

**John D. Porterfield**  
**Distinguished Service Award**

**Marguerite (Margo) Erme, DO, MPH**

Dr. Erme currently serves as the Medical Director at the Summit County Health District. Prior to becoming the medical director at the Summit County Health District, Dr. Erme served as the Communicable Disease Medical Officer at the Akron Health Department. As the Communicable Disease Medical Officer, Dr. Erme supervised communicable disease investigations, surveillance, as well as emergency preparedness activities within the City of Akron. Her professionalism and her passion for helping people transcend the many facets of public health. Dr. Erme is often called upon by health care professionals from local hospitals to act as a sounding board when public health concerns arise. She has been instrumental in leading the public health response to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic as well as seasonal influenza.

Dr. Erme is often asked to speak to various groups about communicable diseases and emergency preparedness. She will often accommodate various shifts when working with hospitals and community correctional facilities even if this includes late night or early morning presentations. Dr. Erme often serves as preceptors and mentors for public health practitioners. It is not uncommon for her to be working with several students at a time. She is also a regular speaker and guest of local radio programs in the community.

In terms of her research and/or community health work, Dr. Erme has been a member of the Internal Review Board at Summa Health System for many years. Through this effort, she has impacted public health research in our community. She has also served on the faculty of NEOUCOM and has worked with the Master of Public Health Program.

Dr. Erme treats people with both compassion and professionalism. It is not uncommon for Dr. Erme to spend time listening and explaining to individuals who have recently been diagnosed with a communicable disease what the diagnosis means and how they can prevent transmission to other family members. Dr. Erme has the ability to converse with lay people who have no medical training. She takes the time to really listen to someone's concern and to help them feel more at ease. Dr. Erme is a true advocate for public health and her employees. Dr. Erme was nominated by Courtney Hudson

**President's Award**

**Sherry Connell**

Sherry Connell is a Senior Consultant, Project Management at Nationwide Insurance. In her 26 year career with the company she's held a variety of technical and organizational management roles. In recent years, she's been selected to play a variety of leadership roles in several of the company's highest priority and most challenging software development, technology advancement, and business initiatives. Sherry has managed project teams of over 300 people located in multiple countries around the world. She has a proven track record of building high performing teams who consistently deliver projects on time, under budget, with quality, often exceeding the business requested scope and expectations. Her portfolio includes programs such as the Nationwide NASCAR Series sponsorship, Y2K, company integration/mergers, as well as delivering new technologies & business capabilities to Nationwide Agents, Commercial Insurance, and Customer-facing initiatives. Sherry is currently serving as the Program Manager for both Business and Technology Delivery of the Nationwide SMARTRIDE<sup>SM</sup> initiative; a cross-functional and internationally based Team that is designing, developing, and implementing a revolutionary telematics-enabled solution. The delivery success of this research & development Team has elevated them to one of the highest strategic investment priorities for the Property & Casualty Company with sponsorship and visibility by C-level Executives across the Enterprise. Sherry has been married to Burt for 25 years; they have 5 children, an adult son and 4 daughters; a senior in high school and 3-year old triplets.

# 2011 Celebrate Public Health Awards

## OPHA Governing Council Award

### **Center for AIDS Research and Education (CARE), Summa Health System**

Developed in 1988, Summa's CARE Center is designed to meet the unique healthcare needs of patients with HIV/AIDS in the Akron community. The center is staffed with HIV/AIDS-certified nurses, physicians board-certified in HIV medicine and/or infectious diseases, and psychologists who are experienced in working with HIV/AIDS patients. These individuals are dedicated to optimizing patients' medical, emotional, socioeconomic and psychological wellness. In 2005, the center was renamed in memory of Darleen C. Claypoole, a case management nurse who cared for HIV positive patients since the center's inception. The CARE Center works with several agencies located in Summit and surrounding counties. Through CareNet III, Violet's Cupboard and the Akron City Health Department provide primary and specialty services to individuals living with HIV. Violet's Cupboard is a non-profit organization which provides comprehensive services for patients and families living with HIV, through Ryan White Case Management. Summa's Darleen C. Claypoole, R.N. Center for AIDS Research and Education (CARE) team provides care for Akron-area residents who have been diagnosed with HIV. The CARE Center is the only adult, hospital-based HIV/AIDS specialty center between Cleveland and Columbus. The CARE Center staff provides patients with counseling and educational services, outpatient medical treatment, case management, assistance in acquiring medications and referrals for supportive services. Accepting the award on behalf of the CARE Center is Dr. Amy Hite. Dr. Hite is a native Ohioan, currently working as the administrative Director and Clinical Manager for the Center for AIDS Research and Education, Department of Medicine at Summa Health System. In her current role, she supervises the direct care of over 100 patients and assists in the care of another 550 HIV Center patients; she's also the attending physician in general medicine and HIV Teaching services for both inpatients and outpatient services.



**Young Public Health  
Professionals Award**

**Dr. Natalie A. DiPietro**

Dr. Natalie A. DiPietro is currently an Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice at the Ohio Northern University, Raabe College of Pharmacy. In this position, Natalie has worked hard to introduce public health-related topics into the pharmacy curriculum, in order to ensure that future pharmacists are equipped to make an impact on public health through their positions as pharmacists. In a field where there has been an increasing call to provide contributions to public health, Natalie has worked hard to ensure that the role of pharmacists in public health is well-known.

In addition to her work as a professor, Natalie has conducted research in public health. She has recently written two articles on epidemiology and observational study designs that were published in a well-regarded pharmacy journal. She has also recently co-written a book chapter regarding public health and the practice of pharmacy and has a publication pending in the International Journal of Pharmacy Education and Practice involving a survey used to assess public health content in the curriculum of pharmacy schools. At the 2011 Ohio Pharmacists Association annual meeting, Natalie will be presenting a paper discussing roles and opportunities for pharmacists and pharmacy students to make an impact on the Healthy People 2020 objectives.

Natalie has also worked individually with students on public health-related projects, including a student led campus-based intervention to increase knowledge of folic acid for prevention of neural tube defects among college women. As a result of this project, her student was the first at Ohio Northern University to receive the U.S. Public Health Services Excellence in Public Health Pharmacy Practice award. Natalie also assists students with yearly campus activities such as the National Women's Health Week and this year she received funding from John Snow Inc. to provide heart disease education for women in Hardin and Allen Counties.

Through the public health projects that Natalie has developed at ONU, she has worked to increase College and Graduate students' education in many areas, with a focus on women's health and heart disease. Much of her work has also been focused on ensuring that the pharmacy profession increases its understanding and participation in public health activities as a whole. She has positively impacted public health practice by bringing it into a field where it has previously had little focus. Dr. DiPietro was nominated by Ms. Bethany L. Murphy

**Public Health Citizen of  
the Year Award** **Graham Baldwin Bowling**

Graham Baldwin Bowling is currently a senior at Rutherford B. Hayes High School in Delaware, OH. He's a member of the leadership team for the Delaware County branch of STAND UP. The STAND UP program is a group of teens committed to living healthy lives free from drugs, alcohol, tobacco, and violence. The group is facilitated by the Delaware General Health District and Help Line of Delaware and Morrow Counties. Graham took on the smoking policy at his high school as students, faculty, and members of the community could smoke or use other forms of tobacco on school grounds. Graham felt the need to enhance this policy and improve the well being of all in the Delaware City School system.

So in January 2010, Graham formed a committee of fellow STAND UP members to advocate for a 100% Tobacco Free Campus (TFC) policy in the Delaware City schools. Armed with facts, statistics, and personal stories, the group met with the school superintendent, Dr. Mary Anne Ashworth, about the dangers of tobacco exposure and the possibility of implementing this type of policy. Several months later, Graham also conducted a random survey of over 500 of his high school peers and learned that 70% of the students were in support of a 100% TFC policy. In June of last year, Graham presented study findings to the School board along with information about the harmful effects of youth tobacco use. Shortly thereafter, the board voted to adopt a 100% TFC policy effective August 2010, protecting 5100 students, 520+ staff, and countless visitors to the district. Graham did not stop there; he decided that he needed to advocate for a statewide 100% TFC policy. He has spoken twice at the Ohio Board of Education and after his first presentation the board assigned the issue to their Capacity committee for further consideration. Graham has also been in touch with his Congressman to give him an update of his progress.

Graham and his peers' advocacy efforts have been featured in numerous media outlets. As you can see Graham is truly an advocate for not only Delaware City but the state of Ohio. Graham was nominated by Nancy Shapiro and Katie Steinbrenner.

**Student of  
Merit Award**

**Daniel Mix, MA**

Daniel Mix, MA, serves as the Director of Personal Health Services for Geauga County Health District. He supervises staff and contract personnel in public health nursing, WIC, public health emergency preparedness, and vital statistics. He also manages several grants totaling \$750,000. Mr. Mix is also an exemplary student at the Consortium of Eastern Ohio Universities where he will complete his Master of Public Health degree in June. He has been well received by faculty and has achieved a 4.0 GPA. He is currently working on his capstone project, "Community Themes and Strengths Assessment for Geauga County, OH." For this project, he is conducting surveys and focus groups in the Geauga County region, including groups with senior citizens, faith-based organizations, and Amish adults. He also serves as his class representative to the Curriculum Committee. Outside of the MPH program and work, he is a member of the Ohio Department of Health's statewide health assessment project which creates partnerships across the county. Mr. Mix was nominated by Dr. Amy Lee, Consortium of Eastern Ohio Universities.