

President's Message



Public Health Alumni Association Board of Directors 2007–2008

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Hello Alumni,

This is my last letter to you as president of the Public Health Alumni Association, as this is the last year of my three-year term. I have been pleased to serve you and the School. While we have many accomplishments, one of our greatest challenges in the future is building a new home for our School. Here are answers to some frequently asked questions that should interest all of us.

1. Why is Warren Hall being taken down?

Warren Hall was not seismically safe and needed laboratory and network upgrades that were beyond mere renovation work. The replacement building will be an interdisciplinary wet lab building focusing on cancer research, stem cell research, neuroscience, and infectious diseases.

2. What is the University doing to help us find and build a new home?

The University has acquired the property previously occupied by the State Department of Health Services, on Berkeley Way between Shattuck and Oxford. Plans for a new Community Health Campus on that site include the School of Public Health, the School of Optometry, the clinical portion of the Psychology Department, and part of the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute. Our Campaign Steering Committee and the Dean's Office have been working with the Chancellor and University at large to develop the fund raising strategy for the new building, which is preliminarily estimated to cost \$180 million.

3. Why do we have to raise so much for a new home when this is a public institution that should be supported by the State of California?

The state only supports about 15 percent of the School's operating budget. Increasingly, the School of Public Health, like the University at large, is required to reach out to the private sector to fulfill our mission—in our case, to protect and promote the health of individuals, families, and the population at large.

4. How are we going to achieve this fundraising goal?

The School's Campaign Committee is developing strategies to carry our message to the community. Here's where you can help: As alumni, we are in the best position to be ambassadors for public health. I encourage you to become familiar with the issues, spread the word, keep in touch with the School and your classmates, and participate in School events like the Public Health Heroes Awards Ceremony on April 2 and/or the Spring Brunch and Silent Auction on April 27. Help us reach our goal to increase the percent of alumni who donate to the School from 12 percent to 30 percent within the next two years. This is one measure that philanthropists use to gauge their level of investment. You can donate or purchase an item at the Silent Auction or make an annual gift to the School. No amount is too small to count towards our level of participation!

It has been exciting, energizing, challenging, (and fun!) to work with you and the School. I thank all of you who have supported the work we have done and I look forward to remaining an active member of our association. I sincerely hope that you will join me in supporting the goals of our alma mater.

Sincerely,

Leslie Louie, Ph.D. '90, M.P.H. '85
President
Public Health Alumni Association