



# Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health OMEGA CHAPTER

**GWU SPHHS  
Omega Chapter**

Issue 3  
December 2008

## Delta Omega Meets at APHA

Representatives from the Delta Omega Chapters met on October 27, in San Diego in conjunction with the Annual American Public Health Association (APHA) conference and the Annual Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) meetings. The meeting was presided by the Delta Omega President Dean Donna Petersen.

During the meeting, a new chapter was inducted to the honorary society. Beta Sigma Chapter of University of Miami Miller School of Medicine Department of Epidemiology and Public Health was voted in as a new chapter.

The 2008 Delta Omega Award for Innovative Public Health Curriculum was presented to Dr. Muriel Harris (Beta Pi) for her Critical Thinking and Program Evaluation course. More information about this course and previous award

winning curriculums can be found at <http://www.deltaomega.org/CurrAward.cfm>.

Dr. Barbara DeBuono, former Executive Director of Pfizer was inducted as a national honorary member of Delta Omega for her commitment and contribution to public health.

During the meeting, along with other chapter logistics, there were interesting discussions amongst members about possibility of including undergraduate students of public health in the honorary society. The national office will explore this new idea. Ms. Kalpana Ramiah, Vice-President of the Omega Chapter represented our chapter.

### Inside this issue:

<i>Delta Omega Annual Meeting</i>	1
<i>DO Student Poster Session</i>	1
<i>Election Night Party</i>	2
<i>Alumni Mix &amp; Mingle</i>	2
<i>CPHers of Omega Chapter</i>	2
<i>Foggy Bottom Block Party</i>	3
<i>Spotlight on Dr. Karen McDonnell</i>	3

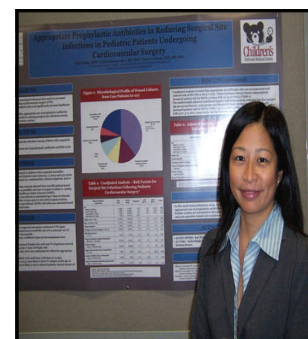
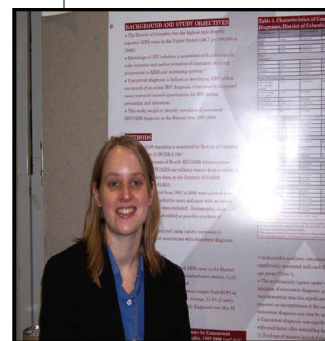
## GW Students Present at DO Poster Session

Ms. Jennifer Beal and Ms. Cary Chen of The George Washington University's School of Public Health & Health Services (SPHHS) presented at the Delta Omega Student Poster Session at the Annual APHA conference in San Diego.

Ms. Beal presented on *Correlates with Concurrent HIV/AIDS Diagnoses in the District of Columbia, 1997-2006*. Ms. Chen presented her work on *Appropriate Prophylactic Antibiotics (Prophy-Abx) in*

*Reducing Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) in Pediatric Patients Undergoing Cardiovascular Surgery at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, DC*. Ms. Beal is a Omega Chapter member.

Ms. Beal and Ms. Chen received a cash prize for their presentation. The Omega Chapter Executive Board would like to congratulate Ms. Beal and Ms. Chen for their achievement. To view all posters, please visit <http://www.deltaomega.org/Poster08.cfm>.



## Members Join to Watch the Election Results

The GW Public Health Alumni Association and Delta Omega Omega Chapter held a joint Election Night Party on November 4, 2008 at McFadden's Restaurant and Saloon in Washington, DC. All GW alumni and current students were invited to join their fellow Colonials watch the poll results come in. Attendees were given prime seating in the restaurant's dining room, which featured three televisions that broadcast election night coverage on CNN, MSNBC, and FOX. The event was a great opportunity for the GW alumni and student communities to socialize and commemorate this year's historic election.



## Upcoming Mix n' Mingle Event with other Alums

You're invited to attend the Mix n' Mingle, a Winter Social, sponsored by the GW Public Health Alumni Association. The social will be Tuesday, December 9th from 6pm to 8pm at M Street Bar and Grill Restaurant (2033 M Street, NW). The cost is \$10 for alumni, faculty, and staff; and \$5 for students. Proceeds from ticket sales will go to the Capital Connection Fund. You can register at: <https://www.alumniconnections.com/olc/pub/GEW/events/GEW2216023.html> or RSVP to [alumni@gwumc.edu](mailto:alumni@gwumc.edu).

## Omega Members Are Now Certified in Public Health

Four of our members have recently earned the distinction of becoming certified in public health (CPH). These individuals passed the National Board of Public Health Examiners' certification exam, which was offered for the first time this summer:

Andrea Long-Wagar  
 Kalpana Ramiah  
 Pavitra Srinivasan  
 Tamara Windau



Congratulations to the new CPH'ers!

For more information about the exam, please visit [www.nbphe.org](http://www.nbphe.org).

## DO Participates in Neighborhood Block Party

On Sunday, October 19th, the Omega Chapter of GW's SPHHS Delta Omega participated in the 6th Annual Foggy Bottom & West End Neighborhood Block Party. Sharing a booth with the Public Health Alumni Association and the Public Health Student Association, Delta Omega helped provide more than 50 adults and children with information on the importance of healthy nutrition and physical activity. The Neighborhood Block Party was brought together by FRIENDS, a group started at the request of local residents to promote positive dialogue between GW and its neighbors and is dedicated to building a better Foggy Bottom/West End through communication, cooperation and collaboration. Approximately 140 organizations participated in the Block Party and 3,000 people attended this fun-filled day for families at Eye Street Mall. Thank you to the volunteers from Delta Omega, the Alumni Association, and the Student Association that made participation in this event possible!

## Spotlight on a Omega Chapter Member: Dr. Karen McDonnell

Dr. Karen McDonnell is a long time Delta Omega member and an Associate Professor in Maternal and Child Health in the Department of Prevention and Community Health at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. She is a public health psychologist with over 15 years experience in public health research, leadership and service. Dr. McDonnell has recently been awarded a three year grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to explore relations between neighborhood and individual level characteristics, and interpersonal violence with specific models being developed that link intimate partner violence and gender-related youth violence. It is without question that youth and adult gender based interpersonal violence (GBV) pose formidable threats to public health. Interpersonal violence in general, and gender-related violence in particular, do not occur as isolated phenomena; they are part and parcel of larger syndemic relationships that act in concert to affect multiple aspects of population health and well-being. Certain populations bear a disproportionate burden of gender violence and yet have not benefited from research and appropriate interventions. Immigrant Latinos represent one such vulnerable group. The academic-community collaborative team consists of faculty from the school

and community based partners from the Latino Federation of Greater Washington. We will conduct formative qualitative investigations into the ecological constructs of interest and integrate these findings into a larger quantitative survey of 400 Latinos, 100 from each of the following groups: female youth, male youth, adult females and adult males. The findings from these data collection efforts will be utilized to assess and describe the community problem solving capacity in an immigrant Latino neighborhood to address the identified etiological constructs, and concomitantly to identify capacity building needs. We will assess current evidence-based IPV and other gender related violence interventions to determine their "fit" vis a vis the model. As a result, gaps in available programming will be identified. Utilizing research perspectives from several social science disciplines, and a conceptual framework adapted from validated program planning and evaluation models, we propose to develop an etiological model and best practices approach that can provide the basis for a community based intervention development.

When not at GW, Karen can usually be found having fun chasing her boys (ages 3 and 6) around Washington DC. Keeping them safe is her other 'full-time' job and interestingly has led to her other research area 'creating safe environments for children'.





**Is your friend doing a great job in public health? Why don't you nominate them to Delta Omega? Stay tuned for nomination announcement.**

**What is a Delta Omega Classic?**

Delta Omega classics are important texts, which have been deemed public health classics by the national council. They are generally out of print, or not widely available in libraries. You can access them at <http://www.deltaomega.org/>

**Mark Your Calendar**

Delta Omega Information session will be held on:

Tuesday, January 27

Wednesday, February 11

Thursday, March 5

from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at Ross Hall.

Come to learn more about Delta Omega and how to become a member through our nomination process.

**Meet the Board**

- Tamara Windau, President
- Kalpana Ramiah, Vice President
- Michelle Yau, Secretary
- Brenda Kirkwood, Treasurer
- Julia Pekarsky Schneider, Outreach Chair
- Christina Benjamin, PHAA Liaison
- Kim Saylor, PHSA Liaison
- Dr. Katherine Hunting, Chapter Advisor

**Delta Omega wishes you a Happy Holiday season and a Happy New Year.**



We welcome any comments or ideas you have on how to improve Delta Omega. Please send us an email at [dltomega@gwu.edu](mailto:dltomega@gwu.edu).