

## **Class of 2022 Bios**

### **Allison Bergeron**

**Running for:** Mentorship Committee

Hello! My name is Allison Bergeron. I am from a small town in Massachusetts, but have been living in Virginia Beach now for about 3 years. Throughout my life, I have been told quite a few times that I am the friendliest person someone has ever met. I want to be a part of the Mentorship Committee to help future EVMS students find their way here and once they're here to find their way through. I have enjoyed mentoring others through my volunteer job working as an EMT for the city of Virginia Beach and helping show them the ropes. In undergrad, I loved participating in open houses and helping teach prospective students about the school. I hope to continue mentoring and helping prospective students find their way where they are meant to be by being a part of the mentorship committee here at EVMS.

### **Rebecca Bowman**

**Running for:** Mentorship Committee, Outreach Chair, Community Service Representative

I have always found deep joy in giving back to my community. Throughout my life, I have been involved in numerous organizations, whether it was something like photography club in high school or the Student Faculty Advisory Committee in my undergrad program. While studying Anthropology at VCU, I was active as the president for the Virtual Archeology Scanning Team and frequently planned and participated in outings where we explained the benefits of 3D printing in archeology to others. I was also an active member of both the Anthropology and Linguistic Journalism club and regularly reached out to faculty to join students with various club activities. Upon graduating, I was presented with the Leadership in Community Outreach Award which I believe was due to my passionate navigation connecting fellow students, faculty, and our shared community. I was working as a program coordinator for the nursing administration at MCV when I discovered the PA field. After that, I spent a couple years as a Medical Assistant with a traveling wellness company where I was able to take my anthropological foundation of tolerance, curiosity, and cultural competence and apply it to each rural community we served. I moved to Norfolk in 2018 and began volunteering with Virginia Beach EMS and worked at Mandell Retina Center until starting my journey with EVMS. Along this journey, I would be honored to continue my passions of giving back to my community whether it is as the Mentorship Representative, holding leadership as the Outreach Chair, or becoming involved as the Community Service Representative.

### **Rachel Burton**

**Running for:** Continuing Education Representative

I was born and raised in Baltimore, MD and received my undergrad from University of Nebraska Medical Center. I separated from the U.S. Coast Guard after 13 years of service in February

2019. During my service with the Coast Guard I held the position of Independent Duty Corpsman managing my own sickbay and my own patients with distant collaboration between myself and a PA/MD. I was also responsible for training my shipmates on first aid procedures regarding possible medical emergencies and trauma while at sea. I was often deployed on drug interdiction operations where my involvement included providing medical care for the criminals we caught and arrested for transporting drugs (usually cocaine) the states. As part of the unit I also held leadership positions such as Medical Training Team Leader, member of the Environmental Health and Safety board, as well as Outpatient Supervisor within a small Coast Guard clinic. I loved teaching and training the Junior corpsman at our units as well as anyone interested in a career in medicine. I worked with Sentara's medical transport company this past year as an EMT-B after I separated from the Coast Guard. It was during this time I decided to stay in Virginia and apply to EVMS's PA program. I became very familiar with the Hampton Roads area and have met amazing people I now consider family in this area. I have always known I wanted to work in medicine since middle school and have stopped at nothing to pursue that dream. I would like to run for the position as continuing education representative.

### **Patrick Califano**

**Running for:** Honor Council Representative, Community Service Representative, Mentorship Committee

Hey everybody, my name is Patrick Califano. I am a first year PA student from Norfolk, Virginia. I attended Virginia Tech and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology. While preparing to apply to PA school I worked as a scribe in the CHKD Pediatric Orthopedic Surgery practice and ran rescue as an EMT with the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad. My favorite experiences during this time was observing surgery and playing with the sirens on the ambulance. I have three younger brothers, all of whom currently hope to go into the medical field. In my free time I enjoy playing sports with friends, hiking/camping, and woodworking. I am so lucky to be able to go to PA school in the city that I grew up in and love. Norfolk has an incredibly diverse and resilient community that I hope to serve as a member of a class committee. I would like to be considered for one of the following: Honor Council Representative, Community Service Representative, or PA Student Mentorship Representative.

### **Eric Cendrowski**

**Running for:** Vice President, Mentorship Committee

Hello, my name is Eric Cendrowski.

In the short, long, crazy month we have been together, I have had the chance to get to know my classmates more and more. The continuing relationship we are all building together, I have already found myself feeling responsible for my classmates, and want to do everything I can to help us all succeed in our journey to PA-C.

My previous professional background was working as a medical technologist. Working in the clinical lab, my role was always more the "behind-the-scenes" of healthcare, but I would always

look for ways to represent my profession outside of the lab. I had an opportunity to sit as a laboratory representative for my hospital, working on projects to improve work efficiency and help build a more collaborative work environment between healthcare professionals and growing patient care responsibilities.

As I previously found ways to represent my profession outside the walls of the workspace. I would like the opportunity to be the Vice President of our cohort. With the responsibility of VP, I will be a representative of the physician assistant student body and continue to grow the PA role here at EVMS and reinforce our success as future healthcare providers.

While I would love to be the class Vice President, if I am not selected for the position, I would love to still be able to contribute and be actively involved with the program. I am also interested in the Mentorship Representative and being part of the process to guide future PAs such as ourselves.

### **Thai-Huy (Chris) Dao**

**Running for:** Phoenix Committee

Hello, my name is Chris Dao. I'm interested in Phoenix Committee because I'd really like to learn more about wellness and mental health and strengthen my peer-to-peer interactions. Ultimately, my goal is to make connections and get to know everyone in our program well. Everyone here has been very kind, and I'd like to be part of the support network to help our class succeed. While in undergrad, I was part of a co-ed service organization called Alpha Phi Omega (APO), where I was able to meet hundreds of people and learned how to bring a community together. I served as Standards Chair and oversaw Campus Escort, which was a nighttime transportation service for students who were traveling alone or just felt unsafe walking around campus late at night. I saw the value of just simply being present for others and that it is so important to let others know that they are not alone. Outside of class, you can probably find me in the ping-pong room or playing some other racquet sport (I played badminton in college!). I also enjoy bantering about esoteric or philosophical topics for fun, so come find me if you have something interesting to rant about!

### **Ashton Dear**

**Running for:** President, Social Chair, Honor Council Representative

Hi Everyone! My name is Ashton Dear and it would be an honor to be considered for the position of Presidency of my beloved MPA class of 2022. I was born and raised right here in Virginia Beach and graduated from Randolph-Macon College in 2014. During my time there I enjoyed my involvement and commitment to the SGA, judicial board, my sorority and our philanthropies, and lacrosse. After graduation, I felt a desire to find new outlets to harness my energy and passions. Aside from working in the medical field, I spontaneously started my own woodworking business, adopted my 3 cats, nannied and cared for several families, and assisted my mom, the founder and the Executive Director, in fundraising and raising awareness for the need of Virginia's first Non-profit intentional community for adults with mild to moderate

intellectual disabilities. The idea was inspired by my best friend and eldest sister Lindsey who was born with intellectual disabilities, and the shocking lack of resources and opportunities available to her.

So, over the span of these last 5 years, I've vowed to become a strong advocate for those around me and for the things I truly care for, and gratefully have flourished in the roles I have committed myself to.

In this short time span since starting our program, I've gotten to know *almost* each and every one of my classmates, and I've realized a true connection with each of them. I have the utmost respect for the special individuals I'm able to sit next to every day, as well as for their individual journeys that have led them here. It would be nothing less of a true honor to commit and serve as a representative for them, and do my very best to contribute to the elite EVMS family.

Thank you!

**\*\*I would also like to be considered for Social Chair and/or Honors Council Representative\*\***

### **Taylor Delnicki**

**Running for:** Vice President, Mentorship Committee, Phoenix Committee

Hello everyone! My name is Taylor Delnicki. I have spent most of my life in Newport News, VA- close to EVMS! In 2015, I graduated from Virginia Tech (Go Hokies!) with degrees in Animal & Poultry Sciences and Spanish. During undergrad, I served as a Student Ambassador for my department and was a liaison between incoming students and our faculty. Due to growing up as a Navy brat, traveling became a huge passion of mine. I experienced various cultures at a young age. This allowed me to understand that everyone's path is different and that we all have something valuable and unique to bring to the table. I am interested in running for the position of Vice President. Promoting the cohesiveness of our class by making sure everyone has a voice is important to me. It would be an honor to have the opportunity to represent and serve my class and all EVMS PA students.

### **Vicky Gaddis**

**Running for:** VAPA Student Representative, Mentorship Committee, Outreach Chair, Community Service Representative, Social Chair

Vicky Gaddis, a NC native, is earning her graduate degree to begin her second career as a PA. She's a married mother of three with two dogs – a Sharpei and a Shi Chon. Vicky has been an interventional mammography tech for the past fourteen years. Her husband has been a US Marine for over twenty years and will be retiring in a few years. They have endured many deployments and have lived in several states on the east coast as well as Hawaii. Vicky loves to travel and looks forward to her yearly Christmas trips with her family. Through military life, Vicky has learned the best way to make the most out of where you are in life is to jump in with both feet! Everywhere she lives, she makes a point to volunteer and every school she attends, she makes an effort to get involved. Vicky would be privileged to serve her class in whatever capacity is needed.

**Sajana Gajurel**

**Running for:** Diversity Chair, Mentorship Committee, Community Service Representative

My name is Sajana Gajurel. I came into the United States as a student in December of 2010. My native language is Nepali. I am also fluent in Hindi and English of course!

I have lived in 3 different states in the US. I did my undergraduate from University of Central Oklahoma in Medical Technology. Then I worked as a medical technologist before joining the military where I worked as a medic. At this time, I lived in San Antonio, Texas. Then I moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado where I was worked as a medical lab technologist again before moving to Norfolk for the PA program!

I love being in the nature and enjoy hiking. I also love doing yoga. My mother made me do it every day when I was back home as she is a yoga instructor.

I have some leadership experiences from being in the military leading a platoon etc. I would like to gain more leadership experiences at EVMS by being a member of EVMS SAAAPA.

**Arianna Heck**

**Running for:** Honor Council, VAPA Representative

I am originally from Williamsburg, Virginia and I graduated in 2000 from The College of William and Mary. I spent the past 20 years as an Army wife, rearing our three children and multiple dogs before taking time to passionately pursue my goals. While stationed in Europe, I was able to follow my other passion, the arts, directing and choreographing several dozen shows where I received several international awards. Upon our return to the United States I was hired as the Director of a dance program where I gained experience in hiring, mediating and leadership. After nearly twenty years in the arts world, I shifted gears, spending the last few years working as a surgical technologist helping others on their health journey. I am thrilled to be a member of the class of 2022 and I would love the opportunity to represent our class on Honor Council or as the VAPA representative. I believe I will be able to draw on my education, management skills and life experience to enhance student involvement, development and future success. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to the opportunity to serve and represent the class of 2022!

**Aaron Holzhauer**

**Running for:** Honor Council Representative

Hello everyone, my name is Aaron Holzhauer, and I am hoping to become one of the Honor Council Representatives for the Class of 2022. I attended Randolph-Macon College, where I played college football, held leadership positions in Greek life, and was a Team Leader for Relay for Life. Upon graduation, I worked as an EMT within the Emergency Department, where I served as a member of the department's interview board. Currently, I am attending EVMS as an

HSCP Scholar with the U.S. Navy. My hobbies include working out, getting outdoors, and telling dad jokes. Through participating in these activities, I have developed the valuable skillsets of thinking objectively, promoting teamwork and collaboration, as well as serving as an advocate for those in need. I believe these skills correlate with the responsibilities of an Honor Council Representative. We, as students, give our absolute best academically and professionally in order to develop as health care providers. I believe our institution's honor council should reflect that same degree of commitment. If given the opportunity, I will continue the current council's commitment to excellence by serving as an advocate for those in need, as well as an objective force of reason. I am driven, honest, trustworthy, and ready to work! I hope I am given this opportunity, so that we, as a class, can continue to uphold the principles of justice and integrity here at EVMS.

### **Alivia Iorio**

**Running for:** VAPA Student Representative

Alivia spent her childhood residing in a suburb outside of New York City with her parents and two older siblings. She completed her education there eventually graduating with an Associate degree from Rockland Community College. Following her time at RCC, she was awarded a full ride with the Covenant Scholarship to pursue her Bachelor's at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. She gratefully accepted the opportunity to plant her roots down south and cultivate new experiences away from her family. Shortly after graduating in 2012, she relocated to Colorado where she developed a strong love for skiing, hiking, yoga, and helping families care for their children. She accepted a position as a Medical Assistant at several offices where she worked alongside wonderful teams specializing in dermatology, primary, asthma, and allergy. Having now joined EVMS's PA class of 2022, she is thrilled to become acquainted with her colleagues as well as all the charm her new hometown has to offer.

### **Joanna Lind**

**Running for:** Phoenix Committee Representative

Hi team I'm Joanna Lind and I grew up in Gainesville, Florida but spent the last 8 years living in Philadelphia, PA during which time we beat the Patriots and won the super bowl, GO BIRDS. I love yoga, running, anything to do with the beach, and my dogher Luna who is an absolute doll. I taught middle school science in Philly and last year proudly watched 100% of my first 7<sup>th</sup> grade class graduate from high school. Teaching in an inner-city school gave me insight into the power of mindfulness. This past academic year I implemented guided meditation in my homeroom through the Calm app. The initial response was "this is mad corny Ms. Lind," but I kid you not after a month I had students telling me they were meditating ON THE WEEKENDS because they felt happier and less anxious when they were able to focus on breathing and feel more in control and accepting of their emotions. Now as a student I hope to carry over many of my current practices to support my fellow classmates as a Phoenix Committee representative.

It's only been five weeks and already I am super grateful for the awesome friendships we've built and will continue to strengthen here at EVMS and throughout our future careers.

### **Christian Marsh**

**Running for:** VAPA Student Representative, PA Student Mentorship Representative, Phoenix Committee Representative

Christian Marsh is a native from Truro, England, but moved to San Diego, California after the age of eleven. He just recently retired in November 2019 after completing twenty years of Naval service. During that time Christian has held many leadership roles and has had the opportunity to represent the United States Navy at various medical conferences and regional meetings.

In his recent position, Mr. Marsh was the Senior Enlisted Leader of the Norfolk Naval Shipyard Health Clinic. He exemplified selfless service, empowerment of his Sailors, integrity, and tireless dedication. He was well respected by his subordinates, peers, and superiors alike, both within and outside the Norfolk Naval Shipyard to include the entire command of Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and its Branch Health Clinics.

In addition to his success as a learner, a leader, and a professional, Mr. Marsh holds a Bachelor of Health Science degree from Kaplan University and has received Navy Commendations and other personal awards, to include Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He continues to volunteer his services when needed and is a familiar face at Cedar Road Elementary school serving as part of the Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) team.

Mr. Marsh is married to his wife Amy and they have two children, three cats, and a green-cheeked conure.

### **Matthew McGrath**

**Running for:** President, Phoenix Committee, Human Values in Medicine Representative

Hello! I am running for elected office because one of my top priorities is ensuring the personal and academic success of my cohorts. I'm always quick with a joke, encouraging pat on the back, or tutelage to raise the morale of any of my fellow students. I feel as though my friendly and approachable nature, knack for organizing events for large groups such as practice practicals for anatomy, and yearning for the success of everybody in this program make me a fine candidate for any elected position. I'm always around if you have any questions or if you just want to talk about life and all the stress (and some fun!) of the rigorous program we are all going through. Thank you for listening!

**Amanda Myrick**

**Running for:** Mentorship Committee

Hi everybody! My name is Amanda Myrick and I am interested in a position on the Membership Committee. I was born and raised in Lynchburg, Virginia and then attended the University of Virginia where I graduated with a B.S. in Biology in 2018. Fun fact, while there I danced on the dance team, and my last ever performance was when UVA lost to UMBC in the first round of the NCAA tournament (go hoos). After graduating I worked as a scribe at OrthoVirginia working primarily with a hand surgeon there. I am interested in being apart of the Membership committee so I can help facilitate a welcoming environment for potential and new students. My mentor has been an amazing resource and friend during this first month of getting used to school and I am so thankful that the mentorship committee arranged us. I would love to be apart of the group that chooses these pairs, as they can really shape your experience here. I am so excited to be here at EVMS and would love to share that excitement with others through tours, student panels, and working with a group of equally awesome peers.

**Brooke Nelson**

**Running for:** Mentorship Committee, Community Service Representative

Hello! My name is Brooke Nelson. Prior to coming to EVMS I worked as a CNA in an Alzheimer's care unit and as a medical assistant in an OBGYN office. During my time as a MA I held several leadership roles including fielding patient complaints, providing new pregnancy education, setting the doctor and PA's office and surgical schedules, coordination with our drug and lab representatives, and addressing patient's clinical concerns the. In undergrad I served on the leadership team of my campus ministry for three years. In this role I was responsible for orienting new students to campus, helping students get involved, and encouraging camaraderie within the group. I am excited to bring my experiences from these past roles to EVMS. In addition to serving the current PA class, I am particularly interested in helping orient new and prospective students to campus, as I found this a particularly rewarding role in my undergraduate career. I appreciate you considering me for this position.

**Beata Pedlowska**

**Running for:** Vice President, Secretary, Phoenix Committee Representative

I would like to express my interest in the following elective positions: The Vice President, The Secretary, and The Phoenix Committee Representative.

I believe that the following components of my experience and individuality would enhance the foundations of MPA class of 2022, as well as the objectives of the Student Government Association at EVMS.

- Undergraduate degree in Health Care Administration.
- Lead Surgical Assistant for eight years.



- Volunteer work with Fresh Start Surgical Gifts since 2011 – awarded Volunteer of the Year in 2013.
- Known for advocating for patients, coworkers, or random strangers experiencing less than acceptable verbal or physical treatment.
- Known for getting things done – personal responsibilities as well as tasks and requests in favor of a group.
- Resourceful.
- Altruistic and willing: in the first month of starting the PA program, I have already volunteered at the HOPES clinic.
- A good listener - interested in people's stories and their diversities.
- "Always learning" type of mindset, whether it is in anatomy class or chatting with a stranger.

Thank You for Your consideration.

### **Phanthaboon Phannavong**

**Running for:** Social Chair, Mentorship Committee, Technology/Social Media Chair

Hello! My name is Phanthaboon Phannavong, but I usually go by my middle name which is Jay! I was born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. (Go Cavs!) I went to Cleveland State University where I doubled majored in biology and health science. My past experience includes working in pharmacy, emergency medicine, and behavioral health. When I have/had free time you can find me taking a dance class, playing with my two dogs, or going to food & cultural festivals! I am always open to trying new experiences and foods! I am greatly interested in running for social chair because I enjoy the company of others and creating any ideas for people to come together. Throughout all my undergrad, I was a delegate at a Midwest cultural conference that hosted 28+ universities throughout the region. It was an amazing experience because I got to meet and make friends who came all the way from Minneapolis to Chicago. I am coined the social butterfly by my group of friends because of my ability to break the mold and extend a friendly handshake or hello to anyone I meet. If elected as social chair, I look forward to breaking that mold to involve everyone and create long-lasting relationships in our PA class as well as the other programs at EVMS.

### **Hannah Sacks**

**Running for:** Vice President, Mentorship Committee, Community Service Representative

Hey everyone! My name is Hannah Sacks and I'm from good ol' Norfolk, Virginia. I graduated from the College of William & Mary with a B.S. in Public Health and just recently moved back from Richmond where I was working at an OBGYN private practice. I have always enjoyed getting involved in student organizations, whether that be in SGA or as Fundraising Chair for my undergrad Sailing team. In my spare time I like to frequent local trivia nights or do any sort of water related activity. The EVMS community has been so welcoming over the past few weeks

and I would love to be able to contribute through a leadership position. I am interested in the positions of Vice President, the Mentorship Committee, or as a Community Service Representative.

### **Samantha Schmitt**

**Running for:** Secretary, Fundraising Chair, Community Outreach Chair

My name is Samantha Schmitt, and I am running for the positions of Secretary, Fundraising Chair, and Outreach Coordinator for the MPA Class of 2022. Working in clinical research, participating in fundraising event and different jobs, I developed excellent communication, time management and organizational skills which will ensure information is quickly and effectively disseminated to leadership, representatives and the class. Additionally, my strong interpersonal skills, open-mindedness, and passion to make a difference will help to ensuring everyone's voice is heard and utilized in decision making. I will help to ensure an increased presence on campus for our program as well as offer new opportunities for growth. Utilizing these skills in any of these roles, I will ensure all levels of the Executive Leadership and representatives are informed and are able to work as a cohesive unit for the success of MPA class of 2022 and the EVMS PA program.

### **Sookdeo, Indira**

**Running for:** Continuing Education Representative

Hi fellow classmates! I'm Indira Sookdeo and I would like to be the Continuing Education Representative for our class. I'm a 2017 graduate of VCU but am originally from Virginia Beach. I have always been involved in student leadership dating all the way back to elementary school and would like to continue that trend. I'd love to get involved and get to know more of you 😊 I'm familiar with the area so I think that this position would be a good fit for me. Also, I love our community and as of right now, I would like to go into primary care after graduation!

### **Kate Wilkinson**

**Running for:** Mentorship Committee, VAPA Student Representative, Social Chair

Going to keep this short & sweet. My name is Kate Wilkinson, and I would be flattered if you voted for me for mentorship committee. Not only can I offer previous SGA/student officer experience to perform the tasks needed, I would be willing to share the vast amount of tips and tricks I've learned here at EVMS. In need of a mental breakdown? I know the best hiding spots in Brickell/Lewis Hall. Burnout imminent? Don't worry! I know the deals to all the happy hour specials for food and drinks in the area. In addition to a bright and humorous attitude (I hope you could tell), I also believe I would be a personable individual to represent EVMS with open houses, tours, and interviews. Thank you for taking the time to read this bio and good luck with studies/rotations!

**Mikaela Watkins**

**Running for:** Phoenix Committee Representative, Mentorship Committee, Community Service Chair

Mikaela Watkins is a Pennsylvania native who has lived and worked in Norfolk for the last 5 years. While she's been here falling in love with this city, she's been involved in various mentorship roles within the community, directing Mixed Abilities in Motion, a dance program for individuals with Down Syndrome and Autism Spectrum Disorder; teaching as an adjunct Biology professor at Tidewater Community College; and dancing professionally with Todd Rosenlieb Dance Company. Mikaela has a heart for serving people from various backgrounds and supporting their academic, artistic, emotional, physical, mental, and social development and well being. Mikaela is an advocate for each of her classmates as they run their own race, mentoring and ministering to people in whatever capacity she can! In other news, she is extremely eager to recover from her broken foot and wear regular shoes again. When she's not studying or dancing, Mikaela can usually be found at the beach with her husband, Colton and dog, Marshall.

**Karen Whitney**

**Running for:** Treasurer, Fundraising Chair

Hi I'm Karen Whitney and I was born and raised in central Pennsylvania. Before coming to EVMS my background was in finance; I negotiated pharmaceutical contracts and budgets in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania for a seven-hospital health system. I have an epileptic cat named Sandwich and I love hiking and backpacking.

**Valeriya Yukhimova**

**Running for:** VAPA Student Representative

Hello Everyone! My name is Valeriya Yukhimova, I was born in Odessa, Ukraine, and moved to the United States with my mother when I was approx. 2 years old. I spent the rest of my life in Utah where I completed my undergraduate education at the University of Utah, earning a degree in Health Promotion and EMS Management. Prior to my acceptance to EVMS, I enjoyed working in the community as an Advanced-EMT; the experience broadened my understanding of healthcare disparities and presented a purpose on which I intend to build my future career. In addition, I worked as a supervisor at the local level 1 trauma center ER and picked up EMT shifts at Snowbird Ski Resort Clinic in the winter. (I had to get a ski pass somehow!) I love to spend my free time outdoors, rock climbing, hiking, and camping. I have a true passion for advocacy and would love the opportunity to represent EVMS to our soon to be colleagues and employers at VAPA events.

**Sara Zetterberg**

**Running for:** VAPA Student Representative, Community Service Representative

Howdy, my name is Sara Zetterberg and I am from Missoula, Montana. My dog, Rookie, and I drove to Virginia together to join the EVMS PA family! Previously, I completed my bachelor's in exercise science at the University of Montana and spent the last 5 years working in inpatient cardiac rehab, ECG and as an ER tech. During that time I shared leadership positions within my departments and could always be found eating my breakfast or lunch at an educational in-service or medical conference offered at my hospital, trying to better understand advancements in different areas of medicine, health policy and law. Now, as a PA student, it is important to understand the current and future landscape of the PA profession and to share these exciting (!) topics with my classmates. I believe that being the VAPA student representative would allow me to get a better pulse on the regional and national challenges of the PA profession and take the next step in advocating for our profession.

Outside of work, you can often find me at Special Olympic events, where I have volunteered regularly for over 16 years. I have also been a part of 2 medical mission trips to Central America, one of which I independently planned. Volunteering helps me feel like a better human and connects me to my community, which is something I am looking for in Norfolk, my new home away from home. I would love to continue coordinating community service opportunities within EVMS and the Hampton Roads area. It is my hope that our class can have a little fun together getting in our service hours and helping out our community!