Announcing the Dual MBA/MHA Program!
by Jill Pease, PHHP Public Relations

The UF Warrington College of Business Administration’s Hough Graduate School of Business and the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions’ Department of Health Services Research, Management and Policy are offering a new dual MBA/MHA program. The coursework has 15-shared credits and will allow students to complete both degrees in three years.

"We are very excited to offer another degree option for students," said Arch Mallouk, Ph.D., the chair of the department of health services research, management and policy, and the Florida Blue Endowed Chair. "A joint MHA/MBA degree and learning opportunity can provide that extra content for students. By linking with the business school we create a synergy that may not exist if students pursued the two degrees separately."

The dual MBA/MHA degree will enable students to combine training in health care finance and economics, patient quality and safety, and health policy, with business courses in accounting, capital structure and risk, and marketing. A dual degree may also provide additional career options. Graduates with an MHA typically work for health care provider organizations, health insurance companies or in health care consulting.

A dual MBA/MHA may allow graduates to explore management opportunities in other health-related companies, such as pharmaceutical or medical device corporations.

The dual MBA/MHA degree program is a traditional on-campus program. Applications for the inaugural class will be accepted beginning Nov. 1, 2013. Students must apply and be accepted by both the MBA and the MHA programs.

For more information, including application requirements, please visit: http://hsrmp.phhp.ufl.edu/academic-programs

Meet the HASA E-Board

The members of the 2013-2014 Health Administration Student Association (HASA) executive board include President Jacob Fischer, Vice President Rusty Stein, Treasurer Nick Serluco, and Secretary Allison Baron. They are proud to lead the first- and second-year students in this year’s student activities and professional development efforts!

Students Advanced at NAHSE Competition

Acsah Abraham, Misa Hoang, and Eddine Luma (pictured at left) represented the University of Florida MHA program at the 17th Annual Everett V. Fox Student Case Competition last month. The team presented their case analysis at the 2013 National Association for Health Services Executives Conference held in Miami, Florida and advanced as semi-finalists among 24 MHA programs across the country. Congratulations ladies! Special thanks to first year MHA student, Alexandra Gulbis, for supporting the team throughout the process.
Taking it on the Road:
3rd Annual MHA C-Suite Tour

by Zach Anthony

This fall the MHA students went on their annual C-Suite tour of top Florida hospitals. The trip began at Tampa General Hospital (TGH) ranked as the number two hospital in Florida. After meeting with CEO, Jim Burkhart, and COO, Deana Nelson, the students were given a tour of TGH’s impressive diagnostics laboratory.

The following day, the students travelled to Lakeland Regional Medical Center (LRMC) in Lakeland, FL. They were given a presentation on the strategic plans for future facility expansion, and then shown their incredible Emergency Department, which is the busiest in Florida. Later, the students sat down for a question and answer session with several members of LRMC’s executive team.

The last stop of the trip was Nemours Children’s Hospital in Orlando. Most of the afternoon was spent speaking with Randy Hartley, CAO, and touring the beautiful facility. The students saw the massive investment placed on caring for Florida’s youngest patients.

A special thanks to the hospitals that hosted our students and to our alumni whose support allows us to see why it’s great to be a Florida Gator.

MHA alumnus, Dr. Surya Bali, is on the forefront of bringing more accessible care to the marginalized population in India. Since graduating from UF in 2007 as a Ford Foundation Fellow, Dr. Bali has continued his work on a tele-nursing project, which he began in 2004. He has worked around-the-clock to provide phone counsel to tribal communities of the Madhya Pradesh state.

Dr. Bali says, “Mobile nursing was difficult in 2004, but today there are phones in every corner of every district, even poor people have access to them.” His goal is to provide greater access to care for tribals and the poor of Madhya Pradesh state through tele-nursing. He is now on the verge of launching a tele-nursing center with the help of the regional government and other stakeholders. The new center will include thirty 24-hour lines that will provide medical counsel.

Receiving an MHA helped Dr. Bali understand the systems and processes of launching a community medicine program. He has built upon his past efforts to create a substantial tele-nursing center in the Madhya Pradesh state. He also writes poetry about disease and believes that people best understand things “in a language and manner that is intimate to them.”

He is a professor at the All India Institute of India Medical Sciences in the Department of Community and Family Medicine. His journey has taken him from poverty to receiving the honor of Amazing Indian by the Times Now television channel. He is has risen from a marginalized childhood to a social justice leader continuing to champion access for the underserved.

Alumni Spotlight:
Dr. Surya Bali

by Frank Sortino
MHA Students Go on a Real World Site Visit

On October 31, the second-year MHA students made a site visit to RTI Surgical, Inc. to learn more about the processes through which medical device manufacturers and hospitals ensure high quality medical devices are designed, manufactured, purchased, and delivered to patients. RTI is an Alachua, FL-based surgical implant company providing surgeons with biologic, metal, and synthetic implants.

Organized by Dr. Chris Harle and HSRMP PhD student Sarah Bauer, the visit included a tour of RTI’s facility and a joint presentation by RTI Market Brand Manager, Steven Moore, and UF Health Strategic Sourcing Manager, Dawn Watkins. The visit exemplified the MHA program’s commitment to engaging students with administrators from diverse organizations and exposing students to a range of real world health administration challenges and opportunities.

Successful Summer Internships

A vital part of the MHA curriculum involves the completion of an internship between the first and second years of the program. This provides students with the unique opportunity to actively contribute to a healthcare organization, while simultaneously gaining real world experience. The 10- to 12-week full-time work experience allows students to apply management concepts learned in the classroom out in the field.

Students are responsible for seeking out and securing their own internship sites, with constant support and assistance from program directors Ms. Cindy Toth and Dr. Allyson Hall. Our alumni network and loyal friends of the program are also integral in the process. The Class of 2014 took upon themselves to expand the Florida map farther than ever before.

Internships sites included:

- Tampa General Hospital - Tampa, FL
- UF Health - Gainesville, FL
- The Village Retirement Community - Gainesville, FL
- Sacred Heart Health System - Pensacola FL
- Carolinas HealthCare System - Charlotte, NC
- Emory Healthcare - Atlanta, Georgia
- Tenet Healthcare - Ft. Lauderdale, FL
- US Naval Hospital - Rota, Spain
- Mayo Clinic - Jacksonville, FL
- Detroit Medical Center - Detroit, MI
- MD Anderson Cancer Center - Houston, TX
- UF Student Healthcare Center - Gainesville, FL
- Catholic Health Services - Miami, FL
- Orlando Health - Orlando, FL

A huge thank you to all of the facilities and preceptors who worked with our students this summer!

Matt Garner and Kat Avendano with David Ross, Senior Vice President of Finance, Marsha Powers, Senior Vice President of Operations, and Craig Bloom, Chief Business Development Officer of Tenet Florida.

Julia Uthmeier with preceptor Sharon Abele, Director of Volunteer Services and Senior Spirit at Sacred Heart.

Acshah Abraham with Jim Ball, Chief Operating Officer at Catholic Health Services.

Jake Fischer with Rebecca Catalanotto and Jim Antonucci of The Village Retirement Community.
FHA Annual Conference

by Jake Fischer

The 2013 FHA Annual Meeting convened this year in Orlando, FL at the beautiful Hilton Bonnet Creek Resort located at Walt Disney World. This year’s speakers varied in their backgrounds and included names such as: Dr. Donald Berwick, writer; Eugene Robinson, political analyst; Dakota Meyer, Medal of Honor Recipient; and Doris Kearns Goodwin, Presidential Historian. The final day concluded with a spirited point-counterpoint discussion from James Carville and Karl Rove.

In addition to the FHA daily sessions, the UF MHA program also held a networking reception in honor of incoming chair, Dr. Arch "Chip" Mainous. The reception was well-attended by many UF alumni and close friends of the program.

Achieving the Triple Aim in Healthcare

by Jon Meighan

During the month of August, the ACHE North Florida Chapter successfully hosted another informative and engaging educational seminar confronting some of the pressing issues currently facing the industry. Healthcare leaders from across the state convened to reemphasize the “Triple Aim in Healthcare” encompassing the patient experience of care (including quality and satisfaction), the improvement of health populations, and the efforts in place to reduce the per capita cost of healthcare.

A discussion panel comprised of accomplished executives and academic affiliates provided insightful commentary on the importance and implementation of these objectives.

ACHE members expressed appreciation for dynamic discussions and thoughtful perspectives to critical questions posed by the audience. The contributions of all attendees facilitated an enlightening and stimulating session. It is, the goal of the North Florida Chapter to continually bring attention to the current concerns and demands in our field.

We hope this event brings us one step closer to establishing practical solutions that can help in achieving the triple aim.

Thank you to moderator Ed Jimenez, Shands SVP/COO, panel members R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., UF Professor, HSRMP; Cheryl T. Hayes-Williams, CEO Select Specialty Hospital; Kim Streit, FHA VP Health Research and Information; and everyone else who helped make this event a success!

Happy Holidays and Go Gators!