

REBUILDING AND RECLAIMING THE FUTURE

DECEMBER 2006

World AIDS Day: Women and HIV/AIDS

Despite the best efforts of public health agencies worldwide, the number of people infected with HIV continues to grow. Increasingly, the epidemic is taking on the face of women.

Though men still outnumber women in the rate of new infections, the gender gap is quickly closing.

Exacerbated by social and economic forces that disproportionately effect women including gender based violence and unequal access to education, many countries face a growing number of HIV positive women still in their reproductive years. In developing countries, women are

more likely than men to be infected with HIV.

Worldwide, more than 90% of HIV infection results from heterosexual intercourse. Biological and social forces leave women particularly vulnerable to infection.



UN AIDS has identified several key strategies to attack the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic in women:

1. Secure women's rights

- Ensure that laws protect women and their property against gender based violence
- Invest in strategies to educate the community on the rights of women
- Develop programs to improve legal aid

2. Invest money in programs that work for women

- Make sure programs work for women
- Expand access to the services women need
- Increase funding for microbicide development
- Support caregivers

3. Include women in decision making about HIV/AIDS policy

- Review committees to ensure that women and individuals with gender expertise are included
- Invest more in training women to be advocates

For more information about the UNAIDS program on women go to:
womenandaids.un.org

Did you know?

17.7 million women worldwide are living with AIDS. (UN 2006)

In the U.S., the rate of new HIV diagnoses was **21 times higher** among African-American women than among white women. (CDC 2006)

AIDS is the **leading cause of death** for African-American women aged 25–34 years in the U.S. (CDC 2006)

American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting

In early November, faculty, students, and alumni of The Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine traveled to Boston for the 134th annual meeting of the

American Public Health Association (APHA). Over 14,000 public health professionals and students attended the conference which covered an immense range of issues from community health workers in Africa to bird flu preparations in the US.

This year's conference had the theme Public Health and Human Rights, meaning that many of the presenters used a rights-based ap-



TULANE MCPHLT APHA ATTENDEES

proach to frame their issue. The theme provided those of us who are new to the public health world to gain a better understanding of how passionate advocacy for human rights can positively affect people.

Liljana Johnson, a first year student in maternal and child health and international health who attended the conference as part of the new MCH leadership training program, said that the conference was, "an opportunity to explore various public health organizations and careers which have a fascinating focus on one of my areas of interest, which is human rights".

One particularly powerful experi-

ence was the opening plenary speeches by Helene Gayle from CARE and Paul Farmer from Partners in Health. Helene focused on CARE's work training sex workers to become health educators in Bangladesh. Her projects reflect the ideology that women have a human right to implement the projects which affect their health. Paul spoke passionately against neo liberal economic systems and for the need to move beyond cost-effective care to affective care. The APHA is an important organization from which public health students and professionals can continue to exchange ideas, build collaborations, and grow as community leaders.

By: Cassandra Burrows, MatCH Scholar

TULANE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND TROPICAL MEDICINE
MATERNAL AND CHILD PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM (MCPHLT)

1440 Canal Street
STE 2301, TW-19
New Orleans, LA
70112—2824

Ph: 504-988-3539
Fax: 504-988-3540
E-mail: mch@tulane.edu

*We're on the
web!*

www.sph.tulane.edu/mch

Thank You

to our MCPHLT
Executive Committee
Members and staff for
your work and support!

Maya Begalieva, MD, PhD
Neil Boris, MD
Gretchen Clum, PhD
Mark Dal Corso, MD,
MPH
Tom Farley, MD, MPH
Carolyn Johnson, PhD
Jeanette Magnus, MD,
PhD

Jenny Hixon, MPH
Jenn Price

Congratulations!
To

Manna Patel on
the completion of her
Master's in Public
Health. Manna is the
Tulane MCPHLT
graduate assistant and
has been the source of
many excellent ideas
and many hours of
hard work. We know
she will go far!

Volunteer Opportunities

NO/AIDS Task Force

<http://www.noaidstaskforce.org>
E-mail: volunteer1@noaidstaskforce.org

State AIDS Hotline, HIV Testing, HIV prevention services, case management, primary medical care, medications assistance programs, mental health services, peer support, food program, and housing.



problems requiring the assistance of legal professionals with experience in various areas of the law. Free legal aid for housing and other issues.

FACES (Family Advocacy, Care and Education Services) of Children's Hospital

504-896-2076

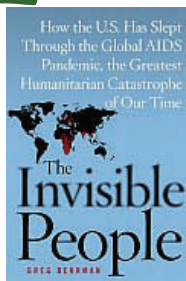
Primarily targeting parents and children living with HIV/AIDS, FACES offers case management, health education, treatment adherence education, mental health and substance abuse counseling services, transportation assistance, and Hispanic outreach. FACES has hosted several Capstone students.

AIDS Law of Louisiana

<http://www.aidslaw.org>
504-568-1631

Individuals affected by HIV disease, both those who are infected, as well as their loved ones, face a variety of

Invisible People: How the US slept through the Global AIDS Pandemic by Greg Behrman



More than 65 Million people worldwide have become infected with AIDS. Drawing on more than two hundred interviews with public health professionals, policy makers, legisla-

tors, and bureaucrats, Behrman traces the politics and policy that have shaped the U.S. response to the global AIDS crisis. Though global nonprofits and other AIDS agencies are discussed, "The Invisible People" is really an examination of the U.S. federal government policy and how U.S. influence on agencies such as the UN helped or hindered the identification and reaction to the spreading AIDS epidemic. Behrman provides vignettes of the lives impacted by U.S. HIV/AIDS policy including the stories of women in forced prostitution and children in AIDS orphanages.

Behrman concentrates his attention largely on sub-Saharan Africa, drawing parallels between the U.S. response to genocide in Rwanda and continued inaction in the face of a destructive illness. "The Invisible People" uses the same storytelling format of "The Band Played On..." to tell the global story of the spread of HIV across the world. Influenced by American religious and social prejudices, the United States policies and funding changed the course of the AIDS response based on individual administration politics.

A compelling and easy read, "The Invisible People" provides an accessible format to understand and analyze the effects of policy and personalities on the spread and treatment of disease.

For an annotated reader's guide and more articles about AIDS please see:

www.sph.tulane.edu/mch

Scott Cowen, Tulane University President

On Monday, December 4th, Tulane University President Scott Cowen was the final speaker of the Fall 2006 Torchbearer's Leadership Seminar series. Attended by well over 70 people, Dr. Cowen shared his experiences riding out Katrina on the Tulane Uptown campus and leading Tulane University through the hurricane crisis. As Dr. Cowen and other Tulane leaders looked for guidance, they found themselves facing an unprecedented crisis. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, no major American university had closed since the Civil War. Dr. Cowen drew on two major life experiences to guide him through the Katrina Crisis. His time in the military during the Vietnam war gave him a drive to survive and a seriousness of purpose and as a student athlete, Dr. Cowen had developed the desire to win and achieve. Not merely satisfied to survive the storm, Dr. Cowen said that he was intent on ensuring that Tulane's recovery would lead to an even greater university. Dr. Cowen spoke about the importance of leaders willingness to make the wrong decision. In any crisis, decisions must be made quickly and boldly. As New Orleans rebuilds, Dr. Cowen said it was essential that city leaders be bold in decision making. Dr. Cowen also spoke about the incredible leadership he observed from faculty, staff, and students who remained committed to Tulane. One surprising positive that came from the Hurricane crisis was a renewed appreciation for Tulane by the City of New Orleans. As the Tulane community continues to have an active role in the rebuilding and renewal of the city, Dr. Cowen looks forward to the continued role of Tulane as a regional leader.