



◀ **Weight-Loss and Exercise Study.** Janet Brewer (far left) walks in her neighborhood, while “treadmill twins” (left to right) Trudi Morales and Janet Kilbride walk at a center. All three women are among the first group of participants in a weight-loss and exercise study under way at UCF. The study, conducted in the School of Nursing, is funded by a five-year, \$2 million grant from the National Institute of Nursing Research at the National Institutes of Health.



College of Health and Public Affairs
UCF Orlando Campus
P.O. Box 162200
Orlando, FL 32816-2200
(407) 823-0171
www.cohpa.ucf.edu/

Connections is published three times a year for alumni and friends of the college.

Schools

School of Nursing
School of Social Work

Departments

Communicative Disorders
Criminal Justice and Legal Studies
Health Professions
Public Administration

Centers and Institutes

Center for Autism and Related Disabilities
Center for Community Partnerships
Communicative Disorders Clinic
Community Nursing Centers
Eastern European Linkage Institute
Florida Canada Linkage Institute
John Scott Dailey Florida Institute of Government

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COLLEGE OF HEATH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Focus on the Center for Community Partnerships

The Center for Community Partnerships completed the following studies and surveys for community organizations in the past six months:

- Study of provider interest in the new universal pre-K program for the Seminole County Coalition for School Readiness
- Satisfaction surveys of clients for Quest, Inc.
- Study of community mental health and substance abuse services for Orange County Government and the Florida Department of Children and Families
- Study of emergency food providers in southern Orange County and Osceola County for the Community Foundation of Central Florida

Project Helps Small, Local Minority Nonprofits Prosper

A project led by the Department of Public Administration has helped small, local nonprofit organizations secure more than \$600,000 in grant funding to support their delivery of health-care services to local minority communities.

For the past year, a team composed largely of faculty members and graduate students has helped eight nonprofits in writing and submitting grant proposals for funding and has provided training in business operations. Two of the organizations have secured three large grants in the past six months.

N.E.E.D. (Nehemiah Educational and Economic Development) was awarded \$328,436 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through the Health Council of East Central Florida and another \$122,678 from the Florida Department of Health as part of its Minority AIDS Initiative. The combined awards have quadrupled N.E.E.D.'s annual budget.

The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention received a \$167,890 year-long grant from Florida Hospital's Community Health Improvement Council. The money will go directly to



“Asthma Connect,” a new program providing education and support to Orange and Osceola county African-Americans, Hispanics and Haitians.

N.E.E.D. staff members (top) and the team of public administration faculty members and graduate students



news briefs

School of Nursing

In the fall, the school **expanded its undergraduate program** in Daytona Beach and set up a new community nursing center at the Volusia/Flagler County Homeless Assistance Center, where students gained clinical experience while helping patients ... The fourth edition of Professor Mary Lou Sole's **widely used textbook**, *Introduction to Critical Care Nursing*, was published by Elsevier Saunders in October 2004.

School of Social Work

Members of the B.S.W. student association collected more than **600 pounds of food** last fall for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and collected gifts for four community organizations ... Members of the M.S.W. student association held a highly successful clothing and holiday card drive for people in the community ... With support from a **Fulbright Senior Specialist** grant, Director Paul Maiden recently traveled to Russia for three weeks to work with colleagues at Udmurt State University.

Department of Communicative Disorders

The department's Communicative Disorders Clinic is one of just a few facilities in Central Florida to offer **augmentative and alternative communication (AAC)** to adults with degenerative disorders such as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease). AAC includes the use of specialized computer software and hardware to communicate ... Assistant Professor Jennifer Kent-Walsh's research focuses on the use of AAC in children and is funded by the American Speech, Language and Hearing Association.

Department of Criminal Justice and Legal Studies

An innovative program developed through the Public Safety Technology Center is **identifying auto-theft patterns** that enable Orange County law enforcement officials to increase patrols in high-theft areas and drop-off locations ... In November, the UCF student chapter of the American Criminal Justice Association brought home **seven first-place ribbons** from the association's 2004 southeastern United States regional competition in Nashville, Tenn.

Department of Health Professions

Faculty members Eileen Hamby and Donna Malvey received a grant from IBM's Center for Healthcare Management to support their **implementation of a flow management model** in a local public health department ... Antonio Trujillo, assistant professor of health services administration, is currently **studying race and ethnic inequality** in health and health care with support from a grant from the Inter-American Development Bank.

Department of Public Administration

Through the **Adopt-A-Precinct Program**, 11 students and one faculty member from the department assumed the responsibility of opening, managing and closing precinct 535, located at the UCF Arena, during the general election on Nov. 2, 2004 ... Faculty members and graduate students in the department are currently assisting the Volusia County **Smart Growth Initiative** by investigating successful strategies to create vibrant, sustainable communities in the county.

Program in American Humanics

The American Humanics program at UCF, which leads to a minor and national certificate in the discipline, received a **national Excellence in Community Relations Award** at the American Humanics Management Institute in Atlanta in January 2005.

Doctoral Program in Public Affairs

More than 100 students, faculty members and practitioners attended the first **Public Affairs Research Conference**, held Oct. 29, 2004, at UCF's Orlando campus. The focus of the day-long event was "Policy Research Dilemmas and Scientific Solutions." The conference featured guest speakers from several leading universities and an extensive poster session on research conducted by members of the doctoral program.

Welcome

Marita Melaugh, M.B.A., was appointed director of the college's research office, effective January 2005. She brings to the position 15 years of experience in university research administration and was previously employed by the UCF Office of Research, Emory University and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Transitions

In January 2005, the college formally established its own **Office of Graduate Studies** in Health and Public Affairs I to support graduate students, program directors and faculty advisers ... The offices for the **Doctoral Program in Public Affairs** moved in December 2004 and are now co-located with the Center for Community Partnerships in the Institute for Simulation and Training building in the Central Florida Research Park, adjacent to UCF's Orlando campus.

profiles

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida

Endowed Visiting Distinguished Professorship in Nursing Donor

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida has generously donated an additional \$100,000 to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Endowed Visiting Distinguished Professorship in Nursing at UCF. The organization established the professorship in 2002 with an initial gift of \$100,000. That amount increased to \$150,000 when the state added \$50,000 in matching funds.

"The endowment will enable the School of Nursing to invite noted scholars to UCF to enrich our research activities, enlighten students and consult with faculty on issues related to improving the health care of the citizens of Florida," said Jean Leuner, director of the nursing school. "We are very grateful for the generosity of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and its commitment to nursing."

Eric Bratcher, Stacey Willis and Marissa Gajewski

Marlene Richmond Memorial Quasi-Endowed Scholarship Recipients

The Marlene Richmond Memorial Quasi-Endowed Scholarship was established in the memory of Marlene Richmond (*B.A. Social Work, '75*) and her contributions to the field of social work. Richmond devoted many hours to the School of Social Work through the advisory committee, as a field instructor for students and as an adjunct faculty member. Social work students (left to right) Eric Bratcher, Stacey Willis and Marissa Gajewski are this year's recipients of the scholarship.



Kirstin Georg, Felipe Almeida and Cori Thompson

Florida Hospital Athletic Training Scholarship Recipients



Florida Hospital is supporting the education of athletic training students at UCF by donating the proceeds of its annual continuing education seminar in the field to the UCF Foundation for student scholarships. This year, athletic training students Kirstin Georg (left) and Cori Thompson (right) received the Florida Hospital Athletic Training Academic Scholarship and Felipe Almeida (center) received the Florida Hospital Athletic Training Perseverance Scholarship.

alumni scene

Calendar

Health Services Administration Alumni Club

"State of Health Care in Central Florida" Symposium

- March 23, UCF Student Union, Key West Ballroom
 - Networking/refreshments from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
 - Symposium, featuring a panel of leading experts, from 6 to 8:30 p.m.
- Free for UCF students, \$5 for UCF Alumni Association members, \$10 for all others.
Please RSVP to Katie Wolczanski at kwolczan@mail.ucf.edu or 407-823-4577.

Recent Events

Homecoming Reunion Reunites Alumni with the College



A gift of \$3,000 from Florida Hospital enabled the college to offer a reunion and an open house event during homecoming week in November 2004. More than 70 alumni, community leaders and faculty and staff members mingled and networked while enjoying an evening of music, hors d'oeuvres and tours of the college. A special thanks to Florida Hospital for making this event possible.

Alumni Graduate from Florida Police Corps

Three UCF alumni were among the September 2004 graduating class of the Florida Police Corps Training Academy — a rigorous 23-week program that prepares highly skilled, college-educated law enforcement officers for community policing. Tyson Fowler (*B.A. Psychology, minor in criminal justice, '03*), valedictorian Melvin Huggins (*B.S. Information Technology, minor in criminal justice, '03*) and Garrett Pantano (*M.S. Criminal Justice, '03, B.S. Criminal Justice, '02*) graduated from the program. All three were sworn in as Orange County Deputy Sheriffs.



Pantano (center) with Captain Dino Martin (left), Orange County Sheriff's Office, and Sergeant Don Tuten, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, and coordinator of the Florida Police Corps, at graduation.

Looking for a new job or career?

UCF Career Services and Experiential Learning offers the following services to UCF alumni:

- Access to GOLD Connection, an online database of job opportunities (free for Alumni Association members)
- Access to on-campus interviews, if eligible
- Access to all group events, including workshops, panels and expos
- Access to the career library and online resources

For further information, visit www.crc.ucf.edu/alumni/