



UCF

ADVANCE

TRANSFORMING HEALTHCARE
IMPROVING LIVES

Annual Publication
2021-2022

COLLEGE OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND SCIENCES

TOGETHER, WE CHARGE ON!

Prior to the pandemic, we launched a strategic plan that guides our efforts in education, excellence, clinical practice, research and philanthropy. While the past two years have been a challenge, we have not deviated from our course. In fact, we have invested over \$477,000 in achieving many of our goals and are starting to define what our next phase will be.

This collection of stories shows our dedication and progress in achieving our goals. You will notice that we do this through mutually beneficial partnerships, service to our community, and scientific research that advances our fields. I'm so proud of the amazing work done by our students, faculty, staff and the support of our community. Together, we are reconceptualizing what our role as a college is in the Orlando area and beyond as we continue to transform healthcare and improve lives.

Partnering is in our DNA, and we would love to discuss new possibilities with you. If you see a topic that interests you, please reach out at chps@ucf.edu or on social media.

CHPS has endless possibilities thanks to all the people who contribute to advancing our goals. I look forward to continuing our journey together.

Sincerely,
Christopher Ingersoll
Christopher D. Ingersoll
Founding Dean



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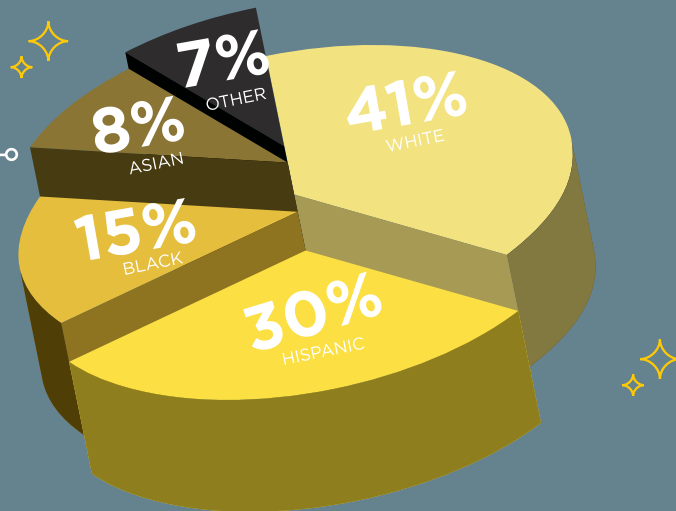
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BY THE NUMBERS

The College of Health Professions and Sciences



CHPS STUDENT BODY

Number of students who engaged in a high-impact experience

2,428



First Generation Students



Number of students who graduated with honors

1,990

Number of degrees awarded

7,110 STUDENTS ENROLLED



NEW PH.D. IN KINESIOLOGY

ADVANCING THE SCIENCE OF HUMAN MOVEMENT AND TRAINING FUTURE RESEARCHERS AND EDUCATORS

UCF's new Kinesiology Ph.D. degree program will prepare students for careers as clinical researchers, sports scientists, university professors and professional leaders in one of the nation's fastest growing fields. Approved by the Florida Board of Governors in November 2021, UCF will begin offering the new doctoral degree program in Fall 2022.

The new program in kinesiology explores physical activity and its impact on health, society and quality of life. It will be housed in the School of Kinesiology and Physical Therapy. The new degree program will be the first Ph.D. program offered within the College of Health Professions and Sciences. It also is the first program

of its kind offered at a Hispanic Serving Institution in the state of Florida, providing career and research opportunities for a more diverse range of students.

"Through this unique program, UCF will produce the next generation of leaders, who are advancing the broad discipline of kinesiology through exploration of human movement, applied physiology, sports performance, sports medicine and clinical rehabilitation," said David H. Fukuda, the program's founding director. "In the coming years, we expect to see UCF become a national leader in developing these professionals, who will play an integral and collaborative role in helping our society live healthier, happier and more active lifestyles."

ADVANCE EDUCATION

4 PHYSICAL THERAPY FACULTY

RECOGNIZED AT
APTA CONFERENCE



Faculty members from the Division of Physical Therapy received awards recognizing their excellence in teaching in different specialty areas at this year's American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) Combined Sections Meeting.

Morris Beato received the Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy-Excellence in Neurologic Physical Therapy Education.

Laurie Neely received the Academy of Acute Care – Acute Care Katherine Harris Educator Award.

Patrick Pabian received the American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy-Excellence in Education Award.

Carey Rothschild received the Academy of Orthopaedic Physical Therapy – James A. Gould Excellence in Teaching Award.

Our faculty continue to prove #WhyUCFdpt

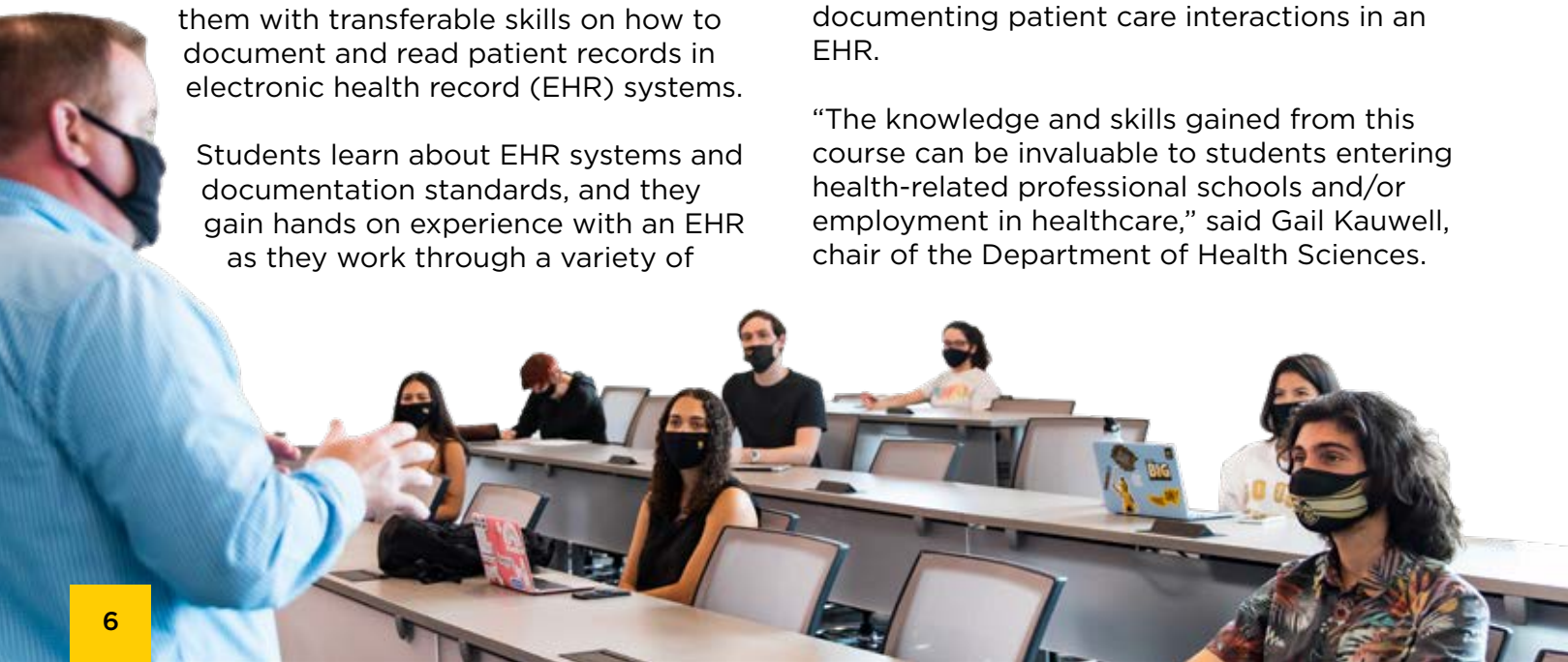
New Course Teaches Students About Electronic Medical Records

A new course in the Department of Health Sciences, Clinical Documentation for Healthcare Professions (HSC 4703), prepares students for a variety of healthcare careers by providing them with transferable skills on how to document and read patient records in electronic health record (EHR) systems.

Students learn about EHR systems and documentation standards, and they gain hands on experience with an EHR as they work through a variety of

case studies. The case studies provide students with the opportunity to apply content from prerequisite courses to situations encountered in clinical practice and to gain proficiency documenting patient care interactions in an EHR.

“The knowledge and skills gained from this course can be invaluable to students entering health-related professional schools and/or employment in healthcare,” said Gail Kauwell, chair of the Department of Health Sciences.



Anatomy Lab Opens Doors to Learners Outside of UCF to Provide a Rich Learning Experience

The human gross anatomy lab has long been an integral part of clinical training for students in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Through outreach efforts, lab leaders are helping other learners in the community become better healthcare providers by inviting them to take a closer look at the human body.

The opportunity to learn from cadavers is a rare opportunity, usually reserved for students in clinical programs at the graduate level. Jacqueline Flores-Otero, clinical associate professor of anatomy and director of the lab, knew she had to open the lab doors to more learners to honor the wishes of those who willed their bodies to science. “Recently, we had undergraduate students from UCF’s Undergraduate Physical Therapy Association and the School of Communication

Sciences and Disorders (CSD) attend an open lab with our physical therapy students,” Flores-Otero said. “My students presented on various parts of the head and neck to help the CSD students validate the different associations of the structures that they learn about in their coursework but don’t ever get to see in real life.”

“These cadaver lab dissections are indispensable for understanding speech- and hearing-anatomy. Through these experiences, our students can visualize the relative size and orientation of structures and muscles in the human body,” said CSD assistant professor Lakshmi Sunil.

Flores-Otero and the DPT students also recently hosted students from Hillsborough Community College’s Emergency Medical Services program.

“The program does not have its own human gross anatomy lab, so this experience is crucial for these students who need to understand anatomy and physiology when caring for patients in emergency situations,” Flores-Otero said.

Flores-Otero said the DPT students also benefit from being able to instruct other professionals about different anatomical structures and their functions.

“Our physical therapy students spend more time studying the human body through human cadavers than any other student at UCF,” Flores-Otero said. “They are thrilled to share their extensive knowledge with other UCF students and other learners in the community.”



PHYSICAL THERAPY STUDENT AWARDED DOCTORAL DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

Veoletta Dyer, a first-year physical therapy doctoral student, has been awarded the Doctoral Diversity Fellowship by UCF's College of Graduate Studies.

According to the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, of the student population in physical therapy programs, only 4.1% are African American and 6.9% are Hispanic. The fellowship encourages a more diverse workforce in fields such as physical therapy to better represent the people they serve.

"This fellowship provides us with a mechanism to recruit high-caliber,

higher-character students," Program Director Patrick Pabian said.

The fellowship provides tuition, a stipend and health insurance to allow recipients to focus on their degree, rather than the financial burden.

"I'm hoping that entering this field will also encourage other Black and brown students to take up space and become physical therapists so that the field as a whole becomes more reflective of the beautifully diverse people we serve," said Dyer.

Students Serve as Health Ambassadors in a New Course Aimed to Improve Health Outcomes in the Community

A new service-learning, interdisciplinary health improvement course provides students in all CHPS majors with hands-on experience working to address public health problems within the Central Florida community.

The new course, Interdisciplinary Projects in Health Professions (IHS 4950), gives students a better understanding of how to develop and execute a community health initiative by actually doing the work with a real health agency, said Suha Saleh, assistant dean for undergraduate affairs in CHPS who developed the course.

"This course teaches students how to work in partnership with others to address community or public health concerns," Saleh said. "It's a wonderful experience for their future careers in healthcare or public health."

During the semester, students work with various health agencies to address community health concerns. They do this by creating information for websites, brochures, and even hosting community health fairs to educate people about health

topics and the resources available to help them.

"The students gain first-hand experience on what it takes to partner with our local community and empower people to make healthy changes," Saleh said.

Students say they like knowing that their work will have a direct impact on people. Gabriel Alban '22, said he signed up for the course as soon as he heard about it during enrollment season.

"I've never seen a class like this offered during my time at UCF," Alban said. "The hands-on learning aspect of the course really made it interesting, versus just regular volunteering."

This is the newest high-impact (HIP) course, and the first interdisciplinary course, offered in CHPS. Classes with the HIP designation offer learning experiences that enhance students' knowledge and facilitate growing their practical skills in communication, collaboration and critical thinking.



NEW LIFELIKE HOLOGRAM TECH

EXPANDS STUDENTS' SKILLS IN PATIENT CARE

“Dr. Hologram” may sound like a futuristic character, but it is new technology being used as a learning aid in classes to project a life-sized person in hologram form.

Before CHPS pioneered its use in healthcare education, the device was used in entertainment. Bari Hoffman, associate dean of clinical affairs for the UCF College of Health Professions and Sciences, saw advantages in the technology and helped to bring the device to UCF thanks to a gift from Brooks Rehabilitation.

“This is helping us close the gap we were experiencing in trying to expose our students to a wide variety of conditions they might see in the field,” said Hoffman. “Now, we have a whole library of patients ready to meet students with the click of a button.”

Learning experiences in the past have typically been limited to pictures and videos of patients, or relied on volunteers to come to class. Adding the hologram technology broadens the variety of patients that students can learn from and helps bridge the gap when in-person interactions are not possible or cost-prohibitive. The recordings also offer a better way of standardizing patient interactions to assess student competencies.

“If you’re only focused on one part, you’re missing a big piece of what’s going on. This enables us to see the whole patient in true to life form,” said Hoffman.

To create the content that will be shared in classes, faculty members asked patients to visit the college’s new Rehabilitation Innovation Center. Their stories were recorded, and they performed movements to show how their symptoms are affecting them.

But recordings don’t have to be done in the studio. It can be done with a camera from virtually anywhere, meaning people everywhere are able to participate, which benefits both patients and students. It can also be used for real-time communication — think of a life-sized Zoom call.

“For some clients, it can be difficult to come to a class,” said Hoffman. “The hologram gives us the opportunity to beam them in from the comfort of their homes, and we can showcase them while certain abilities are still intact. For some, it feels like they have the opportunity to teach students for generations to come.”



National Training Program Trains Future Leaders in Serving Victims of Domestic Violence

Funded By Americorps, 'Survivor Link' Supports Social Work Students To Advocate For Survivors Of Domestic Abuse



UCF School of Social Work has joined the network of universities administering Survivor Link to better understand and assist families facing domestic violence. The network provides master of social work students with training, networking opportunities, scholarships and field placements in community nonprofits. As students develop their expertise, they also train their colleagues in domestic violence response.

The program, which began in 2015 at Arizona State University, is now a National AmeriCorps Public Health Program. So far, 445 students have been trained as domestic violence advocates and received more than \$1.2 million in scholarships. Come fall, UCF will be one of 14 participating universities in 11 states.

Led by UCF School of Social Work faculty Bethany Backes, Julia O'Connor and Robin Pisano, the funding will enable Survivor Link to support 10 social work students through monetary and tuition stipends. Students will also be required to provide training and engage in ongoing research projects, in addition to their field placements.

Students participating in Survivor Link are also encouraged to embrace social work's interdisciplinarity. They can do their field placements in a variety of health-focused agencies, and have the opportunity to gain research experience under the supervision of one of the program liaisons.

"I love Survivor Link because it's true to the nature of the field," said Backes, assistant professor of social work and criminal justice. "Social work is amazing for how interdisciplinary it is. Social workers play such a large role at all levels of our community. The program is a great opportunity for students to see this and understand that violence isn't an issue limited to a single discipline — it's so much larger than any one field."

ADVANCE CLINICAL PRACTICE

CSD Alumna Earns Prestigious Certification, ASHA Award

Daniela Berrios '15 '17MA was recently selected as a Distinguished Early Career Professional by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA), the national organization for the profession.

In addition to the award, she recently became certified as a Listening and Spoken Language Specialist (LSLS), a rigorous designation for speech-language pathologists to obtain. There are currently 36 LSLS registered in Florida, and about 1,000 worldwide, according to ASHA.

"I really owe everything to UCF," Berrios said. "I'm doing something that matters, and I'm doing something for my community."



'FIRE AND DESIRE':

UCF athletic training student aims to bring the field to U.S. Virgin Islands

By Grayson Keglovic

Growing up as a student athlete in the United States Virgin Islands, athletic training graduate student Isis Collier was used to a "walk it off" mentality when dealing with injuries.

While playing on the U.S. Virgin Islands national women's soccer team, Collier found herself filling a position that was uncommon to her island: an athletic trainer.

"We were having practices, and people needed their ankles taped and stretched ... And there was no one there to do that, but I was able to," Collier said.

During her freshman year at Cornell, Collier sustained a rare ankle sprain during a soccer game, where she received extraordinary care from Cornell's athletic trainer. Collier knew she had to bring athletic training home one day, so she applied to UCF's AT program as soon as she graduated from Cornell.

"She came in working hard. I don't believe you can teach that initiative and outside-the-box thinking and putting yourself out there," Kristen Schellhase, program director, said. "She is driven by the desire to better serve athletes like her back home."



Photo By Grayson Keglovic

Assistive Technology Fair Connects Students and Community Members to Resources That Improve Lives

Students from the Division of Physical Therapy and the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders came together to learn how assistive technologies can improve people’s participation in daily activities. Clients and families from the Central Florida community joined to see the latest innovations from assistive technology vendors and to consider how these assistive technologies could help them more easily participate in and access their daily activities and environments.

Assistive technology helps to increase, maintain or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities in areas such as speech, mobility and hearing. These devices help individuals be more self-sufficient and communicate and connect with others — which helps facilitate a better quality of life.

The event was the first time many students were introduced to such a broad range of assistive technologies in one place. “I think it was very educational for pretty much every discipline, but especially for physical therapy students because we got to see technologies that we didn’t know existed,” said physical therapy student Katelyn Downer.

The FFAST Atlantic Region Assistive Technology Demonstration Center and IMOVE Lab hope to make this a reoccurring college event each year with expanded hands-on learning experiences planned.



SPEAK UP!

Group Helps Adults with Disabilities Develop Self-Advocacy and Communication Skills

A new therapy group for adults with disabilities is empowering them to self-advocate.

Speak Up! began earlier this year through the Communication Disorders Clinic, and was founded by Kelly David, a clinical instructor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders. David says she was moved to organize the group after noting there were gaps in self-advocacy skills for many adult clients with communication disorders.

David serves as the supervisor of the graduate students in the CSD master’s program

who facilitates the group. The students prepare individualized activities, and work alongside clients as they engage them in exercises designed to foster their continued independence.

“Self-advocacy is all about communicating your needs, wants, and ideas,” David said. “It is so important to all of us as human beings to have our own voice be heard. These services empower our clients to take ownership of their communication with others, which in turn facilitates independence in other areas of their lives.”

UCF Students Team up to Provide Care at APOPKA FARMWORKERS CLINIC

Students from various health-related programs are once again teaming up to provide health screenings and resources to a population of underserved farmworkers in Apopka, Florida. By working together, students learn what it means to put the patient at the center of care and to rely on various health professionals to bring their area of expertise to facilitate a more comprehensive approach to wellness.

The Apopka Farmworkers Clinic had paused, reduced capacity and transitioned services to virtual care due to concerns of COVID-19 transmission. The clinic reopened at full capacity in March and will continue to provide quarterly services. The clinic is run by student and faculty volunteers from various health disciplines to improve the health and wellness of this underserved population. Volunteers from UCF’s programs in nursing, physical therapy, medicine and social work, as well as students from the UF pharmacology program, were available to screen patients and offer guidance and resources.

“We have been running the Apopka clinic consistently since 2016. And although the last two years we had to alter the way we engaged with patients, we were still able to help,” said Heather Peralta, a faculty member from the College of Nursing who has been spearheading this volunteer effort since its inception.

Students gain valuable skills in patient intake, triage and communication. They help patients of all ages with a wide variety of health concerns. Most of the patients seen in the clinic are either uninsured or underinsured, making it cost

prohibitive for them to seek traditional medical care. Whether it is a cut that hasn’t healed, or pain in their elbow, students and faculty work within their respective scopes of practice to best assist patients and refer to additional services.

Sometimes, patients need support for social, financial or emotional impacts they are experiencing, which is why social workers from the UCF School of Social Work are at each event. They help connect patients to programs and services in the community that contribute to their overall wellness.

“What we have built in this clinic is a holistic approach to healthcare,” said Peralta. “It is not only advantageous for our students to learn alongside students from other disciplines, but also for patients. It is extremely unique to be in one room and have so many different healthcare providers ready to help you. It’s almost like a little bit of magic — how impactful this teamwork is.”



BEHIND THE MASKS

STORIES FROM ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ON THE COVID FRONTLINE

The COVID-19 pandemic impacted lots of people's plans, but it has not deterred CHPS alumni from plunging into their healthcare careers. They have stepped up alongside other healthcare teammates to do their part in the fight against the virus.

PHYSICAL THERAPY: HEALING IN MOTION

Physical therapy is an integral part of any long-term hospital stay, but COVID care presents its own difficulties, said Patrick Pabian, director of UCF's DPT program.



"Physical therapists play an important role in the care of critically ill patients by providing safe and effective therapy to improve mobility and function to mitigate long-term risks of severe complications, such as pulmonary or venous embolism," Pabian said.

Many alumni from the Division of Physical Therapy have worked collaboratively with other healthcare workers to provide rehabilitation services to patients infected with the virus. At the start of the pandemic, providers had to work together to best understand the challenges of the virus.

Alex Peller '20DPT credits the critical thinking skills he learned during his time in the physical therapy program for preparing him to adapt and pivot in his role in the acute care unit at Advent Health Celebration. Creating adaptable exercises and encouraging patients to move as much and as safely as possible has been a major factor in many successful survival stories.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY: GIVING PATIENTS A VOICE

Speech-language pathologists (SLPs) working in all medical settings have found extra challenges during COVID. The virus has major impacts on the respiratory system and COVID patients may become intubated – a procedure in which a tube is placed into a person's trachea through the mouth to make it easier to breathe – or they may also have a tracheostomy, in which an opening is surgically created through the neck into the trachea to place an artificial airway. SLPs are crucial in caring for these patients.

Despite the many challenges that SLPs are facing during these uncertain times, many SLPs such as Erika Daly '20MA, are determined to help patients who have suffered from respiratory issues during their fight with COVID-19.

"My passion and my enthusiasm for what I

do, and the care that I have for my patients, takes precedence," Daly said. "To hear them tell me their name for the first time after initially being unresponsive is truly remarkable."

SOCIAL WORK: HELPING PATIENTS THROUGH THE DARKEST DAYS

"Social workers care for the mental, social, and emotional toll of COVID on patients and their families," said Matthew Theriot, professor and director of the UCF School of Social Work. "Social workers are trained and ready to provide help and support at all stages of treatment and recovery from COVID." The stress extends throughout the family of patients who are often not able to visit loved ones.

Christalynn Ortiz, a graduate student in UCF's master of social work program interned at a nursing home during the pandemic. She notes one of the most difficult aspects of her work was explaining to patients why their families can't see them.

"Many of my patients are sad because they miss their families," Ortiz said. "It can be difficult to explain to the patients why their families aren't coming to see them."

Social workers are also impacted and must find their own methods of taking care of their own mental health. Ortiz has a built-in network of clinicians at her internship who help her process her thoughts and fears.

STAYING THE COURSE

For most of our frontline COVID workers, working from home is not an option. Muscles must be rehabilitated, speech and swallowing must be restored, people must be heard and made whole. Our clinicians do what they have to do to heed their calling of caring for others, especially during this time of heightened need.

Communication Disorders Clinic Meets Needs of Community While Training Future SLPs

As part of the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD), UCF's Communications Disorders Clinic (CDC) offers cutting-edge diagnostic and treatment services to patients of all ages to assist them in achieving their speech and language goals.

The clinic offers a full range of services supported by CSD faculty as they provide hands-on training to future speech-language pathologists. As one of the largest CSD master's program in the nation and ranked No. 55 by U.S. News & World Report, the School's clinic supports the academic and professional success of students who work directly with patients and their families.

"The program's size provides us with the benefit of having experts in most of the nine disorder areas of practice within the American

Speech-Language-Hearing Association's classifications. That is something that makes us unique because we have experts in a variety of clinical areas," said Debra Knox, director of the clinic.

Knox estimates the clinic hosts about 300 sessions of therapy a week, including some telehealth options. These robust experiences add to the requirement of clinical training hours required by CSD accredited graduate programs. It also further connects UCF to the Central Florida community it serves. Students routinely say their fondest memories of the program happened in the clinic or the specialty centers also run by CSD faculty.

"Our work is extremely rewarding because it empowers people to connect with their world," said Knox.

AFFILIATED SPECIALTY CENTERS



UCF Aphasia House

UCF is home to one of only three centers in Florida to offer an intensive comprehensive program to help people with aphasia make substantial improvement in a short amount of time by increasing the intensity of therapy.



The FFAST Center

UCF's Florida Alliance for Assistive Services and Technology (FFAST) Center is part of six regional demonstration centers that provide services to patients and their families who need assistance on how to select, use, pay for and live with assistive technology.



UCF Listening Center

The UCF Listening Center serves individuals across the lifespan who have hearing loss, with a focus on listening and spoken language services early in a child's development. Services are embedded into facilities like hospitals and schools.



THE BIG 9 AREAS OF CSD

- Articulation/Speech Sound Disorders
- Fluency/Stuttering
- Voice and resonance
- Receptive & expressive language including reading and writing
- Hearing
- Swallowing
- Cognitive aspects of communication
- Social aspects of communication
- Communication modalities

defined by the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association





NEW INTENSIVE SUMMER READING PROGRAM Helps Kids “Catch-Up”

A new program from the UCF Communication Disorders Clinic is helping young readers “catch-up” on their reading skills. The four week intensive program consists of four-day weeks and four-hour long days, to get kids back on track and boost reading comprehension.

iREAD and SPELL is a science-based intervention led by reading and literacy clinical faculty and involved CSD graduate students in providing the therapy.

“This year more than ever, we saw challenges in our young readers and we knew we could step in to help fill the gap,” said Carrie Loughran, a faculty clinical instructor in the clinic who started the program.

The program focused on reading and spelling skills by utilizing clinically-based methods informed by the latest research on the science of reading. Services were offered both in-person and virtually. Children worked in small groups with graduate clinicians to facilitate therapy that was personalized for each child.

Jessica Hefelinger, graduate clinician describes her time working with students

as rewarding. “We really got to build a personal connection with the students and really see their progress,” she said.

While reading and literacy services are offered in the clinic year-round, the summer program was devised as an intensive therapy program to yield the greatest gains before children start the new school year.

“Even in a typical year, third and fourth grade is often when parents reach out because they notice their child struggling with their reading,” said Loughran. “With this intensive therapy, we hope to help them get back on track so that their reading and spelling skills are on level for the next school year.”



ADVANCE RESEARCH

Using Strength Training to Improve Aging

Exercise Physiology Ph.D. student Kylie Harmon studies how aging results in the loss of muscle strength, also known as “sarcopenia,” and how to mitigate that loss.

Maintaining strength is essential to prolonged movement and engagement in physical activity. By 2030, the number of older adults is projected to exceed the number of minors, and research shows that all older adults can benefit from strength training. To preserve muscles in older adults, the solution is strength training, which is proven to not only slow but reverse the effects of aging.

“Strength training is healthcare,” said Harmon.



Through her involvement in research, Harmon studies the effects of aging as well as strength training on neuromuscular plasticity, by using electromyography, grip strength, transcranial, magnetic stimulation and ultrasounds to investigate muscle strength and weaknesses. She then uses this information to “prescribe” exercises that can help keep muscles strong.

“By understanding these mechanisms, we can help practitioners develop more targeted strength training and rehabilitation interventions for older adults,” said Harmon.

RESEARCH IMPACT

by the numbers

\$6,422,051

Total Funded
Research Dollars

\$20,199,210

Total Proposed
Research Funding

43%

Increase From Total
Funded Research Dollars
In The Prior Year

GENIUS FOUNDATION **AWARDS** **\$300,000** TO UCF INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH RESEARCH

Eight interdisciplinary faculty research projects have collectively received about \$300,000 in grant funding through a new partnership between the UCF Academic Health Sciences Center (AHSC) and the Elizabeth Morse Genius Foundation. The donation is the first major programmatic gift to the AHSC since it was created in 2018.

“The Genius grant is a catalyst for bringing together multidisciplinary teams to solve health challenges that cannot be addressed in a single discipline,” said Deborah German, vice president for health affairs and dean of the UCF College of Medicine. “This is just what we need to transform healthcare for all. I am grateful for this gift to our UCF faculty.”

Winners include faculty from all four AHSC units — the colleges of Health Professions and Sciences, Medicine and Nursing, as well as Student Health Services — with support from other university entities.

“Thanks to this gift, our interdisciplinary

work with colleagues in the Academic Health Sciences Center is being accelerated,” said Christopher Ingersoll, dean of the College of Health Professions and Sciences. “These collaborative faculty projects are aimed at improving interdisciplinary health education and healthcare practices, both areas of translational research that will have an immediate impact.”

Located in Winter Park, Florida, the Genius Foundation supports the arts, education and initiatives improving quality of life. Its gift to the AHSC supports the UCF Genius Innovation Challenge, designed to promote interdisciplinary approaches to innovative, holistic medical education, research and patient care.

“These projects bring together multidisciplinary teams of experts,” said Mary Lou Sole, dean of the College of Nursing. “The outcomes of these diverse projects will provide immediate impact to our Central Florida community and beyond.”

THE RECIPIENTS AND THEIR RESEARCH PROJECTS:

“Enhancing Understanding of the Social Determinants of Health Through Hologram-assisted Interdisciplinary Education Simulation Scenarios”

PI: Peggy Hill, College of Nursing
CO-PI: Bari Hoffman, CHPS; Mindi Anderson, CON; Desiree Díaz, CON; Denise Kay, COM

“3D Printers for Healthcare Procedural Training and Education”

PI: Mindi Anderson, CON
CO-PI: Syretta Spears, CON; Desiree A. Díaz, CON; Boon Peng Ng, CON; Carolyn Buchanan, CHPS; Analia Castiglioni, COM; Javier Rosario, COM

“Care on Campus (CoC): Screening for Intimate Partner Violence within Student Healthcare Settings”

PI: Bethany Backes, CHPS
CO-PI: James Schaus, SHC; Mary Schmidt-Owens, SHC; Lisa Newberry, SHC; Jana Jasinski, COS; Julia O'Connor, CHPS; Amy Reckdenwald, COS; Karina Villalba, COM; Jacqueline Woerner, COS

“Central Florida Huntington Disease Center”

PI: Amber Southwell, COM
CO-PI: Bari Hoffman, CHPS

“The Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Collaborative at UCF”

PI: Humberto López Castillo, CHPS
CO-PI: Eric W. Scrimshaw, COM; Christopher W. Blackwell, CON

“Interprofessional Pain Curriculum with Emerging Technologies across the UCF Academic Health Science Center”

PI: Carey Rothschild, CHPS
CO-PI: James Whitworth, CHPS; Jeffery Cassisi, COS; Kelly Allred, CON

“Therapeutic Alliance: Enhancing the Patient-Practitioner Relationship Across Disciplines”

PI: William J. Hanney, CHPS
CO-PI: Mindi Anderson, CON; Bari Hoffman, CHPS; Analia Castiglioni, COM; Desiree A. Díaz, CON

“School Versus Summer Weight-Gain and Health-related Behaviors in Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder”

PI: Keith Brazendale, CHPS
CO-PI: Jeanette Garcia, CHPS; Susan Quelly, CON; Shawn Lawrence, CHPS; Shilpa Gurnurkar, COM



Finding New Pathways to Enhance Language and Literacy in Children and Adolescents with Autism

Nancy McIntyre, an assistant professor in the School of Communication Sciences and Disorders, leads the new Reading and Oral Comprehension in Kids & Teens Lab (ROCK&T Lab), where she conducts research and develops targeted interventions for students with autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

McIntyre says when school-aged children receive a diagnosis of ASD, they receive an individualized education plan (IEP) outlining their goals. The IEP also outlines accommodations and modifications provided to the child.

Goals to develop literacy skills are often not included in an IEP. McIntyre says practice and research supports that children with ASD can improve these skills at an early age. She hopes to develop new techniques and interventions that educators can use to improve outcomes for students with ASD.

McIntyre and her team in the ROCK&T Lab recently partnered with teachers at local elementary schools to implement a reading intervention, intended to build reading comprehension through systematic and explicit instruction in linguistic comprehension skills.

“We are taking an evidence-based reading comprehension intervention and adapting it for younger students with autism who have lower language and cognitive skills,” McIntyre said.

As a former teacher, McIntyre understands the importance of developing partnerships with teachers and values their commitment.

“We have already seen positive data from our research that shows literacy goals should be integrated as part of every child’s curriculum,” McIntyre said.



Interprofessional Faculty Earn **\$1.5 Million Grant** To Build Healthcare Provider Resiliency

As COVID-19 challenges the resilience of healthcare providers, a team of healthcare faculty received a \$1.5 million federal grant to improve this.

Support for UCF’s “Health and Public Safety Workforce Resiliency Training Program” comes from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) earned by the university’s Academic Health Sciences Center, which brings together clinical researchers in nursing, physical therapy and social work.

The grant will fund the efforts to establish an interprofessional, evidence-based virtual program for health workers to build their personal resilience. “COVID has impacted our patients, our parents, our children, their schooling,” said Magdalena Pasarica, a professor of medicine and assistant dean who is one of the project’s leaders. “We don’t have the face-to-face support systems we once did. All of that has an impact on current providers and the providers we are training. We want to create evidence-based services that people can use to build resilience.”

By better supporting healthcare workers, patient care also increases- creating a win-win situation.

CHPS Students Shine at Student Scholar Symposium

Graduate and undergraduate students find ample opportunities to engage in research during their time in CHPS. These experiences allow students to best understand the scientific process and develop an appreciation for research in their field, in addition to contributing to the body of knowledge through dissemination of their research.

As part of Research Week at UCF, 80 posters were presented at the Student Scholar Symposium by students mentored by CHPS faculty.



WELL DONE!

Posters receiving Research Presentation Awards from the Office of Research:

Allison Conrad, Andrea Mota & Sarah Soran, with Emad Khan (Health Sciences) - How Aphasia Impacts Friendship: People with Aphasia’s Perspectives on Friendship Maintenance and Development After Stroke

Shannon Fitzpatrick, Coral Roorda, Megan Lang (Physical Therapy) - Examining PT Services in Children and Young Adults with Down Syndrome

Jeremy Wydra, Allie Mann, Jacob Gilbert (Physical Therapy) - EMG Amplitude During Fatiguing Low-Load Versus High-Load Biceps Curls

Samantha Viana, Vicki Roach, Chandler Shirley (Physical Therapy) - Examining the Effects of Amplitude-Based Training on an Individual with Olivopontocerebellar Atrophy

THE INSTITUTE OF EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY AND REHABILITATION SCIENCE

Advances Scientific Thinking in Students at all Levels

Through the Institute of Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation Science (IEPRS), the School of Kinesiology and Physical Therapy provides students with research experiences that combine their interest and passion in exercise science.

This diverse collection of labs features a wide range of disciplines in exercise science that seek to redefine strength training as medicine. It was established in 1983 and was reimaged in 2018 when the School of Kinesiology and Physical Therapy was formed, involving more students from all levels of degree programs.

The labs within the IEPRS are led by faculty in the School and integrate graduate and undergraduate students in research activities. These labs span a variety of disciplines, such as human performance, nutrition, rehabilitation, pain science and neuromuscular physiology. The Institute also partners with affiliate labs in other disciplines, such as engineering, that help to advance the work being done and facilitate innovative solutions.

Associate Professor Matt Stock is the director of the Institute and says the collaborative spirit across the labs is what makes the future of the Institute so exciting. "The Institute serves as a common thread, bringing together people of all sorts of backgrounds and disciplines to be able to learn together and solve complex problems," he said.

With interest in the field of kinesiology on the rise, the Institute provides students with experiences to explore many facets of the discipline. One of the many opportunities that the IEPRS offers students is the ability to attend national conferences to both present

and learn about advancements in various fields. The National Strength and Conditioning Association, the American College of Sports Medicine, National Athletic Trainers' Association, and the International Society for Sports Nutrition are four professional organizations hosting national conferences that IEPRS students will be attending and presenting at this summer.

The Institute also holds its own annual conference that pulls together experts from across the world to come and speak about advancements in fields of kinesiology, physical therapy and athletic training. "Our diversity of lecture topics is 100% intentional," Stock said. This year, the Institute hosted its second annual conference, and its first one in-person. The theme was "Finding Strength: Drawing Synergies from Exercise Physiology and Rehabilitation." Topics included space physiology, female athlete nutrition, ACL rehabilitation, and much more. With 200 people attending in person and 175 online, the conference extended the collaborative efforts of the Institute and challenged all participants to think outside of the box.

The outcome of this collaborative spirit is advancements in the field of exercise science that ultimately benefit people everywhere - whether they are an elite athlete in their 20s, or a regular adult in their 80s. IEPRS is helping to define what happens when you focus on movement and health at the same time.

"There are a number of things that we are doing that have the potential to have a big-time impact on the world," Stock said. "It's exciting to have UCF students involved at the ground level helping to advance the science for future generations."



Thank you for being a friend! Samantha Hasmi-Delgado and Gabriella Spadaro have been bestfriends since kindergarten and have walked side-by-side, through thick and thin, from elementary school to UCF, where they both graduated...



We are so proud to be part of the revolution and evolution of healthcare education. Oh, and if the face in the preview looks familiar to you, that is because it is our very own Alison...



We had a special guest today! UCF President Cartwright came for a guided tour of the labs in our Institute of Exercise Physiology & Rehabilitation Science run by our School of Kinesiology...

SOCIALLY SHARING OUR STORY

Follow us on your favorite social media channel to stay up-to-date on all the great things happening in CHPS!

f t i y in
@ucfchps



activity day

ENERGIZING KIDS OF ALL ABILITIES THROUGH PHYSICAL MOVEMENT

The Division of Physical Therapy, the UCF Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, and UCF Athletics joined with Providing Autism Links and Support to host Black and Gold Activity Day. The event was focused on providing children with activities and resources that enabled more inclusivity—a mutual goal of all entities involved.

The field day featured a variety of games and activities for children with a wide range of disabilities and their families, including relay races, track and field games, sports, yoga, bounce houses, and more. CARD harnessed its community connections to bring representatives from local support agencies to talk with parents about resources to help their children and family. Student volunteers from the DPT program organized and led the activities. More than 600 participants registered to come out to UCF to play.

Judith Samuels, program manager at UCF CARD, said community outreach events such as Black and Gold Activity Day not only provide a fun day out for families, but an opportunity for families to connect with each other, especially after the past few years of restricted social activity.

“Many families and individuals have struggled and felt isolated during the pandemic,” Samuels said. “It was a challenging time for everyone, but especially for those with children on the autism spectrum.”

Ashley Moore, a mother of two, appreciated UCF hosting the event and providing a place for her family to interact with each other.

“It’s just really nice to get out and do fun things like we used to,” Moore said. Moore’s oldest child, 8-year-old Lillian, has autism and has been involved with UCF CARD for the past three years. The activity day provided a safe space for Lillian to play and explore with other children and families—an experience that can be challenging for the family.

“When you go to other events that aren’t as supportive or understanding of families with autism, there can be a sense of judgment or misunderstanding,” Moore said. “So, it’s great to have an inclusive space like this.”



NEW KINESIOLOGY ASSOCIATION

CONNECTS GRADUATE STUDENTS AND BUILDS COMMUNITY

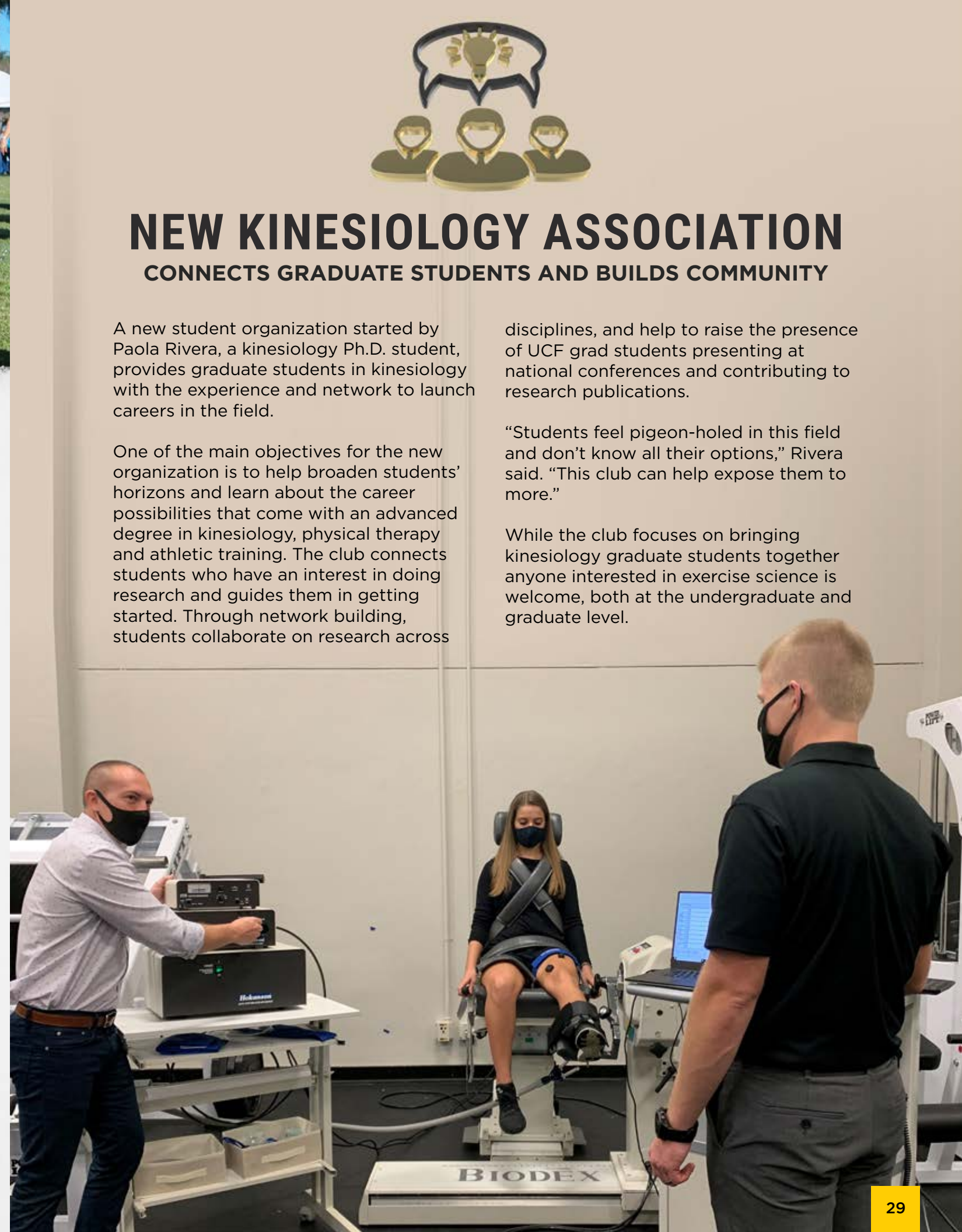
A new student organization started by Paola Rivera, a kinesiology Ph.D. student, provides graduate students in kinesiology with the experience and network to launch careers in the field.

One of the main objectives for the new organization is to help broaden students’ horizons and learn about the career possibilities that come with an advanced degree in kinesiology, physical therapy and athletic training. The club connects students who have an interest in doing research and guides them in getting started. Through network building, students collaborate on research across

disciplines, and help to raise the presence of UCF grad students presenting at national conferences and contributing to research publications.

“Students feel pigeon-holed in this field and don’t know all their options,” Rivera said. “This club can help expose them to more.”

While the club focuses on bringing kinesiology graduate students together anyone interested in exercise science is welcome, both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

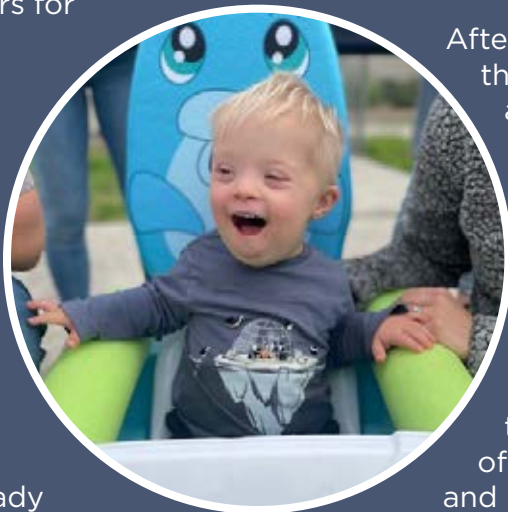


GoBabyGo! Partners with Elementary Robotics Club to Help Mobilize Kids

UCF Go Baby Go! and kids from Sabal Point Elementary School's robotics club collaborated to host a "kids building for kids" workshop, where students came together to build ride-on cars for immobilized children.

After an exercise in empathy, the students got to work modifying and decorating the car. The experience introduced the children to using their engineering skills to help people feel more included.

"They are all in a robotics club already, so they're already interested in some level of building and creating," Mackenzy Chavez, a physical therapy student who volunteered at the event, said. "We introduce them to building for other reasons like medical technology or building houses, cars, or working with the human body."



Students worked together to cut and install PVC pipes, pool noodles and boogie boards that help make the cars safe and operational for kids with limited mobility.

After the build, students presented the car to the child who needed it, allowing them to see the direct impact of their work. The whole experience was a lesson in inclusivity.

Facilitators approached this lesson in a relatable way for the students by asking them if they remembered how they felt during their time in quarantine, and most of the children recalled how terrible and lonely it was.

"That's what the kids we're helping feel all the time," Jennifer Tucker said, the director of the UCF Go Baby Go! program "With an awareness of differences, and a dedication to inclusivity, we can find ways to include people with disabilities in everyday life experiences."

Social Work Career Fair

Connects Students and Alumni to Local Agencies

The UCF School of Social Work held its career fair to introduce students and alumni to a wide range of 25 private, nonprofit, healthcare and governmental agencies from across Florida. An estimated 60 students and alumni attended.

The event connected students to employment opportunities and provided resources on how to make their job search successful through assistance from UCF Career Services with things like resume tips and best interview practices.

"I applaud the School's efforts as we've been so disconnected with the pandemic, so this created a safe space for everyone," said Diane Martin, a recruiter from Volusia County Public Schools.



Putting the Spotlight on Autism:

Artwork Highlights Unique Perspective

A special art exhibit at this year's UCF Celebrates the Arts event held at the Dr. Philips Center for the Performing Arts demonstrated expressions by artists on the autism spectrum and brought awareness to how seeing things differently can be beautiful.

"Spectral Evidence" was curated by the UCF Center for Autism Related Disabilities (CARD) where its consultative services include helping people who have autism spectrum disorder (ASD) through evidence-based education, guidance and resources.

"CARD's aim is help people who have autism navigate a 'neuro-typical world' and to harness their individual strengths - be it their sense for order, their memory skills, or even a musical-, mathematical- or visual-spatial strength," said Gesa Barto, who works as an autism specialist at CARD and helped organize the exhibit.

The exhibition is an extension of CARD's SeeMyVoice program, a partnership with Lake County Museum of Art, where young artists with ASD are mentored in their artistic expression. Autism at its core is a communication disorder and art provides an additional channel to connect to others.

"I feel like art helps me put my perspective into the most universally understood form: pictures," said Nadia Bloom '21, a UCF studio arts grad and one of the six artists whose work was displayed at the exhibition. "Since I have trouble communicating how I feel sometimes, I feel that visual images can organize my thoughts into a form that I can understand."

Barto says oftentimes people who have ASD are seen as 'special.' Though they are, it is for what they do have - rather than what they do not have. Being a part of this exhibit strengthens their sense of who they are and how they positively contribute to their community.

"Our program is an example of ASD meeting the arts in a unifying and inclusive program," said Barto. "We are honored to be part of UCF Celebrates the Arts and provide an additional platform for these artists to share their works."



awards

FACULTY & STUDENT



STUDENT & ALUMNI

ORDER OF PEGASUS

Austin Eason '22 (HS)
Jacey Koo (HS)
Stephanie Oliveira '22 (HS)
Victoria Orindas (HS)

FOUNDERS' DAY AWARD

Victoria Orindas (HS)

OUTSTANDING MASTER'S THESIS AWARD

Randy Panzarino '16 '19 '22MA (CSD)

OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

David Boffey '21Ph.D. (KPT)

EXCELLENCE IN GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING, UNIVERSITY AWARD

Erica Goldstein (KPT)

PRESIDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Sydney Martine (HS)
Jada Strowbridge (HS)

30 UNDER 30

Lisa Borntrager '16 '18 MSW (SW)
Uzair Hammad '16 '21 DPT (HS, KPT)
McKenzie Milton '19 '22MA (KPT)

FACULTY & STAFF

RESEARCH INCENTIVE AWARD

Jeanette Garcia (HS)
Micheal Rovito (HS)

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Jeanette Garcia (HS)- Excellence in Research
David Fukuda (KPT)- Excellnce in Graduate Teaching
Humberto Lopez Castillo (HS) - Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching

TEACHING INCENTIVE PROGRAM AWARDEES

William Hanney (KPT)
Carey Rothschild (KPT)

FACULTY EMERITUS

Ana Leon (SW)

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

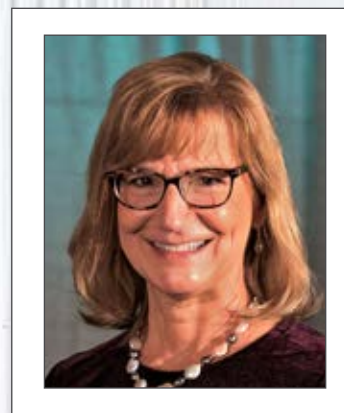
Melissa Lopez (Dean's Office)
Lana Gidusko (KPT)
Michele Locke (HS)

EMPLOYEE STRATEGIC PLAN CHAMPION

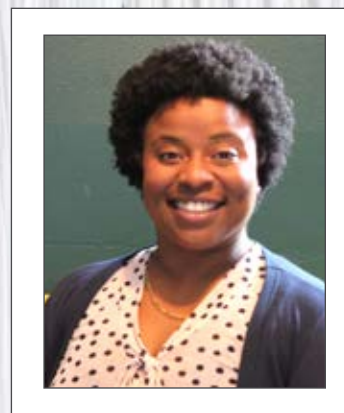
Melissa Lopez (Dean's Office) - Overall Strategic Plan Champion
Erin Rolle (HS) - Elevate Teaching and Learning
Liana Perez-Hernandez (KPT) - Deliver Pionerring Clinical Education and Practice
Darryl Gordon (DO) - Advance a Diverse and Inclusive Community of Excellence

Welcome

NEW FACULTY



Ann Eddins
Director, Professor
CSD



Cassandra Peters
Instructor
SW



Kenan Sualp
Lecturer
SW



Matthew Theriot
Director, Professor
SW



Abigail Wilson
Assistant Professor
PT





TENURE & PROMOTION

Congratulations to our faculty who earned tenure and promotion this year!



Laurie Neely
Associate Professor
KPT



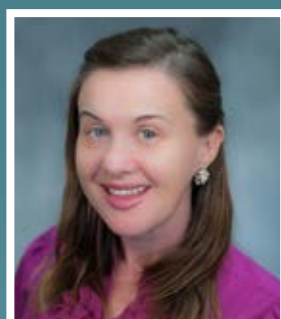
Carey Rothschild
Associate Professor
KPT



Kristen Schellhase
Senior Lecturer
KPT



Jennifer Tucker
Associate Professor
KPT



Christine Ferretti
Associate Instructor
SW



Shawn Lawrence
Professor
SW



Maxine McGregor
Associate Instructor
SW



James Whitworth
Tenure earned,
Associate Professor
SW



Jeanette Garcia
Associate Professor
HS



Rick Beato
Associate Professor
KPT

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ACCOLADES



Chris Ingersoll, Dean of CHPS, was named to the board of directors for the Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions.



Eunkyung "Muriel" Lee, assistant professor in Health Sciences, was awarded the American Association for Cancer Research Minority and Minority-Serving Institution Faculty Scholar in Cancer Research.



Morris "Rick" Beato, associate professor, received recognition from the Florida Physical Therapy Association's Neurology Special Interest Group with the 2021 Outstanding Neurologic Physical Therapist in Education Award.

UCF School of Social Work Voted Among the Best Grad Schools in 2023

Ranked 79 by U.S. News & World Report
placing in it 27th percentile among ranked programs.



UCF Kinesiology Student Meets Scholarship Donors, Connects to Purpose

Last year, kinesiology student Christian Torres '16 '22MS was awarded the Jeffrey D. Law Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship given to graduate kinesiology students to honor the legacy of Jeffrey Law, a strength and conditioning coach. Torres was finally able to meet the Law family and thank them for supporting his dreams.

After graduating with his bachelor's degree in sports and exercise science, Torres planned on getting into a physical therapy doctorate program; however, the birth of his first daughter, Mia, caused him to step back and rethink his goals. Knowing that being a new father and a graduate student at the same time would be too much, Torres continued working in the restaurant business as a bartender for a few years.

Over time, however, Torres realized he wanted to leave the restaurant industry and go back to school. Ultimately, Torres used the pandemic as the out he needed to go back to school, this time, on a new path: the master's program in kinesiology. This program equipped him with the knowledge and skills to become a strength and conditioning coach, allowing him to work with athletes and help them reach their performance goals. It lit a passion in him.

When he saw the Law scholarship, it really resonated with everything he was trying to do. Torres was awarded the scholarship in the fall of 2021 and was able to meet the Law family before he graduated. "They welcomed me with open arms," Torres said. The Laws created the scholarship to help students who aspire to have careers in strength and conditioning, just like their late son.

Torres' story is just one of many examples of how scholarships can change someone's life. UCF offers plenty of scholarships for its students thanks to the generosity of others, like the Law family.



Gift Fuels Scientific Collaboration and Translation of Research into Practice

The Center for Behavioral Health and Research Training will expand its efforts in translating behavioral health theory and research into practice thanks to a \$20,000 gift from an anonymous donor. The gift will support further research, such as treatment for veterans with PTSD and suicide prevention.

The CBHRT was established in 2017 and is the first of its kind in the School of Social Work. The CBHRT serves a unique purpose to link practitioners and agencies with university researchers to conduct relevant and timely behavioral health evaluation and intervention research.

Led by co-directors Associate Professor Kim Gryglewicz and Assistant Professor Susanny Beltran, the Center's mission is to expand access to social work experts and fuel scientific discovery in clinical-based and evidence-based research. "By working with community partners, and collaborating across different research disciplines, we hope to expand

our impact within behavioral health," said Gryglewicz.

Research conducted through the CBHRT aims to provide results that serve as guidelines and resources for the greater community. The CBHRT values the importance of professional development of students and supports many graduate (GRA) and undergraduate research assistants across varying disciplines.

Online Master of Social Work student, Serenea Vinci, was able to virtually collaborate with faculty on research by working as a GRA for the CBHRT. Along with her experience in data entry, and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data, Vinci had the opportunity to co-author publications.

"I have been able to work alongside Dr. Kim Gryglewicz on some great grant-funded research. It's exciting to learn from an expert who is not only passionate about the research, but also the results," said Vinci.

SOCIAL WORK STUDENT'S PERSEVERANCE HONORED WITH

INVINCIBLE KNIGHTS SCHOLARSHIP

A big obstacle for many students who want to pursue a master's degree is the cost. The College of Health Professions and Sciences (CHPS) understands the importance of furthering one's education and is helping to make it more affordable by creating the Invincible Knights Scholarship for undergraduate and graduate students. Sarah Haynes, '21, a Master of Social Work (MSW) student, received the scholarship last year and says the scholarship helped to ease the financial burden of her education.

"Being awarded this scholarship made me feel a little safer and a little more secure. It was affirming, seeing that CHPS recognized my hard work and perseverance. It spoke volumes on how they care," said Haynes.

Haynes enrolled in the Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) program a year after she found out her husband needed to have a kidney transplant. During that time, they were foster parents to nine children and struggled with finances forcing her to close her hair salon.

"My loans were outrageous, and I thought about stopping at the BSW level. But I didn't stop because school is the end game — at the end of the day, it is how I will provide for my kids and support my family," said Haynes, who is now working toward an MSW, thanks in part to the scholarship.

A requirement for the scholarship includes an essay where students are asked to share their story of overcoming hardship. Though she was unsure if she would receive the scholarship, Haynes took a chance by applying anyway knowing she had a story to share. "Part of opening up to people about your story is being vulnerable, but that's what makes you brave. Someone else may be able to identify with you and that's where it brings us together as a community," said Haynes.

Haynes works full-time and commutes between St. Augustine and UCF for classes. In addition to her work and school responsibilities, she is also a single parent to four children ranging between the ages of 5 to 21. She is excited to graduate with her MSW this Spring.

"My son was so delighted to watch me graduate with my BSW; words can't describe how proud of me he was. Seeing his reaction to my achievement, I knew then that I was setting a great example by continuing my education with an MSW for him and all my children. They can see that no matter where you are in socioeconomic status, good intentions and hard work will be rewarded," said Haynes.



NEW ATHLETIC TRAINING SCHOLARSHIP HONORS PROGRAM'S CO-FOUNDER

A new memorial scholarship in UCF Athletic Training honors David Cassidy, one of the co-founders of the athletic training program and a long-time supporter of the program and its students. Established by his family and a UCF colleague, Kristen Schellhase, the director of the athletic training program and a mentee of David's for many years, the scholarship will provide financial support to an AT student annually.

Schellhase said she was moved to co-create the scholarship because of Cassidy's devotion to the program, and also for the impact he had on his many students.

"I have never known anybody more passionate about his profession than David

Cassidy," Schellhase said. "His joy for athletic training was evident in every part of his life."

His wife Sindy and daughters, Katie and Caroline, say the scholarship is a way to continue his impact with the program and profession he loved so much. David, who died in 2019, not only helped establish the AT program at UCF in 1998, but he continued to teach classes and mentor students until shortly before his death.

"He truly enjoyed watching them succeed and was always willing to share his knowledge," Sindy said. "He would be so proud of this legacy scholarship and the opportunity to continue giving back."





UCF

College of Health Professions and Sciences

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