

# UVM Health and Society Outstanding Senior Award 2020



This award is granted to graduating seniors in Health and Society who demonstrate extraordinary academic achievement in the major as evidenced by their GPA, challenging coursework in the major, and significant participation and leadership in activities related to the intersection between society and health.

This year's recipients are: Lindsay Aldrich, Madison Shaffer, and Zoe van Vlaanderen

## Lindsay Aldrich



Lindsay Aldrich is graduating with a B.A. in Health and Society and minors in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Biology. Passionate about analyzing health and medicine from a social science perspective, she has tailored her degree to include courses such as Issues in Women's Health, Racism and Health Disparities, and Culture of Disability. Outside of class, Lindsay volunteered with Planned Parenthood as a Patient Advocate in their Burlington Health Center. She also worked as a Health Professions Peer Leader in the UVM Career Center where she led the Health Collective, a coalition of health-related student clubs at UVM. In addition, Lindsay was a part of the Emergency Medicine Research Associate Program and performed research on an innovative volunteer training program for the UVM Medical Center Emergency Department. After graduation, she will be continuing the accelerated Master in Public Health degree at UVM while working as a Medical Assistant at Vermont Gynecology. She hopes to one day go to medical school and combine her passions for public health and medicine.

## Madison Shaffer



Madison Shaffer is graduating with a B.A. in Health and Society and minors in Statistics and African Studies. With a strong interest in health equity, Madison has focused on public health research with classes in Epidemiology, Global Health, Racism and Health Disparities, and Environmental Justice. Madison founded and is the current president of the Vermont Student Assembly for Public Health (VtSAPH) club on campus. She also works as a public health ambassador for the Living Well Center at UVM. Outside of class, she volunteers as an intern with the Vermont Public Health Association. During the Spring semester of 2019, she had the opportunity to study abroad in Kenya with a global health and human rights program. During the program, she conducted research on women's land ownership disparities within Kenya. She is currently writing her honors thesis on this research and will defend her thesis in early April. Madison is a finalist for the research Fulbright grant and hopes to be doing public health research in Malawi after graduation.

## Zoe van Vlaanderen



Zoe van Vlaanderen is graduating with a B.A. in Health and Society and minors in Statistics and Economics. Zoe's primary interest is understanding and translating social and behavioral health theory into public health practice, and she has particularly enjoyed Sociology and Anthropology courses within the Health and Society major. Zoe spent a semester studying at the University of Ghana in Spring of 2018, where she took classes such as The Healthcare System in Ghana, Global Health Security, and Culture and Reproductive Health. Outside of coursework, Zoe has been working in the Center for Rural Studies at UVM as a research assistant on a multi-state USDA-funded food systems project. Over the past summer, Zoe worked as a research assistant at the Ohio State University on multiple ongoing projects focused on the opioid crisis in Appalachia. These experiences have affirmed Zoe's desire to pursue a career in public health research. After graduation, she will be pursuing a Masters in Public Health at Columbia University, with the ultimate goal of contributing to research on the social context of health disparities.