



Department of Population Health Sciences
Public Health Program

**FALL 2020 - SPRING 2021
MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH
GRADUATES**

Public Health Program

Department of Population Health Sciences
Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine
205 Duckpond Drive
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061
540-231-3945
phs@vt.edu
www.publichealth.vt.edu



Virginia-Maryland
College of **Veterinary Medicine**

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
ILE Title: Rural Health Policy

Laura Danielle York

MPH —public health education concentration
ILE Title: COVID Companions

Grace Fei Zhang

MPH — public health education concentration
ILE Title: Promoting Health & Safety with Plenty!