



Department of Population Health Sciences  
Public Health Program

**Master of Public Health  
Graduate Recognition  
2023**

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# Final Presentations

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## About Capstone

The Capstone is a culminating experience option for simultaneous MPH students where the Capstone brings a public health aspect to their disciplinary work.

For the Capstone, students integrate and apply the skills and competencies they have acquired in the classroom and through their Public Health Practice Experience 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 and presentation.

The Capstone project allows students to further develop knowledge and skills in foundational public health areas as well as in their chosen MPH concentration.

## About the Integrative Learning Experience

The Integrative Learning Experience (ILE) is the culminating experience required to complete the Master of Public Health (MPH) degree. The ILE requires students to synthesize the knowledge and skills acquired through their coursework and practical experiences through a team-based public health professional experience.

Students spend the semester working in a team of MPH students on a project that benefits an external stakeholder organization/agency. Along with their external stakeholder mentor, the team of MPH students is guided by a program faculty mentor and the ILE course instructor.

The ILE places significant emphasis on teamwork, mentorship, and leadership development. ILE projects result in team and individual written products.

The ILE allows students to further develop knowledge and skills in foundational public health areas as well as in their chosen MPH concentration.

# Special Recognition

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## Delta Omega Delta Mu Chapter Inductees

Delta Omega is the honorary society for studies in public health. Founded in 1924, 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 graduates.

In addition to eleven MPH students graduating this spring, the Delta Mu chapter is inducting program faculty member, Audrey Ruple; MPH alumni, Ana Agud, Kristina Jiles, Isabel Jimenez-Bush Wright, Gloria Kang, and Laura Nelson, and honorary member, Jennifer McQuiston.

## 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

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## MPH Student Ambassadors

MPH Student Ambassadors are selected yearly by current students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the Public Health Program. The MPH Student Ambassadors support and represent the program, and serve as a liaison to admitted, current, and prospective students.

## GPHA@VT Executive Board & Service Certificate

The program's student organization, the Graduate Public Health Association at Virginia Tech (GPHA@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 GPHA@VT Executive Board members are recognized for their leadership in the organization. Additionally, graduating members that have met GPHA@VT service requirements are recognized by the program for their commitment to service across campus and beyond.

## Graduate and Professional Student Senate - MPH Senators

Working to improve campus life, scholarly development, and community for all graduate students at Virginia Tech, the Graduate and Professional Student Senate (GPSS) serves as the liaison between graduate students and University Administration. Each year, MPH students serve as GPSS MPH Senators to represent the MPH student body at the university level and to inform their peers of GPSS proceedings, including legislations and programs.

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## **Meghan Albritton**

Simultaneous MS (Geography) and MPH - infectious disease concentration

Capstone title: Health Applications of Participatory Mapping  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## **Taylor Alley**

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: A One Health Approach to Rabies in the New River Health District

## **Kylea Andreano**

Simultaneous MS (Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise) and MPH - infectious disease concentration

Capstone title: Identifying Post-Pandemic Rural Health Workforce Needs

## **Rose Benn**

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Snake Fungal Disease

## **Will Boyd**

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Veterinary Naloxone Training for Animal Opioid Overdoses in Southwest Virginia

## **Eric Britton**

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: A One Health Approach to Rabies in the New River Health District

## **Chloe Brooks**

DVM, MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: Wellness Messaging Kits

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Laura Bruckner

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Snake Fungal Disease  
*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Alexandra Crawford

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Fostering Healthy Behaviors by Increasing Hydration: Tazewell County Middle Schools  
*GPHA@VT Secretary*  
*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*  
*GPSS Senator*

## Amanda Darling

Simultaneous PhD (Civil Engineering) & MPH - infectious disease concentration

Capstone title: Subsewershed Surveillance in Rural Central Appalachia Reveals Enteropathogen Signal is Influenced by Inflow and Infiltration

## Susana Diaz

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: A One Health Approach to Rabies in the New River Health District

## Sarah Dixon

Accelerated MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: PHOPs Healthy Food Access & Active Transportation PSE Changes & Evaluation  
*MPH Student Ambassador*

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Carley Elliott

MPH - infectious disease concentrations

ILE title: Street Dog Coalition: Addressing public health matters on both ends of the leash

*MPH Student Ambassador*

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

## Olivia Erim

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Fetch Forward: Changes in Patterns of Zoonotic Disease Diagnoses in Dogs

## Lindsay Fairbanks

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Developing Evaluation Methods for the Bradley Free Clinic Hepatitis C Program

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

## Annie Fentress

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Wellness Messaging Kits

## Adriana Fratz

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Veterinary Naloxone Training for Animal Opioid Overdoses in Southwest Virginia

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Melissa Frazee

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Street Dog Coalition: Addressing public health matters on both ends of the leash

*GPHA@VT President*

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

*GPSS Senator*

## Sarah Frey

MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: Reducing Communicable Infections Among People Who Use Drugs

## Jake Fultz

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Lead exposure in wildlife cases

## Glorianna Giallombardo

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Veterinary Naloxone Training for Animal Opioid Overdoses in Southwest Virginia

## Morgan Harvey

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: A One Health Approach to Rabies in the New River Health District

## Nora Hauge

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Fetch Forward: Changes in Patterns of Zoonotic Disease Diagnoses in Dogs



# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Allison Henry

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Recovery Ready Gap Analysis  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Stephanie Hernandez

MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: Digitizing Healthcare to Optimize the Cervical Cancer Screening Process in Malawi

## Matthew Irwin

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Snake Fungal Disease  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Sydney Koerner

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Recovery Ready Gap Analysis  
*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

## Allie Lawson

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Wellness Messaging Kits

## Rachel Liebe

Simultaneous PhD (Human Nutrition, Foods, and Exercise) & MPH - public health education concentration

Capstone title: Association Between Intrahousehold Food Security and Maternal Mental Health

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Tara Long

Accelerated MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: VITALS Modules: Standardizing Biosafety Training for Necropsy  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Natalie Martin

Accelerated MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: EXCITE II: Adult Vaccine Education and Promotion

## Claudia Mendez-Martinez

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Street Dog Coalition: Addressing public health matters on both ends of the leash

## Laurel Miller

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Gaps and Barriers to STI Treatment and Reporting Among Roanoke City Healthcare Providers  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Sara Miller

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Fostering Healthy Behaviors by Increasing Hydration: Tazewell County Middle Schools  
*GPHA@VT Communications Coordinator*  
*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*  
*Delta Omega inductee*

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Phil Miskovic

Simultaneous PhD (Public Administration and Public Affairs) & MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

Capstone title: The Resilient Community Model: Addressing Community Violence by Building Resiliency

## Claire Murphy

Simultaneous PhD (Food Science & Technology) & MPH - infectious disease concentration

Capstone title: *Salmonella* Prevalence Is Strongly Associated with Spatial Factors while *Listeria monocytogenes* Prevalence Is Strongly Associated with Temporal Factors on Virginia Produce Farms

## Mackenzie O'Connell-Abed

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Gaps and Barriers to STI Treatment and Reporting Among Roanoke City Healthcare Providers

*GPHA@VT Vice President*

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

*Delta Omega inductee*

## Tabi Pagan

MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: Developing Evaluation Methods for the Bradley Free Clinic Hepatitis C Program

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

*Delta Omega inductee*

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## **Ella Rak**

DVM, MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Veterinary Naloxone Training for Animal Opioid Overdoses in Southwest Virginia

*Ryan Aday Memorial Award*

## **Sam Rodgers**

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Digitizing Healthcare to Optimize the Cervical Cancer Screening Process in Malawi

*MPH Student Ambassador*

## **Gabbie Schmitt**

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Fetch Forward: Changes in Patterns of Zoonotic Disease Diagnoses in Dogs

## **Caitlin Sharkey**

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Developing Evaluation Methods for the Bradley Free Clinic Hepatitis C Program

## **Hannah Shinault**

MPH - public health education concentration

Capstone title: Developing Graduate Health Communication at Virginia Tech

## **Sydney Spivey**

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Reducing Communicable Infections Among People Who Use Drugs

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Bailey Steele

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Fostering Healthy Behaviors by Increasing Hydration: Tazewell County Middle Schools

*GPHA@VT Academic Chair*

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

## Jordan Tilley

Accelerated MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: PHOPs Healthy Food Access & Active Transportation PSE Changes & Evaluation

## Alison Toler

Accelerated MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: EXCITE II: Adult Vaccine Education and Promotion

## Domenique Villani

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Reducing Communicable Infections Among People Who Use Drugs

*MPH Student Ambassador*

*Ryan Aday Memorial Award*

*Delta Omega inductee*

## Autumn Weidman

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: Gaps and Barriers to STI Treatment and Reporting Among Roanoke City Healthcare Providers

*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

# 2023 MASTER OF PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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## Taylor Welch

MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: Wellness Messaging Kits

## Thomas Welch

MPH - infectious disease & public health education concentrations

ILE title: Lead exposure in wildlife cases

## Mia Williams

Accelerated MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: EXCITE II: Adult Vaccine Education and Promotion  
*Delta Omega inductee*

## Karaline Wilmer

MPH - infectious disease concentration

ILE title: ViTALS Modules: Standardizing Biosafety Training for Necropsy

## Zuleka Woods

Simultaneous PhD (Planning, Governance, and Globalization) & MPH - public health education concentration

Capstone title: Birth Doulas for Equity: A Review of Culturally Congruent Community-based Doulas Services to address Black maternal Morbidity and Mortality

## Melinda Yeboah

Accelerated MPH - public health education concentration

ILE title: PHOPs Healthy Food Access & Active Transportation PSE Changes & Evaluation  
*GPHA@VT Service Certificate*

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF

**2023**



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VIRGINIA TECH™

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