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Scot Erbe and Renee Watts pose by the Cunz Hall “Live Roof,” one of the features that contributed to the building’s Green Buckeye status. The Green Buckeye certification process requires Ohio State units to comply with numerous criteria in the following five areas: communication and education; energy efficiency and conservation; recycling and waste reduction; water conservation; and purchasing.

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Moving into the future

As I write this, we have just marked our first year in Cunz Hall, newly renovated for the College of Public Health. This was not simply a move to a different building, but a move toward the future of public health at Ohio State.

This fall, we welcomed our first undergraduate majors with the kickoff of the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH). It’s the first undergraduate public health major at Ohio State, and the student interest has been robust. For the first year, we had intended to limit the program to 40 students. Due to the response, we now have 54 BSPH majors as of this writing. Read more about the major later in the magazine.

Another move toward the future is the focus on global health by us and our colleagues at the other health sciences colleges at Ohio State. With seven health sciences colleges all on the same campus, Ohio State can truly make a difference and improve people’s lives worldwide. Read more in the following pages about how our health sciences colleges are collaborating in East Africa.

While we await the U.S. Green Building Council’s decision on LEED certification, Cunz Hall and the college received Green Buckeye certification. This certification is a university stamp of approval on our environmentally sustainable building and operating practices. We are the only college on campus to receive this designation and the first complete building to achieve it.

One of the sustainable features of the building is the Cunz Hall Rain Garden. The garden is a class gift from the Classes of 2010 and 2011. We appreciate the passion students have for the environment and their willingness to support sustainability with their donations. Thank you!

I hope you enjoy the rest of the magazine. Feel free to visit us anytime. We’re always happy to welcome you to our home.

Sincerely,

Stanley Lemeshow, Dean
College of Public Health
Alison Norris, assistant professor in the College of Public Health and the College of Medicine, is building a new research program in Malawi that may help establish programs in surrounding countries such as Ethiopia and Tanzania. Norris discussed the goals of the project in a Q&A with Bri Loesch, CPH Communications.

**CPH: What were you working on in Malawi this past summer?**

**Norris:** I have some pilot funding to do a new project with a focus on sexual and reproductive health. It’s a project I’m doing in collaboration with John Casterline with the Department of Sociology, and Jesse Kwiek and Abby Norris Turner who are in the College of Medicine, and I’m rapidly bringing others on board as well. We want it to be a longitudinal study and a very multi-disciplinary project, and we really are thinking about the research platform element of it so that it is a place where different kinds of research projects can go on in parallel.

**CPH: What do you hope to achieve with this project?**

**Norris:** In the context of Malawi, there are a lot of opportunities to make dramatic improvements in people’s health. Some of them are around people’s decision-making, but some of it is around structural interventions and sort of bread-and-butter public health work around control of neglected tropical diseases such as hook worm, providing obstetric care for pregnant women, and providing testing and treatment for HIV.

**CPH: Do you have external partners on the project?**

**Norris:** Our main partners there are Baylor College of Medicine, and a non-profit organization called Child Legacy International that has a clinic in rural Malawi, about an hour or so outside of Malawi. We met with the people from Baylor and Child Legacy for the first time while on this trip.

**CPH: What was the goal of your second trip in October?**

**Norris:** We’re still building the research program, so Jessie Kwiek and I are going together to meet with people who will become our major in-country collaborators in terms of the science that we want to do, and we’re also looking to hire research staff. Part of the baseline work we’re doing in Malawi now is to estimate the prevalence of some of these basic public health problems, and when we have a sense of the magnitude of the problem, we can begin to imagine what the appropriate strategies to intervene are. We’re also looking for ways for graduate students to be involved as well.

**CPH: In what way can this project be applied beyond Malawi?**

**Norris:** I think that the tools we develop to measure health decision-making and some of these public health problems in Malawi can be used in Ethiopia and Tanzania. We can use good interventions in one setting and bring them to other settings.
Representatives from the health science colleges and Office of International Affairs at The Ohio State University visited partner institutes in Ethiopia this past summer to explore collaborative opportunities.

‘One Health’ workshops in East Africa

Agriculture in Ethiopia makes up 85 percent of the labor force, and 41 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, and the population is at high risk for food- and water-borne illnesses as well as animal and water-contact diseases, according to statistics compiled by the U.S. government.

Faculty at Ohio State are part of an initiative to approach solutions to these problems with a big-picture view that includes animal health, human health, and the environment. With seven health sciences colleges on one campus, Ohio State can play a significant role in what is called the One Health Initiative.

Lonnie King, dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine and executive dean of the health sciences, is leading the initiative, and all seven health science colleges are participating.

This past July, One Health workshops were held in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania as part of the university’s National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center Framework Grant, led by Wondwossen Gebreyes, director of Global Health Programs at the College of Veterinary Medicine. The workshops focused on leadership of One Health and what the participants envision the One Health effort to be.

Representatives from the College of Public Health (CPH) and the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Nursing, Medicine, and Optometry attended these workshops, as well as the university's Office of International Affairs. A follow-up trip is scheduled for December with deans from Dentistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, and Public Health.

Michael Bisesi, senior associate dean for academic affairs in CPH, presented on environmental health sciences at a workshop in Arusha, Tanzania.

“This is a group of scientists involved with the university’s NIH Fogarty grant that involves education and research in East Africa with emphasis on food quality and infectious disease,” said Bisesi.

The group also met in Ethiopia with scientists at research institutes, clinicians at the Black Lion Hospital (Ethiopia’s largest general public hospital), and various government agencies and officials. They discussed projects that could be done in Ethiopia which would allow students from a variety of health sciences colleges to collaborate.

The One Health Summer Institute offered skill-building courses and short-term certification for East African graduate students and professionals in agriculture and public health.

- Bri Loesch
NIOSH-funded study tests link between occupation and disease

Allard Dembe, professor in the Division of Health Services Management and Policy, was awarded a $409,000 grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

The project, “A Process for Estimating the Association of Occupation and Chronic Disease,” aims to develop and test a generalizable process for measuring the relationship between long-term work in a particular occupation, and the onset of chronic disease later in life.

It also aims to test the use of that process for assessing the relationship between long-term exposure to various job characteristics and activities (e.g., handling materials and objects) and subsequent chronic disease outcomes (e.g., arthritis).

“The rising prevalence of chronic disease among people over 45 years old is perhaps the greatest health challenge facing America,” Dembe said.

He believes insufficient attention has been paid to investigating possible connections between long-term job history in specific occupations and the risk of eventual chronic disease.

Allergies may lower risk of glioma

New research adds to the growing body of evidence suggesting that there’s a link between allergies and reduced risk of a serious type of cancer that starts in the brain. This study suggests the reduced risk is stronger among women than men, although men with certain allergy profiles also have a lower tumor risk.

The study also strengthens scientists’ belief that something about having allergies or a related factor lowers the risk for this cancer. Because these tumors, called glioma, have the potential to suppress the immune system to allow them to grow, researchers have never been sure whether allergies reduce cancer risk or if, before diagnosis, these tumors interfere with the hypersensitive immune response to allergens.

Scientists conducting this study were able to analyze stored blood samples that were taken from patients decades before they were diagnosed with glioma. Men and women whose blood samples contained allergy-related antibodies had an almost 50 percent lower risk of developing glioma 20 years later compared to people without signs of allergies.

“This is our most important finding,” said Judith Schwartzbaum, associate professor in the College of Public Health’s Division of Epidemiology and lead author of the study.

Many previous studies of the link between allergies and brain tumor risk have been based on self-reports of allergy history from patients diagnosed with glioma. No previous studies have had access to blood samples collected longer than 20 years before tumor diagnosis.

The study is published online in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

Co-authors include Bo Ding, Anders Ahlbom and Maria Feychting of the Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, Sweden; Tom Borge Johannesen and Tom Grimsrud of the Cancer Registry of Norway; Liv Osnes of Ulleval University Hospital in Oslo, Norway; and Linda Karavadin of Karavadin Preclinical Consulting in Encinitas, Calif.

EPA funds study on ensuring safe drinking water in Lake Erie

Jiyoung Lee, assistant professor in the Division of Environmental Health Sciences, received a $748,902 award from the
An EPA grant was awarded to Jiyoung Lee for study on safe drinking water in Lake Erie.

Environmental Protection Agency for her project, “Ensuring Safe Drinking Water in Lake Erie: Quantifying Extreme Weather Impacts on Cyanotoxin and Disinfection By-products.”

“With this project, we are going to study the impact of extreme weather on harmful algal bloom, also called cyanobacterial bloom, in western and central Lake Erie using molecular tools and satellite remote sensing,” Lee said. “We will study the cyanobacterial community structure, their toxin production, the influence of weather and environmental factors, and how the water treatment procedures deal with toxins and disinfection byproducts.”

The goal of this project is to predict future scenarios of harmful algal bloom and drinking water safety under the climate change.

**Jailhouse phone calls reveal when domestic abusers most likely to attack**

An analysis of jailhouse phone calls between men charged with felony domestic violence and their victims allowed researchers for the first time to see exactly what triggered episodes of violent abuse.

The findings showed that violence often immediately followed accusations of sexual infidelity made by one or both of the partners. Drug or alcohol use was often involved.

Researchers have long known that sexual jealousy played a general role in abuse, but this is the first time it was shown that it was a specific form of jealousy - infidelity concerns - that tended to initiate the violence, said Julianna Nemeth, lead author of the study and a doctoral student in the College of Public Health at Ohio State University.

“What we were looking for was the immediate precursor - what was the one thing that happened right before the violence that was the catalyst,” Nemeth said. “I have worked in domestic violence intervention for many years, but still the findings shocked me. We never knew that it was the accusation of infidelity that tended to trigger the violence.”

The findings are powerful because they come directly from conversations of the couples involved in domestic violence, said Amy Bonomi, co-author of the study and associate professor of human development and family science at Ohio State.

“What we had before was what the abuser and victim said to police, to courts, to advocates, to health care providers,” said Bonomi, who is also an affiliate with the Group Health Research Institute in Seattle.

“But we never before had the couple together discussing just among themselves what happened during the violent episode.”

The study appears online in the Journal of Women’s Health.

Other authors of the study were Meghan Lee and Jennifer Ludwin, both graduate students at Ohio State.

The study was funded by the Criminal Justice Research Center at Ohio State and the Group Health Foundation of Seattle.

~ By Bri Loesch, Emily Caldwell
Public Health students traveled around the world this summer to countries such as Ghana, Guatemala, Thailand, and Canada to earn practical field experience.

Ashley Bersani completed her summer practicum spending six weeks in Montreal with the Farha Foundation. “What stood out to me the most was having a very positive holistic experience in terms of really identifying with the city and the people and the culture, the language, being immersed in a Francophone culture,” said Bersani, a student in the College of Public Health’s Master of Public Health Program for Experienced Professionals (MPH-PEP).

She completed her summer practicum spending six weeks in Montreal with the Farha Foundation.

“The experience was so academically, professionally, and personally transformative, that it really solidified for me that I definitely want to work in international public health,” Bersani said. “I enjoy that work and the challenges associated with it. I look forward to continuing my relationship with that organization after graduation.”

Bersani says that for students, international practicums are an opportunity to experience a real work environment that they could potentially see themselves in.

The field practice placement is required of all MPH students. This is done under the supervision of a preceptor and sponsoring faculty member.

The principal objectives of the experience are to:

- Develop skills in the field of study
- Give the student an opportunity to learn how one particular organization functions
- Explore a career choice

“I had a really engaged preceptor who was so supportive of what I was doing, and really gave me a lot of autonomy to be on my own—there was a lot of guidance, but there was self-direction involved and I appreciated that,” Bersani said. “I think being in the MPH-PEP program, you have some experience under your belt. Having that acknowledged by the preceptor was really beneficial to me, and allowed me to explore all aspects of working for the Farha Foundation.”

Experience has shown that one of the best ways for students to accomplish the principal objectives is for the preceptor and the student, with faculty consultation, to define tasks and projects of importance to the organization and of interest to the student. These assist the student in developing new skills and in gaining technical and managerial competence in selected areas.
"The whole experience was beyond any wildest dream of mine in terms of how positive it was, and I’m going back in January to complete my culminating project requirements for graduation," said Bersani.

The College of Public Health also has a new development fund for supporting international student practicums. The fund, created by donor Johanna DeStefano, supports MPH students participating in international practicums and health activities, with a priority to veterinary public health students.

To contribute to this fund, go to igive.osu.edu and find fund number 314111.

Ohio State takes second in student case competition

Master of Health Administration (MHA) students Nicole Williams, Tamara Durr, Jessica Jolly and Yetty Emanuel earned second place in the 17th annual Everett V. Fox Student Case Analysis & Presentation Competition.

They competed against 20 teams, then 10 semifinalists, and lastly five finalists. Each member of the Ohio State team received a $3,000 scholarship and the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for next year’s competition.

The theme of competition, held by the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE), was “Navigating the Healthcare Destiny: Anticipate, Understand, Adapt.”

The competition provides educational and networking opportunities for students interested in the field of health services administration and management.

“We served as consultants to Mercy Health System whose parent organization is Catholic Health Partners,” said Jolly, an MHA and MPH candidate. “Our strategy included the implementation of an accountable care organization and the use of a patient-centered medical home, a shared savings model, a Centering Health model, RN care coordinators, and community health workers.”

The 2013 NAHSE case competition will take place Oct. 15-19 in Miami, Fla. NAHSE is a non-profit association of black health care executives that aims to advance and develop black health care leaders and elevate the quality of health care services rendered to minority and underserved communities.

Public Health student earns Leadership Fellow honor

Blair Turner, a third-year undergraduate student in the college’s new Bachelor of Science in Public Health major, was selected as a Buckeye Leadership Fellow to participate in a leadership development program that immerses students into the working world for greater success.

“I applied for the Buckeye Leadership Fellows program because I knew a few people that were in the program, and they only have very positive things to say about the program,” Turner said. “Also, I was looking for a way to better develop my leadership skills, and the Buckeye Leadership Fellows program is a great way to do that.”
This rigorous two-year program allows students to acquire life skills, provides them with personal development, and prepares them to enter the workforce.

“I think the Buckeye Leadership Fellows program will improve my educational experience because it will allow me to better develop more ‘real world’ problem solving skills,” Turner said. “The program gives an experience that you will not find in the classroom because we have real world challenges that we have to figure out.”

Turner is majoring in public health with an environmental public health specialization, and is minoring in microbiology. Turner is a pre-med student preparing to become a pediatric oncologist. On campus she is involved in BuckeyeThon and is a biological science scholar.

Fall semester marks new beginnings in Public Health

A new type of student is in the College of Public Health these days – undergraduate majors.

The College of Public Health’s 2012 orientation welcomed undergraduate students for the first time.

More than 50 students are participating in the new Bachelor of Science in Public Health (BSPH) program.

The BSPH focuses on public health issues in the U.S. and internationally. The program will expand students’ knowledge and comprehension of issues affecting humans worldwide.

BSPH students select one of two interdisciplinary specializations: Public Health Sociology or Environmental Public Health.

In addition to the new undergraduate program, this is the first fall the university is on the new semester calendar. The switch was implemented so that the university’s academic calendar would be similar to those of other state universities, and to facilitate opportunities related to the workforce, international studies, internships, and research.

Students and alumni unite at Emory University

Three Master of Health Administration (MHA) students completed their summer residency alongside CPH alumni in Atlanta at Emory University.

Between the first and second years of the program, MHA students are required to complete a summer administrative residency.

“This summer I really enjoyed being able to put together a comprehensive business plan for a new facility for Emory,” said MHA student Michael Rose. “It allowed me to gain exposure across clinical specialties and administrative departments, and learn a ton. I had the chance to do a site visit to Manhattan as well, which was incredible.”

The field program provides students with an opportunity to test their skills by working on challenging projects in a health-related organization. Students gain real-world experience working alongside seasoned professionals.

Mentors for the Emory residency included Ohio State College of Public Health MHA graduates Kelli Gress (MHA, ’04), Duane Reynolds (MHA, ’04), and Louis Simmons (MHA, FACHE ’03). MHA student participants were Rose, Jessica Jolly, and Daria Tanska.

“The OSU alumni were great mentors to us, and it was amazing to see how far-reaching our Health Services Management Policy (HSMP) alumni network is,” said Rose.

CPH adds Biomedical Informatics specialization to MS, MPH

The College of Public Health, in collaboration with the College of Medicine, recently added a new specialization in Biomedical Informatics.

This specialization is offered via the college’s Master of Public Health and a Master of Science degree programs. It is tailored to the interests of the students in applied practice or research.

Biomedical Informatics studies the use of information and information technology to improve individual health, health care, public health, and biomedical research.

Biomedical informatics professionals address and handle the generation, collection, management, integration, analysis, and dissemination of various types and volumes of data.

For more information, visit http://go.osu.edu/biomed_informatics.

~ By Bri Loesch
MPHSA educates and engages CPH students on diversity

The lobby of Cunz Hall is usually bustling with students rushing to class with their books and bags. However, during the Multicultural Public Health Student Association’s (MPHSA) meet and greet, the space buzzed with chatter as students socialized together, ice cream sundaes in hand, discussing diversity and public health.

MPHSA was created this year when graduate student Jessica Jolly noticed that the college did not have a dedicated student group focusing on diversity.

“CPH students must be equipped to interact with people from all backgrounds and cultures,” said Jolly, who is pursuing both a Master of Health Administration and a Master of Public Health.

The purpose of the MPHSA is to bring public health students together to create a safe environment in which everyone has the ability to experience, learn and embrace a tangible meaning of diversity, Jolly said. It also serves as a catalyst for culturally competent leadership that enhances health outcomes for all.”

Events hosted by the organization include a privilege walk, leadership retreats, the Diversity in Public Health Summit, and more.

MPHSA is open to both undergraduate and graduate public health students. Visit mphsaosu.weebly.com for more information.

PRC: Creating Opportunities for Healthy Communities

The College of Public Health Prevention Research Center is now offering a course, Creating Opportunities for Healthy Communities, which will provide basic knowledge about how our social networks, community structures and local and state policies affect our health and health behavior. Its goal is to discuss the importance of planning and implementing public health strategies to create environments that make the healthy choice the easy choice and support healthy living.

This free, online, self-directed course is targeted toward public health practitioners and students, and exemplifies the

2012 Champions of Public Health Awards

Dean Lemeshow, far left, joins our 2012 Champions of Public Health, from left: Kay Parent, MPH; Nancie Bechtel, MPH; Teresa Long, MD; Kathleen Smith, DVM; and Robert Campbell, PhD. Approximately 110 people came to Cunz Hall for the awards ceremony. For more photos, go to go.osu.edu/2012Champspix.
importance of working on community-wide public health progress.

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to describe the systemic and environmental factors that influence health and health behaviors; describe the social-ecological model and steps involved in using it to select strategies for improving public health, and describe how local organizations and communities can implement important policy change strategies.

The course is offered in conjunction with the Ohio Department of Health. The college’s Center for Public Health Practice helped design the courses.

For more information, visit cph.osu.edu/prc.

**CPH supports Public Health Farmers’ Markets**

“Farmers’ Markets are one important way to make healthy, fresh foods available everywhere in our community, including neighborhoods where they may be difficult to obtain,” said Phyllis Pirie, chair and professor in the Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion and director of the college’s Prevention Research Center.

With the help of 21 volunteers and 120 hours of time, CPH was able to support the 2012 Farmers’ Markets.

The college also provided volunteer t-shirts and water supplies. The college distributed tap water rather than bottled water in an effort to reduce waste.

Volunteer assistance made it possible to serve 5,691 people, issue 3,831 WIC vouchers, and provide $3,317 in fresh produce to 229 Ohio Direction Card customers.

The purpose of the markets is to bring healthy food to Columbus neighborhoods, by providing a variety of local fresh fruits and vegetables. The markets offer fruits and vegetables from 17 local farms.

The college uses a development fund to support the Public Health Farmers’ Market. To contribute to this fund, go to igive.osu.edu and enter fund number 313292.

**College reports success with 13th annual Summer Program**

This past July, the 13th Annual Summer Program hosted more than 150 students from all over the globe. Students traveled from across the U.S. and internationally from countries such as Nigeria, Korea and Australia to take part in the program.

Long-standing courses such as Applied Logistic Regression, taught by Dean Stanley Lemeshow, and Applied Survival Analysis, taught by David Hosmer, were popular once again. Other courses, such as Geographic Information Systems, were offered due to participant requests and past popularity.

The program is designed to provide hands-on education and training in applied biostatistical, epidemiological and public health practice methods in a flexible short-course format.

New to the 2012 program were courses in Mental Health Epidemiological Methods, Methods in Applied Qualitative Research and Overview of Analytic Tools.

The annual Summer Program is managed by the college’s Center for Public Health Practice and is directed by Michael Bisesi, senior associate dean for academic affairs.
Hoet receives CPH award for Excellence in Teaching

Armando Hoet, assistant clinical professor in the Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health, received the College of Public Health 2012 Excellence in Teaching Award.

This award honors a faculty member who is nominated by students, faculty, and alumni of the college for exemplary performance.

“Students find Dr. Hoet to be an incredible mentor and role model, and feel he goes above and beyond to help them be successful both professionally and academically,” said Maj. Angela Schmillen, a recently graduated DVM and MPH-VPH student.

According to one nominator, Hoet “has developed the second largest Veterinary Public Health program in the U.S., second only to the program at the University of Minnesota.”

The VPH specialization toward the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree is a partnership between the College of Public Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine at The Ohio State University. The MPH-VPH program is accredited by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) and the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM).

Hoet’s name will be added to the perpetual plaque commemorating past Excellence in Teaching Award recipients that’s mounted in the dean’s conference room.

Harris publishes ‘authoritative’ epidemiology book

Randy Harris, professor of epidemiology, is the author of a recently published book, “Epidemiology of Chronic Diseases: Global Perspectives.”

This book includes information on epidemiology, etiology, pathogenesis, risk factors and preventive factors of forty common chronic diseases. Sections of the book cover cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, major forms of cancer, diseases of the respiratory tract, metabolic and digestive diseases, musculoskeletal diseases, neurodegenerative diseases, and three infectious diseases that often manifest as chronic conditions.

Jones & Bartlett Learning, which sells the book on its website, referred to it as the “most current and authoritative resource” on the topic.

CPH professor begins term as president of OPHA

Randi Love, PhD, MCHES, clinical associate professor in the college’s Division of Health Behavior and Health Promotion (HBHP), has assumed the role of president of the Ohio Public Health Association (OPHA).

She served as president-elect for the past year and has been a member of OPHA for many years.

Love is preceded in her presidency by Amy Wermert, MPH, program manager of a community-based smoking cessation research project in the college’s HBHP division.

Love is serving a one-year term as president.

She has worked in the College of Public Health since 1997. She teaches in the undergraduate and master’s programs.

She is also director for the college’s Program for Experienced Professionals, a weekend master’s program for working professionals in public health.

Love has worked in the field of public health for 30 years in a variety of areas including HIV, substance abuse prevention, college health, community development, workforce development, and emergency preparedness.
**Zhu selected to receive SIE Young Investigator Award**

Hong Zhu, assistant professor in the Division of Biostatistics, received a Statistics in Epidemiology Young Investigator Award for her paper, “Inference on the bivariate survival data with interval sampling through Kendall’s tau: testing and association measure.”

This award honors the best papers from young investigators in the field of statistics and epidemiology presented at the Joint Statistical Meetings. Preference is given to papers with both methodological contributions and substantive epidemiological applications.

The award was presented at SIE’s Awards Reception at the Joint Statistical Meetings in San Diego.

**New Faculty**

**Division of Biostatistics**

**Grzegorz Rempala** will join the college’s Division of Biostatistics in January 2013. He comes to Ohio State from Georgia Health Sciences University, where he serves as the founding director of the Biostatistics, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BBCB) Core at the MCG Cancer Center.

He is interested in applications of statistical methods in molecular biology, epidemiology, finance and insurance, gene expression analysis, cohort studies, cash flow and asset-liability models, and insurance claims classifications. His research interests span many areas in probability and statistics including limit theorems, resampling, and supervised learning techniques.

Rempala’s current research projects include “Statistical Methods for Analyzing Antigen Receptor Data” funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), “Mathematical Model of Parotid Acinar Differentiation” funded by the NIH, “Collaborative Research: FRG:Stochastic Models for Intracellular Reaction Networks” through the National Science Foundation (NSF), and “Stochastic Systems: Biochemical Network Models with Next Gen Sequencing” through the NSF.

“I am very excited about joining the Ohio State CPH Division of Biostatistics,” Rempala said. “The division, being at the cross-roads of modern statistical and biological sciences, has a key role to play in helping CPH advance public health issues at the state and national level. I am very much looking forward to the interactions with colleagues both within the division and outside it.”

Rempala received a Doctor of Science degree from Warsaw Technical University in Warsaw, Poland, in 2007, a PhD in applied mathematics in 1998 from the University of Warsaw, a PhD in mathematical statistics in 1996 from Bowling Green State University, and a Master of Arts in Mathematics at the University of Warsaw.

**Division of Epidemiology**

**Amy Acton**, who previously has served as an adjunct professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine and Public Health, has recently joined the College of Public Health’s core faculty as a clinical assistant professor in the Division of Epidemiology. Acton is also a visiting faculty professor at the Center for Injury Research and Policy, The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital, and a pro-bono preventive medicine consultant for Bexley City Schools.

Fascinated by the innovative use of technology to enhance learning communities and humanize the classroom, she most recently is the recipient of an Ohio State IMPACT grant to design an e-textbook-based teaching model that empowers students to be co-creators of content.

Acton is the advisor to the College of Public Health’s new undergraduate student organization, Buckeyes4PH, (Buckeyes for Public Health), as well as faculty project advisor to Buckeyes Without Borders, a collaboration with Partners in Conservation and The Columbus Zoo in Rwanda.

“It is an honor to work with our undergraduate students,” Acton said. “They bring a tremendous passion, energy, and commitment to their studies. Whether through research, scholarship, or service, our BSPH and public health minor students are truly inspiring.”

Acton received a Bachelor of Science-Medical Degree from Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine in 1990, a Master of Public Health from The Ohio State University in 1996, and completed a residency in preventive medicine with The Ohio State University in 1996.

~ By Bri Loesch
Two alumni nominated to Modern Healthcare’s Most Influential List

Two alumni of the College of Public Health’s health administration program were nominated for Modern Healthcare’s list of 100 most influential people.

Alan Channing, Class of ’71, and Mark Neaman, Class of ’74, made the list of figures deemed by their peers and an expert panel to be the most influential individuals in American health care.

Other nominees included President Obama and Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius.

Channing, who received a Master of Science in Health Administration degree (now the Master of Health Administration), is the president and CEO of Sinai Health System in Chicago.

Neaman, who received a Master of Science in Business and Health Care, serves as the president and CEO of NorthShore University HealthSystem in Evanston, Ill.

Ohio State health sciences host alumni bagel breakfast

Ohio State alumni who work at Nationwide Children’s Hospital gathered for a Buckeye bagel breakfast, many of whom came dressed in their scarlet and gray.

The breakfast was hosted by Ohio State University health sciences colleges to connect alumni and to provide information on programs and activities within the health sciences and at Ohio State.

As a tribute to the hospital’s Reach Out and Read program, attendees were asked to bring children’s books or monetary donations.

The Colleges of Public Health, Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Social Work, and the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences participated in the event.

Visit go.osu.edu/CPHfacebook for photos of the event.

Landers, who earned a PhD in epidemiology, is now an assistant professor at Ohio State’s College of Nursing.

Landers will receive a three-year, $350,000 award to promote his academic career and support his research. The Nurse Faculty Scholar award is given to junior faculty who show outstanding promise as future leaders in academic nursing.

“The mentoring, guidance, and financial support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will allow me to develop and test a protocol aimed at improving hand hygiene among hospitalized patients,” Landers said.

Although hand hygiene is widely recognized as the most important means of preventing infection, relatively little work has been done to encourage patients to clean their own hands. In this study, Landers is investigating the five most common bacteria causing health care-associated infections (HAIs) to see if improving patient hand hygiene reduces these bacteria. Bacteria present on the skin of patients cause a majority of HAIs.

“In other words, the goal of this research is to show that our mothers were right – washing your hands is an important part of staying healthy,” Landers continued. “When patients are acutely ill, there are often other priorities besides keeping our hands clean.”
Landers’ mentors for this work are Donna McCarthy, RN, PhD, FAAN, professor and associate dean for research at the College of Nursing; and Kurt Stevenson, MD, MPH, associate professor of internal medicine and associate professor in CPH’s Division of Epidemiology.

CPH alumni societies host Homecoming Tailgate

More than 100 attendees gathered outside Cunz Hall for the 2012 Alumni Tailgate as part of Ohio State’s Reunion-Homecoming Weekend.

Alumni included graduates from the 1970s all the way up through 2011.

“The College of Public Health Alumni Society (CPHAS) and the HSMP Alumni Society partnered to host the Reunion-Homecoming Weekend Alumni Tailgate and it was a huge success,” said Erica Fletcher, CPHAS President-elect. “I am so thankful for everyone who attended and for those who helped redesign reunion weekend for 2012. I hope everyone enjoyed the tailgate as much as I did and look forward to seeing everyone again next year! Go Buckeyes!”

Brutus and the cheerleaders made a grand entrance to get guests in the spirit before the Buckeyes took on the Cornhuskers for an astounding 63-38 victory.

Thank you for all who attended! We hope you join us again next year!

Visit go.osu.edu/CPHfacebook for photos of the event.

Alumni Connect and LinkedIn provide networking opportunities

College of Public Health students have expressed an interest in wanting more opportunities to connect with alumni. The Alumni Connect program was created to do just that.

It is meant to serve as a resource for students currently in public health programs or for those who may want to pursue a degree in public health. Students can view potential careers or job titles held by current public health practitioners, and contact them with any questions regarding their career path.

The Alumni Connect database includes a list of alumni members, their current job titles, organization/agency, and research or professional interest.

The purpose of the LinkedIn group is to serve as a professional development resource for students, alumni, and employers. The page serves as a hub for networking, and aids employers in recruiting.

Alumni Connect:
www.cph.osu.edu/alumni/alumni-connect

LinkedIn:
www.go.osu.edu/CPH_linkedin_alumniconnect

(Left to right) Lindsay Cleverley, HSMPAS President Jamie Cleverley (MHA ’04), and CPHAS President Katie Lewis (MPH ’06) enjoy the CPH Alumni Tailgate.

A group of CPH alumni pose with Brutus during the 2012 Alumni Tailgate.

Tailgaters get a visit from Ohio State cheerleaders.
Donor Spotlight on Johanna DeStefano

Johanna S. DeStefano is a professor emeritus of the College of Education and Human Ecology. During her 30-year career at Ohio State, she was in the program in language, literacy and culture, and also served as an associate dean in the then College of Education.

Q: Why did you start the Student Impact Fund in Public Health and Veterinary Public Health?

A: I decided to start the fund in the College of Public Health for a variety of reasons. First is probably because I’ve been extremely impressed by the faculty I’ve met in the college and wanted to do something to support their work, which I think is of extreme importance in this world. Diseases can literally zoom around the globe in almost no time at all, and diseases and behaviors such as smoking have great health impact on our populations here in Ohio and around the world.

Q: Why is studying zoonotic diseases important to you?

A: Zoonotic diseases are those which, in my layperson’s mind, represent some of the greatest challenges to world health. Domesticated and wild birds which are sick coming into contact with human beings in Asia and Southeast Asia happens all the time, which could lead to influenza pandemics. Reservoirs of other diseases exist in many places in the world, including in the United States.

On almost a daily basis, we interact with animals, including our pets. And we also interact with people who could bring with them these potentially deadly diseases.

The College of Public Health is working with several colleges at Ohio State to create interdisciplinary programs which can accomplish far more than people working in their own silos of expertise. If we are going to be able to make breakthroughs in the treatment and prevention of zoonotic diseases, it will take such a multidisciplinary effort – which the college is engaging in.

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Q: With this fund students will be able to participate in international practicums and health activities. What do you hope they gain from these experiences?

A: Students able to have international practicums and health activities are going to be far better prepared to deal with the seriousness that zoonotic disease poses for health care professionals the world over.

They need to be in so-called hot spots where these diseases occur, to see first-hand animals and human beings in close contact, and where animal husbandry practices can be non-existent or minor in the face of poverty and isolation.

They need these first-hand experiences which will then inform their interdisciplinary studies here in the Colleges of Public Health, Medicine and Veterinary Medicine.

They, after all, are going to be at the cutting edge of prevention and treatment in this shrinking world.
But for Ohio State Campaign and the College of Public Health

The College of Public Health is at the forefront of public health education, research, and service. Resolving public health issues is an increasingly critical priority shared around the world, and the college is committed to this challenge.

As part of Ohio State’s ‘But for Ohio State’ campaign, we are raising funds that will be used to make the world a healthier place. Our fundraising priorities include global health, health disparities, environmental health, veterinary public health, health administration, and community health.

Gifts that support these priorities span all public health disciplines, enhance the impact of faculty research, provide students with meaningful learning experiences, and influence the health of communities in Ohio and around the world.

A gift to the But for Ohio State campaign in support of the College of Public Health is a gift of healthier, fuller lives for each and every one of us.

To learn more about our campaign and how your gift can make a difference, visit http://go.osu.edu/CPHgiving.
352, total number of graduate students in CPH programs for the past academic year

9.31 percent, increase in the number of students during the past five years

10 percent, increase in the number of applicants during the past five years

66 percent, percentage of female graduate students in the college

71 percent, of female students enrolled in all accredited schools of public health

1600, number of participants attending workshops and programs offered by the Center for Public Health Practice from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012

160, number of professionals attending the 2012 Summer Program

$15 million, CPH Annual budget for 12 months ending June 30, 2012

$7.5 million, grants awarded to CPH faculty in FY2012

$7.1 million, research expenditures in FY12

12th, rank of Ohio State’s College of Public Health among public schools of public health, according to U.S. News & World Report

14th, rank of Ohio State’s MHA program, according to U.S. News & World Report

18th, rank of The Ohio State University, according to U.S. News & World Report’s list of the best public universities
Thomas Thulesen, left, an exchange student from Denmark studying business, gets ready to shave off his mustache on the first day of “Movember,” a month-long awareness campaign about men’s health. The student group Buckeyes for Public Health (B4PH) sponsored the campus campaign with the Nov. 1 shave-off, various activities throughout the month, and a Mo’ gala at the end of the month. Thulesen is a member of B4PH. Movember is an international effort that encourages men to get check-ups and screenings.