PHHP Young Alumnus Winner Advises and Inspires Current MHA Students

This spring, as part of the program’s continuing Friday seminar series, the students were privileged to host Lt. Bill Walders as the key note speaker on Friday, March 22nd. Lt. Walders is this year’s UF PHHP Young Alumnus of the year and currently serves as the Chief Information Officer for Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. During the Friday seminar, Lt. Walders engaged the students in an informal and informative open discussion about careers in government healthcare, his experiences in the U.S. military, and advice for early careerists. The students thoroughly enjoyed the dialogue, and many even stayed after the session was dismissed to talk with him one on one. The program and the students are very thankful for Lt. Walders’ continued support of the MHA program and proud of his accomplishments and continued devotion to helping our nation’s service men and women.

Encouraging the Next Generation of Leaders

On April 10th 2013, 22 juniors and seniors from Tampa Bay Technical High School’s Health Professions Program visited the University of Florida as part of an annual tour and information session. These students are interested in learning more about the field of healthcare as they consider administration as a potential career path. The day started with a tour of Shands. Including stops in the ED, PICU, Food/Nutrition department, and the ShandsCair Helipad - this was a particular favorite! Following the tour refreshments were served, and a brief information session was led by current MHA students, Program Directors Ms. Cynthia Toth and Dr. Allyson Hall, and Department Chair Dr. Paul Duncan.

Finally, the day concluded with a walking tour of UF. This annual visit is a great way to showcase the promising opportunities within healthcare administration and was a terrific success!
Second Annual Student Organized 5k is a major success  
Anu Raman, contributing writer

This year, HASA and The Morning Mile joined forces once again for the 2nd annual Rise N’ Run 5k and 1 Mile Fun Run. Proceeds from the race benefited the Morning Mile program. The Morning Mile is a before-school walking/running program that gives children the chance to start their day in an active way while enjoying fun, music, and friends. HASA had the pleasure of working with The Morning Mile’s founder Fitz Kohler on her fight against obesity and goal of increasing physical activity in schools.

This year’s race was a success for HASA and the Morning Mile. Through the funds raised this year, not one, but two local schools will be sponsored to ensure that Morning Mile will be a part of their morning routines. HASA and its members were able to continue the annual 5k fundraising event and to establish its presence in the UF and local community.

We are all grateful and proud of our members, faculty and staff who contributed to this 5k. Members of HASA worked tremendously hard to ensure sponsors, vendors and registrations for this event. The cohesiveness of our members and colleges showed great dedication to look forward to all future HASA members carrying on our presence and positive impact in our communities!

MHA Gators in ‘Bama
Mallory Freeman, contributing writer

Since the inauguration of the Health Administration Case Competition hosted by the University of Alabama, The University of Florida Master of Health Administration program has sent a team to compete, and this year was no different.

This year’s team consisted of Sarah Janvier, Ashlyn Powell, Britney Ruth, and first year observer Mallory Freeman. Over 30 teams from around the country were given 3 weeks to come up with a solution to a real life scenario. The teams then presented their proposals to judging panels that were composed of various health care executives.

The team from UF put in a lot of hard work and had a great showing, earning Honorable Mention. This case competition gives participants invaluable experience in putting classroom lessons to use in real life situations, solving complex issues and presenting solutions. We are looking forward to participating again in 2014!

2013 UAB Case Competition team members Ashlyn Powell, Britney Ruth, and Sarah Janvier celebrating their achievements in Birmingham, AL. Congratulations ladies, we’re so proud!
Extending a Warm Welcome to future students

Kellie Williams, contributing writer

On January 18\textsuperscript{th}, 2013 we held our annual Open House for incoming and prospective students. We had approximately sixty-five attendees this year, which was a significant increase from the previous year. Ashlyn Powell, 2012-2013 HASA Secretary, worked diligently to promote the event and our MHA program. The attendees were provided lunch and welcomed with a presentation from Class of 2014 MHA students Julia Uthmeier and Jake Fischer. Afterwards, attendees were divided into groups to participate in breakout sessions to learn more about the program and have an opportunity to ask questions one on one.

There were three sessions designated for the attendees: alumni of the program session, current faculty session, and current student session. We created forum type sessions for the attendees to feel comfortable in asking alumni, faculty, or students any questions that they had about the program. Open house was a big success this year and we hope to top it next year with an even greater number of attendees.

Special thanks to our alumni that participated in making the event so wonderful: Ameen Baker, Elizabeth Galvin, Dan Harloff, Anthony Koffman, and Whitney Spellicy!

Pictured left: MHA Class of 2014 students Kellie Williams, Anu Raman, Misa Hoang, Allison Baron, Julia Uthmeier, Acsah Abraham, and Kat Avendano show their Gator pride to prospective students at Open House.

Taking the Windy City by Storm

Allison Baron, contributing writer

Embracing learning and professional development opportunities beyond the classroom, 10 current MHA students attended ACHE Congress in Chicago, IL from March 11-14\textsuperscript{th}. Here, the students attended informative seminar sessions covering the latest topics in the field of healthcare, networked with executives and students from other universities, and received resume and career counseling.

The students also had a chance to reconnect with their fellow Gators at a department sponsored Alumni Reception, and got to enjoy the sites in Downtown Chicago – even the snow!

All who attended had an outstanding experience and are looking forward to attending more ACHE events in the future!

The PHHP Office of Development and Alumni Affairs will be reaching out to our alumni to support the Graduate Program in Healthcare Administration Alumni Operating Fund. Please look for a letter soon with details about how you can help in this effort.

If you haven't received your letter from Leonard Carter, MHA Class of 2003, by mid-June, we do not have a current address for you. Please update your contact information so we can stay in touch: \url{http://hsrmp.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni/update-your-record/}