

# President's Message



## Public Health Alumni Association Board of Directors 2007–2008

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**Sally Lawrence, M.P.H. '06**

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**Karen Shore, Ph.D. '98**

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Greetings fellow alumni,

We've had a productive year thanks to an energetic board of directors. I'd like to especially thank three of our outgoing board members. **Jim Devitt, M.P.H. '78** (Health Administration and Planning), has served on the board for four years, as secretary-treasurer for three years. Jim also chaired the Multi-Cultural and Diversity Concerns Committee and the Scholarship Committee during his tenure. **Sarah Stone-Francisco, M.P.H. '03** (Epidemiology & Biostatistics), has served on the board for three years, performing the duties of vice president and chairing the Membership and Outreach Committee. **Philippa Barron, M.B.A, M.P.H. '94** (Health Services Management), has served on the board for three years and chaired the Nominations Committee. All three will be missed and we wish them the best.

At the same time we are pleased to welcome our three new directors: **Sally Lawrence, M.P.H. '06** (Public Health Nutrition), **Kelvin Quan, J.D., M.P.H. '81** (Corporate Healthcare Management), and **Karen Shore, Ph.D. '98** (Health Services and Policy Analysis). Our new vice president is **Mindi Lassman, M.S. '77** (Genetic Counseling), and our new co-secretary-treasurers are **Lucinda Bazille, M.P.H. '94** (Health Policy and Administration) and **Beth Roemer, M.P.H. '76** (Healthcare Administration). Our first-ever president-elect is **John Troidl, Ph.D. '01** (Health Services and Policy Administration), M.B.A.

On April 15, we held another successful Spring Brunch and Silent Auction, cochaired by Sarah Stone-Francisco and **Julie Brown, M.B.A, M.P.H. '85** (Health Services Management). It was a gorgeous day and we had a nice turnout of faculty, alumni, and friends who enjoyed friendly competitive bidding on a number of items while sipping mimosas and socializing. (See photos, pp. 29, 32–35.) During the general meeting we amended our purpose: "To build and strengthen personal and professional relationships among public health alumni and students of the University of California, Berkeley." We heard an inspiring presentation by **Michael Bird, M.S.W., M.P.H. '83**, the first Native American president of the American Public Health Association (APHA), titled "Opening Doors and Opening Your Heart: Diversity and Inclusivity in Public Health." His remarks helped remind us that we can all do something to support students and junior colleagues to make changes in the future of public health. The PHAA board surveyed the membership and designated the proceeds from the Silent Auction for student scholarships to increase diversity in our profession. We will be awarding a \$5,000 scholarship next year for this purpose. With more success in future Silent Auctions, we hope to fund multiple and larger scholarships to support diversity.

This year we focused on increasing alumni engagement in SPH activities and PHAA-sponsored events. We had two regional events in the spring where alumni were invited to network, socialize, and get updates on School of Public Health news. **Joan Lam, B.S. '62** (Public Health), hosted a luncheon at the National Steinbeck Center in the Monterey area. Mindi Lassman hosted an afternoon tea in San Diego. We consider these events the beginning of our outreach efforts, so keep your eyes open for announcements of future events or contact us to host one for your own area.

Last fall at the APHA meeting in Boston, we invited local alumni to attend the SPH mixer even if they weren't attending the meeting. We had a good turnout to fill out the room. Next year's APHA meeting will be in Washington, D.C., and the open invitation still stands. It's a great way to reconnect with former colleagues as well as to meet new ones and to stay connected with the School. So mark your calendars for November 5 and we hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

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