



Commencement

University of Minnesota
School of Public Health

May 16, 2005



Order of Events

Processional

Welcome and Opening Remarks

John R. Finnegan, Jr., Ph.D.

Interim Dean, School of Public Health

School of Public Health Student Address

Mona Bormet

Student Senate President

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

John Finnegan

Conferring of Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree

The Honorable John Frobenius

Regent, University of Minnesota

to Tommy G. Thompson

former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and
Human Services and Governor of Wisconsin

Commencement Address

Tommy Thompson

"How I Came to Understand the Importance of Public Health"

MSDP
A32c

Presentation of the Candidates for Degrees

Debra Olson, M.P.H.

Associate Dean for Public Health Practice Education

Judith Garrard, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research

Conferring of Degrees

The Honorable John Frobenius

Recitation of the Public Health Professional's Pledge

SPH Student Senate Officers and Graduates

Closing Remarks

John Finnegan

Recessional

Reception

All graduates, faculty, and guests are invited to the reception immediately following the ceremony on the Coffman Memorial Union Fountain Terrace, First Floor

Commencement Officials

University of Minnesota –

The Honorable John Frobenius,
Regent

Academic Health Center –

Frank Cerra, M.D.,
Senior Vice President

School of Public Health –

John R. Finnegan Jr., Ph.D.,
Interim Dean;
Debra Olson, M.P.H.,
*Associate Dean for Public Health
Practice Education;*
Judith Garrard, Ph.D.,
Associate Dean for Research

Graduates 2004-2005

Master of Public Health (MPH)

Community Health Education

Gail Babes
Kelly A. Beckwith
Mona L. Bormet
Bree Dalager
Ann L. Fredrickson
Jennifer S. Irving
Angela Kroeze-Visser
Stacey Gerlach Moe
Tracy Reardon
Sara Rohde
Rachel Schiming
Melinda Sinn

Environmental Health

Carol Allensworth
Fred Anderson
Penny Bartz
Raquel Beucler
Timothy Boyer
Daniel Brady
Stuart Cameron
Kimberley Carlton
Naomi English
Karen Everstine
Brian Konowalchuk
Julie LeBlanc
Eric Leishman
Marissa Lightbourne
Mike Mazzarella
Corinne Melmer
Ismail Nabeel
Tiana Philibert
Stefan Saravia
Bilal Saulat
Maggie Stedman-Smith
Gretchen Strobel
Heather Vedders
Brent Weisbrod
Jordan Woodbury
Nicole Wright

Epidemiology

Lucy Alderton
Ogechika Alozie
Melanie Countryman
Akway M. Cham
Gretchen J. Cutler
Elizabeth Erickson
Liesl Miller Hargens
Erica Holt
Binu V. John
Lindsey Jean Leshner
Amy Linabery

Amit Mahipal
Anil T. Mangla
Kenneth Dawayne Melton
Amy Mertens
Jamie Mistkowski
Sarah Naeger
Travis Olives
Peter R. Rodine
Brent J. Ryan
Pamela Lynne Schipull
Penny J. Sinner
Jose Ricardo Suarez
Mara Sveum
Amy Van Gheem
Joel Wu

Maternal and Child Health

Amber L. Dallman
Amanda Marie Dennison
Jill Eve Farris
Jennifer E. Fleming Harvey
Liliana Tobon Gomez
Rachel Anne Sheild Gustafson
Sarah J. Lerand
Charu Mathur
Rosemond Sarpong Owens
Gita Rijal
Shelley Sherman
PaChia Vue
Anne Walaszek
Debra Waldron

**Public Health Administration
and Policy**

Anna Abt
Paige Anderson
Alexander Dahlquist
Erin Furlong
Kari Guida
Tim Hammer

Chris Hawley
Heather Kamrath
Hussein Kasim
Wendy Linkimer
Judie Mbogua
Valerie Mendralla
Kim Milbrath
LT Nguyen
Anne Price
Becky Speck
Anna Weisbecker
Christina Wen

Public Health Nutrition

Rachel Marie Cope
Maggie Lynn Golicic
Rachel A. Kossover
Serene Mazhar
Shubha Mehta
Kyong Park
Johanna Rehorst
Rebecca Ann Sánchez
Sara Solomon
Matthew Wayne Varner
Kristi Weber

Public Health Practice

Louisa Cammidge
Sandra Eliason
Marc Knobbe
Laura Loertscher
Elizabeth McClure
Brooke Moore
Matthew Pollema
Deidre Qual
Kathryn Rankin
Phil Tsai
Carol White
Jessica White Plume

Master of Science (MS)

Biostatistics

Carola Alfaro
Qian An
Yun Bai
Adele Wen Golden
Aixiang Jang
Soon Young Jang
Fangyu Kan
Meijuan Li
Qi Li
Gregg Lind
Jarad Niemi
Lan Pan
Liang Shengde
Feng Tai
Yi-Chen Wu
Min Xi
Wanling Xie
Rui Zhang

Clinical Research

Aneel Ashrani
Vrushali Gosavi
Nicole Jacobi
Daniel A. Mulrooney
Tatyana Arstakovna Shamliyan

Environmental Health

Thomas Higgins
Catherine Hovde
Paula Larson
Kathleen McCullough

Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration

Titilope G. Adeniyi
Anthony Aghenta
Alisha Baines
Pamela A. Moore
Sara Nibbe
Kael Wherry

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Biostatistics

Xiaoping Jin
Bingbing Li
Xuan Liu
Haolan Lu

Environmental Health

Kathleen Helling Harriman
Deanna Luebker
Carlota Medus

Epidemiology

Suzette J. Bielinski
Heather R. Britt
Catherine Anne Lexau
Amy Lynch

Health Services Research, Policy, and Administration

George H. Avery
Todd George Caldis
Xiaohong Chen
Rachel Halpern
Holly Rodin

2005 Commencement Address by Tommy G. Thompson



As the nation's leading public health figure, Thompson enjoyed a productive and proud tenure as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). He managed to rise above the partisan politics of the day and advance programs critical to the nation's health, the effects of which will continue to be felt for generations. He was the 19th individual to serve as DHHS Secretary, an agency which employs more than 60,000 people and had a fiscal year 2003 budget of nearly \$503 billion.

Thompson was sworn in as Secretary seven months prior to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. His response to the attacks was swift: during the ensuing weeks and months, he took tangible steps to strengthen the nation's preparedness for attacks of bioterrorism.

During the remainder of his tenure, Secretary Thompson launched major initiatives to:

- urge all Americans to prevent disease by focusing on critical health areas, such as obesity, diabetes and health disparities
- take the next bold step to continue making welfare a path to employment and opportunity
- cut through bureaucratic red tape in order to provide health insurance to an additional 1.8 million low-income Americans
- reorganize federal Medicare and Medicaid programs to encourage greater efficiency, enabling the most vulnerable Americans to access needed health care services.

Thompson's most enduring legacy as DHHS Secretary will likely be his effort to double the budget of the National Institutes of Health, the largest source of academic research dollars. This historic funding increase will undoubtedly translate into cures and solutions that today we only dream about.

Secretary Thompson has dedicated his professional life to public service, most recently serving as governor of Wisconsin from 1987-2001. During his 14 years as governor, Secretary Thompson focused on revitalizing Wisconsin's economy. He also gained national attention for his leadership on welfare reform, expanded access to health care for low-income people, and education. A significant achievement during this time was his push for the establishment of a stem cell research center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Secretary Thompson has received numerous awards for his public service, including the Anti-Defamation League's Distinguished Public Service Award. In 1997, the Secretary received *Governing Magazine's* Public Official of the Year Award, and the Horatio Alger Award in 1998. The Secretary has also served as chairman of the National Governors' Association, the Education Commission of the States and the Midwestern Governors' Conference. Secretary Thompson also served in the Wisconsin National Guard and the Army Reserve.

Academic Regalia

The hood worn by graduates displays the colors of the institution and discipline. The lining colors of maroon and gold identify the University of Minnesota. The border color of salmon identifies public health (M.P.H.), gold identifies science (M.S.), and dark blue identifies philosophy (Ph.D.). Graduates wear black gowns; those earning a Ph.D. are distinguished with bell sleeves and velvet chevrons.

Faculty members wear gowns and hoods identifying the institution and field in which they earned their highest degree. Faculty in the School of Public Health have backgrounds in many different areas of study including green for medicine, dark blue for philosophy, and purple for law.

Public Health Professional's Pledge

As a public health professional dedicated to enhancing the health status and well-being of individuals and communities, I pledge to hold the public interest and health of populations as my highest professional goals.