Greetings from HPMB!
The leaves are changing, the air is crisp, and the fall 2015 semester is well underway. We hope that you enjoy the latest issue of HPMB online.

The new academic year brought with it a few changes in leadership the HPMB Department. Dr. Shaw became director of the University at Albany’s Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA) in July (see page 4) and I succeeded Ben as HPMB Department Chair. Congratulations to Ben on the CSDA Directorship and thank you for your wonderful leadership as HPMB Chair over the past four years.

In the fall, HPMB welcomed 48 new MPH students, one of our largest entering classes. As our enrollment continues to grow, we encourage faculty and alumni to participate in the mentorship program developed by the HPMB Student Affairs Committee (see page 2). This is a great chance for alumni and faculty to share their experiences and wisdom with current students.

We look forward to hearing what everyone is up to, so please keep in touch! A reminder that HPMB now has its own LinkedIn group page “Department of Health Policy, Management & Behavior”, and a Facebook page “University at Albany Department of Health Policy Management and Behavior.

Warm regards,
Wendy Weller, Ph.D.
Associate Professor and Chair

Shaw Earns Fellow and Director Statuses

In May, Dr. Shaw was awarded Fellow status through the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA), the world’s oldest and largest organization devoted to research and practice in the field of aging. According to the GSA, fellowship status is the highest class of membership in the society, and “is an acknowledgement of outstanding and continuing work in the field of gerontology”. In July, Dr. Shaw was appointed as Director of the Center for Social and Demographic Analysis (CSDA) at the University at Albany. The CSDA, established in 1981 provides the University community with research infrastructure for scholarship in the social and population sciences. It is one of 26 population centers in the US that are funded by the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD).
In July, Clinical Associate Professor David Hoffman created a publication entitled “Looking At The Future Of Alzheimer’s Disease Policy” that highlighted the burdens and costs, as well as the public policy around why we need to take action on Alzheimer’s Disease and dementias now. The article also addressed New York State’s policy steps and service expansions for those affected by Alzheimer’s and Dementia with support from two new funding initiatives.

Most recently Professor Hoffman had a presentation accepted for the American Society for Bioethics and Humanities’ national conference entitled “Challenges and Strategies for Communicating With the Newly Diagnosed Alzheimer Patient About Advance Directives.”

The mentorship program developed by the department’s student affairs committee offers a unique opportunity for Alumni and Faculty members to engage with current students in their field.

This flexible program aims to meet the changing needs of both mentees and mentors over time by allowing matches to be self managed with tips from the HPMB mentorship guide available on the department’s website.

Mentor mentee meetings ideally occur at least 1-2 times per semester to discuss interests and provide opportunities for exposure in public health practice. Specific opportunities can vary by field but could include opportunities to attend internal or external meeting and hearings with time to debrief and ask questions one on one afterwards.

The program will be evaluated by feedback from students to Academic Advisors and by a brief mentor survey before and after each academic year. Interested individuals should join the linked-in page entitled “HPMB-Mentorship-Program” where current students can identify and request mentors from the group’s members.

Any Questions can be directed to:
Linda Gauvain-McNulty
lgauvain-mcnulty@albany.edu

The project was done in conjunction with Dr.’s Jane Jankowski, Wayne Shelton, and Kevin Costello at Albany Medical College. The conference took place October 22-25, 2015.
Qian Publishes on Health outcomes for Asian Americans

Assistant Professor Feng (Johnson) Qian, MD, PhD was first author on a study recently published in the International Journal of Cardiology. The paper is entitled "Characteristics, Quality of Care, and In-Hospital Outcomes of Asian-American Heart Failure Patients: Findings from the American Heart Association Get With The Guidelines-Heart Failure Program." The study was the largest "to examine the clinical profile, quality of care, and health outcomes for Asian-American patients with heart failure (HF)." Drs. Edward Hannan and Benjamin Shaw from the Department of Health Policy and Management were also authors on this publication. The study’s findings included "that despite some differences in clinical profiles, Asian-American patients hospitalized with HF received very similar quality of care and had comparable health outcomes to white counterparts. Asian-American HF patients were also less likely to receive aldosterone antagonists at discharge and anticoagulation for atrial fibrillation even after risk adjustment."

HPMB at the APHA Annual Meeting

Several HPMB Professors were actively involved in the recent APHA Annual Meeting which took place in Chicago, October 31-November, 4 2015.

Professor Manganello delivered talks on "Self-reported health literacy and health information seeking among New York State residents" and "Disseminating child injury news: What do parents understand for pediatric injury research in the news media?" and also served as a mediator for a discussion on "Social Media and Health Promotion Interventions (organized by HCWG)."

As the chair of the Public Health Social Work section of APHA, Professor Hastings was involved with activities ranging from round table discussions to scientific sessions as the section of Public Health

Jurkowski becomes Associate Dean, Receives Grant

Professor Jurkowski has taken a new position as the Associate Dean of Public Health Practice. In addition to overseeing the Division of Public Health Practice, which includes three practice and training centers, she will be working to improve the SPH’s community engagement efforts through partnership with nonprofit organizations in the region. Her first initiative is a partnership with Sage and Siena Colleges and several nonprofits working in food access to conduct a regional food assessment. This is a multi-year initiative that is in the beginning stages.

Dr. Jurkowski also has recently received funding for a 5-year intervention research grant using CBPR entitled, “Empowerment as a mechanism for change in childhood obesity prevention” which she will be serving as a co-investigator for.
David Hoffman and Mary Gallant to Collaborate on Alzheimer’s Disease Caregiver Support Evaluation

New York State is embarking on a groundbreaking initiative to become a national leader in Alzheimer’s disease support services. The number of people with Alzheimer’s disease in NYS is estimated to double to 700,000 by 2025. The effects of this disease are far-reaching, cascading from the individual, to family members who are likely to serve in a caregiving role, and to the broader economy, by way of increasing medical care costs and effects on employers of caregivers.

New York State will address this critical issue by investing over $25 million dollars annually in the NYS Alzheimer’s Disease Caregiver Support Initiative. Over the next five years, this initiative, led by David Hoffman (HPMB Clinical Associate Professor), will enable the Department of Health to significantly expand the evidence-based caregiver support interventions already provided in NY, provide additional caregiver support services in ten regions in NYS, and provide targeted caregiver support services for traditionally underserved communities.

Dr. Mary Gallant will direct a comprehensive multi-method evaluation of this initiative, which will document the effect of these expanded caregiver support services on patient, caregiver, and health system outcomes. In addition to examining caregiver physical and mental health outcomes, the evaluation will also look at the project’s effect on avoidable emergency department visits, unnecessary hospitalizations, and nursing home placement. Evaluation results will also significantly contribute to the national evidence base related to Alzheimer’s support services and generate important evidence for future programmatic and policy decisions at both the state and national levels.

Students interested in potentially getting involved in this project should contact Dr. Gallant at mgallant@albany.edu.
Bozlak Receives Grant

In June 2015, the University at Albany School of Public Health was awarded a five-year grant (2015-2020) through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to develop a Maternal and Child Health Public Health Catalyst Program (MCH Catalyst Program). Co-directing the project are Christine Bozlak, PhD, MPH, Assistant Professor in HPMB, and Rachel de Long, M.D., MPH, Director, Division of Family Health/Title V Program at the New York State Department of Health. Dr. deLong is also a Clinical Associate Professor in HPMB. The grant will work towards achieving HRSA’s strategic plan “Healthy Communities, Healthy People” goals I-IV, which focus on increasing and strengthening the public health workforce and improving community health and access to care by providing quality training for current and future health professionals. To achieve such goals, the MCH Catalyst Program will include the offering of two fundamental MCH courses per year, a mentor program that will match key influencers within the maternal and child health field with interested and motivated students, MCH student internships at community-based organizations, outreach and recruitment activities, an increased focus on the development of MCH leadership competencies and cultural and linguistic competence development for our students, and MCH graduate assistant opportunities. Additionally, a MCH Student Interest Group has been established within the School of Public Health that coordinates community engagement events, professional talks, career events, and other activities to engage students in MCH and increase interest in MCH careers. The MCH Student Interest Group is co-chaired by second-year MPH students, Lauren Chambers and Sachelle Myrtil. Furthermore, the grant will provide opportunities for students and faculty to attend MCH-related conferences throughout the academic year. The MCH Catalyst Program marks the beginning of an effort at the SPH to create awareness and expertise in MCH. This is also another excellent opportunity to create synergies between the SPH and the NYSDOH Title V program to further develop the MCH workforce.

For more information about the University at Albany MCH Catalyst Program, please email MCHCatalyst@albany.edu or contact Dr. Christine Bozlak at 518-402-0299.
Earlier this semester Carol Whittaker, Assistant Dean and Associate Director for Global Academic Programs, Center for Global Health, was invited to teach a short course in Comparative Health Systems to 139 undergraduate students at Sun Yat-Sen University’s School of Public Health in Guangzhou, China. Carol, an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management, and Behavior, also holds a faculty appointment at the University of Malawi’s College of Medicine in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine. She’s used to teaching graduate students here and in international settings, but this was a new experience for her and it turned out to be an outstanding one. The students, all prepared to take the class in English, were extremely engaged and very interested in learning about the health systems of other countries, those of well-developed as well as those of developing and the least developed countries. Unlike our public health students, those at Sun Yat-sen University spend the first two years of their public health education taking the same courses as medical students then they begin taking public health courses in their third year. Although the pace was intense (15 classes were scheduled during the two week period), it was possible to also include presentations by students who had researched topics related to global health and other national health care systems. It turned out that five of the students in the class were already known to Carol: they were participants in an exchange of students who visited our School of Public Health last summer. The partnership between our School and that of Sun Yat-sen University, one of the top ten universities in China, grows stronger all the time. There are opportunities for faculty who are interested in research and students who might wish to undertake internships there; if interested, please contact Carol Whittaker (cwhittaker@albany.edu); John Justino (jjustino@albany.edu); or Dr. Shao Lin (slin@albany.edu) at the Center for Global Health for more information.

“The partnership between our School and that of Sun Yat-sen University, one of the top ten universities in China, grows stronger all the time.”
Public Health History, Tuberculosis, and Ski-Jumping

On Friday, October 2, a busload of public health students, alums, and faculty members left the School of Public Health at the crack of dawn and travelled north to Saranac Lake, NY in the heart of the Adirondack Mountains for a day of spectacular sightseeing, a lot of history related to public health, and a lot of fun. Sponsored by the Center for Global Health, this annual trip features a visit to the Edward Trudeau Tuberculosis Laboratory Museum and Sanatorium where patients were treated for TB long before the advent of antibiotics. The Museum and Sanatorium provide a look into the lives of those who often spent many years ‘curing’ in the fresh air of the mountain environment when rest, fresh air, and plenty of nutritious food were the only treatments available. The village of Saranac Lake became a mecca for those seeking to recover from TB, a disease that afflicted one out of seven Americans a century ago. Of particular interest to the many international students who traveled with us was the visit to John Brown’s farm in the village of Lake Placid where we stopped on the return trip. John Brown was an abolitionist who was active in the 1850’s in the underground railroad movement that helped freed runaway slaves to reach Canada and freedom. Brown, who led a raid and attack on a military armory in Harper’s Ferry, Virginia, with the goal of starting the Civil War and ending slavery, was executed and subsequently buried on the farm with his sons who had fought at his side. Of course, no Center for Global Health trip can take place without some fun. Everyone had the opportunity while in Lake Placid to ride the chair lift to the Olympic ski jump tower and take the elevator to the top. The view of the fall foliage was certainly a fine cap to an outstanding day. The next Center for Global Health trip will be on Friday, November 6, to the UN Headquarters in New York City, where in addition to the tour of the UN there will be a briefing on UN public health activities. Contact John Justino, jjustino@albany.edu, or Elsie Essien, sph07@albany.edu, for more information.
This past summer, I served as the Head Teaching Assistant in Residence (HTA) for the Summer Public Health Scholars Program (SPHSP) at Columbia University Medical Center (CUMC). The goal of the program is to introduce students with varying interests to public health.

Originally, I was hired as a general TA. However, after the Program Coordinator resigned and there was no one to fill the position, everyone on the team had to accept additional responsibilities to ensure that the program goals were being achieved. A problem that arose from this change was that Students and TAs were often misinformed about changes to the schedule, causing confusion about when and where guest speaker events were taking place. From this, I saw the need for improved communication and I took initiative. I frequently inquired with administrative staff about specific events and then informed the TAs and students about the final plans. This experience challenged me to be attentive and strategic, and paved the way for my promotion to HTA.

As HTA, my responsibilities included assisting three professors with their courses, leading a course independently, chaperoning public health field trips, and assuring effective communication between students, TAs, professors, and administrators of the program. In effort to best complete these responsibilities, I struggled to allot time for family, friends and myself. As a result, I turned to one of my previous professors for advice on how to balance work and personal life. Through our conversations, I learned that I needed to be stricter with assignment deadlines. By requiring all students to submit their work on the due date and then reserving the following day to grade and return the assignments, I was able to grade and return all assignments within 42 hours of submission and was still able to connect with family and friends.

I had the most fun teaching and engaging in intellectually stimulating conversations with students, colleagues, and professors during and after class. It was also fun to see students learn and apply their knowledge to resolve real world problems.

Specific lessons that I have taken away from the experience were:

1. Things change quickly in public health and you have to be ready for it – one moment there will be resources and another moment there will not.

When changes occur, how will you react?

2. Most leaders obtain their positions because they see a need and work to address it.

3. Asking for help and guidance is imperative to delivering the best possible product, don’t let pride cripple your success.

4. Don’t be so hard on professors who take months to grade and return assignments.

There are many more stories and lessons learned from my summer internship experience, but these provide the best yet simplest inside scoop. It was truly a rewarding experience. I would like to acknowledge and extend a warm thank you to Dr. Julia Hastings, Dr. Wendy Weller, and Katrina Chamberlain for helping me obtain and succeed in the position.
Alumni Updates

Joe Chiarenzelli (2015): Joe Chiarenzelli, who graduated in May '15, currently lives in Chevy Chase, Maryland and is a Presidential Management Fellow. For his 2 year placement he is a Management and Program Analyst in the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Inspector General, Office of Evaluation and Inspection (he knows the name of this office is really long). He is available at joechiarenzelli@gmail.com for SPH students with questions about the DC area or any type of advice.

Cinthia De La Rosa (2011): Since graduating in 2011, Cinthia has worked at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and pursued a fellowship in public affairs through the Coro Leadership Center of New York. She is now a project coordinator at the Center for Health Equity; a new division at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. In this position Cinthia’s work focuses on community engagement and policy work around food access and the built environment in East Harlem.

Angela Falisi (2015): Angela Falisi, 2015 MPH graduate, recently began a position as a Cancer Research Training Award Fellow at the National Cancer Institute of NIH. She is working in the Health Communications and Informatics Research Branch (HCIRB) within the Behavioral Research Program under the mentorship of Wen-Ying Sylvia Chou. During the fellowship, Angela will conduct and support research in the areas of patient-provider communication, health literacy, and social media as an intervention and data source for prevention research. In addition, she will be actively involved in NCI’s grant process by hosting cyber-seminars for grantees, organizing in-person grantee meetings, and conducting portfolio analyses to inform future directions in NCI’s funding opportunities.

Maria MacPherson RN MPH (2013): Maria MacPherson, a 2013 MPH graduate, was recently selected as one of just 25 nurses nationwide to participate in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundations Public Health Nurse Leaders Program. The Two year program for senior public health nurses is designed to strengthen their ability to ‘build a culture of health in their communities” in part by working with the “action coalitions in their states to implement recommendations from the Institute of Medicines future of nursing report.”

Congratulations to Christopher Hansel ‘13 and Sarah Burns ‘11 on their upcoming Fall 2016 Wedding. Chris and Sarah met while working on a group project for HPM 501.
Meet the Department Graduate Assistants

Lauren Chambers

Lauren is a 2nd year SBCH student, graduating in December. She is a Returning Peace Corps Volunteer, having served as a technical health volunteer in a rural town in Guatemala. She is from Pittsburgh, PA and obtained her bachelor of science degree in Health Studies from Juniata College in Huntingdon, PA. She loves exercise, sunrises, mangoes, and hiking volcanoes.

Steve Curry

Steve is a second year student in the Health Policy Management track. Over the summer Steve worked under the supervision of Dr. Tomoko Udo on her Ghrelin and Alcohol Study as a research coordinator. His position involved preparing statistical software procedures to enter data and conduct analysis, interviewing subjects for eligibility for potential study participation, facilitating collaboration between Albany Medical Center and the School of Public Health, and assisting in revisions of study protocol for 10 laboratory sessions. In addition, Steve took on an independent project that focused on correlations between substance use, academic performance and deviant behaviors. Overall, he gained experiences in project management, software analysis, research and professionalism.

Brittany Enekes

Brittany is a first year student in the Social Behavior and Community Health concentration from Saratoga Springs, NY. She recently got back (in June) from serving as a Peace Corps Health Volunteer in Mongolia, where she worked on various projects from developing a new health curriculum for schools to teaching Zumba to community members. Brittany did her undergrad at University of Buffalo and graduated in 2012 with a BS in Psychology. For fun Brittany loves hiking, running, playing sports and skiing.
Meet the Department Graduate Assistants

Lauren FitzGerald

Lauren is a first year student in the Health Policy and Management track from Geneva, NY. Lauren graduated from Gettysburg College in May 2015 with a degree in Health Sciences and a minor in Chemistry. Her past public health related experience includes working for USDA-ARS in an apple rootstock genetics lab, and interning for the Ontario County Department of Public Health in NY. For fun Lauren enjoys running, skiing, sailing and teaching spinning classes.

Kate Purcell

Kate is a second year student in the Social Behavior and Community Health track. She spent this summer interning at the NYSDOH in the Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Epidemiology. Her project there involved working on helping to lift the NYS Clean, Green, and Healthy Schools Program from planning to implementation. When completed, the program will provide voluntary guidelines for NYS schools to follow to improve their school environmental health. Some of Kates duties included planning for a Steering Committee Meeting and Conference, creating materials for various groups of people to utilize regarding school EH, and creating a mock version of the website.

Donette Ritchie

Donette is a second year student in the Health Policy and Management track. This fall, she will be attending the 143 American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting in Chicago as a 2015 Leadership Challenge Scholar. After graduation, she envisions herself in a public health doctoral or fellowship program. In her spare time, Donette enjoys relaxing and spending time with loved ones. Her favorite comfort foods/drinks are raspberry and dark chocolate, soup, tea, and Starbucks lattes (her favorite fall flavor is salted caramel mocha).
Rachel Vancavage

Rachel is a second year student in the Health Policy and Management track. She grew up in Clifton Park, New York, and graduated from University of Vermont in May 2014.

This past summer Rachel interned at the Department of Health in the Bureau of Community Integration and Alzheimer’s disease. She is still at the DOH working on a variety of projects, such as the impact of Alzheimer’s on Medicaid spending, and the importance of chronic disease prevention and control.

For fun Rachel enjoys skiing, tennis, yoga, and spending time with her family and friends.

Brian Valesky

Brian is a first year student with a concentration of health policy and management. As an undergrad, he studied health promotion and wellness management at SUNY Oswego, and is seeking to be a CEO of a YMCA in the future. He and Dr. Bozlak are currently working with the Alliance of New York State YMCA’s to investigate the willingness and capacity of Y facilities to engage in evidence-based policy, systems and environmental change (PSE) strategies. Specifically, the purpose is to determine level of support for the implementation of healthy vending, and healthy eating and physical activity (HEPA) standards. In his free time, he loves to watch NFL football and go fishing. Go Vikings!

December Graduates

The HPMB department would like to congratulate students who are on course to graduate this winter. Good luck with your future ventures!
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<td>Golden</td>
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**OTHER SPH COURSES:**

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*Indicates new course
HPMB Fall Potluck

Date: Thursday, November 19th
Time: 3:30 – 5:30 pm
Location: Room 110A

Bring your favorite dish or drinks to share. Please rsvp to flauren@albany.edu and include what you will be contributing by Monday, November 16th.

This is a service oriented event, please bring a non-perishable good to help local families this holiday season.