

Winners of

OPHA's 60th Anniversary

Essay Contest for Students of Public Health
& Related Disciplines

Megan Misovic

OPHA congratulates Megan Misovic, a graduate student in Health Sciences at



the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Megan is the grand prize winner of our competition. Megan's bold and iconoclastic approach to the contest serves as a reminder, in

building for the future, that public health needs courageous leaders who are willing to question established norms and practices as they devise strategies to meet the challenges of the day. OPHA is proud to present Megan's essay in the Fall 2009 issue of Public Health Today magazine.

Michele Cleghorn

OPHA congratulates Michele Cleghorn, a graduate student in Health Sciences at



the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, for the excellence of her entry in our 60th Anniversary Essay Contest for Students. Michelle's essay demonstrated a sophisticated

understanding of a significant public health challenge, articulated a strategic approach to the issues involved and expressed a personal commitment to working in interdisciplinary collaboration towards Building for the Future. OPHA is proud to present Michelle's essay in the Fall 2009 issue of Public Health Today magazine.

OPHA Award of Excellence

Presented to *Moira Welsh* in recognition of her contributions to Public Health as a journalist.



The Board of Directors of the Ontario Public Health Association is proud to honour the significant contributions made by Ms. Moira Welsh—a journalist and a champion of public health for the people of Ontario. As a writer with the Toronto Star, Ms Welsh successfully focused public attention on poverty and access to dental care.

In 2007-2008 Moira was a reporter in charge of a special Toronto Star series on poverty. Moira recognized the need to bring clarity and pathos to the reality that for many

poor Ontarians, smiling isn't simple. A mouth with blackened and missing teeth puts a life of poverty on public display. This led to a series of stories about a young man who'd lost all his teeth by the age of 25, a shop owner who went blind from an untreated tooth infection, and other hardships faced by Ontarians who couldn't afford to see a dentist.

Moira's stories successfully exposed the inequities in access to dental care to the public and to politicians and other policy makers. As a result, the government promised to introduce a dental plan for the working poor. In the 2008 budget, the government promised \$135 million to implement a dental program for working poor families. As part of this strategy, the Children in Need of Treatment Dental program was expanded to include adolescents up to age 18 years. For many years public health units and OPHA had been advocating for this expansion.

Moira made it possible for Canadians to understand the pervasive impact of the social determinants of health on the quality of their lives. As a Constituent Society of OPHA, the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) is particularly proud to participate in this honor. In presenting this special award, OPHA recognizes the need for Moira, as a journalist, to remain neutral in order to effectively and credibly hold all societal actors—including OPHA—to account. OPHA values the contribution that journalists can make in bringing public health issues to popular attention in an easily accessible and poignant way.

Video Essay Winners

Carly Heung & Kenny Wong

OPHA is proud to recognize the interdisciplinary collaboration between Carly Heung, a graduate student in the Master of Public Health program at the University of Waterloo, and Kenny Wong, a graduate student in epidemiology at the University of Toronto's

Dalla Lana School of Public Health. These students rose admirably to the challenge of poignantly encapsulating, in two-minutes, the subtle ways in which public health concerns pervade the details of life. This video presentation, accessible on the OPHA website, points, with intelligence and humor, to the need to galvanize public interest in the many silent contributions made by public health practitioners and policy makers to the quality of life in their communities.



OPHA

*OPHA Announces the
Recipients of the Following Awards:*

The Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship

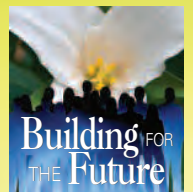
*The OPHA Life
Membership Award*

*The PHRED Student
Research Award*

OPHA Honorary Membership Award



*Tuesday, November 3, 2009
12:noon to 1:15 pm at the OPHA
Conference Building for the Future
Toronto Marriott Hotel
Downtown, Eaton Centre*





Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship

Presented to Ryan Alexander, Brock University



Ryan Alexander recently began his 2-year Master's degree in Community Health at Brock University after completing his undergraduate studies in the same program. To complement his studies, Ryan volunteered as a Physical Activity Advisor while completing a co-op placement with Niagara Region Public Health.

He contributed to Niagara's obesity

strategy and to the injury prevention program by developing and now implementing an evidence-based motor vehicle collision prevention plan for youth.

Ryan has distinguished himself as a dedicated volunteer and an exemplary public health practitioner. He has demonstrated an appreciation of values that are central to OPHA's mission and attributes which Dr. Basrur promoted throughout her career: a talent for fostering active and mutually rewarding partnerships, an understanding of the significance of voluntary service and a commitment to personal and professional development.

OPHA Honorary Membership Award

Presented to Ms. Paulina Salamo, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Public Health Division



The OPHA's Board of Directors honors the outstanding contribution to public health in Ontario made by Ms. Paulina Salamo for her leadership in the development of the new Ontario Public Health Standards and Protocols. The adoption of the new Standards and Protocols by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care marked a significant milestone in the provincial government's strategy to renew public health in Ontario. Ms. Salamo and her team spearheaded a complex process which included a Program Standards Technical Review Committee, Writing Teams and Protocol Development Teams. Ms. Salamo's leadership and negotiation skills and unfailing commitment to public health resulted in gathering

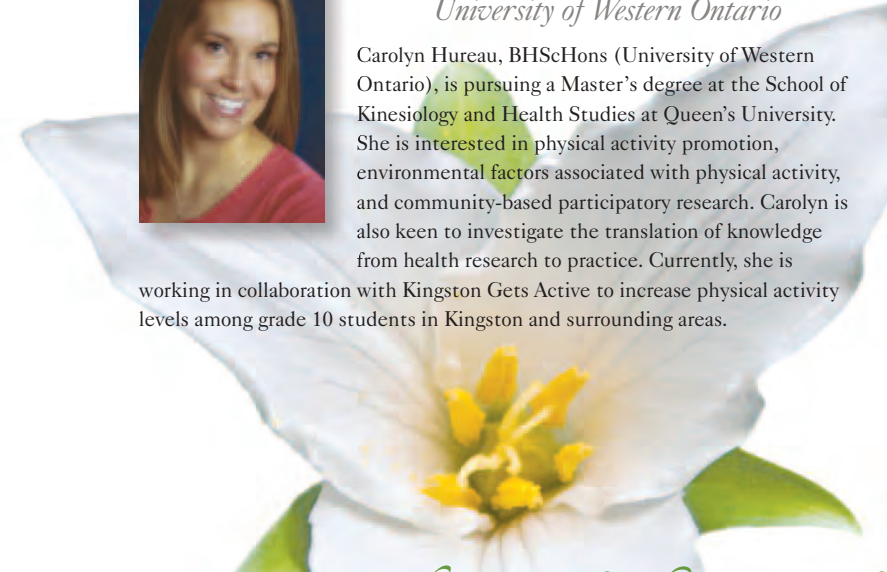
of the strategic and technical advice that guided the development of new standards and protocols. Ms. Salamo facilitated ongoing consultations with the public health sector in Ontario over a two-year period. Ms. Salamo has been championing public health policy and practice issues since she was involved in the development of the *Operation Health Protection* strategy which was launched in 2004. Her long-term view and commitment to developing public health policy in Ontario is exemplary. OPHA is proud to honour Ms. Salamo's contributions to public health in Ontario as we enlist her help in Building for the Future.

The PHRED Student Research Award



Presented to Carolyn Hureau, University of Western Ontario

Carolyn Hureau, BHScHons (University of Western Ontario), is pursuing a Master's degree at the School of Kinesiology and Health Studies at Queen's University. She is interested in physical activity promotion, environmental factors associated with physical activity, and community-based participatory research. Carolyn is also keen to investigate the translation of knowledge from health research to practice. Currently, she is working in collaboration with Kingston Gets Active to increase physical activity levels among grade 10 students in Kingston and surrounding areas.



OPHA Life Membership Award



Presented to Ralph Stanley Public Health Inspector

Ralph Stanley has been an active and engaged member of OPHA for 30 years. He served on the Board of Directors on two consecutive boards in the late 1980s during the presidencies of Dr. Peter Cole and Dr. Trevor Hancock. Ralph has contributed immeasurably to our Environmental Health Workgroup, serving as Workgroup Chair in the 1990s. He has worked tirelessly to advance many of OPHA's policy concerns by serving as an author or a reviewer of numerous OPHA resolutions and position papers on environmental health. Ralph has represented the OPHA at many consultations with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of the Environment, and Health Canada. In the early 1990s, OPHA proudly supported Ralph's appointment by the Minister of Health to the Ministry of the Environment's Advisory Committee on Environmental Standards. Ralph has distinguished himself as a wise counselor, well-respected by his peers. OPHA is proud to recognize his accomplishments as we work together, Building for the Future.

