

# Public Health Memos

## SUMMER BREAK IS ALMOST HERE!

Congratulations to those of you who are graduating and to those of you who just made it through your first year in graduate school, take time this summer to recharge, relax, and get outside! Enjoy your well-deserved break.



Check out this edition of the newsletter for information on student awards, spring and summer graduates, and changes in the Public Health Department!

I am graduating this semester, so unfortunately, this is the last edition of the Public Health Memos that I will publishing! Stay tuned and look forward to a new editor for next year! It has been a great pleasure to serve as the editor for the past two years. I've been able to form meaningful relationships with so many students and have enjoyed being able to highlight the accomplishments of students and introduce new faculty in the memos newsletter. I'm hoping to stay in Knoxville after graduation, so please stay in touch! Thanks everyone and Go Vols!

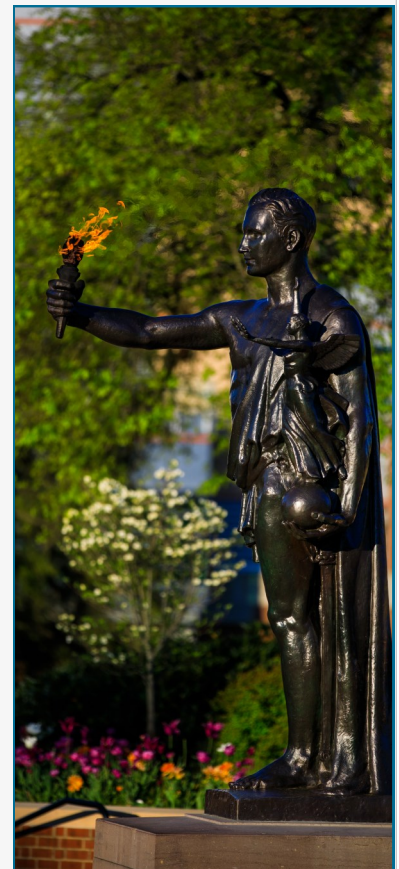
- Peyton Prothero



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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Graduate Hooding Ceremony is on **Friday, May 20th**
- Full summer session classes begin on **June 9th**



# PUBLIC HEALTH STUDENT ASSOCIATION

**Meet the new officers of the PHSA for the 2022-2023 school year! Congratulations!**

## **President—**

Catherine Warner

Catherine is a first-year Ph.D. student with a concentration in Food Safety and Epidemiology. She is incredibly passionate about Food Safety and Public Health with areas of research in One Health Food Safety and Zoonotic disease epidemiology. Catherine obtained her BS in Agriculture—Animal Science Production and MPH in Global Health. Catherine has spent the last ten years as a regulatory authority with USDA, FSIS, FDA, and State Health and Agriculture Departments in Tennessee. Catherine's family has a small homestead in Knoxville where they raise chickens and goats. She enjoys hanging out with her (human) kids, whitewater rafting, and playing soccer!



## **Vice President—**

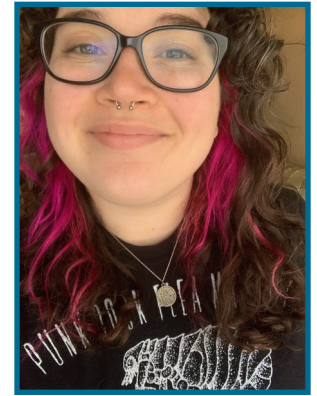
Will Martinez

Will (he/him) is a first-year MPH (CHE concentration)/PhD student in Public Health Sciences. Born and raised in Knoxville until the age of 10, Will grew up just outside of Atlanta. He received his BA in anthropology and sociology from Emory in 2018 and his MS in college student personnel from UTK in 2021. Under the direction of Dr. Jabson-Tree, Will researches collegiate interpersonal violence prevention specifically focusing on LGBTQ+ and Students of Color. Additionally, Will has become interested in exploring emergency management and preparedness in vulnerable populations.



## **Treasurer—** Bonnie Valerio

Bonnie Valerio (she/her/hers) is a part-time MPH student in the HPM concentration. She is from Nashville, TN and her undergraduate degree is in Philosophy and Theatre. Bonnie currently works at UT Medical Center with the Department of Family Medicine. Working in healthcare has given Bonnie firsthand experience with how much change is necessary within our current system, and she hopes to spend her post-grad devoting herself to the creation of policy that allows for better access to care for marginalized populations. She is very excited to be serving on PHSA as Treasurer this year as she has a deep love for the department and tracking numbers in Excel! When Bonnie is not at class or work, you can find her reading, watching movies, listening to comedy podcasts, or running around her house spinning lightsabers.



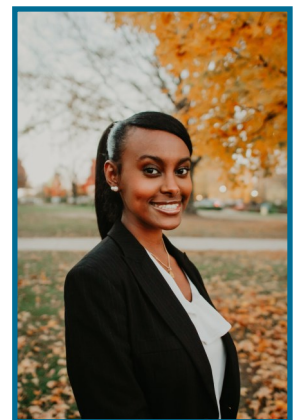
## **Secretary—** Meredith Horton

Meredith Horton is a CHE concentration finishing up her first year of the program. Meredith is really excited to be serving as secretary for PHSA and is looking forward to what the year brings!



## **Philanthropist—** Eritrea Negussie

Eritrea Negussie is a rising undergraduate senior studying Global Public Health in Eastern Africa through the College Scholars program. Eritrea is currently working on her senior thesis for her program and investigating the research question of the relationship between a country's history of colonialism and health outcomes. After completing her Bachelor's degree, Eritrea plans to apply to medical school to become a community-based physician. Eritrea is excited to be serving as the PHSA's philanthropist for this upcoming year!



# GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE AWARDS

**Public Health was well-recognized at the Graduate Student Senate Awards in April!  
Congratulations all!**



**Dr. Kathleen Brown**  
**Graduate Director of the Year**



**Jeremy Kourvelas**  
**Excellence in Graduate Teaching**



**Kenneth Mapp**  
**Excellence in Service**



**Bethany Rand**  
**Excellence in Graduate Teaching**

## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATES

### New MPH Program Director—Dr. Russomanno!

“I am honored to be taking on the role of MPH program director beginning in Fall 2022 semester. Having previously been a student of the program for both my masters and doctorate degree and a current faculty member, moving into this new role within the department is an exciting opportunity. The courses I took as a student shaped who I am today both as a teacher and as a human being, and I look forward to continuing the efforts and passion that Dr. Brown has put into the program over the years.”

- **Dr. Jennifer Russomanno**



### Farewell—Dr. Kintziger!

Department of Public Health Faculty, Staff, and Students—

“Many of you already know this, and it is bittersweet to announce, but I am leaving UTK this summer. I have accepted a position with the University of Nebraska Medical Center’s College of Public Health. I am excited at the opportunity, as this position will be directly related to my main area of research interest—Climate and Health Epidemiology—and will allow my family to be located closer to our extended family. I am also sad to leave my home here. We love East Tennessee, and UTK has provided me with some wonderful (and challenging!) experiences these last six years. Both of my children were born here, and we have put down some deep roots. It has been exciting to be involved with the growth of this department, developing the Epi concentration and PhD programs, seeing the interest in the Epi and Stats minors grow, and watching all of the students grow and develop as future public health practitioners. I have had the opportunity to work with wonderful colleagues and collaborators and have developed some amazing friendships since coming to UTK. But, public health is a small world, and thanks to our re-framing of connectivity during the pandemic, I know I will see you all again and often—virtually or in-person at conferences and other public health events. So, this is not goodbye! Please connect with me via LinkedIn or reach out to me for my contact information. And if you are ever in Omaha, give me a call!”

With much love and respect,

- **Dr. K**



## Farewell—Dr. Brown!

“After many wonderful and fulfilling years at UT, I will be stepping down from my role as Director of the MPH Program at the end of August. I will officially retire at the end of December. This comes with much thought and consideration. I love UT, the program, the students and my colleagues. I have had meaningful opportunities, have met and worked with many incredible people and will be forever grateful. I hope I have contributed to the ‘future of public health’ in some way, but it is time for a new phase with focus on family and doing some of the things I have had to put to the side—volunteering, gardening, traveling...I will continue to serve public health in our community in a different way and I look forward to seeing all of you making a difference!”

- Dr. Kathleen Brown



**If you have not done so already, don't forget to fill out the MPH Student Satisfaction Survey! The survey is part of the Department's ongoing effort to provide the best program possible and your input is valued and needed! [Access the survey here.](#)**

**Registration for Summer 2022 and Fall 2022 classes are now open! Don't forget that there are two new classes offered this summer—Emergency Preparedness taught by Dr. Russomanno and Public Health Book Club taught by Dr. Perion.**

## CONGRATULATIONS SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 GRADUATES!

### PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

- **Will Andershock**



**Program:** MPH

**Concentration:** Epidemiology with a minor in Statistics

Will has accepted a position as an Analytical Epidemiologist at Booz Allen Hamilton, a large consulting firm. He will be working in the Atlanta office which focuses on contracts from the CDC, NIH, and centers for Medicare/Medicaid. His position is remote, so he will be staying in the Knoxville area for the foreseeable future!

“One of my favorite experiences while I was in the program was my internship at the UT system. I was involved in a proposal for a new system-wide leave of absence policy for students and now the individual campuses have begun the preliminary process to implement this new policy. This was a really rewarding experience for me and I believe it demonstrates the different types of issues that public health professionals are equipped to handle.”

- Betsy Biedlingmaier

- Abby Carpenter

- Heath Cook

- Amanda Geary

- **Emily Kent**



**Program:** DVM/MPH

**Concentration:** Veterinary Public Health

After graduation, Emily will continue her final clinical year at UT’s Veterinary School where she will graduate with her DVM in May 2023. Emily’s dream career is to be a zoological medicine veterinarian with an emphasis on conservation medicine and One Health.

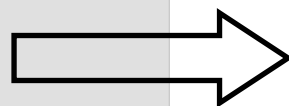
“I loved being able to collaborate with other health professionals, environmentalists, and public health advocates throughout my public health courses. I truly believe the experiences I had will make me a better veterinarian and a true steward for the One Health Initiative.”

- Jeremy Kourvelas

- Gulsah Onar

- Brittany Rosette-Jones

- **C. Robert Stilz**



**Program:** DVM/MPH

**Concentration:** Veterinary Public Health

- **Megan White**

“My favorite experience from my MPH program was growing into what I love to do. I have met so many amazing people along this journey, professors and peers alike and they have inspired me so much on my journey through public health. I am so grateful for each and every one of them.”

- Chesney Ward

- **Sara Coley**



**Program:** MPH

**Concentration:** Community Health Education with a minor in Epidemiology

- **Alyssa Hensley**



**Program:** MPH

**Concentration:** Community Health Education

After graduation, Alyssa will be applying for and hopefully attending PA school .

## CONGRATULATIONS SPRING AND SUMMER 2022 GRADUATES!

### PUBLIC HEALTH GRADUATES

- **Anisha Singh** →

**Program:** PhD  
**Concentration:** Epidemiology with a MS in Statistics

- Ryan Kemnetz

- **Emily Johnson** →

**Program:** MPH  
**Concentration:** Community Health Education  
Emily will be spending the next year finishing her Ph.D. in Sport and Recreation Management at UTK. She is incredibly excited to continue on this journey of higher education!

- Emmanuel Nyenwe

- **Mason Ramsay** →

**Program:** JD/MPH  
**Concentration:** Health Policy and Management with a Health Policy Certificate

“I thoroughly enjoyed taking Health and Society a few semesters ago. It was my first foray into the public health program and I was hooked. Everyone in class (including Dr. JJT) was so welcoming, and I truly felt “at home!”

- Wade Seifert

- **Parth Goenka** →

**Program:** MPH  
**Concentration:** Health Policy and Management  
Parth will be starting medical school at ETSU’s James H. Quillen College of Medicine this Fall!

“My favorite part of the program was building both academic and social relationships with my class. I was able to learn a lot from them!”

- Laura Sisk

- Isis West

- **Callie Kennedy** →

**Program:** MPH  
**Concentration:** Health Policy and Management  
After graduation, Callie will be working at HCA in the director program to help further her goals of becoming a hospital administrator.

“My favorite part of the program was getting to learn and work with professors who give advice and look out for your best interest!”

- Zoya Kamil

- Peyton Prothero

- **Jordan Tasman** →

**Program:** MPH  
**Concentration:** Community Health Education



- **Kenneth Mapp** →

**Program:** MPH  
**Concentration:** Health Policy and Management with a Health Policy Certificate  
After graduation, Kenny will be working in any area that promotes the health and lives of a community of people.

“I really enjoyed the times spent connecting with my classmates IRL since much of my experience was over Zoom due to COVID. Real life is better than the virtual world.”

## STUDENT AWARDS

### Several graduating students received awards for the excellent work they have done in Public Health. Congratulations!

*Dr. Charles Hamilton Award—for excellence in Health Policy and Management.* This award recognizes an MPH student in the Health Policy and Management concentration. The awardee is recognized for consistently high levels of engagement through research and service throughout their tenure as a graduate student. This year, the Dr. Charles Hamilton award is presented to **Kenny Mapp**.



*Dr. June Gorski Award—for excellence in Community Health Education.* This award recognizes an MPH student in the Community Health Education concentration. The award winner has demonstrated excellence in any or all aspects of health education including community assessment, program development, and evaluation. This year's Dr. June Gorski award is presented to **Peyton Prothero**.



*Dr. Betsy Haughton Award—for excellence in Public Health Nutrition.* The Dr. Betsy Haughton Graduate Student Award in the Department of Public Health recognizes an exceptional student in the dual MS-MPH program who has a strong interest in improving the health of mothers, infants, children, and their families. The Haughton award also recognizes a student who excels in professionalism, academic achievement, communication skills, and leadership. Priority is given to students who are interested in workforce development and/or policy, systems, and environmental changes to improve population health. This year's winner is **Hailey Lewis**.



*Gary and Becki Blauser Award—for excellence in Epidemiology.* The Gary and Becki Blauser Award is given to a public health graduate student who has declared a minor in Epidemiology, is receiving an MPH with their epidemiology concentration, or completed their doctoral cognate in epidemiology and has demonstrated great competency and application of epidemiological techniques as demonstrated through employment, volunteer efforts, coursework, or other relevant paths. This year's winner is **Will Andershock**.



*Dr. John New Award—for excellence in Veterinary Public Health.* The John New Award is presented to a VPH student who has the highest GPA in MPH courses. This year's Dr. John New Award is presented to **Charles Robert Stiliz**.



*Kathy Darnell Ebener Public Health Intern Award.* The Kathy Darnell Ebener Public Health Intern Award is presented to an MPH intern who demonstrates leadership in working with communities and contribution to projects, programs, or policies that promote health equity and improve health among underserved, vulnerable, or high-risk populations in a culturally appropriate, evidence-based way. Preceptor feedback on the intern's performance is considered. This year's Kathy Darnell Ebener Public Health Intern Award is presented to **Jeremy Kourvelas**.