As I sit to write my final address to you as the AlPHA president I think of how quickly the time has passed for this year. I think of the theme, “Advancing Opportunities and Assessing Challenges”. Nothing could be more fitting for Public Health this year. We have gone through a lot of changes in the past year with Public Health and as an association.

This year marks our 60th Annual AlPHA Educational Conference…this is Mobile County's 200th Anniversary of its Board of Public Health, the 1115 Waiver was approved creating Regional Care Organizations…Ebola & TB continued to be part of a Public Health concern…flooding occurred in our state…Electronic Health Records became a reality …Zika virus made it's way to the U.S….., and last but not least Dr. Tom Miller is our new State Health Officer.

With all of these things being listed that we have seen change in just one year we have had many challenges to assess…but we also have seen many advancing opportunities from them. Challenges and Opportunities are both good for us in the end because they push us and help us to grow. Joshua J. Marine is a top marketing expert and author. He has a famous quote, “Challenges are what makes life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful.” If we never have changes, challenges, or opportunities everything would always stay the same. So while many of them seem difficult at the time every cloud has a silver lining.

We have great leaders among us who are members of AlPHA and ADPH as well. My hope for you is that when you look at these challenges and opportunities that you will think of this year’s educational conference. I hope you will take away from this leadership opportunity how you can assess and advance based off of all we have experienced, and will in the years to come.

Inside this newsletter you will find an agenda and how to access our web page for AlPHA. Here you can gain more information on how to become a member of AlPHA, and register for this year’s annual conference. This year’s agenda topics include ethics, cultural competencies, CQI, leadership, ADA, foodborne illness, telemedicine/telehealth, mental health, and many more. We will also be having our 60th annual awards banquet to honor our award winners, and hope you can be there to celebrate them with our AlPHA board and its members.

In closing I would like to thank the entire AlPHA board and especially Kimberley Gordon for all of her work as the Vice President this year. The Vice President is the backbone to making these annual conferences a success. Our board does an excellent job in pitching in and working as a true team to make all roles much easier. Jennifer Sumner assisted in planning our awards banquet, and every board member we have does their part and more. I could not be more honored to work with such a great group of individuals.

Our AlPHA board looks forward to seeing you all in April to make the 60th annual educational conference the best yet!

Suzanne Terrell, MSW, LGSW
2015-2016 President
Why is there an obesity epidemic? How do we prepare for highly contagious emerging infectious diseases like Dengue, Chikungunya, and Zika? What are the best strategies to reduce e-cigarette use among high school students? Why are African Americans more susceptible to high blood pressure and stroke? What therapies are more effective in different population groups and why? How do we better understand the magnitude of human trafficking in the United States?

As you know better than anyone, these are among the myriad of questions and challenges that face public health every day. Could there possibly be any other profession that thinks and operates at the intersection of virtually every health issue facing all species on the globe? Perhaps this is one the reasons so many students – undergraduate and graduate – are gravitating toward degrees in public health. In just a few short months we have finalized joint degree programs with the Auburn School of Pharmacy and College of Veterinary Medicine that complement programs with law, medicine, optometry, dentistry, nursing, business, health administration, and social work.

What is especially intriguing about the expanding influence of public health in our educational institutions is the emerging insight that human health depends upon the health of the planet with its infinite networks of intersecting and interdependent ecological systems. The perspectives public health have given you as practicing professionals helps you to think about and see beyond disciplinary silos to unique and creative solutions. As more and more students gain those perspectives, those tools imagine the energy, innovation, and creativity they will bring answers to the questions of obesity, Zika, human trafficking, and the like.

Public health is a part of our essential infrastructure. A citizenry whose education includes the principles and practices of public health will undoubtedly see what investments are necessary to ensure the public's health. And, surely that is what we all want.

Max Michael, M.D.
Dean
UAB School of Public Health

The Nominations Committee continues actively seeking candidates for the position of AlPHA Vice President for the 2016-2017 term. The AlPHA bylaws describe this position as follows:

Section 3: Vice President

a. The individual(s) nominated for vice president must have served at least two years on the Executive Board or must be recommended for nomination by 50 or more Association members who are in good standing.

b. The primary responsibility of the vice president is to serve as chairperson of the Programs and Meetings Committee.

c. Other responsibilities of the Vice President include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Serves as an aide to the president.
2. Serves as a member of the Scholarship Fund Committee.
3. Succeeds automatically to the office of President Elect.

If you are interested in serving in this important position yourself or can recommend a candidate willing to make a four-year commitment to AlPHA by serving a one-year term as vice president, followed by service as president elect, president and Scholarship Committee chair, please contact Nominations Committee Chairperson Richard Burleson at (334) 206-2938 or richard.burleson@adph.state.al.us.

Candidates for other AlPHA offices whose names will appear on the election ballot are as follows: Melanie Dickens for Recording Secretary, Sonya Tinsley for Treasurer, Jackie Holliday for Southern Health Association Delegate, Renae Carpenter for Southern Health Association Alternate Delegate, Ross Hudson for American Public Health Association Delegate, and Stacey Adams for American Public Health Association Alternate Delegate. Write-ins are also accepted.
The Alabama Public Health Association wants you to be aware of available opportunities. Rural Health Delegate Carolyn Bern has provided this information for nurses and nurse practitioners.

**NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program**

- This program targets full-time registered nurses and nurse practitioners working in a critical shortage facility (CSF) in a primary care or mental health professional shortage area (HPSA).
- In 2016, all county health departments across Alabama meet the HPSA and CSF requirement except for Madison County. (HPSAs do change periodically)
- Outstanding student loan debt is for nursing education.
- Applications are usually available in January/February and application cycle usually closes in late February.
- Program is competitive. Applications are reviewed and ranked based on HPSA score which describes area of greatest need, student loan-to-income ratio of the applicant, and type of CSF. Disadvantaged background is also considered.
- In exchange for an initial two-year commitment to remain at your site, NURSE Corps loan repayment will pay participants a total of 60 percent of their total outstanding qualifying educational loan balance incurred while pursuing an education in nursing.
- A third year payment of an additional 25 percent of total qualifying nursing educational loan balances is available.
- Liens or defaults arising from federal debt will deem applicants ineligible. Defaults on child support payments or mortgage payments will also deem applicants ineligible to apply.

For more information on the NURSE Corps Loan Repayment Program, please contact Robert Boyles, NHSC Coordinator, at robert.boyles@adph.state.al.us.

**Income-Based Repayment:**

- If your outstanding federal student loan debt is higher than your annual income or if it represents a significant portion of your annual income, you may want to repay your federal student loans under an income-driven repayment plan.
- There are currently (2016) three income-based repayment plans:
  - Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR Plan)
  - Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (PAYE Plan)
  - Income-Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR Plan)
- Check with your student loan servicer for more information on how to apply for income-based repayment plans.

**Direct Loan Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) Program:**

- The PSLF Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full time in public service jobs. Under this program, you may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance due on your William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program (Direct Loan Program) loans after you have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by the Alabama Department of Public Health. Since you must make 120 qualifying payments on your eligible federal student loans after Oct. 1, 2007, before you qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first forgiveness of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017.
- 120 required payments must be made under one or more of the following Direct Loan Program repayment plans:
  - Revised Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (REPAYE Plan)
  - Pay As You Earn Repayment Plan (PAYE Plan)
  - Income-Based Repayment Plan (IBR Plan)
  - Income Contingent Repayment Plan (ICR Plan)
  - 10-year Standard Repayment Plan
  - Any other Direct Loan Program repayment plan; but only payments that are at least equal to the monthly payment amount that would have been required under the 1-year Standard Repayment Plan may be counted toward the required 120 payments

For more information about the repayment plans available in the Direct Loan Program, please visit www.studentaid.ed.gov/repay-loans.

For more information on the PSLF go to: www.studentaid.ed.gov/publicservice or contact your federal loan servicer.
Tuesday, April 5
5:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting, Lobby Lounge
6:00 p.m. Stuff Bags, Boardroom

Wednesday, April 6
9:00 a.m. - Noon Administrator’s meeting
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Registration, Grand National Foyer
1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. Opening Session, Grand Ballroom
Invocation: To be announced
Presentation of Colors: Opelika Fire Department
National Anthem: To be announced

Welcome
Suzanne Terrell, MSW, LGSW, President AIPHA
Thomas M. Miller, MD, Acting State Health Officer, ADPH

200th Anniversary of the Mobile County Board of Health
Bernard Eichold, II, M.D., Dr.P.H., F.A.C.P.
Health Officer, Mobile County Health Department

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. Group Session, Grand Ballroom
Legal and Programmatic Perspective on ADA Federal Guidelines
Graham L. Sisson, Jr., JD, BS, CADAP
Director, Governor’s Office on Disability

3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. Break
AIPHA Silent Auction begins, Meeting Room 3

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. Group Session, Grand Ballroom
Alabama Medicaid Transformation
Kathy Hall, MPA, Deputy Commissioner, Program Administration,
Alabama Medicaid Agency

Thursday, April 7
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Registration, Grand Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast, Coffee Break room
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Concurrent Session
Continuous Quality Improvement, Session A/Theater Room
Susan D. Gadon MPA, Consultant, SDG Health
Rising STD Rates. What are the Challenges?, Session B/Meeting Room 1
Anthony Merriweather, MSPH, STD Director, Alabama Department of Public Health

National Standards for Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services in Health and Health Care, Session C/Meeting Room 2
Julia Sosa, MS, RD, LD, Director Office of Minority Health, Alabama Department of Public Health

Foodborne Illness Outbreak Investigation Methods, Session D/Salon B
Thuy Kim, MPH, and Jennifer Owes, BSN, RN, Infectious Diseases & Outbreaks Division, Alabama Department of Public Health

9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. BREAK, Prefunction Room

10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Concurrent Session
Continuous Quality Improvement Session, Session A/Theater Room
Susan D. Gadon MPA, Consultant, SDG Health

Updates and application of the American Nurses Association Code of Ethics for Nurses, Session B/Meeting Room 1
Arlene Morris, MSN, EdD, RN, Auburn University Montgomery School of Nursing

Electronic Health Record Update, Session C/Meeting Room2
Laurie Stout, BSN, RN, Bureau of Family Health Services, Alabama Department of Public Health

11:00 a.m. - Noon Concurrent Session
Continuous Quality Improvement Session, Session A/Theater Room
Susan D. Gadon, MPA, Consultant, SDG Health

Addressing the Functional and Access Needs of Patients and Staff with Disabilities During Public Health Emergencies and Crisis Events, Session B/ Meeting Room 1
Elana Parker Merriweather, Ed.S., LPC, NCC, Minority / Special Populations Coordinator, Alabama Department of Public Health

Telemmedicine at Alabama Department of Public Health County Health Departments, Session C/Meeting Room 2
Michael Smith, MSPH, MEd, Director of Video Communications & Distance Learning, Alabama Department of Public Health

Legal Issues in Environmental Health, Session D/ Salon B
Karen Bishop, J.D, Assistant General Counsel, Alabama Department of Public Health

Noon - 3:15 p.m. AIPHA Awards Luncheon, Grand Ballroom
Lunch
Award presentations
Presentation of Keynote Speaker
Johnny Campbell, DTM, AS, “The 21st Century Leader”
3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.  BREAK

3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.  Concurrent Session
Translating Evidence-Based Interventions into “Real-world” Practice: Lessons from Mental Health, Addiction, and HCV, Grand Ballroom
David Pollio, Ph.D, MSW, Chairman of the Department of Social Work
University of Alabama at Birmingham

Continuous Quality Improvement Session Wrap-Up, Theater Room
Susan D. Gadon MPA, Consultant, SDG Health

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.  UAB Reception, Lobby Lounge

Friday, April 8
8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.  Registration

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m  Aycock Breakfast, Grand Ballroom

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.  Participants will take breakfast to Meeting Room 2
Pragmatic Application of Social Work Values and Ethics in Professional Practice
Jason M. Newell, Ph.D., LCSW-PIP, Director of Social Work Program
University of Montevallo

9:00 a.m - 10:00 a.m  Group Session
Run, Hide, Fight: Active Shooter Overview, Grand Ballroom
Captain Justin Lovvorn, Greenville Police Department

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  Break/SILENT AUCTION CLOSES

10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Group Session
Autism Safety and Public Health, Grand Ballroom
Bama Hager, PhD

11:30 a.m. - Noon  Business Meeting
Adjourn

The Alabama Department of Public Health is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Alabama State Nurses Association, an accredited approver of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s Commission on Accreditation. The Alabama Department of Public Health is an approved provider of continuing social work education by the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners.
Registration is now open for the 2016 Annual AIPHA Educational Conference. The conference will be held on April 6-8, 2016, at the Auburn Marriott Opelika Hotel & Conference Center at Grand National. The theme for this year is “Public Health: Advancing Opportunities and Assessing Challenges.” The registration fee for the conference is $160 for Regular registration, $80 for Retirees and Students. Hotel rates are $125 per night. Consider bringing a roommate in order to cut the room cost. Here is the breakdown with roommates: 2 per room $62.50, 3 per room 41.67, and 4 per room $31.25. Hotel reservations need to be made by March 14, 2016. The hotel’s contact number is 1-800-593-6456 or 334-741-9292. Please reference the Alabama Public Health Conference when making your room reservation. AIPHA is celebrating its 60th year and we would love to see you at the conference.
Email ____________________________________________________________
(primary communication is achieved electronically)

Name (as appears on payroll) _______________________________________

AIPH Name (If Different)________________________________________ Work Phone____________________

Agency/Organization ____________________________________________ Area/County___________________

Agency Mailing Address ____________________________________________

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Membership Type

- ☐ Full Time Student $5.00
- ☐ Individual $24.00
- ☐ Corporate $350.00

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal

PLEASE CHECK HERE! I would like payroll deduction. _______ (ADPH employees only, $2.00 per month)

Signature ________________________________________________________

Social Security #_________ - _____ - ____________ (SSN needed only for members selecting payroll deduction.)