SPHSP 2013

Student Profiles

May 27th, 2013 – August 2nd, 2013
Danny Alston

Elizabeth City State University

**Studying:** Bachelor of Science in Chemistry with a Minor in Biology
**Year:** Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**
I would pursue Environmental Health Sciences as a public health interest.

**What are your career goals?**
My career goal is to be a Health Disparities Investigator on either HIV/AIDS or Diabetes, specifically better preventative methods of HIV/AIDS or Diabetes in underrepresented communities.

**Something you would like us to know**
"Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less traveled by, And that has made all the difference." Robert Frost. This is one of my favorite quotes that inspired me to explore unfamiliar territories like public health as a health-related career. Exploring the possible environmental influences of these disparities can hopefully be achieved by my efforts.

Roselaure Anstral

University of Miami

**Studying:** Sociology & Biology
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**
My interest in public health is in behavioral science and prevention.

**What are your career goals?**
Currently, I am interested in becoming a community nurse and working with the youth of my community in preventing risky behaviors.

**Something you would like us to know**
I am still figuring out what I want to do, however, because of this program I have gained an understanding in my potential to change my community for the better.

Tyler Barbadillo

UC Berkeley

**Studying:** Social Welfare, Public Policy
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**
HIV Prevention, LGBT Health

**What are your career goals?**
Health Policy Analyst

**Something you would like us to know**
Great program!
MAYGHEN SYMONE BARMORE

Spelman College

**Studying:** Psychology  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in behavioral science & health education and maternal & child health. I want to research and implement intervention programs that will teach mothers how to create healthy environments for themselves and their children.

**What are your career goals?**  
After earning an MPH, ultimately I would like to start a non-profit organization that is dedicated to teaching and providing necessary resources for mothers to create healthy environments for themselves and their children.

**Something you would like us to know**  
SPHSP has not only helped me focus and articulate my interests, but learning so much about the depth and breadth of public health has intensified my vexation with the way things are; I am so excited to keep learning and start making a difference!

JASMINE BURTON

Georgia Institute of Technology

**Studying:** Industrial Design (Product Design)  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
My passion lies at the intersection of global health and women’s health. Additionally, I am also driven by the need to improve menstrual hygiene management (MHM) in developing countries.

**What are your career goals?**  
I hope to form a nonprofit for community outreach and empowerment for MHM and toilets in Kenya and India specifically. I would use this data to work with other designers to create toilets and feminine care products in these countries. More realistically and tangibly, I would love obtain an MPH, serve in the Peace Corps and to do humanitarian design work with the CDC or the WHO. I am excited to see how my future career unfolds.

**Something you would like us to know**  
Here are my thoughts and how I have processed all that I have learned through SPHSP  
[http://jazzmylfeismymessage.wordpress.com/](http://jazzmylfeismymessage.wordpress.com/)

ASHLEY K. BUTLER

Fisk University

**Studying:** Mathematics and Psychology  
**Year:** Junior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
Public health is an interdisciplinary field and my interests vary from epidemiology to health policy, dentistry to sexual health.

**What are your career goals?**  
After graduate school in either law, medicine or public health, I would like to either work with the CDC or USPHS, for a number of years and at some point in between there and the future, I want to open up a rehabilitation center for military veterans diagnosed with any disorders, such as PTSD.

**Something you would like us to know**  
Thank you for allowing us to give our input on the things we want to accomplish in the future. Thank you setting this up the way you did!
GEANNA CAPITAN
University of New Mexico

Studying: BS Biology, minor in Chemistry
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
Working with City Harvest created an interest in Nutrition. Food is much like the field of biology because it is the basis for many different applications in life.

What are your career goals?
I am determined to find a way to practice medicine in my community or another Native community. As a doctor, I plan on focusing on family medicine or pediatrics.

Something you would like us to know-
"Native American isn’t blood. It is what is in the heart. The love for the land, the respect for it; those who inhabit it, and the respect and acknowledgement of the spirits and elders. That is what it is to be Indian."
~White Feather, Navajo Medicine Man A'hee'hee / Da'waa'eh (Thank you)

RASHOD COLEMAN
Alabama Agricultural & Mechanical University

Studying: Biology Pre-Med
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in vulnerable populations, more specifically, young adolescents in underserved communities. I am also interested in environmental justice to help create a healthier environment for all of mankind.

What are your career goals?
I aspire to obtain both my MPH and MBA. Ultimately, I will start my nonprofit organization Beyond Relying on Society for underserved adolescents in Chicago, while concentrating on public health. Furthermore, I wish build my scholarship fund to help young marginalized populations to obtain an education of higher learning.

Something you would like us to know-
I am very open to exploring different areas of public health.

AMERICA DELGADO
University of South Florida

Studying: Nursing
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
Health promotion in the Hispanic community, specifically families engaged in agricultural occupations.

What are your career goals?
My career goal is to graduate next year with a Bachelor in Nursing and to continue on to graduate school to pursue a Doctorate in Nursing Practice.

Something you would like us to know-
I cannot express how grateful I am to be a part of SPHSP. It is truly an honorable experience and has completely impacted my personal views of public health and its effects on healthcare.
PAUL DRIVER

Georgia Southern University

Studying: B.S. Biology
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in environmental health impacts as it relates to climate change. I also take interest in disaster preparedness and intervention strategies. Children and recovery methods along with resilience and their empowerment after disasters are of interest to me as well.

What are your career goals?
After graduating with my MPH with a concentration in Environmental Health Science I would like to pursue a career in research and to ultimately become a policy analyst.

Something you would like us to know-
I am open to exploring the various disciplines of public health and expanding my knowledge in this field.

ILIANA GARCIA

Hope College

Studying: B.A. Political Science, Philosophy
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in Health Policy and Management, and Health Disparities.

What are your career goals?
My short-term career goal is to pursue a joint Master's Degree in Public Health and Public Policy. Meanwhile, my long-term career goal is to be elected to a Congressional Office as a representative for my district. I want to be able to be an advocate for my community at the local and national level.

Something you would like us to know-
I am open to exploring the different disciplines of public health. I also want to be able to expand my knowledge on how to help my community and this nation reach its potential to be a great country that offers equal opportunities to all.

ADÁN GARCÍA-MECINAS

U.C. Berkeley

Studying: Ethnic Studies
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in the fields of health education, public health policy and practice. I see myself as a physician that works with communities of color to improve their standard of living and support policies that influence how health care is delivered.

What are your career goals?
My career goal is to become a physician that is trained in the field of public health to work with underserved communities. My ultimate goal is to reduce health disparities that disproportionately affect communities of color.

Something you would like us to know-
In 2009, I received the honor of becoming a Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar. At my university, I co-founded a program aimed to teach nighttime janitors English Language Skills in order for them to feel more comfortable in their communities.
**REBECCA GRABER**

**University of Alabama at Birmingham**

**Studying:** International Development  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in how public health interacts with overseas community development. I am passionate about maternal & child health and impacting the critical first 1,000 days of an individual’s life.

**What are your career goals?**  
I hope to work in Sub-Saharan or East Africa with a non-profit and/or missions organization as a community development worker and/or midwife. I aspire to empower individuals and communities to understand their unique abilities in order to better their quality of life.

**Something you would like us to know**  
I believe that midwifery in US and across the world should be better understood and implemented to improve maternal and child health. Midwives should be integrated into not only the medical framework but can be advocates in public health.

**JILLIAN GRIFFITH**

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

**Studying:** Nutrition (Public Health) with a minor in Chemistry  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I have an interest in health promotion and disease prevention in marginalized communities. I am particularly interested in family and community based obesity interventions.

**What are your career goals?**  
I hope to attain an MPH, Registered Dietician (RD) and Doctor of Public (DrPh), that will give me the capacity to analyze and respond to problems related to obesity on the individual level as well as the community and societal level.

**Something you would like us to know**  
On my college campus, I am the Co-Founder of the Minority Health and Health Disparities Committee, a sub-committee of our Black Student Movement. I am also the Programming Coordinator for Healthy Girls Save the World, a non-profit organization.

**MELVIN GRIMES**

**University of Louisiana at Monroe**

**Studying:** Biology  
**Year:** Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested chronic disease prevention through the promotion of healthy lifestyles and choices.

**What are your career goals?**  
I am interested in pursuing a career in medicine and incorporating public health principles to help improve health on both an individual and a population level.

**Something you would like us to know**  
As a future health care professional, I want the work that I do to help others to live healthy lifestyles. I also want this work to inspire others to discover their own passions to change the world around them for the better.
**CINTLI JAUREGUI**  
*University of South Florida*  
**Studying:** Nursing and Public Health  
**Year:** Senior  
**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in reducing the racial and ethnic disparities that exist within the health care system. Topics that interest me are maternal and child health, behavioral health and sex education.  
**What are your career goals?**  
I aspire to become a nurse practitioner and work with underserved communities. Integrating the field of public health will allow me to not only treat individual patients, but also a diverse population.  
**Something you would like us to know-**  
I am very blessed and thankful to be part of the Summer Public Health Scholars Program. I have grown in various ways and developed skills that will assist me to serve as a leader in the community. Through this program I have learned the role public health plays in different perspectives.

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**KAYLA JOHNSON**  
*Xavier University of Louisiana*  
**Studying:** Biology Pre-Med  
**Year:** Senior  
**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I have a number of interests that are related to the holistic health of families. I am interested in maternal and child health, children's health and nutrition—all in relation to underserved communities of color.  
**What are your career goals?**  
I want to become a primary care physician and public health advocate. I want to ultimately practice medicine in an underserved community.  
**Something you would like us to know-**  
This program has opened my eyes in so many ways. I have gained invaluable insight from all aspects of this program—the classes, the internship and the many conversations and experiences with others in my cohort.

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**ALIYAH JOHNSON**  
*Bucknell University*  
**Studying:** Sociology and Women's &Gender Studies with a concentration in human services  
**Year:** Senior  
**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
Health policy and health education  
**What are your career goals?**  
My ultimate goal in life is to address the needs of underrepresented populations of people. I would like to work with women and children suffering from domestic violence, sexual assault and substance abuse.  
**Something you would like us to know-**  
Upon entering the program I was hoping that I'd walk away with a clear and set path or to at least be able to narrow down my interests, but instead the exact opposite happened. I feel like my passions in service have been amplified and rekindled. I've been introduced to many health professions that I'm very interested in and I've been encouraged to pursue all of them.
BRITTNEY JONES

Eastern Kentucky University

**Studying:** Public Health  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in disease prevention and I would like to work with underserved communities.

**What are your career goals?**  
After graduation, I would first like to land a fellowship with the CDC. After that, I would like to obtain an MPH. I'm very open to different schools and am in the process of finding the best one for me. Eventually, my plan is to work with an organization that provides community outreach and interventions.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
I'm the type of person who can easily adapt to almost any situation. For example, I come from a town of about 7,000 people and I've easily adapted to the busy lifestyle of NYC.

VALENTINA LIN

University of California Los Angeles

**Studying:** Microbiology Immunology & Molecular Genetics  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I'm interested in global health and I want to work with rural population in developing countries in issues of water sanitation, air quality, and infectious diseases.

**What are your career goals?**  
It is my career goal to one day work with International NGOs to help bridge the health inequality gap and provide adequate health care access to the citizens at home and those of developing countries. I aspire to provide help to those who lack the basic nutrition, sanitation and access to water.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
I believe adversity is a blessing in disguise. It builds character and allows you to forge forward. As the Chinese Philosopher Lao-tzu said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

DAVID LOPEZ

Macaletser College

**Studying:** Sociology; Community & Global Health Concentration  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in the sexual and mental health of men who have sex with men. Through this program, I have also developed an interest for environmental health.

**What are your career goals?**  
I would like to research and implement prevention programs for men who have sex with men who are at risk of sexual and mental health issues for either a non-profit or government health agency.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
I am also passionate about learning languages. I have studies French, Spanish and will start Portuguese this fall.
MAIRYN LOPEZ RIOS
University of Puerto Rico - Aguadilla

**Studying:** Biomedical Sciences  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
My main interest lies in the prevention of diseases and health disparities, especially HIV. I am also interested in the implementation of education and treatments to relieve/mediate controllable diseases like: Diabetes, Obesity and hypertension.

**What are your career goals?**  
My goal is to work in the field of Public Health. I would like to address health issues that affect Hispanics, especially Puerto Ricans by serving as a leader in my community, capable of persuading others into a better and more sufficient lifestyle.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
Integrity is doing the right thing, even when no one is watching. This quote reminds me of my father. He always advised me to do the right thing, even when it didn't benefit me.

KRISTEN MAHLER
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs

**Studying:** Biology  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in the medical aspect of public health. I am particularly interested in the field of Pediatrics. I believe everyone should have access to quality, affordable health care.

**What are your career goals?**  
My career goal is to be a medical doctor practicing in the field of pediatrics. I am interested in providing medical services in a public health setting. I want to emphasize the importance of patient education and prevention.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
The knowledge I have gained from being an intern with SPHSP will help me considerably in my future career as a pediatrician. The diversity of different fields in this program is important to effectively make change in the field of public health. I hope to make connections with people that will last a lifetime.

MERRY MANSON
Arizona State University

**Studying:** B.S. American Indian Studies B.I.S. Anthropology and Family and Child Development  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
Behavioral and Community Health

**What are your career goals?**  
Youth outreach on the Navajo Reservation preventing the ongoing negative effects of historical trauma

**Something you would like us to know—**  
I am a proud member of the Navajo Nation and a Gates Millennium Scholar.
DONNA MCCAIN

Johnson and Wales University

Studying: Culinary Nutrition
Year: Junior

What is your area of interest in public health?
My area of interest in public health is nutrition and developing educational interventions to combat the obesity epidemic our nation is facing.

What are your career goals?
I plan to become a Registered Dietician as well as earn my MPH. With these degrees, I will develop or enhance a successful intervention that can be spread nationwide. The intervention will educate people on how to cook, and will primarily be food-based.

Something you would like us to know-
Before I was accepted into this program I had a set ten year plan that was focused on a career that was not public health related. After just 10 weeks, this program has exposed me to the high demand of public health professionals and has made me change my career goals.

SARAH MORABU

East Stroudsburg University

Studying: Public Health
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am very passionate about the issues that surround Maternal and Child Health. I would love to work in a developing country to tackle the issues that surround access to health care and research on how culture can be used to promote health within a community.

What are your career goals?
To work in a global setting preferably within the UN or WHO

Something you would like us to know-
I learned about Public Health through my Mother who made me realize that I can make an impact one community at a time for an even greater global impact. I fell in love! My passion grew deeper as I became older and now, advancement in Maternal and Child Health is where I believe my niche is.

CHRISTIE OSORIO

University of Puerto Rico

Studying: Interdisciplinary Natural Science Program
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in dental care (clinical) especially with children; I want to combine it with public health, because my desire is to help the disadvantaged children.

What are your career goals?
My future goals is to finish my major, get a high score in the DAT. Get my certificate in Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) and Public Health (MPH).

Something you would like us to know-
This program is helping me to extend my knowledge in dental research and clinical dentistry. I would like to have the opportunity to study further in this University.
KARISSA PEREZ
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Studying: Interdisciplinary Studies: Global Studies
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
Mental health of children and minorities, maternal and child health, global health, programs in health literacy, education, and nutrition.

What are your career goals?
I plan to conduct community based participatory research where I can assist community organizations in identifying health disparities within their local environment and devise options for social action.

Something you would like us to know-
Through the academic work, field trips to intervention organizations, and my internship, I have not only been exposed to the extensive impacts that public health efforts have in communities, but have also gained insight on direct and immediate impacts I can make within my own community.

CHRISTOPHER PERKINS
Rhodes College

Studying: Religious Studies
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in population and family health. I believe that this area of public health provides you with the opportunity to understand how to improve the health of a population on many levels.

What are your career goals?
I want to become a primary care physician in public health setting. I want to also start my own clinic in a rural area to address the health needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities.

Something you would like us to know-
I have enjoyed this program a lot. I have learned so much from not only the courses we take, but from the city itself. In light of this and my overall experience in this program, I know for sure that public health work is what I want to pursue.

DANIELLE C. PERRY
Cheyney University of PA

Studying: English
Year: Recent Graduate

What is your area of interest in public health?
Maternal and Child Health

What are your career goals?
My career goal is to become an ob/gyn. Through my practice I would like to eliminate health disparities through advocating family planning in the African American community.

Something you would like us to know-
I appreciated this experience greatly. Having the opportunity to surround myself with outstanding students and peers was awesome. Moreover, I had the chance to live in New York City. I can officially make it anywhere!
**DAVID PIOQUINTO**

*University of Florida*

**Studying:** Microbiology  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I believe in the importance of prevention especially as it relates to cardiovascular disease. This country has fostered habits that contribute to the onset of widespread obesity and such related diseases. I am interested in policy based solutions to address these issues preemptively.

**What are your career goals?**  
I wish to earn my MD and PhD degrees. I want to use this education to conduct clinical research alongside patient care. I am specifically interested in pediatrics at this point.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
I believe in the synergistic effects of healthcare. All corners of the health care field must be appreciated and included in addressing health issues.

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**DONETTE RITCHIE**

*Ithaca College*

**Studying:** Public and Community Health with a Policy concentration and Spanish Minor  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I find all areas of public health interesting. However, being raised in Guyana then migrating to the United States has granted me a greater appreciation for the areas of international public health and research in health disparities.

**What are your career goals?**  
My goal is to obtain a MPH followed by a PhD in Public Health. I aspire to conduct health research as well as contribute to policy analysis and development in low-income countries and communities.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
My gifts are not about me. My leadership is not about me. My purpose is not about me. My conviction is to serve those who need my gifts, my leadership and my purpose.

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**MARISSA ROBINSON**

*Spelman College*

**Studying:** Psychology  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
Environmental Health, Socio-medical Sciences, and Epidemiology

**What are your career goals?**  
Become an Epidemiologist at the CDC or a government employee working for a community of color

**Something you would like us to know-**  
I love this internship!
EMMANUEL RODRIGUEZ
Willamette University

Studying: Exercise Science
Year: Junior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in the social justice principles of public health such as promoting health equity, eliminating health disparities, and educating and empowering socially disadvantaged communities.

What are your career goals?
I plan on earning my MPH/OT dual degree, hopefully from Columbia. I then plan on opening a practice that offers equitable and affordable services for marginalized communities. I would like to publish articles or conduct some sort of research related to systems of power and oppression in relation to occupational therapy.

Something you would like us to know-
Thank you for investing in my goals and for the support you have provided, I have become completely devoted to the mission of public health.

CAMELLE SCOTT
Washington University in St. Louis

Studying: Anthropology
Year: Junior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I plan on earning my MPH/OT dual degree, hopefully from Columbia. I then plan on opening a practice that offers equitable and affordable services for marginalized communities. I would like to publish articles or conduct some sort of research related to systems of power and oppression in relation to occupational therapy.

Something you would like us to know-
Thank you for investing in my goals and for the support you have provided, I have become completely devoted to the mission of public health.

CHELSIE SALVATERA
Grinnell College

Studying: Sociology, Pre-Medical Track
Year: Senior

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am extremely interested in sociomedical science, and chronic disease prevention.

What are your career goals?
My career goal is to establish and direct a community organization that focuses on chronic disease prevention and youth empowerment in a low-income and immigrant populated community.

Something you would like us to know-
I really like to travel, and I am going to Chile for a study abroad program. There I will be learning about traditional medicine and community empowerment.

What is your area of interest in public health?
I am interested in the social justice principles of public health such as promoting health equity, eliminating health disparities, and educating and empowering socially disadvantaged communities.

What are your career goals?
I plan on earning my MPH/OT dual degree, hopefully from Columbia. I then plan on opening a practice that offers equitable and affordable services for marginalized communities. I would like to publish articles or conduct some sort of research related to systems of power and oppression in relation to occupational therapy.

Something you would like us to know-
Thank you for investing in my goals and for the support you have provided, I have become completely devoted to the mission of public health.
**DARRICK SCOTT**

Howard University

**Studying:** Psychology  
**Year:** Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I'm interested in mental health, particularly intervention and prevention work for the urban population.

**What are your career goals?**  
I will become a psychological therapist and researcher serving and informing low-income communities.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
The diversity and opportunities of this program are profound and life altering to anyone that is able to experience it. I'm very grateful for the existence of this program as well as the selection of scholars.

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**SAMAL SHEPHERD**

University of Central Florida

**Studying:** Health Services Administration  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I'm interested in health disparities that burden underserved populations, particularly African-Americans, through a health policy approach.

**What are your career goals?**  
I desire to work as a consultant for governmental health agencies on the local, state, and federal levels. I plan on implementing changes to policies and systematic barriers that greatly effect health of lower socioeconomic statuses.

**Something you would like us to know—**  
Each and every one of us has a calling and purpose on this earth; the ability to make a great impact. The difference is whether we use our gifts and talents for our own gain or for the service of others. Life pays greater dividends to those who choose the latter. I hope, as public health advocates and leaders, that we minimize our fears, maximize our potential, and change the world one encounter at a time!

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**RICHARD SMITH**

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Studying:** Psychology, Music  
**Year:** Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
My interests in public health lie within socio-emotional wellness, particularly among African American youth. I find it crucial to encourage mental stability and resilience within ones childhood to give them the power to cope with inevitable stressors in life.

**What are your career goals?**  
Upon completion of a psychology doctoral program, I intend to join the faculty at a major research institute to continue my studies on African American health issues.

**What are your career goals?**  
As an undergraduate, I was involved in two research labs examining African American racial identity and academic achievement in the metropolitan Detroit area. I was also a 4 year member of the Michigan Marching Band and Educational Theater Company.
**Stephanie Smith**
Eastern Kentucky University

**Studying:** Public Health, concentration: Community Health  
**Year:** Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I find my interest in understanding the complexities of health disparities and the enormous impact they can have on preventative diseases.

**What are your career goals?**  
My current career goal is to obtain a MPH. During my time at EKU, I plan to increase the awareness of health disparities education in public health. After graduation, I will either pursue a career in higher education or work for an organization to help improve the health of my bluegrass state.

**Something you would like us to know**-  
SPHSP has been an amazing experience that has helped shape my area of focus in public health. I have learned how important it is to stay true to who you are. After all, our experiences are where our true passions can be found.

**Ingrid Sub Cuc**
Whitworth University

**Studying:** Biology on the pre-med track  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in introducing preventive and holistic medicine to public health. I would like to work as a naturopathic doctor addressing chronic illnesses among children in underprivileged communities.

**What are your career goals?**  
I hope to take a year off and gain more public health experience. I want to pursue MPH and ND (naturopathic doctor) certificates. Eventually I want to practice as a naturopathic physician focusing on family health.

**Something you would like us to know**-  
Growing up in a third world country made me realize the necessity of an education. Education is the key to eliminating disparities in oppressed and underrepresented communities. I am grateful for the opportunities provided to me and I aim to take those tools to impact my community.

**Kawana Tharps**
Washington University in St. Louis

**Studying:** African and African American Studies  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I would like to address racial health disparities, including health care access, prevention and treatment primarily in the African-American community. I am most interested in diabetes, heart disease, STIs and drug addiction.

**What are your career goals?**  
I plan to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. My ultimate goal is to open a community health center in a neighborhood that resembles my own, that provides treatment and programs to help community residents live a healthier life.

**Something you would like us to know**-  
I have been blessed to have a woman in my life that kept me on the path to realizing my full potential. If I can affect one person’s life, the way that she has affected mine, whether it be health related or not, I will feel that I have done something significant with my life.
**BRETT THOMPSON**  
**University of Virginia**

**Studying:** Environmental Sciences  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
Environmental Health, Industrial Hygiene. I am interested in toxicology and the effects of built environments and the materials used to make them. I am also interested in how the natural environment, like climate, impacts human health.

**What are your career goals?**  
Industrial Hygienist or similar work as an environmental health officer.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
I am very interested in environmental health in developing nations. They do not have the same issues that we face in the US due to their lack of industry and developed resources, but they still face issues like poor working conditions. Also their lack of infrastructure is often the source of health issues, which is something I would like to help resolve.

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**KONG VANG**  
**University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee**

**Studying:** Biological Sciences  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I have grown a particular interest the sociomedical sciences because it gives a definition to what I experience every day in the New York and Milwaukee communities. I am able to apply what I learn in class to truly understand the problems that plague our communities.

**What are your career goals?**  
My career goal is to become a family physician and open my own community clinic in Milwaukee, WI where I wish to provide care for those less fortunate.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
The Summer Public Health Scholars Program has reinforced my decision to pursue medicine. Through this program, I have gain an understanding of my importance to my community of Milwaukee. I now see myself as a pioneer who along with my peers, are paving the way for a brighter and better future.

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**JEAN-CLAUDE VELASQUEZ**  
**Stony Brook University**

**Studying:** Political Science & Philosophy  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in regulatory affairs pertaining to food and pharmaceutical drugs and want to combine my MPH education in epidemiology, risk analysis, policy and management with my legal training.

**What are your career goals?**  
I want to forge a bridge between my interest in the law and public health; therefore, I am pursuing a Masters of Public Health and a Juris Doctorate.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
SPHSP provided me with a substantive exposure to public health. I am grateful for the opportunity to witness health disparities on the field trips. Despite the fact that I was raised in Queens, NY, I had no idea that sweeping environmental injustices that directly affect public health were occurring just minutes away from me.
**JANET VIDAL**

**Skidmore College**

**Studying:** African and African American Studies  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
My area of interest in public health would revolve around education. How one can educate others in terms of their own health, their community and the world as a whole. I am very interested in informing others and keeping others aware of their own potential.

**What are your career goals?**  
In the future, I would love to become a teacher or have a title that allows me to interact with the inner city youth. I really want to work with teens. I know this is not an easy job, I know it is a challenge but I really just want to teach.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
I really enjoy learning and helping others out as much as possible.

**ALIFA WATKINS**

**American University**

**Studying:** Women's Gender and Sexual Studies, minor in Psychology  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
I am interested in youth sexual health and school-based comprehensive sexuality education. Specifically, I am interested in how sexuality education affects youth's sexual knowledge, behaviors, and health outcomes.

**What are your career goals?**  
I want to work with organizations that work with school districts and administrations to research, plan, implement, and evaluate school-based sex education programs to empower young people to negotiate boundaries with their partners and practice safe sex.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
With knowledge from culturally appropriate, comprehensive sex education, young people will be able to improve their sexual health by being more sexually responsible, communicating better with their partners.

**BRANDON WILKINS**

**University of South Carolina**

**Studying:** Nursing  
**Year:** Senior

**What is your area of interest in public health?**  
My area of interest is the field of nursing. Nurses work with a diverse patient population in many different healthcare settings which gives me the opportunity to find my niche through many different work experiences.

**What are your career goals?**  
I want to pursue my Masters of Science in Nursing as a Nurse Practitioner. After working for as a Nurse Practitioner I would like to go back and obtain a terminal degree in either Doctor of Public Health or Doctor of Nursing Practice.

**Something you would like us to know-**  
This program has taught me how much respect, dignity, and passion plays in the health field through my internship placement and the interaction with the other SPHSP scholars. This program was an opportunity of a lifetime, and I am humbled and honored that I was able to share this experience with the 50 individuals that were selected.
MICHAEL WILLIAMS
University of Michigan - Ann Arbor

*Studying:* Afroamerican and African Studies  
*Year:* Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**
My interests lie at the intersection of urbanism, public health, and community development. Working in the area of environmental justice has encouraged me to understand how the built environment influences health outcomes.

**What are your career goals?**
I want to pursue a career in urban planning while focusing on relationships between the municipality, community organizations, and citizens.

**Something you would like us to know**
Lessons in activism, from Detroit to Durban and from health policy research to educating my peers on the dangers of HIV, have shaped the perspective I brought to New York and I look forward to taking this ahead to my community.

SONG YANG
College of Saint Benedict

*Studying:* Sociology  
*Year:* Recent Graduate

**What is your area of interest in public health?**
I have a growing interest in reproductive health, sexual health and nutrition as well as global health since I want to work with immigrants and refugees.

**What are your career goals?**
I want to become a Health educator for minority citizens, refugees, and immigrants. I want to become a valuable educator for the community and obtain a job working to strengthen the health and wellness of multicultural communities.

**Something you would like us to know**
During a presentation at the CDC, a spark came over me and I knew I was headed towards the right direction. Each day in this program consisted of challenges that have shaped my Public Health lens. Although the program is coming to an end, I know a great journey lies ahead of me. This is only the beginning and I'm excited to take what I've learned and build on it. Thank you SPHSP!