



School Supports Tsunami Relief

Toys, school supplies, underwear, rubber slippers. After the tsunami, displaced people rely on charity for such everyday items. In addition to expertise in infection control, water sanitation, fund raising, and psychosocial needs assessments, Tulane University faculty are responding at a human level, raising money and delivering supplies to restore some normalcy to daily life.

In early February, environmental health sciences professor A. J. Englande Jr. and doctoral students Lisa Pratt and Ryan Sinclair went to Thailand and Indonesia to lend expertise in water sanitation, human waste disposal, and food security.

Englande and Sinclair are working in southern Thailand with colleagues from Mahidol University and the Thai Ministry of Public Health, and with alumni at the Thai Pollution Control Department to help provide safe drinking water and sanitation needs. Pratt went to Aceh Province, Indonesia, to deliver water-quality testing equipment and train health workers in the proper use of this equipment.

“They’re providing assistance directly to the affected communities via our alumni who are in the field in these countries,” Abdelghani said.

“These people need us,” Abdelghani said. “This is public health and prevention, and we are in a position to build on our relationships to help in any way we can.”

As the immediate crisis passes, the long term dynamics of rebuilding and aid are surfacing, including poor coordination between aid agencies and political infighting in regions, such as Sri Lanka, that have long been troubled by ethnic conflicts.

Tulane has many long-standing relationships in the area, so for many this tragedy is a personal one. “When the emergency response teams are pulling out, our faculty, alumni and students will still be there,” said Pierre Buekens, dean of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Faculty such as associate professor of international health and development Nancy Mock, who teaches a course about managing complex emergency situations, will travel to the region.

“This is a region where Tulane has significant relationships and a network of alumni – and these relationships will support our efforts,” said Mock. “We’re working with World Vision on long term, community-based recovery efforts in Sri Lanka.”

Stanley Samarasinghe, a clinical associate professor with the Payson Center for International Development and Technology Transfer and the department of international health and development, was in Kandy, Sri Lanka, when the tsunami devastated the coastal areas of the island. Using the International Center for Ethnic Studies as a



Photos by Lisa Pratt

Above: Children outside a community health center in Darussalam, a borough of Banda Aceh. Top left: Indonesian nurses learn to use water testing kits.

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Global Health

Published by
Tulane University

School of Public Health
and Tropical Medicine

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Special thanks to Paula Burch
and University Publications



Paula Burch. Courtesy University Publications.

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The recent earthquake and tsunami in Asia caused distress for many hundreds of thousands of people, and with so many relationships in the area, our school has closely seen this tragedy. As I read this issue, I was pleased to see how our faculty, students, and alumni have used their public health expertise to provide relief. They're on the ground in Indonesia and Sri Lanka helping rebuild, and at home they're raising money to send equipment and supplies. We'll keep you updated in coming issues so you can see public health in action.

Best wishes,

Pierre Buekens, MD, PhD

School Benefits from New Auditorium

The Collins Diboll Foundation provided funds that have built a 250-seat auditorium featuring state-of-the-art equipment. The auditorium will be used by the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine for classes, lectures, and other events. Work crews are still putting on final touches, but classes are already being held in it.

"It's great to be able to use different media seamlessly," said professor Mark VanLandingham, who is teaching social and behavioral aspects of global health in the auditorium this semester. "I can move from PowerPoint slides to film to a document camera with ease. I even have a pen and pad that lets me annotate projected slides while I'm lecturing."

Dean Buekens is impressed with the space and technology as well. "We're thankful that the Diboll Foundation has made such a superb learning environment possible."



Katherine Slingsluff



Katherine Slingsluff

Tsunami

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base, Samarasinghe began networking to find out what the survivors needed and to raise money for relief and reconstruction efforts. In January, he and his team took \$14,000 worth of relief supplies, including school supplies, women's under garments and toys to the area.



"All of us who went were unanimous that the best thing we did was to give the children school supplies and toys. The smile that the little gift brought to their faces said it all," wrote Samarasinghe in a recent update on the work in Sri Lanka. Still, he notes that the politics of relief remain an important factor and the role of the military in arranging the refugee camps have not been well received in some quarters. "It is best to move on as quickly as possible to rehabilitation and reconstruction, especially creating conditions to help people regain their livelihoods."

—MADELINE VANN



Gibson Hall, which houses university administration and other offices and classrooms, was built in 1894.

Promise and Distinction: The Campaign for Tulane

Since our founding in 1834, Tulane University has been a place of distinction and a place of promise. At our founding, the university held the promise of offering an exemplary education to the people of the state and region, and the distinction of being an oasis of scholarship in an area known more for ravaging epidemics and the trappings of trade.

In 1998, the university devised an ambitious ten-year strategic plan to improve education, research, and facilities at Tulane. Fully implementing the plan required a fundraising campaign. This March, the campaign, dubbed "Promise and Distinction: The Campaign for Tulane University" makes its public debut.

"Always an outstanding institution, Tulane has made tremendous progress in the past few years and is now on the cusp of becoming one of the top research universities in the nation," said President Scott Cowen.

"This campaign will provide significant support to the university and the school," said public health dean Pierre Buekens. "We're recruiting and retaining faculty in targeted areas, expanding post-doctoral programs, increasing scholarships. This campaign will help us grow unrestricted funding to address special needs, enhance distance education and computer technology. In research areas, increases in financial support will help us build new field stations and support those already doing effective research worldwide."

The campaign wouldn't be a New Orleans event without festivities, though, and a variety of events are scheduled March 16-17. For more information, visit <http://distinction.Tulane.edu>.

AN EVENING OF DISTINCTION

Join Tulane grads from around the country for an "Evening of Distinction," a live closed-circuit show originating from New Orleans beginning at 7 p.m. Central, March 17.

We'll highlight some of Tulane's most promising and distinguished alumni and students in a one-hour program that's entertaining, nostalgic, and lots of fun.

Alumni are invited to the viewing party at hotels in the following cities:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Atlanta, Westin Buckhead | Miami, Fontainebleau Hilton Resort |
| Baton Rouge, Marriott Baton Rouge | Mobile, Grand Hotel Marriott |
| Boston, Hilton Boston Logan Airport | New Orleans, W Hotel Poydras Street |
| Chicago, Westin Chicago River North | New York, Embassy Suites Hotel New York City |
| Dallas, Fairmont Hotel | Philadelphia, Hyatt Regency Penn's Landing |
| Denver, Westin Denver Tabor Center | San Francisco, San Francisco Marriott |
| Houston, Omni Houston at Westside | at Moscone Center |
| Los Angeles, Omni Los Angeles | Washington, D.C., Westin Grand Washington, D.C. |

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR EVENING OF DISTINCTION

ONLINE AT [HTTP://ALUMNI.TULANE.EDU/EOD/](http://ALUMNI.TULANE.EDU/EOD/)

OR BY CALLING 877-780-0010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON "EVENING OF DISTINCTION,"

CONTACT TULANE ALUMNI AFFAIRS AT 877-4TULANE

OR (504) 865-5901.



P R O M I S E A N D
The Campaign for Tulane
D I S T I N C T I O N

For more information about the campaign and a full listing of kickoff events March 16-17, visit <http://distinction.Tulane.edu>.

School Presents



ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

F. Brobson Lutz

clinical doctor who also provides medical news for local media, including a weekly health report for WWL-TV/CBS-Ch 4, a daily segment for WGSO radio, and a monthly health column for *New Orleans Magazine*



DEAN'S MEDAL

Sally T. Knight

member of the board of directors of the Tulane Alumni Association and of the alumni board for the school



ESPRIT DE CORPS AWARD

Sherry Cunningham

has been instrumental in the development of several international programs in health systems management, strengthening the school's relationships in Asia and Latin America

The school presented its annual awards at a gala at the Audubon Tea Room in November. Awards include the Dean's Medal, honoring lifelong dedication to the school and public health; Alumnus of the Year, honoring a graduate who has continued to support the school, faculty, and students; and the Esprit de Corps Award, acknowledging a staff member who regularly exceeds expectations. Each department recognizes a Champion of Public Health. Champions espouse the core values of their department and have contributed significantly to the advancement of public health.



Pierre Buekens, dean; Alejandro Llanos-Cuentas, dean of the School of Public Health and Administration at the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia; and Valerie Paz Soldan, director of the Tulane University Health Office for Latin America at the awards gala.

Annual Awards

CHAMPIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH



**Warren Lee and
Gretchen Glodé
Berggren**

lifelong humanitarians who have received numerous awards, including the International Health Award presented by Mother Teresa



Hazel D. Dean

associate director for health disparities at the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Sharon Howard

assistant secretary for the Office of Public Health at the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals



Michael J. Klag

vice dean for clinical investigation at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine



C. Paul Lo

owner and president of Materials Management Group, Inc., an environmental management and consulting business



Richard McCarthy IV

co-founder and executive director of the Economics Institute at Loyola University New Orleans and its flagship project, the Crescent City Farmers Market



Margaret Neuse

director of the Office of Population at the U.S. Agency for International Development



Ed Michael Reggie

CEO of Future Factory, LLC

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Eric Ford, PhD, associate professor, health systems management

Young Hong, PhD, assistant professor, tropical medicine

Penny Jessop, MPH, instructor, international health and development

Kristi Reynolds, PhD, assistant professor, epidemiology

Lizheng Shi, PhD, assistant professor, health systems management

Amy Vinturella, PhD, research assistant professor, environmental health sciences

Hua Zhao, PhD, assistant professor, epidemiology

EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS

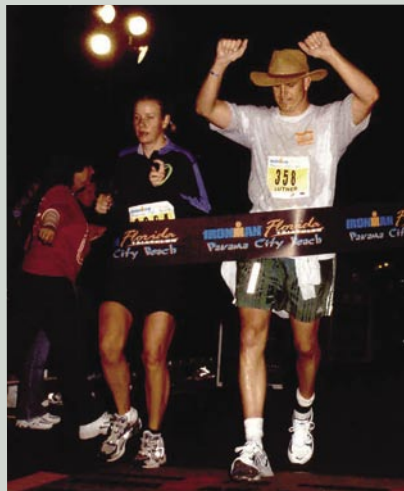
Jack C. Ling, MA, professor emeritus

Roger Sherwin, MD, professor emeritus

Fighting the Fat

A unique partnership is teaming up to fight the “fat” label New Orleans has had for too long. With a \$275,000 gift from the Entergy Charitable Foundation, Tulane University will work with **Step Together New Orleans** for the “Treat You Right” media campaign promoting behaviors — such as increasing walking and eating fruits and vegetables — to combat obesity and other health issues.

Environmental health sciences student Lisa Pratt and fiancé Luther Ward, an MD/MPH&TM medical student, cross the finish line at an Ironman competition in Panama City Beach, Florida, in November. The Ironman feat: swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles, and running a marathon, 26.2 miles.



Student Policy and Advocacy Association

The Student Policy and Advocacy Association was recently founded as a response to the need for a better integration of advocacy and policy education, training, and study into the school curricula. The association will increase awareness of the relationship among public policy, the public health system, and public health professionals.

“I’ve thought for a long time that Tulane needs more emphasis on how to use policy to promote health and on how to use advocacy to promote policy change,” said Tom Farley, chair of community health sciences. “It’s great to see our students leading the way.”

For more information on SPAA or to learn how to get involved, email spaa@tulane.edu.

Proximity to Grocery Store Affects Choice of Healthy Food

A recent study by Tulane researchers indicates that the closer low-income people live to a supermarket, the likelier they are to choose healthy foods. Community health sciences researcher Diego Rose, the study’s lead author, said lower income households often lack nutritional variety. According to the study, “Neighborhood environmental factors, like access to a supermarket or other plentiful source of low-cost fruits and vegetables, may be important for increasing consumption, especially among low-income households.”

In a recent interview with the Baton Rouge Advocate, Rose said, “Our study shows that the location of the local supermarket is an important factor. If it’s close by, people seem to eat more fruits and vegetables, but if it is over five miles away, consumption of fruit is significantly less.”



WHAT ARE YOU EATING?

Only 28% of Americans meet the recommended fruit consumption of at least 2 servings per day.

Only 49% meet the recommended vegetable consumption of at least 3 servings per day.

The statistics are even worse for the low-income population, in which only 23 percent and 42 percent meet the recommendations, respectively.

Source: Diego Rose and others, *Public Health Nutrition*

Humphrey Fellows Build Professional Ties

The Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program brings professionals from Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Europe, and Eurasia to the United States at a midpoint in their careers for a year of study and related professional experiences.

Penny Jessop, who has been coordinating this program for Tulane since its inception in 1979, recently said, "This program is about building bridges with professionals in other countries. It's enriching for our students and for people locally to meet international professionals of this caliber."

Although many things have changed in the past 25 years, Jessop says one thing remains the same. "There is still the feeling that one of the reasons they come for this fellowship is to make a change for the better in their countries, and to make a difference in the world," she said.

Over the years, 233 fellows have attended classes at Tulane. Currently there are 14 fellows.



Paula Burch. Courtesy University Publications.

Tulane Humphrey program coordinator Penny Jessop is on faculty in the Department of International Health and development. She is also instrumental in the development of the undergraduate public health program.

2004-05 TULANE HUMPHREY FELLOWS

Karine Babikyan (Adamyan), Armenia; Pamela P. Rozas Vasquez, Chile; Indjassa Germain Hibalayam, D.R. Congo; Madleine Sabry Azmy, Egypt; Monica S. Guamuch Castaneda, Guatemala; Miriam Almagor, Israel; Abdoulaye Bagayoko, Mali; Marina Latenco, Moldova; Khadija El Hajjaoui and Karima Gholbzouri, Morocco; Albertina Martha Thomas, Namibia; Leandrit Bejtullahu and Zeljko Smiljanic, Serbia and Montenegro; and Oleksandr Lebega, Ukraine

Alumni News

Deborah Hoadley, MPH&TM '90, was honored by the Massachusetts Medical Society with the Henry



Ingersoll Bowditch Award for Excellence in Public Health. She is a member of Baystate Health System's Infectious Disease Division. Hoadley, who received her medical degree from McGill University, helped establish a rural HIV outreach program that

provides funding for physicians to provide monthly on-site HIV care in rural areas.

Crystal Lander, MPH '99, is director of campus programs for the Feminist Majority Foundation, a national organization working for women's equality, women's empowerment, and non-violence. She manages and leads the organization's national campus program and campaigns. Prior to her position with the Feminist Majority Foundation, Lander served as the community action manager and website manager for the international division of Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

*Do you have an accomplishment you would like to announce?
Contact globalhealth@tulane.edu and let us know about it.*

What's Inside:



PROMISE AND
The Campaign for Tulane
DISTINCTION

2004 Awards Gala



Cathy Pierson, Marjorie and Roy Weiner,
and Laura Levy

Tsunami Aid



Environmental Health Sciences doctoral candidate Lisa Pratt teaches nurses how to use water-quality testing kits in Indonesia.

GLOBAL HEALTH



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