Spring 2017

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Greetings!

If you are in Chicago for ACHE, please stop by our booth. There you will see a larger version of this congratulatory message to the new ACHE Chairman, and alumnus of MSHA Class 17, Chuck Stokes.

Chuck is a "leader's leader" - he sets the example and the tone that everyone wants to follow. For that, I say thank you, because Chuck has set a new standard for UAB alumni with the time, treasure and talent he has given.

Just last month, Chuck was a judge for our 11th annual UAB Health Administration Case Competition where he spent many hours over a two-day period working with students from across the U.S. Most recently, he and his wife Judy, endowed a scholarship to further diversity and inclusion in healthcare leadership.

In this Nexus, you will see those stories and many more about our wonderful alumni and all they do for others. With that, I say thank you to Chuck and to each of you who put in the work and the sacrifice for the greater good of others.

Sincerely,

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Chuck Stokes (*MSHA Class 17*), Judy Stokes and Rett Grover (*MSHA Class 43*)

MSHA Alumnus begins term as ACHE Chair
Best wishes to Chuck Stokes (MSHA Class 17), executive vice president and COO, Memorial Hermann Health System, who began his term as chair of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) on March 25, 2017.

ACHE is an international professional society of more than 48,000 healthcare executives who lead hospitals, healthcare systems and other healthcare organizations.

Stokes is looking forward to advancing leadership practices for developing and sustaining cultures of safety to reduce patient harm due to medical errors.

"In this rapidly changing healthcare environment, we must learn to listen to our employees and physicians about the best way to improve quality, reduce cost and improve our services," said Stokes.

TRANSFORMATIONAL GIFTS - IMPACTING GENERATIONS

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

Below we highlight our major gift supporters that have generously invested in our programs and students. But don't forget we have a long history of generous alumni. To see the many endowments and who has pledged their support in the past, please click here.

- **The Beasley-Hall Family Endowed Scholarship in Health Administration**

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

- **Terrell W. Herzig Endowed Award in Health Informatics**

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

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

- **Dr. John B. McWhorter, III, Endowed Scholarship (Formal Name TBD)**

- **Chuck and Judy Stokes Endowed Scholarship for Diversity and Inclusion**

- **Quorum Scholar in Health Administration**

To read more about these gifts and their impact please click below.

Read More

SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION OPEN

UAB National Symposium offering 12+ ACHE Face-to-Face Credit Hours
This year's 37th annual UAB National Symposium for Healthcare Executives will again offer more than 12 ACHE Face-to-Face Credit Hours, extensive networking opportunities, and critical information that will keep you on top of the game as a healthcare leader.

We've moved the event across Highway 98 to the Hilton Sandestin Resort this year, so expect even nicer accommodations for programs featuring outstanding healthcare leaders such as UAB alumnus Chuck Stokes, COO of Memorial Hermann Health System. UAB Cybersecurity expert Gary Warner will also be on hand to help you understand and address the ongoing assault on our health data.

On August 9 - 11, 2017, join the hundreds of UAB alumni and many others who make this regular event a must-attend continuing education program every year.

Register Now

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HCM Upsilon Phi Delta inductees
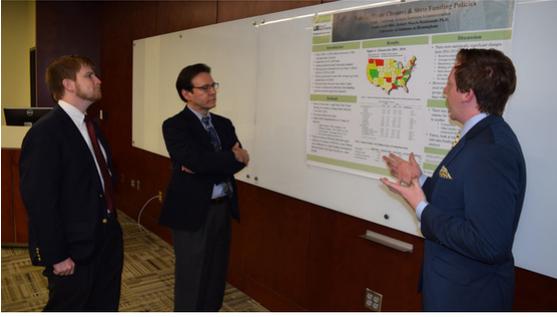
BS HEALTH CARE MANAGEMENT

HCM Honors

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

Taking home this year's Thompson T. Abercrombie Award was Natalie Hackney (*pictured with Program Director Bryan Breland, J.D., DrPH*). The Abercrombie award is named after the first director of the program. It is based on a faculty vote of clinical management students with at least a 3.0 GPA.

Faith Hickenbotham was named 2016 HCM Student Honor winner. Ferhat Zengul, Ph.D., was named the 2016 HCM Faculty Honor winner and dedicated the award to all his undergraduate students.

Read More

Smith research places 1st at UAB Expo

Cody Smith, a senior in the 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 third-year student in the UAB PhD Administration–Health Services program, and Robert Weech-Maldonado, Ph.D., professor and L.R. Jordan Chair of Health Administration in the Department of Health Services Administration.

Read More

MS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (RESIDENTIAL)

MSHA students' Friday in the ER

The MSHA program is fulfilling our mission of "developing leaders to shape tomorrow's healthcare" through continuing to innovate our approaches to teaching and learning.

Recently, our students found themselves at the ER on a Friday night – without ever leaving their classroom.

We implemented a simulation called "Friday Night at the ER" in the Operations Management course. The game was a fun way for students to learn systems thinking, collaboration and data-driven decision-making.

Read More

Further Enhancing the Classroom Experience

- MSHA students participated for the first time in a poverty simulation with the Office of Interprofessional Simulation for Innovative Clinical Practice at UAB. It was designed to raise awareness of social determinants of health. Students were divided into families with the goal of making it through a month of working and paying bills while facing the challenges of a low-income family.
- In the Capstone Course, students are participating in management simulations and interprofessional simulations. In the management simulations, students experience a variety of management situations involving employees and physicians. This has provided an opportunity to get our alumni involved in providing feedback and instruction. Beth Cain and

Jordan DeMoss (MSHA Class 39), Rett Grover and Martin Smith (MSHA Class 43) and Mark Todd (E 49) were all alumni participants.

- Finally, MSHA students participated in a series of simulations with fourth year medical students as part of their "Residency Prep Week." These simulations took place in the clinical simulation lab at UAB Hospital, and they allowed our MSHA students to collaborate with future physicians on clinical and administrative issues. Both MSHA and medical students alike learn to see things from a different perspective through this experience.

MS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (EXECUTIVE)

Book Discussion Inspires Actions
After meeting in a book discussion during an EMSHA campus session in Fall 2016, Vic Dippenaar, MDIV., M.Th., (EMSHA Class 52) and Jamie Wade, MS, SLP-CCC, MSHA (EMSHA Class 48) were inspired to start a pilot project of a small leadership accountability group.

The project aims to improve UAB Medicine leaders' emotional and behavioral intelligence by focusing on whole personal growth.

The first small accountability group met for eight sessions from October to December 2016. A second was initiated in February 2017.

Click here to read the full story.

MS HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (INTERNATIONAL)

Saudi students propose big ideas for Capstone
Seven multi-disciplinary teams in the UAB School of Health Professions' Master of Science in Health Administration – International Track program based in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, presented big ideas to improve health care in the Kingdom.

One of those teams created a proposal to establish a Saudi equivalent of the United States' National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Another major proposal from a team of executive students was an innovative way to reduce cardiac mortality during Hajj season. The annual pilgrimage to Mecca is the largest gathering of humans on the planet and each year there are an estimated 700 – 1,000 cardiac episodes.

Read More

HEALTHCARE QUALITY & SAFETY

Capstone Project Impacts Patient Care
In December 2016, Kathy Monroe, M.D., professor and research director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine at UAB, successfully completed her capstone project "Timely Antibiotic Dosing for Febrile Neutropenia Patients in a Pediatric Emergency Department".

"The staff were very supportive and my thesis resulted in a true quality improvement for our Emergency Department," said Monroe. "We were able to improve our time to antibiotics to less than an hour in high risk pediatric patients with fever and neutropenia to 90-100%. The skills I gained during the HQS process were instrumental in getting this project to success!"

At the end of the course sequencing in the MSHQS program, students integrate their educational acquisition to improve quality and patient safety outcomes in their professional workplace through a capstone project.

Read More

MS HEALTH INFORMATICS PROGRAM

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.

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. Click here to see our board members.

New Certificate
We launched a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Health Informatics, which is completely online and an ideal program for the busy clinician (MD, RN, DDS, etc.) who wants to get a solid foundation in health informatics. Four self-paced courses over two semesters and all credits can be transferred to our MSHI program.

New Fast-Track Program
We also launched a Bachelor of Science in Health Care Management to MSHI (HCM2HI) fast track program – In and Out in only four years! This fast track program is ideal for those reentering education later in life.

New Video
We have also launched the first in a series of recruitment videos – it is just over a minute long – please check it out.

Alabama HIMSS Scholarship Awarded
Ginny Meadows, RN (MSHI, 2017), was awarded the Alabama HIMSS Scholarship. She is a recent retiree from McKesson as Executive Director for Corporate Strategy and Business Development. Meadows hopes the next phase of her career will involve applying what she has learned in the MSHI program to improve the user experience of health IT systems for providers and patients.

Students Published

Our students are publishing! Under the guidance of Shannon Houser, Ph.D.:

- Ginny Meadows (MSHI, 2017) published "Transitions to Electronic Clinical Quality Measures in the Informatics Era"
- Evita Payton (MSHA Class 51; MSHI, 2017) published "HIM Connections in the Kaleidoscope of Informatics"
- Mary Willis (MSHA Class 51; MSHI, 2017) is the lead author of an article in the current issue of the Journal of Healthcare Management (Willis, MJ, Whitman, MV, English, TM. Travel Distance to Cancer Treatment Facilities in the Deep South). The Practitioner Application for the article was written by Amanda Henson (MSHA Class 38) from Baptist Health in Lexington, Kentucky.

Accreditation Process

We have begun the accreditation process with CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation in Health Informatics & Information Management), the accrediting body for graduate programs in Health Informatics. Our self-assessment document has been submitted and we are currently in candidacy status. We are hopeful for an August or September site visit by CAHIIM.

Residential Visit

In February, we had our students on campus for their residential visit that included a LinkedIn professional development session with Molly Wasko, Ph.D., – join our LinkedIn group. We also had a fun networking night with alumni. There was a lot of great conversation and laughter.

Alumni event at HIMSS

On February 21, 2017, we had a strong turnout at our reception for UAB HI alumni, friends and students in Orlando. We regularly host an event at the HIMSS conference for everyone to gather and network.

PHD PROGRAM

Justin Lord earns inaugural Fottler Award
Justin Lord, a third-year Ph.D candidate whose research focuses on the financial performance of U.S. nursing homes, is the first to earn the Myron D. and Carol A. Fottler, PhD Program in Administration-Health Services Endowed Support Fund.

Fottler was director of the PhD program for 15 years. He wanted to give back to the program that was such a large part of his career and where he knows students will benefit from such a fund.

This is the first endowed scholarship for the PhD in Administration-Health Services program and was set up to support students with tuition, travel fees associated with professional development, or for costs associated with publishing as a sole author or first author.

Read More

DOCTOR OF SCIENCE PROGRAM

Congratulations New Alumni!
There were six graduates in the December 2016 commencement ceremony: Vance Chunn (MSHA Class 19), John Cunningham, Lucas Higman, Deana Nelson, Betty Mortensen and Mark Slyter.

Accepting Applications
We are accepting applications for our 9th cohort, which will begin in Fall 2017. Please spread the word to friends and colleagues who may be interested in pursuing a doctoral education.

Studying the Bismarck Model in Germany
In September 2017, second-year DSc students, along with faculty, will study the Bismarck Model of Health Care where it was born - in Germany. There are a limited number of spaces open to alumni - please contact Bob Hernandez or Leandra Celaya if you are interested in attending.

DSc Networking Event at National Symposium
The third annual DSc Alumni and Student Gathering will be held on August 10, 2017, in Sandestin, Florida. The event is set for the Thursday evening of the UAB National Symposium for Healthcare Executives. Watch your inbox for an official invitation with details of the DSc Networking Reception.

ALUMNI IN ACTION

Alumni Updates: jobs, honors, births, etc.
Helen Krontiras, M.D., (HQS, 2014) has been named the new director of the Division of Surgical Oncology at UAB.

Krontiras is the director of the UAB Breast Health Center, which was recently named one of the top breast health centers in the country. She is the co-director of the Lynne Cohen Preventive Care Program for Women's Cancers at UAB and the co-director of the Breast Cancer Prevention and Risk Assessment Clinic.

Click here to see all of our recent Alumni Updates.

If you have an update to share, please contact Randa Hall at 205-934-3332 or randahall@uab.edu.

Robert (Bob) Zasa (MSHA Class 9) envisioned a new symposium that would capture the evolving healthcare landscape.

On January 27, 2017, over 180 people were able to see his vision become a reality by attending UAB's inaugural "Beyond the H" summit, an event that explored the many segments of the healthcare continuum that are beyond the hospital setting including ambulatory care, physician practice management, post-acute care, and long-term care.

"Beyond the H" was made possible through the generous support of our sponsors. It featured a "Who's Who" in these various segments as keynote speakers and panelists. Please click here to see the entire list of speakers and panelists.

See Photos

FACULTY IN ACTION

Pam Paustian named Executive Director of UAB eLearning and Professional Studies
On March 20, Paustian, associate professor, Health Care Management, accepted the role of Executive Director for the UAB Division of eLearning and Professional Studies.

Paustian, who joined UAB full-time in 2001, currently serves as director for the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP).

Prior to that she was program director of the HCM program and associate chair of Academic Operations in the Department of Health Services Administration.

Nancy Borkowski wins SHP Excellence in Service Award
Borkowski, professor, Department of Health Services Administration, received the award for faculty member who has made significant contributions to the School or their profession including projects and positions that bring national, state or local recognition and more.

"Nancy is never just on a committee; she leads, shapes and guides it and is continually recognized for this leadership. She currently serves on four peer-reviewed journal editorial boards, is the President Elect of the Alabama Healthcare Executives Forum and carries a sizable teaching load. Even with her manifold contributions, you will never, ever see her without a smile on her face. Nancy exemplifies service to UAB and to her profession," said Christy Lemak in her nomination letter.

Robert Weech-Maldonado wins SHP Excellence in Scholarship Award
Weech-Maldonado, professor and L.R. Jordan Endowed Chair of Health Administration, Department of Health Services Administration, wins the award for the faculty member who has made significant scholarly contributions resulting in the advancement of knowledge.

Contributions include funded research, involvement in research process, publications in peer-reviewed journals and more.

He was presented by Eta Berner (*pictured, far right*) and is with School of Health Professions Dean Harold P. Jones (*pictured, far left*).

Weech-Maldonado is co-director of the UAB Center for Health Organization Transformation which was recently approved as one of only six CHOT University Sites in the United States by the National Science Foundation.

Eta Berner named CAHIM Peer Reviewer
Berner (*pictured, left*), who celebrated 30 years with UAB this past year, has been named a CAHIM Peer Reviewer for Health Informatics. Her appointment is for two years.

Berner, pictured left, was also quoted in a CNBC article titled "How technology is poised to create a career boom in health care."

Nancy Borkowski featured for Wellscreens
Borkowski was featured in a video about the importance of wellness screenings. Her future changed when a blood pressure test during UAB Wellscreens helped diagnose her heart disease this past year. Click here to watch her story in her words.

Sue Feldman quoted in Medical Economics
Feldman was quoted in an article in Medical Economics titled "Is the success of physician-led ACO's sustainable?" where she touches on documentation and the ability to shop around.

Bob Hernandez visits IHF Congress
Hernandez recently visited the International Hospital Federation (IHF) Congress in Durban, South Africa. IHF is an international not for profit that was established in 1929 which helps national hospital associations, and healthcare organizations across the globe deliver better services at all levels. His session, titled "A Global need for professionalization of Healthcare Management", focused on professionalization of hospital executives worldwide.

Shannon Houser published in AHIMA
Houser's article "HIM Connections in the Kaleidoscope of Informatics" was published in the *Journal of AHIMA* November-December issue.

Christy Lemak quoted and published
Lemak was quoted in an *Anniston Star* article about Regional Medical Center purchasing Stringfellow Memorial Hospital. Click here to read.

She had an article titled "Outcomes For High-Needs Patients: Practices With A Higher Proportion Of These Patients Have An Edge" published in HealthAffairs this month.

Lemak also had a commentary titled "Essential Values for Population Health Improvement" published in David Nash's new journal, *Population Health Management*, Volume 00, Number 00, 2017, DOI: 10.1089

Deirdre McCaughey featured in Faculty Spotlight
McCaughey was highlighted in the latest School of Health Professions' Faculty Spotlight. Her video, produced by the Learning Resource Center, talks about her "flipped classroom" method of teaching.

Donna Slovensky honored for 40 years of service
Slovensky, senior associate dean, Academic and Faculty Affairs, professor, Department of Health Services Administration, recently celebrated 40 years of service to UAB.

Mohan Thirumalai grant funded
Thirumalai had his first grant, "Prevention through Intervention: Telehealth Solution to Deter 911 Calls Due to Hypoglycemia", funded by the Center for the Study of Community Health and the UAB Diabetes Research Center. It is a natural extension of the telehealth work done in the UAB/Lakeshore Research Collaborative.

Rob Weech-Maldonado part of distinguished lecture at USF
Weech-Maldonado recently presented "Under-resourced Nursing Homes: Differentiating between High and Low Performers" as part of the Distinguished Lectureship in Aging at the University of South Florida.

MSHA students on each of top three InnoHack teams

Each of the top three teams at the 2nd 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.

Read More

Thank you InnoHack judges and mentors

Mentors and judges provided feedback and insight to the teams while they were creating their solutions to the issue of reducing the overuse of the Emergecy Department for non-emergent needs. Many thanks to the everyone - including many alumni - who volunteered their time and expertise. See the entire list here.

Free ONC Health IT Training

The UAB Department of Health Services Administration now offers free online health IT training for individuals currently working in a healthcare setting.

You can choose from three courses and earn CME or CEU plus a Certificate of Completion - online and at your own pace.

The training, six-week online courses offered multiple times throughout the year, is a partnership with the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC).

We are one of only seven institutions awarded ONC grants to provide this free online training.

Read More

UAB MSHA team reaches Case Competition finals

The UAB MSHA team reached the finals at the 11th annual UAB Health Administration Case Competition. Katie Garmon, Morgan Joffe and Cathan Riding (pictured), all members of MSHA Class 51, made up the first UAB team to reach the Case Competition finals since the inaugural year of 2007.

The top three finishers were:

1. Boston University – MBA Program
2. University of Washington – Seattle
3. George Mason University

The other finalists in addition to UAB were Ohio State University and the University of Florida. The 12th annual Case Competition is set for February 28 – March 2, 2018, in Birmingham, Alabama.

Thank you Case Competition judges

We could not complete the annual Case Competition without the nationally-recognized judges whose expertise and subject matter provided the teams with valuable feedback during each round of the compeition. This year's 24 judges included senior executives from across the U.S. See the entire list here.

JOIN US

Attend an Event

- April 18: MSHA Classic at Ballantrae Golf Club
- April 28: "Understanding the Baldrige Criteria for Performance Excellence"
- August 9-11: 37th annual UAB National Symposium for Healthcare Executives. Click here to register.
- September 13: Career Networking Event for recent graduates of EMSHA, MSHI and HQS. This is prior to the Preceptors' Conference (*registration opens in July*).
- September 13 – 15: Preceptors' Conference (*registration opens in July*)
- October 11: 3rd annual Alabama Healthcare Summit (*registration opens in August*)

WWW.UAB.EDU/HSA

Share this email: