

HUMAN BIOLOGY

STANFORD UNIVERSITY



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Human Biology Alumni, Students, and Friends,

First and foremost, I hope that this newsletter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. It is difficult to find words to capture the challenges we've all been facing.

You have likely followed Stanford's responses and adjustments to the COVID-19 pandemic. Here in Human Biology, students and faculty alike pivoted to online education at the end of the winter quarter as students dispersed from campus. All classes were held remotely in the spring quarter. This will continue, at minimum, through the autumn quarter as students remain largely off campus. Our faculty have shown wonderful creativity and caring as they've transitioned to these online courses.

Mainly, though, I am just so proud of the resilience shown by our Human Biology students: working hard on their studies in often busy and distracting learning environments; contributing to their communities in many different ways to help those in need; and engaging in the important movement pushing back against racism in our nation. I know that our Human Biology alumni are also involved in critical work addressing the many - at times overwhelmingly many - issues in need of redress. All of you give me so much hope for our future.

With our students at a distance, I've been using a variety of ways to stay in touch with them, including regular emails checking in and through my personal blog and twitter accounts. Over the spring and summer, my family and I took bike rides to campus to take pictures so that I could send slideshows to our students; we miss having them here so much. On this page you'll see a small selection of those pictures.

Now to orient you to the rest of the newsletter. So many important things have happened. Read on to learn more about:

- Our online Gelles Senior Symposium, Awards Ceremony, and June Celebration for our wonderful seniors (p. 5-6)
- Our community's response to the death of Professor Don Kennedy (p. 14-15)
- Our community's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to racial injustice (p. 8-13)
- A fantastic event featuring Loretta Ross on reproductive justice, held in the winter quarter (p. 3)
- Recognition of awards and honors for Human Biology faculty and students alike (p. 2, 4-7)

Take care, wonderful Human Biology alumni, and reach out anytime. I really love hearing from you all.



Lianne Kurina, PhD

*Bing Director, Program in Human Biology
Associate Professor, Primary Care &
Population Health
Director, Stanford Military Data Repository*



HumBio Student Services & Capstone Coordinator, Samantha Cooper Receives Stanford Humanities & Sciences Dean's Award of Merit-Innovation Award

A huge congratulations to our very own Student Services Specialist and Capstone Coordinator, Samantha Cooper who was awarded the University's H&S Dean's Award of Merit-Innovation in August.

Cooper has been an integral part of the program since 2016. From her work creating static and interactive maps that help students design their individualized courses of study, to streamlining the capstone requirement, to bringing to the attention of program leadership patterns in course demand and course offerings, Samantha's dedication, innovation, and efficiency has been nothing short of incredible and awe-inspiring.

We are so very fortunate to have her as a part of our team. Congratulations Samantha on this amazing accomplishment! We are so proud of you!

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Thank you to our incredible 2019-2020 HumBio Course Associates for all their hard work this year. We wish you the best of luck in the future and cannot wait to see what you all accomplish!

(From left to right): Andrew Bueno, Callie VanWinkle, Vicky Le, Hee Joo Ko, Molly Fogarty, Michelle Brouckman, Cole Holderman, Arianna Tapia

REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE WITH LORETTA ROSS

A BINGHAM SPONSORED EVENT: IN THE WORDS OF GINGER GRAMSON '20



Loretta Ross is a visiting Women's Studies Associate Professor who started her career in activism and social change in the 1970s at the National Football League (NFL) Players Association. Since then, she has worked with high-profile reproductive justice groups, including the D.C. Rape Crisis Center, the National Organization for Women (NOW), the National Black Women's Health Project, the Center for Democratic Renewal (National Anti-Klan Network), the National Center for Human Rights Education and SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective. She retired as an organizer in 2012 to teach about activism.

Ross' advocacy for reproductive rights is rooted in her personal experiences. At 14, she became a victim of rape and incest, and gave birth to a child before completing the tenth grade.

[Her passion and personal experiences with injustice transform anger into social justice to change the world].

Excerpt from The Stanford Daily, written by Sarina Deb



On Thursday, January 16th, 2020, Human Biology Senior, Ginger Gramson organized an event at the Women's Community Center entitled "Reproductive Justice with Loretta Ross." The event consisted of a 90-minute lecture and Q&A over dinner with Professor Loretta Ross, lifelong activist and co-creator of the term "reproductive justice." Approximately 77 people were in attendance.

Reproductive justice is a framework that outlines each individual's right to have a child, not have a child, and parent their children in safe and healthy environments.

Over the course of her talk, Professor Ross discussed the origins of reproductive justice, its connection to human rights, and current reproductive health and social justice issues. Professor Ross told the story of how she co-created the term "reproductive justice" with a group of 12 Black women at a 1994 conference after a representative from the Democratic party encouraged support for a healthcare reform plan that left out reproductive healthcare.

"We were frustrated that fighting for abortion rights was always isolated from all of the other social justice issues," Ross explained. Professor Ross described reproductive justice as a "shifting lens" framework, because it can be widely applied to include the specific needs of many groups. While the term was originally used to describe the human rights and reproductive health needs of Black women, Ross noted how reproductive justice has evolved to encompass immigration issues, Indigenous self-determination, LGBTQIA+ rights, and more, as other groups have applied their needs to the framework. Ross shared that it is a very universal theory because everyone has human right but that everyone just needs something different in order to achieve justice because of our intersectional identities.

Event recap and photos courtesy of Ginger Gramson '20.



Professor Aliya Saperstein named Benjamin Scott Crocker Professor of Human Biology



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Congratulations to Professor Aliya Saperstein, Associate Professor of Sociology, and Director of the Sociology Co-Terminal Master's Program, who was appointed the Benjamin Scott Crocker Professor of Human Biology on December 3, 2019.

An exemplar of an incredible Stanford teacher and scholar, Professor Saperstein is a sociologist and demographer who provides her expertise on population change and the study of racial and gender disparities to the HumBio Core. Following the retirement of HumBio founder and Sociology pioneer, Sandy Dornbusch in 1995, Human Biology

was left with gap in the sociological perspective. Professor Saperstein is the anchor in the reintegration of this vital angle into the Human Biology Program and the HumBio Core. She also currently serves on Human Biology's Executive Committee.

When she is not teaching, Professor Saperstein is immersed in a number of research projects including: testing nonbinary measures of sex and gender in surveys, understanding how widespread genetic ancestry testing influences demographic measures of race/ethnicity, and studying how conceptions of diversity and inclusion are incorporated into precision medicine research.

Dr. Michael Frank awarded the Troland Research Award by the National Academy of Sciences!

Dr. Frank, Associate Professor of Psychology and the David and Lucile Packard Professor of Human Biology, was recognized in January for his work on children's early language learning and how it interacts with their developing understanding of the social world. He studies how children use social context to acquire language.

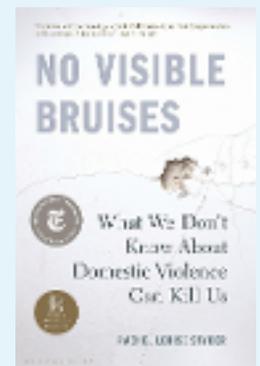
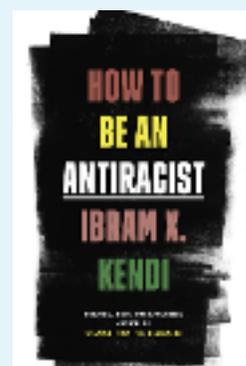
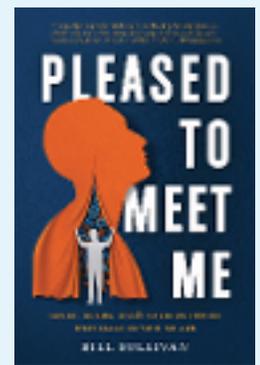
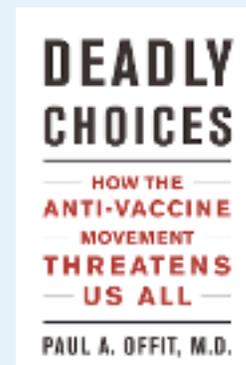
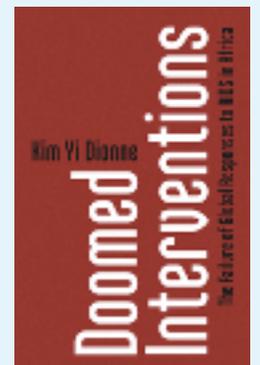
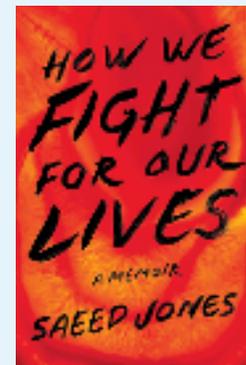
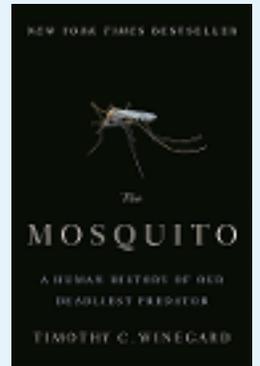
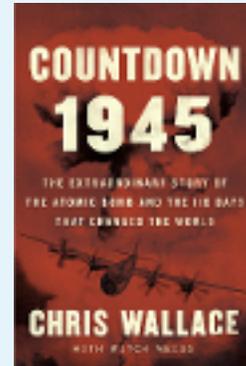
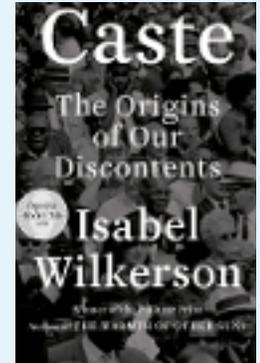
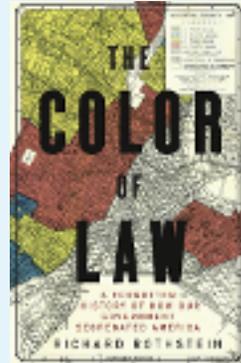
Dr. Frank teaches in the HumBio Core for HumBio 3B, *Behavior, Health, and Development*.



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HumBio Bookshelf

Books recommended by faculty and staff





© Linda A. Cicero / Stanford News Service

Virtual Celebrations for the Class of 2020

Despite being apart and unable to commemorate the Class of 2020 in the traditional sense, our Human Biology team prioritized developing events that would showcase our incredible senior class and celebrate all of their amazing accomplishments. The Gelles Senior Symposium, Awards Ceremony, and June Celebration, in place of a formal graduation ceremony all took place virtually over zoom and YouTube.

The 2020 Gelles Senior Symposium, which consisted of 34 honors research and synthesis projects, took place over the course of two days on Zoom. A mix of live Q&A discussion and presentation recordings, the symposium was highly attended with more than 70 individuals tuning in to listen. In face of a global pandemic and many students' research being halted as a direct result, the students still presented their work with incredible enthusiasm, professionalism, and grace. They brought energy to the live Q&A and answered questions thoughtfully.

You can watch the full recordings of the symposium here: [Day 1 / Day 2](#)

The annual HumBio Awards Ceremony brought the community together to honor a group of stellar juniors and seniors. The event was not only attended by our talented students and HumBio faculty and staff, but also by family members across the country and some of the wonderful family members of those in whose honor some of our awards were created.

The students honored (listed on the next page) met rigorous academic standards and were also commended for their perseverance, hard work, and dedication, their contagious enthusiasm and engagement, and their passion and commitment to public service.

Watch the recorded award ceremony [here](#).

Although the University plans to have an in-person celebration for the graduating class at a later date, the HumBio team worked together to create a memorable virtual tribute to all of the students' hard work and achievements. The celebration brought together music by Stanford Taiko Drums and Léa Bourgade, a collection of memorable student and faculty photos, a spotlight on our Class of 2020 graduates and inspirational and

Continues on next page

Professor Laurence Baker named Bing Professor of Human Biology

Please join us in congratulating Professor Laurence (Loren) Baker, Professor of Medicine (Health Research and Policy) and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), who has been named the Bing Professor of Human Biology on December 3, 2019.

A health economist, Professor Baker uses his expertise about the U.S. health care system and health policy to teach in the HumBio Core (Environmental and Health Policy Analysis) since 2010 and in other HumBio courses. He also serves on the Human Biology's Executive and Curriculum Committees and has been the Catherine R. Kennedy and Daniel L. Grossman Fellow in Human Biology since 2016.

When he is not teaching, Professor Baker works on research about the economic performance of the U.S. and other health care systems.

His current projects are focused on the organization of physician practices, hospitals, and other health care providers, and the ways that this affects health care costs and outcomes.



© Stanford Health Policy Profile

Human Biology Award Recipients 2020

Joshua Lederberg Award for Academic Excellence in Human Biology

Clarissa Aguirre	Alessandra Marcone
Nicole Apana	Emily Miller
Brandon Bergsneider	Cameron Nosrat
Léa Bourgade	Ashwin Reddy
Abby Chen	Kelsey Rich
Alexandra Crew	Shannon Richardson
Catherine Gao	Walter Sobba
Shravya Gurrapu	Nicole Taylor
Maimi Higuchi	Rachel Vaughan

Kirsten Frohnmayer Research Prize for Juniors

Avi Gurion Kay
Caroline Pecos-Duarte

Merton & Audrey Bernfield Director's Award for Exceptional Contributions to the Program in Human Biology

Margaret Bruck
Grace Romer
Micah Trautwein

Albert H. Hastrof Award for Outstanding Service to the Program in Human Biology

Vincent Busque
Alessandra Marcone
Walter Sobba

Program for Oral Communication Excellence Award for Honors Thesis Presentation

Nicole Apana
Alessandra Marcone

Estelle & Bernard Shuer Award for Outstanding Neuroscience Research

Brandon Bergsneider

Barbara & Sandy Dornbusch Award for Excellence in Research Related to Families and Children

Courtney Gao

motivational speeches by Dr. Annette Salmeen, Director Lianne Kurina, and our student speakers, Julia Todderud, Mikaela Brewer, and Angela Wang.

Julia reflected back on her Stanford acceptance story, explaining that graduating is an exciting new beginning just like being accepted; the same excitement and anticipation in a moment of overwhelming uncertainty. Mikaela shared her fight against mental health issues and how the Program in Human Biology helped her in finding a purpose and her voice again. And Angela closed out the student speakers by building bridges: between her homes, Little Rock Arkansas and Beijing China, and the bridges the students have learnt to build between the biology and social worlds through Human Biology.

Dr. Salmeen expressed gratitude for the students' incredible compassion, love, and hard work amidst the global pandemic and shared just how impressed she was with their capabilities. "With your interdisciplinary knowledge and your ability to speak persuasively, you are well-prepared to be informed participants in the complex global conversations that we are having in these unprecedented times," she said. "You have been trained to think critically as you confront information in a fast paced and interconnected world. [...] Regardless of your path moving forward, I wish you strength and resilience through the challenges and great joy along the way."

Closing out the celebration, Director Kurina offered the following words of encouragement:

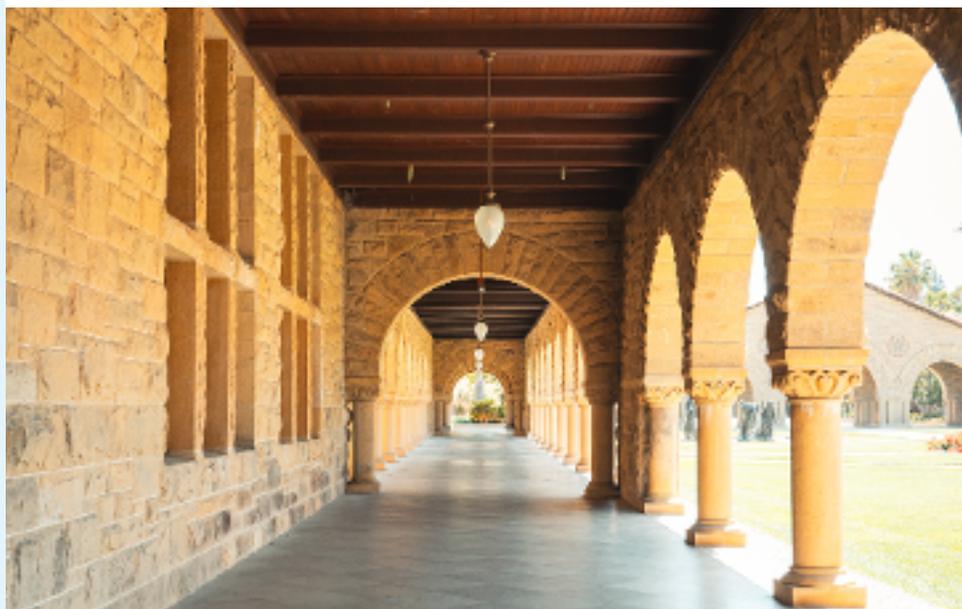
"Class of 2020, I challenge you to help decide what happens next. You have the power to use your voice. You have the power to stand up for what is right. You have energy, enormous capacity and resilience, and you can help determine how we move forward. And you don't need to do this alone.

Among the many communities of which you are a part, remember that you will also always have the Stanford HumBio community to support you. Composed of you, the current graduates, rising students, and the thousands of awesome alumni out there, the Stanford HumBio network is vibrant and strong and will always be here for each of you. Rely on those connections."

Congratulations again to all of our wonderful 2020 graduates and welcome to the HumBio alumni family!

You can watch the HumBio June Celebration [here](#).

© Andrew Brodhead



Walter Sobba '20 Awarded the 2020 Kennedy Honors Thesis Prize

The Program in Human Biology is excited to share that Walter Sobba, a Class of 2020 HumBio graduate was awarded this year's prestigious David M. Kennedy Honors Thesis Prize for his thesis entitled, "ARID1A Loss Leads to Mucinous Differentiation and Therapeutic Opportunities in CRISPR/Cas9-Engineered Human Gastric Organoids".

Established in 2008, the prize was created in honor of history professor, David M. Kennedy and his long-standing mentoring of undergraduate writers.

The prize is awarded annually to the single best thesis in four academic areas: humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and engineering & applied sciences. Recipients of this award have accomplished exceptionally advanced research in the field and have shown strong potential for publication in peer-reviewed scholarly work.

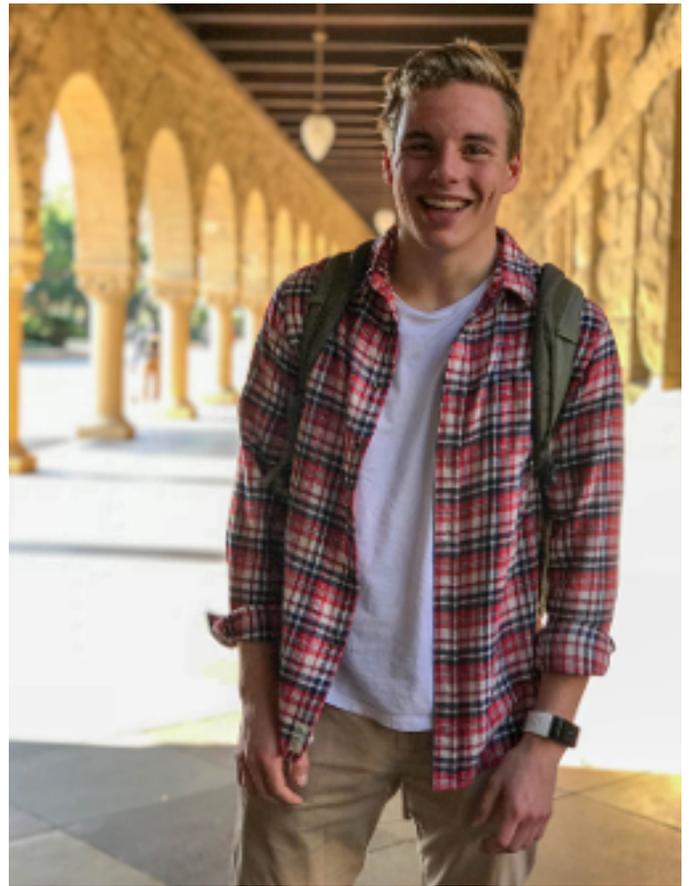
Although there have been many strong candidates over the years, Sobba is the first Human Biology Kennedy Prize winner since 2013.

Sobba's thesis work was nothing short of stellar. His mentors and the entire Human Biology Awards Committee found his research to be comprehensive, well-organized, and engaging. Furthermore, he showcased his ability to clearly present his own interpretations and ideas, and formulate critical hypotheses based on sound scientific rationale in both his written thesis and his final presentation.

His unwavering dedication, innate intellectual curiosity, and diligence and hard work is clear not only in all of his academic endeavors but also in the nomination letter from his mentor and advisor, Dr. Calvin Luo. In his nomination letter, Dr. Luo noted that Sobba's thesis work is at a senior graduate student or postdoc level and is the strongest he has seen from his lab in his 20 years of mentoring undergraduates at Stanford. He went on to share that Walter brings to the scientific community "a blend of motivation, intellect, scientific insight, and work ethic that is rarely found in undergraduate students."

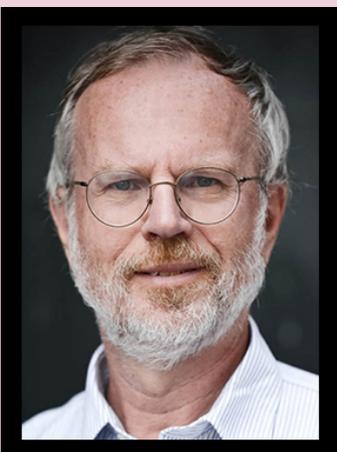
Congratulations, Walter, on this incredible accomplishment! We are so proud of you and cannot wait to see what you accomplish in the future.

You can watch Walter's final thesis presentation [here](#).



© Courtesy of Walter Sobba

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: ROELAND NUSSE AWARDED THE CANADA GAIRDNER INTERNATIONAL AWARD ON MARCH 30



© Stanford Profiles

A diverse group of eight scientists whose work has offered insight into how cells interact with each other and their environment, the genetic underpinnings of neurological disease and the transmission of the virus that causes AIDS, have been named this year's winners of the Gairdner Awards — the country's most prestigious biomedical research prizes.

In the midst of a pandemic, this year's awardees highlight the importance of basic science in understanding the fundamental processes of life and how those processes relate to human health around the world.

Among those honored is our very own Roel Nusse, who discovered a set of biochemical pathways known as "Wnt signaling". Fundamental to all animal cells, they govern cell development and are linked to a range of cancers and other diseases. Nusse is the Reed-Hodgson Professor in Human Biology and teaches in the HumBio Core in HumBio 3A: Cell & Developmental Biology. Congratulations!

Read the full announcement by Ivan Semeniuk on *The Globe and Mail*.

HUMBIO IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19 & RACIAL INJUSTICE

It is during difficult and uncertain times like these that the incredible bravery, passion, and strength of our community shines through. Check out just a few of the many ways our students, faculty, and alumni have been rising to the occasion.

Student Advisor Shravya Gurrapu '20 helped to create and lead a new Undergraduate Community Advising Initiative in March

The new program was created to support the Stanford community during this pandemic. It helps students navigate the many challenging and uncertain decisions and circumstances that they are facing. Academic and general advising, support, and resources is offered to anyone in the Stanford community via Zoom.

To learn more about the initiative, visit their resources site [here](#).

Professor of Pediatrics and Health Research & Policy, Dr. Yvonne Maldonado works on a clinical trial to test oral drug for treating COVID-19 outpatients



© Stanford King Center

Dr. Maldonado is the principle investigator of a new Stanford Medicine clinical trial that rolled out testing in July. The trial will test whether the antiviral medication, favipiravir, can reduce symptoms and viral shedding in people with COVID-19. The drug was previously approved to treat influenza in Japan.

They are shortly moving into phase II of the trial and has begun moving to phase III this September.

Maldonado is also an active advocate for a targeted messaging campaign for the younger population.

"It's really about getting them to understand that they have some kind of personal and social responsibility to family members around them, friends, and others," she said in one of her interviews in late July.

Professor of Medicine, Christopher Gardner and fellow scientists develop a new COVID symptom tracker

The goal of the *Zoe COVID Symptom Tracker* app is not only to check your symptoms, or lack thereof, on a daily basis, but also to provide the collected information (in an anonymized way) to the medical research community and track the spread of the virus. Gardner and the group of scientists hope this tracker will encourage the normalization of health-positive technology.

To download and learn more about the app [here](#).

Cole Holderman '19 encourages blood donations amidst shortages

The Stanford Blood Center faced a blood supply shortage caused by a lack of donors due to COVID-19 and the shelter-in-place order beginning in March.

Cole Holderman '19 has donated to the SBC weekly for the last year. When Holderman was informed of the shortage, he immediately started encouraging others to donate blood.

"My brother was a cancer patient, and his treatment would not have been possible without dozens of blood products that supported him through his chemotherapy," Holderman said. "When I think about blood supply running short, I imagine people like my brother dying in hospitals because we are running out of these crucial supplies."

Read the full story by Camyrn Pak, The Stanford Daily, [here](#).

Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Dr. Eunice Rodriguez argues the importance of nurses for California schools

Dr. Rodriguez's research highlights that school attendance increases and emergency room visits decrease when vulnerable children and children with chronic conditions such as asthma have access to a full-time nurse while at school. She argues this is especially important as schools start up again this fall. With schools struggling to fund for school nurses, she recommends the State consider a similar system to Massachusetts, where a separate fund is set up for education and student health.

Alum Aaron Bernstein '99 discusses the correlation between climate change and the increased risk of pandemics

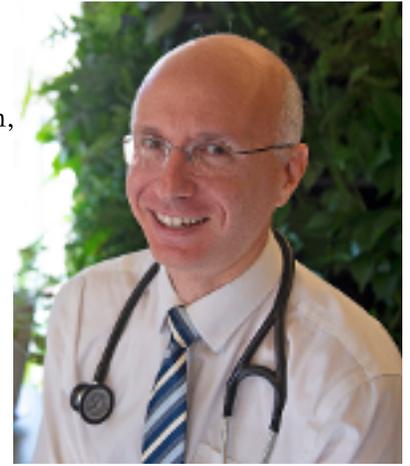
Dr. Bernstein, a pediatrician and the interim director of The Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard University (C-CHANGE), is just one of many HumBio alums in the news discussing COVID-19.

Recently, Bernstein discussed the possibility that climate change can actually affect the risk of pandemics like COVID-19.

“We're transforming the climate and we can't pretend that these radical changes to how the Earth works and life on Earth are not going to affect our health,” Bernstein says.

History has shown that many serious outbreaks are a direct result of closer contact with animals caused by habitat loss, deforestation, and confined animal feeding operations.

Bernstein argues that the current global pandemic is the perfect opportunity for people to not only recognize the impact climate change has on our health but also find ways to make positive changes to prevent further impacts.



© Harvard Chan C-CHANGE

Lifting Every Voice with Stanford Talisman: An Interview with Talisman Director and HumBio major, John Okhiulu '21



On Tuesday, July 28 2020, Stanford Talisman helped the San Francisco Giants ring in their opening home baseball game with an a cappella rendition of “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing,” also known as the Black National Anthem. The Giants had spent the week leading up to the event protesting systemic racism and using their widespread platform to promote equality. The theme of the 25-minute opening ceremony amplified these efforts on a televised stage.

At the helm of Talisman and their performance at the opening was HumBio’s very own John Okhiulu, a Senior Human

Biology and African & African American Studies double major.

Motivated in part by the prestige of Stanford, Okhiulu’s dream as a high school student was to attend Stanford. In addition to the campus energy, student activities, and weather, Okhiulu knew that being a Cardinal would also benefit him in his future endeavors.

Okhiulu discovered the Program in Human Biology through his friends in Talisman who were HumBio majors and who appreciated its interdisciplinary nature and flexibility. With the goal of pursuing medicine, he quickly learned that the program would provide him with a space to explore specific aspects of medicine and biology that pertained to his personal interests. In Human Biology John focuses on health and psychosocial development within marginalized communities, while in African and African American Studies, he explores issues of identity and intersectionality. For his honors thesis research in HumBio, he is analyzing the potential to expand lung cancer screening in women by pairing it with breast cancer screening.

The 2020–2021 Talisman Director, Okhiulu who is from Dallas, Texas by way of Nigeria joined Talisman his freshman fall quarter after being blown away by their performance at a student showcase.

Founded in 1990, Talisman is an a cappella group at Stanford University, created to tell important cultural and human stories that were often left untold on Stanford’s campus, through song. “Our singers come into this community from around the states and around the world bringing with them a breadth of experience that we lean in to together through music,” Okhiulu says.



Originally born out of sympathy for the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and stories of Black liberation struggles across the world, Talisman continues to connect its members across their different heritages and histories to share stories of importance. The group also uses their platform and resources to raise awareness of, advocate for, and support major social movements such as the Anti-Apartheid movement in the 90s and the Black Lives Matter movement today. “The music is a bridge connecting our hearts and those of our audience to the causes we aim to support,” Okhiulu said.

Talisman’s appearance on July 28 was not only a beautiful and powerful performance that brought the community together but it was the highlight of the Giants’ opening night tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement and the fight against racial injustices continuing to pervade our society.

“We created the Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing Virtual Choir in an effort to bring our alumni back together to lend our voices to the Black Lives Matter Movement – in this moment and moving forward,” Okhiulu explained. “We thought about how powerful it might be to sing Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing, the official Black National Anthem in the United States.” The song, which was proclaimed the Black National Anthem in 1919, speaks of faith, hope, and liberation for Black people in the United States. It is a song of prayer and protest, and a reminder that the Black struggles of the past are still very much alive and pervasive as ever today.

Creating the virtual choir took a great deal of patience, grace, and coordination (although Okhiulu says it was nearly not as complicated as their 30th Anniversary Concert back in February which consisted of over 150

singers!). Over the course of two weeks, the group collected video and audio recordings from a total of 71 current and alumni Talisman members. From there, Okhiulu, Noelle Chow ‘20 and Kai Fox ‘21 spent many hours combining and syncing up the individual audios and videos. Their painstaking work culminated in the breathtaking and empowering final video which not only features the many faces and voices of the Talisman community, but also highlights the groups’ African American performers.

As the 2020–21 director of Talisman, Okhiulu hopes to deepen the group’s commitment to the fight against racial injustice not only through music but also through fundraising and engagement. “My HumBio education has informed me about the importance of working with instead of on behalf of marginalized communities. It has taught me the importance of culture and community to well-being. [...] I believe music can be a healing and reflective way to process the pandemic and political division we are wading through,” he explained. Together with other a capella groups at Stanford, Talisman has raised over \$15,000 for the ACLU and a further \$7,500 for the Black Visions Collective and the Transgender Gender-Variant & Intersex Justice Project (TGJJP) with the help of their Talisman alumni network. “We thought it was important for us to not only engage artistically with the movement, but to contribute what we could to those committed to liberation work in their daily lives.”

“This year, I’m looking to really interrogate our relationship to our repertoire and the communities they arose from to ensure that we’re doing the best within our ability to represent the songs we sing. [...] We are trying to meet the moment we are living in with intention and action. That means getting creative with how we create our art, but also getting creative in the ways we pay it forward.”

Listen to Talisman’s powerful rendition of Lift Ev’ry Voice from the Giants opening game here.

Learn more about Talisman and listen to their music on their **website**, **Instagram**, and **YouTube** channel.



Photos courtesy of John Okhiulu

HumBio alumni and students help to create a Bay Area Community Resource Page

Bay Area Community Resources is a volunteer-driven, open-source project that was created to help communities navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

The website provides information on public resources such as locations and schedules for free meals, food assistance,



legal assistance, and medical help. This resource has also been translated into a multiple languages.

More than 60 individuals make up the team behind the site, working on everything from data engineering to resource coordinating, to translating. Among the team, HumBio is proud to have a number of alumni and students involved in the project: Christopher LeBoa '19, Ashwin Reddy '20, Brandon Bergsneider '20, Micah Trautwein '20, Annie Chang '21, Jade Riopelle '21, and Emily Mam (minor) '21.

You can check out their incredible work [here](#).

Professor in the Humanities and Professor of History, Walter Scheidel discusses how the pandemic can change the world

As the world continues to fight the corona virus pandemic, questions about how society will change arise.

Economic historian, Professor Scheidel has previously identified four events that have the ability to reshape society and flatten economic inequalities, including lethal pandemics. In an interview with Vox, Scheidel explained that based on these historical patterns and the potential of this pandemic to become a crisis of great magnitude, Scheidel says it is possible for us to witness another shift in society. "It all depends on how quickly we're able to return to the status quo", he said.

Assistant Professor of Health Services Research (Medicine), Maya Rossin-Slater's latest research argues a greater risk of domestic violence amidst the COVID pandemic

In her research on domestic violence and potential harm to fetuses, Professor Rossin-Slater has found that the pandemic has amplified the number of cases against women and girls, pregnant women in particular. She and her colleagues also found that babies born to mothers who experience assault are much more likely to be born premature and weigh less; the assaults are also likely to have lasting health and well-being consequences for the child.

Read more about her work [here](#).

HumBio 114: Global Change & Emerging Infectious Disease spent Spring 2020 reflecting on COVID-19 from social, cultural, biological perspectives

Amidst the COVID pandemic, HumBio 114: *Global Change and Emerging Infectious Disease* saw the class enrollment triple in size to 121 students this last Spring.

The course traditionally has students learn about the effects human-induced environmental changes such as global warming, deforestation, human migration, and international commerce, have on the ecology of infectious disease transmission. Students are challenged to think about infectious diseases from perspectives of history, culture and ecology, in addition to analyzing the data itself.

With the current pandemic, biological and ecological anthropologist, and Associate Professor of Earth Systems Science, James Holland Jones, shifted the focus of the course even more to have students reflect on what it means to study infectious diseases during a global pandemic.

With the help of fellow Professor and Senior Fellow from the Division of Infectious Disease, John Openshaw, the course incorporated live updates on the COVID pandemic while still addressing the conditions and circumstances that lead to infectious diseases and the effects these diseases disproportionately have on certain communities.

Teaching Assistant, Yi-Lin Tsai, a civil and environmental engineering Ph.D. candidate, described the course as a "living lab", wherein students learning was amplified and integrated into their day-to-day lives through the news and their communities.

COVID-19 is not our first global pandemic, and "likely will not be our last," Jones said.

"We have inadvertently engineered a world that is ripe for the emergence, amplification, and dissemination of diseases of pandemic potential. [...] I really hope that we can inspire some students to continue on, pursuing careers that help alleviate global inequality in health and undoing some of the engineering for continued pandemics."

AN INTERVIEW WITH GIANNA NINO '18: A VIRAL TWEET ABOUT FARM WORKERS' LOW WAGES & A YOUNG WOMAN'S JOURNEY TO BECOMING A DOCTOR



As she finished up her summer picking blueberries on farms around the Bay Area, HumBio Alum Gianna Nino '18 shared a tweet about the low wages earned by her fellow farmworkers. Little did she know that this tweet to her friends would go viral, catching the eye of hundreds of news reporters and raising awareness of the farm workers' conditions.

Nino came to Stanford University from Umatilla, Oregon as a first-generation, low-income student. Having observed health disparities in her community and witnessing numerous problems suffered by farm workers such as heat stroke, joint injuries, and kidney damage due to a lack of access to toilets, Nino knew that no matter what kind of education she obtained, she wanted to be able to contribute to the health of her community. She often spent her time accompanying her members of her community to medical appointments, acting as their translator. Amidst these experiences, Nino asked herself “Why can’t my community have top-tier-trained doctors?”

Nino completed a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology in 2018 with a concentration in youth development and education. Looking back at her time in Human Biology, Nino is grateful for the incredible interdisciplinary foundation that the program has given her, especially amidst the current pandemic. “I have used all of my coursework in public and community health, virology, parasitology, biostatistics and more as well as the scientific fluency and communication I gained to be a capable self-directed learner in medical school,” she said. “Human Biology has truly helped me feel confident in using my education to serve my community.”

Her favorite HumBio experiences were Dr. Bob Siegel’s Humans & Viruses course and the Community Health in Oaxaca Program with Dr. Gabriel Garcia. She explained that the Oaxaca program has been a cornerstone of her

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Student Services Officer, Lia Cacciari, Retires After 20+ Years with the Program

After over two decades of devotion to the Program in Human Biology and the HumBio community, Student Services Officer Lia Cacciari retired in September.

Cacciari has shepherded over 3,500 students through the program with great patience, care, and empathy in her 23 years of service to the program. Her uncanny and essential ability to remain calm and composed in the face of panicked students allowed her to tackle difficult situations with a professional, yet personal touch. It is clear that she cared deeply about the success and well-being of each and every one of the students she worked with.

In 2009, she received the School of Humanities and Science’s Arnice P. Streit Service of Excellence Award for her work in assisting in the development of myriad pathways through HumBio and for streamlining the advising process. In her awards interview she said, “I help them navigate through the whole process of getting familiar with their course choices and the bigger picture. Students know they have a place to go to, and a person available to them to get their questions answered.”

Cacciari's generous spirit, sound guidance, and tireless work have been invaluable to the program and she will be greatly missed. We wish her the best in her future endeavors!



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education. “Both professors [Dr. Siegel and Dr. Garcia] are top-notch instructors and mentors; they have always spoken to me honestly and helped me assess my future. I learned material that I now use in my day-to-day life.”

Nino was surprised by how much national attention her tweet would garner. In the tweet, she wrote, “I’m about to finish up my time in the fields, and wanted everyone to know that we (farmworkers) are paid \$7 for two gallons of blueberries. How much do you pay for your blueberries?” In the weeks that followed, all while she was preparing to start medical school, she was interviewed on a number of podcasts and news outlets.

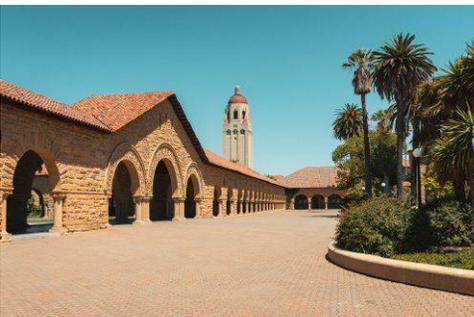
Now, almost two months since she sent out that tweet, Nino continues to raise awareness of farm workers’ conditions. “I think that thinking of them [farmworkers] in the changing climate and current political circumstances is incredibly important,” she said. As exhausting as the national attention has been, she is greatly appreciative of the sheer amount of awareness her tweet and her efforts following the tweet have brought to farm workers and their work conditions across the country.

After completing her Masters in Epidemiology this last June, Nino is now continuing her journey at the Stanford Medical School. In the future, she hopes to become a community-based medical practitioner, running a medical clinic that will provide health services for migrant farm workers. “I always knew that whatever I learned at Stanford, and in my major, would one day make it back home and allow me to best serve my community,” she said. “Human biology has empowered me to explore how I could do that, whether that be public health, medicine, or research. [...] I want to prove more immediate care and impact. I want to close the health disparity gap.”



Photos courtesy of Gianna Nino

Scenes From an Empty Stanford Campus by Andrew Brodhead (university photographer)



IN MEMORIAM: DONALD KENNEDY 1931 - 2020



Donald Kennedy, HumBio Founder and early Program Director, and former University President, died at the age of 88 on April 21, 2020.

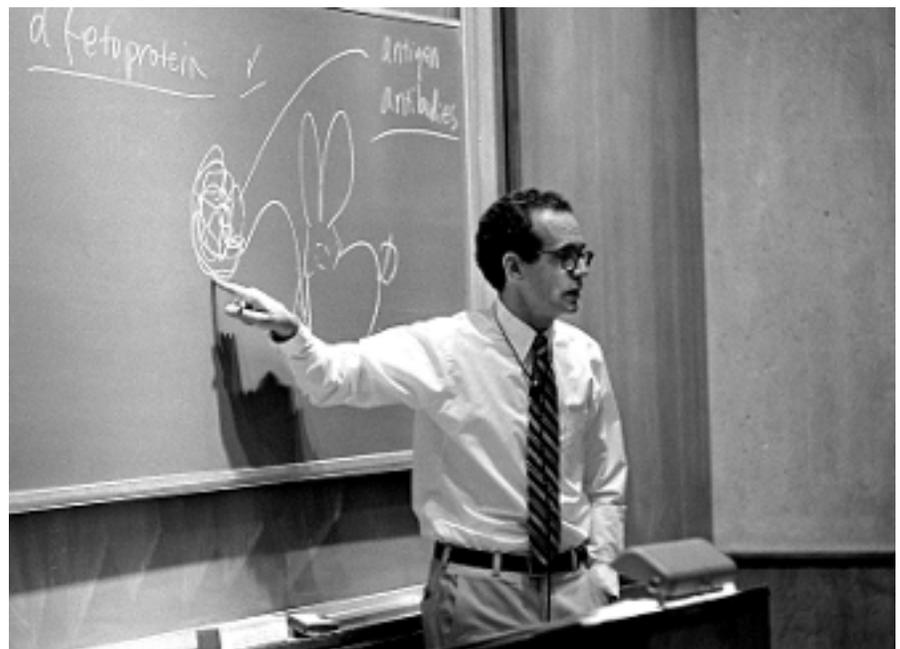
The world-renowned neurobiologist and national voice for science joined Stanford's faculty as an assistant professor in 1960 and proceeded to have an incredible 32-year career at the university which included chairing the Biology Department, founding and directing the Human Biology Program, and leading the University as President. Kennedy also served as the commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under President Jimmy Carter from 1977 to 1979 and the Editor-in-Chief of Science magazine from 2000 to 2008.

Don's vision for the Human Biology Program was ahead of the times. He was a strong advocate for the program's policy-oriented approach and understood the importance of connecting education to peoples' own intellectual journeys. In an interview in 2011, Don reflected on HumBio's inception and said that "the purpose of a good interdisciplinary undergraduate program is to give people some real

occasions in which they can structure their own capacity to process their information, to process their own beliefs, to integrate it with their personal philosophy and their hopes for themselves, and ultimately make better choices on the grounds of that fusion."

Involved throughout the program's early development, Don took on his roles of founder, Director, and professor with endless enthusiasm and dedication. Always smiling and joyous, Don was beloved by all for his outgoing and likeable personality and his bold and dynamic leadership. He was a gifted and charismatic teacher whose unconventional and interactive teaching style inspired students, faculty, and colleagues alike. Students would clamor to get into his class lectures and host a myriad of events in the hopes he would make an appearance.

"I will never forget Donald Kennedy getting up on the lab table at the front of the lecture hall and assuming a quadruped position to demonstrate to us the concepts of dorsal, ventral, cephalo, and caudal," said Ingrid Schwontes Jackoway, '79. "His first concern was always with teaching effectively, not preserving his dignity." (HumBio First Thirty History Book, pg. 24)



IN MEMORIAM: DONALD KENNEDY 1931 - 2020



Best of all, Don was an accessible leader. According to Albert Hastorf, fellow HumBio founder and Professor of Psychology, Don maximized people through his own contagious energy. From his jogs to the Dish, to his attendance of athletic events, to his visits to student dorms, Don was an open and dynamic leader on campus. He somehow managed to remember the name of every single student he interacted with and always knew what was going on in the HumBio program. He was never afraid to have fun with his core students and the larger community, for example, climbing on tables to demonstrate concepts such as echolocation in bats.

The Program in Human Biology owes a great deal to the charisma, energy, and intellect of Professor Donald Kennedy. He advocated not only for each of his students' success and well-being but for the success of the Human Biology Program and Stanford University at large.

Don had a powerful influence on students and faculty alike and his legacy is clear and strong in the people whose lives he touched. He will be deeply missed.

Learn more about Kennedy's involvement in Human Biology in this video interview and founders panel made in honor of HumBio's Biology's 40th anniversary.

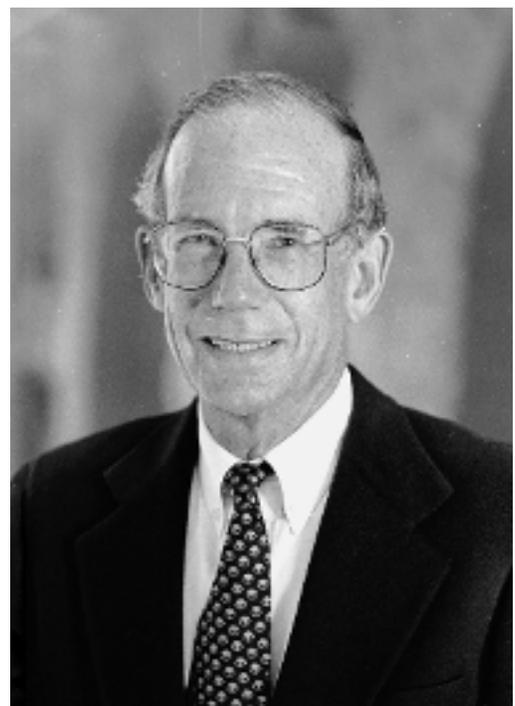


When we relayed the news of Don's death to the Human Biology community, there was an immediate outpouring of both sadness and of many wonderful memories of Don. We therefore decided to assemble these reflections into a book as a collective tribute to commemorate the extraordinary Professor Don Kennedy.

It is clear from reading through the many student and faculty reflections submitted after Don's passing that he had just an incredible impact on everyone with whom he crossed paths.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to contribute their photos, reflections, and beautiful memories for this tribute.

A digital version of the tribute is now available on our website [here](#).



Photos courtesy of HumBio Alumni, Bill Durham, and Stanford's Image Exchange

HUMBIO TURNS 50 IN 2021!

In celebration of this momentous occasion, the Program in Human Biology is planning to host a birthday celebration during Stanford's Reunion Weekend in October 2021.



Please send any memorabilia you'd like to share for our jubilee celebration materials and upcoming 50th Anniversary History Book.

*To share your digital or physical items for the event, please contact
Jessy Frydenberg at:
frydenbj@stanford.edu*



DO YOU HAVE NEWS OR STORIES YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE?
DO YOU WANT TO LEAD A CAREER WORKSHOP ?

HUMBIO WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

JOIN AND POST IN OUR [LINKEDIN](#) GROUP, SHARE YOUR STORIES
ON OUR [WEBSITE](#), OR SEND IT TO [Jessy Frydenberg](#).



Get the latest updates and see what's happening in HumBio with our new and improved Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook pages! Tag [@stanfordhumbio](#) or [#stanfordhumbio](#) to be featured!

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