

# *Public Health Graduate Student Association*

## *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

### *Annual Report 2013*

#### I. Administration

The PH-GSA Executive Committee for 2013 was elected as follows:

- Emily Gaut, MPH-HPM: President
- Chloe Ashley, MPH-HPM: Treasurer
- Ashley Brooks MPH-CHE: Secretary

#### II. Department Services

##### a. National Public Health Week

The PH-GSA celebrated National Public Health Week, April 1-7, by setting up a booth on UTK's pedestrian walkway. Two PH-GSA members were present at the table at all times the table was set up. The table provided publicity to the PH-GSA through a table wrap. Public health buttons, hand sanitizers, snacks and information pamphlets were passed out to promote health around campus.

##### b. Spring Social Study Day

To help de-stress MPH students, the PH-GSA Executive Committee put on a "chill-out study break" during finals week, April 30<sup>th</sup>. A pavilion at Tyson Park was rented out. Snacks, drinks, games, music and good company helped to reduce stress for students during finals week.

##### c. New Student Orientation Seminar with "Meet and Greet"

The Executive Committee organized and produced an orientation seminar for new MPH students before fall 2013 semester, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Lunch and non-alcoholic beverages from Jason's Deli 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. New first year students were also assigned a "big". A "big" provided their "little", first year student, with their e-mail address and phone number to be in contact for advice.

##### d. Tailgate

In start of UT's football season, the PH-GSA joined the VPH students in organizing a tailgate for the UT vs. Austin Peay game, August 31<sup>st</sup>. This tailgate was an opportunity for students to socialize outside of school and meet new peers within their program and the VPH program. A tent including snacks and games was available for all.

# *Public Health Graduate Student Association*

## *The University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

e. Beardsley Community Garden Partnership

The CAC Beardsley Community Farm has provided the PH-GSA a garden plot #12. Members volunteered throughout the spring semester 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. 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 is 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.

g. Website Development

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

### III. Meetings

a. Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee held 12 meetings during the 2013 year to plan activities, discuss budget items, fund distribution, and t-shirts sale. Content for General Assembly Meetings was discussed and materials prepared.

b. General Assembly Meetings

The PH-GSA held 8 General Assembly Meetings, one per month, during the 2013 calendar year. Elections were held in the fall 2013 semester and volunteers were selected as student representatives to the MPH Academic Program Committee, the University of Tennessee Graduate Student Senate, and the College's Graduate Student Advisory Committee.

### IV. Budget

a. Budget

The PHGSA Executive Committee was allotted a \$1000 fund provided by the administrative head of the Department of Public Health. The funds were spent as directed per line item described in the budget, with \$462.51 carried over for the spring 2014 semester.

# *Public Health Graduate Student Association*

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### b. Members and faculty t-shirts

The Executive Committee decided on providing a t-shirt as part of the membership fee (\$20) to serve as an incentive for joining the association. T-shirts were also available for faculty, paid out of the Department of Public Health budget. Designs were created by Yoonie Jung and presented to the Executive Committee and a vote was conducted. The PH-GSA purchased 25 T-shirts from CustomInc.com.

## V. New Officers

### a. Committee Assignments for 2013-2014

During September 2013, several members volunteered per opportunity presented to them by PH-GSA Executive Committee. They are listed as follows:

- Graduate Student Advisory Board
  - Katie Helton (Representative)
  - Claire Mason (Representative)
- Graduate Student Senate
  - Emily Gaut (Representative)
  - Hopelyn Clift (Alternate)
- MPH Governance Committee
  - Ben Doty (CHE Representative)
  - Kathryn Webb (CHE Alternate)
  - Melanie Wright (HPM Representative)
  - Adam Keck (HPM Alternate)
  - Benton Harvey (VPH Representative)
  - Todd French, DVM (VPH Alternate)

### b. November Elections

Elections for the 2014 Executive Committee were held at the November General Assembly meeting. Results are as follows:

- Alex Hirschy, MPH - Treasurer
- Hopelyn Clift, MPH - Secretary
- Claire Mason, MPH - Vice-President
- Yoonie Jung, MPH - President