PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is with great honor that I serve as the President of the Alabama Public Health Association. I have had the honor of being an AlPHA member for the past 14 years and board member for the past 6 years. Looking back over the past 14 years, I never would have guessed that this day would come simply by the 2006 AlPHA President, Ashvin Parikh, recruiting me into AlPHA or the 2010 AlPHA President, Stacey Adams, recruiting me to the board. I say that to encourage current AlPHA members to recruit others to be a part of this wonderful organization. You never know where it may lead.

As the 2017 fiscal year comes upon us, we are facing some changes and looking towards a new way of doing many things in Public Health. No matter the changes that we face, we must remember that we will still be doing Public Health. I am a firm believer that Public Health is something that gets in your blood. You do Public Health, because you love it. We are Public Health. When people begin to work in Public Health they become a part of it, and it creates a lifetime career.

While we look towards these changes, it is also a great time to look back and reflect on Public Health. The 2017 Conference will do just that with a conference theme: “A Lifetime of Public Health.” We are looking forward to a wonderful conference in Birmingham at the new Hill Center. I have had the privilege of touring the facility, and trust me, you will not be disappointed. So mark your calendars for April 5, 2017- April 7, 2017, and join us for a wonderful conference.

Natalie Quinney
2016-2017 President
The Alabama Public Health Association recently recognized persons from across the state who have demonstrated exceptional merit during the past year in the field of public health. The following individuals were honored at the association’s 60th Annual Meeting and Health Education Conference April 7.

The Anne M. Smith Public Health Nurse of the Year Award was presented to nurse educator Marilyn Knight, M.S.N., R.N., of Tuscaloosa. The recipient of this award must exemplify the mission of public health nursing in Alabama, that is “to assure conditions in which individuals, families and communities can be healthy utilizing the unique expertise of public health nurses to assess, plan and implement programs which promote health and prevent disease.”

For the past eight years, Ms. Knight has assisted new nurses in orientation and integration of public health services. With the desire to see all nurses thrive in their roles, she enjoys learning new concepts. Supporters praised her positive attitude, willingness to go beyond the call of duty to accomplish the mission, dedication to her role, and commitment to public health.

The Frederick S. Wolf Award was presented to Doug Turnbull of Dothan. This award was established in 1982 to recognize an individual who has been active in public health at the local level for more than 10 years; who has demonstrated efficiency, dedication and professionalism in delivery of public health services; and who has provided unselfish community services in areas unrelated to public health.

Turnbull is an environmental supervisor for the Coffee, Crenshaw, Geneva and Houston county health departments. He holds the nationally recognized Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS/RS) credential. A strong supporter of community organizations, he has served as a judge and volunteer for the high school Envirobowl competitions of Legacy: Partners in Environmental Education since 2006. In 2010 he took his first step in the three-day, 60-mile Susan G. Komen Walk for Breast Cancer. He has participated five times, and raised close to $12,000 to promote awareness, self exams, mammograms, early detection and treatment of breast cancer. He plans to participate in his sixth walk this year.

Shawanda Surles of Prattville, formerly of Selma, was awarded both the D.G. Gill Award which honors an individual who has made an exceptional contribution to public health in Alabama and the Virginia Kendrick Award which recognizes an individual who has provided notable service to the people of Alabama while serving in a supporting role in the field of public health.

Ms. Surles is the office manager for the Montgomery County Health Department and actively serves in several organizations related to public health. She consistently exhibits determination to supply clients, workers and others with the best experience possible. Described as “dependable, efficient and extremely supporting” and a leader who has been a tremendous asset to her church and community, she was praised for her warm and cheerful attitude that finds her handling difficult situations with “remarkable patience and admirable tact.” She is the first recipient of two awards from the association in a single year.

Karl Bryant of Montgomery was presented the Guy M. Tate Award, an award given annually to a public health employee, group or agency with 10 years or less in public health for outstanding current or recent service.
Awards, continued from page 3

or contribution to public health. Letters of support stated Bryant “epitomizes the spirit of public health—always willing to help, professional, creative and responsible” and for his professionalism, kindness and courtesy. Colleagues praise him for completing multiple projects with a high level of expertise in graphic design and for his assistance with all aspects of projects.

Judy Smith, R.N., M.P.H., of Cullman was presented the Ira L. Myers Award for Excellence in Public Health. This award was established in 1987 to honor Dr. Myers for his accomplishments by recognizing an individual, group or organization who, through excellence in work, has made a significant impact on some aspect of public health in Alabama.

Ms. Smith has worked in the Alabama Department of Public Health for 45 years and has been involved at all levels, beginning as a local public health nurse and progressing through various levels to administrator of a seven-county area. Throughout her sterling career a consistent theme has been a determination to make things better for those she serves, including securing funding for many grants and seeing the construction of new county health departments.

Two Alabama Department of Public Health employees were inducted into the Alabama Public Health Association Hall of Fame, Class of 2016: Sandra Blakely of Eclectic and Dr. Bernard H. Eichold of Mobile. The Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and advancement of the association.

Mrs. Blakely, a 25-year member, was recognized for assisting everyone with the highest level of professional skill, regardless of the scope of the request and for treating the public with the utmost respect and courtesy in her work. As Mobile County health officer, Dr. Eichold was praised for his dedication to the field of public health at the county, area, state and national levels and his staunch support of the association since he joined in 1990.

AIPHA also recognized the Mobile County Health Department for its 200th year of service.

ALABAMA PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION SEEKS NOMINATIONS FOR ALPHA HALL OF FAME, CLASS OF 2017

The AIPHA Hall of Fame Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2017 Hall of Fame Class. The induction ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Awards Luncheon at the 2017 annual education conference at UAB. Please visit the AIPHA Web site at www.alphassoc.org to review the criteria as well as to download a nomination form.

The completed nomination form should be sent, along with up to 10 letters of support, to Ruth Harrell at P.O. Box 626, Flomaton, Ala. 36441. Please send your nominations in as soon as possible.

The AIPHA Hall of Fame is intended to complement current AIPHA awards and recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the enhancement and advancement of AIPHA. The Hall of Fame was established by the association in May of 2007.
ALPHA PRESENTS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS AT CONFERENCE

Kayla Williamson is shown at right receiving one of two AIPHA Educational Scholarships from Scholarship Chair Tim Hatch. The other recipient was Asia Sullivan. Recipients of the scholarships are required to be enrolled in a program of study in pursuit of a bachelor’s, master’s or doctorate degree related to healthcare.

The Ruth Harrell Scholarship was presented to Jessie Garrison. This scholarship is for AIPHA members accepted for admission to a registered nursing program.

Jessica Blair was presented the Ira L. Myers Scholarship to the UAB School of Public Health. This scholarship is for an AIPHA member is accepted for admission as a candidate for a Master of Public Health or Doctor of Public Health degree at the University of Alabama at Birmingham or any of its satellite programs. Recipients must be attending full-time, taking a minimum of 9 hours of public health course work.

2016 CONFERENCE PHOTOS
UA TRUSTEES TAKE FIRST STEP TOWARD OFFERING NEW MPH PROGRAM

Last month the University of Alabama Board of Trustees approved the first step toward the offering of a new Master of Public Health (MPH) program in the College Community Health Sciences at Tuscaloosa. With a proposed focus of health promotion and health education, this new MPH complements the programs at UAB and offers new educational opportunities at our state’s largest campus. We strongly support this new program and look forward to a variety of collaborations and shared student experiences.

The Institute of Medicine’s report The Future of the Public’s Health in the 21st Century suggested that every citizen should be educated in the basic principles and practices of public health. As the state’s only accredited school of public health, we recognize that to fulfill the IOM’s recommendations requires significantly more educational capacity than we have at UAB. The addition of another MPH program in Alabama opens the doors for many more students to explore the richness and diversity of public health. Increasing the number of graduates will assure that the workforce in our state and county health departments remains among the most capable in the nation.

Certainly, not all these MPH graduates will elect careers in our health departments. Many will attend professional schools, some will work in our growing health care industry, and others will pursue careers only indirectly related to public health. What is most important is that these graduates will bring to whatever occupation they choose a perspective at once inclusive and just. As the number of these graduates increase over the next 10 to 20 years, collectively they will begin to transform our state from its all too provincial outlook to one that is more urbane in its approaches to addressing the bedrock issues of education, health literacy, poverty, and race.

Public health’s time has come. No longer a discipline longing for recognition, public health is now center stage, giving its students the ability to engage our most complex problems with an inclusive and socially just perspective. We welcome the UA’s College of Community Health Sciences’ MPH as adding to the bright future for the State of Alabama.

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

The UAB School of Public Health was one of many exhibitors at the conference at the Auburn Marriott Hotel and Conference Center at Grand National.
2016-2017 ALPHA BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT
Natalie Quinney
303 Industrial Drive
Box 480877
Linden, AL 36748
334-295-2414
Natalie.quinney@adph.state.al.us

PRESIDENT ELECT
Kim Gordon
Social Work Manager, PHA IX
Butler County Health Department
334-382-3154
Ext: 93846944
Kimberly.Gordon2@adph.state.al.us

VICE PRESIDENT
Richard Burleson
Director, Injury Prevention Branch
201 Monroe St., Suite 962
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-2938
Richard.burleson@adph.state.al.us

PAST PRESIDENT/SCHOLARSHIPS
Suzanne Terrell
P.O. Box 477
Grove Hill, AL 36451
256-275-7103
Suzanne.terrell@adph.state.al.us

RECORDING SECRETARY
Melanie Dickens
P.O. Box 3569
Florence, AL 35630
256-765-7557
Melanie.dickens@adph.state.al.us

TREASURER
Sonya Tinsley
P.O. Box 1628
Decatur, AL 35602
256-340-2113
Sonya.tinsley@adph.state.al.us

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sheila Puckett
P.O. Box 990
Montgomery, AL 36101
334-399-3249
alpublichealthass@gmail.com

APHA DELEGATE
Ross Hudson
North Alabama Community Care, Inc.
P.O. Box 18926
Huntsville, AL 35804
256-609-3890
Ross.hudson@naccnetwork.com

APHA ALTERNATE DELEGATE
Stacey Adams
Assistant Area Administrator
Public Health Area 7
303 Industrial Drive
Linden, AL 36748
334-295-2411
Stacey.Adams@adph.state.al.us

RURAL HEALTH DELEGATE
Sheri Carlisle
TB Program Manager Area 7
303 Industrial Drive
Linden, AL 36748
334-295-2418 office
334-327-5433 cell
Sheri.carlisle@adph.state.al.us

SHA DELEGATE
Jackie Holliday
202 Allen Walker Road
Grove Hill, AL 36451
251-275-6796
Jackie.holliday@adph.state.al.us

SHA ALTERNATE DELEGATE
Barbara Etheridge
Area 7 EP Coordinator
303 Industrial Drive
Linden, AL 36748
334-295-1000
Barbara.etheridge@adph.state.al.us

AWARDS
Jennifer Sumner
Director, Digital Media Branch
201 Monroe St., Suite 910
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-7988
Jennifer.sumner@adph.state.al.us

CONTINUING EDUCATION
Renae Carpenter
State Social Work Director
201 Monroe St., Suite 1010
P.O. Box 303017
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-206-3383 office
334-467-2978 cell
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Carol W. Cannon
Director, Social Services
Mobile County Health Department
P.O. Box 2867
Mobile, AL 36652
251-690-8980
Carol.cannon@adph.state.al.us

HALL OF FAME
Ruth Harrell
P.O. Box 626
Flomaton, AL 36411
251-296-5101
ruthharrell1@gmail.com

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Michael Jones
100 North Union St., Suite 192
Montgomery, AL 36130
334-242-7250
michael.jones@Purchasing.Alabama.Gov

LEGISLATIVE
Judy Smith
P.O. Box 1628
Decatur, AL 35602
256-340-2113
Judy.smith@adph.state.al.us

MEMBERSHIP
Shwanda Surles
Montgomery County Health Department
3060 Mobile Hwy.
Montgomery, AL 36108
334-293-6501
Shwanda.surles@adph.state.al.us

NEWSLETTER
Noelle Ahmann
Communications and Social Marketing Division
201 Monroe St., Suite 910
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-5527
Noelle.ahmann@adph.state.al.us

NOMINATIONS
Tim Hatch
Center for Emergency Preparedness
Environmental Program Director
201 Monroe St., Suite 1310
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-7935
tim.hatch@adph.state.al.us

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Sandra Blakely
Alabama Public Health Training Network
Distance Learning and Telehealth Division
201 Monroe St., Suite 940
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-5635
Sandra.blakely@adph.state.al.us

POLICY AND RESOLUTIONS
Marilyn Knight
2350 Hargrove Road East
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
205-562-6954 office
205-792-6908 cell
marilyn.knight@adph.state.al.us

PUBLIC RELATIONS
Dr. Suzanne Judd
1665 University Blvd, Ryals 120A
Birmingham, AL 35294
205-603-5926
sejudd@uab.edu

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Carolyn Bern
Community Affairs
201 Monroe St., Suite 1040
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-5436
Carolyn.bern@adph.state.al.us

UAB REPRESENTATIVE
Richard Bennett
UAB School of Public Health-Dean’s Office
1665 University Blvd., Suite 130
Birmingham, AL 35294-0022
251-934-4725
rbennett@uab.edu

STATE HEALTH OFFICER
Thomas Miller, M.D.
RSA Tower, Suite 1552
201 Monroe St.
Montgomery, AL 36104
334-206-5200
Tom.miller@adph.state.al.us

DEAN, UAB SOPH
Dr. Max Michael
Dean, UAB School of Public Health
UABSCPH
1530 3rd Ave S.
Birmingham, AL 35294
205-975-7742
maxm@uab.edu
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(primary communication is achieved electronically)

Name (as appears on payroll) ________________________________

Alpha Name (If Different) __________________ Work Phone ________________

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❑ Corporate              $350.00
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