Greetings to All,

Normally, I would take this opportunity to reflect on 2015 and the remarkable success the program, its students and alumni enjoyed. As you can see in the pages that follow, no one is resting on their laurels. The Johns Hopkins’ MHA family is on the move and engaged in more diverse activities than ever. Therefore, I'll take this chance to look forward into 2016.

The big news continues to be the Bloomberg School of Public Health’s Centennial Celebrations. Please be sure to check the school’s webpage to see if one of the many events scheduled is coming to a town near you. At the very least, we would be delighted to see you at the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE’s) Annual Congress held in Chicago (March 14-17, 2016). Let us know if you would be available for an alumni dinner on Tuesday, March 15. It would be a good opportunity to meet our newest faculty member – Mark Bittle who is profiled on the next page. For those of you who plan to attend the Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) in Las Vegas, I will be there and would be delighted to get together. For those of you in the local area, I hope to see you at the January 22nd Meet and Greet in Hampton House. And, of course, I look forward to seeing many of you at my first preceptor/alumni dinner on April 29th. We will be honoring Ann-Michele at this year’s dinner and I’m sure she would enjoy seeing many of her former advisees and students.

The MHA Program’s success is built on the great network of alumni and industry partners that keep our curriculum current and engage our students. For that we thank you and look forward to seeing you at the earliest opportunity.

Best

Eric W. Ford, MPH, Ph.D.
MHA Program Welcomes Mark Bittle, MBA, DrPH

The MHA Program is very pleased that Mark Bittle joined the program as Associate Director on January 4. When you are next in the area, feel free to stop by and introduce yourself to Mark who is located in Hampton House 539.

Mark is an experienced healthcare executive and a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives. His healthcare management experience spans ambulatory services and physician practice development, physician integration, care delivery model innovation and service line management, and using evidence-based management to lead organizations through complex change to improve organizational performance. His background also includes leading the development of managed care infrastructure and the management of health care under global capitation. Mark earned his Bachelor of Science in Emergency Health Services Administration from the University of Maryland, his MBA from the University of Baltimore, and his Doctorate in Public Health (DrPH) from the Department of HPM in the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Affiliated with Hopkins in a teaching capacity for over 12 years, Mark has developed courses in both face-to-face and on-line formats. He teaches Health Care Financing, Leadership and Management, and Healthcare Strategy for the JHU Carey Business School and the Bloomberg School of Public Health. He served as a member of the DrPH Executive Committee and, most recently, as a member of the Bloomberg School of Public Health reaccreditation committee. He is currently a member of the University of Maryland University College’s Master of Science in Healthcare Administration Advisory Board. His areas of teaching/research interest include change and change management in large health care systems, physician alignment and engagement strategies to improve system performance, patient safety related to the proliferation of electronic health care systems, and development of integrated systems of care (care coordination) and related measures of performance.

On a personal note, Mark was born and raised in Baltimore (and went to public high school). He and his wife of 31 years, Theresa (Catholic High), also a Baltimore native, are proud parents of two children: Greg, 28 (Calvert Hall) and Lauren, 25 (NDP) – (that’s what you ask if you grew up in Baltimore, right?) Mark is an amateur (very) astronomer and an avid (very) aviator. He holds a commercial pilot certificate with multi-engine and instrument ratings and is a certified flight instructor. When he is not thinking about flying, reading about flying, or actually flying, Mark and Theresa enjoy visiting their children, boating, cooking, vegetable gardening, and night-time star-gazing from their patio.

2016 Meet and Greet Scheduled for January 22, 5:45 pm

As has been the tradition for the past several years, the residency interview process will be kicked off with a Meet and Greet. Directors (past and present) as well as current students and alumni will be in attendance. The reception will follow an alumni panel discussion scheduled for 4:00 pm in Hampton House Auditorium. Students will have the opportunity to ask panelists about their interview and residency experiences. This event has been both an informative and fun discussion that helps motivate students but also assuage anxieties about the “match” process. Panelists this year include Nik Buescher, ’04; Dana Farrakhan, ’95; Kevin Hsu, ’03 Jonathan Liu, ’10; Mary Miller, ’92; and Marco Priolo, ’10.

Going to be in the neighborhood? Hope you can join us. Please RSVP to Lakeasha.
Class of ‘17 Spends Friday Night in the ER

They weren’t actually in the ER...just playing *Friday Night in the ER* with Bill Ward as part of the 1st term Healthcare Management class taught by Eric Ford. The board game, created by Breakthrough Learning, Inc. provides real-world experience without setting foot in a hospital. Played out over a simulated 24-hour day at a hospital, the game graphically shows the downside of short-term thinking and faulty assumptions. Four-player teams try to juggle a limited number of hospital beds, an influx of patients and a gradual attrition of nurses to care for them. The patient count in the ER waiting area soars as the night goes on, especially if the players running the OR, critical care unit and medical-surgical floor don’t cooperate to free up bed space, share nursing staff and plan ahead. According to Bill, “It’s about cooperation and teamwork, about seeing your department as one piece of an enormous mosaic.”


Centennial Dinner in Atlanta

The School is not just celebrating its centennial year in Baltimore, it’s a world-wide event! As part of the 100 Dinners initiative, several MHA alumni in Atlanta enjoyed dinner with Morgan Martin, Associate Director of Alumni Relations and Barbara Verrier, Sr. Associate Director of Development. From left to right are Morgan, Wendy Kaye, Epidemiology PhD ’84, MHS ‘80, Fadi Rammo, ’12; Stephanie Vicent,’14; Zahra Nathu, ’14; Barbara, Hayley Kenslea, ’11; and Matt Drohan, ’13. For more information, to host or attend one of the 100 Dinners: [www.jhsph.edu/100dinners](http://www.jhsph.edu/100dinners).
1st Year Students Meets Mayor Rawlings-Blake

As soon as 1st year MHA students arrive to Hopkins, they learn about the importance of networking. Several students needed no encouragement to attend the annual reception for graduate and professional students hosted by the University of Maryland at Baltimore. In addition to a mix and mingle over beer, wine, and Baltimore-inspired snacks, MHA students learned about B-more while mingling with students from neighboring graduate programs. The reception included remarks from Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Steven Gondol, the executive director of Live Baltimore.

Pictured with the Mayor is Christian Wendland, ’17, a native of Wisconsin and a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse.

MHA Residents Assist at Fall MAHCE Conference

Thanks to program mentor and MAHCE board member Greg Finnegan, Director of Organization Development and Training for the Johns Hopkins Health System, local 2nd year MHA students get the opportunity to assist and participate in the Maryland Association of HealthCare Executives fall conference. This year’s conference, Innovation in Maryland Healthcare and How It Impacts You, was held on October 1 at Sheppard Pratt in Baltimore County.

The four MHA students who assisted this year represented four major health systems in the area. Pictured from left to right are Christine Careaga (JHM, Sibley Memorial Hospital); Edwin Zhao (MedStar); Laura Hand (Greater Baltimore Medical Center) and Liana Burns (LifeBridge Health). MAHCE board members have grown to rely on assistance from 2nd year MHA students for the fall event and program students appreciate the opportunity to attend the conference and network with attendees.
Updates from the Class of 2016

Jane Yang, resident at the San Francisco Health Plan, shared how her team celebrated the ICD-10 go-live on October 1. It may not be a typical day at the SFHP to have an arts and crafts contest, but it certainly was an opportunity to celebrate accomplishments and demonstrate creativity.

Did anyone think that 2nd year MHA students didn’t have time to travel during their residency years? Don’t tell these second year students who were able to work in some significant travel during the holidays. Pictured below are Humoud Aljalalama and Rachel Swartz in Kuwait enjoying local coffee in a traditional diwaniya. Rachel is the current resident at UMMC-Midtown and Humoud is working in Kuwait for the Dasman Diabetes Institute. The camel ride was in Dubai. And who recently climbed Kilimanjaro? Mitali Desai, current Resident at Temple Physicians, Inc.
In early October, the Class of 2017 visited the Greater Baltimore Medical Center to meet with its executive team and tour some of GBMC’s facilities. Teresa had the opportunity to meet with current resident, Laura Hand, and preceptor John Ellis, the Senior VP for Corporate Strategy and Development and GBMC. As mentioned in previous editions of this publication, GBMC has a long history of recruiting from the Hopkins MHA program. From left, Megan Priolo, ’10, COO of the Greater Baltimore Health Alliance; Amber Taylor, ’05, Director of Corporate Strategy; Samantha Pruden, ’14, EPIC Implementation Team Lead; Michael Finegan, ’12, Medical Service Line Administrator; John Ellis, Laura Hand, Mary Ely, Executive Director, GBMC Health Care; Danielle DaSilva, ’14, Ambulatory Service Line Administrator; and Ahmed El-Sayed, Manager of Reporting and Analytics. Not included is Chase Roberts, ’15, Project Manager, Analytics.

Laura Wortman, completing her residency at Johns Hopkins Singapore, enjoyed a visit not only with former program director, Bill Ward, but from her former Human Resources professor, Pamela Paulk, President of Johns Hopkins International. From left to right are Pamela, Lawrence Patrick, the CEO of Johns Hopkins Singapore, Laura and Bill. Truth be told, the visit had multiple purposes, including a get-together with some local alumni.
A few thousand miles to the east of Singapore, Teresa visited Jane Yang at the San Francisco Health Plan’s new office space on Beale Street. Pictured with Jane and Teresa is Noreen Qureshi, Class of 15, who was hired into the SFHP after graduation. Of course there needed to be a SF Meet and Greet to celebrate the visit! From left to right: Shivani Patel and Alex Bash, ‘14, Jane, Noreen, Sneha Jain, ‘12, Diana Juan, ‘02, and Conan Fong, ‘04. Shivani is now at the Permanente Medical Group, Alex is with Deloitte where he did his residency; Sneha is a Performance Improvement Consultant at Stanford; Diana is an administrative Director at UCSF Medical Center and Conan is the co-founder of ElationEMR.

Moving southeast from SF, Teresa visited the Cigna Medical Group in Phoenix, AZ. The Class of 2017 met preceptor Ed Kim, ‘85, President and General Manager of Cigna Medical Group during one of his business trips to the area in October and later met Aret Zartarian, ‘15, in November. During her November visit, Teresa had the opportunity to meet with Ed’s co-preceptor, Dr. John Parente, as well as current student Julie Sorensen and Arett who is now the Operations Administrator at CMG.
Alumni Updates

Mahesh Devnani, ‘14, was inducted as Member of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (NAMS), India in October. Mahesh is now a tenure track Assistant Professor at Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) where he and his colleagues were recently visited by the US Ambassador to India, Rich Verma.

Divya Paliwal, ‘08, left EY to join Kaufman Hall as VP. Divya and her family continue to live in the DC area.

Jordan Robinson, ‘13, left Texas to move back home to Mississippi to become the Director of Operations for Children’s Healthcare of Mississippi which is part of the University Medical Center in Jackson.

Congratulations to all of our alumni!

What’s New with You?

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

http://www.jhspgh.edu/departments/health-policy-and-management/degrees-programs/master-of-health-administration

Save the Date: Alumni/Preceptor Dinner, April 29, 2016

This year’s dinner will honor both 2015 and 2016 graduates and preceptors. Ann-Michele Gundlach will also be honored. More information to follow in the weeks ahead. Stay tuned!