

OCTOBER 2023

CAAS MPH NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 1



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Hello, it's a beautiful time of year here in Utah and an exciting time for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (CAAS) MPH Program! We are incredibly pleased to have 26 new students who started the CAAS MPH program this fall with several more planning to start in spring 2024. Although many of our students live and work around the state of Utah, we also have an increasing number of students located in other states across the country.

We are also excited to be applicants for accreditation through the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH). We were fortunate to have a consultation visit with CEPH over the summer and are preparing to submit our self-study in the summer of 2024. The process of pursuing accreditation has been an insightful and valuable one for our program and students. This process has already had a substantial impact on our curriculum, student resources, and our connection with program stakeholders. We will keep you posted as we continue through the accreditation process!

We are thrilled to share some of our program highlights with you through our MPH quarterly newsletter! You will find important information about the program, alumni and faculty spotlights, upcoming professional development opportunities, and much more. Thank you all for taking the time to read our newsletter. If you have any questions about the CAAS MPH program, please feel free to reach out to me anytime.



**Mateja Savoie Roskos, PhD,
MPH, RD, FAND**

**MPH Program Director; Associate Professor
Associate Dean for Academic Programs and
Student Services
College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences**

NEW PROGRAM FACULTY AND STAFF

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Savannah Daines, MPH

Master of Public Health
Program Assistant

Savannah has been a USU Aggie since birth. She grew up attending every USU football and basketball game with her grandpa, a USU Athletics equipment manager, who instilled within her a love of USU and sports. As a toddler, she insisted on stopping to look at the “Aggie Bull” statue on campus each time her family drove past. Logically, Savannah completed her education at USU, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in human biology in 2021 and a Master of Public Health degree in health education and promotion in 2023.

While studying at USU, Savannah developed a passion for working with refugees and underserved international communities. She has since completed a graduate certificate program focused on international medicine and public health. Savannah currently leads a nonprofit organization called the International Health and Early Learning Programs (iHelp) Foundation in medical, dental, and public health efforts in several Central American and African countries and the local refugee community. She is also a running and soccer coach for Athletics United, a nonprofit that aims to build community among refugee youth through sports. Savannah is excited to continue to be connected to USU as the new MPH program assistant and graduate program coordinator for Public Health Nutrition MPH students.

Outside of work, Savannah loves to ski, fly fish, and play the guitar. She also has an energetic German Shepherd dog named River, who loves to go hiking and paddle boarding.

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"The world has enough and to spare. Knowledge, empathy, ambition, and resources are abundant. We who have enough should exercise stewardship and ensure everyone benefits equitably. This philosophy inspired my humanitarian efforts for many years. I currently manage two non-profit organizations, one local and one global. The local organization is the Five 12 Foundation, which provides weekend food backpacks to 2,800 food-insecure children every week.

My passion for this cause inspired me to return to school to learn about systems, program planning, stakeholder collaboration, and grant writing. I completed a Master's in Public Health Nutrition from Utah State University's online program in 2021. After graduation, I assumed the director role for the global humanitarian effort, Bright Water Foundation, where I completed my Applied Practice Experience. In this role, I lead several expeditions each year to developing countries where we initiate safe water projects and teach families about point-of-use water sanitation and safe water self-reliance.

Early in my career, I worked as a Registered Dietitian at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center and taught as an adjunct faculty member in the BYU dietetics program. Now, I'm happily back in academia and thrilled to be teaching nutrition courses at UVU. I'm also proud to join the USU MPH steering committee as the Project coordinator. Education is a privilege. I'm excited to share my love for learning with students and help them find experiences that will inspire their future contributions to this beautiful world."

Natalie Dalley, MPH, RDN
Master of Public Health
Project Coordinator



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Chloe Stenkamp-Strahm, DVM, PhD

**Master of Public Health
Faculty Member**

Chloe was born in Boise, Idaho but grew up in the small town of Buckley, Washington. She developed an interest in veterinary medicine by first working at a vet clinic in her hometown, and then at an emergency pet clinic during college. She completed undergraduate and graduate studies in biology at Gonzaga University and then the University of Idaho. She then completed both a DVM and PhD in Epidemiology at Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, CO. While at CSU she developed a passion for mixed animal medicine, and ruminant herd health. During the Covid pandemic, she relocated to the Cache Valley and began full-time practice at Blacksmith Fork Veterinary Clinic in Hyrum. Not long after this, she and her husband Ben purchased a home in Logan near Utah State University. In addition to clinical work, Chloe began teaching both veterinary and MPH students at USU in 2022.

Chloe and Ben continue to enjoy living in the Cache Valley, where they are close to family and a multitude of outdoor recreation. They spend a lot of time with their two dogs, Libby and Wilma, and their recently rescued cat, Farrah. They also welcomed their first son, Wallace, in mid September 2023. In her spare time Chloe enjoys fly fishing, hunting, reading, doing CrossFit, and many other outdoor activities.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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Kyler Crosby, MPH

Master of Public Health Nutrition
Graduate, Class of 2022

"I graduated from USU with a Master of Public Health Nutrition degree in May of 2022. While in college I enjoyed the thought of a career in food insecurity or epidemiology. After several months of searching for a job in these fields, I received an offer from the Utah Department of Agriculture (UDAF) and Food as an Environmental Health Scientist working primarily as a Food and Dairy Compliance Officer. Though I did not focus my research on environmental health, I was qualified and prepared for a career in environmental health because of the all-encompassing education provided by my MPH Nutrition program.

For most of my work I inspect retail and manufacture food facilities, as well as dairy facilities to prevent food borne illnesses. I also participate in trace back investigations of infectious disease outbreaks in Utah. It has been difficult to observe the destruction of mass amounts of food due to unsafe food processing and packaging methods and to observe the impact this has on food insecurity. However, I love that I can promote food security in sustainable ways by ensuring a safe and secure food system. This is largely accomplished through educating food producers and enforcing federal and state laws.

As I advance in my career at UDAF I hope to also pursue an interest in the relationship between soil health and food insecurity. Healthy soil, rich in nutrients and beneficial microflora lead to healthy plants. Healthy plants are more capable of withstanding disease and producing greater harvesting yields, which decreases food prices and ameliorates food insecurity. I don't know where I will be in 5 or 10 years from now but I will probably be somewhere trying to provide safe and wholesome food to people in need."

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CPH EXAM INFORMATION SESSION

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Are you interested in taking the Certified in Public Health (CPH) exam? Join the online information meeting to learn all about the benefits of becoming certified, how to prepare for the exam, and much more. This information session will be held on

October 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Contact your advisor or Natalie Dalley at natalie.dalley@usu.edu with questions.

Join the meeting by clicking [here](#).

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FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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Be the first to hear about everything public health related by following our social media handles! This is a great way to stay up to date on program changes, accreditation updates, public health events, job openings, project/internship opportunities, and more!



[@usupublichealth](#)



[USU Online Master of Public Health Program](#)



[Utah State University Master of Public Health Program](#)



College of Agriculture & Applied Sciences
UtahStateUniversity



CPH EXAM INFORMATION SESSION

OCTOBER 16, 2023 6:00 PM MST

VIRTUAL

JOIN THE MEETING [HERE](#).

USOPHE NETWORKING EVENT

OCTOBER 19, 2023 5:30-7:00 PM MST

3 LOCATIONS: SALT LAKE CITY, PROVO, AND ST. GEORGE, UT

REGISTER AND SELECT YOUR LOCATION [HERE](#).

USOPHE CONFERENCE

**UTAH CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATION:
EDUCATE. ADVOCATE. INSPIRE.**

OCTOBER 19-20, 2023

VIRTUAL

REGISTER [HERE](#).



USU HUNGER SOLUTIONS INSTITUTE NOURISH TANK

APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 6 AT MIDNIGHT

OCTOBER 25, 2023 6:00 PM MST

LOGAN, UT

APPLY [HERE](#).

RURAL OPIOID AND STIMULANT WELLNESS SUMMIT

**SUPPORTING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER RECOVERY, PREVENTION, AND
HARM REDUCTION IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

OCTOBER 25-26, 2023

PRICE, UT

REGISTER [HERE](#).



UTAH ONE HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

URBANIZATION IN UTAH: HEALTH IMPACTS FOR PEOPLE, ANIMALS, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

NOVEMBER 3, 2023 8:00 AM-5:30 PM

DAVIS CONFERENCE CENTER, LAYTON, UT

REGISTER [HERE](#).

APHA ANNUAL MEETING AND EXPO

**CREATING THE HEALTHIEST NATION:
OVERCOMING SOCIAL AND ETHICAL CHALLENGES**

NOVEMBER 12-15, 2023

ATLANTA, GA

REGISTER [HERE](#).