left the College for other opportunities.

Against these moments of sadness and regret, we continue to take comfort from the accomplishments of our faculty, staff, and students.

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and, as always, stay in touch.

Best wishes,

Randy Wykoff, M.D., MPH & TM
Dean and Professor-College of Public Health
In Memoriam-Dr. Art Hougland

Dr. Art Hougland

Dr. Art Hougland, a retired member of the faculty at ETSU, passed away on Wednesday, August 10, 2011. Dr. Hougland served as a professor in the Department of Health Science teaching microbiology to undergraduate and graduate students. In the College of Medicine, he was an adjunct faculty member in microbiology for many years, teaching medical students in the medical microbiology course. Dr. Hougland dutifully served as chair of the College of Medicine Admissions Committee for 15 years, the longest serving committee chair. Dr. Hougland received his Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of South Dakota and, before coming to ETSU, was a researcher for the Department of the Army at Fort Detrick. A retired colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps, Dr. Hougland commissioned a number of Quillen graduates at honors convocation each spring. Known for his outgoing sense of humor, Dr. Hougland was an outstanding teacher, colleague, and mentor. He was recognized for his contributions to the college by receiving the Dean’s Distinguished Teaching Award from Dr. Stanton in 1993. His tremendous service and dedication to the success of the medical school will always be remembered. He was married to Dr. Margaret Hougland, one of the very first faculty members of Quillen who is now Professor Emerita of Anatomy and Cell Biology. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Hougland family.

Departures

- Dr. Toni Bounds
- Dr. Chul Young-Roh
- Dr. Tim Aldrich
- Dr. Jim Florence
- Dr. Terry Lancaster
- Dr. Bruce Behringer

Pictured Above (From Left to Right):
Dr. Chul Young-Roh, Dr. Terry Lancaster, and Dr. Toni Bounds

Pictured Above:
Dr. Jim Florence
Welcome!

Shirley Schultz joined the College of Public Health as the Executive Aide of the new Public Health Training Center LIFEPATH. She is an East Carolina University graduate with a BS in Education. Shirley has provided service to East Tennessee State University (ETSU) through her work with the Student Organization Resource Center and Innovation Lab for the past 6 years. She has two children, Shaylah and John, who are graduates of ETSU. Shirley resides in Jonesborough, TN.

Taylor McKeehan joined the Department of Community Health on August 1, 2011, as a Project Coordinator to work on the College Students as Facilitators to Reduce Adolescent Obesity grant. She is from Spruce Pine, NC. She received her bachelor’s in Public Health from East Tennessee State University College of Public Health and is currently working on her master's in Public Health from ETSU.

Joanna Jeffers has joined the Dean’s Office as the Research Services Manager. Joanna comes to the College of Public Health from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs where she had multiple roles and responsibilities within sponsored programs and IRB.

Dr. Patrick Brown has joined the Department of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Brown comes from the Department of Biology at King College in Bristol, TN. He obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia and is involved in pedagogical research in addition to his interest in Algal research.

Dr. Arsham Alamian joined the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology as an Assistant Professor in August. He comes from the Public Health Agency of Canada where he was responsible for teaching epidemiology to health professionals. His Ph.D. is in Public Health with specialization in Epidemiology, University of Montreal and he has an MSc in Pharmacy with specialization in Pharmacoepidemiology, Laval University, Canada. Dr. Alamian’s research focus is chronic diseases with an emphasis on the clustering of behavioral risk factors among children and adolescent populations.

Dr. Liang Wang joined the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology as an Assistant Professor in August. He received his DrPH in Epidemiology in May 2011 from the College of Public Health, East Tennessee State University. He also has an MPH degree from ETSU and an M.D. in clinical medicine from Wuhan University in China. Dr. Wang worked closely with the late Dr. Tiejian Wu. His research interests and activities include maternal and child health issues, including chronic diseases, risk factors for long-term maternal depression, and risk factors for childhood obesity.
Newsworthy Events

- Congratulations to Carolyn Casto for earning certification in Supervisory Skills as well as her L.E.A.D. certification through ETSU’s Center for Employee Development.
- Congratulations to Janet Stork for earning her L.E.A.D. certification through ETSU’s Center for Employee Development.
- Congratulations to Julie Bowers for being awarded the Student Choice Award at the ETSU Centennial Celebration.
- Dr. Joel Hillhouse participated in a review of NCI SPORE (Specialized Programs of Research Excellence) applications. The SPORE Program is an important initiative of the NCI designed to fund multidisciplinary, multi-project programs that focus on translational research. The approach of a SPORE is to explore which basic research discoveries are most likely to impact human cancer and, rapidly and innovatively, implement their translation into the clinic.
- Dr. Bruce Goodrow, retired ETSU College of Public Health professor, delivered the keynote speech for the Department of Veterans Affairs national conference on rural health.
- Service Awards were presented as follows: 5 Years: Phyllis Cooper, Edward Onyango, Trisha Rogers, and Randy Wykoff; 10 Years: Ranjan Chakraborty, Karen Ervin and Brian Martin; 15 Years: Laraine Powers; and 25 Years: Phil Scheuerman. Congratulations on this achievement.
- Congratulations to Tim Baylor who was chosen by senior volleyball player Kiley Tamblyn for her Faculty Spotlight—the faculty member who has helped them most throughout their collegiate years.

Dr. Mamudu’s Forthcoming Book

Congratulations to Dr. Mamudu on his forthcoming book titled “Global Tobacco Control” in December 2011. The book is a product of years of research and analysis and represents a major contribution to the field of global health policy and tobacco control. Following a review of theories of policy change and the global policy context, the book covers the realities of tobacco control policymaking in the industrialized world, including European countries and the U.S., as well as in developing regions. The book also presents the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control and concludes with a discussion of how scientists explain global tobacco control policy. As the book description indicates, “It identifies a history of minimal tobacco control, linked to the power of the tobacco industry, then charts the extent to which governments, aided by public health advocates, have regulated tobacco domestically and internationally in the modern era.”
East Tennessee State University’s College of Public Health presented awards of excellence to faculty and staff members recently during its annual picnic at Rotary Park.

Dr. Randy Wykoff, dean of the college, presented the awards and also recognized retired faculty members in attendance.

The College of Public Health Foundation Teaching Award went to Dr. Alan Forsman, an associate professor in the Department of Health Sciences. Forsman has received acclaim not only from students who attend his anatomy and physiology and human anatomy classes, but also from those who access his lectures worldwide on iTunes U. Apple ranks its iTunes U downloads, and Forsman is so popular that he has at times held as many as four of the top six rankings for worldwide downloads of anatomy lectures.

Tim Baylor, an instructor in the Department of Health Services Administration, received the College of Public Health Foundation Service Award. He is the assistant dean for public health practice, coordinating student field internship experiences. He is an active facilitator in a number of regional initiatives to improve public health. Baylor also works on ETSU’s involvement in Frist Global Health Leaders, a program of the Hope Through Healing Hands Foundation which, with support from the Niswonger Foundation, provides support for students to complete their required field internship/practicum experience in developing countries.

The late Dr. Tiejian Wu, who was an associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, was chosen posthumously for the College of Public Health Foundation Research Award in recognition of his innovative research efforts to reduce teen obesity rates. The award was subsequently given to Wu’s widow, Yu Du.

The Outstanding Staff Award went to Chuck Patton, who is the executive aide for the Department of Environmental Health. Patton, who served as president of the ETSU Staff Senate for the 2010-11 academic year, was lauded in his nomination for his organizational skills, professionalism and dedication.

Wykoff presented Dean’s Recognition Awards to Dr. Brian Martin for his service as coordinator of the Master of Public Health degree program; Janet Stork, the dean’s executive aide, for her work on the college newsletter and the publication Dean’s Notes; and the faculty and staff from the Department of Health Sciences for their consistent efforts to effectively address the growing educational demands placed on their department by their two majors, as well as the growing number of pre-health science professional students who take courses offered by the department.
RDC awards boost ETSU research efforts

A total of over $242,000 has been awarded to faculty members at ETSU from the Research Development Committee (RDC) to support major projects for the 2011-2012 year. The RDC is coordinated by the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs Administration and is responsible for awarding intramural research dollars to faculty. In addition the RDC anticipates funding as many as 25 additional proposals during the upcoming academic year through the small grants program.

In the College of Public Health, the following faculty members were recipients of an RDC award:

Andy Nauli - “Characterizing dietary fat particles isolated from the intestinal cell culture model”

Chris Pritchett - “Identification of pseudomonas aeruginosa virulence factors using transposon mutagenesis and dic-tyostelium discoideum”
Dr. Tiejian Wu recognized as 2011 Health Care Hero

The late Tiejian Wu was recognized as a “2011 Health Care Hero” by the Business Journal of the Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia. A former associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology, Dr. Wu was dedicated to addressing the challenges of obesity in rural school children. Shortly after his death in February 2011, the College received notification that a major research grant from NIH had been awarded to the College of Public Health. Dr. Wu had remained active in working on the grant, in executing his research, and in student mentoring until shortly before he passed away.

Tiejian received his M.D. and MS in Biostatistics from Shandong University in China, and completed a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Buffalo, State University of New York. He completed post-doctoral fellowship training in the Population Research Center at the University of Chicago. Holding a joint appointment with the Department of Family Medicine, he had worked on a variety of topics, most recently community-based projects related to obesity, especially the role of parents in influencing childhood obesity in Appalachia.

http://www.etsu.edu/cph/NewsEventsDocuments/HealthCareHeroes.aspx

Doctoral Student Wins Prestigious Award

Mr. Lok R. Pokhrel, a doctoral student in the East Tennessee State University College of Public Health’s Department of Environmental Health, was awarded the “Adventus Americas Best Student Platform Presentation Award” for the presentation of his research paper at the 27th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy, which was held on October 17-20, 2011, at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA. The award includes an honorarium of $1000, an award certificate of recognition, and a gift memento. The award has been sponsored for the last eight years by Adventus Americas and is presented by the Association for Environmental Health Sciences (AEHS) Foundation. Mr. Pokhrel’s research paper is titled Evaluation of Aquatic Toxicity of Nanoscale Silver, Zinc oxide, Titanium Dioxide and Cadmium Selenide Quantum Dots, and their Ionic Particulates to the MetPLATE™ Bioassay.

Mr. Pokhrel’s PhD dissertation research is focused on understanding of potential risk of engineered nanomaterials, as an emerging contaminant, to human health and the environment and how rapid toxicity assessment methods such as MetPLATE could be effective in screening nanomaterials toxicity. Mr. Pokhrel’s research interests also include understanding fate and transport of engineered nanomaterials under different environmental conditions, risk assessment of environmental toxicants, green chemistry, waste management, multivariate analysis, and statistical modeling.

Dr. Brajesh Dubey, assistant professor in the Department of Environmental Health at East Tennessee State University, is Mr. Pokhrel’s PhD advisor. Significant insight on this project was also provided by Dr. Thabet Tolaymat, USEPA Office of Research and Development, National Risk Management Laboratory of Cincinnati; Dr. Amro El Badawy, University of Cincinnati; Dr. Phillip R. Scheuerman and Dr. Kurt J. Maier, Department of Environmental Health, East Tennessee State University. Mr. Pokhrel’s participation was facilitated in part by the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) of East Tennessee State University. http://fridayletter.asph.org/article_view.cfm?FLE_Index=16822&FL_Index=1697
ETSU College of Public Health Doctoral Candidate Receives Training Grant from NCI

Ms. Katie Baker, a third-year DrPH candidate and research assistant in the Department of Community Health, was awarded a $127,000 research training grant from the National Cancer Institute. Katie and her mentor, Dr. Joel Hillhouse, Director of the Skin Cancer Prevention Lab in the College of Public Health, received the Research Supplement to Promote Diversity in Health-Related Research as a supplement to Dr. Hillhouse’s current R01 grant titled, “An Appearance-Based Intervention to Reduce Teen Skin Cancer Risk.” These funds will support Katie for a 2-year period, during which she will complete her dissertation—a project focused on developing and evaluating an intervention intended to reduce teen girls’ risk of developing skin cancer while simultaneously improving overall mother-daughter communication. Her work is driven by her previous research that shows teen girls whose mothers engage in indoor tanning or express permissiveness toward indoor tanning typically begin tanning at a significantly earlier age and are more likely to become regular, habitual tanners by young adulthood.

Katie will also pursue a rigorous training agenda that includes advanced statistical coursework through Penn State University, grant-writing workshops offered through membership in the Society of Behavioral Medicine, and observations of clinical dermatology research at Northwestern University. She also intends to present the findings of her research at the Appalachian Student Research Forum and the annual meetings of the Society of Behavioral Medicine and the Society of Prevention Research.

East Tennessee Professor featured on CBS Sunday Morning

ETSU Community Health Professor Dr. Joel Hillhouse was featured on a “CBS Sunday Morning” report on the health risks of tanning. Dr. Hillhouse, Director of the ETSU Skin Cancer Prevention Laboratory, is an internationally respected authority on tanning, especially the risks of indoor tanning. He spoke both about the risks of tanning and the reasons, both psychologically and socially, that so many people continue to tan despite the wide-spread recognition of those risks. http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/08/14/sunday/main20091743.shtml?tag=contentMain;contentBody

With a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the State University of New York in Albany, Dr. Hillhouse has a long-standing research interest in how to encourage behavior change among adolescents. Dr. Hillhouse recently received a $2.7 million grant from NIH for an innovative strategy aimed at curbing indoor tanning use among teens. With this grant, Dr. Hillhouse and his research team are focusing on strategies that can help teens recognize that indoor tanning carries both short-term and long-term risks—and to focus on those risks most relevant to the teen’s decision-making process. With ETSU Doctoral student Katie Baker, and other members of the Skin Cancer Prevention team, Dr. Hillhouse recently published a study in the Archives of Dermatology about how mothers impact the indoor tanning practices of their daughters. The World Health Organization’s International Agency for Research on Cancer has assigned “sunlamps and sunbeds” and other “ultraviolet-emitting tanning devices” to its highest cancer risk category, “carcinogenic to humans.”
Lectures

- Robert Slattery, President/CEO of Integrated Solutions Health Network- “Transforming Healthcare Today and Beyond” -Breakfast with the Expert
- Greg Neal, President/CEO of Hawkins County, Hancock County, and Lee Regional Medical Centers- “It Wasn’t in the Box! Healthcare Management Tips I Learned in the Trenches” -Breakfast with the Expert
- Paul Brooks, Executive Director of Project HOPE United Kingdom- “The End of Disempowerment and Dependency: Rethinking the Path for AIDS Orphans in Africa” - Leading Voices in Public Health
- Scott Fowler, President of Holtson Medical Group- “Value Based Healthcare” -Breakfast with the Expert
- Stan Brock, Founder of Remote Area Medical- “Wapishana to Wise: Lessons Learned from 500,000 Patients” -Leading Voices in Public Health

Presentations by Faculty

Liang Wang- “Breastfeeding and the development of childhood obesity from grades 1 through 6” at the 139th APHA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

Ken Silver- “Early occupational pesticide exposure in a migrant farm worker population” in Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work in Chicago, Illinois

Ken Silver- “A campus-community partnership for tomato workers’ health” at the National Occupational Injury Research Symposium in Morgantown, West Virginia

Brian Martin- “Strategic Planning” at the Tennessee Public Health Association’s (TPHA) East Tennessee Meeting

Brian Martin- “Weight status misperception as related to selected health risk behaviors among middle school students” at the Tennessee Public Health Association’s (TPHA) Annual Meeting

Brian Martin- “Public Health Status” to ENCORE (a program sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce for adults over 50) at Holston Valley Hospital

Brian Martin- “Using Tele-Health to affect cardiovascular outcomes in rural areas: The case of southern Appalachia-Part II” at APHA Annual Meeting

Tim Baylor- “Comparative overview of the U.S. and five other international healthcare systems” to the P-3 class at the Gatton College of Pharmacy

Tim Baylor- “A look at the health status of Tennessee health and our nation” to the Current Issues in Appalachia class

Amal Khoury- “Predictors of Breast Cancer Screening—Women’s and Providers’ Perspectives at the Internal Medicine Research Seminar Series

Amal Khoury- Moderating a roundtable discussion on “Women’s health and health care reform” at the Quillen College of Medicine Women’s Health Conference

Joel Hillhouse- “Skin cancer prevention in youth: From understanding to behavior change” at the 2011 Internal Medicine Research Seminar Series

Ken Silver- “Promoting health in migrant tomato farmers in East Tennessee” at the annual meeting of the Rural Health Association of Tennessee in Pigeon Forge on November 17. This poster presentation won second prize and was co-authored by students Nicole Manz and Sean O’Connor.
East Tennessee Doctoral Student Publishes Article on Polypharmacy in Elderly

Jodi Southerland, a DrPH Community Health student, has had an article published on polypharmacy in the elderly. Published electronically by the Rural Health Association of Tennessee, http://www.rhat.org, the article appeared in the May 10, 2011, edition of the RHAT Digest. The article reflects Jodi’s deep professional interest in the challenges facing rural elderly populations.

Jodi, originally from Greene County, Tennessee, completed her field placement as an ASPIRE Appalachia Scholar. The ASPIRE Appalachia program (Alphin Scholarship to Promote the Integration of Research and Environmental Education in Appalachia) was created by William Kenneth “Big Kenny” Alphin of the country duo “Big and Rich.” Jodi’s ASPIRE Appalachia project was working with a regional NGO known as Of One Accord, Inc. which addresses the needs of indigent populations in Hawkins and Hancock counties, in rural Tennessee.

Jodi received her undergraduate degree from Lee University and a master’s degree, with a concentration in relief and development, from Biola University. She has volunteered with Sinikithemba HIV/AIDS Centre in South Africa and has also worked as an elementary teacher with Kwasizabantu Mission, and as a research assistant conducting ethnographic research among Zulu tribe members in KwaZulu-Natal. She has also assisted with humanitarian relief efforts in Eldoret and Kisumu Kenya.

ETSU Pride Week

To launch ETSU Pride Week, the campus and community members decorated their doors, windows, and offices in honor of this year’s theme: “Imagine the Next 100 Years.” The Dean’s Office for the College of Public Health participated by turning the hallway outside their door into a spaceship named the U.S.S. Publicon complete with a “Bucky” Robot and a transporter. One window featured a Hall of Fame of former faculty. The College placed third in the contest.
Ken Silver and Sean O’Conner present at NIOSH-NIEHS Conference

Ken Silver and Sean O’Connor (MD-MPH candidate) attended the NIOSH-NIEHS conference on Eliminating Health and Safety Disparities at Work, September 13-15 in Chicago. Their poster, “Early occupational pesticide exposure in a migrant farm worker population,” was based on work performed in the migrant section of the Rural Track interprofessional course. Community partners included staff of the Migrant Program at Rural Medical Services in Parrottsville, TN, as well as staff of the Migrant Clinicians Network, a national organization. Sean met (and was wooed by) several leaders in the field of occupational health at the conference, which had several sessions on integrating health promotion with traditional industrial hygiene programs. In addition, September 13 was Alice Hamilton Day per a declaration of Illinois’ Governor Pat Quinn, honoring the 100th anniversary of Dr. Hamilton’s groundbreaking “Illinois Survey” of the dangerous trades. Ken attended a program at the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health and a reception at the historic Hull House settlement house where Hamilton often stayed.

Recent Publications by Faculty

Hadii Mamudu- “UN resolution on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases: An opportunity for global action” in Global Public Health

Hadii Mamudu- “International trade versus public health during the FCTC negotiations, 1999-2003” in Tobacco Control

Amal Khoury- “Universal iron supplementation: A simple and effective strategy to reduce anemia among low-income, postpartum women” in Public Health Nutrition

Ken Silver- “Genetic susceptibility testing for beryllium: Worker knowledge, beliefs, and attitudes” in American Journal of Industrial Medicine

Toni Bounds and Bruce Behringer- “The mini-grant model: A strategy to promote local implementation of state cancer plans in Appalachian communities” in Public Health Research, Practice, and Policy

Hadii Mamudu- “The nature, scope and development of the global tobacco epistemic community” in American Journal of Public Health

Joel Hillhouse– Chapter 4: “Motivations for Indoor Tanning: Theoretical models” and Chapter 9: “A systematic review of intervention efforts to reduce indoor tanning” in the book Shedding Light on Indoor Tanning by Springer Publishing

Kesheng Wang, T.J. Wu, Joel Hillhouse- “Association of ADAM10 and CAMK2A Polymorphisms with Conduct Disorder: Evidence from family-based studies” in Journal of Abnormal Child Psychology

Hadii Mamudu (with Sumati Dadkar, Sreenivas P. Veeranki, and Yi He)- “Tobacco control in Tennessee: Stakeholder Analysis of the development of the non-smoker protection act, 2007.” (www.escholarship.org/uc/item/8z38c04x)
Dr. Joel Hillhouse, Professor of Community Health, was recognized at the annual faculty convocation with the receipt of the 2011 Distinguished Faculty Award in Research. The award, which includes a medallion, a plaque, and a check for $5,000, is given to the outstanding faculty researcher at ETSU. Hillhouse’s research focuses on the potentially harmful effects of indoor tanning and the behaviors that prompt teens and college students to tan even when they are aware of its link to skin cancer. His innovative work has been consistently supported by a variety of grant funding sources.

In 2010, Hillhouse received a $2.7 million grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to devise a program that, through the creation of a Web site and the use of social media, could dissuade teens from tanning and lower their risk for developing skin cancer.

Hillhouse’s research is frequently published in scholarly journals. The bulk of his 38 peer-reviewed papers has addressed the topic of skin cancer prevention related to tanning, and two of his four published book chapters are also on the subject. Through his body of work, he has become one of the nation’s leading experts in his field.

In the past year, Hillhouse has appeared in stories in the magazines TIME and Cosmopolitan, as well as The New York Times. He was the expert source in an August 2011 story on tanning by the national newsmagazine “CBS Sunday Morning.” Over the past decade, his research has been sourced in the popular media at least 135 times, and colleagues have cited him no less than 850 times in scholarly literature.

Writing in support of Hillhouse’s nomination for the award, Dr. Randy Wykoff, dean of the College of Public Health, praised him for not only expanding his own research portfolio, but also that of others in the college. He has been an active researcher even while carrying a heavy teaching load, Wykoff added.

“Dr. Hillhouse has served as chair of the College of Public Health Research Development Committee, which means he has been using his scholarly expertise to expand the research capability of the college,” Wykoff wrote. “He has also exhibited a remarkable focus on helping new students develop their research careers. The fact that he has allowed his students to not only have ‘first author’ designation on their joint papers but to also allow them to share in the media spotlight reflects his very significant commitment to helping create the next generation of scholars.”
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**
- Brenda R. Darling
- Monica Lee Durrett
- Yi He
- Amanda Brooke Horne
- Meng Liu
- Danielle Mullin
- Laura Katherine Neel
- Shyam Sunder Singa Reddy
- Kristen B. White

**Bachelor of Science-Health Sciences**
- Malinka Kay Abram
- Meagan N. Batchelor
- Sonya V. Chairez
- Dustin Harris Cowan
- Sally Renee Cox
- Meredith R. Goins
- Aryn B. Gosnell
- Mark Aaron Grubbs
- Rebekah Kate Hillman
- Taizley Ann Hotz
- Matthew Aaron Jones
- Joshua Shane Manuel
- Jamie L. Koren
- Lindsey N. King
- Kaley Loran Lovell
- Kristen Allison Raedel
- Heath Andrew Nier

**Bachelor of Science-Public Health**
- Rachael Jean Branham
- Tyler Wayne McDaniel
- Taylor Leigh McKeenan
- Bethesda J. O’Connell
- Nicole Ashley Pearson

**Bachelor of Science-Health Services Administration**
- Amanda Blevins
- Melonie Kay Combs Buchanan
- Aubrey Nicole Childress
- Dianna Nicole Dishner
- Amanda Rae Dowell
- Jessica Dawn Gouge
- Sarah D. Moton
- Maurice SeQuan Stallworth
- Kimberly Nichole Whaley

**Bachelor of Science-Environmental Health**
- Amanda Diana Holley
- Kaitlin Jane Justus
Student Awards

Calvin B. Garland: Taylor McKeehan
John P. Lamb: Sarakay Johnson
Jay Allen: Rachael Branham
Bruce A. Goodrow: Beth O’Connell
MPH – Health Services: Sumati Dadkar
UG – Health Services: Michael “Drew” Grindstaff
Chair’s Service – HSA: Aubrey Childress
Outstanding ENVH: Thomas Jarrett
PHSA Leadership: Tracy Pate
DrPH – Community Health: Jodi Southerland
MPH – Community Health: Mikki Johnson
UG – Community Health: Tracy Pate
Chair’s Service – Community Health: Roger Blackwell
Bio/Epi Graduate: Kristen White
Bio/Epi Doctoral: Nagesh Aragam
Bio/Epi Chair’s Service: Katie Neel
Health Sciences Outstanding: Tazley Hotz
Heath Nier
“Unsung Hero”: Jennifer Hovatter
PHSA finished the spring semester on a fantastic note. We were able to expand the organization to better serve the students by creating events that focused on career development, service, and health education. Aubrey Childress and Mikki Johnson partnered with Dr. David Magee, the Director of University Career Services, to organize a Career Development Series. The development series taught invaluable skills such as resume building, interviewing and networking, and corporate etiquette. These events were formulated to help prepare those students going into the workforce and make them feel more confident in their ability to apply for jobs.

Our other major events of the spring semester all happened in the same week! National Public Health Week took place from April 4th - April 8th and several events during this week helped to raise awareness about public health around campus and the community. On April 6th we held our annual carnival of health, Wellapalooza, and had a terrific time! There were a lot of different groups on campus that helped organize this event and we give credit to everyone who participated for making it such a success. On Friday April 8th we concluded National Public Health Week by participating in the annual American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life. Big thanks go out to Captain Magdaline Hatzikazakis for the amazing work she did to make this service event a success. We had one of the best tents onsite and raised the most money of all the groups (for the second year in a row)!

We ended the school year in such a great way that it got people really excited for the fall semester. Additionally, we had one student who started an event in the summer that deserves special recognition. Jennifer Hovatter took a health education initiative by founding The Thomas Hovatter Lymphedema Awareness Day. She asked everyone she knew to tie a turquoise ribbon around their tree from June 17th -19th, 2011, to help promote this state-wide event. PHSA is very lucky to have students that are out there making a difference in their community for the things they believe in and care for. We want to thank everyone for the amazing year, and we look forward to all the fun things to come!
**About our Image**

This photograph, representing the remarkable natural beauty of east Tennessee, is of Hazel Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains. It has been selected to represent the College of Public Health because it reflects the importance of our regional environment to both public health and to our local quality of life. This photograph was taken by Tennessee native Kim Guinn and is used with his permission.

The plants in this picture were identified by Dr. Foster Levy, Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and Director, Undergraduate Research. The medicinal use of these plants, as used by the early settlers in the region has been identified by Dr. Anthony Cavender, Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology and author of the book *Folk Medicine in Southern Appalachia*.

**Black Birch** (*Betula lenta* L.) Better known as sweet birch in southern Appalachia, its inner and outer bark contains an essential oil that has the flavor and scent of wintergreen. In the past, the sap was used to make a beer and a tea made from the bark was ingested for rheumatism and fever. A toothbrush was made by chewing one end of a sweet birch twig to a fibrous state.

**Branch lettuce** (*Saxifraga micranthidifolia*) Also known as “bear lettuce” in southern Appalachia, the leaves of this plant have traditionally been eaten with other wild greens (e.g., dandelion, plantain, and poke) to strengthen and clean blood. A favorite method of consumption is to “kill” the greens with bacon grease, i.e., pour hot bacon grease on them.

**Hemlock** (*Tsuga Canadensis*) The bark is strong in tannins and a decoction made with it was applied to wounds to stop bleeding and gargled in the mouth after pulling a tooth to stop profuse bleeding from a tooth socket.

**Ironweed** (*Vernonia altissimia, Vernonia fasciculate*) Some sources indicate that a tea made from the roots and leaves of ironweed was used as a blood cleaner, to treat stomach disorders, and to sweat out a cold.
ESSENTIALS

Silas Tolan and Beth O’Connell completed their BSPH field placements in very different settings in Sierra Leone and Rwanda, respectively. Among their many field experiences, both helped to build “bio-sand” water filters—an effective, and efficient mechanism to provide clean water for drinking and cooking. Building these filters was essential to enhancing the quality of life in their host communities, but it was not a skill that they had learned during their Public Health training at ETSU.

After their return, we began to talk about what other skills our students might reasonably be expected to know if they were to become mission workers in a less-developed country, Peace Corps volunteers in a rural and isolated community, or following displacement due to natural or man-made disasters. This led to the development of a new course that we hope to offer in the very near future. Known as ESSENTIALS (Essential Skills, Strategies, and Expertise Necessary To Improve and Advance Low-resource Settings), this hands-on course is designed to teach a wide-range of “applied skills” essential for living and working in limited resource settings.

To date, using the wonderful facility at Valleybrook, faculty-student groups, under the direction of Dr. Mike Stoots and Silas Tolan (who, like Beth, is now in the MPH program) have completed pilot projects building a Brick Stack Stove, a Biosand Water Filter, a concrete Beehive Stove, a Rus-style water pump, a “tippy tap” field hand-washing station, a roof-top water catchment system, a tire-based “urban garden,” and a model building with three different walls (home-made brick, wattle and daub and corrugated iron). Numerous future projects are planned, including: a composting latrine; scalable water filtration systems, several other types of “urban/small scale” gardening models, a rain-water irrigation system, food preservation techniques, and related skills.

What we have discovered is that ESSENTIALS is not only a wonderful mechanism to teach students how to build some life-sustaining products, but also a tremendous tool for developing student skills in problem-solving, creativity, and teamwork. Everyone is invited to contact the Dean’s Office to find out more about ESSENTIALS.

Grant Award

A grant for $14,828 has been awarded by the Southeast Center for Agricultural Health and Injury Prevention (University of Kentucky’s NIOSH funding) for a feasibility study on “Tomato Worker Ergonomics: REBA Panel Evaluation of Video.” (REBA is the Rapid Entire Body Assessment method.) Dr. Ken Silver is the Principal Investigator, with Dr. Joe Florence (Family Medicine) as Co-investigator. Dr. Nate Fethke of the University of Iowa, formerly of ETSU’s Department of Environmental Health, is a consultant.
Student & Alumni News

Rupesh Shirore’s research abstract entitled “Measuring the organizational performance in Tennessee: A case of community hospitals” was accepted for presentation at the ISPOR 14th Annual European Congress that was held in Madrid, Spain in November. This abstract was also accepted for the TPHA Annual Educational Meeting that was held in September.

David Blackley’s (with Dr. Bruce Behringer and Martin Whiteside) manuscript “The burden of lung cancer in Tennessee: Adopting a regional perspective” was accepted for publication in Tennessee Medicine.

Sreenivas P. Veeranki’s “Determinants of adolescents’ (11-17 years) support for smoke-free polices globally” was selected for the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health 14th Annual Student Poster Session through the Academic Public Health Caucus during the 139th American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

Christen Minnink accepted a position as regional Health Promotion Coordinator at the Northeast Regional Health Office.

Twanda Wadlington and Beth O’Connell presented a poster to Jenny Dyer of the Hope Through Healing Hands Foundation in thanks for its support of the Frist Global Health Leaders Program. To date, eight ETSU students have been supported to complete their field experience by the FGHL program. Additional support for ETSU’s FGHL has been provided by the Niswonger Foundation.

David Blackley’s manuscript “Appalachian cancer mortality” was accepted by the Journal of Community Health.

Student Welcome Back Picnic

Over the course of the last few years, student leaders and College leadership have worked very hard to streamline and organize the College Student Council and delineate its responsibilities. The Student Council serves as a representative board for the many departments of the College of Public Health and advocates for the students of the College by soliciting feedback and communicating concerns directly to the Dean of the College and to College leadership. Ultimately, the Council serves as a liaison between students and faculty/administration.

As a part of its efforts, the College of Public Health Student Council hosted a Welcome Back Picnic for faculty, staff and students on Tuesday, September 6th. The event was held in the Lamb Hall breezeway and was well attended. In fact, Katie Baker, President of the Student Council, estimated that 150 members of the College stopped by for refreshments and socializing. The College’s student organizations set up booths during the picnic, and representatives from the Public Health Student Association (PHSA) and the Tennessee Environmental Health Association (TEHA) were able to recruit new members. Student attendees were surveyed on activities they would like to participate in this year, and the Student Council is in the process of compiling those results. Survey respondents were entered into a drawing for a College of Public Health goodie-bag – complete with a coffee mug, a leather-bound notebook, and a mouse pad. Nicole Holt, a 2nd-year DrPH student in Epidemiology, was the lucky winner.

The Student Council would like to thank Dr. Randy Wykoff and the Dean’s office staff for their support in organizing and executing this wonderful event. The Council is already looking forward to planning the event for next fall!
LIFEPATH

The Tennessee Long-Distance Internet Facilitated Educational Program for Applied Training in Health (Tennessee LIFEPATH) is a workforce development partnership aimed at public health employees in the state of Tennessee. LIFEPATH is a partnership that provides formal academic training and non-academic training to Tennessee’s public health workforce. LIFEPATH is housed at the East Tennessee State University College of Public Health and includes academic partnerships with the Meharry College of Medicine, the University of Memphis, the University of Tennessee, and non-academic partnerships with the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Public Health Association.

LIFEPATH’s mission is to “provide a home for the collaborative partnership between Tennessee’s academic public health training providers and Tennessee’s public health workforce, and to provide comprehensive, competency-based training for that workforce.” LIFEPATH’s vision is to “be a vital collaboration that will provide multiple entry points for public health workers to obtain public health education and training designed to improve their skills, experiences, and competencies. LIFEPATH will provide a wide range of academic and non-academic programs to assure that Tennessee’s public health workforce has the knowledge, skills, and training to meet Tennessee’s present and forthcoming health challenges.”

For more information about LIFEPATH and its offerings, please visit www.tnphtc.org or contact Paula Masters at 423-439-4421 or mastersp@etsu.edu.

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

DrPH
- Community Health
- Epidemiology

PhD Environmental Health

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

** Programs available on-ground and online.

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