

UVA MPH Newsletter

Spring 2025 Edition



We want to hear
from you this
accreditation year!

Inside This Edition

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It's time for reaccreditation!
You could win a Starbucks
gift card by filling out the
survey below! Your
feedback helps us improve
stay connected, and
support future public health
leaders.

Take Alumni Survey [Here!](#)



@uva_phs



[UVA Department of Public Health Sciences](#)



[MPH@UVA](#)

Delta Omega

PHS News

**Delta Omega**

Honorary Society in Public Health

The UVA MPH Gamma Pi chapter of the Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health aims to promote the graduate study of public health, and to recognize the outstanding achievement in the field.

Interested in Alumni Network & Mentorship?

In these complicated and ever-changing times in public health, staying connected has never felt more important. UVA MPH Gamma Pi is working to strengthen our MPH alumni community at UVA—and we want you to be a part of it!

We aim to foster meaningful connections across our alumni community, from seasoned professionals to recent graduates. Whether you're up for mentoring a current student, swapping stories with recent grads, or just expanding your public health network, we would love to have you involved. It's all about building community, sharing knowledge, and lifting each other up. Ready to get involved? Let us know your level of interest in the survey below!

See more in [Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health](#).

Take Alumni Survey [Here!](#)

MPH Class of 2025

A huge congratulations!

This past May, 55 students graduated from the School of Medicine (SOM) Master of Public Health or Clinical Research Program. With the Department of Public Health Sciences faculty, many students were able to join ceremonies held in Culbreth Hall on Sunday, May 18.

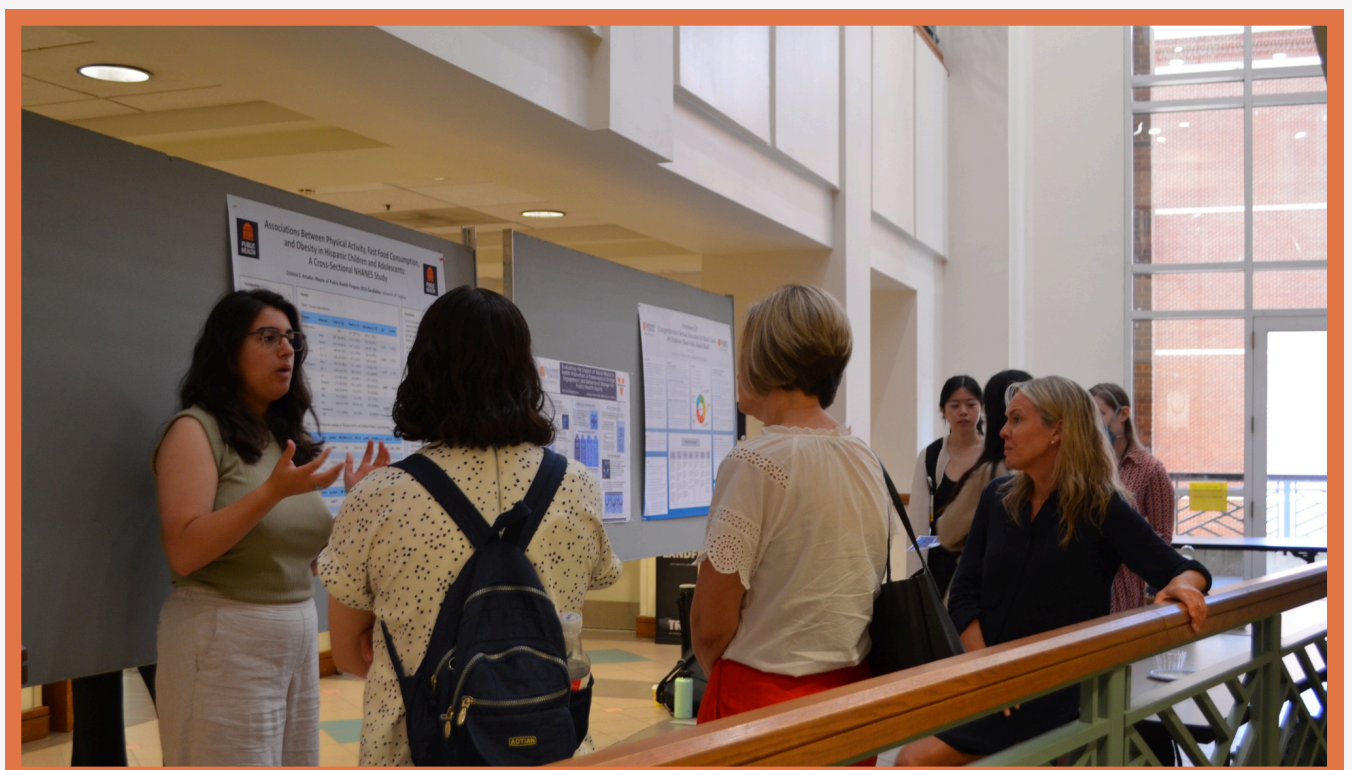
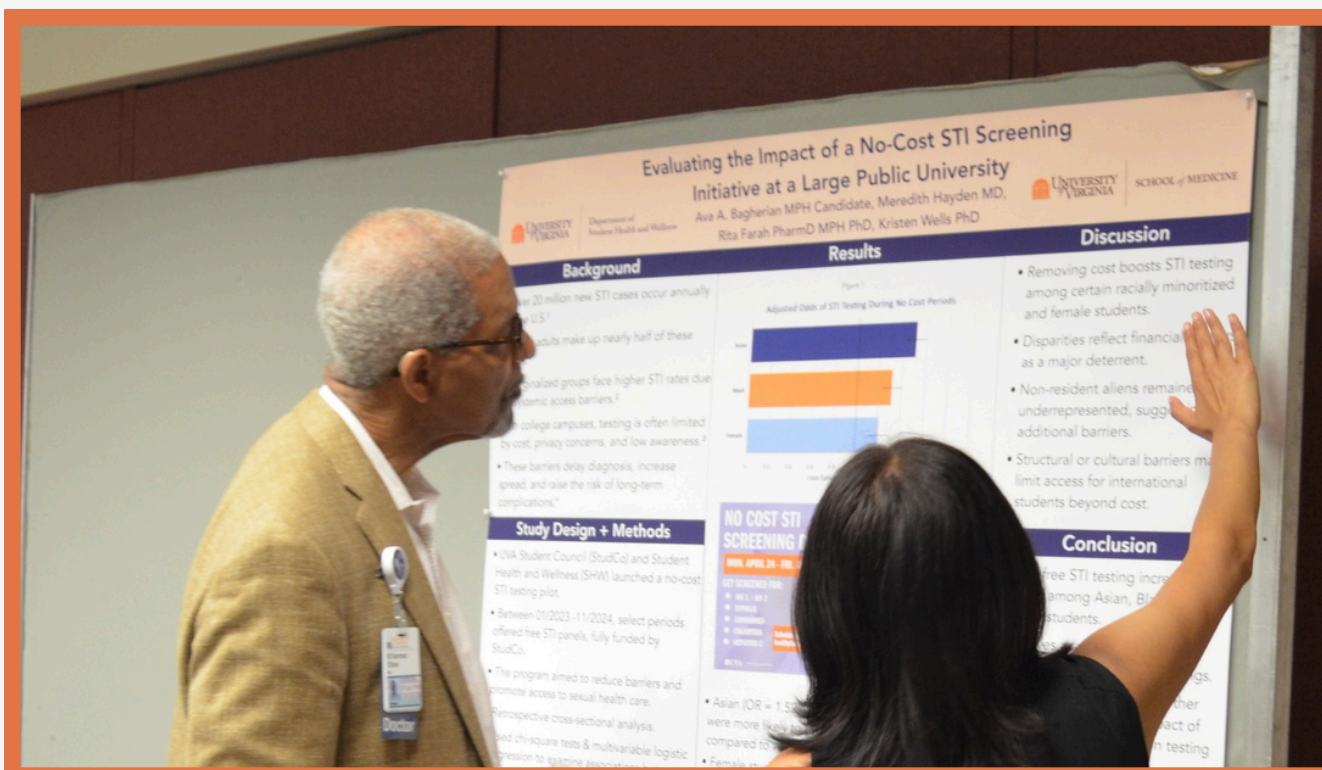


See more in [Medicine in Motion](#).

Spring Poster Day

April 30, 2025

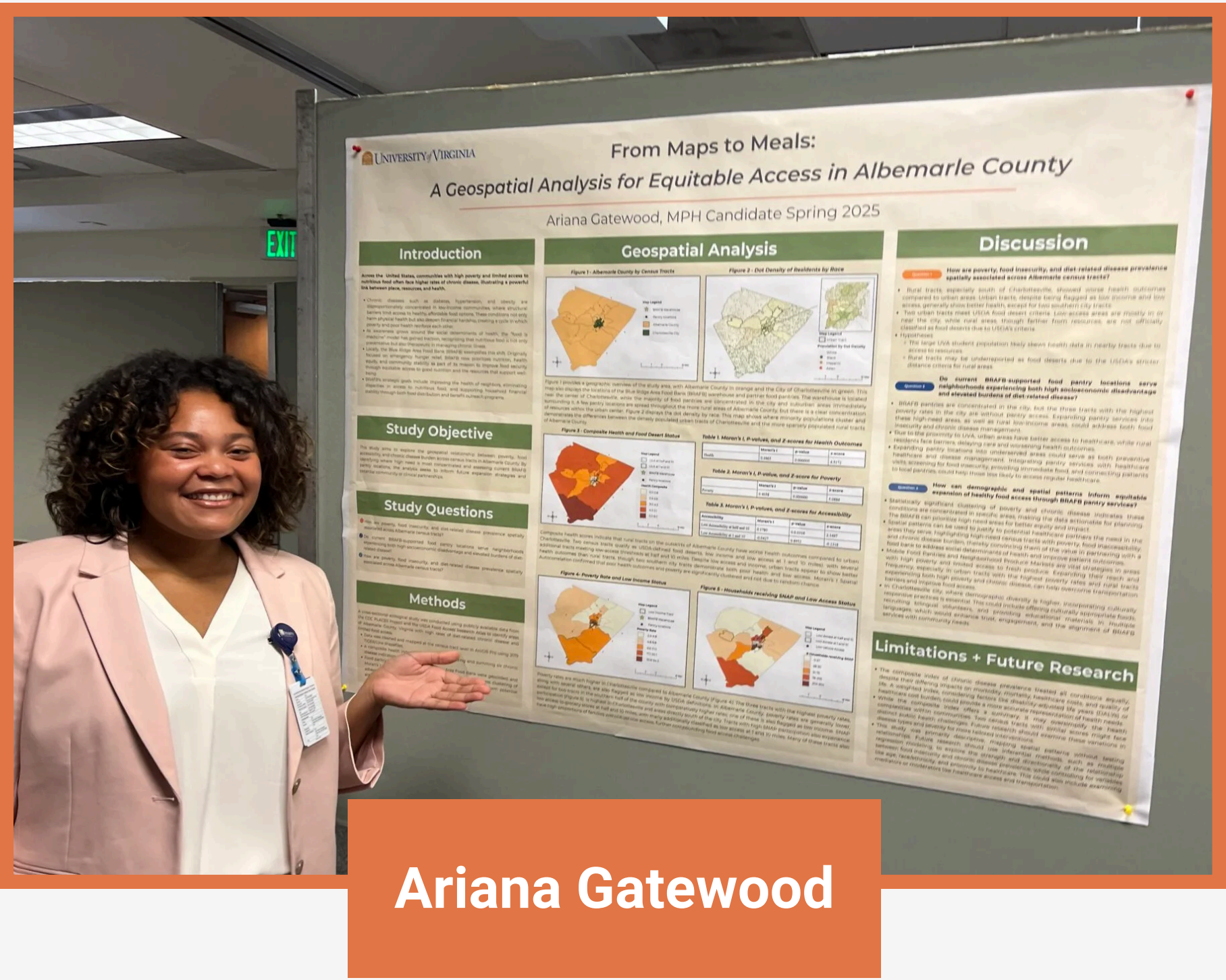
Speaking of our graduates, check out their student research! In April, the Master of Public Health Program hosted the Public Health Sciences Spring Semester Poster Day. Twenty-seven graduating MPH students presented their work and recommendations to improve health outcomes and health equity.



See more in [Medicine in Motion](#).

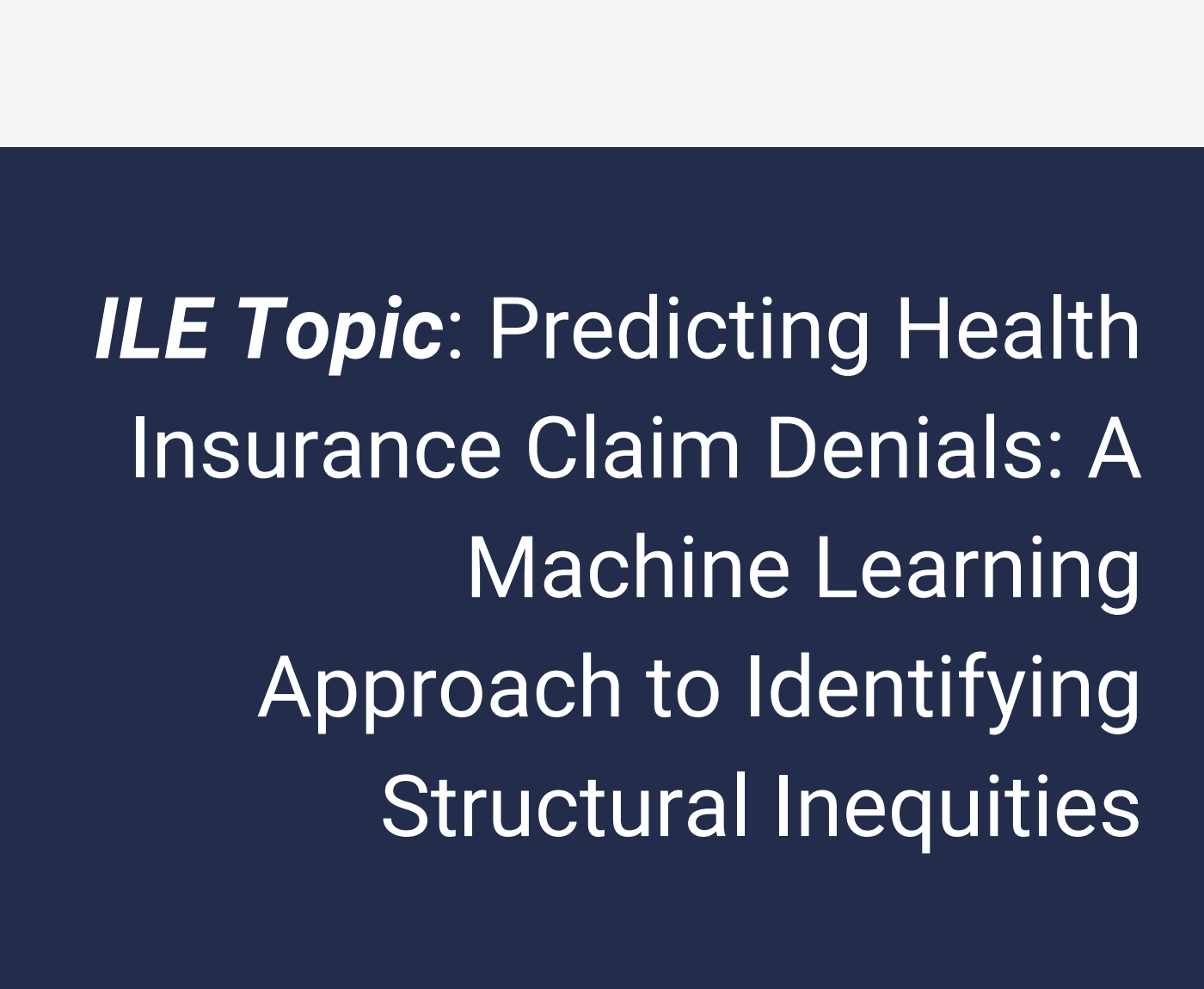
Spring Poster Day

Individual Research



Ariana Gatewood

ILE Topic: From Maps to Meals: A Geospatial Analysis for Equitable Access in Albemarle County



Aishwarya Sivasubramanian

ILE Topic: Predicting Health Insurance Claim Denials: A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Structural Inequities

Spring Poster Day

Individual Research

ILE Topic: Changes in UVA Undergraduate Student Willingness to Intervene in Potential Moments of Harm



Margaux Reppert

ILE Topic: Developing a Trauma Registry Prototype for Hospitals in Kathmandu, Nepal



Kristy Samaan

Spring Poster Day

Individual Research



Myla Lester

ILE Topic: Comprehensive Sexual Education for Rural Youth: An Evidence-Based Public Health Model



ILE Topic: Neurodivergent and Neurodevelopmental Disability Healthcare Experiences

Skye Ferris

Alumni Networking Event

PHS Events

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the MPH Alumni Networking Reception on March 20! It was a fantastic evening of reconnecting, sharing experiences, and building new connections over great food and drinks at Northside Social in Falls Church.

Check out some highlights from the event below! We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering.



See more in [Medicine in Motion](#).

Spring Service Event

PHS Events

Our MPH Spring Service Day at PVCC Community Garden was a success! On April 13, MPH students, faculty, and staff gathered for a hands-on day of service in honor of National Public Health Week. Volunteers worked together to weed, water, and harvest at the PVCC Community Garden, making a lasting impact on the Charlottesville community.

Special thanks to Delta Omega Gamma Pi chapter for helping plan this event! We appreciate everyone who participated. Stay tuned for more opportunities to put public health into action!



Delta Omega

Honorary Society in Public Health



MPH Spring Formal

PHS Events

In early May, MPH students were invited to a local restaurant on the corner for our yearly formal celebration. Students let loose, enjoyed delicious food, and bonded all together one last time before graduation. See below for photos of the night below!



Meet Kenny!

PHS News



About Me

Education: MDiv (Pastoral Ministries) from CUDS; B.S. in Communication Disorders from NCSU

Memberships: ASPPH Career Services Assembly, National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE), National Career Development Association (NCDA)

In April of 2023, Kenny Davis, M.Div., joined PHS as the GPH *Academic Advisor* and MPH *Career Services Coordinator*. Recently, he completed the NCDA's Facilitating Career Development training as part of the Certified Career Services Provider credentialing process.

Kenny enjoys helping people in transitions explore pathways forward. With current students and alumni alike, that takes the shape of conversations around interests and values, the job search process, networking, web resources, and more. He also provides resume, cover letter, and interview preparation support and connects alumni with several career resources available through the UVA Alumni Association.



[Kenny Davis](#)



tet3uc@virginia.edu

Meet Alexa!

PHS News



About Me

Education: MPH (Health Policy Track) from UVA; B.S. in Health Sciences, Minors in Biology and Criminal Justice from JMU

Public Health Interests: Correctional Health and Health Justice; Maternal, Child, and Reproductive Health

The MPH Program is pleased to welcome Alexa Eisenbart, MPH, as the new *Accreditation Specialist*. As a 2025 graduate of the Program, Alexa is already a familiar face and brings firsthand knowledge of the student experience. Her contributions to the reaccreditation process as a student were instrumental, and we are thrilled to continue working with her as both a colleague and alumna.



[Alexa Eisenbart](#)



ane8sx@virginia.edu

PHS Luncheon

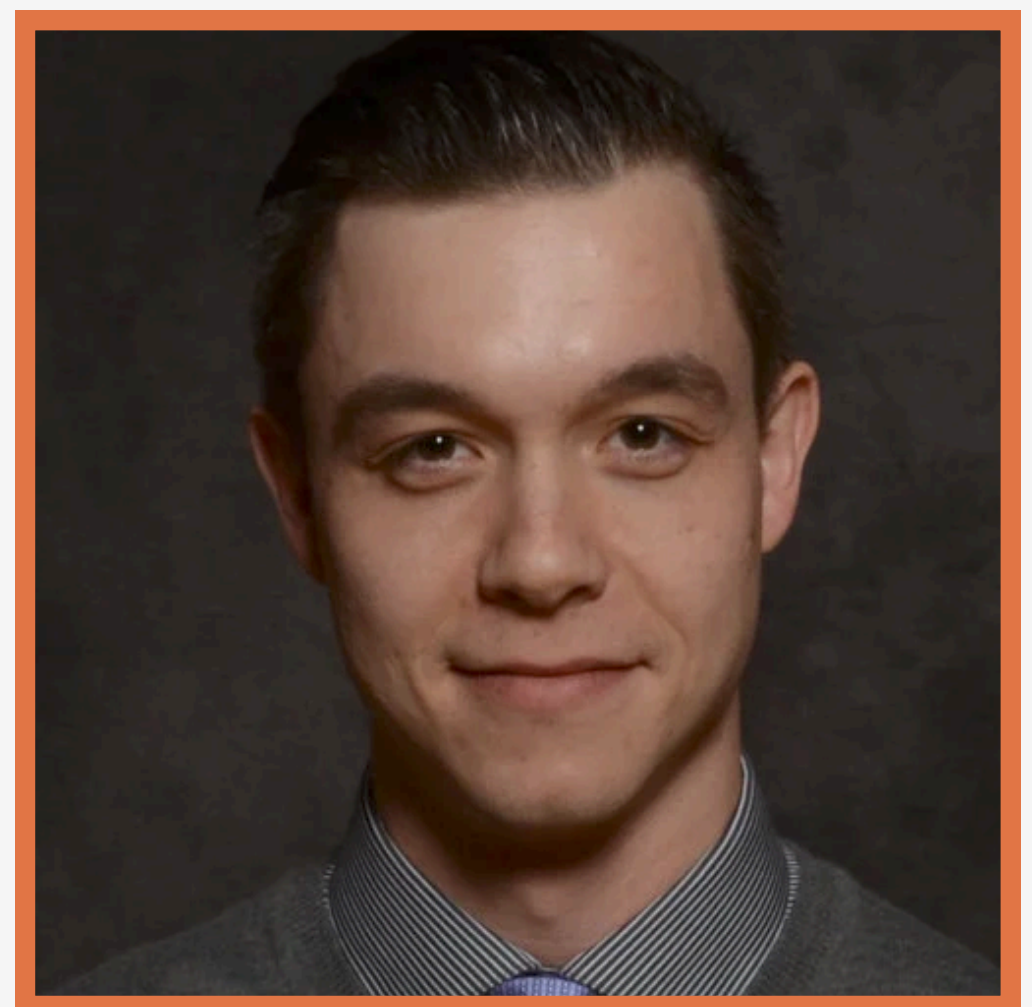
PHS News

We were excited to gather as a department at the end of the semester to celebrate achievements, recognize winners of our inaugural department awards, celebrate Charlotte Odom's retirement, and congratulate our students inducted into Delta Omega.



Tracey Brookman

Congratulations to Tracey Brookman, M.Ed., Director of Academic Programs, for winning the 2025 PHS Staff Excellence Award!



Pavel Chernyavskiy

Congratulations to Pavel Chernyavskiy, PhD, Assistant Professor in PHS, for winning the 2025 Jeanita Richardson Award For Excellence in Teaching!

PHS Luncheon

PHS News

We were also fortunate that the celebration included remarks from all three of our chairs since our department was established: Professor Emeritus William A. Knaus, William Hobson Professor Ruth Gaare Bernheim, and Evelyn Troup Hobson Professor and Chair Matthew J. Gurka.

Dr. Knaus introduced the *Douglas P. Wagner Memorial Scholarship* and included remarks showing how his good friend and colleague Dr. Wagner prioritized supporting students.



Delta Omega

PHS News

The Delta Omega Honorary Society in Public Health was founded in 1924 at Johns Hopkins University within the School of Hygiene and Public Health (now known as the Bloomberg School of Public Health). Membership in Delta Omega reflects the dedication of an individual to increasing the quality of the field, as well as to the protection and advancement of the health of all people.

We are very excited to report that our executive committee of our Gamma Pi chapter of the Delta Omega honor society has selected our Spring 2025 inductees. Congratulations to our new inductees!



Olivia Yang



Kristen Morris



Kaitlyn Gentile



Ava Hollis



Cristina Amador



Mary Robinson



Ariana Gatewood



Lauren Eggleton

Vice Chair of Education

PHS News

During the 2024-25 academic year, a new Vice Chair of Education position was established. Following a competitive internal search, Dr. Paige Hornsby was selected to serve in this important role.



Paige Hornsby, PhD

Dr. Paige Hornsby has led the MPH Applied Practice Experience since 2021 and previously directed the Research in Practice concentration from 2016 to 2020. As Vice Chair of Education, she will provide strategic leadership and innovation across all PHS educational programs, including the MPH and future initiatives such as the PhD Program. Her responsibilities will focus on advancing high-quality, student-centered education, ensuring accreditation compliance, and aligning with the department's mission to advance public health through education, research, and service.