Congratulations to MHA Class of 2015 and Distinguished Honorees

Row 1: Domingo Mercado, Brian Orta, Claire Goodwin, Ritu Sanon, Monique Del Rossi-Goulet, Madison Workman, Bradley Leuchtman.
Row 2: Mallory Reed, Kristina Proto, Joanna Ivanov, Ashley Tighe, Jason D’Cruz
Row 3: Tyler Brown, Elyse Jasmund, Juan Casado, Erica Tanner, Frank Sortino, Zach Anthony, Eddine Luma

Upsilon Phi Delta Honor Society
Monique Del Rossi-Goulet * Ritu Sanon * Ashley Tighe

MHA Outstanding Student Award & Alumni Organization Award for Service
Frank Sortino

MHA Program Director’s Award
Mary Claire Goodwin * Mallory E. Reed * Erica P. Tanner

MHA Excellence in Teaching
Thomas C. Crawford, MBA PhD
C-Suite Tour of Florida’s West Coast

On February 5-6, 2015, MHA students took to the road to tour healthcare organizations on the west coast of Florida. Students began in Bradenton at Manatee Memorial Hospital. At the invitation of CEO Kevin DiLallo, ACHE Regent, the students toured the Emergency Department and walked throughout the hospital, ending in a discussion forum with hospital executives. In St. Petersburg, students met healthcare professionals at All Children’s Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine Program. It was inspiring to see alumni of the program, Kristine Putrino Kirstein (2012) and Sarah Stephens (2013), succeeding in their post-graduate careers. The final stop was in the Parallon Largo Shared Services Office. The tour began with CEO Patty Gentile explaining the full scope of services offered, followed by a tour of the facility. Several UF students have completed internships at different Parallon locations. Last year, two students launched their careers with Parallon. In touring a variety of organizations, students were able to compare and contrast healthcare delivery in different settings.

MHA Students at UAB Case Competition

Three Master of Health Administration students participated in the 9th Annual UAB Health Administration Case Competition. The competition was held February 26-27, 2015 and included teams from 38 universities and over 200 students. The University of Florida Team was comprised of second-year MHA students Monique Del Rossi-Goulet, Frank Sortino and Ashley Tighe. Observers included first-year students Athena Tingberg and Savannah Humphreys. The competition provides graduate students from CAHME-accredited health administration programs an opportunity to put what they have learned into practice with a real-life, real-time case. This year the case study prompted the students to consider and formulate the implementation of a comprehensive respiratory center for the University of Colorado Hospital. The judges complimented this year’s team for their powerful presentation through the use of storytelling to convey their message. Once again, the competition proved to be a rewarding experience for our UF students.
First UF Team selected to represent the Health Science Center at Clarion Case Competition

The CLARION competition challenges health professions students to work together to build a better healthcare system. The emphasis of the Clarion competition is to improve patient safety and quality of care through the development of interprofessional leadership, teamwork and communication. Students analyze a fictional sentinel event and, through their analysis, make recommendations that would improve the system of care to prevent future errors. The case this year, “Stroke of Bad Luck,” required students to create a vision of how to involve local and regional institutions and community resources in an integrated plan to enhance the process of care, from prevention to treatment to community-based follow up. The patient case, situated in Eastern Kentucky, was focused on stroke from early signs of identification, to patient rehabilitation and successful transition to home. Placing first among seven teams from the UF Health Science Center colleges, the UF team faced 13 national contenders in Minneapolis, MN at the National Clarion Competition April 17-19, 2015.

Left to Right: Danielle Scheer, Scott Robinson, Tj Leach, Nathan Pham

ACHE/MHA Networking Reception

The ACHE 2015 Congress on Healthcare Leadership, held in Chicago March 16-19, 2015 was attended by over 4,000 members from across the country and around the world. Thanks to a generous contribution from the North Florida Chapter of ACHE, seven students from the UF MHA students program were able to attend. Students had the opportunity to expand their professional networks and were able to develop both personally and professionally. They witnessed firsthand how ACHE continuously strives to achieve its goal of being a premier professional society for healthcare executives and its dedication to improving healthcare delivery and healthcare management excellence. The seminars empowered students to take charge of their futures, to overcome obstacles, and build successful careers in healthcare upon graduation from the University of Florida.

The Congress on Healthcare Leadership provided the opportunity to learn more about the ever-expanding field of health care, gather valuable leadership tools, and bring back new ideas and insights to share with colleagues. The students were very appreciative of this valuable opportunity and look forward to representing the University of Florida at future ACHE events.
MHA Open House: Growing Opportunities and Interest

On January 23, 2015, the Master of Healthcare Administration Program held its annual open house for incoming and prospective students. After enjoying lunch and networking with the classes of 2015 and 2016, the 83 attendees were welcomed and introduced to the MHA program by HSRMP Department Chair, Dr. Chip Mainous, Program Director, Dr. Allyson Hall, and Associate Program Director, Ms. Cynthia Toth. The attendees then participated in separate sessions with faculty members, alumni of the program, and current students. These open forum discussions provided the opportunity for participants to ask questions and gain a better understanding of the MHA career path and the program itself. Claire Goodwin and Mallory Reed headed the organizing committee with the help and support of fellow students and department staff. A very special thank you to our alumni who participated to help make this event so successful: Ameen Baker (2007), Joe Lightfoot (2011), Don Avery (1987), and Acsah Abraham George (2014).

Dr. Daniel Estrada, MHA Program Director

MHA Program Director's Introduction

Greetings from Gainesville! I would like to take a moment in this MHA Messenger to introduce myself and review some highlights of the program as we approach the start of another academic year. Before I go any further, I would like to thank and congratulate a friend and mentor for her strong contributions and continued dedication to the MHA program as she prepares to embark on a new chapter of her career. It is with a mix of sadness and happiness that I announce that Dr. Allyson Hall will be leaving the University of Florida in August for a new position at the University of Alabama-Birmingham. We wish her the best and know she will continue to represent the UF MHA program and the Gator Nation as all of our accomplished alumni have done.

Everyone here is quite excited as we prepare to welcome 25 traditional MHA students this August. Our strong UF brand recognition and interest in this career path generated one of the most robust applicant pools in recent memory. In addition, this summer two students matriculated to the new part-time MHA program option that targets local working professionals. Finally, the fall semester will be eventful with the CAHME program re-accreditation site visit in November.

As a fellow alumnus of the UF MHA curriculum, I am excited for the opportunity to usher in the next phase of growth at UF. You will be hearing more about these initiatives in the next six months as I settle into my new role. In the interim, I am honored and humbled to assume stewardship of the flagship MHA program for the State of Florida. I firmly believe that we are entering a period of tremendous opportunity for the UF MHA, our students and our alumni. I welcome any comments, suggestions or ideas to continue to generate value and return on investment for all of our stakeholders. I look forward to interacting with many of you over the next several years. Go Gators!

Regards,
Daniel Estrada, PhD, MHS, MBA
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