President's Perspective

As we live through this unprecedented time of COVID-19, President Milone-Nuzzo writes that we will all get through this together.

COVID-19 Pandemic Prompts Sweeping Changes at IHP

The MGH Institute has made sweeping changes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the safety of the entire IHP community. The school shifted its classroom instruction to a virtual education model on March 16, moved Commencement to August 28, and has closed the campus to all but essential personnel. The IHP’s Coronavirus Update page has a list of all community-wide announcements and is updated regularly as circumstances continue to develop.

Business As Unusual – The IHP During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Faculty and staff have worked tirelessly during the past several weeks to convert classes and clinical experiences to a virtual format so that students can continue to advance their education in preparation of graduation or moving on to their next semester. In addition, people in the greater IHP community are doing their part on the front lines, whether caring for patients, volunteering, improving existing techniques, and more.

We are collecting these stories as we hear of them on a new section called “Business As Unusual” and several are on the page already. See below for a couple of examples. But we know there are many more that show the commitment and ingenuity of the IHP. Contact John Shaw with any and all examples of how you are making a difference and how you are handling things during this difficult time.

Student Emergency Fund Created

The COVID-19 virus outbreak has impacted IHP students. Their part-time jobs, which assist them with their living (and sometimes tuition) expenses, have disappeared. The Office of Development, working in concert with the Office of Financial Aid, has established the IHP Student COVID Emergency Fund to offer students quick assistance in this time of need. Administered through the Office of Financial Aid, the IHP will do what it can to support our students who find themselves without the necessary resources during this period of uncertainty until they are able to return to a more normal routine. Please donate.

Converting Classes In the “New Normal”

Instructional Designer Tony Sindelar’s video series is a primer to help faculty teach their classes remotely during the coronavirus pandemic.

On Juggling Life, Teaching, and Work

Assistant Professor of Nursing Sarah Rossmassler has written a first-person essay about straining for clarity and consciousness during the COVID-19 crisis.

Partners Guidelines to Donate PPE and Other Medical Supplies

Partners HealthCare has developed systemwide guidelines to manage donations and ensure that they are usable and meet necessary standards. Donations can be delivered to Assembly Row in Somerville.
Donors or employees with information about supplies should contact CovidDonations@partners.org and visit Partners Pulse for full guidelines and a complete list of acceptable items. Please note that goods dropped off at hospital entrances will not be accepted.

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**BA Harris to Receive Honorary Degree**

The Board of Trustees has unanimously voted to bestow the Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Dr. Bette Ann (BA) Harris at 2020 Commencement. Dr. Harris was the first person to receive a graduate degree from the IHP when she earned a Master of Science in Physical Therapy in 1983. She spent the majority of her career at the school in a variety of educational and administrative roles.

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**Virtual Study Breaks and Self-Care Challenge**

Study Breaks is still happening ... it just looks a little different this year. Due to COVID-19, we will be hosting Study Breaks completely online through Friday, April 24. Visit Virtual Study Breaks for tips on how to manage being an online student, suggestions for fun things to do online when you need a study break, and more interactive events and activities over the coming weeks, brought to you by the Office of Student and Alumni Services and the Janis P. Bellack Library. Stay tuned for more information.

Everyone is invited to take the IHP Self-Care Challenge. To participate, check out the OSAS (@ihpstudentlife) and the Bellack Library (@bellacklibrary) social media sites each day for a new challenge. Then snap a photo of yourself participating in each day’s challenge, tag @ihpstudentlife, and use #IHPSelfCare.

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**Americans with Disabilities Act Presentation**

Luella Benn, associate director for accessibility resources, presented “30 Years of the Americans with Disabilities Act: A Brief History of ADA and Foundational Concepts in Higher Education” on March 4 to faculty and staff. Benn discussed the history of the ADA, relevant guidance, and previous legal findings in cases related to higher education.

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**U.S. News & World Report Rankings Released**

Five IHP programs received impressive marks in the 2021 Best Graduate Schools list released March 17 by U.S. News & World Report.

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**Student Activities Before Campus Was Closed**
The Student Government Association (SGA) kicked off the month of March by hosting an ice cream social for the IHP community on March 2. Over 100 students, faculty, and staff joined in the fun, where they were treated to their choice of ice cream or an Icee. The SGA also talked with attendees about the four different committees (social, community outreach, STAT, and facilities) that any student can join.

L-R Yuli Khaykin, MSN ’20; Alexa McWhinnie, MSN ’20 (SGA Treasurer); JP Bonadonna, OTD ’21 (SGA Vice President); Micayla Freehan, MSN ’20 (SGA Social Committee Co-chair)

The IHP Acts of Service volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House in Charlestown, a facility where families of critically ill children who are receiving medical treatment in Boston can stay. This year, the student club decorated spring cookies, played board games, and colored with some of these families.

Top row (l-r): Nathaniel Somes (MS-SLP ’20), Sarah Gutz (SHBT ’20), Kristin Messina (OTD ’21), Tri Vo (OTD 2022),
Bottom row: Megan Wirth (MS-Genetic Counseling ’21), Megan Moisand (DPT ’21)

Team IHP Runners Continue Training to Run 2020 Marathon

The 2020 Boston Marathon has been postponed to September 14, but that's not stopping Team IHP. Kim Erler, PhD ’17 and an assistant professor of occupational therapy, and Jordan Griffiths, SLP ’19, remain committed to continue training so they can run the race. Follow their stories and support their fundraising efforts.

IHP Scholarship, Research & News

**Communication Sciences & Disorders**


New Employees

Maura Curran
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
SAiL Literacy Lab

Karen Chenausky
Post-Doctoral Research Fellow
Speech & Feeding Disorders Lab

Virtual Library Support

The Janis P. Bellack Library and Study Commons may be closed, but librarians are still available to provide you with research and assignment support. Send us your questions or book an online research consultation. We have added extended evening hours for consultations for the rest of the semester.

Call for Faculty Award Nominations

Nominations for the IHP’s six faculty awards, which recognize achievements in research, teaching, and interprofessional education and practice, are due April 15. The awards will be presented at the annual Faculty Convocation.

Alumni Award Nominations Accepted Through June 30

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the deadline to nominate an alum for the Bette Ann Harris ’83 Distinguished Alumni Award or the Emerging Leader Alumni Award has been extended to June 30. The awards will be presented at the 2020 Commencement.

Support the IHP all year long by shopping with AmazonSmile. Just sign into your Amazon or Amazon Prime account and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.05% of the proceeds from your qualifying purchases to the IHP. Contact Christopher Bjork in the Office of Development for more information.

Calendar

4/6: Faculty Promotion Workshop, 10:00–11:00 a.m.
4/7: Financial Check Up, Noon
4/9: Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Open Office Hours, Noon–2:00 p.m.
4/13: Student Town Hall, Noon
4/14: Money Magic: Stretching Your Dollars, Noon
4/21: Conquer Your Credit, Noon
4/30: Faculty Promotion Workshop, 11:00–Noon

View more events on the Institute’s Master Calendar.

Feedback, Tips, Ideas, Etc.

If you have any news, tips, or ideas for the Yardarm, please fill out a Communications ticket, and email Yardarm editor John Shaw with any questions. View past editions.

Please submit suggestions or comments about any issue at the IHP to President Milone-Nuzzo’s online suggestion box, Institute Input.