Final Presentations

CAPSTONE AND ILE PRESENTATIONS

The Capstone and the Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) are the culminating experiences required to complete the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree program. Both options require students to synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired through their coursework and practical experiences to a final academic product. Students further develop knowledge and skills in foundational public health areas as well as in their chosen MPH concentration (i.e., infectious disease, public health education). Capstone is an option for MPH students that entered the program prior to Fall 2018, and for MS/MPH and PhD/MPH students where the Capstone brings a public health aspect to their disciplinary work. For the Capstone, students integrate and apply knowledge to a public health problem that approximates a professional practice experience. Students spend the semester working with their public health faculty advisor to develop their Capstone academic paper.

For the ILE, students synthesize knowledge and skills through a team-based public health professional experience. Teams of 2-4 MPH students work on a project that benefits an external stakeholder organization. ILE projects result in team and individual products. Both Capstone and ILE students present their work to faculty, peers, external partners, and more. The students’ work showcases our program’s signature areas of One Health and rural/Appalachian health.
Special Recognition

DELTA OMEGA
Delta Omega is the honorary society for graduate studies in public health. Founded in 1924, the society currently has 108 chapters; the Delta Mu Chapter at Virginia Tech was chartered in March 2017. Membership in Delta Omega honors the dedication of individuals to high quality public health scholarship, as well as to the protection and advancement of the health of all people. Selection is based on academic excellence and demonstrated qualities of leadership in public health for students and faculty, and for alumni, on accomplishments that serve as a model for future MPH graduates.

In addition to seven students from the Fall 2020 to Spring 2021 MPH graduating class, the Delta Mu chapter is inducting program faculty member, Sophie Wenzel, and MPH alumni, Caitlin Rivers and Pamela Ray.

RYAN ADAY MEMORIAL AWARD
Ryan Aday was an excellent and highly motivated student who completed his MS Ed in Health Promotion at Virginia Tech. Shortly after graduation, he was diagnosed with cancer and succumbed to the disease. In his honor, Dr. and Mrs. David Aday created the Ryan Aday Memorial Award. Each Spring, the MPH Program selects a graduating student from each concentration that has displayed excellence in academics and public health service as an award recipient.
Special Recognition

**MPH STUDENT AMBASSADORS**

MPH Student Ambassadors are chosen yearly by current students, faculty/staff, and alumni of the MPH Program. The MPH Student Ambassadors are student representatives of the program. The ambassadors coordinate many events and outreach projects/programs, and serve as a mentor to prospective and current students.

**PHA@VT EXECUTIVE BOARD & SERVICE CERTIFICATE**

The program’s student organization, the Public Health Association at Virginia Tech (PHA@VT), was formed in accordance with the University motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve) to teach others, gain experience, and improve public health across campus and the community at large. Graduating PHA@VT Executive Board members are recognized for their leadership in the organization. Additionally, graduating members that have met PHA@VT service requirements are recognized by the program for their commitment to service across campus and beyond.
MPH Graduates

Jaclyn Faith Abramson
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
  ILE Title: TransparenSee
  Delta Omega inductee
  PHA@VT Service Certificate
  PHA@VT Vice President
  Ryan Aday Memorial Award

Lauren Kaye Blackwell
MPH — infectious disease concentration
  ILE Title: COVID Companions
  PHA@VT Service Certificate

Sade Bowers
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: Recovery Ready Region

Kendra Leigh Byrwa
MPH — infectious disease concentration
  ILE Title: Assessment of Culture-Based Monitoring of Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols
  PHA@VT President
  PHA@VT Service Certificate

Adrienne Diggs
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: Continuity Planning and Building Resilience Beyond COVID-19
MPH Graduates

Emily Anne Emerson
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
   ILE Title: Recovery Ready Region
   PHA@VT Academic Chair
   PHA@VT Service Certificate

Sara Elizabeth Fleckenstein
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
   ILE Title: Promoting Health & Safety with Plenty!

Ashley Foster
MPH — public health education concentration
   Capstone Title: Evaluation of Virginia Tech Dining Services
   COVID-19 Operational Plan

Fernanda Gutierrez Matos
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
   ILE Title: People of a Pandemic: Photojournalism Giving a Voice to Those Most Affected by COVID-19
   MPH Student Ambassador
   PHA@VT Service Certificate
   Ryan Aday Memorial Award

Emily Hardgrove
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
   ILE Title: COVID-19 Impacts on Small Animal Veterinary Practices in MD, VA, WV, and DC
**MPH Graduates**

**Elizabeth Suzanne Hines**
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: COVID-19 Impacts on Small Animal Veterinary Practices in MD, VA, WV, and DC

**Emily Katherine Hoyt**
MPH — public health education concentration
ILE Title: COVID Companions
*Delta Omega inductee*

**Marya Lynn Hubbard**
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
ILE Title: Rural Health Policy
*PHA@VT Service Certificate*
*PHA@VT Treasurer*

**Shawn Kozlov**
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: COVID-19 Impacts on Small Animal Veterinary Practices in MD, VA, WV, and DC

**Andrea Lynn Laird**
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
ILE Title: Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19
MPH Graduates

Laura Christine Lang
MPH — infectious disease & public health education concentrations
  ILE Title: Assessment of Culture-Based Monitoring of Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols
  PHA@VT Service Certificate

Sarah Elizabeth Legg
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
  ILE Title: First Responders Stress and Coping during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Civil Unrest - A Community Needs Assessment
  Delta Omega inductee

Chloe Loving
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: People of a Pandemic: Photojournalism Giving a Voice to Those Most Affected by COVID-19
  PHA@VT Service Certificate

Theresa Holland Markwalter
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: TransparenSee
  Delta Omega inductee
  MPH Student Ambassador

Caroline Patricia Marti
MPH — infectious disease concentration
  ILE Title: Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19
  Delta Omega inductee
MPH Graduates

Samuel Alexander Miller
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: COVID Companions
  MPH Student Ambassador

Teagan Elise Neveldine
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: People of a Pandemic: Photojournalism Giving a Voice to Those Most Affected by COVID-19
  Delta Omega inductee
  PHA@VT Service Certificate
  PHA@VT Social and Service Chair

Callyn Niesen
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: COVID Companions

Thomas Lane Ragsdale
MPH — public health education concentration
  ILE Title: Continuity Planning and Building Resilience Beyond COVID-19

Hannah Claire Reed
MPH — infectious disease concentration
  ILE Title: TransparenSee
  MPH Student Ambassador
  PHA@VT Alumni Relations Chair
  PHA@VT Service Certificate
MPH Graduates

Sterling Senger
MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: Wastewater Epidemiology and COVID-19
PHA@VT Secretary
PHA@VT Service Certificate

Lauren Elizabeth Smith
Accelerated MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: Assessment of Culture-Based Monitoring of Cleaning and Disinfection Protocols
MPH Student Ambassador

Megan Brooke Toms
DVM/MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: COVID-19 Impacts on Small Animal Veterinary Practices in MD, VA, WV, and DC
Delta Omega inductee

Breana Turner
MPH — public health education concentration
ILE Title: Recovery Ready Region

Sakina Weekes
MPH — infectious disease concentration
ILE Title: People of a Pandemic: Photojournalism Giving a Voice to Those Most Affected by COVID-19
MPH Graduates

Becky Willis
MPH — public health education concentration
ILLE Title: Rural Health Policy

Laura Danielle York
MPH — public health education concentration
ILLE Title: COVID Companions

Grace Fei Zhang
MPH — public health education concentration
ILLE Title: Promoting Health & Safety with Plenty!