

PHPS Alumni Association Newsletter

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

SPRING 2013



• **Happy Hour**
April 22, 2013
 5:00pm-7:00pm
 Napoleon's Grill
 2836 Lavista Rd.
 Decatur, GA 30033

• **PHPSAA Meeting**
April 30, 2013
 4:00pm-5:00pm EST
 Chamblee Campus
 Bldg. 106, Room 1C

Dial-in #: 866-904-4710
 Participant code: 6822172

For additional details about both events, please visit www.phpsalumni.org.

A Look Back: 15th Anniversary for 1st PHPS Class

In 1997, a gallon of gas cost \$1.22, *Titanic* dominated the box offices, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) welcomed the first class of Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) fellows. PHPS answered a call to action identified in the *Bradford-Bales* report to prepare the next generation of public health program managers.

Of the 25 fellows, 19 completed the full 3-years of training – 10 of which are still employed at CDC. Reflecting back, LCDR Letia A. Boseman, Senior Public Health Analyst in the Division of Diabetes Translation/PHPS class of 97', recalls learning about PHPS the way many people still learn about the program – word of mouth from a colleague. This chance encounter left Boseman with lifelong friends gained through the PHPS, and experience and expertise gained at a state health department which proved to be a useful foundation for navigating a career at CDC.

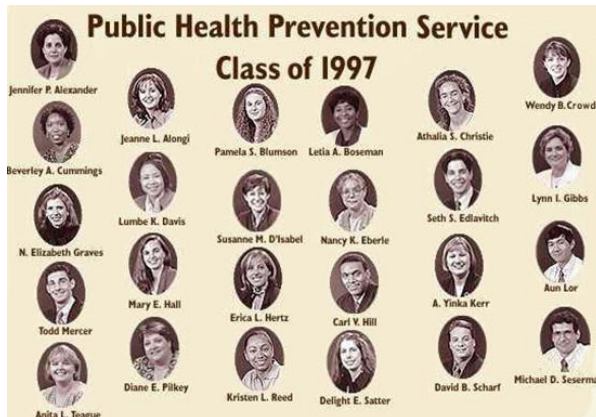
Echoing the value of PHPS, Yinka Kerr, Stop Transmission of Polio team lead/PHPS class of 97', remarks that PHPS was the backbone in preparing her for her current role by 'shining light on

Like in 1997, today PHPS remains a unique training experience shared by a select few. Both seasoned PHPS alumni urge current fellows to make the most of this 3-year adventure and vast network of alumni. "Try to

get as much experience as possible in a diverse set of topics. This is one of the few chances that you would be able to try anything new in public health', says Kerr. 'Leverage alumni relationships, and don't burn bridges', adds Boseman, 'and always try to leave a product, paper, or something with your name on it.

Leave evidence of your efforts.'

Evidence of PHPS' contribution to CDC and the public health community is undeniable and not nearly complete. Though PHPS is in a season of transition and assessment, we celebrate this milestone and look forward to CDC's continued commitment to developing and nurturing master's level public health professionals.



the global network of public health and instilling the necessary skillsets to accomplish program objectives within CDC'. If given the chance to live the PHPS experience all over again, Boseman and Kerr would eagerly do it, but instead opt to sing praises about PHPS to colleagues and potential applicants.

Looking Ahead: The PHPS Alumni Association in 2013

Greetings Fellow Alums! With 2013 well underway, the PHPS Alumni Association (PHPSAA) Executive Committee has been busy working to re-engage and maintain connection with the hundreds PHPS alumni to build a stronger network. During this pivotal time of transition for the PHPS Program, PHPSAA will focus our efforts on connecting PHPS alumni and stakeholders to the PHPS program for updates and

involvement in transition activities. We also plan to re-launch of the quarterly call series, regularly scheduled social activities, and enhanced communication by maintaining an up-to-date website and the periodic release of the newsletter. As a network, we are our greatest untapped resource! So stay tuned and get involved!



Meet the Officers: Vice-President, Secretary, and Member-At-Large

INTRO DUCING

Colleen DiLiddo, MPH, (*PHPSAA Vice-President*) was a member of the PHPS class of the 2005 and her field assignment was with the Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Public Health where she was responsible for the launch and management of a rural HIV prevention and care mobile clinic project. She recently started a new position as a project officer in CDC's Immunization Services Division. She also served as a

project officer in CDC's Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) and prior to that served as the senior advisor to the director of the CDC Career Epidemiology Field Officer Program. Colleen also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. She received her BA from George Washington University and her MPH from Tulane University.

Tai N. Baker, MPH, CHES, (*PHPSAA Secretary*) is a Public Health Analyst/ Contractor in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Arthritis Program. Tai joined the CDC in 2007 as a Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) fellow, where she

had assignments at CDC headquarters in STD Prevention and Sudden Unexpected Infant Death, and in New York City promoting influenza and pneumococcal pneumonia vaccination. Tai currently provides technical assistance and guidance for national organizations and state public health departments funded by the CDC Arthritis Program. Prior to CDC, Tai has had a variety of communication and partnership experiences at the National Cancer Institute, the National Association for County and City Health Officials, a local network of health clinics, and a small non-profit.

Rachel Kossover, MPH, RD, (*PHPSAA Member-at-Large*) is an alumnus of the 2007 PHPS class. Her assignments during PHPS included NCIRD's Office of Planning, Policy and Evaluation, the now-reorganized National Center for Public Health Informatics, and the Alaska Division of Public Health's Environmental Public Health Program. She also completed a STOP assignment in the Philippines. Currently, Rachel is a Health Scientist with NCEZID's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. When she isn't at work, you can find Rachel on a run, at the DeKalb Farmers Market, at a live music venue, or indulging her love of improvisational theater.

Join the PHPS Alumni Association (PHPSAA)

PHPSAA strives to provide support for both PHPS Alumni and current PHPS fellows through mentoring and professional development.

Membership benefits include:

- Networking with professionals throughout the nation and the world
- Supporting the network of new professionals working in state and local health departments
- Influencing new trends in the future of public health
- Contributing to grassroots public health professional development in the United States

Become a PHPSAA Member:
<http://phpsalumni.org/membership>



Wear Your PHPS Pride!

It's that time of year for the annual PHPSAA T-shirt design contest! We need your creativity to make this year's T-shirt a success. Designing a T-shirt is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Go to www.customink.com and click on the Design Lab.
2. Use your imagination and easy tools to create a design for the back of the PHPSAA T-shirt. You can upload original artwork or use the clip art provided on customink.com.

3. Use Save/Send option to save the design and send to PHPSAA at phpsaa@gmail.com by **COB Friday May 3, 2013**. The winner will be announced on the PHPSAA website and Facebook page and receive a free T-shirt.

Contest Rules:

- Only PHPS alum or current PHPS fellows are eligible to enter the contest.
- All designs should be created on a short sleeve unisex

T-shirt.

- All entries must be submitted through custom-ink.com to the PHPSAA at phpsaa@gmail.com by **COB Friday May 3, 2013**.



2012's Winning T-Shirt Design

Get Involved, Stay Connected

A great way to reconnect with your PHPS roots is to become involved in PHPSAA activities! Whether you are in Atlanta or on the other side of the globe, volunteer opportunities to support PHPSAA communications and networking, mentoring and training, membership, and social activities are available to you! No amount of time is too small and we welcome your suggestions! Contact phpsaa@gmail.com for more information.