



Commencement
May 16, 2011



UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

School of Public Health
Driven to DiscoverSM

Order of Events

Processional

National Anthem

Welcome and Opening Remarks

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

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

Student Address

Laura Perdue

Master of Public Health graduate
Secretary, School of Public Health Student Senate

Introduction of Commencement Speaker

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

Commencement Address

Public Health: Constant Yet Constantly Being Redefined

Edward Ehlinger, M.D., M.S.P.H.

Minnesota Commissioner of Health

Greeting from the School of Public Health Alumni Society

Cynthia Kenyon, M.P.H.

Alumni Society President

Presentation of Candidates

Bradley P. Carlin, Ph.D.

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

Conferring of Degrees

The Honorable John Frobenius, M.H.A.

Regent, University of Minnesota

Recitation of the Public Health Professionals Pledge

Introduced by Mary Story, Ph.D., R.D.

Senior Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
University of Minnesota School of Public Health

Led by Meghan Mason

Ph.D. candidate

President-elect, School of Public Health Student Senate

Minnesota Rouser

Closing Remarks

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

Recessional

Please wait until the graduates have recessed before departing.

Reception

All graduates, faculty, and guests are invited to the reception behind the stage in Mariucci Arena immediately following the recessional.

Commencement Officials

University of Minnesota –

The Honorable John Frobenius,
M.H.A.
Regent

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

Academic Health Center –

Aaron Friedman, M.D.
*Vice President for Health Sciences
Dean, Medical School*

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.,
Associate Dean for Education

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

Mary Story, Ph.D., R.D.
*Senior Associate Dean for Academic
and Student Affairs*

School of Public Health Alumni Society –

Cynthia Kenyon, M.P.H.
Alumni Society President

Macebearer –

Henry Blackburn, M.D.
Professor Emeritus

Commencement Marshals

Betsy Christensen
Annie Fedorowicz
Meghan Mason
Mai See Moua
Dustin Nelson
Jennifer Pelletier

Musicians

Phil Aaron, Piano
Jim Chenoweth, Bass
Kate Lamb, Soloist
Reid Kennedy, Drums

Graduates 2010-2011

Some graduates listed may not be participating in the ceremony.

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

Biostatistics

Li-Yu Lin

Kelsey Walt

Community Health Education

Kaisa Anderson

Rachel Fletcher

Alison Helm

Whitney Hogan

Alexis Jones

Julia Kadrie

Jessica Kornaus

Patrick Mustain

Pamela Neuenfeldt

Christopher Pulley

Andrea Rice

Anna Simon

Megan Slaughter

Naomi Struve

Thomas Walton

Anne Whitehouse

Delia Winter

Environmental Health

Rachel Adams

Benjamin Christianson

Mark Friske

Catherine Graeve

Martina Korinek

David Liverseed

Nellie Munn

Nnaemeka Odo

Oluwagbenga Ogungbe

Allyson Sheldrew

Davinderjit Singh

Kathleen Slingerland

Tessa Somermeyer

Yeshi Tolessa

Jessica Tredinnick

Dillon Whitacre

Epidemiology

Danielle Abraham

Theodore Bonau

Jessica Brehmer

Karen Broman

Kristin Finn

Andrea Giorgi

Dorothy Gondwe

Anthony Guzzardo

Sarah Henry

Tessa Kerby

Annabel Kornblum

Mitchell Lewandowski

Deepa McGriff

Melissa McMahan

Jeffrey Misialek

Sarah Motsinger

Vy Nguyen

Amanda Rudelt
Amy Saupe
Brittani Schmidt
Jared Shenk
Kelly Sovell
Seth Swanlund
Azra Thakur
Bryn Thompson
Christopher Walker
Kelsey Wick

Maternal and Child Health

Andrea Aga
Katherine Ajer
Laura Andersen
Alicia Earnest
Amanda Eastwood
Paula Evans
Heidi Flessert
Ellen Therese Gormican
Sherifat Lawani
LaMesha Melton
Britney Rosenau
Alyssa Sakhitab-Kerestes
Eme Unanaowo
Tyler Weber

Public Health Administration and Policy

OlusolaAdegoke
Tracey Anderson
Tonya Anderson Wilhoit
Kara Durski
Kristin Eide
Michael Harvey
Mia Hunt
Siddharth Jain

Katie Jedynak
Elizabeth Jensen
Jin Lee Johnson
Ambili Kariaparambil Rajan
Kerry Landry
Samuel Lee
Lorshire Lo
Eunice Opare
Melanie Plucinski
Alex Ripley
Rachel Rivard
Kathy Rogers
Brian Sneve
Nicole Stewart
Danushka Wanduragala
Ellen Wilson
William Woywod

Public Health Nutrition

Gail Anderson
Dana Cordy
Grace Fung
Angela Gaszak
Alison McCleary
Stephany Mottet
Meghan Munger
Laura Perdue
Meghann Reetz
Cassandra Silveira
Rachel Sinley
Amanda Trofholz
Jill Verchota
Nicole Wavra
Lu-Chen Weng

**Public Health Practice -
Executive Program**

Mathew Bedard
Patricia Bedford
Karin Hamilton
Kathryn Kirchner
Jeffrey Livingston
Shelley Mehlenbacher
Laura Odell
Dawn Sibanda
Paul Takahashi

**Public Health Practice -
Medicine Program**

Kathryn McKenzie

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

Kyran Cadmus
Kara Caldwell

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

Yekaterina Anderson
Wallace Apland III
Justin Atkinson
Amanda Carstensen
Yu-Ling Chuang
Greg Davis
Deedra DeLiso
Julie Doppler
Sena Ehrhardt
Sarah Erickson
Kristen Flygare
Matthew Forge
Seetha Gangadharan

Nathan Guyse
Timothy Hammer
Rachel Hartjes
Brenda Hedtke
Bror Herrick
Craig Hohn
Ryan Howard
Hyunjin (Christina) Hwang
Bethany Hyde
Byron Jackson
Amber Johnson
Matthew Keppler
Andrea Kilen
Caitlin Koons
Kristian Krentz
Tyler Leishman
Bryan Lydick
Karlene Madill
Drew Martin
Steven Massey
Michael Mikkelson
Zahra Nathani
Neesha Nerurkar
Antony Newman
Bhrunil Patel
Katelyn Person
Robert Portwood
Dana Quinn
Laura Raseman
Spencer Rudolf
Brent Schmidt
Linn Schrage
Juliet Seropian
Heather Sheehan
Lora Sisk
Hannes Skillingstad
Benjamin Smalley
Jeffrey Soto
Sandra Speikers

Kaelee Stone
John W. Unzen
Sarah Urtel
Riddhi Waghdhare
Sarah White
Walter Wilson Jr.
JoAnn Wood

Master of Science (M.S.)

Biostatistics

Yan Hu
Lingzhi Li
Thomas Murray
Xiaoyan Sheng
Andrew Wey
Binglin Yue
Paul Zantek
Jing Zhang
Guobin Zhao

Environmental Health

Bradford Bagley
Jeff Caudill
Chia Wei

Health Services Research, Policy and Administration

Nayeema Ahmed
Sherie Apungu
Christa Meyer
Shaveta Nayyar
Kathryn Pederson
Jaime Preussler

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Biostatistics

Laura Hatfield
Sang Mee Lee
Xiang Li
Nicholas Salkowski

Environmental Health

Timothy Boyer
Thuy Doan
Dawn Errede
Nicholas Kelley
Petrona Lee
Sanda Oancea
Katherine Schofield-Larson

Epidemiology

Cynthia Blair
Wendy Brunner
Kristin Moy
Ryan Newkirk
Sean Phelan
Laura Raynor
Maria Rinaldi
Scott Shimotsu

Health Services Research, Policy and Administration

Eric Barrette
Margaret Davis

2011 Commencement Speaker



In January 2011, **Edward Ehlinger, M.D., M.S.P.H.**, was appointed by Governor Mark Dayton to serve as the Minnesota Commissioner of Health. In this role, he is responsible for directing the work of the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) as the state agency responsible for protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans. MDH has about 1,400 employees in the Twin Cities and seven offices in greater Minnesota.

Dr. Ehlinger has extensive breadth and depth of experience in public health at local, state and national levels. He served as director and chief health officer for Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota and director of the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health and Personal Health Services in the City of Minneapolis. Dr. Ehlinger is board certified in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine, has a Master of Science degree in Public Health, and served on numerous committees and boards in Minnesota and nationally. He is an adjunct professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the U of M School of Public Health. Since 1985, he has hosted the weekly cable TV show, A Public Health Journal.

Non-profit, community and professional organizations have benefited from Dr. Ehlinger's leadership skills and expertise where he served as president, chair or board member. He was president of the Minnesota Public Health Association, Twin Cities Medical Society, North Central College Health Association, and chaired the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Committee of the Minnesota Medical Association. Dr. Ehlinger has received awards for his passion, inspiration, and contributions to public health from local, state and national organizations.

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 Dr. Henry Blackburn, School of Public Health professor emeritus. Dr. Blackburn is an internationally noted expert in cardiovascular disease epidemiology. He was a researcher on the landmark "Seven Countries Study," which began in the 1950s and was the first to examine the relationship between lifestyle, diet and the rates of heart attack and stroke in different populations around the world. His most recent work has been to develop an exhaustive and highly interactive history of cardiovascular epidemiology which can be found at <http://www.epi.umn.edu/cvdepi/>.

Prior to his retirement, Dr. Blackburn served as the director of the School of Public Health's Division of Epidemiology. He also carried the title Mayo Professor, the School's highest faculty honor. He is an Honorary Fellow in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons (Glasgow); he received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Tulane University, and has delivered the seminal Alexander Langmuir Lecture in Epidemiology, sponsored by the American Epidemiological Society.

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.

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 trimmed with 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.

Minnesota Rouser

Minnesota, Hats off to thee!
To thy colors, true we shall ever be,
Firm and strong, united are we.
Rah. rah, rah
For Ski-U-Mah
Rah, Rah, Rah, Rah
Rah for the U of M.
[Repeat]
M-I-N-N-E-S-O-T-A!
Minnesota, Minnesota
Yeah Gophers!

the 1990s, the number of people with a disability in the United States has increased from 35 million to 55 million (U.S. Census Bureau 2000).

As the number of people with disabilities increases, the need for accessible information and services also increases. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 (Public Law 101-504) is the first federal law that requires that people with disabilities have equal access to information and services. The ADA is a landmark law that has led to significant changes in the way that information and services are provided to people with disabilities.

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