



Leslie Louie

### Public Health Alumni Association Board of Directors 2005–2006

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings, Fellow SPH Alumni:

This year has been very busy and rewarding serving on the Public Health Alumni Association (PHAA) board of directors. I feel honored to work beside such energetic and dedicated staff and alumni. I would like to welcome our five new directors, each of whom has joined us for a three-year term: **Joan Lam, B.S. '62**, **Harvey Bichkoff, M.P.H. '85**, **P. Robert Beatty, Ph.D. '94**, **Melinda Lassman, M.S. '77**, and **Laurel Davis, M.P.H. '94**. At the same time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing directors. **John Eastman, Ph.D., M.P.H. '80**, has served six years, three of them as president and one as past president. John will continue to work with us on our By-Laws Committee as a regular alumnus. **Lisa Ota, M.A., M.P.H. '90**, has worked on the Multicultural and Diversity Concerns Committee and chaired the Wellness Letter, Nominations, and Zak Sabry Committees. Lisa will continue to chair the Zak Sabry Committee, which honors a faculty member for his or her role in mentoring students. **Brandon DeFrancisci, M.P.H. '96**, has chaired the Scholarship Committee. Brandon has worked hard to revisit the selection process for scholarships. **Carol Clazie, B.S. '62**, our outgoing vice president, has worked on the Alumni Network/Outreach Committee, and chaired the Nominations and Scholarship Committees. Lisa, Brandon, and Carol have each served three years on the Board. They will all be missed!

With the end of our lengthy rainy season, we welcomed spring with our Spring Brunch revival on April 23. We shared a delicious brunch and champagne with more than 50 of our comrades and colleagues and had the opportunity to listen to Dean Shortell speak on the exciting future of the school, our prospects for a new SPH home, and expanded programs. Of interest is the fact that only 11 percent of our alumni contribute to the Annual Fund. Although this is on par with the rest of the campus, Dean Shortell would like to move our level of participation to 20 percent of SPH alumni. Did you know that even a \$20 contribution each year counts towards our participation?

As part of the Spring Brunch, we held a silent auction—a truly landmark event, independently raising money for the PHAA for the very first time. (See photos on pages 33 and 36.) Through the generous donations and support of local businesses, alumni, and faculty, we were able to exceed our fundraising goal and raise over \$5,600 to support student scholarships. Scholarships were the top priority identified by alumni through a survey conducted prior to the event, followed by professional development and diversity in public health.

In the coming year, we plan to focus on increasing our activities in these high priority areas and to increase the active participation of our membership. Note that any alumnus or alumna of the School of Public Health is welcome to participate in our activities—board membership not required! If you are not local to the Bay Area, participation is still possible. We are hoping to create a few local chapters of the PHAA where the alumni concentration is high. If you are interested in service to the School in partnership with the PHAA, please contact me through Eileen Pearl ([phaa@berkeley.edu](mailto:phaa@berkeley.edu)), associate director, external relations. In the meantime, have a great summer.

Sincerely,

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