



# Department of Community Health Sciences Newsletter

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## Message from Department Chair Anne Pebley

The 2008-2009 has been a rough year for the national and international economy. The economic downturn will continue to affect UCLA and our alums over the next year or two. As I write, the recession and potential H1N1 2009 influenza pandemic mean that 2009-2010 is likely to be a very busy year for all of us in public health. The good news is that the School of Public Health is generally in good shape financially and doing an excellent job of weathering the storm. We also have had a terrific incoming cohort of new students, several new faculty members, many graduates who are getting their degrees this June, and a lot of important and interesting research and programmatic activities going on.

I will be stepping down as CHS Department Chair as of June 30, 2009. The incoming chair will be Dr. Martin Iguchi, an experimental psychologist. He received his PhD in this field in 1986 from Boston University and has held positions at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University, and RAND prior to joining the CHS faculty in 2004. Dr. Iguchi will be a very capable chair and provide excellent leadership for the department.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our alums for their interest in this newsletter and for sending in news and information. It is really great to hear from you and to know about that you are doing. Please continue to send news of your professional and personal activities to: [chsalumni@ph.ucla.edu](mailto:chsalumni@ph.ucla.edu). I also want to thank current doctoral student Malia Jones for writing almost all of the content of this newsletter and Rachel Veerman for her role as editor!

## Alumni Spotlight: Jennifer Lucky



*2008 CHS Alumna Jennifer Lucky, MPH*

Jennifer Lucky graduated with an MPH from CHS in June of 2008. As an undergraduate at the University of Michigan, Jennifer had studied natural resource ecology and management. After her graduation, moved to San Francisco where she spent six years working as a community organizer and a high school instructor. In the classroom, Jennifer felt disconnected from the bigger issues she saw affecting her students—like policy and planning. She decided to go to graduate school and began looking for a degree program which focused on both social and environmental contexts of people’s lives. At the time, she says she didn’t even know what public health was—when a friend told her to check it out, she thought “I don’t want to do restaurant inspections.” But on further investigation, she found that public health researchers were doing interesting work in social justice and environmental health outcomes.

During her time as a CHS student, Jennifer wanted to spread the message about public health as a career option. She became involved in the student group Students of Color for Public Health, which has outreach to younger students as one of its goals. She found other students who wanted to reach out to high school and college students and tell them about careers and opportunities in public health, and worked in a mentoring program to get UCLA undergraduates interested in the field.

For her internship, Jennifer worked with USC and a local community group focused on environmental justice is-

sues related to goods movement. She worked on assessment of the impact of international trade on local communities, especially the effects of the Ports of Los Angeles & Long Beach on the nearby residential areas. She learns that she really enjoys collaborating with local communities on hands-on projects, but also enjoys using technical methods and applying research concepts. This was her first introduction to the field of health impact assessment.

Jennifer began looking into the methods of Health Impact Assessment (HIA) as she began her job search, and found Human Impact Partners of Oakland, CA, a leader in the field. Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a structured method for evaluating the potential health impacts of proposed policies and land use plans. HIA examines projects and their potential health benefits and risks. It also takes into account the unique circumstances of the local area in which new projects are being considered. Human Impact Partners places emphasis on including community voices in the process of identifying priorities for health impact assessment. Ultimately, the goal of HIA is to identify negative health impacts before ground is broken on a new project—so mitigation can be included in the design phase.

In July 2008, Human Impact Partners hired Jennifer as a Research Associate. She now leads their training program, which is targeted at improving interdisciplinary communication and skill building for HIA practitioners including public agencies, community organizations, universities and other project stakeholders. Human Impact Partners will hold about 6 two-day training sessions in 2009, in addition to many shorter presentations about their work.

Jennifer says their work combines all the best things about doing public health work—it is hands on and specific to local communities; it involves providing technical assistance and applied research; and it's targeted at a policy and planning level, where changes can have a long term sustainable impact. One of the things she likes best about HIA is that the assessment is quantitative and qualitative—part of the process is to tell the story of communities and their experience of the environment and health.

## Changes in the CHS Faculty

After long and distinguished careers, two senior CHS faculty - **Dr. Snehendu Kar** and **Dr. Charlotte Neumann** - are retiring this spring. Dr. Kar's areas of expertise include women's empowerment for health promotion and acculturation among Asian immigrants. Dr. Kar began his career with a stint in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning in India. He was a faculty member at the University of Michigan School of Public Health for several years before coming to UCLA in 1979. In addition to his extensive research and teaching, Dr. Kar has held many leadership posts at UCLA, including Chair of the De-

partment of Public Health, Associate Dean, Chair of Asian American Studies, and Founding Director of the Masters of Public Health for Health Professional (MPH-HP) program. After retirement, Dr. Kar will continue to work on his research and teaching. He will also continue his work on establishing and strengthening public health schools in India.

Dr. Neumann's training was in medicine and public health. After several years in medical practice and a stint as the Project Director for the highly innovative Narangwal Project in India during the 1960s, Dr. Neumann first came to UCLA in 1968 as an assistant professor of Pediatrics. Since 1982, she has been Professor of Public Health and Pediatrics at UCLA. In recent years, most of Dr. Neumann's research has been focused on two major issues: (1) the effects of improving dietary intake on Kenyan children's cognitive development and (2) the problem of obesity in Los Angeles school children. Dr. Neumann's research on Kenyan children has made a very strong case for the importance of animal sources of food (e.g., meat, milk) for poor and malnourished rural Kenyan children. In Los Angeles, Dr. Neumann and LAUSD collaborators developed the Nutrition Friendly Schools and Communities model which has been tested in a number of schools. After retirement, Dr. Neumann will continue her active research career.

## Faculty Profile:

### Ondine von Ehrenstein, PhD, MPH, MS



*Two Children using a water pump, West Bengal, India*

Dr. Ondine von Ehrenstein became Assistant Professor within the Department of Community Health Sciences at the beginning of 2009. Her career has focused on environmental issues in child health, primarily in international settings. She is interested in applied interdisciplinary research, especially in environmental problems that disproportionately affect maternal and child health and well being in low income countries. This includes learning how to develop and implement effective interventions

that incorporate local conditions and behavior, appropriate technologies and capacity building, and true community participation to improve living conditions and reduce adverse environmental impacts on child and maternal health. Dr. von Ehrenstein believes that an epidemiological approach which integrates qualitative methods of needs assessment is critical in global health research.

Dr. von Ehrenstein's recent work at the National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development, a division of NIH, involved assessing environmental impacts on pregnancy outcomes and postnatal development. In an upcoming article (June issue of *Reproductive Toxicology*), she and colleagues from the EPA and CDC report on levels of manmade polyfluorinated compounds in the breast milk and serum of lactating women. The findings are based on results of a pilot study conducted as part of the US National Children's Study. She hopes to expand her work in breast milk contamination with projects in rural areas of Chile and Asia later this year. Dr. von Ehrenstein says measures of breast milk contaminants are good markers of infant exposure in many settings because it's relatively simple to get a clean sample under field conditions, and breast milk samples can provide information about a number of relevant substances.

She has also examined health effects of the widespread arsenic contamination in drinking well water in rural West Bengal, India. Findings included a six-fold increase in the risk of stillbirth among women who consumed arsenic-contaminated well water during pregnancy. She is now working on new drinking water related projects, including one looking at drinking water quality and indigenous children in rural Mexico. This fall, Dr. von Ehrenstein will co-teach the CHS course on Global Health. She is developing a new class on the interplay of environmental determinants and social/community factors in child health and development in a global perspective. This class will be offered next academic year.

## UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters

Since 1997, the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters (CPHD) has been working with health departments, universities, and other agencies to promote interdisciplinary efforts to reduce the health impacts of domestic and international disasters.

Emergency public health is a critical aspect of public health work, because disasters, both natural and man-made, result in major public health threats. These threats can be both direct (for example, injuries and exposure to toxins) and indirect (long-term mental and physical health impacts). Director Steven Rottman sees CPHD's work in training public health departments and other public agencies as a critical step in better integrating emergency planning with public health services.



*Steven J. Rottman, MD, FACEP, Director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters*

Dr. Rottman says that when CPHD first opened, many public health officials did not see emergency preparedness as part of their scope of work. But after the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>, things changed. Now many public health departments and other public agencies are ready and willing to implement disaster preparedness plans.

CPHD offers services to help these agencies create effective plans and practice using them. They provide needs assessment to evaluate the local conditions of a possible disaster, including hazards, vulnerabilities, infrastructure, communications, demographics, and existing systems and resources. This assessment is developed into a preparedness plan.

But simple planning is only the beginning of the process. CPHD performs extensive training in implementing emergency plans, and even stages disaster simulation exercises to allow agencies to practice their response and find weaknesses in their strategy. Dr. Rottman says that one of the keys to success in planning for disasters is for institutions to implement the plan in more minor emergency situations. This allows institutional memory and familiarity to develop, even as staff come and go and needs change.

A second area of focus for CPHD is the emergency public health curriculum offered within CHS. This is the nation's first and most extensive program in educating emergency public health professionals.

A key skill for the students of this program is to develop a broad understanding of how disasters affect public health in both the domestic and international settings. Classes focus on hazard assessment, communications, health education, assessment of disparities and vulnerable populations, infectious disease epidemiology, mental health, and many other aspects of public health.

Alumni who would like to get involved in emergency public health and the work of the Center can enroll in classes

via the UCLA Extension program. All the Center's courses are open to extension students. Past students have included people from the offices of the State Attorney, FEMA, and the Federal Reserve.

CPHD also hosts an annual conference in emergency public health research and practice. The conference, originally scheduled for May 3-6, has been postponed due to the H1N1 2009 outbreak. See the CPHD website for more details updates to the conference plans. (<http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/>)

CPHD receives funding from the CDC program Centers for Public Health Preparedness as well as other extramural sources.

## Snapshot: Assessing Walkability in Palms Neighborhood

On Saturday, April 4, graduate students from Students of Color for Public Health (SCPH) joined with community volunteers and the Palms Neighborhood Council to perform an assessment of the walkability of Palms neighborhood.

Palms is a popular neighborhood for UCLA graduate students. It features affordable housing including several buildings in the UCLA graduate housing network, and convenient access to UCLA campus via bus. This year, the Palms Neighborhood Council has made improved walkability one of its top priorities for action. Residents and the Council know that walkability in Palms is not perfect, but there are no evidence as to how "walkable" Palms really is. The goal of this walkability study was to find out exactly what and where the problems are, so that solutions can be developed and targeted.

"Walkability" is a simple idea—it's the answer to the question "how easy is it to walk in this area?" Aspects of walkability include safety from motor vehicles and crime, sidewalk conditions, availability of destinations, and the aesthetic qualities of the neighborhood like trees, art, trash, and graffiti.

Most Americans get far less than the recommended amount of physical activity for good health—3.7 million Californians get *no* physical activity at all in a typical week.<sup>1</sup> Low physical activity is related to overweight and obesity and linked to 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States.<sup>2</sup> Walkability is important for community health because walking is a good, affordable, and easy physical activity!

<sup>1</sup> UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, AskCHIS. <http://www.chis.ucla.edu/>

<sup>2</sup> Mokdad AH, Marks JS, Stroup DF, Gerberding JL. Actual Causes of Death in the United States, 2000. <http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/291/10/1238>



*SCPH & Palms Neighborhood Council Walkability Study volunteers*

What's more, walking reduces our reliance on automobiles. Twenty-eight percent of all car trips made in the US are less than one mile<sup>3</sup>—a distance that could easily be walked. If everyone walked for short trips, there would be far less traffic congestion, air pollution, and injury from motor vehicle accidents. However, in order for people to feel safe and comfortable engaging in this activity, the streets and sidewalks must support walking. There must be good sidewalks, safe intersections, and a safe and pleasant environment for pedestrians. The quality of sidewalks and crosswalks are also important for individuals using wheelchairs or strollers to ensure their safety in reaching their destinations.

Prior to the Palms Walkability Study, 18 study volunteers participated in a two-hour training session. During the training, the volunteers learned about the meaning of walkability and its effects on community health. Volunteers were also trained to complete the assessment.

After the training, volunteers went out into the streets of Palms to perform a block-by-block assessment of over 30 walkability-related items. The measured items included the width and condition of the sidewalk, availability of handicap ramps at corners, the amount of time allowed for pedestrians to cross busy intersections, the existence of street lighting and seating, and many others.

Volunteers worked in pairs, covering more than 60% of the streets and intersections of Palms in one day. In total, volunteers spent four hours performing the assessment and marking their observations on standardized forms.

<sup>3</sup> National Household Travel Survey, 2001. <http://nhts.ornl.gov/publications.shtml>



*CHS doctoral student Hsin-Chieh Chang and 2008 CHS Alum Rosa Calva, MPH, assessing Palms walkability*

The data collected during this assessment is being compiled into a "Pedestrian Environmental Quality Index," a measure developed by the San Francisco Department of Public Health in 2008.<sup>4</sup> To our knowledge, this is the first time it has been used anywhere in Los Angeles. This index is a walkability score and will be used to create a map of walkability in Palms using GIS technology. The resulting map will highlight the areas most in need of walkability improvements. The Palms Neighborhood Council plans to use the study findings and this map to set priorities on how the City should improve its services related to improved walkability.

A second data collection volunteer event will be held to complete the assessment of Palms. In the future, SCPH is looking for other neighborhoods to perform this kind of assessment. If you are interested in getting involved, please email [scph@ucla.edu](mailto:scph@ucla.edu). The walkability study was the kickoff event for this year's celebration of National Public Health Week at UCLA (see SCPH news, below), and it was funded by the Palms Neighborhood Council.

## Recent CHS Faculty News

**Dr. Linda Bourque** presented the findings of her recent study with Dennis Mileti on *Public Response to Terrorism in America* at the National Press Club. The event was covered by C-SPAN. To see the C-SPAN coverage go to: [www.c-span.org](http://www.c-span.org) and search under "Bourque". The slides for the presentation can be viewed at: <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/sciprc/pdf/National+Press+Conference+12+12+08.ppt>

For more information, visit <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/sciprc/>

**Dr. Gail Harrison** is a member of the standing Subcommittee G of the National Cancer Institute, which evaluates all grant applications related to cancer education and career development awards.

## CHS Masters of Public Health for Professional Program (MPH-HP)

The Department's Master of Public Health for Health Professionals (MPHHP) continues to be an excellent alternative for health professionals desiring a graduate degree in public health. The students in the CHS program work fulltime while earning their MPH degree in two years. The program will graduate its 150th student this June.

Dr. Michael Prelip was appointed Director of the program in fall 2008. During the last year the MPHHP Steering Committee (Drs. Bourque, Glik, Kar, Lee, Morisky, and Pebley) have been working closely with Dr. Prelip to review the current program and strategically plan for future cohorts of health professionals. The MPHHP program continues to be guided by senior faculty, accepts only the most qualified applicants and offers courses taught by qualified and experienced faculty. Additionally, we are exploring new efforts to recruit future students and recent efforts are paying off.

**We need your help** in two important ways. First, if you know working professionals or others who would benefit from an MPH degree but who would like to continue working through their degree program, please refer potentially interested colleagues to our website at <http://www.ph.ucla.edu/mphhp/>. Or contact Dr. Mike Prelip at [mprelip@ucla.edu](mailto:mprelip@ucla.edu) directly. Second, we need your ideas about better strategies to market the project. Please e-mail Dr. Prelip with all ideas and suggestions.

We also are exploring new teaching delivery methods to complement our current traditional face-to-face model. Our current program mirrors our traditional MPHHP core program and electives have focused on health promotion, health education, and health communication. We are assessing the possibilities of adding additional elective courses and perhaps focus areas such as public health nutrition, public health disasters and community program evaluation. We congratulate our graduates and welcome our incoming students.

## Student Awards and Honors

**Nicole Monastersky Maderas** (class of 2003) was awarded UCLA's SPH 2009 Young Alumnae Achievement award. Nicole's work and activities in the five years since she graduated from UCLA SPH demonstrate remarkable leadership, entrepreneurship, and community service. Since 2003, Nicole has been working for Pharmacy Access Partnership (PAP), a center of the nonprofit Pacific Institute for Women's Health. She initially became interested in working with PAP during a policy class project at UCLA seeking legislative change to expand access to reproductive health services and supplies.

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.sfphes.org/HIA\\_Tools\\_PEQI.htm](http://www.sfphes.org/HIA_Tools_PEQI.htm)

At PAP, Nicole has been at the forefront of providing educational opportunities to pharmacists about the clinical and psychosocial aspects of women's health and conducts research on consumers' and health care professionals' opinions about contraceptive access. Shortly after arriving at PAP, she developed a collaborative of partner organizations - regional and national - to seek changes in laws and regulations to improve access to birth control products. Nicole also conducts outreach to community-based organizations informing women and men that pharmacists are available to meet their reproductive health needs.

## Student Group News

**PHSA:** The 2008-2009 Academic Year has been an exciting one for the Public Health Student Association (PHSA). The newly redesigned website now serves as a main portal for both faculty and students, providing a one-click link to important resources such as research, career opportunities and global health awareness ([www.ph.ucla.edu/phsa/index.html](http://www.ph.ucla.edu/phsa/index.html)).

This year's President, David Liu, has worked to bridge the gap between graduate students and the Dean's office. The Dean has approved the purchase of new computers for the Biomed Study Room for Public Health students, the purchase of electronic bulletins to facilitate more effective information dissemination to students, a "Meet the Dean" activity that will allow students to voice their opinions directly to the Dean of SPH, the re-establishment of the SPH Alumni network and last, but definitely not least, a complete renovation of the PHSA Student Lounge.

PHSA will host the SPH End of the Year Banquet in May. PHSA hosts the banquet, during which the Professor and TA of the Year Awards are presented, and the Annual Student Essay Contest winner and the incoming PHSA Executive Board is announced.

**Mobile Clinic Project (MCP):** The UCLA Mobile Clinic Project (MCP) is embarking upon its 10th year of service to the homeless community of Los Angeles. The clinic is entirely student-run and works to provide health care, as well as social and legal services to our clients. It has expanded from its original site in West Hollywood (on the corner of Sycamore and Romaine) and now serves two other sites in Santa Monica: Step Up on Second, a mental health clinic, and Ocean Park Community Center (OPCC). Additionally, last year public health and medical student volunteers began the Reproductive Health Outreach Project (RHOP) at Common Ground, a community HIV center that holds weekly drop-in hours for homeless youth. Future expansion will be made possible by a generous grant from the Queens Care Foundation, which will allow MCP coordinators and volunteers to establish "Mobile Clinic 2.0," a comprehensive system of chronic care. Since we have recognized that we are the primary care provider for more than 40 percent of our

clients, everyone in MCP is working tirelessly to continue providing the best care possible to the homeless, in hopes of improving their quality of life and well being - with the overall goal of getting them off of the streets.

**RHIG:** The Reproductive Health Interest Group continues to be very active on campus and in the community. In November 2008, RHIG launched the Reproductive Health Outreach Project (RHOP). RHOP volunteers provide health education and other support services on Friday nights during the homeless young adult drop-in hours at Common Ground Community HIV Center. RHIG members also continue to assist the LA County STD Department to raise awareness about reproductive health problems in the adult film industry (AFI). In the fall, RHIG's AFI subcommittee analyzed proposed legislation to make condoms mandatory and made suggestions for how it could be improved.

RHIG has also coordinated a successful speaker series in the 2008-2009 school year. To celebrate International Women's Day, RHIG co-sponsored a major campus event on Global Reproductive Justice on March 2, 2009, with keynote speaker, Veena Siddharth, Vice President for International Programs, Planned Parenthood Federation of America. In the Spring, Partners in Health's 20th Anniversary photo exhibit, "On the Same Map" came to the UCLA campus, accompanied by several RHIG events. Founded by Dr. Paul Farmer, Partners in Health is improving the health of the world's poorest people, particularly those suffering from AIDS.

Finally, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SPH Talent Show benefit event was held on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The 2009 theme was "We can change..." Proceeds went to Panzi Hospital in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, serving victims of sexual violence.

**SCPH:** Students of Color for Public Health has had an exciting and eventful academic year. The continuing monthly speaker series has featured lunchtime lectures on many Public Health topics, including a live interactive webcast of the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Minority Public Health Conference keynote speaker, Dr. Barbara C. Wallace.

The SCPH National Public Health Week 2009 organizing committee, led by doctoral student Mona AuYoung, MPH, hosted the 2nd annual National Public Health Week at UCLA. This year's theme was "Building a Foundation for a Healthy America". Key events from Public Health Week 2009 included three lunchtime guest speakers: faculty members Dr. Marjorie Kagawa-Singer who discussed current health disparities; Dr. E. Richard Brown who discussed implications of President Obama's health care reform efforts in the economic crisis; and Dr. Dick Jackson who discussed public health careers in government and the importance of urban planning for healthy, livable communities.

Other events included a Day of Service walkability assessment of Palms; a silent auction benefiting UCLA's

UniCamp; a student research poster session featuring best poster by doctoral student Mekeila Cook, MA; a research information booth with UCLA librarians; resume critiques by the SPH Career Center; and a screening and discussion of portions of the documentary film series *Unnatural Causes*. This year's events were funded by the UCLA School of Public Health (in particular the Dean of Student Affairs) and the UCLA Center for Student Programming.

## Alumni: Where are they now?

**Felice Gardner** (class of 2007), worked from 12/2007-12/2008 with the Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) as the DCYF Youth Team Coordinator. YLI is a non-profit located in San Francisco that focuses on youth development by exposing young people to civic engagement and prevention programs. Currently, Gardner is working with LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESEC) as the Department of Justice Mentoring Program Recruitment Coordinator.

**Rachel Gonzales** (class of 2007) is currently the Assistant Research Psychologist/Professor in Residence position at UCLA Integrated Substance Abuse Program. She also recently became a visiting faculty member at Occidental College Urban and Policy Institute. Gonzales was awarded a 1-year editorial fellowship with the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment.

For the past five years, **Lisa Kramer** (class of 2002) has managed the Avian and Pandemic Influenza program for USAID in Indonesia. During her tenure at USAID, Kramer worked with the Government of Indonesia and other partners to establish and scale-up integrated animal and human health surveillance and response teams for the control of avian influenza. Kramer and her family will be moving to Accra, Ghana in the spring, where she will serve as USAID's Advisor/Program Manager of the President's Malaria Initiative.

**Kristen Shellenberg** (class of 2005) is currently at Johns Hopkins working on her doctorate and is hoping to defend in the fall. She is living in NYC while she finishes up her second year of the Hopkins-Guttmacher Doctoral Fellowship. In conjunction with the Alan Guttmacher Institute she is conducting her dissertation research on the stigma of abortion in the US. Shellenberg also presented her research at PAA this year on exploring the perceptions and experiences of stigma among abortion patients in the United States.

**Ariel Shumaker** (class of 2008) is currently a clinical social worker at Family Service of Santa Monica with the primary position as coordinator of the CalSAFE Teen Parenting Program at Santa Monica High School (a comprehensive school on-site program that offers free child care, developmental assessment, individual and group therapy for the parents as well as case management, and parenting classes, with the goals of gradua-

tion, appropriate childhood development, and preventing repeat pregnancy). Shumaker is planning a research collaborative involving the program in the near future. She also works as an on-call clinical social worker on the weekends at the UCLA Santa Monica Medical Center.

**Aphrodyi Walker** (class of 2008) works as a Health Educator at the Riverside County Department of Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Branch. In this position, she teaches all of the Standardized Emergency Management courses for new employees and co-teaches the Combined Course in emergency preparedness (Incident Command Systems 100 and 200, Standardized Emergency Management System, and the National Incident Management System), chairs the Deaf Community Working Group, a network of organizations focused on emergency preparedness in the Deaf Community, serves as the recruitment coordinator for the Point of Dispensing Exercise that will take place on March 31, 2009, and acts as the volunteer liaison for their first responder site call down evaluations. Walker is also starting a new function in which she will assist in coordinating activities around the Urban Area Security Initiative. In addition, she is finishing up on her Masters in Public Administration.

## Announcements

CHS doctoral student **Myralyn "Mimi" Nartey** and husband Kofi Nartey welcomed a healthy baby girl into their lives. Liya Simone was born on February 12, 2009.

We want to hear about how you are doing, where you are working, and "life cycle events" like job changes, promotions, retirements, marriages, and new babies. Please send us a sentence or two (or more if you like). Digital photos are welcome too. We'll publish them in the next issue of the CHS Alumni Newsletter. Send them to [chsalumni@ph.ucla.edu](mailto:chsalumni@ph.ucla.edu).