Be Hopeful, Be Optimistic, & Make Some Noise

As we begin a new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new students, our returning students, our staff and our faculty. And to our alumni, I would like to underscore how very proud we all are of the contributions that you make, working every day on the frontlines to improve health in this pandemic. I am very glad that each one of you is a vital part of the SBS community.

Here at the Chan School, we are navigating new terrain as we continue to work remotely. I am grateful for the flexibility, dedication and resilience that everyone has demonstrated that has ensured that the SBS Department continues to function well in this virtual era. And I am inspired by the work that so many of you are doing to make a difference as we confront the pandemics of COVID-19, racial injustice and economic distress. The news of each new day reminds us of the vital importance of the work that we do.

Please accept my warm wishes for a transformative year even as we navigate all of the new Covid-19 norms. Stay safe, keep healthy and ever remember the words of the late Civil Rights icon, John Lewis, “Be hopeful, be optimistic… Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble”.

David R. Williams

Student Spotlight

Madison Esposito, MPH-HSB ’21, is a citizen of the Tyme Maidu Tribal Nation in California, and her passion lies in understanding how she can support, empower, and improve health and wellness in Native communities. Madison was awarded a Rose Learning Service Fellowship to fund her summer practicum, "California Indigenous History and Wellness Project."

“Taylor Pennewell, my cousin, and I both grew up in California seeing the impact of Indigenous erasure on the health and wellness of our community. This erasure takes many forms, including the 54% of state curricula which omit Native histories, culture, knowledge, and existence from K-12 curriculum. These experiences of erasure, especially at such a young age, threaten the emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health of Native peoples and have been shown to lead to adverse health outcomes in adults.

Together we decided to create our own curriculum to be distributed throughout our Tribal Nation which would teach high school students about the history and science that contributes to..."
the public health infrastructure of our community. We presented the idea to our Tribal council and received so much support that we decided to form a non-profit, Redbud Resource Group, to ensure our work is supported and has access to additional funding.”

Read more about Madison's practicum experience.

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Alumni Corner

**Sujata Bose, SM** graduated from SBS (at the time the Department of Health and Social Behavior) in 1995.

"It's been a curious road since I left HSPH, with the first few years seeing me fumbling around trying to find my footing, wondering if I should have stayed at HSPH for the doctoral degree I was accepted into. Well I'm happy to report that all has turned out well. I have carved out a niche for myself in monitoring and evaluation of international health programs. I now work at FHI 360 as the Director of Monitoring, Learning, and Evaluation for a Gates-funded international nutrition activity.

I know many public health students grapple with the decision to get a doctorate vs. sticking with “just” a masters. I think it really depends what drives you. I see the Ph.D’s often as the folks who spend time stuck in the nitty gritty details of knowledge generation. In my case -years of working on program monitoring and on research teams (not as PI) has given me the experience (and credibility!) needed to guide overall research agendas and provide feedback on research and monitoring activities. These days, I get to do a lot more work at the "bird's eye" level. I love my work, which remains endlessly fascinating and complex."

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Career Updates

**Jarvis Chen** has been recently promoted as Lecturer on Behavioral and Social Sciences.

**Eric Kim** has joined the University of British Columbia as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. He will continue his research on how a sense of purpose in life is associated with health outcomes and on evaluating the underlying biobehavioral mechanisms. Dr. Kim will also continue his work with the Lee Kum Sheung Center for Health and Happiness as an Affiliate Scientist.

**Lindsay Rosenfeld** recently began a new position as the Patient Experience Evaluation Consultant for a new initiative of the Undiagnosed Diseases Network [UDN] Coordinating Center based at Harvard Medical School. In this role, she will guide an evaluation process that examines the UDN's work from the patient perspective. The UDN is a research study funded by the National Institutes of Health Common Fund.

**Christian Testa** started as a Statistical Analyst with the Public Health Disparities Geocoding Project in April. His work focuses on using mathematical and statistical models to understand the
distribution of health inequities and its causation through socioeconomic conditions, biological pathways, and environmental exposures.

Christian's research interests include mathematical modeling in public health contexts, data visualization, high performance computing, and statistics.

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**Awards and Honors**

**Nancy Krieger** has recently had her American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professorship renewed for 2020-2025.

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**Presentations**


**Smith, CL.** "From Building Health Where the Peace is New to the Twin Pandemics of COVID-19 and Exposed Structural Racist Violence." Doctors for Global Health: Liberation Medicine, Twenty-Five Years of Action, Reflection and Living Theory: Online, August 1, 2020.


Events and Seminars

WGH – TBD Event
Week of Sep 14, Via Zoom
Email WGH for more information

Implementation Science Working Group – September Meeting
Tue, Sep 15, 4-5pm ET, Via Zoom
Positive Health Interest Group – September Meeting  
*Thur, Sep 17, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

Massachusetts Public Health Association Virtual Breakfast  
*Cosponsored by Harvard Catalyst Community Engagement*  
*Fri, Sep 18, 9-10am ET, Online*  
Register

Reflections on Outbreaks & Public Health Leadership  
Speaker: Mary Travis Bennett  
*Mon, Sep 21, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

Happiness Center Seminar Series – Social inequalities in physical and psychological health: An update on current knowledge  
Speaker: Mika Kivimäki  
*Wed, Sep 23, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

Center for Health and Happiness – Fall Social  
*Wed, Sep 30, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

Ethnicity, Racism, and Inequalities in Covid-19 Related Outcomes in the UK  
Speaker: James Nazroo  
*Mon, Oct 5, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

WGH Working Group – October Meeting  
*Wed, Oct 7, 1-2pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

WGH – TBD Event  
*Week of Oct 14, Via Zoom*  
Email WGH for more information

Positive Health Interest Group – October Meeting  
*Thur, Oct 15, 1-1:50pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

Implementation Science Working Group – October Monthly Meeting  
*Tue, Oct 20, 4-5pm ET, Via Zoom*  
Email community@catalyst.harvard.edu for Zoom details

Beyond Longevity Symposium – A Positive Health Perspective on Aging: Social Assets  
*Wed, Oct 21, 2-3:30pm ET, Via Zoom*  
RSVP

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