Greetings to All,

As I enter my third year at Hopkins, I think I am now finished all of my Hopkins “firsts”. The Convocation ceremony at the Royal Farms Arena was my introduction to JHU’s graduation festivities. We are thrilled that so many of our second year students were able to travel back from as far away as Kuwait and San Francisco to attend this year’s ceremony and even more elated that our graduates could bring more guests than previous generations of graduates. Everyone was impressed with the ceremony, particularly with the speaker, Dr. Mona Hanna-Atisha.

This was also my first alumni/preceptor dinner. As you remember, last year’s dinner needed to be cancelled due to the unrest in Baltimore. In fact, prior to our dinner, Dr. Josh Sharfstein, the Associate Dean for Public Health Practice and Training, hosted an Engage Baltimore luncheon with members of the local community. At this year’s dinner, we paid special tribute to Ann-Michele for all of her years making the MHA program the success that it is today. Although the Class of 2016 is the last to be advised by Ann-Michele, we are thrilled that she will continue to teach in our program.

We are now preparing for the Class of 2018 and you’ll learn more about them in our next edition. The program office is also busy developing new initiatives as well as working with Dr. David Chin on the Executive Education Program. The “Leading Transformation for Value-based Health Care” (http://bit.ly/iTZD7bz) is an innovative opportunity for current health system managers to learn the new payment systems that will dominate the near future. Dr. Doug Hough’s behavioral economics lectures are one of the highest rated parts of the program I am happy to note.

As always, please keep in touch with the program. We welcome your comments and involvement.

Best,

Eric W. Ford, MPH, Ph.D.
This year it was Associate Director Doug Hough who in February escorted the Hopkins team to Birmingham for UAB’s annual case competition. Hopkins was well represented by Laura Hand, Meherazade Sumariwalla and Matt Castner.

The case required the team to develop a population health strategy for Ochsner Health System in Louisiana. The team developed a two-pronged approach: a direct primary care model, to improve the care of Ochsner’s patients, and a direct attack on the social determinants of health (including reducing violence and rehabilitating New Orleans’ extraordinarily high prison population), to improve the lives of Ochsner’s community. Their financial plan was serious and well-thought-out. Alas, the Hopkins team did not move forward in this year’s competition but should be proud of their performance. They worked very hard, despite demanding residencies. They considered and discarded many ideas, found the ones that made the most sense, worked through the details, anticipated many questions that the judges were likely to ask, and presented as true professionals.

Liana Burns, ‘16, who recently completed her residency at LifeBridge Health in Baltimore is one of the founding board members of Women in Healthcare, a local organization primarily focused in Delaware, Maryland, DC, and Virginia. The organization was recently incorporated and had its first kick off event in DC in March. The purpose of Women in Healthcare is to promote the roles and responsibilities of females in the healthcare industry, empowering one another to mentor growth and support business through sharing successful techniques, contacts, products and services.

On April 12th, Women in Healthcare celebrated its official launch in Baltimore at Johns Hopkins Hospital. There were over 75 women in attendance representing all industry sectors from health systems to insurance providers. Women in Healthcare is intended to be a forum for ideas and mentorship spanning many professions and organizations.

For information on upcoming events and membership, visit [www.womeninhealthcare.org](http://www.womeninhealthcare.org).

Liana encourages alumnae and students to join and she would be happy to answer any questions,
Hopkins student awarded 3rd Place in Stull

On March 16, Carolina Rayzel, ’16, was awarded Third Place in the graduate division of the 2016 Richard J. Stull Student Essay Competition in Healthcare Management for her essay, “The Health Insurance Marketplaces: Health Plan Success Strategies in a Consumer-Driven Market.” In her essay, Carolina analyzed the key success factors for health plans competing in a market increasingly driven by consumers: comprehensive customer service, commitment to quality, smart benefit design, and operational efficiency.

Carolina is the third Hopkins MHA student who has earned an award in this competition in the past four years. Jordan Kurtzman (’15) won the competition in 2015, and Prashant K. Dilwali (’13) also placed first in 2013.

Another Dinner Added to the Centennial Count!

Both Eric Ford and Mark Bittle attended ACHE Congress this past March. No trip to Chicago would be complete without a dinner invite. Unfortunately, not many of the Chicago alumni were available this year. Available to enjoy a wonderful dinner at Sapori Trattoria were Carolina and Eric (standing) and, seated from left to right, Neil Claracay, ‘16, Hall; Theresa Falcon, ‘13; Mariya Grygorenko, ‘16’ and Chantal Haberman, “14.

Photo credit goes to Mark!
OOPS! Annual MHA May Weekend took place April 29-30th!

The current academic calendar had a few anomalies this year: the early graduation date moved our May events into April! The program’s case competition for first year students took place on April 29 and the capstone symposium for second years took place the following day. Everything else was as it should be! Eight teams made outstanding presentations to two sets of judges and the two finalists, LIT Partners, Inc. (left) and PopLou Solutions, Inc. presented in the afternoon to three judges. LIT Partners took first place, but as department chair Dr. MacKenzie told the cohort during the morning kickoff, “You’re all winners!”

Following the case competition, Upsilon Phi Delta President Fadi Rammo, ‘12, led the annual meeting and induction ceremony. Inducted this year into UPD were Neil Claracay, ’16; Gabriel Gomez, ’17; Andrew Metzler, ’17; Christian Wendland, ’17; Jane Yang, ’16; and Stephanie Vicent, ’13.

LIT Partners: Ryan Le, Jordan Hughes and Ginal Shah

PopLou Solutions: Gabriel Gomez, Erica Barnum and Andrew Metzler

Next year’s MHA May Weekend will be in MAY! Hold the date for the annual dinner: May 5, 2017!

Honoring Ann-Michele Gundlach

Thanks to all of you who contributed to Ann-Michele’s memory book! The 2016 Alumni Preceptor dinner on April 29 was a huge success. Feinstone Hall was packed and a fantastic time was had by all. Bill Ward kicked off the celebration but the show stealers were the program alumni Ken Lee,’08; Nancy Cushman, ’12; Matt Castner,’16 and Nik Beuscher, ’04 who each paid special tribute to a great instructor, advisor, mentor and friend.
So What’s Bill Doing These Days?

When not teaching his online course or traveling all over the world or enjoying his life at the beach, Bill occasionally finds time for the golf course. On May 9th, Bill sponsored a foursome in the Upper Chesapeake Health Foundation’s annual golf tournament at the Maryland Golf and Country Club. It raised $120,000 for the Bob Hooper House—a hospice facility in Forest Hill, MD. Bill was on the winning foursome along with son Colin, Class of ’04 and Vice President—Population Health/Clinical Integration for Upper Chesapeake. Each of them received a $100 gift certificate to the club’s pro shop. Lucas Sater, Class of ’15, was there with others from Berkeley Research Group, so the MHA program was well represented!

Student Spotlight: Zein Quraishi, Class of 2017

While the MHA program may believe that there is not much time for external pursuits during the first year, students continue to prove otherwise. Case in point—Zein continued to dedicate time to a startup venture that he operates with two of his fellow Hopkins undergraduate alumni: Elsayyad Medical Group, LLC. Lamin Sonko and Ahmed Elsayyad have been close friends with Zein since they were undergraduates at Hopkins. They always knew they wanted to leverage their knowledge and resources to provide value to the healthcare community at large. Fast forwarding to post-graduation, the three of them have found themselves working together and making their dreams a reality. Elsayyad Medical Group, LLC’s main focus is to provide recruiting services for the medical community. This encompasses not only primary care physicians, but also specialists, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants.

In an effort to provide additional value to its clients, Elsayyad Medical Group, LLC is expanding its service lines. The group has partnered with key strategic players and now also provides its clients with virtual scribe services, pharmaceutical procurement, and medical supply provisions. The team has now grown to 10 employees and the group has secured a multitude of contracts across the nation. As Zein progresses through his professional career, starting at KPMG’s Healthcare Advisory Practice in July 2016, he is excited to continue to expand his healthcare knowledge and skillset and positively impact as many people as he can. According to his business partners, Zein has repeatedly said “My time is short on this earth, so it is my duty to make the most of every second pursuing opportunities that add value to me, my family, and those around me.”

Left to right: Sonko, Elsayyad, Quraishi
Graduation 2016

Remember when you had to scramble around to find extra tickets for graduation? No more, Convocation has found a new home: the Royal Farms Arena in downtown Baltimore. On Tuesday, May 17, after a lovely pre-convocation luncheon at the Baltimore Harbor Hotel hosted by the Department of Health Policy and Management, MHA graduates joined a record-setting crowd to march through the Arena.

In this centennial year, 904 students from 52 different countries earned their degrees from JHSPH. Of this total, 361 earned an MPH—the flagship master’s degree program at the School. The MHA program graduated 25 students. Pictured in the bottom right of the processional is Claro Pio Roda, program graduate and preceptor, who earned his DrPH from HPM this year.

Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha, the courageous public health-trained pediatrician who sounded the alarm over Flint, Michigan’s contaminated water supply was the Convocation speaker and received a standing ovation for her inspiring speech.

As usual, the first to walk across the stage to receive their diplomas were the MHA graduates. And the first of the first was Humoud Aljalahama. Unfortunately, Humoud’s family was unable to travel to the States to be part of this celebration but they got a very nice treat: a selfie with Dean Klag. Fortunately, for the thousands in attendance Humoud did not start a trend.

Dean Klag was a very good sport, as long as Humoud agreed to share the selfie which the Dean later tweeted. https://twitter.com/MikeKlag?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw

To watch this year’s ceremony, just go to http://web.jhu.edu/commencement/schools.html and enjoy all 3 hours and 30 minutes! The University’s Commencement ceremony on May 18 ran over four hours, but feel free to watch and listen.
The San Francisco Health Plan (SFHP) opened a public facing service center to better serve the San Francisco community a year ago this month. The SFHP Service Center’s enrollment team engages members through scheduled and walk-in appointments and provides assistance on various San Francisco health care options. Since its inception, the service center team has expanded to provide assistance on applications for Medi-Cal (Medicaid), CalFresh (food stamps), Covered California (Exchange plans), Healthy Kids, Healthy San Francisco, and San Francisco City Option programs. To celebrate its success in continuing the organization mission and one year anniversary, the service center held a carnival themed party complete with costumes (CEO in ringmaster costume), balloons, popcorn, corn dogs, fried Snickers, a food truck, Jenga, and more.

By Jane Yang, SFHP Administrative Resident, Class of ‘16

Brett Lee publishes 4th Book on Leadership

Earlier this year, Brett Lee, Class of 2002, had his fourth book on leadership in healthcare published by the Health Administration Press (ACHE). The book focuses on the behavioral aspects of leadership that can facilitate success. Lee co-authored the book with Carson Dye, a principal at Witt Kieffer.

Topics covered in this book include: professional image and reputation; ethical decision making; relationships with the executive team; and self-awareness and derailment.

You can find more information at http://www.ache.org/publications/Product.aspx?pc=2303
Honors and Awards 2016

John C. Hume Doctoral Award
Granted each year to a continuing student whose research will make a significant impact on the field.
Megan Priolo, Class of 2010, current DRPH candidate

Susan P. Baker Scholarship in Injury Prevention and Control
Supports students whose work will prevent and control injuries in the U.S. and around the world
Eileen Kasda, Class of 2009; DRPH candidate

John P. Young Memorial Fund
Granted to an outstanding student in management sciences.
Carolina Rayzel, Class of 2016
Julie Sorensen, Class of 2016

Student Assembly Recognition Award
Acknowledges the recipients special contributions to student life
Matthew Castner, Class of 2016

Upsilon Phi Delta Inductees from the Class of 2016
Liana Lee Burns
Christine Stephanie Careaga
Matthew David Castner
Neil Claracay
Mariya Grygorenko
Laura Bishop Hand
Victoria Lo
Amy Marie McDonough
Carolina Rayzel
Julie Anne Sorensen
Meherazade Sumariwalla
Brandon Joseph Earl Thomas
Jane Jiayu Yang
Alumni Updates

Joubin Bavarian, ‘14, recently left MedAsssets to join Yale New Haven Health System as a senior consultant.

Zach Bechtle, ‘12, changed positions within the University of Cincinnati Health System. He is now the business administrator for UC Physicians in the Department of Psychiatry.

Aaron Burch, ‘14, left Johns Hopkins Home Care Group to join the Department of Strategic Planning for the University of Maryland Medical Systems Health Plans, Inc. (formerly known as Riverside).

Natasha Gill, ‘15, is now the Assistant Administrative Director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center at Hopkins where she completed her administrative residency.

Nisha Jain, ‘12, was promoted from manager to director at Avalere Health in D.C.

George Karageorgio, ‘07, left HOK in April and is now a senior strategy consultant at UNC HealthCare.

Stella Liang, ‘11, who joined the Financial Analysis Unit at Hopkins for her residency and was recently promoted to project manager.

Sam Schuessler, ‘13, had his last day as ambulatory services manager at Johns Hopkins Hospital on May 27 and will be starting as administrator of outpatient pain management at the Hospital for Special Surgery in NYC later this month.

Kristen DiTucci Sheridan, ‘14, was promoted from Clinical Operations Manager to Assistant Administrator of ACCM and Johns Hopkins Hospital.

What’s New with You?

Let us know if you have changed positions, addresses, etc. We would love to hear from you!


Want to see more photos from this year’s alumni/preceptor dinner? Visit the Department’s facebook page: