Convocation Ceremony

The University of Maryland School of Public Health is pleased to host the 2018 Honors Convocation, to recognize outstanding students and highlight their accomplishments in academics and service activities.

WELCOME
Boris D. Lushniak, MD, MPH, Dean and Professor, School of Public Health

JERRY P. WRENN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECOGNITION
Colleen (Coke) Farmer, PhD, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education

TERPSTART SCHOLARSHIP AWARD RECOGNITION
Colleen (Coke) Farmer, PhD, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education

DEPARTMENTAL AWARD RECOGNITION
Presented by distinguished faculty members from:
- Behavioral and Community Health
- Epidemiology and Biostatistics
- Family Science
- Health Services Administration
- Kinesiology
- Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health

DEAN’S GRADUATE SCHOLAR AWARD RECOGNITION
Stephen M. Roth, PhD, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

GRADUATE SCHOLARS
LAURA B. WILSON LEADERSHIP AWARD

DEAN’S UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLAR AWARD RECOGNITION
Colleen (Coke) Farmer, PhD, Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education

UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARS
SENIOR SCHOLARS
FRALEY AWARD

CLOSING
Dean Boris D. Lushniak

KEY TO PROGRAM ABBREVIATIONS:
BCH: Behavioral and Community Health, EPIB: Epidemiology and Biostatistics, FMSC: Family Science, HLSA: Health Services Administration, KNES: Kinesiology, MIAEH: Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health, PHSC: Public Health Science
Delta Omega is the honorary society in public health. The Gamma Zeta chapter of Delta Omega was established at the University of Maryland School of Public Health in 2011 to honor our distinguished students, alumni, faculty and honorary members. The mission of the society is to encourage and recognize excellence in practice, research, education and academic achievement in the field of public health.

**DELTA OMEGA HONORARY SOCIETY RECOGNITION**

Elizabeth Seaman, PhD candidate ’18 (BCH)
Hannah Allen, PhD candidate ’18 (BCH)
Meaghan McHugh, PhD candidate ’18 (BCH)
Sylvette La Touche-Howard, PhD ’12 (BCH)
Dina Borzekowski, Faculty (BCH)
Yanfang Zhang, MPH ’18 (EPIB)
Roshitha Paul, MPH ’18 (EPIB)
Allison Hanley, PhD candidate ’18 (EPIB)
Cher Dallal, Faculty (EPIB)
Sonja Williams, MPH ’09 (EPIB)
Natalie Moyer, BS ’18 (FMSC)
Julie Fife, PhD candidate ’18 (FMSC)
Naheed Ahmed, PhD candidate ’18 (FMSC)
Amy Lewin, Faculty (FMSC)
John Hart, PhD ’17 (FMSC)
Brenton Andreasik, MHA ’18 (HLSA)

Marci Deloatch, MPH ’18 (HLSA)
Nicole Filion, MPH ’18 (HLSA)
Andrew Fenelon, Faculty (HLSA)
Kathleen Savoy, MHA ’13 (HLSA)
Emily Kjellman, BS ’18 (KNES)
Terrel Everette, MPH ’18 (KNES)
Arielle Ocampo, MPH ’18 (KNES)
Sushant Ranadive, Faculty (KNES)
Sara Olsen, MPH ’17 (current PhD) (KNES)
Lesliam Quirós-Alcalá, Faculty (MIAEH)
Melissa DeSantiago, MPH ’17 (MIAEH)
Kaley Beins, MPH ’18 (MIAEH)
Mark Luckner, Honorary, Executive Director of the Maryland Community Health Resources Commission (SPH)
Stephen Roth, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs (SPH)
Established in honor of Dr. Jerry P. Wrenn, who was a faculty member, student advisor, associate dean of student services, and finally dean of the College of Health and Human Performance (which became the School of Public Health), this scholarship supports outstanding students on track to fulfill graduation requirements within the next year and who demonstrate experience and leadership in their field of study.

**IMAN ABDULMALEK**

*Bachelor of Science, Family Science*

**SHANNON BERKHEIMER**

*Bachelor of Science, Family Science*

Shannon has held a full time position at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) and is also vice president of Tri Delta Sorority.

**PATRICK BJORK**

*Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science*

Patrick is in the Global Public Health Scholars program and has made Dean’s List all four years. He is the vice president of Alpha Tau Omega Leadership Fraternity and a Patient Care volunteer at Children’s National Medical Center.

**ALEXANDRIA BROWN**

*Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science*

Alexandria has been employed at CVS Pharmacy as a certified pharmacy technician for three years while working toward her Bachelor’s degree in public health. She is also the president and founder of a student dance club: Dance On Em.’

**MAYA DEANE-POLYAK**

*(also recognized on pg. 22)*

*Bachelor of Science, Community Health*

As a research assistant for the Center on Young Adult Health and Development, Maya performed outreach to study participants, drafted research briefs and wrote a script to facilitate dialogue regarding substance use. As a Health Leads advocate, she connected underserved hospital patients to health and community resources extending beyond conventional medicine. Maya also served as vice president of the Lavender Leadership Honor Society, a group committed to advancing social justice for the LGBTQ+ community. Maya is also a Dean’s Senior Scholar.

**AMANDA JACKSON**

*Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology*

**BRIANA LOCKHART**

*(also recognized on pg. 22)*

*Bachelor of Science, Community Health*

For Briana’s Behavioral and Community Health Honors project, she created, conducted and analyzed an oral health attitudes, beliefs, and practices survey in her home county, Cecil County, Maryland, to inform an oral health communication campaign. She is also an active member of the Phi Alpha Epsilon Honorary Society. As a peer educator and leader for the University Health Center for two years, she presented wellness, mental health, self-care and bystander intervention workshops to over 400 undergraduate students. Briana is also a Dean’s Graduate Scholar.

**AMANUEL SISAY**

*Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology*

Amanuel works for the UMD community service group Student Enrichment After School (SEAS), where he teaches fourth and fifth grade Adelphi Elementary School students about traditionally underrepresented sciences due to a reduction in the PG County Schools science curriculum. He is also involved with the Ethiopian-Eritrean Student Association. As a member of the Campus Mentoring Big/Little program, he is paired with an incoming college freshman to be a mentor and confidant.

**JERRY P. WRENN SCHOLARSHIP AWARD**

Established in honor of Dr. Jerry P. Wrenn, who was a faculty member, student advisor, associate dean of student services, and finally dean of the College of Health and Human Performance (which became the School of Public Health), this scholarship supports outstanding students on track to fulfill graduation requirements within the next year and who demonstrate experience and leadership in their field of study.
The TerpStart Matching Scholarship Program uniquely gives donors the power to change an untold number of students’ lives. Donors establish a need-based endowed scholarship and the university doubles the awards granted from the endowment’s income forever. To qualify for a TerpStart Scholarship, students must demonstrate financial need, meet any restrictions associated with the award and maintain satisfactory progress towards a degree in the SPH.

EZRA MOLINA
Alving TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science
Since transferring to the University of Maryland from Montgomery College, Ezra has maintained a 3.95 GPA in the Public Health Science program. Last summer, he traveled to El Salvador for the second time, where he assisted local churches distributing food, clothing, and health information to the surrounding communities. He will be returning this summer. Ezra plans to pursue a career in healthcare administration, so he can improve the access and quality of care of healthcare systems.

SAMMRAWIT GIRMA
Gold TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science
In 2017, Sammrawit interned at Westat, performing qualitative and quantitative data analysis, assisting with project reports, and performing literature reviews. She recently applied to six MPH programs and was accepted into all. Traveling has been a way for Sammrawit to step out of her comfort zone and learn about different cultures, conflicts, and how to give back. She has participated in four service trips: an education study abroad trip to Israel, a healthcare trip to Ethiopia, a service trip to Delaware, and an HIV/AIDS focused trip to New York.

CLAUDIA WINDER
Anderson/Ginsberg TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Family Science

LAWRENCE WAKEFIELD
Furman TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology
Lawrence worked for the C.A.T.C.H. the Virus research study, which aims to figure out what makes certain people more contagious when they are sick with a respiratory virus. He received the Spirit of Resident Life Award, which recognizes the person who embodies the vision and mission of the Department of Resident Life and adds positive energy to the position.

JESSICA MANZANO
Hahn TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Family Science
Jessica has worked with Dr. Kevin Roy and his team focusing on a number of minorities’ life experiences through data sets. Jessica has volunteered her bilingual skills and helped with logistics at DACA clinics to help those who want to continue their education in this country. She has also undergone training to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate for children in the foster care system and to become a community Co-Mediator.

EMILY KJELLMAN
Hatfield TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology
Emily is a member of the Tau Sigma National Honor Society, an undergraduate teaching assistant in the Department of Kinesiology, and a volunteer for children with learning impairments at Frances Fuchs Early Childhood Center. Emily is also a Dean’s Senior Scholar.
Academic Excellence Award
The department presents this award to an individual who has exhibited the ability to overcome challenges while maintaining high academic performance.

YAFET AMANUEL
Mockenhaupt-Popp TerpStart
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Yafet was a Howard Summer Medical Dental Educationa Program attendee, has been on the Dean’s List and is the UMD Ethiopian–Eritrean Student Association Historian and Secretary.

RACHEL SEITZ
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Rachel is a member of the BCH Honors program where she conducted a qualitative evaluation of the current university-mandated sexual misconduct training program and then presented and defended her thesis. She sits on the Executive board of Alpha Omicron Pi and was nominated for the Spirit of Maryland Award.

Community Service Award
The department presents this award to an undergraduate and graduate student who have made superior commitments and contributions to the well-being of a community.

MEAGHAN McHUGH
Doctor of Philosophy, Community Health
Meaghan recruited and managed undergraduate and graduate student volunteers to promote healthy behaviors at Special Olympics Maryland summer games (2015, 2016 and 2017) and served as student representative of Graduate Program Committee (GPC) within the Department of Behavioral and Community Health. In 2016 and 2017, Meaghan published two articles as first author. A third first-author publication is currently under revision. In 2017, she presented independent research on cyber-bullying among youth with developmental disabilities at the International Bully Prevention Conference in Nashville, TN.

MEAGHAN McHUGH, continued
she also works with the Latino Health Initiative to create materials for their health promotion program.

SABRINA PASTA
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Sabrina is a member of Phi Kappa Phi honor society, and ranked in the top 10% of her class. She is also the co-founder and former president of Nourish: Mommy & Me, a student organization that improves the nutrition of pregnant women and their babies through the weekly delivery of Nourish Boxes. Each Nourish Box includes ingredients and recipes for three healthy meals. Nourish has delivered over 500 meals to pregnant women in need. In addition, Sabrina volunteers in the NICU at Anne Arundel Medical Center, supporting the nursing staff.
Research Paper Award

The department presents this award to a PhD student who published a manuscript in 2017 or 2018 that was innovative, included substantial data analysis and made a significant contribution to the field of public health research.

NEHA TRIVEDI
Doctor of Philosophy, Community Health

Neha received a summer fellowship at the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to conduct distracted driving research, and was awarded Top Research Paper for her published manuscript. In addition, she was awarded the Lifesavers Traffic Safety Scholarship to attend the National Highway Safety Conference in San Antonio, Texas in April. Neha is also an active member in the community and volunteers at Karma Kitchen in Washington, DC.

Robin G. Sawyer Health Teaching/Communication Award

This award honors Dr. Robin Sawyer’s more than 30-year commitment to a high standard of teaching excellence and health communication. Each spring, BCH presents this award to a graduate student who demonstrates promise and involvement in public/community health presentations and teaching.

AZIEB KIDANU
Doctor of Philosophy, Community Health

Azief serves as the center manager of the Tobacco Center of Regulatory Science. In this position, she handles the day-to-day administrative and laboratory activities of the Center. She has developed and taught a new undergraduate health elective on the U.S. Tobacco Epidemic. She also serves as a grant reviewer for the African Community Grant, Health-Related Community Grants awarded by the District of Columbia Mayor’s Office on African Affairs. In addition, she has served as an internship preceptor for both undergraduate and MPH students.
**Gold Research Award**

This award honors Dr. Robert S. Gold for his contribution to academic excellence and leadership as the EPIB departmental chair during the 2013-2017 academic years. This award is given to one doctoral student and one master’s student who have each gained ample research experience and demonstrate research productivity.

**SUSAN BUCKENMAIER**

(also recognized for Leidos Fellowship)

*Master of Public Health, Epidemiology*

Susan is a graduate assistant for the Office of Veteran Student Life (VSL) and the principle investigator for research on veteran students. The comprehensive survey aimed to better understand the student veteran experience in order to adjust the operations of VSL to better serve the community and make their UMD experience more enjoyable. Outside of UMD, Susan is a second lieutenant in the US Army Reserve serving in the Medical Service Corps. Susan also received the Leidos Fellowship.

**RODMAN TURPIN**

(also recognized on pg. 19)

*Doctor of Philosophy, Epidemiology*

Rodman’s research is primarily focused on health disparities in HIV and sexually transmitted infection among racial and sexual minorities. He has presented research at multiple national epidemiology conferences. Rodman was a member of the School of Public Health Diversity and Inclusion Council, and participated in evaluations of the Student Climate Survey. He has also been active in community service in organizations focused on HIV testing and prevention in the DC metropolitan area. Rodman is also a Dean’s Graduate Scholar.

**Leidos Fellowship**

Thanks to support from the Leidos Corporation, the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics was able to award four fellowships to graduate students to support independent research under the supervision of EPIB faculty, or to support existing thesis or dissertation research.

**SUSAN BUCKENMAIER**

(also recognized for Gold Research Award)

*Master of Public Health, Epidemiology*

**CHRISTOPHER CAIRNS**

*Master of Public Health, Epidemiology*

Chris presented his findings during the poster session of the Public Health Research @ Maryland 2018, and also presented a poster as a graduate research assistant of the CHAMP lab during the 2017 Public Health Research @ Maryland Day. In the CHAMP Lab, Chris managed undergraduate volunteers who were interested in gaining research experience in a Behavioral and Community Health lab.

**AMI FUKUNAGA**

(also recognized on pg. 19)

*Master of Public Health, Epidemiology*

Ami has served as a teaching assistant for undergraduate Biostatistics courses. She also assisted with research on sexually transmitted infections and social networks in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics as a volunteer research assistant for two years. She was an intern at the National Cancer Center in Japan during summer 2017, and interns at the Division of Cancer, Epidemiology, and Genetics at the National Cancer Institute (NCI). In 2017, she participated in the student panel for the School of Public Health’s graduate orientation. Ami is also a Dean’s Graduate Scholar.

**WEIZHE LI**

*Master of Public Health, Biostatistics*

In addition to the Leidos Fellowship, Weizhe has twice received mini-grants from the National Kidney Foundation in Maryland and has first- and co-authored several publications. He is a reviewer for several journals including BMC Genomics and *Evolutionary Bioinformatics*, and he volunteers at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center.
Andrew Billingsley Endowed Scholarship

This scholarship honors Dr. Andrew Billingsley, former chair and professor of the Department of Family Science, who is one of the nation’s leading scholars on African American families. His scholarship is awarded to a Family Science student interested in pursuing research on ethnic minority families.

KECIA ELLICK
Doctor of Philosophy, Family Science

In May 2017, Kecia won a student research poster competition award from the Gamma Zeta Chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society at the University of Maryland. She was later selected by the national Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health as one of 28 students nationwide to receive a poster award and present at the annual meeting of the American Public Health Association. Kecia has volunteered with teen mothers and their children at Generation Hope in Washington, DC and facilitated a dating violence prevention workshop for teen moms at St. Ann’s Center for Children, Youth, & Families in Hyattsville.

Edlavitch Family Science Fund

Selma Tyser Edlavitch was a distinguished community volunteer whose generosity had a tremendous impact on Washington area families. Her sponsorship of the Edlavitch-Tyser Family Relations Forum of the Washington Hebrew Congregation benefited family members of every age, including young children, adolescents, single adults, married couples, and the elderly. This fund provides an annual scholarship to an outstanding student or students in Family Science.

TERESA COLLIER
Bachelor of Science, Family Science

Teresa interns in the Child Life Specialist Practicum program at Children’s National Medical Center, and is a domestic violence and abuse advocate. She also lobbied Congress with Dysautonomia International for increased funding for medical research and healthcare disability rights.

Jeanette Spier Beavers Memorial Scholarship

A dedicated therapist, political activist, and mother, Jeanette Spier Beavers cared deeply about the rights of the underprivileged and issues affecting families throughout the world. Ms. Spier was a clinical social worker whose professional work included an individuals and couples therapy practice, adoption counseling, assisting the mentally ill, and extensive writing about families with disabled children. This fund provides annual scholarship support for graduate students enrolled in the Couple and Family Therapy master’s program who share her commitment to providing therapy for economically disadvantaged families.

STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
(also recognized on pg. 11)
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy

Two of Stephanie’s research interests include the experiences and commonalities of Latino couples in therapy, as well as working with couples experiencing PTSD and/or postpartum depression. As a volunteer therapist intern at the Center for Healthy Families at the School of Public Health, she offers therapy services to individuals, couples and families within the community. Stephanie is also a recipient of the Jeanette Spier Beavers Memorial Scholarship.
Jeanette Spier Beavers Memorial Scholarship, continued

ELENA SANCHEZ DOMINGUEZ
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
Elena is an international student from Spain. She participates in volunteer work around the community at Friendship Place homeless shelter in Washington, DC, Friendship Terrace elderly care center, and the Friends of the Tenleytown Library.

ROLONDA WILLIAMS
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
Rolonda has held teaching positions and acted as a manager for the Center for Healthy Families at the School of Public Health. She is also a member of the Maryland Council on Family Relations and provides therapy services to individuals, couples, and families.

Ned Gaylin Endowed Scholarship
This fund recognizes Dr. Ned Gaylin’s outstanding career, which included creation of the Couple and Family Therapy Master’s program and tenure as the first chair of the department. Gaylin’s commitment to improving the welfare of students continues through this scholarship fund, which provides financial assistance to Couple and Family Therapy students.

GABRIELA BARBER
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
As an undergraduate, Gabriela was a research assistant in a developmental psychology lab that studied how young children learn. She also completed her undergraduate thesis in that lab. Gabriela is a member on the community service committee for the Maryland Council on Family Relations (MCFR) and works as a therapist intern at the Center for Healthy Families in the School of Public Health.

LIZA HARBISON
(also recognized on pg. 19)
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
Liza was awarded the Ned Gaylin Scholarship in 2017. She recently completed her thesis, titled “Therapist common factors’ influence on client constructive communication and conflict resolution in couple therapy.” She has volunteered in Maryland and DC with education and animal welfare organizations, and is a volunteer teaching assistant for a class of undergraduates working to code videos of therapist behaviors in couples therapy. Liza is also a freelance photographer, and has offered photography services to nonprofits in the area. She is also a Dean’s Graduate Scholar.

JORDAN MADISON
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
For her master’s thesis, Jordan conducted a qualitative study to explore how exposure to and/or experiences with the police affect Black women’s psychological well-being. As a couple and family therapist intern at the Center for Healthy Families in the School of Public Health, Jordan has provided over 400 hours of therapy to individuals, couples, and families in the community. Jordan received the Ned Gaylin Endowed Scholarship Award in 2017 as well.
Ned Gaylin Endowed Scholarship, continued

STEPHANIE MARTINEZ
(also recognized on pg. 9)
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy

JANNEL THOMAS
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
Jannel works as a therapist intern at the Center for Healthy Families in the School of Public Health. She has also volunteered as a call counselor at the Mental Health Association of Montgomery County and as a bereavement volunteer at Heartland Hospice. Jannel has a 4.0 GPA.

ELEXIS WITKIN
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy
For her undergraduate thesis, Elexis completed a pilot study and article on how self-compassion moderates the relation between trauma and empathy. She plans to continue this research for her master’s thesis while treating survivors of trauma. She is currently pursuing a training program to work with couples who have children with learning differences. This experience will help her specialize and better understand parents with young children facing academic problems.

Noel Myricks Endowed Scholarship

Upon Dr. Noel Myricks’ retirement from the Family Science faculty and appointment to Emeritus status in summer 2004, the department established an endowed scholarship honoring this distinguished educator. Dr. Myricks was an outstanding teacher and nationally recognized family scholar specializing on the intersection of families and the law. This scholarship is awarded to a first-generation college student in Family Science.

MELANIE JONES
Bachelor of Science, Family Science
While at her past internship at the University of Maryland Medical Center, Melanie was able to see how different departments function and improved her communication skills with patients. In the future she will be furthering her education in order to become a Physicians Assistant in the neonatal department.

MONICA ORELLANA BARRIENTOS
Bachelor of Science, Family Science
Monica received the Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship last year and studied abroad in Spain. She was recently accepted into the McNair Scholars Program at the University of Maryland to do research in Summer 2018. She is also in the Federal Fellows Program, a selective year-long academic program. For her spring internship she will be working at the International Rescue Committee in Silver Spring. She is a casework intern who interacts with refugees and helps them adjust to life in the United States. For three years she’s been the volunteer manager at the UMD Health Center in charge of volunteers who help with Spanish translation and interpretation.
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield Graduate Student Scholarship

This scholarship provides support for graduate students conducting research and/or applied projects to improve issues of health equity or to identify more effective methods of health service delivery. Students must meet any restrictions associated with the award and are selected on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

ELLESSE AKRE

Doctor of Philosophy, Health Services

Ellesse co-authored a paper entitled “Exploring National Trends of Patient and Family Centered Care among US Children” in the Journal of Child Health Care. She recently completed a program evaluation project for the University of Cape Town School of Public Health in South Africa and is writing a manuscript on the results. Ellesse taught GED Algebra and Geometry at the Washington, DC YWCA, and is creating an online training series for agents and brokers who help consumers get health insurance coverage through the Health Insurance Marketplace.

Dushanka V. Kleinman Award for Outstanding Capstone or Internship Project

This award honors Dr. Dushanka V. Kleinman, who served as interim chair of HLSA during the 2013-2014 academic year. The graduate student recipient of this award, a current HLSA master’s student or recent alum, exemplifies elements of Dr. Kleinman’s commitment to the health of all people and has demonstrated excellence in their capstone or internship project.

SANJEEV GANESH

Master of Health Administration

While working at the MedStar Washington Hospital Center, Sanjeev assisted the palliative care team in their research projects evaluating the impact of palliative care on patients with serious medical conditions. This work allowed him to co-author three clinical papers. One of the papers, “Rapid Response Team-Driven Palliative Care Consults: A Case Series” was published in the Journal of Pain and Symptom Management. He is currently leading a project evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the NIH Clinical Center’s specimen, medication, and equipment delivery and management systems. He also volunteered at the Mid-Maryland Mission of Mercy and Health Equity Festival.
Kaiser Permanente Graduate Student Scholarship

This scholarship is for a current graduate student conducting research and/or applied projects to identify more effective methods of health care service delivery in community healthcare initiatives. Students must meet any restrictions associated with the award and are selected on the basis of outstanding academic performance.

NYGEL WILLIAMS
Master of Health Administration

Nygel was selected for the 2017 Haynes Rice Award, a national award through the National Association of Health Service Executives, recognizing one outstanding graduate student “striving to become a future leader in Healthcare Management.” He also captained a team in a national case competition, presenting data driven solutions to improve the health outcomes of the city of Oakland, placing top 10 in the country. During his second semester he served as vice president of community development with the Graduate Student government, and is the current vice president of the Health Services Administration Student Association.

Laura B. Wilson Service Award

This award honors Laura B. Wilson PhD, perpetuates her legacy, and recognizes her leadership in envisioning and designing the Department of Health Services Administration in the University of Maryland School of Public Health. Dr. Wilson created and implemented this new department in 2007, which enabled the nascent School of Public Health to meet the requirements of the Council on Accreditation in Public Health.

BEZA WEBSHET
Master of Public Health, Public Health Practice and Policy

Beza is a member of Eta Sigma Gamma, the health education honorary society, and was recently invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society. Beza serves as president of Students in Healthcare for Action and Reform (SHARE). She is responsible for connecting online MPH Public Health Practice and Policy students through coordinating outside activities and uploading resources to aid students. She is also a member of the Community Service Board at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, where she develops and organizes community service events for CMS employees.

Right Page: UMD President Loh and Nygel Williams
David H. Clarke Graduate Student Award

Professor Emeritus David H. Clarke, who was a leader in the area of exercise physiology, established this award to support graduate students in the Department of Kinesiology. This year’s recipients were selected based on outstanding academic achievement and were provided funding for conference travel.

FARZAD EHTEMAM
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Farzad has worked in a research lab and volunteers in the community. His research has focused on understanding neural control of walking in human subjects and the role of muscles in this process. The results of his work have been presented at national and international conferences.

JESSICA HUNTER
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Jessica received the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health Poster Award and the first place PhD student poster award at the 2017 Public Health Research @ Maryland Day. She is also the recipient of the American Society of Biomechanics Student Travel Award. Jessica is a member of the Graduate Students in Public Health Community Partnerships Committee. She created a partnership with the African American Health Program for students to complete volunteer training on campus, which led to several students becoming regular volunteers and one student completing an internship with the program. Jessica currently serves on the kinesiology department’s Graduate Student Council.

RANA KARIMPOUR
Master of Arts, Kinesiology
Rana coauthored a paper entitled, “Evaluation of Gait Asymmetry Using Force Plates Versus Accelerometer” and has presented at Public Health Research @ Maryland as well as a national scientific conference.

REBECCA KRUPENEVICH
(also recognized on pg. 15)
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Becky is a recipient of the American College of Sports Medicine Foundation Doctoral Student Research Grant. She also sits on the American Society of Biomechanics Student Advisory Committee. She is interested in adaptations to lower extremity gait mechanics in aging adults, and the origin and progression of knee osteoarthritis in lower extremity amputees. Rebecca also received the David H. Clarke Graduate Student Award.

SHAKIBA RAFIEE
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Shakiba’s research group focuses on better understanding the neural control of human locomotion. In her master’s project, she designed a novel method to mechanically perturb human walking. As a result of this work, she received a graduate Dean’s Scholar Award for kinesiology master students. She also served as a teaching assistant for three courses in the kinesiology department.

EMMA SHAW
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Emma works in the rehabilitation department at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Some notable accomplishments include her recent first-author publication in the Biological Psychology journal and her co-authorship on a manuscript recently published in the Psychophysiology journal. Over the past two years, Emma has served as a mentor to two high school senior interns within the lab at the university. Under her guidance, both students have won multiple awards for their research at local and regional science fairs.

ISABELLE SHUGGI
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Isabelle has published three manuscripts, including two as first (in Neuroscience and Experimental Brain Research) and one as middle author (Psychophysiology). She is currently working on another manuscript, which is planned for submission this spring or summer. She has mentored and trained several undergraduate students as well as junior graduate students.
James H. Humphrey Graduate Student Published Research Award

This award is named in honor of Professor Emeritus James H. Humphrey who was a prolific scholar in the field, publishing over a hundred books. The awardee is deemed to have the best journal article, one which will have a high impact, published in a peer-reviewed publication in the previous year.

REBECCA KRUPENEVICH
(also recognized on pg. 14)
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology

Louise Howarth Scholarship

This scholarship honors Louise Howarth, who was a dedicated physical education teacher in the Department from 1950-68. Its purpose is to provide scholarships for academically exceptional students enrolled in the Master’s Certification Program (MCERT). This is a graduate-level teacher preparation program that leads to elementary, middle school, secondary physical education teacher certification and a Master of Education (M.Ed.). The recipients of this award show strong potential to be outstanding teachers.

LINDSEY ABDINOOR
MCERT, Physical Activity

Lindsey received a UMD Honors College Citation as an undergraduate kinesiology student and was a member of the School of Public Health’s Honorary Society, Phi Alpha Epsilon. She also served as the UMD Club Field Hockey vice president and a UMD University Honors peer mentor. She will graduate with her master’s degree this spring.

TARA BEATON
MCERT, Physical Activity

Tara has a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology and is working on her master’s degree in the Physical Education MCERT program.

Louise Howarth Scholarship, continued

DANIELLE CARTER
(also recognized on pg. 16)
MCERT, Physical Activity

Danielle is a board member of the Department of Kinesiology Student Organization, and works at the University of Maryland Children’s Developmental Clinic through Prince George’s Community College and the Department of Kinesiology in the School of Public Health. Her research asks if the implementation of technology can increase student motivation and engagement in physical education classes. Danielle is also a recipient of the Outstanding Physical Education Master’s Certification Student Award.

ANDREW (REX) KENNEDY
MCERT, Physical Activity

Rex has participated in research focused on increasing female participation in middle school physical activity. While getting his Master’s degree, he was a presenter at the Maryland Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

MICHAEL LYONS
MCERT, Physical Activity

Michael is in the Honors Society and does volunteer work in the community.
Louise Howarth Scholarship, continued

BENJAMIN MONTI  
MCERT, Physical Activity
Benjamin graduated from Ashland University in 2010 with a BS in exercise science. He served in the United States Navy for four years.

ALEXANDER MUECK  
MCERT, Physical Activity
Throughout his master’s program, Alexander has been engaged in a research project to see how technology use influences student engagement and learning. As a member of the University of Maryland Gymkana troupe, he was the publicity chair for one year, and the next year he served as treasurer. In these positions, he helped plan and publicize events and took on a leadership role with the team.

BAILEY PHILBIN  
MCERT, Physical Activity
Bailey works with students in both the elementary and secondary level to develop skills they will need engage in physical activity for a lifetime. She conducted and implemented an action research project to help improve students’ skills through the use of video technology. With a passion for helping students with disabilities, Bailey aspires to be an adapted physical education teacher in the future. She holds a graduate cumulative GPA of 4.0.

ALLISON SHIFFMAN  
Master of Arts, Kinesiology
Allison has a passion for working with students and helping them to develop the affective, cognitive, and psychomotor skills they need to be active for a lifetime. She is also a nominated participant of the Maryland Teacher of Promise program.

Louise Howarth Scholarship, continued

BRUNO TEJO  
MCERT, Physical Activity
Bruno’s research aims to get students into physical activity outside of school through the use of technology. He has worked with the Children’s Developmental Clinic where he assisted children with disabilities to enhance their motor development and reading skills. During this, he developed an adapted piece of equipment for students with cerebral palsy to participate in hockey and golf. Bruno is planning to get his United States Soccer Federation “B” Coaching License this summer.

Outstanding Physical Education Master’s Certification Student Award
This award recognizes an outstanding graduate student pursuing certification to teach physical education in elementary and high schools. Students in this program complete coursework alongside their student teaching, and both are used for criteria in choosing a student for this award.

DANIELLE CARTER  
(also recognized on pg. 15)  
MCERT, Physical Activity
**Sally J. Phillips Dissertation Fellowship**
The Dissertation Fellowship is given to a Kinesiology doctoral student who is in the final phases of completing a high-quality dissertation in preparation for a career in academia. The award is made possible through the generosity of Dr. Sally J. Phillips, who served as a professor with specialization in biomechanics. She recognized the importance of financial support in the final year of doctoral work, the contributions of teaching assistants and the need to provide assistance for the next generation of scholars and academics in the field of kinesiology.

**MEIR LEWIN**
*Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology*
Meir has helped teach the courses Sport in American Society, Globalization and Sport and History of Sport in America. The fellowship support enabled Meir to engage in an immersive ethnographic research project, studying the practice ultramarathon running in Appalachian regions of Virginia and West Virginia. Meir recently presented initial findings at the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport conference, in Windsor, Ontario. He also co-chaired the Physical Cultural Studies student organizing committee, which puts on the graduate student symposium.

**Wait Family Environmental Graduate Scholarship**
The Wait Family Scholarship is provided to graduate students who have demonstrated excellence in environmental health research. The award is named for the Wait family, who has generously endowed this scholarship fund.

**JESSICA CHOPYK**
*Doctor of Philosophy, Toxicology and Environmental Health*
Since starting her PhD in 2015, Jessica has published two first-author manuscripts in leading journals in the fields of microbiology and microbial ecology. This semester she submitted her third first-author manuscript, which characterizes the bacterial and viral communities of agricultural pond water. She has presented these data at international and national scientific conferences. Jessica is a fellow in the Computation and Mathematics for Biological Networks (COMBINE) traineeship program, which seeks to foster the integration of physics, mathematics, computer science, and biology. Over the winter break she organized a workshop to introduce graduate and undergraduate students to LaTeX, a system used for the communication and publication of scientific documents.

**LEENA MALAYIL**
*Doctor of Philosophy, Toxicology and Environmental Health*
Leena received the Dean’s Fellowship in 2015 and the Wait Family Scholarship in 2017. The American Society of Microbiology (ASM) awarded her the Raymond Sarber Award, and she also received a travel award to attend the ASM Microbe meeting in 2017. Leena volunteered at Maryland Day 2017 and 2018 for CONSERVE, a Center of Excellence at the Nexus of Sustainable Water Reuse, Food, and Health.
DEAN’S SCHOLAR AWARDS

The Dean’s Scholars are students who have first and foremost excelled academically in the classroom. In addition, these are well-rounded students who have contributed to the greater SPH community through campus activities, community service and volunteering. These students are engaged citizens of the School and have made a notable impressions on their department, faculty and peers through their academic and co-curricular achievements.

Outstanding Graduate Scholars

HANNAH ALLEN
Doctor of Philosophy, Community Health
Hannah has been a research assistant for the past three years and has worked on numerous publications and presentations on the substance use and mental health of college students. Her dissertation was on the relationship between behavioral health and academic achievement of graduate students, which she looks forward to continuing to study in her upcoming postdoctoral fellowship at the Pennsylvania State University. Through the Futures without Violence campus fellowship, she founded the graduate student group, Alliance for Sexual Assault Prevention (ASAP).

ELIZABETH BELL
Master of Arts, Kinesiology
Elizabeth received the Edwin and Kathryn Arbogast Award for the best abstract for prosthetic research submitted by a qualifying student or resident to the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association’s annual conference in 2017. She was also nominated locally for the American Kinesiology Association’s Master’s Scholar Award.

CORINNA BONK
Master of Public Health, Public Health Practice and Policy
Corinna is a task lead for a federal contractor that works on health policy and Medicare research. She is on a steering committee that gathers research for workplace improvement. Corinna is on the volunteer committee at her company and has raised over $20K for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in the last nine years.

SAMUEL CLEVEMBER
Doctor of Philosophy, Kinesiology
Samuel recently completed his dissertation on the cultural and biopolitical history of the global garden city planning movement. He received the Whitlark International Research Fellowship to fund his archival research on garden cities in the United Kingdom. His research has been published in internationally renowned journals such as Rethinking History and Sport, Education and Society. He previously received the James H. Humphrey Graduate Student Published Research Award for his essay on the history of militarized physical activity coursework at the Maryland Agricultural College. The university has also recognized Samuel for his work as a teaching assistant for the Department of Kinesiology.

ROSEMARY EZEUGOH
Master of Public Health, Environmental Health Sciences
Rosemary’s interests in health and environmental issues led to her research on the prevalence of diabetes mellitus among civil servants in Imo State, Nigeria for her undergraduate degree. She has had hands-on training in community engagement and citizen science through her research on air quality assessment of particulate matter and volatile compounds in Bladensburg. Rosemary also taught and prepared elementary school students for their examinations into middle school in Nigeria. She held a summer internship at Waterkeepers Chesapeake and is a teaching assistant for an introductory course on environmental health.
HILLARY CRADDOCK  
Doctor of Philosophy, Toxicology and Environmental Health

Hillary’s dissertation will include work she began in Israel and the West Bank at the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies, where she carried out a pilot research project focused on the quality of recycled water used to irrigate food crops. Hillary is a graduate mentor for Public Health Without Borders (PHWB), where she mentors undergraduates who are interested in furthering public health within their own local community, as well as those interested in working in Ethiopia. She guides the students as they design public health interventions based on both social and public health sciences. Hillary also facilitated the nascent involvement of PHWB with the Medical Reserve Corps, another volunteer organization.

NICOLE FILION  
Master of Public Health, Health Equity

Nicole has presented a poster at the American Public Health Association national conference and is first author on two peer-reviewed publications. One is a scoping review looking at what the literature says regarding the relationship between community agency and health, and the other compares the mental health outcomes of adolescent citizens and non-citizens. On numerous occasions, Nicole has been asked to speak on behalf of the department for SPH sponsored events, and discuss her experience with new students who are interested in pursing an MPH.

AMI FUKUNAGA  
(also recognized on pg. 8)  
Master of Public Health, Epidemiology

BRIDGET HIGGINBothAM  
Master of Public Health, Community Health

Along with her co-author, Bridget analyzed the personal experiences of discrimination that Terps tweeted in May 2017 after the murder of Lt. Richard Collins III. As first author of “Using Twitter to Assess Campus Climate after a Hate Crime,” she has presented a poster at two conferences this year. Also in her time at UMD, Bridget has worked with Dr. Muhiumm Haider on several health communication projects, including editing an open source textbook. In working for the Teaching and Learning Transformation Center, she helped to launch two campus–wide annual celebrations: Active Learning Week and Thank a Teacher Week.

RODMAN TURPIN  
(also recognized on pg. 8)  
Doctor of Philosophy, Epidemiology

JENNIFER YOUNG  
Doctor of Philosophy, Family Science

Jennifer received an Outstanding Graduate Assistant award in from the University of Maryland Graduate School in 2017. She is currently completing her fourth year of a pre-doctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute, where she published two first-authored manuscripts. She also served as president and vice-president of the Maryland Council on Family Relations, the Family Science department’s student organization. She provides pro-bono mental health counseling for Asian American families in Baltimore and consults on programs aimed at improving the family relationships, mental health and physical health outcomes of Asian American families in Montgomery County.

LIZA HARBISON  
(also recognized on pg. 10)  
Master of Science, Couple and Family Therapy

RODMAN TURPIN

YANFANG ZHANG  
Master of Public Health, Biostatistics

Yanfang interned at the Food and Drug Administration in the summer of 2017, served on the faculty search committee in 2017 and helped recruit one assistant professor of Biostatistics. Yanfang has a 3.805 GAP as of March, 2018 and has worked as a graduate assistant in the Collaboratorium since Fall 2017.
Laura B. Wilson Leadership Award

Established to honor Laura B. Wilson, PhD, founding chair of the Department of Health Services Administration, in recognition of her many leadership roles and strategic contributions to the School of Public Health. For Dr. Wilson, leadership includes a focus on actions that benefit the entire community, on results that make a difference for populations in need, and on proactive, innovative, interdisciplinary team efforts. The graduate student recipient of this award exemplifies elements of Dr. Wilson’s outstanding attributes and has demonstrated strong promise for a career dedicated to excellence and innovation through leadership.

DANIEL MARTHEY
Master of Public Health, Health Policy Analysis & Evaluation

Daniel serves as a graduate research assistant in the Department of Health Services Administration, where he supports the evaluation of a family planning intervention that aims to increase the use of long-acting, reversible contraceptives and decrease the rate of unplanned pregnancies in the state of Delaware. In that role, he is supporting the development of a publication which highlights perceived affordability barriers to women’s contraceptive services in Delaware and Maryland. Daniel also volunteered for the Peace Corps in Malawi, where he served as a Community Health Advisor from 2013-2015. In addition, he serves as president of the Health Services Administration Student Association.

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars

KAYLA BEOVICH
Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology

Kayla works in Dr. Rodolphe Gentili’s research group. On a project that measures mental workload during an upper extremity prosthetic task. She is in the University Honors Program, the Department of Kinesiology Honors Program and the Phi Alpha Epsilon honorary society. Through Phi Alpha Epsilon and her sorority Alpha Chi Omega, she volunteers in the DC community.

MARLEN CRUZ
Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science

Marlen is a member of the Phi Alpha Epsilon honorary society. Marlen has volunteered 155 hours as a birth registrar’s assistant at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, where she interviews new mothers, fills out birth certificate/social security forms, and aids in the preparation of filling out birth certificates. She is also the 2017-2018 sophomore commuter representative on the College Park Scholars Student Advisory Board. She achieved semester academic honors for Fall 2016, Spring 2017, and Fall 2017.

THEODORE (LOUIE) GOLD
Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science

As a research assistant in Dr. Don Milton’s study, C.A.T.C.H. the Virus, Louie processes blood and mucus samples to track the spread of viruses. He participated in Public Health Research @ Maryland by describing a related project. Louie is a member of Phi Alpha Epsilon and Alpha Lambda Delta & Phi Eta Sigma, the School of Public Health and first-year honorary societies. Since his sophomore year, he has been a resident assistant in the Cambridge Community. In addition, this year Louie is a co-facilitator in Queer Talks, a group where students come together to share opinions, beliefs, and personal stories relevant to the LGBTQ community.

ALLISON GLOEKLER
Bachelor of Science, Family Science

Allison is a member of the Honors College-University Honors program. She also participated in a weeklong Habitat for Humanity service trip.

MELISSA HEWITT
Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology

Melissa is in the University Honors program. She works in the Neuromotor Control and Learning Laboratory as a research assistant on the Human Machine Interaction Study. She is the vice president of the Kinesiology Student Organization, which works to build relationships among the kinesiology students, department, and greater community. The Kinesiology Student Organization also hosts community service events, such as a blood drive and a Halloween party for local elementary school children.
KATHERINE KIM
Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology
Katherine worked at the NIH in the Diabetes, Endocrinology, and Obesity Branch of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, and is currently working in Dr. Steven Prior’s lab for her kinesiology honors thesis. She is a member of Phi Alpha Epsilon and regularly volunteers in the DC metro area.

TALIA KLEIN
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Talia is enrolled in the University Honors program. She works as a research assistant in the Department of Behavioral and Community Health, through which she co-authored a report on children’s educational media to guide the development of curricula in India. She also worked in the Peer Health Educator Program through the University Health Center, specializing in the area of stress and mental health. In addition, she participated in an alternative break program, where her group volunteered at a Las Vegas charter school to explore the education and achievement gaps in Las Vegas schools.

SAMANTHA MARTOCCI
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Samantha is in the BCH Honors Program. She is completing a thesis project with a mentor, conducting her own research on the topic of sexual assault. She was also selected to participate in the Federal Work Study Scholars Program, where she worked one-on-one with a professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics to conduct a literature review paper on HIV/AIDS and organize citations referenced in the professor’s academic writings. Samantha served as the vice president of programming for her sorority from January 2016 to December 2017. During this time, she led the sorority’s efforts in fundraising and raising awareness for their three philanthropic causes.

SHIFALI MATHEWS
Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science
Shifali is in the Gemstone Honors program, researching environmental justice in high flood risk areas of Maryland. Her research on fenestrated tracheostomy tubes with an Assistant Professor of Acute and Chronic Care in the Johns Hopkins School of Nursing has been accepted to three international and one national conference. She volunteered with Habitat for Humanity for two summers, helping build houses for underprivileged families in Georgia and North Carolina. During the summer of 2017, she spent one month in Ecuador as a summer intern for Manna Project International, facilitating weekly child, adult, and diabetic cooking classes and English discussions at a local military university.

MADELEINE PEKOSZ
Bachelor of Science, Family Science
Madeleine is a research assistant in the Department of Psychology’s Gender, Culture, and Health Lab. Her projects involve evaluating the effects of masculine norms on health outcomes in men, and the effects of cultural identity on women’s drinking habits. She is also involved in developing research posters for Public Health Without Borders. As a leader for their Sierra Leone project, she implemented health workshops with children at a primary school. Her team also gathered qualitative data regarding health behaviors in the community surrounding the school, and conducted needs assessments to better address the needs of the community for future trips.

EMILY RAAB
Bachelor of Science, Community Health
Emily is a member of Phi Alpha Epsilon, the School of Public Health’s Honorary Society, and serves as a Terps for Change volunteer at Seabury Resources for Aging.

SHYLEE YACHIN
Bachelor of Science, Family Science
Shylee is on the Dean’s List and has been accepted into the Jimenez-Porter Writer’s House. She is also a tutor for Lakeland STARs, where she helps local elementary school students succeed. In addition, she is the personal health care assistant for community service coordination.
DANIEL CALLOW  
*Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology*  
Daniel coauthored two publications while working in the neuroengineering and neurosurgery lab during a summer biomedical science fellowship at the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He has also worked for two and a half years in Dr. Carson Smith’s Exercise for Brain Health lab and will continue as a doctoral student in the lab under the Neuroscience and Cognitive science program. He has been a resident assistant for three years and a student athlete tutor and mentor at Maryland for two and a half years.

COREY CARSON  
*Bachelor of Science, Family Science*  
Corey is a member of Phi Alpha Epsilon Fraternity and has been on the Dean’s list from Spring 2016-Spring 2018. She is also a member of the Alpha Chi Omega Sorority and works with Freeport, New York Toys for Tots.

CLAUDIA DAMICO  
*Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology*  
Claudia was accepted into the Kinesiology Honors Program her junior year and is working on her year-long Honors thesis in the biomechanics lab under Dr. Ross Miller and PhD student Jessica Hunter. Claudia was a volunteer coach for her high school’s feeder track and field program, which prepares elementary and middle school students interested in joining the high school track team. She also volunteers with Last Chance Animal Rescue in Waldorf, Md. providing foster care.

MAYA DEANE-POLYAK  
(also recognized on pg. 4)  
*Bachelor of Science, Community Health*  

JAYCEE HART  
*Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science*  
Jaycee surveyed the food infrastructure in Prince George’s County by rating the quality of fresh produce at food establishments in Bladensburg, Hyattsville, and Greenbelt. She presented her findings to key government leaders, urging them to target food inequality as a public health issue. Jaycee also served as secretary for the SPH Honor Society Phi Alpha Epsilon, and has served as a resident assistant for three years. Through her role as community service chair for her pre-health professional fraternity, Delta Epsilon Mu, Jaycee partnered with organizations such as the Food Recovery Network and the Red Cross to host service events.

SARAH JOSEPH  
*Bachelor of Science, Family Science*  
Sarah has been on the Dean’s List every semester of her academic career and has worked as an orientation advisor, resident assistant, website developer, research assistant, and teaching assistant. Sarah also volunteers with Challah for Hunger, a national hunger relief organization, as well as the UMD Help Center peer counseling and crisis intervention hotline.

EMILY KJELLMAN  
(also recognized on pg. 5)  
*Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology*  

BRIANA LOCKHART  
(also recognized on pg. 4)  
*Bachelor of Science, Community Health*
SAMANTHA QUINN  
*Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science*

Samantha has been a guided study session leader for Anatomy and Physiology II with Dr. Tammatha O’Brien for the past four semesters. She also enjoys working with the geriatric population as a Certified Nursing Assistant, specializing in work with those who have dementia. At the opposite end of the spectrum, she spent four semester volunteering as a clinician at the Children’s Developmental Clinic, where she worked with children who had developmental disorders as well as who came from low socioeconomic backgrounds. Samantha is a member of Phi Alpha Epsilon honorary society and Alpha Lambda Delta & Phi Eta Sigma honorary society. She is also the former president of the Pre-PA Club.

PRIYA SHARMA  
*Bachelor of Science, Family Science*

Priya was a research assistant for Dr. Marian Moser-Jones, where she transcribed and coded diaries of World War II nurses and transcribed interviews from descendants of the nurses. She is a co-author of “The Process and Challenges of a Needs Assessment in the Rural Community of Compone, Peru,” which presented findings after travelling with Public Health Without Borders and surveying local community members about their health concerns and needs. She also is the apartment leader for the Spanish cluster in the Language House Immersion program on campus. She also was an English as a second language (ESL) instructor at a local elementary school last semester.

MERLINE TAKOUGANG  
*Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science*

As a Public Health Science student, Merline learned about the burden of health disparities concerning maternal and child health among individuals with a low socio-economic status and minority populations. Her senior capstone research paper focused on neural tube defects in the U.S. She plans to continue researching this topic in graduate school. Merline is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success and served as vice president of Students Engaged in Public Health. Working with others in such disciplines as pharmacy and nursing, Merline organized a civic engagement event that focused on antimicrobial resistance.

VICTORIA VALCARCEL  
*Bachelor of Science, Community Health*

Under the tutelage of Dr. Sylvette La Touche-Howard, in partnership with fellow student Maya Deane-Polyak, Tori completed a research paper exploring diversity initiatives at UMD and the implications they have for the public health community. She is an active student leader in the Lutheran Campus Ministry, serving on the Leadership Team for three years. She also served as the student representative on the Undergraduate Program Committee for the Department of Behavioral and Community Health for the 2017-2018 school year.

*Right Page: Theodore (Louie) Gold (bottom right) and C.A.T.C.H. the Virus study team members at Public Health Research @ Maryland 2018*
**Fraley Award**

The undergraduate student in the senior class from each department who most completely exemplifies the qualities of a Dean’s Scholar is bestowed with the Fraley Award, the highest undergraduate honor offered by the School of Public Health.

**MARIA AYOUB**

Bachelor of Science, Kinesiology

As part of the Cognitive Motor Neuroscience Laboratory and the Department of Kinesiology Honors Program, Maria has been conducting an independent honors thesis investigating cortical dynamics and behavioral analysis to examine changes in mental workload and motor performance under various levels of cognitive–motor task difficulty. In Fall 2018, she will continue her research in motor control and cognition as part of Boston University’s Rehabilitation Sciences PhD program. Maria serves as president of the UMD Thomistic Institute. She also volunteers with children with disabilities through an occupational therapy day camp in Columbia, Md.

**RACHEL CERMAK**

Bachelor of Science, Public Health Science

Rachel worked as a laboratory research assistant at the Comprehensive Assessment and Intervention program through the UMD Department of Psychology. She received the Jerry P. Wrenn Scholarship last semester and is a member of the School of Public Health honorary society, Phi Alpha Epsilon. Rachel was a member of the UMD chapter of Phi Delta Epsilon, a pre-medical professional fraternity where she served on the Fundraising Committee, the Personal Relations & Marketing Committee, and is now their Professional Greek Council (PGC) representative. She has also volunteered at the Pediatric Emergency Department of Johns Hopkins Hospital.

**ERIN SULLIVAN**

Bachelor of Science, Family Science

Erin was the recipient of the Dean’s Scholar Award in 2017 and the Phillip Merrill Scholar Award. She is a member of the College Park Scholars Justice and Legal Thought program and will graduate in May with double majors in Family Science and Government and Politics. She worked as a research assistant on the Supreme Court Database Project, assisting UMD faculty in compiling a user-friendly database of court cases and briefs. Erin is also a member of the Phi Alpha Epsilon honorary society and Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority. She currently works for the Legal Services Corporation to secure federal funding for civil legal aid nationwide. She also worked as a student defender at the Undergraduate Student Legal Aid Office representing students accused of violating Maryland’s student code of conduct.

**JESSICA THROWE**

Bachelor of Science, Community Health

Jessica interns at the NIH National Library of Medicine, where she collaborates with local organizations to facilitate health fairs and exhibitions. She is also developing a survey study and conducting focus groups to explore the need for connecting young adults at UMD who suffer from a chronic disease with appropriate healthcare resources. In addition, she hosts Geographic Information Systems (GIS) workshops for UMD undergraduate and graduate classes. After her freshman year, Jessica traveled to Romania with a non-profit group to teach English at an orphanage and a rural elementary school. When she returned, she served as campus director for the organization, recruiting and training new volunteers. During her sophomore year, she created a social media campaign and founded an on-campus club, No Lost Generation, to raise awareness about the Syrian crisis.
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
DELTA OMEGA GAMMA ZETA CHAPTER

Student Research Poster Competition Student Awardees

**BEHAVIORAL AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**

**Sharifah Holder** (PhD, First Place) Can Anxiety be a Good Thing? The Protective Effect of Anxiety on Incarceration and Educational Attainment among urban African-Americans

**Olivia Kachingwe** (PhD, Second Place) She Was There Through the Whole Process: Exploring How Homeless Youth and Youth At-Risk for Homelessness Access and Select Birth Control

**Shaunna Newton** (MPH, Third Place) Sex and Substance Abuse-Linked Behaviors among a Pilot-Testing Group of Substance Abuse Recovery Clients

**EPIDEMIOLOGY AND BIOSTATISTICS**

**Alicia Ward** (MPH, First Place) Is Social Capital Associated with Physical Activity in African American Women?

**Ami Fukunaga** (MPH, Second Place) Impacts of Collectivist Culture on Occupational Stigma and HIV Protective Measure Among Female Sex Workers in China: A Cross-Sectional Study

**Yixi Xu** (PhD, Third Place) Human Papillomavirus vaccine completion and associated factors among 13-17 year-old Hispanic and non-Hispanic white females

**FAMILY SCIENCE**

**Laura Drew** (PhD, First Place) Association Between Macrosomia and Neonatal Morbidities in the United States

**Ashley Pantaleao** (PhD, Second Place) It’s Just in the Cards that You’re Dealt: Lessons on Living with LFS from Young Adult Children and Their Parents

**Laura Golojuch** (PhD, Third Place) Exposure to ACEs and Coping Mechanisms for Young Men of Color during the Transition to Adulthood

**Madeleine Pekosz** (Undergraduate, First Place) Public Health Without Borders: Providing Health Education in Calaba Town, Sierra Leone

**HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**

**Deanna Barath** (PhD, First Place) Health Matters: Where do Mid-Shore Residents Go For Care?

**Daniel Marthey** (MPH, Second Place) Barriers and Utilization of Routine Dental Services Among Children in Qualified Health Plans Compared to Medicaid

**Priscilla Novak** (PhD, Third Place) Hospital Care Coordination to Connect to Behavioral Health Services
KINESIOLOGY

Lauren Weiss (PhD, First Place) Effects of Exercise Cessation on Functional Connectivity of the Hippocampus in Master Athletes

Andrew Ginsberg (PhD, Second Place) The Effect of Mental Preparation on Voluntary Torque Production and Cortico-Cortical Communication

Mia Caminita (PhD, Third Place) Evaluation of Sensory Manipulation via Cooling on Movement Performance

Daniel Callow (Undergraduate, First Place) Acute Exercise Improves Neural Efficiency Independent of Exercise Intensity in Younger Adults

Allison Williams (Undergraduate, Second Place) Exercise Training Related Changes in Verbal Fluency in Healthy Older Adults and Mild Cognitive Impairment

McKayla Kelly (Undergraduate, Third Place) Evaluation of Attentional Reserve During Adaptation of Reaching Movements Under Two Levels of Cognitive-Motor Challenge

MARYLAND INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Jacob Bueno de Mesquita (PhD, First Place) Estimating Exposure to Infectious Influenza Aerosols in Roommates of Influenza Cases During the 2012-2013 Season on the University of Maryland Campus

Rianna Murray (PhD, Second Place) Association between Private Domestic Drinking Water Wells and the Incidence of Campylobacteriosis in Maryland: An Ecological Analysis Using a Decade of Data from the Foodborne Diseases Active Surveillance Network (FoodNet)

Jessica Chopyk (PhD Third Place) Agricultural Freshwater Pond Supports Diverse and Dynamic Bacterial and Viral Populations

Aubree Driver (Undergraduate, First Place) Maryland Environmental Justice Screening Tool

Andrew Li (Undergraduate, Second Place) Three-Dimensional Spatial Analysis of Immune Cells in Lymph Nodes

Vivek Ravichandran (Undergraduate, Third Place) Assessment of Traffic-Related Air Pollution (TRAP) in Langley Park, Maryland

PUBLIC HEALTH SCIENCE

Vivek Ravichandran (Undergraduate, First Place) Assessment of Traffic-Related Air Pollution (TRAP) in Langley Park, Maryland

Usha Singh (Undergraduate, Second Place) Holistic Multisector Approaches to Improving Population Health: Lessons Learned from a Health Equity Roundtable

Mina Griffioen (Undergraduate, Third Place) Measuring cell-to-cell variability for Programmed Ribosomal Frameshifting events and cross-validation of new dual luciferase and fluorescence approaches
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our scholarship, fellowship and award donors for their generous support of our students. Thanks to you, we can recognize our students’ achievements and help them obtain an education with less financial burden.

We would also like to recognize the following SPH staff and faculty for their time and effort in planning and coordinating our fourth annual honors convocation:

Kelly Blake, SPH Communications
Kristin Cipriani, PHSC
Alesha Garvin, Development
Nacie Grigsby, FMSC
Kim Kash, SPH Communications
Hope Llansó, SPH Communications
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Katherine Sharp, BCH
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Matthew Wootten, BCH

Last, but not least, we thank our wonderful students for their commitment to excellence and their citizenship and engagement in the University of Maryland School of Public Health community. The SPH can be proud that these students are the future of public health.