From the Chair

On behalf of our Department, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Dean, Dr. David Gallahue. With excitement we look forward to working with him so we can collectively advance the mission of our Department and School. I want to also offer sincere thanks to former Dean of our School, Tony Mobley, who retired this past summer. He lead our School with distinction for almost three decades. I wish the best to him and Betty as they start a new phase in their lives.

Our Department has had another successful and exciting year, and I would like to highlight some of the accomplishments. Our Centers and Institutes continue to play a major role in providing education, research, and service at the state and national levels in preventing diseases and promoting health. With the leadership of our faculty, these Centers and Institutes procured over $1.5 million dollars in grants and contracts this past year.

We have a healthy enrollment in all five units, including total credit hours generated. While student majors in various degree programs remain very stable, the student majors in our undergraduate teacher preparation program have increased drastically. Additionally, the number of graduate students enrolled in our Master of Public Health degree program continues an upward trend. These accomplishments are due to the hard work of our faculty, along with implementation of our marketing initiatives. The number of grants submitted and the number of externally funded contracts has increased during the past academic year. Faculty continue their productivity in the areas of research, publications, and leadership roles in state and national organizations. This is evidenced by the national awards and accolades they have received. We have developed and increased the number of on-line courses. The newest distributed education course is HPER C510 - Program Planning in Public Health Education which was developed by Dr. Michael Reece with the assistance of the School’s instructional consulting and technology services staff. Dr. David Austin continues to provide excellent assistance as Coordinator of the Distance Learning initiative.

Our Department, with the leadership of our search committees, has continued to recruit the best and brightest faculty. You will see the brief bio of new faculty in this newsletter.

After 20 years of wonderful service to the Department of Applied Health Science, Donna Pavey retired from our staff. I wish her and her husband well.

It has been a very challenging and exciting year for the Department of Applied Health Science. As always, I look forward to hearing from you. Please stay in touch.

Mohammad R. Torabi, Chairperson
New Faculty

Lisako Jones-Mckyer

AHS is pleased to welcome Lisako Jones-Mckyer to our Public Health Faculty. Lisako was born in Japan and spent her early years there. Her mother is Japanese and her father African American/Native American. Thus, Lisako is truly bilingual and bicultural. She spent her teen years in California and completed a BA in Psychology at California State, working with chronically ill and physically handicapped children.

After coming to IU to do graduate work in psychology, Lisako switched to Public Health earning an MPH in 2000. This allowed her to expand her health expertise to include adult and community health. While earning her PhD in our Department, Lisako published several articles including, “Evaluation of Environmental Approaches to Control for Indoor Allergens and Reducing Asthma Morbidity among Children and Adolescents,” in Eta Sigma Gamma Health Education Monograph Series (2000). Her key research interests are Tobacco Use-related Chronic Disease Prevention and Control: Research Design and Methodology; Measurement of Health Education: Community Intervention and Evaluation; and Minority Health Issues. She has taught upper level courses in our Department, worked as a Research Associate and Statistician at the Indiana Prevention Resource Center and served as an evaluation consultant for a $100 million redevelopment grant with the City of Detroit.

Lisako has played a major role in IU's efforts to support graduate education opportunities for underrepresented minority students. From 1999-2001 she served as Associate Director, Undergraduate Summer Research Programs and assisted in directing federally-funded programs there. She is also a research and academic mentor in the Ronald McNair program and a member of IU’s Racial Incidents Team.

On April 27 of this year Lisako became Ms. Jones-Mckyer. Since her husband Jarvis played for the NFL and CFL, she describes herself as “a bookworm who married into a family of athletes.” She has an 11-year-old stepdaughter, Afewenwa, and a 17-year-old niece Meyumi, who is a senior at BHS South. Home improvement projects, crafts and trips to museums are some of her favorite pastimes. We are very happy to have Lisako join us and continue her many roles in the public health community at IU.

David Lohrmann

This fall, Dr. David Lohrmann joins us as head of our School Health Program. Dave moved to Bloomington in early August with his wife Julie, who holds a PhD in Clinical Psychology, and his two children, Nathan (10) and Chloe (6). His parents also moved to Bloomington at the same time, so we welcome the whole Lohrmann family.

Dr. Lohrmann’s career in school health includes college teaching at Wayne State University, University of Georgia and Syracuse University; serving as the Director of Curriculum for the Troy School District in Michigan (1987-1993); and most recently, at the national level, directing the Evaluation Consultation Center at the Academy for Education Development (AED) in Washington, DC (1993-2001). As Director, he was both project manager and senior technical expert on successive Centers for Disease Control and Prevention contracts totaling more than $12 million. Contract activities included: creating guidance documents used by state education and health departments throughout the U.S.; providing technical assistance for program changes in 20 states; delivering evaluation workshops for participants from all 50 states; and supervising 8 major statewide evaluations of school-based HIV prevention programs. He also authored or co-authored 7 book chapters, 9 articles and 20 reports.

Dave has chaired national conferences and served a variety of organizations including the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing, Division Board for Professional Preparation, the Joint Committee on National Health Education Standards, and the American School Health Association (ASHA) as chair of the Council on Health Behaviors. In fact, he is president-elect of ASHA and will serve as president from 2003-2005. He has received numerous honors.
New Faculty

David Lohrmann, cont....

including awards from the University of Michigan, the State of Michigan, and other organizations. In 2000, he received both Scholar of the Year and Distinguished Service Awards from ASHA.

When asked how he has accomplished so much, Dave says, “long hours and working efficiently.” To keep himself in shape he walks and does strength training, and for recreation he reads historical fiction. And as for hobbies, Dave does whatever Nathan and Chloe like to do—sports, fishing, rockets, and scouting. He has managed little league teams and coached youth basketball and soccer. We are very pleased to have his energies and expertise in our School Health Program, and we look forward to seeing him out on the bull field too.

Cheryl Plypyuw

Cheryl Plypyuw joins our faculty this fall as a senior lecturer in Occupational Safety. Cheryl has over 16 years experience in the field of Safety and Health. She received an AS, BS, and MS in Safety Management from IU. Subsequently, she was employed as an Occupational Safety and Health Specialist for the U.S. Navy and a Compliance Safety and Health Officer for OSHA. Cheryl then worked in Montana for The Montana Power Company and as an Associate Professor at Montana Tech of the University of Montana. At Montana Power, Cheryl founded the Montana Construction Safety Alliance, an organization dedicated to protecting the safety of Montana construction workers. She also consulted with private clients on OSHA and ADA issues.

In December 2000, she returned to IU as the Associate Director of Environmental, Health, and Safety Management before joining AHS as a Senior Lecturer and Safety Program Coordinator. She received the Certified Safety Professional in Comprehensive Practice (C.S.P.) certification in 1993 and a Certified Utility Safety Administrator (C.U.S.A.) certification in 2000. She is a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers, the American Industrial Hygiene Association, and the South Central Indiana Human Resources Association.

Cheryl’s family consists of three grown and married children: Shelly lives in Oregon and is starting a surgical technician program; Michael is a financial analyst for Travelocity.com; and Jolana is completing her senior year as a math major at Montana Tech. Her family also includes one dog, one bird and five cats. When she is not teaching safety, traveling to visit her kids or taking care of her menagerie, she enjoys creating jewelry and working with wood. Finally, Cheryl can do arc welding, operate a backhoe, operate a digger-derrick, drive a line truck, and climb power poles with hooks and gaffs. Welcome, Cheryl, to the Department of Applied Health Science.

Sara Cole has received the HPER University Fellowship for the 3rd straight year. She is also teaching a course in the Gender Studies Department, helping to facilitate Diversity Training Workshops, and presenting a paper entitled “Sexual Compulsivity Among College Women: Implications for Sexual Health” at APHA in November.

Haydee Encarnacion received her CHES certification in April and passed her oral and written exams this past summer.

Deanna Hillery has co-authored a publication in the October 2002 issue of Journal of Community Health entitled “A Survey of Pharmacists’ Opinions and Practices Related to the Sale of Cigarettes in Pharmacies-Revisited.”

Robin Mihlauen’s article “Rural and Nonrural African American High School Students and Sexual STD/HIV Risk Behaviors” is in press with the American Journal of Health Behavior and has also been accepted for presentation at the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality’s annual meeting.

Dietetics Internship News

All 17 out of 17 of our dietetics students who graduated in 2002 were placed in dietetics internships. Hooray!
Trent Applegate is serving as visiting lecturer this year with responsibility for our large First Aid and Emergency Care course.

Dr. Kathleen Gilbert was recently appointed Associate Dean for Employee Relations for HPER. She also serves on the Board of Directors for the Association for Death Education and Counseling, and spent time in Norway this summer at the Cultural Issues Working Group of the International Working Group on Death, Dying, and Bereavement. One of her recent publications is “Taking a Narrative Approach to Grief Research: Finding Meaning in Stories.” in Death Studies 2002.

Billie Pearson has moved from the Prevention Resource Center to a position as visiting lecturer. Billie is teaching Men’s Health and Women’s Health and supervising school health students in their field experience and student teaching.

Dr. Michael Reese has been selected and showcased for his community research in “Stories of IMPACT” in the Community Health Scholars Program. The two-page story highlights his leadership in planning the 2001 Community-Based Public Health Caucus for the American Public Health Association, his work at Johns Hopkins with evaluating the addictions team, and his efforts as a community-based researcher with Positive Impact Inc., which provides mental health services to low-income people with HIV in Atlanta. Dr. Reese has also received three new research grants in 2002, dealing with topics ranging from substance abuse and HIV infection, HIV risk behaviors of individuals leaving the prison system, and HIV-related stigma among public health professionals. His work in these areas will be presented in three articles currently in press in the journals AIDS Care, Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity, and Partnership Perspectives.

Dr. Maria Schmidt and her husband Bruce Stephenson have a new baby girl, Marta Grace, born October 2, 2002. She weighed 6 pounds and 9 ounces and was 20 inches long. Congratulations Maria, Bruce and Greta Claire on your new family member!

Dr. Catherine Sherwood-Puzzello and Dr. Michael Reese are directing the evaluation of a 3-year, community-based project in Washington County, IN to improve the health care education and access for the Amish, Mennonites, and other target populations. The project partnered with the Rural Health Outreach Program and Hoosier Uplands is receiving $200,000 annually for 3 years, as one of 13 Rural Health Outreach Grant recipients in the US.

Dr. Mohammad Torabi authored and co-authored several research articles which were published in national and international journals. Also, he has been invited as presenter and panel member for national presentations. He was appointed as a member of the Editorial Board of the American School Health Association, and continues to serve as the Editor of the Eta Sigma Gamma Monograph Series, as Assistant Editor for Research for the Journal of School Health, and is one of the Research Editors for the American Journal of Health Behavior.

In August, Dr. William Yarber, as a senior director of the Rural Center for AIDS/STD Prevention hosted 30 HIV prevention specialists in a 3-day event on the Bloomington campus which focused on HIV/AIDS prevention guidelines for American native peoples. Dr. Yarber co-authored with Robin Milhausen a recent study on sexual activity in rural adolescents which was published in the American Journal of Health Education. Dr. Yarber also co-authored with Stephanie Sanders and Cynthia Graham of The Kinsey Institute and Richard Crosby of Emory University a study of condom use errors and problems of IU undergraduate males in the September issue of Sexually Transmitted Diseases. In October Dr. Yarber received the American Social Health Association Research Council Award for outstanding research in adolescent sexuality at the ASHA annual meeting.

Staff News

Dr. Carole Nowicke has a long-time interest in oral histories of musicians. She presented a lecture on former IU School of Music faculty member William J. Bell at the Great American Brass Band Festival on June 13th. Dr. Nowicke has completed over 20 oral histories as part of the tuba-euphonium oral history project during the past two years. They are now part of the IU oral history collection.

Barbara Seitz de Martinez gave papers and workshops in Washington DC, Bloomington (MN), Denver, and Indianapolis. Topics were the use of GIS in prevention and a portal web site she is developing for Hispanic/Latinos on prevention. Also, she was reelected for a 3-year term to the National Steering Committee of the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.

Mary Winburn was awarded the HPER Staff Merit Award for the year 2001. Mary has been with the Applied Health Science Department for five years. Congratulations, Mary!
Looking for a unique twist to fulfilling required internships? Go International. As undergraduates we arranged to work in the Dominican Republic to fulfill credits for our Public Health Education Internship.

We had little knowledge of what to expect prior to departing for this five-week experience. However, with the full support of our internship coordinator Dr. Catherine Sherwood-Puzzello, we left the States with open minds and eager ambition to assist Christine Tisone, a graduate student in the Department of Anthropology, on her dissertation project, “The Relationship between Family Health Care Practice and Child Growth in the Dominican Republic.”

During the internship, we traveled to four areas around the country, taking anthropometric measurements of children for the longitudinal study—that is, taking growth measurements of height, weight, middle upper arm circumference, elbow breadth, and tricep skinfold. The children and their parents were excited to participate in the study, though some were frightened at the sight of our intimidating instruments. However, with willing assistance from the older children, we Americans captured their interest and successfully measured approximately 350 children around the country.

While these measurements remained the primary focus of our research, in one region we devised a separate study looking at the relationship between anthropometric measurements and clinical signs of malnutrition. With the data we collected, we hope to find correlations between clinical signs, such as nail compression and tongue texture, and the anthropometric measurements.

The research we conducted through this field experience made us realize that anthropology has a place in public health studies. By spending time with the participants of the study in their home environment, we were able to observe and take valuable notes on common health practices in each town. For example, in comparing two separate locations with otherwise similar characteristics, we deduced that the increased energy level of the children in one town could be attributed to their playing habits, which resulted in an increased consumption of nutritious fruit like mango and guava.

Working internationally gave us the opportunity to experience day-to-day living in another culture. This included communicating in a foreign language, thus allowing us to practice our Spanish. We learned words for everyday items that we might not find in a classroom such as “un chin,” which in the local dialect means “a little.” From riding motorcycle taxis to hiking through muddy pastures, this international internship heightened our awareness of the importance of applying cultural sensitivity to the practice of public health.

-Erin Koers, Major: Public Health Education Minors: Spanish, Biology
-Karen Trappe, Major: Biology Minors: Public Health Education, Art History