SUNY Albany Student Organization Supports MPH Students Working to “Stomp Out Malaria” in Africa

Every year, the Graduate Student Organization (GSO) at the University at Albany SUNY School of Public Health hosts an International Night celebration and fundraiser. Ms. Rebecca Lewis, a second year MPH student and president of the School of Public Health’s GSO, explains “Each year the GSO chooses an organization or a cause to support which has a special connection to our students and our School. This allows us to not only donate funds to a worthy cause, but also allows us to celebrate the work that our students and alumni are doing to address important health issues around the world.” This year, the GSO decided to focus all fundraising efforts on supporting School of Public Health Master’s International students serving in the Peace Corps’ multi-country Stomping Out Malaria campaign.

At this year’s International Night, the GSO orchestrated a silent auction and a raffle with proceeds going to Master’s International Peace Corps volunteers Ms. Lindsey Jackson and Ms. Melanie Bolden. Ms. Jackson is currently in her second year as a volunteer in Kenya, while Ms. Bolden is in her first year as a volunteer in Mozambique. Both students are participating in the Stomping Out Malaria initiative. GSO raised $1,500 to support the two students’ efforts.

Mr. John Justino, the director of the Center for Global Health at the University at Albany and the School of Public Health’s Master’s International program coordinator said he was “very pleased that the GSO decided to focus on and support the work of some of our amazing Master’s International students.” In particular he felt that “the way the GSO event organizers planned the evening, with video presentations by Lindsey and Melanie, really brought the global health experiences of our MIs to life.” Mr. Justino added that the Center for Global Health is also “building on the success of International Night by implementing a ‘mini social media campaign’ using Twitter and Facebook to help raise awareness of the themes of this year’s World Malaria Day among the School’s students, alumni, and other followers.”

[Photo: Ms. Lindsey Rae Jackson, MPH student, working with a colleague in rural Kenya to “Stomp Out Malaria” as part of her Peace Corps Master’s International service]