



Fifteenth Annual Commencement Ceremony Program

Celebrating the Class of 2020

May 20, 2020



Stony Brook
Program in Public Health

Virtual Program Agenda

Director's Message to the Graduating Class of 2020

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD

Director, Program in Public Health

MPH Graduating Class of 2020

PhD Graduating Class of 2020

2020 Public Health Awards

Honor Society Inductees

Expressions of Thanks, Class of 2020

Message for the 2020 Graduating Class

To our Graduates,

On behalf of the Program in Public Health, I congratulate each of our 2020 graduates on a job well done.

It is with great pride that we send you out into the field, prepared to help make a difference in the health and well-being of our communities located around the world. With an increasing need for qualified public health professionals, we know that you will go far beyond and help to create positive change. Each of you is a tremendous asset to promote the public's health, and we look forward to supporting you throughout your career.

In addition, the Program in Public Health is an ever-growing and changing program and, as alumni, we look forward to your ongoing support and participation in the program. Remember to update us on your progress.

Congratulations again and best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Benz Scott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD
Director, Program in Public Health

List of Graduates by Degree

Master of Public Health

Laura Mary Burkhardt
Venus Hercules-Fernandez
Peter Hong
Saad Omer Kaif
Shahanaz B. Khaliq
Slah Khan
Rashmi Rao
Tracey Nicole Rosenlicht
Meerah Hassan Shah
James Phillip Stork
Talissa Briana Tejada
Passang Tsekey
Janet Tutuyan
Andrew Joseph Uterano
Jennifer Louise Vasquez
Allison Pearl Vaughan

Master of Public Health/Doctor of Dental Surgery

Trina Marie Bunag Villanueva

Master of Public Health/Doctor of Dental Surgery/ Master of Business Administration

Jack Lupfer

Master of Public Health/Master of Arts in Public Policy

Brian James Egan
Danielle Elizabeth Russo

List of Graduates by Degree

Master of Public Health/Master of Business Administration

Lauryn Kristyn Bassuk
Yasmine Maye Brown-Williams
Naqiya Rahil Choonawala
Martine Fortune
Alseny Theryl Dieye Frederick
Samantha L. Frontario
Laurel Megan Gumpert
Candace Haskell
Rachel Leahy
Tiffany M. Martin
Umair Raees
Shakib Uddin

Master of Public Health/Medical Doctorate

James Jungmo Kang
Zaina Naeem
Kristie Price

Master of Public Health/Master of Science in Nutrition

Helena Marie Roura

Master of Public Health/Preventive Medicine Residency Program

Sujoy Kumar Gayen
Astha Muttreja
Whitney Ebony Stansbury

Master of Public Health/ Accelerated Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies

Maylene Lois Abulencia Navarra

List of Graduates by Degree

PhD in Population Health and Clinical Outcomes Research

Sruthi Babu, MBBS, DCP, MPH



Jamie Romeiser, MPH



Public Health Awards

Ann Tempone Scholarship

Presenter:

Andrew Flescher, PhD

Recipient:

Gabriella Pandolfelli

Overall Excellence in Public Health

Presenter:

Amy Hammock, PhD

Recipient:

Candace Haskell

Faculty Teaching Award

Presenter:

Candace Haskell, President, 2019-2020

Organization of Public Health Students and Alumni

Recipient:

Catherine Messina, PhD

Director's Award for Excellence

Presenter:

Lisa Benz Scott, PhD

Recipient:

Joanie Maniaci, Assistant Director for Student Affairs

Honor Society Inductees for the Class of 2020

Delta Omega

Delta Lambda Chapter

Public Health Honorary Society

Sujoy Gayen

Laurel Gumpert

Candace Haskell

Rachel Leahy

Astha Muttreja

Janet Tutuyan

Upsilon Phi Delta

Stony Brook University Chapter

Health Management Honorary Society

Andrew Uterano

Expressions of Thanks from the Graduates

I would like to thank my mom and dad, my boyfriend Angel, my sisters, and my peers for all your help throughout my life. I also want to thank my professors for everything they have taught me during my academic years.

- Jennifer Vasquez

Thank you Dr. Hale and all faculty for being some of the most inspiring supportive people I know!

- Rashmi Rao

Thank you to Dr. Benz Scott, Dr. Meliker, and the rest of the MPH faculty for their guidance through this program and beyond.

- James Stork

Thank you to Beth and Scott Gumpert for your unwavering support.

- Laurel Gumpert

To my parents, Ray and Kathy Lynch, and my boyfriend James Luce, I want to thank you all for being there for me, and for all your love and support. I couldn't have done this without you.

- Tiffany Martin

I would like to thank the entire program for providing me with an incredible education and a passion for public health. I greatly appreciate the opportunity of being at student in the program and I learned a great deal of valuable information during the course of 2 years that I will most definitely use in the future! Shout out and thank you to: Dr. Agris, Dr. Alcalá, Dr. Flescher, Dr. Messina, Dr. Kidman and Joanie!

- Samantha Frontario

Graduation at the graduate level provides an opportunity to take the next step in fulfilling another dream of mine, earning Dual Master Degrees in Public Health and Nutrition, many, many years in the making. Thank you to the faculty and to my beloved Stony Brook University for helping to make my dreams a reality. Likewise, I could not have achieved so much without the encouragement of my beautiful family. I know I have the best home team anyone could hope for. Thank you to my mother and father: Kathryn and Mike, to my children: Anastasia and Xavier, and to my husband Miguel. I love you all. xoxo

- Helena M. Roura

To all faculty and staff: thank you for always being supportive and down-to-earth.

- Danielle Russo

Expressions of Thanks from the Graduates

Thank you to everyone that has made MPH possible for me!

- Laura Burkhardt

I would like to thank the entire PPH family for investing so much time and energy into my career (and personal) development. I never thought I would be so close to this many of the faculty and staff. This program has been an extremely enriching experience, and a memorable one.

So, thank you.

- Yasmine Brown-Williams

Thank you to the entire PPH faculty and staff. This program has been such an incredible experience because of all of you. Thank you to my family and to Eric for your constant understanding and support.

- Candace Haskell

Thank you to our faculty and staff for all the support we've been given throughout this program, and for their ability to roll with the punches during these crazy times.

- Brian Egan

I want to thank my parents, Elizabeth and Jose, for being the best parents in the world and always supporting me in my endeavors. I love you both so much!

- Talissa Tejada

I would like to thank my parents for guiding me to pursue this degree and always supporting me in all of my endeavors. I would also like to thank my sisters for always putting a smile on my face, and my partner for always encouraging me to go after my dreams. To my classmates, I would like to say Congratulations! And best of luck in all that we aspire to achieve.

- Allison Vaughan

Thank you Professor Flescher for your endless support and motivation throughout these last two years.

- Tracey Rosenlicht

Thank you to my family and PPH faculty and staff for helping me get through the MPH program.

- Shahanaz Khalique

Expressions of Thanks from the Graduates

Thank you to all my professors and mentors throughout my three years. It was an honor to be a part of this program and fall in love with public health. Special thanks to Joanie for always putting the needs of the students first, listening to the students, and actually doing something with the feedback we provide! You truly made us feel heard.

- Meerah Shah

There are several special people I would like to thank and acknowledge. Thank you to my boyfriend, Ray, who has been there for me unconditionally, in every way possible. To my mother and family for your constant love and support. To my friends for always cheering me on along the way. And to my late Uncle Tom and grandfather, who have been my motivators.

- Lauryn Bassuk

I would like to thank Dr. Hou, Dr. Messina and Dr. Smith for their care for us and commitment to teaching us.

- Sujoy Gayen

Thank you for helping me throughout the Public Health Masters course.

- Passang Tsekey

Thank you Dr. Amy Hammock, for making every class educational, enjoyable and applicable! Thank you Dr. Jaymie Meliker, for teaching me how to both substantiate and reduce my paranoia about environmental issues! Thank you Dr. Hale, for leading us with care and compassion during this very difficult and uncertain time!

- Janet Tutuyan

I would like to say thank you to everyone who has supported me through this journey. I especially would like to thank my husband Michael for always being the ying to my yang when I needed it most, my parents for loving and supporting me through all my decisions, and my close family and friends for always being there to lend me a hand or to make sure I took a break when needed. You'll never know how much the little things have touched me. Congrats to the rest of the class of 2020! We are the class that faced a health pandemic to finish their public health degrees. Talk about finishing strong!

- Venus Hercules-Fernandez

