

University at Buffalo

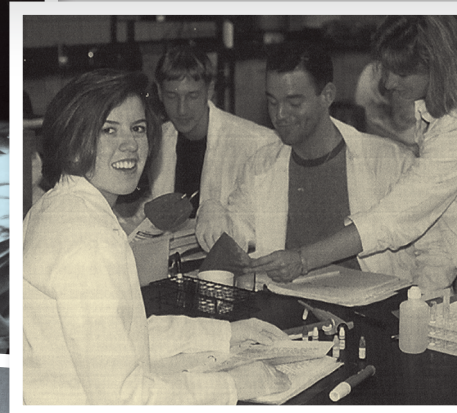
# Health Impact

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SPHHP.BUFFALO.EDU

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF POPULATIONS, COMMUNITIES AND INDIVIDUALS

SPRING 2016



Celebrating 50 years  
of the Health Related  
Professions.

*Page 4*



## Celebrating Our Heritage, Forming Our Future

This year marks a significant milestone for our school. We are celebrating a half-century of health professions teaching and research excellence. The celebrations kicked-off at the 27th annual J. Warren Perry Lecture this November. Donna Petersen, PhD, dean of the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida, was our featured speaker and addressed the audience with her discussion on maternal and child health. The signature event was a chance to join together students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends for this monumental milestone in our school's history. This spring, we will continue to recognize this noteworthy anniversary. To learn more about the Perry Lecture and the school's 50th anniversary visit pages 3-5.



We are also hosting a series of events and activities to celebrate the American Public Health Association's National Public Health Week. The national campaign is observed as a time to recognize the contributions of public health. We're celebrating all throughout the month of April! A listing of events as well as detailed information can be found online at <http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/nphw>.

We are looking forward to the excitement that will come with the coming months of 2016 in the School of Public Health and Health Professions at UB. I hope you enjoy reading more about all of this and more in this issue of the Health Impact Magazine!

Jean Wactawski-Wende  
Dean, UB School of Public Health and Health Professions



### Clinical Day

The Office of Global Health Initiatives (OGHI) partnered with the UB Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences for Spring Clinical Day in May 2015. OGHI hosted *Survivors*, an exhibition of portraits celebrating the lives of survivors of a massacre in the Gatumba refugee camp in Burundi in 2004, and a panel discussion titled *Global is Local: Caring for Refugees and Immigrants in WNY*. The panel featured Olivier Mandevu, co-founder and president of the Gatumba Refugee Survivors Foundation; Pam Kefi, project director for the WNY Center for Survivors of Torture; Kim Griswold, associate professor in UB Family Medicine; and Pavani Ram, director of OGHI.



Jayanni Cure receiving her award.

### Jerry Flashner Award

Two occupational therapy students, Jayanni Cure and Marjorie Schillo, each received the Jerry Flashner Award, sponsored by Network in Aging. This competitive award recognizes those who are dedicated to working with the elderly. Jayanni and Marjorie both received \$1,000 towards tuition. Congratulations!



## New Public Health Minor

[sphhp.buffalo.edu/public-health-minor](http://sphhp.buffalo.edu/public-health-minor)

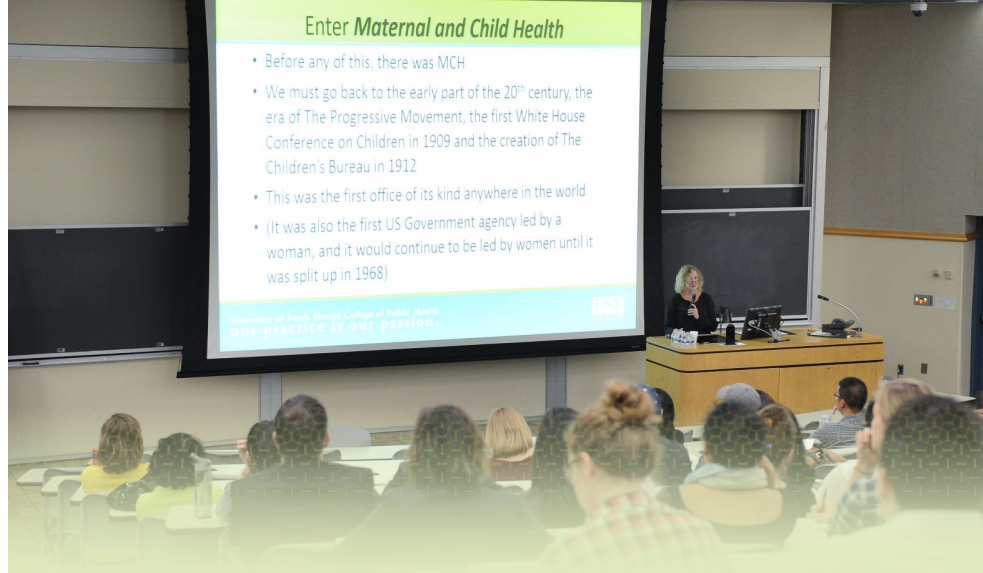
A new public health minor has been introduced and courses will begin in the fall semester of 2016. The program will provide undergraduate students with an advanced understanding of population-level approaches to protecting and improving health. The minor is particularly useful to students preparing to pursue a health-related career.

The minor in Public Health requires the completion of a minimum of 19 credit hours. Students will be required to enroll in:

- PUB 101 (Introduction to Public Health)  
3 credits
- PUB 301 (Introduction to Epidemiology)  
3 credits
- STA 427 (Introduction to Medical Statistics)  
4 credits

Students who enroll in the program must also select one course at the 200 level and two upper-level courses from a list of designated courses (9 credits.)

For more information about the program and how to apply, contact Marc T. Kiviniemi, PhD, director of undergraduate public health initiatives, at [mtk8@buffalo.edu](mailto:mtk8@buffalo.edu) or 716-829-6955.



EVENT <<

## 27th Annual Perry Lecture



The school hosted the 27th annual J. Warren Perry Lecture on Friday, Nov. 6. This year's distinguished lecturer was Donna Petersen, ScD, MHS, CPH. Petersen presented a lecture entitled *Maternal and Child Health: The "New" Population Health*.

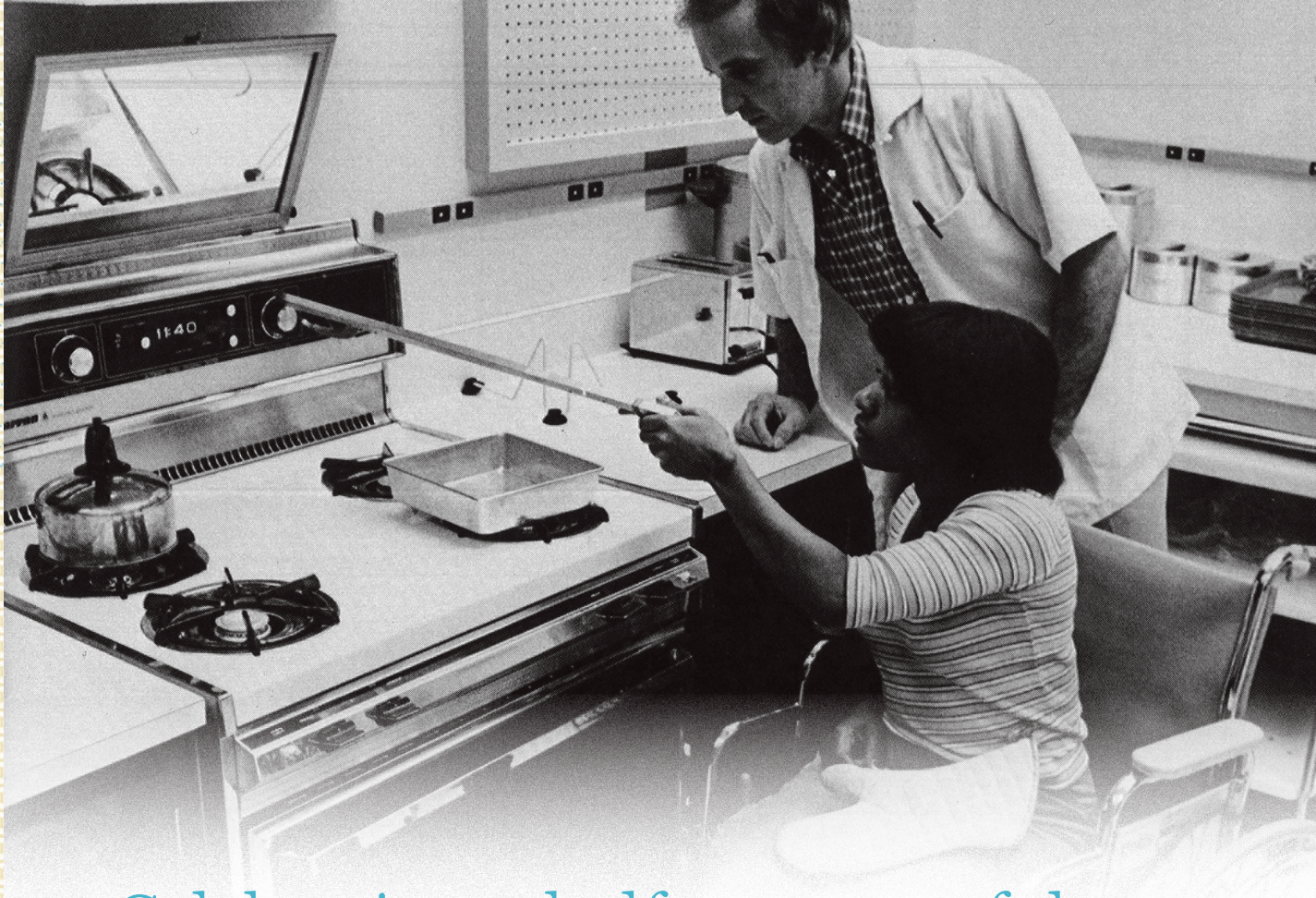
Petersen is senior vice president of USF Health and dean of the College of Public Health at the University of South Florida. She earned her masters and doctoral degrees in maternal and child health from the Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health. She has held faculty and senior leadership positions at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health and the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health, and she also served as director of the Division of Family Health at the Minnesota Department of Health.

In addition to her professional and scholarly accolades, Petersen is the author of numerous publications, book chapters and a textbook on needs assessment in public health. She is a frequent lecturer on topics related to maternal and child health, health care reform, and systems change and leadership, and has provided extensive technical assistance and training to over 25 state health departments in the areas of needs assessment, data system development, systems level accountability and the development of population-based indicators.

Introduced in 1989 by then dean Alan Stull, PhD, the lectureship serves to honor J. Warren Perry, founding dean of the University at Buffalo School of Health Related Professions (now the School of Public Health and Health Professions). A pioneer in the field of allied health, Perry served as dean from 1966 until his retirement in 1977. A prolific and accomplished scholar, administrator, author and lecturer, he was a national figure in his field and his work had an impact on health care delivery systems throughout the country.

The lectureship also serves to introduce students, faculty and staff to some of the best leaders and scholars in a variety of fields, including public health, health professions or health sciences.

This year's lecture was streamed live for those not able to attend. The presentation is now available at [bit.ly/2015PerryLecture](http://bit.ly/2015PerryLecture).



## Celebrating a half-century of the health related professions at UB

SPHHP HAS COME A LONG WAY FROM THE DAYS OF BASEMENT CLASSROOMS ON WINSPEAR AVENUE

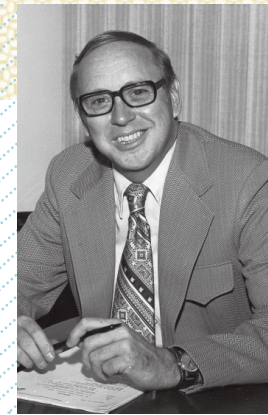
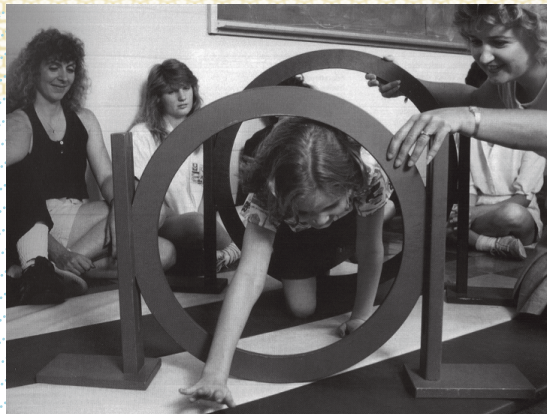
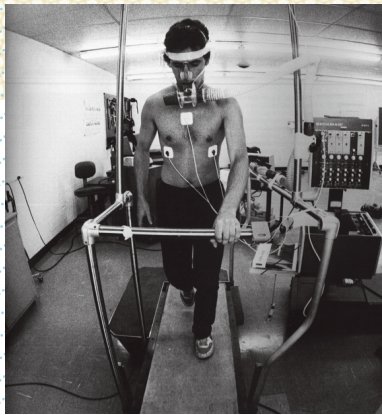


Dr. John Fopeano, former Chairman, Department of Medical Technology, Dr. Lawrence Cappiello, former Assistant to the Vice President for Health Affairs, and SPHHP Dean Dr. Jean Wactawski-Wende.

**W**hen Dale Fish interviewed for a teaching position in what was then the School of Health Related Professions at the University at Buffalo in the mid-1970s, the dean's office was in Diefendorf Annex on South Campus and some classes were taught in houses along Winspear Avenue. Over the course of his career at UB, Fish was in a unique position to watch the school evolve from a fledgling entity into what it is today: the venerable School of Public Health and Health Professions, which this fall celebrated the 50th anniversary of its foundation.

"We had very modest beginnings," says Fish, who was associated with the school for 40 of its 50 years. He retired in January as SPHHP's senior associate dean for academic and student affairs. "In the early days, our digs were very limited. I taught in the basement of one of those houses on Winspear. The taller students had to duck walking down the stairs," he recalls.

"It is remarkable to see how far the school has come since its first inception. Now with its expanded focus, the future is even brighter and I look forward to seeing what we can become in the next 50 years," says



◀ J. Warren Perry, PhD,  
former school dean.

Jean Wactawski-Wende, SPHHP's current dean and a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health.

Over the years, the school's faculty and students have contributed a wealth of groundbreaking public health research. Highlights include the ongoing Women's Health Initiative, the world's largest-ever tobacco use study and breakthroughs in cancer research, to list just a few.

The New York State Board of Trustees approved the school's creation on Oct. 14, 1965. Three existing departments at UB—medical technology, occupational therapy and physical therapy—formed the nucleus of the new school, according to a history compiled by Mildred F. Heap, a former director of UB's physical therapy program. Albert C. ReKate, a faculty member in the then-School of Medicine, was named acting dean. A year later, J. Warren Perry, a nationally renowned figure and the first allied health professional elected to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, was appointed dean. The school received formal dedication on May 1, 1967.

Peter Regan, who was vice president for health affairs at the time, recruited Lawrence Cappiello from the University of Nebraska to help build the framework for the new school. Creating the new school sent a message that the university was making big changes in its new SUNY era.

"It also gave integrity to the three programs that formed the school's foundation. It signaled that they were just as important to the university as medicine, dentistry and so on," says Cappiello.

When it was formed in the 1960s, UB's was one of only a handful of health-related professions schools in the U.S. "It was a very exciting time," Cappiello recalls.

"Warren Perry had been a key player in Washington, D.C., in what is now the Department of Health and Human Services. UB attained a great deal of national attention when he was hired as dean. A lot of graduates went on to become deans at other public health schools around the country. Public health schools started to proliferate and, at one point, the majority of deans at those schools had been protégés of Warren Perry," he adds.

Plenty has changed over the years. That's especially evident in the tools used in the classroom. "We used to have exams typed by secretaries," Fish recalls. "I couldn't lecture without a yellow note pad in my hand when I first started teaching. By the end, we had animations and PowerPoints that were quite beautiful."

And while names like Regan, ReKate and Perry stand out, there are just too many other people to name without inevitably forgetting a few. "It's a small school, but it has a cast of thousands of people who care about it and have a history with it," Fish says.

**"Now with its expanded focus, the future is even brighter and I look forward to seeing what we can become in the next 50 years."**

—JEAN WACTAWSKI-WENDE,  
DEAN OF SPHHP

UB is celebrating the graduates of the 1960's October 7-8, 2016. Save the date and visit [www.buffalo.edu/alumni/events/sixties-reunion](http://www.buffalo.edu/alumni/events/sixties-reunion) for more information.

# SPHHP Shows Advancement in Faculty and Staff Roles

THE GROWTH OF THE SCHOOL IS CAUSE FOR THE ADDITION OF FACULTY AND STAFF AND THE PROMOTION OF INDIVIDUALS INTO NEW ROLES.



**Lina Mu, PhD**, is now co-director of the Epidemiology MPH concentration. She will be working with Mike LaMonte, PhD, concentration co-director.



**Amy Millen, PhD**, is now the associate chair for the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health in addition to her associate professor role within the department.



**Greg Homish, PhD**, is now the associate chair in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior (CHHB). Homish is also an associate professor in the department as well as the director for the MPH concentration in CHHB.



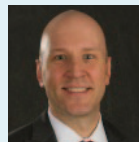
**Jan Tona, PhD, OTR**, is now the Occupational Therapy Program director and the director of graduate studies. Tona previously served as a clinical assistant professor for the past 12 years within the school.



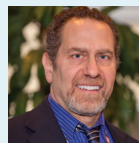
**Marc T. Kiviniemi, PhD**, associate professor of Community Health and Health Behavior, is now also serving as the director of undergraduate public health initiatives. Previously Kiviniemi was an assistant professor and director of graduate studies in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior.



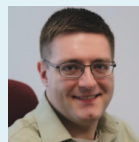
**Heather Orom, PhD**, is transitioning into the director of graduate studies role for the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior. Orom is also an associate professor within the department.



**Michael Redfern, MBA, MEd**, was appointed to the new position of associate dean and chief operating officer (COO). Redfern joins the school from the UB School of Nursing where he was previously the associate dean for administrative services and chief financial officer. Redfern has been with UB since 2003 and brings a wealth of relevant experience to this new position.



**Robert Furlani, BS**, has joined the staff as a training coordinator for the Master of Public Health (MPH) Program. Furlani was formerly with the New York State Department of Health, serving as an assistant regional director for the Western Regional Office. He has over 30 years of public health and health administration experience in numerous settings and program areas.



**Alex Nelson, MBA**, joined the school in October as the school's new data analyst. Nelson previously worked in the UB Graduate Enrollment Management Services (GEMS), and the UB Graduate School as a senior staff assistant and assistant director of student services.



**Sarahmona Przybyla, PhD, MPH**, is a Clinical Assistant Professor in community health and health behavior. Przybyla, is a public health interventionist with training in HIV and STI prevention, substance use, and mixed methods research. She completed a NIH predoctoral fellowship in HIV/STD prevention at the University at North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a postdoctoral fellowship in alcohol etiology and treatment at the Research Institute on Addictions before joining the faculty at UB.



## American Public Health Association Annual Meeting

**FACULTY MEMBERS AND STUDENTS** participated in the annual American Public Health Association (APHA) meeting in Chicago. The meeting, which took place on Oct. 31 – Nov. 4, brought together more than 12,000 public health professionals and students from across the country and world to network, educate and share knowledge. APHA showcased the diversity of the projects that SPHHP faculty, staff and students are involved through presentations and poster sessions.

**1** Anushree Sharma, a student from the department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, discusses “Demographic characteristics associated with smokers of Marlboro, Newport and Pall Mall in the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) 2002 – 2013” with a guest. **2** Assistant professor, Laura Lien, from the department of Rehabilitation Science presents on her work focused on assessing housing access for persons with functional disabilities. **3** Sarah Cercone Heavey '11 and Lynn Homish from the department of Community Health and Health Behavior present on “Combat Exposure’s Influence on Intimate Partner Violence among Reserve Soldiers.” **4** SPHHP public health student ambassadors, Laura Schubbe and Elizabeth Machnica, participating in an ASPPH “This is Public Health” recruitment fair at the University of Illinois in Chicago on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd.

# National Public Health Week 2016



*Celebrating the contributions of public health important to improving our nation.*

**#UBSPHHP #NPHW16** 

**National Public Health Week 2016** will be observed across the country to help celebrate, our school will be hosting a series of events throughout the month of April. The events will serve to highlight and recognize public health efforts in communities across the nation and the world. Visit our website and follow us on social media to stay informed and get involved!



  
**University at Buffalo** The State University of New York  
 School of Public Health and Health Professions



## The Winning Edge

CHRISTINA WESTON IS AMONG SEVERAL CURRENT AND FORMER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS STUDENTS WORKING AS SPORT NUTRITIONISTS FOR THE DIVISION OF ATHLETICS, HELPING TEAMS AND ATHLETES MAXIMIZE THEIR PERFORMANCE POTENTIAL.



The life of a student athlete can be hectic. The rigors of team commitments and academic responsibilities can be challenging and time consuming, often inadvertently relegating something as important as good nutrition down the priority list. While good nutrition is important for everyone, athletes in particular can feel firsthand how poor nutrition and/or diet can impact performance. Luckily for student athletes at the University at Buffalo, a team of dedicated sports nutritionists are here to help.

Above (left to right): Aly Onyon, RD, MS; Christina Weston, RD, CPT; UB Sports Nutrition Associate Director, Natalie Robertello, MS, RD, CDN; and Becky McKeown, RD, MS.



UB Sports Nutrition is a department in the Division of Athletics committed to enhancing the athletic performance, long-term health and well-being of student athletes. Of the seven current sports nutritionists on staff, all have graduated from the Dietetic Internship (DI) program at the School of Public Health and Health Professions and are currently Registered Dietitians. Several are also pursuing master's degrees in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences.

"We recognize this as a unique opportunity for our interns," says Barb Schultz, director of the Dietetic Internship program. "The fact that the Athletic Department supports nutrition as an underlying factor in performance of the athletics speaks volumes and we are happy to be a part of it."

"UB Sports Nutrition has been around for about nine years," says Peter Horvath, PhD, director of UB Sports Nutrition and associate professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences. "It started out with us conducting some nutritional talks with student athletes. Now, the department has evolved and we're utilizing the expertise of SPHHP students to properly educate athletes and give them the tools they need to optimize their performance."

One of those students is Christina Weston, a current exercise science master's student, who recently graduated from the DI program and subsequently passed the national exam to become a Registered Dietitian (RD). With a specific interest in sports nutrition, Christina came to UB because of the unique opportunities the DI program offered.

"I wanted to apply to a dietetic internship that offered sports nutrition and there are only a couple around the country," says Christina. "I heard so many good things about what was happening here and I just knew that if I wanted to study sports nutrition, this was the place for me."

Already an RD, Christina is also pursuing a certification as a sports dietitian and working in UB Sports Nutrition is helping her reach her goal.

"In order to qualify for CSSD certification, you have obtain 1,500 hours of specialty practice or experience as an RD in sports dietetics," says Christina. "It will take me about two years, but working in UB Sports Nutrition allows me the opportunity to accumulate some of those hours and gain some amazing experience along the way."

In addition to the nutritional counseling, Christina and the other sports nutritionist staff members work with teams during practices, strength and conditioning

training, team dinners, and even during games and/or matches.

"I work with the athletes every single day to ensure they have enough meals and that they are eating well to stay within their individual nutritional regimens," explains Christina. "I also attend practices and in the case of the football team, the home games. During the games, I assist with preparation of halftime snacks like sports drinks, sports gummies and bananas to ensure the players are ready to go for the second half."

As Christina finishes her master's program, she is grateful for having the opportunity to work closely with both Barb and Peter and hopes to one day work as a sports dietitian for a professional football team.

"That would be my ultimate goal," says Christina, "and I can't even explain how much I've learned from both Barb and Peter—they have been amazing mentors and I hope that there are so many more motivated students that find their way to this program."

**"We recognize this as a unique opportunity for our interns," says Barb Schultz, director of the Dietetic Internship program. "The fact that the Athletic Department supports nutrition as an underlying factor in performance of the athletics speaks volumes and we are happy to be a part of it."**

—BARBARA SCHULTZ MS, RD, CDN



To learn more about Christina's journey to UB and her experiences as a sports nutritionist for the Department of Athletics, watch her short profile video at [bit.ly/ChristinaWeston](http://bit.ly/ChristinaWeston).



“Glenda’s legacy as a strong, compassionate, kind-hearted professional is truly being honored by helping future dietetic interns. I know she took every single UB dietetic intern she has ever had under her wing as if they were her very own. We are beyond honored to be chosen to carry on the memory of Glenda, here at the UB Dietetic Internship program. Glenda unequivocally made a difference in the lives of all of her interns...this wonderful fund will certainly make an incredible difference in the lives of future interns.”

—BARBARA SCHULTZ MS, RD, CDN,  
DIETETIC INTERNSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR

## Glenda Reardon

July 24, 1953 – January 1, 2014

**G**LENDA REARDON WAS A REGISTERED DIETITIAN AND CONTRIBUTING DIETETIC INTERN PRECEPTOR FOR THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO FOR MANY YEARS. Both Glenda and her husband

John had a wonderful relationship with the school’s dietetic internship program, especially the students.

Glenda worked with the Niagara County Office for the Aging for 29 years and she was also very active in the dietetic community. In addition to her role as preceptor, she served as past president of the WNY Dietetic Association, NYS Aging Services Dietitians, NYS Association of Nutrition & Aging Programs, Meals-on-Wheels of America, and was involved with many other organizations. She was also well-known for her compassion and love of helping senior citizens.

After a long battle with cancer, Glenda passed away on Jan. 1, 2014. To honor her memory, John and his children created the Glenda R. Reardon Student Assistance Fund to assist UB’s dietetic internship students on an annual basis.

“We wanted to honor her life in the same way she lived her life everyday,” says John. “We want to be able to give back.”

The fund will provide support for ancillary expenses, such as the cost of the final examination preparation course dietetic students take.

“We are beyond honored to be chosen to carry on her memory,” says Barbara Schultz, Dietetic Internship director. “Glenda unequivocally made a difference in the lives of all of her interns and this wonderful fund will certainly make an incredible difference in the lives of future interns.”

Students interested in applying for the Glenda R. Reardon Student Assistance Fund can do so directly through the Dietetic Internship with Nutrition program. Recipients will be determined by both the clinical director and program director based on need, merit and availability. Funding may be provided in both the fall and spring semesters as well.

If you are interested in supporting this fund, please visit [giving.buffalo.edu/give-to/public-health-and-health-professions](http://giving.buffalo.edu/give-to/public-health-and-health-professions) or contact Dietetic Internship Program Director Barbara Schultz at (716) 829-5653 or [bmc2@buffalo.edu](mailto:bmc2@buffalo.edu).

# New funded research awards total over \$10 million

July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

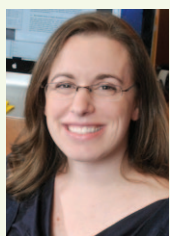
## Acronym key for "SPHHP" department column:

CAT: Center for Assistive Technology  
CHHB: Community Health and Health Behavior  
BIO: Biostatistics  
EEH: Epidemiology and Environmental Health  
ENS: Exercise and Nutrition Sciences  
RS: Rehabilitation Science

Award Amount	SPHHP Department	Sponsor Name	Principal Investigator	Award Name	Award Start Date	Award End Date
\$115,440.00	EEH	Kaiser Permanente Division of Research	Wactawski-Wende, Dr. Jean W	Women's Health Initiative (WHI) Life and Longevity After Cancer (LILAC) Study	02-Jul-2014	01-Jul-2019
\$0.00	EEH	National Institute Occupational Safety & Health	Violanti, Dr. John M	Rescind: Analysis of Three Novel CVD Markers in the BCOPS Study	18-Aug-2014	17-Aug-2015
\$98,406.05	EEH	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	Violanti, Dr. John M	Analysis of Three Novel CVD Markers in the BCOPS Study	18-Aug-2014	17-Aug-2015
\$15,000.00	ENS	Virtuvia, LLC (d/b/a CoachMePlus)	Hostler, Dr. David P	UB CAT: CoachMePlus Process Optimization and Proper Design of Behavioral Elements	01-Jul-2014	30-Jun-2015
\$270,345.47	CAT	NYS Office of Children and Family Services	Oddo, Ms. Christine R	Buffalo Assistive Technology Center	01-Jan-2015	31-Dec-2015
\$9,750.76	CHHB	World Health Organization	Giovino, Dr. Gary	Updating of WHO Guidelines for Controlling and Monitoring the Tobacco Epidemic	27-Nov-2014	31-Dec-2014
\$58,642.00	EEH	Save The Children Federation Inc.	Ram, Dr. Pavani K.	Effects of promoting hand washing with soap to mothers and other caregivers in Kenya	01-Oct-2014	31-Dec-2015
\$354,448.00	BIO	NYS Department of Health	Yu, Dr. Jihnee/ Carter, Dr. Randolph	Child and Family Outcomes Evaluation for State Performance Plan	01-Jan-2015	31-Dec-2015
\$133,792.00	ENS	Naval Sea Systems Command	Hostler, Dr. David P	Role of Hydration Status on Diver Performance	02-Apr-2015	01-Apr-2016
\$3,823,211.00	EEH	National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Res	Wactawski-Wende, Dr. Jean W	Oral Microbiome and Periodontitis: A Prospective Study in Postmenopausal	01-Aug-2014	31-Jul-2019
\$40,937.00	CHHB	St Baldricks Foundation	Bouchard, Dr. Elizabeth G	Increasing Treatment Adherence to Reduce SES Disparities in ALL Survival	01-Sep-2014	31-Aug-2016
\$1,413,213.00	EEH	National Inst of Environmental Health Sciences	Ren, Dr. Xuefeng	Mechanisms and Outcomes of MMASIII induced Alterations in Histone Acetylation	19-Aug-2014	31-May-2018
\$6,923.58	ENS	McPharma Biotech Incorporated	Rideout, Dr. Todd C	Health Outcomes of MSP (RS) Potato Starch Consumption – Secondary Analyses	01-Sep-2014	01-Dec-2014
\$100,000.00	SPHHP	Health Resources and Services Admin	Collins, Dr. R Lorraine	Public Health Traineeship	01-Sep-2014	30-Jun-2016
\$11,251.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Wilding, Dr. Gregory E	Anti-Glioma Immunotherapy Using the Survivin Molecular Mimic, SVN56-67/M57	01-Jul-2014	30-Jun-2015
\$14,590.00	RS	New York Physical Therapy Association	Ohtake, Dr. Patricia	Simulation-based Education with Mastery Learning Improves Physical Therapist Students' Skills in Managing Critically Ill Patients	01-Jul-2014	31-Dec-2015
\$381,331.00	EEH	National Cancer Institute	Ren, Dr. Xuefeng	FRY in Inhibiting EMT and Its Anti-Invasion/Metastasis Effects in Breast Cancer	01-Feb-2015	31-Jan-2017
\$206,161.24	RS	Administration For Community Living	Fisher, Dr. Nadine M	Effects of Resistive Respiratory Muscle Training on Respiratory Function, Functional Performance, Fatigue and Quality of Life in individuals with Multiple Sclerosis	01-Apr-2015	29-Oct-2015
\$1,381,631.18	CAT	Administration For Community Living	Lane, Dr. Joseph P	Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program	01-Apr-2015	29-Sep-2016
\$581,183.07	RS	Administration For Community Living	Stone, Dr. John H	Center for International Rehabilitation Research Information & Exchange (CIRRIE-3)	01-Apr-2015	29-Sep-2016
\$99,288.00	ENS	Science Applications International Corp	Hostler, Dr. David P	SUNY Buffalo NEDU Collaboration	19-Sep-2014	23-Apr-2015
\$35,000.00	CHHB	National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Incorporated	Giovino, Dr. Gary	Memorandum of Understanding with the CDC Foundation for Work on the Global Adult Tobacco Survey	01-Jan-2015	31-Dec-2015
\$15,847.34	CHHB	Carter Consulting	Giovino, Dr. Gary	African American Youth and Young Adult Tobacco Use Project	22-Jul-2014	31-Mar-2016
\$21,920.00	EEH	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	Donahue, Dr. Richard P	Feasibility Study to evaluate haptoglobin phenotype and risk of coronary heart disease and stroke among diabetic women	01-Mar-2015	31-Aug-2015
\$46,918.00	EEH	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center	LaMonte, Dr. Michael J	Feasibility Study to Evaluate Gut Microbiome and CVD-related Measures in Older Women	01-Mar-2015	31-Aug-2015
\$76,449.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Hutson, Dr. Alan D.	NRG Oncology Statistical and Data Management Center	18-Apr-2014	28-Feb-2015
\$6,127.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Wilding, Dr. Gregory E	Towards Selective Androgen Deprivation by Targeting Androgen Activation of SRF	01-Jul-2014	16-Mar-2015
\$386,758.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Wilding, Dr. Gregory E	Roswell Park Cancer Institute Center Support Grant	01-May-2014	30-Apr-2016
\$23,566.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Tritchler, Dr. David	Flaxseed Effects on Hormones and Lignans: Role of Race, Genes, and Gut Microbiome	01-Sep-2014	31-Aug-2015
\$34,600.00	BIO	Kaiser Foundation Research Institute	Tritchler, Dr. David	Diet and Lifestyle in a Prospective Study of Bladder Cancer Survivors	02-Jul-2014	31-May-2016
\$73,497.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Hutson, Dr. Alan D.	RPCI-UPCI Ovarian Cancer SPORE – Core C: Biostatistics and Medical Bioinformatics	01-Jul-2014	30-Jun-2016
\$115,962.00	RS	University of Pittsburgh	Ray, Dr. Andrew D	SPORE in Lung Cancer – Supplement	01-Sep-2014	31-Aug-2015
\$23,612.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Wilding, Dr. Gregory E	Prostate Cancer: Transition to Androgen Independence – Core B [Immunoanalysis and Specimen Mgt]	01-Apr-2014	31-Mar-2015
\$17,549.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Carter, Dr. Randolph	NRG Oncology NCORP Research Base – SDMC	01-Aug-2014	31-Jul-2015
\$35,202.00	RS	Health Research Inc	Ray, Dr. Andrew D	Vitamin D3 and Lung Cancer Risk in Humans	01-Sep-2014	31-Aug-2015
\$20,000.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Gaile, Dr. Daniel P.	Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program	01-Feb-2015	31-Mar-2015
\$76,449.00	BIO	Health Research Inc	Hutson, Dr. Alan D.	NRG Oncology Statistical and Data Management Center	01-Mar-2015	29-Feb-2016
\$13,961.00	CHHB	NIDA	Kozlowski, Lynn	Nicotine Delivery from Novel Non Tobacco Electronic Systems	01-Sep-2014	31-Aug-2017
\$35,00.00	RS	Warren Perry and Charles Donald Perry Memorial Fund managed by Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo	Tomita, Machiko	Independence through integration of exercise to daily activities in a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly	01-Jul-2014	31-May-2015



## Researcher using big data to solve a moody issue



Mood disorders like depression are common among U.S. adults. Still, such disorders remain challenging for clinicians to diagnose and treat effectively.

A SPHHP researcher is part of a collaborative team of scientists that received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to use big data to develop a new approach they say will improve the classification of mood disorders, leading to more effective outcomes for psychiatric patients.

**Rachael Hageman Blair, PhD**, assistant professor of biostatistics, is one of five principal investigators on the one-year, \$100,000 planning grant, funded by NSF in a joint effort with the National Institutes of Health. Hageman Blair's collaborators on the project include biostatistics, information science, mathematics, biomedical informatics, psychiatry and electrical and computer engineering researchers from the University of Iowa, University at North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Oregon, and the University of Utah.

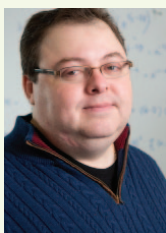
Their aim is to use big data to develop a novel methodology and visualization tools to cluster patients with mood disorders. "Existing approaches often break or are inappropriate in big data settings for several reasons," Hageman Blair explains. "There is not a one-size-fits-all approach even for well-behaved data sets. Bringing together different methods under a single umbrella with strong visual interpretations holds value for a clinician."

The collaborators met over the summer at an innovation workshop hosted by the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute (SAMSI), a National Science Foundation affiliated research institute located in Research Triangle Park, N.C. "It was a lot like speed dating for scientists. By the end of the week, I found six great collaborators, and then the work of developing the proposal began," says Hageman Blair, who has a PhD in mathematics.

Over the next year, the research team will begin developing their methodology. "We'll be focusing on applications to mood disorders, which are known to be particularly challenging to classify," says Hageman Blair.

# A snapshot of SPHHP research initiatives

**Faculty from all five of the school's departments** involved undergraduate students in their research during the summer months. In total, over 30 undergraduate students worked as research assistants in faculty research labs. The opportunity provided students with the chance to be mentored by some of the school's top researchers and also provided hands-on research experiences.



**Albert Vexler, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Biostatistics, was named to the editorial board of *Biometrics* as associate editor. Vexler will serve in this role for the period of October 1 until June 30, 2017, with six months follow-up until Dec. 31, 2017. *Biometrics* is one of the premiere biostatistical journals in the field.



**John Violanti, PhD**, research professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, received a \$2.5 million grant from the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health to study the impact of stress on police health. The four-year study will assess police stress by examining measures of stress and the

association of these measures with cardiovascular and metabolic diseases.



Associate Professor **Marc Kiviniemi, PhD**, and Professor **Lynn Kozlowski, PhD**, both in the Department of Community Health and Health Behavior, were co-authors of a study published in *BMC Harm Reduction Journal*. The study examined what beliefs the general public holds about the relative risks of different types of tobacco products. Their findings show that the majority of the public has multiple inaccurate beliefs about relative risks of different types of tobacco products.



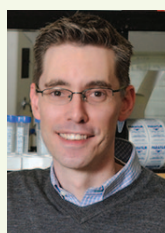
**Amy Millen, PhD**, associate professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, had a paper published in *JAMA Ophthalmology* online. The study examined the role of vitamin D in preventing macular degeneration in women. The results suggest that women who are deficient in vitamin D and have a specific high-risk

genotype are 6.7 times more likely to develop age-related macular degeneration than women with sufficient vitamin D status and no high risk genotype.



The University at Buffalo received a five-year, \$6.2 million extension of its involvement with the Women's Health Initiative (WHI).

**Jean Wactawski-Wende, PhD**, dean of the School of Public Health and Health Professions, is UB's WHI lead investigator for the ground-breaking, federally funded study that has yielded major discoveries on chronic diseases that affect postmenopausal women. The new award for the WHI Extension Study is through the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and will run through October 2020.



**Todd Rideout, PhD**, assistant professor in the Department of Exercise and Nutrition Sciences, has received a one-year, \$88,000 grant to study the efficacy of phytosterols—plant-based cholesterol lowering compounds—as a safe and effective treatment option for pregnant women suffering from excessive cholesterol levels.

The grant, provided by the National Center for Complementary and Integrated Health and the Office of Dietary Supplements, will allow Rideout to expand his previous research and more fully characterize the cardiovascular disease risk benefit of phytosterol supplementation during pregnancy.

# Alumni Events

## Homecoming Tailgate Party » Saturday, October 3 Buffalo Bulls vs. Bowling Green



Peter Horvath with SPHHP student, Christina Weston



The Garra family (Robert and Julie M. Garra '00)

## Buffalo All Alumni

UB Alumni from Western New York gathered together to network, ice skate, and have fun at Harborcenter during UB Night 2015 on Thursday, Sept. 17.

- 1. Barbara M. Stepien '73 and Gene Elizabeth Verel '73;
- 2. Brian Tytko, Mary Dedrick, Donna Loliger '95 and Brian Loliger '94;
- 3. Shane Costa '13, Young Alumni Leadership Council Member Sarah E. Tanbakuchi '14, SPHHP Dean Jean Wactawski-Wende;
- 4. SPHHP faculty member Jim Lenker and Thomas Grolemond '80





Laura Morey and Eileen Maher '12

### Young Alumni Health Sciences Night at the Hydraulic Hearth

Alumni from the last 10 years from the health sciences schools gathered at Buffalo's Hydraulic Hearth on Wednesday, Aug. 26.



Mary Glenn, Priyanka Dua '11 and Mark Glasgow '15

### Rochester All Alumni

UB Alumni from Rochester, NY and surrounding areas came together at the Rochester Yacht Club for an evening of networking and fun on Wednesday, Oct. 7.



Jerald L. Passer '73, Marilyn J. Passer '74, Kenneth S. MacKay '85

### Rochester Alumni "Thirsty Thursday" Event

Alumni gathered at Monroe's in Rochester for the UB Alumni Association's monthly "Third Thursday" event.



Don Rowe and Sarah Moravan '13

## UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Distinguished Speaker Series // Kevin Spacey

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 8 p.m.  
Location: Alumni Arena, North Campus

Volunteer Leadership Summit and UB Alumni Association Achievement Awards

Date: Thursday and Friday, May 5-6  
Location: UB North Campus

Occupational Therapy Class of 1986 30th Reunion

Dates: Friday, June 10 and Saturday, June 11  
Contact: amysglaser@gmail.com or jhenning1@rochester.rr.com

Rochester UB Night Alumni Reception

Date: Thursday, Sept. 29  
Location: Oak Hill Country Club  
145 Kilbourn Rd. Rochester, NY

To register for alumni events visit [alumni.buffalo.edu/events](http://alumni.buffalo.edu/events)

### STAY CONNECTED!

Visit the UB Alumni Association's UB Connect page and let us know what you've been doing since graduating.

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



# UB Health Impact

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

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

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[sphhp.buffalo.edu](http://sphhp.buffalo.edu)

School of Public Health and Health Professions  
401 Kimball Tower  
3435 Main St.  
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