I am delighted to write to you as the new Director of the Undergraduate Program in Public Health Studies. After nine years away, it is great to be back at Hopkins! It has been wonderful catching up with old friends and colleagues at JHSPH, and forming new connections at KSAS. I am reminded why there is no better place to study public health.

The PHS Program continues to grow, with over 450 majors currently enrolled. Our students are doing impressive work at home and abroad. They are excelling in the classroom, conducting research, and volunteering with community organizations. Our student groups are fostering scholarship and service. They are on track to become the best prepared generation of public health professionals ever.

The PHS Program is only possible through the efforts of faculty, staff, and administrators from across JHU. We receive a great deal of support from our alumni as well. On behalf of our students, I would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to all involved.

We are launching this quarterly newsletter to keep the entire PHS community informed about all of the great things happening in the PHS Program. We hope you’ll enjoy receiving these updates.

Maria Bulzacchelli
PHS Director

New staff: The PHS office underwent big changes last summer. Dr. Kelly Gebo moved up to the Provost’s office and was replaced as Director by Dr. Maria Bulzacchelli. Dr. Mieka Smart and Mr. Joe Balabis left JHU to pursue other opportunities, and Dr. Laura Foster and Dr. Katie Henry came on board as new PHS Advisors.

7 new Gordis Teaching Fellowships awarded for 2017: The Gordis Teaching Fellowships give JHSPH doctoral students an opportunity to teach their own undergraduate public health course. This year’s recipients are: Rachel Fabi (Beyond Borders: Migration, Ethics, and Public Health), Sara Heins (Using Secondary Data to Conduct Public Health Research), Kathryn Heley (Health-Related Stigma: Ethical Considerations, Intervention Possibilities), Leslie Myint (Statistical Thinking for Informed Decision Making), Marie Spiker (How to Feed the World: Perspectives in Global Food and Nutrition Security), Pamela Trangenstein (Alcohol Use and Social Disparities: A Public Health Perspective), and Angela Trude (Public Health Nutrition in Latin America).

Congratulations to Ashley Ezema, PHS Senior, the 2016 recipient of the The Daily Record’s Leading Woman Scholarship! Read the story here.

Uganda Study Abroad 2017 was a success! In this Intersession course, students explore health and education programs serving Ugandan children. Read the trip blog here. Find out more about the PHS study abroad programs here.

Steve Park, December 2016 grad, was the first ever recipient of the James D. Goodyear Public Health Service in Baltimore Award, a scholarship established in honor of James Goodyear, founding PHS Associate Director. The award supports one PHS student per year pursuing an otherwise unpaid summer internship in Baltimore City. Steve spent the summer of 2016 working with the Baltimore City Health Department as a health policy researcher and designer. He worked primarily with Sonia Sarkar, Chief Policy Officer and PHS alumna, on Healthy Baltimore 2020, a five-year blueprint of strategic priorities for the Baltimore City Health Department. Healthy Baltimore 2020 outlines specific objectives to cut health disparities in half over the next decade by increasing access to health resources and addressing structural disparities such as racism and injustice. Healthy Baltimore 2020 was first released to the public in September 2016, with a more formal release to follow in early 2017. Steve also worked on the “Don’t Die: Naloxone” campaign, Safe Streets, sugar and sweetened beverage legislation, and Zika prevention.

“This opportunity has not only allowed me to apply my public health education into practice in a city I call home, but has also reinvigorated my motivations to pursue public health leadership in the future.”—Steve Park

The James D. Goodyear Public Health Service in Baltimore Award is made possible by generous donations to the PHS Program. We need your support! If you are interested in donating to the Goodyear Award fund, please click here. Thank you!
Natalie Draisin, Class of 2010

Natalie is the Manager of the US Office for the FIA Foundation, an innovative global road safety philanthropy which focuses on high impact strategic advocacy in road traffic injury prevention and motor vehicle fuel efficiency. The Foundation’s aim is to ensure ‘Safe, Clean, Fair and Green’ mobility for all, for a sustainable future. Natalie acts as a liaison between the Foundation and the United Nations, Capitol Hill, and other US grantees and players in the field. She advocated for the inclusion of road safety in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, and helped secure Congressional signatures on a letter to the World Bank requesting minimum safety performance metrics on their roads. She also secured language prioritizing a safe and healthy journey to school for all children in the UN Habitat III New Urban Agenda, and road safety language in the UN High Level Political Forum. Previously, she worked with the National Transportation Safety Board on safety advocacy and communications, as well as with the World Health Organization on social marketing and journalism regarding road safety in low- and middle-income countries. She began her career in road safety as an undergraduate at Johns Hopkins University, advocating for safer streets and life-saving, evidence-based, legislation to reduce drunk driving in Maryland. After graduating, cycling across the country to raise money for cancer research provided her with an up-close perspective on road safety. Natalie has an MPH/MBA from Johns Hopkins University, where she wrote her thesis on the Driver Alcohol Detection Safety System, a passive alcohol sensing technology.

**PHS alumni, we’d like to hear from you! Let us know what you’re up to.**

**Applied Experience Highlight**

PHS Junior Arvin Saleh interned with the Feed the Future (FTF) Innovation Lab for Nutrition (ILN) in Kathmandu, Nepal, during the summer of 2016. Originally he was brought on to assist the organizing secretariat in preparation for the FTF ILN 4th Annual Scientific Symposium: Minding the Gaps Along the Agriculture-to-Nutrition Pathway, to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from July 18-20. The FTF ILN is a USAID-funded research organization whose goal is to generate evidence on the effectiveness of integrated interventions targeting nutrition outcomes and to build in-country human and institutional capacity at local and national levels. Arvin quickly gained the trust of his supervisors, and so was also given the opportunity to participate in Quality Control Field Visits connected to a national data-collection effort, and to assist with writing up his team’s technical reports. When asked about the experience, Arvin describes a host of learning opportunities: crafting messages and communication materials that are appropriate for target audiences; appreciating the web of working relationships between partners and collaborators that define the operations of the FTF ILN; and observing the direct linkages between informal networks, collaboration, and capacity building. His significant contributions to research implementation and dissemination earned him an invitation to return to Nepal, with added responsibilities, in 2017!