



Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health OMEGA CHAPTER

**GWU SPHHS
Omega Chapter**

Issue 4
Summer 2009

Welcome to our new inductees!

The Omega Chapter of Delta Omega is pleased to congratulate our 2009 inductees! These individuals have demonstrated outstanding commitment, passion, and leadership in public health and the potential to make significant contributions to the field. New members were inducted at the SPHHS End of Year Celebration on May 11th. We would like to thank everyone who submitted letters of recommendation on behalf of all nominees. Congratulations to our inductees!

Students:

Tracy Bienenfeld
Jessica L. Buono
Kerry L. Campbell
Sarah Coseo
Stephanie Dawson David
Amanda Davis
Heather E. Davis
Clifford Yu Davison
Sweta Dharia
Lucinda Jeannine Elder
Matthew E. Haskins
Aziza Hull
Christopher Brett Johnson
Jennifer H. Jue
Derk B. Kelly
Emilie G. Lamb

Ryan Lander
Megan M. Landry
Katherine Lave
Phillip David Magidson
Rachel F. Margolis
Mariel A. Marlow
Andrew N. McKechnie
Surul S. Mehta
Celeste Monforton
Nalini Padmanabhan
Mónica I. Pagán Motta
Aimee Joy Palumbo
Christina S. Peterson
Heather L. Pitorak
Sombo Pujeh
Amal Rammah
Rebecca L. Reindel

Katy Roberson
Kaitlin E. Sheedy
Rashmi (Rose) Singh
Benjamin Takai
Anna B. Wolke

Alumni:

Christina Benjamin
Regina Davis
Kamden Hoffman
Mary Frances Kornak
Jacob Nelson
Nisha Sachdev
Ninet Sinaii

Faculty:

Rebecca Katz

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Research Day 2009

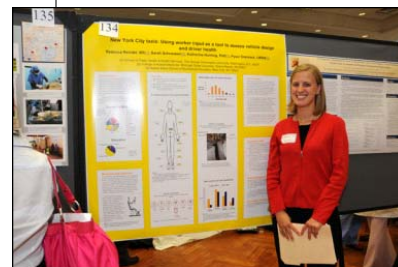
The 14th Annual GWUMC Health Sciences Research Day was held on April 1, 2009 with the largest ever turnout of poster presentations from SPHHS students! A special congratulations to the 1st place SPHHS oral presentation winner, Erin Olson, who presented "Factors Predicting Adherence to 9 Months of Supervised Exercise in Healthy Older Women." Congratulations also to Rebecca Reindel for her first place finish in the SPHHS poster competition for her poster "New York City Taxis: Worker Input as a Tool to Assess Vehicle Design and Driver Health". Erin and

Rebecca each received a cash prize from the SPHHS Alumni Association.

The Delta Omega Board would like to thank the SPHHS Alumni Association for their generous cash prizes, the Dean's Office for creating certificates for all the winners and finalists, and to the judges who reviewed the oral and poster presentations: Professors Sean Cleary, Karen McDonnell, Heather Young, Amanda Castel, and Nalini Singh, and alumni Craig Kullmann, Dana Schlossberg, Kathy Kirkland, Yasir Shah, Michelle Yau, and Tamara Windau.



Erin Olson, 1st Place Oral Presentation Winner



Rebecca Reindel, 1st Place Poster Presentation Winner

Omega Chapter Co-Hosts An Evening of Professional Skill-Building and Networking

"...networking is the most effective method of finding a job."

On Tuesday April 7th, Omega Chapter members, George Washington School of Public Health and Health Services alumni and students gathered at the GW Alumni House for An Evening of Professional Skill-Building and Networking. This event was sponsored by The George Washington University Alumni Association, Delta Omega, and the Public Health Alumni Association and Student Association.



The evening featured two parts - a professional skill-building session and a speed networking session. Cathleen Szebrat, a Principal from The O'Toole Firm, and Amelia Cobb, President of The Wright Group, led presentations during the professional skill-building session on How to Develop and Maintain Your Network and Repositioning Your Personal Brand: Managing Your Career, respectively. During the speed networking session, students and alumni were able to interact and network with one another in small groups during short intervals, offering them bursts of opportunities to meet new contacts and expand their existing network.

This event was very well received and the Omega Chapter is looking forward to co-hosting a similar event in the future.

SPHHS End of Year Celebration

On Monday, May 11, the Public Health Student Association and Delta Omega held its annual End of Year Celebration at The George Washington University Alumni House. The event was well attended by students, alumni, and faculty.

Graduating students were introduced to the Public Health Alumni Association and encouraged to be involved and remain connected to the university. The new 2009-2010 PHSA Board was introduced and outgoing Board Members were thanked for their service to the SPHHS student body in providing social, community service, and networking opportunities to fellow students.

Delta Omega inducted 46 new members to the Omega Chapter and acknowledged them for their outstanding achievements and commitment to public health. And Kim Saylor, graduate and Omega Chapter PHSA Liaison Board Member, was recognized for her contributions and service to Delta Omega.

Congratulations to our new Delta Omega inductees and 2009 SPHHS graduates!



Spotlight on a Omega Chapter Member: Jordana M. De Leon, MPH

Jordana M. De Leon was inducted into Delta Omega in 2005 and served on the DO Board from 2005-2008. She graduated from the GWU MPH program in Epidemiology in 2005. Currently, she is a Strategic Information Officer at the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, the office within the U.S. Department of State that oversees implementation of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) - the largest commitment by any nation to combat a single disease in history. Working in partnership with host nations, in over ten years PEPFAR plans to support treatment for at least 3 million people, prevention of 12 million new infections, and care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children. Jordana is also an Adjunct Professional Lecturer in the Department of Epidemiology of the GWU SPHHS.

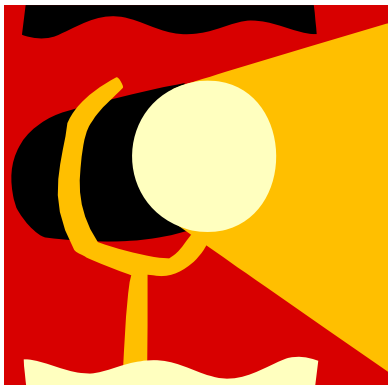
While pursuing her MPH from 2003-2005, Jordana focused on HIV epidemiology as a research fellow/associate in a research team that studied domestic violence, drug use, and HIV risk behavior use among immigrant and refugee populations in the Washington, DC area. In this role, she gained experience conducting community-based research through the administration of surveys and the analysis of data for published studies.

In her current role as a Strategic Information Officer in PEPFAR, Jordana is responsible for communication of policies and guidance surrounding PEPFAR program results reporting, a biannual process where PEPFAR countries report on their progress towards reaching programmatic goals. She also coordinates the cleaning of these results for use in program planning and decision making as well as in reporting to Congress for fiscal accountability.



She is also the office lead for the PEPFAR Surveillance and Surveys Technical Working group, the group providing technical guidance on surveillance and survey activities in the countries where PEPFAR works. This group coordinates with other technical partners such as the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS). Her recent projects include leading the coordination of the 2nd Global HIV/AIDS Surveillance Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand (www.hivsurveillance2009.org), a meeting that brought together technical staff from around the world to share innovations and developments in surveillance and closely related technologies.

Jordana continues to be inspired by her work in public health and is proud of the public health education and training she gained at GWU. She also serves as the Treasurer of the Alliance for the Control of Tuberculosis in Children, Philippines, a project of the Philippine American Foundation for Charities, Washington, DC. She resides in Washington, DC.



Public Health Certification Exam

Did you know that the public health field has a new certification exam? The voluntary exam, which will be offered for the second time in August 2009, was developed for the purpose of providing a "Certified in Public Health" (CPH) credential. Graduates with master's and doctoral degrees from CEPH-accredited schools and programs in public health are eligible to sit for the exam, regardless of degree or date of graduation.

As you consider registering, you may want to hear some thoughts from the nearly 700 public health professionals who sat for the CPH last year. When asked about how they expected the CPH to help their career and how their degree prepared them for the exam,

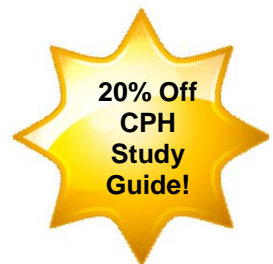
- Over 75% said they took the CPH exam to increase their credibility as a public health professional;
- Over 70% expected that the CPH exam would increase the profession's credibility in the eyes of their employer; and
- Over 85% felt that their public health degree prepared them for the CPH exam.

Seventeen SPHHS graduates who sat for the August 2008 exam have earned the distinction of becoming certified in public health.

Registration for the 2009 Certified in Public Health exam is \$475. The exam will be offered August 8-29, 2009. To learn more about the CPH exam, or to register to take the exam, please visit www.nbphe.org.

Study materials for the examination are available and information on how to obtain them can also be found at www.nbphe.org. In addition, SPHHS plans to offer online resources and in-person review sessions for those who will take this summer's exam.

Exclusive 20% Discount for Delta Omega Members



A 20% discount on the ASPH-developed CPH study guide is now available for members! Delta Omega members who are planning on taking the public health certification exam this August (www.publichealthexam.org) are eligible to receive a 20% discount when purchasing the online study guide, developed by the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH).

Study guides can be ordered at www.asph.org/cphstudyguide, and include terms, definitions, sample questions, a practice test, and much more to assist in preparing for the CPH exam. To claim the discount, members should enter the coupon code "do42" when ordering online.

For more information, see <http://www.deltaomega.org/Benefits.cfm>. (Note: You must be a member of Delta Omega to use the discount. If your name does not appear in the national database, <http://www.deltaomega.org/members.cfm>, please contact the national office.)

Meet the Omega Chapter Board

Tamara Windau, President

Kalpana Ramiah, Vice President

Michelle Yau, Secretary

Brenda Kirkwood, Treasurer

Christina Benjamin, PHAA Liaison

Dr. Katherine Hunting, Chapter Advisor

**A very sincere thank you to Julia Pekarsky Schneider
and Kim Saylor for their time and efforts as
Omega Chapter Board Members!**

Meet the newly elected Public Health Alumni Association (PHAA) Board of Directors:
Jana Baldwin, MPH '09 - Member-at-Large (2009-2011)
Penney Davis, MPH '06 - Vice President (2009-2010)
Aziza Hull, MPH '09 - Member-at-Large (2009-2011)
Sarah Jackson, MPH '09 - Member-at-Large and Community Service Co-Chair (2009-2011)
Kim Saylor, MPH '09 - Member-at-Large and Community Service Co-Chair (2009-2011)
Francisco Semiao, MPH '02 - Member-at-Large (2009-2011)
Nousheen Thakur, MPH '05 - Member-at-Large (2009-2011)

Delta Omega wishes you a Wonderful Summer!



We welcome any comments or ideas you have on how to improve your Omega Chapter.
Please send us an email at dltomega@gmail.com.