



Alumni News

Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida

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A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be.

Roselyn Carter



First Issue of Alumni Newsletter: 'Thoroughly Enjoyed' by Alumni

The first issue of the PHLIF Alumni Newsletter was emailed to scholars, alumni, friends and supporters on February 22, 2007. We appreciate the many positive responses we received and love hearing from everyone.

Volunteer reporters are needed! We still need class representatives to lead the effort in collecting and organizing information, updates, and exciting news from the members of his/her class for each newsletter edition. The newsletter will be formatted by PHLIF staff 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.

This is a great way to stay in touch with your class and let the world know how you are doing! Special thanks to the following alumni who have already volunteered:

Class 7 "007: License to Lead" - Anita Sallas (anita_sallas@doh.state.fl.us)

Class 10 "A Decade of Class" - Mary von Mohr (mary_vonmohr@doh.state.fl.us)

If you are a member of Anita's or Mary's class, please contact them with any topics, information, or updates for the next newsletter.

If you did not receive the email or if you are interested in being the representative for your class, please contact Kirsten Miller at kmiller@health.usf.edu.

Class 11 Preparing for Graduation

PHLIF Class 11 Scholars, "A New Decade of Leadership," have completed another year of leadership sessions and are preparing their final projects for the July graduation session. As with years past, the project presentation and graduation session coincides with the Florida Public Health Association (FPHA) Annual Educational Conference.

The scholars will present their projects on the morning of Tuesday, July 31 at the Grand Hyatt in Tampa. The presentations will be followed by the graduation ceremony. Invited to deliver this year's graduation address is Mr. Pat Libby. Mr. Libby is the Executive Director of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO).

For more information about the FPHA Conference, please visit www.fpha.org. For more information about the PHLIF Class 11 graduation schedule, please contact Kirsten Miller at kmiller@health.usf.edu.

FPHA Annual Conference

The 2007 Florida Public Health Association Annual Educational Conference will be July 31 - August 3, 2007 at the Grand Hyatt in Tampa. The theme for this year's conference is "Under the Big Top: Florida Public Health - The Greatest Show on Earth".



FPHA Members, Public Health Students and Faculty, and Public Health Organizations are invited to submit proposals for posters based on public health data, theoretical research, or best practices and programs in public health. Persons displaying posters must at least be registered the day of poster display. Persons presenting are encouraged to supply their own easels or table top display boards. A limited number will be available for use by presenters who can not supply their own needs.

The deadline for submissions is June 1st. For more information about the poster session and the annual conference, please visit www.fpha.org.

Alumni Spotlight: Amy Cober



Florida's new Secretary of Health, Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros, named Amy Cober Director of the Office of Minority Health on February 23, 2007. "The Office of Minority Health is well positioned to provide the leadership necessary to improve minority health and reduce health disparities in Florida," said Cober. "I am honored to have been selected to serve as Director and will work diligently as we move towards health equality for all Floridians."

Cober, who is a licensed and registered dietitian, previously worked with DOH as a public health nutrition consultant before accepting the position of OMH Assistant Director last fall. She has been a grantee of the DOH Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities: Closing the Gap Grant in the areas of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Health. Under her management, the Cardiovascular Health project for minorities garnered national recognition. Cober also has extensive experience working with Hispanic/Latino populations and is conversationally fluent in Spanish.

Cober earned her Bachelor of Science in Nutrition from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio in 1984. A member of the fifth class of the Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida, she then went on to earn her Master of Public Health in 2005 from the University of South Florida in Tampa. She also has had intensive training in pediatric nutrition, maternal nutrition and collaborative processes.

"The Office of Minority Health is well positioned to provide the leadership necessary to improve minority health and reduce health disparities in Florida"

Throughout her 20-year career in public health, Cober has published numerous articles and made several national presentations on nutrition, minority health, health disparities and chronic disease topics. She is also committed to several professional organizations, including the American Public Health Association, the Florida Public Health Association, and the March of Dimes. She has long been an advocate for migrant health, having served several statewide migrant organizations over the last decade.

The Office of Minority Health provides leadership in improving minority health and reducing health disparities through education, collaboration, mobilization and coordination statewide. DOH promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Florida through the delivery of quality public health services and the promotion of health care standards. For more information about minority health visit the DOH web site at www.doh.state.fl.us.

The application deadline for Class 12 scholars was April 20.
 Program staff will be carefully reviewing each application.
 Candidates will receive notification of acceptance by June 1.

Please contact Kirsten Miller at
kmiller@health.usf.edu with any questions.

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We like keeping in touch with you!
 In order to do so, we need to have the most
 accurate contact information in our records.

Download the “**Alumni Profile Form**”
 from our website. Complete the form and
 email it to Kirsten Miller at
kmiller@health.usf.edu.

Alumni Spotlight: Art Clawson

Art Clawson, Class Three - “The Third Time is a Charm,” is serving a second term on the National Rural Health Association's (NRHA) Board of Trustees. The NRHA is a national, nonprofit membership organization with more than 11,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues. The association’s mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of rural Americans and to provide national and local leadership on rural health issues through advocacy, communications, education, research and leadership.

The NRHA membership is made up of a diverse collection of individuals and organizations, all of whom share the common bond of an interest in rural health. NRHA is dedicated strictly to rural health. For more information, please visit the website: www.NRHArural.org.

The NRHA is a national nonprofit membership organization with more than 11,000 members that provides leadership on rural health issues.

In addition, Art has recently been elected to a two year term on the Editorial Board of *The Journal of Rural Health*. The JRH is a quarterly journal published by the NRHA. Each issue of the JRH offers original research, innovative practice techniques, assessment of policy initiatives, specific case studies, solicited critiques of recently published books, and educational information for rural health professionals. Summaries of recently published rural health research discuss the objectives, geographical focus, database, and methods and outcomes of the research.



“Second to None” Graduate Recalls Benefits of PHLIF

By **Joan Spainhower, APR, CPRC**
Second to None Class

I remember in vivid detail when my association with the Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida inspired me to chart a new course for my life as a member of ***Second to None***. The epiphany came while we attended the Day-Spring Conference Center for leadership training. As classmates, we shared words of wisdom about life and careers. I decided to make changes in my life that would take me into new leadership areas, with the help of my peers and classmates.

After accepting a position as the public relations/communications officer for a school district, which took me somewhat out of the public health realm, I learned a new definition of the word “challenge” as we faced fallout from the Columbine High School tragedy. Later, with more confidence instilled through my continuing PHLIF training and my classmates, I transitioned to a state agency directorship in communications. Forging ahead with confidence, I applied lessons in critical thinking and innovative approaches to communicating with stakeholders and employees statewide.

Eventually, I returned to my first love - public health. I re-joined the Florida Department of Health where I served as program manager for epilepsy; then, quality improvement manager for the Bureau of Immunization (BOI). After three years with BOI, I was invited to serve as the regional manager for north Florida’s 46 counties. A few qualities cited by my supervisor in securing this position included creative ideas, rapport with staff and customers, and appropriate skills for the job.

Through my association with PHLIF, I established personal and professional goals, continued to seek training in leadership and career development, and maintained integrity in business and my personal life. Thank you for being there - Public Health Leadership Institute of Florida!



Joan Spainhower (r) with Secretary of Health Ana M. Viamonte Ros

Alumni Spotlight: Julia Gill

In February of this year, Dr. Julia Gill was appointed as Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology, by Dr. Russell Eggert, Director of the FDOH Division of Disease Control. Dr. Gill brings many years of experience in and commitment to public health and has the leadership, initiative, character and technical expertise necessary to make the bureau a center of excellence in epidemiology within the department and beyond.

“I am especially grateful for the experience and knowledge gained during PHLIF that contributed to preparing me for this new role,” said Dr. Gill (PHLIF Class 7 “007 License to Lead”).

She received her Bachelor’s Degree in Medical Technology from Eastern Illinois University in 1983, her Master’s Degree in Public Health from the University of South Florida in 1993, and her Doctorate in Public Health in 1998, also from USF. She served at the Pinellas County Health Department for seven years and joined the bureau in 2006, overseeing the Florida EIS program.

Dr. Gill is the author of numerous publications related to public health and epidemiology.

“I am especially grateful for the experience and knowledge gained during PHLIF that contributed to preparing me for this new role.”

Florida Center for Public Health Preparedness



Trainings currently schedule for Summer 2007. Dates and locations subject to change.

June 12 - 14, 2007

Ft. Walton Beach - Emerald Coast Convention Center

Field Investigator Response & Surveillance Training (FIRST)

Intermediate Field Investigator Response & Surveillance Training (IFIRST)

Disaster Behavioral First Aid Specialist Training (BFAST)

Disaster Behavioral First Aid Specialist Training with Children (CFAST)

June 20 - 22, 2007

Kissimmee - Osceola County Extension Services

Field Investigator Response & Surveillance Training (FIRST)

Intermediate Field Investigator Response & Surveillance Training (IFIRST)

If you are interested in a training course delivered in your county or region, please contact Pam Price at pprice@health.usf.edu. For more information about the training schedule or other programs offered by the FCPHP, please visit www.fcphp.usf.edu.

Training programs for the 2006 - 2007 program year include:

Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training (BFAST)

This one-day course provides public health workers and other professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively recognize and respond to the initial behavioral health needs of disaster survivors and rescuers.

Disaster Behavioral Health First Aid Specialist Training with Children (CFAST)

This one-day course provides public health workers and other professionals with the necessary knowledge and skills to effectively recognize and respond to the initial behavioral health needs of children and adolescent disaster survivors.

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

The goal of this one-day 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.

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

This one-day course provides public health workers and other professionals with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and skill to effectively recognize and respond to the initial behavioral health needs of special populations in disaster.

Field Investigator Response and Surveillance Training (FIRST)

This one-day course was developed to help public health staff who may be called upon during a surge capacity event, 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 two-day 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 in disease investigations during surge capacity.

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 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 with the necessary awareness, knowledge, and skills to effectively recognize common reactions and responses to disasters and critical incident stress.

For course descriptions, objectives, and information, please visit www.fcphp.usf.edu.