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

COLLEGE OF COMMUNITY INNOVATION AND EDUCATION

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School of Global Health Management and Informatics
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Orlando, FL 32801
I’d like to take this moment to celebrate key highlights at our School of Global Health Management & Informatics (SGHMI). Over this past year, we have worked hard to collaboratively develop our School’s vision, mission, values (VMV) and strategic goals. It was not an easy task, but an important one to provide us with a solid foundation moving forward. We are proud of what we developed and I’m eager to share them with you here (see sidebar on the right).

In addition to developing our VMV, we hit the ground running entering our first year as a school (founded on May 10th, 2021). We expanded numerous virtual global exchanges, webinars and invited talks. I was able to travel to visit Taiwan and firmed up several key partnerships. We are now initiating multiple international agreements to provide exchange opportunities for student and faculty.

We also spent a significant amount of time redesigning our school website. The new site highlights our history and key milestones, from the first degree program to achieving school status. I invite you to reminisce with us over the past 50 years and see the evolution of a school passionate about educating globally minded, locally engaged healthcare leaders and scholars. It’s still a work in progress, but check it out at ccie.ucf.edu/hmi.

This past year, we celebrated many firsts:
- #1st year YOUNG as a school
- #1st school-wide face-to-face meeting after the pandemic (2022)
- #1st large-scale hiring of SGHMI summer graduate assistants
- #1st school-wide faculty-GTA/GRA meet and greet
- #1st universal support of ACHE student membership for all SGHMI students
- #1st ACHE @ UCF registered student organization
- #1st cohort of interns to join the UCF Lake Nona Medical Center
- #1st AUPHA Engagement Award for Established Program Member

In this issue, we highlight many of these milestones, plus faculty and student achievements as well as our exciting new global partnerships. I hope you enjoy this special firsts-themed issue of LEAD.

Thank you for being part of our journey as we grow and serve together. Charge On!

Su-I Hou

Su-I Hou, DrPH, CPH, MCHES, RN  
Professor & Founding Director

School of Global Health Management & Informatics  
College of Community Innovation and Education  
Su-i.hou@ucf.edu

IN/SUET/Sweet-Hou/
The University of Central Florida has long been a strongly committed and highly engaged AUPHA member. The faculty are frequent presenters at AUPHA meetings, and serve in important volunteer and leadership roles. UCF has an undergraduate program recognized as having met the high standards required for AUPHA Certification, and is a consistently strong Program Sponsor for the AUPHA Annual Meeting.

— Dan Gentry, PhD, MHA, President and CEO of AUPHA

The Association of University Programs in Health Administration recently named UCF’s School of Global Health Management and Informatics the winner of the organization’s 2022 Engagement with AUPHA – Established Member Program Award.

The award recognizes programs for their engagement with and contribution to AUPHA, a global network of academic institutions, faculty and organizations dedicated to improving healthcare delivery through excellence in healthcare management and policy education.

The school’s mission is to leverage innovative approaches to education and research to promote health, inform policy, and create global and community partnerships with a commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Programs that receive the engagement award have been AUPHA members for at least 10 years and demonstrate committee service, meeting attendance and participation, authorship and leadership in the organization throughout the previous year.

“We are so honored to receive this engagement award from AUPHA. Our vision is to prepare globally minded, locally engaged leaders and scholars in the healthcare industry and foster a reputation of excellence and impact in research. Receiving this national award is a great testimony to our long-term engagement efforts showing our school and team are leading by example to realize that vision.”

— Su-I Hou, SGHMI Director

“The University of Central Florida has long been a strongly committed and highly engaged AUPHA member. The faculty are frequent presenters at AUPHA meetings, and serve in important volunteer and leadership roles. UCF has an undergraduate program recognized as having met the high standards required for AUPHA Certification, and is a consistently strong Program Sponsor for the AUPHA Annual Meeting.”

— Dan Gentry, PhD, MHA, President and CEO of AUPHA

In recognition of the lifetime accomplishments of George Bugbee and Isidore S. Falk, MD, AUPHA annually bestows the Bugbee Falk Book Award to a group of outstanding students in its member programs. The book award is an innovative way to support tomorrow’s leaders by providing them with works by respected authors in the field. The books are intended to launch the student’s professional library.

Originally published aupha.org/main/resourcecenter/scholarships/bugbeefalkbookaward

Originally Published June 17, 2022, at ccie.ucf.edu/2022/06/17/ucf-receives-association-university-programs-health-administration-engagement-award/
WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTHCARE DATA, BIGGER IS BETTER —

and health systems generate a tremendous amount of information. This would be wasted, however, if not for specially trained professionals who know how to interpret, store and secure data. With a master’s in healthcare informatics from UCF Online, you will learn how to efficiently maintain health information systems, manage patient data and transform that data into meaningful resources for providers.

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- Graduate eligibility to sit for the CAPM, PMP, CPHIMS and CAHIMS

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UCF ONLINE

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Executive Master of Health Administration

- Designed for healthcare professionals with a minimum of three years of healthcare experience
- Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education (CAHME)
- Fully online, 44-credit hour program completed in as few as two years
- Cohort model for focused and collaborative environments
- Admission available two times per year
- Recognized as a CAHME Mentorship Circle Program

GET STARTED
Ready to take the next step? ucf.edu/online/discover-emha
PROJECT OPIOID LAUNCHES ‘THE EVERYONE CAMPAIGN’ WITH BILLBOARDS ACROSS CENTRAL FLORIDA

Project Opioid, along with the Seminole County Sheriff’s Office, announced its new program, “The Everyone Campaign.”

The campaign is set to focus on the dangers of drugs such as fentanyl and help people who are struggling with opioid addiction by marketing via billboards.

On Tuesday, advocates showed examples of the billboards with different messages such as “Fentanyl: The Deadliest Opioid Variant” and “6 Feet Apart Shouldn’t Mean 6 Feet Under.”

“I think that maybe if you’re intoxicated, you may not be looking at this, but if you’re sober and you’re on your journey, it’s going to do a couple of things. One: It’s going to let you know that you’re not alone. That we see you. That society recognizes the struggle that you’re in,” Sheriff Dennis Lemma said. Lemma explained over the course of the pandemic, the opioid crisis has gotten worse, not just in Central Florida, but across the state with fentanyl as the leading drug.

“[About] 9,000 Americans died in one month in May of 2020 and 770 of those were right here in Florida,” Dr. Kendall Cortelyou with Project Opioid said.

Officials said nine printed billboards and 15 digital billboards have been placed across Orange, Seminole and Osceola counties. They are hoping to reach 1.3 million people a week with the messages. “If I have a family member, somebody I care deeply about at home, and I see this, I’m going to go on this website and if I go to the Project Opioid website, I’m going to walk away much more informed about what’s going on,” Lemma said.

ACCESS TO OPIOID-OVERDOSE REVERSAL

Recent legislation to help protect Floridians from opioid by increasing access to naloxone.

The past three years have tested the resolve and resiliency of Florida communities and our state’s public health infrastructure. COVID-19 has only worsened our state’s raging opioid epidemic, and having fentanyl in the drug supply is only compounding the overdose crisis across the state.

Amid a rise in fatal overdoses in Florida, it’s clear that we need to take additional actions to protect our neighbors from the harms of opioid overdose. Thankfully, the Florida Legislature and Gov. Ron DeSantis answered the call to action to help our state combat this crisis and ensure at-risk individuals and those so often at the frontlines of the opioid epidemic have access to opioid overdose-reversal medications such as naloxone.

During the 12-month period ending in October 2021, there were 7,616 deaths from drug overdose in Florida alone. It’s a tragedy that’s more than just a number, representing family members, friends and loved ones in Florida who lost their lives to fatal overdoses and are no longer able to live out their dreams. In each of those instances, having a simple medication on hand may have prevented a fatal outcome. Naloxone is an FDA-approved medicine that is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose and revive someone in an emergency situation.

Organizations such as Project Opioid are dedicated to reducing opioid deaths in communities. As an organization headquartered in Orlando, we have brought together leaders from across the state who are committed to protecting Floridians from fatal opioid overdoses, and we constantly hear from them about the need to expand the availability of these potentially lifesaving medications.

It is vital that law enforcement and communities in Florida have access to opioid overdose reversal medications that help us prevent accidental overdose. Chapter 2022-28 includes meaningful reforms that will help our local communities in the fight to protect at-risk individuals against the ongoing opioid epidemic.

On behalf of so many Floridians who continue to suffer during our opioid crisis, thank you to the Florida legislature and Gov. DeSantis for taking action to protect Floridians. We have more work to do to effectively reach all at-risk individuals with naloxone, but this law represents an immediate and significant step to protect Florida patients from accidental overdose.


Originally Published April 14, 2022, at orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-opiods-new-law-20220414-d5olkflqa3zokpqvz72o-story.html
GET INVOLVED
JOIN OUR NETWORKS!

"Globally minded - locally engaged"

STUDENT & PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Health Services Administration Student Association
  Hsasa@UCF.edu

- Student Health Information Management Association
  UCFSHIMA@outlook.com

- American College of Healthcare Executives
  ache.org

LET'S GET SOCIAL

@UCF_SGHMI
/UCFSGHMI/
in/sghmiconnect

UCF School of Global Health Management & Informatics
1st School Face-to-Face Meeting Since Before the Pandemic

After almost two years of virtual work and meetings hosted through Zoom, the School of Global Health Management and Informatics hosted their first face-to-face meetings. Our faculty and staff got together to reflect on and celebrate the past year while also planning for what is to come.

Retirements & Special Recognitions

**Thomas Wan, PhD**
recognized among top 2% in the field;
promoted to Professor Emeritus

**Larry West, PhD**
Retired May 2022

**Lynn Unruh, PhD**
recognized among top 2% in the field;
promoted to Professor Emerita and retired May 2022
Su-I Hou, DrPH, CPH, MCHES, RN
- UCF Today - UCF Researcher Identifies Models for Healthy Aging
- Gave multiple keynote presentations at international conferences on aging-in-community fields
- Spearheaded multiple agreements between UCF & SGHMI’s global partners in Taiwan
- Published multiple mixed methods articles about the scholarship of teaching and learning field
- Recognized at UCF’s inaugural panel of Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month
- Established Su-I Hou Global Health Management and Informatics Endowed Scholarship

Barbara Andraka-Christou, PhD, JD
- Published article about racial and ethnic inequities in opioid-use disorder treatment in Health Affairs
- Participated in NIH-LEAP mentorship program
- Invited moderator to NIH-NIDA virtual meeting
- Won gold and bronze in health category for International Independent Publisher Book Awards
- Garnered multiple grant awards and news media placements related to opioid use

Varadraj Gurupur, PhD
- Received AHIMA Triumph Award for Innovation
- Named Outstanding Engineering Educator by IEEE Florida Council
- Won UCF Exploratory Research Grant
- Earned a U.S. patent for work on heart failure readmission evaluation and previous systems and methods

Lynn Unruh, PhD
- Named to 2021 UCF Scroll & Quill Society
- Led 2022 NAO Lecture Series on COVID-19 in England and the U.S.

Barbara Andraka-Christou, PhD, JD
- Published article about racial and ethnic inequities in opioid-use disorder treatment in Health Affairs
- Participated in NIH-LEAP mentorship program
- Invited moderator to NIH-NIDA virtual meeting
- Won gold and bronze in health category for International Independent Publisher Book Awards
- Garnered multiple grant awards and news media placements related to opioid use

Yara Asi, PhD
- Participated in NIH Inaugural Global Forum on Humanitarian Health Research
- Appointed APHA-IH Section Councilor (2021-2024)
- Named Middle East Policy Council 40 Under 40 Awardee
- Awarded funding for The Legacy of Racial Violence global project from the Research Council of Norway
- Invited to speak about global perspectives and international initiatives on the UCF Podcast

Mark Bush, DHA
- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award

Latarsha Chisholm, PhD, MSW
- Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
- CCIE Faculty Honors Award

Michelle Crozier, PhD
- Twitter Takeover for the Society for Epidemiological Research

Christian King, PhD
- Florida Blue Food Security sub-award grant (co-PI)

Samuel D. Towne, PhD, MPH, CPH, FAAHB
- NIH LRP ’21-’22 Award

Olya Lucia Russell, MD
- Passed PAF-PhD qualifying exams
LEAVING A LASTING IMPRESSION
Developed Registered Student Organization First of Its Kind
BY KATIE TERRY, MPA

Daniella Eslava ’21MHA, Farah Itani ’21MHA, graduates of the Master of Health Administration program, led the charge in developing the first American College of Healthcare Executives registered student organization (RSO) at UCF. This RSO is designated to be the official intermediaries between ACHE nationwide and UCF, supporting students in achieving their professional goals related to healthcare executive positions.

I would like to see the organization established as the first step for a student’s career where they feel welcomed and have numerous opportunities available for them to get involved. To become involved with the student organization first to then get involved with the Central Florida chapter.

— Daniella Eslava ’21MHA

What was the reason behind starting this specific RSO? Why is it important?
Farah: ACHE at UCF was created as an initiative to spread awareness for the opportunities available for students interested in pursuing a career in healthcare administration. By creating ACHE at UCF, we are providing a bridge of opportunity to professionally develop students into healthcare leaders.

How did this experience impact you as a student and your future career path?
Daniella: This experience impacted me as a student in a very personal way. I’ve always wanted to give back to other students that may feel lost or need a sense of guidance to get opportunities to strengthen
their college careers. My future career path has shaped my leadership and communication skills. It has strengthened my knowledge about the healthcare system and I strive to use all that I’ve learned in the future.

Farah: This experience impacted me as a student as it helped shape me to be a leader. It taught me accountability, responsibility and dedication as I learned to prioritize and multi-task through my college experience. Because of my experience with the RSO, it reminds me of the passion I have for healthcare administration and why I got into this field.

**What was the most challenging part about developing and participating in the organization?**

Farah: The most challenging part about developing and participating in this organization was that we were creating everything out of researching and sharing ideas. This was not something that was created before and since we are tied to ACHE, we needed constant guidance from our faculty advisor about any concerns.

**What was the most exciting part? Most valuable to you?**

Daniella: The most exciting part to me was when we completed our first general body meeting. We were able to see our hard work come to life because of potential members attending and asking questions on how to get involved. It was a great feeling being able to be a resource to new students just starting their college career and be able to guide them to become successful.

Farah: The most exciting part for me was watching others that have a passion for the field grow as students into healthcare leaders. I value my experience at UCF even more because of the impact I have made in the program. I value the roots I have implanted in this organization and cannot wait to see how it will grow and prosper.
Fall 2021 Outstanding Student Awards

Rachel Easterling
Master of Health Administration
Sally Bassett, CCA
Health Informatics and Information Management, BS
Nicole Micallef
Health Services Administration, BS

Joshua Hetzel
Executive Master of Health Administration

Spring 2022 Outstanding Student Awards

Ana Carrasquillo-Dones
Master of Health Administration
Martha Cook, CCA
Health Informatics and Information Management, BS
Bhavna Sriram
Health Services Administration, BS

Dr. Philip Haddad
Health Care Informatics, MS

“When my grandparents moved from overseas, they had a hard time learning a new language along with getting accustomed to new cultures and traditions. As they grew older and their illnesses worsened, I would have to spend many nights in the hospital due to their language barrier. When I went to school and cared for my grandparents, I realized my passion for healthcare and that I wanted to make an impact in this field.”
— Farah Itani ’21MHA

“[I want to] work hard for what I believe in and make my dreams into reality. My parents came to the United States from Colombia in search of a better future. My mother would stress the importance of balancing school, sports and serving your community. When I was younger, I had to get an MRI because of a soccer injury and found myself helping my parents understand the financial responsibility.”
— Daniella Eslava ’21MHA

“...[the] question came to mind, how can a low-income DACA student not be eligible for federal and state financial aid get a full-ride scholarship to attend a university?...a passion for health care management to address issues of fraud in our health care system arose within me.”
— Luis Culcas ’22BSHSA
2022 Case Competition Team

"The experience I gained from participating in the UAB case competition has directly translated into my professional and educational environment. The confidence I gained in public speaking and presenting transformed my capabilities.” — Colby Keating, MHA student

SGHMI Case competition team prepared for and presented at the 16th Annual University of Alabama at Birmingham Health Administration Case Competition alongside teams from other CAHME accredited graduate programs.

"Participating in the UAB case was challenging and fun. The opportunity to network and share our experiences with other students from across the country was one of my favorite aspects of the competition.” — Morgan Kennedy-Lamphier, Executive MHA student

"I was given the opportunity to lead the team to Birmingham, Alabama, where we got to network with other aspiring leaders and meet healthcare executives. I enjoyed the team collaboration and gained so much knowledge that I will carry with me for a lifetime” — Taylor Horne, MHA student

Left to right: Morgan Kennedy-Lamphier, Taylor Horne, Shannon Elswick and Colby Keating

UCF SGHMI welcomed a total of 14 students to serve as Graduate Assistants for the Summer ’22 semester. These Graduate Teaching Assistants and Graduate Research Assistants support each of our programs, our faculty and the school as a whole.

Graduate Assistant Meet & Greet
**Journal: Director Hou Goes to Taiwan**

Professor and Founding Director Su-I Hou shares highlights and connections from her trip to TungHai University College of Management and International College for their summer mini-semester.

**National Taiwan University – College of Public Health**

It was an honor to give a well-received presentation on the Certified in Public Health (CPH) and Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES) credentials at my alma mater. I enjoyed a very fruitful and productive visit discussing various collaborations and meeting many new and old colleagues. I am very thankful for the warm hospitality I received from the Institute of Health Behaviors & Community Sciences and the Global Health Program. I look forward to exciting exchanges, collaborations, and opportunities!

**Kaohsiung Medical University (KMU) – Graduate Institute of Healthcare Administration & Informatics**

I was very grateful to the kind and enthusiastic conversation with Director Yiter Chen, Associate Professor Hsueh-Fen Chen and colleagues about the exciting faculty and student exchange possibilities.

**National Cheng Kung University (NCKU)**

I visited NCKU’s Institute of Gerontology discussing research collaborations with Assistant Professor Li-Fan Liu and her students.

**Tunghai University – International College**

I enjoyed a very productive day visiting the Department of Business Administration and International College at Tunghai University discussing potential international collaborations and exchange opportunities. Special thanks to the warm hospitality & enthusiastic hosting of Professor Ying-Chyi Chou and Dean James Sims.

**Mackay Medical College (MMC) – Institute of Geriatric Welfare Technology & Science**

I visited the beautiful MMC campus and was impressed with the many innovative gerontology technology projects. Special thanks to the warm hospitality from MMC’s faculty, students, and Director Kuender D. Yang.

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**Su-I Hou Global Health Management and Informatics Endowed Scholarship**

Su-I Hou is a professor and founding director of UCF’s School of Global Health Management and Informatics (SGHMI). After graduating from college in Taiwan, Hou studied abroad in the U.S. and has since embarked on a journey—and career—beyond her wildest imagination. Ever since, she has been a fearless advocate for “globally minded, locally engaged” leaders and scholars in the healthcare industry. Experiencing firsthand how life-changing and impactful such a study abroad experience was for her—and seeing how much it is for others, Hou endowed a scholarship in 2020 to support SGHMI’s students who are pursuing a global learning experience and to promote cross-cultural learning and exchange. To qualify, recipients must be enrolled in a program at SGHMI for at least a year and plan to use the funds to participate in health-related study abroad programs, inter-cultural exchange, and global health internships, among other related activities.
SGHMI continues to foster and generate new academic partnerships across the globe.

**Global Partners with UCF International Agreements**

- Tunghai University
  - International College
  - Taichung, Taiwan
- Mackay Medical College
  - Institute of Geriatric Welfare Technology and Science
  - Taipei, Taiwan
- Catholic University of the Sacred Heart
  - Graduate Institute of Healthcare Administration and Informatics
  - Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- Kaohsiung Medical University
  - Institute of Geriatric Welfare Technology and Science
  - Taipei, Taiwan
- Mackay Medical College
  - Institute of Geriatric Welfare Technology and Science
  - Taipei, Taiwan
- Catholic University of the Sacred Heart
  - Graduate Institute of Healthcare Administration and Informatics
  - Kaohsiung, Taiwan
- AJ Hospital & Research Centre
  - Mangalore, India
- National Taiwan University
  - College of Public Health
  - Taipei, Taiwan
- Chung Shan Medical University
  - College of Medicine
  - Taichung, Taiwan
- University of Georgia
  - Tbilisi, Georgia
- Gulf Medical University
  - Ajman, United Arab Emirates
- Anahuac University
  - Puebla and Cancun, Mexico
- Pontifical Xavierian University
  - Bogota, Colombia
- University of Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Murdoch University, Australia
- Broward International University Brazil, Brazil
- UniAmerica - Centro Universitario, Brazil
- Uniao Dinamica de Faculdades Cataratas, Brazil
- University of Victoria, Canada
- Universidad de la Amazonia, Colombia
- Broward Center for American Education, Ecuador
- American University in Cairo, Egypt
- Badr University in Cairo, Egypt
- University of Greenwhich, England
- Sampoerna University, Indonesia
- Mary Immaculate College, Ireland
- Tel Aviv University, Israel
- Seijo University, Japan
- Universidad Catolica Nuestra Senora de la Asuncion, Paraguay
- Chaoyang University of Technology, Taiwan
- National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan
- National Defense Medical Center, Taiwan
- National Yang-Ming University, Taiwan
Internship coordinator Jackie Gonzalez, MHA joins students at their internship orientation. They are the first interns to join the UCF Lake Nona Medical Center as administrative interns. (Photo by Katie Terry)

The 2021-2022 Mentor Pods students and faculty came together for their end of year wrap up session. (Photo by Katie Terry).

Hou was inducted as the 2022-2024 Board of Directors at the Southern Gerontological Society. (Photo provided by Su-I Hou).

The SGHMI continued to support ACHE of Central Florida as a Platinum Sponsor by serving as the presenting educational sponsor for “The State of Healthcare in Florida” and “Senior Leaders Forum” events focused on current issues in healthcare administration.

The College of Community Innovation and Education, held their first Celebration Knight in May 2022. The School of Global Health Management and Informatics took the opportunity to honor Jake Kirchner, vice president for planning and development at HCA Healthcare – North Florida division, with the Distinguished Alumni award and honor partner, Jorge Amaro, founder and CEO at A3i and president-elect of ACHE of Central Florida.

Students and faculty work together to build skills, their network and a sense of community.
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
Hou Joins Social Justice Advocacy Inaugural Panel.

BY KATIE TERRY, MPA

“I feel honored and privileged...,” said founding School Director, Su-I Hou, PhD, who was invited and recognized at the inaugural Asian Pacific American Heritage Month panel to speak on her work in the Asian American community and share her story.

The APAHM event, hosted by UCF’s Social Justice and Advocacy and Multicultural Student Center with co-host support from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management, was developed to recognize multiple facets of the community.

The goals are to recognize the small yet fastest-growing racial minority group in the U.S., learn and hear about stories and issues facing the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, histories, traditions, acculturation challenges and journeys. Additionally, this event offers a space to share stories and embrace diversity, equity and inclusion with the AAPI community at UCF.

“The significant event to simply celebrate us as who we are, recognize what we have achieved, reflect on our family roots and stories, and how we can work together to preserve and share our culture, values, traditions and unique differences through generations and beyond. Those tear-jerking moments, shared vulnerability, acculturation struggles, and the power of connections, surely had some magic healing power knowing that we are not alone.”

— DR. HOU

A CHILDHOOD OF TRAVEL SHAPES PROFESSOR’S PASSION TO ENSURE QUALITY CARE ACCESS FOR ALL

Associate Professor Latarsha Chisholm aims to improve quality of care and reduce disparities while implementing innovation in her field.

BY KISSIMMEE CRUM

UCF Associate Professor Latarsha Chisholm had the chance to travel across the United States during her childhood because she was raised in a military family. The experience opened her eyes to the disparities around her and the opportunities to make a difference.

Chisholm works in UCF’s School of Global Health Management and Informatics in the College of Community Innovation and Education. Her research focuses on quality of care, disparities, and the implementation and dissemination of innovations. This includes racial, ethnic and socioeconomic disparities that occur in long-term care settings, such as nursing homes.

The Gainesville, Florida native says her family and colleagues who are just as passionate about making a difference in the world are a strong source of inspiration.

“There’s a reason why I’m here working on research and attempting to improve the healthcare system,” Chisholm says. “We need to ensure that all individuals receive and have access to high-quality care, and not just a few.”

Currently much of her work focuses on improving a person’s experience in nursing homes, especially since this is a growing industry. There is the potential to improve resident experience by adopting innovative approaches, which is one area she is studying.

Chisholm holds a doctoral degree in health services research, management and policy from the University of Florida. She also has a master’s degree of social work (clinical track social work) and a bachelor’s degree in psychology, both from the University of South Florida. It was during an internship at the Tampa U.S. Veterans Affairs Hospital while she was a graduate student completing her social work program that Chisholm became inspired to investigate fields of health services and their impact on quality of care.

Chisholm has written more than 20 publications in scholarly journals and has several ongoing research projects. She has presented at Moffitt Cancer Center and various national meetings as she works to make a difference.

Originally Published March 28, 2022, at ucf.edu/news/a-childhood-of-travel-shapes-professors-passion-to-ensure-quality-care-access-for-all/
Faculty & Staff 2021 - 2022

PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Mark Bush, DHA
Undergraduate Health Services Administration Program Coordinator

Kendall Cortelyou, PhD
Health Care Informatics Program Coordinator

Kourtney Nieves, PhD
Graduate Health Administration Program Coordinator

Alice Noblin, PhD, RHIA, CCS, PMP
Undergraduate Health Informatics and Information Management Program Coordinator, Interim Associate Dean

Dawn Oetjen, PhD
Executive MHA Program Coordinator

FACULTY

Su-I Hou, DrPH, CPH, MCHES, RN, FACHE
Founding School Director

Bernardo Ramirez, MD, MBA
Director of Global Programs

Timothy Rotarius, PhD
Professor

Reid Oetjen, PhD
Associate Professor

Yara Asi, PhD
Assistant Professor

Sung Choi, PhD
Assistant Professor

Danielle Atkins, PhD
Associate Professor

Shannon Elswick, MS, FACHE
Associate Instructor Executive in Residence

Christian King, PhD
Assistant Professor

Samuel D. Towne, PhD
Assistant Professor

Barbara Andraka-Christou, PhD, JD
Assistant Professor

Matthew Abbene, MHA
Adjunct Faculty

Steven Ton, MS
Associate Instructor, Internship Coordinator HCI/HIIM

Meredith Robertson, MPP, MSc
Associate Instructor

Amanda Walden, PhD
Associate Lecturer

Phillip Wessel, MHA
Associate Instructor

NOT PICTURED:

Marie White
Adjunct Faculty

Portia Hahn, MBA
Adjunct Faculty

Tish Sheppard
Program Manager

Cyndy Leonhard, M.J.
Adjunct Faculty

Phillip Putnam, MHA
Adjunct Faculty

Tiffani Jett
Adjunct Faculty

Armando Prieto, MS
Academic Program Coordinator

Randy Yniguez
Adjunct Faculty

Alexander Christou
Adjunct Faculty

Sean McElroy
Adjunct Faculty

Martin Szczucynski
Adjunct Faculty

Crystal Crider, MHA
Adjunct Faculty

Steven Ton, MS
Adjunct Faculty
Undergraduate Programs

BS in Health Services Administration
BS in Health Informatics and Information Management
Health Services Administration Minor
Health Informatics and Information Management Minor
Healthcare Quality and Revenue Management Minor

Graduate Programs

MS in Health Care Informatics
MS in Health Administration
Health Administration Track
Executive Health Administration Track
Graduate Certificate in Health Care Risk Management
PhD in Public Affairs
Global and Community Health Services Research Specialization

Programs accredited/certified by: