



# MOVING FORWARD: Big Changes for the Urban Health Institute

## *A new approach to urban health*

### HIGHLIGHTS AND NEWS

- ♦ New UHI website launched!  
Please visit us at  
<http://www.jhsph.edu/urbanhealth>  
(see page 7)
- ♦ The UHI is seeking a  
Communications Coordinator  
(see page 3)
- ♦ Registration for the International  
Conference on Urban Health,  
taking place on October 31 –  
November 2, is now open.  
(see page 6)
- ♦ Big Brothers and Big Sisters of  
Maryland and the UHI are looking  
for volunteers to spend one hour a  
week with a child in the East  
Baltimore Community.  
(see page 5)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Meet the UHI Team</i>	<b>2-4</b>
<i>News and Updates</i>	<b>5</b>
<i>Spotlight on Tomorrow's Leaders</i>	<b>6</b>
<i>New Developments</i>	<b>7</b>

Robert Blum, MD, MPH, PhD, newly appointed director of the Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute has big ideas for how to lead the Institute in a new direction. Blum served as the interim director for the Institute from May 2006, until he was made permanent director in July 2007. The JHU Gazette, the newspaper of The Johns Hopkins University, had an opportunity to sit down with Dr. Blum in a recent, feature article to talk about his plans for the UHI. To learn more about Dr. Blum's vision for the UHI please read the article through the university's website at <http://www.jhu.edu/~gazette> by clicking the "Back Issues" tab and choosing June 11, 2007.



Under new direction, the Urban Health Institute's immediate and most essential goal is to serve as a link between Johns Hopkins and the East Baltimore community to help improve the health and well-being of its citizens.

Dr. Blum often describes the Urban Health Institute as a brokerage organization. The Institute's team works to identify resources and services offered throughout the community and Hopkins. With this, the UHI is able to help bridge organizations and individuals with appropriate members of the Hopkins community or one another to help support and promote a variety of health issues.

A list of some of those partnerships can be found on the Institute's Web site at <http://www.jhsph.edu/urbanhealth>.

The Urban Health Institute has made tremendous strides. This is just the beginning, there's much more to be accomplished.

---

# MEET THE UHI TEAM

*Experience, dedication and service: Meet our core staff*

## **M. CHRIS GIBBONS, MD, MPH, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**



Dr. Gibbons directs the UHI Community Health Worker Program which focuses on urban chronic diseases and urban maternal child health problems. Dr. Gibbons is also working to demonstrate the value of uniting health information technologies and e-health interventions among urban African-American populations. His work is forming the foundation of the emerging field of populomics which represents the fusion of the population sciences, medicine and informatics. Dr. Gibbons has been named a Health Disparities Scholar by the National Institutes of Health. Prior to coming to the Urban Health Institute, Dr. Gibbons was a Senior Policy Fellow at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Dr. Gibbons is an expert consultant to several agencies and foundations regarding health and health care disparities. Dr. Gibbons received his training in preventive medicine, general surgery, and molecular genetic cancer research and earned an MPH, all at Johns Hopkins. He received his medical degree from the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham, Alabama.

## **ALAN GREEN, PHD, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**



A recent addition to the UHI team, Dr. Green offers a valuable, fresh perspective to the Institute's efforts. Dr. Green is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator for School Counseling in the Department of Counseling and Human Services within the School of Education. His research interests include urban school counseling, African American male issues in academics, and mental well-being. His current projects include the Urban Education Leadership Doctoral Program, the Meade Middle School Community Partnership Project, and Program Evaluation for Urban Leadership Institute. Previously, Green was the principal investigator for Project Inspiration, a federally funded urban school counseling demonstration program for the Baltimore City Public School System.

## **KRYSTLE T. CARTER, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**



Ms. Carter oversees the Institute's communications and functions as a liaison between the local community and Johns Hopkins University. She comes to Hopkins from New York State, where she was an editorial writer for the New York State Assembly. Ms. Carter's background also includes experience in campaign management, journalism and community relations.

## **GREGORY CUNDIFF, PROGRAM COORDINATOR**



Mr. Cundiff is the Research Program Coordinator for the Community Health Worker Program. He came to the Institute as a VISTA Marketing Coordinator for the East Baltimore Technology Resource Center. As a VISTA he wrote the AmeriCorps grant that provides initial funding for the CHW program. Before coming to Hopkins he was a technology support teacher for the Baltimore City Public Schools and an Avionics Technician/Supervisor for the United States Air Force.

---

# MEET THE UHI TEAM

## AMY L. GAWAD, MPH, PROGRAM DIRECTOR



Ms. Gawad is the program director of the Urban Health Institute. Before joining Hopkins, she was a research associate at the Board on Children, Youth, and Families of the National Academy of Sciences, where she oversaw the William T. Grant Foundation Youth Development Prize Committee. In addition, she served as the research associate on a number of reports, including *Ethical Considerations for Research on Housing-Related Health Hazards Involving Children; Working Families and Growing Kids: Caring for Children and Adolescents; and Community Programs to Promote Youth Development*. Prior to her work on youth development at the NAS, she had responsibility for the dissemination of Board reports, including *From Neurons to Neighborhoods*, a report on the science of early childhood development. She received her MPH from the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services.

## PAMALA MARTIN, MBA, INSTITUTE ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Martin oversees finance and administrative aspects of the Institute. In addition, she is administratively responsible for the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health in the Bloomberg School of Public Health where she has been for the past 3 years. Before joining Hopkins, she was an administrator for St. Agnes Healthcare where she had responsibility for both outpatient and inpatient services. She has expertise in community based federally qualified health care centers, information technology and financial as well as human resource management.

## NADRA C. TYUS, DRPH, MPH: POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW

Dr. Tyus is currently a postdoctoral fellow with the Urban Health Institute and the Center for STD Research Prevention and Training in the Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health. She assists research investigators with planning and conducting community-based health promotion projects that focus on improving the health status of East Baltimore residents. Dr. Tyus has published articles on predictors of sexually transmitted infections among young women and has participated in community-academic collaborations as part of her fellowship. She is also working on several manuscripts and community-focused projects that examine social and cultural determinants of health outcomes as well as innovative methods for addressing health disparities. Dr. Tyus received her DrPH from the University Of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health.



### INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR TEAM?

The Johns Hopkins Urban Health Institute (UHI) is seeking a Communications Coordinator to join a team of faculty, students, staff and members of the local community. This position will manage the UHI website and several related databases. Additionally, this position will work cooperatively with our Communications Director to function as a liaison between the local community and Johns Hopkins University. To apply visit <https://hrnt.jhu.edu/jhujobs/>. For questions regarding the position, contact Amy Gawad at [agawad@jhsph.edu](mailto:agawad@jhsph.edu).

The UHI is also looking for Community Health Workers. To apply visit <http://www.jhsph.edu/urbanhealth> and click the "Become a Community Health Worker" link. For questions regarding the CHW program, contact Greg Cundiff at 410-502-6154.

---

## MEET THE UHI TEAM

### *Investing in East Baltimore: An update from the Community Health Worker Program*

On June 1, 2007 new faces began to appear in the OB/GYN Clinic of the East Baltimore Medical Center. Those faces belong to Community Health Workers (CHW) of the Urban Health Institute. The role of the CHWs is two fold; encouraging mothers to be to stay in prenatal care, and to provide them with both education and emotional support.

Part of the educational effort is to raise awareness of the benefits of breast feeding, and increase the number of young urban women who breast feed their babies.

One of the best things a mother can do for her baby is breast feed. Breast feeding lowers the risk of many childhood illnesses including; obesity, asthma, ear infections, and bladder infections. Breast feeding also lowers the mother's risk for cancers of the breast and ovaries.

Most of our Community Health Workers are AmeriCorps members. The Urban Health Institute has been an AmeriCorps service site for the last three years; and in February 2008 we will begin our fourth service year. Each new service year brings new challenges and opportunities. One of those opportunities is for members of the community to become CHWs. Our application season is now open. Individuals with an interest in health and serving their neighbors are invited to submit an application (see page 3). Questions about the program should be directed to Greg Cundiff at [grcundif@jhsph.edu](mailto:grcundif@jhsph.edu).



Top row: Ruby Parker, Mary Prater, Jessica Stewart, Lora Tull  
Bottom row: Shante Gilmore, Robert Allen, Annie Coples

### *Get to know a friendly face: A conversation with Annie Coples*



**Krystle:** So, how long have you been a Community Health Worker?

**Annie:** I started with the UHI about 18 months ago, but I've been doing community service for a number of years.

**Krystle:** What drew you to the program?

**Annie:** I really like to serve the community and that's what this program is all about. I think the self-sufficiency of the program is really important...helping others become more independent.

**Krystle:** What are some of the challenges and rewards of the program?

**Annie:** Keeping the clients on track is a real challenge. Maintaining contact with our clients and getting them to follow through can be difficult. But, it's rewarding to see a client come into the program not knowing what they need or how to identify services and seeing them learn and grow and find necessary resources and outlets to meet their needs

**Krystle:** What would you like our community to know about the program?

**Annie:** Through the dedicated leadership and guidance of Dr. Gibbons, this program has grown and touched many people in this community. The CHW program is here not to enable, but to empower people to be successful and productive on their own.

**Krystle:** What have you learned or gained from your experience as a CHW?

**Annie:** I've learned that knowledge empowers. Someone's limits are really a reflection of their lack of knowledge. However, with the right information, tools and skills anyone can be healthy and successful.

## *What's been going on?*

**On May 1, 2007**, the UHI hosted a Community-University Partnership Forum which brought together approximately 65 leaders from the Johns Hopkins University, other Baltimore universities, community groups and colleagues from around the country who are involved in community-university partnerships. The goal of this meeting was to discuss developing partnerships, creating collaborations, power-sharing and many issues around establishing and sustaining relationships between universities and the communities where they reside.

The insight and information gained from this forum will be summed up in a monograph outlining successful strategies in maintaining healthy, mutually beneficial relationships between communities and universities. This information will be available on our website in early fall.



**On May 8, 2007**, Johns Hopkins University East Baltimore leadership joined together with leaders from the East Baltimore faith community to discuss ways to re-establish and strengthen ties between JHU's East Baltimore campus and the surrounding communities. During this forum, pastors identified a variety of health issues that concerned their congregations, including chronic conditions like hypertension and diabetes. They also discussed the needs of adolescents such as violence prevention and HIV/STD awareness and treatment. The relocation of East Baltimore residents, employment opportunities and workforce development were also discussed.

A number of important questions were raised during this forum. Dr. Nadra Tyus has identified as many of those answers as possible. A list of those questions and answers can be found on our Web site. The next Faith-University forum is being planned for November.

### **PANEL MEMBERS INCLUDED:**

Frances "Toni" Draper, Pastor, John Wesley AME Zion Church  
Martha Hill, Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Nursing  
Michael Klag, Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health  
Ed Miller, Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
David Nichols, Vice Dean, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Ron Peterson, President, Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Marshall Prentice, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church  
Thomas Schwind, Pastor, New Covenant Tabernacle  
Jack Shannon, Chief Executive Officer, East Baltimore Development, Inc.  
Harlie Wilson, Pastor, Isreal Baptist Church

## *"Bigs in Schools"*

We're excited to announce a partnership with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland and the nearby Tench Tilghman Elementary School. Volunteers from Johns Hopkins will spend one hour a week during lunch mentoring an elementary school student who is in need of an adult friend. Volunteers play games, help with schoolwork, spend time and, most importantly, have fun with a child. Students and Employees from all levels and areas of the university are encouraged to pursue this volunteer opportunity. For more information, contact Amy Gawad at [agawad@jhsph.edu](mailto:agawad@jhsph.edu).

---

## SPOTLIGHTING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

### *The C. Sylvia and Eddie C. Brown Scholars in Community Health Program*

The Brown Scholars in Community Health Program is designed to train leaders who are committed to eliminating health disparities in Baltimore. This special program consists of a full scholarship, academic offerings, a seminar series, community mentoring, and other activities designed to deepen the Scholar's understanding of urban health and engage them in the Baltimore community.

#### Meet this year's scholars:

##### **STEPHANIE FARQUHAR, 2007 BROWN SCHOLAR**

Stephanie comes to the Bloomberg School from Dallas, Texas. She plans to study the public health impact of Baltimore's new 80-acre Biotech Park. The project, planned for East Baltimore, is heralded as a model community revitalization project. Farquhar will examine the project's impact on the education and health levels on East Baltimore residents.

##### **CHANDRA JACKSON, 2007 BROWN SCHOLAR**

Chandra, originally from Atlanta, Georgia, wants to focus on health disparities associated with chronic diseases, such as obesity and type-2 diabetes. Jackson was previously involved in efforts to reduce health disparities in Baltimore as a participant in the Bloomberg School's Minority Summer Internship Program. She assisted in research projects designed to promote healthy diets and physical activity for minorities living in public housing.

##### **AMANDA LATIMORE, 2007 BROWN SCHOLAR**

Amanda, of Santa Monica, California, intends to focus on social epidemiology with the goal of reducing HIV, syphilis and other diseases transmitted among Baltimore's marginalized populations. Latimore says she knew from the age of 10 that she wanted to help children stay healthy when their parents could not be there for them. She says her most significant achievements have been those moments in her life when she was able to aid a child or a battered woman.

### **You're invited to join us!**

In the spring we announced that The Johns Hopkins University UHI was co-hosting the International Conference on Urban Health October 31 – November 2. The theme of the conference is "Technology, Behavior and Urban Health." The goal is to bring together experts and professionals from a variety of disciplines, including medicine, technology and science to facilitate networking, collaboration, research and policymaking around health issues in urban settings.

Keynote speakers include the Prime Minister of St. Kitts, The Honorable Denzil Douglas, Hans Rosling from the Karolinska Institute of Sweden, Congressman Elijah Cummings and Mayor Shelia Dixon. To register for this exciting conference, visit [www.icuh2007.org](http://www.icuh2007.org).

## *East Baltimore Community School & Health Initiative*

The UHI is working with EBDI, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the Baltimore Community Foundation, as well as a number of other key stakeholders throughout the community to create an integrated educational ladder that will ensure the success of East Baltimore children from birth through high school and beyond.

Our key objectives include the development of:

- ♦ Exemplary, free child care programs and family supports
- ♦ A state-of-the-art community campus anchored by a new preK-8th grade school created by an unprecedented public-private partnership. A coordinated health system for children, youth and families is planned as a component of this initiative.
- ♦ A partnership with elementary and middle schools in the East Baltimore community to share best practices, expand availability of integrated services, and strengthen the quality of educational options available to all children of East Baltimore.

The combination of economic, social, and housing revitalization at the core of the East Baltimore Revitalization Project will provide a community infrastructure that is critical to the success of meaningful urban education reform. The unique approach of integrating a comprehensive educational initiative into the revitalization project has great potential to improve the quality of education throughout the area and provide a new national model of coordinated health, education and human services.

To date, we have accomplished the following:

- ♦ Received funds to launch a new Family Support Center which will become part of the statewide network of such centers led by Friends of the Family, Inc. and the Maryland State Department of Education. Efforts are underway to launch the East Baltimore Family Support Center in 2008 located at 1731 East Chase Street.
- ♦ Hosted community meetings to select school site resulting in a seven acre site which includes ample space for the early childhood program, preK-8th grade school, recreational, cultural and after-school activities, green space, and more.
- ♦ Secured a grant from the Atlantic Philanthropies to support planning for the preK-8th grade school including the hosting of events, facilitation of working groups, and the coordination of site visits that include the participation of residents and the broader community. Resident and community input will influence decisions about the school design, menu of integrated services and curriculum program. Residents and the broader community will continue to be involved in shaping the vision and design for the new East Baltimore school.

**THE UHI IS COLLABORATING WITH EBDI, THE ANNIE E. CASEY FOUNDATION, THE BALTIMORE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY TO CREATE AN INTEGRATED EDUCATIONAL LADDER THAT WILL ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF EAST BALTIMORE CHILDREN FROM BIRTH THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND.**

**THE COMBINATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND HOUSING REVITALIZATION AT THE CORE OF THE EAST BALTIMORE REVITALIZATION PROJECT WILL PROVIDE A COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE THAT IS CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF MEANINGFUL URBAN EDUCATION REFORM.**

## NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED!

The Urban Health Institute is delighted to announce the launch of its Website:  
<http://www.jhsph.edu/urbanhealth>.

We hope this site will be a key component in linking Hopkins with community partners, faith based organizations and the East Baltimore community at large as well as linking faculty and staff with one another. The Web site is an excellent resource and will be continually updated – we encourage you to visit regularly.

JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY



JOHNS HOPKINS  
UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF NURSING



2013 E. Monument Street  
Baltimore, MD 21205  
(410) 502-6155