

MHS PROGRAM IN  
HEALTH FINANCE  
& MANAGEMENT

# ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Bill Ward*

Dear Program Alum,

Hard to believe the Holidays are here already. It seems like the academic year just got started—and it got off to a great start! Our class of 2010 is proving to be an intelligent, energetic, and fun-loving group. They are certainly keeping us on your toes and, given all of the initiative they are taking, I'm confident that many of you will get to meet them or at least hear from them.

Since my last writing, we got the official word from CAHME. Our program, as we anticipated, was reaccredited for six years. Again, thanks to all of you who participated in this process.

We've also made some changes to our curriculum based on the accreditation team's recommendations. This year, we are introducing a course in Hospital Operations which Jim Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer of Kernan Hospital, will be teaching. We also have Chris Goeschel and Sean Berenholtz teaching a course in Patient Safety and Quality. Additionally, with the class of 2010, we are introducing an internal case competition. Students were recently introduced to the case and their presentations are scheduled for April 3, 2009. We'll let you know how it went in a future newsletter. We are certainly looking forward to it and think it will be an excellent opportunity for our first year students to apply what they are learning to a real world situation.

Happy Holidays from all us in the  
Health Finance and Management Office!

Cheers,



**MHS CLASS OF 2010**

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**SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI**


***Greetings from Mary A. Shaub, HFM Class of '89***



Entering into the Masters of Health Sciences degree program in 1987 was the beginning of a journey which has taken on a life of its own. When we are pursuing our degree, we are absorbed by the intensity of the program and the wealth of intellect that resides within the confines of this spectacular academic environment. I regularly questioned myself as to how the coursework would help me to achieve my goals. I was thrilled to be part of this environment, involving myself in student government and working in two college work study jobs. I am very proud that a project which I started within the Career Services Office has since developed into a three school community placement program called, SOURCE. Most of all, the memories of the people I met and the experiences that I had while a student have propelled me in a direction that I did not foresee while studying here.

After graduating, I worked as a Reimbursement Specialist at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. My boss often asked why I wanted specific data to review prior to establishing the best reimbursement strategy or why I wanted to know policy. My JHU advisor, Dr. Alan Lyles, encouraged me to take quantitative courses stating that this would be an essential career skill. My studies with Dr. Gerry Anderson and Dr. Karen Davis provided me with the foundation of why policy was inherently important to quantitative analysis and health care operations. These insightful nuggets of wisdom have been invaluable to me as I pursued my health care career. Eventually, I decided to form a consulting company.

Shaub Management Consulting works with health care organizations insuring the healthfulness of business. My company's scope of expertise lies in program and project management, cultural transformation or change management, IT solutions, system reengineering, leadership training and revenue cycle improvement. Domestically, we have worked with nonprofit and for profit health care providers improving system efficiencies and maximizing reimbursements. Internationally, we have funded small businesses in West Africa and the Caribbean as well as financing the construction of offices and developing plans for a rural clinic. Check out the website at [www.shaubmanagement.com](http://www.shaubmanagement.com).

It is to "pay it forward" that I have remained very involved with the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the University. I have returned two to three times each year to participate in mentoring public health students as they prepare for life after Johns Hopkins. For the past five years, I have served as the Philadelphia Chapter President, been a member of the JHU Alumni Council, and a member of the JHU Executive Alumni Board.

This year I have the honor of being the Chair of the Social and Career Networking Committee of the JHU Alumni Council. It is in this capacity that I am hoping to formulate a school wide environment in which alumni and students are able to support one another. My hope is that the HFM program and the HPM department could lead the path that the entire school would model itself upon. Let me provide you with a little insight on the committee's projects.

The Alumni Office has recently launched an internet based web program "InCircle" whose exclusive purpose is to connect members of the JHU family. There is more to networking and connecting than just this, however. As alumni, it is so important for us to be loyal to one another in hiring and mentoring students and our fellow alumni. It is rare to find the expertise and acumen represented by those who have been and will be educated at JHU. I hope to develop networking systems to promote this loyalty and provide mentoring opportunities to facilitate career development. I am requesting that each of you consider what contribution you are able to make toward the HFM program and JHU. Work with Bill, Ann Michele, and Teresa to promote the cohort of experts that represent our department. Join the Health Finance and Management Group on InCircle to keep up to date on the most recent opportunities and developments unique to our degree program. Commit toward hiring first with JHU. Become a mentor. Present at a lunchtime seminar. Most of all "pay it forward".

As I close, continuing on my journey and my support of JHU, I hope to have the chance to meet each one of you. In the meantime, I encourage you to consider the value of your contributions toward the future leaders of health care. Best wishes for 2009!

***-Mary***

## JHU INCIRCLE



JHU InCircle



Go to <http://alumni.jhu.edu/>

To become a member, you will need to know your alumni ID. If you need help, Jamila may be able to assist, [jsavage@jhsp.h.edu](mailto:jsavage@jhsp.h.edu). Once you have become a member of InCircle, be sure to join the restricted group with the unoriginal name “**MHS Health Finance and Management Alum**”. Only graduates and students of our program will have access to this site. Once in, you can see photos from Donna’s retirement party as well as photos from the 2008 Preceptors’ Dinner! Feel free to post photos that would be of interest to your fellow alum!

## MEET A CURRENT MHS STUDENT



**Christine E. Mulshine**  
MHS Candidate, Class of 2009



I am currently six months into my field placement at Children’s Medical Center in Dallas and so far both Children’s and life off the East Coast have garnered positive marks. My rotations have provided fascinating insight to the organizational dynamics of a healthcare system undergoing rapid growth and change as it strives for national preeminence and the one upside of the recent economic turmoil is that it provides an excellent learning lab on effective leadership in the face of adversity.

Overall, I am very happy with my transition from health policy to a hospital setting. I enjoy being closer to patients and there are plenty of challenges to keep me both busy and intellectually engaged. I recently completed Lean Six Sigma Green Belt training (and am proud to say that I am actually putting Prof. McGready’s statistical teachings to use!) and will be leading a project to look at how we can improve adverse event reporting and follow-up activities across the hospital starting in early 2009.

## ALUMNI UPDATES



**Nik Buescher, Class of 2004**, moved to Tennessee to become Vice President of Oncology, Mountain States Health Alliance

**Jolynn Whitten (formerly Pearl), Class of 1998**, was recently promoted within Life Care Services. She was transferred to the Continuing Care Retirement Community in Sandhill Cove, Palm City, Florida where she is now the Executive Director.

**Amber Taylor, Class of 2005**, was recently hired as Senior Consultant, Business Development at Greater Baltimore Medical Center (GBMC) in Towson, MD.

**WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?**

The program office encourages you to share your information via email/internet; we would love to hear from you. Let us know if you have changed positions, addresses, etc. Also, if you have some updates you would like us to include in upcoming newsletters, we'd be happy to do so.



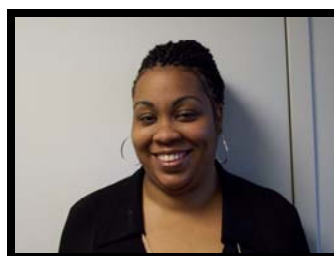
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