

# Public Health Graduate Student Organization Newsletter

Semester Review

December 2008

## December Awareness

### Month

- National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month
- Seasonal Depression Awareness Month
- AIDS Awareness Month
- Young Children's Safe Toys & Gifts Month

### Day

- 1st - World Aids Day
- 3rd - UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- 10th - Human Rights Day
- 17th - International Volunteer Day
- 18th - UN International Migrants Day

## Save the Date!

Jan 23:  
Semester Kick-Off Party  
Ham's, 9-11 pm

Feb 1:  
Super Bowl Party

March 20:  
Bowling at ECU

April 3 & 4:  
ECU's Relay 4 Life

## PHO Fellowship and Community Service

At the beginning of the semester, the PHO announced a series of goals: (1) to sponsor at least one volunteer and one social event within the program each month in addition to monthly meetings, (2) to increase membership, and (3) to increase students' memberships in NCPHA. How did we do?

In September, students were registered with the Volunteer Center on campus which guarantees insurance coverage in the amount of \$1 million for each volunteer for the student's ECU academic career. The insurance policy also covers car accidents in route to a volunteer site. On September 11th, PHO facilitated a dinner at Chili's.

In October, students

worked the football concessions stand for PiCASO, the Pitt County AIDS Service Organization. Ten percent off all the concession's earnings were given to this non-profit organization.

In November, students and faculty tailgated at ECU's Homecoming Game. On the 14th, students and faculty volunteered at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. In addition, a Food Drive was facilitated by PHO in the two weeks leading to the activity; donations were made to the Food Bank in time for Thanksgiving.

On December 3rd, students will be volunteering at Spring Arbor, a senior housing

facility. Student will be decorating trees for residents and will be setting up decorations outside of the facility. Lastly, PHO is hosting a student holiday celebration on December 5th.

Lastly, this semester, an average of 23 students has attended the meeting—approximately twice as many as last year. Dr. Lea also announced that PHO President Elizabeth Baker brought in the most new membership to NCPHA this year alone. This was accomplished through all the Department of Public Health's students applying for membership.

## ECU MPH Students Serve as New NCPHA Leadership

The 2008 Annual Educational Conference of the NC Public Health Association was held Sept. 24-26 in New Bern North Carolina. Twelve students from the MPH program were in attendance, and two alumni presented posters.

At the opening session of the conference, elections of NCPHA 2008-2009 Officers were held. First year student, Adam Kyle Wilson, was elected as the Eastern District Member at large. Furthermore, elections were held for the 2008-2009 Student Caucus.

Second year MPH student Neil Gilbird was elected as Chair; first year student Brian Loveland was elected Treasurer; and second year student Summer Choudhury was elected Secretary. The Vice Chair is a student from UNC-C.



Food Bank Volunteer Activity (left to right): R. “Becky” Merrick, Anna Szamosi, Dr. Jilcott, Jared Jeffries, Elizabeth Baker, Kimberly Mathews, Dr. Moore, Ross Pendley, David Blakley, (non-student), Neil Gilbird, and A. Kyle Wilson



PHO Tailgate: David Blackley, Neil Gilbird, Mrs. Novick, Dr. Moore, Kimberly Mathews, Alumni Bradford Wheeler, Elizabeth Baker, Matasha Brown, Travis Kauffmann, R. “Becky” Merrick, Brian Loveland, Anna Szamosi, Dr. Bethel, Dr. Novick, and Ross Pendley



PiCASO Volunteers: Summer Choudhury, Eddie Reynolds, R. “Becky” Merrick, Marissa Kleffman, Elizabeth Baker, Ross Pendley, Tandra Hilliard, and Brian Loveland

Students at NCPHA (from left to right): Member At Large Kyle Wilson, Student Caucus Treasurer Brian Loveland, Student Caucus Chair Neil Gilbird, PHO President Elizabeth Baker, and PHO Secretary Tandra Hilliard.

Not pictured: Sara Woolard, Ross Pendley, Summer Choudhury, Marissa, Kleffman, Eddie Reynolds, Rachel Loflin-Maguire, Bethany Reynolds, and Rachel Ward



Students at APHA (left to right): (Top) Alumni Bradford Wheeler, Ross Pendley, Tandra Hilliard, and Sara Woolard (Bottom) Travis Kauffman, Neil Gilbird, and Elizabeth Baker

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**Our Mission**

The purpose of the Public Health Graduate Student Organization is to serve as the unified voice of the Department of Public Health's graduate student body of East Carolina University. The PHO also promotes and supports the Department of Public Health in the continuous advancement of its standards. In addition, if funds permit, PHO will aid in the advancement of students studies through sponsorship of educational conferences. Lastly, the PHO will facilitate camaraderie and unity among students through organized events.



*Everyday. Everyone. Everywhere.*

**PHO Intramural Soccer Team**



This year PHO's soccer team made it to the playoffs! The team would like to thank all of its supporters! Pictured left to right: David Blackley, Brian Loveland, Eddie Reynolds, Bethany Reynolds, Travis Kauffmann, Bryant Ward, Rachel Ward, and Marissa Kleffman