

SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

EMORY

Public Health

FALL 2015

Rollins School of Public Health

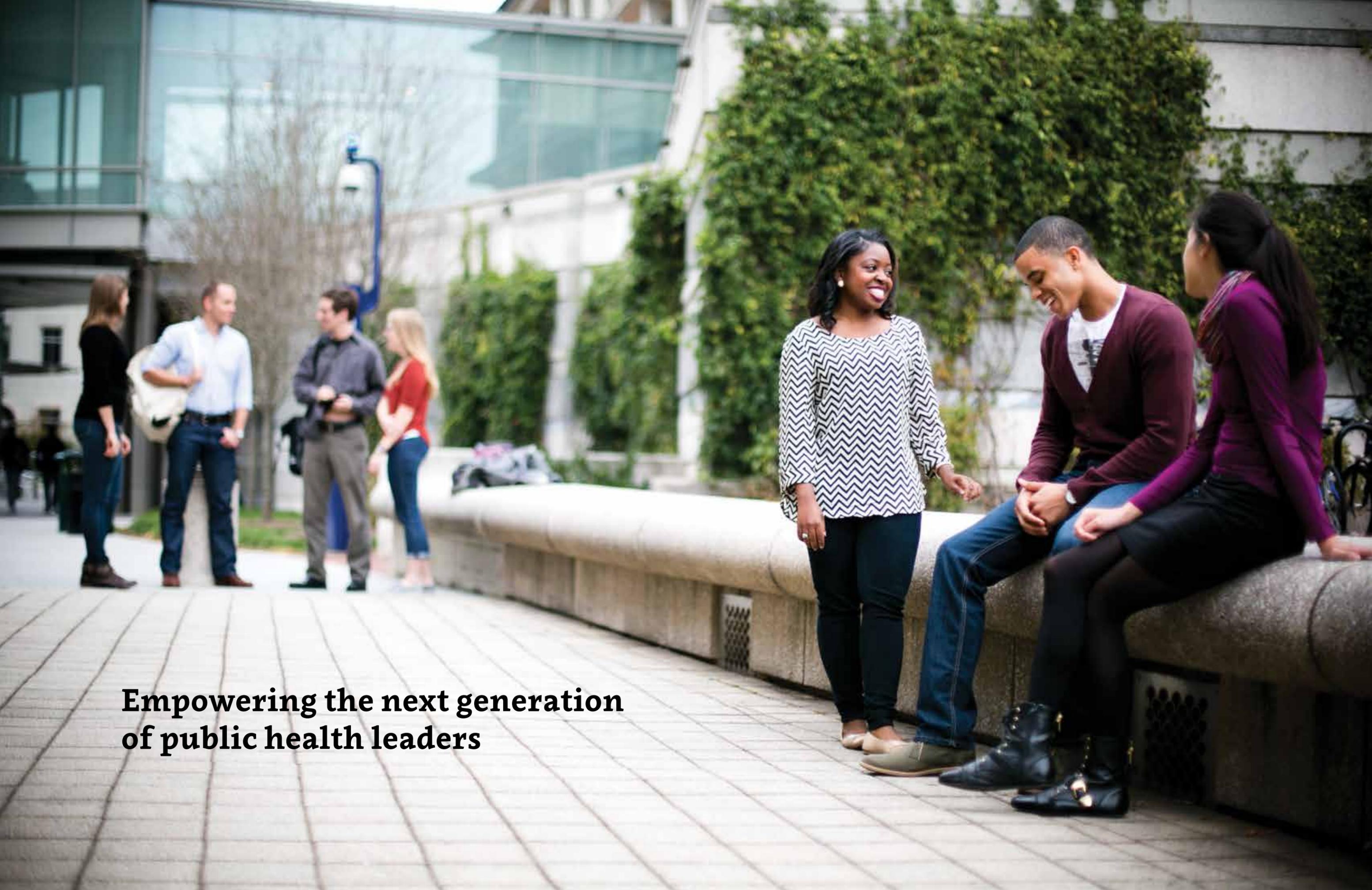
Celebrate

40 YEARS A PROGRAM ■ 25 YEARS A SCHOOL

Rollins

Promoting health, preventing disease—locally, nationally, globally





**Empowering the next generation
of public health leaders**

**Driving research that improves
health and saves lives**



40 years a program, 25 years a school.

Opening pages, first: Crystal Stafford 14MPH works with IMA World Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo on malaria prevention.

Second: Students enjoy a nice day in front of the Claudia Nance Rollins and Grace Crum Rollins buildings.

Third: Christine Moe, Eugene J. Gangarosa Professor of Safe Water and Sanitation, works with WASH students to examine the microbiological quality of the reclaimed water treated by the new Emory WaterHub facility.

This page: Anh-Minh Alexander Tran 14MPH photographed fellow Rollins students as they answered questions about nutrition from schoolgirls in Bijapur, India.

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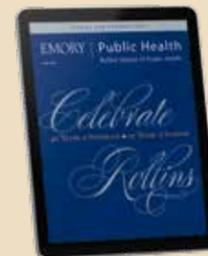
Photo by Anh-Minh Alexander Tran 14MPH



Emory Public Health is published by the Rollins School of Public Health, a component of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center of Emory University (whsc.emory.edu). Please send class notes, observations, letters to the editor, and other correspondence to Editor, *Emory Public Health*, 1762 Clifton Road, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30322, call 404-727-6799, or email martha.mckenzie@emory.edu. To contact the Office of Development and External Relations, call Kathryn Graves at 404-727-3352 or email kgraves@emory.edu. Visit the Rollins School of Public Health website at sph.emory.edu. To view past issues of the magazine, visit publichealthmagazine.emory.edu.

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15-RSPH-DEV-0081



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Looking ahead to a golden era

This year marks our 40th anniversary as a program, our 25th as a school, and my 20th year as dean. This issue explores the varied and vast contributions Rollins has made toward promoting health worldwide—both through educating students who go out and do the work of public health and through discovering solutions to public health problems.

Through the years, we have been able to recruit world-class faculty who have made crucial contributions in their fields. These professionals are committed to educating the next generation of public health leaders, and they find a receptive audience in Rollins students. With each incoming class, I find myself impressed with the talent and commitment of the students.

Rollins researchers have made great strides in discovering solutions to challenging public health issues. With our uniquely close ties to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Emory and Grady hospitals, and leading public health

In a world facing global threats, pandemics, environmental hazards, poverty, and failing health care systems, public health offers a powerful solution.

agencies in Atlanta, our findings have been quickly translated into clinical and public health practice.

These remarkable accomplishments would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the family of O. Wayne Rollins and other generous donors. The health and lives of countless people have been improved through the generosity of our supporters.

I see a bright future for our school and our profession. Public health is entering a golden era. The challenges we'll be facing in the coming decades, including globalization, an aging population, and unsustainable health care costs, require a focus on prevention and populations. Public health is uniquely suited to play a central role in addressing these issues.

Fortunately there is a growing understanding of the profession's importance. In the past, many people didn't quite comprehend what public health was. The general public now understands that having a healthy population requires a broader focus on populations, behavior, and environment, in addition to caring for people who are ill. In a world facing global threats, pandemics, environmental hazards, poverty, and failing health care systems, public health offers a powerful solution.

So on the occasion of our 25th anniversary as a school and 40th as a program, I look back at all that has been accomplished with a tremendous amount of pride. Future challenges will provide us with ever greater chances to succeed.

James W. Curran, MD, MPH
James W. Curran Dean of
Public Health

Words of Congratulations

"Looking back on all the decisions I had to make when I was in charge of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, **I am probably the proudest of the decision to create the public health program.** The Rollins School of Public Health is extremely important in Emory's place in the world."

CHARLES R. HATCHER, JR.
Former Director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center

"Rollins has been a key academic partner for CARE. As an implementing organization, having a partnership with a high-caliber academic institution like Rollins has enhanced the work we have been able to do."

HELENE GAYLE
Former CEO of CARE
Inaugural CEO of the
McKinsey Social Initiative

"The Rollins School of Public Health and the Carter Center have worked closely together and greatly benefitted each other over the years. Rosalynn and I are proud to join in the anniversary celebration."

FORMER PRESIDENT JIMMY CARTER

"With its close ties to the CDC, Rollins students have the unique opportunity to participate in research for some of the leading scientists in the world. That close relationship has enabled the transformation of Rollins from a local program into a great international school of public health. Today it is seen as a center of public health excellence that has no other equal."

EUGENE GANGAROSA
Professor Emeritus of Global Health

"It's hard to overestimate the impact Rollins has had in establishing Atlanta as a public health mecca. Forty years ago, the CDC was just a communicable disease center, and the American Cancer Society and CARE were in New York. Then Rollins started pouring out well-trained students, recruiting world-class faculty, and working closely with the CDC as it grew. **Now everyone looks to Atlanta as the go-to place for public health knowledge and excellence.**"

VIRGINIA (GINNY) BALES HARRIS 71C 77MPH
Former Deputy Director (Management), CDC

"CDC and Rollins are more than next-door neighbors—since the school's founding we have been close partners in public health. More than 100 of CDC's top researchers hold faculty positions at Rollins, and many students and graduates get their first real-world taste of public health work at CDC."

TOM FRIEDEN
Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

"The American Cancer Society provides an out-in-the-field laboratory for Rollins students and faculty doing important public health research. The talented people at Rollins have worked out thorny issues for ACS in terms of doing population science and prospective epidemiologic trials. We are able to accomplish more working together than we would be working apart."

JOHN SEFFRIN
Former CEO of the
American Cancer Society

The Rollins Impact

You'll find Rollins alumni in leadership positions in public health powerhouses like the CDC, USAID, PEPFAR, WHO, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. You'll find them in the field, perhaps developing AIDS programs in Africa, establishing a microcredit program for women in rural Egypt, or leading studies to prevent birth defects. BY MARTHA MCKENZIE



Support from the Rollins family has been crucial to the school's success. Left to right: Henry Tippie, trustee of the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation, Gary Rollins, Amy Rollins Kreisler, Randall Rollins, and Pam Rollins flank a portrait of O. Wayne and Grace Crum Rollins.

Amelie Cardon 12MPH spent three weeks last spring in Sierra Leone and Guinea assessing Ebola surveillance. During daily meetings at the District Ebola Response Center in Kambia, she crossed paths with no less than five other Rollins alumni—three with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one with the World Health Organization (WHO), and one with the International Rescue Committee.

“It’s amazing that wherever I go to deal with public health issues, I run into fellow Rollins alumni,” says Cardon, who works for Action Against Hunger France. “It’s a testament to the excellence of the Rollins experience. The school empowers its students with the highest level of skills, which they use to promote health around the globe.”

Promoting and protecting health around the globe is the essence of Rollins’ mission. This anniversary offers an opportunity to reflect on the significant impact the Rollins School of Public Health has made on the lives of people throughout the world.

Rollins has made an impact through education, training new generations of professionals who are eager to continue and further the work of public health.

Rollins has made an impact through discovery, advancing understanding in critical areas of public health, from HIV/AIDS to diabetes and obesity, and from safe water to emergency preparedness.

And Rollins has made an impact through community engagement, building relationships to improve



Amelie Cardon 12MPH, left, checks the protective gear of people going into an Ebola treatment area in Moyamba, Sierra Leone.

the health and well-being of the communities in which it works.

“The School of Public Health has practiced consilience, or the ‘jumping together of knowledge,’ first by joining the skills and knowledge of Emory and the CDC, but then by attracting the passions of an entire uni-

versity to join in improving the well-being of people everywhere,” says William Foege, professor emeritus of global health and a fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “It is a remarkable development in a short period of time.”

THE BIRTH OF A SCHOOL

What is now the Rollins School of Public Health began as a fledgling program of community health within the Emory School of Medicine. Its creation stemmed largely from the vision of Tom Sellers and Bill Marine, preventive medicine faculty in the Department of Community Health, with the strong support of CDC chief David Sencer and Emory president James T. Laney.

The CDC alliance was, and is, a defining feature of the school. CDC

sel, of his father, David Sencer.

In those early days, the handful of faculty and staff was housed in a small white, blue-shuttered house on Clifton Road. The program’s first class, accepted in 1975, was comprised of mid-career professionals who cobbled together individualized curricula from three core community health courses and classes in other parts of Emory University and even other institutions.

In 15 years, the program grew into a school, thanks to the efforts of a cadre of believers, including Foege, Constance Conrad, the program’s first director, Eugene Gangarosa, its second director, Charles R. Hatcher, Jr., director of the Woodruff Health Sciences Center, and Jeff Koplan, then director of the CDC’s National

Society building. It got a tremendous boost when its vision was embraced by O. Wayne Rollins, a highly successful local businessman and philanthropist who had been a generous and longtime supporter of Emory University. So generous that in 1994 Emory named the young school the Rollins School of Public Health to honor the family’s philanthropy.

Over the years, the Rollins’ contributions have been transformative. The family provided major gifts to construct two distinctive buildings, giving the school the space and the facilities to flourish. They have given unrestricted endowment funds that have allowed the school to recruit and retain some of the nation’s best faculty. And they funded the Center for Public Health

simply wouldn’t be where we are today without them.”

In 1995, James W. Curran was named the school’s second dean. Curran came to the post from the

public health program had produced 300 graduates in 15 years. Today, more than 8,000 Rollins alumni are working around the globe. You’ll find Rollins alumni in leadership po-

“The School of Public Health has practiced consilience, or the ‘jumping together of knowledge,’ first by joining the skills and knowledge of Emory and the CDC, but then by attracting the passions of an entire university to join in improving the well-being of people everywhere,”

WILLIAM FOEGE, professor emeritus of global health

CDC, where he had led the nation’s efforts in the battle against HIV/AIDS. He inherited a small school, but one ripe for growth. “When I came to the school, although it was new, it was already grounded in excellence in teaching and research,” says Curran. “It was also part of an excellent university in a city renowned for public health. I could see nothing but potential.”

A SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

Despite his optimism, even Curran might not have envisioned how far the school would come in his 20 years at the helm. Today Rollins ranks seventh among U.S. schools of public health, according to *U.S. News and World Report*, and is ranked among the top 10 schools of public health in NIH-funded research. It is recognized globally as a center of excellence in public health education and research.

Says Lawrence Klamon, former chair of the Dean’s Council and a major supporter of the school, “To start so small and grow so quickly into one of the leading public health schools in the country is a testament to the excellence of the faculty and staff, which in turn produce excellent graduates who go out and change the world.”

Quite a lot of graduates. By 1990 when it achieved school status, the

sitions in public health powerhouses such as the CDC, USAID, PEPFAR, WHO, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. You’ll find them in the field, perhaps developing AIDS programs in Africa, establishing a microcredit program for women in rural Egypt, or leading studies to prevent birth defects.

Says Stanley Foster 82MPH, global health professor emeritus, “If you are trying to look at the impact that Rollins has made, I would urge you to look at its graduates.”

LOOKING AHEAD

Rollins embarks on its next chapter in a public health environment that has become a victim of its own success. Following the eradication of so many diseases, the government has cut funding for public health organizations significantly. Vaccination rates have fallen, as evidenced by the recent measles outbreak in California. Antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria are emerging at a rate that has scientists and physicians worried. And as the Ebola epidemic showed all too well, health at home can’t be protected without protecting health across the globe.

Says Dean Curran, “The public health problems of the future will require even greater commitment, and the Rollins School of Public Health will be there to meet them.” ■



The first MCH class in 1975

Rollins and the CDC work in close collaboration.

professionals advocated for the program, taught and still teach as adjuncts, and foster close collaboration. “My father was the longest serving director of the CDC, but I think deep down, helping start the masters of community health program at Emory was one of the things he was most proud of,” says Stephen Sencer, senior vice president in Emory’s Office of General Coun-

Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

When it officially became a school in 1990, it was the first new school at Emory in 72 years.

THE ROLLINS FAMILY CONTRIBUTION

The new school, led by its first dean, Raymond S. Greenberg, was housed on an increasingly crowded floor of the American Cancer

Preparedness and Research to address natural and man-made threats to health following 9/11.

“It would be impossible to overstate the impact the Rollins family has had on our school,” says Kathryn H. Graves, associate dean for development and external relations. “Their belief in and contribution to our school have been critical to our growth and our success. We

Celebrate Rollins

Shaping tomorrow's public health leaders

BY MARTHA MCKENZIE

OUR VOICES

RICHARD M. LEVINSON
EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE DEAN
OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS



“Training gives you quantifiable skills that you need in the field, while education gives you the ability to think critically. Rollins students are trained and educated.”

When alumni reflect on their studies at Rollins, it's typically with something akin to awe. Many still find it hard to believe that they were able to attend lectures from the mastermind of the smallpox eradication campaign. Or study health policy under one of the architects of the Affordable Care Act. Or learn from a pioneer in global maternal and child nutrition.

These experiences do not happen by chance. While research is essential at a leading university, teaching is also highly valued at Rollins. So much so that the all members of the faculty are expected to teach, including those in the dean's office. “Rollins students are able to study under and interact with people who are actually doing public health, not just talking about it,” says Kathy Miner, associate dean of applied public health.

While instruction by engaged scholars has always been Rollins' curricular foundation, the actual paths open to students have multiplied. Today Rollins students can select a field of study in one of six departments in the traditional program and three majors in the online Executive MPH. Students can further specialize with one of six certificate programs. They can combine their interests with one of 11 dual degree programs and continue their studies with one of six PhD programs.

In what many consider the crown of the Rollins educational experience, students have unparalleled opportunities for hands-on learning. Through practica, internships, volunteering, and the Rollins Earn and Learn Program, students gain in-the-field experience and work with world-class scientists at leading public health institutions, including the CDC, the Carter Center, the American Cancer Society, CARE, the Task Force for Global Health, the Arthritis Foundation, and state and local health agencies.

“It has often been said, if you want to study public health, you can go anywhere,” says Miner. “If you want to *do* public health, you come to Rollins.” ■

Passionate students and dedicated professors are committed to making a difference in public health throughout Georgia and around the world.



▷ **DUAL DEGREE HELPS ADDRESS HIV/AIDS**

The summer after his junior year in college, Peter Ehrenkranz bicycled through Zimbabwe, visiting mission hospitals, as part of a travel study fellowship. He had been planning to become a doctor, but what he saw in his travels made him want to broaden his focus.

So he came to Rollins, where he earned his MD/MPH in 2002. Ehrenkranz later spent seven years in Africa, first in Liberia with the Clinton Health Access Initiative and then in Swaziland with the CDC. In both settings he worked to reduce the incidence of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis.

During his five years in Swaziland, the CDC program helped the Ministry of Health increase the proportion of people eligible for HIV treatment who were enrolled in care from 60% to almost 90%.

Today Ehrenkranz is starting a new chapter as senior program officer for HIV treatment with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. “There are more people who need treatment than there is money to support them. We aim to continually improve on innovative models of service delivery that are both less expensive and of higher quality,” he says.—MM



Peter Ehrenkranz MD/MPH continues his work on HIV at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. In 2014, almost 37 million people worldwide were living with HIV. Of these, nearly 15 million were receiving antiretroviral therapy.

▷ **SERVING THE CHEROKEE NATION WITH AN EMPH**

Physician David Gahn was working as a surveillance coordinator and an OB/GYN with the Cherokee Nation Health Service (CNHS), the largest tribal-operated health care system in the U.S., when he traveled to Afghanistan with the CDC. Gahn and his colleagues worked with Afghan doctors and midwives, who delivered 60 to 80 babies a day to mothers who had no prenatal care.

“I thought, ‘How do you fix that?’” Gahn recalls. “I began to see ways to use that experience at Cherokee Nation, but I needed an academic framework to

apply what I saw in the clinical setting to public health.”

Gahn enrolled in the Executive MPH program—Rollins’ distance learning option for working professionals—and commuted between Afghanistan and Atlanta to take the requisite classes at the start and end of each semester. “I’m now able to collect and analyze data in the context of the population I work with in Oklahoma and communicate the information so that people can understand and use it,” says Gahn.—PAM AUCHMUTEY



OUR VOICES

HERSH GUPTA 13MPH
EXPERIENCED ASSOCIATE, PRICE-
WATERHOUSECOOPER LLP



“The education I received at Rollins—both inside and outside the classroom—truly set me up for success.”

The MD/MPH is one of 11 dual degrees offered at Rollins. The others are MBA/MPH, MSN/MPH, JD/MPH, JM/MPH, PA/MPH, DPT/MPH, MDiv/MPH, MTS/MPH, PhD/MPH, and MA (Bioethics)/MPH. For the past two years, Rollins has had the most dual degree graduates of any school at Emory, accounting for more than 52% of the graduates in a dual degree program.

PHD TAKES STEPS TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS

Sarah Tinker **o2MPH, o7PhD** finds it easy to go to work each morning. An epidemiologist with the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC, Tinker says, “It’s not hard to be motivated when you’re working to help babies be born healthier.”

Tinker is principal investigator for the Georgia Center for the National Birth Defects Prevention Study, which has been going on since 1997. **The nationwide study was able to confirm observations that link maternal diabetes and obesity with birth defects, including spina bifida. It also picked up information on the rising use of medications during pregnancy.**

These findings served as the foundation for a new study that just started—BD-STEPS (Birth Defects Study to Evaluate Pregnancy exposureS)—for which she is also the PI.

“More and more women are dealing with chronic conditions while they are pregnant,” says Tinker. “That’s due partly to women having kids later in life. But it’s also due to rising rates of certain conditions, such as obesity and diabetes. We’re trying to find out how best to manage those conditions so both mom and baby stay healthy.”—**MM**

The Complex Humanitarian Emergencies Certificate is one of six certificates offered at Rollins.

The other certificates are: injury and violence prevention; water, sanitation, and hygiene; socio-contextual determinants of health; mental health; and maternal and child health.

Rollins offers **three EMPH concentrations**: applied public health informatics, prevention science, and applied epidemiology.



A woman in Kitangua, West Kasai, gets a bed net. Everyone in her family has had malaria several times, but the bed net should help prevent future infections. Some 500 people die per day of malaria in the Democratic Republic of Congo, most of them children under age 5.

FIGHTING MALARIA IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Ten days after earning her degree, **Crystal Stafford** **14MPH** moved to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to work with IMA World Health on malaria prevention. She found a country ravaged by decades of war. Poverty, lack of resources, very little infrastructure, and a weak health system meant preventable diseases such as malaria were the number one killers.

Stafford felt prepared for the setting, thanks in part to earning her Complex Humanitarian Emergencies Certificate at Rollins. Instructors with the CDC’s International Emergency Refugee Health Branch use case studies to arm certificate students with skills they can

take into humanitarian emergency situations.

As a project coordinator for IMA World Health’s malaria program, Stafford spends her days traveling by small plane, Toyota Land Cruiser and pirogue (a small dugout canoe) to remote villages to deliver and hang insecticide-treated bed nets. Last year, Stafford’s team distributed 600,000 nets in central DRC. The goal for this year is 2.5 million.

Stafford says the obstacles to delivering the bed nets are great, but the need is greater. She says, “Everywhere I go, I am constantly reminded of why I am here doing this work.” ■

Jake Swanson 16MPH on his family farm in Iowa. His REAL experience has broadened his thinking about issues in food defense, such as the recent outbreak of avian influenza.



GAINING REAL-LIFE EXPERIENCE

When Jake Swanson 16MPH left his family's 2,500-acre farm in southeast Iowa to attend Rollins, he was intent on marrying his interests in agriculture, food security, and emergency management. He soon began working in the Emergency Management Division at the Georgia Department of Agriculture (GDA), one of more than 450 paid work experiences available to students through the Rollins Earn and Learn (REAL) program.

At GDA, Swanson updated the Georgia Food Emergency Response Plan and standard operating procedures for the Georgia Food and Feed Rapid Response Team. He also coordinated a new initiative to aid in food safety and defense during food transport and helped plan a regional food emergency exercise involving response teams and public schools in Georgia, Mississippi, and North Carolina.

"We have benefitted tremendously from Jake's contributions. He has taken the lead on several critical projects in the office," says Venessa Sims, his GDA supervisor and mentor. "I'm the only employee in the Emergency Management Division, and having high-level MPH candidates like Jake contribute to my office has been a blessing and a successful partnership." —PAM AUCHMUTHEY

Researchers at Rollins apply cutting edge concepts, theories, and methods to address public health challenges.



Celebrate Rollins

Improving health through discovery

BY MARTHA MCKENZIE

When people think about research, they often envision scientists laboring on theoretical endeavors for the sake of discovery itself. There is nothing theoretical about the research being conducted at Rollins. Whether it's finding ways to prevent the spread of AIDS among teens or determining how changes in air pollution levels affect visits to the ER, Rollins research is driven by the quest to find viable solutions to real problems for the betterment of public health.

While this focus has remained its defining feature, the school's research program has expanded dramatically. Today Rollins supports projects in more than 50 countries, has a research portfolio of more than \$75 million annually, and conducts a spectrum of discovery that spans from the molecular level to the population level and includes everything in between.

Rollins can link the vibrant growth of its research program to several factors. Its PhD programs have expanded to six, with 171 doctoral students currently enrolled.

The Rollins assistant professorship offers funds to promising scientists who are just getting their research off the ground. This incentive can often be the make-or-break factor in getting the best young faculty to commit to Rollins.

And, perhaps most important, the addition of three floors of laboratories with the construction of the Claudia Nance Rollins Building in 2010 has allowed the school to attract researchers that it couldn't have considered going after before.

All of this translates into an expansion of the outstanding research for which Rollins is known. ■

OUR VOICES

JASON HOCKENBERRY
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, HEALTH
POLICY AND MANAGEMENT



"The interdisciplinary and collaborative research between Rollins and surrounding public health community is *sine qua non* when it comes to our nation's health. It is one of those rare places where public health research can go from the bench to national policy without leaving the neighborhood."

▷ **LEADING HIV/AIDS RESEARCH**

Emory physicians, scientists, and educators have played a key role in HIV/AIDS research from the earliest days of the epidemic, and today Emory is one of the top AIDS research organizations in the world. This research falls under the umbrella of the Center for AIDS Research (CFAR), led by James Curran, Carlos del Rio, and Eric Hunter. Curran had headed the CDC's AIDS task force from the dawn of the epidemic until he became dean of Rollins in 1995. While administratively based in Rollins, CFAR includes 150 researchers from across the university supported by almost \$74 million in funding. Its research that spans from basic science to actual treatment, and it reaches across the globe.

Clinical research. Atlanta is one of the epicenters of the modern HIV epidemic, and Emory facilities provide care to about 8,000 patients. Under the leadership of del Rio, Hubert Professor and chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health, clinical research is integrated into this care, with the primary focus on developing new therapeutics and improving the lives of those living with HIV.

Prevention research. Patrick Sullivan, epidemiology professor, is one of many researchers focused on prevention. He is pioneering new trials in preventing transmission among men who have sex with men and their steady partners.

Outside Rollins, scientists at the Emory Vaccine Center and Yerkes National Primate Research Center, including Harriet Robinson and Rama Amara, have developed vaccines against HIV that were successful in nonhuman primates and are now in early-stage clinical trials. More than 50 other scientists are working to develop both preventive and therapeutic vaccines.

And, of course, two of the antiretroviral drugs most commonly used in the world to treat HIV/AIDS were developed by Emory scientists.

Says Dean James Curran, "AIDS research at Rollins, and Emory as a whole, is vast, influential, and growing."—MM



Each December 1, Emory hosts a portion of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in observance of World AIDS Day.



Photo by Vanessa Burrowes 14MPH

MORTALITY AND MENTAL ILLNESS

Life expectancy has increased dramatically over the past half century, but this longevity is not shared equally. An analysis of 203 studies from 29 countries by Rollins researchers found that mental illness accounted for a 10-year shortening of life span and 8 million deaths worldwide each year.

While one might suspect suicide as the culprit, the study found that people with mental illness actually die of the same things everyone else dies of—cardiovascular disease

and cancer—just in greater numbers. So Rollins researchers are now working on various intervention studies to address the high rates of risky behaviors among the mentally ill.

“We are one of only seven public health schools in the country that has a formal mental health program, so we are in a unique position to study this issue,” says Benjamin Druss, director of the Emory Center for Behavioral Health Policy Studies.—MM

OUR VOICES

AMITA MANATUNGA
PROFESSOR, BIostatISTICS
AND BIOINFORMATICS



“My collaboration with researchers from different disciplines gives students access to experts and experiences that revitalize all of our work.”

THE WEIGHT OF CHRONIC DISEASE SPENDING

Medicare spending is growing considerably each year, contributing to the overall rise in U.S. health care spending. Ken Thorpe, chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management, and his colleagues wanted to find out how much of the rise in Medicare spending is due to the increasing prevalence of chronic diseases and then estimate how much of this is attributable to rising obesity rates.

It turns out, quite a bit on both fronts. Almost 40% of increased Medicare spending on diabetes is attributable to more people having diabetes, rather than increased spending per individual. An estimated 17% of total spending growth for diabetes is directly attributable to rising obesity. Similar results were found for other conditions.

What can be done? Currently, Medicare provides only two options: intensive behavioral therapy and bariatric surgery. Researchers recommend adding weight-loss drugs to the mix, as well as intensive care coordination. —MM

ON THE CUTTING EDGE OF THE EXPOSOME



The mapping of the human genome promised to unlock the causes of diseases, lighting the path to prevention and treatments. Instead, genetics alone was found to account for only about 10%-20% of diseases, with the remaining being due to the environment or a combination between genes and environment. What scientists need is the environmental equivalent for the human genome.

That equivalent is the exposome. The concept is nothing short of the measurement of all of a person's exposures over a lifetime and the body's responses to

those exposures. To begin the process of this Herculean mapping task, the NIH awarded Rollins and its partner, Georgia Institute of Technology, a four-year \$4 million grant to establish the HERCULES Center (Health and Exposome Research Center: Understanding Lifetime Exposures), the first exposome research center in the U.S.

As a core center grant, HERCULES provides infrastructure and facilities to support exposome-related research. Two years in, the center has already helped 20 different investigators with studies.

Most recently, the center was awarded \$8 million from NIH to establish the National Environmental Exposure Assessment Laboratory at Emory. The new resource will provide state-of-the-art analysis of environmental exposures for children's health studies.

“The exposome is still in its infancy, but it's potential is enormous,” says Gary Miller, associate dean of research, director of the center, and professor of environmental health. “Having HERCULES here at Rollins has positioned us to be players on the national stage of cutting-edge environmental sciences research.” —MM



Photo by Matthew Freeman 05MPH

LEADING AND LEARNING IN WASH

When Rollins researchers, along with CARE, the Government of Kenya, and several Kenyan collaborating organizations, found that improving school water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) access decreases absenteeism, increases enrollment, and reduces incidences of diarrhea and some parasitic infections, the Kenyan government took notice. It approved a school hygiene curriculum, increased its budget for WASH programs, and began providing free menstrual pads to all primary school girls.

“We are not doing this research in a vacuum,” says Matthew Freeman, assistant professor in environmental health

and lead researcher of the study. “We work to generate data that has direct policy implications and can inform how governments and donors can spend their money on WASH to improve the lives of schoolchildren.”

Freeman's study is but one of many in the Center for Global Safe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, which has earned a global reputation for its pioneering work. CGSW was the first WASH center established at a U.S. university, and Rollins was the first school in the country to offer a graduate certificate in WASH to MPH students. —MM

RACISM AND BIRTH OUTCOMES

In the United States, African American women are much more likely to have low birth-weight babies than white women. This imbalance holds true even when level of education, income, and access to prenatal care are taken into account. In fact, the gap widens the further up the socioeconomic ladder you go.

“When we looked at a very elite group—college-educated women married to college-educated men—we found African Americans had three times the rate of very low birth-weight babies as whites,” says Carol Hogue, director of the Rollins Women’s and Children’s Center.

Hogue hypothesizes that the birth weight disparity is explained by lifetime stress associated with racism experienced by African American women. Her theory is borne out when one looks at black women who come to the U.S. as adults from Africa or the Caribbean. These women, controlled for socioeconomic factors, experience the same pregnancy outcomes as white women. Their daughters, however, are at a higher risk for low birth-weight babies.

As a result, African American women would be well served to identify ways to reduce stress and increase rest, be screened for depression, and have their nutritional status assessed—all before they get pregnant and during pregnancy, according to Hogue, the Jules and Uldeen Terry Professor of Maternal and Child Health.—MM



► DEFEATING DIABETES IN INDIA

Diabetes is a tremendous global health burden, but it is particularly daunting in India. Approximately 67 million men and women have diabetes, the second highest number of any nation in the world. Many develop the disease in their 30s and 40s, the most productive years of life.

Research about diabetes, however, occurs largely outside of India in high-income nations such as the U.S. What that research reveals may not translate directly to populations in low-resource settings. For example, recent studies to come out of the Emory Global Diabetes Research Center (EGDRC) showed that deficient insulin secretion may contribute more specifically to diabetes in Asian Indians. “That suggests, in addition to modernization, there are factors related to the biology of diabetes in India that we don’t understand,” says K.M. Venkat Narayan, the Ruth and O.C. Hubert Professor of Global Health and director of the EGDRC.

The solution lies in building a research base in India through training and collaboration. To date, the EGDRC has supported training for 25 U.S. researchers in India and 50 researchers from India and other countries at Rollins.

Earlier this year, the center joined forces to form an India-based Center for Control of Chronic Conditions. Partners include the Public Health Institute of India, the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. It will generate new research on diabetes, heart disease, cancer, mental health, and injuries by following more than 50,000 participants for multiple years throughout India and by completing trials of prevention and care improvement for these chronic conditions.

“Our agenda is so big,” says Narayan. “Collaboration clearly is the way forward.” —PAM AUCHMUTY



Venkat Narayan cuts the ribbon on a vehicle to be used in India by the Emory Global Diabetes Research Center.

CANCER, GENETICS, AND BIG DATA

In the past decade, cancer research has generated vast amounts of complex data on how genomics influence disease. A core group of experts from Rollins is helping make this data more meaningful for cancer scientists and patients.

These specialists comprise the Biostatistics and Bioinformatics Shared Resource (BBISR), which supports clinical, laboratory, population, and molecular study design and analysis at Emory’s Winship Cancer Institute. BBISR helps Winship researchers pinpoint why certain treatments and drug therapies may or may not work in light of various genomic, behavioral, and environmental risk factors. Rollins faculty in BBISR also lead their share of studies.

BBISR director Jeanne Kowalski is a biostatistician with expertise in clinical bioinformatics. Her work evolved from her experience in HIV/AIDS research, where she sought to understand why established drug therapies no longer worked for some patients. The key, she found, was related to the genetics of the virus itself.

Kowalski’s active research focus continues in developing models that lead to an understanding of the molecular role, if any, for a patient’s response or non-response to treatment.

“Our goal,” Kowalski says, “is to support research in ways that ensure that study results are accurate and effective, with the ultimate goal of improving treatment options leading to a better quality of life for cancer patients.” —PA

OUR VOICES

KENDRA GILBERTSON
16MPH GLOBAL EPIDEMIOLOGY



“Thanks to the connections and support of my Rollins professors, I spent the summer in Tbilisi, Georgia, working with the CDC and in-country government on zoonotic disease research.”

Celebrate Rollins

Touching the community

BY MARTHA MCKENZIE

OUR VOICES

WINIFRED THOMPSON
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES AND
HEALTH EDUCATION



“Rollins students often are paired with community organizations to work on projects, which is a great learning opportunity and a valuable resource for the organizations.”

Community engagement is critical to the Rollins experience. It enriches students' education with hands-on opportunities. It is a necessary ingredient for conducting research here and abroad. But perhaps most important, it connects faculty and students alike with the reason they are in public health in the first place.

From the start, Rollins students are schooled in the importance of community involvement through Rollins-Teer Day. During fall orientation, students, staff, and faculty volunteer at more than 25 charities and organizations in the Atlanta area.

The Student Outbreak and Response Team helps local organizations during health emergencies, such as when members collaborated with the CDC in global mapping during the Ebola epidemic. And students promote health in local, national, and global communities through volunteering, practica, global field experiences, student organization activities, and special projects.

“The one thing that unites everything together—regardless of whether it’s doing research, giving students practical experience, or doing actual public health work—is the focus on the community,” says Kara Robinson, associate dean of admissions and student affairs. “It’s all about building trust and building relationships so we can first understand and then provide what that individual community needs for its health and well-being.” ■



Tricia Vannatter o8MPH spent two months in Lucknow, India, on a Global Field Experience trip.

MASTERS INTERNATIONAL HELPS LAUNCH A CAREER

Lisa Rotondo o1MPH was a member of the first Masters International program at Rollins, which allows a student to earn an MPH in conjunction with the Peace Corps' Masters International Program. A month after graduating, she went with the Peace Corps to a rural village in Burkina Faso in West Africa to work with a health district team on Guinea worm eradication. The experience helped shape her career.

Today, Rotondo is a leading expert in neglected tropical disease (NTD) control and elimination. After serving in senior leadership roles in international trachoma programs with the Task Force for Global Health and the Carter Center, Rotondo is currently director of the USAID-funded ENVISION project at RTI International. In this role, she oversees work in nearly 20 countries, providing technical assistance and funding to ministries of health to address NTDs.

"The nice thing about working in NTDs is that our goals are time-bound, focused, and achievable," says Rotondo.—MM



▽ GAINING GLOBAL FIELD EXPERIENCE

As a global health student who also worked in the Global AIDS Program at the CDC, Jennifer (Jenny) Albertini o4MPH developed a reference guide for HIV post-test clubs, which many testing sites in Africa set up for their clients. She was able to travel to Malawi and Uganda through the Global Field Experience program, supported by the Eugene J. Gangarosa Fund, to conduct her field research for the guide.

"In addition to getting to do the field research to complete my reference guide, I was able to see how CDC offices operated in the field," says Albertini, who is now the senior HIV/AIDS technical adviser for the Africa Bureau at USAID. "This was also the time PEPFAR [the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief] was getting started, so I saw how it worked from the very beginning. Both of these things helped convince me that working on PEPFAR programs in the field was what I wanted to do."

Albertini went on to spend seven years in Africa after graduation—first in Zambia and then in Swaziland—working with an NGO, then the CDC, and finally USAID on their PEPFAR programs. Today she works in the D.C. office of USAID, focusing on how PEPFAR policies get implemented in the field and how African AIDS programs are supported.—MM



◀ HEALTH FOR SOUTHEAST'S LATINOS

When Karen Andes, assistant professor in global health, agreed to partner with the Consulate General of Mexico in Atlanta to run its Ventanilla de Salud (Window to Health), a health promotion program, she knew this population faces plenty of obstacles in accessing health care. So she enlisted the aid of global health students to survey the program's clients about demographic and health characteristics, physical activity, nutrition, and food security. The students then proposed evidence-based interventions that could be applied in the Ventanilla de Salud setting.

"Through our work at the consulate, we are creating opportunities for Emory students to build their ability to work effectively in this community while providing services that improve the lives of Mexican nationals in the metro Atlanta area," says Andes.—MM



A STRONG PEACE CORPS PRESENCE

Neither Becca Egner 11MPH nor Paul Fleming 11MPH planned on a career in public health when they signed up to be Peace Corps volunteers in the mid-2000s. Egner planned to become a doctor after her two-year stint in Burkina Faso, and Fleming was going to pursue public policy after his Nicaragua posting. But both fell in love with public health in the Peace Corps.

They were each considering other public health schools when Rollins offered them among the first Paul D. Coverdell fellowships to enhance the school's Masters International program.

"We were brought in to strengthen a program to prepare people who wanted to go into the Peace Corps and also to establish partnerships with local refugee settlement and service agencies in Clarkston to sort of mimic the Peace Corps experience," says Egner, who won the Emory Humanitarian Award in 2011. "It was an incredible opportunity to continue our Peace Corps experience."

Since those early days, the Peace Corps presence has grown dramatically at Rollins, and the Clarkston-

Rollins connection has matured into a strong collaboration, with students working in eight organizations that serve the refugee community.

As for Egner and Fleming, they married in June 2013. Fleming earned a PhD in health behavior, and Egner got a degree in public health nursing. They are heading to California in November, where Fleming will do his postdoctoral work at the University of California San Diego, focusing on HIV in the Latino community. Egner plans to continue in practical public health nursing.—MM

OUR VOICES

ALEXANDER PLUM 15MPH



"Rollins helped me ground my public health education at the community level, where I learned the importance of relationships and partnerships to doing effective public health work."



Becca Egner 11MPH, below with outstretched arms, and Paul Fleming 11MPH, directly behind Egner in a green sweater, pose with other Returning Peace Corps Volunteers.

25

SNAPSHOTS OF ROLLINS

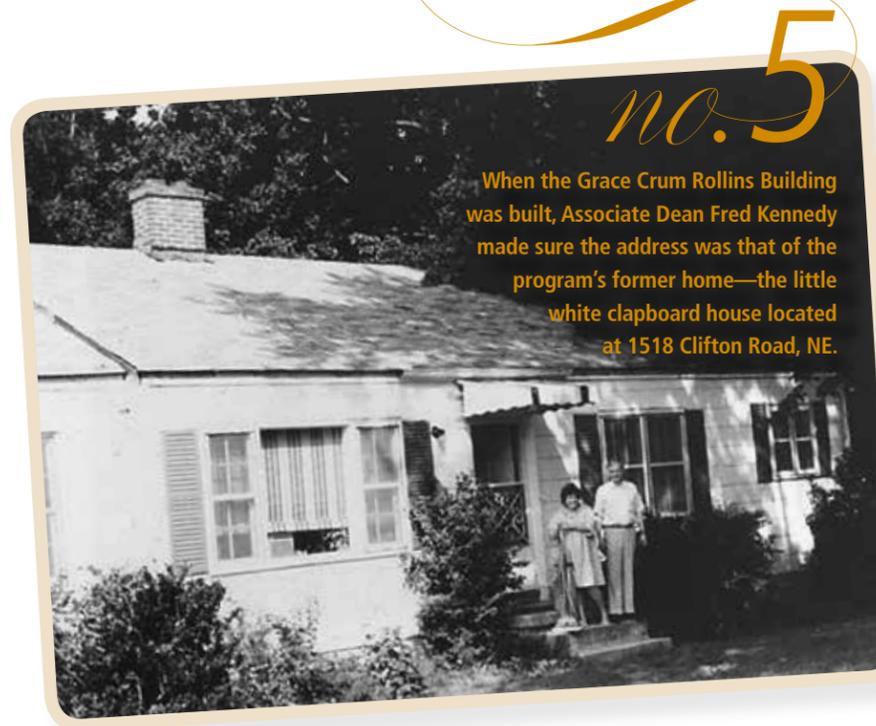


no. 1 When the master of public health program was elevated to school status in 1990, it was the first school founded at Emory University in 72 years.

no. 2 The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention directors have played important roles in establishing and building the RSPH. These include David Sencer, the longest serving CDC director; William Foege, who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and Jeff Koplan, who is now VP for Global Health at Emory.

no. 3 Rollins is second in research funding and the third largest school at Emory. Only the medical school and college have larger budgets. In 1975, the budget was just over \$100,000. Today the RSPH budget is more than \$75 million annually.

no. 4 The Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. It was originally established as the Department of Statistics and Biometry within the Emory University School of Medicine.



no. 5 When the Grace Crum Rollins Building was built, Associate Dean Fred Kennedy made sure the address was that of the program's former home—the little white clapboard house located at 1518 Clifton Road, NE.



no. 6 Raymond S. Greenberg was named the founding dean of the school of public health shortly before his 35th birthday. Dean from 1990 to 1995, he is now the executive vice chancellor for health affairs for the University of Texas system.

no. 7 *US News & World Report* ranked Rollins in the top 10 schools of public health only seven years after its founding. **Currently ranked #7, Rollins is the only school in the top 10 founded within the past 50 years.**



no. 8 More than 600 students participate in Rollins-Teer Day each year, serving at least 25 local charities and organizations. The volunteers prepare meals for people living with HIV/AIDS, do home repairs for senior citizens, prepare boxes of medical supplies to be shipped to clinics serving the poor around the world, clean up streams and parks, and more.

no. 9 Since 1990, five Rollins faculty have received the Thomas Jefferson Award, Emory's highest honor for faculty and staff. They include Eugene J. Gangarosa (1991), Donna Brogan (1993), John Boring (1996), Richard Levinson (2005), and Carlos del Rio (2014).

no. 10 In 1994, Emory recognized the Rollins family's philanthropy to the university by naming the school of public health in their honor. **Rollins was the first named school of public health in the country.**

no. 11 In the past five years, Rollins has received 13 out of a total of 32 Humanitarian Awards—more than 40%—awarded by Emory's Division of Campus Life to recognize students for outstanding humanitarian work.





no. 12 International fellowships have been an important component since Rollins was named a Hubert H. Humphrey campus in 1993. In 2003, Bill and Melinda Gates made their first ever endowment gift to establish the William H. Foege Global Health Fellowship program. Other programs include the Edmond Muskie, Fogarty, Fulbright, and USAID fellowship programs.

no. 13 Located in the “public health capital of the world,” Rollins enjoys close working relationships with Atlanta-headquartered public health organizations, including the CDC, the Carter Center, the American Cancer Society, CARE, and the Task Force for Global Health.

no. 14 More than 800 Rollins alumni work at the CDC, making it the school’s largest single employer. In addition, CDC scientists account for nearly half of Rollins’ 350 adjunct faculty members.



no. 15 RSPH has more than 200 international students from 40 different countries, including 95 from China, 20 from India, and 27 King Abdulah Fellows from Saudi Arabia. More than 70 languages are spoken.



no. 16 Rollins faculty, staff, and students are among the most generous in their contributions to MyEmory. Thank you celebrations have included Starbucks coffee, chocolates, and ice cream.



no. 17 Through the generosity of the Hubert Foundation, the Hubert Department of Global Health became the first solely Emory department to be named.

no. 18 Rollins has 11 faculty and adjunct IOM members in the school—Ruth Berkelman, Claire Broome, Jim Curran, Carlos del Rio, Bill Foege, Donald Hopkins, Jim Hughes, Jeff Koplan, Rey Martorell, Godfrey Oakley, and Mark Rosenberg. For those at the top of their field, membership in the IOM reflects the height of professional achievement and commitment to service.

no. 19 Rollins established the Charles R. Hatcher, Jr., MD Award in 1996 to honor Hatcher on his retirement as director of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center. The award is given to honor faculty members of the Health Sciences Center who, through their lifetime of work, exemplify excellence in public health.



no. 20 The Georgia Cancer Registry, which is housed in the Department of Epidemiology, comprises two databases—the National Cancer Institute’s Surveillance, Epidemiology & End Results Program and the CDC’s National Program of Cancer Registries. The Georgia Cancer Registry is one of the oldest and largest cancer registries in the U.S., formed in 1975 and containing information pertaining to more than 800,000 people.



no. 21 Dean James Curran has led the school for 20 years—the longest tenure of any current dean of a school of public health and any current Emory dean. He is the only Emory dean to have his position named in his honor while in office. Curran and all future deans will be known as the James W. Curran Dean of Public Health.



no. 22 The RSPH has more than 80 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, and 88 incoming students have expressed an interest in the Masters International program.



no. 23 Six endowed funds provide more than 80 students an opportunity to complete global field experiences each year. Since 1993, more than 850 students have worked in 90 countries.

no. 24 The Matthew Lee Girvin Award was created in 2002 to honor Matthew Girvin, 94MPH, who died in January 2001 while serving on a United Nations surveying mission. The award is presented to a recent graduate who exemplifies Matthew’s selfless dedication to the field of public health and who has made significant contributions toward improving the lives and health of others.



no. 25 In 1975, 16 students entered the MCH program’s first class. In the 2014-2015 academic year, 495 MPH and MSPH students and 29 PhD students graduated, bringing the total number of alumni to 8,596.

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YEARS AND
COUNTING



A group of loyal faculty and staff have been with Rollins since it became a school on September 13, 1990.

FRONT ROW, L-R: Richard M. Levinson, executive associate dean, academic affairs; Rose Gangarosa; Eugene Gangarosa, professor emeritus, global health; Kathryn H. Graves, associate dean, development and external relations; Kathleen Rae Miner, associate dean, applied public health

SECOND ROW, L-R: J. Elaine Brockman, senior research associate, epidemiology; Lauren Mann, departmental computer support technician II; Deborah A. McFarland, associate professor, global health; May Ting Liu, information analyst III; Carol J. Rowland Hogue, professor, epidemiology; Philip S. Brachman, professor, global health

THIRD ROW, L-R: Robin G. Thompson, senior administrative assistant, environmental health; Cynthia Jorgensen, adjunct associate professor, behavioral sciences and health education; Michael H. Kutner, professor, biostatistics and bioinformatics; Michael J. Haber, professor, biostatistics and bioinformatics; John R. Boring, professor, epidemiology; Barbara Johnson-Allen, senior computer system analyst; Moose Alperin, chair, Executive MPH program

FOURTH ROW, L-R: Allan Goldman, adjunct professor, health policy and management; Ann Buckles, editing supervisor, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics; Judy H. Andrews, director of registry operations, Georgia Center for Cancer Statistics; Nancy J. Thompson, associate professor, behavioral sciences and health education; Carolyn Drews-Botsch, professor and vice chair, epidemiology

NOT PICTURED: Donna J. Brogan, professor emeritus, biostatistics; George A. Cotsonis, senior associate, biostatistics and bioinformatics; W. Dana Flanders, professor, epidemiology; Stanley Foster, professor emeritus, global health; Michael J. Lynn, senior associate, biostatistics and bioinformatics; Azhar Nizam, senior associate, biostatistics and bioinformatics; Iris Smith, clinical associate professor, behavioral sciences and health education



R. Randall Rollins receives honorary degree

Philanthropist R. Randall Rollins received an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Emory University's commencement ceremony in May. Rollins, chairman of the board of Rollins, Inc., is one of Emory's most generous living donors. In addition to unprecedented moral and financial support and leadership to the School of Public Health, gifts include support of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center, the Emory School of Medicine, the Winship Cancer Institute, Yerkes National Primate Research Center, and the Candler School of Theology.

Randall and his brother, Gary Rollins, made generous lead gifts that enabled the construction of the two buildings—the Grace Crum Rollins and Claudia Nance Rollins buildings. They gave unrestricted gifts that enabled the Dean to endow the chairs of three departments and provided funding to help launch the careers of promising junior faculty. In addition, the family established the Center for Public Health Preparedness

and Research after 9/11 and endowed the Wilton Looney Chair of Cardiovascular Research. With this support, Rollins continues the mission of the O. Wayne Rollins Foundation, created in 1967 by family patriarch Wayne Rollins and his wife, Grace Rollins.

“Now recognized as one of the nation's leading schools of public health, the Rollins School of Public Health's worldwide reach would not have been possible without the generosity of Randall Rollins and his family,” says Dean James Curran. “Today, more than 8,000 Rollins alumni hold leadership positions in more than 100 countries. More than half live in Georgia, substantially increasing the expertise of our public health workforce. Ten percent serve the world as dedicated employees of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Countless thousands throughout the world will lead longer, more productive lives because of Randall Rollins' investments in public health.” ■

School of Medicine award to del Rio

Carlos del Rio, Hubert Professor and chair of the Hubert Department of Global Health, received the 2015 School of Medicine's R. Wayne Alexander Excellence in Research Award. This award recognizes significant contributions to medical knowledge realized through a body of research over an individual's career.

Del Rio has worked over the years to reduce barriers to care for HIV-infected patients in hard-to-reach populations. His work has led to changes in the CDC's recommendations for HIV testing in health care settings and in the development of an intervention for linking to care newly diagnosed HIV-infected patients that is now considered "best practice" by the CDC. His work highlighting the importance of the HIV care continuum as a way to measure outcomes of care led to an executive order from the President of the United States to establish an "HIV Care Continuum Initiative" to focus on improving HIV care delivery.



Curran elected to American Academy of Arts and Sciences

Dean James Curran was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

One of the nation's most prestigious honorary societies, the American Academy is also a leading center for independent policy research. Members contribute to Academy publications and studies of science and technology policy, global security and international affairs, social policy and American institutions, and the humanities, arts, and education. Since its founding in 1780, the Academy has elected leading "thinkers and doers" from each generation, including George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in the 18th century, Daniel Webster and Ralph Waldo Emerson in the 19th, and Margaret Mead and Martin Luther King, Jr., in the 20th. The current membership includes more than 250 Nobel laureates and more than 60 Pulitzer Prize winners.

"We are honored to elect a new class of extraordinary women and men to join our distinguished membership," says Don Randel, chair of the Academy's board of directors. "Each new member is a leader in his or her field and has made a distinct contribution to the nation and the world. We look forward to engaging them in the intellectual life of this vibrant institution." ■

Rollins garners its first Brittain Award



Amanda Garcia-Williams

Amanda Garcia-Williams 09MPH 15PhD is the 2015 recipient of Emory's highest student honor, the Marion Luther Brittain Award. This is the first time a Rollins student has won this award, which is presented each year to a graduate who has demonstrated exemplary service to both the university and the greater community.

Garcia-Williams, who earned her PhD in behavioral sciences and health education, has dedicated time to Emory Cares 4 U—a campus-wide suicide prevention initiative—in addition to serving on the honorary degree committee; the task force on protest, dissent, and community; the committee on class and labor; and several search committees.

Garcia-Williams was accepted into the 2015 class of the Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS), an elite corps of "disease detectives" who investigate outbreaks and other public health crises at the CDC. While her primary interest remains preventing violence and injury of all kinds, she is open to any assignment by the EIS. "It's my dream job," she says. "I know I'll be happy because I'm passionate about every aspect of public health." ■

McGowan receives Hatcher Award

John E. McGowan, Jr., was awarded the 2014-2015 Charles R. Hatcher, Jr., M.D. Award for Excellence in Public Health.

McGowan, who came to Emory in 1973, is a professor of epidemiology and global health at RSPH and a professor of medicine and pathology in the medical school. His contributions include extensive teaching and mentoring activities; directing the MD/MPH dual degree program; directing the masters of science in clinical research training program for junior faculty, fellows, and medical students; serving as a senior advisor for the Emory Global Health Institute; and other efforts to build collaborative programs across the Emory campus and beyond.

"Our school grew out of the school of medicine, and John has remained a significant bridge between the

schools through his teaching and research," says Dean James Curran.

The annual award is named for Charles Hatcher, former director of the Robert W. Woodruff Health Sciences Center. Under his leadership, the MPH program was elevated to school status. ■



Dean James Curran, John E. McGowan, Jr., and Charles R. Hatcher, Jr.

Lynn's retirement marked with creation of new award

Three days after the 40th anniversary of his arrival at Rollins, Mike Lynn, senior associate in the Department of Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, retired. Family, friends, and colleagues gathered to wish him well on his new path. He was feted with a slideshow, an array of lighthearted gifts, and the traditional rocking chair. Department Chair Lance Waller wrapped up the presentation by announcing the establishment of the Michael J. Lynn Collaboration Award in Biostatistics, which will be awarded each year to a scientist who emulates Lynn in going above and beyond in collaborative efforts. The first recipient of the award will be Lynn himself.

"Mike built a capacity in our department, our school, and our university for high-quality data management for biomedical research," says Waller. "He built a reputation here and nationally for his work. We have established this award in his name as a lasting recognition of his career, his high standard of excellence, and his impact on biomedical science and to future generations of biostatisticians." ■



Mike Lynn





Preventable birth defects in Europe

At least half of the nearly 8,000 European cases of spina bifida and anencephaly can be prevented through a mandatory folic acid fortification intervention, according to a study in Europe in collaboration with Rollins researchers. Spina bifida and anencephaly are severe birth defects that affect the spinal cord and brain.

“There are well-documented benefits to folic acid fortification,” explains Godfrey Oakley, Jr., professor of epidemiology. “Europe does recommend that all women planning a pregnancy take a folic acid supplement, but the numbers over the past 11 years reveal that this voluntary method is ineffective.” ■



Malaria testing in African children

Diagnostic testing to confirm malaria in symptomatic children younger than five in the African countries of Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda would be cost-effective, according to a recent study by Victoria Phillips, associate professor of health policy and management.

In 2010, the World Health Organization recommended such testing, but it has not been widely enacted due to cost concerns. Says Phillips, “Our results show that shifting resources to support full implementation of the WHO’s policy of universal testing should be seriously considered.” ■



NIH Fogarty grant funds study of link between infectious disease and sustainable agriculture

Justin Remais, associate professor of environmental health, and a colleague at University of South Florida’s (USF) College of Arts and Sciences have received a five-year, \$2.5 million research grant from the Fogarty International Center to study the interaction between infectious disease transmission and agricultural practices in the Senegal River Basin.

“Together, infectious diseases of poverty and the need to sustainably feed 9 billion people in the next 50 years represent two of the most formidable ecological and public health challenges of the 21st century,” says Remais. “Identifying sustainable approaches to increasing agricultural productivity, without increasing the risk of infectious disease transmission, will be essential to improving both global public health and environmental quality.”

Agriculture is rapidly expanding in tropical developing countries, and this is precisely where the risk of parasitic disease emergence is greatest and also where disease surveillance is limited. Remais and his USF colleague study the parasites that cause human schistosomiasis, a neglected tropical disease that affects more than 200 million people globally. Preliminary research indicates that environmental changes, including agricultural expansion, can affect the transmission of the flatworm that causes schistosomiasis.

People with schistosomiasis infections can experience anemia, impaired growth and development, and in some cases, fibrosis of the liver and bladder cancer. The global health impacts of the disease are substantial, disproportionately impact the global poor, and strongly reinforce poverty in tropical and subtropical areas of South America, Africa, and Asia. Yet the linkage between agricultural practices—particularly the use of herbicides, insecticides, and fertilizers—and the transmission of schistosomiasis in endemic areas is poorly understood.

“Our results will improve decision-making at the interface between sustainable agriculture and human disease control in a region with limited resources and significant malnutrition and infectious disease,” Remais adds. “This project will provide a model for how transdisciplinary, international research on the ecology and epidemiology of infectious diseases can improve global health.” ■

Vaccine questions? There’s an app for that!

Can’t remember when Junior is due for his next DTaP? Want to know the possible side-effects of the MMR? Wonder whether or not your child really needs the chickenpox vaccine?

The answers to these questions could be in the palm of your hand. Rollins researchers Robert Bednarczyk and Saad Omer have developed a new mobile app called ReadyVax that contains up-to-date information about vaccines and vaccination. The app, available on iTunes, provides regularly updated data on vaccine recommendations and vaccine safety. It also includes the ability to notify users in real time of important vaccine-related updates.

“We wanted to create a single, trusted, go-to vaccine resource,” says Bednarczyk, lead developer for the app. “ReadyVax

applies to routine vaccine use but is also a helpful resource in case of emergency.”

Features of the free app include the following:

- Recommendations for who should be vaccinated, recommended vaccine schedule, and safety profile for each vaccine
- Descriptions of diseases prevented by each vaccine
- Answers to frequently asked questions about vaccines and vaccine safety
- News alerts and updates about vaccine-preventable diseases and links to available resources.

“We have designed the app to be used by both health care providers and consumers,” says Omer. “Data presentation can be customized to suit individual information needs.” ■



CHAMPioning child health and mortality prevention

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a new global health surveillance network aimed at preventing childhood mortality in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. The Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI), which houses the International Association of National Public Health Institutes (IANPHI), will be the lead partner in the new network.

The Gates Foundation plans an initial commitment of up to \$75 million for the initiative.

The Child Health and Mortality Prevention Surveillance network, or CHAMPS, will help gather better data, faster, about how, where, and why children are getting sick and dying.

CHAMPS will partner with governments and public health institutes to better diagnose, manage, treat, and prevent these causes of disease. The network could also be repurposed in the event of an emerging disease epidemic, such as Ebola.

CHAMPS is envisioned to be a 20-year project based

initially at six sites, but eventually could be expanded to as many as 20 sites.

“Seven million children die from preventable causes annually around the world,” says Jeffrey Koplan, vice president for global health at Emory University and PI/ executive director of the network. “This surveillance network will help the Gates Foundation quickly generate the data needed to develop targeted prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for children in developing countries.”

Other members of the leadership team include Robert F. Breiman, professor of global health, Lisa Carlson 93MPH, director of programs for the EGHI, Courtney Dusenbury 08MPH, senior research associate of EGHI, Pratima Raghunathan, a country director with the CDC,

and Dave Ross, director of the Task Force for Global Health. Roseanne Waters, EGHI administrator, contributed to the creation of CHAMPS. ■





Hani Atrash 85MPH



Michael Lischke 90C 92MPH



Lisa Carlson 93MPH



Johanna Hinman 98MPH



Lisa Angus 02MPH and Kari Greene 02MPH



Becky Smullin Dawson 02MPH



Daniel Mackie 04MPH

1980s

HANI ATRASH 85MPH is director of the division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services in the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

MICHAEL UGWUEKE 86MPH has been named president and CEO of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare in Memphis, Tenn. He had already served a year as executive vice president and COO. With 11,000 associates, Methodist is the second largest private employer in Memphis.

1990s

MICHAEL LISCHKE 90C 92MPH has been invited to serve on the North Carolina Institute of Medicine Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia. The goal of the task force is to develop a state action plan for policy makers, funders, and stakeholders focused on Alzheimer's disease prevention and treatment in North Carolina.

LISA CARLSON 93MPH is associate director of management and operations, CHAMPS

Network, at Emory's Global Health Institute. The CHAMPS Network is a new international program funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation that seeks to impact the causes of childhood mortality in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Carlson will provide administrative leadership to ensure its rapid start-up and implementation.

THOMAS PROL 89OX 91C 97MPH is president-elect of the New Jersey State Bar Association.

JOHANNA HINMAN 98MPH is president of the Georgia Public Health Association (GPHA). She has been an active member of GPHA since 1997 and has held numerous leadership positions. GPHA advocates for conditions in which all people and communities can be healthy and assures that a continuous voice broadly represents public health in Georgia.

ISAM VAID 93OX 95C 99MPH was honored with the 2015 Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe Keeping the Faith Award by Emory's LGBT Office at the 23rd Annual Pride Awards. Recipients are students, alumni, organizations, and

faculty members who represent the Office of LGBT Life's mission of creating an affirming and just campus environment.

2000s

CHRISTINA SIGMON AMELL 01MPH is a consultant with MedAssets in North Carolina. She lives in Morganton, N.C.

MARRIED: LAURA LAMBERT 01MPH to Tarun Bhatnagar. The couple welcomed a baby in June 2014.

LISA ANGUS 02MPH received the Australian-American Health Policy Fellowship from the Commonwealth Fund to study integrated systems of care in Australia. She and her partner, **KARI GREENE 02MPH**, start their new adventure in September.

BECKY SMULLIN DAWSON 02MPH was selected in NerdScholar's second annual "40 under 40: Professors Who Inspire." Selections were based on the professors' ability to captivate and engage students, outstanding involvement on campus and in the community, and overwhelming passion for their subject matter.

JULIE HUTCHINGS MAYO 01C 02MPH is an energy transaction lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright in Houston, Texas. She focuses on the development, financing, acquisition, and disposition of the company's energy and infrastructure projects.

TOLTON PACE 00C 02MPH was a contestant on "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" last May and won \$25,000. Each contestant receives 11 increasingly difficult questions pulled from 4th or 5th grade textbooks.

DEMIA SUNDRA WRIGHT 02MPH moved to North Carolina to work as a public health educator for the Worker Training Program, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, in Research Triangle Park, N.C. She had worked for the CDC in Atlanta for 13 years. Wright and her family live in Chapel Hill.

SHANIECE CRISS 04MPH was selected as a student commencement speaker for the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, where she graduated with a Doctor of Science degree from the Department

of Social and Behavioral Sciences. Criss was awarded funding from the National Cancer Institute, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, and the National Institutes of Health.

DANIEL MACKIE 04MPH is a state epidemiologist at the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health.

DANIEL ABBOTT 05MPH is deputy chief of party at Save the Children, USAID, in Washington, D.C.

LAURA LAYNE 05N 06MN 06MPH is deputy chief nurse at the Georgia Department of Public Health.

REBECCA ABELA 07MPH is a strategy implementation manager at the University of Chicago.

KATHERINE KAHN 07MPH is a contract epidemiologist for Leidos at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

MARRIED: KELLY ROOK 08MPH to Michael Wolfensperger on May 30, 2015, in Highlands, N.C. The couple will live in Atlanta.

DAN WANG 09B 09MPH was promoted to WW director of clinical research, which is a corporate permanent position based in the headquarters of Becton, Dickinson and Company in Franklin Lakes, N.J.

2010s

BORN: A son, Riddick Baynes, to **LESLIE HOLMES MARSHBURN 10B 10MPH** and her husband, Jesse Marshburn, on March 17, 2015.

JONATHAN SCHULTZ 11MPH earned his MD from the University of Iowa last May. He has started a combined internal medicine/pediatrics residency at the University of Colorado Denver.

DIANNE ALEXIS 12MPH earned a Juris Masters from Emory in December 2014.

ERIN JOHNSON 14MPH is a research associate for the American Institutes for Research in Washington, D.C.

MARRIED: LEIGH TYNDALL 14MPH to Dr. Samuel Snow on October 4, 2014. She is a CDC/CSTE applied epidemiology fellow at the Michigan



Laura Layne 06MPH



Katherine Kahn 07MPH



Riddick Baynes, born to Leslie Holmes Marshburn 10B 10MPH



Shaniece Criss 04MPH



Dianne Alexis 12MPH



Katherine John 15MPH



LEIGH TYNDALL 14MPH to Dr. Samuel Snow

Department of Community Health in Lansing.

ANA MARIA VISOIU-KNAPP 14MPH is an enhanced HIV partner services coordinator at the Hawaii Department of Health in Honolulu.

MARIAN CREASY 15MPH is an analyst at Abt Associates Inc. in Columbia, Md.

RUTH GEIGER 11OX 13C 15MPH joined Emory's Oxford campus last May as a farm apprentice. She assists farmer/educator Daniel Parson in all aspects of the farm's operations, including fieldwork,

interacting with student workers, and marketing.

BRANDON GOMES 15MPH is a public health analyst at the CDC.

KATHERINE JOHN 15MPH is an Orise Fellow DHDSP at the CDC. She lives in Decatur, Ga.

DANNI LIU 15MPH is a biostatistician at Jaeb Center for Health Research in Tampa, Fla.

KINSEY ELISE McMURTRY 11OX 13C 15MPH is the health promotion coordinator for Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale Counties Health Department.

Rollins School of Public Health

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In Memoriam

ZUBIN R. KHAN 97B 97MPH, formerly of New Rochelle, N.Y., on Dec. 20, 2014.

JAMES FRANKLIN MOORHEAD 98MPH, formerly of Atlanta, on Sept. 6, 2012, at 62.

EMILY BAUER ROBERTS 96C 08MPH of Tustin, Calif., on April 2, 2015. She loved travel and adventure and spent six months in Chile as a young woman. In college, she worked with AIDS orphans in Africa for a semester. In 2013-2014, she and her husband Todd and three sons relocated to India, where she worked

at the American Embassy in New Delhi. During that time, they visited many countries, including Sri Lanka, Qatar, Thailand, Israel, and Turkey. Survivors include her husband, their sons, Hunter, Aaron, and William, her parents, two sisters, six nieces, and one nephew.



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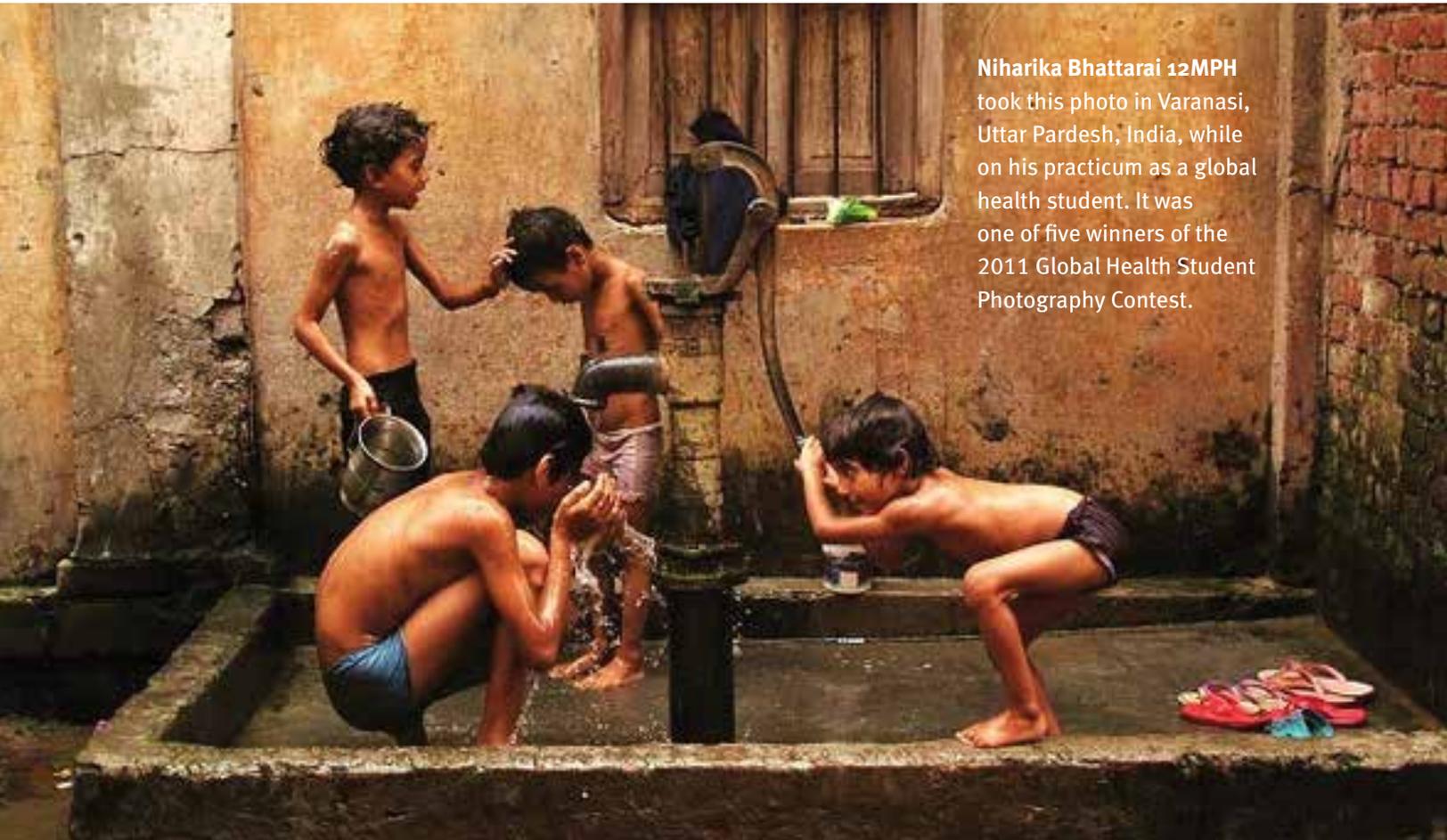
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Niharika Bhattarai 12MPH took this photo in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, India, while on his practicum as a global health student. It was one of five winners of the 2011 Global Health Student Photography Contest.