

JHSPH Baltimore Community Practicum Merging Classroom and Experience

Bloomberg School of Public Health students have a growing, for-credit, opportunity to gain field experience in Baltimore City. Mindi Levin, faculty appointment in Health Policy and Management and Student Outreach Resource Center (SOURCE) Founder and Director, developed the Baltimore Community Practicum (BCP) course aimed to allow students to experience and explore the partnership between academic public health and the community through project-based experiential learning.



Sarah Cha, BCP student, participated with Maryland Citizens Health Initiative/Health Care for All.

Levin says of the practicum, "The course is a wonderful way for our partnering community-based organizations to recruit and retain graduate health professional students to work on their own community-identified needs. I've had countless students note that this experience was perhaps the most beneficial for their own learning."

In its sixth year, the 2010–2011 academic year has 22 students placed in part-time opportunities with local public health agencies and community based organizations across Baltimore City with a high concentration in East Baltimore. The practicum also features a weekly seminar taught by Levin. Seminar sessions cover basic methods of outreach to community organizations, attitudes and values about the role of professionals in community-based work, the social contract required of service professionals, and the attitudes required for effective public health practice.

Practicum student Erin Huber says, "Taking part in the BCP course has allowed me to get out of the classroom and see firsthand what it is like to work within a community organization. Being able to apply skills I have learned through my coursework to real-world situations has enhanced my learning experience tremendously."

Some of the current project titles include: "Evaluation of the 2-1-1 Program at the United Way of Central Maryland", "Enhancing Baltimore City's Community Outreach Initiatives for Older Adults" with the Baltimore City Health Department, and "The Eastside/Westside Community Challenge for Healthy Living".

This selective practicum requires students to apply in the first term and be actively engaged during second and third terms. Upon completion of the practicum, students will have gained knowledge and experience in applying their academic learning, while also fulfilling a community need.

"My BCP internship with the House of Ruth Maryland not only gives me the opportunity to gain hands-on experience in public health in an area that I am passionate about, but it is also allows me to collaborate with amazing, committed House of Ruth Maryland providers in achieving a common goal of helping victims of domestic violence stay safe," said Janie Pak current practicum student.

For more information about SOURCE, go to www.jhsph.edu/SOURCE.

FIND US ONLINE AT www.hopkinsmedicine.org/communityservices
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Community *Ties*



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WINTER 2010

Spirit of Holiday Giving

The Johns Hopkins community was full of the spirit of giving during the recent holiday season. In November, students from Tench Tilghman Elementary/Middle helped deliver donated Thanksgiving turkeys to the Parkview at Ashland Terrace senior center in East Baltimore. Students managed the process by sorting, bagging and presenting the treats to the seniors. Additional Thanksgiving meals were donated to the Bea Gaddy Women's and Children's Center.



Amid holiday tunes, mounds of sprinkled cookies and cups of bright red punch, leaders of area community groups distributed gifts to families and children

Faculty, staff and students donated colorfully wrapped gifts through the Office of Community Services to brighten the December holiday season for many East Baltimore families.

who were sponsored as part of the Community of Caring Holiday Gift Giving event. This year, members of the Johns Hopkins community sponsored 245 children living in neighborhoods surrounding the Johns Hopkins Medical Campus. Children received gifts that included clothing, books, bikes, shoes, and more.

Nelson Ortega, Executive Director of Centro de la Comunidad, was one of several involved community leaders. Following the event he said, "*Gracias siempre for your holistic support and giving us the time and a chance to celebrate our Christmas event with our community kids.*" He continued, "*Many people say, 'Christmas is for kids,' but the holiday spirit should be on all the time. By providing fun Christmas gifts for our kids it allows adults to enjoy the innocent glimmer in his or her eye on Christmas morning.*"

December 2010 was also a time of the first Kwanzaa Café celebration at East Baltimore Development, Inc. in East Baltimore. Community leaders along with community members, friends and families joined together to celebrate Kwanzaa with arts and crafts, food, drinks and goodies for each child—including cold weather accessories gifted by the Johns Hopkins Office of Community Services.

The generosity and teamwork of the Johns Hopkins and East Baltimore community allowed for cross-generational and multicultural holiday celebrating.

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M E D I C I N E



Waiting
for
Santa



Community *Ties*



Gift
of
Giving



Enjoy photos from East Baltimore's holiday celebrations:

House Calls

With the aid of an unlikely trio—a nurse, an occupational therapist, and a handyman—aging Baltimore residents are gaining newfound independence.



It used to be difficult for Carol Glover, 68, to get inside the detached garage next to her East Baltimore home. First, she would have to hold on to a wall or the door for support, which required turning her body in uncomfortable and painful ways. Then she used an unsteady brick as a step to navigate the dangerously steep drop down. Glover, who has arthritis and scoliosis, could have easily fallen and been seriously injured.

Glover is one of 42 participants in the CAPABLE (Community Aging in Place: Advancing Better Living for Elders) study, a community outreach research project created by Sarah Szanton, PhD, CRNP, at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.

“Half of the people who have ever lived to be 65 in the history of humans are alive now,” says Szanton. “We have to come up with more cost-effective strategies for aging at home.” She developed the CAPABLE study to find these strategies.

The older adults selected for the study were placed in two groups. The first group had their physical, mental, and environmental challenges addressed through three services—occupational therapy, nursing, and the assistance of a construction specialist who made necessary home repairs—while the second group participated in life review sessions that have been shown to improve mental activity only.

For Glover, who was one of 25 adults in the first group, everything has changed. After opening her garage door, Glover now holds on to a railing to steady herself. The brick has been replaced with a sturdy wooden platform, which she carefully steps on. Her muscles are also stronger now, thanks to weekly tai chi classes. Today, Glover can walk into her garage without pain or fear of falling. “[Now] I don’t have to feel timid,” she says. “[And] it’s made a world of difference in my arthritis.”

And when Szanton is ready to find more participants, Glover can help. “I’ve told all my senior relatives and friends about the program and they said, ‘Oh, how can I get in it?’” she says. “I’ve got plenty of [names].” *Reprinted with permission from Johns Hopkins Nursing magazine, fall/winter 2010.*

Highlandtown Elementary crowned Middle School All Star at 1st Annual VEX Robotics Competition

The Johns Hopkins University Center for Educational Excellence, part of the Whiting School of Engineering hosted the first annual VEX Robotics Competition on Saturday, December 11, 2010. The inaugural event brought students together from 13 middle and high schools in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Students who participated in the event have been developing robots over several months to move objects around a course to score points in a game of “Round Up”.



Round Up is the official VEX Robotics competition game for the 2010-2011 school year. The game requires students to maneuver their robots on a 12’x12’ square field while trying to score points against their competitors.

Christine Newman, Assistant Dean of Educational Outreach for the Johns Hopkins University Whiting School of Engineering said,

“While serving as a judge, I heard that one student was so into building his robot that he’d be at the door of his coach/teacher’s room every day after school waiting to start work.”

Students were awarded prizes in various areas including: building, creativity, innovation, sportsmanship and programming to name a few. Following the event at Johns Hopkins University, students will continue to build and improve their robots to qualify for the World Championships in April, which takes place in Kissimmee, Florida.

One East Baltimore school took home a top honor: Highlandtown Elementary/Middle placed atop the middle school competitor group. Other notable Baltimore City winners include: Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, combined Dunbar/Patterson High team, Western High, Dr. Nathan A. Pitts Ashburton Elementary/Middle School and the Friendship Preparatory Academy at Calverton.

The building process is a continual learning process for the students. “I saw several students who built basic robots say that they learned a lot about how to improve their design by seeing the other teams’ robots,” said Newman.

Newman summarized the event by saying, “While the more experienced teams did win, we offered the competition here to give Baltimore City Public Schools teams more opportunities to compete and hone their skills.”

20th Annual Johns Hopkins MLK Community Service Awards: Strength to Love: A Legacy for the Kings, a Future for America



Photo: Keith Weller
Recipients of this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Awards are Ted Alban, Tong Zhang, Sammi Turner, Swanzeta Nciwani, Ann Marie Lee-Wilkins and Barry Meyer. Fanon Hill and Kathleen Norton are not pictured.

On Friday, January 7, 2011, Johns Hopkins hosted the 20th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Community Service Award Ceremony. Eight Johns Hopkins employees from the University and Health System were honored for their excellence in community service outreach through volunteerism.

The 2011 honorees included Ted Alban, an assistant administrator in the School of Medicine; Kathleen Norton, a field director at the Bloomberg School of Public Health; and Tong Zhang, an immunology graduate student in the School of Medicine. Health System honorees are Barry Meyer, a facilities director at Johns Hopkins

Bayview Medical Center; Swanzeta Nciwani, a transplant information systems specialist at The Johns Hopkins Hospital; Sammi Turner, a special needs coordinator with Johns Hopkins Health Care; and Ann Marie Lee-Wilkins, a patient care manager at Bayview.

The annual award ceremony, led by Dr. Levi Watkins, professor of Cardiac Surgery

at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, is part of the larger Martin Luther King Jr. birthday remembrance. In its 29th year, the 2011 event featured U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin and Shirley Sherrod, the former U.S. Department of Agriculture official who was forced to resign last summer following a racially shaded controversy. Both women spoke on the central theme of “Strength to Love: A Legacy for Kings, a Future for America”.

Johns Hopkins students, faculty, staff and visitors flooded Turner Auditorium to enjoy the ceremony. Closed-circuit television around Hopkins’ campuses also featured the event for those unable to attend at Turner.

