



Commencement
May 17, 2010



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

School of Public Health

Order of Events

Processional

National Anthem

Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

Assistant Vice President for Public Health, University of Minnesota
Dean and Professor, University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Student Address

Erika Vetta

Master of Public Health graduate
Vice President, School of Public Health Student Senate

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

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

Commencement Address

The Future of Public Health

Dr. Georges Benjamin, M.D., FACP, FACEP (E)

Executive Director, American Public Health Association

Greeting from the School of Public Health Alumni Society

Brigid Riley, M.P.H.

Alumni Society President

MSDP
A32c
[DUP]

Presentation of Candidates

Bradley P. Carlin, Ph.D.

Professor and Head, Division of Biostatistics
Mayo Professor in Public Health

Conferring of Degrees

Patricia Simmons, M.D.

Regent, University of Minnesota

Recitation of the Public Health Professionals Pledge

Introduced by Debra Olson, D.N.P., M.P.H.

Associate Dean for Education
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Led by Ania Urban

Ph.D. candidate
President, School of Public Health Student Senate

Hail! Minnesota

Closing Remarks

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

Recessional

Reception

All graduates, faculty, and guests are invited to the reception on Northrop plaza immediately following the ceremony.

Commencement Officials

University of Minnesota –

The Honorable
Patricia Simmons, M.D.
Regent

E. Thomas Sullivan, J.D.
*Senior Vice President for
Academic Affairs and Provost*

Academic Health Center –

Frank B. Cerra, M.D.
*Senior Vice President for Health Sciences
McKnight Presidential Leadership Chair*

School of Public Health –

John R. Finnegan, Jr., Ph.D.
*Professor and Dean
Assistant Vice President for Public Health,
University of Minnesota*

Judith Garrard, Ph.D.
*Senior Associate Dean for
Academic Affairs and Research*

Debra Olson, D.N.P., M.P.H.
Associate Dean for Education

William Riley, Ph.D.
*Associate Dean for Strategic Partnerships
and Relations*

Mary Story, Ph.D., R.D.
*Associate Dean for Student Life
and Leadership*

School of Public Health Alumni Society –

Brigid Riley, M.P.H.
Alumni Society President

Macebearer –

Donna Anderson, M.P.H.
*Former Dakota County
Public Health Director*

Commencement Marshals

Danielle Abraham
Omolara Lawan
Deepa Mekala McGriff
Adegoke Olusola
Brittani Schmidt
Riddhi Waghdhare

Musicians

Dean Billmeyer, Organist
Kate Lamb, Vocalist

Graduates 2009-2010

Some graduates listed may not be participating in the ceremony.

Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

Biostatistics

Gayle Johnson

Community Health Education

Aislinn Agrawal
Deka Ahmed
Robyn Browning
Nicole Brys
Jacqueline Carlson
Jennifer Case
Sarah Ekerholm
Dawn Eppreson
Anisa Esse
Andrea Everson
Angela Hoglund
Katie Knutson
Adam Leonard
Kate Levinson
Alexandra MacHendrie Ecklund
Sarah Marcum
Jennifer Marshall
Emily Matson
Nicole Mesch
Kathryn Muehe
Melanie Nadeau
Temitope Olaleye
Vienna Rothberg
Lorna Schmidt
Sarah Brunsberg

Environmental Health

Sana Ansari
Raheela Ayub
Gregory Burgess
Bintou Coulibaly
Annette Cunningham
Dennis Fox
Patricia Gannon
Elizabeth Gaston
Katarina Grande
Amanda Guspiel
Katherine Hall
Kathryn Hanson
Evan Henke
Edward Kasner
Kayla Keigley
Amber Koskey
Craig Meyer
Yvonne Ortiz
Lisa Read
Kelly Smeltzer
Wendy Smith Kvale
Emily Sullivan
Elizabeth Tobias
Bryan Topp
Karin Vineretsky
Gary Wilhelm
Julie Zimmerman

Epidemiology

Lindsay Almquist
Wobo Bekwelem
Ming Chi
Akshay Gupte
Emily Hallberg
Emily Hause
Zhenhuan Hu
Mitika Kanabar

Phillip Kirsch
Hilarie Martin
Meghan Mason
Miriam Muscoplat
Erik Nelson
Matthew Petcoff
Mark Robien
Francis Tintani
Erika Vetta
Elizabeth Clare Walsh
Kari Williams

Maternal and Child Health

Amanda Atkinson
Paola Brigneti
Shelly Davgun
Elizabeth Donohue
Claudia Fox
Jennifer Friction
Lida Gilbertson
Kathryn Heideman
Nora Johnson
Bridget Larson
Andrea Mayfield
Rema Ramakrishnan
Anna Rutherford Bartels
Adrienne Voorhees

**Public Health Administration
and Policy**

Oluwakayode Adejoro
Emma Arthur
Cori Blauer
Benjamin Braus
Tayne DeNeui
Delford Doherty
Laura Fleege

Sarah Haas
Kristin Hamre
Sarah Henderson
Nathan Hunkins
Medha Karmarkar
Stephanie Malone
Juliet Massie
Mac McCullough
Elizabeth Sauer
Sochenda Te

Public Health Nutrition

Eunice Abiemo
Jenna Carter
Frances Clary
Tracy Cleveland
Hilary Gebauer
Jaya Ginter
Carissa Glatt
Emily Henning
Kata Hribar
Michelle Parke
Elizabeth Tesdell
Megan Thomas
A. Christine Wold

**Public Health Practice -
Executive Program**

Pam Adams
David Dvorak
Brendan Lee
Patricia McKane
Eugene E Nwaokorie
Sajidkhan Pathan
Oswaldo Serge

**Public Health Practice -
Medicine Program**

Stephanie Koonce

**Public Health Practice -
Veterinary Public Health Program**

Karen Lopez

Jenny Youngblood

**Master of Healthcare
Administration (M.H.A.)**

Joseph Anderson

Sanjib Basak

Melinda Beard

Andrea Berg

Joshua Brewster

Ann Marie Carlson

Cody Ching

Ryan Christensen

Chad Dehmer

Elijah Ditter

Eric Evenson

Varun Garg

Anu Ghosalkar

Elizabeth Hackenmueller

Stephen Harris

Dave Henriksen

Mary Malinda Jennings

Ylan Kazi

Sara Mathew

Lindsey Niswanger

Amber Oothoudt

Merrin Permut

Martha Petkovich

Kathryn Potts

Julie Quello

Jessica Remington

Kendall Richardson

Amanda Rodrigues

Robert Sabina

Karla Shields

Veronika Skorich

Richard Spong

Ryan Tingey

Scott Tran

Amanda Tufano

Ryan Vanden Bosch

Amanda Waite

Master of Science (M.S.)

Biostatistics

Akweley Ablorh

Olive Buhule

Jonathan Chipman

Anne Eaton

Wei Feng

Jeremiah Menk

Harrison Quick

Emily Zabor

Nan Zhang

Clinical Research

Rajiv Gandhi

Samy Riad

Environmental Health

Jessica Appert

Nicole Kaktavy

Mei Wang

**Health Services Research, Policy,
and Administration**

Jaime Jenkinson
Chia-HsuanLi
Jennifer Ricards
Wei Shi

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Biostatistics

Brian Hobbs

Environmental Health

Sarah Gilpin
Nicholette Zeliadt

Epidemiology

Nina Alesci
Katherine Bauer
Julie Bower
Tsz Chun "Kelvin" Choi
Gretchen Cutler
John Li
Amy Linabery
Charu Mathur
Susan Puumala

**Health Services Research, Policy,
and Administration**

Lindsay Bockstedt

Yvonne Ortiz Memorial



The School of Public Health community remembers Yvonne Ortiz who passed away in November 2009. Yvonne completed the coursework for a Master of Public Health degree in Environmental Health Sciences. She was an activist for the American Indian community and was pursuing graduate studies to better serve her people and the wider world. Yvonne battled cancer for the past few years but remained a tireless advocate for public health issues. In addition to her studies, she was an

employee of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force and served on numerous boards and committees including the Women's Cancer Action Board, Minnesota Native American Council on Tobacco, and the St. Paul Foundation's Two Feathers Fund. She is survived by many family members, including one-year-old twin daughters, Chantkiya and Harmony, and her parents, Felicia and Colin Wesaw.

Yvonne's degree will be awarded posthumously. Kyle Wesaw, Yvonne's brother, will cross the stage to receive her diploma today.

2010 Commencement Speaker



GEORGES C. BENJAMIN, M.D., FACP, FACEP (E), is well known in the world of public health as a leader, practitioner and administrator. Benjamin has been executive director of the American Public Health Association (APHA) since December 2002. He came to that post after serving as secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he played a key role developing Maryland's bioterrorism plan.

Benjamin became secretary of the Maryland health department in April 1999, following four years as its deputy secretary for public health services. As secretary, Dr. Benjamin oversaw the expansion and improvement in the state's Medicaid program.

Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He is board certified in internal medicine and a fellow of the American College of Physicians; he is also a Fellow Emeritus of the American College of Emergency Physicians.

An established administrator, author and orator, Benjamin started his medical career in 1981 in Tacoma, WA, where he managed a 72,000-patient visit ambulatory care service as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic at the Madigan Army Medical Center. A few years later, he moved to Washington, D.C., where he served as chief of emergency medicine at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. After leaving the Army, he chaired the Department of Community Health and Ambulatory Care at the District of Columbia General Hospital. He was promoted to Acting Commissioner for Public Health for the District of Columbia and later directed one of the busiest ambulance services in the nation as interim director of the Emergency Ambulatory Bureau of the District of Columbia Fire Department.

At APHA, Benjamin also serves as the publisher of the nonprofit's monthly publication, *The Nation's Health*, the association's official newspaper, and *The American Journal of Public Health*, the profession's premier scientific publication.

He is the author of over 90 scientific articles and book chapters. Benjamin also serves on the boards of Research!America, Partnership for Prevention, and the Reagan-Udall Foundation. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

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. and M.H.A.), gold identifies science (M.S.), and dark blue identifies philosophy (Ph.D.). Graduates wear black gowns; those earning a doctorate 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.

The University Mace

The University's first official mace made its debut in 1961 at the inauguration of O. Meredith Wilson, 110 years after the University was founded and eight centuries after the mace's warlike image faded and it became a symbol of peaceful leadership. Art professor Philip Morton designed the University's mace, choosing a star as its crowning feature. The University machine shop made the mace with a solid aluminum handle set with the regents' seal and a 4-inch crystal sphere surmounted by the aluminum "Star of the North."

Carrying the University mace is a great honor accorded to someone who is being singled out for tribute. Today's macebearer is a distinguished member of the University of Minnesota alumni community, Donna Anderson, M.P.H., former Dakota County Public Health Director. In October 2009, Anderson was presented the Alumni Service Award by the Regents of the University of Minnesota, in recognition of her longstanding commitment to the School of Public Health and the field of public health. Among her many contributions, Anderson has served as president of both the School of Public Health Alumni Society and the Minnesota Public Health Association.

The international flags onstage represent the native countries of School of Public Health students. Countries represented include:

Austria	Liberia
Bangladesh	Nepal
Barbados	Nigeria
Brazil	Panama
Bulgaria	Peru
Cameroon	Poland
Canada	Romania
Chile	Singapore
China	Somalia
Colombia	South Korea
Ethiopia	Spain
Ghana	Switzerland
Grenada	Taiwan
Guatemala	Tanzania
India	Thailand
Indonesia	Uganda
Iran	Ukraine
Iraq	United Kingdom
Italy	Zimbabwe
Japan	
Kenya	
Kuwait	

Public Health Professionals 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.

Hail! Minnesota

Hail! Minnesota

Minnesota, hail to thee!

Hail to thee, our college dear!

Thy light shall ever be

A beacon bright and clear.

Thy sons and daughters true

Will proclaim thee near and far.

They will guard thy fame, and adore thy name;

Thou shalt be their Northern Star!

Like the stream that bends to sea,

Like the pine that seeks the blue;

Minnesota, still to thee

Thy sons are strong and true.

From the woods and waters fair;

From thy prairies waving far,

At thy call they throng

With their shout and song

Hailing thee their Northern Star.