

Student Spotlight



Gabriella Zappala and Bianca Franza

The Program in Public Health is excited to be sending two current MPH students to this year's New York State Public Health Association's annual meeting, at which they will be presenting a poster on their research project. Bianca Franza and Gabriella Zappala, under the supervision of Program Director, Dr. Lisa Benz Scott, have spent the last year looking at how public libraries respond to the mental health needs in their community. They worked on coding libraries into different categories based on the type of programming they offer. They then took this research to look into specific types of programming related to substance use and abuse, as well as how libraries are responding to the opioid epidemic.



Jack Lupfer

Jack Lupfer is a current third-year dental student of Stony Brook University School of Dental Medicine (SDM) expected to graduate in May 2020 with a Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree. In addition to pursuing his DDS degree, Jack is enrolled in a dual master's degree program, taking night classes to obtain his Master of Business Administration and Public Health degree, which he plans to complete concurrently with dental school. While applying to dental school, Jack was awarded a scholarship through the Health Professions Scholarship Program offered through the United States Navy. After graduating from SDM, he will commission as a Lieutenant and have a minimum 4-year commitment to serve as a dental officer in the US Navy. This past summer, Jack spent five weeks in Newport, RI for Navy Officer Development School and served as the Division Officer for his Company of 100 fellow

officer candidates. As a result of his commitment to leadership, Jack was selected by his peers and commanding officers as 1 of 4 award recipients at graduation to receive the George T. Smith Award for Military Leadership. Jack's DDS degree and his commitment to the US Navy will result in his serving on a base domestically, internationally, or aboard one of the Navy's many medical ships.

Outside of the clinical and classroom settings, one of Jack's biggest passions is organized dentistry. Jack is avidly involved with the American Student Dental Association (ASDA) and has served in numerous leadership positions within ASDA at the local, district, and national level. Jack currently holds the title of Stony Brook ASDA Chapter President and is a Meetings Chair for the District. As Meetings Chair, he planned a meeting for over 150 students from the 6 New York and New Jersey dental schools this past fall in Saratoga Springs, NY. Last summer, Jack spent three weeks in Washington, D.C. as an extern with the American Dental Political Action Committee, lobbying on behalf of issues currently facing dental students, the profession of dentistry, and oral health as it pertains to the public and patients at large. In addition to his service within ASDA, Jack also serves as Class President, as an Administrator for the SDM's Discover Dental School Summer Scholars Program for pre-dental students, and as a student representative on the School's Committees for Reaccreditation and International Outreach initiatives.