Dean’s Message

Dear Friends of the College of Public Health:

It is my very real pleasure to share another College of Public Health Newsletter with you.

In this edition, you will read about a number of tremendously successful undertakings for our College—a new Retiree Photo Gallery, a new Farmers Market on campus, significant and impressive student achievements in research and academics, an innovative and active Public Health Student Association, faculty research and publications and the list goes on and on. There is a tremendous amount to be proud of.

While we remain one of the smallest colleges of Public Health in the nation, I think that you will agree that our impact is dramatic and significant.

For three years, we have see a 15 percent per year increase in undergraduate enrollment and, over the past four years, we have doubled the number of graduate applications to the College.

Since we began the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series in 2006, over 7,500 people have attended one or more of the 31 events, including the remarkable lineup over the past two semesters:
- Paul Brooks, Executive Director, Project HOPE United Kingdom
- Stan Brock, Founder, Remote Area Medical
- The 2nd Annual Evening of Health, Wellness and the Arts, co-sponsored with the Mary B. Martin School of the Arts with:
  - Freeman Owle, Cherokee Elder, Historian, and Storyteller; and
  - Kevin Spencer and the “Healing of Magic”
- Julio Frenk, Dean, Harvard School of Public Health
  - The Commissioners’ Roundtable, featuring the current and all former living Tennessee Commissioners of Health
  - “Rethinking Food: The Changing Reality of Food, Health, and Culture in Appalachia”

The Department of Health Services Management and Policy has added the very popular “Breakfast With The Experts” to expose our students to the latest trends in the workplace. The Research Development Committee has added a new “Public Health Grand Rounds” program that has hosted a dozen presentations on faculty research.

Over the past three years, we have seen a 12 percent per year increase in external research funding, with 85 percent of our funded research involving students. These students had an amazing showing at the Appalachian Student Research Forum, with almost 20 percent of all posters being from students in the College and over a quarter of the first-place prizes being presented to our students. Not a bad showing for a group of students that make up about 3 percent of the campus student population.

All in all, it has been a remarkably successful year.

I would like to thank the faculty and staff of the College for all that they do, every day, to assure that we continue to provide our students “A World-Class Education in a World Class-Environment.”

To that, I would also like to add a special thanks to everyone—inside and outside the university—who supports the work of the College. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Best wishes and thanks,
## Inside this issue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome, Congratulations &amp; Thanks</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COPH New Training Center</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Delegation</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lectures/Grand Rounds/Paul Brooks</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evening of Health, Wellness, and the Arts</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stan Brock</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissioners’ Roundtable</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harvard Dean Julio Frenk &amp; Rethinking Food</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retiree Unveiling</td>
<td>10-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEHA Hall of Fame &amp; COPH Staff Wins Award</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean’s News</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Receives Grant</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TN Leaps in Health Rankings</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty News</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appalachian Student Research</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Awards</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSA News</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alumni Featue &amp; Well-A-Palooza</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student wins award, Special Thanks, Market</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student and Alumni News</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12 Graduations</td>
<td>22-23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETSU Food Pantry</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

East Tennessee State University is a Tennessee Board of Regents institution and is fully in accord with the belief that educational and employment opportunities should be available to all eligible persons without regard to age, gender, color, race, religion, national origin, disability, veteran status, or sexual orientation. TBR 220-002-12.3M
Welcome!

Dr. Jonathan Peterson joined the Department of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor in January. He comes to us from a postdoctoral position at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine: Center for Metabolism and Obesity Research where he was also an adjunct professor of Cell Biology. His Ph.D. is in exercise physiology (West Virginia University School of Medicine). He also has an M.S. in exercise physiology (University of Delaware). Dr. Peterson’s research goals are to examine the changes in metabolism that occur in the presence of obesity and/or Type 2 Diabetes and to develop clinical biomarkers and potential therapeutic targets. His lab focuses on a family of secreted proteins termed C1q TNF-Related Proteins (CTRP).

Congratulations and Thanks!

- Thanks to Dr. Patrick Brown for serving on the National Science Foundation (NSF) panel and evaluating relative merit of proposals in the NSF review process.

- Congratulations to Dr. Arsham Alamian who received one of only two awards of excellence presented annually by a health research organization in Quebec, Canada.

ETSU Public Health Training Center will draw officials from eight states

The College of Public Health at ETSU and two organizations that it houses have been selected to host a training center that will provide education and professional development for newly appointed health department officials from eight Southeastern states.

ETSU is one of only four sites in the nation chosen by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) to host the center-known as Survive and Thrive-for one year. The training will be provided by the Tennessee Public Health Center referred to as LIFEPATH and the Tennessee Institute of Public Health (TNIPH), both of which are housed at the ETSU College of Public Health.

“Survive and Thrive: Roadmap for New Local Health Officials” provides new local health officials with information, training and support resources to help them lead their organizations effectively. The ETSU Survive and Thrive Southeast Center will serve new health officials from Tennessee, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, and Alabama. Paula Masters, director of Tennessee LIFEPATH, and Ginny Kidwell, director of TNIPH, will be co-directors.

Dr. Randy Wykoff, dean of the College of Public Health, stated Survive and Thrive is a significant opportunity to influence public health outcomes. Officials who receive appointments to the center will begin their fellowships in September.
A delegation of almost 20 health leaders traveled halfway around the world to spend two weeks at East Tennessee State University, where they learned about public health education and the difference it can make throughout the community.

Chinese government health officials, as part of the China-Tennessee Health Education Training Institute, were treated to a blend of special presentations by faculty and guest lecturers, as well as visits to a variety of the region’s health-related institutions and witnessed firsthand how health education is put into action.

Under the direction of Dr. Jim Florence, university faculty and guest speakers presented special lectures on an array of public health topics during the two-week institute that took place from November 7-18. Faculty, staff, and students from the college led several trips that showcased successful health projects in action. Those projects included the Nu-Val Program and employee health initiatives at Food City; the LIFEPATH Public Health Training Center that is housed at the College of Public Health; employee wellness efforts promoted by Eastman Chemical Company; and quality improvement in health care at Mountain States Health Alliance and the Sullivan County Regional Health Department.

To keep the institute interesting and relevant, some training events were held at off-site venues, such as the Gray Fossil Site and Bristol Motor Speedway. The group attended an ETSU basketball game as well as a special performance of “Dispatches from the Other Kingdom: The Cancer Journey,” an oral history theatre piece conceived and directed by Dr. Joseph Sobol, director of the ETSU master’s degree program in Storytelling at the International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, TN.

The exchange ended with an American Thanksgiving-style banquet at the Old Quarters also located in Jonesborough, TN.

A very special thanks to all our donors and sponsors that helped make this event so successful. Our opening banquet was held at the Bristol Motor Speedway Food City Suite with food provided by Food City and music sponsored by Rhythm and Roots. Eastman, Wendy’s, Chick-fil-A and Pals all provided meals for our guests. Our closing banquet was sponsored by Mountain States Health Alliance.
Paul Brooks, the executive director of Project HOPE United Kingdom, an international charity working to produce sustainable improvements in health, was the guest speaker in East Tennessee State University’s Leading Voices in Public Health lecture held on Thursday, October 6. Brooks was the lead designer of Project Hope UK’s flagship program, “The Thoughtful Path,” a community-led initiative in South Africa intended to help reverse the poor health, life expectancy and social well-being of orphans and other vulnerable children.

The Thoughtful Path is based in Munsieville, one of South Africa’s oldest undeveloped townships and the childhood home of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who remains a patron and enthusiastic advocate for the program. With 60 percent of its 50,000 people living in cramped, dangerous shacks with no internal power, water or sanitation, Munsieville is considered a microcosm of the challenges faced by many settlements in Africa that adjoin urban areas.

Four students from ETSU’s College of Public Health have worked in Munsieville as Frist Global Health Leaders, through support from the Hope Through Healing Hands Foundation, the Niswonger Foundation, the ETSU Office of International Programs and Services, and the Wykoff Scholarship. Two College of Public Health doctoral students, Twanda Wadlington and Megan Quinn, completed their field practice in Munsieville this summer.

Lectures

Breakfast with the Experts

- Frank Anderson, JD, Partner-Anderson & Fugate Law Firm and General Legal Counsel for Mountain States Health Alliance- “Legal Concerns as a Health Care Administrator”
- Nyda Bays, Administrator-Lakebridge Care Center, and Sandy Deakins, Chief Operating Officer at Care Centers Management Group—“Investing in a Long-Term Care Center”
- Tamera Fields, Vice President of Quality for Mountain States Health Alliance- “Herding Cats...Or Maintaining Quality in the Ever-Changing World of Healthcare”
- Dr. Troy Sybert, Chief Medical Information Officer for Wellmont- “Healthcare Informatics: Where Are All the Job Applicants?”

COPH Grand Rounds

- Patrick Brown, JP, PhD, Assistant Professor in Department of Health Sciences- “Strategies for Student Engagement: Integrating Active-Learning into Health Sciences Courses”
- Katie Baker-DrPH Candidate in the Department of Community and Behavioral Health- “Preventing Skin Cancer in Adolescent Girls Through Intervention with their Mothers”
- Arsham Alamian, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biostatistics and Epidemiology- “Multiple Behavioral Risk Factors for Chronic Diseases and Public Health Implications”

Executive director of Project HOPE United Kingdom speaks as part of Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series

Paul Brooks, the executive director of Project HOPE United Kingdom, an international charity working to produce sustainable improvements in health, was the guest speaker in East Tennessee State University’s Leading Voices in Public Health lecture held on Thursday, October 6. Brooks was the lead designer of Project Hope UK’s flagship program, “The Thoughtful Path,” a community-led initiative in South Africa intended to help reverse the poor health, life expectancy and social well-being of orphans and other vulnerable children.

The Thoughtful Path is based in Munsieville, one of South Africa’s oldest undeveloped townships and the childhood home of Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who remains a patron and enthusiastic advocate for the program. With 60 percent of its 50,000 people living in cramped, dangerous shacks with no internal power, water or sanitation, Munsieville is considered a microcosm of the challenges faced by many settlements in Africa that adjoin urban areas.

Four students from ETSU’s College of Public Health have worked in Munsieville as Frist Global Health Leaders, through support from the Hope Through Healing Hands Foundation, the Niswonger Foundation, the ETSU Office of International Programs and Services, and the Wykoff Scholarship. Two College of Public Health doctoral students, Twanda Wadlington and Megan Quinn, completed their field practice in Munsieville this summer.
During ETSU’s College of Public Health's 2nd Annual Evening of Health, Wellness and the Arts, illusionist Mr. Kevin Spencer and Cherokee Elder, historian and storyteller Mr. Freeman Owle showed faculty, students and members of the community that the arts can play an important role in the direct process of healing and in helping health care providers better understand the cultural context of a patient’s illness. This event is part of the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series and was co-sponsored by the Mary B. Martin School for the Arts.

Mr. Owle opened the evening with stories and reflections about the history and perspective of health and holistic wellness in the Cherokee tradition. He interwove stories about the history of the Cherokee people with stories of his own life on the Cherokee reservation in North Carolina, and lessons on the importance of health professionals interacting with the patient in the context of the patient's culture, beliefs and heritage.

During intermission, a photographic exhibit was featured by the Gold Humanism Honor Society.

For the conclusion of the event, Mr. Spencer demonstrated illusions and discussed how he uses magic as a mechanism to teach new skills and confidence to the physically challenged. For instance, he developed “The Healing of Magic,” a systematic program that uses simple magic tricks in physical and psychosocial rehabilitation for patients with physical limitations, brain injuries, learning disabilities and other similar challenges.

Stan Brock, the founder of Remote Area Medical (RAM), spoke as part of the Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series on November 17, 2012. His lecture was also the 28th annual John P. Lamb Memorial Lecture, named in honor of the first dean of the ETSU School of Health and the College of Public and Allied Health.

Brock found fame on the TV show "Wild Kingdom," but he moved on to greater accomplishments as the leader of RAM. Since its creation in 1985, the organization has provided no-cost health care to 500,000 people in the United States and overseas. Before his co-starring role on “Wild Kingdom,” Brock spent 15 years living in the Amazon rainforest with the Wapishana Indians. During his time in the Amazon, Brock became aware of the need for delivering health care to the tribes of that region. His recognition of that need led to the founding of RAM. After initially focusing on serving people in Guyana and elsewhere in the developing world, RAM expanded its scope to address health care needs of underserved people in the United States, most notably in Appalachia. A clinic held annually in Wise, Virginia, has received national attention for dental, vision, and medical care it provides to thousands. Through the years, more than 59,000 people have volunteered their time and services to staff RAM clinics.
ETSU’s College of Public Health presented a remarkable glimpse into the past, present and future of the Volunteer State as six commissioners of health gathered on March 15, 2012, for a roundtable discussion as part of the “Leading Voices in Public Health” lecture series.

Dr. John Dreyzehner, the current commissioner of health, and five of his predecessors participated in the roundtable discussion. The experience of the commissioners spans more than 30 years and dates to 1978. The participants and their years of service include James Word (1978-88), J.W. Luna (1988-91), Fredia Wadley (1995-2003), Kenneth Robinson (2003-07), Susan Cooper (2007-11) and John Dreyzehner, who was appointed to the office in 2011.

David Gregory, vice chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents, served as the moderator for the roundtable.

Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series is co-sponsored by the College of Public Health, the Public Health Student Association and LIFEPATH Public Health Training Center.
Leading Voices in Public Health End the Year with a Multi-Media Celebration of Food

The Leading Voices in Public Health Lecture Series ended its sixth year with a remarkable event titled “Rethinking Food: The Changing Reality of Food, Health and Culture in Appalachia.” The event was co-hosted by DrPH student Rachel Ward, President of the Farmers Market at ETSU, and Camille Kingsolver, co-author of “Animal, Vegetable, Miracle.” It presented the “past” “present” and “future” of food in Appalachia and the various ways in which the public health community is beginning to rethink food.

The evening began with the world premiere of the movie “Ramps and Ruritans: Tales of the Revered and Reeking Leek of Flag Pond, Tennessee.” Produced by the ETSU Office of University Relations and the Center for Appalachian Studies and Services, the movie celebrates the ramp and an annual festival in its honor sponsored by the Flag Pond Ruritan Club. Reflecting on the importance of the ramp in local and Cherokee tradition, the movie highlighted the connection between the region’s “past” and its “present.”

The “present” was celebrated by Tom Peterson, from Appalachian Sustainable Development who spoke on “Growing Local Food Hubs” and by ETSU Radio/TV/Film student Jason Grau whose documentary “The Unicoi Farmer’s Kitchen” was selected for presentation at the Leading Voices Event.

The “future” of food in our region was presented by Ron Fink, Director of School Nutrition for the Bristol, Tennessee, City Schools titled “Simple. Healthy. Foods” and by Sally Causey, Executive Director of Rural Resources, who spoke on “Connecting Farms, Food, and Families.”

Other food-related documentaries, produced by students in ETSU Radio/TV/Film Program, were on display in the lobby before and after the event.
Retiree Gallery Unveiling

. . .Honoring the Past

On April 6, 2012, ETSU President Brian Noland and University Chief Operating Officer and Vice President for Health Affairs, Wilsie Bishop joined with College faculty, staff, and students in unveiling a retiree photo gallery called “ETSU College of Public Health. . .Honoring the Past.”

This gallery includes a uniquely beautiful timeline celebrating the history of the College, as well as 31 photographs honoring those members of the faculty and staff who worked at ETSU for at least 15 years and either retired from a Department that is now a part of the College of Public Health, or who passed away while still serving that Department.

Over 20 of the honorees or their immediate family were present to participate in the emotional unveiling, to reconnect with each other, and with current faculty, staff, and students, and to tour the building.

The “. . .Honoring the Past” gallery stands as a lasting memorial to the generations of faculty and staff who, over the course of more than 50 years, not only created cutting-edge programs, and internationally innovative degrees, but also touched the lives of literally hundreds of the nation’s public health, environmental health, and health science professionals.

Everyone is invited to visit the “. . . Honoring the Past” gallery. It is located on the first floor of Lamb Hall, between rooms 112 and 116.

Those honored and their years of service are:

- Sue Barr
  Years of Service: 1980-2000

- Creg Bishop
  Years of Service: 1973-75, 1977-2008

- Sandra Blevins for R. Dean Blevins
  Years of Service: 1971-1998

- Troy Burrow
  Years of Service 1986-2009

- Charles E. Clark
  Years of Service: 1971-1998

- Nancy Coffman
  Years of Service: 1971-2009
Ralph Coffman
Years of Service: 1969-2009

Fran Gaby for William Gaby
Years of Service: 1964-1983

Mike Gallagher
Years of Service: 1989-2010

Cal Garland
Years of Service: 1964-1989

Deborah Anderson for Al Iglar
Years of Service: 1970-1999

Richard Kinsley
Years of Service: 1968-1990

Bonnie Marrs
Years of Service: 1982-2001

Gene McCoy
Years of Service: 1966-2010

M.T. Morgan
Years of Service: 1963-1998

Shirley Morgan
Years of Service: 1984-2002

Shirley Morrell
Years of Service: 1992-2009

Bob Patton
Years of Service: 1964-1995

Helen Sikora for Vince Sikora
Years of Service: 1977-83, 1995-2003

Cynthia Taylor
Years of Service: 1978-2008

Jay L. Allen - Years of Service: 1965-1996
Janet Decker - Years of Service: 1984-2009
Betty L. Duncan - Years of Service: 1959-1998
Steven Gernt - Years of Service: 1966-1998
Bruce Goodrow - Years of Service: 1987-2006
Betty Grice - Years of Service: 1984-2009
Art Hougland - Years of Service: 1973-1998
John Lamb - Years of Service: 1949-1981
James Lawson - Years of Service: 1959-1994
Thomas L. Perry - Years of Service: 1960-2005
The Tennessee Environmental Health Association chose ETSU as the permanent home of the Tennessee Environmental Hall of Fame. The unveiling of the display was held in Lamb Hall on April 27, 2012, outside the offices of the Department of Environmental Health. The Tennessee Environmental Hall of Fame was created in 2008 to honor those exceptional individuals who have impacted the environment and the environmental health profession in Tennessee. It was feared that without a means of preservation, the rich history of the environmental health profession in the state would be lost. The Hall of Fame conducted induction classes in 2009, 2010 and 2011, with the honor of induction being bestowed upon eight individuals. The honorees included: Dorcie L. Yates, Lester Eugene "Gene" Barnett, Ralph H. Arnold, Jr., Joe A. Covington, Lynn B. Hearn, Darrell L. Holden, Albert Arnold “Al” Gore, Jr., and Walter E. Nannie.

Brian Evanshen received the East Tennessee State University Distinguished Staff Award – EEOC 3 for 2012 on 18 May 2012.

Each year, outstanding staff members are is honored by their peers through the Distinguished Staff Awards, which are presented at the university's Staff Picnic sponsored by the Staff Senate. Each winner receives a $1,000 check, provided for this purpose by the ETSU Foundation, and a plaque from the Staff Senate acknowledging his/her achievement.

Brian is an ETSU alumnus and graduated with a Master of Science in Environmental Health in 1985. In 1990 Brian came back to East Tennessee and came to work for the Department of Environmental Health in the Environmental Health Sciences Laboratory (EHSL) as a Research Specialist. He has worked in this capacity for the past 22 years.

As the Research Specialist, Brian has a myriad of duties that fall under his watchful eye, some of which are: ensure the smooth running of the lab; oversight of analyses concerning research being carried out; direct supervision of the graduate and undergraduate students working in the lab; oversight and implementation of safety program; and oversight of training and maintenance on all lab equipment.

Brian resides in Jonesborough, with his wife Pam (currently a tenured professor and Chair with the College of Education) and son Tyler (currently attending ETSU).
Dr. Randy Wykoff, dean of East Tennessee State University College of Public Health, is one of 16 people selected by Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam to serve on his Health and Wellness Task Force, a group charged with developing an initiative to improve the state’s health status.

The Health and Wellness Task Force was formed by Haslam with the intent of leveraging private and public resources to meet that goal. Tennessee currently ranks 39th out of 50 states in overall health, according to America’s Health Rankings.

A news release from the governor’s office outlined the goals of the task force, which include: focusing on the top preventable causes of chronic disease and disability in the state; developing metrics to measure success; identifying promising strategies; serving as advocates for change; and forming partnerships and garnering resources necessary to reach established goals.

The task force has identified obesity as its first priority.

Ms. Emma Apatu, a doctoral student in the Community Health Program, has received funding from Youth Service America to offer free soccer programs in the local community. In partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Johnson City/Washington County, Ms. Apatu received funding for a program known as Stopping Obesity in Children through Creative Education and Reinforcement (SOCCER).

The SOCCER program is designed to promote healthy lifestyle behaviors through the collaborative involvement among local youth. Student athletes from East Tennessee women’s soccer program teach children soccer skills and expose the group to healthy snacks and food education.

In addition to the members of the women’s soccer team, undergraduate students from the College of Public Health will provide program support and sustainability.

According to Ms. Apatu, the soccer clinics will include an active component where participants will engage in soccer drills and scrimmages followed by healthy snacks and food education. The program will culminate on Global Youth Service Day when the participants will plant a healthy vegetable garden at the Boys and Girls Club facility.

Dr. Randy Wykoff, dean of the East Tennessee State University’s College of Public Health, testified before a Tennessee Senate committee on the overall health of the Volunteer State in the wake of its rise in annual rankings that gauge the health of all 50 states.

Wykoff stated there is ample reason for Tennesseans to be heartened about the latest “America’s Health Rankings,” which were released in December 2011. He offered details behind Tennessee’s rank of No. 39-its best number since the rankings began in 1990-when he spoke before the Senate Committee on Health and Welfare.
Tennessee leapt forward in the annual rankings that gauge the health of all 50 states, moving up to No. 39 to give the Volunteer State its highest ranking ever.

America’s Health Rankings have been compiled and released annually by the United Health Foundation since 1990 and, prior to 2011, Tennessee never claimed a ranking higher than No. 42. This year’s placement at 39th continues a steady upward trend. Five years ago, Tennessee had a ranking of 48th.

As dean of ETSU’s College of Public Health, Dr. Randy Wykoff anxiously awaits this list each year. The college makes button pins when the rankings are released, with a slash through the number to illustrate the desire for upward movement.

To assess an overall ranking, researchers for the America’s Health Rankings track over 20 categories across the public health spectrum, ranging from rates of cancer deaths to children living in poverty.

Tennessee gets high marks in some areas. For example, Tennesseans have the lowest rate of binge drinking in the nation. The state is also strong in the rate of childhood immunizations (eighth), frequency of poor mental health days (11th), geographic disparity (14th), primary care physicians per capita (18th), and public health funding (22nd).

The state scores low in such things as violent crime—at 47th, its worst ranking—and also preventable hospitalizations, diabetes and cancer deaths, all coming in at No. 46. In rates of cardiovascular death and premature death, Tennessee is 44th.

The College of Public Health gives away more than 2,000 of the buttons every year. Wykoff said that when Tennessee reaches a ranking of 20th, he’ll drop the slash.

The complete rankings are available at www.americashealthrankings.org.

“One of the reasons that we do the annual pin campaign is to remind people that these numbers can change. These numbers reflect things that we as individuals, as families and as communities really can influence.”

-Dr. Randy Wykoff
Dean, College of Public Health

Please contact Janet Stork in the Dean’s Office for the College of Public Health at 423-439-4243 or storkj@etsu.edu if you would like one of our buttons.
Publications by Faculty

Jonathan Peterson- “c1q/TNF-related protein-12 (CTRP12), a novel adipokine that improves insulin sensitivity and glycemic control in mouse models of obesity and diabetes” in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

Jonathan Peterson- “CTRP1 protein enhances fatty acid oxidation via AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) activation and acetyl-CoA carboxylase (ACC) inhibition in the Journal of Biological Chemistry.


Ken Silver-“At work in the world: Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on the History of Occupational and Environmental Health, Perspectives in Medical Humanities, University of California Medical Humanities Consortium” University of California Press.

Deborah Slawson- “Go Slow Whoa meal patterns in schools through the Winning with Wellness Project: Cafeteria staff perceptions of implementation effectiveness and impact on food sales” in the Journal of School Health.

Grants by Faculty

Liang Wang - RDC Grant “The Impact of Maternal Prenatal Smoking on Childhood Obesity.”

Arsham Alamian and Liang Wang-RDC Grant “Sleep Problems and Overweight Among Youths.”

Presentations by Faculty

Tricia Metts- “Indoor air quality in rural Appalachian homes heating with wood and/or coal” -Tennessee Environmental Conference in Kingsport, Tennessee, on March 14, 2012.

Ken Silver-“Promoting Health in Migrant Tomato Farmers in East Tennessee” Poster Presentation at the National Rural Health Association’s 35th Annual Rural Health Conference in Denver, Colorado, on April 18, 2012.

Ken Silver- “Early occupational pesticide exposure in a migrant farmworker population” Poster Presentation at the National Rural Health Association’s 35th Annual Rural Health Conference in Denver, Colorado, on April 18, 2012.


Appalachian Student Research Forum

(College of Public Health faculty mentors underlined, students in bold italics):

First Place Award Winners:

Emma Apatu, Chris Gregg, Nakia Woodward, Rich Wallace, and Joel Hillhouse
Katie Baker, Joel Hillhouse, Rob Turrisi, Nichole Scaglione, and Casey Lawson
Megan Carr and Bert Lampson
Steve McQueen, Ken Silver, Michael Bradfield, Joe Florence, Sharon Loury
Britanny Moore and Effiong Otukonyong
Allison Seidel, Karen Schetzina, Meredith Coulter, and Nicole Colgrove

Second Place Award Winners:

Yuxi Sun, Roger Thompson and Andromeda Nauli
Cara Wicks, Selina Clark, Amal Khoury, and Sadie Hutson

Oral Presentations:

Katie Baker, Joel Hillhouse, Rob Turrisi, Nichole Scaglione, and Casey Lawson
Katie Callahan, Shimin Zheng and Xuefeng Liu
Allison Seidel, Karen Schetzina, Meredith Coulter, and Nicole Colgrove
Lok Pokhrel, Phil Scheuerman, Thabet Tolaymat, and Brajesh Dubey
Megan Quinn, Shimin Zheng and Katie Baker
Jodi Southerland, Liang Wang, Kasie Richards, Rob Pack, and Deborah Slawson
Amanda Taylor and Kesheng Wang
Nuo Xu, Shimin Zheng, and Kesheng Wang

Other Presentations:

Steven Kyle Fleenor, and Allan Forsman
Wenfang Li and Kesheng Wang
Forrest Longway, and Andromeda M. Nauli
Gorica Svalina and Allan Forsman
Roger W. Thompson, Jr., Peter Laska, Seif Atiya, and Andromeda Nauli
Ksenia Zhuravleva and Edward M. Onyango
Ellen Janine Craig, Arpita Nandi, Brajesh Dubey and Brian Evanshen
Greg Wykoff, Jordan Ellison, and Aleksey Vasiliev
Casey Lawson, Katie Baker, and Joel Hillhouse
Ryan B. Alexander and Christopher Pritchett
Yan Cao, Amal Khoury, and Xuefeng Liu
Yang Chen, Hadii M. Mamudu, Sreenivas P Veeranki, Yi He, and Rafie Khoygani Boghozian
Yi He and Xuefeng Liu
Sean Stacy and Christopher Pritchett
Selina Clark, Amal Khoury, Brian Martin, Xuefeng Liu, and Karen Cober
Selina Clark, Amanda Horne, Amal Khoury, Brian Martin, Xuefeng Liu, and Karen Cober
L. Carter Florence, Michael Bradfield, Megan Quinn, Sarah Mehta, Beth O'Connell, Colleen Scott, Amber Hampton and Manuel Gonzalez
Yi He, Hadii M. Mamudu, Sreenivas P. Veeranki, Yang Chen, and Rafie Khoygani Boghozian
Emmanuel Odame, Katie Baker, and Joel Hillhouse
David Blackley, Shimin Zheng, and Winn Ketchum
Colleen Scott, Megan Quinn, Arsham Alamian, Joel Hillhouse, Rob Turrisi, and Katie Baker
Rachel Ward, Amal Khoury, Allyson Hall, and Jianyi Zang
Christian Williams, Deborah Slawson, William Dalton, Liang Wang, Mary Ann Littleton, Elizabeth Lowe, Diana Mozen
Karen Schetzina, James Stoots, Jodi Southerland, Taylor McKeehan, and Tiejian Wu
# Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Award</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scholarships</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calvin B. Garland</td>
<td>Erin Dula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John P. Lamb Memorial</td>
<td>Allison Foster</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Allen</td>
<td>Sarakay Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodrow</td>
<td>Cody Steven Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T.J. Wu</td>
<td>Katie Baker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Services Management and Policy</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH Student of the Year</td>
<td>William Hudson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student of the Year</td>
<td>Summer Comett</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair's Service</td>
<td>Selina Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Community and Behavioral Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DrPH Student of the Year</td>
<td>Kasie Richards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH Student of the Year</td>
<td>Jeanna &quot;Mikki&quot; Johnson-Mazcka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate Student of the Year</td>
<td>Erin Dula</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair's Service</td>
<td>Rachel Ward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Biostatistics and Epidemiology</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MPH Student of the Year</td>
<td>Billy Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctoral Student of the Year</td>
<td>Megan Quinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chair's Service</td>
<td>Megan Quinn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health Sciences</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Student of the Year</td>
<td>Michael Franklin Neblett II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Environmental Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student Research Grants</td>
<td>Jennifer Bannister</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clara McClure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Steve McQueen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Health Student Association</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHSA Leadership</td>
<td>Billy Brooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unsung Hero</td>
<td>Melissa Ramey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aimee Rowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Staff Recognition</td>
<td>Janet Stork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mike Stoots</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Public Health Student Association has had a very successful year! The 2011-2012 school year was full of exciting events and educational and service opportunities. Some of our spring semester events included: the Public Health Challenge Alternative Spring Break Trip, Lymphedema Awareness Day and Zumba for Lymphedema, the Career Development Series, National Public Health Week Activities, Contagion Movie Night, the Legislative Trip to Nashville, Relay for Life, and many more!

The Public Health Challenge was a new event created by PHSA Secretary Erika Wild. The Public Health Challenge focused on creating health and wellness opportunities for student organizations. This year we pilot tested the program with four sororities on campus. PHSA challenged the sororities to focus on five aspects of health and wellness: physical, intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional health. Sororities focused on living healthier and competed to be the healthiest chapter on campus. We were extremely impressed by some of the changes and additions that the sororities made to lead healthier lives. Congratulations to the Kappa Delta sorority for winning the Public Health Challenge. Kappa Delta provided healthy food options at their meetings, attended group fitness classes together, organized two 5K races in the Johnson City community, and even appointed a health and wellness officer to their executive branch!

The Alternative Spring Break Trip served as another new event for PHSA during the 2011-2012 school year. PHSA partnered with ETSU’s Alternative Spring Break group to initiate a public health-focused trip. PHSA member Billy Brooks developed and organized the trip. Several PHSA members traveled to Mullens, West Virginia, to work on public health initiatives with the Rural Appalachian Improvement League (RAIL). Members worked on community improvements, provided health education, and coordinated with the local health department for future projects, and provided community assessments. PHSA members Jenny Downes and Cassandra Igbe have returned to Mullens since the spring break trip to assist with additional public health initiatives. PHSA hopes to foster a long-term, sustainable partnership with RAIL.

PHSA would like to thank its officers for all of their hard work and dedication this year. We appreciate all that you have done for PHSA and the College of Public Health! Special thanks to Manuel Gonzalez, Undergraduate President, Megan Quinn, Graduate President, Sarakay Johnson, Vice-President, Erika Wild, Secretary, Kaitlynn Puckett, Treasurer, Trusha Patel, Public Relations, and Aisha Sheikh, Social/Service Chair.

Finally, we would like to welcome our new officers for the 2012-2013 school year. Sarakay Johnson, Undergraduate President, Marcia Ousler, Graduate President, Erika Wild, Vice-President, Shannon Parkey, Secretary, Jordan Harless, Treasurer, Caitlin Smith, Public Relations, Alicyn York, Service Chair, and Brooke Ricker, Social Chair.

A Special Thanks

Eight students from the College of Public Health teamed up with University Advancement to conduct a phonathon to raise money for the college. They were able to contact and reconnect with hundreds of alumni in the process. Participants in this effort included: Cassandra Igbe, Trusha Patel, Manuel Gonzalez, Megan Quinn, Billy Brooks, Kaitlynn Puckett, Sarakay Johnson, and Marcia Ousler. We would like to thank each one of them for their efforts and a special thanks to Manuel and Megan who recruited and organized the volunteers!
Katie Neel, MPH, CPH, is the current Infection Prevention Practitioner for Franklin Woods Community Hospital and Woodridge Hospital. Katie’s role includes hospital-wide active surveillance of communicable and infectious diseases, data collection, and data analysis in accordance with guidelines/recommendations from Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of American (SHEA), and other applicable state and federal regulatory agencies. Katie participates in monthly meetings at both facilities, where she presents relevant data, identifies infection prevention issues, and introduces new products designed to reduce transmission of MDROs. The infection prevention role also includes constant monitoring of housekeeping, maintenance (construction), and other activities to ensure a safe and sanitary environment for patients and staff. Katie loves her role as an Infection Prevention Practitioner, where she feels every day is a new adventure.

Alumna Katie Neel

“I’m thankful I was fortunate to have a college experience that fully prepared me for ‘the real world.’”

2012 Well-a-Palooza

PHSA and the College of Public Health sponsored “Well-a-Palooza, a Carnival of Wellness!” on Wednesday, April 4, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This gathering was one in a series of events in recognition of National Public Health Week, April 2nd-8th. National Public Health Week is held annually to recognize the contributions of public health and organize efforts to help people live longer and healthier lives. Several on-campus groups were in attendance: the Farmers Market at ETSU, University Wellness, Student Health Services, Bucky’s Food Pantry, the Counseling Center, Women’s Studies, and many more! The National Guard, Healing Paws, EarthFare, and Mountain Yoga were just a few of our community partners. Students had the opportunity to play games, rock climb, receive health screenings, and learn about health and wellness.

Well-a-Palooza was a great success! PHSA would like to extend its appreciation to Courtney Stanley for organizing the event and to Dr. Stoots and his office staff and Mr. McKamey for helping to make Well-a-Palooza a fun and educational event for the ETSU campus community.
Students Thank Niswonger Foundation

Over the past four years, ten College of Public Health students have received Frist Global Health Leader/Niswonger scholarships in support of their global public health internships in Rwanda, South Africa, Peru, Honduras and American Samoa. In February, as a token of gratitude, several scholarship recipients went to Greeneville, Tennessee, to present Mr. Scott Niswonger and the Niswonger Foundation with a hardback photo album and a framed poster highlighting these international experiences.

Mr. Niswonger was very pleased and commented, “We seldom have the opportunity to see the results of the programs the Niswonger Foundation help support and your visit, the book and poster are greatly appreciated.”

ETSU Farmers Market

On April 5, 2012, East Tennessee State University students, staff, and faculty were treated with a new farmers market in the heart of the campus. The Farmers Market was held every Thursday through the end of the Spring Semester. Ten farmers and food vendors who produce their own products were at the market, which was organized by Rachel Ward, a doctoral student in the College of Public Health. The market will take a break during the summer semester and return in the fall. The availability of fresh produce will depend on what is being harvested during the season.

The ETSU Farmers Market is on Facebook at www.facebook.com/farmersmarketETSU.

Doctoral Student Wins National Award

Lok R. Pokhrel, an Environmental Health doctoral student in East Tennessee State University’s College of Public Health, is the winner of the Association of Environmental Health Academic Programs (AEHAP) Student Research Competition 2012 Award. Mr. Pokhrel is one of the two graduate students selected nationally for this prestigious award. In addition to a cash award, Mr. Pokhrel has been invited to give a platform presentation on his research titled “Developmental phytotoxicity of silver and zinc oxide nanoparticles to the crop plants” at the National Environmental Health Association’s Annual Educational Conference & Exhibition (NEHA AEC) held in San Diego in late June. Department Chair Phillip R. Scheuerman and former faculty member Brajesh Dubey are co-advisors for his Ph.D. dissertation research.

Mr. Pokhrel and his collaborators have had recent/upcoming publications in Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology and The Science of the Total Environment. He was the winner of the 2011 Adventus Americas Best Platform Presentation Award at the 27th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy and has been accepted for another platform presentation at this year’s conference.
Katie Baker, a doctoral candidate and research coordinator at the Skin Cancer Prevention Lab, was featured as a guest blog on National Public Health Week on April 5, 2012.

Four College of Public Health students had articles featured in the APHA Student Assembly News and Views Fall 2011 issue:

- Katie Baker’s “A call for a federal ban on indoor tanning by minors”
- Megan Quinn’s “Putting the heart back into the community: Planting gardens to enhance nutrition”
- Jodi Southerland’s “Preparing for an aging America: Perspectives on the healthcare workforce”
- Rachel Ward’s “Setting public health priorities in resource poor communities- A lesson from Zambia”

Loc Pokhrel - Rapid screening of aquatic toxicity of several metal-based nanoparticles using the MetPLATE™ bioassay was published in the Science of The Total Environment.

Loc Pokhrel - Global scenarios of metal mining, environmental repercussions, public policies, and sustainability: A review was published in Critical Reviews in Environmental Science and Technology.

Mr. Lok R. Pokhrel’s research paper titled Potential Developmental Toxicity of Silver and Zinc Oxide Nanoparticles to the Terrestrial Plants has been accepted for platform presentation at the 28th Annual International Conference on Soils, Sediments, Water, and Energy to be held at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, from October 15-18, 2012. Mr. Pokhrel was the recipient of the first place Adventus Americas Best Platform Presentation Award in the same conference last year.

Manuel Gonalez presented a presentation on healthy living to parents attending Sports 4 All-Deportes para Todos Community Soccer Clinic.

Joshua Kosky was elected as the new ETSU Student Government Association Secretary/Treasurer.

Steve McQueen received a graduate student research grant for his project “Evaluation and intervention of thermal stress exposure in migrant workers.” His faculty mentor is Dr. Ken Silver.

Clara McClure received a grant from the School of Graduate Studies for her project “Long-term recovery of South Indicdan Creek following road construction.” Her faculty mentor is Dr. Phil Scheuerman.

Jennifer Bannister received a grant from the School of Graduate Studies for her project “Comparing effectiveness of interventions in reducing inhalation exposures to combustion products of solid fuel heat stoves in rural Appalachian homes.” Her faculty mentor is Dr. Tricia Metts.

Ralitsa B. Borisova received the Outstanding Thesis in Science, Math, Technology, and Computer Sciences Award from the School of Graduate Studies- “Isolation of a rhodococcus soil bacterium that produces a strong antibacterial compound”. She was nominated by Dr. Bert Lampson. Her committee included Dr. Lampson, Dr. Ranjan Chakraborty and Dr. Phil Scheuerman.

Rachel Ward- “The development of a farmers market on East Tennessee State University’s campus” was featured in the APHA Student Assembly News and Views Winter 2012 issue.
December Graduation

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

Master of Science in Environmental Health
Leslie Diane Hammond

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

Bachelor of Science-Public Health
Concentration: Community Health
Haley Greenlee
Jessica Ringhoffer
April Kincaid
Zachary Vandergriff
Tabetha McGill

Concentration: Health Services Administration
Brittany Cannon
Brittnee Jones
Priya Mistry
Anthony Farnum
Robert Minton
Katie Murphy
Christopher Hnor
Priti Mistry
Joshua Russell

Bachelor of Science-Environmental Health
Haley Greenlee
April Kincaid
Zachary Vandergriff
Tabetha McGill
Thomas Jarratt
Jason Panganiban
May Graduation

Doctor of Public Health
Megan Ashley Quinn

Master of Public Health
Srinivas Challa
Brenda R. Darling
Tracy Holt
Cassandra Ivie Igbe
Carol Thomas Meyer
Aimee Elizabeth Neely
Allison Seidel

Bachelor of Science-Health Sciences
Rachel Elizabeth Buchanan
Michael Shawn Hooker
Kensie Colleen McKee
Carla Jeannette Payne
Kelsey Spencer
Hayley Elise Templeton
Marah Ann Wise

Bachelor of Science-Public Health
Concentration: Community Health
Amanda Katelyn Goodhard

Concentration: Health Services Administration
Brittany Leigh Borum
Summer Cornett
Trusha Patel

Bachelor of Science-Environmental Health
Karie Michelle Castle

Billy Brooks
Selina Elizabeth Clark
Delilah Jo Greer
William Daniel Hudson
Sonali Kumari
Shiva Kumar Reddy Mukkamalla
Natasha Marie Rutherford

Kasey Bailey
Margo Lynn Quinn
Rajesh Lookose Malikayil
Michael Franklin Neblett, II
Kenneth Preston Showman
Kelsey Taylor
Zachary P. Thurber

Erin Leanne Dula
Marday Laura Peters

Concentration: Health Services Administration
Julia C. Bennett
Jillian Camille Chafin
Kayla Renee Jarnigan
Ashley Nicole Vaughn

Concentration: Community Health
Brandon Tyler Farmer
Imaobong Emmanuel Isang
William Tyler McMullen
Sarah Melissa Pitman
April Elizabeth Stanley
Roger Wayne Thompson, Jr

Concentration: Health Services Administration
Molly LeeAnn Jones

Stephanie Louise Carden
Lea Christine Hudson
Eric Gregory Sensabaugh
News from ETSU Staff Senate

We now have a Food Pantry for our ETSU community named “Bucky’s Food Pantry” for our students that have been identified with food insecurity.

- Having our own food pantry on campus helps us meet the need in a more timely manner than referring people to off-campus pantries.
- Flexibility to respond to emergency situations
- Better suited to meet the needs of ETSU’s unique culturally diverse population
- Rising costs for tuition and fewer job available to students are putting financial pressure on dwindling resources.
- The mission of the food pantry is to diminish or end food insecurity for the ETSU community in the most convenient, discreet and easily accessible means possible.
- The food pantry builds upon ETSU’s history of philanthropic culture and service on the campus by creating new collaborative learning opportunities for students in a variety of academic departments and disciplines.

- The food pantry provides the opportunity to assess the prevalence of food insecurity in ETSU college students; to assess retention and health indicators in ETSU college students; and to study the relationships among food insecurity, retention, and health in ETSU college students.

- The food pantry educates the ETSU community about resources available to them on and off campus; helps them gain entry into any government assistance programs (desired or needed) by providing guidance; and sharpens budgeting skills.

- The goal of the food pantry is to aid those in need of food resources as well as raise awareness of food insecurity and hunger on ETSU campus. Ultimately, the food pantry can expand its resources to cover non-food items such as hygiene products and clothing, if donations are made available.

Degrees Offered

BS Public Health
- Community Health
- Health Administration

BS Health Sciences
- Human Health
- Microbiology

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

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

MS Environmental Health

DrPH
- Community Health
- Epidemiology

PhD Environmental Health

Undergraduate Certificate in Public Health Fundamentals

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

** Programs available on-ground and online.