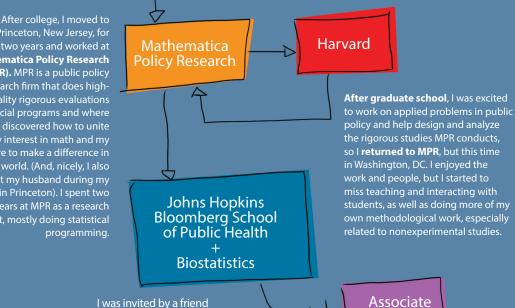
My undergraduate degree is from Smith College, a small liberal arts college. I was a math major and chemistry minor who took a lot of computer science courses. I knew I wanted to apply that mathematical thinking to 'save the world' in some way (lofty thinking ... isn't that what undergrads do?), but I had no idea how to do that, never really having heard of statistics or public health at that time.

Smith

College

I knew I wanted to go back to graduate school, so I asked my senior colleagues at MPR what kind of degree would help me get back to doing the type of work being done there. Statistics emerged as the best choice for me. I considered many programs around the country. After many conversations, I ended up at Harvard, which gave me my preferred geographic location and the content areas I was hoping to study. In particular, I was excited to work with Don Rubin, who I knew was one of the people who straddled statistics and public policy.

At Harvard, I stayed focused on the public policy world, doing my dissertation work using data from education and working with Alan Zaslavsky from the department of health care policy on census-related topics and Gary King from the government department.



Princeton, New Jersey, for two years and worked at **Mathematica Policy Research** (MPR). MPR is a public policy research firm that does highquality rigorous evaluations of social programs and where I discovered how to unite my interest in math and my desire to make a difference in the world. (And, nicely, I also met my husband during my time in Princeton). I spent two years at MPR as a research assistant, mostly doing statistical programming.

> I was invited by a friend from graduate school to give a seminar in the biostatistics department at Johns Hopkins, after which someone suggested I apply for a job in the department of mental health. After a lot of deliberation, I made the leap and left MPR to go to Hopkins in 2006.

I have now been at Hopkins for almost 13 years, and it has been a great experience. I love being able to work on what excites me and basically make the job what I want it to be. I have a strong joint appointment with biostatistics and—given increasing interest in health policy (which brings me back to my original desires)—a joint appointment in health policy and management. About two years ago, I also moved into the dean's office part time as **associate dean for education** and help the school take advantage of data and research to best inform its educational enterprise.

Dean for

Education