Greetings to All,

Sometimes there is so much happening it feels like I am the ringmaster for a traveling circus. All three rings are busy with a lot going on at the school, in the Department and with the MHA program. At the time of this writing, the new Dean has as yet to be announced and the fetes honoring the outgoing Dean are nearing their conclusion. We’ve even managed to celebrate Dr. Klag’s moustache! (See story on page 4.) Closer to Hampton House, the Department of HPM has a new Chair – Dr. Colleen Barry. Since coming into her new role, Dr. Barry has had the opportunity to meet with MHA students and kick off this year’s Case Competition. Our former Chair, Dr. Ellen MacKenzie, was recently honored with the appointment of Bloomberg Distinguished Professor in both HPM and the departments of orthopedic surgery and physical medicine in the JH School of Medicine. Dr. MacKenzie continues to lead the Major Extremity Trauma Research Consortium (METRC), https://metrc.org/.

With respect to the MHA Program, it is bigger and better than ever. We recently celebrated with the class of 2017 and their families at the annual Convocation reception hosted by HPM. The class of 2018 had a very successful didactic year and are now off to their residencies. We look forward to having many more than usual in the Baltimore-Washington area next year: 13 will be within Johns Hopkins Medicine, including our first resident at Johns Hopkins All Children’s in St. Petersburg, Fl.

The incoming MHA class will be the largest in the program’s history with over 30 new students. The class comes from all over the country and beyond with a wide diversity of backgrounds and experiences. We know that it will be an interesting academic year and fully expect that they will continue to succeed as well as their predecessors. By now, each of our new students has been connected with a second year “buddy” and their online orientation in CoursePlus will be available to them soon.

That will have to do for now as I’ve got a lot of balls in the air...more to share in the fall.

Best,

Eric W. Ford, MPH, Ph.D.
Residents Assist in Opening of Bartlett Specialty Practice

On May 1, Jordan Hughes and Slesha Patel, MHA administrative residents in the JHM Department of Medicine, assisted in the dedication ceremony for the new facility honoring the former Johns Hopkins infectious disease division director, John G. Bartlett. The facility addresses the growing demand for outpatient health care and brings together services for patients with infectious diseases.

The Practice is located on the site of the old Emergency Department on Monument Street. It includes 24 exam rooms and provides services for patients with an array of infectious diseases, including HIV and viral hepatitis as well as infections contracted after transplantation.

Jordan was the contact point for the Bartlett family during the event; Slesha, on right, participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. Dr. Bartlett is standing between Mayor Catherine Pugh (with scissors) and Dr. Redonda Miller, President of Johns Hopkins Hospital. A familiar face to MHA alum and students is Ron Peterson; second to the left is Dr. Paul Rothman, Dean of the School of Medicine and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine. Between Dr. Miller and Slesha is Dr. Mark Anderson, director of the Department of Medicine. Our two DOM residents had a very exciting year and Slesha will be staying on after graduation. Chris Sulmonte will have the privilege of being next year’s administrative resident in DOM.

More Highlights from the DOM Residency

Jordan and Slesha had plenty of projects this past year that did not overlap, but they did have the opportunity to collaborate on a poster presentation. In fact, they were selected to present their poster at this year’s Alliance for Academic Internal Medicine Week. The conference took place March 19-22 at the Baltimore Convention Center and hosted faculty, administrators, and staff in departments of internal medicine from medical schools and teaching hospitals across the country. Their poster detailed one of the projects they co-lead: a high-value care initiative to decrease the number of blood draws per patient on the inpatient house staff services at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. The session proved a great opportunity to share their experience and learn what other academic medical centers have done to address this common issue.
MHA Students “Walk-A-Mile” with HC Exec Ed Program

This past April, MHA students participated in the “Walk-a-Mile” poverty simulation as a collaboration with the Department of Health Policy and Management’s executive education program and Maryland’s United Way chapter. Designed to provide participants with a deeper understanding of the barriers to social services access and the challenges of poverty, the simulation’s participants roleplay impoverished families. Families are tasked with balancing goals such as gaining employment, paying bills, and keeping their children fed and in school. “Walk-a-Mile” is an integral part of the “Leading Value-Based Transformation in Health Care” curriculum provided to healthcare executives. Pictured is “Grandma” Stephen Saddemi, Class of ’18.

Annual Chicago Alumni Get-Together

Dr. Mark Bittle, Associate Director for the MHA program, attended the annual American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Congress in Chicago. While there, he hosted MHA alum in the area, current students completing their residency at Kaufman Hall, and any Bloomberg MHA alum or students attending ACHE’s Congress to a happy hour and dinner. The gathering was held Tuesday evening, March 28, at the Public House on State Street in Chicagoland. The turnout was great, with five current students and alum from as far back as 1995. The group was fortunate to have a dedicated space and server so everyone was able to mix and mingle. Pictured to the right of Mark are Aarti Kotadia Shah, ’15, of Northwestern Medicine; Shalini Sharma, ’95, of Datix Ltd; Steve McMillen, ’13, ECG Management Consulting and Theresa Falcon McMillen ’13, Strata Decision Technology.

Not everyone could stay for what we understand was a delicious dinner. Others in attendance were Mariya Grygorenko, ’16, GE Healthcare Camden Group; Rebecca Duffin and Nathan Detro, ’17, Kaufman Hall; Neil Claracay, ’16, JenCare; Jordan Hughes, ’17, JHM; Erica Barnum, ’17, UF Shands; Jonathan Liu, ’10, Huron Consulting; Caroline Kaszycki, ’17, KPMG; and Ashley Thomson, ’15, Northwestern Memorial.

Thanks to all who came out to the mini-reunion to meet Mark!

What’s New With You?

Let us know if you have changed positions, addresses, etc. We would love to hear from you! http://www.jhsph.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/degree-programs/master-of-health-administration/index.html
Celebrating the Legacy of Dean Klag

After 12 years of inspiring leadership, Michael J. Klag is stepping down as dean on June 30, 2017. Building on the success of his predecessors, Al Sommer and the late D.A. Henderson, Mike guided the school through an era of unprecedented growth, not just in enrollment and faculty but in philanthropic gifts. After a sabbatical starting this summer, Mike will join the faculty with appointments in both Epidemiology and our very own Health Policy and Management. Since announcing his plans, the School has been hosting celebrations around the world and several of our alum had the opportunity to extend good wishes in person.

Pictured with Dean Klag are Fadi Rammo, ’12, and Zahra Nathu, ’14, who attended the Atlanta reception on February 15 at the Callanwolde Fine Arts Center.

The New York alum didn’t get the message that the Dean was supposed to be included in their photo! The March 1 event took place at the Princeton Club in NYC. Pictured are Kristina Das, ’10; Branko Kolvek, ’08, and Phil and Lisa Nicole Sarnowski, ’08.

Locally, students, staff and faculty had the opportunity to honor Dean Klag on May 18 in Sommer Hall. The celebration was great fun and included an Elvis impersonator who also happens to be a JHSPH professor by day. Dr. Courtland Robinson, I mean Elvis, led the audience in a rendition of The Wonder of You. Time didn’t allow for the audience to identify the million reasons why we love Mike as we do! Some interesting fun facts: Mike’s mustache was with him all 12 years of his deanship; 25% of all JHSPH alumni graduated during his tenure as dean AND Mike never missed a Convocation ceremony.

How many of you received your diplomas from Mike? You can send him your good wishes at http://www.jhsph.edu/about/history/celebrating-dean-michael-j-klag/share-your-story.html

Hopefully, some alum will be joining the Klag celebration in Seattle on June 5.
Amale Obeid, JD, MHA, Class of 2013, is a senior health care policy analyst with the Maryland Hospital Association. In this April 2017 photo, she is standing behind Senate President Mike Miller, House Speaker Michael Busch, and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan as he signs into law a bill that breaks down legal barriers that prevent physicians and hospitals from working together to improve patient care. Obeid played a key role in the bill’s passage, working throughout the 2017 General Assembly session to help lawmakers and other stakeholders understand the bill’s scope and purpose. This new law is essential for hospitals as they work to fulfill the Triple Aim: lower costs, better quality, and improved patient experience.

The MHA Student Association connected with Moveable Feast to schedule an afternoon of volunteering. Moveable Feast, located in the East Baltimore community, began in 1989, providing healthy meals and compassionate care to people in Baltimore with HIV/AIDS. Today, Moveable Feast serves 14 of the 24 counties in Maryland. The organization is the only provider of medically tailored meals – free of charge – for people with serious illnesses including breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, and a wide range of life-threatening medical conditions. MHA students are pictured with executive chef Melanie Brown-Lane (black apron). Brown-Lane is responsible for overseeing the management of the kitchen, executing production of all food items, managing daily volunteers, creating and rotating home delivered and contracted service menus and instructing the culinary training program. Having 10 MHA volunteers the week before Easter was a big help! Team MHA prepped 417 turkey pieces, 824 chicken breasts, 385 portions of mac and cheese, and 100 pounds of potatoes for baking. Before leaving, the team packaged 200 weekly dinners.....and cleaned the kitchen.

(Note: If Melanie looks familiar, maybe you caught her on the January 3 episode of Chopped entitled “Clean Eatin’.”)
MHA weekend is the time for students in both classes to take pride in their academic and professional accomplishments in front of their faculty and preceptors. On the morning of May 5, all members of the MHA Class participated in the program’s 9th annual case competition. The event was kicked off by department chair, Dr. Colleen Barry who had the opportunity to watch Synergy Partners present its case in Paige Hall. This year’s winning team, BMORE Consulting Group (Marissa Bane, George Abraham, and Zafreen Farishta) received their awards from finalist judges, Steve Kravet, MD, President of Johns Hopkins Community Physicians and Janice Burnett, Executive Vice-President of Bon Secours Health System.

That afternoon, 16 members from the Classes of 2016, 2017 and 2018 were inducted into Upsilon Phi Delta. The President of the Hopkins Chapter, Fadi Rammo, led the ceremony and chapter meeting. At the dinner that followed, Fadi presented UPD honor awards. Pictured with Fadi is Ken Lee, ’08, and instructor for Quantitative Tools. Awards were also presented to UPD advisors Doug Hough and Teresa Schwartz.

This year’s dinner speaker was James Case, ’07, who was also honored later as preceptor. Among the other preceptors in attendance was Neil Meltzer, President and CEO of LifeBridge Health, pictured below with his resident, Felipe Dest.

On Saturday, May 6, after an evening of celebration, first year students had the opportunity to relax while second year students returned to campus to present their capstones to their classmates and advisors.

Caleb Cobane traveled from Richmond, VA to share his paper, Feasibility Study for Chippenham Medical Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (S.A.N.E.) Program. Although the Class of ’17 would be together again in a few weeks for graduations, May 6th was their day to share some of their professional accomplishments with their peers.
Team KPMG Deserves a Special Thanks from the MHA Program!

Over the course of the year-long MHA seminar, students are introduced to numerous speakers, preceptors and alumni who, at some point in their careers, were part of the KPMG Healthcare Advisory Practice in downtown Baltimore. Not that anyone is counting, but the program can now boast that 17 of its graduates, going back to 1999, have completed their administrative residencies within this practice. (Not to mention the numerous alum who have been hired by KPMG!)

Most alum will recognize James Case, ’07, Director of the practice and a frequent seminar speaker. Program preceptor, Mike Zito, is to the right of James and to the left are this year’s residents: Caroline Kaszycki and Zein Quraishi. Sai Khisty, “16, was hired into the practice after completing her residency at Johns Hopkins Bayview.

Thank you, Team KPMG….you help make our program a success!

Graduation 2017

Not all of the members of the MHA graduating class were able to attend this year’s Convocation ceremony on May 23, but the program was certainly well represented by this group of 22 graduates.

Following a reception hosted by the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Radisson Hotel, graduates and their guests crossed the street to the Royal Farms Arena. This year’s Convocation speaker was Seth Berkley, MD, CEO of GAVI Alliance, who called on graduates to uphold truth and science as nonnegotiable aspects of their profession.

This year’s graduation was special not only for graduates and their families, but for Dean Klag. The Student Assembly President, Raul Saraiya, presented Dean Klag with a special gift to mark his last year presiding over the ceremony. And, in case you’re still wondering, graduates continue to receive their actual diplomas from the Dean, just like you did!

Who better to host Nik’s presentation on April 4, than Carey Zhuang, Nik’s summer intern at Lancaster General Health! After recently completing Jonathan Weiner’s Managed Care course, Carey and her classmates wanted to learn more about innovative payment models. Carey was obviously very familiar with the work being done at Penn Medicine/Lancaster and invited Nik to speak with her class. Nik, the Executive Director of Cancer Services at Lancaster walked the cohort through an explanation of its Oncology Care Model (OCM), a five year pilot program through CMS which started at the same time as Carey’s internship, July 2016. The model is a transformative new payment model for oncology practices designed to create financial and performance accountability for episodes of care surrounding chemotherapy administration.

Although still early in the project, Nik acknowledges that it’s not about the money but doing the right thing and it takes time to make meaningful changes All this from Nik who admits to saying the following in 2014: “We won’t see bundled payments in cancer for another 5-10 years, it’s just too complex.” Now Nik believes that OCM is “not one more thing to do but as the ONE thing to do” for survival ten years from now.
Alumni Updates

Shivani Patel Bash, ‘14, was promoted to Managerial Consultant within the Permanente Medical Group in the San Francisco Bay area.

Aaron Burch, ‘14, joined the Department of Strategic Planning for the University of Maryland Medical System Health Plans, Inc. (formerly known as Riverside) last year; this spring he was promoted to Director of Business and Legal Affairs.

Joshua Campos, ’09, moved east to become the Director of Strategic Business Development for Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine. Before moving to PA, Josh was the Manager of Executive Strategy for Hospital Sisters Health System in IL and WI.

Neil Claracay, ’16, recently left Kaufman Hall but remains in Chicago as Senior Manager of Network and Analytics for JenCare, an innovative system of senior medical services.

Branko Kolvek, ’08, departed Remedy to become the VP of Field Operations for Pager, a digital health start-up in NYC.

Nina Lieu, ’13, left KPMG to join Kaiser Permanente as the Manager of Strategy for the Georgia region.

Paige McMillan, ’11, formerly the Administrative Director of Radiation Oncology at JHM, became the Vice Chair of Administration for the Department of Surgery at Mount Sinai Health System in NYC.

Julie Mills, ’01, received a promotion within Bayada Home HealthCare; she is now the Divisional Clinical Liaison with responsibility for data analytics, outcomes measures and program development.

Jen Mrazik, ’05, left Huron after 12+ years to join Point B, a national consulting firm headquartered in Seattle. After all of these years of travel, Jen looks forward to spending less time in airports and working close to home.

Ashna Saxena, ’14, started a new role at MedStar’s Georgetown University Hospital; she is now the Administrator of the General Internal Medicine division.

Caleb Schwarzbach, ’15, recently left LifeBridge to return “home” to PA. He is now a project manager for the Lehigh Valley Health Network working with their Lehigh Valley Physicians Group Operations Team.

Monica Shah, ’14, moved from NewYork-Presbyterian to become Project Manager for Global Initiatives at Weill Cornell Medicine. Always the traveler, work will take Monica to China this summer.

Julie Sorensen, “15, is now Project Manager for the Clinical Enablement Team which is housed within the Reimbursement and Collaborative Care Organization of Cigna. She’s driving a lot of the projects around Cigna’s primary and specialty care collaboratives.

Spencer Wildonger, ’14, was promoted to Director of Health Planning within the department of Health Care Transformation and Strategic Planning at JHM.
John P. Young Memorial Fund
Granted to an outstanding student in management sciences.
Kathleen Nolan, Class of 2017

Delta Omega Inductees
Rebecca Duffin, Class of 2017
Ryan Le, Class of 2017

Upsilon Phi Delta Inductees
Tolga Babur, Class of 2018
Erica Barnum, Class of 2017
Patrick Chang, Class of 2017
Mario Felipe Dest, Class of 2017
Rebecca Duffin, Class of 2017
Zafreen Farishta, Class of 2018
Laura Grant, Class of 2016
Staci Hodge, Class of 2018
Jordan Hughes, Class of 2017
Elizabeth Hwang, Class of 2018
Hye In (Esther) Kim, Class of 2018
Evan Kittaka, Class of 2018
Ryan Le, Class of 2017
Stephen Saddemi, Class of 2018
Michele Shum, Class of 2018
Carey Zhuang, Class of 2018