Happy New Year!

As I drafted this message, I paused to reflect on how quickly 2018 went by, not to mention the last three years of my tenure with the program. Being a member of the MHA program team and on faculty in the Bloomberg School of Public Health is a source of great pride. As you read through this newsletter, you will understand, and hopefully, share in that pride.

The students, faculty, staff, and alumni continue to delight and excite us all with their wonderful accomplishments. Whether these accomplishments are from publications, conference presentations, professional association awards, events that promote social good, or simply building long-lasting bonds, these terrific successes and endeavors reflect the strong foundation upon which the MHA program is built. This foundation comes from the significant efforts of so many over the years.

Teresa Schwartz, who will be retiring in February, is one of those individuals who has contributed significantly to the success of the MHA program. In her 40 years of service to JHU and 10+ years to the MHS/MHA program, Teresa has been a strong and guiding influence on the character and strength of all that we do. She is tireless in her dedication to the welfare of our students, both current and alum. She has also contributed in countless ways to assuring the MHA is well-regarded by our preceptor sites and the educational community at large. I will personally miss Teresa, a sentiment that is shared by many. Among the many blessings I can list since coming to the program, working alongside Teresa is near the top. I hope Teresa is as proud of her accomplishments as I am. I wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement!

As we look forward to 2019, I welcome Karen Charron, MPH, RN, whom you will read more about in this issue, to the MHA team. With Karen’s help, our focus remains steadfast, providing students with exceptional educational and experiential opportunities that will prepare them to tackle with confidence the challenges of improving health in our communities and our systems of health care delivery. In addition, we will continue to assure the MHA program is one of which we can all be proud.

My best wishes to all of you in the new year.

Mark J. Bittle, DrPH, MBA, FACHE
Program Director
Introducing Karen Charron, MPH, RN

What better way to find someone who will be responsible for managing an admissions process, monitoring students’ academic progress, preparing students for administrative residencies, finding residency opportunities, and coordinating an accreditation process, than to look within your own institution for someone who has succeeded in all of these areas. Karen Charron, not only has a proven track record in each of these areas, she joins as Assistant Director with a background in health care. Karen earned her BSN from Towson University and her MPH from JHSPH.

For the past 16 years, Karen has been the Assistant Director of Academic Programs coordinating the Masters of Science in Public Health (MSPH) degree in Global Disease Epidemiology and Control program in the Department of International Health. In addition to her GDEC responsibilities, Karen, has served on the MPH admissions committee and the school-wide Committee on Academic Standards. During the School’s last CEPH accreditation process, that concluded in spring 2015, Karen served as the Reaccreditation Coordinator working for the Office of Academic Affairs. (Very few people know as many random facts about the School as Karen!)

Karen’s research background was in clinical trials with a focus on vaccines and preventive biomedical interventions. Related to that work, Karen developed one of the first JHSPH online courses; this course in clinical vaccine trials is still being offered. She also helped launch several of the School’s first Coursera courses. Additionally, Karen led a seminar series working with students on professional development skills.

What attracted Karen to move from Wolfe Street to Hampton House? “The first and main answer is Teresa. I’ve known Teresa for over 20 years, back when she was the School’s registrar. We have been important resources to each other through the years and I’ve learned about the degree from her. We bonded again over accreditation (CAHME and CEPH). The two of us also share the same student-focused ethos.” Karen also worked with Mark during the CEPH accreditation and was happy to have the opportunity to join the team and support his vision for graduate healthcare education. Doug and Lakeasha confirmed the fit and have warmly welcomed Karen to the academic team. “The MHA is an opportunity to circle back to my roots and interest in quality healthcare. As a nurse, I worked in homecare, ICU, and general medicine settings at UMMS and the Veteran’s Administration.” More importantly, Karen was attracted to the MHA team because of her commitment to student mentoring and the opportunity to work with rising leaders. Her recent work has been focused on strategies to improve student mentor/mentee relationships in field placement settings.

Interesting fact, Karen worked on the first floor of Hampton House when she began at JHU in 1992. Returning to Hampton House with the MHA program feels like coming home to Karen.

Please reach out and introduce yourself to Karen: kcharron@jhu.edu
Angel Khuu Attended Women’s Leadership Conference

This past December, Angel Khuu, resident at Meridian Health Plan, attended 866 Seminar’s A Women’s Leadership Conference in Cleveland, Ohio. 866 Seminars is an organization providing leadership training and education in the US and Canada. This opportunity was made available to Angel through an award received from the Johns Hopkins Student Assembly Student Conference Fund, sponsored by Johns Hopkins staff, faculty, and students. Angel was one of 12 recipients who won the award through a random number generator. At this conference, Angel was able to connect with female leaders from the Midwest region. She learned about strategies to communicate like a pro, manage emotions in frustrating situations, resolve conflict, and keep difficult people from ruining a person’s day. (Does that ever really happen?)

Angel’s main takeaway is that although many women strive for perfection, it is important to release that desire and learn to make the best decisions at that moment. Indecision can be a big barrier for female leaders. Moreover, rather than practicing for perfection, people should be practicing to promote progress. Angel hopes to apply some of the strategies she learned at the conference as she proceeds with the second half of her residency!

Maggie Zhang Reporting from IHI’s National Forum in Orlando

In December, some colleagues and I had the opportunity to attend the Institute for Healthcare Improvement’s National Forum on Quality Improvement in Healthcare. IHI is a non-profit organization that inspires and collaborates with healthcare organizations throughout the world to find innovative ways of improving health and healthcare. This conference brought together healthcare organizations from around the world to share their best practices and learnings in quality improvement. During this conference, I had the opportunity to attend various seminars, listen to keynote speakers, re-connect with old friends, and network with new colleagues. I even had the chance to listen to a fellow member of my cohort present her poster (Go Anna!).

One seminar I attended, hosted by UPenn’s Center for Healthcare Innovation, was based on combining design-thinking with improvement sciences. Through this interactive seminar, I worked with healthcare leaders to come up with out-of-the-box ideas to solve problems such as leveraging the supply chain advantages and technologies of Amazon to help deliver specialized care to rural parts of America.
More from Maggie in Orlando.....

After attending two keynote sessions, I was truly inspired and motivated by the work that each keynote speaker accomplished to make their mark in improving healthcare. One individual from the Women in Action keynote session especially stood out to me because of her determination to succeed and overcome the obstacles that were standing in her way. Vania Deonizio told her story of how she started her organization, Dancin Power, to change the culture in hospitals through creative and expressive arts during their hospitalizations. Her love for dance and her passion to help people has had a positive impact to more than 16,000 patients and their families. Vania’s story along with many others throughout the conference, reminded me of the reason why I am in the healthcare field – to help as many people as I can and in the best way that I can.

As an added bonus of attending a conference in Orlando, a group of us made a pit-stop at Disneyworld and spent a few hours in the “Happiest Place on Earth.” All in all, my experience at the IHI National Forum on Quality Improvement was not only a great opportunity to share and learn best practices but also a wonderful way to connect with colleagues throughout the healthcare industry.

Here I am, in the center, next to my two MHA classmates, Anna Ye and Blake Manion. To the extreme left is Matt Brown, from our team at Cigna Medical Group in Phoenix. On the extreme right is Arett Zartarian, Class of 2015, and Regional Business Director and Director of Informatics at Cigna.

Megan Priolo, ‘10, also Presented at IHI Forum

On Tuesday, December 11, Megan Maguire Priolo, ‘10, was among the panelists to discuss Behavioral Health Integration: A Look at Lessons and Barriers. Megan, who is now Principal, Hazel Tree Healthcare Solutions, LLC, presented with a former colleague, the current medical director of primary care from Greater Baltimore Medical Center as well as the VP and CMO of Sheppard Pratt Health System in Baltimore. Other panelists were from Chicago.

Congratulations to Megan for joining our part-time faculty! Megan now teaches in the MAS program in Population Health Management.
Hopkins Students Participate in MAHCE Fall Event

In fall 2018, it fell on program director Mark Bittle to make sure that the October MAHCE event at Shephard Pratt Conference Center could once again be staffed by second year MHA students. This year’s volunteers were Justin Serrano (LifeBridge Health), Anna Ye (JHM Capacity Command Center, Anam Khan (JHM Radiation Oncology) and Jordan Wuest (UM Upper Chesapeake Health). The Maryland chapter of ACHE chose *Innovations in Health Care* as this fall’s theme. Panelists discussed how health systems are using innovation in care delivery design, technology, and patient experience to improve the value of the healthcare they deliver.

The October 11th conference was a very special one for second-year MHA student John McKeil who was awarded MAHCE’s prestigious Douglas Shepherd Memorial Scholarship. The $3,000 scholarship is provided to a health services management student who has demonstrated ethical behavior and outstanding leadership qualities. John, who earned his BA in Political Science from Indiana University and an MBA from The George Washington University, worked for the U.S. Department of Commerce as a senior international investment specialist before joining the MHA program. He is currently the administrative resident at JHM’s Howard County General Hospital.

Douglas Shepherd earned his master’s degree from the University of Michigan in 1970 and served in the Navy Medical Service Corps until 1979. He then became an administrator at Washington Hospital Center. His last position was at Laurel Regional Hospital where he served as president from 2005-2008. John is the second MHA student to receive this award in Shepherd’s honor.

*Attending ACHE in March, 2019? Let Mark Bittle know if you are able to meet for a reception on Tuesday evening, March 5.*

RSVP to lwormley@jhu.edu
Hopkins MHA student attend NAHSE Conference

NAHSE is known for providing unparalleled networking and educational opportunities for black and minority healthcare professionals. Jonathan Robinson’s had this to say, “My favorite part about the NAHSE conference was the opportunity to connect with like-minded individuals. No matter if they were a healthcare executive or a graduate student, everyone I interacted with made me feel welcomed as a first time attendee. I left the conference with new skills and knowledge and feeling inspired and energized. I look forward to keeping in touch with my newly formed network and attending next year in Washington, D.C.”

What will Iris remember? In addition to reconnecting with her former colleagues from RJW Barnabas Health System, Iris was challenged by writer/performer Sarah Jones whose performance reminded her of why she entered healthcare.

“The there comes a time when you need to get in trouble. Good trouble. Necessary trouble.”

- The Honorable John R. Lewis

The 33rd Annual Educational Conference and 23rd Annual Everett V. Fox Student Case Competition brought over 800 healthcare professionals and students to Orlando, Florida in mid-October to commemorate the silver anniversary of the National Association of Health Services Executives (NAHSE). For 50 years, NAHSE members have upheld the mission of its founders: to promote the advancement and development of Black healthcare leaders, and elevate the quality of health care services rendered to minority and underserved communities. Among this year’s participants were first year MHA student Iris Chijioke and second year resident at Bon Secours, Jonathan Robinson. Both students felt that the conference theme, A Certain Mission in Uncertain Times: Advancing Healthcare as a Civil Rights Issue, was timely and extremely relevant. The conference’s guest speakers featured the Honorable John R. Lewis; Bernard Tyson, the chairman and CEO of Kaiser Permanente, Michellene Davis, Esq., and Patricia Russell-McCloud, Esq.
Winter 2019

News from the MHA Student Association

**Speaker Series**

This year, the MHASA proudly hosted its first ever, school-wide speaker engagement, with James Case, ’07, offering a captivating presentation on the recently implemented Maryland Total Cost of Care (TCOC) Model. At the event, students and faculty from both the School of Public Health and School of Medicine participated in an active discussion regarding the next iteration of the Maryland waiver “test” and how the outlined regulatory changes could impact the strategies and operations of local health systems. The MHASA plans to host a second speaker engagement later this Spring as part of its focused effort to improve the program’s visibility amongst the larger student body.

**Mentorship**

MHASA has also deployed a new mentorship framework this year, with members of the student association’s leadership team, Kameron Knab and Miriam McBride, leading the design of a “family pod” system. Within this paradigm, first-year students are not only paired with a second-year “buddy” the summer prior to matriculation, but are also incorporated into a larger peer group comprised of three pairs of mentors and mentees. This structure ensures that incoming students have pre-facilitated and direct access to local second-year mentors, even if their assigned “buddy” is completing a residency outside of Maryland.

**Community Service**

MHASA has continued to support the group’s tri-partite mission of academic excellence, community service, and social engagement through the development of a blossoming strategic partnership with the Maryland Book Bank. The student association’s community service chairs, Jonathan Robinson and John McKiel, have worked diligently to begin establishing monthly service opportunities at the Book Bank, where students are able to nostalgically sort through and organize used books in an effort to cultivate literacy amongst children from under resourced areas.

Don’t forget the 11th Annual Alumni Meet and Greet, Friday, January 18th, at 5:45 in Hampton House Café. The event is co-sponsored by the MHASA and the program office. RSVP to Lakeasha Wormley lwormley@jhu.edu.
More from the MHA Student Association.....

Social Events

Is it really the holiday season in Baltimore without taking a trip to the Pandora Ice Rink in the Inner Harbor? In December, MHASA’s social committee co-chair, Tori Ellsworth, organized a trip to the iconic rink, where first and second-year students were able to unwind from the stresses of academia and life as an administrative resident. There were even a few guest appearances from recent alumni interested in connecting with new members of the MHA family. For some of our west coast students, it was their first time ever hitting the ice!

Look who was spotted at the HPM Alum Reception in DC.....

On Thursday, September 20, the Department of Health Policy and Management hosted an alumni reception at the Kaiser Family Foundation’s Barbara Jordan Conference Center located on G Street in Washington DC.

Among the attendees who met with both Dean Ellen MacKenzie and Department Chair Colleen Barry, were Anshu Choudhri, ’02, Executive Director for Legislative and Regulatory Policy at BCBS Association; Robert Hart, ’14, Manager of Health Plan Accounts at Lumeris; Jennifer Newcomb Rhodes, ’11, Associate at Booz Allen Hamilton; and Ellie Hwang, ’18, Project Manager at MedStar Health.

Although it was not until October 9th that the School’s new strategic plan was formally launched, all attendees had the opportunity to hear Dean MacKenzie give a preview of The Power of Public Health: A Strategic Plan for the Future.
Alumni Updates

Johnny Adamovich, ‘15, joined CareAllies, a subsidiary of Cigna, in the fall. As a Marketing Product Manager, Johnny will be developing home based care programs. At least for now, he continues to be based in Baltimore.

Mahesh Devnani, ‘14, was elected as a Fellow of Royal Society for Public Health, London (FRSPH).

Chelsea Lange, ‘15, started a new job at Beaumont Health: Director, Access Center.

Katie Nolan, ‘17, recently left Remedy to join Mark Shaver’s team at Welltower in NYC as an Associate, Strategic Health Initiatives. (Katie found out about this position through a posting our alumni listserv!)

Tanuka Raj, ‘17, will be starting at Deloitte this month working out of the Chicago office.

Carolina Rayzel, ‘16, left Health Recovery Solutions in September to join CipherHealth as an Implementations Lead. She continues to enjoy the challenges of working within healthcare technology!

Stephen Saddemi, ‘18, recently joined Northwestern Medicine. He is working within the Strategic Planning Department as a consultant. We now have three program alum in that department! Working with Stephen are Aarti Shah, ‘15 and Ashley Thomson, ‘17.

Lucas Sater, ‘15, recently left BRG to join the University of Maryland Medical System as a Senior Manager. He is working in reimbursement at the UMMS corporate office.

Don’t forget….when you visit Baltimore/DC, be sure to take the time to visit the program office. On Friday, September 28, Alex and Shivani Bash from the Class of 2014 met with Teresa and the Class of 2020. Now living and working in the San Francisco area, the Bashes took time from their personal travel schedules to share their stories of student life, residencies and post-graduate employment with the first year students. Given that Shivani was a “Patel” as a student, it was clear to the students that there was more to MHA life than academics and professional development.

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/degrees-programs/master-of-health-administration