



GRACE DICKERSON

Student of the Year - Epidemiology

This award is given to a graduating student in each emphasis area who absolutely knocked our socks off in a variety of ways; whose overall performance in our program, including academic achievements, contributions to the Department, contributions to the field of public health, service to others, and commitment to improving public health indicate a strong potential for the student to achieve future greatness in the field, thus helping us to realize our Department's vision of being the alma mater of the most influential leaders in public health.

Grace Dickerson overcame a lot of obstacles, particularly in her last year, that qualify her for this nomination. Grace has a strong GPA. But, more importantly, she persevered through tremendous health challenges during her senior year. She underwent chemotherapy and other treatments during Fall 2020 and Winter 2021. She felt awful and was also experiencing a number of other life challenges and major transitions, but she kept pushing forward with her classes and her research at an eating disorder clinic, and was awarded a CURA in 2020.

"She kept pushing forward with her classes, research, and in her employment"

BYU
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JENNA SHAW

Student of the Year - Health Science

This award is given to a graduating student in each emphasis area who absolutely knocked our socks off in a variety of ways; whose overall performance in our program, including academic achievements, contributions to the Department, contributions to the field of public health, service to others, and commitment to improving public health indicate a strong potential for the student to achieve future greatness in the field, thus helping us to realize our Department's vision of being the alma mater of the most influential leaders in public health.

Jenna is an outstanding student. I struggled with knowing whether to nominate her for TA of the year, research student of the year, or student of the year in her emphasis. She truly is competitive for all three. Jenna is a student who loves learning for its own sake. She is deeply intelligent, thrives under pressure, and brings a maturity to discussions that makes her feel more like a peer than a student. I know many faculty have positive interactions with Jenna on a regular basis because I often hear positive feedback about her. She is a truly extraordinary student.

"Jenna is a student who loves learning for its own sake"

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JORDAN PATERNOSTER

Student of the Year - Health Promotion

This award is given to a graduating student in each emphasis area who absolutely knocked our socks off in a variety of ways; whose overall performance in our program, including academic achievements, contributions to the Department, contributions to the field of public health, service to others, and commitment to improving public health indicates a strong potential for the student to achieve future greatness in the field, thus helping us to realize our Department's vision of being the alma mater of the most influential leaders in public health.

Jordan is very passionate about women's health and is an advocate for ALL. She can anticipate the needs of the students and instructor before they even know need it! Her enthusiasm for women's health is contagious (no mask needed!). She is excellent in her communication with students, accommodating, kind, and fair, and she keenly prepares students for tests and assignments. She is quick with her grading and feedback. She has also been the TA for public health internships, which is REALLY tricky. In addition, she is a full-time contract tracer for UDOH, served on the Life Science Student Council, and earned top grades. Her future career is set; she will be 100% successful in everything she sets out to do. Congratulations Jordan!

"She is excellent in her communication with students, accommodating and kind, and does the best test reviews"

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MARY LUDLOW JOHNSON

Student of the Year - Environmental / Occupational Health

This award is given to a graduating student in each emphasis area who absolutely knocked our socks off in a variety of ways; whose overall performance in our program, including academic achievements, contributions to the Department, contributions to the field of public health, service to others, and commitment to improving public health indicates a strong potential for the student to achieve future greatness in the field, thus helping us to realize our Department's vision of being the alma mater of the most influential leaders in public health.

"Mary was also quietly confident, thoughtful, persistent, humble, teachable, intelligent, dependable, etc. Thus, Mary was the total package"

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"**Mary** was our Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) lab manager for over 1.5 years, was an excellent teaching assistant for HLTH 428: Occupational Exposure Assessment Laboratory for Jim Johnston last semester, and was my research assistant from May 2019 to December 2020. She was superb. As my research assistant, she taught herself how to do very complex SAS programming (and never took SAS programming classes, classes on programming with other software/languages, or software-based biostatistics classes). I honestly think she was a better SAS programmer than many and maybe even most of the Epidemiology Emphasis students I had in my advanced epidemiology class (HLTH 449: Epidemiologic Study Design and Analysis) last semester. She did a ton of preparatory work (i.e., data cleaning, variable creation, etc.) for my temperature inversion and air pollution datasets (and they're absolute beasts because they're huge and not natively formatted in a useful way). She also got very far on an extremely complex analysis of the association between temperature inversions and emergency department visits for epilepsy (a topic she chose). This analysis required her to use three types of distributed lag models (i.e., unconstrained, constrained quadratic polynomial, and moving average) in the framework of conditional logistic regression models using a time-stratified, case-crossover study design, explore using regression splines to adjust for confounders, use multiple imputation to account for bias from missing data, and evaluate effect measure modification of associations by age, sex, and encounter (i.e., visit) type. Not only is the paper the first ever to address the topic she chose, but I've never seen a paper use all of those methods in the same paper and she did (as an EOH student who didn't have experience programming or conducting statistical analyses with any software package when she started working with me in May 2019). She also got a College Undergraduate Research Award for her project and would have presented her research at a conference last year if COVID-19 hadn't struck. She wrote about half of the journal article for her project (the rest will be finished after we receive updated data and can finish the statistical analyses). She was the ideal research assistant and I was sad (for myself and my research) when she graduated. Although I didn't use the EOH labs much, she was always ready, willing, available, and able to help me when I did need help. She also re-organized the EOH labs, barcoded all of the equipment, and developed an app to be used to check out and keep track of equipment (and she didn't know how to make an app before that). She also started a club at BYU with her husband to address homelessness. To summarize, Mary did very well in the classroom (3.81 GPA), demonstrated excellent self-motivation and self-teaching abilities as the EOH lab manager and my research assistant, was an excellent teaching assistant, and was one of the most impressive research assistants I've ever had (and I've had a lot of awesome research assistants). Mary was also quietly confident, thoughtful, persistent, humble, teachable, intelligent, dependable, etc. Thus, Mary was the total package. "



ANNA WEIR JOHNSON

Research Assistant of the Year

Outstanding Research Assistant or Research Mentee: This award is given to a student researcher who markedly enhanced a research endeavor through their curiosity, creativity, ingenuity, persistence, leadership, or other qualities.

Anna has worked as a research assistant for Dr. Spruance for more than a year and has managed a legislative data base, trained more than 6 research assistants on coding bills, and co-presented at the SOPHE national conference. She will co-author a related manuscript that is currently in preparation.

"A student researcher who markedly enhanced a research endeavor"

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ELIZA BROADBENT

MPH Student of the Year

This award is given in recognition of academic achievements and contributions made to the department and/or the profession. This student should have a strong scholastic record, possess notable leadership capability; be active in the public health community; and be active in the MPH program.

Eliza has already published 3 papers in my lab and has been involved in papers for other professors. Additionally, she is the first author on a paper currently under review and a co-author of another paper under review. She also presented at two national conferences for research that she did with me in 2020. Not only did Eliza demonstrate strong academic success, but she was a strong mentor for undergraduate students. For example, she helped to coach undergraduate students in my lab on their writing and research skills. Eliza was always hardworking, dependable, and had a positive attitude in the classroom and as an RA.

"Eliza was always hardworking, dependable, and had a positive attitude in the classroom"

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EMMA BECKSTEAD

Outstanding MPH Student Research Achievement

This award is given in recognition of overall research achievement in the Masters of Public Health program. This student should be involved with a variety of research projects and professors, including publishing and presenting scholarly work during their MPH experience.

Emma co-authored 4 papers that are currently under review or published. She serves as the primary author on one of these papers. She also has 2 more articles that she will co-author that are still in preparation. This is an incredible achievement given that she has only been affiliated with the department for 1.5 years. Emma was the most effective MPH research assistant I've had and is well-deserving of this award.

"Emma was the most effective MPH research assistant I've had and is well-deserving of this award"

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EMILY CHAHALIS

Outstanding MPH Student Research Achievement

This award is given in recognition of overall research achievement in the Masters of Public Health program. This student should be involved with a variety of research projects and professors, including publishing and presenting scholarly work during their MPH experience.

Emily played an instrumental role in supporting and leading a large research project addressing child undernutrition in Tanzania. The project was a collaboration between IMA World Health and Brigham Young University. Emily cleaned and analyzed the project data, led and mentored a research team of MPH students, and supported other research teams within the collaboration. Emily was critical to the entire research process that resulted in the submission of several papers for publication in scientific journals. Throughout the project her intelligence, good nature, and dependability were demonstrated over and over again.

"Emily was critical to the entire research process"

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PAOLA DONOSO

Outstanding MPH Student Service Achievement

This award is given in recognition of overall service achievement in the Masters of Public Health program. This award recognizes enthusiasm for public health, involvement and contributions to the university, local, and global communities, and advocacy for public health and student roles in the program and profession.

For the past two years, **Paola Donoso** has worked with BYU faculty and students to support the efforts of the Bountiful Children's Foundation to tackle child undernutrition throughout the developing world. She has used her medical and public health training to develop health education lessons for mothers, training for community health workers, and support materials for country and regional nutrition officers. Paola traveled to Peru to train organizational staff before the COVID-19 pandemic and has continued to support staff remotely since. She has worked with fellow graduate students to design innovative online health lessons that can be offered to mothers and coordinators anywhere internet access is offered. It is safe to say that she has transformed the efforts of this organization to train volunteers, educate mothers, and lift children out of undernutrition.

"It is safe to say that she has transformed the efforts of this organization"

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EMILY ALLEN

Outstanding MPH Student Service Achievement

This award is given in recognition of overall service achievement in the Masters of Public Health program. This award recognizes enthusiasm for public health, involvement and contributions to the university, local, and global communities, and advocacy for public health and student roles in the program and profession.

Emily has been working tirelessly on her fieldwork project in emergency preparedness and injury prevention. This project started as a way to serve her fellow BYU students. She identified a problem based on students' COVID-19 response during the pandemic outbreak. Her priorities of her project changed as she saw a great need to inform students about emergency preparedness during any type of emergency—especially a pandemic. This has led to her working very closely with campus emergency preparedness professionals, community professionals, students, and faculty to develop a BYU Emergency Preparedness Week. She has been the student leader for all of the exciting activities, booths, virtual guest speakers, and emergency preparedness giveaways. Through all of this, she has never lost sight of her passion to serve her fellow students.

"Through all of this, she has never lost sight of her passion to serve her fellow students"

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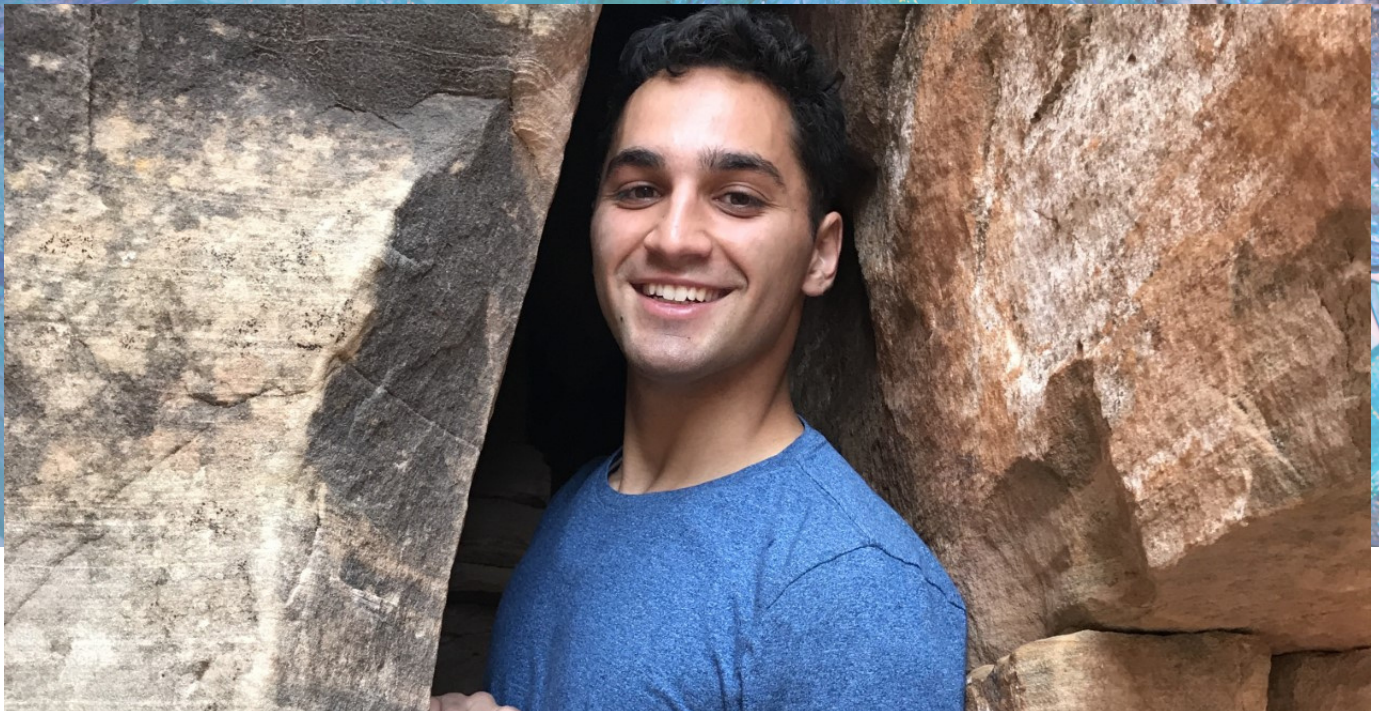
ELIZABETH WILLIAMS

Teaching Assistant of the Year

This award is given to a teaching assistant who markedly enhanced the educational experience of their students by going the extra mile.

Elizabeth has been a lifesaver to me by doing the bulk of the homework grading, midterm grading, and also holding regular weekly office hours as well as meeting with students outside the regular office hours. She also coordinates effectively with a second TA who helps her with grading. I have noticed that many students will preferentially reach out to Elizabeth over me, which suggests that they really value her teaching and her ability to help them learn. Elizabeth has also helped me become a better teacher by teaching me how to use a new technology in the hybrid classroom—an electronic whiteboard on a tablet that can be shown on screen in the in-person class and also on Zoom, which has really enhanced my ability to teach statistical concepts visually and keep all students—in person and on Zoom—engaged. Without Elizabeth, I don't think I would have made that teaching improvement."

"[...] many students will preferentially reach out to Elizabeth over me, which suggests that they really value her teaching and her ability to help them learn"



GABE GHANADAN

Outstanding Service (within the University)

This award is given to a student who significantly enriched the lives of BYU students, faculty, or staff through selfless service that went above and beyond fulfilling the duties inherent in classes or employment.

Gabe has been involved in multiple events across campus that have served BYU students. As BPHA president, he helped carry out 2 campus wide flu vaccination clinics (one in 2019 and one in 2020 during the covid-19 pandemic). He also helped organize the Operation Outbreak initiative to mimic the spread of COVID-19 on BYU's campus, as well as mimic what coronavirus spread would look like if BYU students received the vaccine. He is dedicated to improving the lives of BYU students through initiating small groups to tackle BYU public health issues including working with the health department to include vaping into the Honor Code and tobacco policy and mental health focus group discussions.

"He is dedicated to improving the lives of BYU students"

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EMILY SPENDLOVE

Outstanding Service (within the Community)

This award is given to a student who significantly enriched the lives of members of the community outside BYU through selfless service, especially service given in the context of improving public health.

Emily has worked diligently throughout her undergraduate education on many service-oriented projects. She worked at the Ballard Center for almost year as a Social Venture Coordinator where she focused on maternal and infant health and refugee issues. In this role, she helped social entrepreneurs turn their ideas into solutions by helping them secure funding. Emily now currently works at Mothers Without Borders as the Communications Coordinator and Internship Coordinator. With her employment at Mothers Without Borders, she has had the opportunity to travel to Zambia to assist with efforts related to women and children. Emily's passion for service is inspiring and she's already well on her way to making a difference in this world!

"Emily's passion for service is inspiring and she's already well on her way to making a difference in this world!"



CAROLINE DESPAIN

Intern of the Year - Utah County Health Department

This award is given to a student intern whose work markedly enhanced the host agency's ability to meet their objectives, or that markedly influenced the broader field of public health.

While most efforts at this time are focused on COVID-19, **Caroline** piloted a virtual internship program at UCHD that focused on maintaining important public health programs, specifically Tobacco Prevention and Control. Her supervisor said, "Caroline is thorough in her work, she aims to please and is flexible, motivated, and willing to take on more work. Caroline is eloquent, thorough, and driven. She has a positive and upbeat personality that adds to the group dynamic and energy.

Congratulations Caroline!

"[She] is flexible, motivated, and willing to take on more work"

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ALYSSA BAER

Intern of the Year - Mothers Without Borders

This award is given to a student intern whose work markedly enhanced the host agency's ability to meet their objectives, or that markedly influenced the broader field of public health.

Alyssa deeply committed herself to the work at Mothers Without Borders despite the difficulty the pandemic presented. Each day, she gave her full effort to this important work and made each hour the most impactful it could be. Her supervisor said, "Alyssa is by far the most valuable intern to have passed through Mothers Without Borders." Congratulations Alyssa!

*"Each day, she gave her full effort to
this important work"*

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MADELINE BLUTH

Intern of the Year - National Center of Sexual
Exploitation

This award is given to a student intern whose work markedly enhanced the host agency's ability to meet their objectives, or that markedly influenced the broader field of public health.

Madeline thrived in the environment provided her at her internship in Washington, DC. Even with a difficult topic, Madeline's work exemplified dedication and work ethic. Her supervisor said, "I wish all interns could exhibit her degree of professionalism." Congratulations

Madeline!

*"Madeline's work exemplified dedication
and work ethic"*

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COURTNEY HATCH

Intern of the Year - Revere Health

This award is given to a student intern whose work markedly enhanced the host agency's ability to meet their objectives, or that markedly influenced the broader field of public health.

Courtney found a way to do an internship in an area she is passionate about, even when in-person internships were tricky. She was fully committed to her achieving her goal. Her supervisor said, "She has been reliable and responsible since day one. She never complains about extra responsibilities and welcomes opportunities to grow and develop her skills and work ethic." Congratulations Courtney!

*"She was fully committed to her
achieving her goal"*

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