



HSA Happenings



News from the Health Services Administration Alumni Chapter • Fall 2008
Department of Health Management and Informatics • College of Health and Public Affairs

News from the Alumni Chapter

Greetings Health Services Administration Alumni!

As we near the end of what has been an exciting year for the HSA Alumni Chapter, I want to take a minute to reflect. For those of you who have not been to our meetings, social events or our State of Health Care in Central Florida Symposium, you may not know what we've been up to.

In May, we announced the establishment of the HSA Alumni Chapter Scholarship Fund. The alumni chapter decided to start a scholarship fund to assist graduate students in the health services administration program with tuition and book support. The alumni chapter has been actively fund-raising for this scholarship. This will be the only dedicated scholarship in the College of Health and Public Affairs for health services administration graduate students. Scholarships such as this one, will help UCF to retain and recruit the finest minds in the nation. Thank you to all of our donors who have so generously given a gift. Please take a moment to share news of the scholarship with your family, fellow alumni and the organizations you work with. This is a great way for you or your organization to give back to the community and help UCF educate future health-care leaders.

The alumni chapter has already begun planning for the 5th Annual State of Health Care in Central Florida Symposium, which will take place on March 25, 2009. For those of you that have not attended, it is the alumni chapter's signature event and very well attended. Students, alumni, faculty and the health-care community all gather at the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center for an informative and interactive event.

I look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the near future. Please join us at our symposium, social events or tailgating parties. I hope you will participate in **your** alumni chapter.

Warm regards,

Kevin Lenhart, '99, '01
Chair, HSA Alumni Chapter

Alumni Chapter Establishes Scholarship for Health Services Administration Graduate Students

Recognizing the value of an advanced degree in careers in health-care administration, the Health Services Administration Alumni Chapter has established a scholarship for master's degree students in health services administration. The chapter hopes to award the first scholarship in 2010.

Like many health-care professions, health services administration requires a high level of knowledge and skill to assume the responsibilities of the profession, which can include managing large budgets and large numbers of employees. Many consider a graduate degree in the field to be essential for career advancement.

The HSA Alumni Chapter Scholarship fund was created with contributions from officers and members of the chapter and faculty members from the program. "Scholarships assist students who otherwise might not be able to attend college or graduate school," said Aaron Liberman, chair of the new Department of Health Management and Informatics. "This scholarship will serve as a source of encouragement for students in the health services administration program, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college."

For further information about the scholarship or to contribute to the fund, contact Katie Korkosz, assistant director of development and alumni relations for the College of Health and Public Affairs, at (407) 823-1600 or kkorkosz@mail.ucf.edu.

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Central Florida Health Care Executive Group
Dr. Myron and Carol Fottler
Melinda Hartigan, '02
Michael Hendricks, '04, '06
Kevin Lenhart, '99, '01
Dr. Aaron Liberman
Katie Korkosz, '04, '06
Dr. Dawn Oetjen
Dr. Charles F. Pierce
Maria Rodriguez, '08
Samantha Starr, '02, '06

News from the Department

With the newly minted health management and informatics program now firmly established and on the way as a free standing department, there are several newsworthy items that our alumni may be interested in.

We are proposing a healthcare informatics master's degree which, if approved by the UCF governing board, will become a reality in May 2009. This will be an online program that will be available locally as well as out of state to prospective students. Students will be expected to come to campus once each semester to complete the respective courses that are taken.

We also have a number of pending opportunities on the international scene. Our faculty is most fortunate to have Dr. Bernardo Ramirez, who is both a physician and an M.B.A. graduate. Over the past 25 years, Dr. Ramirez has become an internationally recognized authority and expert in HSA educational programming. His experiences in developing learning programs throughout eastern and western Europe, as well as in South and Central America, have made him a logical go-to person to head up our new programs and initiatives for developing countries. Dr. Ramirez has been named director of Global Health Initiatives and there will be much more to report on this front during the coming months.

We are also most fortunate to have been able to recruit one of our own graduates, Dr. Reid Oetjen, as an incoming assistant professor. Among other activities, he will focus on long term programs. Dr. Oetjen completed the Doctoral Program in Public Affairs at UCF and for the past four years has been an assistant professor at the University of North Florida in Jacksonville. Dr. Timothy Rotarius, a long-standing faculty member and professor in the new Department of Health Management and Informatics, has been named vice chair of the department.

Alumni associates, I would like to again thank you for your involvement and for the energy you have shown in developing the HSA Alumni Chapter as an integral part of the HSA programs at UCF. We truly cannot be successful without your continued and active involvement in all aspects of our program and department development.

Aaron Liberman, Ph.D.
Professor and Interim Chair
Department of Health Management and Informatics
Department of Health Professions

New Faculty Roles

-Dr. Aaron Liberman is chair of the newly established Department of Health Management and Informatics.

-Dr. Timothy Rotarius is vice chair of the new department.

-Dr. Reid Oetjen joined the department as a faculty member in the fall. He was previously an assistant professor at the University of North Florida.

-Dr. Ted Angelopoulos, research director at the UCF Center for Lifestyle Medicine, will begin teaching HSA courses in the department.

Central Florida Health Care Executive Group

The Central Florida Healthcare Executive Group (CFHEG) is the local affiliated chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), an international professional society of more than 30,000 health-care executives who lead hospitals, health-care systems and other health-care organizations. ACHE is known for its prestigious credentialing and educational programs and its annual Congress on Healthcare Leadership. ACHE is also known for its journals, the *Journal of Healthcare Management* and *Frontiers of Health Services Management*; magazine, *Healthcare Executive*; and ground-breaking research and career development and public policy programs.

CFHEG formed during the 1980s to bring ACHE services to Central Florida. Members of ACHE residing in this area automatically become members of the local chapter. CFHEG offers education meetings, networking opportunities for early career and senior members, an advancement academy for members pursuing their fellow status (FACHE), a Web site with job postings and a quarterly newsletter.

The CFHEG Board was pleased to help the HSA Alumni Chapter fund a scholarship for students enrolled in the health services administration program at the University of Central Florida. For more information about your local ACHE chapter, click here, select Find A Chapter, and enter your zip code.

Ken Peach, FACHE, President, CFHEG

**Tell a colleague
ABOUT ACHE**

So, You Want to Get Involved? Great, Here's How:

Get connected and stay connected by joining the UCF Alumni Association and the HSA Alumni Chapter!
Visit www.ucfalumni.com to join today.

Already a member? Great, come out to one of our meetings held the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 pm at the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center.

HSA Alumni Chapter Officers

Kevin Lenhart, '99, '01, Chair
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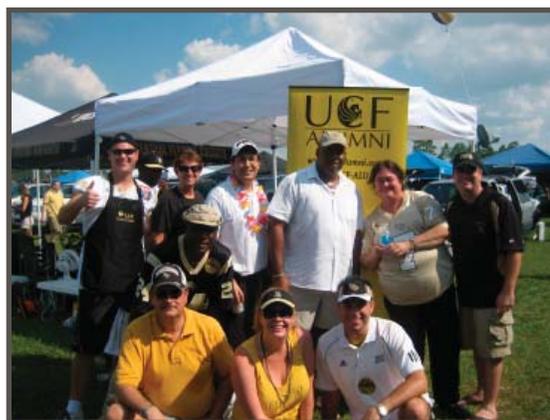


(Back row, left to right) Samantha Starr, Maria Rodriguez
(Front row, left to right) John Cantiello, Kevin Lenhart,
Michael Hendricks
(Not pictured) Melinda Hartigan

Upcoming Events

COHPA Tailgate Party

Join your fellow alumni from the College of Health and Public Affairs at each home football game in Lot E6 for a tailgate party. Each party will be a fun-filled event designed for you to reconnect with alumni and show your school spirit. All alumni of the college and their families are welcome to attend. Please RSVP to cohpa@ucfalumni.com for more information. The party will begin four hours before kick-off. We hope to see you there!



Fifth Annual State of Health Care in Central Florida Symposium

Mark your calendar now for the upcoming health-care symposium on Wednesday, March 25, 2009. A career workshop for students will be held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Networking and hors d'oeuvres will take place from 6:00 to 6:30 p.m. and the symposium will begin at 6:30 p.m. The events will take place at the *FAIRWINDS* Alumni Center on the Orlando campus. For more information, contact 407-823-1600.