Clomchay Sibolynomial worked with public health leaders and pediatricians in the capital of Laos, Vientiane, to analyze health care data in an effort to determine how best to allocate limited resources using a “tactical health care portfolio optimization model.” Follow-up visits to Laos were planned to provide training to health care professionals that addresses the needs of the country’s expanding young population.

This summer, Hagigi and four of his EMPH students – Dr. Shant Shekerdismian, Darya Friedman, Tyler Huynh, Heili Kim, and Catherine Vu – are traveling to Armenia to work with a privatized hospital in developing a comprehensive business plan designed to reduce inefficiencies, increase financial viability, and produce evidence-based care with an emphasis on primary care and prevention. In the nearly two decades since Armenia declared its independence from the Soviet Union, it has struggled with its transformation to an industrialized, capitalist country, and newly privatized hospitals have had a difficult time remaining open. The trip by Hagigi and his students is being facilitated by Dr. Haroutune K. Arzrunian, a new member of the school’s faculty who has a long tradition of working to tackle global issues such as the long-term population effects of civil war and natural disasters (see New Faculty on page 32).

Elsewhere in the school, Dr. Pamina Gorbach, associate professor of epidemiology, has forged a close mentoring relationship with Astou Coly (M.P.H. ’01, Dr.P.H. ’05), a postdoctoral scholar Coly has spent the last year working with Gorbach’s Behavioral Epidemiology Research Group helping to develop the behavioral components for clinical trials in Africa testing microbicides designed to prevent HIV, through the Microbicides Trials Network. She has been responsible for running field studies of the questionnaires to be used in the trials, and has traveled to Malawi and South Africa to conduct them. Gorbach has trained Coly in how to conduct these pilot tests, as well as providing guidance and supervision during the process. One of their efforts is now in the field and has enrolled more than 300 women, while the other two will be implemented soon.

Dr. Zuo-Feng Zhang has been active in working with former students to build China’s cancer epidemiology capacity. Last year, Zhang helped to organize a one-day symposium in molecular epidemiology of cancer in Guangxi Province. In March, Zhang spearheaded “Cancer Prevention as a Global Health Challenge,” a workshop held in Shanghai as a collaboration between the UCLA/Sファー AIDS International Training and Research Program and the Fudan University School of Public Health. Zhang continues to work with five former UCLA School of Public Health trainees from China who have returned to their home country to bolster cancer epidemiology. In April, with Zhang fostering the collaboration, Dean Linda Rosenstock and Qingwu Jiang, dean of the Fudan University School of Public Health in China, signed a memorandum of understanding to formalize teaching and research partnership between the UCLA and Fudan schools of public health.

Dr. Donald Morsikey, professor of community health sciences, has ongoing collaborations with five alumni whom he advised while they were doctoral students, and who now hold academic appointments at leading universities in Taiwan. In 2005, Morsikey spent his sabbatical in Taiwan and was invited by each of the UCLA School of Public Health alums to conduct seminars for their students and faculty colleagues, and to teach graduate students at Taipei Medical University (TMU). He gave a presentation to community health workers and held a seminar for health promotion staff on tobacco and the 2007 tobacco control policy. Morsikey also has an ongoing collaboration with Shu-Yu Lye (Ph. D. ’96), associate professor at TMU who, with her husband Dr. Eugene Y. Peng, represented TMU during a 2007 visit to UCLA in which they signed a memorandum...