Kelsey Minix ‘16B Public Health Scholars Program Intern at Columbia University in New York City. She writes from her current assignment in Belize, Central America:

“I am working with Hillside Health Care International. 50% of their patient population is indigenous so most days I am in their remote villages providing patient education on chronic disease, family planning, maternal care, oral hygiene and the zika virus! I am working with the Belizean Ministry of Health very often. One day I went with them and we tested water in the villages for bacteria and chlorine levels. Along with this I have worked with them in vector control and for some patient education at health fairs! I am truly enjoying this opportunity, and I get to assist with education on the topics of diabetes, hypertension, and nutrition. I live in the nearby city of Punta Gorda where I have made many friends and am feeling at home!”

“Unfortunately I have observed many accounts of domestic violence and women have a very small voice in their life and community. This bothers me and I’ve been picking my brain to find a solution. A while ago I came to the idea of starting a women’s group. I spent time developing a curriculum to cover aspects including self-esteem, nutrition, leadership, parenting methods, and domestic violence. I know that domestic violence is a very taboo topic that women here would not feel comfortable talking about. I developed my curriculum and got in contact with the Peace Corps Volunteers in some of the villages. I wanted to create a sustainable program than can thrive after I’ve left. I met with two women in hopes of starting this initiative and SEVER beautiful, strong women showed up to my meeting and in result, we will be starting six different women’s groups in six different villages. I couldn’t believe the instant support from the peace corps volunteer and the nurses at the Ministry of health. I couldn’t be happier with the outcome of the initiative.”

Pictured: Kelsey is at the mobile clinic in the Village of Aguacate (avocado in Spanish).

NEW MEMBERS ON THE HSA ADVISORY BOARD

Xavier HSA welcomes these new Advisory Board members who begin three-year terms as of 1/1/17:

(left) **Dr. Frederick Simpson**, CMO at Wilson Health in Sidney OH

(right) **Paul Hiltz ’84M** having 30 years of healthcare administration experience in the Mercy System and will be a BSHSA adjunct faculty member in spring 2017