



GPHAP News – January 11, 2021

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Student Spotlight – Aliya Bean



This week's spotlight feature is an interview with Aliya Bean, Master in Public Policy candidate and GPHAP student!

What peaked your interest in health policy? What does health policy work mean to you as an advocate for health care access for LGBTQ communities and reproductive justice?

From high school to the present I carry with me a passion and tenacity to engage in evidence-based policy work that gives voice to the most marginalized. Working towards this goal has informed my understanding of social justice, inspired my professional career, and motivated me to pursue health policy in my MPP at University of Chicago.

Health policy was not what I originally thought I would end up doing

Save the Date



January 29, 2021 12:30 – 1:30PM CST

GPHAP Guest speaker Kenneth Jones, President of AMITA Health, St. Francis Hospital Evanston, will provide information about the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Chicago Health Executives Forum (CHEF), and his career journey. He is available to talk about the current health care environment and professional networking.

March 4, 2021 Event Time/ Registration TBD

Dr. Anthony Fauci will receive the 2020 [Harris Dean's Award](#)

"Dr. Fauci's work exemplifies the vital importance of using facts and evidence to inform policy, and his career has been an inspiring example to many people around the world. Having him come to Harris (virtually, of course!) will be a wonderful opportunity to honor his public service, steadfast dedication to evidence-based policy, and enormous contributions to public health."

Recorded Lectures

Many of the lectures listed in the GPHAP Weekly Digest archive the lectures for later listening. Here are the links to several of the lecture series.

CHAS Michael Davis Lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCci9IEAwSViifJ5oKuTZ2Lg/videos>

McLean Center for Clinical Medical Ethics lectures

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHi1nAdgwegCOXLGMhKEPqg>

Harvard School of Public Health Forum lectures

<https://theforum.sph.harvard.edu/events/>

professionally. I somewhat fell into it in my first job out of undergrad when I started working at the D.C.-based National Partnership for Women & Families. There I worked on the reproductive health policy team as the Trump Administration came to power and began targeting the very access to care we were trying to protect. When I joined, the battle to repeal the Affordable Care Act was raging and I got thrown into the middle of the fight. Although I had no health care experience at the time, I fell in love with the complexity and fluidity of the topic and knew I wanted to pursue health policy moving forward.

For me, health policy (and all policy) should center and seek to uplift the most marginalized. By prioritizing LGBTQ people—specifically transgender people of color—in efforts to defend and expand health, rights and justice, we will improve health care for all communities. As we look towards the future, advocates, lawmakers, and every one of us must focus on those most vulnerable, join together across aisles, disciplines and movements, and tackle the intersecting and systemic oppressions that affect every facet of our lives

How did you get involved with the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus in the US House of Representatives? With Manatt Health?

Before graduate school, I was serving as the 2018–2019 David Bohnett Victory Congressional Fellow working as a legislative aide for the Congressional LGBT Equality Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives. Just months into my fellowship, it was clear that I would not have the typical fellow experience. By November of 2018, I not only was the first fellow to work in a majority pro-equality House of Representatives, but also, I was unexpectedly promoted to interim executive director of the LGBT Equality Caucus. As the only staffer for the caucus during the transition to a new Congress, I was thrown into the deep-end and tasked with an enormous range of responsibilities. I dove head-first into my new duties and took on this leadership role for over six months with confidence and gusto. There, among many notable moments, I recruited the largest LGBT Caucus in House history (upwards of 160 members), was intimately involved in the passage of the Equality Act, and wrote a bill addressing long-term care for LGBTQ elders. In June 2019, I also wrote and published a white paper entitled [“Queering Reproductive Justice: How to Ensure LGBTQ Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Care at the Federal Level.”](#)

This past summer between my two years of grad school, I was eager to dive into health policy work in a professional setting. Health policy has always been a part of my professional focus but not the sole focus. Consequently, I wanted to find an internship where I could continue doing government related work with a health policy emphasis. Manatt Health seemed like the perfect fit—public sector work from a private sector setting and a position that would allow me to build on my nonprofit and public sector work in a healthcare consulting environment. Also Manatt Health’s mission—transforming the US health system and improving health care, especially for vulnerable and high need populations— and its expertise in Medicaid, aligned with my goals and interests. During the summer, even in the remote environment, I had a phenomenal experience. I learned valuable skills and new content and had the opportunity to work on four different projects both COVID and non-COVID related. Given my overwhelmingly positive experience, when they offered me a full-time position for after graduation as a Consultant, I wholeheartedly accepted. I’ll start working there full time later this coming summer.

Any advice for GPHAP students interested in learning more about health policy work?

I would say: Take advantage of all the opportunities UChicago and GPHAP has to offer! From scholarships and fellowships to classes at the various graduate schools to experiential learning at UChicago Medicine to professors to your fellow GPHAP students—there are so many unique

Bowman Society Lectures

<https://pritzker.uchicago.edu/resources/bowman-society>

Understanding Pathologies of Power in the Age of COVID-19: https://youtu.be/ZFbx8AX2U_o

GPHAP Calendar



Subscribe to the GPHAP [iCal](#) to keep up-to-date with all the latest seminars and opportunities available to students!

resources at your fingertips. Get out in the world and do something to make a difference! As wonderful as academia is, it's important and necessary to get out of the UChicago bubble. Volunteer at a local organization, work at a local health care facility or organization, or get involved in local activism—you may stumble upon a career path or passion you never expected. Build and sustain relationships! As cliché as the word “networking” sounds (I prefer the term “relationship building”), it is not only helpful but essential. The academic and professional relationships I fostered during my career are the reason I am where I am today. Those mentors guided me throughout my professional journey in D.C. and they continue to provide me with guidance as I pursue my graduate degree and future career.

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Upcoming Events

The Coronavirus Pandemic: The Disrupted School Year and Public Health

Facebook Live Q&A with Marc Lipsitch, Professor of Epidemiology, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Meira Levinson, Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
Presented jointly by The Forum at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and The World from PRX & WGBH

Tues. January 12, 2021 12:00 PM ET [VIEW HERE](#)

The MacLean Center Lecture Series "Ethics and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Medical, Social and Political Issues" [MORE HERE](#)

"This lecture series will examine a broad range of important ethical topics that have far-reaching impact for the medical, social, and political aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic. To provide a conceptual framework, the lectures are aligned with overarching themes: historical perspectives, clinical ethics, public health ethics, resource allocation, and health disparities."

Health Disparities and the COVID-19 Pandemic – Dr. Monica Peek MD, MPH

Wed. January 13, 2021 12:00 – 1:00PM CST

Bowman Society Lecture Series "Crowning Glory: Buisness, Politics, Health, and Hair Loss in African American Women" – Victoria Barbosa MD, MPH, MBA

Thur. January 14, 2021 5:00PM CST

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Previously Listed Events

Michael E Davis Lecture Series [MORE HERE](#)

The Michael M. Davis Lecture Series has been convening disparities research audiences on Tuesdays for decades, at the School of Social Service Administration. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all 2020 lectures have been moved to an online webinar format indefinitely.

The Opioid Crisis and State and Federal Policies: It's More Complicated Than You Think

Bradley Stein, MD, PhD, MPH ([View Profile](#))

Tues. January 26, 2021 12:30 PM CST

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GPHAP Social Media

GPHAP has a [Facebook Group](#) for Current Students and Alumni. Go to Facebook and search for The UChicago Graduate Program in Health Administration

& Policy or click on: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gphap/>

There is a [LinkedIn Group](#) for GPHAP **Alumni**. Current students are welcome to join. Go to LinkedIn and search for "GPHAP" and Request to Join.

GPHAP has a **Twitter** Page. Please follow @UCgphap.

GPHAP's calendar: [GPHAP iCal](#)

GPHAP's website is: <https://gphap.uchicago.edu>

Join the WhatsApp GPHAP Social Group. Students can reach out to see who is going to GPHAP events or to provide info about other activities.

WhatsApp Social

Group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/invite/BYMEUqshxH1K6xpID5OmAk>

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