

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends:

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the first graduating class of the School of Public Health (SPH) and there is much to be celebrated.

At its beginning, SPH offered one degree: the Masters in Public Health. Since then, to meet student demand and respond to an ever-broadening range of issues, SPH has expanded its offerings to include four additional degrees: Master of Science, Master of Healthcare Administration, Doctor of Philosophy, and Doctor of Public Health. Further, we have a fully online MPH program in Public Health Informatics and we have certificate programs providing targeted training for public health professionals. SPH is involved in cutting edge research in HIV/AIDS prevention in Kenya and Indonesia, maternal and child health, asthma prevention, smoking cessation, cancer control and prevention, violence prevention, water research and even pollution control in Eastern Europe.



Centers and Institutes that address public health problems, locally, regionally, nationally and globally, and provide leadership training for public health professionals, have also been incorporated into the SPH, including the Center for Public Health Practice, the Institute for Health Research and Policy and the Great Lakes Center. These additions have greatly enhanced the learning experience of all SPH students.

In Healthviews, you will read more about the research taking place at the SPH on public health issues. These issues, as you know, have changed dramatically in the past 35 years.

For example, in 1972, the public was warned through a new Surgeon General's Report on smoking that nonsmokers exposed to cigarette smoke may suffer health hazards. Today, as you will read, based in part on the research of SPH Epidemiology and Biostatistics Division Director, Leslie Stayner, PhD, we now have definitive proof of the negative effects of exposure to smoke in the workplace.

Also in 1972, public health professionals could not foresee that a devastating disease, HIV/AIDS, would significantly impact the public health agenda. Today, as you will read, SPH professors such as Larry Ouellet, PhD. and Robert Bailey, PhD., are working with our students on advanced HIV/AIDS prevention and research strategies in Chicago and around the world.

Finally, in 1972 cell phones were nowhere to be seen. Today, as you will read in this issue of Healthviews, our Center for the Advancement of Distance Education (CADE) is designing cell phone applications to assist in addressing public health emergencies.

Please mark your calendars for this year's commencement on May 9, 2008. I would like to invite all SPH alumni to return to the SPH to participate in the commencement festivities. Help us reflect on the past 35 years and applaud our new graduates as they join us in working to improve public health here in Chicago, across the nation and around the world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sylvia E. Furner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sylvia Furner
Interim Dean