



Students in the “International Maternal and Child Health” class listen attentively to instructor Suellen Miller.

## MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH PROGRAM: STUDENTS LEARN TO SAVE LIVES

Have a 15-minute conversation with **Nap Hosang**, and you’ll immediately understand why he is such a beloved and respected instructor. As he explains the issues surrounding the vaccine for human papillomavirus (HPV), a sexually transmitted disease that can cause cervical cancer, he deftly touches on the ethics of vaccination, health disparities, and the uneasy relationship between public health and the pharmaceutical industry, all without straying too far afield or offering easy answers. He quickly addresses multiple sides of the vaccination question, with the deep knowledge of someone who has practical experience with many of the issues.

Of course Hosang does have much experience to draw from. In addition to being a lecturer at the School of Public Health and head of the Interdisciplinary M.P.H. Program, he is also an ob/gyn and physician administrator at the Kaiser Permanente Medical Center in Hayward, California, and he holds master’s degrees in both public health and business administration. He has been affiliated with the School’s Maternal and Child Health Program for more than 15 years, and his research focuses on finding entrepreneurial and management solutions to the tragic problem of maternal mortality in the developing world. Toward that end, he and School of Public Health lecturer **Martha Campbell** founded the Center for Entrepreneurship in International Health and Development (CEIHD) in 2000. (See “Our Children, Our

Future: Worldwide," p. 6.) Hosang's ability to work towards pragmatic solutions for the greatest maternal health problems has inspired many students.

One such student is [Jessica Marter-Kenyon](#), an undergraduate majoring in Development Studies. Looking to fulfill a requirement for her major, in the spring of 2005 she took a course in international health taught by Hosang and other notable faculty members such as Campbell, [Malcolm Potts](#), [Julia Walsh](#), [Dominic Montagu](#), and [Ndola Prata](#). "It was so wonderful to be with such incredible professors who are doing such amazing work," says Marter-Kenyon. "I'd always been interested in international development, but I just didn't know what niche."

The course made an impact on Marter-Kenyon, and she approached Hosang at the beginning of the summer of 2006 to see if he had suggestions for a summer project. He connected her with CEIHD, and she spent three months working with the center to supply people in Kampala, Uganda, with more efficient cooking stoves in an effort to reduce indoor air pollution. She wrote a grant proposal for the stove efforts and assisted CEIHD with many aspects of the project, such as the development of a

business plan for the local small business artisan who manufactures the stoves.

Marter-Kenyon is writing a paper, which she plans to submit for publication, on the impact of local entrepreneurial development in reducing poverty. "The work CEIHD is doing is really practical and on-the-ground, and it has such an enormous impact on so many people." Marter-Kenyon hopes to pursue a master's degree in public health at the School after she graduates.

Marter-Kenyon also had the chance to take a class led by one of Hosang's former students. Assistant adjunct professor [Suellen Miller](#) took "International Maternal and Child Health"—then taught by Hosang—in 1991, while she was pursuing her doctorate. In 1998 Miller began teaching the course herself. Hosang describes her as "a superstar of the program."

Miller brings many elements to the course, combining lectures with guest speakers, many of whom are important figures in the field. She asks students to design a practical public health intervention—an experience that does much to raise awareness about all the complicated issues related to working in public

health on a global scale, in cultures with a legacy of oppression, where researchers have often come and gone without effecting much change, and where clinical trials are an almost unfathomable concept. She herself has plenty of firsthand experience with this; in fact, she and her colleagues recently received the Polgar Prize for best article in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* for a paper on the cross-cultural issues they faced while conducting clinical trials in Tibet.

This kind of pragmatic learning is crucial for Miller. When she was training as a nurse-midwife in Tennessee, she and her cohort were required to live with the impoverished community they served. "I was pregnant at the time, and trying to make my meals based on what WIC provided," she says. "It helped me to really understand the part that community plays in health, and to look at the big population problems."

Miller continues to work in the field around the world. Her research centers on the use of the non-pneumatic anti-shock garment, or NASG. The NASG is a neoprene suit that helps stop maternal hemorrhaging in childbirth. The suit helps prevent blood loss, and the compression keeps the blood supply

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**Trailblazer:** BARBARA STAGGERS, M.D., M.P.H. '80,  
F.A.A.P.



Drug abuse, violence, unprotected sex: These are some of the most prominent issues facing at-risk youths.

Barbara Stagers understands that adolescence is a time when many kids take great risks with their health—risks that can have lifelong consequences. This is why she has devoted much of her career to working with teenagers to reduce the threats to their health, and to empower them with skills that can take them into a promising future. By working with kids who have been ignored or discounted by much of society, she has made a dramatic difference in the lives of a great many teens.

Stagers is known for her expertise in the areas of multicultural health and urban and minority youth. As division chief of adolescent medicine at Children's Hospital and Research Center in Oakland, she created school-based centers on or near Oakland high school campuses. Rather than limit services to check-ups and immediate physical health problems, the centers focus on covering the full range of issues that teens face, from home life, school, and work, to diet, sexual behavior, and mental health. The centers were designed and refined with feedback and input from the teens they serve.

Stagers also codirects Faces for the Future, a program designed to recruit underrepresented youth to the health professions. The three-year internship program created partnerships with medical schools, colleges, and universities in order to bring diversity to the field. Faces for the Future introduces high school students to these academic institutions, and gives them the skills necessary to succeed in their health education through mentoring, tutoring, and performance monitoring. The goal is to create a pipeline into the health professions for minority youth.

In honor of her innovation in working with minority youth, Stagers received the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award in 2004. She was the School's 1996 Alumna of the Year and received both a National Child Labor Committee Award and the National Violence Prevention Council Angel of Peace Award. She has served on numerous advisory boards and committees, including the National Committee on Adolescence for the American Academy of Pediatrics. 🌀

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centered on the brain and other vital organs. The suit is lightweight, reusable, and unlike many medications, can be administered by non-physicians. It is a low-tech solution to the number-one cause of maternal mortality worldwide.

Miller is excited by the life-saving potential of the anti-shock garment, and this excitement is contagious. This was particularly true for Adeoti Oshinowo, a student in the one-year M.P.H. program and a third-year medical student.

Oshinowo, who is both a student and graduate student researcher in the international maternal and child health course, was especially impressed when Mohammed Murad, the director of Emergency Services at El Galaa Teaching Maternity Hospital in Cairo, spoke to the class about the use of the anti-shock garment in Egypt and the significant reduction they were able to make in maternal mortality. "So much of the time we do things to make a small impact, and that is great," says Oshinowo. "But in five years they made a huge impact. I thought, 'Wow, you really can make a difference.'"

Oshinowo worked over the summer on the use of the anti-shock garment in Nigeria. She has been gathering patient and provider perspectives on the NASG, and she says, "everyone I've spoken with knows it saves lives." Ultimately, she and the other researchers plan to use the responses to better prepare patients, providers, and family members for utilization of the garment, and to raise community awareness so the NASG is accessible to mothers who need it.

When she finishes medical school, she plans to complete a residency in obstetrics and gynecology, and to continue work in Nigeria. "My passion lies in Nigeria, because my family is from there," she says. "Seeing how people are affected by the anti-shock garment, seeing all that it does for people—I feel like this needs to be a part of my life for the rest of my life." 🌀