School of Public Health
Minority Health Project
presentation to the
Carolina First
Minority Alumni Committee
Sonja Haynes Stone Center for
Black Culture and History
September 30, 2005
www.minority.unc.edu/present/2005/
www.minority.unc.edu/sph/mscalumni
Presenters

- Iguehi Esoimeme, Co-chair, Minority Student Caucus
- Zipatly Mendoza, Co-chair, Minority Student Caucus
- Chandra Ford, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow
- Danielle Spurlock, M.P.H., M.R.P., Co-chair, 26th Annual Minority Health Conference
- Anissa Vines, Ph.D., Associate Director, UNC Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO)
- Martha Monnett, M.P.H., Associate Director of Development
- Victor Schoenbach, Ph.D., Principal Investigator, Minority Health Project [Minority_Health@unc.edu; vjs@unc.edu]
Thank you for this opportunity to talk about minority health programs at the School of Public Health

“This is a great honor.”
– Barbara K. Rimer, Dr.P.H., Dean, School of Public Health
Objectives of the presentation

1. Share information about minority health programs at the School of Public Health.

2. Strengthen ties with other minority-oriented programs at the University.

3. Explore possibilities for compiling the history of minority initiatives at the School and the University.

4. Find resources to build and publicize minority programs.
Public health

• Prevent disease
• Promote health
• Protect health

At its finest, public health is a part of the struggle for social justice.

Everyone needs public health.
Public health is “under-resourced”

• When public health works, no one hears about it. Only failures make the news.

• A patient whose disease is cured will give a testimonial; a person whose disease was prevented may not even know it.

• Working for public health is a noble calling – but not a highly remunerative one.
Major challenges for public health and for society

• Health disparities – major inequalities and inequities in health opportunity, health status, health care by race/ethnicity, language, and economic resources.

• Need for diversity in public health professions.
Minority Health Project

• Created in 1994 by Trude Bennett, Dorothy Browne, and Lloyd Edwards to develop a course on and resources for minority health research.

• One-week summer institute evolved into a national, interactive, satellite broadcast with over 100 sites reaching 24-43 states.

• www.minority.unc.edu
  - 150 visits/day
Minority Health Project - 2

• Promotes and links activities in the School and across the University through our broadcasts and website.

• In 1999 began broadcasting the Keynote Lecture from the student-led Annual SPH Minority Health Conference.

Henry Lewis Taylor, Jr, PhD, presents Keynote Lecture (above) and listens to a question during the broadcast (moderator: Sacoby Wilson, MPH)
In 2004 the Project received a request from the Congressional Minority Caucus to participate in the Videoconference.

Two members of Congress appeared live from the House Recording Studio, in a program with four reactors at UNC-CH.
In 2005 the Project joined with the Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History to present a national satellite and Internet broadcast with a panel of health disparities experts including Congressman Melvin Watt.
11th Annual Summer Public Health Research Videoconference on Minority Health

Sonja Haynes Stone Center for Black Culture and History
June 20, 2005, 1:30pm EDT
Health Disparities: from Civil Rights to Human Rights

1. Honorable Mel Watt (Chair, Black Congressional Caucus)
2. Gem Daus (Director of Policy, Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum)
3. Gary Grant (Executive Director, Concerned Citizens of Tillery [NC])
4. Carole Anne Heart (Executive Director, Aberdeen Area Tribal Chairmen's Health Board)
5. Allan Noonan (Director, Public Health Program, Morgan State University)
6. Rosa Pérez Perdomo (Secretary of Health, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico)

www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2005/
Other Minority Health Activities at the School of Public Health
(www.minority.unc.edu/sph/)

• Minority Student Caucus
• Annual Minority Health Conference
• Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO)
• Interdisciplinary Health Disparities Certificate Program
• Research projects (many!) on health disparities
• Emerging Leaders in Public Health
• Focus on building diversity (a priority for our new Dean, Dr. Barbara Rimer)
• Legacy Project
Minority Student Caucus
(www.minority.unc.edu/sph/caucus/)

Founded in early 1970's to voice concerns of minority students and attract more students of color to the School.

• Launched Annual Minority Health Conference in 1977

John W. Hatch, DrPH, Kenan Emeritus Professor

Angela Trasher moderates questions after Camara Jones’ Keynote

The early Minority Health Conferences were held in Rosenau Auditorium (shown at right)
Minority Health Conference
(www.minority.unc.edu/sph/minconf/)

Planning and implementation led by the Minority Student Caucus, each year.

Major increase in support from Dean’s Office in 1991 led to major expansion.

Moved to Friday Center in 1995.
Over 400 participants/year plus broadcast audience.

February 24, 2006
27th Annual Minority Health Conference
Program on Ethnicity, Culture, and Health Outcomes (ECHO)
(www.echo.unc.edu)

Mission:
• Eliminate health status and health outcomes disparities through translatable, evidence-based research, multidisciplinary training and education, and culturally sensitive service to North Carolina communities

Major initiatives:
• Carolina-Shaw Partnership for the Elimination of Health Disparities (Project EXPORT)
• Carolina Community Network to Reduce Cancer Disparities
• UNC Centers for Community Research
• Small Grants Program
• Interdisciplinary Certificate Program in Health Disparities
Legacy Project

1940's – SPH faculty teach classes at North Carolina College (NCCU); students from NCCU attend classes at UNC and vice-versa.

1960’s – John Hatch (now Kenan Emeritus Professor) and Jack Geiger create the Delta Health Center in Mound Bayou, MS.
Legacy Project – 2

• 1964 – William A. Darity, Sr. is first African American to receive a PhD from the UNC Graduate School (Health Education).

• 1969 – William T. Small, Jr. receives MSPH in Environmental Sciences and Engineering and returns in 1971 as full-time minority recruiter

• 1972 – Dr. Bobby D. Brayboy receives MPH in Health Administration.

• 1973 – Eleanor A. Crocker receives MPH in HADM [HPAA].

• 1974 – John W. Hatch receives DrPH; joins faculty.
How to preserve our history?

• What would UNC-CH be like without the leadership and struggles of minority students since the 1950’s?

• Who is documenting this history?

• 25th Black Alumni Reunion – videotaped interviews?

Martha Monnett (left) with Bobbie Calhoun, nutritionist

June Hall, Gunnison MS

Molly Williams, Martha Monnett (Symonds MS)

Violette Leggette, former mayor, Gunnison MS

(Photos for Delta Health Center Oral History Project)
We thank you for your leadership.

Media technicians Ben Davis and Marty Melvin operate the control room.

Videotapes of Minority Health Project broadcasts are now distributed by the Public Health Foundation (www.phf.org)

O.J. McGhee, Manager, Instructional Media Services with Vic Schoenbach (contact: vjs@unc.edu, 919-966-7436)