



Alumni News

Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2007

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If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.

John Quincy Adams



Celebrating 10 Years of the Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida

This year marked the 10th anniversary of admitting scholars to the Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida. Dr. Danielle Landis, Ms. Kirsten Miller and Ms. Desiree Liburd, Leadership Institute Staff, planned a reception to celebrate this milestone in the Institute’s life.



10th Celebration Honored Guests

It was held on the evening of August 1st and was attended by many alumni of the Institute, the 10th and 11th class members, supporters and guests.

Among the guests were former USF President Betty Castor, Dr. Rony Francois, Past Secretary of the Florida Department of Health, Mr. Steve Frederick, the Institute’s program officer from CDC, and Dr. Donna Petersen, Dean of the USF College of Public Health. Staff presented awards to many who had supported the Institute since its inception in 1994.

The Founders (who conceived of the Institute and were there at its beginning)

- Dr. W. Michael Reid
- Ms. Susan Webb
- Dr. Phillip Marty

The Builders (who provided crucial support in its early days)

- Dr. Charles Mahan (State Health Officer at the time and member of the Institute’s initial advisory board)
- Ms. Kathy Betancourt (USF Vice President for Legislative Affairs whose advocacy led to funding for several years by the Florida Legislature)
- Senator Lisa Carlton (who served as a faculty member for the Institute)
- Representative Lars A. Haffner (who sponsored funding for the Institute in the Florida House of Representatives)
- Senator Debbie Sanderson (who sponsored funding for the Institute in the Florida Senate)
- Senator William “Doc” Myers (who chaired the Finance Committee and supported funding for the Leadership Institute)
- Dr. Jean Malecki (member of the Institute’s initial advisory board)
- Dr. Les Beitsch (Deputy State Health Officer at the time and member of the Institute’s initial advisory board)
- Dr. Jane Polkowski (member of the Institute’s initial advisory board)
- Dr. Joyner Simms (provided early encouragement to seek funding for the Institute)

Celebrating 10 Years (continued)

The Pillars (who were faculty for the Institute for each of the first 10 classes during the legislative sessions)

- Mr. Lester Abberger (Lobbyist committed to many civic and public health causes)
- Mr. Sam Bell (Former member of the Florida House, lobbyist for many public health causes, and faculty during each of the Institute’s legislative sessions)
- Mr. John Phelps (Clerk of the Florida House of Representatives and internationally recognized expert on parliamentary procedures. Mr. Phelps and Mr. Bell collaborated to create the legislation that established the USF College of Public Health)
- Dr. E. Charlton “Skeeter” Prather (former State Health Office who inspired the classes with the story of public health from ancient times to modern)

Major Supporters in the Florida Department of Health

(who have consistently encouraged their agency’s support of the PHLIF)

- Mr. Nick Chapman (Former Administrator, Clay County Health Department)
- Mr. Ray Collins (Administrator, Martin County Health Department)
- Dr. Daniel Haight (Director, Polk County Health Department)
- Dr. John P. Heilman (Director, Pinellas County Health Department)
- Dr. Douglas Holt (Director, Hillsborough County Health Department)
- Mr. William Little (Administrator, Sarasota County Health Department)
- Dr. Bonnie Sorensen (Deputy Secretary of the Department of Health and former Director, Volusia County Health Department)
- Dr. Marc J. Yacht (Director, Pasco County Health Department)



Honoring Dr. Prather

Faculty of the Institute (two popular faculty members who have served in each of the 10 classes)

- Dr. Richard Grimm (The Regis Group)
- Dr. Robert Howard (formerly of CDC and private consultant)

The evening was a wonderful celebration of the practices of leadership, teamwork, commitment, persistence, trust and optimism that characterize these fine supporters of public health. Without their vision, belief in its value and willingness to support it, the Institute would not have become the central institute for public health leadership development in Florida.

PHLIF Alumni News

Volunteers are needed as reporters! This newsletter will be disseminated biannually and we need a representative from each class to lead the effort to collect and organize information, updates, and exciting news from the members of his/her class for each newsletter edition. The newsletter will be formatted by PHLIF and distributed to all alumni, scholars, and supporters of the program.

Each representative will be responsible for: initiating communication with alumni from her/his class during the program year and collecting information such as promotions, personal achievements, career opportunities, recognitions, community programs, grant funding, best practices, and Alumni Profiles.

If you are interested in being a representative for your class or have any questions about the newsletter, please contact Kirsten Miller at kmiller@health.usf.edu.



Appreciating Alumni



Alumni with Dr. Mahan



Honored Alumni



Honoring Alumni and Friends

Welcome Class 11 Scholars

The Public Health Leadership Institute welcomed the 11th Class of Scholars at the FPHA conference in Palm Beach Gardens. The Class met for the first time on Sunday, July 30th at the orientation session. Program Director Dr. Michael Reid addressed the class and spoke about the Institute's background and mission. Co-Director Dr. Danielle Landis reviewed the course materials, year-long schedule, and answered questions from the group. The Scholars then spent some time talking and getting to know each other and the staff.

Class 11 spent the following day with Dr. Charles Martin exploring Personality Type and Leadership Skills. The new scholars experienced the presentation of final projects by the graduating "Decade of Class" and attended the graduating ceremony.

The 2006-2007 application process was especially competitive since PHLIF staff received a record number of applications. The 34 candidates chosen for the 11th Class of PHLIF Scholars are:

- Holly Adams – Clay
- Deanna AmRhein – Orange
- Tom Arnedos – Palm Beach
- Camille Bissanthe – Osceola
- Melissa Brock – Brevard
- Thomas Bryant III – Duval
- Cathy Butts – Walton
- Maria Calcaterra – Bureau of Labs
- Christina Ciereck – Hillsborough
- Simone Daniels – Hillsborough
- Dana Fields-Johnson – Duval
- Corey Franklin – Polk
- Michael Gagnon – Duval
- Christine Griffith – Sarasota
- Suzanne Grubbs- Volusia
- Edwin Hernandez – Pinellas
- Debbie Honnen – St. Johns
- Jennifer Howell – Orange
- Mario Jacomino – Palm Beach
- Ketty Ledan – Miami- Dade
- Tomeka Lee – Hillsborough
- Eric Maday – Volusia
- Kelli Maw – Hernando
- Melanie Michael – Sarasota
- Judith Paskvan- Hendry/Glades
- Robyn Pasto – Pinellas
- Jerry Pendry – Volusia
- Javier Romero – Miami-Dade
- Jeannette Sanders – FDOH Central Office
- Sherri Seay – Walton
- Charurut Somboonwit – Polk
- Elena Stoyanova – Pasco
- Candance Sullivan – Osceola
- Bonnie Jo Welter – Flagler

Leadership Graduates Congratulations “A Decade of Class”

The 10th Class of Public Health Leadership Institute Scholars became PHLIF Alumni on August 1, 2006. The graduation keynote speaker, Dr. Claude Earl Fox, presented the class with his views on leadership. The program was held in conjunction with the Florida Public Health Association's Annual Education Conference in Palm Beach Gardens.

With Class 11 Scholars, family and friends, staff and alumni in attendance, “A Decade of Class” presented their final scholar projects. Project titles included:

- Swimming with Dolphins and Petting Zoos: A Potential Health Hazard
- Enhancing the Visibility of the Pensacola Laboratory
- Emergency Management: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
- Connecting for Leadership: Employee Monthly Merit Award
- Succession Planning: The Known and the Unknown
- Disaster Behavioral Health Response System
- Identifying the Need for Mental Health Services
- Discovering Florida's Fountain of Youth
- Teen, Chronic Diseases and Prevention Messages
- CMS Southeast Regional Strategic Planning
- Health Outcomes: Making the Behavioral Link
- Get Healthy Jacksonville
- Public Health in the Parlor
- Positive Promotion for Progress
- HHSBC Governance
- Insight Gold 20/20
- Recruit to Retain

Congratulations to
“A New Decade of Leadership”



Valedictorian

After a vote by Class 10, the honor of Valedictorian was shared this year. Robert Hood, FDOH Central Office, and Karen Wint, Orange County Health Department, jointly presented the Valedictory speech.



To develop the speech, they worked with the class to recall notable events from throughout the year, exciting announcements and scholar achievements. The valedictory presentation that resulted was a collaborative effort that reminded everyone of the special moments of the past year and provided inspiration for the future.



Graduation Speaker

The graduation address was presented by Dr. Claude Earl Fox. Dr. Fox is a public health physician who has headed federal, state and local agencies in a nearly three-decade career dedicated to equal access to health care.

He is currently Research Professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Miller School of Medicine at the University of Miami. Until assuming this position he was the first permanent director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute and was Professor in The Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Fox shared experiences and lessons from his career to help guide graduates as they move forward.

Alumni Spotlight: Linda Lacombe-Williams

During the PHLIF training for Class 8 (Gr8 Expectations) I developed my personal vision statement for the “joyful pursuit of goals which lead to the further development of my personal, professional, and spiritual being while sharing my life with others.” I also suggested an organizational vision statement for the Hillsborough County Health Department as “achieving world wide excellence in community wellness through partnering, assessment, policy development, and quality assurance.”

Many of the leadership skills I learned during the PHLIF training for Class 8, including creating and sharing a vision, team development, communication and media effectiveness, and coalition building will be enhanced in September 2006. I will be traveling to Beijing, Xi’an, and Kunming, China as part of the People to People Ambassador Program, Community Health Nursing Delegation to the People’s Republic of China. I have been selected to deliver a presentation on “Prenatal Care Education Initiative – Early Entrance to Prenatal Care.” This presentation includes much of the information which I presented as my project for PHLIF.

I believe this delegation to China in September will be following in the direction of my visions that were developed during the Public Health Leadership Institute during 2003-2004.

“Achieving world wide excellence in community wellness through partnering, assessment, policy development, and quality assurance.”

Other Public Health News



The theme of the 2006 Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) Annual Educational Conference was “Ever Ready – Everyday: Energizing the Public Health Workforce.”

The meeting opened with a keynote address from Dr. Claude Earl Fox titled “Should We Preach to the Choir?”

Implementing a new afternoon format, the Committee selected three areas of interest to stimulate ideas and discussion on how attendees can work together to address specific public health issues. These areas were: Public Health Infrastructure, Promoting Safe & Healthy Communities, and Hot Topics: Emerging Public Health Issues.

The PHLIF is very proud to note that all of the 2006—2007 officers are PHLIF Alumni:

President – Nick Chapman (Class 2)
 1st Vice President – Lea Heberlein-Larson (Class 5)
 2nd Vice President – Sherri Brammer (Class 4)
 Secretary – Yvonne Hale (Class 3)
 Treasurer – Mike Napier (Class 6)
 Members at Large – Paul Mooty (Class 5), David Galvin (Class 3), Susanne Crowe (Class 3)

For more information and for conference highlights, please visit www.fpha.org.

Alumni Spotlight: Dr. Mike Haney

Florida Department of Health (DOH) Children’s Medical Services (CMS) Division Director Michael L. Haney, NCC, CCISM, LMHC, (PHLIF Class 10, “A Decade of Leadership”) has been elected Section Counselor for the Mental Health Section of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

“I congratulate Dr. Haney on being elected by his peers to serve the Mental Health Section of APHA,” said Deputy Secretary of Health for CMS, Joseph J. Chiaro, MD. “His distinguished career has certainly prepared him for this role and I am confident he will represent our state and DOH well.”

Dr. Haney joined the Florida Department of Health in 1998 and currently serves at the CMS Prevention and Intervention

Division Director. As Division Director, he supervises a variety of programs geared towards aiding Florida’s children, including child protection teams and sexual abuse treatment programs, telehealth and telemedicine, poison control centers, and other child abuse and neglect prevention initiatives.

“I am honored and will do my best to serve and represent my colleagues in this vital section of APHA,” Dr. Haney said of this election. Dr. Haney’s professional career includes over 20 years of serving children who have been abused or neglected and those with mental health issues. He has been published in several journals, including *The Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*, and is a member of numerous professional organizations, such as the Florida Mental

“I am honored and will do my best to serve and represent my colleagues in this vital section of APHA.”

Health Counselor’s Association, International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect and the Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators. Earlier this year, he was named Vice President of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

For additional information about the Prevention and Intervention Division of Children’s Medical Services, visit the DOH Website at <http://www.doh.state.fl.us> and select Children’s Medical Services from the drop box.

**Application for Class 12
now available on the website**

www.hsc.usf.edu/phlif

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Florida Center for Public Health Preparedness

The Florida Center for Public Health Preparedness (FCPHP) is very excited to announce that in September, 2006 we received continued funding to provide on-site trainings, online courses and preparedness materials to the public health professionals in Florida.

The training programs for the 2006-2007 project year include:

Field Investigator Response and Surveillance Training (FIRST)

This course was developed to help public health staff who may be called upon to assist epidemiology staff during a surge capacity event. It is designed to help public health workers develop the abilities needed to assist in epidemiology investigations at times when staff capacity is overburdened.

Intermediate Field Investigator Response and Surveillance Training (I-FIRST)

This course aims to develop the knowledge, skills, and abilities of public health workers who may be deployed on Field Epidemiology Strike Teams in order to assist local, regional, state, and national epidemiology staff in disease investigations during surge capacity.

Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training for Responders (R-FAST)

The goal of this course is to help Florida Department of Health staff and their community partners prevent and mitigate the adverse effects of critical incident stress and related disorders associated with disaster work, and to promote staff behavioral wellness.

Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Services Training for Special Needs Shelter Staff (S-FAST)

The goal of this course is to provide public health workers and other professionals on the front-lines of terrorism and disaster response with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and skill to effectively recognize and respond to the initial behavioral health needs of special populations in disaster.

Assuring Cultural Competence in Disaster Response

This online course aims to prepare public health professionals for their functional roles in disaster response by offering culturally competent disaster interventions to survivors, witnesses, and responders of bioterrorism and other major public health threats and disasters.

Understanding Compassion Fatigue

This online course aims to help public health workers, and other professionals on the front lines of bioterrorism defense, combat the potential adverse psychological effects of performing their functional roles and professional responsibilities in bioterrorism preparedness, response and recovery.

Disaster Stress: Resistance & Resilience

This online program was developed to provide public health workers and other professionals on the front lines of terrorism and disaster response with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and skills to effectively recognize common reactions and responses to disasters and critical incident stress, and promote behavioral health and wellness through strategies and techniques for building resistance and resilience to the negative effects of critical incident stress exposure.

For more information, please visit www.fcphp.usf.edu.

