

Health Impact

SPHHP.BUFFALO.EDU

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF POPULATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS

FALL 2017

**NEW PROGRAMS IN
PUBLIC HEALTH, ATHLETIC TRAINING
AND STATISTICS EXPECTED TO
DOUBLE THE SCHOOL'S SIZE.**

PAGE 4



This academic year marks a significant milestone for our school. We have added three new programs to our already outstanding academic offerings in the form of an undergraduate degree program in public health, an undergraduate degree program in statistics, and a combined bachelor's in exercise science and master's in athletic training program. The addition of the new programs is expected to not only double the school's size over the next five years, but also increase the diversity of our student body. I encourage you to read more about these programs on page four as well as on our website at sphhp.buffalo.edu.



We have a fall semester full of activities and events, including the J. Warren Perry Lecture on Nov. 2.

The annual Perry Lecture will be given by Dr. Russell Pate. Dr. Pate is a professor in the Department of Exercise Science and director of the Children's Physical Activity

Research Group in the Arnold School of Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He has a long history of research and professional pursuits related to physical activity and a wide range of health issues. Among other contributions, Dr. Pate has held leadership roles in the Exercise is Medicine initiative and in developing national/presidential plans to enhance participation in physical activity in the U.S.

As the school continues to grow and change, we are looking forward to the excitement that will come with the start of 2017-18 academic school year in the School of Public Health and Health Professions. I hope you enjoy reading about all of this and more in this issue of the Health Impact Magazine!

Jean Wactawski-Wende

Dean, UB School of Public Health and Health Professions
SUNY Distinguished Professor

Annual Lectures

Two of the school's annual lectures—Saxon Graham and Glen E. Gresham—took place earlier this spring. The 11th annual Saxon Graham Lecture was presented by Julie Mares, PhD, MSPH, professor in the Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The 7th annual Glen E. Gresham Lecture was presented by Karen Jacobs, EdD, OTR/L, CPE, FAOTA, a clinical professor of occupational therapy and program director of the Online Post-Professional Doctoral in Occupational Therapy (OTD) program at Boston University.

For more information on both lectures, visit sphhp.buffalo.edu/annual-lectures.



40 Years of Service



After 40 years of service, Mike Noe, MD, MPH has retired from the University at Buffalo.

Since 2003, Noe has served as associate dean for community relations and clinical affairs at SPHHP, a role that fit well within his clinical interest in graduate and professional training of physicians in preventive medicine, medical management, quality improvement healthcare, geriatric medicine and long-term medicine, and in addressing the health risks of caregivers.

Noe led numerous initiatives and played an instrumental role in program development both at SPHHP and in the Western New York community.

Colleagues and friends honored Mike for his many years of service at a farewell reception in Harriman Hall on May 25, 2017.

Occupational Therapy Grads Pass National Boards with Flying Colors

For the first time in at least the past five years, 100 percent of the SPHHP students who took the National Board for Certification of Occupational Therapists (NBCOT) exam within a year of graduation passed the test.

Congratulations OT graduates on this remarkable accomplishment!



Summer Camp

For the second consecutive year, SPHHP collaborated with the Erie Niagara Area Health Education Center (ENAHEC) to offer a week-long summer camp for Buffalo Public Schools students. Campers participated in hands-on sessions and learned about a wide-range of topics related to both public health and health professions. To learn more, visit sphhp.buffalo.edu/how.

2017 UB Delta Omega Inductees



Nineteen new members were recently inducted into Gamma Lambda, the University at Buffalo Chapter of Delta Omega. Founded in 1924, Delta Omega is the honorary society for graduate studies in public health and has over 70 Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)-accredited schools and programs providing advanced public health degrees. This year's inductees are: Rachael Burganowski, MS; Robert Coleman, MPH; Joseph Consiglio, PhD; Rachel Daws, MSW, MPH; Roseann DeVito, MPH; Shiva Dibaj, PhD; Elizabeth Domachowske, MPH; Yichen Fan, MA; Mojgan Golzy, PhD; Jeffrey Haibach, PhD; Rebecca Hammett, MPH; Neriya Izhakov, MPH; Michael LaMonte, PhD, MPH; Marianthi Markatou, PhD; Albina Minlikeeva, PhD; Angela Pieprzak, PharmD, MPH; Amy Shaver, MPH; J. Brian Szender, MD, MPH; and Laura Terreri, DPT, MPH.



New Student Lounge

In addition to the many renovations made to improve student spaces this past year, a new student lounge was opened

Students attend coffee social during unveiling of the new student lounge in Farber Hall.

in Farber Hall in the spring. Students of all disciplines are able to enjoy the space to study, eat and socialize.

Making improvements to our student spaces is important to us. Are you interested in donating towards further renovations? Give to SPHHP's UB Fund by visiting bit.ly/SPHHP-UBfund.



Police Officer Study Rises to First Place Rank

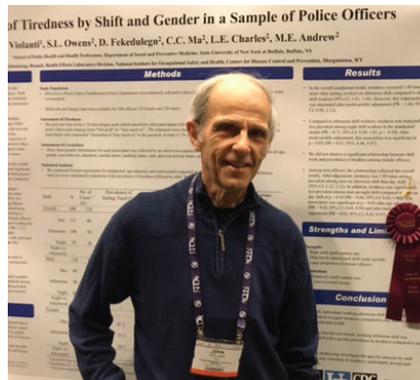
POLICE OFFICERS ON THE AFTERNOON SHIFT

are twice as likely to report being tired, according to a University at Buffalo-led study.

"Officers who work the afternoon shift are more likely to be fatigued, which puts them at greater risk for accidents, errors and stress," said John Violanti, the study's lead author and research professor of epidemiology and environmental health in SPHHP.

The study on shift work and fatigue among police officers was part of Violanti's ongoing research project known as the Buffalo Cardio-Metabolic Occupational Police Stress (BCOPS) study, which includes occupational-related data on more than 300 members of the Buffalo Police Department and includes a 15-year work history database that contains a daily account of start times and hours worked for the participating officers. The results showed that working the afternoon shift is associated with a two-fold higher prevalence of fatigue among male police officers compared to those working the day shift, Violanti reported.

Afternoon shifts—which typically go from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m.—are the busiest because of traffic control, motor vehicle accidents, domestic disputes and assaults and homicides, explained Violanti, who served with the New York State Police for more than two decades before moving into academia.



Violanti and his co-authors, which included researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), won first place in the poster competition at the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses (AAOHN) Annual Conference in New Orleans, where they presented their findings.

SPHHP Adds New Programs in Public Health, Athletic Training and Statistics

An undergraduate degree program in public health, an undergraduate degree program in statistics, and a combined bachelor's in exercise science and master's in athletic training program will be available beginning in the fall of 2017.

"The addition of the new programs provides new opportunities for students interested in joining our school and the university," said Jean Wactawski-Wende, dean of SPHHP.

"We focused on growing our academic offerings of degree programs in high demand in the workforce in the coming years and that complement our current academic programs. Our school is in a unique position and one of only a few programs in New York State with such offerings. We continue to enroll an increasingly diverse student population and have the ability to connect our students with our outstanding alumni base," Wactawski-Wende added.



» IMPROVING HEALTH OF POPULATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS LOCALLY AND GLOBALLY

Public health represents a growing and dynamic field with opportunities to address the world's most pressing health problems. The discipline is a combination of both the science and art of advancing the health of individuals, families, communities and populations through education, promotion of healthy behaviors and research on disease and injury prevention.

The undergraduate degree program, which offers graduates a Bachelor of Science in public health, provides students with the skills necessary to understand the factors that influence health and to take a public health approach to addressing these factors to improve health outcomes for individuals and societies.

"There are substantial synergies between public health education and the University at Buffalo's strengths and signature areas," says Marc Kiviniemi, director of Undergraduate Public Health Initiatives and associate professor in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior.

"The undergraduate degree in public health arguably has some fit with all of UB's institutional themes, with especially strong ties to health professions, health equity and the impact of our environment on health. Students in this program ultimately can seek careers in health professions, management and environmental sciences, to name a few," Kiviniemi said.

Students interested in these new programs should contact the Office for Academic and Student Affairs at 716-829-5000 or sphhp-oasa@buffalo.edu. Information on all the academic offerings provided by SPHHP is available at sphhp.buffalo.edu.



» AN EXPEDITED PATH TO HELPING KEEP ATHLETES HEALTHY

The combined degree program offering a bachelor's degree in exercise science and a master's degree in **athletic training** is designed to provide an expedited path to education in exercise science while completing the requirements for certification in athletic training. Interested students seeking to complete this program can apply to the undergraduate portion of the curriculum as freshman.

This new program will help meet the growing demand for athletic trainers, said Dave Hostler, chair and professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences.

"In cooperation with physicians and other health care personnel, the athletic trainer functions as an important member of the health care team in schools, colleges, universities, professional sports programs, sports medicine clinics and other health care settings. Sports and physical activity are integral parts of our culture, and are important for health and wellness. There is a growing need for professionals at every level to keep athletes and competitors healthy," said Hostler.

Wactawski-Wende adds that the new program will allow the school to collaborate with UB's Division of Athletics and will expand its role in training health care professionals. "Our program will emphasize strong clinical skills and the training of exceptional clinicians," she said. "It is intended to create the next generation of leaders in athletic training who are well-versed in contributing to evidence-based practice."

Thank you to the family and friends of Paul DeMartinis for establishing an Athletic Training Student Support Fund in his name to honor his memory. Connecting Paul's legacy to enable future athletic trainers to complete their education is an extraordinary way to recognize his belief in the noble calling of the athletic trainer.



» A RESPONSE TO INCREASING DEMAND FOR EXPERTS IN STATISTICS AND A GROWING JOB MARKET

An undergraduate degree program in **statistics**, which was last offered at UB in 1998, will be offered through SPHHP's Department of Biostatistics and led by Undergraduate Program Director and Research Professor Dietrich Kuhlmann.

Currently, UB is one of only two State University of New York (SUNY) schools to offer an undergraduate major in statistics.

While the department currently offers an undergraduate minor in statistics, Kuhlmann says growth in the job market and a renewed interest in the field have led to increased demand for a more comprehensive, rigorous statistics curriculum.

"With the advent and proliferation of big data, there is a rapidly increasing demand for individuals who can provide a statistical skill set," says Kuhlmann. "Job growth is strong and statisticians are employed in a wide array of job sectors. We're very proud to be bringing this program back, and I'm excited to begin mentoring the next generation of statisticians so they are prepared to succeed."

The program will include coursework on topics such as statistical inference, probability, regression analysis and analysis of variance. Additional electives will be offered in areas such as statistical computing, quality control, methods of survey samples and more.

"Not only will a major in statistics provide students the mathematical and computational tools to prepare for a successful career in science or industry, it will also serve to prepare students interested in graduate degrees in a variety of disciplines," says Gregory Wilding, chair of the Department of Biostatistics.

"Furthermore, students will be able to broaden their possibilities for employment by combining the high-quality statistics education they will receive with other fields of study."



National Public Health Week Celebrated with Full Slate of Events

APRIL IS ALWAYS A BUSTLING TIME.

Not only are students gearing up for finals and graduation, but the school also recognizes National Public Health Week (NPHW) in a big way.

Over the course of April, SPHHP hosted over 30 events which included numerous speakers, educational seminars, interactive activities, thought-provoking discussions, informative presentations and self-care activities.

The featured event was the school's annual **Step Challenge**.

The 2017 Step Challenge aimed to unite the University at Buffalo and Western New York community through a fun program that promoted healthy activity while increasing individual efforts towards living healthy lifestyles. For more information on the 2017 Step Challenge, [see page 10](#).

One of most anticipated speakers to take part in NPHW was Erie County Department of Health Commissioner

Gale Burstein, MD, MPH, FAAP. Burstein spoke for a public health seminar hosted by the Master of Public Health (MPH) program. Her talk presented the issues related to higher rates of sexually transmitted infections in Buffalo and Erie County. She also discussed the importance of collaborating with providers and communities on prevention and control efforts that are designed to interrupt current and future outbreaks of syphilis, gonorrhea and HIV.

In addition to lectures and seminars, the school also hosted several of its annual events as part of the celebrations, including the **J. Warren Perry Poster Day** and **Student Awards Breakfast**. J. Warren Perry Poster Day provides an opportunity for faculty and students from all five departments within the school to present their research and integrative projects to colleagues and peers. Each year, a winning poster is selected from each of the school's five departments as voted on by a panel of faculty experts.



The annual **Student Awards Reception**, is organized to recognize and celebrate the wonderful accomplishments and present awards to selected students of the school. Faculty members from the school's five departments, the Office of Global Health Initiatives and the Dean's Office presented awards during the event held in the beautifully-renovated Hayes Hall on UB's South Campus. To view photos from this event, visit <http://bit.ly/2tK03Um>.

To learn more about SPHHP's NPHW celebrations and to get involved in next year's activities, visit sphhp.buffalo.edu/nphw.

Pictured above: **1** Vinyasa Yoga in Hayes Hall led by alumna Elise Pogorzelski '11. **2** Diana Korzhukova, recipient of this year's Glenda R. Reardon Student Assistance Fund, with family members of the late Glenda Reardon. **3** Gale Burstein speaking to students at the public health seminar. **4** Professor and chair of the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, Gary Giovino (left) listens intently as Sharyl Evans (right) presents her 2017 J. Warren Perry Poster Day poster.



This year's J. Warren Perry Poster Day winners:

Biostatistics

Data-driven Confidence Interval Estimation Incorporating Prior Information with an Adjustment for Skewed Data
Li Zou, Albert Vexler and Alan D. Hutson

Community Health and Health Behavior – MPH/Master's Level

Sexual Assault Prevention on College Campuses
Sharyl P. Evans and Heather Orom

Community Health and Health Behavior – Doctoral Level

MApp, a Smartphone App for Reducing Young Adults' Marijuana Use: Preliminary Findings
Sandy D. Wilson, R. Lorraine Collins, Paula Vincent, and Jeffrey McLaughlin

Epidemiology and Environmental Health – MPH/Master's Level

Red Blood Cell Membrane Fatty Acids and Incident Age-Related Macular Degeneration in Postmenopausal Women
Andrea Elmore, William S. Harris, Lina Mu, William E. Brady, Mark A. Espeland, Julie A. Maes, and Amy E. Millen.

Epidemiology and Environmental Health – Doctoral Level

Telomere Length Genetic Risk Score is Associated with Breast Cancer Risk
Laurie Grieshober, Jean Wactawski-Wende, Rachael Hageman Blair, Lina Mu, Leah Preus, Jing Nie, Jiali Han, Jaymie R. Meliker, Thomas Rohan, Heather M. Ochs-Balcom

Exercise and Nutrition Sciences – Master's Level

Maternal Diet-Induced Hypercholesterolemia Programs Lipoprotein Metabolism by Increasing VLDL Particle Number and Size in C57BL6/J Mouse Progeny
Joyce Mathew, Amy Raslawsky, and Todd C. Rideout

Exercise and Nutrition Sciences – Doctoral Level

Blood Pressure Responses to Acute Peripheral Chemoreceptor Activation are Attenuated during Head-Out Water Immersion
James R. Sackett, Zachary J. Schlader, Suman Sarker, Christopher L. Chapman, and Blair D. Johnson.

Rehabilitation Science

Effects of Free Transportation on Function Health and Quality of Life in Service Recipients and Volunteer Drivers
Julianne Sigler, Heidi Moy, and Erika Schuler



How Dolphins Inspired a Potentially Life-Saving Method for Treating Trauma Victims



ZACHARY SCHLADER

A PHYSIOLOGICAL PROCESS

used commonly by mammals like seals and dolphins inspired the potentially life-saving method researchers successfully tested to raise blood pressure in a simulation of trauma victims experiencing blood loss.

The pre-hospital intervention is simple — place a bag of ice on the victim’s forehead, eyes and cheeks. In a small study, this method was shown to

increase and maintain a person’s blood pressure during simulated blood loss. The researchers have presented these findings at several recent conferences, and their paper will be published in a peer-reviewed journal later this year.

“There is a slight reduction in blood pressure during the simulation and we wanted to see if face cooling would reverse that. It turns out, it does. It raises blood pressure during a simulated hemorrhage situation,” said Zachary Schlader, the study’s lead author and an assistant professor of exercise and nutrition sciences in UB’s School of Public Health and Health Professions.

Mammals like seals and dolphins—and, to a much lesser extent, humans—have what’s called the “mammalian diving reflex.” It’s a physiological function that the animals employ for submersion in water. During the reflex, which is partially activated when the face is immersed in cold water, certain bodily functions temporarily change to conserve oxygen, allowing the animals to remain underwater for long periods of time.

“The idea is, can we utilize a physiological phenomenon to have practical benefit? We’re talking about pre-hospital interventions, so it has to be quick and easy for EMTs, military medics and other first responders,” Schlader, PhD, said.

“We’re not changing paradigms. But the biggest thing is, no one’s ever put two and two together. No one’s said I wonder if this could be used as a tool in clinical practice as opposed to simply a tool to probe physiology,” he added.

Researchers found placing a plastic baggie filled with an ice water slurry over a person’s forehead, eyes and cheeks for 15 minutes

prevents a drop in blood pressure during a simulation of blood loss.

Face cooling works because it constricts the blood vessels, which sends blood back to the heart, increasing blood output from the heart. The result is increased blood pressure.

Researchers tested their theory in UB’s Center for Research and Education in Special Environments (CRESE) using 10 healthy participants. Participants were placed in a tube-shaped lower body negative pressure (LBNP) device resembling a CAT scan machine. A pump sucks air from the device to create negative pressure inside. As a result, blood is pulled to the person’s legs from the upper body, simulating a hemorrhage event akin to tourniquet-controlled blood loss.

After six minutes of this, researchers placed a plastic baggie filled with ice water on the participant’s forehead, eyes and cheeks for 15 minutes and then monitored whether blood pressure was elevated and maintained. The temperature of the ice water slurry was about freezing. “Think of it as brain freeze times 10,” Schlader says. “It’s not very comfortable, but it could buy you another 15 minutes.”

The current study builds off previous research conducted by paper co-author Blair Johnson, an assistant professor of exercise and nutrition sciences at UB, who, like Schlader, is also a CRESE investigator.

“We were discussing that if you cool the forehead and the eyes, you evoke the mammalian diving reflex. And we thought, what if we can use that reflex to help bump up blood pressure during a hemorrhagic injury?” Johnson said.

What is clear is the need for this type of research. Trauma is the No. 1 cause of death in people under 40, Schlader says. In addition, hemorrhage is the leading cause of trauma deaths in the general population and the leading cause of preventable deaths on the battlefield.

Exercise science PhD candidate James Sackett and master of public health graduate Suman Sarker are also co-authors on the paper. Seed funding for the study was provided by the university’s Innovative Micro-Programs Accelerating Collaboration in Themes (IMPACT) fund.

Experts Making a Difference



Michael LaMonte, PhD, associate research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, is an author of a study published in the *Journal of the American Heart Association*, a journal of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association. The study found that gum disease and tooth loss may be associated with a higher risk of death in postmenopausal women but not increased cardiovascular disease risk. Loss of all natural teeth also was linked with an increased risk of death in postmenopausal women, according to the study.

Researchers involved with the study analyzed the health information from the Women's Health Initiative program—a study of 57,001 women, 55 years and older.

“Our findings suggest that older woman may be at higher risk for death because of their periodontal condition and may benefit from more intensive oral screening measures,” said LaMonte.

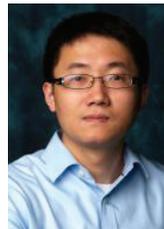
However, LaMonte also notes that further research is needed to establish a direct cause and effect.

“Studies of interventions aimed at improving periodontal health are needed to determine whether risk of death is lowered among those receiving the intervention compared to those who do not.”



Jo Freudenheim, PhD, UB Distinguished Professor and chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, has received a \$100,000 grant from the Prevent Cancer Foundation for a pilot study to examine DNA methylation differences in e-cigarette users compared to non-smokers and smokers. Research on the effects of e-cigarettes is

critically important given the lack of knowledge about the health impact to users, according to Freudenheim. “There’s a lot of interest in understanding how e-cigarettes affect the body and this study will contribute to that,” said Freudenheim.



Song Liu, PhD, research associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics, was a collaborating member of a research team at UB to prove that adult skin cells can be converted into neural crest cells (a type of stem cell) without any genetic modification, and that stem cells can yield other cells that are present in the spinal cord and the brain. The results titled,

“Reprogramming Postnatal Human Epidermal Keratinocytes Toward Functional Neural Crest Fates,” were recently published in the journal *Stem Cells*.



A new report by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine presents nearly 100 conclusions related to the health effects of cannabis and cannabinoid use, and makes recommendations for an agenda to help expand and improve cannabis research efforts.

R. Lorraine Collins, PhD, professor in the Department of Community Health and Health

Behavior and associate dean of research, served on the committee that considered more than 10,000 scientific abstracts for their relevance to the report. “This is one of the most comprehensive reviews of recent research on this topic and I am proud to have served on the committee that conducted this thorough analysis,” said Collins.



Jeffrey Miecznikowski, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics, is co-author of a study published in *PLOS One*.

The study is the first to examine oral health in children with Type 2 diabetes, including those who are obese and found that these children tend to have poorer oral health than children who do not have Type 2 diabetes. Bioinformatics

and statistical analysis were provided by Miecznikowski and Amarpreet Sabharwal, DDS, clinical assistant instructor of periodontics and endodontics at UB.



Heather Orom, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, is the lead author of a study published in the *Journal of Urology*. The study determined that the anxiety many men experience after being diagnosed with prostate cancer may lead them to choose potentially unnecessary treatment options. “Emotional

distress may motivate men with low-risk prostate cancer to choose more aggressive treatment, such as choosing surgery over active surveillance,” said Orom.



Heather Ochs-Balcom, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, is the lead researcher of a first-of-its-kind study published in the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*. The study found that women at the highest genetic risk for fracture benefit the most from hormone therapy. “We found that women

who are genetically at the highest fracture risk can enjoy the greatest protection from fracture when they use hormone therapy,” said Ochs-Balcom. “The study provides a better understanding of who can benefit the most in terms of bone health from hormone therapy use.”



Stepping to it for the Step Challenge

1,700 PARTICIPANTS TOOK MORE THAN 300 MILLION STEPS DURING APRIL AS PART OF THE SECOND ANNUAL STEP CHALLENGE TO PROMOTE HEALTHY ACTIVITY AND ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUALS TO LIVE HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES.

BY ALL ACCOUNTS, the 2017 Step Challenge was a success. For the second consecutive year, over 1,000 people signed up to participate and in both of the contest's first two years, the collective step goal was exceeded.

A total of 75 prizes were awarded to participants during this year's Step Challenge, including iPad Minis, Fitbits, Under Armour backpacks, water bottles, yoga mats and more. Prizes were awarded weekly to participants through random drawings, and grand prizes also were awarded at the end of the contest. In addition, participants received prizes for taking part in the challenge's social media contest by using the hashtag **#UBSteps17** on social media, where hundreds of posts were submitted.

The grand prize winners for the 2017 Step Challenge were:

- **Most Steps:** Alan Hibbard
- **Winning Team:** Eugina Riollano, Amanda Merner and Vanessa Sandor (Team Part 2)
- **Most Improved:** Safa Vara
- **Participation Grand Prize:** Brad Belleville

For more results and information about the 2017 Step Challenge, visit the challenge's website: sphhp.buffalo.edu/UBSteps17.

The Step Challenge was part of SPHHP's celebration of National Public Health Week (NPHW), which featured more than 30 activities, including guest speakers, seminars and interactive events. The NPHW campaign, which officially takes place each year during the first week of April, serves as a time to recognize the contributions of public health and celebrate public health efforts in communities across the nation and the world. SPHHP's celebration extended throughout the month of April.



300 Million

That's a LOT of steps!
The number of steps taken if each participant walked from New York City to Chicago.

Amanda Merner (left), Vanessa Sandor (right) and Eugina Riollano (not pictured) were members of the 2017 Step Challenge winning team, Part 2!

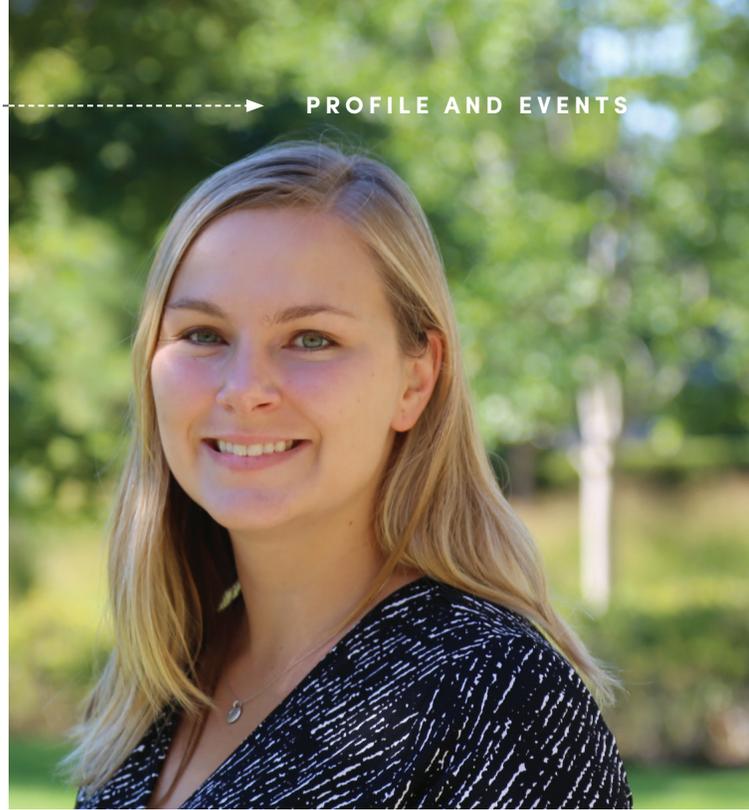


Faculty Profile

ELIZABETH G. MIETLICKI-BAASE, PHD, is an assistant professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences. She joined the school in August 2016 after earning a doctoral degree in behavioral neuroscience at UB and completing postdoctoral training at the University of Pennsylvania. Her predoctoral work examined the neurohormonal systems governing both food and fluid intake. In her postdoctoral research, Mietlicki-Baase investigated the distributed neurobiological underpinnings of food intake and body weight control, with particular emphasis on areas of the brain thought to mediate reward processing and motivated behavior.

Now at UB, her current research interests build upon her postdoctoral training and focus on the role of the mesolimbic reward system of the brain in energy intake and food preference. She received a 4-year career development grant from the National Institute of Health (NIH)/National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) to examine the hormone amylin and the role it plays in energy balance control via actions in the mesolimbic reward system.

"We are examining how amylin receptor activation in an area of the brain called the ventral tegmental area (VTA) acts to suppress intake of palatable foods and to suppress body weight, partially by changing dopamine signaling," says Mietlicki-Baase. "Our hypothesis is that amylin receptor activation in this nucleus has more potent effects on fat intake so that it preferentially suppresses



ELIZABETH MIETLICKI-BAASE

fat intake compared to sucrose intake; it does both, but it could be demonstrating a little more robust impact on fat intake."

Ultimately, Mietlicki-Baase says her research is directed at understanding things that can be translationally relevant to the treatment of obesity in humans.

"Right now, we do not have very many non-invasive options for obesity treatment," explains Mietlicki-Baase. "So the goal of my research is to understand, at the brain-level, how these different hormones are impacting food intake and body weight with the goal of harnessing that information to develop more effective pharmacological therapies, and potentially coupling that with dietary recommendations to produce a more targeted and effective therapy."

Women's Health Initiative Luncheon

The Women's Health Initiative participants gathered for luncheons on March 30 and June 15 with Jean Wactawski-Wende, WHI principal investigator at UB and dean of SPHHP. The luncheons were held to inform and honor the women who participated in this landmark study that has helped inform women about factors that increase risks for cancer and identify factors that can help prevent cancer in older women. Thanks to its participants, this spring will mark 25 years of the ongoing study.

The UB Women's Health Initiative was honored to receive a gift from the family of a loyal WHI participant who passed away this summer. She was proud to be a part of the study and to have made an impact on the field of women's health.

The UB WHI Fund was established in 2017 to support activities that will enhance the overall mission of the Women's Health Initiative at the University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions. If you are interested in supporting the UB WHI Fund, more information can be found by contacting Jennifer Battisti at (716) 645-3963.



Participants of the UB Women's Health Initiative (WHI)—the largest clinical trial undertaken in the United States—pose with WHI researchers Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD, and Michael LaMonte, PhD.

Interprofessional Education Forum Brings Together Students, Faculty to Discuss Ways to Improve Patient Care



From left: Co-chairs Lisa Jane Jacobsen, Nicholas Fusco and Patricia Ohtake, and Michael Cain, vice president for health sciences, stand by a poster promoting the film “Meet Fred Santiago” that IPE participants watched during the forum. Photo: Glenn Waldron

MORE THAN 600 UB students from programs in occupational therapy, physical therapy, public health, dental medicine, law, management, medicine, pharmacy, nursing and social work gathered recently to discuss strategies to improve patient care at UB’s second Interprofessional Education (IPE) Forum.

As part of the program, students and faculty viewed a film—“Meet Fred Santiago”—developed by UB’s Office of IPE that illustrates the challenges Fred and his family face daily due to his multiple chronic health conditions.

The film, produced by Buffalo’s Theatre for Change, is based on a fictitious case developed by Andrew Symons, Department of Family Medicine, Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, and Patricia Ohtake, Department of Rehabilitation Science, in collaboration with their health professions colleagues. The film highlights the impact on Fred and his family of common health problems that many older Buffalonians experience, including diabetes, hypertension, arthritis and depression.

After the film, students and faculty engaged in dialogue about the issues Fred faced and used their collective expertise to discuss strategies to optimize Fred’s health care.

The film provides a great opportunity for students from across the health professions to discuss how the various health care fields should work collaboratively to ensure the best outcome for a patient, Ohtake explained.

“We know that these health conditions are now recognized to be too complex to be managed from one profession’s perspective and require a team of professionals to ensure optimal health outcomes,” she said. “Students learn firsthand how collaborating with other health care professions will lead to improved outcomes for Fred and his family.”

UB’s Interprofessional Education forums are a result of the efforts of an interprofessional team of faculty from the health professions and other programs who believe strongly in the value of collaboration in health care.

OHTAKE TO LEAD INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION



PATRICIA J. OHTAKE, associate professor of physical therapy in the Department of Rehabilitation Science, has been appointed assistant vice president for interprofessional education.

The Office of Interprofessional Education works to strengthen teamwork and communication among students in the health professions in order to improve patient care and safety, deliver higher quality health care and produce better patient outcomes.

Ohtake has served as interim assistant vice president for the past year, following five years of involvement in UB’s Interprofessional Education (IPE) program. This academic year, she chaired two

Interprofessional Forums involving 1,400 students and 100 faculty members from dental medicine, law, management, medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, pharmacy, physical therapy, public health and social work.

Throughout her career, Ohtake has been active in clinical, educational and basic science research focused on topics related to physical therapists’ care of individuals in acute and critical care settings; cardiovascular and pulmonary physiology, pathophysiology and clinical interventions; and most recently, the use of simulation in health professionals’ education and interprofessional education.

“I’m honored and excited to serve the students and faculty of UB as assistant vice president of interprofessional education,” Ohtake says. “Preparing health care professionals to be collaborative practitioners will improve patient outcomes and quality of life, reduce medical errors and strengthen our health care system.”

On the Front Lines Against a Viral Killer

YEARS AFTER “OUTBREAK” INSPIRED HIS INTEREST IN INFECTIOUS DISEASE MANAGEMENT, MPH STUDENT ROBERT COLEMAN GETS TO PLAY KEY ROLE FIGHTING ZIKA VIRUS.

WHEN ROBERT COLEMAN reflects on how he became interested in studying infectious disease epidemiology, he can narrow it down to one particular film that he watched as a youth.

“Outbreak,” says Robert confidently.

While all his friends wanted to become doctors or lawyers or engineers, Robert became enamored with a profession that he didn’t even know existed.



Coleman prepares a drone for takeoff at his field training placement.

“I didn’t know what epidemiologists were or what they did at the time, but I remember seeing the actors portray epidemiologists in that movie; they were trying to solve a large-scale health problem and protect everybody. I thought that was very admirable and cool.”

Fast forward some ten years, Robert enrolled at the University at Buffalo School of Public Health and Health Professions.

While he admits that there were a number of health fields that he was exploring, his memories of watching that movie as a kid came flooding back once he took courses in anatomy, physiology and microbiology.

“I knew that the UB School of Public Health and Health Professions was what I had been waiting for. I enrolled in the Master of Public Health program and I loved it.”

With a concentration in epidemiology, Robert began to identify factors that influence health and develop tools to sustain an environment that promotes health. While obtaining a broader understanding of public health, Robert says that his favorite aspect of the program was the real-world, practical experience he received through a field training experience, a requirement of the MPH program.

“I conducted my field training at the Genesee and Orleans County Department of Health. When I expressed to the site advisor that



Coleman works in the field on the mosquito surveillance program.

my main interest in epidemiology was infectious disease, he told me that they were just starting a mosquito surveillance program in response to the public health concern from Zika. It was a perfect opportunity for me to learn real-world applications to infectious disease surveillance.”

Like the famous Ebola outbreak that was central to the plot of the movie “Outbreak,” Zika virus quickly rose to the forefront as a public health concern on a global scale in 2016. The virus, which primarily spreads through infected mosquitoes, is of particular concern for pregnant women because the virus is linked to birth defects such as microcephaly, in which a baby is born with an abnormally small head and undeveloped brain.

“Zika was first discovered in the 1947 in the Zika forest region of Uganda,” explained Robert, “but in the last few years it has begun to spread to the Caribbean and South America, which of course, is right on the doorstep of the United States. Because mosquitoes are the primary vector of the virus, my field training focused on mosquitoes surveillance and taking a proactive stance on monitoring for the *Aedes Albopictus* mosquito species, which has been known to transmit the disease. I’m happy to report that during my time conducting surveillance, no *Aedes Albopictus* mosquitoes were captured.”

Getting a mosquito surveillance program up and running is no small feat and Robert played a primary role in all aspects of the new program, including the use of a drone to better survey rural and wooded areas that are likely breeding grounds for mosquitoes.

Through all of these experiences, Robert says he not only learned a lot, but he also received tremendous support from those he worked with, which subsequently increased his level of confidence.

“I truly enjoyed my field training experience and having the opportunity to be as involved as I was really gave me confidence that I can be successful and overcome any challenges that may be in the future.”

Learn more and watch Robert’s story come to life at sphhp.buffalo.edu/how



1 Information tables filled the lobby of UB's Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Center during the event. **2** The summit drew participants interested in improving health literacy for Buffalo's refugee population.

Refugee Health Summit Speakers Share Unique Perspectives

MANY PEOPLE think America's attitudes toward immigration changed in January when President Donald Trump took office vowing to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexican border and crack down on people entering the country.

The reality, though, is that America has displayed bouts of anti-immigrant behavior throughout its history, said Sophie Feal, an immigration lawyer in Buffalo who was among the featured speakers at the fourth annual Western New York Refugee Health Summit hosted at UB's Arthur O. Eve Educational Opportunity Center.

This year's summit was attended by 150 people, making it the largest one yet. It's also the biggest community-focused event with which UB's School of Public Health and Health Professions is involved. The event is co-sponsored by the school's Office of Global Health Initiatives and UB's Community for Global Health Equity.

"It's such a pleasure to see this event bring university faculty, staff and students together with our community partners who are so engaged in providing services for the refugee," said CGHE co-director Pavani Ram.

This year's theme was improving health literacy for Buffalo's refugee population. The event featured a series of speakers during the morning portion, followed by a variety of breakout sessions and an afternoon workshop on improving Buffalo's health literacy. Also new this year, the health summit had its own facilitator: Ismet Mamnoon of Knowinnovation.

Feal works with the Erie County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Project, where the UB School of Law alumna directs the immigration program. Her presentation focused on immigration law in the U.S., particularly since the 1996 overhaul signed by then-President Clinton.

"In our history, we've had a lot of anti-immigrant moments," Feal said, adding, "I strongly believe that some of what we're seeing today is a legacy of the 1996 overhaul of our immigration laws."

Those laws, Feal said, "set into motion very inhumane and draconian provisions that are being instituted little by little, culminating in what we are seeing today."

The general public has become more aware of immigration issues, Feal said. "At the same time, I fear that if everyone believes it's just this administration, the minute a new administration comes in, everybody's going to forget the legacy of anti-immigrant sentiment in this country. It comes in waves and it goes, but it seems to be omnipresent in many instances."

Another issue, Feal said, is the backlog of immigration cases many courts are now faced with. "How do we keep up with enforcement if we don't have the corps of judges to adjudicate all of the claims?" she asked.

Additional speakers at this year's summit were:

- **Kevin Pottie**, founding director of the Immigrant Health Clinic of Ottawa and a researcher in the Centre for Global Health at the University of Ottawa
- **Sharmila Shetty**, a medical epidemiologist in the Emergency Response and Recovery Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- **Deborah Lee**, an epidemiologist in the Immigrant, Refugee and Migrant Health (IRMH) Branch of the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine (DGMQ)
- **Jessica Lazarin**, director of the city of Buffalo's Office of New Americans



HOLGER SCHUNEMANN

Public Health is a Global Profession

On May 11, the UB Alumni Association recognized 12 outstanding alumni and friends for their achievements and bringing distinction to UB. This year's on-campus celebration included dignitaries, alumni, colleagues, family and friends.

Alumni accomplishments significantly benefit both society and our university community, advancing the common good, and inspiring others with passion and creativity.

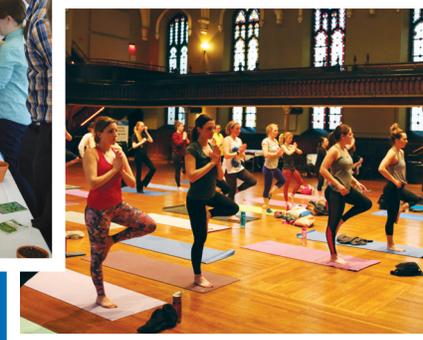
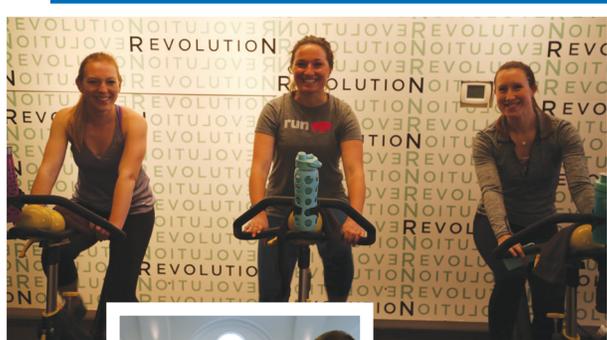
Holger Schunemann, PhD '00, MS '97, of Hamilton, Ontario, received the University at Buffalo International Distinguished Alumni Award at the 2017 Alumni Achievement Awards. This is the third consecutive year that SPHHP alumni were honored at the university-wide celebration. The International Distinguished Alumni Award is one of the highest honors alumni receive from the university.

Schunemann is chair of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University—the birthplace of evidence-based medicine and problem-based learning. He also is a research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health. He received an MD degree in 1993 from the Medical School of Hannover, Germany.

Congratulations, Holger!

sphhp.buffalo.edu/how

Do you know a SPHHP alumnus/a that you would like to nominate for an alumni achievement award?
Contact Jackie Hausler at hauslerj@buffalo.edu



Wednesdays are for Wellness

Three Wellness Wednesday events took place throughout the month of April to give alumni an opportunity to get up and get active. On April 12 alumni spun the evening away at Revolution Buffalo for a one-hour spin session, followed by a mix-and-mingle right at the studio. On April 19 an all-levels yoga class was held inside Asbury Hall taught by Love in Motion Yoga instructors Kathleen Engelhardt and Kate Rogers. Following the class, alumni enjoyed healthy snacks from Harbor Center's newest addition, The Healthy Scratch. Lastly, a gardening seminar was taught by Katherine Pfohl, Massachusetts Avenue Project farm manager on April 26. After the instructional session, participants got their hands dirty to plant some plants of their own.

STAY CONNECTED.

We want to hear from you! Visit the UB Alumni Association's UB Connect page and let us know what you've been doing since graduating.

[>> sphhp.buffalo.edu/alumni/connect](http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/alumni/connect)

#UBSPHHP ON SOCIAL MEDIA



ATTEND AN EVENT!

To register for alumni events visit buffalo.edu/alumni/events

Health Impact

The University at Buffalo is a premier research-intensive public university, the largest and most comprehensive campus in the State University of New York system. The School of Public Health and Health Professions is one of 12 schools that make UB New York's leading public center for graduate and professional education and one of five schools that constitute UB's Academic Health Center.

Dean: Jean Wactawski-Wende
Director of Communications and Alumni Relations: Jackie Hausler
Communications Specialist: Glenn Waldron
Contributing writer: David Hill
Designer: David Donati

16-SPH-002

sphhp.buffalo.edu

 **University at Buffalo**
School of Public Health
and Health Professions

401 Kimball Tower
3435 Main St.
Buffalo, NY 14214

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Buffalo, NY
Permit No. 311



YOUR GIFT
matters.

N'Dea Johnson
CLASS OF 2018
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

N'Dea Johnson came to UB from Long Island as a student athlete with a four-year scholarship in soccer. She stayed to become a graduate student in public health, with her experience as an athlete pointing her toward a career in physical therapy. "I spent a good deal of time in physical therapy due to soccer injuries, and over time, I fell in love with the profession," she says. When she was later diagnosed with Crohn's disease, she made nutrition sciences the concentration of her master of public health degree program. N'Dea hopes to work as a nutritionist with a sports team someday, and financial support from UB donors "is the reason I get to chase my dream every day and work my hardest."

Gifts to the UB Fund have an immediate impact on students.

UBFUND

The **best public universities** have the strongest private support.

[BUFFALO.EDU/GIVING](http://buffalo.edu/giving) OR TOLL FREE AT 855-GIVE-2-UB