

UAB DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

UAB SCHOOL OF
HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Knowledge that will change your world

Nexus

Linking Academics
with Practice.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Hello,

The Department of Health Services Administration is actively engaged with grant proposals, paper writing, grading and graduations! We are also thrilled to let you know we've launched a new UAB alumni group, Blazers and Suits, and received approval for the Department's newest graduate degree in healthcare simulation, which will admit its first cohort this fall.

Students, faculty and alumni have been engaged in a number of exciting initiatives and this issue of NEXUS is dedicated to sharing these stories.

We hope you will join us at the beautiful Henderson Resort July 25 – 27 to experience “Leading Upside Down: New Directions,” the 38th UAB National Symposium for Healthcare Executives. New Pricing! Family Friendly Opportunities! Great speakers & ACHE Credits! [See agenda, speakers and registration here.](#)

Continue all the great work you do, so that together we develop leaders to shape tomorrow's health care.



Christy Harris Lemak, PhD

Thank you,
Christy Harris Lemak, PhD
Chair, UAB Department of Health Services Administration

ALUMNI FEATURE



Initial "UAB Blazers & Suits" Meeting

We hosted an initial planning meeting of the new UAB Blazers and Suits group during the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Congress on March 27, 2018. The group, whose mission is to increase the diversity of healthcare leadership, came about through the leadership of **Derrick Miles** (MSHA Class 34).

UAB Blazers and Suits includes MSHA alumni from underrepresented groups and will focus on:

1. Supporting MSHA and EMSHA alumni from underrepresented groups.
2. Supporting students from underrepresented groups.
3. Recruiting outstanding students to our programs.

Othell Raven (MSHA Class 34) and **Otis Story** (MSHA Class 13) led the discussion at the initial meeting.

[Click here to learn more about the meeting and UAB Blazers & Suits.](#)

PROGRAM NEWS

HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT



HCM Awards

Recently the HCM program [inducted 23 students into the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society](#) and delivered their top awards.

- 2017 HCM Student Honor: **Rachel Wisniewski**
- 2017 HCM Faculty Honor: **Jessica Hillman Williams, PhD**
- 2017 Thompson T. Abercrombie Award: **Rebecca Nix**

The Abercrombie award is named after the first director of the undergraduate program.

HCM Internship Poster Expo

Graduating HCM seniors were recognized at the HCM Internship Poster Expo on April 20, 2018. Among those highlighted for their leadership were **Uchenna Elike**, **Khalia Osman** and **Melissa Pickering** (*pictured, right*), who completed internships at the Firehouse Shelter Health Screening Clinic.

The clinic provides free health screenings to homeless men of Birmingham who participate in services provided by Firehouse Ministries. Students in the HCM program manage the administrative duties of the clinic by making referrals to partnering clinics, organizing and collecting patient information, guaranteeing operational flow, and coordinating the clinic processes with the case manager of Firehouse Shelter.

[Click here to see all the Internship Expo photos.](#)



HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (RESIDENTIAL)



UAB Awarded CAHME/Cerner Prize

The MSHA program was awarded the 2018 CAHME/Cerner Prize for Excellence in Health Care Management Systems Education!

The MSHA program was chosen because of the unique learning opportunities students are afforded. The award was presented during ACHE Congress.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

[Click here to read the full application.](#)

[Click here to watch our CAHME/Cerner video.](#)

UAB Health System Student Workforce Posters

The MSHA program and the UAB Health System hosted a poster presentation to showcase the great work the first year MSHA students completed over the past academic year.

MSHA Class 53 members **Laura Read Lee**, **Anna Christiansen** and **Jessica Patel** (*pictured, right*) were among those presenting at the session, held April 23, 2018.

The poster session provided an opportunity to learn more about the variety of projects our students completed across the UAB Health System.



[Click here to see photos from the event.](#)

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (EXECUTIVE)

EMSHA Students Featured in *Modern Healthcare*

In crafting *Modern Healthcare*'s cover story "Racism still a problem in healthcare's C-suite," reporter Shelby Livingston spent almost two hours speaking with a diverse group of students from the UAB EMSHA program. The conversation between Livingston and the students was open and lively, but most of all – it was honest. The students spoke without fear about their personal experiences, in part because they have spent time together in UAB's cohort model of executive graduate education in health administration and have been learning about leadership together.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

**Modern
Healthcare**

ON RACISM IN HEALTHCARE'S C-SUITE

"We're still uncomfortable talking
about matters of race."

CHECK OUT MODERN HEALTHCARE'S COVER STORY AT
MODERNHEALTHCARE.COM/RACISMINHEALTHCARE



Williams Wins SHP Alumni Service Award

Rodgerick Williams (pictured left with School of Health Professions' Dean **Harold P. Jones, PhD** and **Dr. Lemak**), alumnus of our EMSHA program and our HCM program is the winner of the 2017 UAB School of Health Professions' Alumni Service Award. The award is given annually to SHP alumni who

demonstrate continuing extraordinary service. Williams has done this regularly to UAB as well as the local, state and national level.

[Click here to read the full article.](#)

HEALTH INFORMATICS

UAB Achieves CAHIIM



Accreditation

We have received accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of programs in Health Information and Health Informatics (CAHIIM) for the first time!

Graduate Programs in Health Informatics Program Director **Sue Feldman, PhD**, says, “Having accreditation means we join a select group of only 11 accredited graduate health informatics programs across the country, only five of which are completely online.” [Click here to read the full story.](#)

MSHI Students Earn Scholarships

We are pleased to announce multiple MSHI students were awarded scholarships this semester.

- Alabama Chapter of HIMSS Sponsored Travel Award: **Candis Riggs, Jason Bains** and **Shikha Modi**
- Alabama HIMSS President's Endowed Award in Health Informatics: **Nathan Miyasaki**
- Sara S. Grostick Endowed Award: **Chris Compton**
- Jimmy Gamble Endowed Student Merit Scholarship: **Jennifer Costigan**



Miyasaki and Sue Feldman

HEALTHCARE QUALITY & SAFETY

Quality Academy Graduates 10th Cohort

The Graduate Programs in Healthcare Quality and Safety (HQS) have been on an amazing journey of growth.

In April 2018, the 10th class graduated from the inaugural program, the blended format of the Graduate Certificate Program, known as the UAB Medicine Quality Academy (QA).

Since the 1st cohort, there have been 260 administrative leaders, clinicians, nurses, and others in roles relating to the quality and safety discipline across the UAB Health System who have completed the Quality Academy.



HEALTHCARE SIMULATION



New Program Launched

Our new Master of Science in Healthcare Simulation degree was approved by the University of Alabama Board of Trustees in February. The degree will educate a new generation of healthcare leaders who will design and implement simulated experiences to help organizations improve patient care.

Michelle Brown, PhD (pictured, left), who brings a depth of expertise in clinical and process management and educational experience, is the Program Director of this exciting new program, one of only a handful in the nation.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)

40 Years of Doctoral Programs

On Tuesday, February 13, 2018, we celebrated 40 years of doctoral education in the Department.

Together, the PhD and DSc programs have graduated 166 researchers, scholars, teachers, and leaders.

Pictured from left to right are current and former program directors: **W. Jack Duncan, PhD**; **Larry Hearld, PhD**; **Myron Fottler, PhD**; **S. Robert Hernandez, DrPH**; and **Richard (Dick) Thompson, PhD**.



[Click here to read the full story.](#)



Cochran Named Fottler Scholar

Randyl Cochran (*pictured left, 3rd from left*) is the second recipient of a scholarship from the Myron D. and Carol A. Fottler Endowed Support Fund for the PhD Program in Administration-Health Services.

Cochran is a fourth-year Ph.D candidate whose research focuses on behavioral health information exchange. She plans to use the funds to travel to Oklahoma for data collection required for her

dissertation research.

Pictured with Cochran, from L/R, are **Justin Lord** (the first Fottler Scholar), **Myron Fottler, PhD**, and Julia Adler-Milstein, 2018 Van Zile Scott Lecturer.

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE (DSc)

Congratulations Graduates!

Six DSc graduates participated in the UAB Doctoral Hooding Ceremony on December 16, 2017.



Those who walked included (*pictured left, L/R*) **Phil Mazzuca, DSc**, **Khanhuyen Vinh, DSc**, **Patrick Falvey, DSc**, **William Tuttle, DSc**, **Preston Simmons, DSc**, and **Charles Hagood, DSc**.

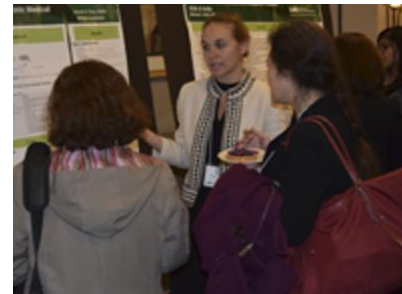
Not pictured is **Naof Alansary, DSc**, who is based at the University of Dammam in Saudi Arabia.

[Click here to see the graduates' dissertation titles.](#)

STUDENTS IN ACTION

Poster Presentations

On February 13, 2018, following the Van Zile Scott Lecture delivered by Julia Adler-Milstein, PhD, students from across the Department of Health Services Administration, like MSHA/MSHI student **Sarah Paul** (*pictured, right*), presented capstone project and research project posters while enjoying cake celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the Doctoral Education.



[Click here to see photos from the event.](#)



Student Placements

Every year we send our stellar students across the U.S. for internships and residencies. Simply click the class of your choice below to see where they have been placed this year.

- [MSHA Class 52 Residencies](#)
- [MSHA Class 53 Internships](#)
- [HCM Spring Internships](#)

CASE COMPETITIONS

MSHI Students Place in HIMSS

Competition

MSHI first-year students **Candis Riggs**, **Jeffrey DeGarmo** and **Jason Bains** (*pictured, right*) placed third in the inaugural Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Student Case Competition.

[Click here to read the full story.](#)



MSHA Students Compete

The MSHA program sponsored student teams for a number of case competitions, including the NAHSE Annual Everett V. Fox Student Case Competition, Cleveland Clinic Case Competition, Robbins Case Competition in Healthcare Management at Baylor University, UAB's Health Administration Case Competition, and the Ohio State University Healthcare Case Competition.

Case competitions provide students an opportunity to work on a “real world” case from a health care organization and develop solutions for the issues presented in the case. Teams present their findings and recommendations to panels of judges that serve in executive positions in health care organizations around the country.



Baylor University Team: Lauren Naumcheff, Patrick Rickert, Gil Hanahan, Lucas Prather

Ohio State Team: Matthew Barnes, Megan Sircy, Esther Grubbe

Cleveland Clinic Team: Andrew David, Taylor Young, Lucas Prather, Jay Spafford

GLOBAL REACH

Visiting Global Scholars

We are happy to welcome three visiting global scholars to Birmingham and UAB this year.

- **Nurettin Oner**, Ankara University, Turkey
- **Beratiye Oner**, Gazi University, Turkey
- **Xue Jun Hu**, Xi'an Medicine Science Institute, China.



[Click here to see their full stories.](#)

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Awards and Publications

No surprise, but we have alumni named to Halls of Fame, Top Women in Technology, Leaders to Know and so much more.

We also have numerous who are writing articles, reviewing articles, contributing to and editing books.

[Click here to read about Alumni Awards and Publications.](#)



Alumni Updates



We have more than 150 updates to share with you about our alumni from across the world.

Who was promoted? Who retired? Who got married? Those questions and more are answered about your classmates.

[Click here to see Alumni Updates.](#)

Have an update you would like to share? [Click here to fill out our simple form.](#)

Alumni Events

Every year we host alumni events - often near you - check out the fun photos from our most recent events below.

- [DSc Graduation](#)
- [ACHE](#)
- [Van Zile Scott Lecture](#)
- [40th Anniversary of Doctoral Programs](#)
- [HIMSS](#)



Please scroll down to see our upcoming events!



Alumni Lectures and Panels

We are fortunate to have stellar alumni who are generous with their time to us and our students.

Our alumni give back in many ways from visiting our classrooms on UAB's campus to delivering lectures to serving on panels across the city and state.

[Click here to see Alumni Lectures and Panels.](#)

FACULTY IN ACTION



Mike Williams Joins HSA

Please join us in welcoming the latest addition to our team: **Mike Williams** (MSHA Class 14) will be serving as Executive-in-Residence about 5 days each month.

Mike will help teach Drs. **Allyson Hall** and **Amy Landry**'s courses during the spring semester, provide direction and leadership on the UAB Academy, help with Symposium planning, and work on other projects. He is open and excited to mentor and guide (formally and informally) students from all Department programs and provide expert advice and connections for our various research and scholarly activities.

Mike has already served as a judge for InnoHack 2018 and the faculty coach to the MSHA team who participated in the Cleveland Clinic Case Competition. He recently retired from his role as CEO of Community Hospital Corporation.

[Click here to see all HSA Faculty in Action.](#)

PARTNERSHIPS



Leading Forward

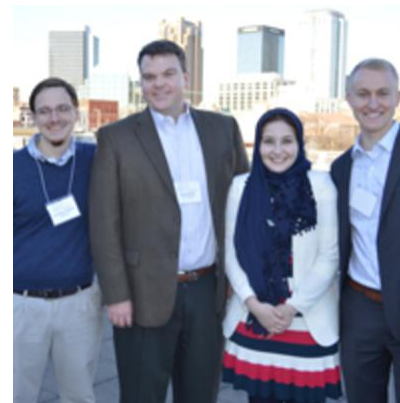
"Leading Forward: Navigating Career Success" was presented by the UAB Women's Health Care Leadership Initiative in October 2017.

The event, held at the Florentine in Birmingham, was a great success. The turnout was awesome and feedback from the event was positive. The topics included issues such as working across generational lines, culturally conscious leadership and developing political savvy.

[Click here to see everyone involved.](#)

InnoHack 2018

This year, more than 80 people participated on 16 teams – including students from all of our programs, people from other schools and many working professionals. The prompt involved the opioid crisis in Alabama and the solutions were amazing and thought-provoking. Each of the final teams included at least one HSA student! The winning team included, **Jonathan Pilgrim** (*pictured, far left*) MSHA Class 53 and **Lucas Prather** (*pictured, far right*) MSHA Class 52.



[Click here to see everyone who served.](#)

ALPEX Demonstrates HSA's



Collaboration and Dedication to Improving Healthcare

Last year, we led efforts by the School of Health Professions to partner with the UAB School of Engineering and Collat School of Business to revive the State of Alabama's Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award Program. The Alabama Performance Excellence Award, modeled after the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, honors organizations whose recent innovations increased productivity and quality within the organization.

On May 9 - 10, we hosted the ALPEX Conference and Banquet in Birmingham. Alabama Organ Center (*pictured, above*) and Wilkins Miller were named ALPEX Award winners.





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