

News & Views

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

President's Pen

By Tamar Klaiman, Chair APHA-SA

Hello students,

This week is National Public Health Week (NPHW) and this year's theme focuses on the health effects of climate change. As part of the week long observance, titled "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance," APHA will lead the charge in helping people, communities, and families recognize that adapting to climate change and mitigating its impact is critical not just for the health of our planet, but for the health of the people in our nation and around the world. For a schedule of events, various resources related to the theme, and ideas on how you can get involved, visit the official website at www.nphw.org/nphw08/

I have been talking to and working with a variety of schools and programs of public health to get a sense of what students across the country are doing to promote National Public Health Week. Included on the following page are just a few examples of what students are doing. I encourage you to blog or write about what your campus is doing and how other schools might replicate it! You can even blog about your own school's events at the NPHW website - www.nphw.blogspot.com

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns!

Thanks,
Tamar

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Climate Change:

Our Health in the Balance

National Public Health Week

April 7-13, 2008

www.nphw.org

Spring 2008

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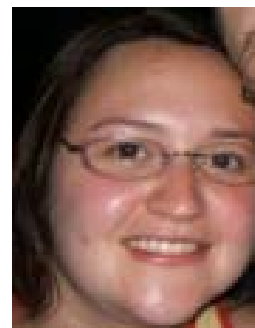
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President's Pen cont.



Blog Notes: NPHW Campus Activities

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

- Curriculum: multiple classes, including a Sustainability Seminar, a class on the global climate and public health, and a class on energy. The MPH program has a new concentration in climate change and sustainability.
- Johns Hopkins, as an institution, has pledged to go green (sustainability, not just carbon neutrality) and is taking positive steps toward this goal
- Center for a Liveable Future at JHSPH: speakers, funding, research
- Participated in the 2% Solution
- Student Groups: the Health and Human Rights group has sponsored multiple speakers on the topic; Environmental Health Science Student Organization

Drexel University

- Community panel focusing on “Your Health, Your Home, Your Neighborhood”
- Partnerships with regional collaborators focusing on panel discussion and activities
- Include experts in the field and community members to address local impact on climate change

Emory University Rollins School of Public Health

- Set themes and planning committees for each day
- School-wide scavenger hunt highlighting local agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CARE, The Carter Center and the American Cancer Society. Department teams made up of students, staff, and/or faculty will identify examples of public health in the local community through the use of “This is Public Health” stickers. Each team will be charged with handing out recyclable coupons to the public in these locations and recording their interactions through digital cameras or videos. The coupons will direct the public to a website where they can register to receive a free reusable shopping bag, while supplies last, and learn more about National Public Health week activities.
- Invited a national expert to speak during the week
- Making administration picnic sustainable
- Competitive activities between departments
- Alternative Transportation pledges: Faculty, staff, and students will make pledges to use alternative transportation during the week and receive breakfast on Thursday
- Carbon Footprint: A display will be going all week long in which faculty, staff, and students will be able to make a pledge to participate in an activity to reduce their carbon footprint, totals will be calculated at the end of week (possible competition)

Temple University

- Daily topical emails to entire university community
- Outreach to local middle schools with presentations and activities about climate change
- Partnership with Drexel University panel program, “Your Health, Your Home, Your Neighborhood”

Look Out for Call for Articles for Special Student Newsletter Supplemental Issue!

Attention students!! Early this summer we will be looking for articles for the special student issue supplement to the Student Assembly's regular quarterly newsletter, *News & Views*.

While the regular issues of *News & Views* call for short articles of specific topics, the special student supplement issue is intended to provide students with a more open format for publishing articles on public health related topics of interest to them. This may include essays, opinion articles, event/activity information, student perspectives, articles about your student work, activism or research, etc. The word limit for submissions for the supplement issue is 700 words.

The official call for articles will be send out by email through the Student Assembly listserv with additional information. We hope to hear from you then!

Keeping your APHA-Student Assembly Membership Active after Graduation

Congratulations to all students who will be graduating from public health graduate programs this spring and summer. As you prepare for your next steps, whether they involve looking for or starting a new job, starting another graduate or post-doctorate program, or just taking some time off to travel or relax, APHA wants to invite you to keep your membership active. Transitional memberships are available for one year after graduation. This subsidized membership category costs \$110 and includes all of the benefits of APHA membership. This is a great way to stay connected to the most vibrant public health organization in the country.

For questions about continuing your APHA membership, contact the Membership Committee at membership@aphastudents.org or visit www.apha.org/about/

*Congratulations to all the
May 2008 Graduates!
You did it!!!*



National Public Health Week: An Update from Johns Hopkins

By Meghan Davis, Johns Hopkins University

Two recent classes at Johns Hopkins changed my perspective on climate change. The first was a new seminar on sustainability that took our class on a two-term struggle to define the problem of climate change, peak oil, and the energy crisis in the context of public health. The second was marketing for health professionals, complete with arguments over which Superbowl ad was best.

We discussed the same thing in both classes: how do you take a problem that is a slow emergency and make it immediate and relevant without terrifying your audience so badly they just want to crawl into their brand-new, gas-guzzling SUVs and forget about it?

Moreover, how do you convince your col-

leagues, who may not agree that addressing climate change is a health priority, that our resource-consuming, carbon-emitting lifestyles pose a health threat?

If you're a student at Johns Hopkins, you might participate in "The 2% Solution," a Focus the Nation event promoting educational initiatives to address global warming. You might attend programs sponsored by the Center for a Liveable Future and the Health and Human Rights student group. You might advocate for the Maryland State Global Warming Solutions Act. You might change your light bulbs, take the stairs instead of the elevator, turn out lights in empty rooms, and bring a mug for your morning cup of joe. You might inspire others to join you, which just might make the difference.

Collaboration in Philadelphia: Addressing Climate Change

By Moriah Zimmerman, Temple University

Philadelphia is an exciting place for public health. There are great public health schools and programs in the city that have historically been reluctant to collaborate with one another. This issue inspired an inter-collegiate, student-run council, the Philadelphia Public Health Student Council (PPHSC) in 2006. The main purposes are to increase collaboration between the MPH Schools and Programs and plan/promote academic and community public health events in Philadelphia. Thus far, it has been an important first step to foster more citywide support in public health academia, and remains one of the first student led efforts of its kind in the U.S.

The Section on Public Health and Preventative Medicine of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia has been very supportive of the PPHSC. For National Public Health Week, the two groups are co-sponsoring "Public Health Recognition Night". The program will begin with keynote speaker Dr. Erica Frank, MD, MPH, who will discuss "Physicians' Role in Climate Change." There will be recognition awards presented to the local organizations PhillyCarShare (<http://www.phillycarshare.org/>) and Friends Center Corporation (<http://www.friendscentercorp.org/>) for their contributions to public health. The event will conclude with the PPHSC's recognition of The Food Trust (www.thefoodtrust.org) and GreenPlan Philadelphia (www.greenplanphiladelphia.com/), programs which address climate change in Philadelphia.

National Public Health Week at the University of Maryland School of Public Health

By Jamie Lok, University of Maryland

In September 2007, the University of Maryland, College Park launched its new School of Public Health (www.sph.umd.edu), the first new school on the campus since 1981. As Maryland's flagship university, faculty and students alike are eager to translate public health research and learning into healthy public policy. A major goal of the School of Public Health is to develop the next generation of public health professionals. "As the baby boomers retire, the American Public Health Association projects that 25 percent of state public health workers will also retire by 2010", says Dr. Robert S. Gold, Dean of the School of Public Health. "Not only will that create a critical shortage of public health professionals, we will have a huge new population of retired and elderly who will need health care. The graduates of the University of Maryland School of Public Health will help us meet the public health challenges of the coming decades" (excerpt from full press release: <http://www.umd.edu/umnews/sph092607.html>).

The University of Maryland is excited to celebrate its first National Public Health Week as an official School of Public Health with the following events:

Tuesday, April 8: 9:30 a.m., SPH/HHP Room 1301:

Dr. Raghu Murtugudde, Associate Professor, Dept. of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science

Title: Climate Prediction for Public Health: The Chesapeake Bay Prototype

The 1995 report of the National Research Council indicated that the University of Maryland, College Park is in the top 10 programs in Oceanography, and the 2002 US News World Report shows it as only one of 11 public and private universities being in the top 20 nationwide in Mathematics, Computer Science, and Physics.

Wednesday, April 9: 11:00 a.m., SPH/HHP Lecture Hall Room 1312

FREE Showing of *An Inconvenient Truth*

The movie is an American Academy Award-winning documentary film about global warming, presented by former United States Vice President Al Gore and directed by Davis Guggenheim. It focuses on Al Gore and his travels in support of his efforts to educate the public about the severity of the climate crisis.

Thursday, April 10: 2:00 p.m., SPH/HHP Room 1302

Heather Lair and Mark Stewart, UMD Office of Sustainability

Title: Climate Change and Sustainability at the University of Maryland

At the University of Maryland, students have outstanding opportunities through coursework, research, and community involvement to learn about and address the challenges facing our local and global ecosystems. Researchers in various centers housed on campus concentrate on applying cutting edge technology to find solutions to environmental problems of all scales.

Friday, April 11: 11:00 a.m., SPH/HHP Lecture Hall Room 1312

John M. Balbus, MD, MPH, Chief Health Scientist, Environmental Defense

Title: Climate Change: What Should Public Health Do?

For More Information, Contact:

Karen Mackey: (301) 405-5509 or klmackey@umd.edu

NPHW 2008 at the University of Minnesota

By Jooyeon Hwang, University of Minnesota

Richard H. Carmona, MD, MPH, FACS, 17th Surgeon General of the United States (2002-2006), will deliver the keynote address for the inaugural School of Public Health (SPH) alumni and friends gala fundraiser on April 10.

All SPH alumni are invited to the gala, as well as two other reunion-themed events scheduled for the same day. The SPH Alumni Society's reunion kickoff will take place at 3 p.m. Major-specific social hours will begin at 5 p.m., and the gala fundraiser for alumni and friends featuring Carmona is

scheduled for 6 p.m. The gala is designed to support the next generation of public health leaders by raising funds for SPH students.

"The hope is that our alumni will 'come home' to connect with classmates, faculty, and staff," says Michelle Lian-Anderson, director of alumni relations for the SPH. "The reunion is also an opportunity to hear from our newly re-established alumni board."

In recognition of National Public Health Week, the SPH, its community partners, and the Minne-

sota Public Health Association are offering free films about public health issues. Winners of the school's second annual "It's Global" Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest will be screened the first night of the festival. The film festival is free and open to the public. A film festival with films showing on April 7-9 and April 11. A research day to be held on Friday, April 11.

For more information about the National Public Health Week festival, visit www.sph.umn.edu

The Power of Community: Insights from the Native Health Initiative

By Anthony Fleg, University of North Carolina

In North Carolina, home to the largest indigenous population in the eastern U.S., a unique partnership between American Indian tribes and health professions students has formed. This partnership, known as the Native Health Initiative (NHI), helps to address the inequities in health faced by this population. NHI began with a meeting in January 2005 of health leaders (which included ministers) from multiple tribes and UNC health professions students in Pembroke, NC.

The partnership has a strong emphasis on helping empower communities to reclaim control of their health. Accordingly, NHI Mentors, persons who are health leaders in their respective tribal communities, develop projects for student summer interns based on the priority health needs of their people, defined by the tribe themselves. When volunteers arrive to work, these Mentors are given complete control to run the projects, with zero micromanagement from the coordinators. NHI arranges for housing, meetings with tribal leaders, and supports volunteers through a 2-day orientation, a mid-summer retreat, and a community-wide closing ceremony. Yet the monetary costs for NHI are quite small due to the generous contributions from the tribes that fund the project. This project reminds us that the job of public, private, and academic institutions is not to fix and help merely from the outside, but instead to recognize the strength and wholeness of the communities in which we work, utilizing and enhancing their ability to heal from within.

To learn more about NHI and our ongoing projects, please visit our website (www.unc.edu/~flega).

About Our Organization

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

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Student Assembly



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