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School of Medicine
Department of Public Health Sciences

Winter 2023

Greetings from your MPH colleagues and friends!

Here's a quick update on a few happenings in the MPH Program and PHS Department.

Warmest Regards,

Ruth (Gaare Bernheim), Aaron (Pannone), and the MPH Team



Vietnam: An Ecological-Economic Exploration

This January, I traveled with a group of UVA students and faculty to Vietnam as a part of the GSVS 4810/LPPS 5550 J-Term, Vietnam: An Ecological-Economic Exploration. As an MPH student in the Health Policy, Ethics, and Law concentration, I was able to take this course as one of my program electives. The group traveled through three major cities in Vietnam over the course of 15 days, learning about Vietnam's economy and environment through once-in-a-lifetime hands-on activities and meetings with Vietnamese experts. During our first stop to Ho Chi Minh City, we learned about the continued impact of the Vietnam War on biodiversity in the Mekong Delta, planting mangrove trees in the C n Gi  Bioreserve where most of the forest had previously been lost to chemical defoliants like Agent Orange. We later dove into food systems — harvesting our own coffee with the instruction of members of the K'ho ethnic minority group and WWOOFing during our farm-to-table day in Hanoi.

“Lunch and learn” meetings with entrepreneurs and NGO representatives, a day cruise in Ha Long Bay, and volunteering alongside Vietnamese college students from Keep Vietnam Clean to reduce plastic waste entering Hanoi's West Lake during Kitchen God Day festivities were among the many other highlights of the trip. Learning about a wide range of social and economic factors that influence health alongside a group of students with diverse interests — sustainability, policy, engineering, etc. — was an incredible experience that I will not soon forget! --*Lindsay Graham, MPH Student*



Lindsay Graham, MPH Student, traveled to Vietnam in January 2023 with other UVA students and faculty. While learning more about the country and its culture, the group worked together on several ecological-economic projects.



Kathryn Quissell, PhD, Publishes Article Exploring the Role of Moral Values and Norms in Political Conflict

Dr. Kathryn Quissell, an Assistant Professor and a political scientist in the Department of Public Health Sciences, recently [published an article](#) in *International Studies Review* exploring the role of moral values in political conflict, including conflict around issues of importance to health outcomes, such as LGBTQ rights and COVID-19.



Dr. Balkrishnan Visits Nepal to Jumpstart Research on Air Pollution and Environmental Health

Dr. Rajesh Balkrishnan, Professor of Public Health Sciences at UVA, recently visited Nepal to jumpstart research related to reducing the effects of air pollution on environmental health in Nepal. He was assisted by Ankit Dakhal, PhD student in Chemical Engineering at UVA. The Environmental Resilience Institute supports this research by bringing together

and their impact on population health. Recently, this team received NIH funding to develop air filtration technology into useable fabric materials and incorporate it into daily life to reduce the impact of air pollution and air borne pathogens. During this visit, the collaborators met with other researchers working at Kathmandu University School of Medicine as well as with the Resource Himalaya Foundation – a nongovernmental multi-institutional organization focused on environmental protection in Nepal.



During his recent visit to Nepal, Dr. Balkrishnan and members of the UVA team met with researchers working at Kathmandu University School of Medicine as well as Resource Himalaya Foundation – a multi-institutional NGO focused on environmental protection in Nepal.

PHS in the MEDIA

UVA's Public Health Sciences Has a Profile in Newsweek!

Newsweek is currently highlighting the MPH Program at UVA!
The article describes many great things about PHS and directs the reader to the [PHS website](#). See the Newsweek article here:
[Why You Should be Thinking About a Career in These Areas of Healthcare \(newsweek.com\)](#)



New Social Media for UVA's Public Health

PHS launched **new social media pages** on LinkedIn and Instagram. Find us and follow along for some of the latest news on PHS and UVA.



LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/uva-department-of-public-health-sciences/>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/uva_phs/



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