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Inspiration + Motivation

"I've learned it's important not
to limit yourself. You can do
whatever you really love to do,
no matter what it is"
-Ryan Gosling

"If I must give you any advice
it would be say yes. Say yes,
and create your own destiny"
-Maya Rudolph

"Be the hardest working
person you know. Because if
not, someone else will be"
-Ian Brennan

"You're only given a little
spark of madness. You mustn't
lose it"
-Rob Williams

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Public Health Memos

Spring 2025, Volume III



Awards and Accomplishments and Achievements, Oh My!

Our students have been dazzling the
awards world lately!

As such, this month's edition is
jam-packed with all the awards,
accomplishments, and achievements our
incredible public health students have
recently received!
Congrats to all!

Rhythm and Resilience: An Evening with Shelly Fairchild!

**We had a great evening celebrating rhythm and resilience with artist
Shelly Fairchild!**

This event had over 165 attendees (virtually or in-person) and representation from almost every U.S. state as well as the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, and Canada!
A huge thank you to Dr. Russomanno for putting this event together and to Dr. Sunil and the Department of Public Health for supporting it!



Graduate Student Senate Award Winners!

Congratulations to Su Chen Tan, Luel Negussie, and Ellen Oakes on receiving Graduate Student Senate awards!

Su Chen, a second-year MPH student in the CHE concentration, received the award for Excellence in Community Engagement

Leul, a second-year MPH student in the Epi concentration, received the award for Excellence in Service

Ellen, a second-year MPH student in the HPM concentration, received the award for Excellence in Graduate Research

Congratulations to all!



Graduate Student Senate

Public Health at the Global Engagement Summit!

Congratulations to the three public health students who were honored at the Global Engagement Summit, Su Chen Tan, Sompa Reza, and Sumon Gosh.

Su, Sompa, and Sumon were acknowledged for being W. K. McClure Scholars for 2024-2025.

Way to go, all!



**GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT
SUMMIT 2025**

June D. Gorski Award Winners!

Congratulations to Parker Avery (CHE) and Kaylynn Hunt (HPM) on receiving the June D. Gorski Scholarship Endowment!

Recipients of the June D. Gorski Scholarship Endowment are currently enrolled graduate students in public health or health education who have demonstrated a commitment to community-based initiatives, promotion or preventive measures, advocacy for policy that enhances the human/animal conditions, and collaboration to further the mission of healthy people in healthy communities.

Recipient Parker Avery shared that her long-term goal is to pursue a PhD and later a career that combines research, community engagement, and systems-level thinking to drive sustainable change in food systems. Receiving the June D. Gorski Scholarship for her current work at United Way of Greater Knoxville provided essential support to continue this work and pursue her long-term goals.

Recipient Kaylynn Hunt shared that she used the scholarship for a study abroad trip with Dr. Sunil to observe the universal healthcare system in Europe.

“This experience that enabled me to apply community health concepts and health policy to analyze the impact of universal healthcare on local communities and compare it to the U.S. healthcare system. I am grateful for Dr. Gorski’s generosity and kindness”



Student Spotlight!

Tyler Myers

A huge congratulations to public health minor, Tyler Myers, on receiving the prestigious Torchbearer Award!

Awarded to only ten undergraduates each year, the Torchbearer Award is UTK's highest undergraduate student honor. After graduation, Tyler will be attending the

University of Cambridge under a [Churchill Scholarship](#) to pursue an MPhil through the MRC Toxicology Unit. For his master's project, Tyler will be working full-time in the lab of Dr. Kiran Patil to study community shifts in gut microbiota following neuropsychiatric drug treatment using clinical samples collected in the United Kingdom (UK). Following his UK year, he will return to the United States to begin his MD-PhD training, with hopes of completing his PhD in microbiology and clinical training in neurology!

Way to go, Tyler!



Public Health Student Association



The Public Health Student Association (PHSA) recently painted The Rock to celebrate Public Health Week! The next PHSA event will be on **April 26th from 12-2pm** at Ijams Nature Center! Come out and enjoy a relaxing hike and picnic with PHSA before finals week!



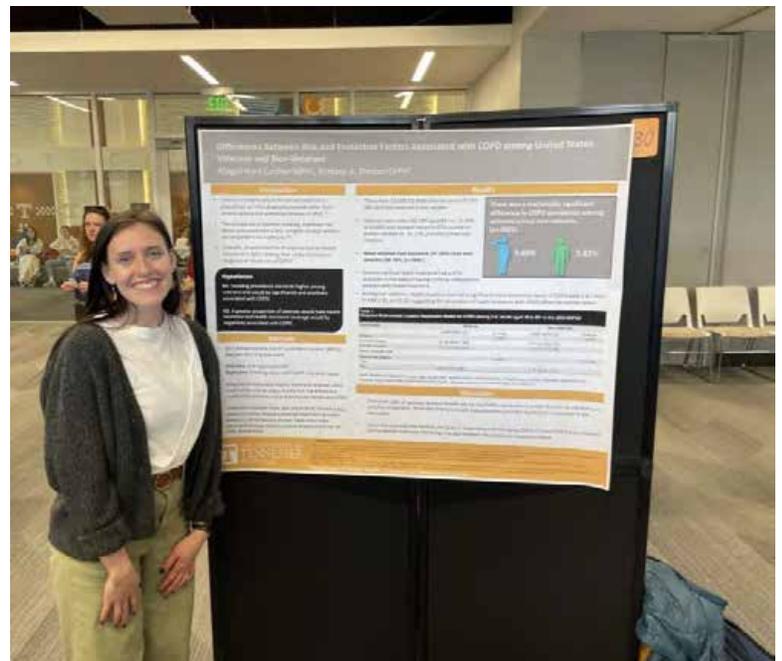
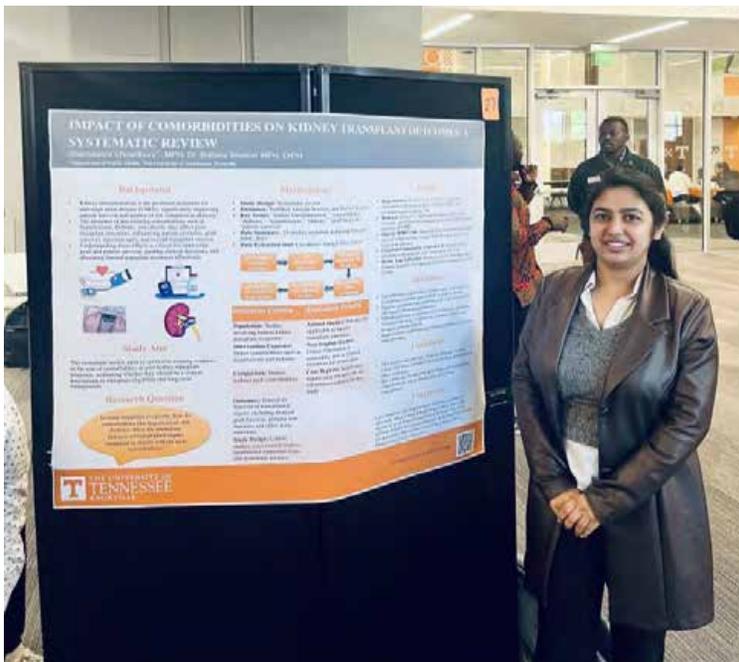
Public Health at The Graduate Student Research Colloquium

On April first, Shamatanni Chowdhury (first-year PhD), Abigail Hunt Coulter (second-year PhD), McKenzie Granata Green, (third-year PhD) Laura Manville (second-year MPH), and Sompaa Reza (second-year PhD) had the privilege of representing the Department of Public Health at the annual Graduate Student Research Colloquium hosted by the College of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

A special shout out to Laura Manville for being awarded the top presentation in public health!

Laura's research, which was conducted with Dr. Jennifer Perion, Dr. Victoria Steiner (Univ of Toledo), and Hafsa Shah (Univ of Toledo), focused on the game-playing characteristics of an intervention for older adults with dementia residing in a long-term care facility using a device called the Tovertafel.

Way to go, Laura!



Public Health Graduates!

Congrats to the following Public Health Graduates:

Five Year Bachelor of Science in Public Health/Master of Public Health:

Sophie Ahmad
Rhea Joshi
Kirby Renalds
Rosa Vidal

Bachelor of Science in Public Health:

Austen Brewer
William Cain
Sarah Durbin
Chloe Edwards
Addisten Gieske
James Hill
Tamorror Love
Emily Moll
Jamie Morgan
Hailey Nolan
Meera Patel
Julia Peters
Madison Rodriguez
Bailey Stone
Kyerstin Williamson
Connor Dornan
Chelsea Elkins
Rhea Joshi
Sara Juma
Ava Quigley

Minor in Public Health- 5yr BS or BA/MPH

Melina Alexander
Gracie Hitchcock

Master of Public Health:

Namrata Acharya
Taylor Bunch
Ed Chacon
Tyra Durrett
Morgahn Fingall
Skye Frazier
Natasha Glover
Chelsea Gouty
Margaret Hall
Sarah Herrick
Madison Hoskins
Kaylynn Hunt
Harper Johnson
Desarai King
Christine Koch
Ashlynn Malone
Laura Manville
Rory Moore
Johanna Morales
Erin Moran
Ellen Oakes
Temitope Omole
Maitri Patel
Amber Rovane
Katelyn Shea
Su Chen Tan
Rachel Valentine
Brandi Wade
Leslyne Watkins
Emmalee West
Felicia Wright
Caroline Xiong



Faculty Spotlight!

Dr. Phoebe Tran

Congrats to Dr. Phoebe Tran who has received a 3-year American Heart Association (AHA) Career Development Award!

Dr. Tran received this award to conduct a project that examines how social norms about health behaviors impact patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) who participate in outpatient cardiac rehabilitation (OCR).

This project is a collaborative effort between the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), the University of Tennessee Graduate School of Medicine (UTGSM), and the University of Tennessee Medical Center (UTMC), and will take place at the UTMC Cardiovascular & Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program. Dr. Tran will receive mentorship on this project from Dr. Angela Pfammatter (College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences), Dr. Debra Moser (College of Nursing), Dr. Joel Anderson (College of Nursing), and Dr. Robert E. Heidel (UTGSM). Key collaborators include Andrew Sorey (UTMC Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation Program Manager), Yuliya Nemykina (UTGSM), Tamara Blaine (UTMC), and Kimberly Mowell (UTMC). Prior research on cardiac rehabilitation barriers that led to the development of this AHA grant was made possible through an internal CORNET award that was jointly funded by UTGSM, the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis (UTHSC-Memphis), and UTK.

Way to go, Dr. Tran!

