

Editors: Nisha Bhateja and Olatokunbo Famakinwa

## New Year, New Look, New Changes!

### Student Assembly



#### *Inside This Issue:*

- Be sure to read the address from our new Chair on page 2!
- Throughout this issue, you can read short bio-sketches about each of our board members!
- Read about the new changes to the Student Assembly on pages 3-5!
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# President's Pen

## Welcome and Happy New Year!

With this new year, brings great change and benefits for the newly named American Public Health Association Student Assembly (APHA-SA). My predecessors and strong board participation have been an integral part in the evolution of the Public Health Student Caucus into the APHA-SA, and I wish to thank them for their hard work.

This issue of *News and Views* is dedicated to show appreciation of our current board members, many of whom are serving another year, and some who have just joined our efforts. These board members have been integral players in formulating, orchestrating, and evaluating many of APHA-SA's projects and initiatives. As we are all students, the responsibility to organize these programs on a national level is great. However, we are dedicated to our membership as well as our peers and we wish to better our future as public health professionals. I am happy that we have so many devoted individuals who are willing to share their talents and knowledge on our board.

The APHA-SA board is working very hard this year to bring about the changes required to make the transformation into the APHA-SA complete. Working hand in hand with APHA, we are giving more students the opportunity to sit on newly created student leadership positions on APHA boards, for example, the Action Board, Education Board, and Science Board. APHA-SA is also working to move the National Mentoring Program online within the next few months. Our new Student Meeting Director has been working diligently to begin the planning process of the first student meeting which will precede the APHA Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

All of our APHA-SA committees are working very hard to produce more programs and initiatives for our members to utilize. Be on the lookout from campaigns from the Diversity Committee as well as a National Public Health Week Toolkit from the Action Committee. Those of the APHA-SA board who are not busy with programs are busy restructuring APHA-SA internally. The Development Committee is working diligently to find sources of funding for our programs and our technical needs. The Membership Committee will also be reviewing the current membership structure with APHA in order to meet APHA membership requirements.

The Executive Board of APHA-SA, comprised of Chair, Chair-Elect, Past-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, are busy reviewing bylaws changes needed to be made, planning a massive website overhaul for APHA-SA, and getting some of the logistics, including a new logo, created. We have all made leaps and bounds in the work we have completed in the last two months.

Though these past couple of months have been challenging, they have not been nearly as hard on us as they have been on those persons affected by the chaotic events in the world. As natural disaster hits in the South Pacific and in within our own borders, it is important for us as public health leaders to respond to the relief efforts. Many campuses have organized different relief and aid campaigns to help the people affected by the tsunamis, mudslides and flooding. I wish to applaud all of you who are making a conscious effort to aid those affected. For those who are not involved, I implore you to volunteer your time in contributing to these efforts. If your campus does not have an organized relief effort for you to participate in, please ask a faculty member, fellow students, or your campus liaison for ideas on ways you can help. It is important that we students put to practice some of the ideals and moral responsibilities we uphold as public health professionals.

If you wish to contact the Chair about serving on an APHA-SA committee or finding out about one of the APHA-SA's programs, please email George Karageorgiou at [president@phsc.org](mailto:president@phsc.org) or visit our website at [www.phsc.org](http://www.phsc.org).

# Student Assembly 2005!

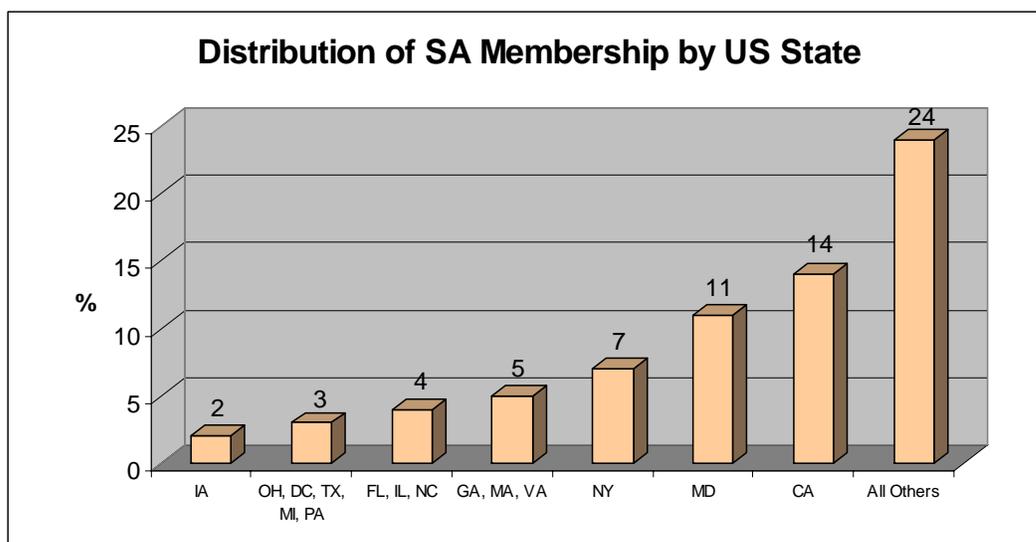
## Who are we and where are we going??

By Rachel Chase, Membership Committee

Being involved in the Student Assembly means as a student, you are invariably participating in a summer camp-like rite of passage. Although most of us can't begin to imagine what summer might feel like right now, many of us have had the summer camp experience, and if you have, you know what I mean. Although school may take a bit more work than hanging out with new friends every day and learning how to keep the cabin clean, being thrown together for "the experience of a lifetime" is the same kind of idea. There is a theme, or mission, that drew us to this camp. We are all here by choice (pretty much), we come from as many varied places as you can think of, we will all invest ourselves in the journey, be challenged socially, emotionally and physically, and come out enriched, thankful, excited but exhausted, having been forced to eat bad food, but if done right, wanting to come back for more.

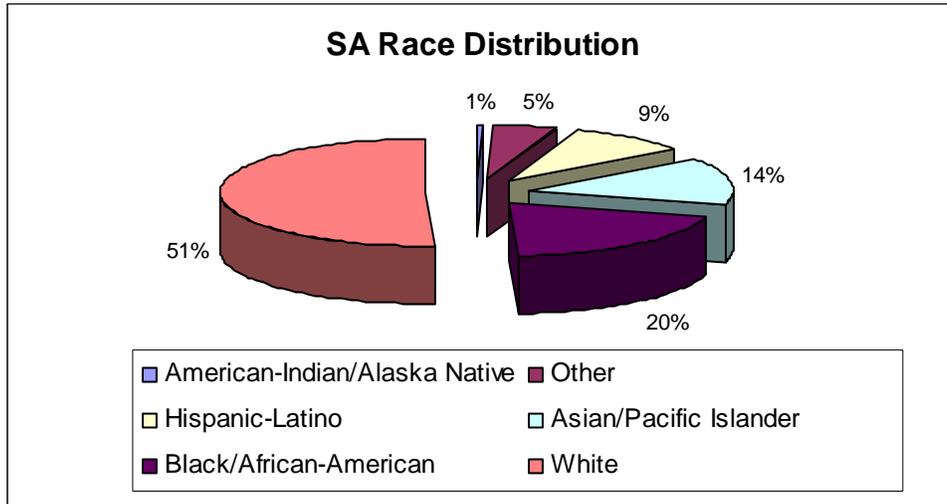
As one of the membership committee co-chairs, I am continually amazed at how diverse, rich and exceptionally capable our student body is. So, with the beginning of a new year, I offer you this peak into who we are and I hope that you too will take pride in our accomplishments and hope in our potential.

As of January 3, 2005, the Student Assembly membership was 4,352 members strong. This number represents students from 47 US States and 24 other countries with Canada and Japan leading the way (21 and 12 members respectively). The North America continent has the privilege of ready access to an independent standards association for schools of public health who are accredited by the Council on Education of Public Health. Currently, there are 42 member schools and associates supported by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH). The lion's share of Student Assembly members come from states with one or more ASPH schools. There are 15 states with ASPH schools from which 76% of Student Assembly members hail from. Those states are listed below in Graph 1 along with the relative percent of members each state contributes. No other state, with or without an ASPH school contributes more than 2% of the total Student Assembly membership. The seven states with the lowest membership (<0.1%) are Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Main, Vermont, North Dakota and South Dakota.



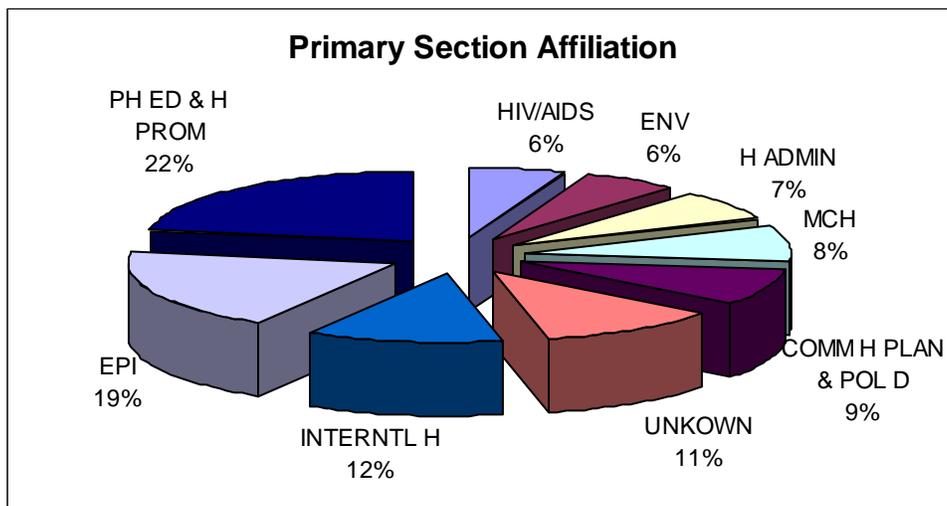
Graph 1

The known race and gender profile of the current Student Assembly membership is somewhat less evenly distributed than our geographic dispersion. As is typical for the public health field, there are many more women than men making themselves known. Females comprise 77% of current membership while males make up the remaining 23%. Interestingly, 77% of our 4,352 members chose not to report a description of their race. Of the 23% who did, Whites/Caucasians are the majority (51%), Blacks/African Americans follow (20%), Asian/Pacific Islanders come next (14%) followed by Hispanic/Latinos (9%) and American Indian/Alaskan Natives (1%). (See Graph 2).



Graph 2

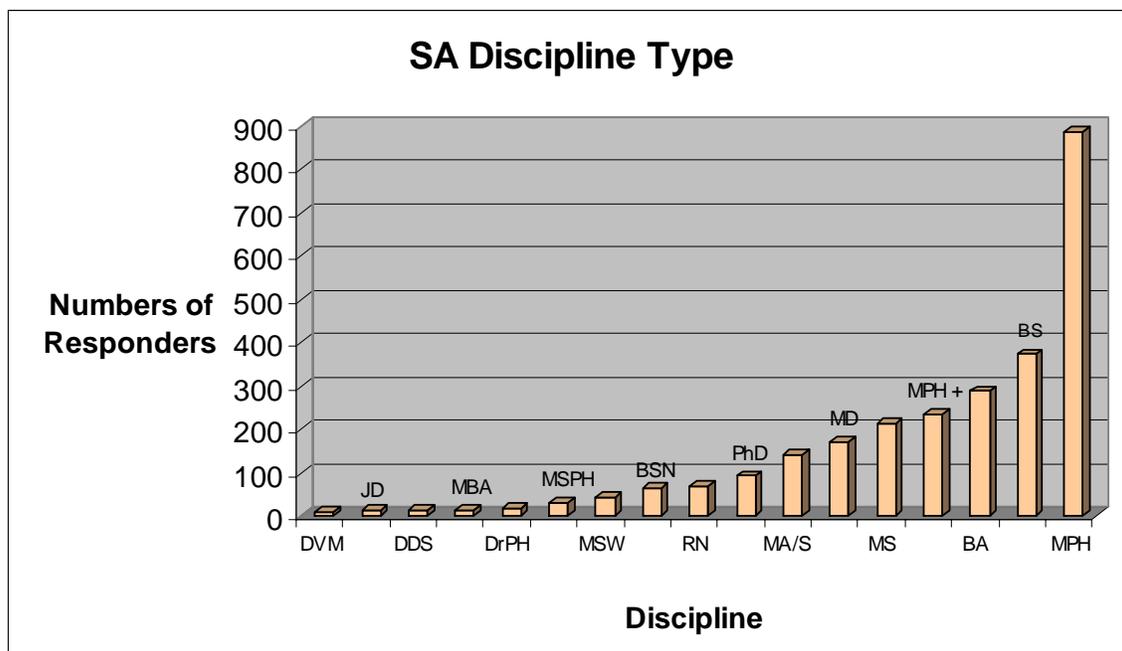
Although there are 24 primary APHA sections to which Student Assembly members may belong, students have clear preferences, with a majority of students (>70%) fitting into one of eight primary sections. In order of preference, those eight sections are: Public Health Education and Health Promotion, Epidemiology, International Health, Community Health Planning & Policy Development, Maternal & Child Health, Health Administration, Environmental Health, and HIV/AIDS. All other sections receive less than 3% of Student Assembly affiliates. (See Graph 3).



Graph 3

Lastly, a note about the credentials our Student Assembly members bring to the table is in order. With over 3,000 member responses, there are literally hundreds of combinations of degrees and certifications our members have or are obtaining. We cover the gamut from high school and Associate of Arts degree seekers, to multiple professional degree holders who just won't be stopped. Although our parent organization name, American Public Health Association (APHA), would lend you to believe we are exclusively American, nothing could be farther from the truth. We are the largest international organization in the world who welcomes people from various disciplines with health related foci and an interest in the protection and promotion of the public's health everywhere. Our constituency, although dominated by persons who have or are obtaining their Master's of Public Health (MPH) degree, is followed by large percentages of persons who are working towards their Bachelor of Arts or Science, dual degree earners working towards their MPH simultaneously with another graduate or professional degree, Master's of Arts or Science degree earners, Medical students, and PhD candidates. The Student Assembly is an observably highly motivated group of people with a wide range of skills and interests. Due to their highly specific nature, hundreds of "other" responses could not be tabulated, but substantial numbers of us are CHES or nursing certified and smaller sub-sets come from dentistry, veterinary, business and law students, making us a well-rounded assemblage! (Graph 4).

As stated in our annual report, 2005 is membership's self-designated "reach out and touch someone" year. We believe that developing the diversity and depth of the public health student body is key to improving some of the health disparities our nation currently faces. But to do this we need your help. The membership committee would like to see all members update their member record online with APHA so that it is as complete as possible. Over the next year, we will be reaching out to under represented states and schools so that all students have an equal opportunity to take advantage of the awesome Student Assembly and APHA professional development benefits. Thank you for the great work you do, see you next year!



Graph 4

# CALL FOR STUDENT ABSTRACTS

For Posters to be presented at

*The Public's Health & the Law in the 21st Century:  
Annual Conference on Public Health Law*

June 13 - 15, 2005  
Sheraton Colony Square Hotel  
Atlanta, Georgia

The Public Health Law Association, [the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Public Health Law Program](#), and the American Society for Law, Medicine & Ethics are convening *The Public's Health & the Law in the 21st Century: Annual Conference in Public Health Law*. The Public Health Law Association is sponsoring a poster session to offer students the unique opportunity to submit and present original research findings on topics that address the intersection of law and public health.

## Eligibility

Graduate students currently enrolled in a program of study within a School of Law, Medicine, Public Health, Allied Health, Nursing, or Arts and Sciences inside or outside of the United States may submit abstracts. Students with training in multiple disciplines (e.g. JD/MPH, JD/MD, JD/PhD, BSN/MPH, etc.) are particularly encouraged to submit an abstract.

## Subject Matter

Abstracts submitted for consideration should examine the role of law in a particular public health problem, examine the bioethical, social or policy ramifications of a public health policy, or otherwise contribute to the understanding of the relationship between law and public health. Interdisciplinary topics and issues are encouraged. All submissions must be original research questions and solely the work of the authors.

## Deadline

Abstracts must be received by April 1, 2005 at [abstracts2005@phla.info](mailto:abstracts2005@phla.info)

## Instructions for Submission of Abstracts

Abstracts must be submitted with a cover page that provides the title of the abstract and the names, email addresses, institution and program of study, and telephone numbers of each author. Abstracts must be in English, typed using 10 or 12 point font, single-spaced and be a maximum of 250 words. The abstract narrative section should include the purpose or objective of the research, a description of the research design and methods, and a summary of the major findings. Only electronic submissions to [abstracts2005@phla.info](mailto:abstracts2005@phla.info) in MS Word will be considered. Abstracts and posters will be judged on clarity, overall organization of material, originality of research question, and the potential for findings to advance the understanding of the relationship between public health and the law by a panel of public health experts selected by PHLA. Authors will be notified electronically on or before May 1, 2005 as to whether their abstract has been accepted.

## Accepted Abstracts

If an abstract is accepted for presentation, at least one of the authors must attend the June 2005 Public Health Law Conference in Atlanta, Georgia to present the poster. Conference registration fees will be waived for authors whose abstracts are selected (no more than two fee waivers per abstract). Limited scholarships for travel costs may be available; however, students are urged to seek support from their University to cover the cost of travel, poster materials, and production. Use of expensive poster presentation materials or publication techniques is discouraged. Guidelines and space limitations for poster materials will be made available on [www.phla.info](http://www.phla.info) by April 1, 2005.

Questions should be directed to Jean O'Connor at: [joconnor@phla.info](mailto:joconnor@phla.info)

# Interested in a Leadership Position in APHA-SA?



Over the course of the last few years, APHA-SA has significantly improved the type and amount of opportunities for student members. Our efforts have helped thousands of students learn more about and engage in APHA activities and to mobilize to improve health in their communities. Through projects such as the Campus Liaison Program and National Leadership Conference for Students in Healthcare, we have been able to establish firm links to local public health student organizations and a multitude of national student organizations in various health professions to help increase the understanding of our Student Assembly, APHA, and public health.

Even with these great efforts in place, there is still much to DO!

This is where YOU come in. The Nominations Committee will be looking for a slate of strong, dedicated national leaders who stand ready to help strengthen the national voice of all public health students through APHA-SA and increase the number of opportunities and benefits we have to offer to all student members.

**We will need your passion, your talents, and your expertise.**

So be on the lookout for applications for our Executive Board (**Chair-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary**) in the next few months. Elections take place in the summer, but it is not too early to start thinking about how you would like to get involved with APHA-SA.

The Nominations Committee is also recruiting a **Chair for the Website Subcommittee**. If you have technical expertise and experience in this area, and/or are interested in filling this position, please visit [www.phsc.org](http://www.phsc.org) to learn more or email Elizabeth Bernabeo, MPH, Nominations Chair, at [nominations@phsc.org](mailto:nominations@phsc.org) for further information.

Thank you for your consideration of helping PHSC create a vibrant future for our organization and all APHA student members.

Elizabeth Bernabeo, MPH

Chair, Nominations Committee

[nominations@phsc.org](mailto:nominations@phsc.org)

# The Executive Board

## ***George Karageorgiou - Chair***

**School:** Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health, originally from Asheville, North Carolina

**Degree Program:** Master of Health Sciences, Research interests in Strategic planning and management, Healthcare quality

**Other Leadership Activities:** American College of Healthcare Executives, Member

**Fun Facts About Me:** I am half Greek and am very proud of my heritage. I love cooking gourmet meals, dancing on stages at clubs, and am somewhat of a gym bunny. I also take a keen interest in LGBT issues.

In the fall of 2005, I will be beginning a residency in the healthcare consulting sector of public health, focusing on strategic planning and operations. At some point in my early career, I hope to work abroad in Europe or Canada, to infuse ideas of a publicly financed healthcare system into the American healthcare system.

### **Plans after School:**

I was first introduced to the American Public Health Association Student Assembly (APHA-SA), formerly the Public Health Student Caucus, through the emails sent out on the APHA-SA listserv. In 2003, I applied and was accepted to serve as co-chair of the Advancement Committee. Throughout the course of the year, I was responsible for overseeing the Campus Liaison Chair and coordinating the APHA-SA involvement in the Student Health Alliance and the National Leadership Conference for Students in Healthcare. More recently, I have been given the honor of serving as Chair-Elect and now as Chair. As Chair, it is my responsibility to carry the APHA-SA forward, allowing for the necessary restructuring process to ensue. I hope to have organized the APHA-SA into the structure that APHA, my predecessors, and our membership envisioned by November 2005.

## ***Toni Rhodes Leeth - Immediate Past Chair***

My name is Toni Rhodes Leeth, and I am the current Immediate Past Chair of the American Public Health Association Student Assembly (APHA-SA). I currently live in Birmingham, Alabama. I moved to Birmingham from northeast Mississippi after completing my bachelor's degree in microbiology from Mississippi State University. In May 2002 I received my master's of public health in epidemiology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) School of Public Health where I was honored to serve as vice-president then president of the Public Health Student Association (PHSA). While completing my master's degree I worked in the Departments of Medicine and Pediatrics doing research in HIV/AIDS, specifically patterns of drug resistance and vertical transmission through breast milk. Since November of 2003 I have been working in the Department of Surgery at UAB as the project administrator for the Section of Gastrointestinal Surgery. My role in the Section involves data collection and analysis and presentation and publication of that data on various subjects related to GI surgery, including bariatric surgery, pancreatic cancer, and the impact of obesity on the use of surgical resources.

I have been involved in APHA-SA since the fall of 2001. I was introduced to APHA-SA, then the Public Health Student Caucus (PHSC), at the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in Atlanta that November. As a leader at my own school, I wanted to be more connected to schools and programs in public health across the country, so I applied and was selected to lead the Advancement Committee and revitalize the Campus Liaison Program. That year the program grew to more than 50 liaisons, and the Advancement Committee created resources for maintaining its success. During my year on the Board, I was encouraged by the growth and successes of such a young organization and made an effort to work on PHSC-wide projects, including the creation of the Student Health Alliance and the first National Leadership Conference for Students in Healthcare. I wanted to continue my involvement in PHSC and take on more responsibility in the organization. I submitted my nomination for the executive board, and in October 2002 I was elected by the membership to serve as president-elect. During my term as president in 2004, we drafted a restructuring proposal that I presented to the Executive Board of APHA in May. With support from APHA's Executive Board and the Task Force for Association Improvement and Reorganization (TFAIR), PHSC became APHA-SA, dramatically impacting the future of our organization.

APHA-SA's leadership is exceptional, and that is evident in the outstanding programs and activities APHA-SA provides for its members and how well its board represents students in public health. A lot of time and energy is required of the board members of APHA-SA, especially the executive board. Those interested in pursuing a higher leadership position in APHA-SA should consider how much time they have available to devote to APHA-SA for correspondence, meetings, and position-specific responsibilities. The chair of APHA-SA must attend three in-person meetings of the APHA Executive Board and the APHA Annual Meeting, so it is important he/she has flexibility in his/her schedule to attend these meetings.

### ***Jabar Akbar - Chair—Elect***

Hello current, past and future APHA Student Assembly members. My name is Jabar Akbar and I currently serve as the Chair Elect for APHA-SA. When I am not fulfilling my duties as Chair Elect, I am a full time DrPH student in the department of Health Services at the UCLA School of Public Health. My goal is to graduate by December 2006. Though school is demanding, I reside in sunny Southern California where it “never” rains. Ha Ha Ha.

As Chair Elect, my main objective is to push for APHA-SA to carry out the goals of REACH 2010. Prevention is key and so is adequate primary care. I sit on the planning committee for the National Primary Care Week (NPCW). This year NPCW will be from October 16-22, 2005 and I enthusiastically encourage every one of you to volunteer in some capacity. There will be a link on our website so that you may get involved in your respective community. When I am not called upon to serve on the NPCW planning committee, I am contributing in an advisory role to the success of several working committees. The committees are the heart of APHA Student Assembly and as I grow into the position I envision having a more integral role in the success and productive of each committee. Currently, I work with the leadership of the Action, Diversity, and Advancement communities. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

### ***Darren Mays—Treasurer / Finance***

I am 22 years old and originally from Columbus, Ohio. I spent the past four years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in April of 2004 with a BA in History & Philosophy of Science. I am currently a first year MPH student in the Department of Behavioral Science and Health Education at the Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia. My degree concentration area is behavioral science. I have been working at the Center for Public Health Communication at Rollins since September of 2004. My personal area of interest in public health is drug and alcohol use. I am currently involved on a research project that is investigating the measurement of alcohol use among college students. Outside of school and work I enjoy running, backpacking, fishing, reading and music.

I have been the APHA-SA treasurer since November of 2004. My interest in the APHA-SA was sparked by my faculty advisor at Rollins, Jay Bernhardt. The primary focus of my work as treasurer so far has been on creating a budget to finish the current fiscal year, as well as a proposed budget for the 2005-2006 fiscal year. I am currently working with the APHA-SA board to assess our financial needs and create a new budget, and investigating potential sources of funding for the future. Over the course of the next year my goals as treasurer are to make the financial restructuring of the APHA-SA as seamless as possible and to achieve sufficient funding for the APHA-SA programs and initiatives proposed by the board. My experience as treasurer so far has allowed me to connect with public health students and leaders across the country, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with the APHA-SA board and members throughout 2005.

### ***Amy Boore - Secretary / Communications***

Hi all, my name is Amy and I'm the APHA/SA Secretary. I live in Baltimore, MD am working on my PhD at Johns Hopkins. My research is in infectious disease epidemiology; particularly women & HIV. I grew up in a small town in rural Western Maryland, and other than a couple of years in West Africa and another couple in Anchorage, Alaska, I've spent most of my 29 years in Maryland. While I'm not sure what my next move will be after graduation (likely '07), I would love to go back to Africa and continue to research major infectious diseases there. You all know me best from the e-mails you get from my Earthlink account, and for all of you who have asked - Zaliya was my name when I lived in Niger.

I took over the position of Secretary from the other Amy (Harley) this past November. Running for the position seemed like a great way for me to get more involved and to network with other students and professionals in the field of Public Health, and so far it has not been disappointing. In addition to keeping all of the list-servs, e-mail contacts and other information up to date, I will also be helping the newsletter committee add a new on-line Student Assembly newsletter to the APHA site. Next on the agenda will be to work on ways to keep our website updated and functional for our members, starting with finding a Website sub-Committee Chair (if any of you know HTML and would like to get involved with web design, let me know!). If you ever have any questions or ideas for how communication can be improved, don't hesitate to contact me at [secretary@phsc.org](mailto:secretary@phsc.org).

# Mentoring Committee

## *Debby Herbenick, Co-Chair*

Debby Herbenick is a doctoral student in the Department of Applied Health Science at Indiana University studying health behavior with a minor in human sexuality. She will complete her dissertation this year. Debby has a master's degree in public health education (also from Indiana University) and a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Maryland. She has been involved in sex research and education at The Kinsey Institute for Research in Sex, Gender and Reproduction for the past six years and has research interests in the areas of genital health and the adult retail industry's role in sexual health promotion. In addition, she writes two newspaper columns about sexuality. Her hobbies include working out at the gym, kayaking, swimming, roller-skating, and reading.

Debby is the co-chair of the National Mentoring Program committee with Clea Sarnquist. Together, they plan to reorganize the NMP in way that facilitates matches between mentors and mentees. They are currently working with APHA to improve the web site matching system and are excited to be working with the NMP at this important stage of redevelopment.

## *Clea Sarnquist, Co-Chair*

I am currently a second year student in the Doctor of Public Health (DrPH) program at University of California, Berkeley. I received my MPH from UC Berkeley in 1999, with a focus on infectious diseases. I have public health work experience in New York and California, largely focused on managing collaborations of people involved in preventing and treating HIV and AIDS. I am currently working on a perinatal HIV prevention program at Stanford University. My major activity outside of school and work is training for and competing in triathlons.

I have been one of the co-chairs of the National Mentoring Program (NMP) for just over a year. I enjoy working with this committee because I believe that mentoring is an important component of a complete public health education, and one that may be missing in many public health programs. The NMP has been undergoing a significant re-organization this year. After updating both the mentor and mentee databases in the past year, we realized that the program has outgrown its current matching system. Therefore, in collaboration with APHA, we prepared a new vision for the NMP involving a web-based matching system. We are currently working to assess the funding and technical assistance needs to make this system a reality. Stay tuned to this newsletter for more information in the future.

# Campus Liaison Sub-Committee

## *Annette Summers, Chair*

Most of my life I grew up in Northwest Arkansas. After graduating from the University of Arkansas with my degree in business management, I moved to San Diego to experience life in a large city and take a break from school. A year later I moved to Texas to pursue my MPH with an emphasis in social and behavioral health at the Texas A&M School of Rural Public Health. Since graduating this past May, my goal has been to find a job that builds upon the public health skills I learned in college. However, my true passion is working with at-risk kids, particularly those with imprisoned family members. Therefore, my long-term goal is to be part of the prevention element that addresses family and other environmental issues leading young kids to unhealthy lifestyles. In essence, I hope to work toward developing programs that are successful in breaking the viscous cycle in families sensitive to criminal behavior.

My interest in APHA came a little over a year ago when I had the fortunate opportunity to attend the annual conference in San Francisco. I was amazed at the collection of people working toward the same goals and knew that I wanted to become a part of it. After learning about the campus liaison sub-committee chair opening in the summer of 2004, I felt that this was the best way for me to get involved. I truly envision myself always being an advocate for student involvement within their schools and APHA because of the added value it has been for my education. Within the past year I've really enjoyed holding this position because I've gotten to meet some wonderful people that share similar visions for this field. I hope that those serving as campus liaisons are getting the same great experience and being able to take ideas back to their fellow students that they are learning from our monthly conference calls or listserv.

### *Rachel Chase, Co-Chair*

Rachel Chase is a public health master's student in the newly formed School of Public Health and Health Professions at the University of Florida. She hails from the Department of Epidemiology and Health Policy Research with the College of Medicine, and is enjoying her studies in social epidemiology, social justice and infectious diseases. Ultimately, Rachel would like to work for a county health department and serve her home-state in community based work. Barring that, Rachel will pursue non-profit or similar work elsewhere. Although leaving the sunshine state would be difficult for her, the change would be worth the new experiences gained as long as dancing and horse-back riding (her two newest hobbies) could be found within a reasonable distance of a good mountain or forest trail, to cultivate her life-long love of nature and animals.

Entering her second year as one of the APHA/SA membership committee co-chairs, Rachel plans to continue her service in this capacity for as long as possible. One of the great aspects of taking part in an international organization is its portability; no matter where you end up, your work with the organization can come along with you. The far-reaching nature of the membership committee work of APHA/SA, was what drew Rachel to serve on the board. Not only is it possible to connect with thousands of like-minded student members, but important professional relationships are also formed while advocating for and working on behalf of student members. Over the last year, the membership committee collaborated with APHA staff members to create a new transitional membership category for emerging professionals and also worked hard at improving communications with all student members. In the coming year, the membership committee plans to build on its close relationship with APHA and other Student Assembly committees to improve APHA access to minority students of diverse backgrounds and underrepresented programs. Rachel looks forward to working with you on your membership ideas or suggestions, so feel free to e-mail her at: [membership@phsc.org](mailto:membership@phsc.org).

# Membership Committee

### *Jason Almonte, Co-Chair*

Hello and Happy New Year! I am Jason Joaquin Almonte, Membership Committee Co-Chair. I am originally from New York City, born and raised in Manhattan's Lower East Side. I am Puerto-Rican and Dominican, and speak fluent Spanish and French. I also speak a little Italian and Hebrew since I completed the French major at my college a little early. In 2004 I graduated from Herbert H. Lehman College of the City University of New York where I majored in English Literature and minored in Health Services. At Lehman I was very active in the Hispanic Scholarship Fund Institute, as well as The Meridian—Lehman's school newspaper. Before starting my law degree I was a full-time Grants Project Coordinator for Hudson Health Plan, a non-profit Medicaid managed care organization serving New York's Hudson Valley. I worked on some innovative projects focused on increasing access to health care through the use of technology and information services. I am currently attending the University at Buffalo Law School, of the State University of New York. I am a JD (Juris Doctor) student, and I expect to receive my degree in June 2007. I am still a 1L (first year law student), and have not yet declared a concentration. The field of law is vast, and a little overwhelming, but my first impressions leave me very interested in family law, elder law, and health law. I am honored to be able to participate in a number of UB's student programs, including the Domestic Violence Task Force, the Buffalo Women's Law Journal, the Buffalo Public Interest Law Program, the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition, and the Latin American Law Student Association.

I have served on the APHA/SA since January 2004. I became interested in the SA after discussing the benefits of membership in national organizations like APHA with a professor at Lehman. She urged me to attend the Annual Conference in Philadelphia. I did, and I learned so much that my former employer paid my membership dues and supported my decision to serve on the SA board. I became interested in the SA because I wanted to see more undergraduate students represented in APHA. I felt that my attendance at the Annual Conference was an invaluable learning experience, and one that I knew countless other undergrads would relish. Since joining the board alongside Rachel Chase, we have worked on a number of projects that she has tirelessly led including monthly data management, on-going collaboration with APHA membership, assisting APHA membership in the creation of a transitional membership category for graduating students, and assisting with APHA/SA's recently approved restructuring plan. It has been an honor working on the APHA/SA board, and I look forward to another year of satisfying work to increase student representation in APHA and to create and promote opportunities for students nationwide.

# Development Committee

## *Joshua Garoon, Co-Chair*

Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, I arrived in Baltimore in July 2003 after stops in Boston (Massachusetts), Kobe (Japan) & Chipangali (Zambia). Upon finishing an MPH a year later, I made the dubious decision to avoid gainful employment, & am currently a doctoral student in International Health (Social & Behavioral Interventions) at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. I'll be in Charm City – or in southern Chad, where I plan to do my dissertation research – for the indefinite future.

I signed on with APHA-SA as the chair of the Development Committee way back in April 2004, when we were still PHSC. Since then, I've helped craft our development policies & plans for restructuring. I'm hoping the effective implementation of those policies & plans will occupy the remainder of my time with the Committee. We're just starting to hit our stride, & 2005 looks like it could be a very good year for Development & APHA-SA as a whole.

## *Anthony Santella, Co-Chair*

Hello, my name is Anthony Santella and I am the Co-Chair of the APHA-Student Assembly (APHA-SA) Development Committee. I am 26 years old and am originally from Norwalk, Connecticut. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Connecticut in 2001, I moved to New York City, where I worked for 2.5 years at Phase Five Communications (PV). At PV, I developed and managed continuing medical education programs for the pharmaceutical industry. In December 2004, I completed my MPH in Health Policy and Management from Emory's Rollins School of Public Health. This month, I began a DrPH program in Health Systems Management at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. My research interests include managerial communications and negotiations, strategic management for both public and private health care settings, and health outcomes. I plan on completing the program in Spring 2007. My hobbies include running, music (played the French Horn for 10 years), and traveling.

I was chosen to be the Development Co-Chair in December 2004. I became interested in this position because my academic background is in the conceptual and analytical knowledge of health economics, finance, accounting, operations management, human resources management, healthcare administration law, strategic planning, grant proposal development, and health policy and resource allocation. These courses have given me the proper training to lead the Development Committee with Josh Garoon. In the upcoming year, I hope to develop a fundraising strategic plan that makes the APHA-SA operate more efficiently and effectively. A new plan will allow us to establish appropriate financial goals and create innovative fundraising alternatives. I also hope to enhance my professional leadership skills by networking among other APHA-SA members and leaders, supporting the Development Committee through active listening and continuous goal setting, and increasing the visibility of the Development Committee within APHA and the greater public health community.

# Student Meeting Director

## *Kendra Horn, Chair*

I am currently attending Miami University for my undergraduate degrees. I am double majoring in dietetics and health studies. I will be graduating in May 2005 and will then be completing my dietetic internship. I plan on attending graduate school to receive my MS and my MPH. I am 21 years old and am from Green Springs Ohio (near Toledo and Sandusky Ohio). When I am not busy with work or school I spend my time hanging out with my sorority sisters or visiting my boyfriend who is stationed in Oklahoma.

The Student Meeting Director is a new position and I recently accepted this position in October. I was drawn to this position because it is entirely new and I have a lot of room to try out my ideas and the ideas of the other board members. I am currently working to lay out a plan for the student meeting that will be held in November and will be forming a committee soon. If anyone has any ideas or would like to serve as a committee member please contact me at [kendralhorn@yahoo.com](mailto:kendralhorn@yahoo.com). I am looking forward to forming new connections with other public health students and also to work with the board to create a meeting that will be very beneficial and enjoyable for all student members in the APHA.



### ***Michelle Silverio, Co-Chair***

Hi! I'm Michelle Silverio and I co-chair the Diversity Committee. I graduated from Cornell University with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology.

I will be graduating in May from Yale School of Public Health with an MPH in Health Policy and Administration. I am preparing for a career in hospital administration. My motivation to pursue this career path is the lack of Latino senior leadership despite comprising a significant portion of NYC population. An interesting and informative report, which discusses the lack of Latinos among hospital policymakers, has recently been published by the PLDEF. It is available at [http://www.prldef.org/lib/Condition\\_Critical.pdf](http://www.prldef.org/lib/Condition_Critical.pdf). On a personal note, I was born in Bronx, NY. I am the eldest of three children. Our family pets are a chihuahua named Bori (aka Boricua) and Betty the fish. My primary hobby and escape from the insanity of school work is pottery.

I have been the Diversity Committee Chair for approximately a year. Our committee includes 25 members from the APHA Student Assembly. A major project we have been working on is the "Public Health Workforce" campaign on our website, which will showcase the diverse individuals and opportunities of the public health field. The APHA Student Assembly has provided a unique opportunity to network with future public health professionals from across the nation. The SA also fosters leadership and provides a venue for advocacy to promote change in our community. For more information about the Diversity Committee, please contact Maranda and me at [diversity@phsc.org](mailto:diversity@phsc.org).

### ***Maranda Ward, Co-Chair***

I was born and raised in Long Beach, California but moved to Atlanta, GA to attend Spelman College. After graduating with a BA in Sociology/Anthropology in May 2002, I moved to New Orleans, LA to pursue a graduate degree. I graduated with a MPH from Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in December 2003 with a MCH concentration within the Community Health Sciences Department. While at Tulane, I was the recipient of the Society of Public Health Education (SOPHE) graduate fellowship which led to research on adolescent intimate partner violence. When I wasn't conducting this research, I was split between an on campus job at the Office of Multicultural Affairs as the Project Assistant and an off campus job as a work study intern at the Louisiana Office of Public Health Adolescent Health Initiative. Interestingly, I came in contact with my long lost brother and sister while in New Orleans. Now I have a total of 9 siblings, 7 nieces and 2 nephews. I now live in Washington, DC working in a fellowship program for one of the operating divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services and intend to return to school for a doctoral degree in the fall of 2006. I just turned 25 years old last month.

I began serving as the Chairperson of the Diversity Committee [unofficially] in May 2003 but was officially sworn in November 2003 (during the APHA conference). I learned of the position through past Development Chair, Desmond Drummer. Desmond and I were on the board of a public health student organization in the Atlanta University Center and he suggested that I apply when he attended Diversity Day at Tulane (which I helped develop). When I applied, there was a need for someone who was innovative and could carry the task of creating a committee from the ground up. So, this is exactly what I did. I composed and distributed a survey to gauge the interests of the student membership and centered the 1<sup>st</sup> campaign on themes found among survey responses. Michelle Silverio came on board as the Co-chair of this committee in 2004 and we both have worked hard to increase the visibility of our committee- one of the major committee goals this year. We look forward to collaborating with the Membership and Advocacy committees to work to increase underrepresented students and publish our diversity themed fact sheets, respectively. We will kick off this year with the "Public Health Workforce" Campaign- which highlights public health professionals from underrepresented backgrounds and fields. I love this committee and have gained an understanding of national student interests. I know the Diversity committee will work to ensure that the APHA Student Assembly seek, celebrate and embrace diversity, in every sense of the term.

# Advancement Committee

## *Elizabeth Reitano, Co-Chair*

I am a senior in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. My major is Science, Technology and International Affairs with a focus in International Health. I am also completing a certificate in Justice and Peace Studies. I will be graduating in May 2005 with a degree in Foreign Service and at this point I am undecided about my plans for next year. My research experience includes a yearlong independent research study at the State University of New York at Stony Brook on aspirin and infarct size of the heart. My paper entitled, "Effects of Aspirin on the Cardio-protective Benefits of Arachidonic Acid in Ischemic Preconditioning," was published in the "International Journal of Cardiovascular Medicine and Science" (2000, Vol. 3, No 2, pp 83-88). Outside of my academic endeavors I am an avid tennis player and teach tennis lessons during the summers to children ages 4-18.

In the fall of 2003 I began working with the Advocacy and Legislation committee of the International Section of the American Public Health Association. I performed research, attended talks and summarized books. I also co-wrote a legislative draft for a Global Disease Surveillance, Response and Prevention Network. I have been Co-Chair of the Advancement Committee for one year. As Co-Chair of the Advancement Committee, I have been working to establish and promote the Section Liaison program. The goal of the Section Liaison program is to connect student members of the APHA sections. I am currently working to establish more Section Liaisons and to schedule regular conference calls as a forum to share ideas for promotion. Working on this project and with APHA as a whole has been tremendously rewarding. It was wonderful to be able to meet many other members of SA at the APHA annual meeting.

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## *Kathryn Lambers, Co-Chair*

Hi, I'm Kathryn Lambers. I am an undergraduate senior at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services in Washington, DC. I will be graduating this May with a Bachelors of Science in Exercise Science with a concentration in Health and Fitness. Hopefully next fall I will be entering graduate school to study healthcare administration and management. I am originally from Walpole, MA, which is a small town about 45 minutes outside of Boston. In addition to APHA's Student Association, I love fitness and exercise, and dedicate most of my free time to fitness activities/work. I currently work at my school's fitness center as a student manager and I am also a personal trainer for a private gym in Washington, DC. In addition, I just recently began working at The White House Athletic Center as a Spinning instructor.

I became Co-Chair of the Advancement Committee this past September. I had been a member of APHA for about a year, and I decided that I wanted to become more actively involved and gain leadership experience. I soon found that this is one of the most beneficial extracurricular activities I have ever become involved in because of the networking, leadership experience and personal growth opportunities. As the Advancement Committee Co-Chair, I am working on establishing a clearinghouse of student public health groups from schools around the country to facilitate communication and networking between students at different schools. Public health student groups will be able to access information about other groups to get leadership and networking ideas. This will also give students who want to create their own student group at their school the opportunity to communicate with schools who are already have established public health groups to get some help in beginning their own organizations.

One of the most beneficial experiences for me has been the APHA Annual Conference held in Washington, DC this past November. It was really helpful for me as an undergrad to talk to students and professionals who are already in the field of public health. I think that by becoming involved with the APHA Student Association as an undergraduate student, it has further encouraged me to become involved in my community and in the field of public health. Another goal that I have as a Co-Chair of the Advancement Committee is to encourage more students to become actively involved with the APHA Student Association, especially those who are undergrads, because my experience so far has been priceless!

# Action Committee

## Kate Maggioncalda, Co-Chair

Involvement in PHSC: Co-Chair Action Committee

School: Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University

Department: Aging

Degree Program: MPH

Practice/Research Interests: Health Care Policy for Aging Populations; specifically Medicare, Medicaid (long term care) and retiree benefits.

Plans after Graduate School: I plan to seek a Ph.d in health care policy.

## Jay Bhatt, Co-Chair

Hi. My name is Jay Bhatt. I am a third year medical student at Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. I have completed my public health work at the University of Illinois at Chicago with a concentration of Health Policy and Administration. I am taking some time off pursue some of my interests in HIV/AIDS advocacy, community outreach, preventive medicine, and policy on Capitol Hill. I hail from the windy city of Chicago where I was born and raised. I completed my undergraduate work at the University of Chicago with a degree in Economics and then worked in health policy in Washington D.C. and New York before I decided to pursue my public health degree. I really enjoy dancing. I have developed a few dance troupes that perform at cultural events, charity events, dance competitions, and wedding parties. We perform Bhangra for the most part with some Bhangra and Hip-Hop combination.

I have been the action committee chair for almost a few years now. I became interested in the committee because of my experience with motivating positive change. I had been involved in a number of activist organizations as a public health student and continued that spirit as a medical student, most notably with the American Medical Student Association. Our committee has developed numerous action alerts, news deliveries of public health news of note, newsletter, and have contributed to working with the APHA in developing a student toolkit for the National Public Health Week. We hope that we can help students find resources for activist events in their community and provide them with opportunities to make their voice heard. We would like to work on the student toolkit for this year's National Public Health Week and develop a toolkit for those interested in developing a rally and free clinics. I have gained numerous skills from leading the Action Committee this year. I have been able to learn how the Student Assembly fits into the scheme of the American Public Health Association. I have learned skills of organizing, coalition building, and communication. My contribution to the student assembly has helped me secure a spot on the Action Board of the American Public Health Association. I hope to carry the concerns of students to the board in this new capacity. I look forward to all your comments, questions, and ideas.

# APHA HIV/AIDS Section



The APHA HIV/AIDS Section currently has over 900 primary and secondary members, with almost 200 student members. The Section is a multidisciplinary group of students, community leaders, and professionals unified and working together on a common issue - HIV/AIDS. It is a start of a new year and we would like to welcome new and current members to the HIV Section. If you are interested in the field of HIV/AIDS, it is still not too late to join or get involved. The APHA HIV/AIDS Section is committed to providing opportunities for student involvement and currently has students serving on several committees including: Program Committee reviewers, Social Committee for the Annual Meeting, and the Web Development Committee. We have developed a new position of Student Involvement Chair to liaise with the APHA-Student Assembly. If you are a student who is interested in HIV/AIDS and getting involved, please contact France Nguyen at <[fnguyen@ucla.edu](mailto:fnguyen@ucla.edu)> for more information. In addition, we wanted to highlight that the APHA's 133rd Annual Meeting will be held in New Orleans, Louisiana from November 5-9, 2005. We would like to inform about our Call for Abstracts, which is due February 11, 2005. We encourage more students to submit. Information about the abstract and submission process is at <<http://apha.confex.com/apha/133am/hiv aids.htm>> or on our website at <<http://aphahiv.org/>>.

# Opportunities Committee

## *Robyn Wheatley, Chair*

Greetings to APHA/SA members! My name is Robyn Wheatley, and it has been my privilege to serve as the Co-Chairperson of the Opportunities Committee since January 2004. I'm currently a first-year PhD student in the Community Health Sciences Division of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health. My areas of interest include HIV/AIDS in developing countries and Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR) with women who organize themselves to serve their communities. Specifically, I desire to examine the phenomenology of women who cultivate such robust community-driven HIV/AIDS prevention groups. I've been in Chicago since July 2002. Before moving to Chicago for graduate school (finished my MPH from the same department in May 2002) I was working for a national not-for-profit organization in Philadelphia. Originally, I am from Cleveland, OH. I bounced around a lot from town to town and state to state during my childhood, so I am truly from a lot of places. And, the place that has had the greatest impact on me (and my career path) was my home from 1998 to 2000; I was a Peace Corps volunteer in the Republic of Kiribati during this time. My role in the Rural Community Health Promotion project changed my outlook on life and has humbled me in the most positive way imaginable. Outside of my student life, I enjoy traveling, reading good fiction, listening to good jazz and keeping in touch with loved ones around the world.

My role as the Opportunities Committee Co-Chairperson was sought out during 2004 as a means of becoming more active, on a national level, with the APHA and public health students from across the country. The Opportunities Committee provided a way for me to take on a national leadership role in helping to provide students a place to seek out such "opportunities" and career ideas. During the past year, the Opportunities Committee has seen an expansion in the resources and tools presented on the web pages for students' use and reference. Also, the addition of the APHA/SA Board Alumni Database has been another incredible reference for networking/advice purposes. This coming year, 2005, will include efforts to solicit user information from students as to what is helpful (or not so helpful), as well as suggestions for types of web page resources to add to the site and general thoughts about additional activity for the Committee. In addition, the PHSO listserv is an active resource that will be promoted further so that students may share with one another specific calls for jobs; news, announcements and conference listings; and any questions, feedback, or discussion about public health careers, etc. Please feel free to send an email with any feedback, suggestions or questions at any time to the Opportunities Committee. We will be happy to hear from you!



## **ABSTRACTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

### *Hossein Bahrami, Chair*

I am a second year PhD student in Epidemiology at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health (JHSPH). I am a physician in training and have done my MPH at JHSPH. My research interests are cardiovascular diseases, preventive ophthalmology, clinical trials, and genetic epidemiology. I was born and raised in Iran. I love nature and almost every activity dealing with nature particularly beach (sometimes including and sometimes excluding human beings!). Mountain climbing, swimming, hiking, traveling, partying, etc are among my most favorite hobbies. By the way, I love music and since we are supposed to say something unique about ourselves in this biosketch I should say that I am really unique in playing the violin! (no one can play as bad as me!) I like to leave the busy world aside occasionally and just get lost in a forest or in the mountains for a couple of weeks.

I am the chair of the Abstracts Sub-Committee in APHA-SA and I have held this position from January 2004. I am responsible for abstract submissions for the APHA Annual Meeting and the abstract reviewing process as well as collaboration with co-chairs of the Programming Committee in planning for the Annual Meeting. I have also attended the APHA-SA board conference calls. Currently we are busy with the abstract submission process for the Annual Meeting 2005 and we are recruiting reviewers. We are planning to improve the abstract reviewing process and also provide some guidelines for our membership. I have also planned to work with our Diversity Committee to discuss how we can increase the diversity in our abstracts and the participation of our members in the annual meetings.

## Nominations Committee

*Beth Bernabeo, Chair*

Elizabeth holds an undergraduate degree in Psychology from Bucknell University, a Master of Public Health in Community Health Education from Temple University, and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research. Her dissertation and main scholarly interests include decision making in medical contexts (specifically genetic and other testing procedures), health disparities, and patient safety. She is currently a part-time research associate on an NIH grant investigating the use of telemedicine to improve outcomes of cardiovascular risk in underserved populations and also teaches part-time at Immaculata University in the department of Sociology. Married with a 16 month old daughter and a Jack Russell terrier, Elizabeth also enjoys playing club field hockey on the weekends and her monthly cooking club.

Elizabeth has been the Nominations Chair for APHA-SA since August, 2004. Her interest in the committee came from wanting to be involved in the organization, and the fact that she enjoys 'meeting' people and matching people's skills and interests to open positions within APHA-SA. She successfully elected the current Executive Board in October 2004 and is continuing to work with APHA and the Board to fill open positions as they become vacant. She would like to continue to streamline the nominations process and get as many students involved as possible, and has very much enjoyed the position thus far.

**Got An Interesting Story to Share???**

**Well Tell Us About It!!**

**The Newsletter Committee of the PHSC wants to hear from you!!!**

**Write 750 words or less detailing your education, current projects, and/or your personal experiences in the field of public health.**

**You can email to  
newsletter@phsc.org**

## Newsletter Committee

*Olatokunbo Famakinwa, Co-Chair*

I am currently a senior at Princeton University majoring in the History of Science. I have a myriad of interests, ranging from rugby to playing the harp to just spending time with friends! I have truly enjoyed my time at Princeton, and don't want to leave! But of course, all good things must come to an end, so after graduation, I hope to work for a year or two with a non-profit organization, and then ultimately enroll in an MD-MPH program.

I have been the Newsletter Co-Chair for the APHA-SA Newsletter for the past year and a half. I have truly enjoyed working with the rest of the Board—we have been through so many changes and come so far! For this upcoming year, I hope that our Committee will generate more interest among student members in contributing to the newsletter...we really do want to hear from YOU! If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions please send us an email at newsletter@phsc.org.

*Nisha Bhateja, Co-Chair*

I graduated from the George Washington University in May 2004 with a B.A. in psychology and secondary field of study in public health. Currently, I am a graduate student at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health where I am studying health finance and management. I hope to eventually work in hospital administration or health care consulting. In my free time from school, I enjoy exploring Baltimore and try to get back and visit DC as often as I can.

I am one of the newest members of the APHA-SA board. As co-chair of the newsletter committee, I hope to help strengthen communications between the organization and its members. From what I can see so far, the board and members of the APHA-SA seem excited to work together this year to provide as much service and support as possible. As you continue your education and head towards careers in public health, I look forward to working with you to ensure that you benefit from and take advantage of all the resources our organization has to offer. I encourage you to share your public health interests and submit articles to the newsletter for publication. Please feel free to email me at newsletter@phsc.org with any suggestions or if you would like to become more involved with the committee.



## IDENTIFYING BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH DISPARITY FACTORS in an URBAN AREA

Community-based healthcare facilities provide an accessible source of health information and basic healthcare preventive maintenance as well as full-service medical care to underserved populations in the region. Such facilities are able to reach individuals with little access to health services in locations in which those individuals are already comfortable. Community-based organizations can serve as a bridge between underserved populations and health services. Therefore, a community-based healthcare facility aimed at directly addressing the health disparity issues in Portsmouth and Norfolk, Virginia, is ideal.

The Portsmouth Community Health Center, Incorporated (PCHC, Inc.) strives to continue providing comprehensive healthcare services to the minority and underserved population groups in specifically Portsmouth at its Lincoln Street location and Norfolk at its Park Place satellite location for the Hampton Roads Region. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary proclaims that, "When people without health insurance need care, it's often community health centers that offer them a lifeline".

### A COMMUNITY-BASED SOLUTION to a COMMUNITY- BASED PROBLEM

Healthy People 2010 is the all-inclusive document that establishes the Nation's targets for improving the overall health status of people in the US. The Virginia Department of Health (VDH), in an effort to mirror that task and make Virginia one of the healthiest states in the Nation, has developed the Health Virginians 2010 initiative. The series of recommendations from the VDH highlights 28 focus areas and 467 objectives, using the principal goals of increasing quality and years of healthy life and eliminating health disparities.

At the local level is the Portsmouth Community Health Center, Incorporated (PCHC, Inc.). This organization has tasked itself to compile a community needs assessment to review demographics, perceptions, access and availability issues and evaluate its services in the Portsmouth and Norfolk localities to encourage patients to seek medical attention at a convenient facility in their community that offers culturally competent and appropriate care. PCHC, Inc. has been responsive to the healthcare and health education needs of the residents for both service areas in Portsmouth and Norfolk. This organization has placed a significant emphasis on both acute and preventive patient care as well as patient education. PCHC, Inc. offers a broad range of medical and dental services to a large and varied patient population. As such it has achieved wide community acceptance in the City of Portsmouth. Through a combination of continuous and new grant funding, third party reimbursement, appropriate patient self pay revenues, fundraising, in-kind and cash donations, and sound fiscal management, PCHC has been able to successfully continue to meet the medical and dental needs of the uninsured and underinsured in the City of Portsmouth and Norfolk.

PCHC, Inc. has 2 locations, one at Lincoln Street in Portsmouth and a satellite office at Park Place in Norfolk, staffed by Primary Care Physicians and Nurse Practitioners providing family-centered comprehensive health care, including in-patient hospital care, comprehensive pre-natal care, complete women's health services, laboratory and x-ray services, pharmaceutical support, outreach programs, health and wellness programs, community health interventions, and comprehensive dental care.

PCHC, Inc.'s pediatric department offers a wide range of general pediatric services aimed at promoting optimal wellness from birth to 18 years of age including health-maintenance visits, sports and school physicals, patient education and care of sick children, and walk-in visits for acutely ill children.

PCHC, Inc.'s Beazley Dental Center offers quality dental services to both children and adults. Most insurance plans, including Medicaid and Medicaid HMO's are accepted, and sliding scale fees for uninsured patients. The Center also offers a School-Based Program, which provides on-site dental care to schoolchildren in Portsmouth including examinations, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealants, fillings, extractions, and additional treatment as indicated by the attending dentist.

Even with all of these services available at the local level, the Virginia Department of Health has still deemed Portsmouth as a Medically Underserved Area, and both a Health Professional and Dental Professional Shortage Area. Norfolk is identified as a Medically Underserved Area. Additionally, both cities are bordered by areas that are designated as a Primary Care Health Professional Shortage Areas, a Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas, Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas.

Improving access to quality health care and eliminating health disparities are the principal goals of Healthy Virginians 2010 (Virginia Department of Health, 2002). To accomplish these goals steps must be taken to improve patients' access to systems that emphasizes preventive care while providing culturally sensitive quality care, and the Portsmouth Community Health Center, Incorporated is doing just that.

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# What is the Public Health Law Association?

PHLA is a non-profit, membership organization for everyone who shapes, uses, teaches, studies, or conducts research in the highly dynamic field of public health law. PHLA was incorporated in June 2003 after a year's work by a group of public health practitioners brought together in Atlanta at CDC's annual Public Health Law Conference. With the addition of staff, PHLA continues to grow and provide new services.

## Who should join PHLA?

If any law impacts your work or study to protect or improve the public's health, you should join PHLA. PHLA is a multidisciplinary peer-to-peer network of lawyers, public health practitioners, academicians, scientists, policy-makers, and others who believe that the law is a valuable public health tool. Students are encouraged to join.

## What activities has PHLA conducted?

PHLA has hosted teleconferences on issues in the forefront of practice that give participants access to attorneys and public health practitioners. PHLA will again be collaborating with the CDC's Public Health Law Program and the American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics in the annual Public Health Law Conference scheduled June 13-15, 2005. Last year's conference was attended by over 600 conferees. PHLA members participated as conference faculty and hosted a reception and awards ceremony honoring distinguished achievement in public health law.

## Call for Abstracts

PHLA will be sponsoring a student poster session during June's Public Health Law Conference. Students will have the unique opportunity to submit and present original research findings on topics that address the intersection of law and public health. Interdisciplinary topics and issues are encouraged. Scholarships are available. Abstracts are due April 1<sup>st</sup>. For further information, visit [www.phla.info](http://www.phla.info).

## How do I join PHLA?

Visit [www.phla.info](http://www.phla.info) or contact [membership@phla.info](mailto:membership@phla.info). Dues for students are just \$15!

Submitted by:

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Public Health Law Association

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# Student Assembly



## 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.

American Public Health Association's  
Student Assembly  
Attn: Frances Atkinson  
800 I St. NW  
Washington, DC 20001-3710

**Check us out on the web!**  
<http://www.phsc.org>

## OUR MISSION

APHA-SA is a student-led international organization within the American Public Health Association (APHA) representing students of public health and other health-related disciplines. We are dedicated to enhancing students' educational experiences and professional development by providing information, resources, and opportunities through communication, advocacy, and networking. According to Physic's Strategic Plan, we support the development of the next generation of public health professionals by:

- Increasing student representation in APHA
- Developing & disseminating educational/professional development resources
- Creating & promoting opportunities for student involvement within APHA-SA, APHA, and other health-related organizations
- Providing and sustaining vehicles for communication
- Advocating for student issues and public and health-related policy
- Facilitating networking among students and professionals