Dear Friends,

Warm greetings on behalf of the Public Health Alumni Association board of directors. We are excited about some of the new ways in which we are reaching out to our alumni in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

Last October, we held the first Professional Development Workshop, a new event sponsored by the Public Health Alumni Association offering professional development opportunities for participants from all sectors of the public health world. The event featured two outstanding presenters, John Troidl, Ph.D., whose workshop taught skills to analyze financial statements, and Sandra Dratler, Ph.D., who helped participants discover their management styles. The reception after the workshops offered attendees the chance to socialize, network, and—in some cases—reconnect. The event’s success has us busily planning next fall’s workshops. We welcome any and all suggestions that will help us in the planning process.

Also this past fall, alumni who attended the APHA Conference in Philadelphia enjoyed the school-sponsored social hour at the Marriott Hotel. Please be sure to mark your calendars for next year’s APHA conference as we will be the unofficial “host.” Tens of thousands will converge on San Francisco November 15–19, 2003, and we’d love for you to help us represent the school.

The Public Health Alumni Association held a scholarship tea in December; students who received scholarships had the unique opportunity to meet the donors who helped make their education possible. In a delightful setting on campus—the Women’s Faculty Club—more than 40 students and donors enjoyed an afternoon tea together and received a special welcome from Dean Shortell. Mrs. Betty Grant Austin presented the background of the C. C. Chen Fellowship, named in honor of a public health professional who worked with her father in rural China.

Current students and local alumni met over coffee and dessert to discuss career and internship opportunities at the third annual Career Café in February. This popular event highlights the diverse career paths and experiences of our alumni/practitioners and we encourage your participation in next year’s Career Café.

This past May, we hosted a picnic for graduating students as our way of saying “Congratulations!” and “Welcome to your alumni association!” This was the first event of its kind sponsored by the alumni association, and we enjoyed the opportunity to interact with students in a fun and celebratory atmosphere.

Before signing off, I’d like to remind each of you that one of the perks of being a graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health is access to “Public Health @cal,” our special online community developed exclusively for School of Public Health alumni.

Warm regards,

April Watson, M.P.H.’98
President
Public Health Alumni Association