



News & Views

**A Publication of the
American Public Health Association
Student Assembly**

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Olivia Wackowski

President's Pen

By Darren Mays, Chair APHA-SA

Dear APHA-SA members,

With less than a month remaining until the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association, the Student Assembly leadership has spent countless hours reviewing abstracts, selecting award winners, planning sessions, contacting speakers, and finalizing the details of the Student Assembly's Annual Meeting program. Many Sections and other groups have also sponsored student-oriented activities at this year's meeting as well, such as the Committee on Affiliates Student Poster Contest. This year's meeting offers more sessions exclusively devoted to students than ever before, in total representing a rich program of activities that are student-centered. The meeting this year offers opportunities for students to learn about up-to-date research in their areas of interest, train to become advocates for public health, seek out opportunities for jobs, internships, and fellowships, and much more.

While the Annual Meeting is the capstone of the APHA program year, much work goes into the APHA Student Assembly programs throughout the year, and the students who volunteer their time to these efforts are rarely recognized for their contributions. As my term as Chair approaches a close, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the Student Assembly's major accomplishments from this year, and offer a special thank you to the leaders who have volunteered so much time and effort to APHA:

- *Action Committee* chairs Mariza Hardin and Denise Burke were active in planning NPHW activities, advocacy activities at the Annual Meeting, and issuing action alerts throughout the year.
- *Advancement Committee* chairs Rob Nelb and Elizabeth Retiano have coordinated the Section Liaison program, with active student liaisons to nearly each APHA section and several other groups.
- *Development Committee* chair Jamie Lok helped coordinate the SA scholarship fund-raising efforts, helped review award applications, and assisted in identifying sources of funding.
- *Diversity Committee* chair Julie Suzuki-Crumly coordinated several fact sheets throughout the year, focusing on the disparities in the leading causes of death in the U.S.
- *Membership Committee* chair Sheliza Lalani helped organize a membership drive around schools' fall orientations this year, and communicated with new

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new student members of APHA.

- *Mentoring Committee* chairs Joy Gamble-George and Pam Gundrum facilitated the transfer of our mentoring program to an online system, and have spent the year testing the website prior to its launch.
- *Nominations Committee* chair Teri Malo has put together a strong committee of new and existing reviewers and is currently working to issue a call for applications for several open board positions.
- *Opportunities Committee* chair Jennifer Cremeens has compiled and issued numerous job, internship, fellowship, and conference opportunities for the Student Assembly membership.
- *Programming Committee* chairs Kristy Siegel and Monet Silva-Caldwell have put together a tremendous Student Assembly program for the Annual Meeting, with more sessions than ever before. Kristy also coordinated the abstract review process.
- *Campus Liaison Subcommittee* chairs Lenette Golding and Allen Suh have built a program with over 80 campus liaisons, now permeating to the undergraduate ranks at many campuses.
- *Newsletter Subcommittee* chairs Olivia Wackowski and Ana Chiapa solicited submissions for and organized the quarterly SA newsletter, as well as the inaugural Student Issue.
- *Website Subcommittee* chairs Allan Chuinda and Suzanna Lee have begun to build the new SA website on the APHA server, to be unveiled in the next few months.
- *Student Meeting Planner* Bryn Bird has coordinated the 3rd Annual National Meeting for Students in Public Health titled, *Get Ready: Improving Public Health Infrastructure and Infectious Disease Prevention*.
- *The APHA-SA Executive Board* Tamar Klaiman, Meredith Masel, Haroun Habib, Lianne Fuino-Estefan, Mary Martinasek and Jacqueline Bromley have overseen each committee's work and the fiduciary well-being of the Student Assembly. The Executive Board members were also instrumental in coordinating the Student Assembly's communications, making leadership decisions, and organizing the strategic planning process and finance and development efforts throughout the year.

The Student Assembly board members are truly the cogs that make the organization progress throughout the program year and are truly responsible for the healthy state of the organization. Without their dedication and leadership, the Student Assembly would not have experienced such great success this year; one sentence does very little to recognize the exceptional leadership and remarkable dedication of these students.

If you happen to run into one of them at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, do not hesitate to say thanks! See you in November!

Darren Mays, MPH
chair@aphastudents.org

Raising Awareness for The Great American Smokeout

By Kevin Hoffman, MA, Doctoral Student, University of Missouri-Kansas City,
Dept. of Informatic Medicine and Personalized Health

The American Cancer Society's annual Great American Smokeout is being held this year on November 15th. Given that an estimated 450,000 individuals in the United States alone die each year from tobacco-related diseases, this is an excellent opportunity to raise awareness around your community or among those whom you care about most about the many benefits of smoking cessation!

It is well known that the average smoker makes numerous quit attempts before they are ultimately successful. Therefore, it is important to focus on the positives of a failed quit attempt – that is, the lessons learned which can further assist in the next quit attempt. For example, did the person plan appropriately (e.g., have a quit date; properly prepare their environment by getting rid of smoking related paraphernalia; avoid people, places, and things that are triggers)? It is also important to know and believe that a lapse is not necessarily a relapse! As long as the individual is learning and their confidence remains positive, then they have a strong chance of making their next quit attempt the one that sticks.

For more information on the Great American Smokeout, please visit the American Cancer Society website at <http://www.cancer.org/> and remember that it all starts with a positive attitude!



The Great American Health Challenge :: Smokeout Challenge - Mozilla Firefox

http://www.cancer.org/docsroot/subsite/greatamericansmokeout.asp

THE GREAT AMERICAN HEALTH CHALLENGE

home | send to a friend

Health Check Get Active Eat Right Smokeout

Accept the Great American Smokeout Challenge

Quitting smoking is not easy, but it can be done. To have the best chance of quitting successfully, you need to know what you're up against, what your options are, and where to go for help.

Sign up to have someone from the **Quitline** personally contact you. Quitting is hard, so don't do it alone. The Quitline is a helpful voice that's available 24 hours a day.

[Get Started >](#)

Reasons to Quit
Need some motivation to quit? We've got more than a few good

Guide to Quitting Smoking
The right mix of support, advice, and possibly medicine can help

Plan Your Quit Day
Smokers often say, "Don't tell me why to quit, tell me how." There

Great American Smokeout Sponsor
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APHA SA Presents Inaugural Trong D. Nguyen Memorial Award

By Darren Mays, APHA Student Assembly Chair
Doctoral Student, Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

The APHA Student Assembly is pleased to announce the winner of the inaugural Trong D. Nguyen Memorial Award for Student Leadership. The Student Assembly leadership established the award to recognize the significant leadership contribution of a student in public health or a related field. The award is named after Trong D. Nguyen, MHA, who was a founding member of the Public Health Student Caucus (PHSC), the organization which became the APHA Student Assembly in 2004, while he was a student at the University of North Carolina. Trong spent much of his career in Canada where he was devoted to policy issues related to environmental health, product safety, quarantine and migration, health security, bioterrorism, emergency preparedness and response, public health system renewal, Canada-U.S. relations, and was a manager of strategic policy and planning. Trong's career was left unfinished as he and his daughter were killed in a tragic automobile crash in February 2006.

The winner of the 2007 Trong D. Nguyen Memorial Award for Student Leadership is Lissa Knudsen, MPH, CHES. Lissa is a doctoral student at the University of New Mexico studying Communication & Journalism.

Lissa's advocacy efforts through the New Mexico Breast Feeding Task Force (NMBFTF) led to the first Breastpump Use in the Workplace law in the Southwest region, providing women with a clean, private space to breast pump at work and ensuring that their employers provide flexible break times to accommodate their pumping. In Lissa's words,

"When Governor Richardson signed the bill into law those involved in this effort reported having a renewed faith in the power of public health advocacy efforts. I felt proud yet humbled when I realized the potential impact this will have on women, like myself, motivated to continue breastfeeding despite institutional and attitudinal barriers."

A panel of reviewers selected Lissa from an extremely competitive field of applicants, and the Student Assembly leadership is honored to recognize her leadership efforts with the inaugural Trong D. Nguyen Memorial Award. The award will be formally presented at the APHA Student Assembly Welcome & Orientation Session, Monday November 5, 2007 from 12:30 – 2:00 pm at the 135th Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association in Washington, DC.

APHA Student Member also Promoting Students' Interests through Partner Organization

By Darigg C. Brown, MPH, Doctoral Student,
Pennsylvania State University, Dept. of Biobehavioral Health

Darigg C. Brown, MPH, was recently elected Student Trustee of the Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) for the 2007-2008 term. Darigg will serve as one of 21 Board of Trustee members who govern the nation's only independent professional organization devoted exclusively to public health education and health promotion.

Among others, Darigg's duties will include: representing the interests of SOPHE's student membership, encouraging more student involvement at the national level, helping to advance more professional development opportunities for students, and fostering both professional and demographic diversity within the organization. He will be inducted at SOPHE's 57th Annual Meeting on November 2nd in Alexandria, Virginia. In addition, Darigg currently serves as student representative for the Pennsylvania Chapter of SOPHE.

SOPHE, founded in 1950, provides leadership to the profession and promotes the health of all people by: stimulating research on the theory and practice of health education; supporting high quality performance standards for the practice of health education and health promotion; advocating policy and legislation affecting health education and health promotion; and developing and promoting standards for professional preparation of health education professionals. Currently, student members represent one of SOPHE's fastest growing sectors.

The screenshot shows the SOPHE website homepage. The browser window title is "Welcome to Sophe - Mozilla Firefox" and the address bar shows "http://www.sophe.org/index.asp". The page layout includes a navigation menu on the left with items like Home, About SOPHE, Join SOPHE, Online Store, Advocacy, Meetings, Continuing Education, Journals & Publications, Projects, Resources & Links, Professional Prep, and Press. The main content area has a header with the SOPHE logo and a "50 Remarkable Years 1950-2000 HISTORICAL TIMELINE" banner. Below the banner, there are sections for "News & Announcements", "President's Column" (featuring a photo of Dr. Mayhew Derryberry), "Upcoming Events" (listing conferences and webinars), and "Health Promotion Practice - Call for Paper on Emergency Risk Communication". A "MEMBER AREA" with login fields is also visible on the left.

Combat Dengue! -Salute to Health Education & Mosquito Control

By Helena Chapman, MPH, Medical Student,
Iberoamerican University School of Medicine

Mosquito populations flourish during hot summer months in the United States, but in the Caribbean, the activity is constant. For this reason, during this past June, medical students at the Iberoamerican University (UNIBE) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, organized *Combat Dengue!*, a week devoted to the promotion of protective health practices toward combating endemic Dengue fever.

At a central location on campus, mural expositions displayed mosquito distribution, clinical symptomology and preventive methods, while a brief, stream-

ing video presented vector life cycle and breeding sites. Flyers and pamphlets were adapted for distribution. Scientific lecture by an expert infectologist discussed Dengue virus pathophysiology and epidemic history within the Caribbean.

Community health campaigns at a grade school and local neighborhood, La Yuca de Naco, emphasized preventive methods to reduce risk of Dengue infection in the home and community. Educational messages through interactive presentations and

dynamic activities highlighted the importance of preventing mosquito breeding sites and recognizing clinical disease presentation.

Combat Dengue! provided opportunities for the application of scientific theory to community health, demonstrating critical teamwork in the health-care team. Practicum experiences directed to disadvantaged communities are essential learning experiences as future health professional students aim to improve critical communication skills to promote community health.

Take the Lead - World AIDS Day 2007

By Sandra Noffsinger and Sarah Ragsdale, Students, University of Nevada, Reno School of Public Health

The Public Health Club at The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is working collaboratively with students enrolled in an HIV/AIDS course, local health departments, and 13 community-based agencies to host a community wide World AIDS Day event on December 1st 2007. Free HIV and STD testing will be offered as well as vouchers for free testing the entire month of December. The event will also feature peer-based education and interactive activities, live entertainment by popular bands, and monolog performances by individuals infected or affected by HIV. Additionally, there will be a private room reserved for individuals to pay their respects and honor individuals affected by the disease, through memory boards and masks made by the community.

Second Annual Baltimore Week at JHSPH

By Rachel Weber, PhD Candidate, Department of Epidemiology,
Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health

The second annual Baltimore Week took place at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health (JHSPH) October 8-13, 2007. This week-long series of events highlighted health issues affecting Baltimore communities and encouraged the JHSPH community to strengthen connections with East Baltimore.

Highlights of the week included a Baltimore Photography contest, a talk by Baltimore City Health Commis-

sioner Dr. Josh Sharfstein about the importance of advocacy in public health, and a bus tour of JHSPH's East Baltimore Community. WombWorks Productions, Inc., a group that "preserves and re-empowers families and communities through the creative arts, music, dance and theater expressions," gave a lively performance on Thursday. Baltimore Week culminated with the Student Outreach Resource Center (SOURCE) Tri-School Day of Service,

where students, faculty and staff from the nursing, medical, and public health schools at Johns Hopkins came together to work on service projects with the community.

The Community Affairs committee of the JHSPH Student Assembly joined the Student Outreach Resource Center and several JHSPH student groups in planning this exciting week of activities.

Emergency Preparedness Fair Draws Thousands

By Tamar Klaiman, Student Assembly Chair-Elect
Doctoral Student, Temple University Department of Public Health

In recognition of Emergency Preparedness Month, Temple University's Department of Public Health, Center for Preparedness Research, Education, and Practice, Campus Safety, Student Health Services, Office of Communications, and Office of Risk Assessment and Management held an Emergency Preparedness Fair on September 26, 2007 from 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Over 25 university, local, and regional emergency preparedness and response agencies displayed information and demonstrated the use of their equipment. It is estimated that over 5,000 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended the fair. Emergency agencies such as the Philadelphia Bomb Squad, Mass Incident Response Team, Department of Behavioral Health, and Office of Emergency Management offered give-aways and local businesses donated soft pretzels, soda, and water. A free raffle for preparedness equipment including a car safety kit, first aid kits, and go kits was held with 11 prizes given out to attendees. The Temple University community looks forward to this being an annual event to bring awareness about emergency preparedness to Philadelphia residents.

Skills in Basic First Aid: Reaching Out to Youth in Summer Enrichment Program

By Helena Chapman, MPH, Medical Student, Iberoamerican University School of Medicine

Six medical students at the Iberoamerican University (UNIBE) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, taught essential skills in basic first aid as a response to emergency situations to fifty-one adolescents between the ages of 13 and 17 years, enrolled in the university summer program, "Veranitos 2007." Presenters focused on body systems or organs that might present complications in an emergency, including respiratory, circulatory, nervous and musculo-skeletal systems and the skin. Using a preventive health focus, teaching methods included a brief orientation that highlighted five concepts per system, followed by a dynamic practicum to emphasize learning acquisition.

These adolescents learned about specific interventions requiring minimal supplies or other resources that may be applied as effective and efficient first aid, while awaiting an Emergency Response team. Specific cultural or home remedies common to the Dominican Republic were discussed and analyzed regarding their actual impact on recovery.

A rapid response in basic first aid in the time of an emergency can prevent morbidity and potentially mortality. Teaching these decision making "life" skills to youth may be a positive influence in critical personal development, feelings of independence and self-esteem and confidence in the ability to save a life in an emergency.

**Look for APHA Student Assembly at the
135th Annual Meeting in Washington DC!**



Visit our table at the Expo Center, talk with board members, and learn about our Annual Meeting events!

Hope to see you there!

**APHA 135TH ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPO
NOVEMBER 3-7, 2007 WASHINGTON, DC**

About Our Organization

The American Public Health Association's Student Assembly is the nation's largest student-led organization dedicated to furthering the development of students, the next generation of professionals in public health and health-related disciplines. APHA-SA represents and serves students of public health and other health-related disciplines by connecting individuals who are interested in working together on public health and student-related issues.

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Student Assembly



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