

giving news

SPH AWARDS RECOGNIZE LEADERS OF THE FUTURE

This year's major School of Public Health award recipients were asked why they pursued their areas of specialty and what their awards meant to them and to their future practice in public health.



Marsha Bievre-Baker, recipient of the 2003 Paul Q. Peterson Scholarship Award for excellence in the practical application of public health delivery and research:

"As a recent MD/MPH graduate, I intend to improve the quality of reproductive health care for women around the world both as an obstetrician-gynecologist and as a public health professional. The Paul Q.

Peterson Scholarship Award has helped me progress towards this goal by providing me with an invaluable opportunity to continue my research project, Project Pace: Postpartum Adolescent Contraception Education. The goal of Project PACE is to determine the effectiveness of a one-to-one counseling approach in informing adolescent mothers about their contraceptive options in the immediate postpartum period. Without the financial support provided by the Paul Q. Peterson award, I would not have been able to continue this research project, which I plan to implement in my obstetrics and gynecology residency training program at the University of Southern California – Los Angeles County Hospital."



Jennifer Layden-Almer, recipient of the 2003 Haenszel Award for Excellence in Research within the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division:

"I wanted to pursue a PhD in epidemiology to go along with my MD degree. The role public health plays in medicine is fundamental. In addition, the knowledge I have gained from the study of epidemiology and biostatistics is important to the conduct and pursuit of

the research I am interested in. By having both degrees, I will be better able to pursue my research interests and integrate the two fields. Being recognized by the Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division for the research I have been conducting has been a significant honor."



Angeline A. Widmer, recipient of the Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award for academic excellence, quality of leadership, and community service:

"Public health provides a direct avenue of service for me through which to work on improving the well-being of populations

and communities, by employing core values and principles. My passion for social justice issues, which are embedded in public health, has directed my academic endeavors and continues to drive all aspects of my current work. Pursuing my MBA has provided additional expertise in applying business concepts to resource management in the public and not-for-profit health sectors. The Alan W. Donaldson Memorial Award (and similar awards) provides its recipients with recognition for outstanding work and volunteerism undertaken on behalf of underserved communities. Monetary assistance with such awards allows recipients to continue valuable service through public health initiatives within these communities. These awards also enhance the visibility of public health endeavors and remind us all of the importance of leadership and community service in advancing public health."

Dear Alumni and Friends:

You make a world of difference...

Despite the severe economic constraints of the past several years, the generous gifts of our alumni and other friends of the School of Public Health have allowed us not only to

sustain but also to expand the funds that make possible the awards our 2003 recipients describe. The Peterson, Haenszel, and Donaldson scholarship funds continue to grow and continue to support the studies, work, and aspirations of outstanding students who are the leaders of the future in public health.

What you give to our scholarship funds gives back to the world through the contributions of our graduates, and we are very grateful.

This past spring, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Viron L. Diefenbach, DDS, MPH, a nationally recognized champion for public health dentistry who served the School of Public Health as associate dean from 1977 to 1978 and then as dean from 1978 to 1983. Dr. Diefenbach is warmly remembered for his concern for the students here and his dedication to providing them with the best available educational resources and opportunities. I am pleased to be able to announce that the establishment of the Viron L. Diefenbach Public Health Scholarship Fund will carry forward Dr. Diefenbach's legacy of care and commitment.

This year, one of our goals is an increased focus on division-based outreach to School of Public Health alumni. For those of you who can return to the school, this will take the form of events that are specifically tailored to meet the needs and interests of alumni of the respective SPH divisions. Please watch your mail for announcements of these offerings and give us the pleasure of sharing them with you. For alumni from around the country, we will be holding our annual reception at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco on November 17. Look for the invitation to the reception in this magazine, and we will look forward to seeing you there!

In the meantime, we would like to invite you to visit the School of Public Health website at <http://www.uic.edu/sph/> to view the completely renovated sites for each of the divisions. Also part of the new look on our website is a newly designed section for the Office of Development with an online giving feature that describes the Peterson, Haenszel, Donaldson, and other funds that serve our students.

With thanks again for your help today in creating a better world tomorrow through public health,



Susan L. Mennenga

Assistant Dean for Development

