



BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH  
COMMENCEMENT

2023

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Wednesday, May 10 | 7 p.m.  
Lane Stadium

VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

**Bachelor of Science in Public Health  
Commencement Ceremony Program**

**May 10, 2023**

**7 pm**

**Lane Stadium**

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**The National Anthem**

**Welcome**

Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean  
Dr. Laura Hungerford, Department Head

**Commencement Speaker**

Dr. Jennifer McQuiston

**BSPH Student Speaker**

Sarah Kate Brownmiller

**Special Recognition**

Phi Kappa Phi - Senior Medallion Recipient  
Outstanding Senior

**Awarding of Bachelor of Science in Public Health Degrees**

Dr. Kerry Redican, BSPH Program Director  
Dr. Laura Hungerford, Department Head  
Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean

**Closing Remarks**

Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean

# COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

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**Jennifer McQuiston, DVM, MS (CAPT, USPHS)**

**Deputy Director of the Division of High Consequence**

**Pathogens and Pathology**

**CDC's National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases**



Dr. Jennifer McQuiston received the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. She earned the Master's degree in molecular biology and the BS in Biology from Virginia Tech. She began her public health career at CDC in 1998 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer assigned to work on rabies and other zoonotic diseases.

Widely recognized for her expertise on zoonotic diseases, Dr. McQuiston has received numerous national awards, including the Daniel E. Salmon award from the National Association of Federal Veterinarians and CDC's James H. Steele Award for outstanding work on veterinary public health issues. She has more than 50 scientific publications and frequently is requested to speak at conferences and meetings.

As a scientist, mother and veterinarian, Dr. McQuiston believes that helping people understand how to prevent disease is her most important job. Her life's passion is translating science into easy-to-understand disease detection and prevention strategies to keep both people and animals healthy and on the go.

# BSPH STUDENT SPEAKER

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*The BSPH student speaker is chosen by their fellow students through a nomination process.*

## **Class of 2023 Student Speaker**

### **Sarah Kate Brownmiller**

Sarah is from Salem, Virginia. Growing up so close to Blacksburg, Sarah knew that Virginia Tech was her academic home and where she was meant to be from a young age. Sarah feels very fortunate to have attended Virginia Tech for four years and to have been a part of such an amazing program. Sarah served as the president of the Undergraduate Public Health Association and the VT Campus Liaison for the American Public Health Association. Sarah looking forward to continuing her education here at VT as she continues to pursue her Accelerated Master of Public Health. This summer she will work with the Partnership for Community Wellness in Roanoke that serves under-resourced communities with health education. Her long-term aspiration is for the elimination of health disparities on both a community and global level.

## 2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Grant Abernethy

Alexandra Aboagye

Gracie Akers

Noor Alami, *Magna Cum Laude*

Amro Ali, *Magna Cum Laude*

Belle Arze

Brent Barbaro, *Magna Cum Laude*

Madison Baxley

Ayman Belafia, *Magna Cum Laude*

Yeabtsega Bereket

Izabella Betancourt-Cardona

Imani Bolton

Christopher Boyd, *Magna Cum Laude*

Sophie Bradley

Anna Brandon, *Summa Cum Laude*

Sarah Kate Brownmiller, *Cum Laude*

Ruiqing Cai, *Magna Cum Laude*

Hunter Cassady

Julia Coron, *Magna Cum Laude*

Serenity Cortez, *Cum Laude*

Arpita Das

Shaelyn Dempsey

# 2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Simar Dhillon

Elli Dieffenwierth

Grace DiGirolamo, *Summa Cum Laude*

Brennen Doss

Grayson Eanes

Emma Edwards

Lauren Farrow

Jacob Fausnacht, *Magna Cum Laude*

Shannon Freedman, *Cum Laude*

Madeline Garcia, *Magna Cum Laude*

Olympia Ghosh

Jacob Grabham

Jitong He

Mekenzi Heckmann, *Magna Cum Laude*

Nicholas Hesson

Hailey Hollerbach, *Cum Laude*

Nyah Huntley

Jonah Hurney

Dayana Jeizan, *Magna Cum Laude*

Emma Josi, *Cum Laude*

Suryeon Kang, *Cum Laude*

## 2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Theoni Katsiris, *Cum Laude*

Kristen Kim, *Cum Laude*

Anne Leap, *Summa Cum Laude*

Elises Lopez Guevara, *Magna Cum Laude*

Rebecca Ludowig, *Cum Laude*

Breanna Lytton, *Summa Cum Laude*

Travis Mains, *Summa Cum Laude*

Abraham Martinez

Mateo Maughlin

Marley McCall, *Cum Laude*

Samuel McLendon

Madison Medoff

Margaret Menoni, *Magna Cum Laude*

Morgan Miller, *Magna Cum Laude*

Jada Morgan

DeLana Morrison

Joselyn Munoz Rosales

Cinthya Narvaez

Daniell Nisbet

Louisa Obenwa, *Cum Laude*

Morgan Overaitis, *Summa Cum Laude*

Nikhita Pamidala, *Cum Laude*

## 2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Yea Park, *Summa Cum Laude*

Elayna Patel, *Magna Cum Laude*

Cera Powell, *Magna Cum Laude*

Izaac Pritt, *Cum Laude*

Erin Quinn

Caroline Ramirez, *Cum Laude*

Rebecca Ranney, *Cum Laude*

Kathleen Reuwer, *Summa Cum Laude*

Fiona Richards

Zanelle Richie

Jacob Rojas

Jessica Ross

Audrey Rowe, *Cum Laude*

Madison Ruley, *Summa Cum Laude*

Olivia Rummel, *Magna Cum Laude*

Abel Samson

Hiba Sassi, *Cum Laude*

Alyssa Scoville, *Magna Cum Laude*

Ruth Seyoum, *Magna Cum Laude*

Brooke Sheridan, *Cum Laude*

Jude Sleiman, *Cum Laude*

Haley Smeltzer



# 2023 BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

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Claire Smith, *Cum Laude*

Niema Smith, *Cum Laude*

Madeleine Starr, *Magna Cum Laude*

Sydney Stoddard, *Magna Cum Laude*

Charles Tapp

Jeremy Thomas, *Summa Cum Laude*

Kunika Tiwari, *Magna Cum Laude*

Brianna Tunmatip

Stephanie Valencic, *Summa Cum Laude*

Calista Van Wart, *Cum Laude*

Kayla Vaught, *Summa Cum Laude*

Alea Vonada, *Cum Laude*

Rebecca Wade

Ava Walker, *Cum Laude*

Ethan Walton

Rachel Watkins, *Magna Cum Laude*

Gwenyth White, *Cum Laude*

Isabelle Willingham, *Cum Laude*

Anna Winn, *Magna Cum Laude*

Mackenzie Woolls, *Cum Laude*

Jade Yoon

Noah Zawadzki

# VIRGINIA-MARYLAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

## Bachelor of Science in Public Health Graduation Reception Program

May 11, 2023

10 am to 12 pm

Veterinary College Grove

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### Welcome

Dr. M. Daniel Givens, Dean

### Congratulations Graduates

Dr. Laura Hungerford, Department Head

### Special Recognition

Director's Award

Outstanding Senior Award

*Ut Prosim* Service Award

Leadership Award

BSPH Ambassadors

BSPH Peer Mentoring Program

UPHA@VT

Delta Omega Delta Mu Chapter Inductees

Phi Beta Kappa Mu of Virginia Chapter Inductees

Phi Kappa Phi - Senior Medallion Recipient

### Closing Remarks

Katie Cross, Director of Advising

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

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### **Director's Award**

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The BSPH Director's Award recipient is determined by the Director of the Undergraduate Public Health program in conjunction with the BSPH faculty to recognize a deserving senior.

**Breanna Lytton**

### **Outstanding Senior Award**

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The Outstanding Senior Sash is awarded to the Outstanding Undergraduate Senior in the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. The Outstanding Senior is selected based on their academic achievement, service, leadership, engagement with the University and community. The recipient wears the Outstanding Senior Sash at commencement.

*Outstanding Senior Award winner for 2023*

**Stephanie Valencic**

### ***Ut Prosim* Service Award**

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The *Ut Prosim* Service Award recognize students for their service in the BSPH program, the PHS department, the University and community. Recipients wear blue cords at commencement.

**Ayman Belafia**

**Louise Obenwa**

**Brooke Sheridan**

### **Leadership Award**

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The Leadership Award recognize students for their leadership in the BSPH program, the PHS department, the University and community. Recipients wear blue cords at commencement.

**Grace DiGirolamo**

**Kayla Vaught**

**Rebecca Wade**

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

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### **BSPH Student Ambassadors**

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BSPH Student Ambassadors are selected yearly by current public health students, faculty, staff, and alumni. They support and represent the program, and serve as a liaison to admitted, current, and prospective students. BSPH Student Ambassadors wear salmon cords at commencement.

**Ayman Belafia**  
**Chris Boyd**  
**Grace DiGirolamo**

**Hailey Hollerbach**  
**Louisa Obenwa**  
**Brooke Sheridan**

### **BSPH Peer Mentoring Program**

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The BSPH Peer Mentoring Program is a student-led program designed to foster the academic, social, and professional growth of public health undergraduate students. Exemplary upper level public health students serve as peer mentors for first-year students. The program Student Coordinator and mentors wear salmon cords at commencement.

**Stephanie Valencic (Mentor)**  
**Rebecca Wade (Student Coordinator)**

### **Undergraduate Public Health Association at VT**

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UPHA at VT is a student-run organization. The organization strives to unite undergraduate public health students through finding service opportunities and potential jobs or internships, educating about public health topics and concerns, and connecting with the Virginia Tech faculty members. UPHA members wear red cords at commencement.

**Sarah Kate Brownmiller**  
**Madison Medoff**  
**Nikhita Pamidala**  
**Niema Smith**  
**Jeremy Thomas**

**Annie Leap**  
**Louisa Obenwa**  
**Anna Park**  
**Jude Sleiman**

## SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

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### **Delta Omega Delta Mu Chapter Inductees**

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Delta Omega is the honorary society for studies in public health. Founded in 1924, the society currently has 108 chapters; the Gamma 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.

**Ayman Belafia**  
**Grace DiGirolamo**  
**Breanna Lytton**  
**Kathleen Reuwer**  
**Stephanie Valencic**  
**Jade Yoon**

**Chris Boyd**  
**Annie Leap**  
**Travis Mains**  
**Jeremy Thomas**  
**Kayla Vaught**

### **Phi Beta Kappa Mu of Virginia Chapter Inductees**

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Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's oldest and most widely known honor society. The Virginia Tech Mu of Virginia Chapter invites for induction the most outstanding arts and sciences students.

**Stephanie Valencic**

### **Phi Kappa Phi - Senior Medallion Recipient**

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The Phi Kappa Phi Medallion is awarded by The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. The Phi Kappa Phi Medallion is awarded at commencement time to the top graduate from each college who earned the highest grade point average.

*Phi Kappa Phi Medallion winner for 2023*

**Kathleen Reuwer**

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF

2023

*You are no stranger to difficult roads. Nevertheless, you have walked this part of your journey with strength and character.*

*No matter the challenges or obstacles ahead, we know you will meet them with the grace and persistence we have seen you exemplify during your time at Virginia Tech. Know that everyone in the Public Health Program and the Department of Population Health Sciences is proud of you and wish you all the best.*

*Please keep in touch.  
Once a Hokie, always a Hokie!*



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