

IHA Intern Alumni



Adam Dietz

Communications
Intern, Fall 2013

- College: Western Michigan University
- College Degree: Secondary Education-English
- Internship Semester: Fall of 2013
- Current Job Title: Graduate student and teaching assistant at Northern Illinois University
- Favorite IHA Memory: "I've found overtime that I miss the people who worked at IHA more than anything else. A lively and accommodating bunch, they made me feel welcome from the minute I stepped off the elevator."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "IHA Annual Membership Meeting"
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "General professionalism as it relates to working in a shared office setting. Skills relating to organization and timeliness were procured as well."



Trey Meehan

Communications
Intern, May – Dec.
2014

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: Strategic Communications
- Internship Semester: May 2014-Dec. 2014
- Current Job Title: Communications Associate - Alpha Epsilon Pi Fraternity
- Favorite IHA Memory: "Getting to interact with the hardworking, supportive and fun IHA staff every day."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "Getting to see the entire process of an issue of Harmony and being a contributing writer."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I'm a part of a two-man communications department, so I try to implement the communications strategy I learned from the communications staff at IHA."



Kailyn Castro

Communications
Intern, Spring 2015

- College: IUPUI
- College Degree: Communications and Sociology
- Internship Semester: Spring 2015
- Current Job Title: Account Manager, Healthcare Bluebook
- Favorite IHA Memory: "APRE, it was great to hear about issues other states were facing and how they were working to overcome them."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "That's tough, probably the Harmony redesign or planning APRE. I loved seeing these projects transition from a brainstorming session into something substantial."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I perfected the ability to juggle multiple projects at once, stay organized and deliver quality work. Beyond that skill set, IHA equipped me with knowledge of the healthcare industry and how necessary it is to be educated on the extreme cost and quality variance when shopping for healthcare services."



Rachel Brown

Communications
Intern, Summer 2015
Advocacy
Communications
Intern, Summer 2016

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: English Literature and French
- Internship Semester: Summer 2015 & 2016
- Current Job Title: MPH Graduate Student at Indiana University Bloomington
- Favorite IHA Memory: "It's hard to pick just one favorite memory. At IHA, the staff truly welcome the interns into their small family and I always felt like I was a valuable asset to the team. Every day, it was a joy to get to know the staff and build relationships with them."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "I had the opportunity to highlight the work of the IPSC's coalitions in a full spread in Harmony. I enjoyed the opportunity to talk with each of the coalition leaders and learn more about their projects and successes, and share their stories in the magazine."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "Professional email communication, time management, working under deadlines, collaborating with colleagues and working with external partners. Beyond that, after I started my MPH degree, I realized how much I'd learned about the health care industry and public policy through working at IHA. It's been invaluable to have real world experience to bring to the classroom."



Vanessa Staublin
Communications
Intern, Fall 2015

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: Strategic Communications
- Internship Semester: Fall 2015
- Current Job Title: Junior Account Executive at Dittoe Public Relations
- Favorite IHA Memory: "My favorite memory from my time at IHA would have to be all of the times we spent outside of the office - grabbing lunch, meeting with clients, attending staff luncheons - these were the times that I really got to know the staff and make connections. There are so many wonderful people that work at IHA and it was great to get to know everyone. It was definitely a good networking experience and I learned a lot from hearing other members' experiences in the healthcare industry."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "My favorite project I worked on at IHA was putting together the fall issue of Harmony. We worked on redesigning the magazine and worked with many different team members. It was cool to see the process of putting together a quarterly magazine and all of the handwork that went into the process."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I learned valuable skills in time management and working with many different personalities. This has helped me strengthen my communication skills with working with clients with varying work ethics and personalities."



Alex Berk
Communications
Intern, Spring 2016

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: Strategic Communications
- Internship Semester: Spring 2016
- Current Job Title: Account Coordinator, CoverMyMeds
- Favorite IHA Memory: "I love when our team goes out to lunch at Bistro Chopstix on Friday's. I'm lucky to work with so many cool people!"
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "I like being challenged through writing, so I'd say my favorite assignment was writing a recommendation letter in the voice of our president, Doug."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "Learning how to multitask and prioritize different activities is important, and IHA definitely helped me improve my organizational skills."



Madison Howard
Communications
Advocacy Intern,
Summer 2015 and
Spring 2016

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: Strategic Communications and Political Science
- Internship Semester: Summer 2015 & Spring 2016
- Current Job Title: Law School Prospect
- Favorite IHA Memory: "My first week as their summer intern, I had the opportunity to make the journey to the Stella Golf Tournament, I got to spend the day with Jennifer and Leslie driving around in a golf-cart, taking pictures of the event and interacting with sponsors and members. It was a great way to connect with everyone early-on. But, I cannot talk about my favorite memories without touching on driving to Evansville with Jennifer and Jennica to attend the IHMPRS Conference and meet all the wonderful health care professionals from around the state."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "Anything Advocacy related! Having the opportunity to work with the Safe Haven materials, research policy topics, write the legislative story for Harmony and be right in the middle of it all during the King v. Burwell Supreme Court decision were just some of the projects I will never forget."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I learned the importance of being able to manage the unexpected. No day at IHA was ever the same and that was awesome, I was always kept on my toes and given projects and tasks that challenged me in different ways. This taught me how to be a better writer, how to get things done under strict timeline and how not to rely on technology to get something done!"



Jennica Wilson
Communications
Advocacy Intern, Fall
2015

- College: Butler University
- College Degree: Strategic Communications and Political Science
- Internship Semester: Fall 2015
- Current Job Title: Public Affairs Coordinator, Ohio Hospital Association
- Favorite IHA Memory: "My favorite part about working at IHA was the team I worked with. Jennifer, Leslie, Julie and Brian take the time to connect with you and teach you rather than leaving a long to-do list on your desk and checking back in a week later. I will always remember the spontaneous lunches and archiving decades worth of Harmony issues."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "My favorite project I worked on was organizing the Annual Meeting. It was awesome to see health care workers from across the state come together to collaborate about Indiana's health care system and to know that I played a part in making sure the event was successful."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "Editing, computer skills (website maintenance, social media scheduling and Microsoft Word templates/mail merge) and producing collateral that is written using a united, branded voice."



Kaitlyn Boeller
Patient Safety Intern,
2013-2014

- College: Xavier University and IUPUI
- College Degree: Political Science, MHA
- Internship Semester: 2013-2014
- Current Job Title: Patient Safety Analyst/Coordinator at IHA
- Favorite IHA Memory: "had attended the 2012 Annual Meeting as a MHA student, but had no idea how much time and energy went into it until helping as an intern the following year. I was able to meet some of our hospital members, learn from experts in the field and support and celebrate with staff after a successful meeting."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "I loved working with the Regional Patient Safety Coalitions. It is a structure unique to Indiana where quality and patient safety leaders join together to address regional issues and learn from each other. I was able to support them with reports, resources and meeting materials."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "You get an incredible perspective of the health care system at IHA, and the staff are extremely knowledgeable about the reforms and changes impacting hospitals. My writing and analytical skills improved at IHA as I wrote pieces for newsletters and prepared a variety of reports and presentations."



Danyah Wafa
Patient Safety Intern,
2013-2014

- College: University of London, SOAS
- College Degree: MSc Development Studies
- Internship Semester: 2013-2014
- Current Job Title: Graduate Student
- Favorite IHA Memory: "My favorite memory from my time at IHA was working with wonderful staff that felt like family. The environment at IHA was likely the fondest I have had thus far. Not only was the IHA team warm and friendly, but encouraging and motivational. My time was made memorable because of the people there and I will carry those relationships with me for years to come."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "My favorite project working at IHA was helping to organize the Celebration Event in December. Coordinating preparations helped me learn new project management skills as well as strengthen teamwork building. Overall it was a fun experience that really showcased all the hard work we put in throughout the year which was something we could all be proud of."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I learned many skills, personally and professionally. My communication skills were strengthened by working directly with administrators within the organization as well as across the state. I developed project coordination and management skills by taking ownership of projects independently and sharing responsibilities with my team, which also gave me the skills necessary to manage work on my own as well as within a team. These are skills that are transferrable across any setting and are an asset to any organization, even as a graduate student."



Derek Mounsey
Patient Safety Intern,
2014-2015

- College: IUPUI
- College Degree: Master of Health Administration
- Internship Semester: 2014-2015
- Current Job Title: Administrative Fellow, Hancock Regional Hospital
- Favorite IHA Memory: "Definitely the people. From the crazy, fun holiday parties to everyday lunch in the break room and everything in between, the staff at IHA is what made it the amazing experience that it was for me. The bonds formed during my time at IHA are ones that I will cherish for years to come."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "Technically, my entire job was a "project" working on the Partnership for Patients campaign to keep patients safe by preventing harm and unnecessary readmissions. I was humbled being part of such a noble initiative, and I have benefited greatly from what I learned about patient safety through this work. Specifically, I had the opportunity to manage an incentive program during this project that rewarded hospitals for their efforts and positive results. It is always fun to be the person that gives out the trophy."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "As an aspiring physician leader, I know that I do and will continue to benefit from starting my healthcare career in patient safety at IHA. This foundation will serve me and my future patients well, and it is something that I recommend for all healthcare clinicians and administrators, alike. Additionally, I was able to greatly advance my communication skills and ability to interact in a professional setting. Through the many opportunities available to me during my tenure at IHA, I was able to attend many networking events and interact with all levels of healthcare professionals."



Emma Friday
Patient Safety Intern,
2014-2015

- College: IUPUI
- College Degree: Bachelor of Science in Health Services Management (BSHSM) and Masters of Health Administration (MHA)
- Internship Semester: 2014-2015
- Current Job Title: Project Administrator, Avant Healthcare Marketing
- Favorite IHA Memory: "My favorite memories during my time at IHA were when we were onsite or out in the community for events - Patient Safety Summits, March of Dimes, IHA Annual Meetings, hospital site visits, etc. It was inspiring to see such dedicated and driven health care and patient safety professionals from across Indiana."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "My favorite project I worked on was planning the Patient Safety Summit."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I learned and perfected various skills during my time at IHA, all of which have been applicable to my current and future work. Organization, time management, event planning, Lean Six Sigma, project management, and many more. I have also expanded my knowledge of patient safety and healthcare associations."



Ellery Steele

Patient Safety Intern,
2015-2016

- College: IUPUI
- College Degree: Master of Health Administration
- Internship Semester: 2015-2016
- Current Job Title: Patient Safety Intern, Indiana Hospital Association
- Favorite IHA Memory: "The hilarious gift exchange during Christmas time. It was funny to see what some people brought because it was things you would not have expected some people to bring."
- Favorite project worked on at IHA: "Going on the site visits all over Indiana for HEN 2.0. I felt like it really helped show me the atmosphere of hospitals around the state and that regardless of how different they all were, they were all united in the topic of patient safety."
- Valuable skills learned at IHA: "I have learned great networking skills that have helped me to get out of my comfort zone and reach out to new people. I have also learned about how to better function as a team rather than a set of individuals."



Alex Simonton
Patient Safety Intern,
2015-2016

- **College:** Spelman College (undergraduate) and IUPUI (graduate)
- **College Degree:** BA in Psychology; MHA
- **Internship Semester:** 2015-2016
- **Current Job Title:** Patient Safety Intern, Indiana Hospital Association
- **Favorite IHA Memory:** During what I would consider an epic move to a new office location, I enjoyed witnessing my co-workers find long-lost trinkets, photographs and other gems that had accumulated over the past 30 years. Reflecting on old items always sparks interesting conversation. The most memorable discovery was Spencer's dead lizard! Aside from that, it was fascinating and unifying to reminisce with people about the progression of artwork/furniture, clothing styles and staff changes while packing and looking forward to making new memories in a new space.
- **Favorite project worked on at IHA:** One of my primary focuses as an intern has been the HEN 2.0 initiative to reduce harms and readmissions. I was thrilled to participate in the hospital site visits because it involved travelling throughout the state to help generate feelings of excitement and encouragement for hospital employees involved in efforts to improve healthcare delivery for Indy patients. It was amazing to experience the different dynamics of each facility and get insight into their strategies and processes for implementing changes.
- **Valuable skills learned at IHA:** With such a small staff, there is great opportunity to engage in and contribute to different initiatives. Interning at IHA has allowed me to foster my multitasking/organizing capabilities, enhance my written and verbal communication skills and improve my knowledge and analysis of data. This has truly been a wonderful first-exposure to working in the healthcare industry.