

# 40YEARS OF PUBLIC HEALTH

SPH DONOR RECOGNITION 2016

Boston University School of Public Health



# **DEAR FRIENDS:**

**IN JANUARY 2016** we launched Boston University School of Public Health's 40th anniversary celebrations. Over the past year we have had more than 40 celebrations across the country and around the world. It is a pleasure to thank you all for your participation and enthusiasm at these events. It has truly been a remarkable year for the School.

I am tremendously grateful to the alumni and friends of the School who invested their time and resources toward advancing our mission of creating the conditions that improve the health of all, especially vulnerable populations. Contributions—large and small—truly make a difference in strengthening the School as an agent of change in the world.

There are 10 key ways that philanthropy helps to move our work forward. Please refer to our brief summary at right.

These opportunities align with Think, Teach, Do: the School's three axes of inspiration. We generate knowledge (think), we educate (teach), and we aim to create healthier populations (do).

The following pages illustrate some of the 10 ways that benefactors have stepped up to support SPH.

We are engaging in the issues that advance the public's health and are committed to having an impact on the most compelling public health challenges of our time.

Having met many of you at alumni dinners and receptions over the past year, I have been repeatedly struck by how many members of our community alumni, faculty, staff, and students—are engaged in work that aspires to create a better, healthier world.

Thank you for all your work and for your support of the School.

Warm regards,

Sandro galea

Sandro Galea. MD. DrPH Dean, Robert A, Knox Professor Boston University School of Public Health

#### **A BRIEF SUMMARY OF HOW THESE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES HELP THE SCHOOL:**

#### Investment in the Future of Public

**Health Fund:** Flexible funding that allows us to launch innovative new programs and to seize bold opportunities as we strive to become an institution of excellence.

**Big Ideas:** Funding that advances our core areas of research: urban living, aging and well-being, health across the lifecourse, and health systems improvement.

Innovation Incubator: Creating the conditions for faculty and students to develop innovative ideas that promote population health.

Faculty Scholarship: Catalyzing cutting-edge progress in new areas of public health research.

Student Scholarship: Attracting talented future public health leaders with strong academic credentials and a passion for service.

**Global Student Engagement Fund:** 

Creating opportunities for students to participate in research, education, and practice opportunities globally.

**Population Health Exchange:** Generating lifelong learning opportunities for practitioners and scholars.

Activist Lab: Engaging issues that are of direct relevance to the practice of public health.

Public Health Post: Communicating powerful population health stories to engage influencers to lead change toward creating conditions for good health for all.

**Dean's Level Events:** Programming that includes Public Health Fora, Dean's Seminar Series on Contemporary Issues in Public Health, and Dean's Symposia.

## **2017 ALUMNI EVENTS** MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 11, 2017 Alumni Reception in San Francisco, CA \*Coincident with the JPMorgan Chase Conference\*

March 16, 2017 Alumni Reception in Washington, DC \*Coincident with ASPPH Annual Conference\*

March 28, 2017 Alumni Reception in Chicago, IL \*Coincident with ACHE Annual Conference\*

April 3, 2017 Alumni Reception in New York, NY

May 8, 2017 Alumni Reception in Boston, MA

June 8. 2017 Alumni Reception in Miami, FL

June 22, 2017 Alumni Reception in Seattle, WA \*Coincident with SER Annual Conference\*

November 6, 2017 Alumni Reception in Atlanta, GA \*Coincident with APHA Annual Conference\*

> Stay up to date on all alumni events by visiting our website at bu.edu/sph/alumni.

# DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!

**MANY EMPLOYERS SPONSOR** matching gift programs and will match charitable contributions made by their employees-doubling or even tripling the impact. Check with your human resources department on this policy. Organizations that have supported SPH in the past through this program include Ben & Jerry's Foundation, Cubist Pharmaceuticals, Duke Energy Corporation, Merck & Company, Inc., Pzifer, Inc., UnitedHealth Group, and W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

## THIS **PAST YEAR**

- → In celebration of SPH's 40th anniversary, the School held more than 40 alumni dinners and receptions, which were attended by more than 1,500 alumni across the country and the world.
- → Giving to the Investment in the Future of Public Health Fund rose by 19 percent.
- → As a school, we have raised \$47.2 million. which is 79 percent of the way toward our \$60 million campaign goal.



- → Since the campaign's launch in 2010, five members of the SPH community have established endowed student scholarships.
- → BU's annual Giving Day on April 6, 2016, generated more than \$30.000 from more than 160 donations to SPH. As a school, we more than doubled our revenue from last year. Heather Pierce (SPH'02) generously matched Giving Day donations.
- → Founding Chair of the former Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics Theodore Colton retired after serving SPH for 36 years. Colton, along with Professor Adrienne Cupples, established the Colton-Cupples Visiting Scholars Fund in the Department of Biostatistics. Gifts in honor of Colton can be made to the Colton-Cupples Visiting Scholars Fund (see page 4 for details).
- → On November 17, 2016, at the State Room in Boston, SPH held its first gala celebration in honor of the School's 40th anniversary.

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE** 

A simple and effective way to support

SPH is by making a gift to the Invest-

ment in the Future of Public Health

Fund, which provides flexible support

directed to the School's most import-

ant needs. Students and faculty who

benefit from fund gifts advance the

health of populations today and tomor-

row, throughout the United States and

areas of greatest need, and Investment

in the Future of Public Health Fund gifts

go directly into programs for immedi-

ate impact, with no administrative or

overhead costs.

around the world. The dean identifies

**OF PUBLIC HEALTH** 

influence the public health conversation.



#### THE INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF PUBLIC HEALTH FUND SUPPORTS:

#### STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

SPH attracts talented applicants with strong academic credentials and passion for public health service. Scholarships and financial aid decrease tuition for many deserving SPH students and enable them to afford an outstanding SPH education. In addition, several schools often try to recruit competitive students; Investment in the Future of Public Health Fund scholarship support can be a crucial factor for these students in choosing to attend SPH.

#### FACULTY RESEARCH

The Investment in the Future of Public Health Fund provides support for faculty pilot studies that catalyze pioneering progress in new areas of public health research. This support initiates competitive grant applications by supporting data collection, analysis, and reporting.

■ INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS TO ADVANCE THE SCHOOL'S MISSION SPH aims to improve the health of populations, particularly the disadvantaged, underserved, and vulnerable, through excellence and innovation in education, research, and service. The Investment in the Future of Public Health Fund provides seed money to launch cutting-edge programs that allow us to innovate in teaching and in our efforts to create useful knowledge that can inform and

> Visit **bu.edu/sph/give** to make your gift today.

THE SPH COMMUNITY LAID THE FOUNDATION on which I am solidly built. Giving back is my contribution; my thank-you. I am grateful I felt that sense of community from the very first day on the SPH campus. The faculty and staff devoted an incredible amount of resources to bring out the best in me, and the immediate camaraderie I felt with my classmates was energizing and exciting. As I continue my public health career, I continue to draw inspiration from my SPH family. I am constantly motivated to find new ways to collaborate and to foster innovation to reshape our healthcare system.

I give back because I have been given so much. My support is an investment in the SPH community. I am investing n promising students and professors from all over the world, h the hope of realizing long-term returns in the form of a thier, safer, and more peaceful world. I believe through cation comes the greatest hope of realizing the fullest uman potential. As an SPH alumna, I believe each of us plays an important part in continuing to build our community and to stay attached to the vision of igniting positive change in the world. Giving back builds hope—and when there is hope, there is always a future.

-Vivian Cabral (SPH'97), Program Manager, UCLA-UCI Alpha Stem Cell Clinic, Eli and Edythe Broad Center of Regenerative Medicine and Stem Cell Research, University of California, Los Angeles



Joel Lamstein on his visit to the AIDS/HIV Model Integrated Programme (AIM) in Uganda, 2002

## **A PARTNER IN** EDUCATION, RESEARCH, **AND PRACTICE**

JOEL LAMSTEIN savs he supports SPH for the same reason he co-founded the public health management consulting and research organization John Snow, Inc. (JSI), of which he is also president: to help improve the health of individuals and communities here in the US and around the world.

In 2012, Lamstein committed to permanently endowing the Lamstein Family/JSI Scholarship, which supports one or more annual scholarship awards for MPH students at SPH based on financial need and academic merit.

Lamstein, who chairs the SPH Dean's Advisory Board, says that JSI and the School

"have been long-term partners in education. research. and practice."

"We have been fortunate to grow and thrive for over 35 years, and much of our success can be attributed to our ability to attract smart. committed. and compassionate staff," Lamstein says of JSI. "We draw that staff from elite schools throughout the country and always have had great success with students from Boston University School of Public Health. I believe it is therefore incumbent on organizations like JSI to give back to the community that has helped foster their success."

Lamstein is also president of World Education, Inc., a non-



profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and adults in 22 countries through education and economic and social development programs. In 1973, Lamstein co-founded Management Sciences for Health (MSH), a private, nonprofit international organization working in public health areas to strengthen healthcare management and improve access. He is a senior lecturer at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and has lectured at schools of public health throughout the country.

In 2009, Lamstein received the CEO Social Leadership Award, a program funded by

the Lewis Family Foundation and presented by the Boston Business Journal. He holds a BS in Math and Physics from the University of Michigan and attended the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Lamstein also serves on the advisory board of the University of Michigan School of Public Health as well as the boards of Physicians for Human Rights and Seed Global Health and the advisory council of the Children's Health Fund in New York City. From 2004 to 2012, he served on the board of the Global Health Council. "Global health has gained

wide popularity among students in academic settings, and public health will be in good hands as these students join the field," he says. "We therefore are pleased to contribute to SPH to help further the aspirations of these future leaders

of public health."



**IN 2016,** Founding Chair of the former Epidemiology and Biostatistics Department Theodore Colton and Adrienne Cupples established the Colton-Cupples Visiting

## FACULTY

nationally and internationally renowned leaders in the field to the department. The scholars will present a series of lectures and conduct seminars with faculty and students, and also meet with them individually in informal settings that allow for personalized interaction, dialogue, and the exchange of ideas.

To inspire giving to the newly established Visiting Scholars Fund, Colton and Cupples have announced a matching gift challenge. They will generously match contributions to the fund up to a total of \$12,000.

> Make your gift online at **bu.edu/sph/alumni/colton**cupples or contact Arielle Fischer, donor relations coordinator, at asf22890@bu.edu or 617-638-4658 for more information.

## INNOVATION

## SUPPORTING INNOVATION

WHEN IT COMES TO SUPPORTING institutions and organizations, Ruth Moorman and Sheldon Simon have a strategy. "The first thing that we look for is the cause," says Simon. "The second thing that we look at is the individual. And the third is the institution itself."

In December 2015, the couple made a gift to SPH's Innovation Incubator. which supports and encourages creative and cross-school projects to improve the health of populations. It also provides grants for researchers early in their careers to launch pilots and proof of concept efforts and to seed first stages in program development.



First, the cause: "We've always supported hospitals and medical research," says Moorman.

"Public health exists at the center of a triangle between the healthcare system, public policy, and citizenship," says Simon, a partner and equity analyst at Adage Capital Management, L.P. and co-chairman and founder of the Men's Collaborative to Cure Women's Cancers at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. "That's what makes public health inter-

esting," Moorman says. "It's that work at the intersection'

Second, the people: the couple agrees that meeting Dean Sandro Galea was what initially drew them in. "It's important to invest in people, and Sandro's a good investment," Moorman says.

"We liked his enthusiasm and his energy," says Simon, who has also joined the Dean's Advisory Board, a group of prominent alumni and friends of SPH that works with Dean Galea and other School leaders on strategy and resource development. "Through Sandro we re-learn the importance of public health," he says.

Moorman notes that supporting young researchers is especially rewarding. "It's fun to see where your investment goes, and it's fun when it's in the beginning projects, when they're being creative," she says. "It's more exciting than something that's already established. This is investing in creativity."

Finally, the institution: Moorman and Simon have guite the BU family. Moorman is incoming vice chair of the Boston University Board of Overseers and an alumna of the College of Arts & Sciences and School of Education (she earned a doctorate from the latter), while their younger daughter graduated from BU Academy in 2015. Moorman and Simon also each have sisters who are BU alumnae.

"BU has become an important institution to us," says Simon. With the cross-sector nature of public health, he says, SPH is in an exceptional position to bridge the schools of BU.

Says Moorman, "It all intersects in public health."

They're also excited to support SPH due to its trajectory. "They've done a tremendous job in 40 years," says Moorman. "They've made an imprint on this city, nationally, and globally."

Their donation "is a vote of confidence and support," she explains, and says she hopes they have set an example for others: "I think that's part of the job of our leadership roles at BU."



**DEAN ROBERT F. MEENAN** stepped down in December 2014 after leading Boston University School of Public Health for 22 years. Since then, many alumni, friends, and colleagues joined together to establish the Robert F. Meenan Faculty Support Fund, which supports competitive pilot research grants to be awarded annually to junior faculty.

These grants will help provide earlystage career development support for younger faculty who are establishing their research portfolios.

Dr. Meenan is "delighted that the generosity of all those who made gifts to his named fund will catalyze the research of new faculty entering the field of public health."

> If you wish to make a gift in honor of Dr. Meenan, please contact Arielle Fischer, donor relations coordinator, at asf22890@bu.edu or 617-638-4658. Or you can make your gift online at bu.edu/sph/give.



## A CONVERSATION WITH LESLIE TELLALIAN, DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING

PUBLIC HEALTH IS A DYNAMIC FIELD with a perennial need for lifelong training in new tools and techniques. Both personally and via the alumni survey, our alumni have shown overwhelming interest in the learning opportunities and resources especially the ones online available through SPH. To answer that call, the education department has created the Lifelong Learning program.

Lifelong Learning head Leslie Tellalian, previously director of graduate programs at the College of Engineering, was also with Harvard University's School of Engineering & Applied Sciences before returning to BU.

As her first order of business at SPH, Tellalian is

leading the development of a digital portal called Population Health Exchange (PHX) to house Lifelong Learning's programs, including both for-credit and not-for-credit courses, online and in-person experiences, workshops, and training.

Tellalian talked with us about PHX, collaboration, and serving the needs of SPH alumni across sectors and around the world.

#### What opportunities/ developments in Lifelong Learning are you most excited about?

I am most excited to help develop a dynamic and robust platform for ongoing learning, engagement, and community building. PHX has the potential to continue raising the profile of the exceptional work being done across SPH by our faculty, students, and alumni, while also facilitating the understanding and application of public health principles across a range of professions.

I am also looking forward to working with everyone here, supporting the great opportunities for collaboration across SPH, the University, and the professional community in creating and delivering innovative in-person and online learning programs. Whether it's a live-streamed event with a subject matter expert, a program on data analytics or leveraging social media to improve public health, or a workshop on developing online field tools, there is

ample expertise, interest, and commitment for SPH to be a key resource for serving lifelong learners.

#### How does the Lifelong Learning program fit into the goals of SPH—or even BU—more broadly? Dean Galea's vision—and I believe BU is much on the same page as well—is to greatly increase opportunities

for integration and collaboration across sectors. For SPH, this goal includes providing a broader view of public health to include economic, social, and contextual factors that affect health. By providing a forum for academic and professional experts to deliver topical, timely, and practical learning opportunities to an audience across a range of professions, we are supporting our goal of preparing people for a lifetime of engagement with the health of populations.

#### What are the next steps going forward for Lifelong Learning?

We are focused on developing and delivering engaging and useful learning experiences to people near and far via the PHX portal and our Lifelong Learning programs. There is so much we look forward to doing, and we want to be very thoughtful about how we start, build, and grow our offerings to ensure we are successfully meeting the professional interests of our alumni, peer professionals, external organizations, and the surrounding community. We are currently working on and excited to present our first SPH summer institute in 2017. There will be more to share soon on these program offerings and how people can participate.

#### STUDENT SCHOLARSHII

## LITTLE THINGS THAT DRIVE GREAT CHANGE: A CONVERSATION WITH DONATO TRAMUTO



**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF HEALTHWAYS, INC.** since 2015, Donato J. Tramuto is a recognized innovator, industry leader, and global healthcare activist.

Tramuto joined Healthways' board in 2013 and became chairman in 2014. In 2008, he founded Physicians Interactive Holdings (now Aptus Health,

a subsidiary of Merck following the company's sale in 2013), a global provider of digital engagement solutions, where he served as chairman and CEO. In 2011, Tramuto founded the nonprofit Health eVillages to provide mobile health technology in challenging clinical environments. He is also chairman and founder of the Tramuto Foundation, which helps individuals and organizations achieve educational and healthcare goals.

In 2014, Tramuto received the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Ripple of Hope Award for his commitment to social change; the following year, he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. In 2005, 2009, and 2015, *PharmaVOICE* recognized him as one of the top 100 most inspirational healthcare leaders.

Tramuto recently published a book, *Life's Bulldozer Moments: How Adversity Leads to Success in Life and Business.* 

Tramuto serves on several executive leadership boards, including the Dean's Advisory Board of SPH.

In 2013, the Tramuto Foundation endowed a scholarship fund at SPH to provide support for outstanding international students close to completing the MPH degree.

Tramuto spoke with us about his support for SPH.

# What led to your endowing a scholarship for international students pursuing their master's in public health at SPH? This opportunity had three very important elements. First, as the founder of Health eVillages, a global nonprofit organization enabling safe and efficient medical care in the most challenging clinical environments, the global aspect of this endowment was very attractive to me.

Second, as the founder of the Tramuto Foundation, an organization that reaches out to young people who have had challenges in their life, and as someone who has overcome many challenges myself, I can relate to providing assistance to these students at a critical time in their education. I lived for many years in isolation as a result of having lost a significant amount of my hearing at age 8. I went through a long, dark period of having a disability, and having many people believe that I would not amount to anything in life. In my book *Life's Bulldozer Moments: How Adversity Leads to Success in Life and Business*, I highlight the tenacity and resilience that we as individuals innately have within ourselves. What we all need are the right antecedents and opportunities to pursue our dreams, hence, I felt that this scholarship tied in nicely with my own values.

Last but not least, I've had a remarkable career, one that nobody ever thought would be realized because the many losses in my life could have prohibited my success. I not only lost my hearing during childhood, but also lost my brother, and later my nephew, in car accidents. My sister-in-law, who was also my speech therapist after I partially regained my hearing, died in childbirth. My grandfather was shot at his home in a robbery. And, two close friends and their three-year-old son lost their lives on 9/11, on a flight that I should have been on but wasn't because I ended up leaving the night before. All of these challenges have made me realize that it's not about doing great things, it's about doing little things that have the capacity to drive great change. I saw this scholarship as a small gesture that would allow the School of Public Health to continue its great mission and vision in making the world more just and fair.

#### What makes SPH special to you?

Our lives are not segmented, nor are institutions. They are dynamic. What a student stands to receive from BU is a sense of caring, a sense of purpose, a sense of commitment.

I'm very impressed with Dr. Galea and his keen intellect and sense of purpose, as well as his desire to do the right thing for students to encourage them, empower them, hold them accountable, and to make the world better for all humanity. That's terrific. I have seen elements of those variables in other organizations, but I have not seen any other organization integrate all of them so that you have a dynamic experience.

I think whoever goes to the School of Public Health is fortunate! I sense the fervor of kinship every time I'm there for a board meeting—I'm enlightened, I'm charged up, and I feel that energy and that passion. The key ability of one to listen, to ensure that we do the right thing and we don't just do things right, is terrific, and I think that's what any student who's so fortunate to be associated with the School of Public Health will experience.

## If someone told you they were considering giving to SPH, what would you tell them?

Everybody should make an effort to make the world a better place in whatever way they can. It's not about how much you give, it's about the fact you gave. It's not about how much you do, it's the fact that you did something, and that's how I live my life.

I know a lot of people will say, "Well, if you didn't have this success—" and I say, wait a minute, when I was not successful, I still had these key values. We have to all acknowledge and recognize that if we each just did a little something, this world would be so amazing.

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# FOUR DECADES FORWARD

In 2016, the School of Public Health celebrated its 40th anniversary in a year filled with more than 40 alumni dinners and receptions attended by more than 1,500 alumni from around the world.

























- Distinguished 2015 Alumni Award Winners Lois Simon (SPH'83), Khalil Memon (SPH'99), and Vivian Cabral (SPH'97) at the APHA Alumni Reception in Chicago with Dean Galea
- 2 Gayle Mendoza (SPH'08), Rachel Gaddes (SPH'06), Sindri Kinnier (Questrom'15, SPH'15), and Alicia Kimbrel (SPH'08) at the ASPPH Alumni Reception in Washington, DC
- 3 Alumni Dinner in Geneva, Switzerland
- 4 Alumni Reception in New York City
- **5 & 6** Alumni Reception in Miami, FL
- 7 SPH students enjoying the photo booth at the 40th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration in Boston
- 8 Benjamin Spozio (SPH'12), Abiola Lawson (SPH'13), Benjamin Penningroth (SPH'15), and Lianne Hope (SPH'14, SSW'14) at the 40th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration in Boston
- 9 Members of the SPH Dean's Advisory Board Jeannine Rivet (SPH'81) and Sheldon Simon at the 40th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration in Boston
- **10** SPH graduates at the 2016 Convocation at Agganis Arena
- **11** Student speaker Faiz Kidwai (SPH'16) at the 2016 Convocation at Agganis Arena
- 12 Alumni Reception in San Francisco, CA



## SANTANDER SCHOLARS PROGRAM **PUTS STUDENTS IN THE FIELD**

Taking on gender-based violence in Tanzania. Studying acute kidney injury in Cambodia. Supporting pharmaceuticals courses in South Africa. Launching a public health consultancy in Vietnam.

These are just four of the student practicum experiences made possible by the Santander Scholars Program in summer 2016.

For the last six years, a partnership between Santander Bank and Boston University has provided support for practicums in the Field Practice Program of the Department of Global Health. The Santander Scholars Program has supported 307 SPH students on international practicums in 48 countries, experiences that help prepare these students to make an impact around the world.

#### Haley Tupper: Cambodia

A SANTANDER SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTED Haley Tupper (SPH'16) as she studied acute kidney injury (in which kidneys stop functioning for any number of reasons) at two hospitals in Phnom Penh. Few hospitals in the country are equipped for dialysis and few Cambodians can afford it. "If you have end-stage renal disease in Cambodia, for most people it's a death sentence," Tupper says.

While quantifying the issue and looking for ways to prevent acute kidney injury in the first place, Tupper says the practicum also provided a tremendous opportunity to learn about the country's healthcare system through the two hospitals, Calmette Hospital and Khmer-Soviet Friendship Hospital. Tupper, who began medical school this fall and hopes to practice nephrology abroad, says that was a tremendous learning experience: "I got to see things I learned about in my health systems class in real life.

"I'm in a much better position to organize and do a quality study in another country at a similar level of development, which is huge," she adds.

#### Lindsay White: Vietnam

A PRACTICUM IN VIETNAM gave Lindsay White experience across the spectrum of in-country public health work.

White's practicum began as an evaluation of mobile Continuing Medical Education (mCME) among HIV clinicians, part of a project using daily text messages to encourage Vietnamese healthcare workers to study. Pathfinder International began the project in 2015 with SPH researchers—but White arrived when the organization was in the process of leaving Vietnam, and transitioning its projects in the country to a newly launched organization: Consulting and Researching on Community Development (CRCD).

White's work in the transition mainly focused on building up CRCD's database of health statistics for the country and successful frameworks used in the past.

White got more than the usual hands-on experience with a project. Her work in the mobile learning evaluation-continued by CRCD-went alongside getting into the machinery of international public health work, from an organization's launch to the time it passes the torch.

"It's been rewarding to see the end and the beginning at the same time," she says.





#### **Selam Hailu: South Africa**

SELAM HAILU STUDIED PHARMACOLOGY and worked in the pharmaceutical industry in her home country of Ethiopia before coming to SPH. For her practicum, Hailu used and expanded on both her pharmaceutical and public health knowledge as a teaching assistant for two short courses in pharmaceutical public health at University of the Western Cape (UWC) in South Africa.

The experience taught her a great deal, especially thanks to the guest lecturers, students, and other interns who came from public health fields across South Africa and the rest of the continent.

She is grateful to Santander: "This experience would not have happened if it wasn't for the scholarship.

"The Santander scholarship allowed me to come here, be in a different country, and learn so many different things. I'm verv thankful."

(Top) Miranda Fadden (SPH'16) left, and Shirly Thomas (SPH'16) right, Santander Scholars at Snehagram Campus, Tamil Nadu, India

(Bottom) Tanner Crandall (SPH'15), Santander Scholar in South Africa

#### Nelson Holmes: Tanzania

THE SANTANDER SCHOLARS PROGRAM made it possible for Nelson Holmes to assist a study on gender-based violence. His practicum was with Together to End Violence Against Women (TEVAW), a research project in the northern Arusha

Region of Tanzania. Led by SPH Associate Professor of Global Health Lisa Messersmith, the study tries to tease out the effectiveness of different methods of challenging harmful norms around gender.

Comparing attitudes before and after the interventions meant managing a heap of data. That was where Holmes—who came to SPH with plenty of experience in large digital scan projects and paper-to-digital-records conversion-could help.

"We were really fortunate and pleased that Nelson was able to get support from Santander," says Messersmith, adding that his help was invaluable to the Tanzania study—and that the experience for him was just as vital.

"It's really hard to explain how important it is for students in global health to be able to go and be so much a critical part of a study like this," she says. "He's doing all that he needs to do to be a future global health professional. It was an extraordinary opportunity."

> Visit **bu.edu/sph/tag/santander/** to learn more about these and other global health practicum experiences supported by the Santander Scholars Program.





# **DORIS BUFFETT,** SUNSHINE SUNSHINE LADY FOR DORIS BUFFETT, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUN-SHINE LADY FOUNDATION AND SISTER OF WARREN BUFFETT

"I was raised in the 1930s, out in the Midwest where it was really desperate," she says. "Some little kids just sailed through that. Not me: I was worried about every kid that came to school and didn't have anything to eat at lunch."

Passing through a park with her family one day, she saw a man standing by the side of the road. His suitcase wrapped in cord and the gauntness of his face made a deep impression on her: "Something snapped and I burst into tears," she says. "It really affected me, and then I had to put it away because I couldn't do a thing about it." She decided then that, when she could, she would help.

In 1996, Buffett founded the Sunshine Lady Foundation, wh invests in organizations and programs dedicated to providing opportunities for the advancement of education and well-being for disadvantaged people.

One of those programs is the Boston Senior Oral Health Program (BSOHP), offering free comprehensive dental services to seniors in Boston public housing.

Public insurance covers only limited dental services, leaving written that she was now volunteering with an oral health many key oral health needs—like dentures—out of reach. At program herself. monthly dental screenings at various Boston Housing Authority "That's the payback," Buffett says. The Sunshine Lady Founsites, the program identifies and refers those with treatment dation especially looks for opportunities where those who are needs to Fenway Community Health Center and assists seniors helped are also able to take part. That certainly makes the money to follow through with care. go further, she says, and sends an empowering message: "We're not giving something away. We're collaborating."

BSOHP has screened about 500 seniors and provided services to 425.



FOR DORIS BUFFETT, FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUN-SHINE LADY FOUNDATION AND SISTER OF WARREN BUFFETT, IT ALL BEGAN DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION.

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A partnership between Boston University, the Sunshine Lady Foundation, the Boston Housing Authority, the Boston Public Health Commission, Fenway Community Health Center, and the DentaQuest Foundation, BSOHP is operated by the Activist Lab, which bridges the gap between academic work and action by engaging partners and community stakeholders, creating workshops and workforce training programs, and developing and implementing programs and policy.

This program is one of several initiatives the Sunshine Lady Foundation has supported. "I've had a lot of teeth filled in in my life, and I know what the prices are," Buffett says. Providing dental care to those who couldn't otherwise afford it makes a profound difference, she says, from improving overall health to getting the confidence to open one's mouth to smile or speak up.

Buffett has received countless letters from the individuals her foundation has helped; among them are plenty of smiling photos from those who have received dental care. Buffett says one woman sent a photo with "a smile this big," and had



## HONORING A FATHER'S DEDICATION TO **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

In 2011, Russ Lopez (SPH'03) and his husband, Andrew Sherman, established the Joe G. Lopez Lectureship Fund on Racial Disparities in Health to honor the memory of Lopez's father, Joe Galindo Lopez (1922-2007).

"My father really believed in addressing racial disparities and believed in social justice," Lopez says.

"He would have been uncomfortable to have his name on it," Sherman says of his reserved father-in-law, "but he would be very impressed with what's being done, and really feel that it was the right thing. I think the issues that were important to Lopez' father are the issues that are important to the School."

The elder Lopez was a lifelong supporter of programs and policies to promote equality and opportunity. Having served in World War II, he became a strong advocate for his fellow veterans. He also volunteered in programs including job training, addiction treatment, neighborhood development, community support, and raising money for scholarships.

He passed on his belief in equity to his son, a former assistant professor of environmental health at SPH and now a senior research associate at the Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy at Northeastern University. He is also an author whose recent book examines the relationship between location and

health in his-and SPH's-own backyard, Boston's South End: The Clash of Ideas in a Historic Neighborhood.

The couple established the fund to support an annual lecture organized and administered by the Department of Environmental Health at SPH to highlight the social, cultural, and environmental factors that contribute to differing health outcomes among American Indian, Black, Asian, and Hispanic populations in the United States, and to showcase efforts to address health disparities.

This year, Lopez and Sherman will use the lecture fund to sponsor a symposium. "How Where You Live Affects Your Health." on December 1.

"Health is a fundamental human right, and poor health has such a tremendous negative impact on people's lives," Lopez says. "Working with BU to help understand why disparities persist, and also trying to look at ways that people are addressing these kinds of disparities, is one way of making a small contribution."

He says he also wanted to support a school that supported him: "I'm still grateful they took me in! I like to think that I can give something back for all the time and effort they spent on me."

Sherman agrees: "It's a supportive place that was and is working on the right issues."

## PUBLIC HEALTH POST

## **PUBLIC HEALTH POST**

In early 2017, the School of Public Health will be launching Public Health Post (PHP), an ambitious initiative that will break free of prevailing models of public health communication.

Rather than serving as a gathering place for the initiated, PHP will face outward through its anchor news site **publichealthpost.org** and reach into a wide range of separate fields of action—not only the adjoining health professions but areas such as ecology, energy, and environment; architecture, urbanism, and design; and economics, government, and business. Instead of aggregating public healthrelated headlines that can be found elsewhere, it will offer a fresh perspective on population health in news of public life in all its variety; rather than prescribing familiar rifle-shot interventions, it will frame an ideas-first dialogue that focuses on the basic social and environmental drivers of population health; rather than preaching to the choir, it will assemble experts from across the professions to learn from one another what they can do to advance population health.

PHP will be a space where leaders from all walks of public life can talk across political and professional boundaries, discover the public health implications of work in which each is engaged, and reach a consensus around public health problems.

> Stay tuned for more information on the official launch date of PHP, and visit bu.edu/sph for updates.



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#### **STUDENT ALUMNI** MENTORING **PROGRAM** (StAMP)

The School of Public Health launched the Student Alumni Mentoring Program (StAMP) in Fall 2016. More than 300 alumni volunteered to mentor SPH students.

StAMP connects MPH students with SPH alumni to create successful mentoring relationships. StAMP provides students with professional guidance from alumni in the field and benefits alumni by offering a way for them to stay connected with the School.

> Visit bu.edu/sph/stamp for more information and to register to participate.

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Our yearlong celebration included a kick-off reception in February attended by more than 300 guests in Boston; signature alumni receptions across the country in New York City, Washington, DC, San Francisco, Chicago, and Florida; and four major symposia on current public health challenges. Dean Galea's commitment to personally meet many of you during this special year included his 40 for 40 global tour of dinners and receptions at both international and domestic locations for discussion with alumni, friends, and influencers on compelling contemporary public health issues of our time. Lastly, the capstone event was a magnificent gala that engaged supporters who are committed to helping SPH make a difference.

Accordingly, progress on the campaign continues to be strong. To date, we have raised \$47.2 million, which is 79 percent of the way toward reaching the School's increased \$60 million campaign goal. Donor revenue for annual giving to SPH increased by almost 20 percent from last year. With the completion of the School's strategic planning exercise, Dean Galea has articulated 10 ways to support the School that we hope will provide guidance for our benefactors to direct their philanthropic giving for the maximum impact at SPH to advance the public's health.

I am very grateful to all of those individuals, foundations, and corporations that commit philanthropic support to SPH. Your contributions enable our students and faculty to Think, Teach, and Do in order to create the conditions that keep people healthy.

Sincerely



Chair



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## A DESIRE TO HELP

**SARAH OTARU (SPH'17)** was practicing medicine in Africa when she decided to pursue an MPH at Boston University School of Public Health.

Frequently overwhelmed at the level of health disparities that surrounded her and the alarmingly large number of people affected by these disparities, Otaru often felt disillusioned—the reason she'd decided to study medicine in the first place was to help people. And so came the dream of a career in public health. "With its preventive and wide-reaching innovations, public health was like a light at the end of the

tunnel," she says. Otaru has received the 2016 Jenny Huddart Scholarship, which she says is helping her pursue her dreams at one of the top public health schools in the

world. Supported by Joyce Lyons,

President of Initiatives Inc., the

scholarship is named in honor of

"With its preventive and wide-reaching innovations, public health was like a light at the end of the tunnel."

the late Jenny Huddart, an SPH adjunct professor and member of the Initiatives Inc. team for more than 20 years.

Otaru's goals include collaboration with the Nigerian government in areas of translational reproductive health research, through which she hopes to invest in the lives of indigent Nigerian women and children.

> Visit **bu.edu/sph/give** to support the Jenny Huddart Scholarship Fund and help other students realize their dreams of becoming public health leaders.

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## AN OUTSTANDING SCHOLAR

AARON FLEISHMAN (SPH'17) was accepted to other schools of public health across the country, but chose to attend Boston University School of Public Health because he was drawn to the dual concentration option offered and felt he would get "the most holistic education" by concentrating in both epidemiology and biostatistics. An award from SPH's Outstanding Scholars Fundwhich supports a student in the top 10 percent of the incoming graduate class—has lightened his financial burden as he pursues an MPH

"With the support of the Outstanding Scholars Fund, SPH is helping me attain my goal to not only collaborate with others to expand the understanding of public health issues, but also to disseminate knowledge to clinicians, policy makers, and the public," says Fleishman.

"Recently, I was hired as a data analyst at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, where I've been able to synthesize biostatistical and epidemiological concepts I learned at SPH."

After graduation, Fleishman hopes to continue pursuing his goals by doing health services research in the Boston area.

> Visit **bu.edu/sph/give** to support the Outstanding Scholars Fund.

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#### ARY JANE ENGLAND

(MED'64, Hon.'98) is a renowned leader in the care and treatment of children and families, an advocate for community mental health services, former president of Regis College, and a longtime supporter of the Schools of Public Health and Medicine.

Dr. England's connections to the School of Public Health run deep—an SPH clinical professor in the Department of Health Law, Policy & Management, she was also chair of the School's first Advisory Committee, which spearheaded the renovation of the Talbot Building

in the mid-90s. Her daughter, Alexandra England, is an SPH alumna, class of '94.

A firm believer in the School's mission of service to the community who wants to set a philanthropic example for others, Dr. England has established two charitable gift annuities totaling \$100,000 to benefit a School of Public Health initiative.

She chose this type of giving because it offered her a way to make a meaningful gift while securing a fixed income stream for the future.

"It's a great option," she says, "because it allowed me to make a gift while I was

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still actively involved and passionate about the School; the best time to be inspired! Why wait?" Dr. England hopes

that her charitable gift annuities will inspire others to support SPH.

For more information on planned giving, please contact Michael O'Brien, Director, Development & Alumni Relations, at mobrien1@ bu.edu or 617-638-4016 or visit bu.e

### THE **CLAFLIN** SOCIET)

The Claflin Society honors alumni and friends who have provided for Boston University in their estate plans, or who have established life income gifts with the University. Since the 1985 founding of the Claflin Society, membership has grown to nearly 800 friends and alumni. The following Claflin Society members have considered SPH in their planning:

#### Anonymous

Laura A. Armstrong (SPH'81)

Amy Aulwes (SPH'94)

Patricia O'Dea Coughlin (SON'73, SPH'79)

Lawrence Cross (SPH'93)

Priscilla J. Elliott (SPH'90)

Mary Jane England (MED'64)

Robert F. Meenan (MED'72, Questrom'89)

Peter Reich (SPH'79)

Kurt Tramposch (SPH'87)

For more information on planned giving, visit bu.edu/sph/alumni/ give/planned-giving



SPH Convocation, Agganis Arena, May 14, 2016

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