

# Student-Alumni Mentorship Program Flourishes

**Yale School of Public Health program  
pairs aspiring health professionals with  
specialists in the field.**

**By Jennifer Kaylin**

During the first year of his M.P.H. program, David Kates heard about the Yale School of Public Health Mentorship Program. Kates wanted to connect with someone experienced in operations at a large health system – and he realized that the program was a perfect way to do that.

He reviewed the backgrounds of several potential mentors using the program’s online matching system and ultimately chose Andrew Missel, M.P.H. ’11, a program manager at Population Health Care Management in Ann Arbor, Mich.

“I was unclear about what I wanted to do,” Kates said. “So I called him, and we talked about my interests and his.”

Missel turned out to be a great resource, even helping Kates prepare for job interviews and then debriefing him afterward. Missel gave Kates advice on a range of topics, including the kinds of interview questions he could expect. “It was just the right level of engagement for me,” Kates said. With Missel’s help, Kates got a summer internship at Kaiser Permanente, working as an operations consultant. “It was another resource for learning about life outside school,” Kates said. “I’m wiser for it.”

The mentorship program is a tool that helps alumni stay involved with their alma mater while helping to prepare current students for life after Yale. Drawing from a pool of over 4,500 alumni, this growing program connects students with alumni who have common interests and relevant professional experience to share.

Students choose mentors at the start of the academic year and connect with them as needed throughout the year. Mentors provide guidance on topics such as academic work, summer internships and professional aspirations. As students establish connections with their alumni mentors, they learn about the career paths alumni have taken, hone their leadership and management skills and learn about industry trends.

“The most important element of the program is that it connects our students, many of whom have limited professional experience, with alumni, who serve as guides, advisers and sounding boards,” said Martin Klein, M.P.H. ’86, Ph.D., associate dean for development and external affairs. “If the relationship flourishes, alumni may also help students broaden their network and connect with potential employers.”

Alumni can learn more about the program at [publichealth.yale.edu/alumni/mentoring/index.aspx](http://publichealth.yale.edu/alumni/mentoring/index.aspx). Students are encouraged to review potential mentors’ backgrounds so that they can be paired with alumni who share their interests. The selection process begins in the fall, and students may choose two mentors. Likewise, mentors may advise two students. **YPH**

**“I’m wiser for it.”** –David Kates



## **Gabrielle Daniels**

### **M.P.H. student**

“My mentors both had a willingness to extend themselves to me and on my behalf. They are wonderful connectors, and I have truly appreciated their time and efforts.”



## **Denise Stevens**

### **Alumni mentor, Ph.D. '95**

“The most memorable moments of mentoring are when you are sharing your story with them, and they realize that it is okay to walk down one path that ends up being a dead end and to then turn around and follow another path – as long as you learn something at every turn.”

## **David Kates**

### **M.P.H. student**

“He was very excited to be a mentor and suggested that we start a reading club where we would share articles with each other and discuss their health implications. I found that to be incredibly helpful.”





**Caroline Stampfel**  
**Alumni mentor, M.P.H. '05**

“I love the opportunity to engage with students who will be our next generation of young professionals. I really like being able to share the path I took in public health and giving the students ideas for what their paths could look like.”

**Margaret Mayer**  
**M.P.H. student**

“My mentor’s interests and accomplishments lined up extremely well with my own, and her enthusiasm for helping a fellow YSPHer was key in my getting a summer internship.”



**Eileen Huang**  
**Alumni mentor, M.P.H. '13**

“Being a mentor allowed me to reconnect with my experiences at YSPH. It is inspiring to hear from current students about their accomplishments, and knowing that they are the future of public health gives me a sense of responsibility and the honor of being their mentor.”

