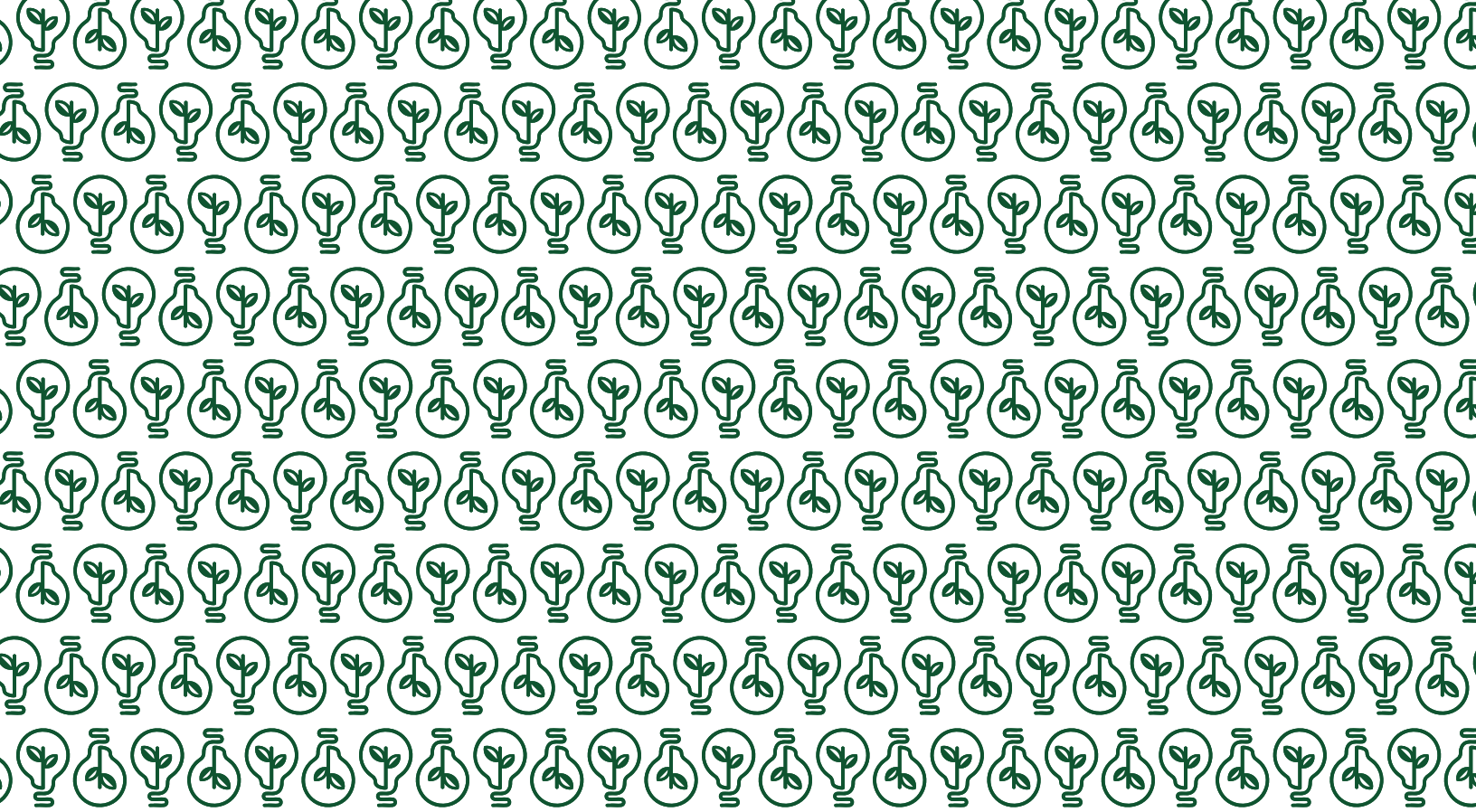


UAB DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025



Insights

Sustaining Excellence in a Changing Landscape



Sustaining Excellence Through Leadership





OUR VALUES

*Collaborate
Act with integrity
Respect all
Excel*

OUR MISSION

*Developing leaders to shape
tomorrow's health care.*

OUR VISION

*To be the global leader in health
services administration and research.*

2024-2025 HSA Annual Report



The last two years have been filled with establishing scholarships, new programming, enrollment growth, faculty recruitment, recognition of excellence across the department, and alumni engagement. With our mission of training future healthcare leaders, we are looking to meet the changing landscape of healthcare. The new programming, growth and recruitment reflect the new ways in which healthcare leaders are asked to manage --- specifically in AI but we are also introducing new implementation models for clinical care changes.

We are thrilled to honor Bob Hernandez's 52-year legacy through the establishment of the Dr. S. Robert Hernandez Endowed Faculty Scholar. Over the years, Bob has made such an impact through his leadership, teaching, and vision for the future of health administration education, within the United States and abroad.

We are excited to launch two new certificates in Fall 2025 – one in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the other in Dissemination and Implementation Science (D&I). Both are available 100% online and allow students and alumni to gain knowledge in new areas to augment their current studies and/or careers.

Through intentional and strategic recruitment campaigns, we have seen growth in enrollment within specific graduate programs and certificates, especially Health Informatics, Healthcare Simulation, and Healthcare Quality and Safety. Even though the demographic cliff is upon us, we are implementing new initiatives to target expanding student populations.

As the fall semester begins, we have several new staff and faculty joining us to help fill several retirements. You will read about several of our new team members in this issue and others as they begin their careers with UAB.

We could not do what we do without the outstanding engagement of our 5,500+ alumni network. You will read about our newly-launched HLAA website (www.hlaa.net) that seeks to help our alumni stay connected and build relationships with one another. Help us achieve our goal of 1,000 registered members. In 2026, we will celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the MSHA Program. More details to follow.

Together, we will sustain excellence in a changing landscape.

Sincerely,



JANE BANASZAK-HOLL, PHD

Chair, Department of Health Services Administration
Professor and LR Jordan Chair in Health Services Administration
School of Health Professions

Insights

at a glance

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Sustaining Excellence in All That We Do

The Department of Health Services Administration embodies its values of collaboration, integrity, respect and excellence and these stories exemplify the values in action through the time, talent and treasure of our students, alumni, and faculty. The MSHA Program remained #1 in the recently-released 2025 *US News & World Report* rankings of all graduate programs in healthcare management across the country. This outstanding accomplishment reflects the commitment of UAB faculty, students, and alumni. **The MSHA program has steadily moved up in the rankings over the past 15 years - advancing from #7 in 2009 to #5 in 2011 to #2 in 2015, and #1 in 2019, 2023 and again in 2025.** The ranking



is an acknowledgment of our commitment to provide an outstanding learning experience that includes excellent education, practice-relevant scholarly activity, and engaged

alumni. It means so much to the department because it is recognition from our peers and because it highlights a legacy of excellence at UAB that began 60 years ago.

Case Competitions

The 19th Annual UAB Health Administration Case Competition, sponsored by UAB Medicine, tasked teams to focus on implementing facility-specific environmental sustainability initiatives that align with AdventHealth's strategic priorities and operational constraints. The 41 teams developed a three-year, localized environmental sustainability plan across one of six facilities.



1st Place team with Arpan Limdi (MSHA Class E45, Quality Academy 2013)

The case architects, Natalie Hamilton and Rob Roy, pushed the teams to delve into how sustainability impacts health and healthcare in one of the defined facilities. Teams assessed which facility (of the six listed below) they would select for their recommendations and the numbers next to the facility's name indicate how many times each facility was selected.

We were very fortunate to have the "rock stars and voices of sustainability" serve as judges – thanks to **Dr. Andrew Garman (Rush University)** and **Dr. Anthony Stanowski (former President/CEO of CAHME)**, who connected us with judges whose expertise provided excellent feedback to the teams.

AdventHealth Texas Health Huguley

●●●●●●●●●● (11)

AdventHealth Orlando

●●●●●●●●●● (10)

AdventHealth Celebration

●●●●● (4)

AdventHealth Shawnee Mission

●●●●● (5)

AdventHealth Hinsdale

●●●●●● (6)

AdventHealth Manchester

●●●●● (5)



DR. ROB ROY, SVP,

Chief Investment Officer, Co-Head of Environmental Sustainability for AdventHealth,

delivered the 20th L.R. Jordan Endowed Lecture through his presentation "Scaling Sustainability: AdventHealth's Environmental Journey." He acknowledged the hard work of all 41 teams and how AdventHealth will incorporate the team's recommendations. The first, second, and third place teams received cash awards at the final ceremony and the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill** won the 19th UAB Health Administration Case Competition. Finishing second was **Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC)** and placing third was **University of Minnesota**.



Final Round Judges





Semi-Final and Preliminary Round Judges



Judges from coast-to-coast provided constructive feedback on each team's content recommendations and their presentation styles.

Preliminary and Semi-Final Round Judges:

- **Jason Barell, MHA**, Chief Operating Officer, Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital (Miami-Fort Lauderdale, FL)
- **Lotoya Beard, CHFM**, Executive Director of Hospital Maintenance, University of Alabama at Birmingham (Birmingham, AL)
- **Kathy Gerwig**, Author/Advisor, Healthcare Environmental Stewardship (San Francisco Bay, CA)
- **Kathy Henderson**, National Business Manager – Healthcare, Ameresco Asset Sustainability Group (Birmingham, AL)
- **John Loglisci**, Project Designer, TRO Jung Brannen (Birmingham, AL)
- **Cecilia Deloach Lynn**, Vice President of Sustainability, Advocate Health (Washington, DC)
- **Jacob McCall**, Sr. Director Engineering Services, Memorial Hermann Greater Heights (Houston, TX)
- **Athena Mira**, Operations Specialist, Client Strategy, CHG Healthcare (Des Moines, IA)
- **David Rabinowitz**, Principal Monitor Deloitte (Atlanta, GA)
- **Brian Washburn, DHA, FACHE, FACMPE**, Regional Administrator, Praxis Health (Coeur d'Alene, ID)
- **Allegra Wiesler**, Sustainability Advisor, Ohio Health (Columbus, OH)
- **Kevin Zacharyasz, M.En.**, Director, Healthcare Sustainability, The Joint Commission (Oakbrook Terrace, IL)

Final Round Judges:

- **Kara Brooks**, Senior Associate Director, Sustainability, American Hospital Association (Denver, CO)
- **Josue Chavarin-Rivas**, Director of Enterprise Risk Management and Sustainability, Centene Corporation (Berkeley, CA)
- **Erika Kimball, RN, MBA**, Founder, CEO and Principal Consultant, Kimball Sustainable Healthcare (San Francisco, CA)
- **Rob Roy, PhD**, SVP, Chief Investment Officer, Co-Head of Environmental Sustainability, AdventHealth (Altamont Springs, FL)
- **Seema Wadhwa**, CEO/Founder, Net Positive Solutions (Arlington, VA)

Presentation Advisers

- **Josef Hobdy, MHA, FACMPE, FACHE**, Director, Physician Practice Operations, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta
- **Tiffany Nabors, MAT, APR**, Supervisor Public Relations & Community Engagement, VIVA Marketing and Sales
- **Warren Smedley, DSc**, Vice President, UAB Medicine
- **Stacy Smith**, Principal, Stacy Smith Strategic Public Relations
- **Garland Stansell**, Chief Communications Officer at Children's of Alabama
- **Janet Walker**, Director, Creative Services & Instructor, Advertising & PR, The University of Alabama, College of Communication & Information Sciences

Case Competitions Coast-to-Coast



NAHSE Case Competition
Team: Ezra Washington
Gore, Mya Buckner and
Lee Wright

Beyond the UAB Health Administration Case Competition, our students participated in seven other case competitions around the country. These experiences allow undergraduate and graduate students to apply what they've learned in the classroom and apply it to the real world.

NAHSE CASE COMPETITION:

Ochsner Health engaged the team to develop a strategy that will address the intricacies of healthcare cybersecurity and patient relations, identify potential vulnerabilities, implement innovative solutions, and respect the ethical and regulatory aspects surrounding patient data protection.

Trinity Competition Prism Pitch



TRINITY PRISM: GEORGE FEREG AND ALEXANDRA

VOISEY (both MSHA Class 59 members) placed Best in Category for "Transforming Medicine and Health" at Trinity University's annual Healthcare PRISM Pitch Competition. They pitched MedLink360, an innovative AI-powered software system that helps hospitals prevent medication errors by seamlessly connecting every step of the medication process—from prescribing to administering and monitoring—into one mindful, interactive, & real-time platform with the goal of making care safer for patients, making work less burdensome for front-line staff, and making the millions spent in medication errors history for hospitals.



**UAB's Team in the
Baylor and Trinity Case
Competitions: George
Fereg, Ezra Washington
Gore and Alexandra
Voisey**

2025 UCLA CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE MANAGEMENT GRADUATE STUDENT CASE COMPETITION:

First year MSHA students, Taylor Danser, Nick Estes, Jameson Hermann, and Katherine Perkins, proudly represented UAB as one of 8 teams advancing to the semi-finals, among the 69 teams competing nationally.



UCLA Case Competition
Team: Nick Estes,
Katherine Perkins,
Jameson Hermann
and Taylor Danser



OSU Case Competition Team: Alexandra Sass, Bernard Lisy, Delaney Field

OHIO STATE FIRST-YEAR CASE COMPETITION: The team of Delaney Field, Bernard Lisy, and Alexandra Sass, was tasked with implementing a data-driven, three-year strategic plan for Henry Ford Health and Populance that was designed to reduce low-value care, optimize costs, and improve health outcomes for its Medicare Advantage member population. Alexandra Sass won their panel's "Best Presenter Award."

(below) **Penn State Case Competition:** Delaney Field, Benjamin Blake, Khushee Modi, and Alexandra Sass



PENN STATE CASE COMPETITION:

Congratulations to Delaney Field, Benjamin Blake, Khushee Modi, and Alexandra Sass for their outstanding 1st place win in the 6th Annual Penn State Health Administration Case Competition. They provided recommendations to Hershey Medical Center with a comprehensive, innovative strategy to improve nurse satisfaction and reduce turnover through a customized benefits package.

MUSC CASE COMPETITION: The team of Henna Noohani, Michael Pham, and Avery Wiles was tasked with developing a comprehensive, financially sustainable business model for an Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (EDS) Institute at the Medical University of South Carolina. Their proposal focused on integrating multidisciplinary specialties—including neurology, cardiology, genetics, gastroenterology, and psychiatry—into

a single coordinated care model designed to improve diagnostic timelines, patient outcomes, and care accessibility for individuals living with hypermobile EDS (hEDS).

They presented a plan to expand the existing infrastructure at MUSC's Hollings Cancer Center into a designated EDS Center of Excellence, leveraging telehealth capabilities, rural hospital partnerships, and federal and academic collaborations to deliver accessible, patient-centered care. Their model emphasized improved continuity of care, operational efficiency, and a scalable telehealth system designed to reach underserved communities across South Carolina.



MUSC Case Competition Team: Michael Pham, Avery Wiles, Henna Noohani



UAB's Case Competition Team: George Fereg, Ezra Washington Gore, Alexandra Voisey



Serving Our Communities



Last fall, faculty, staff, and students from the UAB Department of Health Services Administration participated in the annual Day of Service, partnering with Live HealthSmart Alabama to support health and wellness initiatives across the Birmingham community.

Volunteers came together to give their time and energy toward projects aimed at improving the quality of life for local residents. It was a meaningful day of connection, service, and shared commitment to building a healthier city. We look forward to continuing this important work through future outreach efforts.



Leading Through Service

We're proud of our faculty and alumni who are actively serving on national and international boards. Through their leadership and service, they are helping to shape the future of healthcare—and those who teach and lead within it.

{ NATIONAL }



DR. ALLYSON HALL

is the 2025 Chair-Elect of the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) Board of Directors.



DR. AMY LANDRY (PHD 2006, MSHA CLASS 35)

is serving a 3-year term on the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) Board of Directors.



DR. CATHLEEN ERWIN (PHD 2010)

served as the Chair of the AUPHA Board during 2024-2025.

{ INTERNATIONAL }

DR. AMY LANDRY serves as the United State Delegate to the European Academy of Management (EURAM).



McFaddens Establish Scholarship to Support Future Healthcare Leaders

Ian McFadden (DSc 6th Cohort, MSHA Class 18) knows firsthand how life-changing financial support can be. A Tuskegee native, Ian faced significant health and financial hurdles in his early twenties. But thanks to a fellowship from UAB's School of Health Professions, he was able to earn his MSHA degree and launch a successful 40-year career revitalizing hospitals across rural America.

This year, Ian and his wife, Angela, made a gift to create the Dr. and Mrs. Ian and Angela McFadden Scholarship in Health Administration. Their goal: support students from rural Alabama who aspire to serve similar communities after graduation.



Dr. Ian McFadden, Teneshia Portis and Angela McFadden

“UAB has been the cornerstone of my career. We've been very blessed—and now it's our turn to help others succeed.”

- Ian McFadden

The first recipient, MSHA student Teneshia Portis, is already embracing that mission. “In 20 years, my goal is to become a CEO and give back to my hometown by improving access and quality of care,” she said. “I’m deeply grateful to the McFaddens for their generosity—it inspires me to one day pay it forward.”

Though recently retired from hospital leadership, Ian continues to support healthcare education through his work at Troy University's Health Education Center in Dothan, a program funded by UAB. “UAB has been the cornerstone of my career,” McFadden said. “We’ve been very blessed—and now it’s our turn to help others succeed.”

HSA Insights: By the Numbers

We are proud to highlight our department numbers and the impressive achievements of our faculty, staff, and students.



697
Students in
Eight Programs



232
Peer-Reviewed
Journal Articles

#1
Ranked
MSHA Program

15
Books &
Chapters



71
Conference
Presentations



296
Courses
Taught

14
Awards &
Honors

88
Grants

Faculty Research Updates



DR. MONICA ASWANI'S research centers on how health care payment and delivery reform impacts access to and quality of care, particularly for populations from marginalized backgrounds.

Her work primarily focuses on the evaluation of health policies, with an emphasis on their distributional effects and unintended consequences.

In one study, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Paul Shafer of Boston University and published in *JAMA Health Forum*, Dr. Aswani examined historical changes in the Medicaid personal needs allowance. This monthly stipend allows Medicaid beneficiaries residing in nursing homes to retain a portion of their income for personal items such as clothing, snacks, cell phones, and toiletries. The analysis highlighted that the federal floor for this allowance—set at \$30 per month nearly four decades ago—has remained

unchanged in some states, including Alabama, failing to keep pace with the real cost of personal expenses for nursing home residents.

Another paper, published in *Health Affairs*, analyzed commercial health insurance claims to assess the use of Z codes introduced in the tenth revision of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) to document social determinants of health. The findings showed that while Z code usage remains limited, their prevalence doubled between 2016 and 2022. Utilization varied significantly by state, domain, and age group. Importantly, the analysis revealed that average annual health care spending for individuals with Z codes was more than twice that of individuals without them.

Together, these studies underscore the critical need for more agile and responsive infrastructures to support safety-net programs, particularly for vulnerable populations.

The Department had two faculty members who received grants from the School of Health Professions:

Research Pilot: **Monica Aswani:** “Effects of Section 1115 Waivers to Eliminate Retroactive Medicaid”

Education Innovation: **Leandra Celaya:** “Developing a high reliability certificate program to expand interprofessional continuing education offerings in SHP”

DR. SOUMYA NIRANJAN focuses her research on advancing equitable access to lung cancer screening through implementation science and community-engaged approaches. **Her work addresses barriers to screening at multiple levels—individual, community, and health system—with a particular emphasis on populations across the Southeastern United States who experience persistent obstacles to preventive care.** Her scholarship reflects

the department’s mission to improve health outcomes through evidence-based policy, systems-level change, and collaborative practice. She currently leads several federally funded initiatives that demonstrate both methodological innovation and strong partnerships with healthcare systems and community organizations.

As Principal Investigator of the “Community-centered Lung cancer screening and Awareness” (CLARA) project, Dr. Niranjana is using concept mapping to co-develop culturally relevant educational strategies designed to increase awareness of lung cancer screening. This work is notable for centering community voices in the design of public health interventions.

Building on this foundation, she was recently awarded a second grant from the National Cancer Institute for the “Lung cancer screening Awareness Targeted and Tailored to Increase screening” (LATTICE) project. This study will design and test tailored interventions aimed at increasing screening among individuals at high risk for lung cancer. She also leads a project supported by UAB’s Center for Clinical and Translational Science focused on developing implementation strategies to reduce disparities within clinical settings, thereby linking community insights to systemic

improvements in healthcare delivery.

Dr. Niranjana’s recent publications reflect the practical impact of her research. A 2024 study in *Cancer Causes & Control* documented significant disparities in lung cancer screening across two major health systems, while a 2024 article in *Cancer Medicine* evaluated a community-based education initiative that increased screening awareness and intent. Her publication in the *Journal of Cancer Education* demonstrated the effectiveness of training Community Health



Advisors in Alabama’s Black Belt to deliver lung cancer education—an approach that has since been adapted by other rural initiatives.



Over the past year, **DR. ERIN BLANCHARD’S** research and scholarly activities have centered on advancing simulation-based education, exploring the impact

of virtual reality (VR) on learner stress response, and expanding the methodological approaches used in simulation scholarship. **She delivered two invited Sim Series webinars for the Society for Simulation in Healthcare (SSH), one focused on professional development through the SSH Member Roadmap and the other highlighting innovations in virtual reality for healthcare.**

Dr. Blanchard’s research efforts resulted in several peer-reviewed publications spanning a diverse set of simulation-related topics. These include a systematic review examining conditions before and after teamwork training and their effects on skills transfer to the clinical setting, a novel application of text mining to explore trends in simulation literature, and empirical work evaluating VR-based stress inoculation training. She also co-authored studies in telehealth implementation, cybersecurity simulation

education, and wellness initiatives in medical training. Notably, her ongoing research on VR and stress response in physician associate students was supported by a UAB Education Innovation Grant, for which she served as principal investigator.

Dr. Blanchard’s work was presented at both national and international conferences, including IMSH 2025, the 19th International Congress on Quality in Healthcare in Turkey, and SESAM 2024 in Prague. These presentations focused on simulation scholarship, leadership development, and the use of text mining in healthcare education research.

Collectively, her scholarly contributions reflect a sustained commitment to advancing simulation pedagogy, promoting research-informed practices, and expanding the role of emerging technologies in health professions education. She remains engaged in collaborative, interdisciplinary research that informs curriculum design and supports learner development across clinical, academic, and organizational contexts.



Dr. Joshua Lee

Dr. Seung-Yup “Joshua” Lee’s current research centers on four core areas.

1) AI-Driven Risk Stratification for Patients with Diabetes:

Dr. Lee focuses on diabetes care in the Deep South, particularly among socioeconomically disadvantaged populations in Jefferson County, Alabama. In the past year, he has led two intramural grants in this area: the Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) Partner Network Pilot Program and the Forge AHEAD Center Pilot Program Grant at UAB. This work has led to recent publications, including in *JMIR Research Protocols*.

2) Social Determinants of Health and Disparities Analysis: Dr. Lee applies predictive AI, machine learning, and econometric meth-

ods to analyze patient- and hospital-level data. His contributions in this area have been published in journals such as *Journal of American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA)* and *Health Care Management Review*.

3) Care Transitions and

Continuity: In collaboration with UAB’s Center for Outcomes and Effectiveness Research and Education (COERE), Dr. Lee has evaluated care transition initiatives with a focus on continuity between acute and primary care. His use of statistical and machine learning techniques to assess appointment adherence and outcomes during care transitions has resulted in publications in *The*

Journal of Ambulatory Care Management and *JAMIA Open*.

4) Compassionate Care

Documentation: Dr. Lee’s recent interdisciplinary project in palliative care uses natural language processing to explore whether clinical documentation can be more compassionate and whether such documentation improves communication and outcomes. He received the UAB Palliative Research Enhancement Project (PREP) Award from the Center for Palliative and Supportive Care. He also co-organizes a symposium on AI for Organizational and Behavioral Constructs at the 2025 Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Copenhagen.



DR. WEI LYU'S research focuses on how public policies influence access to health care and health outcomes for vulnerable populations. His work leverages large national datasets and quasi-experimental research designs to address actionable, policy-relevant questions for Medicaid agencies, safety-net providers, and stakeholders in maternal and child health.

Over the past year, Dr. Lyu has examined the effects of pandemic-era policies on health care utilization and population health.

This includes evaluating income support measures such as Economic Impact Payments, the expanded Child Tax Credit, and the enhanced Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as the continuous Medicaid coverage provisions enacted under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. In a study published in the *Journal of Health Economics*, he and his co-authors analyzed how additional income from the expanded Child Tax Credit and pandemic stimulus checks affected infant health outcomes and found no significant

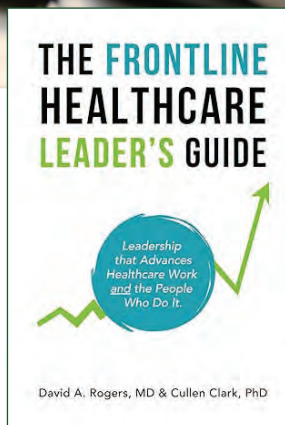
overall effects. His recent work, published in *Health Services Research* and *INQUIRY*, explored the impact of continuous Medicaid coverage during the COVID-19 public health emergency. These studies identified improvements in insurance continuity and access to care, underscoring the potential value of policy-driven coverage stability.

In addition, Dr. Lyu serves as a co-investigator on an NIH-funded R03 project examining the spillover effects of Medicaid dental coverage expansions. A recent paper from this project, published in *Medical Care*, reported modest yet meaningful improvements in self-reported health measures following these expansions.

Dr. Lyu's research collectively highlights the nuanced and varied effects of public policy on health care access and outcomes, emphasizing the importance of evidence-based policy design for improving health equity among vulnerable populations.

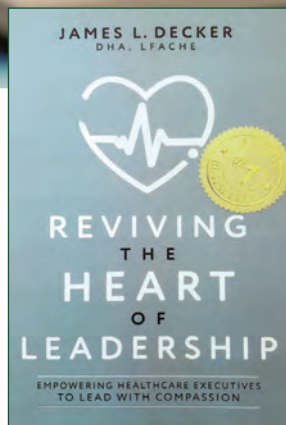
Meet the Authors

We are pleased to share new books written by our faculty and alumni and published during 2024-25.



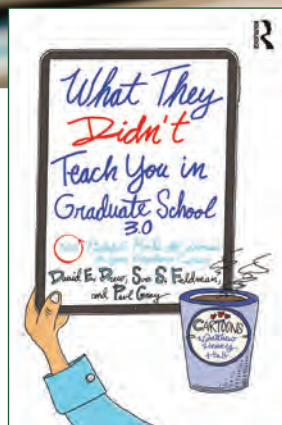
Cullen Clark, PhD
(MSHA Class 24)

The Frontline Health Care Leader's Guide



James Decker, DHA
(MSHA Class 11)

Reviving the Heart of Leadership



Sue Feldman, PhD
(Professor)

What They Didn't Teach You in Graduate School 3.0



Shannon Houser, PhD
(BSMRA 1993, Professor)

Health IT and EHRs



Faculty Awards and Recognition

National Recognition



NANCY BORKOWSKI, DBA, was named the recipient of the *Gary L. Filerman Prize for Educational Leadership* by AUPHA. This prestigious honor recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership in health administration education through teaching, mentoring, and service to the profession.



LEANDRA CELAYA, MSC, Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Services Administration, received the *Teaching Excellence Award in Cultural Perspectives and Inclusive Excellence* from AUPHA. Sponsored by the Better Together Collaborative, this national award recognizes educators who promote inclusive teaching and inspire others across AUPHA programs.

GEOFFREY SILVERA, PHD, MHA, received the *AUPHA Teaching Excellence Award in Healthcare Management and Leadership*, sponsored by the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE). This award honors educators whose teaching excellence inspires peers and future leaders in the field.



SHANNON HOUSER, PHD, RHIA, FAHIMA (BSHM 1993), received the *AHIMA Triumph Influencer Award*

at the 2024 AHIMA Annual Meeting. This national recognition honors her influential lead-

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ership in the health information profession and her commitment to advancing knowledge and inspiring the next generation.



AMY LANDRY, PHD (PHD 2006, MSHA CLASS 35), received

the Myron Fottler Exceptional Service Award from the Health Care Management Division in the Academy of Management. This award recognizes Dr. Landry's years of service as a mentor and colleague and in both the Academy of Management and the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA).

FERHAT ZENGUL (PHD 2013), and others received the 2025 Best Paper Award in Contribution to Knowledge Management at the Global Interdisciplinary Green Cities Conference. Assessing the Relationships between U.S. Hospitals' Participation with Accountable Care Organizations and Healthcare Quality. **JOSUE PATIEN EPANE (PHD 2013)**, Loma Linda University, USA **ZO RAMAMONJIARIVELO (PHD 2012)**, Texas State University,

USA, Iwimbong Kum Ghabowen, FHI 360, USA, **LUCETA MCROY**, Kennedy Krieger Institute, USA **FERHAT ZENGUL**, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA, **ROBERT WEECH-MALDONADO**, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA.

University, Statewide and Beyond Awards

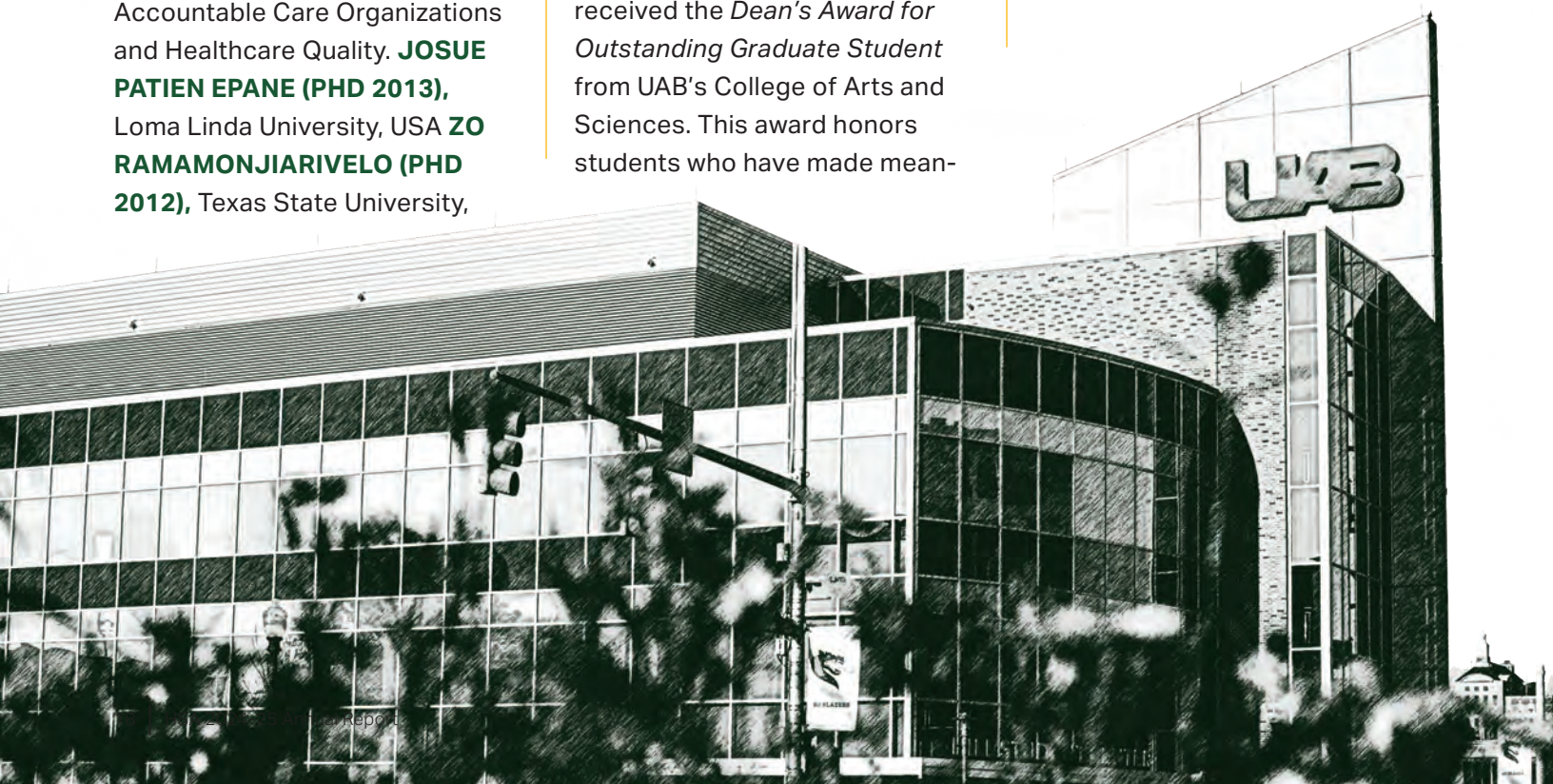


ASHLEIGH ALLGOOD (QUALITY ACADEMY 2016, BSHCM 2012), received the *Dean's Award for Outstanding Graduate Student* from UAB's College of Arts and Sciences. This award honors students who have made mean-

ingful contributions to the university and exemplify academic and community leadership. She also received the William Cockerham Award for Best Paper from UAB's Department of Sociology and the "Best Reviewer Award" from the *Academy of Management's* Organizational Behavior Division.



NANCY BORKOWSKI, DBA, CPA, FACHE, FHFMA, received the 2024 *Regent's Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Award* from the Alabama Healthcare Executives Forum. This award recognizes her exemplary leadership,



mentorship, ethical standards, and long-standing service to the healthcare executive community.

GEOFFREY SILVERA, PHD, was also honored with the *Emerging Graduate Alumni Award* from Penn State's Alumni Society. This award reflects his outstanding accomplishments, leadership, and the collaborative spirit he brings to his work in health administration.

UAB School of Health Professions Awards



CHRISTY HARRIS LEMAK, PHD, FACHE, was honored with the *Joseph F. Volker Award*—the school's highest faculty honor—for her excellence in teaching, research, and scholarship. This recognition underscores her significant and lasting contributions to the academic mission of UAB.

SHANNON HOUSER, PHD, RHIA, FAHIMA, received the *Excellence in Service Award* for her ongoing commitment to our department, school, and community. This award also recognizes her continued service at the national level and the lasting contributions she's made to the field.



AMY STRICKLAND, MPH, CHES, Program Coordinator for the HQS, HI, Sim, and Graduate

Certificate in Healthcare Leadership programs, received the inaugural *Jennifer Stewart Outstanding Employee Award*. This honor highlights her outstanding dedication and the positive impact she brings to our students, faculty, and programs.

New Leadership and Promotions



AMY LANDRY, PHD, has been named Program Director for the Executive Doctor of Science in

Healthcare Leadership (DSc) program. A proud two-time UAB alumna, Dr. Landry previously served as Program Director for the Master of Science in Health Administration (MSHA) program and has played a key role in the Executive Doctoral Program since its founding. She has guided more than 30 DSc students through the dissertation process and is known nationally

for her dedication to healthcare leadership and executive education. With a deep understanding of the program and a strong vision for its future, Dr. Landry is poised to build on its legacy and continue preparing leaders who drive meaningful change across the healthcare industry.



GEOFFREY SILVERA, PHD, MHA, has been named Program Director for the graduate pro-

grams in Healthcare Quality and Safety. Since joining the Department of Health Services Administration, Dr. Silvera has brought passion and purpose to his work, teaching Health Care Policy and Regulation and leading the UAB Health Equity Leadership Academy. His research centers on advancing health equity, improving the patient experience, and elevating care quality. In his new role, he looks forward to growing these nationally recognized programs and mentoring students who are driven to make healthcare safer and more effective.



SOUMYA NIRANJAN, PHD, has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the

Department of Health Services Administration at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Paying Tribute To Our Colleague Dr. Bob Hernandez



Bob Hernandez and family

For more than 50 years, Dr. Bob Hernandez (MSHA Class 5) has dedicated himself to mentoring students, advancing the field of healthcare management, and representing the UAB Department of Health Services Administration on the national and global stage. Bob has been instrumental across the Department in his leadership as the Department Chair and within the MSHA, PhD, and DSc Programs. It was Dr. Hernandez's idea to create the Doctorate in Healthcare Leadership Program, which began in 2009 and has now graduated over 100 alumni.

To honor Dr. Hernandez and ensure his enduring influence on the department, we have established the Dr. S. Robert Hernandez Endowed Faculty Scholar. This

type of endowment supports the research, scholarly, and/or clinical efforts of a distinguished faculty member within a unit of the donor's choice, which will help the Department recruit world-class scholars.

On October 24, 2024, we hosted an alumni engagement event, at the Birmingham Museum of Art, to recognize and honor Dr. Hernandez's contribution and highlight the campaign progress. Since that time, we have now surpassed the \$250,000 level establishing the Dr. S. Robert Hernandez Endowed Faculty Scholar. We sincerely thank the campaign champions including Michael Wiechart, Phil Mazzuca, Mary Panich-Temm, and Jon Vice!



Nir Menachemi, Bob Hernandez, Howard Houser, and Mike Morrissey



Bob Hernandez with alumni



Bob Hernandez with DSc alumni and students

We want to thank the 65 persons who have given and made this fund a reality.



You still have time to contribute to this fund to honor Dr. Hernandez's legacy by using the QR code below.

Dr. Ryan L. Allen (DSc 13th Cohort, MSHA Class E44)
 Dr. Haitham Al-Midani (DSc 1st Cohort)
 Dr. Abdulrhman Alzhrani
 Owen Bailey (MSHA Class 22)
 Dr. Jane C. Banaszak-Holl, Ph.D. (Faculty)
 Ms. Liesl E. Bittner (MSHA Class 27)
 Dr. Nancy M. Borkowski (Faculty)
 Dr. William Browder (MSHA Class E35)
 Dr. Aaron Bujnowski (DSc 14th Cohort)
 Dr. James Byrd (PhD 2013)
 Ms. Nora Byrd (MSHA Class 28)
 Mr. John Casey (MSHHA Class 6)
 Ms. Leandra Y Celaya (Faculty)
 Dr. Vance McLeod Chunn, Sr. (DSc 5th Cohort, MSHA Class 19)
 Dr. Stephen G. Cullen (DSc 3rd Cohort)
 Dr. Thomas English (PhD 2008)
 Dr. Patrick Falvey (DSc 6th Cohort)
 Mr. Alfred Faulk (MSHA Class E41)
 Dr. Isaac William Ferniany (PhD 1984, MSHHA Class 9)
 Mr. Remington Coleman Foss (MSHA Class 23)
 Mr. Hugh S. Gainer, Sr. (MSHA Class 17)

Dr. Suzanne Garber (DSc 11th Cohort)
 Dr. Alfonso W Gatmaitan (DSc 4th Cohort)
 Ms. Janet Guptill Geidel (Friend)
 Mr. David Gray (MSHA Class 22)
 Dr. Patrick A. Grusenmeyer, FACHE. (Faculty)
 Dr. Charles Hagood (DSc 6th Cohort)
 Dr. Allyson Hall (Faculty)
 Ms. Randa Hall (MSHA Class 24)
 Mr. Ben Hall (MSHA Class 22)
 Dr. Lucas Higman (DSc 5th Cohort)
 Dr. Howard W. Houser, Ph.D. (Faculty)
 Dr. Nataliya V Ivankova, Ph.D. (Faculty)
 Donor (Cohort)
 Ms. Lori Jones Jenkins (MSHA Class 25)
 Mr. Dennis B Johnson (MSHA Class 24)
 Dr. Amy Yarbrough Landry (PhD 2006, MSHA Class 35)
 Mr. Michael Lunceford (MSHA Class 26)
 Dr. Phillip J. Mazzuca (DSc 6th Cohort, MSHA Class 17)
 Mr. Stuart C. McWhorter (MSHA Class 27)
 Dr. Nir Menachemi (PhD 2002)
 Dr. Alice Mercer (PhD 1983)
 Dr. Wafick Khairy Mohamed (DSc 11th Cohort)

Sarah McNutt Nafziger, MD (MSHA Class E53)
 Dr. Deana L. Nelson (DSc 5th Cohort)
 Dr. Kena Norris (DSc 8th Cohort)
 Dr. Stephen J. O'Connor (PhD 1988)
 Dr. William Opoku Agyeman (PhD 2017)
 Dr. Thomas H Ozburn (DSc 11th Cohort)
 Dr. Mary F. Panich-Temm (DSc 2nd Cohort)
 Dr. Robert Thomas Peterson (DSc 9th Cohort)
 Dr. Sean Martin Prados (DSc 11th Cohort)
 Mr. Kevin C Sass (MSHA Class 26)
 Dr. Windsor Westbrook Sherrill (MSHA Class 23)
 Dr. Andrea Silvey (PhD 1995)
 Dr. Preston Simmons (DSc 6th Cohort)
 Mr. Joe T. Stough, III (MSHA Class 31)
 Mr. Michael Tarwater (MSHA Class 12)
 Dr. Henry Thompson (DSc 5th Cohort)
 Dr. Jessie Tucker (PhD 1998)
 Dr. Shawn M Ulreich (DSc 4th Cohort)
 Mr. Jon E. Vice (MSHHA Class 7)
 Dr. John Walsh (DSc 12th Cohort)
 Dr. Douglas R. Whitman (DSc 9th Cohort)
 Dr. Michael A. Wiechart (DSc 7th Cohort)



New Faces



TAYLOR BRYNIARSKI

is the Program Manager for the MSHA program. She

received her BS in Public Health from the University of Alabama in 2022, and her MBA with a concentration in Healthcare Management from the University of North Alabama in 2024. Before coming to UAB, she worked in healthcare employee relations and compliance for several years at a DCH Hospital in Tuscaloosa. Outside of the office, you can find Taylor spending time with her dog, Penny, or planning her next vacation. As a Buffalo native, she also enjoys watching the Buffalo Bills in her free time during the Fall.



LEAH CARPENTER

is the new Academic Advisor for the Healthcare Management program. Before this role,

she advised students in UAB's VMASC and School of Nursing. Leah enjoys helping students reach their academic goals and make the most of their time at UAB. Outside of work, she enjoys exploring Birmingham's local gems and getting lost in a good book. Look for Leah around town playing the trumpet in the Birmingham Community Concert Band.



DR. WEI LYU joined the Department in August 2024 and is a health services and

policy researcher whose work explores how public policies influence access to care and health outcomes for vulnerable populations. In the *Journal of Health Economics*, Dr. Lyu and his co-authors examined whether increased household income from stimulus payments and tax

credits influenced infant health outcomes, finding no significant impact. *For details on Dr. Lyu's research see Page 15.*



GARRETT SMITH

is a native of Albertville, AL. He received a Bachelor of Science

in Business Administration with a focus in Marketing from Auburn University and a Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration from Louisiana State University. He started his career in the IT staffing space before transitioning to a career in higher education where he worked in career services before joining UAB and the Department of Health Services Administration as a Program Manager for Health Informatics and Healthcare Leadership. In his free time, Garrett enjoys various outdoor activities, college sports, and board/card games.



Myron Fottler, PhD, passed away May 18, 2025. Dr. Fottler was an involved faculty member while at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, teaching in our PhD and MSHA Programs and serving as the Program Director for the PhD Program. He truly embodied the role of professor and mentor in his time at UAB and University of Central Florida, where he secured their initial CAHME accreditation for their graduate degree in health administration. Beyond his extraordinary teaching, research and scholastic endeavors, Dr. Fottler was also a fierce competitor on the tennis court!



Sustaining Excellence Through Global Impact

Impacting health around the globe is one of the Department's strategic initiatives. The following stories demonstrate how we are impacting this area.

Executive MSHA Students Experience International Healthcare in Italy

Students from MSHA Class E59 traveled to Rome, Italy, for their international health system visit in April 2025. Over the course of six days, they engaged in a rich, immersive experience designed to deepen their understanding of global healthcare delivery and policy.

The itinerary included a joint case study with Italian Executive MSHA students at Policlinico Agostino Gemelli Hospital, guided tours of historic hospitals such as Santo Spirito and San Carlo di Nancy, and a seminar on telemedicine at the National Agency for Regional Health Services (AGENAS). Students also met with leaders from Farindustria and the Italian Ministry of Health and participated in a full-day excursion to the Casentino region to explore integrated care in a rural setting.

This international experience reflects the program's commitment to developing globally minded healthcare leaders. We are grateful to our university partners and to the many professionals who welcomed our students, sharing their time, expertise, and insights into the Italian healthcare system.



MSHA Class E59 at Azienda Vinicola Pergentina



MSHA Class E59 at Farindustria



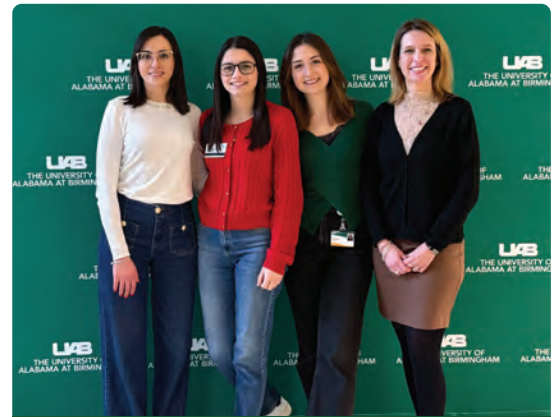
MSHA Class E59
Rome, Italy

UAB Italian Partnership

In alignment with the Department of Health Services Administration's strategic pillar of global impact, Dr. Phil Cendoma began cultivating a relationship with ALTEMS, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, during the 2023 Academy of Management conference, where he connected with faculty members Luca Giorgio, Federica Morandi, and Roberta Laurita. What began as a professional introduction has since evolved into a robust international partnership.

Following that initial meeting, Dr. Cendoma has delivered several presentations at Università Cattolica in Rome, further strengthening academic ties between institutions. In fall 2024, Luca Giorgio visited UAB as a guest lecturer, and in spring 2025, the department welcomed two of ALTEMS' PhD students to Birmingham to engage with faculty and students. Additionally, in February, Federica Morandi and Roberta Laurita visited UAB as visiting scholars, presenting their work and experiencing UAB's academic environment firsthand.

The collaboration continued this summer as Dr. Cendoma, Dr. J'Aime Jennings, and Dr. Christy Harris Lemak each delivered lectures in Rome—further expanding UAB's international presence in health services education.



Roberta Laurita, Sofia di Pippo, Giulia Falasca, and Federica Morandi visit UAB



UAB Faculty and Alumni take Italian guests on tour of UAB Hospital

EURAM

The 2025 EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF MANAGEMENT (EURAM) was held in Florence, Italy and hosted by Università degli Studi di Firenze. Global coverage on healthcare management topics is always a highlight. Scholars from France, China, Ireland, the U.S., and more provided excellent educational sessions during the conference. The UAB Department of Health Services Administration was well-represented by faculty, alumni from our PhD and DSc Programs, and students from both doctoral programs, as attendees and presenters. EURAM provided an opportunity to build more global partnerships for scholarly activities and future collaboration.



Faculty and Alumni attend EURAM in Florence, Italy





DSc Faculty and Students at Dr. Heersink's home in the Netherlands



Dr. Heersink's Home

DSc Students Travel to the Netherlands

In September 2024, the Executive Doctor of Science (DSc) students traveled to the Netherlands for a week-long study trip focused on healthcare innovation and system design. The group was hosted as part of UAB's strategic partnership with Maastricht University, who made key connections with healthcare leaders in organizations across the country. The group visited a variety of organizations in Amsterdam, The Hague, Utrecht, Almere, Arnhem, and Maastricht. Highlights included engaging sessions at site visits at the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports; the Dutch Healthcare Authority; Amsterdam University Medical Center;

De Hogeweyk Dementia Village; Buurtzorg International; and Maastricht University. The visit culminated with a closing dinner at Biljoen Castle, where the group experienced the incredible hospitality of Dr. Marnix and Mrs. Mary Heersink.



Faculty, alumni and students attend AOM in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Copenhagen, Denmark

UAB's Department of Health Services Administration had a strong presence at the 2025 Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Throughout the week, our faculty, students, and alumni delivered impactful presentations, complemented by meaningful UAB gatherings that encouraged connection, collaboration, and learning.



Alumni Insights

29	Awards and Recognitions
32	41st National Symposium
37	2024-2025 Photo Gallery
44	HLAA's New Community

Blazer Fast 40 and Top Journal Honor

Six alumni from the Department of Health Services Administration were recognized at the inaugural **Blazer Fast 40 Awards** on June 13 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Hosted by the UAB National Alumni Society, this reimagined event celebrated 40 of the fastest-growing businesses owned or managed by UAB alumni. Formerly known as the Excellence in Business Top 25, the Blazer



Fast 40 honors sustained revenue growth, entrepreneurial spirit, and industry impact.

Honorees were selected based on revenue growth over the past three reporting periods. The event brought energy, innovation, and Blazer pride to the Hill Student Center—and our alumni were right at the center of it all.

These leaders are making waves in their industries while continuing to represent UAB with excellence.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI



Ken Esrig (MSHA Class 18):
Owner, Delray MRI



Claude (Chip) Camp (MSHA Class 25):
Owner, Interim Healthcare of Dothan



Brennen Bowen (MSHA Class E54):
COO & CCO, Mizell Memorial Hospital



Glenn Hammack (MSHI 1999):
CEO & President, NuPhysicia Inc.



Luke West (MSHA Class E51):
CEO, Relias Healthcare



Madhav Devani (Quality Academy 2017):
Medical Director, Ross Bridge Medical Center

Collaborative Research from UAB DSc Program Earns Top Journal Honor

The article “*Does Interdisciplinary Care Team Care Management Improve Health Quality and Demonstrate Cost-Effectiveness?*” (Vol. 81, No. 1) has been named *Medical Care Research and Review’s* 2024 Article of the Year.

Authored by Cardwell Feagin, Dr. Larry Hearld, Dr. Nate Carroll, Dr. Stephen O’Connor, and Dr. Bisakha Sen, the research began as part of Feagin’s dissertation in the UAB Executive Doctorate for Healthcare Leaders (DSc) program and reflects the program’s focus on applied scholarship that informs practice.

Alumni Awards and Recognition

BS in Health Care Management

DAVINA PATTERSON (BSHS 2009), Member, 11th Fellowship Class of the RESULTS Fellowship



MARANDA PRUITT (BSHCM 2013), 2024 Special Events Volunteer Award by Ronald

McDonald House, 2024 Alabama MGMA Board Chair, Honoree, and Decatur -Morgan NAACP 5024 Black Girls Rock 2024

MADISON GARRETT (BSHCM 2024), 2024 BSHCM Outstanding Student

MS In Health Administration (Residential Format)



RICAL LEWIS-PAYTON (MSHA CLASS 17), 2024 VA NAHSE Pioneer and serving as Chair of the

Board of Trustees at Talladega College



OWEN BAILEY (MSHA CLASS 22), Awarded the 2025 Gold Medal of Excellence by

Alabama Hospital Association



LORI MOLER (MSHA CLASS 23), recipient of the 2025 Rotarian of the Year for Ro-

tary District 6860, which exemplifies "Service Above Self" during the Rotary year



CANDICE SAUNDERS (MSHA CLASS 24), Becker's 209 Women

Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs To Know in 2025, Dr. Robert A. Lipson Award from the Cobb Chamber, 2024 Georgia Trend List of Georgia's Most Influential Leaders, Beckers Hospital Review's List of Women Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know in 2024, Becker's 2024 Great Leaders in Healthcare, Atlanta Magazines's 2024 Atlanta 500



ANDREA ROSLER (MSHA CLASS 25), Becker's Hospital Review's "99 Hospital and Health

System CHROs and Chief People Officers to Know" for 2025

SUSAN SLAUGHTER (MSHA CLASS 29), featured on AMA Update podcast to discuss the Hattiesburg Clinic's innovative New Physician Onboarding Academy

HEATHER DEXTER (MSHA CLASS 32), Becker's 209 Women Hospital and Health System Presidents and CEOs To Know in 2025

ANDY DAVIS (MSHA CLASS 34), 2024 Austin Business Journal Power Player

DERRICK MILES, FACHE (MSHA CLASS 34), 2025 Pitchbook's Innovator You Should Know



JON-PAUL CROOM (MSHA CLASS 34), 2025 Above and Beyond Award, presented by Roswell Economic Development & Tourism Board of Directors

LAURYN SCHULTZ (MSHA CLASS 34), 2024 Momentum Leaders in Medicine



TIFFANY CHANEY (MSHA CLASS 36), Becker's 111 Hospital and Health System Chief Di-

versity, Equity and Inclusion Officers To Know in 2024 and 2024 Humanitarian of the Year for the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Beta Nu Omega Chapter

MEGAN PHARIS (MSHA CLASS 36), Texas Rising Stars of 2024

LENETRA KING (MSHA CLASS 38), Florida A & M University's School of Allied Health Science's 2025 Distinguished Alumnus of the Year

YAMEEKA WILLIAMS (MSHA CLASS 39), 2025 Class of Leadership America, longest-running women's leadership development program in the US

THOMAS MILLER (MSHA CLASS 40), Named to Becker's 207 Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know in 2025

KYLE ARMSTRONG (MSHA CLASS 42), 2024 Member, YPO Dallas and 2024 Becker's Rising Stars

ASHLEY DICKINSON (MSHA CLASS 43), Member of the Group 10 of Ascension's Executive Ministry Leadership Program

DANIEL MCKINNEY (MSHA CLASS 44), 2025 *Birmingham Business Journal's* Top 40 Under 40



BEN RICHAUD (MSHA CLASS 46), Becker's Hospital Review's "118 Rural Hospital and Health

System Presidents and CEOs to Know in 2025", "207 Community Hospital Presidents and CEOs to Know in 2025, and Becker's 160 Community Hospital CEOs to Know in 2024

HANNAH LAMPRON (MSHA CLASS 49), 2024 Member of Leadership Georgia Hospital Association



SAMANTHA SERLEY (MSHA CLASS 49, BSHCM 2013), Inducted into the 2024 UAB Athletics

Hall of Fame

PARKER BEASLEY (MSHA CLASS 53), Recognized by Cardiovascular Business Forty Under 40 Class of 2025

JAMES POWELL (MSHA CLASS 53), 2024 Harley Langsdale, Jr. College of Business Administration Distinguished Alumnus of the Year and 2024 Becker's Rising Stars: 67 healthcare leaders under 40

DILLAN BREWER (MSHA CLASS 54), President, Young Texans of the American Cancer Society

CHRISTOPHER DODSON (MSHA CLASS 55), selected as member of Group 19 of Ascension's Executive Ministry Leadership Program

JULIA ALTON TUBBS (MSHA CLASS 55), Chosen to be a part of the Kansas City Centurions Leadership Program as part of the Apex Class of 2026



ZAINAB BHAGAT (MSHA CLASS 56), Wofford College's 2024 "Trending Up" Honoree

ELIZABETH SALGADO CROW (MSHA CLASS 57), Member, Momentum Leaders' 1st Huntsville Upward Class in 2025

LAUREN TURNER (MSHA CLASS 58, BSHCM 2022), Recipient, SCA First Coast Surgery Center's Non-Clinical Teammate of the Year

MSHA (Executive Format)

BETH KEYSER (MSHA CLASS E37), 2024 Woman of Influence by the *Indianapolis Business Journal*

JAMES NIXON (MSHA CLASS E42), Miami's Most Powerful & Influential Black Professionals in 2024

KIERSTIN KENNEDY (MSHA CLASS E45, QUALITY ACADEMY 2014), Honoree, The Inspiring Her Luncheon, celebrating Women Who Lead & Inspire

DAWN BULGARELLA (MSHA CLASS E46, QUALITY ACADEMY 2014), Becker's 209 Women Hospital and Health System Presidents



and CEOs To Know in 2025 and *Birmingham Business Journal's* 2025 Power 60 Leaders

TYLER STOUT (MSHA CLASS E49), Member of Council on Legislation, Mississippi State Medical Association

CRIS BARDITA (MSHA CLASS E56, QUALITY ACADEMY 2020), was commission in 2025 to US Navy Reserves as Lieutenant Commander



LAKISHA COLEMAN (MSHA CLASS E56), Recipient of the 2024 Percy Allen II, Senior Healthcare Leadership Award, created by The New York Regional Chapter of NAHSE

BROOKE VINING (MSHA CLASS E57, QUALITY ACADEMY 2018), 31 People Named to the Becker's Hospital Review List of "Perioperative Service Leaders to Know in 2025"

Graduate Programs In

Healthcare Quality & Safety



JEFF SIMMONS (MSHQS 2019, QUALITY ACADEMY 2018), 31 People Named to the

Becker's Hospital Review List of "Perioperative Service Leaders to Know in 2025"

EMILY PENTECOST (MSHQS 2021), recognized by Cardio-vascular Business Forty Under 40 Class of 2025

EFFIE ANDRIKOPOULOU (QUALITY ACADEMY 2020), selected into 2025-26 UW Medicine Rising Leaders Program

KRISTEN NOLES (QUALITY ACADEMY 2014), recipient of the 2025 Christie Miree Outstanding Employee Service Award

TERRI POE (QUALITY ACADEMY 2016), selected into the Johnson&Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellowship Program

Graduate Programs in Health Informatics



JAMOR HAIRSTON (MSHI 2023), 2025 Mary Jane Seacole Award in Health-care Technology

Master of Science in Healthcare Simulation

KELLY ROSZCZYNIALSKI (MSHS 2019), MD, is a recipient of the 2025 American College of Emergency Physician's Teaching Award

Executive Doctor of Science (Dsc) in Healthcare Leadership



JOE WEBB (DSC 2ND COHORT, MSHA CLASS 19), 2025 Citizen of the Year by the Gamma Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Leadership Nashville Class of 2025, and 2024 Passion for Justice Award

SHAWN ULREICH (DSC 4TH COHORT), Becker's Report 213+ CNOS to Know in 2024

ARMIKA BERKLEY (DSC 10TH COHORT), 2025 Closing the DEI Gap by North Bay Leadership Council



CARDWELL FE-AGIN (DSC 10TH COHORT), The article "Does Inter-disciplinary Care

Team Care Management Improve Health Quality and Demonstrate Cost-Effectiveness?" published in Medical Care Research and Review (Vol. 81, No. 1) named MCRR's 2024 Article of the Year



ISABELL PACHECO (DSC 10TH COHORT), 2024 National Association of Latino

Healthcare Executives (NALHE) Leadership Award, recognizing highly principled individuals who not only excel in their roles but also inspire and mentor their peers within NALHE and their respective communities



PERRY ANN REED (DSC 13TH COHORT), Becker's Review Top 118 COOs To Know in 2024

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Administration - Health Services



Dr. Howard Houser and Dr. Will Ferniany

WILL FERNIANY (PHD 1984, MSHHA CLASS 9), Alabama Healthcare Hall of Fame 2024 Honoree

ERIC FORD (PHD 2000), Inaugural recipient of the UAB Student SUCCESS (Strategic and Unifying Campus Collaboration that Empowers Students to Succeed)

LEE BEWLEY (PHD 2005), Elected Regent for the ACHE Kentucky Chapter

OLENA MAZURENKO (PHD 2013), 2024 Recipient, Fulbright Fellowship in Dublin, Ireland

KIM DAVEY (PHD 2015), Re-elected as Councilor for the Health Sciences Division at the Council for Undergraduate Research and 2025 School of Public Health Outstanding Teacher Award at Samford University.



GANI DAVLYATOV (PHD 2018), 2025 Regents Award for Superior Teaching at University of

Oklahoma and the 2025 Glendon Family Scholarship for Advancement of Healthcare Management Education by the Association of University Programs in Health Administration

NEERAJ PURO (PHD 2019), Florida Atlantic University's 2024 Scholar of the Year

AIZHAN KARABUKAYEVA (PHD 2023), 2025 Hudson College of Public Health Student Association Teaching Award and Faculty Board Award for Outstanding Teaching



Dr. J'Aime Jennings, Dr. Katherine Meese, Tiffany Chaney and Julie Nix

Reflections on the 41st National Symposium for Healthcare Executives

Sustaining Excellence in a Changing Healthcare Landscape

Theme: Pioneering Excellence in the Digital Age

Held this past October at the Grand Bohemian in Birmingham, Alabama, the 41st National Symposium for Healthcare Executives convened a distinguished group of healthcare leaders, industry experts, and emerging changemakers from across the country. Centered around the theme “Pioneering Excellence in the Digital Age,” this year’s event fostered critical dialogue, timely education, and meaningful connections—underscoring our shared commitment to advancing and sustaining excellence in healthcare leadership.

The Symposium’s keynote speakers set a compelling tone, addressing some of the most pressing and complex issues facing healthcare today. From the strategic implications of artificial intelligence to workforce development and long-term sustainability, each keynote offered timely perspectives rooted in

real-world experience. We are deeply grateful to **Lisa Bielamowicz, MD, Tejal Gandhi, MD, Bryan Sisk, DNP, Ajani Dunn, FACHE, and Caroline Sarratt Russell, FACHE**, for their thoughtful contributions and for challenging attendees to think boldly about the future of healthcare.

In addition to these powerful keynotes, the Symposium featured a robust lineup of panel discussions that explored the evolving demands of healthcare delivery and leadership. These sessions were led by accomplished moderators and panelists—many of whom are proud alumni of our programs—whose expertise and experiences sparked rich dialogue and inspired actionable takeaways. Their presence was instrumental in deepening the learning experience and highlighting the practical strategies needed to lead in today’s dynamic healthcare environment.



Christy Harris Lemak, Sue Feldman, Armika Berkley, Sean Prados, Janet Guptill, Ajani Dunn, Caroline Sarratt Russell



Christy Harris Lemak, Judy Stokes and John Kueven



Ishwari Venkataraman, Jane Banaszak-Holl, and Chad Simpson



The Mayo Clinic Attendees



Dawn Bulgarella, Christy Harris Lemak, John Walsh, Ken Haynes



Deborah Grimes, Keith Marks, Larkin Kennedy, and Brad Parsons



Ryan Allen, Layna Rush, David Houlding, and Thad Phillips



Michael Wiechart, Lindsey Harris, Mary Temm-Panach, and Shawn Ulreich

Thank you to our sponsors!



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THANK YOU

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An officially-designated chapter of ACHE

Breaking Through the Glass Ceiling: Overcoming Invisible Barriers

Sponsored by the Women in Healthcare Leadership Board



Gillian Glenn, Destiny Greene,
Praneetha Elugunti, Frances van Beek



Dr. J'Aime Jennings, Karole F
Lloyd and Sarah Nunnelly



Women in Healthcare
Leadership Board

Legacy of Leaders Scholarship and Awards Event



Emerging Leader of the Year,
Sarah Hughes (MSHA Class 49)



Inclusive Excellence Award
Deborah Grimes (MSHQs 2016)



Alumnus of the Year, Chuck Stokes
(in memoriam, MSHA Class 17)



Unsung Hero Award
Sharon Tang (MSHA Class E49)



HLAA OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

- **Adrienne Auxier**, Healthcare Quality and Safety
- **Harrison Brink**, Health Administration (Residential)
- **Abigail Doyle**, Health Informatics
- **Michael Fordham**, Health Administration (Executive)
- **Tariq Al-Shanteer**, Healthcare Simulation



Alabama HIMSS President's Endowed Award in Health Informatics, **KAYLA SCOTT**

The Beasley-Hall Family Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **CAMERON KENNEDY**

Neeysa Davis Biddle Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **ANGELINA UNICH**

Ken and Ginny Bloch Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **BEN WILLIAMS**



Borkowski Family Endowed Eminent Scholarship, **MOHAMMED ALZEEN, MELINDA XU**

Capital Growth Medvest Endowed Scholarship, **KRISTINA JOHNSON**

John T. Casey Endowed Scholarship, **LUKE BICE**

Robert C. Chapman Endowed Scholarship, **PRESTON HANSEN**

Pat and Don Currie Sponsored Scholarship, **LELA RIDLEY**

Endowed Internship Scholarship in Health Care Management, **MADISON GARRETT**

Executive Doctoral Endowed Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion in Healthcare Leadership, **BRANDON WILLIAMS**

Michael E. Garrigan Endowed Scholarship, **SARAH COLLIER**

Health Services Administration Endowed Scholarship, **ALYSSA BAREFIELD**

Health Services Administration 25th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship, **JAMESON HERMANN**

Health Services Administration 35th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship, **KALEE BEARDSLEY**

Health Services Administration 50th Anniversary Endowed Scholarship, **ZOE' GRAVES**

William W. Featheringill Endowed Scholarship, **MELISSA BURCH**

Gordon and Cindy Ferguson Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **ALEXANDRA SASS**

Myron D. and Carol A. Fottler Endowed Support Fund, **DALTON PENA**

Sara S. Grostick Endowed Award, **SCOTT PARKER**



Randa and Steve Hall Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **NATALIE REEVES**

Terrell W. Herzig Endowed Award, **MORGAN PARKER**



Kim and Ellen Hollon Endowed Scholarship for Safety and Quality in Healthcare Leadership, **ZOE' GRAVES**

Hammett Family Endowed Scholarship, **MARK ANGUS**

Hernandez Family Endowed Scholarship, **NATASHA ELIE**



Howard W. and Shannon H.S. Houser Endowed Scholarship in Health Services Administration, **KHUSHEE MODI**

Chen Hua Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Dr. Howard W. Houser, **TINA WANG**

Christy Harris Lemak Endowed Scholarship for Inclusive Excellence, **ROSHANDA LA'NAE HODGES**

Richard A. Lind Endowed Scholarship, **SEAN BRUNNER**

Dr. and Mrs. Ian and Angela McFadden Scholarship in Health Administration, **TENESHIA PORTIS**

Medical Group Management Association Endowed Award, **AVERY BRADFORD**



MSHA Class 41 Sponsored Scholarship, **TAJ ROBINSON**

Robert J. Zasa Endowed Scholarship for Health Services Administration, **BEN WILLIAMS**



MSHA Class 55 Endowed Scholarship, **CAROLINE DAW**

ALUMNI INSIGHTS: Scholarships and Awards

Noland Health Services Endowed Scholarship in honor of Gary Glasscock, **MARK ANGUS**

One MSHA Endowed Scholarship, **NICK ESTES**



PhD Administration-Health Services Alumni Endowed Scholarship, **MAHDIYEH ZARE**

J. Kenneth Roan Memorial Endowed Scholarship, **KAYLA TURK**

Scott Braxton Ryland Memorial Endowed Scholarship, **BEN SOTELO**

Kevin Crawford Sass Endowed Scholarship, **EZRA WASHINGTON GORE**

Debbie and Jim Shmerling Endowed Scholarship in Honor of Tee Hiett, **EZRA WASHINGTON GORE**



Chuck & Judy Stokes Endowed Eminent Scholarship for Diversity & Inclusion, **AVERY BRADFORD**

Jon E. Vice Scholarship, **DILLON SMITH**

Ryan Simpson Endowed Award in Healthcare Administration, **BEN WILLIAMS**

Jessica Grundt Stefaniak Endowed Scholarship, **OLIVIA BETHEL**

Dr. Richard Thompson Memorial Endowed Scholarship, **SAM BOADU, PETRA SPRIK**



The Stacy White Endowed Scholarship, **KRISTINA JOHNSON**

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel D. Williams Endowed Scholarship, **JUSTIN MARTIN**

Williams Family Endowed Eminent Scholarship in Health Administration, **SAM COWART, EMORY SWAFFORD**

Joseph S. Zasa Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration, **SAVANNAH WILLIAMS**

Policy Summit



Christy Harris
Lemak



Joni Wyatt



Linda Ponder, Donna Crew,
Shannon Houser



Joni Wyatt, Daniel Jackson, Terry Knight,
Elizabeth Huckabee, Wendy Smith



Nancy Borkowski, Jane
Banaskaz-Holl, Shannon Houser



Wendy Smith, Terry Knight, Daniel Jackson, Elizabeth Huckabee

2024-2025 Photo Gallery



Preceptors' Conference



Thank you to our Preceptors' Conference sponsor, Advocate Health.

Health Informatics Residential Visit



Healthcare Simulation Intensive



EMSHA Students Barons Game



Denver MGMA Conference



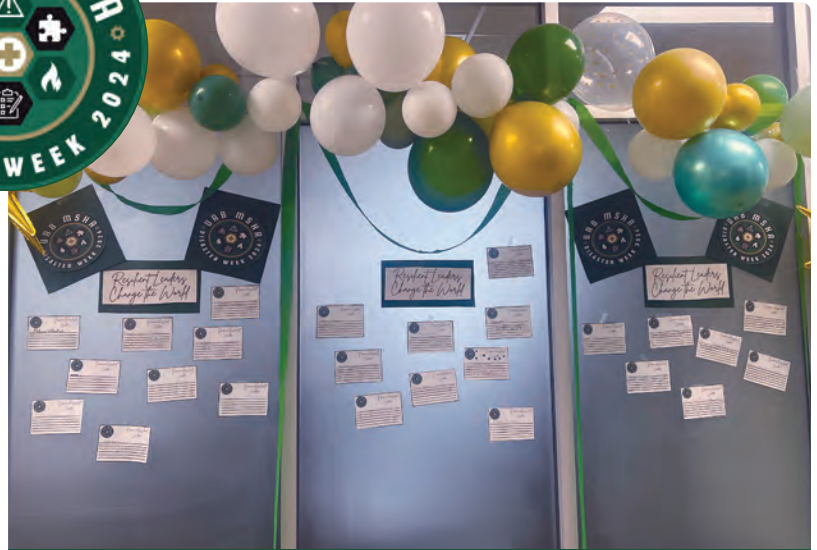
NAHSE Event (Fort Lauderdale, FL)



Disaster Week



Arpan Limdi, Anthony Patterson,
Terri Poe, Jason Alexander



Disaster Week Wall of
Healthcare Heroes

AMIA - San Francisco, CA



IHI - Orlando, FL



IMSH - Orlando, FL



HIMSS - Las Vegas, NV



ACHE - Houston, TX



Houston was the new location for the 2025 American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) Congress on Healthcare Leadership. There was a record number of attendees. The HLAA Networking Event, sponsored by Guideway Care, was held at The Rustic. **Save the Date:** March 3, 2026, at Nickel City in Houston, TX!





ACHE 2025 CONGRESS
on Healthcare Leadership

Matthew
Kenneth Haynes
Administrative Resident
HCA - Methodist Healthcare
San Antonio, TX

ATTENDEE

ACHE 2025 CONGRESS
on Healthcare Leadership

Ken
Ken Haynes
Chief Enterprise Services Officer
Adventist Health Care System
Chapel Hill, NC

ATTENDEE

Association of Colleges of
Healthcare Education
FACHE

15th MSHA Classic at Ballantrae Golf Club



Atlanta, Georgia



Huntsville, Alabama



Columbus, Ohio



Nashville, Tennessee



Campus Visits



Baptist Health Representatives share about Orlando Health's presence –
Thibaut van Marcke and Frank Sortino



Mike Williams (MSHA Class 14) shares wisdom and career advice to MSHA students



Lenetra King (MSHA Class 38), CEO at The WME Group, provides networking tips with MSHA Class 60 students

HLAA Launches New Community

The Health Leaders Alumni Association (HLAA) Board identified a need to find better ways to connect the more than **5,500 GRADUATES** of Department of Health Services Administration. Chad Simpson (MSHA Class 32) and President of HLAA Board, led the effort to finance and create the new website, which launched in March 2025. We are grateful to WittKieffer for their partnership that allows us to provide this new networking platform with our alumni.

We hope YOU will become a part of this growing community! It allows you to reconnect with classmates, connect with other alumni, search for jobs, learn about upcoming events, learn about department news, and more.



To Join the HLAA Community, Follow These Steps:

- 1 Go to **www.HLAA.net**. Login with your preferred method (Email, LinkedIn, Facebook, or Google accounts). Review and update your existing information that is preloaded into the platform and add any additional information. When you join/login, you can let us know how you want to be engaged under the "Preferences" section.
- 2 Connect with classmates and friends through the new **Online Directory**! Search for alumni by name, class year, occupational field, and more.
- 3 Use **Careers** in the Menu to share available jobs and internships, upload resumes, and apply for open positions or with our Sponsor, WittKieffer.
- 4 Catch up on the most recent news in the **News** section, including alumni, community announcements, and more.
- 5 Use the **Photo Gallery** to view photos from past events, and upload your own pictures for alumni to enjoy.
- 6 Use **Events** to view information about upcoming HLAA community events, and register to attend.



MISSION: To support lifelong relationships with all department alumni that provide their time, loyalty, intellectual and financial resources.

VISION: HLAA will serve as a national model for building exemplary relationships with alumni.

VALUES IN ACTION

Get Involved: We are professionals committed to supporting

students and alumni in actively identifying and creating new opportunities.

Give Back: We are leaders in advancing the quality and stature of UAB through volunteer and philanthropic support.

Build Relationships: We partner with the UAB programs to foster strong, lifelong relationships among and between alumni, students and UAB to create a worldwide diverse community of health professionals.



GET STARTED ▾

CONNECT ▾

CAREERS ▾

GIVE BACK ▾

NEWS ▾

RESOURCES ▾

Sponsored by
WittKieffer

ALUMNI MAP
ALUMNI SEARCH
AFFINITY GROUPS
BUSINESS DIRECTORY

PHOTOS
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NOMINATIONS
WEBINARS
CONTACT US



ALUMNI ACCOLADES

EVENTS

“WittKieffer is the premier executive search, interim leadership, & leadership advisory firm developing impactful leadership teams for organizations that improve quality of life.”

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCH!

HEALTH LEADERS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION: BECOME PART OF THIS DYNAMIC COMMUNITY

- connect with classmates
- search for job openings
- share & view event photos
- keep up on current news

HLAA.NET

Sponsored by *WittKieffer*
440+ Members and Growing



GOAL: Together, let's reach 1,000 HLAA members registered online by December 31, 2025!



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Birmingham, AL 35294-1212

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Save the Date for Fall 2026!
November 4-6, 2026

UAB Department of Health Services Administration's 60th Anniversary
and 42nd Annual National Symposium for Healthcare Executives

Insights

HSA ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025