

Public Health Graduate Student Association

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Annual Report 2012

I. Administration

The PH-GSA Executive Committee for the year 2012 was elected as follows:

- Steven Hall, MPH- President
- Lauren Adkins, MPH- Vice-President
- Lindsay Miesel, MS-MPH- Treasurer
- Miranda Huston, MPH- Secretary

II. Department Services

a. New Student Orientation Seminar with “Meet and Greet”

The Executive Committee organized and produced an orientation seminar for new students during the fall 2012 semester. Lunch and non-alcoholic beverages were served during a power point presentation introducing the students to the program and the PH-GSA. Students were advised on parking, class scheduling, class preparation, and assistance from faculty and fellow students. After the presentation, the students were introduced to faculty and participated in a “meet and greet” session.

b. Portfolio Development Educational Seminar

An ad hoc committee was established to plan an educational seminar for public health graduate students on portfolio development for future employment success. The ad hoc committee met to plan the event and educational content to be included. Two guest speakers were selected to present at the event. Mary Beth Browder, UT Career Services Counselor, presented information on portfolio building and handed out résumé development materials. Charles Roush, MPH graduate student, shared his interview experience and suggestions for successful interviews. The event was held on November 15th, 2012 as a “lunch and learn” and refreshments were provided.

c. Vols Helping Vols “21 Healthy Habits” Event

The PH-GSA sponsored an educational booth at the Vols Helping Vols Event. The PH-GSA Executive Committee sent two representatives to each planning meeting for the event and assisted in spreading event materials around campus. The healthy habit promoted by the PH-GSA booth was hand-washing and several education materials were provided along with souvenir hand-sanitizers labeled with Department of Public Health information.

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d. Annual International Fair Event

The PH-GSA participated in the Annual International Fair by sponsoring an education booth to promote the Department of Public Health and PH-GSA. Brochures and educational materials were handed out along with souvenir hand sanitizers labeled with the DPH information.

e. Beardsley Community Garden Partnership

The PH-GSA was awarded with the garden plot #12 by the CAC Beardsley Community Farm. Plants were purchased at the Lowe's garden center and planted in late spring. Members volunteered throughout the summer by weeding, pruning, and watering the plants. All produce was donated to the Love Kitchen, a Knoxville area food bank founded by Helen Ashe and Ellen Turner. Produce included sweet onions, cherry tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, and squash. Suggestions for next year include corn, cabbage, and lettuce per Ms. Ashe and Ms. Turner.

f. YEAH! Knoxville Area Coalition on Childhood Obesity Partnership

The PH-GSA was added as a partner to the YEAH! Knoxville Area Coalition on Childhood Obesity, a local community organization dedicated to improving the health of children in the Knoxville area through health education and activities. A representative attended meetings for the Advocacy and Community Awareness Committees.

g. Student Survey

An ad hoc committee was created to develop survey questions to gather information from graduate students about PH-GSA participation and reasons for absence from meetings. The survey was sent online to every student in the Department of Public Health via SurveyMonkey.com and results were analyzed and reported to the Head of Department.

h. Website Development

The PH-GSA assisted with providing content for the Department of Public Health Website, which is an on-going informational database for information. A section was created for the PH-GSA to update meeting information, up-coming activities, and Executive Committee decisions.

III. Meetings

a. Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee held 10 meetings during the 2012 year to plan activities, discuss budget items, fund distribution, and t-shirts sale. Content for General Assembly Meetings was discussed and materials prepared.

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b. General Assembly Meetings

The PH-GSA held eight General Assembly Meetings, one per month, during the 2012 school year. Elections were held in the fall 2012 semester and volunteers were selected as student representatives to the MPH Academic Program Committee, the University of Tennessee Graduate Student Senate, and the Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

IV. Budget

a. Budget Approved

The PHGSA Executive Committee proposed a budget to the Head of the Department of Public Health. With minor adjustments, the budget was approved for a total of \$1000 approved funds to be sponsored by the DPH. The funds were spent as directed per line item described in the budget, with \$300 left over for the spring 2013 semester.

b. T-shirt Fundraiser

The Executive Committee discussed t-shirt sales as a fundraising opportunity. Designs were presented to the General Assembly and a vote was conducted. The PH-GSA purchased 50 T-shirts from CustomInc.com and sold 24 by the end of fall 2012 semester. The proceeds were deposited into the PH-GSA university account for program activities for graduate students in the department.

c. \$100 Scholarship Awarded

A \$100 gift certificate for professional membership fees was awarded by random selection to Katie Helton, MPH student. The funds will go to purchase annual membership with a professional organization(s) of her choice.

V. New Officers

a. Committee Assignment

At the September General Assembly meeting, several members volunteered to be PH-GSA representatives around campus. They are listed as follows:

- Graduate Student Senate
 - Emily Gaut, HPA (Representative)
 - Chloe Ashley, HPA (Alternate)
- College Graduate Student Advisory Board
 - Hailey Holland, HPA (Representative)
 - Natalie Alverson, HPA (Alternate)
- MPH Academic Program Committee
 - Natalie Alverson, HPA (Representative)

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- Hailey Holland, HPA (Alternate)
- Ashley Brooks, CHE (Representative)
- Darcy Knowles, CHE (Alternative)

b. November Elections

Elections for the 2013 Executive Committee were held at the November General Assembly meeting. Results are as follows:

- Chloe Ashley, MPH - Treasurer
- Ashley Brooks, MPH - Secretary
- Emily Gaut, MPH - Vice-President
- Darcy Knowles, MPH - President