



Department of Graduate Public Health



ANNUAL REPORT 2018-2019

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COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Department of Graduate Public Health

September 16, 2019

Dear Dean Ruby Perry and Colleagues,

As the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) ends its second full year, it is my pleasure to share with you an overview of some of the major accomplishments and activities reached during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Admissions for the 2018-2019 academic year saw a three-fold increase in applications and admissions of students to the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP). The GPHP also cleared another hurdle in the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) accreditation process by completing the consultation visit which was supported by faculty, student, and staff participation as evidenced in the agenda attached hereto.¹ The consultation was a day long process that reviewed the progress towards accreditation and highlighted critical areas in the self study process.² This achievement was reached by the collaborative efforts of faculty and staff in the department to continuously revise and realign the GPHP curriculum³ to meet the new 2016 CEPH public health competencies⁴.

In conjunction with the work to complete the tasks described above, we also continued to serve the University community and the local area communities by: 1) serving on committees; 2) delivering presentations at local, national and international venues; 3) publishing articles in peer reviewed journals; and 4) providing service learning activities with community partners.

During the 2018-2019 academic year the DGPH put on several successful events for the purpose of community engagement, student enrichment, advocacy, and health promotion. The Rural Health Lecture Series added the Dr. Kenneth Olden Lecture to its offerings and the first lecture was delivered during the One Health Symposium by Dr. Kenneth Olden in September 2018. The second Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture was given by Dr. Julianne Adams Birt in October 2018. The third annual pinning ceremony was held in January 2019 with a student challenge delivered by Dr. Cheryl Davis, former Executive Director of Gift of Life Montgomery, AL. Faculty members also

¹ Appendix A: CEPH Consultation Agenda

² Appendix B: CEPH Self-study at-a-glance

³ Appendix C: MPH Curriculum

⁴ Appendix D: Curriculum Mapped to Competencies

delivered workshops regionally and internationally, gave poster and keynote presentations at local, national and international conferences and participated in invited lecturer opportunities on campus as well.

Several community partnerships were established to include pipeline development relationships with undergraduate programs in public health.⁵ These programs were designed to enrich our research and service-learning opportunities as well as to continue to recruit quality students into the GPH. The department also piloted the first PhD, MPH student curriculum which has led to a formalized program with the Integrative Biosciences Program and laid the ground work for a similar collaboration with the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Program.

Included in this annual report is a list of community partners and engagement opportunities that were enhanced and initiated. Lastly during the 2018-2019 academic year the DGPH engaged in the recruitment process for new faculty and administrative support which concluded in an offer to a new hire who is scheduled to begin their role as a tenure track Assistant Professor on January 6, 2020. The posting of a job announcement for the Assistant Director of Analytics and Career Placement has been approved for dissemination.

Thank you for your support and attention to the newest department in the College of Veterinary Medicine. We welcome any suggestions you may have that will enhance the opportunities for the DGPH to further its growth, as we seek to innovate and maintain a professional environment.

Best,



Crystal M. James, JD, MPH
Head, Department Graduate Public Health
Director, Graduate Public Health Program
Associate Professor of Graduate Public Health

⁵ Appendix E: Draft Memorandum of Understanding with Dillard University

DGPH VISION & MISSION

The vision of the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP), College of Veterinary Medicine and Tuskegee University, is to become a comprehensive graduate public health program, preparing public health professionals to prevent illness and injury while improving the health of communities both rural and urban from neighborhoods and villages to cities and even countries.



The mission of the Tuskegee graduate program in public health is to prepare public health professionals to draw on knowledge and skills from a number of disciplines to define, assess critically, resolve public health problems and promote populations health. The program of study develops core competencies in multiple areas, including the quantitative sciences, health services administration, biological, social, behavioral and environmental sciences, ethics, health policy and law.

As Dr. Frederick Patterson third President (1935-1955) of Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), Founder of the United Negro College Fund (1944), recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom (1987) from President Ronald Reagan and the founder of Tuskegee University College of Veterinary Medicine (TUCVM) stated:

“Change agents are critical links to enable a community to grow, be healthy and make a positive contribution to America. Their road is often rocky, but they are sustained by their training and commitment to make the world a better place in which to live.” (Source: Speech, 1944 New York)

L-RISE GOALS

Our program goals are focused on leadership, research, innovative teaching, service learning and ethics (L-RISE) which reflect the belief of Dr. Patterson. Methods for collection and review of the data for continuous quality improvement of these goals and the program have been developed and implemented. The program's L-RISE goals with defined evaluated measures are listed below.

Goal #1: Excellence in Leadership - Train, educate and equip public health graduates for leadership roles through effective management, policy analysis, health planning and competence in community education and engagement.

Goal #2: Excellence in Research - Utilizing collaborative partnerships to foster Community Based Participatory Research (CBPR) strategies for improving community/population health and well-being.

Goal #3: Excellence in Innovative Teaching - Nurture critical thinking and innovative teaching strategies to excel on the highest academic platforms.

Goal #4: Excellence in Service Learning - Establish strong community partnerships for an effective/efficient delivery of a timely evidenced based service learning, with respect, integrity and inclusion of community stake holders.

Goal #5: Excellence in Public Health Ethics - Train and prepare public health graduates in the essential aspects of public health ethics, for the workforce and for community advancement.



Community Engagement, Service and Advocacy



DGPH PROGRAMS & INTERVENTIONS

Pinning Ceremony

The annual pinning ceremony is held at the beginning of each Spring semester. Students who have successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and received the recommendation from their academic advisor will receive the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) pin. This prestigious pin signifies their readiness to complete the final stages of their professional training, with the competencies and skills necessary for the public health work force. This pin was designed by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ruby Perry and Program Director Attorney Crystal M. James. Also, during this ceremony the students who have successfully completed at least one academic semester of course work and identified their area of focus for experiential learning and community engagement receives the GPHP blazer which signifies that they are prepared to engage in practical experience in the field of public health and represent the mission of the GPHP.

Challenge Speaker: Dr. Cheryl Davis
Former Executive Director, Gift of Life Montgomery, AL





Rural Health Lecture Series

To inform the translation of core research and laboratory findings, a newly established Rural Public Health Lecture Series has been initiated to raise awareness of public health issues in rural America. This Lecture series will also support academic advancement of the faculty relative to emerging issues in public health practice.

Dr. Isabella Finkelstein Lecture



The Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture is intended to motivate students to use their time, talents, and resources to ensure that the most vulnerable and underserved populations have access to culturally competent health messages and the innovative scientific discoveries necessary to improve their health status.

During the reporting period the second annual Dr. Isabella Finkelstein lecture was delivered by Dr. Julianne Adams Birt a board-certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist (OB/GYN) focused on women's health and cervical cancer.



Dr. Julianne Adams Birt is a leading voice for women's health. She has practiced as an ob/gyn for over 10 years and is the CEO and founder of Radiant Women's Health since 2011. Dr. Birt moved south from Harrisburg, PA to matriculate at Clark Atlanta University where she obtained her Bachelor of Science in Biology, Pre-Med after three years of study. A graduate of Morehouse School of Medicine where

physicians are trained to serve the underserved, Dr. Birt reaches women of all backgrounds in her professional and civic work.

Dr. Birt is an outstanding, personable, board-certified physician who has grown her practice exponentially serving women from all metro Atlanta counties. Aside from her practice, she has ventured into other arenas of entrepreneurship. Because of her experience as a former Atlanta Public

Schools high school science and health teacher, she founded Dr. Ju Delivers where she continues to educate and speak to women to enhance health literacy. Most notably,

Dr. Birt has become an advisor for national pharmaceutical companies and is a sought-after leader in women's health speaking to lay women locally but also at national conferences to other health care professionals. An enthusiastic proponent of advancing women's sexual health, she stays on the pulse of new advances to enhance her patients' overall vitality and wellness.

In her leadership roles, she has previously served as Chief of the Obstetrics & Gynecology Departments at DeKalb Medical-Hillandale and Rockdale Medical Centers. Since 2013, she is the medical director at the Refuge Pregnancy Center in Conyers, GA. As part of the Atlanta Medical Association, Dr. Birt has been an active Board member, most recently installed as the 2017 President and an Executive Board member of the Heritage Fund, a foundation that helps deserving minority students fund their medical

school education. Recognized by the Atlanta Medical Association for her contributions in 2015, she was named Young Physician of the Year and received an honorable President's Citation Award for her community service involvement. She is a member of the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Georgia State Medical Association and the National Medical Association.

Dr. Kenneth Olden Lecture

The first annual Kenneth Olden Lecture as a part of the Rural Health Lecture Series established by the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH) in the College of Veterinary Medicine was delivered during the reporting period. This lecture will be held annually by the DGPH and will highlight a scholar and/or advocate in Environmental Health Sciences that has or is currently conducting research and/or advocating for advances that will help to decrease health disparities in rural and other marginalized communities. This lecture series will provide a platform for national, regional, and local trailblazers in the field of Environmental Health to share and display new findings, advocacy, and leadership in the aspect of the One Health Triad that has implications for both human and animal health outcomes. We welcomed, Dr. Kenneth Olden, who delivered the first lecture in the series and agreed to continue to work with the DGPH to identify and secure future trail blazers for the lectures to come.



Dr. Kenneth Olden recently retired from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency where he served as Director of the National Center for Environmental Assessment from 2012-2016. He leaves a strong legacy of promoting excellence in environmental health research and chemical risk assessment. Ken started his distinguished career in medical research as a postdoctoral fellow from 1970-1974 in physiology and biochemistry at the Harvard School of Medicine in Boston, MA. He then moved to the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health as a Senior Staff Fellow in the Laboratory of Molecular Biology. In 1977, Ken was promoted to the Rank of Tenured Independent Investigator; becoming the first African American to achieve such a rank in the National Institutes of Health. In 1979, Dr. Olden was appointed Professor in the Department of Oncology and Scientific Director of the Howard University Cancer Center at the Howard University Hospital in Washington, DC. Six years later (1985), he was promoted to the position of Director of the Cancer Center and Chair of the Department of Oncology.

From 1991-2005, Ken served as Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), in the National Institute of Health (NIH), and the National Toxicology Program (NTP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He made history in this role as the first African American to direct one of the Institutes in the National

Institutes of Health. In 2005, Ken resigned as Director of NIEHS and NTP to spend more time directing the institute's research program in cancer metastasis in the Molecular Carcinogenesis Laboratory. Ken took a leave of absence from the NIH to spend the 2006-2007 academic year at the Harvard School of Public Health as the Yerby Visiting Professor. From 2008-2012, Ken served as Founding Dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York (CUNY). In this capacity, he integrated four existing programs in the CUNY system to create a system-wide School of Public Health, recruited new faculty and staff, got the school a five year accreditation, and transitioned the school to a new campus in East Harlem.

Ken has published extensively (220 papers) in peer-reviewed literature, chaired or co-chaired numerous national and international meetings, and has been an invited speaker at more than 250 symposia. Ken has been the recipient of a long list of honors and awards including the Presidential (William J. Clinton) Distinguished Executive Rank Award; the Presidential (William J. Clinton) Meritorious Rank Award; the Toxicology Forum Distinguished Fellow Award; the HHS Secretary's Distinguished Service Award; the American College of Toxicology Distinguished Service Award, and the National Minority Health Leadership award. He is also the recipient of the three most distinguished awards in public health: the Calvert award (2002); the Sedgwick Medal (2004), and the Julius B. Richmond Award (2005). In 2012, he received the Cato T. Laurencin Lifetime Research Award from the National Medical Association. In 2015, Dr. Olden was awarded the Sackler Prize by Research America in recognition for sustained leadership in prompting Community-Based Participatory Research.

Consistent with the above record of accomplishment, Ken was elected to membership in the National Academy of Medicine of the US National Academy of Sciences in 1994.

Primary Prevention & Data Collection

Dr. Ehsan Abdalla, with support from the Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH) has developed a cervical cancer workshop that is being implemented in the black belt counties of Alabama. Kellon Banks, a 2nd Year MPH student, is supporting the workshops as a part of her practicum experience. DGPH faculty, faculty from other Colleges in the University as well as invited guest speakers all provide demographic data and background for the workshop participants who are encouraged to get the vaccine to decrease the incidence of death associated with Cervical Cancer. Alabama is #1 in cervical cancer mortalities in the United States. These workshops also incorporate undergraduate students interested in cancer research.

- On September 20, 2018: 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Conference among Women Living in Macon County of Alabama. The workshop was sponsored and hosted by The Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH).
- On August 26, 2019: Chair of the 2nd Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Conference among Women Living in Bullock County of Alabama. The workshop was sponsored and hosted by The Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH).
- Chair of the 2nd Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Conference among Women Living in Lowndes County of Alabama that will be held on September 24, 2019. The workshop was sponsored and hosted by The Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH).





Advocacy

Service Learning and Policy Advocacy

The DGPH requires that all students to complete a practicum that originates from a current community need as articulated by the community. During this reporting period student completed practicum experiences with community-based organizations, the extension program and other community partnerships. Students were also able to participate in advocacy at 2019 Alabama Day at the state capital.





Thesis Translated to Intervention Strategies

The GPHP requires students selecting the thesis option to not only thoroughly investigate and defend a novel research question but also translate and deliver findings in a community setting wherein the learnings are immediately available to the communities that may benefit from the research findings. Students presented at the War on Murder Begins (WOMB) Conference, 14th Annual University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) Health Disparities Research Symposium, Cancer Research Symposium, 2019 and Second Conference on Bioethics Issues in Minority Health and Health Disparities Research:

- “The Relationship between Environmental Pollution and the Risk of Development of Breast Cancer in

the Black Belt Counties of Alabama” (Samina Akhter, MPH)

- The Impact of Race and Geographical Location on the Options for Treatment of Cervical Cancer in Black and White Women Living in Alabama (Oyoyo Egiebor-Aiwan, MD, MPH)
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in the U. S.: A Study of the Impact of Age, Race, Primary Expected Insurance or Payer, and Comorbidities (Ronald Peaster, PhD, MPH Student)
- Knowledge and Awareness About Cervical Cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Among Women Living in Macon County, AL (Kellon Banks, MPH Student)



Partnerships with Community Organizations

To operationalize the vision, mission and goals listed above the DGPH has leveraged several community partnerships to collaborate towards decreasing health disparities. Listed below is a brief description of each collaborative partner.

Gift of Life Foundation (GOL) was founded in 1988 to reduce Montgomery County’s high infant mortality rate. Today, GOL is building stronger communities through home visiting, mobile family coaching and other support programs that improve the health and well-being of the 554 at-risk families we serve. Our motto is: Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies, Healthy Communities. Our programs address the maternal-child health needs of pregnant women, parenting mothers and/or fathers and caregivers of infants and children through the age of two (2). Our goals are to reduce infant mortality, preterm birth and low birth weight; equip mothers to have a healthy pregnancy and birth outcome; promote early childhood development; provide effective parenting skills; and help mothers and/or fathers become more self-

sufficient. Our goals are accomplished through our community outreach programs: Nurse Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers, Mobile Family Coaching, Group Coaching and Fathers in Action.

Mission: To improve the health and well-being of at-risk mothers and babies to build stronger communities.

Vision: To foster an environment in Montgomery where:

- All pregnant women are able to receive prenatal care beginning in their first trimester.
- Healthcare and social services for mothers and babies are connected to each other in an efficient safety net.
- Every infant is fully screened and vaccinated.
- The teen pregnancy rate is well below Alabama's overall rate.
- The community is proud to stand up for at-risk mothers, children, and families.

Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, Inc. (TAHEC) serves individuals and families throughout a 19-county area of the Black Belt region of Central Alabama. In partnership with the Macon County Diabetes Coalition, of which TAHEC's Executive Director is lead, TAHEC provides health screenings and education to a highly-rural, underserved populations. For purposes of this proposal, TAHEC will extend services in Macon, Bulloch and Montgomery Counties, AL to provide screening, education and health care management for Type 2 Diabetes, Hypertension, Obesity and Smoking cessation activities.

Tuskegee Macon County Community Foundation, Inc. (TMCCF) was founded in October 2002 and reorganized in June 2012 with the new mission of enhancing the quality of life in disadvantaged communities in rural and urban areas through the reduction of health disparities and advancing health equity. It is a 501 (c)(3) public charity and is one of the few community foundations serving a predominately rural area.

Currently, a particular focus is on health equity in a rural area region. It sees as its major goals to develop appropriate partnerships that address critical issues and challenges in disadvantage communities and build and sustain philanthropic capital. Consistent with its mission, TMCCF plays an integral role in marshalling resources, both people and financial, to address a community's needs such as the reduction of health disparities.

As a community foundation, TMCCF leverages its expertise and relationships with local, state, and national stakeholders to convene and engage key decision makers in dialogue and action-oriented planning focused on capacity-building, impacts, and outcomes. TMCCF also engages in outreach to diverse stakeholders to collaborate on the development of a strategic agenda for community and economic development particularly in rural and urban poor communities. To meet the goal of cost-effective health and human service delivery in Tuskegee Macon County, TMCCF, Inc. engaged Westat, Inc. and A2D, Inc. as critical partners in meeting the healthcare challenges of the Tuskegee Macon County region that evolved into the Telehealth EcoSystem™ model. In April 2017, TMCCF organized the first Health Roundtable that resulted in health organizations convening on a regular basis to become more acquainted with programs and leadership to better serve Macon County.

The Movement 46 (TM46)-Spring forth from the momentum of the community galvanization around the T-100 competition, TM46 recognized the legacy that Tuskegee/Macon County has which can be critical to the revitalization and mobilization of the community in coordination with public officials. Borrowing from the name of an organization that had been previously developed by one of the organizers, the group settled on "The Movement"

which is indicative of action, collaboration, and growth. The number 46 is the state vehicle number for Macon County and denotes the geographical parameters in which the group would focus their efforts. TM46 meets weekly to discuss, plan, educate and collaborate for the uplift of the community.

EDUCATION & SCHOLARSHIP

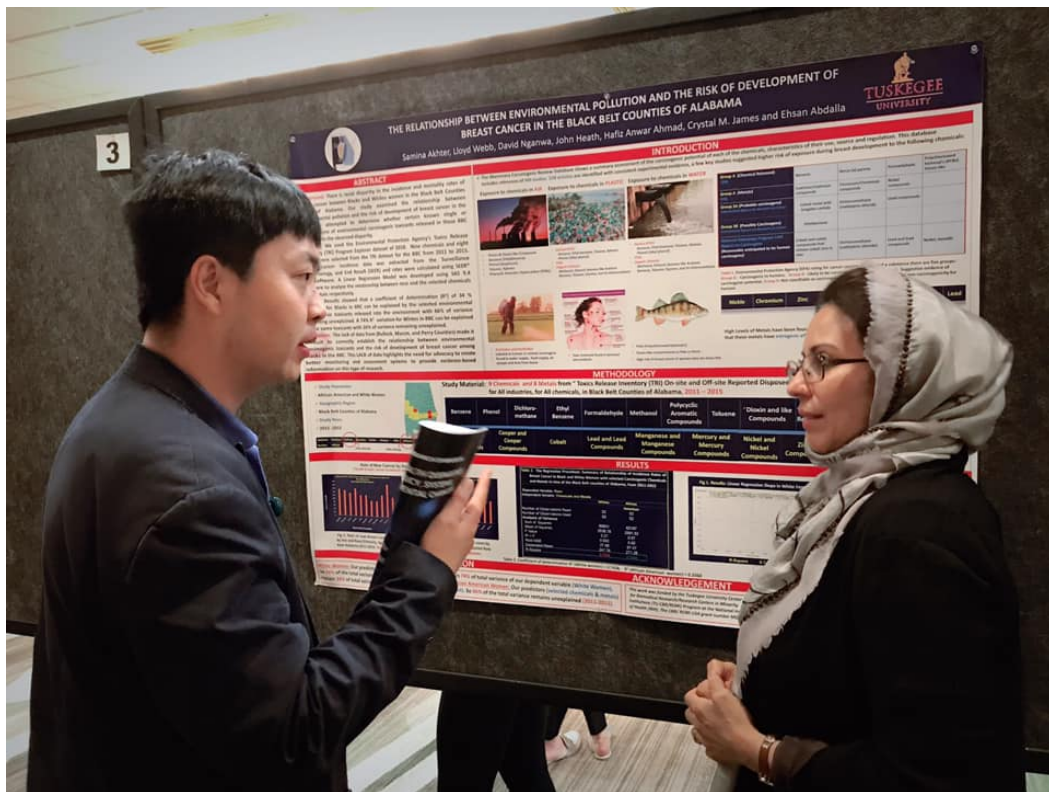
Student Advising & Experiential learning

All students are provided with academic support to attain a set of minimum standards in several disciplines inclusive of Epidemiology; Environmental Health Sciences; Public Health Administration, Policy and Law; Proposal Writing and Grant Management; Biomedical Statistics; Psychosocial Determinants of Health; Health Disparities and Inequities; Risk Analysis and Modeling; and an Introduction to Public Health. Each of these subjects require a different set of skills and it is not expected that all students will have the necessary resources to immediately excel in all disciplines. Therefore, resources are made available to help students maximize the informational intake they get from each discipline. Academic advisors are selected from fulltime faculty within the GPH. These pairings are within 10 weeks of the students' acceptance into the program at the beginning of the semester. All MPH students are required to meet with their Faculty Advisor at least twice per semester. The Faculty advisor must approve the student's proposed study list each semester prior to registration. Once the Faculty Advisor has approved the study list, the student log book must be submitted to the Program Director, for advising on the student's progress towards completion of the program. If the student feels additional assistance is needed, they are encouraged to schedule an appointment with the Faculty Advisor at any time.

Experiential Learning Opportunities are sought out and cultivated by faculty and staff of the DGPH to assist in translating the mission and vision of the program to public health practice. Each student is required, as delineated in the DGPH student handbook⁶ to complete an experiential learning experience as well as a practicum or thesis. These experiential learning opportunities are not possible without community partnerships with governmental and non-governmental community organizations that provide mentorship and hands on experience for our developing professionals. A mentoring program has been developed and is shared with each potential community mentor, to ensure that the experiences our students receive have the necessary rigor and engagement to meet the expectations of the program.⁷

⁶ Appendix G: DGPH Student handbook updated August 2019

⁷ Appendix H: DGPH Mentoring Plan



To further ensure that graduates from Tuskegee University with the Doctor of Philosophy in disciplines that impact public health have the skills, knowledge and abilities to translate their research into ethical interventions that assist in decreasing health disparities; a dual degree curriculum was piloted during this reporting period. Mr. Ronald Peaster a PhD student in the Integrative Biosciences Program was the first student to engage the blended curriculum. Mr. Peaster completed his first year of courses and received the GPHP blazer to mark his readiness to engage the community in a practicum experience. This opportunity is now being replicated with the Interdisciplinary Pathobiology Program.



College Activities & Professional Services

Crystal M. James, JD, MPH

Attorney James serves as the Head of the Department of Graduate Public Health she also provided the following services during the reporting period

- Member CVM Academic Appeals Committee
- Drafted Self-study for Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH)
- Academic Advisor to all GPHP students
- Co-Mentor- 1 Integrative Biosciences Program & Graduate Public Health Program Student
- Co-Chair 19th Annual One Health Symposium (September 2018)
- Woman of the Month November 2018- Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security and Conflict Transformation
- Attorney James also delivered the following presentations during the reporting period:
 - *“Reframing National Security: Neglected Diseases in Rural Alabama”* Tropical & Bacterial Diseases 2018 Dubai, UAE (December 2018)
 - *“Evaluation of Assessment Strategies: Case Studies in Public Policy and their Utility in Preparing Students for Real World Policy Processes”* International Public Policy Association Annual Meeting Montreal, Canada (June 2019)
 - *“Developing Tomorrow’s Leaders with Priorities and Practices of Yesterday-Assessing the Academy”* Black Ladies in Public Health Summit (July 2019)

Lloyd Webb, DVM, MPH

- Member of the **PHHS Block Grant Advisory Committee**, Alabama Department of Public Health.
- Member of the **African American Brain Health Initiative (AABHI) Scientific and Medical Advisory Board**, Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey.
- Faculty Adviser to the student-driven Veterinary Public Health Club in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Faculty Adviser to the Graduate Public Health Student Organization in the Department of Graduate Public Health
- Provided student mentorship to graduate students in the Department of Graduate Public Health during the period under review.
- Supported the Diabetes Coalition Support Group in Tuskegee at its monthly meetings at Greenwood Baptist Church in Tuskegee.
- Provided ongoing service to the community organization of ***Student for Education and Economic Development (SEED)*** and attended several of its weekly meetings in Tuskegee.
- Dr. Webb also provided the following services during the reporting period:
 - Draft response to R01 grant proposal entitled “**Using a Simulation Model of Complex Interactions and Influences to Understand the Relationship between HIV, HPV and Cervical Cancer in the BBCs of Alabama**”, in collaboration with other Colleges at TU and submitted to the National Institutes of Health/National Cancer Institute

John Heath, PhD, MS

- Graduate committee member and advisor for 2 MSPH student.
- Doctoral committee member 1 PhD student
- Tuskegee University animal care and use committee.
- Faculty achievement award committee.
- Tuskegee - Center of Academic Excellence and Innovative Learning (T-CAEIL) advisory committee.
- Tuskegee University Graduate Public Health Program Admissions Committee Chair.
- HBGI Title III Coordinator

Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, MSc., PhD

- Panel Discussion participant- Topic: “What’s Behind the High Rates of Cervical Cancer in Black Women in the Black Belt Counties” War on Murder Begins (WOMB) Conference at Booker T. Washington High School, Tuskegee, Alabama (April 2019)
- Keynote address- 2nd Annual Parent and Family Institute and Back to School Bash in Bullock County, hosted by The Cancer Outreach component of the U54 School District.
- Guest Speaker- Topic: “The Graduation Recognition Program and White Coat Ceremony” Integrative Biosciences (IBS) and Interdisciplinary Pathobiology (IDPB) PhD Programs at Tuskegee University Tuskegee, Alabama (May 2019)
- On September 20, 2018: Chair of the 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Conference among Women Living in Macon County of Alabama. The workshop was sponsored and hosted by The Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/ Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute

of Health (NIH).

- Dr. Abdalla also provided the following services to the College
 - Committee member of the Department of Graduate Public Health Recruiting Committee.
 - Chair of the search committee member of the faculty interview in the Department of Graduate Public, 2019
 - Committee advisor for Dr. Yumna Aladdin ElSobky, A PhD candidate, Assistant Lecturer Department of Animal Hygiene and Zoonosis, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, University of Sadat City. Egypt. This is Six-month training program (from November 2018 to April 2019) funded by Egyptian Banks from the Cultural Affairs and Missions Sector, Ministry Of Higher Education And Scientific Research, Egyptian government.
 - June 10 -15, 2019: Training the International Colleagues in Plant Microbial Risk Analysis in Food: The seven Cochran Fellows were from Myanmar (Burma)

Asseged Dibabba, DVM, MSc.

- USDA Risk Analysis grant (Grant # AP18IS000000C003); (Acct #: 30-22650103-72320).
- Serving as admission committee member (Department of GPH, CVM, TU)
- Serving as a graduate committee member for graduate student

David Nganwa, DVM, MPH

- Prepared and reviewed the material content that is to be posted on the Department of Graduate Public Health website: Class schedule, course content etc.
- On the departmental hospitality committee
- Mentored several graduate students
- Engaged the community in Macon County through town halls settings and administer questionnaire on health related disparities on diseases like HIV/AIDS, Cancer, Diabetes etc.

Original Peer-Reviewed Publications

Bogale Dibaba, Asseged, Kriek, Nick P. J., Thoen, Charles O. (Editors). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature, Switzerland AG.

Dibaba, B. Asseged, CJ. Daborn, S. Cadmus, A. Michel (2019). The Current Status of Bovine Tuberculosis in Africa. In **Dibaba** et al. (eds.). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature. Switzerland. pp 15-30.

Dibaba, B. Asseged, C. J. Daborn (2019). Epidemiology of Bovine Tuberculosis in Africa. In Dibaba et al. (eds.). Tuberculosis in Animals: An African Perspective. Springer Nature, Switzerland AG. pp 89-126.

Muthuma, Evans, **Dibaba, B. Asseged** (2019). The risk of introduction of swine vesicular disease virus into Kenya via natural sausage casings imported from Italy. Preventive Veterinary Medicine. Volume 169. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.prevetmed.2019.104703>.

James, M. Crystal "Evaluation of Assessment Strategies: Case Studies in Public Policy and their Utility in Preparing Students for Real World Policy Processes" International Public Policy Association Annual Meeting Montreal, Canada (June 2019) Accepted

Mhalhal, T. R., Washington, M. C., Newman, K., J., **Heath, J. C.**, & Sayegh, A. I. (2018). Exogenous glucagon-like peptide-1 reduces body weight and cholecystokinin-8 enhances this reduction in diet-induced obese. *Physiology & Behavior*. In press.

Mhalhal, T. R., Washington, M. C., Newman, K., J., **Heath, J. C.**, & Sayegh, A. I. (2017). Infusion of exogenous cholecystokinin-8, gastrin releasing peptide-29 and their combination reduce body weight in diet-induced obese male rats. *Appetite* 109 172-181. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2016.12.001>

Rawah Faraj^{*1, 2}, **Ehsan Abdalla**², Gopal Reddy¹, Temesgen Samuel¹, Woubit Abdela¹. Chimera of Heat-labile Enterotoxin B chain conjugate with LipL32 and or LipL21 proteins induces strong reactive antibodies in experimental mice. Published in the International Organization of Scientific Research (IOSR) Journal of Biotechnology and Biochemistry, Vol.4, Issue 3, Ver.1 May – June 2018.

Ehsan Abdalla; Tsegaye Habtemariam; Roberta Troy; Souleymane Fall; Berhanu Tameru; **David Nganwa** (2019). A comparative study of health disparities in Cervical Cancer Mortality Rates through time between Black and Caucasian women in Alabama and the US". Submitted and accepted for publication to the International Journal of Studies in Nursing. In press.

Ehsan Abdalla*, Roberta Troy Souleymane Fall, Isra Elhussin, Oyoyo Egiebor-Aiwan and **David Nganwa***. Racial Differences in 5-year Relative Survival of Cervical Cancer by Stage at Diagnosis, between African American (Blacks) and White women, living in the State of Alabama, USA. Submitted for publication in the *BioMed Central Journal Cancer (BMC)*, on April 11, 2019, ID: BCAN-D-19-01097R1.

Katz RV, Katz AE, **Warren R. C.**, Williams MT, Aqel H, Ilin D, McGowan R. Comparative Use of Tuskegee Syphilis Study film vs text triggers to teach bioethics: the SOETUF College Study. *Diversity & Equality in Health and Care Journal*, August 2018.

Mitchell, M., **Warren, R. C.**, Bellinger, D., & Browne, D. Is Dental Amalgam Toxic to Children of Color? *Journal of the National Medical Association*, Vol. 110, No. 4, August 2018.

Katz RV, Katz AE, **Warren R.C.**, Aqel H., Ilin D, McGowan R. Description of Student Expectations on the Use of Film Vs. Text to Teach Bioethics: The Spheres of Ethics Teaching Using Film (SOETUF) College Study. *Diversity & Equality in Health and Care Journal*, October 31, 2018.

Batbold S, Ellis R, Katz RV, **Warren RC.** Review of the Captain America graphic novel 'TRUTH: Red, White and Black' focusing on parallels with the infamous USPHS Syphilis Study at Tuskegee. *ScienceDirect*, February 8, 2019.

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DEPARTMENT OF GRADUATE PUBLIC HEALTH TEAM



Many Disciplines... One Mission







Crystal M. James, JD, MPH

Attorney James' teaching philosophy is based upon the Socratic method aimed at elucidating the underlying beliefs and/or biases that inform and shape the position the student is choosing to champion. This time tested method of dialog between student and teacher integrated with the use of technology and current events allows the student to critically evaluate their position and apply it to multiple changing variables while allowing the teacher to evaluate the student's ability to understand public health policy, law, and administration and their application at origination and today. Her goal as a professor is to not only ensure understanding of the rule of law but also its application across the time continuum and societal influence; utilizing hermeneutics and ethical constructs of society to lead students to develop a full understanding of the genesis and application of the law, policy and administration of public health programs. Student development of intended skills will be assessed by class participation, demonstrated ability to respond to multilayered questions on topics relevant to the subject matter delivered, and written assessments.



Attorney James is from Broxton, GA and the only African American attorney from her home town. She has two siblings and is the mother to one daughter, Zora S. James who is a Sophomore in high school.

Education/Practice

- Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Clark Atlanta University in 1994
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from Emory University in 1996
- Earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from University of Houston in 1998
- Passed Georgia Bar Examination 1998
- Admitted to practice before Georgia Court of Appeals 1998
- Admitted to practice in the US District Court Northern District of Georgia in 2002
- Admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia in 2012
- Established Chrysalis International Consulting, LLC in 2012

- Head, Department Graduate Public Health
- Director, Graduate Public Health Program
- Member, Executive Leadership Council College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM)
- *Academic Advisor for all GPHP students*
- Co-Chair One Health Symposium 2018
- Member, CVM Safety Committee
- Member, CVM Diversity Committee
- Board Member, Women of Color Advancing Peace, Security, and Conflict Transformation
- Assistant to President & General Counsel, HBCU Law Enforcement Executives Association

Research Interests & Foci:

- Legal Intervention's impact on the health of minority populations
- Defining health security in the United States
- Law and policy impact on the culture of health in black belt states

Lloyd A.W. Webb, DVM, MPH

Dr. Lloyd Webb is a Professor of Public Health with 24 years of experience working in the field of public health. Early in his veterinary career, he embraced the One-Health concept that is inextricably linked to the human, animal, and environment. The convergence of human, animal and the environment is complex and requires the input of biological, physical, social, chemical and other factors with which all public health graduate students must become familiar as they seek to become change makers to underserved communities in a dynamic national and global environment. As a Public Health Epidemiologist and One-Health expert, he has been committed to serve in national, regional and international administrative, technical, regulatory, policy, and advisory capacities. His goal is to equip graduate public health students with knowledge and skills through mentoring and teaching them on the applications of the essential public health functions that are ethically linked to international health, food security (food safety, availability, accessibility, and affordability), zoonoses, and environmental health issues, using his vast international exposure and experience in public health, having served the Pan American Health Organization/World Health organization for eleven years (2000 - 2011) as the Regional Advisor in Veterinary Public Health for the English-speaking Caribbean countries and Latin America.. He continues to apply his experience and achievements to be a trusted partner in teaching, research, and service to all our graduate students through team partnerships and experiential exposure.



Dr. Lloyd Webb is from Trinidad and Tobago and a proud husband, father, and grandfather of four.

Education/Practice/Award

- Earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from Tuskegee University in 1976
- Earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) degree from Tuskegee University in 1978
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in 1984
- Received a Diploma in Helminthology from the Commonwealth Institute of Parasitology in St. Albans, UK in 1990
- Certified in Food Safety Risk Communication and Food Safety Risk Management by the University of Maryland in 2011
- Practiced clinical veterinary medicine as a Small Animal Clinician and as a Large Animal Veterinary field practitioner in the Ministry of Agriculture in his native country (1978 - 1985)
- Continued to practice part-time as a Small Animal Clinician until 2000.

Research Interests & Foci:

- Food Safety and Zoonoses
- Health Disparities related to Environmental Health and Alzheimer's disease
- One Health Research

- Director, Veterinary Public Health Unit, Ministry of Health (1985 - 1994)
- Professor in Public Health at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
- Commissioning Director of the Graduate Public Health Program (2011)
- Professor of Public Health, Department of Graduate Public Health
- Mentor and Academic Advisor for Graduate Public Health students
- Member, Advisory Board, African-American Brain Health Initiative at Rutgers University, Newark

Ehsan Abdalla, DVM, MSc, PHD

Her career goal is to reduce and/or eliminate cervical cancer disparities in underserved communities, especially the Black Belt Counties (BBC) of Alabama. To do this, she identified potential selection biases and definitions of vulnerable groups when detecting disparities. Her aim is to identify multilevel determinants of health disparities, including individual beliefs and preferences, effective patient-provider communication; and the organizational culture of the health care system. She encourages interventions that yield generalizable data on their effectiveness and that promote further engagement of communities, providers, and policymakers to ultimately enhance the application and the impact of health disparities research. Dr. Abdalla is a Research Centers in Minority Institutions International's member (RCMI), serving as a community liaison on Cervical Cancer in the BBC of Alabama. She is also working on HIV/AIDS with various health departments (Medical Advocacy Outreach). From 2010-2016, Dr. Abdalla was a winner of 6 awards in elimination of health disparities through a translational research. More recently she was awarded a one-year Pilot Project Grant (April 2018-April 2019) by Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health. Populations to be served: women aged 18 years and older who are living in Macon County, Alabama, US.



This map was created by Dr. Ehsan Abdalla and can be accessed from her Book Chapter publication: Abdalla Ehsan and Nganwa D. (2014). Factors Contributing to the Transmission of Bovine Tuberculosis Caused by *Mycobacterium. bovis* and its Control Status in Sudan. In: Zoonotic Tuberculosis *Mycobacterium. Bovis* and Other Pathogenic *Mycobacteria*. (eds Charles O. Thoen, James H. Steele & John B. Kaneene), 3rd edn. pp. 159-174. Wiley-Blackwell, 2121 State Avenue, Ames, IA 50014.

Ehsan Abdalla is from Sudan, and a US citizen.
She has six siblings

Education/Practice

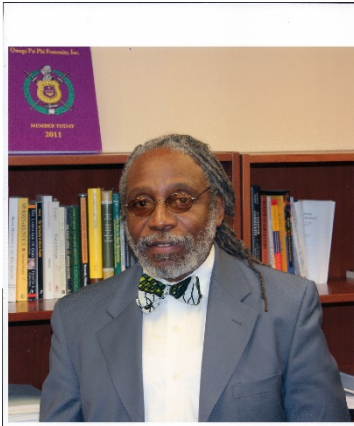
- Earned a DVM degree in Veterinary Science from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan, in 1993
- Earned a Master of Veterinary Science degree (Field of Study: Veterinary Pathology) from Faisal Abad Agriculture University, School of Veterinary Medicine, Pakistan in 1995
- Earned a Master of Veterinary Science (Field of study: Epidemiology and Risk Analysis) from the Department of Pathobiology, Tuskegee University, USA, in 2011
- Earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Veterinary Science (Field of study: Epidemiology and Risk Analysis) from the Department of Pathobiology, Tuskegee University, USA, in 2017
- Licensure to practice veterinary medicine in Sudan and Pakistan in 1993

Research Interests & Foci:

- Identification of factors associated with the cervical cancer mortality disparities among Blacks living in the BBC of Alabama. These factors will need to be addressed in a systemic way at the levels of patients, providers, facilities, and health care systems.
- Identification of factors associated with cervical cancer screening among HIV-infected African American women in the BBC of Alabama.
- Combining tool related technologies in computational epidemiologic modeling, Risk Analysis and Geographic Information Systems. These tools could play in the advancement of the understanding disease processes and the identification of specific interventions and with the potential to impact and save lives of underserved women.

- Director of Analytics, Department Graduate Public Health
- *Member: American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)*
- *Member of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)*
- Member of Research Centers in Minority Institutions International's member (RCMI)
- Chair the 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop, 2018
- Member, CVM Diversity Committee

Rueben C. Warren, D.D.S., M.P.H., DR.P.H., M.DIV



Rueben C. Warren approaches the teaching and learning process by assuring that students develop a life-long learning philosophy. Graduate public health education is an academic process that demands evidence-based strategies to prevent diseases, adverse health conditions and promote health. New knowledge, particularly in health, evolves at a rate that demands the constant interchange of theory and practice. Public health is an applied science that requires a trans-disciplinary approach to population health. The lecture format to teaching public health has limited utility, particularly when knowledge, while important, does not drive health behavior. The process of being an effective public health graduate student is different from the undergraduate experience because graduate public health education demands continuous collective critical thinking and proactive behaviors on the part of students. Students must challenge current public health practices by understanding the science that undergirds

those practices and create new theories and practice based on basic and applied research. **Research** is developing new knowledge. **Education** is the process of acquiring, internalizing, facilitating and using knowledge. **Service** or, more generally, **Community Engagement** is translating, evidence-based findings into individual, group and community behaviors to improve the human condition. People educated in various disciplines of public health should know the basic principles of applied research, understand, and interpret the findings to improve population health.

Dr. Rueben C. Warren was born in San Antonio, Texas. He grew up in Southcentral Los Angeles, California. He has lived in both Northern and Southern California. He also has lived in Nashville, Tennessee; Boston, MA; Lagos, Nigeria; Hartford CT; Jackson, MS; Atlanta GA and Tuskegee AL.

Education/Practice

- Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology from San Francisco State University-1968
- Doctor of Dental Surgery from Meharry Medical College-1972
- Masters of Public Health Harvard School of Public Health-1973
- Teaching Fellow Harvard School of Public Health-1974
- Clinical Certificate in Dental Public Health, Harvard School of Dental Medicine-1973-75
- Doctor of Public Health, Harvard School of Public Health- (Concentration in Health Service Research, Health Education and Dental Public Health)- 1975
- 1977-1979-Assistant Professor Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health School of Dental Medicine University of Connecticut Health Center Farmington, CT
- Board Certified in Dental Public Health (Specialty Board)-1986
- Masters of Divinity (Concentration in Theology and Ethics)- Interdenominational Theological Center-2007
- Instructor, Department of Dental Ecology, Harvard School of Dental Medicine 1975-76
- Dental Director, State of Mississippi-1980-83
- Dean of the School of Dentistry, Meharry Medical College- 1983-88
- Associate Director for Minority Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry 1988-1997
- Associate Director for Urban Affairs, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry 1997-2007
- Associate Director of Environment Justice Centers for Disease Control and Prevention- 2008-2009
- Certificate in Bioethics Georgetown University-2009
- Licensed to practice dentistry in MA, CT, TN.

- Professor of Bioethics and Director National Center for Bioethics in Research and Health Care, Tuskegee University
- Adjunct Professor: Morehouse School of Medicine, Meharry Medical College Schools of Dentistry and School of Graduate Study and Research, Emory School of Public Health (Past), Professor of Medicine, Ethics and Public Health, Interdenominational Medicine
- Distinguished Alumni Award, Harvard School of Dental Medicine
- Honorary Doctor of Medicine Meharry Medical College
- Dean Emeritus, Meharry Medical College, Honorary Doctor of Medical Science
- Doctor of Humane Letters, Meharry Medicine College
- Chairman of the Board of HEALing Community Governing Board (Federally Funded Community Health Center in Atlanta GA)
- Chair of the Advisory Board of the MSPH Program Meharry Medical College
- Chair of the Advisory Board of MPH Program Morehouse School of Medicine

Research Interest and Foci:

- Health Service Research
- Public Health
- Oral Health
- Faith/Health
- Ethics

Andrew Zekeri, PH.D.



Dr. Andrew A. Zekeri is professor of sociology and Graduate Faculty in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Tuskegee University. His research focuses on rural poverty, family well-being, food insecurity and nutrition, and conspiracy theories about HIV/AIDS and food insecurity among HIV-positive patients. Dr. Zekeri also studies social and behavioral sciences perspective on rural health issues, community and economic development in the rural South. He has published articles in several international refereed scholarly journals. In 2015, Dr. Zekeri's book, "Issues and Challenges of the American Rural South," was published by Cognella Academic Publishing. He teaches the following graduate level classes (SOCI 541 Socio-Cultural Problems of the South, MSPH 610 Psychosocial Determinants of Health, [BSC-0710 Integrated Biosciences Lit Review](#), IPPD 0611 Social Issues & Pub Policy History; IPPD 0617 Race, Ethnicity and Public Policy. He holds a PhD in rural sociology from Pennsylvania State University.

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David D. Nganwa DVM, MPH

Education/Practice

- Earned a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Makerere University Kampala, Uganda, East Africa in 1979
- Earned a Master of Public Health degree from University of Alabama at Birmingham in 1989
- Member of Uganda Veterinary Board



My philosophy of teaching is to provide a lecture room environment where students are encouraged to express their own ideas and participate in their education experience. Although I stress individual responsibility for learning in the class, I also provide explanation and guidance regarding the course materials and subject matter. I want the students to enjoy the interaction in the lecture room and to be challenged by the intellectual discussion of course material.

At the end of each class that I teach, I would like to have my students remember the following about me as an instructor:

- Take an interest about me as a person and valued my contributions to class discussions.
- Created a conducive environment in the classroom that inspired learning and encouraged individual responsibility

for education.

I am an Academic Advisor and Committee Member for graduate students taking especially Risk Analysis and Modelling and Special problems in Epidemiology courses. Co-Chair 1st Annual Cervical Cancer Awareness Workshop 2018 Sponsored by: Tuskegee University Center for Biomedical Research/Research Centers in Minority Institutions (TU CBR/RCMI) Program at the National Institute of Health (NIH)

Research Interests and areas of Focus:

- My research interests relate to areas of community centered engagement and I have conducted community-based epidemiologic research studies to address HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases especially in the Black Belt counties of Alabama. I have a broad background in epidemiology, risk analysis and modelling, public health and in biomedical sciences. My epidemiologic research involves the study of a complex set of host, environment, and agent factors as they interact to affect health and diseases in a given population, also in food safety and public health. My research interests in the areas of computational epidemiologic modeling and risk analysis involve and entail development of risk assessments of diseases and pests of plants, animals and humans such as Citrus Canker, Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) and HIV/AIDS etc., and zoonotic diseases of public health importance. The models and risk assessments are utilized in epidemiologic problem-solving and decision-making processes for human, animal and plant diseases and pests. Additionally, I develop risk assessments both qualitative and quantitative for animal and plant diseases and pests important in the import and export global trade of plants, animals and their products and associated food safety. Examples include the following diseases and pests; FMD, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), Classical Swine Fever and Citrus Canker. The risk assessments determine the likelihood of the specific diseases and pests being introduced into the USA through importations of animals, plants and their products like beef, cheese, pork and citrus fruits etc., respectively.



Dr. David Nganwa alias "Daudi" hails originally from Uganda - the Pearl of Africa in East Africa from near the Mountains of the Moon (Mount Rwenzori). He has several siblings and is blessed by a daughter, Gertrude "Gerty" Nganwa a graduate of Auburn University AL.

John C Heath BS. MS. PhD.

Dr. John Heath is an Experimental Psychologist who has been involved in research for many years bridging psychological concepts of behavior to taxonomic and thematic relational responding, aggression, domestic violence, but particularly environmental insult. One of his major areas of research is the effects of chronic exposure to inorganic and organic mercury, on the fertility rates of males and females. Also, the effects during pubescent development and the motor and cognitive deficits that can occur in the adult and the offspring. Part of this research is looking at the ameliorating effects of a Selenium enhanced diet on mercury toxicity. He developed an operant conditioning procedure for testing the visual system in rodents. This allows us to follow the progression of certain visual functions over the lifetime of the animal without introducing any possible contravening variables. The insult from environmental pollutants is a large public health issue which affects minority populations to a greater degree than majority populations. The environmental injustice that occurs throughout the country produces health risks in minority populations at a greater rate than the general population. Dr. Heath has also been researching Environmental injustice in minority communities. Looking into the effects of possible pollution from a local landfill on a minority population. Dr. Heath regularly works with graduate students as their major professor or as member of a thesis or dissertation committee. He also mentors students and help in areas where they may be having difficulties. Dr. Heath also has research interest in gun ownership and suicide rates in Alabama. He practices a philosophy that says most people are able to achieve at the level they choose. However, none of us are superwomen or supermen and at times need help and assistance. Being able to recognize when we need that assistance and being able to ask for it is not a weakness but an admirable strength.



Dr. Heath has presented his research 47 times at State, National and international conferences as well as being invited to present at both US and UK universities. He has 22 publications in peer reviewed journals



Dr. Heath earned an HNC in mechanical engineering in 1972
He received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Utah State University in 2001

Received his Master of Science degree from Auburn University in experimental psychology in 2003

Was awarded a PhD in experimental psychology with an emphasis on behavioral toxicology in 2008 from Auburn University.

Dr. Heath also has a minor in developmental psychology.

Dr. Heath loves to sail in his 25 ft sailboat. He is also an avid listener of classical music. Together with his wife Yvonne he owns a small company that produces wooden

Dr. John Heath was born in the Town of Southend-on-Sea in the county of Essex in the UK. He moved to the United States in 1977 where he worked as a product design engineer for 25 years. He went back to school in 1996 and earned a BS, MS and A PhD in experimental Psychology. In 1965 his family moved to the Isle of Man which is not part of the United Kingdom or European Union, but has the status of a crown dependency. It has the oldest continuous government in the world dating back to 979ad. He has two sons Paul and Jason and two daughters Dianne and Vanessa.

