



On Belay! News from the HLD Alumni Association
To connect, serve, learn and advise

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2012 - 2013**

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Anita Ruff
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HLD II

Kolawole Bankole
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Evelyn Kielyka
Julie Osgood
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Save the Date for On Belay! Our Annual HLD Alumni Dinner and Policy Day is Coming in March!

You are invited to our annual alumni dinner on Thursday, March 14th at Joyce's in Hallowell. Last year's dinner was a great time, and this year's event should be even better.

Also, please join us on Friday, March 15th in the Augusta area for On Belay!, the annual Alumni Policy Day. Hanley staff and HLD alumni are working together to create an informative day of lively discussion.

The Alumni Association Wants Your Feedback!

The Alumni Association Member Relations Committee (Julie Osgood, Lorrie Potvin, Anita Ruff & Bob Williams) are asking all alumni to fill out a brief survey on whether the Association is meeting the needs of the alumni.

HLD III

Valli Geiger
Judiann Smith
Angela Westhoff
Bob Williams

HLD IV

Mary Ann Amrich
Arabella Perez
Dennis Roy
Suzanne Spruce

HLD V

Catherine Chicester
Brenda Czado
Chris Muffett
Lorrie Potvin
Jana Purrell

Complete the survey [here](#). Thank you for your help!

HLD Website A Great Source for Alumni Information

Have you ever wondered who is in which class or how to contact someone not in your class? The HLD website www.healthleadershipmaine.org has all of that information and more. Take a minute to review your contact information and email [Maggie](#) if you have changes.

HLD Fifth Anniversary Celebration: A Day of Learning & Connection

More than 100 HLD alumni, faculty and friends gathered in Freeport in early November to celebrate the 5th Anniversary of the Hanley Center's HLD program! The afternoon and evening event combined education, networking and a whole lot of fun.



Nationally known leadership expert Jon Chilingirian of Brandeis University led a well received workshop on teambuilding and "collective intelligence."

ICL's Laura Moorehead was recognized for her extraordinary contribution's to HLD's success.

During the evening reception, Jim Harnar thanked faculty, funders and members of the planning committee that developed the program for their commitment to building Maine's leadership capacity.



The group also heard a first hand account of HLD IV alum **Victoria Grover's** close call in the remote Utah wilderness, where she survived four nights last spring with a broken leg. Special guests included Cindy Brown and Dan Elliott from Outward Bound!



Upcoming Regional Alumni Meetings

The Alumni Association has organized regional alumni meetings as part of our mission to keep people connected and to expand on what we learned in the HLD. All alumni are invited to attend any of the regional meetings. If you are interested in leading a discussion on a leadership challenge or would like to host a regional meeting, please email [us](#). We are especially interested in starting a Bangor and Aroostook meeting, so let us know if you are interested.

Central Maine Regional Meeting

Tuesday, February 26th at 8:00am

Fran's Place

1485 Lisbon St., Lewiston

RSVP to [Lorrie Potvin](#)

Greater Portland Regional Meeting

Wednesday, March 6th at 8:00 - 9:00am

Planned Parenthood

443 Congress St., 3rd Floor, Portland

RSVP to [Anita Ruff](#)

This group meets quarterly on the first Wednesday in March, June, September, and December, alternating between breakfast and lunch.

Save the 2013 dates: March 6th, June 5th, September 4th, and December 4th.

Alumni News

HLD I

Congratulations to **Dr. Ken Johnson** who was appointed as the dean of the Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in Athens, Ohio. Prior to his appointment, Ken was the associate dean for educational programs and vice dean at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he was also an associate professor of family medicine and osteopathic manipulative medicine.



HLD III

Congratulations to **Angel Dupont** who has accepted a position at Excelsa Health in Greensburg, PA, where she will serve as Director of IS. Excelsa is a large system in western Pennsylvania with more than 4,700 employees, 585 physicians in 35 clinical specialties, 180 allied health professionals, 19 residents and 1,000+ volunteers and auxiliary members.



Diane Skog has accepted a position at the Finance Authority of Maine as the Project Leader of the Harold Alfond College Challenge Program, which gives \$500 to each new baby to start a NextGen account for education beyond high school.



HLD V

Congratulations to **Dr. Linda Sanborn** on her selection to the Legislature's Appropriations and Finance Affairs Committee! Linda was re-elected in November to her third term in the Legislature.



HLD II Scholarship Challenge is Underway!

HLD II is kicking off their Scholarship Challenge. Founded by HLD I, this inter-class competition challenges each class, on its fifth anniversary, to raise enough money to fund at least one full scholarship - \$5,000.

Interested in helping? Contact [Evelyn Kieltyka](#)

Health Disparities Ambassadors Updates

In October 2011 the Hanley Center for Health Leadership launched a first-of-its-kind statewide project to develop programs that address health inequities in Maine. HLD alumni were recruited to develop pilot projects in their respective organizations and communities. The Health Disparities Ambassadors project is also part of the Hanley Center's long term strategy for supporting the growing HLD alumni by bringing together HLD grads from all classes to focus on a single issue of common interest.

On December 7, 2012, the Health Disparities Ambassadors gathered for a celebration culminating 18 months of work. Generously hosted by MidCoast Hospital, the ambassadors made presentations on their projects and led to conversations on the insights gained through the process. While there have been setbacks, delays, and challenges, in the end, there was a general sense of elation, satisfaction, and personal recognition that this type of work is integral to the development of a healthcare system that recognizes and actively seeks to improve health inequities in all its myriad forms.

Below is a summary of the projects, all of which reflect the diverse interests, background and expertise of the Ambassadors:

- **Examination of Race, Ethnicity & Language Data Collection and Usage** *Kolawole Bankole (HLD II), Jessica Loney (HLD III), Becca Matusovich (HLD II)*: Created a blueprint tool for collecting accurate and quality data for all stakeholders involved in data collection and usage in order to improve the healthcare delivery system for disparate populations.
- **Establishment of Home-based Mental Health Services for Rural Seniors** *Meg Calloway (HLD IV)*: Held weekly group meetings for seniors with mental health issues in Newport to discuss their needs and concerns;

piloted home-based services for rural seniors using videophones.

- **Establish Improvements for the Persistent Serious Mentally Ill in Washington County (PSMI)** *Holly Gartmayer-DeYoung (HLD IV)*: Established Community Sharing Circle groups; this model has subsequently been shared and adopted in other areas of the state.
- **Reduce Mental Health Stigma Through the Creation of a Governor's Council on Mental Health Stigma** *Judiann Smith (HLD III)*: Raised awareness among legislators and stakeholders; recently met with the governor to discuss establishment of the council.
- **Reduce Communication Errors with Vulnerable ED Patients (those individuals with dementia, morbid obesity, mental health presentation, or obvious poverty) at Redington-Fairview Hospital** *Mike Lambke (HLD III)*: Developed script for clinician use that is documented and tracked.
- **Improve Health Disparity Education for Husson University Health Program Students** *Mary Jude (HLD II)*: Developed and piloted a health disparities course for graduate nursing students.
- **Reduce Communication-based Errors in Patients with Chronic Pain and Drug-seeking Patients at Franklin Memorial Hospital** *Ralph Johnson (HLD II)*: Developed and piloted an EMR template to differentiate patients with chronic pain from those who may be misusing narcotics in a busy ED setting.
- **Increasing Effective Patient/Provider Communication** *Larry Crystal (HLD II)*: Developed guidelines for both clinicians and patients to improve communications.
- **Establish a Somali Women's Group for Mutual Support and Learning** *Deqa Dhalac (HLD III) and Diane Skog (HLD III)*: Since many of the women were interested in becoming childcare providers, Deqa and Diane worked with Portland Adult Education and Muskie Maine Roads to Quality Program to begin the logistics of offering an introductory childcare class at Portland Adult Ed.
- **Increasing Awareness of Implicit Bias Among Providers to Improve Clinical Diagnosis and Care at St. Mary's Healthcare System** *Rene Dumont (HLD I) and MaryAnn Amrich (HLD IV)*: Developed a pilot project in the Emergency Department to provide implicit bias awareness training; training to be provided in early 2013.

While these projects may have seemed daunting at times, consultants from the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation's Culture InSight program provided training, guidance, and individualized support to each project. The knowledge, expertise, and creative problem solving of the Culture InSight consultants, Dr. Mitzi Johnson and **Fela Alvarado (HLD III)** along with Lisa Sockabasin, Director of Maine CDC's Office of Health Equity, proved invaluable to many teams. Participants were cradled, bolstered, and reassured at every step in the journey. To round out the process, an evaluation team, including Kay Dutram and Teresa Hubley, from USM Muskie School provided important guidance in developing realistic goals and evaluation measures for the projects.

The Hanley Center furnished the underpinnings for this project. In her gentle, persistent way, **Kathy Vezina (HLD I)** orchestrated meetings, conference calls, training opportunities, and managed to keep us on task and excited about this ground-breaking work.

But we're not done yet! Most participants admitted they still have unfinished work, that they need to delve deeper, expand prospects and engage others to truly feel completed. Jim Harnar announced at the celebration that the Hanley Center

is committed to continuing to support the Health Disparities Ambassadors projects. The Hanley Center is working with Culture InSight and Lisa Sockabasin to continue their exceptional consultations.

And now it's your turn. If you have not been involved with the Health Disparities Ambassadors project, take a few moments to read over the project case studies presented by the ambassadors. If you discover projects that compel you to further investigation, contact the project ambassadors for more information. Collectively HLD Alumni are a community rich in mutual support, collaborative learning, and inspired problem solving.

Submitted by:

MaryAnn Amrich (HLD IV), Judiann Smith (HLD III), Kolawole Bankole (HLD II) HLD Alumni Board representatives and Health Disparities Ambassadors.

HLD Alumni Association Board Updates

The focus of the Board has been to: 1) Re-vitalize the Member Relations and the Program Committees; and 2) Create an alumni page on the HLD website. Both committees have been formed and have begun to identify focus and scope. If you are interested in joining a committee, please contact [Mary Ann Amrich](#) (Program) or [Anita Ruff](#) (Member Relations).

We have also been discussing the scholarship challenge and agreed that it should be each class's task to raise funds during its fifth anniversary vs. having an annual appeal that is applied to scholarship.

Questions and comments are always welcome. [Email us!](#)