

SCSU PUBLIC HEALTH ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Volume VI, No.1
Spring 2000

Happy Spring!



A Message From the President (S.Ozment)

Hello to all SCSU Public Health Alumni. A generous thank you to those of you who have contributed to the Danny Gonsalves Scholarship fund over the years. On behalf of the Public Health Alumni Board, I am deeply appreciative of all your support. Some of you may be aware that the SCSU alumni office has reorganized and a division of Institutional Advancement has been created. This division includes Alumni Affairs, Development, Public Affairs and the Office of Sponsored Research. A major change of focus involves alumni associations to increase their emphasis on program growth. This would include more support for Alumni activities and a chance to interface with students before they graduate. We should consider how our chapter can support this change. How can we better interface with students of public health? In October, we are planning a chapter meeting and are hopeful many current students will attend along with all of you. Let us know your ideas! Additionally, if any of you are interested in suggesting or assisting in a community project, let us know. We are looking forward to hearing from you and hope you have a wonderful summer.

Now A Word From Our Committees...Scholarship Committee

(M. Nescott)We're getting very close!!! As of March 31, 2000, the Danny Gonsalves/Public Health Alumni Chapter Scholarship fund had a

balance of \$9,094.00. Unbelievably, we now need less than \$1000 to meet the minimum principal balance required to offer the scholarship. According to the SCSU Alumni Office, if we can meet our goal by the end of September, our first scholarship will be awarded next spring. Our scholarship, to benefit students who are majoring in a field within Public Health at SCSU, will be awarded to a part-time or full-time student entering his/her junior or senior year of undergraduate study. The recipient must have a GPA of 3.2 or better. In selecting a recipient, consideration will be given to the student's interest in and/or contributions made to the fields of Public and Environmental Health, the University and the community. Once the scholarship is available, the university will notify all students who are eligible to apply. At the present time, our alumni chapter past president, Betty Jung, sits on SCSU's scholarship selection committee. We're so close! Please consider giving for the first time or reaching into your pocket for a second, third or fifth time. Many of you alums have already been very generous with your support and it is greatly appreciated. Contributions can be made payable to the SCSU Alumni Association, c/o SCSU, 501 Crescent Street, New Haven, CT 06515-1355. In the memo portion of the check write "Danny Gonsalves Scholarship".

MPH Accreditation Committee (B.

Jung)... Thanks goes to this year's committee members: Mary Nescott and Lara Reintz who continue to support the work of this committee. The MPH program continues to undergo curriculum changes to improve its quality, as it is at the midway point of its accreditation. The feedback received from alumni plays a significant role in providing a perspective that is necessary for a graduate program that seeks to prepare professionals to practice in the field of

Public Health. Some of the more recent changes include offering Special Project as a culminating requirement that can be taken in lieu of the Thesis. FYI – Special Project has been consistently ranked by alumni at the top of all course offerings in the program. Foundations of Community Health Education has been revamped and will be offered as Community Health Education I and Community Health Education (12 credits, 6 each), which will also replace the Program Planning and Evaluation courses. All current students are required to take the CHES exam, and beginning in the fall, incoming students will be required to take a Cultural Competency Training Workshop. To date, there are about 166 MPH graduates since 1993. Over 81.9% of eligible alumni have responded to the Post-graduation survey, 69.2% of eligible alumni have responded to the Year One survey, and 62.2% of Classes of '93 and '94 have responded to the Year Five survey. Currently, the annual report to the Department of Public Health is being reviewed and a final copy will be submitted to the department by June, 2000. We would like to thank all alumni who have been completing surveys, and look forward to your continued cooperation and participation in the coming years. Your prompt responses to especially the FIRST mailing of surveys, reduces the need for additional mailings and will allow me to get some sleep. ALL SURVEY RESPONSES ARE KEPT CONFIDENTIAL, as annual reports contain only aggregate data.

Service Committee/PH Alumni Mentor Program (B. Jung)...Many thanks to the mentors this year: Sandra Barnes, Michael Basso, Judi Blanchet, Sue Bokine, Rhonda Capuano, Alex Cinotti, Karen Coppock, Valerie DePalma, Maura Valentine Esposito, Dr. Barbara Massoudi, Amanda Littell, Kathleen Maloney, Mary Nescott, Todd O'Connell, Sadiann Ozment, Joann Petrini, Barbara Pickett, Lorelle Porrazzo, Lara Reintz, Lisa Scalise, Brian Testut, Eric Triffin, Michele Vancour, Beth Vumbaco, Beth Welz and Sue Willow. This has been the largest group of mentors (n=27) since the start of this program in 1994. The 1999-2000 the PH Alumni Mentor Directory was published on the Web in August, 1999. To date, there has been over 90 hits to

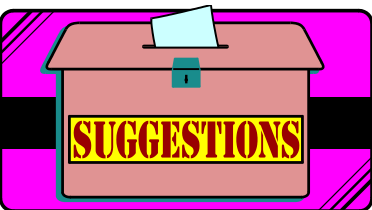
the web page. Having the brochure on the web has simplified the task of keeping mentor information current. The web page as well as the traditional trifold brochure will be updated for the coming year. The brochure is distributed through the SCSU campus and is made available to all incoming MPH students, and at DPH's Orlando building. A new mentoring activity was implemented for this past academic year. I worked with Prof. Kathleen Bonvicini to integrate mentors into her PCH 496 – Seminar for Public Health Practice course. Mentors interested in one-to-one mentoring became part of the course, mentoring undergraduate students through a semester, and were awarded certificates for their work. If you would like to learn more about this project, log on to: <http://home.beseen.com/technology/bcjung/Pch496.htm>.

We still continue to field calls dealing with school and career-related issues. Most calls average 10 minutes and you are awarded many times over from the satisfaction of helping someone.

Service Committee/PH Alumni Speakers' Bureau (B. Jung)...Many thanks to this year's volunteer participants: Michael Basso, Maura Valentine Esposito, Sadiann Ozment, Joann Petrini, Barbara Pickett, Eric Triffin and Michele Vancour. We will continue this program next year – JOIN NOW! If you are interested in being listed as a volunteer mentor or speaker in our next set of annual directories in traditional brochures and on the web, you can join via the net. All necessary forms, information, logs related to these two activities are available at: <http://bettycjung.homestead.com>. Then click on either Official PH Alumni Chapter web site or Mentor Program and Speakers Bureau. The deadline for the coming academic year is 6/30/00. Official PH Alumni Chapter Web Site (BC Jung, Webmaster). Shortcut to the site: <http://bettycjung.homestead.com>. As with everything else on the internet, this web site is under construction. However, I have managed to convert all the documents and forms related to the Service Committee's activities for the net. Now it will be possible to learn about these activities, and join in providing services to the school, profession and students. Hopefully,

over the summer, I will track the MPH Accreditation Committee and get that online. Currently there are links from this web site to DPH's web site, and the Alumni Affairs web site. This site is listed as an External Link on the Alumni Affairs home page. The Chapter's web site is part of a larger web site that I manage, and is devoted to "All Things Public Health" containing everything and anything relate to PH as well as health in general. This site is listed by the CDC on their non-CDC pages for Epi Info, HealthLinks, and is a Surfer's Choice Best Web Site. It is also a part of the Int. Medical Libraries Web Ring. The most popular set of pages are devoted to jobs (careers, ph jobs, general job search sites, state personnel sites, specific job search sites, etc). This site has been cited in February, 2000's Hospitals and Health Networks Journal's Public Health Engines Listings, as a PH jobs resource site. These pages were developed based on feedback from PH Alumni mentors over the past 7 years regarding what kinds of mentoring they've been providing. Take a tour and let me know what else you'd like to see. Don't forget to sign the guest book!

Scholarship Committee...Everyone will be receiving their ballots in the fall for the next call for nominations. Please make sure you fill them out and send them back to Joe.



As Sadiann mentioned, we're looking for suggestions for community projects. For

example, this past December, many of us volunteered at the Special Olympics Bowling Tournament held in Milford and had a wonderful day! Any suggestions should be brought to the fall meeting. In addition, if you or someone you know would be interested in presenting a topic at one of our upcoming meetings, please email Sadiann at Sdozment@snet.net or see her in October.

If anyone is interested in this year's Special Olympics Bowling tournament, it will be in Milford again November, 2000. Please let Sue Willow know at the October meeting if you're interested in volunteering.

Speaking of the **fall meeting**... mark you calendars for October 10, 2000. Once again, CHES credits will be available to earn by attending. The topic for the evening will sure to be of interest to both graduates and current PH students. It will be held at 7:00pm in the Special Dining room in Conn Hall. With this much advance notice, there's no excuse for not being there!

Another event being held in October is our **annual phone-a-thon** (October 4, 5:30-8:30 in the Wintergreen Bldg). With our \$10,000 goal in reach for the Danny Gonsalves Scholarship Fund, this will be our chance to exceed it! It's sure to be a fun night and a chance to contact some of your old classmates. Please get in touch with Sadiann if you're interested (sdozment@snet.net).

A few notes of interest...Wellness @SCSU is a new publication that emphasizes the activities and education available to students with the goal of promoting comprehensive wellness. Dates of special events or discussions on a wide range of health topics are made available to the student body. The Wellness Office coordinates and collaborates with campus offices the community to provide comprehensive health education such as a Learning Lunch Series, Eating Disorder Screening, Building Self Confidence lecture, etc. Director of the Wellness Office and publication is Michele Vancour and she is available at (203) 392-6526 or wellness@scsu.ctstateu.edu for more information.

The APHA Annual Meeting will be held in Boston this year, November 12-16th. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone with a CHES accreditation to attain the much needed 75 credits. Anyone interested in attending should visit their website at <http://www.apha.org>.

After reading the April edition of The Nation's Health, I found some interesting items I wanted to share...Connecticut is now offering a 211 phone line for easy-to-find information on health topics. The state has teamed up with

the United Way to provide a toll-free information line to Connecticut residents. To learn more about this resource, visit www.infoline.org or call (860) 571-7500...Being Public Health professionals, we should all be aware of the national campaign, Buckle Up America Week. Americans across the nation will be encouraged to use seat belts on themselves and their loved ones. The annual event, held May 22-29, is sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. A Buckle Up America Week campaign planner and other materials are available through the NHTSA Web site, at www.nhtsa.dot.gov, or fax (202) 366-6916...APHA will be organizing a conference in June focusing on managed care and public health, thanks to the support of an arm of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services...Through the new *American Journal of Public Health* Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education Program, public health professionals who read APHA's *Journal* can now earn credit for their efforts. As part of the program, participants read 6 consecutive issues and then answer 25 questions. Students who receive a minimum grade of 75% will receive a certificate of completion and 25 category 1 credits toward the AMA Physician Recognition Award, or 25 CHES continuing education credits. Currently the program is limited to physicians and certified health education specialists. For more information, call (202) 777-2521 or visit the continuing education pages of the APHA website, www.apha.org.

year, you can also get a t-shirt to match. A percentage of this fundraiser will benefit the Danny Gonsalves Scholarship fund - so get yours today!

Size	Quantity
SCSU Sweatshirt \$32.00 Fruit of the Loom® 12oz Super Cotton™ Crewneck in ash (gray). Features: 90% cotton, 10% polyester, covered stitched armholes, collar, and band bottom, oversized cut. Embroidered with SCSU Public Health logo in salmon and navy. Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL (XXL add \$3.00)	
SCSU T-Shirt \$20.00 Hanes Beefy 100% cotton pre-shrunk in Navy Blue. Embroidered with logo in white and salmon. Sizes: Adults: S, M, L, XL, XXL (XXL add \$2.00) Youths: S (6-8), M (10-12), L (14-16)	

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

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Please make checks payable to Maura Esposito and return this form and payment to:

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