Aaaaand, we’re back.

Greetings from my UCLA desk, where I sit regularly now and hear a return of life on campus and see faculty and students walking about… albeit with masks on. We are happy to resume in-person instruction with both our cohorts, the Classes of 2022 and 2023. Of course, coming back to campus is not without its challenges as we find some students need to be on zoom due to strict UCLA COVID protocols, as well as the temporary ban on sharing meals together in our classrooms. But the interaction, discussion, smiling eyes above the masks, and even some hugs make it all worthwhile as we navigate the end of 2021.

As you will see in this newsletter, we celebrated a fantastic Class of 2021 at graduation. These students started in person, went remote in Spring 2020, and finished their entire second year over Zoom. The quality of work and participation was never better, and when we did finally gather informally, and for a proper fully vaccinated graduation party at Westwood’s iconic Skylight Gardens in June, it was probably the best celebration we’ve ever thrown! Enjoy the pictures below.

Our Executive Programs in HPM office continues to change and grow. We wished the best to Geneva Rangel as she left to pursue other UCLA opportunities, but are so pleased to have added Emily Lee, MSW to our team as Student Affairs Officer. She comes with great university experience from the East Coast and just may be the happiest new Los Angeleno in the community! After graduating with her Executive MPH this spring, Julie Carafelli, MPH, was promoted to Assistant Administrative Director. She works with both the EMPH and our new online Master of Healthcare Administration (mha.ucla.edu). I’m also thrilled to have added Julie Elginer, DrPH, MBA, as Assistant Academic Director. Her enthusiasm for students, the curriculum and being excellent in the classroom has provided tremendous support for the academic programs. And finally, we have a great senior work study UCLA student, Jairo Gutierrez, who is bringing some male vibes to the office, super-efficient processes, and a dry sense of humor to keep us all laughing.

I hope that you can join HPMAA, EMPH, and HPMSA this Friday for the 2021 Fall Annual Mixer… it’s not too late to RSVP!! It would be wonderful to see people in person if you feel comfortable with this, and to greet and welcome students and alumni alike after a long 19 months!

Warm greetings to you and our wonderful EMPH community!

Leah J. Vriesman, PhD, MHA, MBA
Executive Director & Professor
Congratulations to the UCLA EMPH Class of 2021!

From top to bottom, left to right: Eddy Moreno, Maja Jolly, Sarah Salej Freed, Julie Carafelli, Sophie Li, Ariel Wages, Chris Chin, Irlanda Almendarez, Jocelyn Loren, Ashley Anderson, Mackenzie Slade, Sarah Parra, Kathleen Yang, Melissa Moore, Margilane Hernandez, Danielle McLaughlin, Karen Blanco, Martha Mendoza, Tanya Ferrer, Tiffany Chen, Eline Gendelman (Not pictured: Pattie Pilgrim)

Our EMPH Class of 2021 will perhaps go down as one of the most resilient cohorts in the history of the EMPH Program. After only 2 quarters in-person, the world seemingly flipped upside down. The remainder of their journey was filled with a roller coaster of emotions, adjustments, and adversity. Despite the struggles of navigating through two significant pandemics - COVID-19 and persistent systemic racism - Zoom fatigue, mental and emotional exhaustion, they persevered together. We were beyond thrilled they were able to gather in-person to hug, laugh, cry, and celebrate their huge accomplishment together as a cohort.

We are so very proud of you and know you will all go on to be strong, influential leaders in the field of Public Health.

Congratulations and best of luck to you all!
EMPH 2021 Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2021 Sinaiko Business Plan Awardees!

The EMPH Program incorporates integrated knowledge, creativity, and applied skills by asking that students create a business plan in the middle of their second year of studies. The final deliverables, a written plan and an oral presentation, are attributed to three courses as a comprehensive assessment: Strategic Policy & Management, Healthcare Marketing, and Healthcare Finance. Congratulations to this year’s awardees on a well-deserved win!!

Chris Chin, Jocelyn Loren, and Melissa Moore
IV DripDash: On-Demand Hydration Therapy

2021 Honor Society Members

Congratulations to the 2021 Delta Omega Awardees!

Delta Omega is the national scholastic honorary society established to recognize scholarship devotion to public health principles and outstanding service in public health. Recipients are carefully chosen each year based on academic standing and real or potential qualities of leadership in public health.

Karen Gisselle Santoyo Alvarez Blanco
Maja Jolly
Mackenzie Slade
Ariel Wages

Congratulations to the 2021 Upsilon Phi Delta Awardees!

Upsilon Phi Delta is the National Honor Society for Health Care Management recognized by health administration professionals and academic institutions. Recipients are carefully chosen each year based on academic standing and overall achievement in the management field.

Tiffany Chen
Tanya Ferrer
Jocelyn Loren
Danielle McLaughlin
The Lee Thomassen UCLA Healthcare Finance Fellowship was established in 2019 in honor of EMPH faculty member, Lee Thomassen (EMPH ’12). Lee’s passion for UCLA and the EMPH program blessed us with his being our faculty member for Healthcare Financial Management for 5 years. This fund is always open for donations, and supports an incoming Year 2 student showing exceptional promise in accounting and financial healthcare skills. Click on link to honor Lee’s memory and passion for teaching with your contribution.

Congratulations to the 2021 Levin-Gordon Leadership Awardee!

The Levin-Gordon Executive MPH Scholarship provides a scholarship for a promising second year student in the Executive MPH Program based on academic achievement. In consultation with program faculty, Danielle McLaughlin was chosen among many outstanding peers for her exceptional work, leadership, and demeanor during her first year in the program. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious award, Danielle!

Congratulations to the 2021 Lee Thomassen Healthcare Finance Fellowship Awardee!

The Lee Thomassen Healthcare Finance Fellowship provides a scholarship for a returning Year 2 Executive MPH student who has demonstrated exceptional skills in accounting and finance coursework. In consultation with program faculty, Kathleen Yang was chosen among many outstanding peers for her exceptional work in accounting, and her promise of success in financial management. Congratulations on a well-deserved award, Kathleen!

One EMPH recipient is carefully chosen each year by their cohort peers for the Ann G. Quealy Memorial Fellowship Endowment Award based on overall achievement, concern for others, humor, and a desire to reach his/her highest potential in life while bringing out the best in others. Congratulations to this year’s awardee! Thank you for your positive contributions to the culture of the HPM Department and the EMPH Program!

Congratulations to the 2021 Ann Quealy Awardee!

Julie Carafelli

Danielle McLaughlin

Kathleen Yang
Welcome back, Year 2s and welcome to the EMPH Program, Year 1s!

We are proud to welcome back our EMPH class of 2022!

These 26 students bring a great amount of diversity to the program; on average, this cohort has over 11 years of professional work experience, reflected in their myriad job titles and responsibilities. This year’s cohort consists of two anesthesiologists, three nurses, one dentist, two MBA graduates, and many professionals with managerial and administrative backgrounds. These unique professional experiences bring a tremendous amount of theoretical and practical value to the EMPH program, and we are thrilled to have them back and in person for the first time since their start in the program!

We are excited to welcome our EMPH class of 2023!

With many of our healthcare workers on the front line fighting COVID-19, we commend our Year 1 students on their commitment to furthering their education to become leaders in the public health workforce. This year’s cohort consist of 18 students with expertise in occupational therapy, nursing, osteopathic medicine, IT, and a myriad of administrative positions. Congratulations on taking this major step in your life and we look forward to guiding you through your journey in the EMPH Program!
What’s New in the Exec HPM?

Master of Healthcare Administration

The Exec HPM Program welcomed its first MHA cohort in July, 2021. The online Master of Healthcare Administration degree program is the first of its type to be offered by a University of California campus. The number of applicants for Summer, Fall, and Winter have exceeded our expectations and we look forward to growing yet another successful degree program in our office and in the Fielding School of Public Health.

“Affordable, high-quality healthcare and an equitable healthcare system are only possible if those leading and operating the delivery system have the necessary skills to develop and operate organizations aligned with that vision. The UCLA Fielding School’s new MHA program will play a critical role in educating tomorrow’s delivery system leaders. The online nature of the program will enhance accessibility by potential students, thereby responding to the urgent need for a master’s-prepared leadership workforce.”

Thomas Priselac
President and CEO of Cedars-Sinai Health System

Meet Our MHA Subject Matter Experts

Shira Shafir, PhD, MPH
Burt Cowgill, PhD
Martin Lee, PhD
Leah Vriesman, PhD, MHA, MBA
Laura Erskine, PhD, MBA

Julie A. Elginer, DrPH, MBA
Ninez Ponce, PhD, MPP
Paul Fu, MD, MPH
Michael Galper, MPH
Hannah Reischl, MPH

Moira Inkelas, PhD, MPH
Jeff Helton, PhD, CMA, CFE, FHFMA
Sandra Potthoff, PhD
Dylan H. Roby, PhD
Kevin Baldwin, MPH
We are thrilled with the changes in our Executive Programs in Health Policy and Management Office! We welcome Dr. Julie Eliginer as Assistant Academic Director, Julie Carafelli as Assistant Administrative Director, and Emily Lee as Student Services Advisor. Together with Executive Director, Leah Vriesman and Director, Kyle Sullivan, we are excited to enhance our programs and are committed to the success of our future healthcare leaders.

**EMPH Alumi and Current Students**

[Image of event invitation]

**Annual Alumni Mixer**

**THE UCLA FIELDING SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**
**HEALTH POLICY & MANAGEMENT**
**MPH, EMPH, AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS**
**INVITE YOU TO THE**

**ANNUAL ALUMNI MIXER**

**AT**
**Sorry Not Sorry**
**11520 W PICO BLVD, LOS ANGELES**
**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22ND**
**5-8PM**

FOOD & DRINKS WILL BE PROVIDED IN THEIR OUTDOOR PATIO

PLEASE RSVP

RSVP AT HTTPS://HPM-ALUMNI-MIXER.EVENTBRITE.COM