BTG 25TH ANNIVERSARY
2015 Health Action Report
Providing community service, promoting public health in underserved communities, training community-responsive health and social service professionals, since 1991

BEING THE GAPS
BRIDGING CHANGE
We are very proud to share the 2015 annual report with you. We are extremely grateful to the many people who have strengthened and enriched BTG through their involvement. These relationships have helped to sustain the program and helped us to reach our 25-year milestone. For more information, visit www.bridgingthegaps.info.

Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD
Executive Director, Bridging the Gaps Network
**Bridging the Gaps (BTG)** links the education of future health and social service professionals with the provision of health-related service in underserved communities.

**BTG Program Components**

**BTG Community Health Internship Program [BTG CHIP] (in all locations):**
A summer internship, BTG CHIP matches students with community agencies/organizations, taking into account community site needs, professional disciplines and student interests. Whenever possible, students work in interprofessional teams. In addition to their community-based work, students participate in didactic sessions where community members and health professionals help students gain the skills and knowledge to be effective providers for vulnerable populations.

In the fall, BTG hosts an Annual Symposium where students present posters on their summer projects and the keynote speaker is also honored as the recipient of the BTG Award. The Symposium is designed to offer multiple constituencies (community representatives, public health officials, agency personnel, grantmakers, and university students, faculty and staff) an opportunity to share perspectives on community health strategies and network with potential collaborators.

**BTG Seminar Series (Philadelphia only):** An eight-part series, held in the spring, winter and fall, highlights specific topics focused largely on vulnerable populations.

**BTG Clinical Program (Philadelphia only):** An advanced community clinical experience offers students a collaborative interdisciplinary approach to health and health care delivery for vulnerable populations.

**BTG Clinical Scholars Program (Philadelphia only):** Students who complete the BTG CHIP, Seminar Series and Clinical Program graduate as BTG Clinical Scholars.

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**BTG CHIP 2015 at a Glance**

**Students/Projects/Sites:** 237 students worked on 111 projects at 116 sites.

**Professional Disciplines:** Medicine, dental medicine, nursing, occupational therapy, public health, social work, creative arts in therapy, physician assistant, pharmacy, law, veterinary medicine.

**Service Days:** Students provided 6,453 days of health-related service.

**Program Locations:** 4 in Pennsylvania, 1 in New Jersey.

**Other Program Components (Philadelphia only)**

**BTG Seminar Series:** 236 students attended at least one seminar.

**BTG Clinical Program:** 17 students participated in the BTG Clinical Program.

**BTG Clinical Scholars:** 12 students graduated as Clinical Scholars.

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**The 25th Anniversary Symposium**

Danny Glover received the 2015 BTG Award and presented the keynote address at the 25th Anniversary Symposium in Philadelphia. An acclaimed actor, activist and philanthropist, Glover has received accolades for his advocacy for economic justice, education and health care access in the United States and Africa. He has served as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Program and currently serves as UNICEF Ambassador.

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**BTG CHIP Facts & Figures**

Since its inception, BTG CHIP has ...

Provided health-related service at 511 community sites:
- ★ 352 Philadelphia
- ★ 68 Erie
- ★ 10 Lehigh Valley
- ★ 22 New Jersey
- ★ 58 Pittsburgh
- ★ 1 Delaware

Included 4,801 participating students:
- ★ 3,910 Philadelphia
- ★ 357 Erie
- ★ 60 Lehigh Valley
- ★ 112 New Jersey
- ★ 357 Pittsburgh
- ★ 5 Delaware

From 2000 through 2015, BTG CHIP has ...

Provided 97,778 days of service:
- ★ 74,258 Philadelphia
- ★ 9,565 Erie
- ★ 1,612 Lehigh Valley
- ★ 2,998 New Jersey
- ★ 9,103 Pittsburgh
- ★ 242 Delaware

**BTG Seminar Series**
From fall 2003 to spring 2016, 1,921 students attended at least one seminar; some attended multiple seminars.

**BTG Clinical Program**
From fall 2003 to spring 2016, 217 students completed the BTG Clinical Program.

**BTG Clinical Scholars**
From 2006 to spring 2016, 100 students graduated as BTG Clinical Scholars.
Philadelphia Consortium

Students/Projects/Sites: 163 students participated in 72 projects at 77 sites in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Professional Disciplines: Medicine, public health, dental medicine, veterinary medicine, nursing, social work, occupational therapy, physician assistant, creative arts in therapy, pharmacy, law.

Service Days: Students provided 4,361 days of health-related service.

Participating Institutions: Drexel University, Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine, Temple University, Thomas Jefferson University, University of Pennsylvania, Bryn Mawr College, La Salle University, University of the Sciences. Lehigh Valley students participated in Philadelphia’s core curricular sessions.

Student Activities:* Planning health activities, health-related client education, research on health issues, community social activities, community outreach, assessing community resources, oral health activities, linking clients with health resources, literacy activities.

Community Health Issues:* Diet and nutrition, oral health, exercise, cardiovascular health, mental health, access to health care, communication.

*The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

Philadelphia Program Participants

PHILADELPHIA SMALL GROUP LEADERS

Academic Leaders
Ron Allen
Dianne Butera, MSW
John Costa
MaryFran Cummings, MPH, RDH
Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW
Maria Hervada-Page, MSW
Yardlee Kauffman, PharmD
Jack Lewis, DSW, LCSW
Jacquee Lukawski, MEd
Astrid Woodward-Lee, MD

Community Leaders
Roberta Balsam, MA
Tariem Burroughs, MSODL
Diane Gass
Marian Lasky, BS
Janet Riley-Ford, MSW, LSW
Clayton Ruley, MSS, MLSP
Patricia Sayles
Anthony Singleton
ChrisAnne Smith
K’Shele Waller
Monifa Young

BTG Program Reflections

BTG 1990 Student Cofounder

The opportunity 25 years ago to create and develop Bridging the Gaps with a committed group of community leaders and faculty set the framework for my entire career. It opened my eyes to what is possible when we forge true community partnerships and is the basis for the future of population health and of health care itself.

Steven H. Chapman, MD
Director, Boyle Community Pediatrics Program
General Academic Pediatrics
Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center
Geisel School of Medicine

BTG 2012 Alumnus

Without BTG, I never would have gotten connected with Philadelphia FIGHT, where I am now employed as their first full-time dental director.

Kari Hexem
Dental Director, Philadelphia FIGHT

BTG 1993 Alumnus

The delivery of medicine has been redefined over the past two decades and the current trend is focused on the patient-centered model with a heavy dose of technology. I feel as though BTG groomed me for exactly that, teaching me how to meet the patient where they were and tailoring the medicine to fit their needs and circumstances. Without that opportunity, I don’t know where I would be today; but because of it, I know that I am doing what I was destined for and loving every minute of it.

Marjorie Dejoie-Brewer, MD
Medical Director
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America
Philadelphia/Delaware Valley Chapter
Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
Program Staff and Faculty
Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW, Program Director
Pamela Brownstein
Mario Cruz, MD

Academic Preceptors
Susan Brooks, JD
Ronald Comer, DSW, MA
Mario Cruz, MD
Blair Dickinson, MD
Stacy Ellen, DO, FAAP
Leslie Everts, MD
Annette Gadegbeku, MD
Elissa Goldberg, MSS, LSW
Jeremiah Goldstein, MD
Florence Ierardi, MM, MT-BC, LPC
Raymond Lum, MPhil, MS
Katie McPeak, MD
Candace Robertson-James, DrPH
Ellen Schelly-Hill, MMT, BC-DMT, NCC, LPC
Ryan Schroeder, MD
Daniel Taylor, DO
Elizabeth Templeton, EdD, BC-DMT, NCC
Vincent J. Zarro, MD, PhD

Community Preceptors
Michelle Abbuzzese, MSS
Maribel Arzuaga, BA
Roberta Balsam, MA
Rachel Compton, MSW, LCSW
Theodore Corbin, MD, MPP
Eric Dolaway
Terry Dougherty, MEd
Mary J. Fallon, MA, NHA
Katie Feehan, MPH, CHES
Jacinto J. Grant, MSW
Ben Hirsh
John Jacobs, MS
Suku John, PhD
Lora Magaldi, MA
Arlene Malcolm-Bell, PhD
Maya C. Muhammad, MPH
Kelli Myers-Gottemoller, MSW, LSW
Michael O’Bryan
Elizabeth Oquendo, Esq
Sarah Pivonka, BS
Katie Price, PhD
David Reis
John Rich, MD, MPH
Maria Tate
Stacey Trooskin, MD, PhD
Renee Turchi, MD, MPH
Lori Walsh
Steveanna Wynn, BS

PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE
Program Staff and Faculty
Denise Curran, MS, Program Director
John Costa, Med

Academic Preceptors
John Costa, Med
Denise Curran, MS
Yardlee S. Kauffman, PharmD, MPH, BCACP, CPH
Pat Anthony Lannutti, DO

Community Preceptors
Cynthia Davis
Eric Dolaway
Dottie Gibbs, LPN
Mary Horstmann
Jennifer Karchmer, MSW
Jacqueline Kochman, MSW
Carolyn Ries, MS
Regina Smith, RN
Eric Williamson
Michelle Wolitz, MHS, CRNP, CARN
Steveanna Wynn, BS
Kate Zmich

BTG Program Reflections

BTG 2009 Alumnus
Bridging the Gaps provides a meaningful experience for the student and connects the underserved members of our community with valuable resources. My experience as a Bridging the Gaps intern reinforced my desire to become a service-oriented health care professional.

Ethel Joy Bullard-Moore, MA, MT-BC, LPC
Licensed Professional Counselor
Board Certified Music Therapist

BTG 1998 Alumnus
BTG 2001 Clinical Scholar
Even almost 20 years after participating in Bridging the Gaps, I still remember and incorporate what I learned from my experiences with community members and leaders in my current practice as a family physician. In family medicine, we attend to the many factors that impact health. BTG gave me exposure to multidisciplinary teamwork, experiential learning and problem solving in a way that has helped me help my patients.

Nancy Brisbon, MD, MPH
Assistant Professor
Department of Family and Community Medicine
Thomas Jefferson University

BTG 2008 Alumnus
I am starting my master in nursing education, in part because BTG helped me see value in providing education to people and that knowledge really does have power.

Vanessa Briggs, RN
Clinical Nurse Manager
New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell
Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

Program Staff and Faculty
Dianne Butera, MSW, Program Director

Academic Preceptors
Vanessa Atkins, MS
Tariem Burroughs, MSODL
Dianne Butera, MSW
Melanie Cosby, PhD
Jacquette Lukawski, MEd
Kathy Reeves, MD

Community Preceptors
Jesse Bilger
Robin Bonfield, MSW
Naida Burgos
Julian Cohen-Serrins
Janell Davis
Yvette Davis
Marla R. Davis-Bellamy, JD, MGA
Kelly Delvin
Holden Jones
Mark McAndrew
Yvonne McCoy, MBA
Charmaine Sudler Milligan
Doris Phillips
Antonio Romero
Nancy L. Rothman, EdD, RN
Terrence Seales
Kevin Weber
Barbara Whitmore
Steveanna Wynn, BS
Leah Yarmus

THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY

Program Staff and Faculty
Maria Hervada-Page, MSS, Program Director
R. Patrick McManus, Jr., MD
George P. Valko, MD

Academic Preceptors
Rickie Brawer, PhD, MPH
Nancy Brisbon, MD
Maria Hervada-Page, MSS
Mary Hess, PharmD, FASHP, FCCM
Caryn Johnson, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA
Patrick McManus, MD
James Plumb, MD, MPH
George Valko, MD
Robert Winn, MD, MS, AAHIVS

Community Preceptors
Mark Atwood, MS
Gwendolyn Bailey, LSW, MSW
Katherine Baumgardner, MSW
Mary Ellen Bolden, BSW
Valerie Canavin

Barbara Coleman
Barbara Dorsey, BSW
Kisha Gadsden
Paul Giannette, MA
Mary Horstmann
Luke McKetta
Jess Nambudiri, MSW
Edna Reddick
Clayton Ruley, MSS, MLSP
Gretchen Shanfeld, MPH
Misty Sparks
Terry Trudeau, MEd
Noelle Warford, LSW, MSW
Bethany Welch, PhD
Skip Wiener, MLA
Eric Williamson
Steveanna Wynn, BS

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Program Staff and Faculty
Ellen Martinak, MS, Program Director
Louis M. Bell, Jr, MD
Peter F. Cronholm, MD, MSCE
Mary Frances Cummings, MPH, RDH
Zvi D. Gellis, PhD
Joan I. Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
Bridget McCormick, BS
Ann L. O’Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP
Susan Primavera
Anthony Rostain, MD, MA
Lucy Wolf Tuton, PhD

Academic Preceptors
Cindy Christian, MD
Joel Fein MD, MPH
Joan Gluch, PhD, RDH, PHDHP
Jack Lewis, DSW, LCSW

Ann L. O’Sullivan, PhD, FAAN, CRNP
Anthony Rostain, MD, MA
Brittany Watson Tisa, VMD, PhD
Brian David Work, MD, MPH

Community Preceptors
Lisa Abdul-Haqq, RN, BSN, MA
Sarah Amazeen, MSW, LSW
Mark Atwood, MS
Jacqui Bowman, PhD
Marjorie Dejoie-Brewer, MD
Barbara Dorsey, BSW
Joel Fein MD, MPH
Kisha Gadsden
Paul Giannette, MA
Mary Horstmann
Kiasha Huling, MSW, LSW
Colleen McCauley, RN, BSN, MPH
Esther Morales
Maya C. Muhammad, MPH
Edna Reddick
David Reis
Clayton Ruley, MSS, MLSP
Ingrid Sidorov, BSN, MSN
ChrisAnne Smith
Lorraine Thomas
Frank Torrisi, DDS, MBA
Terry Trudeau, MEd
Laura Vega MSW, LSW
Alia Walker
Bethany Welch, PhD
Eric Williamson
Alexandra Wolkoff
Steveanna Wynn, BS

Philadelphia Program Participants (continued)
Philadelphia Community Partners

11th Street Family Health Services
Aquinas Center
Asociacion Puertorriquenos en Marcha
Beckett Life Center
C a Difference
CARIE
Center for Education and Public Initiatives, The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
Centro Nueva Creación
CHOP Violence Intervention Program
City of Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Covenant House Pennsylvania
Depaul House
Dr. Bernard L. Johnson Jr., Sayre Health Center
Earth’s Keepers, Inc.
East Park Revitalization Alliance
EducationWorks
EducationWorks, WorkReady Philadelphia
Family Practice and Counseling Network
Health Annex
Francis J. Myers Recreation Center
Gaudenzia Inc.
Haddington Townhouses, Summer Youth Program
Hall Mercer
Healing Hurt People, Center for Nonviolence and Social Justice
Healthy Philadelphia
HERO
Intercommunity Action, Inc., Journey’s Way
Legacy Youth Tennis and Education
Legal Clinic for the Disabled, St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children, Medical Legal Partnership
LIFE A Practice of Penn Nursing
Lutheran Children & Family Service
Lutheran Settlement House, Senior Center
Maternity Care Coalition, Cribs for Kids
Mazzoni Center
Mercy Hospice
Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc.
Nationalities Service Center
North Light Community Center
Northern Children’s Services
Philadelphia City Rowing
Philadelphia FIGHT
Philadelphia Food Access Collaborative, Mayor’s Office of Community Empowerment & Opportunity
Philadelphia Futures
Philadelphia Senior Center
Prevention Point Philadelphia
Project HOME, Women of Change
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
Puentes de Salud
Ready, Willing & Able
Refugee Resettlement Program, HIAS Pennsylvania
Salvation Army Red Shield Family Residence
SHARE Food Program
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America/Philadelphia Delaware Valley Chapter (SCDAA/PDVC)
Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse
Southwest Community Development Corporation
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
Temple Health Connection
Temple University Center for Bioethics, Urban Health and Policy
Temple University, Upward Bound
The Attic Youth Center
The Bethesda Project, My Brother’s House
The Health Federation, Early Head Start Program
The Village of Arts and Humanities
To Our Children’s Future With Health
Unitarian Universalist House Urban Blazers
Urban Tree Connection
Veterans Multi-Service Center
Women Against Abuse
Women Against Abuse Sojourner House
Youth Emergency Service

BTG Program Reflections

BTG Community Preceptor

For over a decade, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with BTG in many different capacities. They have truly been consistent in providing quality services to many communities throughout Philadelphia. Summer after summer, this program [does] an amazing job of recruiting quality individuals to serve our communities. It warms my heart to see this meaningful work being done.

Anthony Singleton
President/Chief Executive Officer
Educators4Education

BTG Community Preceptor

I have found the BTG Program to be a beneficial, life-changing experience for the BTG students, the Southwest CDC staff and the children and community that they are assigned to work in. The experience isn’t something you can be taught. This program should be instituted nationally.

Lorraine Thomas
South West Development Corporation
Camp at Patterson Elementary

BTG Community Preceptor

Prevention Point and BTG have been partners for the past several years. BTG provides the opportunity through community placements to shape the way providers practice. I often receive calls from past interns telling me how rewarding the experience was and how it shaped them as a practitioner. We are grateful for the partnership.

Jose Benitez, MSW
Executive Director
Prevention Point
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Students/Projects/Sites: 26 students worked on 15 projects at 15 community sites in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Professional Discipline: Medicine.

Service Days: Students provided 727 days of health-related service.

Student Activities:* Health-related client education, oral health activities, planning health activities, research on health issues, assessing community resources, community social activities, advocacy activities, community outreach, client interviews, direct service delivery, linking clients with health resources, evaluation of existing programs, teaching living skills.

Community Health Issues:* Diet and nutrition, oral health, exercise, access to health care, mental health, diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular health, physical disability, communication, personal hygiene, budgeting/personal finances, homelessness.

*The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

Program Staff and Faculty
Michael A. Schmidt, PhD, Program Director
Sarah A. McCarthy, PhD, Program Director
Walter Hu
Maricely Reyes-Cruz

Academic Preceptors
Matthew Bateman, PhD, DHEd
Nancy Carty, PhD
Robert Evans, DO
John Gallagher, DO
Alice Hudder, PhD
Heather M. Jones, PhD
Christine S. Kell, PhD
Christopher Keller, PhD, CPH
Randy Kulesza, PhD
Theodore Makoske, MD
Sarah McCarthy, PhD
Kim Moscatello, PhD
Michael A. Schmidt, PhD

Community Preceptors
Heidi Burek, RN
Stephanie Garcia
Martin M. Kelly
Cherie Kinem, MSW
Deborah Kraus
Barbara Ann Lewis, RN
Sarah McFarland, RN
Barb McGuigan, RN
Karen Narusewicz
Sue Presta, BSW
Diane Sickles
Melissa Thompson
Mike Wehrer, LCSW
Kim Whelan
Stephanie Wincik, RN
Diana Zenewicz, RN

Community Partners
Barber National Institute
Brevillier Village
Erie DAWN
Erie Homes for Children and Adults
Erie VA Medical Center
Healthcare for the Homeless Partnership Initiative
Housing And Neighborhood Development Service (HANDS)
JDRF Northwest PA
Mercy Center for Women
Mercy Hilltop Center
Millcreek Community Hospital
SafeNet
Voices for Independence
YMCA Kids Club

Program Reflections

BTG Community Preceptor (since 2002)
I am proud to be a part of the Bridging the Gaps program—such a dynamic group of individuals reaching out of their comfort zone to make a positive lasting impact on so many lives in our community.

Kim Whelan
Resident Resource Coordinator
HANDS

BTG 2013 Alumnus
Bridging the Gaps was one of the highlights of my time in OT school. The experience of serving within a community, networking with inspirational professionals and building a dialogue around social justice was equally as important to my education as any of my course work. BTG helped me become a well-rounded practitioner and continues to shape my framework for practice as a therapist today.

Ashley Seiver, MOT, OTR/L
Occupational Therapist
Gladwyne Montessori School
Adjunct Lab Instructor, University of the Sciences

BTG 2007 Alumni
The Bridging the Gaps experience is second to none. We both joined BTG to help make a difference in our community, but what we weren’t prepared for was just how much of an impact the program would have on us. It completely reshaped the way we thought about community outreach and engagement, and we continue to use the skills we developed in BTG in our everyday practice.

Hannah Ravreby, MD
Assistant Professor, Clinical Medicine
Temple University

Daniel Mueller, MD
Assistant Professor, Infectious Disease
Temple University
Lehigh Valley Health Network

Students/Projects/Sites: 12 students worked on 6 projects at 6 community sites in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Professional Disciplines: Nursing, physician assistant, medicine.

Service Days: Students provided 336 days of health-related service.

Participating Institutions: DeSales University, The Commonwealth Medical College.

Student Activities: Community outreach, research on health issues, health-related client education, community social activities, oral health activities, planning health activities, assessing community resources, evaluation of existing programs, advocacy activities, development or administration of surveys, literacy activities, linking clients with health resources.

Community Health Issues: Oral health, cardiovascular health, diet and nutrition, exercise, homelessness, communication, poverty, access to health care, insurance/social services, mental health, substance abuse, child care, diabetes, personal hygiene, transportation.

*The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

Program Staff and Faculty
Mary Ellen Miller PhD, RN, APHN-BC, Program Director
Maggie Hadinger, EdD, MS
Abby S. Letcher, MD
Lissette Ortiz

Academic Preceptors
Mary Ellen Miller, PhD, RN, APHN-BC

Community Partners
Alliance Hall
Casa Guadalupe
Lehigh Valley Health Network
Street Medicine
Neighborhood Health Centers of the Lehigh Valley
Sixth Street Shelter

BTG Program Reflections

BTG 1998 Alumnus
Bridging the Gaps is a wonderful program. I have been active with the program for almost 20 years—once as a medical student participating in the program and now as a faculty member mentoring students from Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine. Thanks for creating this unique opportunity!

Joshua S. Coren, DO, MBA, FACOFP
Chair and Associate Professor, Family Medicine
Director, Continuing Medical Education
Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine

BTG 2010 Alumnus
Six years into my career managing clinical trials for pharmaceutical companies, I reference topics learned during BTG when I am holding important meetings at major cancer centers across the US with key opinion leaders in the oncology community.

Christina Krawiecki, MPH
Senior Clinical Research Associate
QuintilesIMS

BTG Community Preceptor
The Bridging the Gaps interns are a joy to have at the Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program. Each year our campers and our staff learn so much from them, especially about oral and heart health.

Tina Amato, MS, RD
Coordinator
Alliance Hall Summer Recreation Program
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Students/Projects/Sites: 16 students worked on 8 projects at 8 community sites in Camden, New Brunswick, Newark, Pennsauken, and Trenton, New Jersey.

Professional Disciplines: Medicine, physician assistant, public health.

Service Days: Students provided 436 days of health-related service.

Student Activities: Research on health issues, planning health activities, community outreach, evaluation of existing programs, health-related client education, community social activities, development or administration of surveys, oral health activities, assessing community resources, teaching living skills.

Community Health Issues: Diet and nutrition, homelessness, oral health, HIV/AIDS, personal hygiene, poverty, STDs, access to health care, sexual questions/issues, cultural beliefs/practices, mental health, communication, obesity.

*The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

Program Staff and Faculty
Bernadette West, PhD, MA,
Program Director

Academic Preceptors
Linda Boyd, DO
Ping Chen, PhD
Sonia Garcia-Laumbach, MD
Irina Grafova, PhD
Bernadette Callahan Hohl, MPH, PhD
Teri Lassiter, PhD, MPH
Quingyu Meng, PhD, MS
Pamela Ohman-Strickland, PhD
Marian Passannante, PhD
Jill Reichman, DMH, MPH, PA-C
George Rhoads, MD
Marcia M. Sass, ScD
Bernadette West, PhD

Community Preceptors
Melissa Buckley, MA
Yvette Molina, BA
Jodi Riccardi, MPH
Cindy Sickora, DNP, RN
Michael Swerdlow, PhD
Summer Tatum
Karleen Yapp, PhD

Community Partners
Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services
Camden Area Health Education Center
Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers
Elijah’s Promise
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation
Jordan and Harris Community Health Center
Making it Possible to End Homelessness, Amandla Crossing
Making It Possible to End Homelessness, Imani Park

BTG Program Reflections

BTG Community Preceptor
I have served as preceptor for over a dozen students in the BTG Program during my tenure at Hope Community Outreach Center in Camden, New Jersey. BTG offered cross-cultural integration between the students and disadvantaged communities. The youth interacted with Africans, Egyptians, Europeans and traditional American whites and blacks. The BTG students developed bonds with the youth and community members that will last a lifetime.

Sylvester Servance, JD, MBA

BTG 2006 Alumnus
BTG 2009 Clinical Scholar
Bridging the Gaps enabled me to see the true impact of health on an individual, as well as on their families and neighbors. My participation as an intern made me appreciate the impact that community organizations can have in augmenting the medical care we provide to our patients. As a BTG Scholar, I was inspired to take to my future pediatric practice a responsibility to consider the whole child—their home, school, family members and community—when making care decisions and to continue partnering with local organizations to support healthy homes and children.

Blair Dickinson, MD, MS, FAAP
Attending Physician
Section of Hospital Medicine
Associate Program Director
Pediatric Residency Program
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
University of Pittsburgh

Students/Projects/Sites: 20 students worked on 10 projects at 10 community sites in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Professional Disciplines: Medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, social work.

Service Days: Students provided 593 days of health-related service.

Student Activities:* Health-related client education, planning health activities, community social activities, assessing community resources, oral health activities, research on health issues, development or administration of surveys, client interviews, teaching living skills, evaluation of existing programs, literacy activities.

Community Health Issues:* Oral health, diet and nutrition, access to health care, child care, poverty, mental health, violence, communication, insurance/social services, transportation, personal hygiene, cultural beliefs/practices, exercise, homelessness, physical disability, obesity, race/ethnicity, women’s health.

*The information provided here reflects only those categories reported by 40% or more of students participating at this BTG program location.

Program Staff and Faculty
Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA, Program Director
Joan Harvey, MD

Academic Preceptors
Emma Barinas-Mitchell, PhD
Sharon Connor, PharmD
Thistle Elias, DrPH, MPA
Mark S. Friedman, PhD
Rachel Fusco, PhD, MSW
Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD
Ann Mitchell, PhD, RN, FAAN
Tracy Soska, MSW, LSW
Martha Ann Terry, PhD

Community Preceptors
Pam Dickinson, BS
Deborah Gallagher, MEd
Karen Garland, BS
Sharon Higginbothan, PhD, COO
Sharon Jones, MS, LPC
Katelyn Kaczorowski, RN
Lynn Knezovich, MSW, LSW
Denise McGill, MSW
Laura Oliver, MSW
Mary Parks, CSJ
Lisa Reihl
Casey Rich
Lyndsey Sickler
Trevor Smith, MSW
Monique Wingfield
Patricia Wood, MSW

Community Partners
Bethlehem Haven
Community Human Services
COTRAIC Early Head Start
Hazelwood YMCA
Heritage Community Initiatives
Prospect Park Family Support Center,
South Hills Interfaith Ministries
Sisters Place
Sojourner House
The Gay & Lesbian Community
Center of Pittsburgh

BTG Program Reflections

BTG 2012 Alumnus
Not only has this [BTG] experience prepared me to be a more empathetic social worker, but it has opened my eyes to the injustices and realities that many are living with each day … In the summer of 2014 I was given the opportunity to give back to BTG by being a site-based mentor … Thank you to every funder, director, and coordinator who has worked tirelessly to keep this program going! It is truly making a difference in the lives of students in Pittsburgh!
Kandace R. Powell, MSW/LSW
Family & Outreach Specialist
Center of Life

BTG 2013 Alumnus
BTG opened the door for me to build relationships with community leaders in the larger Philadelphia community as well build relationships with fellow students from neighboring universities. As a proud alumna, I would do it all over again in a heartbeat.
Britney Thornton, MSW
7th Grade Reading Teacher and
Grade-Level Chair
KIPP Memphis Preparatory Middle School

BTG 2015 Alumnus
Overall, my experience with BTG has helped me to better understand the needs of our Philadelphia community, and it has equipped me with the resources and knowledge to better address these needs.
Kerry Lenzi
Pharmacy Intern
Jefferson Outpatient Pharmacy
PharmD Candidate, 2018
BTG Program Support*
The Philadelphia program is made possible through generous support from:
AmeriHealth Caritas
Connelly Foundation
Federal Work-Study Program
Alexandra Wolf Fogel
Green Tree Community Health Foundation
Hess Foundation
Roger & Dee Hillas
Patricia Kind
Pennsylvania Department of Health
The Allen Hilles Fund
The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
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