He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.
Thomas Carlyle

Inaugural Historical Overview
The annual pinning ceremony is held to mark the beginning of our students’ community engagement by receiving the departmental jacket that is to be worn when presenting in professional and community settings. It also serves to acknowledge the completion of the basic requirements for the Master of Public Health degree and progress towards the final requirement of thesis/practicum for second year students.

We at the Department of Graduate Public Health (DGPH), are indoctrinating this tradition to recognize the efforts of our students to not only learn the core functions and essential services that are taught in public health programs and schools across this nation and abroad, but to also acknowledge their commitment to the vision and mission of our program. This is why our new students are not given an official blazer until they have completed at least one academic semester demonstrating their aptitude and dedication. Moreover, the students do not receive the official pin until they have not only completed requisite credit hours but also demonstrated their ability and readiness to enter the community displaying the ideals, we hold dear.

The Purpose

The annual pinning ceremony is held at the beginning of each Spring semester. Students who have successfully completed a minimum of 30 credit hours and received the recommendation from their academic advisor will receive the Graduate Public Health Program (GPHP) pin. This prestigious pin signifies their readiness to complete the final stages of their professional training, with the competencies and skills necessary for the public health work force. The pin was designed by the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Ruby Perry and Program Director Attorney Crystal James. Also, during this ceremony the students who have successfully completed at least one academic semester of course work and identified their area of focus for experiential learning and community engagement receives the DPHP blazer which signifies that they are prepared to engage in practical experience in the field of public health and represent the mission of the DPHP.

Building upon the legacy of Tuskegee University, the mission of the GPHP is to prepare the next generation of diverse leadership through research, innovation, advocacy and community engagement.

Programme

Presiding
Dr. Lloyd Webb
Associate Professor, Graduate Public Health

Greetings

Dean Jeelani, Office of Graduate Studies
Dean Perry, CVM

Occasion
Atty. Crystal M. James
Department Head, Graduate Public Health

Jacket Ceremony

Jakeiia Bedgood
Major Professor: Atty. Crystal James

Raven McClellan
Major Professor: Dr. John Heath

Jedidah Murrah
Major Professor: Atty. Crystal James

Christian Patterson
Major Professor: Dr. Melvena Wilson

Atiya Shahid
Major Professor: Dr. Ehsan Abdalla

Pinning Ceremony

Kellon Banks
Major Professor: Dr. Ehsan Abdalla
Thesis Topic: Knowledge and Awareness About Cervical Cancer and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) Among Women Living in Macon County, Alabama

Ashanti Davis
Major Professor: Dr. Rueben Warren
Thesis Topic: Consumption of Meals Served at Tuskegee Institute Middle School

Denzel Veale
Major Professor: Dr. John Heath
Thesis Topic: Fitness Technology and its Behavioral Effects on Physical Activity in African American Students at a Historical Black University

Challenge Speaker

Introduction of Speaker
Dr. John Heath
Challenge Speaker
Ms. Heather Murphy, MPH
MPH Class 2015

Invocation

On behalf of the CVM Graduate Public Health Program thank you for sharing in the Master of Public Health Pinning Ceremony

Past Cohorts
2017
Back Left to right: Juma Kamara, Leondria Hinds, Dr. Nathalia Ramirez, Rena Blakely, Mylo Howard, Samina Akhter, Dr. Candy Gomez, Destinee Grant, Alicia Roberts. Front Row left to right: Dean Ruby Perry, Ms. Renee Freeman, Attorney Crystal James

2018

Left to right: Dr. Nathalia Ramirez, Samina Akhter, Mylo Howard, Mr. Kenneth Ray, Dr. Candy Gomez, Dr. Oyoyo Egiebor

2019
It is the belief of the GPHP that ethical leaders are positive change agents.

As Dr. Frederick Patterson said:

“Change agents are critical links to enable community to grow, be healthy and make a positive contribution to America. Their road is often rocky, but they are sustained by their training and commitment to make the world a better place in which to live.” (Source: Speech, 1944 New York)