

What exactly is the "new normal"?

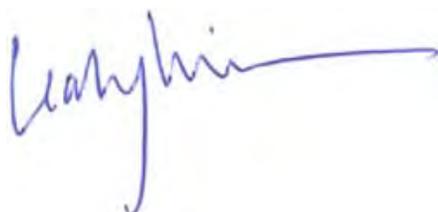
Here we are at the end of August, and the 2 months since UCLA's graduation feels more like 2 years ago. Time is strange. The workplace is stranger. I am actually writing this from my UCLA office because it is quiet and more private than home – quite ironic. And now we are planning for an online fall quarter start that has stretched us into formulating new and interesting remote learning for all our fall EMPH courses.

This June, we again celebrated and graduated a resilient, clever, and tightly-bound EMPH cohort of exceptional professional leaders in their fields. This group of 23 students experienced the usual courses and projects and presentations that developed them academically and professionally. And as you can see on the next page, they made it to an evening of class pictures, headshots, and business plan presentations in front of a group of 8 judges on March 6th. That evening we were impressed by the finest 7 presentations a cohort has ever collectively produced (said by me and our 2 longest serving judges, Richard Sinaiko, MPH '77 and David Krasnow, (E)MPH '98). So good in fact that we had a tie for first place (see below).

Then COVID hit. Our faculty flexed, both our year 1s and year 2s were resilient, and we ended in June with compliments all around. I owe a deep gratitude to Kyle Sullivan, (promoted to) Director of Executive Programs, and Geneva Rangel, EMPH Student Affairs Officer (see her welcome note below). While graduation was held via the now-common Zoom call rather than in person at Royce Hall, our Class of 2020 will have an experience for the history books.

We enter this new quarter with enthusiastic faculty who have been learning and making their courses perhaps even better with more enhanced teaching modalities than ever before. We are able to access guest speakers that have never before been able to geographically access our classrooms. Our second-year students and a new large incoming Class of 2022 are open-minded and safety cautious. It's our new normal, and we will thrive.

My warm wishes to you and our exceptional EMPH community.



Leah J. Vriesman, PhD, MHA, MBA
Executive Director & Professor



EMPH 2020 Graduates



Congratulations to the UCLA EMPH Class of 2020!

From top to bottom, left to right: Massoud Agahi, Roya Mirilavassani, Brandon Fernandez-Comer, Victor Pawelzik, Chisolu Anakwenze, Sarah Francis, Natalie Yragui, Erik Coll, Robert Gutierrez, Kayla Kilani, Alicia Coulter, Jonathan Martinez-Vargas, Tamara Molidor, Angela Bray, Zahrah Ahmad, Aneliese Castro, Sandra Kiley, Hilary Johnson, Valentina Nguyen, Isabelle Soh, Sara Rodriguez, Zulay Carrillo, Melissa Guevarra



Our EMPH class of 2020 graduated virtually on June 12, 2020. This cohort consists of 23 incredibly smart, talented, and dedicated individuals, and we are honored to have had the chance to learn and grow with them! You are needed now, more than ever, and we are confident you will be influential and powerful leaders in the field of Public Health.

Best of luck to you all!

EMPH 2020 Award Recipients

Congratulations to the 2020 Sinaiko Business Plan Awardees



Angela Bray, Zulay Carrillo, and Jonathan Martinez-Vargas
Speech Therapy at Venice Family Clinic



Aneliese Castro, Sarah Gettings, and Natalie Yragui
Compact Medical Innovations

Congratulations to the 2020 Ann Quealy Awardee



Tamara Molidor

One EMPH recipient is carefully chosen each year 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 the 2020 Delta Omega Awardees



Massoud Agahi



Aneliese Castro



Kayla Kilani



Sandra Kiley

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.

Congratulations to the 2020 Upsilon Phi Delta Awardees



Zahrah Ahmad



Brandon
Fernandez-Comer



Roya
Mirilavassani



Isabelle Soh



Natalie Yragui

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.

EMPH Class of 2021



UCLA EMPH Year 2 Students

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

We are proud to welcome back our EMPH class of 2021!

These 23 students bring a great amount of diversity to the program; on average, this cohort has 9 years of professional work experience, reflected in their myriad job titles and responsibilities. This year's cohort consists of two dentists, two nurses, one psychiatrist, one MBA graduate, 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!



New EMPH Faculty



Tom Armentrout-Wiswall



Kevin Baldwin



Hannah Reischl

The EMPH program welcomes three new faculty members to the program: Tom Armentrout-Wiswall, Kevin Baldwin, and Hannah Reischl. Tom will be teaching our Health Financial Management course, Kevin will be teaching our Healthcare Information Systems and Technology course, and Hannah will be teaching our Data Analytics course. We are thrilled to welcome them!

As Head of Human Resources at The Wonderful Company, UCLA EMPH alumnus, **Tom Armentrout** is responsible for improving performance and efficiency across the Human Resources function and leading People initiatives to help ensure better collaboration, standardization, and consistency across the company's varied business units. Tom's prior work experience includes a mix of corporate and consulting positions at Paramount Pictures, Disney, IBM, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and KPMG. He has an extensive background in Human Resources and in leading cross-business change and transformation initiatives. Tom received his MBA from Wharton in 1997 and his MPH from UCLA in 2016. He has a strong interest in health and wellness, with a passion for programs that provide for the needs of underserved populations. Tom is the father of three school age children who all have Spina Bifida, Alex, Annalise, and Augustus. Tom's interest in healthcare was sparked by what he's encountered while navigating the complex world of pediatric healthcare and from what he experienced when his late husband was being treated for stomach cancer, which he died from in 2012.

Kevin Baldwin, UCLA EMPH alumnus, is the UCLA Health Sciences Informatics Portfolio Manager. Kevin also serves on the Board of Directors of the University Credit Union and teaches graduate courses in the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and Loyola Marymount University Seaver College of Science and Engineering. He completed his training at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Columbia University.

Hannah Reischl is a public health business strategy consultant with 10+ years experience catalyzing complex business priorities in into action to transform the role and capabilities of health systems. Currently, she serves as a Sr. Business Consultant within Kaiser Permanente's National Office of Transformation. She has led teams and innovation efforts within Federally Qualified Health Clinics (FQHCs) operations, Community Mental Health, Medicaid health plans, and strategic design and implementation efforts for care delivery systems. She received her MPH in Health Policy and Management from the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. Hannah serves as a business design mentor at hackathons – most recently with MIT's Covid-19 global challenges.

Student Affairs Officer, Geneva Rangel, Joins EMPH



At the start of Fall 2019, EMPH welcomed Geneva Rangel as their new Student Affairs Officer for the program. Geneva is from Los Angeles, California. She received her B.A. in History from UC, Merced, and worked at museums and at the University of California for the past 13 years. Geneva started working for EMPH in November of 2019, and loves being part of the EMPH team! She enjoys reading, working out, Real Housewives shows, and museums.



Congratulations to Aneliese Castro, the first recipient of the Lee Thomassen UCLA Healthcare Finance Fellowship!

The **Lee Thomassen UCLA Healthcare Finance Fellowship** is awarded to a returning Year 2 EMPH student who has demonstrated exceptional skills in accounting and finance coursework.



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.

In 2019, we established the [Lee Thomassen UCLA Healthcare Finance Fellowship](#) in honor of EMPH faculty member, Lee Thomassen (EMPH '12). Lee's passion for UCLA and the EMPH program blessed us

