MESSAGE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Dear HPMB Faculty, Staff, Students, and Friends,

This fall has been a time of great transition for our department and our school. In September, Distinguished Professor, Ed Hannan stepped down after 12 years as chair, and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank him for his wonderful leadership and stewardship of our department. During his tenure as chair, he expertly guided our department through tremendous growth, both in terms of faculty and students. He always had an open door and a willing ear to listen to concerns, and he treated faculty, staff and students alike with the utmost respect and fairness. For me personally, Ed has been a tremendous role model, and has greatly contributed to the quality of my work life over the past 11 years. I can only hope to fill the role of chair in such a distinguished fashion.

Dr. Hannan has moved on to become the school’s first Associate Dean for Research, and I wish him all the best in his new role. The Dean’s office has also seen other changes this fall, with the arrival of our new Dean, Dr. Philip Nasca, and the appointment of our new Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mary Applegate. Our new Dean and Associate Deans have already begun to move the school in exciting new directions, and I look forward to working with them over the next few years.

Because of Dr. Hannan’s wonderful leadership, the department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior is a vibrant unit that contributes significantly to the scholarship, teaching, and service missions of the school and university. We currently have 12 full-time faculty members and 40 additional faculty members from the NYS Department of Health, other UAlbany academic departments, and other institutions. This year, we have 109 students across 3 degree programs. Our research and scholarship programs are thriving. In 2006-2007, our department received $2.8 million dollars in competitive external research funding, and during the last 2 years, we have published an average of 40 articles per year in peer-reviewed journals. One of Dean Nasca’s priorities for the school is to build up our excellent research and scholarship programs even further. To that end we are moving forward on establishing a PhD program in Health Policy, Management, and Behavior.

In closing, I am delighted to be serving as chair of the department of Health Policy, Management and Behavior. Our wonderful faculty, staff, and students make this role a most enjoyable and rewarding one! Best wishes to each and every one of you for a healthy and happy new year!

Mary Gallant, PhD, MPH

TWO SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH FACULTY MEMBERS PROFILED IN UPCOMING BOOK

Congratulations to Ed Hannan for being one of two University at Albany School of Public Health faculty members profiled in the forthcoming book, Moments in Leadership: Case Studies in Public Health Policy and Practice. The other faculty member, Dr. Dale Morse, is Professor of Epidemiology and Assistant Commissioner, in the Office of Science of the New York State Department of Health. The book is near completion, and the volume will be printed by year’s end.

Dr. Hannan has also been invited to participate on a panel at the National Academy Health Meeting in February, 2008 to introduce the book.
construct a framework to assess the impact of public health leadership development. Professor Williams directs NEPHL and teaches the undergraduate introduction to public health and graduate public health leadership courses.

SPOTLIGHT ON:
PRIYA NAMBIKAN, PHD

Dr. Priya Nambisan is an Assistant Professor in Healthcare Management at the Department of Health Policy, Management & Behavior here at the School of Public Health. She is our latest addition to an already strong set of faculty at the Department of HPMB. She joins us from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was doing a one year Postdoc at UW’s Centre for Health Systems Research and Analysis. At the centre she was involved in evaluating the effectiveness of the online breast cancer discussion board – CHESS (Comprehensive Health Enhancement Support System) run by the Centre for Health Systems Research and Analysis (CHSRA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She received her PhD from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Dr. Nambisan grew up in Kerala, India. She attended school in India, majoring in Public Health and Extension Education. While there, coursework engaging the public made her realize the demand for nutrition assistance, and so peaked her interest. After marrying, she moved to Syracuse, New York, and started graduate studies in the College of Human Development, at Syracuse University. From SU, she received her Masters degree in Nutrition Science (she is also a Registered Dietitian). After finishing school there, she moved to Singapore with her husband. There she joined the Public Health Services Department, Ministry of Health - Government of Singapore, as public health communication coordinator. She designed pamphlets and fact-sheets, conducted seminars and surveys, and spent a lot of time developing a website for communication with the public. Dr. Nambisan enjoyed the work. And she loved the food – a cornucopia from places like Malaysia, India, and Indonesia, combined with Singapore’s unique position as a hub to the West and prices that beat home cooking.

This past semester, she has been teaching a new course titled ‘Technology and Information Management in Healthcare’ that introduces students to state-of-the-art health information technologies ranging from CPOE and EMR to CRM and teledermatology and the issues surrounding their implementation in U.S healthcare organizations.
Kirsten Davison, PhD

Dr. Davison has a number of studies in progress which focus on physical activity among youth. She is leading a longitudinal study of adolescent girls to identify factors that may protect girls from the noted declines in physical activity that occur during adolescence. She recently added a cell phone protocol to this study using funding from a Junior Investigator Award from UAlbany (OSDA) to get more detailed information on girls' physical activity and television viewing. As part of this protocol, girls receive calls on their cell phones at random intervals throughout the day for four days. Answering a call triggers an automated interview which asks girls to recall if they are being active and if so where they are and who they are with. Also, she is leading an intervention study with the help of Laurie Young, MPH Student and the Division of Nutrition of Nutrition at DOH, to increase physical activity levels of preschool-aged children enrolled in WIC.

She has published a number of papers from these projects during the past year. Two studies, which were published in the Journal of Pediatrics and Social Science and Medicine, showed that girls who experience puberty early are dissatisfied with their bodies, which in turn is linked with declines in their physical activity. Using data from this same sample of girls, she published a study in the Journal of Adolescent Health showing that physical activity leads to higher self-esteem among adolescent girls. Finally, along with Jessica Werder, MPH and a colleague from the Department of Geography and Planning, she wrote a review paper on predictors of children's active commuting to school, which has been accepted for publication in Preventing Chronic Disease, the CDC Journal. With respect to her future plans, Dr. Davison is looking forward to expanding her research to examine parenting factors that shape preschool-aged children physical activity patterns and recently submitted a grant to the American Heart Association.

Mary Gallant, PhD., MPH

Mary Gallant had a recent publication in Research on Aging that focused on how family members and friends positively and negatively influence the way that older adults manage their chronic illnesses. This was the result of an NIA-funded pilot study that she and colleague Glenna Spitzke in Sociology collaborated on. They are currently preparing a proposal for a larger study which will more extensively examine the mechanisms by which older adults' social network members facilitate or hinder chronic illness self-management.

She is also finishing up a 4-year project with Senior Services of Albany which was funded by the Administration on Aging as part of their Evidence-Based Health Promotion Grants Program. This project was one of 13 demonstration projects around the country that evaluated the translation and implementation of evidence-based health promotion programs for older adults in community settings. Senior Services of Albany implemented the Women Take Pride program, a heart disease self-management program for older women.

Edward Hannan, PhD

Dr. Hannan was recently appointed as the Associate Dean for Research, and is enjoying the challenges of this new position. He was also recently appointed as a member of the Editorial Board for the Journal of the American College of Cardiology: Cardiovascular Interventions.

Much of his research in the past several months has centered on developing Evidence-Based Medicine for competing cardiovascular interventions. This has included studies published or in press that compare off-pump and on-pump coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery, drug-eluting and bare-metal stents for angioplasty, drug-eluting stents and CABG for patients with coronary artery disease, and two-types of drug-eluting stents for angioplasty. Other work has involved the development of risk indicators that will enable clinicians and patients to predict the chance of adverse outcomes occurring following angioplasty, CABG surgery, and coronary valve surgery. Ongoing work includes the comparison of in-hospital mortality for heart attack patients in different regions of the country, of angioplasty and CABG surgery for patients with left main artery disease, of CABG surgery and angioplasty for different patient subgroups, and of changes in outcomes for trauma patients requiring splenic surgery.

Dr. Hannan has also recently presented invited talks on "Outcomes of Drug-Eluting vs. Bare-Metal Stents in New York" at the Transcatheter Cardiovascular Therapeutics 2007 Conference in Washington, D.C., and on "The Impact of Completeness of Revascularization on Long-Term Outcomes in the Stent Era" at the 7th International Congress on Coronary Artery Disease in Venice, Italy.

Timothy Hoff, PhD

Dr. Hoff is working on a book about primary care work in the 21st century. This book will inform current policy discussions around the shortage of primary care doctors in the U.S. and how our country will meet the increasing demand for primary care services in the coming years.

As a sociologist, Dr. Hoff is writing an ethnography using extensive interviews with 100 current and future primary care doctors. This qualitative analysis will tell the story of what this work is like at present, through the stories and experiences of the people engaged in it. The book will be published in late 2008 by a major academic press. Dr. Hoff is also the current Division Chair of the Health Care Management Division of the Academy of Management, a national academic organization with over 10,000 members. In this highly visible leadership role, Dr. Hoff oversees a 900 plus membership of the top academics in health management both in the U.S. and abroad. This is a prestigious position elected by health management colleagues within the Academy. He will serve in this role during 2007 and 2008. Finally, Dr. Hoff has recently completed a project, along with several colleagues, that looked at
the implementation soundness of recommendations contained in a major quality improvement report published by the Institute of Medicine. That work will be published in the Academy of Management's top journal sometime next year.

**Janine Jurkowski, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Jurkowski spent the summer collecting surveys for her Latina Health study, which is examining cultural factors that influence women's decision to use preventive health care. She also is looking at the influence of past experiences using health care in the United States and examining trust, perceived cultural sensitivity and language barriers.

She is presenting preliminary data at the New York Latino Research and Resources Network Conference in November. She and Dayna Maniccia, a DrPH student in the department are presenting findings from Dr. Jurkowski's Evaluation of Stroke Awareness Media Campaign project, which was a project that evaluated DOH's Bureau for Health Risk Reduction's media campaign. She is also in the process of submitting three papers, one to Qualitative Health Research, one to AJPH, and one to Diabetes Care.

**Jennifer Manganello, PhD**

Dr. Manganello is enjoying expanding her research into the area of health literacy, especially as it relates to adolescents. She recently had a paper accepted at Health Education Research that describes a conceptual model and agenda for future research in this area, and she will be presenting on this topic at APHA in November. She also submitted a proposal to the William T. Grant Foundation Scholars Program over the summer requesting funding for a 5 year project studying health literacy and adolescents. Anyone interested in having her guest lecture on the topic or who is interested in collaborating on research should contact her at jman-ganello@albany.edu.

**Jay Kumar, DDS, MPH**

Dr. Kumar received a grant from the March of Dimes for a satellite broadcast titled: Oral Health Care During Pregnancy and Early Childhood. The broadcast was organized by the School of Public Health and was held November 1.

**Shadi Saleh, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Saleh continues to investigate the financial performance of hospitals in lieu of changes in payment policy and quality reporting and performance requirements. His work in this area has been supported by grants from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Commonwealth Fund. His latest published manuscript on the topic examined the trend of the distribution of Medicare Disproportionate Share (DSH) cost in US Hospitals. The DSH payments are intended to 'compensate' the hospital sector for the care it provides for the poor. In addition, Dr. Saleh is currently finalizing a study on the association between costs and outcomes for cardiac procedures. This is an important topic given the increased interest in including efficiency measures in pay for performance (P4P) programs.

Since the last edition of HPMB online was published, Dr. Saleh received the SPH Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching and was inducted into Delta Omega — the National Public Health Honorary Society. In addition, he was promoted to associate professor and was granted tenure.

**Benjamin Shaw, PhD, MPH**

Dr. Shaw is currently focusing in two research projects, both aimed at better understanding the lives of older adults in our aging population. The first of these research projects is a 4-year NIH-funded study examining racial and ethnic differences in quality of life (e.g., life satisfaction, psychological well-being) during old age. The second project is an examination of how health behaviors and lifestyles change within individuals during old age. This project is currently being funded through a pilot grant from the UAlbany Center for Social and Demographic Analysis. A proposal to continue this project, and expand it to include comparisons of health behaviors between older adults in the US and elderly Japanese, is currently under review.

**Barry Sherman, PhD**

Dr. Sherman has been appointed the new director of the Doctor of Public Health Program here at the School.

**CURRENT STUDENT NEWS**

Congratulations to Hallie Roberts (current MPH) and her husband Danny Morgan on their November 17th wedding.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

Congratulations to Jane Burke-Miller, (M.S.) and her husband on the birth of their baby girl Elinor.

Christine Waller (M.S.) accepted a new position with the Office of Sponsored Funds Financial Management at SUNY Albany as their Contract Manager.

Rebecca Yip (M.S.) recently accepted a position with Patton Boggs in Washington, DC where she will be advising clients on health policy issues.

Michelle Gill (MPH) Recently accepted a position at George Washington University managing a partnership with the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation.

Dayna Maniccia (MS) has recently accepted a position as the Assistant Director for Administration with the Center for Public Health Preparedness here at the School of Public Health.
This summer, I had the opportunity to intern with the Foundation for Reproductive Health and Family Education (FOSREF). FOSREF is a Haitian Non-governmental Organization (NGO) whose mission is to promote and offer sexual and reproductive health services, family education, and HIV/AIDS prevention throughout Haiti. I worked with their Project Lakay component - a program geared towards the female sex worker population. Since its inception, Project Lakay has helped to reduce the incidence of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) among Haitian sex workers, as well as in the general public. It has served more than 50,000 sex workers, and has developed sites at 8 different locations throughout the island.

One of the challenges of Project Lakay is to pique the interest of sex workers when they are introduced into the program, so that they can take advantage of all the services offered. The current strategy used to increase the interest of sex workers is done verbally by outreach workers in the field and counselors in the centers. In order to help FOSREF engage Haitian sex workers in the program, I traveled to Haiti for six weeks to collect video footage on Project Lakay for the purposes of developing an educational and informative video for the Lakay Centers. This video will not only help to orient new sex workers to the program but also increase their self-efficacy towards adopting the healthy behaviors promoted by it. I traveled to 6 of the 8 centers in Haiti: Petionville, Carrefour, Grand-rue, Aux Cayes, Saint Marc, and Miragwan to video tape the various activities and services made available to the sex workers.

I was amazed by what I saw. Project Lakay is indeed an extraordinary program. It provides sex workers with free HIV testing, gynecological visits, and psychological counseling, not to mention an array of social clubs such as, dancing, art floral and crochet, computer classes, cosmetology, and cooking. I was really impressed by the different séances (workshops) geared toward prevention of risky behaviors and condom demonstrations. It was apparent that the lessons taught during these sessions were well learned as the women would recite “San Kapot anyeny meme” (Haitian Creole for: No condom no sex). These women loved Project Lakay and took pride in being part of program, as many of them would say “Mesye damn la sosyete, ak avek projet lakay n’ap toujour batay SIDA” (Haitian Creole for: I am a woman of a society and with Project Lakay I will beat AIDS). In order to better understand the factors that influenced their participation in the program, I conducted interviews with several of the sex workers from these different locations. The information gained was extremely valuable and provided great insight into the dynamics that contribute to getting involved with sex work in Haiti. Most of the women that I interviewed began doing sex work at the age of 14, were of low socio-economic status and have had to suffer through a lifetime of abuse and rape. And yet, they are resilient. Project Lakay gave these women a sense of empowerment and was in essence, a safe haven for them. In many cases it was their second home, it gave these women a sense of belonging. Needless to say, my Haitian experience was indeed unforgettable. Chante viv FOSREF (Haitian Creole for: Sing, long live FOSREF).
### Spring 2008 Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Day/s</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Call #</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Room</th>
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<td>Arr</td>
<td>Arr</td>
<td>5305</td>
<td>Saleh</td>
<td>Online</td>
<td>Health Care Organization, Delivery &amp; Finance (Online)</td>
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<td>1:00-3:50</td>
<td>4248</td>
<td>Young</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Health Care Organization, Delivery &amp; Finance</td>
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<td>Dewar</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Economic Analysis</td>
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<td>Applegate</td>
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<td>Family &amp; Community Health</td>
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<td>5:30-8:20</td>
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<td>Davison</td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Social &amp; Behavioral Aspects of Public Health</td>
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<td>Arr</td>
<td>6332</td>
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<td>C2</td>
<td>Applications in Health Policy Analysis</td>
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<td>8773</td>
<td>Gallant</td>
<td>C1</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health and Aging</td>
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<td>Th</td>
<td>1:00-3:50</td>
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<td>Hoff</td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Principles of Health Organization Management</td>
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<td>4252</td>
<td>Shaw</td>
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<td>Program Evaluation</td>
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<td>C1</td>
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<td>Topics: Introduction to Gerontology</td>
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<td>8937</td>
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<td>Topics: Community Based Public Health</td>
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**Other SPH Courses:**

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<td>Carpenter</td>
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<td>4147</td>
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<td>6984</td>
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<td>Principles of Statistical Inference I</td>
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<td>T,TH</td>
<td>1-2:20</td>
<td>5860</td>
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<td>C4</td>
<td>Principles of Statistical Inference II</td>
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**Dept. undergrad courses**

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<td>8104</td>
<td>Nambisan</td>
<td>CH0151</td>
<td>U.S. Healthcare</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPH341</td>
<td>T,TH</td>
<td>5:45-7:05</td>
<td>7866</td>
<td>Maniccia</td>
<td>ES241</td>
<td>Promoting Healthy People</td>
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**Public Health Organizations**

American Public Health Association (APHA)*  
www.apha.org

Association of Schools of Public Health  
www.aspa.org

World Federation of Public Health Associations  
www.wfpha.org

American Public Human Services Association  
www.aphsa.org

New York State Public Health Association  
www.nyspha.org

American Health Care Association  
www.ahca.org

National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) and information about the exam to become Certified in Public Health (CPH)  
www.publichealthexam.org

*A more extensive list of public health professional organizations is provided on this website.

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**School of Public Health**

**University at Albany**

State University of New York

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If you have ideas or updates for our next newsletter, please send them to Linda Gauvin-McNulty at lmg@albany.edu.
Rename the Department Newsletter Contest

We are looking for a new name for our Department newsletter and are asking for your help.

If you have some ideas for a new name, please write them down below and send the bottom portion of this page to Linda Gauvain-McNulty in HPMB at One University Place, Room 175, Rensselaer, or you can email your suggestions to lmg@albany.edu by 2/1/08.

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

____________________________________________________________________________________

Submitted
by: _______________________________________

The winner will receive a $5.00 gift card to Panera.