

Public Health Graduate Student Association

The University of Tennessee, Knoxville

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Part 1: Administration

Dr. Kathleen Brown, PhD, MPH, Associate Professor and MPH Program Director, served as the faculty advisor to the PHGSA board. The PHGSA Executive Board for 2016 was as follows:

- President: Jessica Waddell (MPH-CHE)
- Vice President: Jessica Jurcak (MS-MPH-CHE)
- Secretary: Kaitlin Dewitt (MS-MPH-CHE)
- Treasurer (January-June): Nicolette Rosa (MPH-CHE)
- Treasurer (July-December): Reantha Pillay (MPH-CHE)
- Philanthropy Chair (January-May): Anniece Weaver (MPH-HPM)
- Philanthropy Chair (June-December): Erin Guy (MPH-HPM)

Part 2: Events

PHGSA sponsored participation in 24 events, hosting 19 and supporting 5 others across the university and public health community. A total of 294 public health students participated in these events, and hundreds of other students and community members were reached during the 5 outreach events. Due to Dr. Barroso's encouragement of her undergraduate students' participation in PHGSA events during spring 2016, undergraduate students significantly contributed to PHGSA events for the first time. Additionally, the PHGSA organized a donation drive to support the flood relief efforts in Louisiana in August 2016.

Highlights from the 2016 events include:

Strengthening Personal and Professional Relationships

The six purely social events, which included 3 trivia night outings, accounted for almost 30% of all student participation in PHGSA during 2016. Students appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another outside the classroom, which in turn strengthened their relationships in group projects and other academic experiences. These events attracted a diverse group of students from all concentrations and were also used as an informal opportunity to gather member feedback about PHGSA activities and plans.



New Graduate Student Orientation

The 2016 orientation incorporated the help and input from faculty and current students in a new way. New students were grouped by advisor and sat together, with their advisor and “buddy” during lunch. The lunch provided faculty with an opportunity to communicate expectations, preferences, helpful tips, and other related information.

A small group of current MPH and DrPH students volunteered to be “Orientation Buddies” for the incoming students. As “buddies,” they each reached out to up to 6 new students before orientation so that attendees would be welcomed by a friendly face when they arrived. During lunch, the “buddies” shared their advice and experience in the program. Lastly, a tri-fold brochure titled the “Public Health Survival Guide” was disseminated to new students. It included must-have resources for navigating UTK, Knoxville, core MPH courses, and the public health profession.



National Public Health Week (April 2016)

PHGSA supported this national event by hosting two social events for current students (trivia night and a “de-stress” event), participating in two on-campus outreach events (CEHHS Chalk Walk and HealthBeat Fair), and hosting a panel discussion.

Students, faculty, and community professionals from a variety of disciplines were invited to attend the panel discussion titled “The Intersection of Public Health & Medicine: Perspectives from Physicians with an MPH.” Panelists included:

- Paul C. Erwin, MD, MPH, DrPH; Professor and Department Head, Department of Public Health; University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Warren Sayre, MD, MPH; Site Occupational Medical Director for Consolidated Nuclear Security, LLC; Y-12 (Oak Ridge, TN)
- Kelly Cooper, MD, MPH; Assistant Public Health Officer, Director of Clinical Services; Knox County Health Department
- David Stockton, MD, MPH; Professor of Family Medicine and Chief, Division of Preventive Medicine, University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine; UT Medical Center, Knoxville



Learning, Connecting, and Promoting the Department at TPHA

With 12 students, 2016 boasted the largest representation of UTK public health students ever at the Tennessee Public Health Association Annual Conference. Departmental support played a large role in assisting with registration fees for the 6 students who gave poster presentations at the conference, and PHGSA further incentivized attendance by coordinating carpools.

Additionally, PHGSA coordinated and partially sponsored shared overnight accommodations for 7 students who stayed at a home reserved through AirBnB. Students attended educational sessions, networking events, and assisted with the UTK DPH booth in the exhibit hall.



All event dates are listed below, broken out by category.

Membership Meetings

- February 11, 2016 (10 attendees)
- March 8, 2016 (10 attendees)
- September 19, 2016 (10 attendees)
- September 22, 2016 (25 attendees)

Social Activities

- March 2, 2016: Trivia Night (15 attendees)
- April 6, 2016: “De-Stress” Event for National Public Health Week (11 attendees)
- April 6, 2016: Trivia Night (18 attendees)
- May 6, 2016: UTK Baseball Game (10 attendees)
- September 27, 2016: Trivia Night (15 attendees)
- November 5, 2016: UTK Homecoming Game Tailgate (17 attendees)



Professional & Academic Development Events

- March 24, 2016: Comps Study Party (12 attendees)
- April 21, 2016: Panel Discussion on the Intersection of Public Health and Medicine featuring 4 MDs with Graduate Public Health Degrees (in support of National Public Health Week) (20 attendees)
- October 20, 2016: Comps Study Party (9 attendees)

In Support of the Department of Public Health

- August 12, 2016: New Graduate Public Health Student Orientation (40 attendees)
- November 3, 2016: Open Forum for Feedback with Dr. Erwin (10 attendees)
- November 10, 2016: Feedback on Revised CEPH Accreditation Requirements (5 attendees)
- October 29, 2016: Strengthening the Future of Public Health – Networking Hike with Local Public Health Professionals (12 attendees)

University & Community Outreach

- February 20, 2016: Volunteer Outing at Ronald McDonald House (2 attendees)
- March 26, 2016: Volunteer Outing at KARM Thrift Store (7 attendees)
- April 1, 2016: Hosted Table at Hike the Hill in Heels, Sponsored by UTK Center for Health Education and Wellness (5 attendees, approx. 40 UTK students visited table)
- April 6, 2016: Hosted Table at HealthBeat Health Fair, Sponsored by UTK College of Nursing (12 attendees, approx. 150 students visited table)
- April 6, 2016: Participated in UTK CEHHS Chalk Walk (2 attendees, art seen by hundreds of students)
- August 29, 2016: Concluded Donation Drive for Flood Relief Efforts
- September 14-15, 2016: Staffed Table for UTK Department of Public Health at the Tennessee Public Health Association Conference (12 attendees, approx. 100 public health professionals visited table)
- October 18, 2016: Staffed Table for UTK Department of Public Health at the UTK Undergraduate Health Professions Fair (5 attendees, approx. 50 students visited table)



Part 3: Budget & Accounting

The 2016 calendar year began with an account balance of \$224.28.

- Spring 2016 brought in \$50 membership dues revenue and no expenses to PHGSA, as the Department paid for the March Comps Study Party refreshments.
- The lunch for orientation in August (\$310) was also sponsored by the Department.
- Other fall expenses totaled \$206.64, which included food for events and rental pavilion fees.
- A total of \$350 was collected in membership dues in the fall.
- No new t-shirts were ordered for 2016. Remaining t-shirts were sold for \$5 each until they were sold out. T-shirt revenue totaled \$85.

The 2016 calendar year ended with an account balance of \$502.64.

Part 4: New Officers

Elections for the 2017 PHGSA board were held in December 2016. The following officers were elected:



**PRESIDENT -
Emma Barnes
(HPM)**



**VICE
PRESIDENT -
TyKeara Mims
(CHE)**



**TREASURER -
Rebecca Nowack
(CHE)**



**SECRETARY -
Rachel
Wojciechowski
(HPM)**



**PHILANTHROPY
CHAIR - Quinten
Ash (CHE)**