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**LEAD** is an annual publication showcasing the achievements of faculty, students and alumni of the University of Central Florida Department of Health Management and Informatics.

**College of Health and Public Affairs**

Dean Michael Frumkin, Ph.D.

**Department of Health Management and Informatics**

Chair Reid Oetjen, Ph.D.

**Publication Production**

Marisa Ramiccio, B.A., Coordinator of Communications and External Relations

Karen Guin, M.A., COHPA Director of Communications

Tish Sheppard, B.S., Director of Technology Performance Funding

Peg Martin, B.S., Copy Editor

Lure Design Inc., Graphic Design

**Connect With Us**

@ucfhmi
cohpa.ucf.edu/hmi

Department of Health Management and Informatics
College of Health and Public Affairs
University of Central Florida
4364 Scorpius Street
Orlando, FL 32816-2205
Welcome to the second issue of LEAD, which highlights how our students, faculty, staff and alumni are making a positive impact on the health care industry.

THIS IS AN EXCITING TIME for the Department of Health Management and Informatics, as we have been selected as one of the anchor departments for the University of Central Florida’s new downtown Orlando campus, which will open in fall 2019. The campus is a partnership between UCF and Valencia College, and will also house programs in social work, legal studies, communication and digital media.

We are honored to be trailblazers in this project, which will usher in many new opportunities and partnerships for the department. In this issue, we give you a sneak peek of this modern, innovative campus and how our department will benefit from transitioning to downtown Orlando. Moving downtown will extend the department’s reach and allow us to take advantage of proximity to the epicenter of health care for Central Florida.

During this exciting period of change, our graduate programs in health services administration have also undergone a minor transition. The programs formerly known as the Master of Science in Health Sciences – Health Services Administration track and the Master of Science in Health Sciences – Executive Health Services Administration track have undergone a change in title. They are now known as the Master of Health Administration and the Executive Master of Health Administration programs. You’ll see that name change reflected in this issue of LEAD.

Featured in this issue is our new study-abroad program in Taiwan, developed and led by Professor Su-I Hou. We’ve also highlighted the 2016 Society for Design and Process Science Conference, which our department was privileged to sponsor.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of LEAD and how our team is fulfilling our tagline of transforming health care, one student at a time. We encourage you to connect with us on Twitter @ucfhmi and to learn more about us at cohpa.ucf.edu/hmi.

Sincerely,

REID OETJEN, PH.D.
Chair, Department of Health Management and Informatics
Transforming health care, one student at a time
How will your academic program benefit from being located at the UCF Downtown campus?

The opening of the UCF Downtown campus will provide students in the undergraduate HSA program an opportunity to be near three times as many employers compared to their current campus location. There are two major health care systems in the greater Orlando area that have large facilities located in downtown Orlando within a few miles of campus. The Florida Hospital Association also has an office located near the downtown campus. The proximity of these potential partners offers an opportunity for students and faculty to work collaboratively to enhance health care delivery in our region. It will also provide faculty the ability to expand their current relationships and further their research goals in the health care field. The new campus will give students the opportunity to engage with the downtown social and professional environment, expanding their overall college experience. This is a great opportunity for both the faculty and students of the HMI department to be a part of a new facility and future.
With the move to the downtown Orlando campus, the MHA program is poised to be located in the heart of the health care community with close proximity to the Orlando Health and Florida Hospital campuses. In light of this, we can market our fully accredited Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education program to a whole new subset of potential students – those already in the field looking to increase their upward mobility potential in the health care industry. The addition of these students will continue to diversify our student population and add a new dimension to classroom activities due to their experience in the industry. It will also serve as a wonderful opportunity for students to immerse themselves in the health care industry and be in close proximity to some of our major internship partners for future collaborations.

### Kourtney Nieves  
**Master of Health Administration Program**

The Executive MHA program’s new location at the UCF Downtown campus will expand our interaction with its dynamic and vibrant communities as well as the health care market located in this metropolitan area of Orlando. For students and faculty, this will be an opportunity to extend community outreach with our nonprofit and health care partner organizations through research and service-learning projects. For our alumni and health care managers working in this thriving market, it will be an opportunity to advance their academic careers and leadership potential through our engaging online CAHME accredited graduate program. This will also provide them with the opportunity to take advantage of continuing education programs and certificates that will be offered by our Academy for Creativity and Leadership.

### Bernardo Ramirez  
**Executive Master of Health Administration Program**

In addition to the proximity to traditional health care providers in the downtown area, HIIM students will benefit from additional hands-on and service-learning opportunities at alternative health care facilities, including the Orange County Health Department and health insurance companies located near the new campus. We hope to spread our wings to find new opportunities for the variety of skills and talents of our HIIM students. We look forward to partnering with the vice provost for UCF Downtown, Thad Seymour Jr., who has experience in health care informatics and will provide us with guidance for additional partnerships.

### Alice Noblin  
**Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management Program**

The M.S.HCI program has much to gain from a strong downtown presence. With a rapid acceleration of nontraditional health care information technology companies entering Orlando, the program will be poised to take advantage of both traditional and emerging health care organizations. These relationships will enhance the availability of research partners and service-learning opportunities for students in health care informatics. We look forward to these collaborations as we take on the challenges we are facing in a post-HITECH world.
The Department of Health Management and Informatics is ready to pioneer a new academic experience for students and faculty at UCF’s downtown Orlando campus, opening in fall 2019.
Several academic programs currently offered on the main UCF campus in east Orlando will relocate to the downtown campus, including those offered by the Department of Health Management and Informatics. With such a big transition ahead, the department is looking forward to the new opportunities, partnerships and experiences that the downtown campus will bring.

“Our students will benefit by being physically closer to the types of organizations that they aspire to work for when they finish their studies,” said Assistant Professor Danielle Atkins. “Hopefully, [UCF Downtown] will provide more opportunities to partner with these organizations for internships and for guest speakers in our classes.”

Once it moves downtown, the department will be much closer to local health care facilities, such as Orlando Regional Medical Center, Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children and Florida Hospital. The new campus will occupy about 15 acres of land in downtown Orlando’s Creative Village and will be shared by UCF and Valencia College.

“When you look at great cities and innovation centers around the country, you see each one anchored by education, because universities drive new ideas and talent and create value in a community when they are embedded in the city,” said Thad Seymour Jr., vice provost for UCF Downtown.

The campus will be anchored by the 148,000-square-foot Dr. Phillips Academic Commons, which will house classrooms, offices and collaborative learning spaces. Student housing will be located across the street in a building that will also house student support services and Valencia’s hospitality and culinary school. UCF’s Center for Emerging Media, already located downtown, will also be part of the new campus.

“The downtown campus represents a vision for what we want 21st-century urban education to look like, with new ways of teaching, learning and connecting to the community,” Seymour said.

Faculty and staff from the HMI department visited the site earlier this year to get a better understanding of what the campus will look like.

“It was great to see in person where the new campus will go,” Assistant Professor James Gillespie said. “This new campus will be an innovative take on the ‘live, learn, work and play’ paradigm.”
UCF hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for UCF Downtown on May 11, and construction will begin this summer. Although the department won’t move for two years, faculty and staff have already started thinking about the opportunities for partnership and collaboration with the many health care providers located downtown.

“As a health policy researcher, I hope that there will be opportunities to partner with health care providers to do evaluation research,” Atkins said. “In addition to the health care providers we normally think of, like hospitals, there are a number of government, policy and nonprofit organizations in the downtown area that I would like to build research partnerships with and also partnerships for our students.”

Atkins is also optimistic about the chance for the department to develop an executive education program. “The opportunity to provide management training to health care providers in service is a great opportunity to expand our impact on the community,” she said.

Aside from new partnerships and collaborations, perhaps the greatest benefit to moving downtown is the opportunity for the department to be a part of something unique to the region and state. “We will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be part of creating a truly new campus in the heart of a highly dynamic, growing urban environment,” Gillespie said. “Our potential for impact in the areas of research, teaching and service is tremendous.”

“UCF Downtown by the Numbers

- 14 UCF and Valencia students
- 7,700 UCF and Valencia students
- 5 HMI academic programs
- 1,674 HMI students

“It is an opportunity to build the premier university/community partnership model in the country — rethinking boundaries about the role of education in strengthening community life while partnering with community residents to foster improvements in affordable housing, employment, safety and community health.”

COHPA DEAN MICHAEL FRUMKIN

The opportunities are endless. Learn more about the UCF Downtown campus at ucf.edu/downtown.
Researchers from more than 20 countries met at UCF in December 2016 to discuss emerging trends and technologies at the 21st annual conference of the Society for Design and Process Science. The conference was coordinated by the College of Health and Public Affairs and hosted by the Department of Health Management and Informatics.
Clockwise from top left:
(1) COHPA Associate Dean and Professor Thomas Wan presents at the 2016 SDPS Conference.
(2) HCI/HIIM Internship Director Steven Ton watches the keynote presentation.
(3) Professor Su-I Hou leads a discussion during the poster presentation session.
(4) Professors Wan and Hou pose with the poster session presenters.
(5) SDPS co-founder Raymond Yeh celebrates his retirement.
Clockwise from top left:
(1) Sarayu Gurupur poses with assistant professors Varadraj Gurupur and Steven Ton. (2) College of Medicine Dean Deborah German presents at the 2016 SDPS Conference. (3) Instructor Yara Asi presents at the 2016 SDPS Conference. (4) J. Iwan Alexander, the dean of the University of Alabama’s Case School of Engineering, presents at the 2016 SDPS Conference. (5) Thomas O’Neal, associate vice president for the UCF Office of Research and Commercialization, presents at the 2016 SDPS Conference.
What will students get to experience as part of the study-abroad course in Taiwan?

SH: The Taiwan Study Abroad program is an exciting three-credit academic program focusing on Asian culture, health care and the aging society. Students will:
1. Participate in multiple pre-trip class meetings in Orlando before flying together to Taiwan.
2. Have the opportunity to learn and interact with faculty and students from our partnering universities in Taiwan.
3. Visit multiple health and aging sites, including the Ministry of Health and Wellness, long-term care sites and senior facilities and communities, etc.
4. Visit three major cities in Taiwan, and participate in amazing cultural excursions.
5. Experience firsthand the world-famous Taiwan night markets.

What the students will learn and experience during the trip will be shared on the TWSA program’s Facebook page. Each group of students will work on a theme-focused project to address areas related to the course learning objective.

What are some of the cultural differences between the U.S. and Taiwan when it comes to health care and aging?

SH: The health care environment and system are different. Taiwan has an excellent universal health care system. It provides quality and affordable health care with easy access to all citizens in Taiwan. Taiwan is currently in the process of discussing and updating its long-term care policy to also ensure better care coverage and access to related services. With the global rapidly aging society, especially in the Asian region, students will have the valuable opportunity to learn from our Taiwan partners and to experience their health care culture and environment firsthand.

Taiwan holds the traditional Asian cultural view of respecting older adults and valuing their words of wisdom and life experience. Students will gain appreciation of the many cultural strategies used to adapt older adult care services and living environments to show respect and consideration of their experience, culture and traditions. The lessons that students will learn will bring new perspectives to their academic studies and professional careers.
Q: You created a similar study-abroad course at the University of Georgia’s College of Public Health. What inspired you to bring this course to UCF?

SH: I love Taiwan! Taiwan is very beautiful in its people, values and culture. It’s my home country, and I would like to share its richness with others and let people from other parts of the world see the beauty of Taiwan. Taiwan really has an amazing universal health care system.

I was the founding director of the TWSA program at the College of Public Health at the University of Georgia from 2011 to 2015, prior to joining the UCF College of Health and Public Affairs. I have taken a total of four groups with over 52 students from the U.S. to Taiwan. Throughout my academic career, I have taught many courses; while I love all the courses I teach or have taught, the TWSA program has been my passion. It is a lot of work, with all of the planning, coordination, communication, university procedures, student recruitment and promotions, details related to the academic design and logistics, etc. However, it is also very rewarding because I get to see students gain a whole new perspective in their career and in life.

The professional connections and friendships I’ve made have also been amazing and long-lasting. It’s hard to believe how quickly and deeply these relationships can form. Many students and I have remained connected, and I’ve since helped many of my TWSA students by providing recommendation letters and career advice, or just by sharing pure life experiences.

Q: What do you hope students take away from this experience?

SH: It is an amazing experience that I believe students will remember for life. I hope students will maximize their learning experience and come back to their academic studies and daily life with new appreciation and perspectives. I hope that students will be able to share what they learned with their friends and loved ones. Most importantly, I hope that students will be able to translate some of their lessons learned to help improve the health care and aging services here in the U.S.
AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The Department of Health Management and Informatics prides itself on its award-winning faculty, students and alumni, all of whom continue to be recognized for their efforts and achievements in the fields of health services administration, health information management and higher education. These are just some of the most recent awards that the HMI department can add to its shelf.

Assistant Professor Danielle Atkins’ research poster won second place at the 2016 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference. Her research, “The Relationship Between State-Level Waiting Periods and Neighbor State Abortion Outcomes: Do Women Travel?,” was co-authored by Danny Fay of Florida State University and Vicky Wilkins of American University.

Several faculty members were recognized at the 2016 Society for Design and Process Science Conference. Meghan Gabriel (left) and Amanda Walden, along with co-authors Ashley Rutherford, Alice Noblin and Kendall Cortelyou-Ward, won second place in the research poster competition. Assistant Professor Varadraj Gurupur (right) received the Outstanding Service Award, and Professor Thomas Wan received the Excellence in Leadership Award.

This year’s Outstanding Alumni Award went to Daniel Barr ‘04, the vice president of operations and service line administrator at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. He is also a past recipient of the College of Health and Public Affairs’ Rising Star Award.

**APPAM AWARD**

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**FHIMA AWARDS**

Alice Noblin was the recipient of the 2016 Educator Award, given by the Florida Health Information Management Association to members who “demonstrate excellence in preparing the next generation of professionals for their HIM careers.”

Varadraj Gurupur was awarded the 2016 Literary Award, which recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the body of literature on health information science.

**SDPS AWARDS**

Several faculty members were recognized at the 2016 Society for Design and Process Science Conference. Meghan Gabriel (left) and Amanda Walden, along with co-authors Ashley Rutherford, Alice Noblin and Kendall Cortelyou-Ward, won second place in the research poster competition. Assistant Professor Varadraj Gurupur (right) received the Outstanding Service Award, and Professor Thomas Wan received the Excellence in Leadership Award.

**OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD**

Daniel Barr was awarded the 2016 Outstanding Alumni Award.
2016–17 Grants

Atkins Named 2017 AcademyHealth New Investigator

AcademyHealth, the national organization for health services researchers, policymakers and practitioners, has selected Assistant Professor Danielle Atkins to participate in the 2017 New Investigator Small Grant Program.

As a member of this year’s cohort, Atkins will conduct research in the area of maternal and child health, specifically, on the effects that state-level prenatal substance abuse policies have on maternal and infant health outcomes. The March of Dimes will sponsor her research, and her grant is worth $10,000.

Atkins is one of five academics from across the U.S. chosen for the 2017 cohort. The other awardees are Amanda Brewster of the Yale School of Public Health, Care McDermott of the University of Washington School of Medicine, Caitlin C. Murphy of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center and Sayeh Nikpay of Vanderbilt University.

The AcademyHealth New Investigator Small Grant Program supports health services researchers who are early in their careers by funding innovative and timely research that supports AcademyHealth’s mission of moving research into policy and practice.

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Additional Grants

- **Assessing the Need for the Adolescent Healthcare Toolkit in Central Florida**
  - Co-PI: Albert Xiaoliang Liu
  - $4,850, 2016
  - The Center for Innovative Healthcare

- **Building the General Computational Model for Identifying Emotional Behavior**
  - PI: Varadraj Gurupur
  - $5,000, February 2017–May 2017
  - Tenosar

- **Cost-Benefit Analysis of Utilizing APRN Full Scope of Practice in Florida**
  - PI: Lynn Unruh
  - $29,760, 2016–2017
  - Florida Center for Nursing

- **CREATION Health Principles Integration**
  - PI: Thomas Wan
  - $165,000, Aug. 23, 2015–Aug. 23, 2016
  - Florida Hospital

- **The Effect of Prenatal Substance Use Policies on Maternal Substance Abuse and Infant Health**
  - PI: Danielle Atkins
  - UCF Office of Research and Commercialization

- **Evaluating the Effects of a Web-Based Artistic Toolkit on the Caregiving Burden of Dementia**
  - PI: Thomas Wan
  - $54,000, 2015–2017
  - Pabst Foundation

- **Evans CMS Evaluation**
  - PI: Latarsha Chisholm
  - $40,000, Jan. 1, 2015–Aug. 31, 2017
  - Children's Home Society of Florida

- **When the Old Care for the Old: The Burdens and Satisfactions of Caregiving in Older Adults and the Support They Receive**
  - Co-PI: Lynn Unruh
  - $4,200, 2016
  - LIFE at UCF

**UCF Excellence in Community Partnership Award**

Professor Su-I Hou (right) took home the UCF Excellence in Community Partnership Award, which recognizes a faculty member’s successful partnership with organizations in the community. Hou is involved with the Celebration Foundation, the Neighbors Network and the Florida Hospital Foundation.

**Carol Barr Scholarship**

Brenna Thompson (fourth from left) is the 2016 recipient of the Carol Barr Scholarship, which is given to students who demonstrate leadership abilities through work or related activities.

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**July 2016 through June 2017**

**REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**Castrillon, T., Hanney, W., Rothschild, C. E., Morey, K., & Liu, X.** (2017). The effects of a standardized belly dance program on perceived pain, disability, and function in women with chronic low back pain. *Journal of Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation*, 30(3), 477-496.


**BOOKS**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**


*Student or recent graduate
Asi, Y. (2017, February). Fifty years of occupation: How demographics, resilience, and global sentiment are changing the Israel/Palestinian conflict. Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Asi, Y. (2017, February). The Palestinian university: How the post-occupation youth have turned higher education into a symbol of resilience, identity, and nationalism. Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD.


Unruh, L. (2016, October). Determinants of workplace injuries among newly licensed RNs. Presented at the American Public Health Association Meeting, Denver, CO.


INVITED


Bush, M. (2016, July). Understanding the return on investment of an engagement program. Presentation at the Human Resources of Palm Beach County Annual Conference and Expo, West Palm Beach, FL.


Bush, M., & Williams, G. (2017, January). Nursing home markets influenced by primary contact to the resident. Presented at the International Multidisciplinary Academic Conference, Key West, FL.

Chisholm, L. (2017, May). Community-engaged research: A collaboration between UCF, Orlando Health and long-term care settings. Presented at the Orlando Regional Medical Center PacScore Card meeting, Orlando, FL.


*Student or recent graduate
Faculty and Staff, 2016–17

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Mark Bush, DHA
B.S.HSA Program Director

Kendall Cottelyou-Ward, Ph.D.
M.S.HCI Program Director

Kourtney Nieves, Ph.D.
MHA Program Director

Alice Noblin, Ph.D.
B.S.HIIM Program Director

Bernardo Ramirez, M.D., MBA
Executive MHA Program Director

FACULTY

Kenneth Aldridge, Jr., M.S.HSA
Part-Time Faculty

Byron Arbeit, M.A.
Part-Time Faculty

Yara Asi, Ph.D.
Lecturer

Thomas Falen, DHSc
Associate Lecturer

Myron Fottler, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus

Meghan Gabriel, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor

Su-I Hou, DrPH
Professor

Jacob Kirchner, M.S.HSA
Part-Time Faculty

Cyndy Leonhard, M.J.
Part-Time Faculty

Anastasia Miller, Ph.D.
Part-Time Faculty

Dawn Oetjen, Ph.D.
Professor, Associate Dean of Administration and Faculty Affairs

Reid Oetjen, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Chair

Shelley Safian, Ph.D.
Part-Time Faculty

Portia Sovansky, MBA
Part-Time Faculty

Steven Ton, M.S.
Instructor, HCI/HIIM Internship Director

Philip Wessel, MHA
Instructor

Lawrence West, Ph.D.
Associate Professor

Melinda Whetstone, Ph.D.
Lecturer

NOT PICTURED:

Michael Baldwin, MHA
Part-Time Faculty

Ingrid Mariano, MBA
HMI Internship Coordinator

NOT PICTURED:

Michael Baldwin, MHA
Part-Time Faculty
Undergraduate Programs

Bachelor of Science in Health Services Administration
Bachelor of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management
Health Services Administration Minor
Health Informatics and Information Management Minor

Graduate Programs

Master of Science in Health Care Informatics
Master of Health Administration
Executive Master of Health Administration
Graduate Certificate in Health Information Administration
Doctor of Philosophy in Public Affairs Health Services Management and Research Track

Licensure Program

Health Care Risk Management Licensure