

News & Views

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

APHA 134th Annual Meeting & Exposition Boston, MA: Highlights from the Student Assembly

By Kristy A. Siegel, MPH, CHES and Mariza Luna, *Programming Co-Chairs*

It was once again time for public health students from all over the country to convene for the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Exposition held in Boston, Massachusetts this past November. Thousands of students as well as many public health professionals took advantage of the opportunity to learn, network, explore, and have a great time in Boston. The APHA 134th Annual Meeting commenced with Drs. Paul Farmer and Helene Gayle at the Opening General Session. Following this was the opening to the largest and most comprehensive public health expo! The Student Assembly had a wonderful turnout at our booth.

Students had the chance to meet with other SA members, sit and relax after a long day of meetings and walking, learn what SA had to offer them, and take advantage of the exciting raffle for an 80 GB I-Pod (winner was Maribel Robledo). Oxfam America, located in Boston, was chosen to receive all the money that was collected during the raffle (over \$400). Thanks to all those that participated. In addition to the wonderful student turnout, the Student Assembly booth was awarded a First Place Exhibit ribbon given by APHA! This was a great honor and the SA is so appreciative to all the members that helped make this year's

expo booth such a great success. To help celebrate this great achievement as well as continue the yearly tradition, over 90 SA members migrated over to the famous Union Oyster House, Boston's oldest restaurant. Students were treated to a taste of Boston and had the chance to mingle with fellow members in a relaxed and cozy atmosphere. Free drinks were sponsored by TheLoanster.com and many great raffle prizes were given away. The Student Assembly social is something we all look forward to each year and it was such a pleasure to see all the SA members having a good time at a great Boston location. Continued on next page

A Guide to Getting Involved in APHA

By Giorgio Piccagli, Ph.D.

Routes to leadership positions.

One of the benefits to being a member of APHA is the opportunity to belong to different sections or affiliates (including the Student Assembly) and to pursue leadership positions in those groups. There are several processes

leading into greater leadership involvement in the Association: appointment (formal and informal) and 2) election.

And there are several venues for that involvement:

1) Association-wide groups such as the Executive Board (EB), the Committee on Affiliates (CoA), the Intersectional

Council Steering Committee (ISC SC).

2) Sections, such as Health Administration, Medical Care, Epidemiology, etc. Go to <http://apha.org/sections/> for a list of Sections, caucuses, and SPIGs, a description of what they do and leadership information. Continued on next page

Fall 2006

Editing and Layout By:

**Olivia Wackowski
and
Ana Luz Chiapa**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Pen	4
Free Materials from The Nation's Health	4
APHA Student Poster Winners (CoA)	5
Ride for World Health	5
Opportunities and Announcements	6-7
Campus News and Announcements	8-9
Call for Campus Liaisons	10
APHA SA Board List	10



APHA 134th Annual Meeting & Exposition Boston, MA: Highlights from the Student Assembly *Continued...*

But not to forget the reason for the visit to Boston, SA also had a great experience with our sessions. For the first-time, SA and APHA merged the Welcome sessions to offer all new members and attendees the opportunity to better understand the benefits of their membership, and how to manage their time at the Annual Meeting. Thanks to all those that attended that session – look for the SA Welcome and Orientation session again this year. The next big annual events were the career sessions. We

had a phenomenal crowd at the general public health career session. Some attendees were even turned away because we exceeded fire code room capacity. Those that were able to stay heard from Dr. Barry Levy, Dr. Marian McDonald, and Dr. Victor Sidel. The room was also bursting while attendees listened to Dr. Mary Anne Mercer, Ms. Alicia Ely Yamin, Dr. Daniela Iancu, and Dr. Sharon Rudy during the international health career session. The career speakers during the Annual Meeting in Boston were

fantastic and everyone learned essential career advice. We thank everyone that helped make the SA sessions a success, from the reviewers to the speakers to the moderators.

For more information on how you can become involved in the APHA- Student Assembly planning of the APHA 135th Annual Meeting and Exposition in Washington, DC, please email the Programming Committee at programming@aphastudents.org.

A Guide to Getting Involved in APHA *Continued...*

3) Affiliates. Affiliates are the State Public Health Associations affiliated with APHA. Go to http://apha.org/state_local/affiliates/ for information on the affiliate in your state.

Serving in these positions will expose you to issues and individuals you might not encounter otherwise, with possible professional benefits.

Association-wide positions and formal appointment processes. Student involvement at the Association-wide level is managed through the Student Assembly and formal APHA appointment processes, particularly the Leadership Appointment process. The President of the Student Assembly sits, ex officio, as a non-voting member of the APHA Executive Board. Student Assembly representatives to the Committee on Affiliates (CoA) and the InterSectional Council Steering Committee (ISC SC) are selected by the President-elect

and Executive director of APHA and confirmed by the Executive Board. Details of these nomination processes are available from the Student Assembly and on the APHA website (see Leadership Appointment).

“Informal appointment” processes.

In contrast, there are many more opportunities (almost limitless) for involvement in the sections and the affiliates. These operate by election and “informal” appointment processes. These appointment processes are called “informal” because they often simply require the decision of the chair or president of a committee, section or affiliate, and can happen throughout the year as vacancies arise.

First steps. The easiest way into greater involvement is through the informal involvement process. Find

an unmet need in your section or affiliate and offer to fill it. Some relatively easy options might include involvement in, or management of: 1) Program planning 2) Poster sessions 3) Student activities in the program 4) Newsletter 5) Website 6) Content. And some units have difficulty recruiting board secretaries, often a quick and easy step into the Executive Committee of the unit.

Note that it's easier to be appointed to a committee that needs members than to be elected to office, and that such an appointment can help set the stage for a later chance at election. You learn more about the unit and its needs, you demonstrate commitment, you can establish a record of accomplish-

Continued on next page

A Guide to Getting Involved in APHA *Continued...*

ments, and you have occasion to build name recognition, which seems to be one of the major determinants in section elections.

Election.

Elected positions in a section include: chair, secretary, section council, governing council; in an affiliate, president, president-elect, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, or governing council member. If you're interested in elected positions in a section or Affiliate, there are two stages to focus on: getting on the ballot, and getting elected.

Getting on the ballot.

Most units have a nominating committee. Find out who is on it and when it operates. Talk to one or more members about your interest in serving and solicit their advice for how best to go about it. There are at least three things to keep in mind:

- 1) The operation and timeline of the nominating committee varies in its transparency, so take the initial step to inform yourself early. Don't wait for a general call for nominees.
- 2) Some units will want seasoned people on the ballot and that may require a little advance work on your part
- 3) On the other hand, some units have a hard time generating enough nominees and will be delighted to have interested members.

Getting known.

One way to work into serious consideration for nomination, besides doing unit work ahead of time, is to attend the unit meetings, e.g. section business meetings at the Annual Meeting and Governing Council meetings for your affiliate. You can find the Section Business Meeting schedule for your chosen section in the program book under "Business Meetings".

The distributed nature of the sections and affiliate membership often makes name recognition a major factor in elections, so look for ways to indicate your interest and presence in the unit before

the election. This can be done more easily if you have a task responsibility that allows you to post to the unit listserv or if you use the listserv to generate discussions of interest to the unit.

Getting elected – five steps to improve your chances.

The section ballot is uniform across all sections and currently has a place for a candidate's statement. Affiliate elections vary from affiliate to affiliate in the process they use. The candidate statement is always very important for section elections, but more so when you are relatively unknown. Five steps will improve your candidate statement and your chances of winning:

- 1) Know the duties of the office for which you are running. I have seen candidate statements that suggest the candidate wants to run for another office. This is not helpful.
- 2) Provide a vision of what you will do or what the section might be with your involvement. The positions you have held do not give the elector much sense of what you will do, and at this stage in your career, may highlight the advantages of others.
- 3) State your vision in terms of the units' concerns and needs, not yours. "The unit wants (needs) XYZ, and I can...", rather than "I want to gain experience." Learning what those concerns and needs are is best done by talking to people in the unit, reading minutes and newsletters, assessing the activities of your chosen unit compared to other units, comparing the activities of your chosen unit to the opportunities for activity in its area.
- 4) In stating your experience, highlight your strengths, not your weaknesses. That involves reviewing your history to see what leadership positions, formal or informal, in public health or outside, you have held and what you accomplished. Sometimes, apparent weaknesses can be reframed as strengths. What might look as relative inexperience and lack of involvement may also

mean that you have the time that others do not to devote to unit tasks. The fact that you are not a mid-level or senior level career person may allow you to ask questions that others will not because they think they should know the answer. The fact that you are a student now likely means that you have had more exposure to organization and leadership tools than earlier generations have. It is often very useful to have someone else look at you from the outside and reflect your strengths; sometimes our strengths are not obvious to ourselves.

5) Write your statement with care. I believe the current limit is 200 words. That's not much to cover bio and vision, but with some care, some help, and some rewrites, you'd be surprised at how much information you can cram into a statement that short.

Last words.

Finally, it helps to look at getting involved as a multi-year effort. I have held many organization leadership positions -- on campus, in professional organizations, in community organizations -- and I don't think I have ever lost as many elections as I have in public health. Use your losses as learning opportunities, not as reasons to quit.

Oh yes, and have fun. Getting involved at this level provides you with access to information and experiences you are unlikely to get elsewhere.

About Dr. Piccagli: He is currently a member of the Executive Board, and starting his first year as the President of the California Public Health Association (CPHA-N)(one of two California Affiliates), and has previously served as Chair of the Health Administration Section. Dr. Piccagli would be happy to talk to any students or recent graduates who want to get involved with CPHA-N. You can contact him at gapiccagli@gmail.com

President's Pen

By Darren Mays, APHA-SA Chair



Dear APHA-SA members,

Greetings from the APHA-SA board! I hope that this edition of *News & Views* reaches you well after what was surely a productive fall term. The spring semester is already upon us, and soon we will be immersed in our work as full time students and, as is the case for many of us, employees as well. However, before the rush of the spring semester begins I would like to take this opportunity to issue a challenge to you as students in public health and related fields. My challenge to you this semester, and perhaps for semesters to come, is to take on a leadership role as a student in public health.

As you may know, the public health workforce is aging, and many public health professionals in particular at the state and local levels are reaching retirement age in the next few years. It is expected that all governmental public health agencies will experience tremendous shortages in their workforce as soon as this year, and that state and local public health agencies will feel these effects the most. These trends are certainly apparent across disciplinary lines; shortages are evident in

public health nursing as well.

While the crumbling of the public health workforce is clear, the health issues that our nation faces are not subsiding. A strong workforce at all levels is necessary to take on the public health challenges with which we are faced today. It is the responsibility of students in public health to ensure that our nation's future public health workforce is prepared to tackle these problems. Students are needed in leadership roles to not only prepare *themselves* for the public health workforce, but also to aid in the preparation of their peers for future work in public health.

Students are also needed to advocate for their own cause through their respective organizations. Students considering careers in public health are placed in a precarious situation: we have taken on enormous debt for a two year Master's degree only to make a fraction of that debt in an annual salary, while simultaneously working to solve problems that affect communities and populations in need. Students in public health should lead in advocating for reducing the cost of

education, increasing the number of scholarships and fellowships available for Master's students in particular, and initiating programs that offer loan repayment options in exchange for employment upon graduation.

Now that the New Year is under way, I urge you as student members of APHA, to be the leaders that our nation's public health workforce so desperately needs. Whether it is within your school, community, state, or nationally through APHA-SA, taking on a leadership role in public health will strengthen us as individuals, and create a workforce that is ready to take on the public health challenges of the 21st century. Happy New Year!

1. Quiggins, N. "Launching Your Career in Public Health" Presentation at the 132nd Annual Meeting of the American Public Health Association. November 2004.

2. See: <http://www.csuchico.edu/~horst/about/shortage.html>

Healthy You: Free Public Health Materials from The Nation's Health

By Olivia Wackowski, APHA-SA Newsletter Co-Chair

The Nation's Health is the official newspaper of the American Public Health Association which is provided for free to all APHA members. In addition to bringing us the latest public health news, announcements, and job advertisements, The Nation's Health has recently launched a new section called, "Healthy You" which serves as a free resource page in the newspaper. This page, which

is designed to be an attractive and easy-to-read resource, can be cut out from the newspaper or can be downloaded, printed and copied from the website for easy distribution. The "Healthy You" page focuses on a single health topic each month such as helmet safety, the feature of the December 2006/January 2007 issue. Past features have focused on tips for reducing allergy and asthma trig-

gers in the home and on appropriate portion sizes of food. To access the Healthy You section online, visit The Nation's Health website at www.thenationshealth.org and click on the blue Healthy You icon on the left hand side menu bar. Also, if you have any ideas for topics to cover in future Healthy You pages, email them to Michele Late, Executive editor, at michele.late@apha.org

APHA Student Poster Contest Winners

by Maranda Ward, MPH, APHA-SA Representative to the Committee on Affiliates (CoA)



Winner A.M. Semanya and her faculty mentor at APHA in Boston

The APHA Committee on Affiliates (CoA) represents all the local and state public health associations across the nation. Each year, the CoA hosts two poster sessions at the Annual Meeting, one for affiliates and the other for students. The poster session for students is always co-sponsored by the APHA Student Assembly. This year's student poster session was not only an opportunity for students to present and be recognized for their research but also to compete for an award.

The CoA student poster contest was reviewed on-site by 3 judges. The judges evaluated each student poster on its study innovativeness, study replicability, the preparedness of the speaker, and their contribution as a student researcher to the project. Although we accepted 30 abstracts this year, only 1 was awarded with the \$100 prize. Congratulations to **A. Mansa Semanya**, an MPH student at the Drexel University School of Public Health in the Department of Health Management and Policy. Ms. Semanya presented a poster entitled, "Improving the knowledge of minority populations through the use of beauty salon-based health education programs."

The CoA also recognized the authors of other high scoring posters. Con-

gratulations to the following student recipients of honorable mentions:

E. Jara, MPH, RD, University of California - Berkeley.

Poster title: Integrating photovoice into urban middle school obesity prevention interventions.

Fran Rooker, BA, New Mexico State University.

Poster title: Non-pharmacological methods work to lower blood pressure.

I encourage everyone to join their local and/or state public health association and look forward to receiving student abstracts for the next CoA student poster contest at the APHA annual meeting in Washington, DC in November 2007.

Ride for World Health



This spring a team of riders will be biking across the country to educate Americans about pertinent global health issues. Ride for World Health (R4WH), a national non-profit organization, was founded in 2004 by a group of medical students and health care professionals. They initiated a national bike ride as a vehicle of communication to promote improvements in global and local health throughout the United States. In April 2006, the first Ride for World Health departed from San Francisco, CA on a 3,700 mile journey ending in Washington, D.C. in May 2006. Along the way, the riders hosted over 40 lectures at major medical centers and community health clinics. The team promoted health awareness and pro-

vided education regarding international and national health issues while attracting attention with their biking journey. With vigorous fundraising efforts, Ride for World Health grossed over \$130,000 for its 2006 beneficiary, Partners in Health, which provides sustainable community-based health care solutions to areas around the world that face health care crises. This year, the money raised will benefit The Pendulum Project and Global Health Access Program. The Pendulum Project provides funding to grassroots community groups in sub-Saharan Africa to support children with AIDS. Global Health Access Program is run solely by professionals who volunteer their time to provide health services and basic resources to international communities, including several in Burma, Sri Lanka, and El Salvador.

R4WH is searching for motivated individuals interested in participating in the 2007 Ride. This can include joining the cross-country team for the entire two

month coast-to-coast journey, or jumping in and riding a portion of the Ride. For more information on becoming a rider, visit www.rideforworldhealth.org/apply.

This organization is also looking for help with promoting the education series held along the route. To advertise R4WH in your area contact Marketing Director, Jackie Redmer at jredmer@rideforworldhealth.org. Cities and dates are listed at www.rideforworldhealth.org.

R4WH also seeks donations for the program either online at <http://www.rideforworldhealth.org/donate> or via check written to "Ride for World Health" and sent to Ride for World Health, P.O. Box 8234, Columbus, OH 43201.

**Ride for
World Health**

Interested in Medicine and Public Health? We want YOU!

By Meredith Masel, APHA-SA Past Chair

Have you ever thought about wanting to create stronger ties between the practice of medicine and medical care with public health practice? Have you wondered why we ever even separate the two? Then, the American Public Health Association Student Assembly would like to introduce you and invite you to participate in opportunities provided by the **Medicine in Public Health Initiative (MPHI)**.

The MPHI is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting population health through voluntary health profession alliances in education, applied research, and community programs. It began when leaders from the American Medical Association and the American Public Health Association identified common goals and realized it was imperative that they bridge the gaps be-

tween their work. Leaders in the MPHI have stressed that these goals cannot be achieved without communication and partnerships between health and health related disciplines, programs, and community workers at the state and local levels. Equally as exciting as the national coalition are ties that have been created between the United States and other countries such as China, whose citizens also show strong support for a bridge of the gap between medicine and public health.

The following includes descriptions of **opportunities** that will help you to get involved in this groundbreaking work.

- 1) Help improve and maintain the MPHI website. Work on the website as part of a school project or use the experience to boost your CV!
- 2) Work on starting a chapter

at your own school where students can come together across disciplines to develop effective alliances.

3) Participate in course development. Have you ever thought that an undergraduate course in public health should exist that would qualify as a required core course for different degree programs? Do you have ideas about what should be included in a course like that? If so, you may be able to participate in discussions about the development of such a course.

If you are interested in how to become involved with one of these exciting opportunities, email Meredith Masel at mmaselapha@msn.com. Or, if you simply want to learn more about the details of MPHI, please visit their website at www.mphi.net.

The New Beginning for Public Health in California March 8 & 9, 2007

There will be a biennial joint meeting and conference of the Southern California Public Health Association and the California Public Health Association-North at the Long Beach Airport Marriot Hotel.

Students are strongly encouraged to attend and submit posters for presentation. Visit www.scpa.org for registration and poster submission deadlines (reduced registration fees for students).

34th Annual International Conference on Global Health

Unite with 2,000 international colleagues to build and strengthen the partnerships essential to improving the health of the world at the 34th International Conference on Global Health. May 29-June 1, 2007, Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C. Visit www.globalhealth.org/conference to plan your participation.



APHA-SA Call for Abstracts

APHA- Student Assembly (APHA-SA) seeks abstracts from students in public health or related fields on any topic. Abstracts related to the 2007 Annual Meeting theme "**Politics, Policy, & Public Health**" are strongly encouraged.

Student papers should reflect work undertaken while in school, either undergraduate or graduate programs. We also invite abstracts pertaining to public health student issues in general (such as education, curricula, training, employment trends, student leadership, advocacy, etc.) and/or as they relate to the Annual Meeting theme.

Before preparing your abstract, it is recommended that you review the Abstract Writing Guide available at <http://aphastudents.org/docs/abstractguide05.pdf>. This document was written by the programmer of APHA-SA, based on common errors seen in student abstract submissions in previous meetings. You should also review Abstract Submission FAQ at <http://aphastudents.org/docs/abstractsubmissionfaq.doc> before emailing the programmers, as many of your questions have already been answered there.

Visit <http://apha.confex.com/apha/135am/oasys.epl> and click on APHA Student Assembly to submit an abstract to APHA-Student Assembly sessions.

We look forward to your submission! If you have any questions, contact the APHA-SA Program Planners directly at programming@aphastudents.org or APHA-SA Abstracts Chair.



CONTEXT JOURNAL SEEKS STUDENT PAPERS

Context, the journal recognizing student health professionals engaged in their communities, seeks original student papers. Manuscripts received by February 16th are eligible for the Summer 2007 issue.

To submit a manuscript about your important work, please go to www.contextjournal.org and read our instructions for authors. Note: At the time of submission, corresponding and first authors must be graduate-level students of any discipline.

Of particular interest are manuscripts related to universal health coverage, immigrant health issues, abortion laws, pharmacy predatory pricing, mental health, posttraumatic stress disorder, child health disparities, the influence of pharmaceutical companies in health professional schools, and religious perspectives on curriculum, health care decisions, or health policy.

Papers are accepted on a rolling-basis; however the deadline for consideration of publication in the Summer 2007 issue of *Context* is February 16th.

For additional information visit www.contextjournal.org or contact Dana Lee, Publisher: (678) 637-6923 or dana@contextjournal.org

APHA-SA Alumni Database

The Alumni Database is meant to serve as a resource for students currently in public health programs or for those who may want to pursue a degree in public health. Students can view potential careers or job titles held by current public health practitioners, and contact them with any questions regarding their career path. Included in this database is a list of alumni members with their current job title, employing organization/agency, research or professional interests, and leadership positions served in the Student Assembly. Members range from recent graduates who hold entry-level positions and fellowships to those who have seasoned careers and well developed research agendas.

If you are an alumnus of the Student Assembly (formerly the Public Health Student Caucus) and would like to contribute your information to this database, please go to the following website: http://www.aphastudents.org/phso_alumni_db.php and fill out the form provided on the website. If you have questions, you can e-mail the Opportunities Committee at opportunities@aphastudents.org

College of Public Health Student Association (CPHSA) Promotes

By Jacqueline M. Leung-Heras, University of Iowa, College of Public Health

Under new leadership for the 2006-2007 academic year, the College of Public Health Student Association (CPHSA) at the University of Iowa formally started a new project entitled "CPHSA Promotes." The purpose of "CPHSA Promotes" is to enable students to organize public health awareness activities throughout the college and university. During the fall semester, "CPHSA Promotes" organized activities around the issues of sexual assault awareness, breast and prostate cancer awareness

and smoking cessation. Our last "CPHSA Promotes" activity for 2006 involved a series of events leading to World AIDS Day, including the distribution of 1,000 red ribbons, a free movie screening of the Oscar-nominated film, *Yesterday*, and a fundraiser at Cold Stone Creamery, with proceeds donated to a local community-based HIV program. CPHSA also collaborated with the groups FACEAIDS, the Global Medical Society, and the James

Gang for a charity event benefiting an AIDS program in Africa.

The CPHSA has provided students with opportunities to both get involved with the community and promote public health, and will continue to implement public health awareness activities in the New Year beginning with "International Human Rights Week," to ensue in January.

UNIBE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN 2006 NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST RUBELLA

By Helena Chapman, MPH (MS-2), Iberoamerican University (UNIBE), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

In the Dominican Republic (DR), rubella emerges as an epidemic every 5-6 years, with the last epidemic (1999-2000) recording 1,164 known infected cases. Rubella is an infectious viral disease characterized by rash on the face, neck, thorax or body. Other symptoms include high fever, enlarged or inflamed lymph nodes, joint pain and general discomfort. Side effects may also result in fetal abnormalities. Rubella is spread through airborne transmission via droplets when infected individuals cough or sneeze.

The first national vaccination campaign, sponsored by the

World Health Organization (WHO) and the DR Department of Public Health, aimed at immunizing all persons between 7 and 39 years of age in all 158 municipalities against rubella. As part of the national vaccination campaign, medical, psychology and dentistry students at the Iberoamerican University (UNIBE) attended a 2-hour training session on procedures for administering the live viral rubella vaccine (MR). They gained expert clinical skills while vaccinating over 4,300 persons from October 31 to November 8, 2006 in

Santo Domingo, DR.

As part of their new clinical skills, UNIBE students learned disease symptomatology and proper subcutaneous vaccine administration. Using the public health model, they acquired skills in interdisciplinary teamwork, data recording of vaccinated individuals and vaccine utilization toward disease eradication and prevention. UNIBE students were successful in delivering compassionate care and services to fellow students and community members.

Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS) Charity Winter Gala

By Akil J.T. Campbell

The Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS) Charity Winter Gala is a special event for a special cause. On Sunday, February 11, 2007, Miami, Florida's famed Eden Roc Hotel will host approximately 300 guests to celebrate the organization's 15th anniversary and to raise funds for re-opening *Life* – JAS' 12-bed hospice that was closed in September 2000 due to a lack of sustainable funding. JAS is Jamaica's first and largest HIV/AIDS and human rights non-

governmental agency and the gala will be an important introduction of the organization to those committed to improving the lives of persons living with HIV/AIDS, the removal of the attached stigma and putting an end to this pandemic. We hope to highlight JAS' history of invaluable community work and the financial burden this non-profit organization takes on in order to carry out its vital mission. The gala event will feature some of

Jamaica's most talented performers and the Virgin Island's Marcus Anthony for an intimate evening of music. The event, in Miami for the first time, will be the lynch pin of annual fundraising efforts, crucial to JAS' unwavering efforts to preserve the dignity and rights of Jamaicans living with HIV/AIDS and affected families.

Please visit our website at www.wintergala.org.

Gulf Coast Recovers: a Student led action-based response and remembrance

By Victoria Lowerson, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University

Gulf Coast Recovers (GCR) was founded by Columbia University students from the Mailman School of Public Health immediately following Hurricane Katrina to promote an efficient and equitable recovery and the right of all residents to return to their homes. GCR is mindful that the social injustices unveiled by Katrina exist in every neighborhood and that this "unnatural disaster" must be addressed in particular by responding to the needs of the most vulnerable. To do this, GCR engages in community organizing and activities focusing on creating networks of solidarity. GCR's efforts to mobilize the student body include organizing Teach-ins, Holiday Healing events, disaster training sessions, and volunteer opportu-

nities in the Gulf. This year's Teach-In/Installation, an exhibition composed of pictures and quotes from the nation's major newspapers, aimed to show how disasters are concealed and exposed in the media. While viewing the exhibit, spectators had to navigate around toy soldiers that were painted in colors representing varying household income levels. The lowest income blocks were located in the path spectators had to take in order to view the exhibit. As the day progressed the green soldiers (representing the lowest income) lay decimated from people walking through them; the gold soldiers (representing the highest income) were untouched. The exhibit was followed by a documentary made by local high school students

from Youth Organizer Television, and a group discussion focusing on community resilience. One current project, *After the Rain: Celebrating Memories Supporting Mental Health*, funded by the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, is a traveling art therapy exhibit to be housed in locations with high concentrations of survivors. We hope the project will improve the mental health and wellness of individuals affected by Hurricane Katrina and create a safe space to reconnect to life prior to the disaster. GCR aims to continue these discussions and strengthen social networks to build strong communities as issues of forced migration, gentrification, and inequalities plague global health.

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.

Chair: Darren Mays

chair@aphastudents.org

Chair-Elect: Tamar Klaiman

chair-elect@aphastudents.org

Past Chair: Meredith Masel

past-chair@aphastudents.org

Secretary: Jacqueline Bromley

secretary@aphastudents.org

Secretary-Elect: Mary Martinasek

secretary-elect@aphastudents.org

Treasurer: Haroun Habib

treasurer@aphastudents.org

Treasurer-Elect: Cory "Mitch" Mitchell

treasurer-elect@aphastudents.org

Abstracts Committee: Open

abstracts@aphastudents.org

Action Committee: Denise Burke and Mariza Luna

action@aphastudents.org

Advancement Committee: Elizabeth Reitano and Robert Nelb

advancement@aphastudents.org

Campus Liaison Committee:

Lenette Golding

campusliaison@aphastudents.org

Student Assembly



**American Public Health
Association's Student
Assembly
800 I St. NW
Washington, DC 20001-3710**

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

Diversity Committee: Andrea Rubin and Sabrina Robinson

diversity@aphastudents.org

Development Committee: Ryan Estaris

development@aphastudents.org

Membership Committee: Dana Bowie and Jason Almonte

membership@aphastudents.org

Mentoring Committee: Pam Gundrum and Joy Gamble-George

mentoring@aphastudents.org

Newsletter Committee: Olivia Wackowski and Ana Luz Chiapa

newsletter@aphastudents.org

Nominations Committee:

Lianne Fuino Estefan

nominations@aphastudents.org

Opportunities Committee: Jennifer Cremeens and Anna Pollack

opportunities@aphastudents.org

Programming Committee: Kristy Siegel and Supriya Reddy

programming@aphastudents.org

Student Meeting Director: Open

studentmeeting@aphastudents.org

Website Committee: David Huang

website@aphastudents.org

Become a Campus Liaison!

The American Public Health Association's Student Assembly (SA) is looking for public health students to act as Campus Liaisons. This is a wonderful way to gain leadership experience and to network with students from other schools of public health.

Campus liaisons serve as their school's representative to the Student Assembly of the American Public Health Association (APHA). Becoming a campus liaison is a great way for a student to get involved in the SA and, in doing so, develop leadership skills and foster relationships with other public health students. This position will also provide students with a unique opportunity to become more cognizant of national student initiatives within the APHA. A liaison plays a key role in SA by helping recruit new members and disseminating information about SA and APHA to students, faculty and administrators at colleges and universities across the country. It does not take a significant amount of time to serve as a liaison.

If you are interested in serving, or finding out more information, you can contact Lenette Golding, APHA-SA Campus Liaison Sub-Committee Chair at lenetteg@yahoo.com

To see if your campus already has a liaison, visit

http://www.aphastudents.org/campus_liaisons.php