

Commencement
Exercises—June 4, 1998



Around the School

News & Notices of the Harvard School of Public Health

June 3, 1998



Class of 1998

Congratulations Graduates!

The class of 1998 has earned 357 degrees, including 122 master of science, 175 master of public health, 1 master of occupational health, and 59 doctoral degrees. Fifty-eight percent of the graduating class is female; the average age is 33; and nearly a third of the graduates completed their degrees as part-time students.



Associate Dean Gareth Green in action, addressing Summer Session students a few years ago.

Associate Dean Gareth Green to Retire in July

Gareth Green, associate dean for professional education and professor of environmental health, will retire on July 1, capping off a successful career and an innovative and energetic nine years at HSPH.

Green wears three hats at the school: he directs the Master of Public Health Program, leads the Office for Professional Education, and is a professor with ongoing research interests in the field of environmental health.

The Master of Public Health (MPH) program was reorganized the year Green came to the school, the new program requiring students to choose a career-oriented concentration. Asked in 1990 about hopes for the renovated program, he said, "We're trying to prepare students to be competent in a specific area of public health while understanding the principles common to all public

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Above:
Jonathan Sorci
and Leslie Hsu.

**Below, clock-
wise from upper
left: Robert
Blendon and
Michael Reich,
recipients of
Faculty Teaching
Citations; T.
Hatch Whitfield,
chosen for the
Teaching Assis-
tant Award; and
Jane Gardner,
recipient of the
Roger L. Nichols
Excellence in
Teaching Award.**

Awards, Prizes, and Honors

At the May 29 Awards Dinner, faculty and students were recognized for academic and public service accomplishments:

Albert Schweitzer Awards were given to Leslie Hsu, master's degree student in the Department of Health and Social Behavior, and Jonathan Sorci, doctoral student in the Department of Environmental Health. These awards are given to one or two students whose work and activities during their academic program have been marked by a "reverance for life." Sorci has been involved in numerous projects, including a survey of prisoner health in Bolivia and, closer to home, a music program as an alternative to violence at the COMPASS school in Jamaica Plain.

Hsu was chosen to receive her Schweitzer award because of her work coordinating and implementing the HepB Initiative, an effort that brought together students and resources from a number of graduate schools to work with Boston's Chinatown community in offering hepatitis B screening tests and vaccinations.

Leslie Hsu's work with the HepB Initiative also earned her the

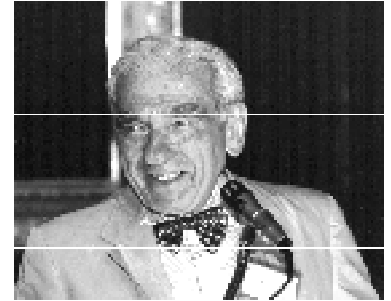
Dr. Fang-Ching Sun Memorial Award. This award is given to an outstanding graduating student who has expressed an interest in promoting the health and well-being of underprivileged people.

The **Uwe Brinkmann Memorial Travel Fellowship** was given to Bryan Spencer, doctoral student in the Department of Immunology and Infectious Diseases. This award is given to a student whose work combines international health epidemiology and infectious disease research. Spencer will use the \$2,500 fellowship to conduct a malaria study in Mexico.

The **François-Xavier Bagnoud Health and Human Rights Essay Award**, which recognizes the best student essay in health and human rights, was given to Carolynne Shinn, master's student in the Department of Health and Social Behavior, for her essay "*The Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health: Public Health's Opportunity to Reframe a Human Rights Debate in the US.*"

The **Robert B. Reed Prize in Biostatistical Science** was given to Jonathan French and Aaron Foster, both doctoral student in the Department of Biostatistics. Students who receive this award have distinguished themselves in their studies, and the award is a testament of the high regard in which the faculty holds the recipients.

The **Samperil Health Law Essay Award** went to R. Jeffrey Layne, a student in the master of public health program, for his paper "*Billing Fraud and the False Claims Act: An Examination of the Use of the Civil and Criminal Statutes in the Battle Against Health Care Fraud.*" This award is presented to a graduating student in the Program in Law



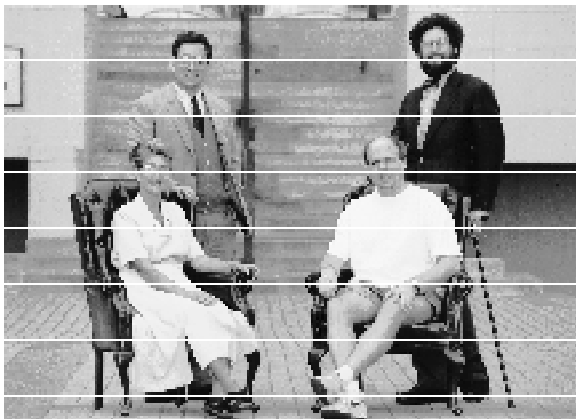
Melvin First, professor of environmental health engineering, emeritus, was awarded the Distinguished Professor Emeritus Award.

and Public Health with the best research paper in health law.

The **Student Recognition Award** was given to Proochista Ariana, master's student in the Department of Population and International Health. This award is the highest honor that the student body bestows on a fellow student. It is given to a student who demonstrates commitment to excellence and leadership through student and/or community service-oriented action. Proochista worked extensively with the Minority Student Health Organization, coordinating a field trip to Egypt last year and organizing the weekly Global Chat functions throughout the year.

The **Charles F. Wilinsky Award** was given to Tanya Kachen, master's student in the Department of Health Policy and Management. This award is given to a student who demonstrates exceptional aptitude and achievement.

The **Edgar Haber Award in Biological Sciences** was given to Chung-Ming Hsieh, doctoral student in the Division of Biological Sciences. This award honors the memory and achievements of Haber, former director of the Division of Biological Sciences at the school. This award,



given this year for the first time, will be given each year to a graduating doctoral student in recognition of original work that contributes to the understanding of biological problems of importance to public health.

Teaching Awards

In May of each year, the HSPH student body chooses the best of the best, selecting one faculty member for a Roger L. Nichols Excellence in Teaching Award, one student for a Teaching Assistant Award, and three additional faculty members for Teaching Citations. The winners have demonstrated a mastery of their subject matter, skill in the classroom, and a commitment to their students. The winners are:

Roger L. Nichols Excellence in Teaching Award: Jane Gardner, Senior Lecturer on Maternal and Child Health

Teaching Assistant Award: T. Hatch Whitfield, doctoral student, Department of Biostatistics

Teaching Citations: Robert Blendon, Professor of Health Policy and Management; David Hemenway, Professor of Health Policy; and Michael Reich, Taro Takemi Professor of International Health Policy.

Gareth Green, cont'd.

health fields. We want to strike a balance between the generalist and the specialist.”

Provost Harvey Fineberg, former Dean of the Faculty of Public Health, attests to the success of this approach: “Gareth Green has mas-

terfully led the MPH program during a critical period in its development. He invigorated and transformed the academic content of the program, while enabling its enrollments to grow by 20 percent.”

Green’s interests in professional education have been influential both at the school, through his coordination of progressive educational opportunities for HSPH faculty, and worldwide, through the school’s continuing professional education endeavors.

“He led us from our existence as an ‘office’ to our current status as the Center for Continuing Professional Education,” said David Shore, assistant dean for continuing professional education. “Gareth has always looked beyond today’s boundaries to see what new and exciting things can be done with education.” He has been a leader in the school’s initiatives in distance learning and, more recently, was pioneering the school’s efforts to incorporate World Wide Web-based technology into the curriculum.

In addition to his leadership role on the administrative side of the school, Green has also enjoyed a distinguished academic and research life while at HSPH. He co-taught introductory courses in environmental health, and his research has focused on the evaluation of risk to human health of inhaled toxic substances.

His intellectual prowess was recognized beyond the halls of HSPH. In 1994, he chaired the National Institutes of Health Technology Assessment Panel on the Persian Gulf Experience and Health. In 1995, he was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for “landmark environmental health research on lung

defense mechanisms, for distinguished leadership in health professions education, and for wise counsel on national health science policy.”

Green’s arrival at HSPH in 1990 was, in one sense, a homecoming for him. The son of a Harvard Medical School faculty member, Green was born and raised in Brookline. He attended the nearby Boston Latin School before crossing the Charles River to earn a bachelor’s degree at Harvard in 1953. He then returned to the Longwood Campus to attend HMS, where he earned his MD in 1957.

After completing his education, Green held faculty positions at the University of Vermont College of Medicine and at Johns Hopkins School of Hygiene and Public Health, where he chaired the Department of Environmental Health Sciences from 1976 to 1990.

Green will be missed by many at the school. “We will miss his gentle humor, unflinching kindness, and remarkable integrity,” said Laurel Landers, program coordinator in the Office for Professional Education.

“He is a class act,” said Shore. “He has always balanced the human with the professional—in many ways, he embodies the values of public health.”

“He is an outstanding scientist and visionary with a longstanding commitment to education in the fields of public health,” said Acting Dean James Ware. “He has provided exceptional leadership to continuing professional education, the MPH program, and innumerable other enterprises at the school. I’m sure the school community will miss Gareth’s inspirational presence and join me in offering him our best wishes for his retirement.”



Above: David Hemenway received his eight teaching citation this year!

Below: Award winners Carolynne Shinn, Proochista Ariana, and Chung-Ming Hsieh.



Orientation sessions for recently hired staff will be held in June from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. in MEC-L008, 260 Longwood Avenue, HMS. A program for exempt staff will be held on June 16, and non-exempt staff may attend a session on June 30. The programs include an overview of Harvard's organizational structure and mission, benefits, retirement plans, facilities, programs, and services. Benefits Office consultants will be on hand to answer questions.

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Calendar

Submit calendar listings for events occurring July 13-July 20 to Ethan Cohen, Kresge 1005, by noon on July 6. Listings may be transmitted via Email (ecohen@sph.harvard.edu).



Around the School will not be published during the remainder of June. The next issue will be available on July 10.

Advisors to foreign students and scholars from the Harvard International Office will hold office hours at HSPH on June 11, 18, and 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Kresge G-10. Drop by or call 432-0488 to schedule an appointment. Please remember to bring your passport and other visa documents.

Sunday, June 7

"AIDS Walk Boston"

Sponsors: AIDS Action Committee, Harvard AIDS Institute Hatch Shell, Charles River Esplanade, sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m., the walk commences at 10:00. (The HSPH team will have a designated gathering place. Volunteers at sign-in will be able to direct walkers to the HSPH team's site.)

Monday, June 8

"Quantitative Sciences for Community-Based Research"

Speakers: Moderator: Louise Ryan, professor, Department of Biostatistics. Panelists: Traci Clemons, postdoctoral fellow, Department of Biostatistics; James Hoyte, assistant to the president and associate vice president, HU; Camara Jones, assistant professor, Departments of Epidemiology and Health and Social Behavior; Bruce Kennedy, instructor, Department of Health Policy and Management; Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Associate Dean for Faculty Development, and director and professor, Division of Public Health Practice; Charles Willie, professor, HGSE

Sponsors: Departments of Biostatistics and Health and Social Behavior Kresge 502, 8:30 a.m.-4:45 p.m. (Preregistration is required. To do so, contact Sharmon Davis by telephone at 617-432-3055 or via Email at sdavis@sph.harvard.edu.)



Around the School can be found on the World Wide Web at <http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/ats/>.

"Past and Present Socioeconomic Position and Risk Factors for Cardiovascular Disease in Adulthood"

Speaker: Eric Brunner, Department of Epidemiology, University College, London
Sponsor: Department of Health and Social Behavior
FXB G-10, 12:00-1:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 16

"How to Set Limits"

Speaker: Elizabeth Vinton, pediatrician, Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates
Sponsor: Harvard Medical Center Office of Work and Family
Tosteson MEC, Room 250, HMS, 12:00-1:15 p.m.

Exams and Defenses

S. Bryn Austin will take her oral examination for a doctoral degree in the Department of Health and Social Behavior on June 15 at 1:00 p.m. in Kresge 315. Major field: health and social behavior; minor fields: health communications and education and psychiatric epidemiology. Steve Gortmaker will chair the examination committee.

Richard Bell, doctoral student in the Department of Health and Social Behavior, will present his thesis, "The Impact of Foods Eaten Repeatedly on Disease, Activity in Rheumatoid Arthritis, and Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Patients," on July 9 at 9:30 a.m. in FXB G-12.

Summer Courtyard Construction

This year's HSPH graduates will be the last to tread on the bricks of the courtyard on Kresge's west side. Beginning next week, these bricks will be removed and replaced in a summer-long construction project. According to Kevin Connors, project manager engineer with Harvard Medical School's Department of Engineering and Construction, the bricks are being replaced for two reasons. First, the layer of waterproofing that lies underneath the bricks needs to be replaced to protect the rare book collection of the Countway Library of Medicine, which is housed underneath the courtyard. Second, all of the bricks are old and many are damaged.

The work begins on the north side of the courtyard and will progress in sections toward the south. Pedestrian access across the plaza will be maintained throughout the project, although the tables and chairs usually placed in the courtyard will be absent this year. The noise of the construction is not expected to create a disturbance.

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