A YEAR OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Health Services Administration
Annual Report

2016
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from Birmingham!

We are excited to share with you news from the University of Alabama at Birmingham’s Department of Health Services Administration. As you will see, we have been busy in our work to develop leaders to shape tomorrow’s health care.

The Department has added new programs and initiatives - and we continue to strengthen programs we have been offering for over five decades. Students and alumni challenge and inspire us every day. New faculty members and new programs provide opportunities for us to make a positive impact on health systems and communities across the world. It is our vision to be recognized as the global leader in health services administration education and research. And you can see in these pages that we are on our way!

We hope you enjoy reading about the Department’s many activities. You may even find a photo of a classmate or favorite professor. We continue our vision of bringing you - our alumni - into the center of all we do. We are designing activities to meet the needs of alumni and other external stakeholders.

These tailored solutions can help you achieve your goals:

- career development for you,
- a chance to build skills in members of your leadership team,
- a team of students as interns to work on a project you need,
- a resident or intern,
- or a consulting team of students, faculty and other UAB alumni.

Simply put, together, we – the UAB HSA team can improve health and health care. Let’s do it!

We want to hear from you – about the work you are doing, about how we could work together, and about how you think your alma mater is doing to achieve our mission.

Thanks for all you do – your time, talent, and treasures – to help develop the next generation. It is a time-honored UAB HSA tradition to give back and lift up the next generation. We hope our 2016 Annual Report makes you smile, makes you a bit nostalgic for your days at UAB, and inspires you to become more involved in the activities of your UAB family.

Best,

Christy Harris Lemak, PhD, FACHE
Department Chair

Faculty Research, Scholarly Activity and Awards
Partnerships
Global Reach
50th Anniversary
Time, Talent, and Treasure
Transformational Gifts
Alumni Engagement
Health Care Management
Health Administration
Health Informatics
Doctoral Programs
Healthcare Quality and Safety
Center for Healthcare Management and Leadership
Center for Health Informatics for Patient Safety / Quality
Faculty and Staff
The National Science Foundation approved the University of Alabama at Birmingham as an official site for a Center for Health Organization Transformation (CHOT). UAB was one of only two universities selected for 2016 and is one of only six CHOT University Sites in the United States. The UAB CHOT, is an industry-university cooperative research center with a focus of developing innovative solutions to issues challenging the U.S. health care system which will be accomplished by working closely with our industry partners as well as multi-disciplinary collaborations across the University, including the School of Engineering.

Currently the UAB CHOT has five healthcare industry partners:

- Alacare
- HealthSouth
- Lakeshore Foundation
- Opelousas General Health System
- UAB Health System

“The approval by the NSF is a glowing testament to the strength of our two Schools’ research excellence as well as the commitment and support of our industry partners located across Alabama and Louisiana,” said Robert Weech-Maldonado, PhD, co-director of the UAB CHOT, professor and L.R. Jordan Chair of Health Administration. “I am excited to see how much we will accomplish together with this combination of UAB’s academic rigor and the healthcare industry’s access to resources.”

The UAB CHOT, co-directed by Weech-Maldonado and Nancy Borkowski, DBA, professor, UAB Department of Health Services, received approval on July 15, 2016. Overall, the CHOT is funded by the NSF and other health organizations “to conduct research supporting major management, clinical and information technology innovations in healthcare.”
Leadership and Executive Access Program (LEAP)

The Department of Health Services Administration initiated the Leadership and Executive Access Program (LEAP) to provide extended time for healthcare executives to meet with students, faculty, alumni and community leaders. This initiative came as a response from Christy Lemak, PhD, HSA department chair, during her “talking tour” with alumni over the last two years. During her visits, numerous alumni expressed the desire to make more impact than just an hour-long presentation to current students. Listening to this feedback, the department created a three-day visit for Steve Perry (MSHA Class 8), Vice President of Physician Services at ChangeMed Consulting, who served as the inaugural LEAP candidate October 17 – 19, 2016.

Each of the top three teams at the annual InnoHack competition had an MSHA student. Congratulations to Evita Payton (MSHA/MSHI Class 51) who was on the first place team. Josh Arrage (MSHA Class 52) and his team placed second and Danny El-Zein’s (MSHA Class 52) team finished third. This year the teams worked on technology-driven ideas to encourage more Medicaid patients to visit primary care providers rather than the emergency department. The winning team split the grand prize of $2,500 for their idea of implementing a brick and mortar Community Care House with a virtual presence. During his time on campus, Mr. Perry shared the real-life case of Pregmama with undergraduate students in their Health Law course, second year MSHA students in their Strategic Planning course and the Residential doctoral students during their seminar class. He was also able to meet with MSHI students and discuss trends in digital healthcare. In addition, he met with the master’s level program directors on ways to infuse innovation into the current curriculums. During the February on-campus visit, MSHI students participated in a day innovation program which may lead to a departmental-wide initiative during fall orientations. Steve met with local alumni regarding innovation and pediatric healthcare issues.

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Leadership (“The Academy”) Seven students from UAB’s undergraduate Health Care Management program and one public health student spent 2 weeks preparing to successfully apply, enroll, and then matriculate to graduate programs in health and health care. Our goal is to increase the number of qualified students from underrepresented groups who attend graduate school and eventually assume health care leadership roles. In addition to GRE prep, activities focused on professional development, graduate school application skills, and team building. Successes and lessons from this first year will be used expand our offering beyond a two-week program in the coming years.

Preceptors’ Conference

A Hallmark of the MSHA Program that jumpstarts the graduate students journey to secure their administrative residency.

New in 2016 – Career Networking Expo – a mini Preceptors’ Conference for recent graduates of the Executive format of the MSHPA Program. Ten healthcare organizations participated in the inaugural event before the annual Preceptors’ Conference started. The feedback was positive from the organizations and participants so the Career Networking Expo will expand to include recent graduates of the MSHI and HQS Programs in 2017.

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Global Reach

The Global Health Activities (GHA) of the Department of Health Services Administration are intended to improve healthcare management and leadership available in other countries through collaborations that enhance the knowledge and competencies of current and future leaders worldwide. GHA supports education and research initiatives across management and informatics disciplines to generate creative solutions for global health challenges. It is envisioned that these activities will be done in collaboration with academic partners or clients in host countries.

International Hospital Federation

The Department joined the International Hospital Federation (IHF). HSA faculty members are working closely with IHF leaders and other international academic institutions to increase the professionalization of healthcare management through:

- Encouraging the adoption of the Global Healthcare Management Competency Directory by professional associations.
- Supporting development of professional associations in all countries.
- Encouraging research to reinforce the value of the competencies in healthcare management.
- Exploring development of educational materials to support these efforts.

King Fahad Specialist Hospital-Dammam, Saudi Arabia

The second cohort of 34 students in the Executive MSHA-International Healthcare Management Track completed coursework in December 2016. For their synthesis projects, EMSHA students proposed big ideas for effecting change in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Several graduates of the EMSHA program were recognized as top leaders by the KSA Ministry of Health. According to the report, the Ministry hired PriceWaterhouseCooper to manage an extensive evaluation of almost 120 leaders from across the Kingdom. After several rounds of evaluation and interviews, 10 top leaders were identified, and 3 of the 10 were either current students or alumni of the EMSHA International Track program.

Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, China

UAB signed a memorandum of understanding with the School of Health Services Management at Southern Medical University in Guangzhou, China.

The primary objective for the relationship is to develop educational initiatives in healthcare management at the undergraduate and master’s levels. SMU is also interested in sponsoring PhD students to come to UAB for selected courses and research collaboration.

Tsinghua University, Shenzhen, China

HSA hosted a group of students from Tsinghua University for a professional development program in healthcare management. They attended continuing education sessions delivered by HSA faculty members, toured local healthcare delivery facilities, and participated in the National Symposium for Healthcare Executives.

Evaluating the KSA Healthcare System

10 were either current students or alumni of the EMSHA International Track program.

Visiting Scholar To China

Nancy Borkowski, DBA traveled to Guangzhou, China, to teach at Southern Medical University. She holds an appointment as a Visiting Professor in the School of Health Services Management.

Scholar From Turkey

HSA is pleased to host Nurettin Oner, a visiting scholar who is sponsored by the Ministry of Health in Turkey. Oner is receiving both didactic and hands-on training in health economics. He is also working closely with HSA faculty member Ferhat Zengil, PhD.

Spring 2016 International Health System Visits

Ireland

Members of EMSHA Class E50 visited Ireland to explore a system that is largely tax-funded but with a large percentage of the population utilizing Voluntary Health Insurance to pay for care. The group visited with leaders from Ireland’s Health Service Executive, which provides public health and social services to all of Ireland. Practitioners from The Adelaide and Meath Hospital (incorporating the National Children’s Hospital) and the National Rehabilitation Hospital also hosted the group for discussions and tours of their facilities.

Italy

A separate group of students from Class E50 visited Milan, Italy. The visit began at Niguarda Public Hospital, where the group was hosted by several members of the senior leadership team. The group also visited for the private Humanitas Research Hospital. The General Director and board members from Milan’s ATS (Public Healthcare Agency) hosted the group and then visited with one of Milan’s leading General Practitioner (GP) Cooperatives.

Switzerland

Second-year executive doctoral students traveled to Luzern, Switzerland, to study the unique Swiss system which requires mandatory health insurance, and is based on the principle of individual choice. The group visited with nursing leaders from The Oncology Institute of Southern Switzerland (IOSI) at Hospital San Giovanni in Bellinzona. Additional highlights of the trip included visits to Kantonsspital Winterthur, which is one of the 10 largest hospitals in Switzerland; the Burgenstock Resort/Waldhotel Medical Facility, a combination luxury resort and medical facility; and The Swiss Paraplegic Center, a privately-owned clinic that focuses on holistic rehabilitation and comprehensive care for people with spinal paralysis.

Stay tuned for more information on alumni travel opportunities!
The 50th Anniversary Celebration would not have been possible without our more than 50 sponsors at various levels. Thanks to their generous support, we were also able to jumpstart the UAB Department of Health Services Administration 50th Anniversary Fund.

All proceeds, after expenses, benefit the 50th Anniversary Fund and will be used to award scholarships to deserving students and create meaningful programming for the development of our students and alumni.

HSA 50 is the UAB Department of Health Services Administration’s blueprint to become the global leader in health services administration education and research. We have identified three distinct ways that you can help us reach our goal:

**Influence**
We believe every student with the potential to excel in healthcare leadership should be able to do so.

We are establishing more scholarships to meet the demands of a transforming healthcare industry that needs leaders to grow.

**Invest**
We believe the greatest institutions have the best minds, the brightest researchers and the most creative teachers.

We are expanding the number of endowments to strengthen a talented faculty base that enriches the academic environment.

**Impact**
We believe alumni are our greatest assets and through a dedicated support system we can improve graduates’ success while enhancing our education programs and scholarly work.

We are increasing alumni opportunities to enhance collaboration and create meaningful results for everyone involved.

Alumni Partnerships

The UAB Department of Health Services Administration has countless opportunities for HSA alumni to directly impact our students and our future.

**Academy for Addressing Health Disparities through Health Care Leadership**
A strategy to enhance the abilities of under-represented groups to become more competitive for graduate school and increase the diversity of the senior executives in health care industry.

**Women’s Leadership Initiative**
Programming focused on helping female students and alumni excel in their careers through a variety of options, including mentoring.

**Leadership and Executive Access Program (LEAP)**
This is an opportunity for the seasoned health care leader to educate future leaders and collaborate with our academic team. Your area of health care. Your unique point-of-view. Your personal experience.

**Guest Lecturer**
Often, one shining moment can change how a student feels about a subject or even change their career choices. Are you looking to be that brilliant light for one or two lectures? Join us as a guest lecturer.

**Mentors Matter**
 Prefer a more personal scale for influencing others? Become a mentor. Each year we welcome hundreds of first generation college students, seasoned doctoral students and more. They need guidance. They need you. You will grow through the experience too.

**Advisory Board Member**
Every program needs true expertise. Advisory Boards are small groups of leaders with a vision of the future. You who recognize trends, who spot details in Big Data and pick out the patterns through noise. We need your expertise and leadership.

**HSA 50th Anniversary Fund**
Thanks to the generous support surrounding our gala event, we were also able to jumpstart the UAB Department of Health Services Administration 50th Anniversary Fund! This fund will be used to award scholarships to deserving students and create meaningful programming for the development of our students and alumni.

Contact Randa Hall (randahall@uab.edu or 205.934.3332) if you would like to become involved in any of these initiatives.
Alumni from the Department of Health Services Administration give back in many different ways to the program, department, and university. Beginning in 2016, we have divided alumni engagement into three categories: Time, Talent and Treasure.

**TIME**
is defined as an alumnus attending receptions, lectures, conferences, symposiums, etc.

**TALENT**
is defined as a graduate serving as a preceptor for an internship or administrative residency, interviewing students for admission to a program, providing a guest lecture to a class, teaching a class, mentoring a student or another alum, serving on a committee or advisory board, facilitating a book discussion or serving as a host for a capstone project or applied project.

**TREASURE**
is defined as contributing back to the department in a monetary way such as alumni dues, donating to a scholarship fund, participating in the MSHA Classic or other ways.

2016 demonstrates a very strong level of alumni engagement for UAB’s Department of Health Services Administration. There were 18 different TIME events and 26 distinct TALENT opportunities. There were over 1,300 alumni connections during the year. When quantifying the number of alumni involved in these areas along with an estimated amount of time that each alumnus spent participating in the event / action contributes to the engagement level, we see over 9,700 VOLUNTEER HOURS contributed during 2016.
Transformational Gifts
Impacting the Present and Future

At the 50th Anniversary Celebration in 2016, we highlighted our strategic priorities and areas of needed support for the next 50 years. Since April 2016, alumni and friends of the department have stepped up in a big way through philanthropic giving.

Myron D. and Carol A. Fottler Endowed Support Fund for the PhD Program in Administration–Health Services

Myron Fottler, former director of the PhD Administration–Health Services program, and his wife, Carol, saw an opportunity to give back by establishing a scholarship and support fund to help full-time PhD students with tuition, fees and professional development experiences. During his time as program director, Fottler saw many PhD students making sacrifices financially during their studies and wanted to help aspiring PhD’s pursue their professional goals. The Fottlers have chosen to support this fund annually and through an estate gift. Sadly, Carol Fottler passed away this summer.

Howard W. and Shannon H.S. Houser Endowed Scholarship in Health Services Administration

Howard Houser, PhD, Professor Emeritus, and Shannon Houser, PhD Associate Professor, (HIM, 1993), have established a scholarship that is available to students department wide for assistance with tuition and fees. The Housers have elected to support this fund annually and through an estate gift.

Chen Hua Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Howard W. Houser

Chen (Trevor) Hua (MSHA Class 23), established a scholarship through a gift that honors his mentor and former professor, Dr. Howard W. Houser. The fund will provide support to MSHA students with preference given, but not limited to, international students with highest priority to ethnic Chinese students.

Chuck and Judy Stokes Endowed Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion

Chuck Stokes (MSHA Class 17) and his wife Judy recognize the importance of diversity and inclusion in the healthcare field. Their recently established Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship will support students enrolled in our Master of Science in Health Administration and Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety programs.

Quorum Scholar in Health Administration

Quorum Health Corporation established the first full-ride scholarship in the MSHA program’s 51 year history. The gift was spearheaded by Tom Miller (MSHA Class 18), CEO of Quorum Health Corporation. The scholarship was awarded to Lucas Prather (MSHA Class 52).

Dr. John B. McWhorter, III, Endowed Scholarship

John McWhorter (MSHA Class 18 and DSc 2013) recently committed to funding an endowed scholarship in the Department of Health Services Administration. The scholarship will be used to support travel and research for doctoral students, in the DSc program.

The Beasley-Hall Family Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration

Ken Beasley (MSHA Class 19) established a scholarship to support MSHA students after witnessing the impact that UAB HSA alumni are having in health care at the HSA 50th Anniversary Celebration. His gift supports residential MSHA students. Beasley attributes Dr. Houser’s example of generosity and commitment to him and his classmates, as well as other students, as his motivation to give back.

The Herzig Family

Terrell W. Herzig was a beloved faculty member who passed away unexpectedly in 2012. To honor his commitment to training leaders in health informatics and security, a group of alumni and friends established a scholarship award in his memory.
Health Care Management

Since 1982, the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management program has prepared graduates with a vital foundation and understanding of the healthcare delivery system with a focus on management, quality improvement, finance, reimbursement and the laws and regulations governing the healthcare industry.

www.uab.edu/hcm

New Program Leadership

Bryan Breland, PhD, JD, an assistant professor in HSA since 2012, was named director of the Health Care Management program. He replaces Pam Paustian, PhD, who was named director of the UAB Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). Breland was recently featured in the School of Health Professions’ Faculty Spotlight for his inventive teaching.

In addition to a new program director, HCM welcomes April Rollins-Nycole, as a new counselor to help students reach their potential and a new director of operations to help the program achieve even more. She comes to HCM from the School of Health Professions’ Office of Student Recruitment, Engagement and Success. Her experience in student engagement and the true interest she takes in the success of our students will be a remarkable addition to the team.

Health Care Management Awards and Induction Ceremony

At a reception on Thursday, November 10, 2016, the UAB School of Health Professions’ Health Care Management program delivered the program’s top annual awards and inducted 31 students into the Upsilon Phi Delta National Honor Society.

The program named Faith Hickenbotham as the 2016 HCM Student Honor winner. Hickenbotham received nominations from several faculty members. Ferhat Zengul, PhD, was honored as the 2016 HCM Faculty award winner and dedicated the award to all his students. Taking home this year’s Thompson T. Abercrombie Award was Natalie Hackney. The Abercrombie award is named after the first director of the undergraduate program.

Upsilon Phi Delta Inductees:

- Kara Alexis Arnold
- Motasem Ashour
- Matthew Barnes
- Bethany S. Butler
- Sarah Clarissa Callaway
- Tannize Davontrae Compton
- Ashley Dale Crowe
- Paula Bridges Dixon
- Jasmine Duncan
- Charles Faulk
- Luke Friedewald
- Fantaye Hambisa
- James Hester
- Faith Hickenbotham
- Kimberly Huerta
- Keilah Min Gall Ingram
- Jayla N. Jarrett
- Mallory Brooke Jordan
- Erica Michelle McDonald
- Bethany Paeton McGowan
- Gallibriel R. Moorer
- Rebecca L. Nix
- Khalida Khali Osman
- Kinzie P. Owens
- Kendall E. Pierce
- Grayson Nicole Sanders
- Cody Harrison Smith
- Kayla E. Smith
- JeanAnn N. Smith
- Matthew R. Waldrop
- Shaterra Dominique West

Smith Wins Research Expo

Cody Harrison Smith, a senior in the UAB School of Health Professions’ Health Care Management program, won first place at the UAB Undergraduate Research Expo in the Health Sciences category. Smith’s poster, titled “Nursing Home Closures & State Funding Policies”, was co-authored with Justin Lord, a second-year student in the UAB PhD Administration—Health Services program, and Robert Weech-Maldonado, PhD, professor and L.R. Jordan Chair of Health Administration in the Department of Health Services Administration. The Fall Expo celebrates excellence in research, service learning, creative activity, and scholarship by showcasing the endeavours of undergraduate students.

Student Association Visits Sites

The Health Care Management (HCM) Student Association is on the move visiting preceptor sites to observe the various health care settings of operational managers. Most recently touring the UAB Hospital and Brookdale Senior Living Community with HCM preceptors.

Health Care Management Internship Poster Expo

During the spring semester, graduating seniors in the Health Care Management Program (HCM) presented posters of their internship experience to faculty, staff and students at the HCM Internship Poster Expo. The Expo provides a platform for practicing and strengthening presentation skills, exchanging internship experience ideas as well as receiving feedback from faculty, preceptors and peers. The HCM Internship is a capstone course providing students with the opportunity to observe and participate in the daily activities of operational managers in health care organizations. The goal of the internship is to assure that students are prepared to meet the challenges of the health care industry.
M.S. in Health Administration (Residential)
The MSHA program, now ranked #2 in the nation by U.S. News & World Report, was founded in our inaugural year of 1965. The program boasts an excellent reputation, both regionally and nationally, for the high quality of its academic program and the achievements of its more than 1,300 graduates.
www.uab.edu/msha

M.S. in Health Administration (Executive)
The EMSHA program, designed to prepare students for senior management positions, emphasizes leadership, marketing, economics, operations management, epidemiology, quality improvement and strategic management. Best of all, the EMSHA program is structured so students gain all this new expertise without giving up their jobs or their personal lives.
www.uab.edu/emsha

The 2016 – 2017 academic year was a busy one for the MSHA program! We welcomed Class 52 to the UAB family, and we celebrated the accomplishments of Class 51 with our traditional graduation dinners. We want to provide a few highlights of the year.

Outstanding Students
Each year the Alumni Association of the Graduate Programs in Health Administration (GPHA) sponsors the “Outstanding Student Award.” This award is given to a member of the current graduating class and is announced at the annual National Symposium for Healthcare Executives. The recipient of this award is selected by members of the class, based on academic standing, leadership, motivation and attitude, special abilities, passion about health administration and the MSHA Program, extracurricular activities related to the program, and support of the program and faculty.

The following students were selected for the “Outstanding Student Award” for Class 51.
Residential: Alexis Jackson  Executive: Terry Knight

Howard W. Houser Professor Named
Amy Yarbrough Landry (MSHA Class 35, PhD 2006), PhD, MSHA Program Director, was named the inaugural Howard W. Houser Endowed Professor in Health Administration in the UAB School of Health Professions in November of 2016. Landry, an alumna of MSHA Class 35, has been a student, co-teacher, and colleague of Houser’s since beginning her education in the MSHA program. “Howard has been here since the beginning of the MSHA program and it has been a privilege to learn from him, work with him and now be honored by his endowed professorship,” said Landry. The Houser Professorship was established to honor the work that Houser has done since joining the faculty over 30 years ago. “Having this endowed professorship with my name attached to it means historically it can be said ‘I was here and I did something of value,’” said Houser. “50 years from now nobody will know who I was or exactly what I did, but they will know I did something of value and had some kind of impact on UAB, our students and health care around the world.”

J. Larry Tyler Award for Hermeneutics
The J. Larry Tyler Award for Hermeneutics is given to a student in the graduating class with exceptional public speaking ability. The students are given a prompt developed by Mr. Tyler, and they each give a 5-7 minute talk about the topic (without PowerPoint). This year’s prompt was “What do you believe is most important for improving today’s healthcare system? Why?” This year’s winner is Seth Bynum (MSHA Class 51).

Accreditation Update
The MSHA program hosted site visitors from the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) in the fall of 2015. The site visit was overwhelmingly positive, and our first-year progress report was submitted to CAHME this February. On May 18th, the MSHA program received its official approval of our progress report. This means that we continue to be accredited in good standing by CAHME until 2022. We received the longest accreditation window possible; so we are very grateful to our students, alumni, faculty, and staff for all the hard work that went into making this success possible.

UAB Health System Student Workforce Program
Class 52 Residential MSHA students participated in the second year of our UAB Health System Student Workforce Program. This program, generously supported by the UAB Health System, allows for all first year Residential MSHA students to work in part-time roles throughout the health system. Students are working in areas ranging from corporate strategy to hospital operations. Thanks to the hard work of our students and the support of their assigned supervisors, the second year of this program was a great success. Over 95% of supervisors were either satisfied or extremely satisfied with their student associates. Students also had a positive experience with the program. Many found exposure to the operations of a major academic medical center beneficial to their career development. We look forward to beginning the third year of the program in October 2017.

We’re #1 & #2!
In today’s world, there are rankings for everything from best coffee to best places to work, best cities to live, best schools to attend and the list goes on and on. There are a variety of rankings specific to graduate programs in health administration. Most notably, U.S. News & World Report ranks UAB as the #2 graduate program among all CAHME-accredited programs in health care management. Modern Healthcare also provides a “By the Numbers” ranking of the largest graduate programs and UAB is ranked #4 in the 2016-17 list. Most recently, the Top Master’s in Healthcare Administration rankings UAB’s MSHA Program as the #1 program in health administration for 2017.
Health Informatics

The MSHI program, which has graduated more than 300 alumni, celebrated its 25-year anniversary in 2016 adding two new tracks: Healthcare Data Analytics and Healthcare User Experience. The Graduate Certificate in Clinical Informatics, aimed at physicians who wish to bolster their informatics expertise, launches this fall.

www.uab.edu/hi

New Program Director for Graduate Programs in Health Informatics

Sue S. Feldman, PhD, RN, Associate Professor, was named the new Director of the UAB School of Health Professions Graduate Programs in Health Informatics (GPHI) program, on August 1st Feldman is tasked with leading the academic, professional, and faculty direction of the graduate programs in health informatics.

Feldman is a leading health informatics researcher who worked at Pepperdine University (Los Angeles, CA) immediately prior to UAB. She is a Registered Nurse with a Master’s in Education and a PhD in Education as well as in Information Systems and Technology – with a concentration in Health Informatics – from Claremont Graduate University. She has served as Assistant Director for the Kay Center for E-Health Research, Health Information Exchange evaluator for ConnectVirginia, and as a Health Informatics consultant.

Since January 2007, she has been a member of the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM) where she currently serves as chair of the accreditation review team for graduate level Health IT programs seeking accreditation. More recently, she has been appointed to the Health Informatics Accreditation Council for CAHIIM.

“Sue’s background could not be more perfect for this position and we are thrilled she is joining us,” said Christy Harris Lemak, PhD, Chair, UAB Department of Health Services Administration. “Her addition enables us to expand the MSHI program’s reach and puts us on track to become the best graduate Health Informatics program in the United States.”

The Master of Science in Health Informatics program is now in Candidacy Status, pending accreditation site visit review by the Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education (CAHIIM).

Currently, there are only eight accredited Health Informatics graduate programs in the US. CAHIIM accredited programs assure that graduates have the professionally required knowledge, skills, and employment marketability.

Meadows and Costigan Receive Alabama HIMSS Scholarships

Ginny Meadows (MSHI 2017) was awarded the Alabama HIMSS scholarship and is recently retired from McKesson as Executive Director for Corporate Strategy and Business Development. Meadows went back to school late in life and earned her BA in 2014. She hopes the next phase of her career will involve applying what she has learned in the Master of Science in Health Informatics program to improve the user experience of health IT systems for providers and patients.

Jennifer Costigan was awarded the Alabama HIMSS Chapter Student Merit Scholarship at the Spring meeting. Jennifer, a recent graduate from Auburn University, will begin the MSHI Program in Fall 2017.

New Advisory Board

The Graduate Programs in Health Informatics assembled a new advisory board. The board, which first met on February 7, 2017, advised on accreditation, plus they participated in breakout sessions on curriculum, new student recruitment and alumni affairs. We are grateful for their contributions.

Information from these sessions has been included in the CAHIIM self-assessment. Our new board will help guide the future direction of all graduate programs in Health Informatics.

Pictured L-R:

• Devon Laney, President & CEO, Innovation Depot
• Jeffrey Zavaleta, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Graphm Health
• Brantley Synco (MSHI 2010), Director, Information & Physical Security, Brookwood Baptist Health
• Chris Compton, Student Representative
• Jorge Alisp, M.D., Chief Medical Information Officer, UAB Health System
• Adele Allison, Director, Provider Innovation Strategies, DST Health Solutions
• Herb Smaltz, PhD, Founder & President, CIO Consult
• Joan Hicks (MSHI 1994), Chief Information Officer, UAB Health System
• Rick Moore, PhD, (MSHI 2003), Chief Information Officer, NCQA
• Not pictured: Kyle Cutright Akins (MSHI 2007 MSHA Class 41), Strategy Manager, BlueCross BlueShield of Alabama, Jim Cimino, M.D., Director, Informatics Institute, The University of Alabama at Birmingham, and Jeffrey Wall, Director Physician Strategy & Medical Specialties, Cerner Corporation.
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The PhD program is a joint cooperative with the UAB Graduate School of Management. Accredited by AACSB International, it represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide and offers opportunities to pursue the conceptual, philosophical and applied aspects of administrative processes in healthcare.

New PhD Program Leadership

On September 1, 2016, Larry Hearld, PhD, associate professor in the Department of Health Services Administration, was named director of the PhD Administration–Health Services program. Hearld, who takes over for S. Robert Hernandez, DrPH, in the role, says following Hernandez, who was with the program for decades and recently appointed Distinguished Service Professor, is a good thing.

"The program is a known entity around the world so my job is to build on top of the strong foundation already established and expand the curriculum. "We want to make sure we are providing our students with a breadth of educational opportunities, from teaching to service to hands-on research, that will put them ahead of the competition in an ever-evolving job market." – Larry Hearld

Six dissertations successfully completed and defended between April 2016-2017:

1. Mengying He, PhD
2. Tory Harper Hogan, PhD
3. Rene Jooste, PhD
4. Dennis McCoy, PhD
5. Kelly Randall, PhD
6. Andreea Voinea-Griffin, PhD

Presentations

- 8 papers/abstracts by PhD students accepted at national conferences

Doctor of Science (DSc) Executive

The DSc program is a practice-oriented, academic program designed for experienced healthcare executives. Using a blended delivery format – distance learning with only three on-campus sessions per year – we provide the opportunity to develop valuable analytical and strategic management skills by conducting action learning assignments and applied research.

Graduates

7 New Graduates in 2016 (pictured below)

- Vance Chunn, DSc
- John Cunningham, DSc
- Lucas Higman, DSc
- Holly Jarek, DSc
- Betty Mortensen, DSc
- Deana Nelson, DSc
- Mark Slyter, DSc

The program has 35 graduates to date, with an average time to degree of 3.41 years.

2016 Cohort Facts

The program admitted its largest cohort to date in fall of 2016:

UAB faculty, students, and alumni at 2016 Academy of Management meeting

2016 Publications:

- Dr. Ray Snead regularly pens a blog, Interim CFO, focused on the healthcare-related interim executive services industry.

2016 Presentations:

- Dr. Faraz Ahmed presented “Evaluation of the Productive Efficiency of Nurse Practitioners in a Nurse Managed Center” on June 1, 2016 at the European Academy of Management.

UAB faculty, students, and alumni at 2016 Academy of Management meeting

14 Students Enrolled as 8th cohort members

11 are from different states

Combined they have 316 Years of experience
UAB Department of Health Services Administration
Faculty and Staff