

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Friends and Alumni,

We're off to another great year with lots of things to plan and to be excited about. This past fall, we had the pleasure of attending the first student-faculty mixer, hosted by the Undergraduate Public Health Coalition. More than 50 students met with 10 faculty and public health community representatives in Senior Hall to network and socialize. This is the same group that publishes the award-winning *Public Health Advocate* magazine, supported in part by funds from the Public Health Alumni Association (PHAA).

We also had another successful Scholarship Tea, where scholarship recipients met with donors to personally thank them for their commitment to supporting students in the School of Public Health and to share with them their vision and goals for the future. We are currently in the process of redesigning the application for scholarships, which award \$1,500 to 20 to 40 graduate students in a variety of disciplines. We have been exploring ways to also support our undergraduate students and diversity in the public health profession through scholarships.

The Career Café took place February 8, 2007. PHAA and the Center for Public Health Practice co-host this annual event, where we gather with alumni and community partners representing the various disciplines in public health. We have a series of roundtable discussions with students who are interested in asking practical questions of professionals working in the field to find out about job prospects, job requirements, valued experience by employers, and possible internships. In short, the Career Café is a fabulous networking opportunity, not only for the students but for the roundtable hosts as well. This is a place where the perfect future coworker can be found.

In the spring, we will again have two amazing events. The first is the Public Health Heroes Awards Ceremony on March 23 to honor our regional, national, international, and organizational heroes who have made significant contributions to the field. The event is truly memorable and serves to remind us all of our profession's value to humanity. (See p. 44 or go to www.publichealthheroes.org for more information.)

On April 15, we will be continuing with our Spring Brunch and Silent Auction, which was revived last year after several years' hiatus. The Silent Auction raises funds to support student scholarships and other activities as determined by surveying the alumni's preferences. Last year we exceeded our fundraising goal, so we've set the bar a little higher this year. We hope that you can join us again and bring along some of your former classmates to join in the fun! Get your taxes done early—but just in case, we'll have extension forms available for you to file for more time! Keep your eyes open for more information about this event.

Finally, I would like to thank all the directors who have served on the board or who will in the future. That could even be you. If you are interested in participating in any of the PHAA activities, you need not be a director to do so. Our membership includes all graduates from the UC Berkeley School of Public Health. If you would like to play a role in establishing and contributing to PHAA goals, objectives, and activities, you can apply to be a director on the PHAA board. We have three to five spots opening up every year, and are always interested in meeting fellow alumni who share our passion for supporting students and alumni, and working more closely with the dean to help the School. For more information about PHAA, please contact Eileen Pearl (phaa@berkeley.edu), associate director, external relations.

Sincerely,



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



Leslie Louie

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