

Environmental Health Sciences Mailman School of Public Health

Department Newsletter Spring 2016



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Letter From the Chair



Dr. Joseph Graziano

Amazing Things Are Happening Here

Last fall, following the departure of our Chairman, Tomas Guilarte, to become a Dean at Florida International University, Dean Fried asked me to step in as interim chair once again. I have immensely enjoyed the opportunity to guide the EHS Department through this exciting and transformative academic year, to teach and mentor MPH, PhD, and DrPH students alike, and to see many of them now moving on to the next major phase of their careers in public health. I congratulate all of our graduating MPH, PhD, and DrPH students for their academic achievements and their remarkable and diverse set of experiences in the “real world” of environmental health science. It is always wonderful to see the growth that takes place among graduate students during their years with us in the EHS Department, and for those who are getting ready to leave us now, please know that the EHS faculty are here for you in the coming years to continue to serve as mentors and advisors as you move on to the next phase of your life. Call on us. Operators are standing by! All the best to our incredible class of EHS graduates.

The sign outside the Milstein Hospital on Fort Washington Avenue says “Amazing Things are Happening Here”. For the past year, that term applies very strongly to the EHS Department and to the incredible set of events that have enabled us to recruit three (and likely four) amazing new faculty to our Department. The future of the EHS Department will arrive here on June 1st when three incredibly talented faculty members will join the Department. Dr. Andrea Baccarelli from Harvard will become the next Chair of the EHS Department. On the same day, Drs. Ana Navas-Acien and Markus-Hilpert will join us from the Bloomberg School of Public Health at Johns Hopkins. More about their amazing careers will follow in the next newsletter, but for those of you who will remain as graduate students in the next year or more, you are in for a treat. Check out their current websites. All three incoming faculty members are all fantastic teachers and mentors, and really just plain nice and unassuming people. I welcome them all to the Mailman School’s EHS Department.

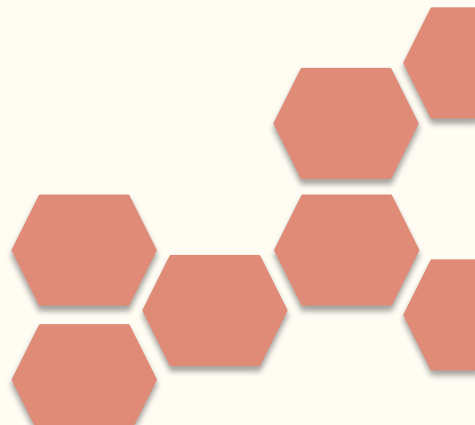
I am also very proud to let you know that our PhD program is graduating a record five students this year, all of whom have wonderful new positions lined up: Caitlin Howe (Dr. Gamble’s lab) has accepted a post-doctoral position in the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Southern California; Medina Jackson (Dr. Perzanowski’s lab) has accepted a post-doctoral position at HBI Solutions, Inc., in Palo Alto, CA; Ashlinn Quinn (Dr. Kinney’s group) has accepted a position as Scientific Program Manager with the Fogarty International Center of the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD; Tiffany Sanchez (Dr. Graziano’s lab) has accepted a post-doctoral position in our own Department with one of our new incoming faculty members (Dr. Navas-Acien); and Barbara Soares (Dr. Guilarte’s lab) has accepted a teaching fellowship at Montclair State University. We wish you all well and congratulate you on your incredible accomplishments.

I wish all of the EHS family the best in the exciting months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Graziano'.

Joseph Graziano



Faculty Spotlight



Dr. Jeffrey Shaman

Dr. Jeffrey Shaman is an Associate Professor in Environmental Health Sciences focused on climate, atmospheric science and hydrology, and the environmental determinants of infectious disease transmission. Dr. Shaman has also recently been awarded tenure in the fall of 2015.

Dr. Jeffrey Shaman recently took a trip to Botswana for his involvement in two National Science Foundation projects (NSF). Both NSF-funded projects are through Virginia Polytechnical Institute and State University with Dr. Kathleen Alexander as the primary investigator. The first project is supported by the Dynamics of Coupled Natural Human Systems (CNH) program titled, “Coupled Dynamics of Human-Dryland River Systems: Linkages and Feedbacks Between Human and Environmental Drivers of Water Quality and Human Health”. This study examines the modeling and prediction of the human, ecological, and hydrological processes that affect water quality and human waterborne disease risk, specifically diarrhea, in northeastern area of Botswana. This is an area where hydrologic variability is great because of pronounced wet and dry seasons. The presence of major rivers flowing through the region, both results in flooding processes (during the wet season) and convergence of wildlife to the area (during the dry season).

The second project is supported by NSF’s Ecology and Evolution of Infectious Diseases (EEID) program titled, “Can group living and the influence of Allee Effects explain infectious disease vulnerability in social species? Emergence of *M.mungi* in the cooperative breeding banded mongoose.” This project is ecologically focused and examines the host-pathogen, and social and ecological processes leading to host vulnerability and potential extinction.

Dr. Shaman not only wanted to further understand the hydrologic processes and variability, human water access, and the landscape, but to also see the wildlife. Below are a few photos from his trip.



Faculty Highlights



Dr. Julie Herbstman

Dr. Julie Herbstman is a pioneer in linking flame retardants with developmental problems and examines ways to limit exposure. Dr. Herbstman was recently featured on the MSPH website for her work on flame retardants with the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH). See <https://www.mailman.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/why-your-old-sofa-bad-your-health>

Dr. Norman Kleiman

Dr. Norman Kleiman, along with EHS alumni, Adrienne Quinn and Kara Fields, have just submitted proofs to the Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health for their article titled, "Arsenite Accumulation in the Mouse Eye".

The manuscript concludes: "Surprisingly, As concentrations in the eye and lens were significantly higher than those in liver, lung, heart, spleen, and brain and similar to that found in kidneys. The relatively high concentration in the eye and the lens in particular suggests As exposure may be a contributing factor in cataract formation in parts of the world where As in drinking water is endemic."



Kara Fields (photo on right) is a Statistical Analyst at The Healthcare Research Institute at Hospital for Special Surgery.

Adrienne Quinn (photo on left) is currently an MD candidate at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California.



Dr. Darby Jack



Dr. Darby Jack was recently featured on Global Health Frontiers, a groundbreaking original television series focused on documenting frontline stories in global health challenges and how researchers and scientists utilize innovative ideas to tackle these challenges. Dr. Jack talks about his study, conducted in conjunction with Kintampo Health Research Center in Ghana, that examines how providing clean-burning cook stoves can limit women's exposure to indoor smoke. Check out the documentary at <http://www.globalhealthfrontiers.org/ghf-videos/life-saving-stoves>

Dr. Frederica Perera

Each year, Environmental Advocates of New York recognizes two medical professionals for their contributions to protecting the health of all New Yorkers. On November 10, 2015, the New York Environmental Advocates honored Dr. Perera with the 2015 Advocate Award for groundbreaking research on the impact of prenatal and early childhood exposure to pollutants on the health and development of children in New York City, Poland, and China.



On February 10, 2016, Dr. Perera gave the keynote presentation "Neurodevelopmental effects of air pollution" at the 2016 Air Quality and Health Workshop "Air quality impacts on health: Beyond the heart and lungs" in Vancouver BC. On February 11, 2016, she also gave the David Bates Lecture titled "Multiple benefits to children's health of reducing dependence on fossil fuels" in Vancouver BC at the ENGAGE: Heart and Lung Scientific Symposium.

Sewell Lecturer: Dr. Ian von Lindern

This year marks the 23rd Annual Granville H. Sewell Distinguished Lecture in Environmental Health Sciences. The Sewell Lecture honors individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the field of environmental health sciences. This year's Sewell Lecturer is Dr. Ian von Lindern, Executive Director of TerraGraphics International Foundation.

Sara Zufan, MPH '17, had the opportunity to speak with Dr. Ian von Lindern during his visit to Columbia University. Sara recounts her experience with the Sewell Lecturer below.

Prior to the Twenty-Third Granville H. Sewell Distinguished Lecture in Environmental Health Sciences I had the opportunity to interview with speaker, Dr. Ian von Lindern, for Mailman's *Public Health Now* newsfeed. Prior to attending Columbia, I was an educator at The Field Museum where I interviewed scientists to communicate their research to K-12 audiences, so this was fun for me to be back in the interviewer's seat.

Dr. von Lindern provided a brief summary of his extensive career, from his early work in remediating one of the worst cases of lead poisoning in the U.S. to his current efforts through his non-profit organization, TerraGraphics International Foundation. Today, Dr. von Lindern continues to take on large-scale remediation projects, primarily in developing countries. He aims to develop sustainable remediation so that communities can maintain a safe environment after his team has left.

To continue our SEA of Thoughts conversation on lead exposure and environmental justice, Dr. von Lindern also provided his insight on the Flint Water crisis, as he has extensive experience working with the U.S. government, including the EPA. From his perspective, what happened in Flint was a failure at the government-level to protect its most vulnerable communities.

This was the second time that Students for Environmental Action were invited to interview the Sewell Speaker and I hope it becomes a continued tradition. It allowed us as EHS students to bring our perspective into the interview to share with the rest of the Mailman community.

For the full interview with Dr. Ian von Lindern, visit: <https://www.mailman.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/community-response-lead-poisoning>



Alumni Highlights

Sashti Balasundaram, MPH '08 Environmental & Molecular Epidemiology

We Radiate's mission is to make urban composting mainstream and help New York City reach its zero-waste objective by 2030. Their approach focuses on technology and policy solutions to encourage and incentivize neighborhood-scale composting in community spaces. Their technology team uses data analytics to produce and design a standardized and scalable composting process that is efficient, odorless and feasible. Their policy team focuses on advocacy, public education, knowledge generation and solutions development that supports and incentivizes composting in an urban environment and at a city-scale. They have been working closely with several community gardens and organizations since its founding to audit and increase the efficiency of their composting processes, including *462 Halsey Community Garden*, *Smiling Hogshead Garden*, *Vokashi*, and *Sure We Can*.

Sashti (photo on right) is discussing the data analytics platform at the annual Queens Compost Bike Tour. Follow us @weradiateny and Facebook: We Radiate NY



Anne Seeley, MPH '86 Water Resources



Anne Seeley celebrated her 30th year working at NYC Department of Environmental Protection. She continues to work on programs and policy issues related to drinking water quality & public health, serving as Section Chief of Health Assessment and Policy Coordination since 2007. In addition to her regular NYCDEP duties, she recently served as NYC's public health lead on a multi-year USEPA-funded water security project, and also is just finishing up a term serving on an advisory committee for a national water research project evaluating water and microbial risk studies. Indeed, after all these years, she still finding her work interesting and rewarding, with a steady stream of new issues to assess.

Vincent Coluccio, PhD '86

Dr. Vincent Coluccio is a 1986 graduate of the program and is grateful for his mentors: the late Granville Sewell and Joseph Graziano. His work with both of these professors on childhood lead poisoning has become the primary focus of his professional life. He is excited about attending an international conference in Rome, Italy this summer where he will address global childhood lead poisoning and discuss the lead contamination of drinking water in Flint, Michigan. This link provides some info on the conference: <http://www.livablecities.org/conferences/53rd-conference-rome/call-papers>

Dr. Coluccio will also present at the Lead and Environmental Hazards Association (LEHA) conference this summer. In addition, he became the first President of LEHA (formerly known as the National Lead Abatement Council) back in 1988. LEHA is going strong with many members and maintains a valuable relationship with EPA and HUD where LEHA serves as a sounding board regarding lead-safe abatement practices. See www.leha.us Also, this summer Dr. Coluccio will attend a conference in San Francisco co-sponsored by the NY Academy of Medicine (where he is a member) on International Urban Health with a unique twist – the conference will highlight cross-disciplinary approaches between health and geography professionals. Details at: www.isuh.org Dr. Coluccio has recently joined the CUSPH Alumni Club and he looks forward to meeting new alums.



Alumni Q & A

Caroline Croyle, MPH '15 Infectious Disease Epidemiology



Q: Where do you work now? What is your position?

A: Currently, I am a consultant for emergency preparedness firms in Denver and Washington, D.C., and a clinical operations coordinator for an Ebola research project at Denver Health in Denver.

Q: What got you interested in the field?

A: My interests in emergency preparedness and infectious diseases resulted from my schooling, former jobs, and mentors. I have always had a wonderful group of people encouraging me to look for challenging and exciting new things. This encouragement guided me to attend Mailman, and seek new opportunities after graduating.

Q: How have your experience at Mailman helped you after graduating?

A: Mailman gave me the confidence, knowledge, and skills to be successful in my career. More importantly, Mailman gave me friendships that I will cherish forever.

Q: If you had to give one piece of advice to current EHS MPHers, what would it be?

A: Try to find time to treat and take care of yourself. I was so guilty of forgetting to take care of my mental and physical health, and I wish I would have been more proactive!

Kathy Weinberger, PhD '15



Q: Where do you work now? What is your position?

A: I'm currently a postdoc at Brown University in the Institute at Brown for Environment & Society, an interdisciplinary environmental research body. My mentor is Dr. Gregory Wellenius, a faculty member in the Department of Epidemiology.

Q: What is the focus of your current research?

A: While completing my PhD at Columbia, I studied how climate change could affect human health in the future -- specifically, through impacts on pollen and allergic disease. At Brown, I'm continuing to think about climate and health questions, but through a different lens: how do we design and quantify the benefits of adaptation strategies that minimize those health impacts? One of my main projects right now involves evaluating the effectiveness of strategies to prevent heat-related illness and death among elderly Americans, as well as identifying determinants of effectiveness so we can design better strategies in the future.

Q: How have your experience at Mailman helped you after graduating?

A: It was such a privilege to be part of the Climate and Health program and the larger EHS family. My mentors and fellow students at Mailman taught me how to do rigorous, collaborative, and impactful interdisciplinary research, and that has helped me become a productive member of the research community at Brown.

Q: If you had to give one piece of advice to current EHS MPHers or PhD students, what would it be?

A: Work hard, but pace yourself and try to take a little time each day to do something just for yourself – a phone call home, a walk in the park, a cup of tea with friends – something small that makes you happy. This process (especially the PhD!) is a long haul and it helps to nourish your heart as well as your mind.

2016 EHS Alumni Panel

The annual EHS Alumni Panel features a diverse panel from different graduation years and EHS professions. Current students are invited to meet alumni and learn about their current career within the environmental health sciences field. Below are participants from the 2016 EHS Alumni Panel.

If you are interested in joining future EHS Alumni Panels, please contact Nina Kulacki.

Kathryn Somers-Heinemann, MPH'14 Toxicology

Kathy is a senior research safety specialist at Columbia University Environmental Health & Safety. She collaborates with a team of EH&S superstars to support the university research community through laboratory safety inspections, lab-specific hazard assessments, safety training, and hazardous materials management. Kathy's thesis at Mailman covered electronic waste recycling as a public health case for U.S. regulation.



Vrinda Kalia, MPH'15 Toxicology

Vrinda joined our program as an international student from Bangalore, India and is currently a Program Coordinator at the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health. The position has given her a good view into life in academia. She has gained experience in writing grants, reviewing papers, writing papers and analyzing ecologic as well as molecular epidemiology data. She will be going back to school to get her PhD in Environmental Health Sciences (Toxicology), at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, starting this fall.



Rebecca Ofrane, MPH'10 Molecular Toxicology

Becky is the Children's Environmental Health & Schools Coordinator for EPA Region 2 (NY, NJ, PR and USVI), responsible for coordinating the region's resources to best protect children where they live, learn and play. Priority issues include supporting statewide school environmental health programs, preventing prenatal and childhood exposure to toxics, pesticides, lead, PCBs, and endocrine disruptors in homes, daycares and schools, as well as working to reduce rates of childhood asthma, obesity, cancer and autism due to environmental causes.



Shoko Kubotera, MPH'14 Molecular Epidemiology

Shoko started working for the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Bureau of Child Care as a Performance Improvement Specialist in January 2015. Working with center-based child care centers that have been identified as having "systemic problems and history of non-compliance with the NYC Health Code," she provides technical assistance and guidance to the providers to help improve their operational performance over time. Prior to joining the DOH, Shoko worked as a research assistant on a CDC/NIOSH study assessing the environmental health impacts of Hurricane Sandy at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (part of the Earth Institute at Columbia University).



Environmental Health Sciences Department Highlights

Valorie Richards, MPH '16 reports on a new EHS class,
Environmental Justice Analysis in Public Health,
with instructor, Anhthu Hoang, PhD, JD

Dr. Anhthu Hoang is an attorney for EPA Region 2's Air program and is an adjunct professor in the Environmental Health Sciences Department. Her new course, Environmental Justice: Analysis in Public Health (P8327), focuses on Environmental Justice (EJ) in the US and is designed to help public health students better understand the current policy regarding environmental justice disparities between US populations. The course also assesses the current EJ movement and what direction it will take in the future. Dr. Hoang's extensive background in ecology research and law school education from UC Hastings College of the Law allows her to effectively bridge the gap between science and policy.

I decided to take this course as a continuation of the Population and Family Health Department's Environmental Justice class I took earlier in the semester. While that course took a broad view of EJ internationally, this course provides a domestic focus. I decided to expand my knowledge of EJ to learn more about environmental health disparities and to find solutions to ensure people are able to live in a safe, equitable, and healthy environment. This course will help me learn more about environmental health policy so I will have a greater understanding of the impact environmental laws and regulations in the US were designed to make.

First year MPH student, Mayra Cruz, tells us about her spring break experience at the Washington DC Career Week.

While I spent four years in DC as an undergrad at George Washington University, DC Career Week took me to different locations I have never explored, primarily Southwest DC which is home to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). During the week I also met and spoke with representatives from the EPA, USAID, and RTI International. I decided to spend most of my spring break meeting with these organizations and braving the DC wide metro ban to learn more about the DC job market and to get a sense of what is to come this time next year when I approach the daunting task of applying to my first full-time job. As a first year MPH EHS student, I am in the process of thinking about what sector I would like to work in whether it is private, non-profit, or government. These events encouraged me to envision where I would best fit amongst these sectors and where I see myself growing as a public health practitioner. Before attending DC Career week, I was hesitant to pursue a career in the government sector, however after attending an alumni panel with employees from HHS, I learned about the benefits of government work along with the complex nature of the government job application process. I even received insider tips on the process and can reiterate that something as simple as not misspelling a word in your essays goes a long way! The fun and exhausting week ended with a mixer for alumni, and current and prospective students that included some delicious tapas and sangria, and hopefully some great new additions to our department. Overall the week was insightful and although I cannot picture myself working at all the places I visited, this experience certainly helped me get a step closer to carving out my career path post-graduation.



Nina Kulacki, MBA, Director of Academic Programs

Nina is a recipient of the 2016 Mailman School's Staff Award for Excellence. Nina is the Director of Academic Programs for the Environmental Health Sciences Department. The Mailman School's Staff Award for Excellence recognizes Mailman School employees who demonstrate the highest standards of performance. She will be presented with a certificate and an honorarium at the State of the School assembly on May 10th, 2016.



Doctoral Student Highlights

Mike He

Mike He and Miaomiao Liu, Staff Associate in EHS, presented on air pollution at the Johns Hopkins Public Health in Asia Symposium. Miaomiao presented on an exposure assessment case study, and Mike presented a systematic review written along with Dr. Patrick Kinney titled, "Regional Differences in Fine Particulate Matter Concentrations in Urban Chinese Cities: A Systematic Review".



Whitney Cowell

Whitney was awarded an EPA STAR fellowship for her project titled "A Novel Analytic Method For Evaluating Early Life Susceptibility to Chemical Stressors".

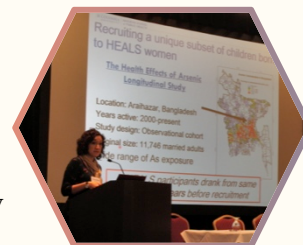
Whitney's project has two primary components. First, she aims to examine leukocyte telomere dynamics (length and rate of erosion) in relation to social stressors among participants enrolled in the Columbia Center for Children's Environmental Health (CCCEH) Mothers and Newborns birth cohort. In the second step, she will examine the interaction between telomeres, as a potential marker of stress and stressful conditions, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), a class of flame retardant chemicals, on neurodevelopment throughout childhood.



Tiffany Sanchez

Tiffany attended the Superfund Research Program meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico where she gave an oral presentation titled, "Identifying intermediary pulmonary effects among Bangladeshi adolescents with known life stage water arsenic exposure". Tiffany, with co-authors Drs. Joseph Graziano and Matt Perzanowski, submitted a review article titled "Inorganic arsenic and respiratory health, from early life exposure to sex-specific effects: A systematic review" that was recently accepted by

Environmental Research. See: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0013935116300512>



Caitlin Howe

Caitlin submitted two manuscripts published in two journals, *Environmental Health Perspectives* and *Journal of Nutrition*.

Howe CG, Liu X, Hall MN, Slavkovich V, Ilievski V, et al. "Associations between blood and urine arsenic concentrations and global levels of post-translational histone modifications in Bangladeshi men and women"

Hall MN*, Howe CG*, Liu X, Caudill MA, Malysheva O, et al. "Supplementation with folic acid, but not creatine, increases plasma betaine, decreases plasma dimethylglycine, and prevents a decline in plasma choline concentrations in arsenic-exposed Bangladeshi adults".

*Co-first authors



Daniel Carrion

Daniel submitted an article accepted for publication to the *Journal of Children and Poverty*.

Hernández, D., Jiang, Y., Carrión, D., Phillips, D., & Aratani, Y. (2016). Housing hardship and energy insecurity among native-born and immigrant low-income families with children in the United States. *Journal of Children and Poverty*, 1-15.

Daniel recently attended the annual Urban Health Conference in San Francisco, CA, where he gave a presentation titled "Identifying the Intersection of Disaster Vulnerability and Mental Health Service Shortage in New York City".



2nd Year MPH Student Highlights

Khristina Ipapo

Thesis Title: Exploring the effects of phthalates on infant neurodevelopment

Tina is interested in investigating the effects of prenatal phthalate exposures during pregnancy and neurodevelopment in infants. Phthalates are a class of high production chemicals and is widely used in plastics and consumer products such as toys, cosmetics, perfumes, paints, flooring, and electronics. Past research suggest that prenatal phthalate exposures are associated with adverse child mental, motor, and behavioral development. In this study, Tina will evaluate maternal prenatal urinary phthalate metabolite concentrations and novelty preference scores as measured by the Fagan Test of Infant Intelligence in infants at 27 weeks. Novelty preference score reflects the infant's speed of information processing, which has been shown to be relatively predictive of IQ in children. No previous study has evaluated if prenatal phthalate exposure is associated with novelty preference score. The knowledge gained from this study will help to better understand the effects of phthalates in infants.



Cara Smith

Thesis Title: Validation of Hexoskin Biometric Shirt at rest, sub maximal exercise, and maximal exercise

Cara is validating the heart rate, breathing rate, tidal volume, and minute ventilation measurements collected by the Hexoskin Biometric shirt against the gold standard VMAX physiology laboratory system. Analysis will be conducted for 3 stages: at rest, during sub maximal exercise, and during maximal exercise. The aim is to assess the accuracy and validity of the shirt's measurements while riding a stationary bicycle and exceeding the anaerobic threshold. A previous validation study of the shirt suggested its creditability for measuring heart rate and breathing rate while lying, sitting, standing, and walking, but not for riding a bicycle or reaching peak exercise. Significant accuracy and validity will enable the use of the Hexoskin shirt in health-related field studies and increase ease of gathering biometric data in the field.



Richie Evoy

Richie along with Dr. Nadia Moore of Veritox, Inc. recently submitted an article for publication to the Journal of Human & Experimental Toxicology. This fall Richie will enter Oregon State University's Ph.D program in Public Health with a concentration in Environmental & Occupational Health. Check out their abstract summary below!

Fluoride: Friend Or Foe?

B. Kelman, R. Evoy, C. Chan, N. Moore

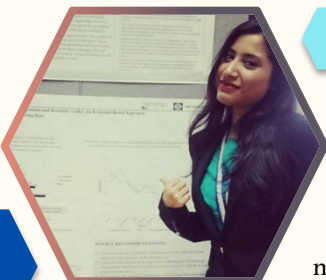
Abstract Summary

Studies in 1942 conducted by HT Dean indicated that a dose of 1.0 mg/L of fluoride reduced dental caries in children while minimizing dental fluorosis. In 1962 1.0 mg/L of fluoride became the fluoridation level recommended by the US Public Health Service (PHS). Recently the recognition of additional sources of exposure to fluoride from bottled water, dental products and dietary supplements has prompted PHS to reduce optimal fluoride levels to .7 mg/L. This study conducted a risk assessment to compare fluoride exposures early in the 20th century to those early in the 21st century and found that children today (0 -14 years of age) are exposed to a higher amount of fluoride than children during Dean's study. Analysis suggests that the revised recommendation of .7 mg/L of fluoride issued by PHS is not sufficient to reduce dental fluorosis.



Fatima Riaz

Fatima Riaz won 2nd place at the Global Health Practicum Poster Presentation on March 9, 2016 for her poster "Revolutionizing Water and Sanitation Policy in Azad Jammu and Kashmir Province- an evidence-based approach". In line with her global health background, Fatima plans to work in building sustainable primary healthcare systems in settings that need them the most.



1st Year MPH Highlights

Alexandra Hunt



Alex received a BS in Human Biology with a minor in Health from North Carolina State University (GO PACK!). Prior to coming to Columbia, she spent 3 years researching HIV vaccine development at Duke University. While at NC State, Alex was a founding member and served as Director of Programs of a student-led sustainable development non-profit working out of the Dominican Republic. Sparking her interest in public health, she spent a summer in Guatemala researching contraceptive use in the Highland Maya. Combining her interests in molecular biology and international public health, Alex hopes to build her knowledge in toxicology at Mailman. She loves to travel, play the guitar, hike, and, as a former kayaking instructor, loves to be on the water!



Karishma Patel

Kari Patel is a British Texan with neither accent who received a BA in History from NYU in 2008. She is currently researching byproducts of carbon capture systems and their effects on the environment and human health at Columbia Law's Sabin Center for Climate Change Law. Prior to coming to Columbia, she worked for an asbestos litigation firm where she advocated for workers with asbestos-related diseases like mesothelioma and lung cancer. In her spare time, she enjoys kayaking, hiking, sewing, and bird watching.



David Cuervo



David Cuervo graduated from UT Dallas in 2015 with a BS in Neuroscience and a minor in Art History. In the past, David volunteered in Paraguay for 2 months facilitating the construction of a school playground and implementing a tree-planting program in his community with the help of Plan International. He has also volunteered at a free clinic translating for Spanish speaking patients and worked as a scribe in the emergency department of a Dallas hospital. David is interested in working in risk assessment and water quality management in the future. He enjoys traveling, visiting museums, camping, hiking, and swimming.

Sarvani Ramcharran

Before coming to Mailman, Sarvani studied Biology and Religion at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. She focused on studying religious ethics in medical and health issues, and hopes to use that knowledge (and what she learns at Mailman) to be a well-rounded, culturally sensitive physician one day. Outside of school, Sarvani is interested in hiking, painting, photography, journalism, and animals. She owes all her joy and success to her dwarf hamster named Bear, and her guinea pig named Waldo.



Emily Chug



Emily received her BA in Biology and English from the University of Southern California in 2014. After graduating, she worked in a physical therapy clinic where she became interested in occupational health and safety after working with patients who were injured on the job. This experience brought her to Mailman, where she hopes to learn more about the biological and environmental determinants of health, especially in the work field. During her free time, Emily enjoys running, any outdoor activity, traveling and a good book.

Students for Environmental Action

Dear EHS family,

The executive board of Students for Environmental Action (SEA) is excited to share our events and initiatives for the upcoming year. We are committed to improving environmental awareness at CUMC and look forward to creating a collaborative space where students and faculty from the department and across campus can come together, instill awareness, and develop a long-lasting impact on the CUMC community.

This semester, we are continuing our initiatives to identify gaps in the current glass, plastic, paper, and electronic waste-recycling infrastructure on campus. We plan to take on some of these issues by developing a proposal for the Green Fund from the Office of Environmental Stewardship, a grant for student-led environmental stewardship projects. At our recent general body meeting, members contributed ideas for such a project and we welcome additional ideas from other members of the Mailman community. Continuing initiatives that began last semester, we are designing a magnet with NYC recycling tips and creating an interactive online sustainability map of the CUMC campus. We look forward to seeing what more we will accomplish in 2016 and beyond.

In collaboration with other student-led organizations, SEA has recently completed two exciting events this semester, including the Harlem Grown Volunteer Day and SEA of Thoughts – our signature event featuring EHS professor, Dr. Joseph Graziano, and Sociomedical Sciences (SMS) professor, Dr. David Rosner. This semester's SEA of Thoughts focused on the health effects of lead and the environmental justice issues surrounding the Flint Water Crisis. In addition, we will continue to host events throughout April in celebration of Earth Day, including an afternoon of upcycled crafts and a bake sale. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events!

Thank you in advance for your support of Students for Environmental Action. If you are interested in getting involved with any of these initiatives, or attending our upcoming events, please feel free to visit our Facebook page or reach out to us via OrgSync. We look forward to a fruitful year!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sea.columbia.publichealth/>

OrgSync: <https://orgsync.com/70650/chapter>

Best,

Jeremy, Joanna, Maggie, Sara, and Sasha

The Executive Board of Students for Environmental Action



Events

EHS FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF
PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF
FOOD, DRINKS, AND HOLIDAY CHEER!
THIS YEAR, WE HAVE A THEME:
UGLY SWEATERS
**EHS HOLIDAY
PARTY!**
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015
4PM TO 6PM
ARB 1101
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE IN
YOUR 'UGLIEST SWEATER'!



Faculty Sponsored
Social
Friday, January 29
4pm to 6pm
ARB 1101




Future Events

Save the date!

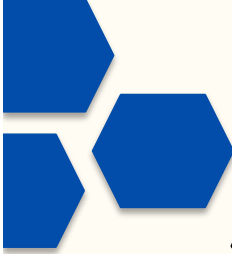
Drs. Graziano & Gamble's

**Annual EHS End of
the Year Party!**

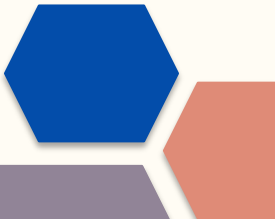


Friday, May 13th, 2016



*Congratulations to all
of our EHS 2016
graduates!*



*We wish you the best
in your future
endeavors!*



Spring 2016 EHS Newsletter
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