Greetings from Baltimore, Everyone!

The old adage that time flies while you’re having fun certainly applies to this academic year. It doesn’t seem possible that almost two years have passed since the class of 2013 gathered for the first time at Ann-Michele’s home for the welcome party. And now 23 new graduates are taking their places in the healthcare community. Congratulations to all!

The program continues to attract the best and brightest; 25 new first years will be arriving this fall to begin the program. And, within the next month, our 25 second year students will begin their paid field placements.

The end-of-year festivities began the first weekend of May for our program. Not only is our annual alumni/preceptor dinner the same evening as our case competition, UPD had its 2nd induction ceremony prior to the reception at the Mt. Washington Conference Center. The following day, the Class of 2013 met back on campus for their capstone symposium. This event, which we introduced last year, continues to be a source of pride for all of us. Our students came away very impressed by their classmates’ accomplishments.

As you will read in this edition, at this year’s alumni/preceptor dinner, we honored long-time preceptor Mark Higdon of KPMG. Mark is retiring in the fall and many of his past residents and current KPMG colleagues had fun recalling their favorite stories. Mark has been a big supporter of the program, having been a preceptor, advisory board member and speaker over the years. We certainly hope that he will continue to be involved in our program.

This is my final newsletter as Program Director. I am stepping down after 17 years (there’s that old “time flies…” thing again!). We’re all very pleased that Ann-Michele will be acting as Interim Director while the Department searches for a new program director. I’ll still be plenty busy though – a new book and a couple of hospital board assignments will see to that. I will still be doing some teaching and you will continue to see me along with Donna at the annual dinners! It’s been a wonderful time, made so by the great people I’ve worked with (Ann-Michele, Donna, Jamila, Teresa), by two department chairs who have been very supportive, and, most importantly, by you, the students who have enriched my life with your energy, enthusiasm and passion. I wish all of you the very best as you continue to excel in your careers.

Cheers,

Bill
Hopkins MHA Student wins Stull Essay Competition

The American College of Healthcare Executives’ (ACHE) selected Prashant Dilwali, Class of 2013, as the 1st place award winner in the nationwide Richard J. Stull Essay Competition. Prashant presented his paper and received his award at the ACHE’s Annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership on March 13 in Chicago. His adviser, Ann-Michele Gundlach, attended the session and represented the program. “Prashant is the first student in our MHA Program to receive the first place award in the essay competition and we are very proud.”

His paper From Acute Care to Home Care: The Evolution of Hospital Responsibility and Rationale for Increased Vertical Integration will be published in the Journal of Healthcare Management later this year.

Prashant is remaining with Alvarez and Marsal’s Healthcare division in New York City, where he completed his residency.

Program/Student Association Host Dinner in Chicago

Program Directors Bill Ward and Teresa Schwartz traveled to Chicago in March to host another alumni and student dinner during the ACHE Congress. Among the alumni attendees were Anshu Choudhri and Roshy Didehban, Class of 2002, Michelle Hirst, Class of 2008, Nancy Cushman, Class of 2012, and Rahul Shah, Class of 2011. Several current students were in attendance, including Steve McMillen who completed his 2nd year at Rush Medical Center. Representing the Student Association at the dinner was Theresa Falcon, Class of 2013. Bill and Teresa had the opportunity to meet with Steve and his preceptor, Peter Butler, President and Chief Operating Officer of Rush University Medical Center, earlier in the day. Steve and our program’s first Rush Fellow, Nisha Lulla, Class of 2006, are pictured with Bill and Teresa. Nisha is currently the Director of Hospital Operations at Rush; after his fellowship, Steve will be continuing at Rush as Project Manager, Rush University Medical Group.

MHA Student Presents at National Conference

Julie Silver, Class of 2013, once again presented at the annual Society for Health Systems Conference held in New Orleans this past March. This year, she presented on "Improving Care Coordination to better manage an ACO Population." This timely topic is from the work Julie completed during her residency at the Greater Baltimore Medical Center, working with other Johns Hopkins MHA graduates Colin Ward, Amber Taylor, Michael Finegan, and Megan Priolo, along with the MHA finance professor, John Ellis.

The presentation focused on the various technologies GBMC is implementing to help improve the health of their patient population, such as a Care Coordination Medical Record and a Health Information Exchange. Both technologies allow providers to see more information about the patient directly at the point of care and time of decision making.
My Experience at the Yale Graduate Case Competition
Alex Bash, Class of 2014

On the first Thursday evening of 4th term, two biomechanical engineering PhDs, an MPH/MBA candidate, and I piled into a Honda Civic and headed for New Haven, Connecticut. As we crossed state lines and tore through coffee and gas station snacks, we debated the merits of various merger and acquisition scenarios surrounding a retailer for which none of us had ever worked. We discussed the leadership’s tenacity, industry trends, and disruptive innovations that could threaten the company’s long-term viability. Why? To prepare ourselves to compete in the Yale Graduate Case Competition against 28 teams from the likes of Harvard, MIT, Columbia, Cornell, Yale, and Hopkins.

The case was released to us the prior Friday, and we’d been meeting all week to discuss our research and insights. I first met my teammates in the fall through the Hopkins Consulting Club while doing case interview prep, and thought the competition would be a great way to test my case-cracking skills in a more real-world context. The objective? Recommend to Barnes and Noble’s board of directors the best path forward for the company’s retail, college, and digital divisions. It involved high level strategy and in-depth financial analysis, and I was immediately glad that I’d held on to my financial accounting book.

The competition was sponsored by McKinsey, LEK, Clearwater Consulting, and Boston Consulting Group. Top-notch networking was impossible to avoid. Formal feedback was given a week after, though informal feedback at the post-competition wine bar was just as useful. While our team did not win, we represented Hopkins well.

Who Said MHA Students Have No Spare Time?

The MHA program welcomes alumni visiting in the Baltimore area to meet informally with current students to discuss health care trends. It was the Class of 2014’s good fortune that Ed Kim had a company meeting in town this spring. Ed, Class of 1985, President and General Manager of Cigna Medical Group in Phoenix, AZ, engaged the cohort in a discussion on an article from Oliver Wyman on The Volume-to-Value Revolution. Ed’s extensive experience combined with this excellent white paper on innovation in healthcare generated a stimulating discussion.

Christine Laccay served as Ed’s student host on April 14th. After the seminar discussion, Christine and Teresa gave Ed a tour of campus. Ed could not have picked a prettier spring day to visit campus and although the Hopkins dome was familiar to Ed, he was amazed to see the changes to the School of Public Health and the hospital’s new clinical buildings.

William Ward Scholarship

Under Bill Ward’s leadership over the past 17 years, the MHA Program [aka MHS in Finance and Management] has grown and prospered. During this time, Bill has touched the lives and careers of hundreds of our students and graduates. In recognition of his contribution, members of the Class of 2002 have begun the development of the William J. Ward, Jr. Scholarship Fund to support the studies of future MHA students. In our next issue of Management Rounds, we will be providing information on how you can make a contribution to this scholarship fund.
5th Annual MHA Case Competition

On May 3, the MHA Program sponsored its 5th Annual Case Competition. The event has grown from two judges and 6 teams presenting one after the other to a first round with two sets of 4 teams each with a panel of two judges plus a final round with the winning team from each set. This year’s case focused on the development of trauma services in the competitive Pittsburg health care market. The first place team, Signature Consulting Group, pictured below left, was composed of Avantika Handa, Christine Laccay and Emily Lenneville. Members of the second place team, kpAMG Consulting, pictured below right, are Danielle DaSilva, Spencer Wildonger and Shivani Patel. Members of the first place team will be representing our MHA Program in 2014 at the UAB National Case Competition.

UPD Induction

The 2nd annual Upsilon Phi Delta induction ceremony was conducted hours before the alumni/preceptor dinner at the Mt. Washington Conference Center on May 3rd. Faculty advisor Ann-Michele Gundlach and Fadi Rammo, ’12, welcomed members and inductees. As this year’s induction gift, Ann-Michele and Fadi chose Being Wrong by Kathryn Schulz. Michael Finegan, ’12, assisted in the distribution of gifts and certificates. The following inductees were not available for the photo: Evan Mead-Brewer, ’13, Dennis Martin, ’12, and Asmita Salil, ’13. UPD members conducted their annual business meeting after the induction ceremony.

2013 Upsilon Phi Delta Inductees

Alex Bash, Class of 2014
Prashant Dilwali, Class of 2013
Ahmed Elsayed-Ahmed, Class of 2010
Theresa Falcon, Class of 2013
Sneha Jain, Class of 2012
Susanne Katz, Class of 2014

Sierra Long, Class of 2013
Dennis Martin, Class of 2012
Evan Mead-Brewer, Class of 2013
Asmita Salil, Class of 2013
Julie Silver, Class of 2013
Linda Sobh, Class of 2013
MHA Program Honors Mark Higdon

It doesn’t take long for Hopkins MHA students to recognize the name Mark Higdon. Mark, a Partner in KPMG’s Healthcare Risk Advisory Practice in Baltimore, has served as seminar speaker, mentor, preceptor, and employer to numerous Hopkins students and graduates. With Mark’s imminent retirement, the Hopkins chapter of UPD recognized his contributions to the profession by selecting Mark for one of this year’s Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Awards. Fadi Rammo presented Mark with his award during the dinner ceremony. Brett McCone, Class of 1998 and a director in the Baltimore practice, served as this year’s dinner speaker. His talk, The Importance of Mentoring, was a tribute to Mark.

Joining Brett at the podium to honor Mark were the following program alumni, all of whom worked for Mark either as a resident, graduate or both: Sarani Banerji, ’02; Zach Bechtle, ’12; James Case, ’07; Ahmed El-Sayed Ahmed, ’10; Mary Kim, ’98; Nicole Orange, ’07; and Marco Priolo, ’10. Mark has been a member of the MHA Advisory Group for several years and it is the program’s hope to keep Mark actively involved in the program. Before the evening ended, program director Bill Ward presented Mark with a framed drawing of the School as a reminder of Mark’s many visits to campus. Unfortunately, there were no drawings of Mama Mia’s; hopefully a framed drawing of the original JHSPH building will serve as a thank you for Mark’s many years of support to the program.

2013 Alumni & Preceptor Dinner

Although the MHA dinner needed to relocate off campus this year, the Mt. Washington Conference Center proved to be an ideal location. May 3rd was a beautiful spring day and the grounds of the Center were a pleasant alternative to our usual “urban” setting. We had a record number of attendees and just about reached Pullen Plaza’s 100 person maximum for dinner. Most of the alumni came from the mid-Atlantic area, but Karr-Ming Lee, ’02, traveled from Ottawa to reunite with her fellow Wilmer alumni and classmates Sarani Banerji and Nancy Chen. Also attending this year’s dinner, were Mr. and Mrs. Ron Peterson. Given that the classes of 2013 and 2014 each enjoyed two seminar luncheons with the President of The Johns Hopkins Hospital and Health System, we were thrilled that the Petersons were able to join this year’s festivities.
Honors and Awards of Spring 2013

**Delta Omega**

*Sierra Long*, Class of 2013  
*Julie Silver*, Class of 2013  
*Linda Sobh*, Class of 2013

**The John P. Young Memorial Award**

*Prashant Dilwali*, Class of 2013

**Congratulations to the Class of 2013!**

At 9:00 AM on May 21st at the Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, 19 of this year’s 23 MHA graduates, wearing their peacock blue hoods, followed Graduates’ Marshal Lainie Rutkow, Assistant Professor in HPM, to lead the graduates’ processional. This year’s convocation speaker, Nelson K. Sewankambo, Dean Emeritus of the School of Medicine in Uganda and a pioneer in HIV/AIDS research, described JHSPH not just as an American school, but a global institution. Dean Michael J. Klag congratulated graduates and reminded all 535 in attendance of their charge: protect health and save lives, millions at a time. MHA graduates and their guests had the opportunity to celebrate after the ceremony at a reception hosted by the HPM Department in Preston Hall, across the street from the Meyerhoff.

**Alumni Updates**

*Derrick Flowers, Class of 2001*, was promoted to Colonel, Director of Budget at Headquarters, US Army Medical Command.

*Arvin Mejia, Class of 2002*, having moved to Hong Kong last year, rejoined Deloitte Consulting.

*Lauren Morlier, Class of 2012*, has relocated to Geneva, Switzerland as a result of her spouse’s new position. In addition to traveling all through Europe, Lauren is getting acquainted with the Swiss health system. Now she is looking for employment that can keep her in Geneva. Feel free to reach out to Lauren directly at laurenmorlier09@gmail.com if you know of any such opportunities. Lauren came into the program with several years of experience in marketing and sales for medical device firms and she completed her administrative residency at LifeBridge Health.

*Marco Priolo, Class of 2010*, joined Remedi Senior Care as Strategic Manager of Initiatives.

*Sara Wei, Class of 2010*, joined Loma Linda Medical Center as a Telemedicine Project Manager.

**What’s New With You?**

The program office encourages you to share your information. Let us know if you have changed positions, addresses, etc. We would love to hear from you!


To view other HPM Department events, please visit the HPM Alumni page: