

# Alumni NEWSLETTER

## MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Hi! I'm Justin Garry. I'm the new President of the MU HMIAA. Since graduating from the residential MHA program in 2006, I have served in some capacity on the board! You read that right...ten years! You're thinking... why would I do that? I enjoy the interaction with fellow alumni, being able to give back of my time and talents to the department, and getting to add to my network as I meet each new class through my involvement!

As I start this new term I have a few challenges for all alumni:

- 1) Join the MU Alumni Association ([Here](#))
- 2) Join us at Fall Institute September 22 & 23 in Columbia ([Here](#))
- 3) Get Involved! ([Here](#))

The first two are pretty easy! Click the link, follow the instructions and you're done! The third isn't hard either. There are so many ways to get involved and they don't take too much time! Check out our "[How Do I](#)" list and find what you are passionate about and we'll get you plugged in! We have membership, development, communications, and student relations committees and are always looking to add great alumni to our mentoring program list!

I'm looking forward to seeing where we can take the alumni association over the next two years and I hope you'll jump on board and join us!

If there is anything I can do or answer for you please feel free to reach out to me!

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## 2016-2017 ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

Name	Position
Exec Team	
Justin Garry	President
Amy Myers	President Elect
Ryan Hamilton	Treasurer
Aaron Weiser	Secretary
Jared Long	Immediate Past President
Committee Chairs	
Kristin Waller	Development Committee Chair
Brad Martens	Student Relations Committee Chair
Ryan Grueber	Membership Committee Chair
Open for Appointment	Communications Committee Chair
Members at Large	
Kevin Bogert	Board Member
Kaci Dannatt	Board Member
Alex Gill	Board Member
Lindsey Lehman	Board Member
Alex Macfarlane	Board Member
Mike Seda	Board Member
Allison Corry	Board Member
Ashley Kimberling	Board Member
Krystin Cooper	Board Member



## MU School of Medicine Department Chair Named to Wesbury Professorship

COLUMBIA, Mo. (June 23, 2016) - Eduardo J. Simoes, M.D., M.Sc., M.P.H., chair of the Department of Health Management and Informatics and the Health Management and Informatics Alumni Distinguished Professor, has been named the Dr. Stuart A. Wesbury, Jr. Distinguished Professor in Health Management and Informatics. Simoes served as an adjunct faculty member for many years before becoming chair of the department in 2011. He began practicing medicine in Brazil and later worked for the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. Before coming to MU, Simoes served as the Director of the Prevention Research Centers Program Office at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Simoes' research in public health informatics focuses on ways to more efficiently prioritize funding for public health programs.

Under Simoes' leadership, the Department of Health Management and Informatics provides two degree programs in health administration and health informatics, in addition to several certificate programs. Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education, the department is the fourth largest MHA program in the U.S., according to Modern Healthcare's 2016 rankings. The department boasts a 100 percent placement rate of graduates in fellowships and full-time positions within three months of graduation and recently has been approved by the Institute of Industrial Engineers to train and prepare students for the Six Sigma Lean Green Belt Examination.

The Wesbury professorship is named for Stuart A. Wesbury, Jr., Ph.D., longtime health care administrator and pioneer of the MU health management program. Wesbury served as the program's chair from 1972 to 1978. He is a former president and chief executive officer of the American College of Healthcare Executives. Funds for the endowment supporting the professorship were generously provided by former students of Dr. Wesbury, other alumni and friends.

"The success of the Department of Health Management and Informatics at MU speaks to dedicated, effective leadership and the work of excellent faculty and students over the years," Wesbury said. "It was my pleasure to be part of the department's early history, and I am proud of this new connection with Mizzou and the department."

Pictured with Drs. Simoes and Wesbury is Harsh Abbott, MHA, a 2016 graduate and winner of the Stuart A. Wesbury, Jr. Award, presented annually since 1978 to the graduating MHA student with the highest GPA.





# Save the Date

for

# Fall Institute 2016

## September 22-23, 2016

Stoney Creek Inn and Conference Center  
2601 South Providence Road  
Columbia, Missouri

ACHE Category 1 Sessions - Student and Alumni Receptions - Silent Auction - And More!

## Invitation to Follow

To reserve a room please call 1-800-659-2220 and reference the block of rooms under "Health Management and Informatics".

For questions, contact Veronica Lemme at [lemmev@health.missouri.edu](mailto:lemmev@health.missouri.edu) or 573-884-0698.  
You can also find information at <http://www.hmi.missouri.edu>

[Click Here to Register for Fall Institute](#)

# HMI Faculty & Students Win Poster Award

HMI faculty Drs. Iris Zachary, Sue Boren, and Win Phillips, and students Stephen Nielson and Sushmita Shankar were awarded 1st Place in the poster session of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) annual meeting in Kansas City, June 22-24, 2016 in Kansas City. You may [access the full poster here](#). Congratulations to all!

Click [HERE](#) to view website for additional faculty and student awards and recognitions



## NAACCR Conference

In June, the Missouri Cancer Registry and Research Center (MCR-ARC) was honored to host the 2016 annual conference of the North American Association of Central Cancer Registries (NAACCR) in St. Louis, MO, which provided 400+ cancer registrars and researchers from across North America the opportunity to learn from national experts in cancer surveillance, research and registry operations. One of the primary goals of the conference was to present multiple perspectives on cancer surveillance in North America and address potential future needs and directions. Highlights from the conference included several plenary speakers from the MU School of Medicine (Eduardo J. Simoes, MD, MSc, DLSHTM, MPH, Kevin-Steveley-O'Carroll, MD, PhD, Michael LeFevre, MD, MSPH, Jane McElroy, PhD). A recent HMI graduate and current staff member, Adam Bouras, gave an oral presentation. At the conference, MCR-ARC was recognized as a NAACCR Gold-certified Registry. For more information, visit the NAACCR website (<http://www.naacrr.org>).

# Meet....

## Alumni Joe Brinker, Residential MHA, 1989

**Q: Tell us about yourself – where did you grow up? Complete undergrad?**

A: I was born and raised in St. Louis, MO. I completed my undergraduate degree at University of Missouri – Columbia, receiving a BSBA with a dual major in Finance and Economics.

**Q: Why Mizzou Health Management and Informatics?**

A: During my undergraduate studies, I worked part-time at the University Hospital and Clinics in a variety of positions, including Laboratory Assistant, Phlebotomist and a Sr. Research Lab Technician in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I was fascinated by the work that took place in the hospital and after graduation decided that I was very interested in marrying my business degree with healthcare and chose to pursue an MHA.

**Q: Walk us through your career path – how did you get from your MHA to where you are today, the President & CEO of Bethesda Health Group, Inc.?**

A: Upon completion of my MHA, my intention was to move to somewhere exciting with a much nicer climate such as California, Arizona, Florida, Texas, etc. However, the job offer came from St. Louis from a small hospital – Bethesda General Hospital & Homes. I decided to accept the job and my plan was to work two years at Bethesda, receive relevant and useful experience for a resume, and then move on to the nicer climate! I would have never guessed that I would still be employed at Bethesda 26 years later as the President & CEO. My career path within Bethesda over those years included VP, Operations and then President of Bethesda General Hospital; Senior Vice President, Long Term Care Division; Executive Vice President, Bethesda Health Group; and President & Chief Operating Officer.

**Q: Working in long-term care, what are some of the bigger challenges you see facing the industry today?**

A: Bethesda is more than “Long-Term Care” and can be better described as a Senior Living and Post-Acute Care Organization. Bethesda offers Independent Living options for seniors, Assisted Living, Skilled Nursing Care, Memory Support Care, Rehab & Therapy (short-stay post-hospitalization care), Home Health Care, Private-Duty In-Home Services, Hospice Care, Outpatient Therapy for Seniors, Adult Day Services and Meals-on-Wheels Services.

Two exciting challenges Bethesda faces revolve around the two areas of focus at Bethesda: lifestyle choices in our Senior Living communities; and healthcare reform initiatives in our Post-Acute Services.

Bethesda is focused on preparing the organization for the wave of baby-boomers entering the Senior Services industry in the coming decade by offering lifestyle and retirement living choices that will be meaningful and



valuable to this age cohort. We have invested heavily in capital improvements for our communities and have also begun to change our service offerings to be consistent with the desires of the next generation of customers expected in the future.

The more immediate challenge Bethesda faces is developing strategies to succeed under new and innovative Medicare payment initiatives such as Accountable Care Organizations, Bundled Payment Initiatives and Value Based Purchasing in our healthcare services. Bethesda is a leader in the St. Louis post-acute market and has implemented industry best-practices to provide value and quality outcomes for its patients. Bethesda has worked closely with its acute care partners in the St. Louis area to establish seamless “transition of care” systems for patients as they maneuver from acute to post-acute care to home in an efficient and cost-effective manner. In 2015, Bethesda partnered with BJC Healthcare, the largest Health System in St. Louis, to manage its three skilled nursing communities and to work closely with BJC in developing successful models of care delivery under Medicare’s new payment and quality initiatives.

**Q: You have been very involved with the HMI Alumni Association over the years through board membership and hosting internships, as well as in other capacities – what drives you to continue giving back to Mizzou, the department, and the alumni association?**

A: I benefitted greatly in my career from my education and experiences with the HMI program and enjoy staying connected to the program. I also have great memories of my summer internship at Jefferson Memorial Hospital (now Mercy Hospital Jefferson) and have always been appreciative that the CEO and staff at the hospital took the time to teach me and to pass on their knowledge. I enjoy doing the same for the young professionals in the HMI program and hope that Bethesda can provide similar great memories for future leaders in our industry.

**Q: If you could offer one piece of advice to our current students or our most recent graduates as they start their careers, what would that advice be?**

A: I have enjoyed a very rewarding career in the Senior Services and Post-Acute sector and believe Post-Acute organizations will be key players in future care delivery models. I would encourage students and recent graduates to explore the post-acute sector for employment opportunities and career paths. Our sector is in need of bright, energetic and innovative leaders for the future.

## Residential Student Andrew Ray



**Hometown:** Newport, Arkansas

**Program Year:** Residential MHA, 2017

**Previous Degree:** BA in History and Philosophy at Arkansas State University, MA in Philosophy at Mizzou

**Q: What are your career interest areas?**

Cancer care and health ethics. I’m also interested in the many points at which these two areas overlap.

**Q: Why did you choose the Mizzou HMI program?**

**Q: Who has been your favorite professor and why?**

Dr. Hensel. He's a great boss and the insights he has shared with me from his own career have shown me how dynamic and flexible a career in healthcare can be.

**Q: Why did you choose a career in healthcare?**

I want to help people by improving our healthcare system. People often enter the system at vulnerable points in their lives and we can help them by making sure the system is the best it can be.

**Q: What is your favorite Columbia or Mizzou experience?**

I like getting out on the MKT and taking my oldest "child", a Collie/Shepherd mix named Piper, to the dog park. I also enjoy going downtown (mostly in the summer when it's quiet) and having a beer on a patio somewhere.

**Q: What do you think the biggest challenges will be in healthcare going forward?**

Navigating the uncertainty and challenges involved with healthcare reform. Also, (hopefully) bringing about a shift from a focus on treating illness to a focus on promoting wellness and prevention.

**Q: What is one fun fact that we may not know about you?**

I'm in a band named after Benjamin Franklin.

If you are not currently a connection on our University of Missouri Department of Health Management and Informatics Alumni LinkedIn page please be sure to become a member.

We have started a new Facebook page for recruiting purposes and would love to have you as a friend. You can find our new page at Mizzou Health Management and Informatics or click the link below. It's a great way to keep up with our students, department and faculty accomplishments and events.

