

# Nexus

Linking Academics  
with Practice.

Summer 2016

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

We've had an exciting semester, culminating with graduations for a number of our programs and the 50th Anniversary Gala weekend with over 500 alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered to celebrate the legacy of the past 50 years and [create momentum for the next 50!](#)

Today we launch our first electronic newsletter that will be shared with over 4,000 department alumni, representing seven degree programs, two centers and a number of certificate programs.

You can scroll down to read it all or simply click the links below. In this issue you will see the [new leadership within the undergraduate HCM Program](#) and [their students summer internships](#), learn about [the new Master of Science in Healthcare Quality and Safety](#), read about [the MSHI Program's first graduates of their new tracks and launch of the Terrell Herzig Award](#), and appreciate the magnitude of the PhD and DSc Programs' graduates in leadership roles around the country and [completion of 17 dissertations](#). The [MSHA Program achieved maximum years of re-accreditation](#). Check out where the MSHA students will be in [their summer internships](#) and [administrative residencies](#) and reach out to them if they are in your organization!



50th Gala: Mark and Dr. Christy Lemak with Dr. Will (Class 9 and PhD) and Dana Ferniany

In this issue, we also highlight:

- [International trips to Ireland, Italy and Switzerland](#)
- [Sampling of the fabulous accomplishments by our faculty](#)
- [Inaugural year of the UAB Health System Student Workforce Program](#)
- [Recap of the 10th Anniversary Health Administration Case Competition](#)
- Alumni in Action through [a spotlight](#), [career moves](#), and [other announcements](#)

The 36th National Symposium for Healthcare Executives in Sandestin, Florida from July 27 - 29, 2016 - will not be complete without you - [www.uab.edu/nshe](http://www.uab.edu/nshe).

We need you to help us develop leaders to shape tomorrow's health care! We want to hear from you. [We want to know your updates to include in future newsletters](#). We want to know how we can help you and your organization succeed. [We also want to know if this newsletter format works for you](#).

Christy

*Christy H. Lemak*

# 50 YEARS IN THE MAKING



## Only The Beginning: HSA 50 Launched

The 50th Anniversary Gala weekend, with over 500 alumni, faculty, students and friends gathered, celebrated the legacy of the past 50 years and created momentum for the next 50 years!

The Gala launched HSA 50 - our blueprint to become the global leader in health services administration education and research.

HSA 50 maps out our connections, highlights our leaders and further examines the vision for our success. It is defined by those who can best connect the knowledge to make a difference, with the leaders who will make a difference.

[More](#)



## HSA 50th Gala!

50 years of making a difference. 50 years of knowledge that *has* changed the world.

All in one place. All for one occasion. *One* grand celebration!

[Want candid pics? Click here.](#)

[Want Gala pics? Click here.](#)







Executive MSHA students in Ireland

## International trips to Ireland, Italy and Switzerland

This spring, second-year executive master's (*Master of Science in Health Administration - Executive Format*) and doctoral students (*Executive Doctor of Science Degree in Administration-Health Services*) traveled to Europe to study the healthcare systems in Ireland, Italy and Switzerland. Personal lectures and tours from local leaders highlighted the international experiences.



DSc students in Switzerland

Also - stay tuned for alumni travel opportunities in 2017!

[Learn More](#)

## Residency: envisioning the future

A residency is an intense period of 9 to 12 months that follows two years of rigorous academic commitment.

MSHA Class 49 learned a residency is a true integration into an organization and a true adoption by the organization.

[See More Residency in Action](#)



Parallon Business Performance Group kickball team

# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Health Care Management: new additions for 2016-2017

In addition to a new program director, the Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management has a new counselor to help students reach their potential and a new director of operations to help the program achieve even more.

[Read More HCM News](#)

## Internships

Our program offers our students five tracks to choose from. As you can imagine, with that many tracks there are countless internship options - sleep centers, rehab facilities, long-term care, hospitals, assurance and more.

[See HCM Internships](#)



April Rollins-Kyle  
HCM Dir. of Operations

## Healthcare Quality & Safety: envisioning the future

Our newest program is already looking toward the next 50 years. And why not? Healthcare Quality and Safety is more than the name of the program - it is the future of this industry.

The program that offers a Master's and a Graduate Certificate (the #1 certificate earned at UAB) is ahead of the curve and with new leadership will remain that way.

[Read More HQS News](#)



Dr. Scott Buchalter, HQS Medical  
Director with HQS alumni

## Master of Science in Health Administration: highest accreditation honors

The Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME) gives the Master of Science in Health Administration program - ranked #2 in the nation - the maximum accreditation length of 7 years.

In the report, CAHME cited "impressive administrative and financial support" and "outstanding experiential exposure and interaction with healthcare professionals and organizations" for residential MSHA students.

[Read More MSHA News](#)



## Internships

Our program attracts students and opportunities from across the United States. Our interns are placed as near as Andrews Sports Medicine in Birmingham and as distant as Teton Valley Health Care in Driggs, Idaho.

[See MSHA Internships](#)

## Placements

We continue to integrate our MSHA students via a residency year at the top facilities and programs in the healthcare industry. This year is no different with students from Class 50. They are matched with premier healthcare leaders at systems ranging from Mayo Clinic to Carolinas Healthcare System to Memorial Hermann to Anne Arundel Medical Center and beyond.

## Master of Science in Health Informatics: 1st graduates, 1st scholarship award

On December 11, 2015, the Master of Science in Health Informatics (MSHI) graduated the inaugural class in the new Data Analytics track and the new User Experience track.

The MSHI program is currently fundraising for the *Terrell W. Herzig Endowed Scholarship Fund*.

If you or your company are interested in helping fund this scholarship you can [donate right here right now](#) or you may contact Amanda Martin ([aebmartin@uab.edu](mailto:aebmartin@uab.edu)) to find out more.

### Read More MSHI News

Informatics touches every aspect of health care. That is evident in the Master of Science in Health Informatics capstone projects. These graduate students look at HPV, patient check in, surgical case volumes, product bug fixes and more.

### See MSHI Capstone Projects



## Doctoral Program in Administration- Health Services (PhD): continued growth and impact

The PhD Program continues to attract talented students into its program. In order to attract these competitive students, in recent years the department has allocated over \$300,000 annually to pay doctoral student stipends and tuition. The enhanced support enables the program to compete for exceptional students who are able to present papers at the Academy of Management and EURAM.

In addition, PhD Program Director Bob Hernandez and current PhD student Katherine Meese are serving on the International Hospital Federation's task force formed to create a global dictionary on management competencies with the goal to show the relationship of organizational performance.

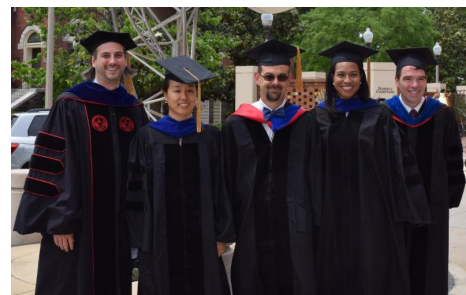
The Doctoral Program in Administration-Health Services is a relatively young doctoral program with 61 finishing their PhD degrees since 2000. While educated as researchers and academics, one of our graduates has won the ACHE Young Executive of the Year Award and others have held the following leadership positions: president and CEO, UAB Health System; president, ACEHSA; dean, School of Nursing; and 25 department chairs or program directors..

When you enter the Department of Health Services Administration you know you are walking into the best UAB has to offer. Access to the brightest minds in health care. Insight to ideas that improve health care. There is no better place to see this in action than in the dissertations presented by our doctoral students - both [Doctor of Philosophy program](#) and [Doctor of Science - Executive program](#).

### See Dissertations



Hernandez, far left  
Meese, seated, 2nd from right



2016 Doctoral Graduation



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Chris Fisher, Master of Science in Health Informatics

Chris Fisher, MSHI 2012, is a consistent supporter of the department and School through his time, talent and treasure. He currently serves as president of the [School of Health Professions Junior Advisory Board](#) and mentors current MSHI students when he can.

Fisher currently works as a System Analyst at UAB Health System. His tip for success in health informatics - always be willing to learn or develop a new skill and sharpen your communication skills.

When asked what course he would teach if he could go back and teach within the MSHI program, he said "Group Dynamics 101 - How to Handle Difficult People in Group" or something technical such as "Integration and Interoperability."

[Full Spotlight](#)



Chris Fisher, MSHI '12

## ON THE RISE

### Nearly 150 alumni have career moves

Our alumni are constantly on the move and on the rise. That includes Owen Bailey (MSHA 22, named COO of USA Health) and Chris Jett (MSHA 42, named Bailey's successor as administrator USA Children and Women's Hospital).

See who else has news to share. See who has their first job. See who was named president. And so much more!

[See Alumni Career Moves](#)



Owen Bailey (Class 22)  
and Chris Jett (Class 42)

## NEWS & NOTES

### News, weddings, births, in memoriam and more

With more than 4,000 alumni around the world it is no wonder that there is news to share everyday. Just like any large family, the news is always a mixture of celebrations so please joins us as we look at new beginnings to be cherished by so many for years to come and fond farewells of those who already impacted so many for so long.

[See Announcements](#)



Brent McLean (MSHA 42) wedding



## Faculty Accomplishments

Eta Berner, EdD (*middle of photo*) recently had a paper named "most influential" and received the School of Health Professions "Excellence in Scholarship Award". She is just one of our many faculty members who are highly decorated, broadly published and award winning.

[See Faculty Accomplishments](#)



## New Program Leadership

### **Bryan Breland, DrPH, JD, Health Care Management (HCM)**

On June 1, 2016, Bryan Breland, an assistant professor in HSA since 2012, was named director of the Health Care Management program. He replaces Pam Paustian, Ph.D., 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 - [click here to watch his profile video](#).

[Breland's Bio](#)

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### **Deirdre McCaughey, Ph.D., Healthcare Quality & Safety (HQS)**

The arrival of Deirdre McCaughey, the John Jones Scholar in Workers Compensation Research, coincided with the expansion of Healthcare Quality and Safety to two programs, a Master of Science established in 2015 and a Graduate Certificate established in 2013. Since her arrival, [HQS has become the #1 graduate certificate awarded at UAB](#).

[McCaughey's Bio](#)

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### **Amy Landry, Ph.D., Healthcare Administration (MSHA)**

Landry, who joined the UAB faculty in 2008, was a member of the Health Services Research, Management, and Policy faculty at the University of Florida. Her research interests include the strategic behavior of healthcare organizations, organizational performance and strategic human resources management. Landry has been published in the *Journal of Healthcare Management*, *Medical Care Research and Review*, and the *Journal of Public Health Management and Practice*.

[Landry's Bio](#)

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# PARTNERSHIPS



## WORKFORCE PROGRAM

This past school year we launched a Workforce Program in partnership with the UAB Health System.

It is a unique idea that placed every first-year MSHA student in a part-time job this past year.

How did we do that? How did everyone do? And who called it "the best investment that the UAB Health System had made in a long time."

[Click Here to Learn More](#)



Lucy Hoyle (Class 51)  
and Melissa Mancini  
(Class 39)

## CASE COMPETITION

Thirty-eight CAHME-accredited teams from graduate programs located across the country convened in Birmingham in February and made recommendations to Ochsner Health System.

Mike Hill (Class 45) and Michael Hulefeld, COO of Ochsner Health System, co-authored this year's challenging case.

[Read More](#)



## JOIN US

### NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR HEALTHCARE EXECUTIVES

July 26 - 29, 2016

The Symposium, hosted at the Sandestin Golf and Beach Resort, has a theme of *Accelerating Excellence: Doing Well Together An Exploration of Population Health*. This a premier ACHE event that allows you an opportunity to earn up to 13.5 face-to-face ACHE credit hours. We look forward to seeing you just as much as your family looks forward to seeing Sandestin.

[Register Today](#)

## ALUMNI GATHERINGS

Your state, your city, your backyard

- July 26, 2016: DSc Alumni Reception (Sandestin, Florida)



- July 28, 2016: Annual Alumni Association of the Graduate Programs in Health Administration (Sandestin, Florida)
- August 16, 2016: Regional Alumni Get-Together (Atlanta)
- August 23, 2016: MSHI Alumni Event (Birmingham)
- March 28, 2017: Annual ACHE Networking Event, Buddy Guy's Legends (Chicago)

[See All Events](#)

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## CONTINUING EDUCATION

- August 15 - 19, 2016: [Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Course](#) (Birmingham)
  - January 27, 2017: Ambulatory Care Symposium (Birmingham)
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Developing leaders  
to shape tomorrow's health care.



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*STAY CONNECTED*

