From the Chair

Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights. —Pauline R. Kezer

If nothing ever changed, there’d be no butterflies. —Author Unknown

Surprise! For over ten years you’ve opened the Pulse and seen Dr. Torabi’s face smiling back at you. You’ll still see his picture, but on the next page where you’ll learn about his metamorphosis to Interim Dean of the School of HPER. You’ll also learn that, as of mid-November 2010, I’ve been serving as Interim Chair of Applied Health Science (AHS). You might think that’s a lot of change, but there’s lots more.

You may have heard that, with broad-based faculty support and participation, the IU School of HPER is in the midst of a multi-year transition to a fully accredited School of Public Health. The first quote above about change so aptly describes this transition because retaining our roots and building on our past successes is seminal to this monumental change. In fact, our past as a school with programs in areas like Kinesiology, Nutrition, and Parks, Recreation and Tourism is crucial in our efforts to address Indiana’s most critical contemporary health issue—obesity. A major tenant of the transition is that we will retain continuity in all existing undergraduate and graduate degree programs and accreditations—our roots. Simultaneously, we will sprout branches, stretch and grow by adding four new Masters of Public Health (MPH) degree concentrations and two new PhD degrees. (You can find more information about these degrees on the IU HPER website.) In fact, these degrees are already approved with a cohort of new students slated to begin this coming August. One new MPH concentration, Public Health Administration, will be housed in AHS and we are adding faculty to nurture that seedling program.

I’ve been especially impressed by AHS faculty members and students this past few months for two reasons. First, they have been leaders in the transition process and second because of the many awards and accolades they have garnered based on exceptional work. Since AHS already has a long-standing MPH degree in Social, Behavioral and Community Health and extensive experience with the accreditation process, taking the lead in an inclusive, collegial process with faculty members from other departments seemed only natural. While many were involved, the efforts of Dr. Michael Reece and Dr. Catherine Sherwood-Laughlin are especially noteworthy.

Since you’ll see features on accomplishments in the following pages, I won’t go into detail. I just want to share an aside about this. Every year, AHS has a May faculty luncheon at which we also recognize students. In January we began a very short list of those to give a “shout out” to at the luncheon and, then, seemed to have to add to the list almost weekly so that, in the end, it spanned two full pages! These very noteworthy accomplishments are the beautiful spring “butterflies” that emerged amidst all our recent changes.
One of the interim dean’s first actions was to appoint Dr. David Lohrmann as Interim Chair of the Department of Applied Health Science. Dr. Lohrmann is an accomplished educator, and was recently named the recipient of the American School Health Association’s Howe Award, the highest honor bestowed by the organization. His 20+ years of administrative experience includes serving as president of the American School Health Association.

In his first letter to the faculty Dr. Lohrmann said, “I’ll continue the departmental practice, established by interim dean Torabi, of doing my best to assure that everyone is treated equitably and fairly and that principles of sound fiscal stewardship are followed... I try to be inclusive, value group input, and work toward achieving concrete group consensus when addressing any issue. These practices will continue.”

In addition, Dr. Kathleen R Gilbert has been selected as the new Executive Associate Dean of HPER replacing Dr. Jerry Wilkerson, who is retiring after eight years with the school. Professor Gilbert has been a faculty member within the Department of Applied Health Science since 1988. In 1999 she was named Undergraduate Coordinator for AHS, and in 2008 Director of Undergraduate Education. Her research has largely focused on behavioral health, specifically bereavement, loss and grieving in the context of the family; loss and meaning making; stress and resilience in the family; cross-national research, and qualitative research. She currently serves as President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling.

Dean Torabi said, “As a valued professor and director of undergraduate education, Dr. Gilbert has the ability to work with faculty and students in a fair and decisive way which is an important trait to have in this position. I look forward to working with Dr. Gilbert in the Dean’s office and collaborating with her on the decisions which will affect the school’s progress and transition to a school of public health.”

This academic year there have been several leadership changes in key positions in our School. In October, 2010, Robert Goodman stepped down as Dean of the School of HPER. Indiana University’s Provost Karen Hanson, in a letter to the faculty and staff, thanked Dean Goodman for his dedicated service and leadership. “Most notably through his vision of a transition of HPER to a school of public health.”

In the same letter Provost Hanson said, “I have asked Mohammad Torabi, Chancellor’s Professor and Chair of the Department of Applied Health Science, to serve as interim dean of HPER, and he has graciously agreed. Mohammad’s proven commitment to HPER, his experience, and his administrative skills will help us continue moving forward during this time of transition. I am grateful for his willingness to serve, and I know you will support his efforts.” At a school-wide meeting, Provost Hanson added that she anticipates Dean Torabi’s tenure as Interim Dean to continue for the foreseeable future and she voiced strong administrative support for his leadership and for HPER becoming a school of public health.

Dean Torabi took the helm immediately telling the faculty and staff that his guiding principle is to build on our strengths. At his opening presentation Dean Torabi said, “We have not yet fully tapped our expertise and our talent.” He invited everyone to share their thoughts and concerns with him.

He began to work quickly with our HPER Academic Council, and a Transition Advisory Team was formed. With input from faculty, staff and students they created a plan for the transition timetable. For further information, please see http://www.hper.indiana.edu/initiative/index.html.
This spring other key accomplishments in HPER have been:

- Approved by Academic Council and dissemination of “Path to the Future,” a detailed School of Public Health transition plan with contributions from over 30 HPER faculty and staff members.

- The completed courtyard addition with the Tony A. Mobley Auditorium seating 178 people, a new student center which will house academic advisors and career services, and additional space for labs and offices including facilities for our new Department of Environmental Health.

- Approval by the Indiana Commission on Higher Education of the two new doctoral degrees we need to become a school of public health: a PhD in Epidemiology and a PhD in Biostatistics.

- Submission of documentation to the Center for Education in Public Health (CEPH) to seek accreditation of four new MPH degree concentrations.

"The in-fill of the courtyard with much needed offices, a student center, and a major auditorium, represents the culmination of planning and vision that began over 20 years ago. Previous deans, faculty, and administrators envisioned a use for this space as early as the late-1980’s; now it is a reality, and it will be exciting to watch the School utilize these new space resources in the months and years ahead.”

Dr. David M. Skirvin, Assistant Dean, School of Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

AHS’s new faculty member in Public Health Administration, Dr. Jonathan Macy, is a hard worker. He completed a BA degree at DePauw University in Economics in ’93, and an MPH in International Health at the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in ’96. When asked what made him choose the public health field, he said that two service trips during his undergraduate days at DePauw, one to the Dominican Republic and one to Honduras, set him on the path to earning an MPH. His faculty advisor on one of those trips had just earned an MPH at Harvard, and that proved inspiring to Jon.

After his MPH, Dr. Macy worked in various public health positions from the community level to the international level. He served as the Public Health Coordinator for Bridges to Community, Inc. in Managua, Nicaragua, from 1996 to 1998, the Ryan White Title III Project Director for the Marion County Health Department in 1998, Grants and Development Coordinator for HealthNet, Inc. in Indianapolis from 1998-2000 and ORISE Fellow/Research Epidemiologist in the Foodborne
and Diarrheal Diseases Branch of the CDC from 2000 to 2002. From 2002-2003 he was the Assessment, Surveillance, and Epidemiology Unit Manager/District Epidemiologist for the DeKalb County Board of Health in Decatur, Georgia.

Dr. Macy has focused much of his research on smoking. He says, “From a public health perspective, cigarette smoking is the number one preventable cause of death in the United States.” In fact, what brought him to IU in 2003 was the opportunity to work with Dr. Jim Sherman in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences as the Research Associate/Project Director on Dr. Sherman’s 30 year longitudinal study on smoking. That opportunity, coupled with the opportunity to complete a PhD in the Department of Applied Health Sciences, made Jon and his family long-time Bloomingtonians. This seems like home to them because Jon’s mom grew up in Greene County and has a degree from IU. Also, his grandparents were both fanatical IU sports fans, and he remembers coming to IU basketball games as a young child. Playing basketball is still a favorite lifelong activity for Jon even today.

After earning his PhD in Health Behavior in 2009, Dr. Macy joined the AHS faculty in Fall, 2010, in our Public Health Administration unit. He is interested in the whole public health policy process: from developing a policy to evaluating it. This past fall he taught a course on grant writing and in the spring he taught a course on evaluation, both courses at the graduate level.

Dr. Macy met his wife, Darr, at Emory, where she was earning an MS in Non-Profit Administration. They have two sons, Cooper 8 and Paul 5. They have lived in Bloomington for the past seven years and enjoyed the many venues and activities this town has to offer for young children. And Jon is very enthusiastic about HPER becoming a school of public health. He serves on the MPH committee, especially overseeing the MPH in Public Health Administration, and works with a number of our faculty members to meet the CEPH requirements for becoming and being accredited as a school of public health. We are certainly glad to have Dr. Jonathan Macy aboard and lending his considerable energies to this initiative! And we wish him well in his quest to help Indiana move from the state with the 6th highest percentage of smokers in the US to a much lower spot on the list. Thanks, Jon, for choosing IU.

AHS Updates 2010-2011

Dr. Jon Agley, an IPRC Evaluator and Research Specialist, successfully defended his doctoral dissertation and earned his Ph.D.

Dr. Priscilla Barnes, Dr. Alyce Fly and Dr. Lesa Lorenzen-Huber received Faculty Research Support Program Awards for 2011.

The inaugural Ruth Clifford Engs Lecture was held in October 2010 with Dr. Mark Bergel speaking on “Making Health Whole: The Shift in Public Health.”

Desiree Goetz, Mi Kung Jun, Jeannie ( Randi ) Alter and Mary Lay have been awarded the Master Level Health Education Specialist Certification through the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing.

Paulene Hardy

Paulene Hardy is our new academic advisor and will be assisting our department with scheduling and accreditation initiatives. She received her MS in Health Promotion from our department in 2009 and holds a BS degree from Central Michigan University in Public Health Education. She has worked as an Employee Health Educator for a hospital; a Women and Child Specialist at a substance abuse agency; and a Community Health Educator at Cook County Department of Public Health. She also taught English in Hong Kong. More recently, she has worked for AHS in various capacities for the last 10 years.

Julie James

Julie James, who teaches several of our Human Development and Family Studies courses, received the 2011 Student Choice Award for Outstanding Faculty Members, sponsored by the Indiana University Student Alumni Association to recognize professors for their hard work and positive impact on student life. This is a very prestigious award; numerous students must nominate an instructor before she can even be considered.
Dr. David Lohmann is a member of the Indiana State Health Improvement Plan Executive Steering Committee (ISDH) to assist with developing a five-year state public health plan and a co-leader of subcommittees to organize plan formats related to population health outcomes and state-wide public health infrastructure development. Dr. Lohmann gave a presentation with Patrick Herbert entitled “Getting Strong to Get More Health Information: Application of Best Practices from Cognitive Psychology.” at the American School Health Association Annual Conference in October, 2010 and published Creating a Healthy School Using the Healthy School Report Card: An ASCD Action Tool (2nd Ed.) for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development in October 2010. In addition, Dr. Lohmann is a new American Association for Health Education Fellow. He also co-chaired the School of HPER Transition Advisory Team.

Amanda Morrison, an IPART Graduate Assistant, graduated with her M.S. in Health Promotion.

Dr. Dong-Chul Seo was selected to give a formal presentation on, “Who Is Winning the Childhood Obesity Battle?” at the prestigious Ford Hall Forum on October 7, 2010. The Ford Hall Forum is the nation’s longest-running forum of free public lectures since its first public event in 1908.

Dr. Michael Reece was appointed to the inaugural Advisory Council of the Indiana University Center for Global Health.

Dr. Kevin Slates has been selected by the National Safety Council as a “Rising Star in Safety.” Dr. Slates was nominated by Dr. Blair and Dr. Applegate for the award, and subsequently was one of 5 to 10 chosen from over 200 nominees. The award is offered to safety professionals under age 40. The NSC says the award “…recognizes talented men and women, and NSC hopes to spotlight safety leadership among people who are shaping the future of occupational safety and health.” This award is a great honor in the safety profession.

Student Awards

Beth Borkowski and Kirby Piatek received Central Indiana American Society of Safety Engineers Jim Kriner Memorial scholarships.

Kathleen Fox received a Foreign Languages and Area Studies Fellowship for 2011-2012.

Augusta Hasse and Lauren Unseem were first place winners in the Undergraduate Natural Science category at the Women in Science Research Conference. (See page 6). Augusta has also been selected for the Indiana University Board of Acons. Lauren is participating in a summer biomedical research internship at the National Institute of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. She will be working under the supervision of Dr. Jack Yanovsky at the Enimie Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. The lab’s focus is on the physiological, psychological and genetic factors of childhood obesity. She will also have an individual side project, which she will present to NIH scientists and interns.

Veronica (Ronnie) Halsema won first prize for the undergraduate level, Social Science category of the Women in Science Research Conference (see p. 6).

Wasantha Jayawardene is the very first Santosh Jain Endowed Memorial Scholarship recipient given to an international student with demonstrated commitment to service and education. The award memorializes a SPEA graduate student.

Stacy Manolas and Shannon Smith received American Association for Health Education 2011 Outstanding Undergraduate Health Education Major of the Year awards in the areas of public health and school health respectively (see p. 9).

Kristen Mark received the Edwards Fellowship from Indiana University 2011-2012 and was a First Place winner in the Social Sciences Graduate Student category at the Women in Science Research Conference (see p. 6).

Omar Martinez, Will McConnell, Britanny Gross and Fatou Sylla were recipients of the Stephen Jay Leadership Award for Improving Public Health in Indiana. Also, Omar, in collaboration with community partner Guadalupe Kelle has successfully acquired a grant from the National Minority AIDS Council for The Latino Action League, Inc., the largest HIV/AIDS organization providing a wide range of programs and services for Latinos in Indianapolis and surrounding areas. The grant will provide a computer that can be used by the patients at the center and will provide access to online HIV/AIDS-related information clearinghouses, news sites, and trainings which will enable them to make informed choices related to prevention, treatment and care. The award includes a training, “Equal Access Initiative: HIV/AIDS Information Resources from the National Library Training,” in Orlando. In addition, Ms. Kelle will spend five days at the United States Conference on AIDS with all expenses covered by the grant.
Student News

Student Awards, cont...

Michael Menafee successfully obtained a City of Bloomington MLK Day grant for a fire prevention service project for the American Red Cross.

Jasmine Page has been elected to the Union Board for 2011.

Alexis Roth-Graneros received a Pre-doctoral Fellowship from the Center for Urban Health at IUPUI to support research related to the sexual health of sex workers.

Vanessa Schick received a two-year grant for her work in STD among bisexual women, a federally funded career development award through the American STD Association.

Philip Schnarrs received the Weis Award for Best Student Presentation from the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Conference.

Jylana Sheats was awarded a two-year Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Stanford University Medical School in their NHLBI-funded Prevention Research Center. Jylana says, “Being affiliated with the SPRC will allow me to address behavioral AND environmental (policy) efforts to reduce risk factors for cardiovascular disease. Needless to say, I am very excited about this opportunity!”

Jennifer Walters has been elected to serve a two-year term as the student member of the Board of Directors of the American Association for Health Education.

Kristen Mark, Doctoral Student

AHS Women Take Top Honors

Kristen Mark has been awarded one of the university’s most prestigious academic awards, a John H. Edwards fellowship based on “good citizenship, character, especially attitude toward public service and the likelihood of future usefulness to society, scholastic ability and intellectual capacity.” Kristen says, “Having the funding that the Edwards Fellowship provides will be invaluable to my research.” She adds, “The passion for research that I feel being immersed in the Center for Sexual Health Promotion has been the overarching highlight of my time here at IU.” Crediting Dr. Reece and Dr. Herbenick for their support, Kristen applied for and received a grant from the Patty Briston Foundation for Women’s Sexual Health in support of her research.

Kristen came to IU from Guelph, Canada, having done her undergraduate work at Queen’s University in Kingston and her Master’s at University of Guelph. She is most interested in sexual health and healthy relationships, and she has focused her research on sexual and relationship satisfaction, sexual desire, sexual arousal, orgasm, and infidelity.

We are also proud to announce this spring Applied Health Science women dominated the Women in Science Research Conference at IU Bloomington. In the graduate category, Kristen Mark, tied for first place for her project on “Gender Differences in the Impact of Sexual Desire Discrepancy on the Relationship Satisfaction of Heterosexual Couples.” At the undergraduate level Veronica (Ronnie) Halsema, Public Health, won first place in the Social Science Category for her work on “Eating Disorders and College Women.” Augusta Hasse, Dietetics, and Lauren Un-
Where Our Students Are Going

**Dietetics (BS)**

Julie Backscheider plans to work for Meadowood Retirement Community as a Diet Clerk and Diet Assistant this fall and apply for a dietetic internship for Spring 2012.

Hannah Cole received a dietetic internship at Saint Louis University where she will be an intern and grad student in August.

Kim Dickman will do her dietetic internship at Loyola University in Chicago.

Alison Kleiner is doing her dietetic internship at Queens College in NY.

Danielle McNeilly will be a stay-at-home wife and mother while her husband goes to ClearNote Pastors College in the fall.

Camille Morse will be starting a distance dietetic internship through Marywood University that allows her to stay in Bloomington. She will be doing the internship at IU Health Bloomington Hospital, Garden Villa, and the Area 10 Agency for Aging.

Karen Sehoski is a cook at Laughing Planet and volunteering at Volunteers in Medicine.

Clare Troutman’s dietetic internship is with University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics in Madison, Wisconsin.

Jane Waggoner has been admitted to the master’s program in Anatomy at the IUPUI Medical School.

**Human Development and Family Studies (BS)**

Amy Belcher will be going on to a masters program at IUPUI School of Education in Mental Health Counseling.

Sarah Davis is doing an internship in San Diego, California with The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society this summer.

Alayna Dibo is doing an internship at a startup company in Wilmette, IL called Right At School, aimed to create after school programs in the Chicago Public Schools.

Natalie Buroker Evans is living in Seymour, IN and working with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southeast Indiana as a Program Manager and also coordinating a local financial literacy and asset building coalition for the Jackson County United Way.

Allison Garrison will be getting her MSW at IUPUI and working part-time for the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana.

Mary Holwager is doing an internship at the Bloomington Area Birth Services.

Lakyra Pharms is working at Cook Family Health Center at the front desk with the dietitian, writing health newsletters for the clinic, and helping the phlebotomist in the lab. She is going to go into active duty as an officer in the Marine Corps and then hopes for medical school.

Melissa Thompson will be starting law school at the University of Cincinnati, College of Law this August.

Reise Williamson got a job as a Rehabilitation Specialist at Centerstone in Mooresville, IN. It involves case management and life skill building with numerous clients.

**Public Health/Community Health (BS)**

Meesha Awan will be pursuing a Masters in Public Health concentrating in Health Administration and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Meesha participated in a medical missions trip in Guatemala on spring break (see photo).

Cassie Barnhart will be at IUB in the fall doing an MPH with a concentration in Behavioral, Social and Community Health.
Kiara Bembry is currently doing her internship at the Marion County Public Health Dept. and hopes to get an MPH soon.

Jennifer Carey will be attending University of Illinois Chicago for a 3-year nurse practitioner program.

Tiawanlyn Gongloe is currently completing an internship with the Infection Control department at IU Health Bloomington Hospital. She is planning on getting her MPH in the near future.

Katherine Johnson has been accepted in the Western Michigan University Masters of Occupational Therapy program beginning in September.

Caitlin Lehn plans to go to Marion College Nursing School and get an Accelerated BSN. She is currently an intern with the Monroe County Health Department.

Stacy Manolas will be going to graduate school in the fall, so far not yet sure which one. She has been accepted at Brown University.

Arna Omarova recently completed her internship at the Department of Healthcare in her hometown Almaty, Kazakhstan. She worked on a statistics project on injuries and diseases in the 7th Winter Asian Olympic Games there. Arna writes, “I also wanted to highlight one experience of my internship. The head of the Healthcare Department asked me to work with one patient who had flare bone cancer. As our medicine is very weak in cancer treatment, we had to find alternative ways to increase this patient’s survival chance. I contacted Korean specialists in South Korea and sent all his diagnoses and MRI images so they could help him. Later, this patient returned to Almaty and everything is great! Fortunately, they could stop his cancer growth.

The image shows Arna Omarova (L) with Advisor Harriet Castrataro.

At that moment I felt some kind of moral satisfaction about the work I’ve done.” Arna hopes to return to the US and complete an MPH degree.

Meredith Rich will be interning in the fall with an OB/GYN in Chicago, and after graduation applying to an accelerated nursing school.

Chelsea Roark is doing the MPH program at IUB in the Behavioral, Social and Community Health concentration.

Kathleen Schmitt is finishing her internship at Wishard Hospital where she is helping to implement Emmi, a media based educational health program in one of the clinics in Indianapolis. This will hopefully help create a more proactive environment with the case manager and her patients in the Diabetes area. Then, in August, she will be moving to Honduras for a year where she will be working for Global Brigades, a national non-profit organization that looks at easing the effects of poverty from different angles. She will be the program advisor for the Medical and Dental group and help college students across the US prepare for the week-long brigade when they set up clinics in rural areas of Honduras. See p. 9.

Lindsay Zvolner is a Network Operations Specialist/Provider Relations at Healthspring of Illinois.

Nutrition Science (BS)

Sara Bloomer will enter the Physician’s Assistant program at Indiana State University.

Kara Curry is a medical student at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences in Kansas City, MO.

Sabrina Dada has been admitted to the IU School of Dentistry in Indianapolis.

Safety Science (BS)

Justin Bush is planning to attend graduate school in England.

Darcy DeLong is a Marketing Assistant at Jimmie Johns.

Courtney Wright relocated to Richmond, KY and will be married next June.

Public Health (MPH)

Christopher Fogle got a job in Indianapolis working at the three downtown IU Health Campuses (Methodist, Riley, and University) doing hand hygiene surveillance and other various data collection/interpretation with increased training in Infection Control.

Brittany Gross and Will McConnell are working at Volunteers in Medicine. Will is going to IU Law School in Indianapolis in the fall.

Anyah Land will be an Evaluation and Analytics Coordinator with the St. Louis Children’s Hospital Child Health Advocacy and Outreach Department. She did her internship at IU Health Bloomington, Department of Community Health.

Jillian Larsen and Anthony Johnson did internships at Columbus Regional Hospital, Healthy Communities. Jillian will begin medical school in Texas.
Omar Martinez has a summer fellowship with Dr. Scott Rhodes at Wake Forest and will finish his last year in law school at IUB after interning at the Center for Sexual Health Promotion.

Mallory Mitchell did her internship at IU School of Medicine, Department of Adolescent Medicine and will begin medical school in Tennessee in the fall.

Danielle Neukam did her internship at IU Health Bloomington Department of Community Health and is employed as a Research Associate with the Center for Evaluation and Education Policy at IUB.

Elizabeth Perez is working at El Centro Comunal Latino in Bloomington.

Mallory Quigley is working at the Indiana State Department of Health in Maternal and Child Health.

Jamie Ressegue and Annette Jacobson have internships at the IU Health Center.

Maria Roditis is finishing her PhD in Anthropology.

Fatou Sylla and Hervette Nkwihoreze are interning with IU Health Bloomington’s Positive Link.

Keri Wegmann’s internship is with IU Health Bloomington WIC.

Health Promotion (PhD)

Alireza Geshnizjani will be on the faculty at the University of Maine. His dissertation title is, “Identifying the Determinants of Getting a Mammogram in Rural Women: A Mixed-Methods, Reasoned Action Approach.”

Kristen Joskowski will be on the faculty at University of Arkansas, her dissertation is entitled, “Measuring Internal and External Conceptualizations of Sexual Consent: A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Sexual Consent.”

This past year, over spring break, 24 students traveled to another rural area of Honduras to again build some of the same structures. These students also fell in love with the families and gained respect for what they saw. We learned so much from the families in a week, and honestly changed our lives.

If you are interested in joining a brigade for this coming year, please contact Collin Abbott at cjabbott@indiana.edu for more information and details to get on board. We would love to have you join in the experience.

Public Health Brigades
by Kathleen Schmitt

Public Health work can vary; teaching preventative education courses at a hospital to diabetes patients; helping in smoking cessation classes; or helping reduce the impact of poverty in rural areas of developing countries. This is what Public Health Brigades aims to do. Public Health Brigades is a section of Global Brigades, a national nonprofit organization designed to help reach poverty at its roots in a sustainable way, through business, law, architecture, public health, water, medicine, and more.

Public Health Brigades started at IU in 2009, and we took our first trip to Honduras during Spring Break of 2010. For our first trip, 10 students packed up work clothes and water bottles and headed to a compound owned by the organization in Honduras about an hour away from the capital. From there, we drove to the rural homes we would be working in and began our week of building. In three days, we built concrete floors, latrines, pilas (water storage units), and eco-stoves in order to better the health and sanitation of these homes. We were also able to see the day-to-day life of the families and learn what it is like to live in the rural areas of a developing country.

Stacy Manolas, Public Health Student

Stacy Manolas was the winner IU’s American Association for Health Education Outstanding Undergraduate Health Education Major of the Year for Public Health.

“My first exposure to the field of Public Health was through the courses Community Health, Nutrition for Health, and Personal Health. All of my instructors were very passionate about what they were teaching, and I found the textbook very fascinating. I wanted to keep all of them! After one semester in these classes, I could see a future for myself in the field of Public Health. Health is vital to every single person on the planet, and that’s why I chose it for my major.”
Center for Sexual Health Promotion
Major Survey Released, Major Awards Captured
by Debby Herbenick and Michael Reece

In October 2010, researchers from the Center for Sexual Health Promotion (Michael Reece, Debby Herbenick, Brian Dodge, and Vanessa Schick) in collaboration with Stephanie Sanders (The Kinsey Institute and Gender Studies) and J. Dennis Fortenberry (IU School of Medicine) released findings from the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior (NSSHB), the largest nationally representative study of the sexual behavior of Americans. Women and men ages 14 to 94 were surveyed, and results were published in nine papers in a special issue of the Journal of Sexual Medicine. Media outlets including the New York Times, Good Morning America, The Washington Post and even The Colbert Report and Saturday Night Live referenced the study, which generated more than one billion media impressions within the first 30 days following the release of the issue. The papers from the special issue and additional information about the study are available at www.nationalsexstudy.indiana.edu and have been downloaded by over 75,000 people to date.

As a result of the survey, the Center for Family Life Education and The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality nominated the Center for Sexual Health Promotion (CSHP) for the 2011 Professional Standards of Excellence Award issued by the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists. They said, “The research provides the most significant snapshot of American sexual behavior in almost two decades, and has far-reaching implications for sexuality educators and researchers, as well as therapists and the public at large.”

Other work by faculty in the Center includes a book in progress by Dr. Debby Herbenick and Dr. Vanessa Schick about vulvar and vaginal health for publisher Rowman & Littlefield. Dr. Herbenick is also working with another publisher on an illustrated book about love for adults. Her first book, Because It Feels Good: A Woman’s Guide to Sexual Pleasure and Satisfaction, was published in 2009 by Rodale.

Also this spring, the HIV/AIDS Section of the American Public Health Association announced its annual award winners. Some of our AHS faculty and students associated with the CSHP received the highest award from the Section, and some received honorable mention designations in two of the three other award categories.

Particular congratulations go to Dr. Brian Dodge. Dr. Dodge and his team’s abstract received the Section’s highest award—for best abstract overall. This is an incredible honor given that the HIV/AIDS Section received over 300 abstracts this year. Congratulations to Lindsay Briggs and her co-authors—who received honorable mention (among the top 3 abstracts) among those on an international topic, and Omar Martinez who received honorable mention for best abstract submitted by a graduate student.

Public Health Data: You need it? We’ve got it!

By Dr. Ruth Gassman and Dr. Barbara Seitz de Martinez

The Indiana Prevention Resource Center (IPRC) welcomes faculty in Applied Health Science and other departments to access the rich supply of various data that we maintain. These data span a diverse range, from risk and protective behaviors of Indiana’s youth to household economic activity and community-level characteristics. Although the IPRC uses these data for purposes of alcohol and other drug prevention and to raise awareness about problem gambling, the majority of the information is not specific to a particular behavior or area of study. For instance, adolescent risk factors and community profiles, including household characteristics, are pertinent to many areas of public health, such as nutrition, exercise, mental health, and leisure. We describe below data that you may find of particular interest for your own research, service learning, and/or teaching applications.

PREV-STAT GIS IN PREVENTION DATA

Where does IPRC’s PREV-STAT data come from? In addition to publically available data, the IPRC purchases geocoded data sets from highly respected demographic companies such as AGS (American Geographic Solutions) and Nielsen Claritas, frequently cited by such entities as Harvard Business Review, NPR, and CNN. These GIS ready resources facilitate the creation of tables and maps by selecting variables from among the thousands available.

What types of data are available? Population, neighborhood, community, county, state, regional and national-level data, including basic population facts and trends, community crime indices and arrest data, income and family poverty, consumer spending, consumer behavior, consum-
tion data, morbidity and mortality data, and prevalence data. Consumer spending data, for example, includes specific food and beverage purchases; and education, health care and insurance spending. Examples of consumer behavior data include travel time to work, types and numbers of doctor’s visits, hobbies and leisure activities, voting and other civil engagement, volunteerism, smoking and gambling. Arbitrary geographic areas can be targeted and compared to parallel or concentric areas, e.g., neighborhood to neighborhood or neighborhood to town to nation. Similarly, a population's profile can be used to locate a target audience (e.g., to determine which neighborhoods are most in need).

How are data available to faculty to use? Much of the data are available through our website (www.drugs.indiana.edu) in the PREV-STAT GIS in Prevention, County Profiles, ATOD Survey, and CTC sections. Other data can be made available through custom reports or by requesting help from an IPRC faculty staff member. Don’t forget that thematic, point, and point symbol maps can immediately convey a multitude of information.

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG DATA

Where does the data come from? Since 1993, The Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use by Indiana Children and Adolescents’ Survey has been administered annually to students in grades 6 through 12 in any Indiana school that wishes to participate.

What data are available? Available variables include demographics, prevalence of alcohol and drug use, age of first use, after school activities, personal safety, access to alcohol, reasons for drinking, consequences of use, gambling behavior, and more recently several risk factors from the Communities that Care Survey in four categories: Family, Community, Peer-Individual, and School.

How are data available to faculty to use? These data are stored at the IPRC and available for secondary analysis, which requires you to obtain exempt IRB approval. Determine the year of data and variables of interest by reviewing the survey at http://www.drugs.indiana.edu/data-survey monograph.html and contact the IPRC at 855-1237 for next steps (e.g., data sharing agreement).

Keep us in mind. These data are only a small part of our resource offerings that may add value to your work.

Brittany Bovenizer, MPH

MPH Alum Oversees HIV/AIDS Programs

Brittany Bovenizer completed her MPH at IU in May of 2009. She is now stationed in Washington DC as Project Officer for Parts A and B of the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Modernization Act overseeing more than $50 million. She is a Lieutenant Junior Grade in the United States Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services called Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) in the HIV/AIDS Bureau. You may be wondering how one of our recent alumni has moved into a position of such responsibility in just two years?

Brittany earned a BA in Sociology from Ohio State University and went on to take courses in behavioral models, change and public health there. She then applied to our MPH program, because of our strengths in HIV/AIDS and women’s health issues and the reputation of our Center for Sexual Health Promotion. Also she’s a BIG 10 fan!

When asked about the highlights of her MPH career, Brittany cites the ability to work closely with faculty and to participate in their research projects, the small classes and the gorgeous campus. Brittany says, “Now I use the skills I acquired every day at my current job including analysis; evaluation; program planning, implementation and management; and statistics. Most importantly, I use the scenarios and case studies given in class with real life examples of hardships which people face every day.”

In speaking about her job, Brittany says, “June 5 actually marked the 30-year anniversary since the first case of HIV was reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The increase in drug antiretroviral therapy has drastically changed the epidemic. As a bureau we now fund medications and services to improve and lengthen the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS. I currently oversee 7 grants and ensure their systems of care are in place. You can learn more at http://hab.hrsa.gov/abouthab/aboutprogram.html. She would be happy to talk with anyone who is interested in working for the government; focusing on HIV/AIDS; or serving in the United States Public Health Service (Brittany. bovenizer@gmail.com, 301-443-0510). We are very proud of you for your accomplishments, Brittany, and especially for your service to people in many states living with HIV/AIDS.