The mission of the American Heart Association is to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Currently, heart disease is the leading cause of death in America and stroke is the third leading cause of death. Approximately, 65 million Americans have high blood pressure. Nearly 100 million have borderline-high or high cholesterol and more than 136 million are overweight or obese, both risk factors for developing heart diseases. Lastly, over 36,000 babies are born with heart defects each year.

Those numbers are frightening, but without the efforts of the American Heart Association they could be much worse. Since 1999, the death rate from coronary heart disease has decreased by 23%; the death rate from stroke has been reduced by 19%; and high cholesterol prevalence was reduced by 20%. Much of this success in fighting cardiovascular diseases and stroke is due to the research, public education efforts, medical training and community health programs funded by the American Heart Association. Nearly 25 percent of the funds the American Heart Association raised last year came from the Heart Walk. Your support is absolutely critical to funding programs and saving lives.

Last Saturday, November 19th, students, faculty and staff of the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine participated in the annual American Heart Association at Audobon Park and helped raise almost $1,000 for the AHA!

President’s Letter

It’s hard to believe that 2011 is almost over and another year quickly approaches. For sure, 2012 will not be “just” another year. Soon, students, faculty, staff and alumni of the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine will begin celebrating Tulane’s 100 years of commitment to global health.

Kickoff celebrations will begin in March 2012 with our first-ever Student Global Health Summit scheduled to coincide with Open House from March 7 to March 9.

The purpose of this student led and student driven event is to not only celebrate our school’s Centennial Year but to give students the opportunity to engage with and learn from various leaders working in the complex and diverse world of global health.

During the three days, SGA will be hosting lecture and speaking events, panel discussions, learning workshops and of course— a couple of parties, with food. So look out for more information as it becomes available shortly.

Good luck on finals and Happy Holidays.  

Ryan Alipio, SGA President
**Memorable Experience of the Month**

**This month’s contributor:**

**Holly Haberman**

The first day I collected mosquitoes out in the field with the ministry of health workers would be one of my most memorable experiences in Peru. While I knew the importance of mosquito control from class, I never grasped the true impact of collection and breeding control.

The first day we went out into the field, we collected larvae and pupae from a cemetery close to my and we collected over 500 larvae and pupae and hadn’t even covered half the cemetery! And while there were efforts to clean up the cemetery, it still provided a perfect breeding site with flower containers and empty candlestick holders filled with water.

Have a memorable experience from your practicum that you would like to share? Send your contribution to sphtmsga@gmail.com with “Student Spotlight” in the subject line. Contributions may be between 200-300 words.

**Intermural Update**

This year the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine fielded nine co-ed teams across five sports offered in the intramural sports program through the Reily Center. Teams are currently competing in sand volleyball, indoor volleyball, indoor soccer, outdoor soccer, and flag football.

Intramurals are an excellent way to meet and connect with your fellow students outside of the confines of Tidewater.

Intramurals are also a fun and easy way to exercise throughout the week. Tropical Medicine student Josh Hart says, “The intramural games are some of the best parts of my week. I enjoy getting to see my classmates during some good old fashioned competition.”

The regular seasons have wrapped up and teams are moving on to the playoffs in the next few weeks. Be on the lookout for announcements pertaining to intramural sports offered in the spring.

If you have any questions feel free to contact your Intramural Sports Coordinator, Kyle Moller, at kmoller@tulane.edu.
Schedule of Events

Ongoing: Canned Food Drive every Tuesday in front of Einstein’s
   For every 5 cans donated, receive a reusable swag bag!

1-Dec: Red Affair for World AIDS Day (Hosted at Philip’s Bar)
   7 to 10pm. Tickets are $10 and proceeds will benefit
   NO/AIDS Taskforce; help make 2 condom packets at
   the door and receive a $2 discount. All are welcome and
   remember to wear red!

APHA Conference Recap

If you couldn't make it to this year’s APHA convention, here’s brief synopsis of what you missed!

The American Public Health Association 139th Annual Meeting & Expo was held in our nation’s capitol, Washington, DC. It united the public health community and afforded professionals, practitioners, and students the opportunity to enhance their knowledge and exchange information on best practices, latest research, and new trends in public health.

The Annual Meeting consists of more than 1,000 scientific sessions, roundtables, poster sessions, institutes and panel discussions at which over 5,000 scientific papers will be presented. At the Opening General Session, the keynote speakers included former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, and administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Pamela Hyde, who discussed their efforts to create healthy communities in America.

The Closing General Session centered around the connection that workers’ health has with all efforts to promote and protect public health for all. Keynote speakers included Linda Rae Murray, David Michaels, Leo W. Gerard and Darryl Alexander. The conference exposition contained over 700 booths of the latest products and services.

In addition, there was also the Public Health Awards Reception and Ceremony, the APHA Learning Institutes, The Public Health Film Festival, and much more!

On top of the expo and scientific sessions, there were many orientations, luncheons, and mixers to make attendees feel at home at the conference. Tulane SPHTM, in particular, had a mixer for students and alumni, where food, drinks, and awards were given.

With more than 1,000 scientific sessions focusing on the latest public health challenges, 700 booths of information (featuring public health innovations, organizations, and schools), and state-of-the-art public health products and services, this was a valuable opportunity to learn and network with people in all aspects of public health service.

To see clips from the Opening and Closing General Sessions, or to get more info about the conference, visit www.apha.org/meetings/.

If you want to present at the next conference, the Call for Abstracts for the 2012 Annual Meeting will open December 16, 2011.

Save the date:

The next APHA Annual Meeting will be held October 27-31, 2012 in San Francisco, California. The theme will be: “Prevention and Wellness Across the Lifespan” See you there!