Greetings to All,

Please pardon the slight delay in the delivery of our Fall eNewsletter. I had the chance to teach at Tsinghua University in Beijing, China with our new DrPH cohort and that was too good an offer to pass up. It was a great experience and I’ll share more about it in the next edition.

The 2016 school year is off to a great start! The Class of 2018 is coalescing well and showing all signs of becoming a strong cohort and, at the same time, assimilating well into the greater culture of Bloomberg. Based on our recent live-talk with our second years, they, too, are succeeding in their individual residencies throughout the U.S.

The end of the summer came with some incredibly sad news, as well as some extraordinarily promising news. As you may have read in numerous national publications, D.A. Henderson, the eighth dean of our School (1977-1990), passed away in August. Like many of you, I never met D.A. personally, but his professional achievements are legendary. Dr. Henderson led the only effort in human history to completely eradicate a communicable disease – smallpox. Thanks to his efforts, millions of lives have been saved and millions more have been spared lifelong disability. Truly the embodiment of the Bloomberg Vision – Protecting Health, Saving Lives – Millions at a Time.

The good news also reached many newspapers’ front pages. To mark the School’s centennial, University alumnus and benefactor Michael Bloomberg made a gift of $300 million to create the Bloomberg American Health Initiative. This effort will address several major public health issues that jeopardize the health and life expectancy of Americans: addiction and overdose, risks to adolescent health, environmental degradation, obesity and the food system, and violence. To learn more: http://www.jhsp.h.edu/about/bloomberg-american-health-initiative/deans-message/index.html

One other bit of good news to announce, Dr. Colleen Barry will be the new Chair of the Department of Health Policy and Management. Dr. Barry has been an integral part of the leadership team for several years and we are sure she will thrive in her new role.

Please continue to share what’s new with you and we will continue to do the same.

Best,

Eric W. Ford, MPH, PhD
MHA Program Welcomes Class of 2018!

On Sunday, August 28, the Class of 2018 met for the first time as a group at the home of Eric and Deborah Ford. The annual MHA welcome party is a program tradition that serves as a great start to the academic year. The weather, as in past years, cooperated as shown in photo below.

Unlike previous cohorts, the Class of 2018 arrived having already completed an extensive online orientation program. The party on the 28th allowed students who traveled as far away as Hong Kong, Turkey, and the West Coast to finally meet each other in-person. In-person orientation activities took place during the next two days, and by Thursday, September 1, students were in the classroom. First up, Biostatistics with John McGready!

Student Profile: Natalie Fung, Class of ‘18

Since Natalie traveled the greatest distance to join the new class, let’s give her special recognition! Although a U.S. citizen, Natalie joined us from Hong Kong where she had been working as a physiotherapist. After earning two baccalaureate degrees from the University of Southern California, Natalie attended Hong Kong Polytechnic University where she received a B.S. in Physiotherapy. As a student Natalie had the chance to shadow different health professionals in different settings. These opportunities made Natalie consider the possibility of being more than just a clinician; she became interested in how she could facilitate better care for patients and the general population. Before leaving Hong Kong, Natalie founded her own company to work with NGOs in a variety of settings, including geriatric day hospitals and home care. She developed fall prevention programs for elderly living at home alone which included seminars, fall assessments, risk identification, and intervention. Natalie enjoyed working with the elderly and loved that she was able to bridge some of the service gaps between the hospital and community through her work. Now Natalie is having fun getting to know her cohort and exploring Baltimore!
2nd Year MHA Students Enjoy Summer in the City

On Friday, July 8, eight MHA students were among the 44,000 who watched the LA Angels defeat the Orioles 9-5.

*Thanks for the selfie, Andrew!*

Andrew Metzler (center) was able to snag some Ravens tickets from one of his colleagues in Radiation Oncology. Enjoying the August 11 preseason game with Andrew are Felipe Dest, Jamie Fan, Gabriel Gomez, Madhu Karamsetty, Jordan Hughes, and Ginal Shah. Ravens defeated the Carolina Panthers 22-19!

On Friday, August 19, Teresa spotted 2nd year students Madhu Karamsetty, Felipe Dest, Steve Clark, and Ankit Patel walking through Baltimore’s Little Italy looking for some good pizza after their MHA Student Association meeting.

Hopefully they got to join the crowd for the weekly outdoor summer movie! *The Great Escape* was playing that night.
The New Sibley: The Countdown Begins
Tanuka Raj, Class of ‘17, Administrative Resident

On the first day of my residency at Sibley Memorial Hospital, I immediately learned (through the countdown clocks located throughout the hospital) that there were 98 days until the grand opening of Sibley’s new patient tower; and there was no shortage of work to be done.

The tower is a tangible manifestation of Sibley’s mission “to deliver excellence and compassionate care – every person, every time” through the 200 private patient rooms, state-of-the-art technology, ample gardens and green spaces, and many other patient and family-centered care initiatives. The unique features of the tower exemplify Sibley’s commitment to their vision to become the “role model for innovation in health care and wellness for all.”

Over the past months I’ve worked with various groups to help ensure a smooth transition over to the new tower. From conducting tours through the tower, to implementing processes to improve Sibley’s first impression, to organizing staff training for new equipment and workflows, and even acting as a “mock patient” for a dress rehearsal of how the new tower will function when it opens, it has been a constant learning experience.

The excitement continues to build among the staff, patients, and community as we get closer and closer to the opening of the new tower at the end of September. I am honored to be a part of this transformational chapter in Sibley Memorial Hospital’s proud history.

Note from Teresa Schwartz: I had the privilege of being escorted by Tanuka through the new facility. Included among the many stops was the Special Care Nursery where I captured this photo of Tanuka.
Residency Updates from the Class of 2017

Jennifer Yu, reporting on her residency at MedStar Institute for Innovation, pictured in MI2’s Lab

The innovation lab, containing walking treadmills and pods, sits at the core of the MedStar Institute for Innovation. A varied work environment allows us to choose the environment that facilitates our best thinking.

Technologies that help provide healthcare remotely are scattered throughout MI2. Wireless pill bottles track and improve medication adherence in real-time. Smart sensors called motion cookies can be affixed to almost anything and adapted for different purposes, ranging from reminders to drink water to temperature alerts. Lumo lift is a discrete device that gently vibrates when you slouch. The beam toothbrush highlights how technology and insurance are increasingly integrating to incent preventive health. Good brushing habits allow users to access lower dental premiums.

Since devices that collect data are of limited use if data isn’t exchanged, data are integrated in a dashboard, as shown on the TV monitor.

Christian Wendland, Upper Chesapeake Health

Christian is the program’s first resident at the University of Maryland Upper Chesapeake Health System. On a recent visit by program directors, Christian and his preceptor, Jim Hursey, SVP & COO, provided a tour of the Kaufman Cancer Center which opened in 2013, sparing area residents with cancer from having to travel to Baltimore or Pennsylvania for their medical needs. The center’s two floors contain state of the art technology as well as architecture and art inspired by nature. Gardens and a meditation room were incorporated into the design.
Alumni Spotlights: Conan Fong, Class of 2004

Special thanks to LinkedIn and CBS local news in the San Francisco Bay area for bringing this article on Elation Health to our attention! [http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2016/08/15/company-improve-healthcare-it-tools/](http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2016/08/15/company-improve-healthcare-it-tools/)

In a nutshell, Conan and his sister Kyna founded Elation Health in 2010. The startup is dedicated to strengthening the patient-physician relationship. As stated on the company’s LinkedIn page, “After countless hours shadowing physicians and watching how they use patient medical records in their practices, our team of passionate, tech-savvy individuals designed Elation to make it easy for physicians to provide comprehensive, personalized and proactive care to their patients.” Elation’s platform enables providers to easily collaborate with the rest of the contributors to a patient’s care, empowering better health outcomes and reducing chronic illness and hospital readmissions rates.

Prior to founding Elation Health, Kyna was a professor at Stanford University and a scholar with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Conan was a management consultant working with senior health care leaders in Canada and the US to maximize the use of clinical information technology in health systems. “We’ve help build our dad’s primary care practice in the Bay Area. We also worked with health system leaders and understand the policies and their vision to improve quality in the health system. My experiences at JHSPH armed me with the knowledge of how the healthcare system actually works, the operational challenges, and the financial constraints due to managed care contracts.” With their combined expertise in healthcare policy, front-line experience in running a primary care practice and IT tools, the Fong siblings saw an opportunity to bridge the chasm between poorly-conceived IT systems that simply add to the physician’s burdens and the needs that health policy identified to improve the healthcare system. To learn more about Elation Health, visit [https://www.elationhealth.com/our-philosophy](https://www.elationhealth.com/our-philosophy).

To learn more about Conan’s days as a JHSPH student, just ask his preceptor, Lisa Ogorzalek, the VP of Managed Care for Johns Hopkins HealthCare. She remembers Conan for his outstanding analytical and technical skills!

Mahesh Devnani, Class of 2014

Mahesh, an Assistant Professor of Hospital Administration at PGIMER in India, was selected as “Salzburg Global Fellow” to attend “Better Health Care: How do we learn about improvement?” The seminar was held in July. [http://www.salzburgglobal.org/calendar/2010-2019/2016/session-565.html](http://www.salzburgglobal.org/calendar/2010-2019/2016/session-565.html). More recently Mahesh was in Davos, Switzerland where he presented a paper at the "International Disaster and Risk Conference". His paper was on the willingness of healthcare workers to work during influenza pandemics.
Chris Daly, ‘94, recently joined GoldbugStrategies, LLC as its COO.

Antonio Diaz-Carrera, ‘14, moved back home to Washington state to become Health Center Manager for HealthPoint.

Prashant Dilwali, ’13, recently returned home to the Boston area to join Shield Health Solutions as its Director of Business Operations.

Michael Finegan, ‘12, became the Administrator of the Surgery Service Line at Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

McKinley Glover, ‘07, is now the David Torchian Fellow in Health Policy & Management at the Massachusetts General Physicians Organization (MGPO).

Avantika Handa, ‘14, moved closer to family earlier this year when she joined the Sylvester Cancer Center at the University of Miami. Avi is a senior project manager.

Jessica Gundel Heslop, ‘12, recently left UMMC Midtown to become the Administrator of the Medical Service Line at Greater Baltimore Medical Center.

Arati Kotadia, ‘14, will be joining Northwestern Medicine in October as a Strategy and Business Development Consultant, working on the same team as Ashley Thomson ‘15.

Kirat Kharode, ’04, Executive VP & Chief Strategy Officer at CarePoint Health System, was named as one of NJBIZ’s Forty Under 40.

Hasnain Photowala, ‘04, recently left MedStar after 12 years to become VP for Inpatient Adult Services at Inova Fairfax.

Amanda Surber, ’14, recently left CareFirst BlueCross Blue Shield to join Booz Allen where she will be working with Inga Adams, ’02, and her team.

Although we typically don’t include wedding announcements, we make exceptions when they are “MHA weddings”. Alex Bash and Shivani Patel, both from the west coast, met each other in the class of ‘14 and married this June in CA. Pictured at the wedding are classmates Aaron Burch, Christina Laccay, the bride and groom, Asmita Salil, ‘13; Spencer Wildonger, ‘14, and Mario Nelson, ‘16.

Congratulations to all of our alumni!
The Class of 2016....Where are they now????

Humoud Aljahahma  Dasman Institute, Kuwait  HER Implementation Specialist
Rachel Bidgood  ECG Management Consulting  Senior Consultant
Kathleen Blyth  Visiting Nurses Service of New York  Senior Business Analyst
Liana Burns  Johns Hopkins HealthCare  Senior Program Administrator
Christine Carreaga  Privia Health  Performance Associate
Matthew Castner  Johns Hopkins HealthCare  Regional Team Administrator
Neil Claracay  Kaufman Hall, Chicago  Associate
Mitali Desai  Temple Physicians, Inc., Philadelphia  Quality & Compliance Coordinator
Mariya Grygorenko  GE Healthcare Camden Group  Consultant
Laura Hand  Greater Baltimore Medical Center  Practice Manager
Sai Khisty  KPMG  Associate
Carolyn Kneifel  Booz Allen Hamilton  Telehealth Delivery Consultant
Victoria Lo  Population Health Research Associate  Johns Hopkins Health Care
Amy McDonough  Consultant  Deloitte
Carolina Rayzel  Operations and Account Manager  Health Recovery Solutions
Erica Romero  Consultant  Deloitte
Arron Sikka  Consultant  Deloitte
Gaurav Singh  Operations Manager, Palliative Care  Johns Hopkins Hospital
Julie Sorensen  Business Project Specialist  Cigna Medical Group
Meherazade Sumariwalla  Dedicated Advisor  The Advisory Board Company
Rachel Swartz  Business Manager, Medicine  UMMC Midtown
Brandon Thomas  Associate  Berkeley Research Group
Laura Wortman  Associate, Bus. Development & Strategy  Johns Hopkins Medicine
Jane Yang  Manager, Population Health Strategy  Healthfirst
Edwin Zhao  Outcomes Analyst  MedStar Health

What’s New with You?

Let us know if you have changed positions, addresses, etc. We would love to hear from you!
http://www.jhsphs.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/degrees-programs/master-of-health-administration