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Friday, April 23, 2021

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..... Table of Contents

HHP ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

(2021) Paul Robert Higgerson **4**

HHP TEACHER OF THE YEAR

(2021) Kristina "Tina" Garcia-Guettler **5**

(2020) Suzanne Sneed-Murphy **6**

CHARLES S. WILLIAMS SERVICE AWARD

(2021) Tracey Phillips **7**

(2020) Sarah Eberhart **8**

WELLSPRING FOUNDATION AWARD

(2021) Rachel L.M. Ho **9**

(2020) Nioud (Neo) Gebru **10**

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI

(2021) Latonya N. Delaughter **11**

(2020) Janelle T. Garcia **12**

(2020) Brittany K. Marshall **13**

ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

(2021) Linda S. Caldwell **14**

(2021) Christina Ramos **15**

(2021) Denise M. Seabert **16**

(2020) Bob LeFavi **17**

(2020) Sharon Drumheller Murray **18**

(2020) Robin Ramirez **19**

(2020) Janice Scarinci **20**

B.K. STEVENS SERVICE AWARD

(2021) Stephen Dodd **21**

(2020) Charles & Linda Williams **22**

HHP Advisor of the Year

..... (2021)

Paul Robert Higgerson

Academic Advisor

Sport Management



Paul Robert Higgerson earned his master's degree in college student affairs from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, Illinois.

He joined the College of Health & Human Performance (HHP) in 2018 as an academic advisor in the former Department of Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management and remained with Sport Management in 2019. He is responsible for advising all undergraduate UF Online and PaCE Sport Management students, representing the department at information sessions, and managing department academic affairs evaluation and planning.

Higgerson is a HHP voting member for the Undergraduate Advising Council and a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). He enjoys working with students, developing personal connections and helping to enhance the student experience for Sport Management students. Higgerson is a U.S. Air Force veteran having served in the 33rd Fighter Wing at Eglin Air Force Base from 1992-96. Raised in Illinois, Higgerson enjoys the year-round opportunities to watch UF athletics and to spend time outdoors exploring the Florida sites and attractions.

HHP Teacher of the Year

..... (2021)



Kristina "Tina" Garcia-Guettler

Lecturer

Health Education & Behavior

Kristina "Tina" Garcia-Guettler, Ph.D., better known to her students as "Dr. G," teaches a variety of courses which provide a foundational knowledge of health education and promotion as well as how

to apply this knowledge to design, implement and evaluate health interventions. Dr. Garcia-Guettler's teaching is fueled by her passion for preparing students to become exceptional health education specialists and health care providers.

Dr. Garcia-Guettler earned her bachelor's degree in health science education at the University of Florida from the very same program and department which she now resides. She earned her master's from Florida State University (shhh, we let that slide) and her Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. In between her master's and Ph.D. programs, she spent time as the coordinator of community health education at Gulfcoast North Area Health Education Center (GN-AHEC) where she facilitated health education and promotion programs for schools, community organizations, and worksites in and around the Tampa, Florida area.

In addition to her position as a lecturer in Health Education & Behavior, Dr. Garcia-Guettler enjoys serving as a UF Preview Advisor, a University Multicultural Mentor, a member of UF's Faculty Senate, a faculty sponsor for various UF student organizations and providing health education to inmates at the Alachua County Jail.

HHP Teacher of the Year

..... (2020)

Suzanne Sneed-Murphy

Undergraduate Coordinator,

Lecturer

Health Education & Behavior



Suzanne Sneed-Murphy, Ph.D., is a lecturer and undergraduate coordinator in the Department of Health Education and Behavior.

She currently teaches exercise therapy for individuals with disability, methods in community injury prevention and control, theories in health education and behavior, and women's health issues. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology from West Virginia University followed by a master's degree in health education and behavior and a doctorate in health and human performance. Both graduate degrees were completed in the College of Health and Human Performance at the University of Florida.

As an instructor for both graduate and undergraduate courses, Sneed-Murphy's teaching is focused on creating a desirable learning environment and academic opportunities for her students. She utilizes experiential learning practices to provide an avenue for direct application of learned material. She hopes to instill within students a desire to learn more about health education topics covered in class and inspire students to make a difference in the lives of others by applying what they have learned in her courses.

CHARLES S. WILLIAMS Service Award

..... (2021)



Tracey Phillips

Director, Finance

Dean's Office

Tracey Phillips joined the College of Health & Human Performance in 2005 as an accountant in the dean's office, where she was hired to work directly with Dr. Charles S. Williams managing the college's budget. There have been many changes in

the college and in UF processes since 2005, but Phillips continues to roll with the changes.

Some of Phillips' responsibilities include the annual

Appropriations budgeting process, budget oversight, providing guidance to departments on financial matters, generation of reports and liaison with the CFO's Office. Current UF projects she is involved with include presentation reviews for the inaugural Connected by UF conference and vendor evaluations for the university's new budget planning tool.

A Florida native, Phillips was a first-generation college student and elated when accepted to UF. Having grown up in South Florida surrounded by Hurricanes, she could not be prouder to call herself a Gator. Though Phillips is proud to be a UF grad and HHP employee, she is most proud of her daughters Lacey, Casey & Amy for their strength, confidence and military service. Lastly, her accomplishments would not have been possible without the encouragement of her bestie, George.

ABOUT THE AWARD

Established to honor faculty and staff who have gone beyond the call of duty and demonstrated outstanding service. *Read more about Dr. Williams on pages 22-23*

CHARLES S. WILLIAMS Service Award

..... (2020)

Sarah Eberhart

**Director of Assessment
and Student Services**

Dean's Office



Sarah Eberhart earned her master's degree in college student personal administration from the University of West Florida.

She joined HHP in 2008 as an academic advisor in the former Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management and transitioned to her role the dean's office in 2011. She is responsible for providing leadership for all areas related to academic and student affairs, including academic advisement, preview, recruitment, curriculum/assessment, student success and graduation. Eberhart serves as the program advisor for the HHP Ambassadors program and teaches the HHP section of First Year Florida. She enjoys building and mentoring relationships with students and helping them navigate through the peaks and valleys of the college experience.

Raised in the Florida Panhandle to FSU alums, her family bleeds garnet and gold. However after 12 years at UF her allegiance has wavered – Saturdays in fall being the exception. When not in the Florida Gym, she can be found chauffeuring her kids around town to dance lessons, swim club, basketball practice and even Gator sporting events.

WELLSPRING FOUNDATION Student Award

.... (2021) ...



Rachel L.M. Ho

Ph.D. Candidate

Applied Physiology & Kinesiology

Rachel L.M. Ho is a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology with a concentration in motor control and learning.

As a proud “Hapa Haole,” she strives to create warm, inclusive, safe spaces whether in the lab or in the classroom. Her work in the Laboratory of Rehabilitative Neuroscience with her mentor Dr. Stephen Coombes focuses on

individuals with chronic low back pain and the brain mechanisms underlying pain and movement.

When she’s not in the lab you can find her taking long walks with her fur baby Frankie and cooking adventurous vegetarian, gluten-free meals with her fiance Matt.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Wellspring Foundation Award recognizes a current student who has made substantial and outstanding contributions toward fostering diversity, inclusion and intercultural engagement both on campus and in the Gainesville community. The Wellspring Foundation has a goal of bringing young people of diverse backgrounds together to learn from one another and understand worlds beyond their own.

WELLSPRING FOUNDATION Student Award

..... (2020)

Nioud (Neo) Gebru

Ph.D. Candidate

Health Education & Behavior



Neo Gebru is a fourth-year doctoral student in HEB, with a concentration in health behavior.

Mr. Gebru's long-term goal is to establish an independent research career focused on identifying and understanding factors that underlie health-related decisions, specifically psychosocial factors related to substance use and risky behaviors among adolescents and young adults.

As a first-generation and immigrant graduate student, Mr. Gebru is passionate about providing mentorship and opportunities for others. Recently, in his capacity as research impact co-chair of the Black Graduate Student Organization, Mr. Gebru co-chaired UF's third Diversity Graduate Research Symposium. Co-sponsored by HHP, the symposium was a success with over 50 poster and four oral presenters. Mr. Gebru also serves as a graduate mentor with the McNair Scholars program for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds to facilitate their transition to graduate education.

OUTSTANDING Young Alumni

..... (2021)



Latonya N. Delaughter

BSHED '10

Latonya N. Delaughter currently holds a position as a program manager for the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward). Her primary

responsibilities include coordinating the development, implementation and evaluation of a comprehensive public health program. Currently, Delaughter is serving in

a dual capacity in accordance with emergency

response duties for DOH-Broward; this entails

managing daily operations for high traffic COVID-19 specimen collection and vaccination sites throughout Broward County.

Delaughter is an active member and holds executive positions on the following coalitions: Broward County Comprehensive School Health Advisory Committee, Tobacco Free Partnership of Broward County and the United Way Youth Action Team. Delaughter has secured funding for a public health program annually and has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials for awards in Model Practice and several Promising Practices.

Delaughter earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Education from the University of Florida and a Master of Public Administration from Florida Atlantic University. Since graduating from UF, Delaughter has consistently held positions within the public health field due to her passion and dedication to serve the most vulnerable populations while driving program outcomes and services that cultivate health equity.

OUTSTANDING Young Alumni

..... (2020)

Janelle T. Garcia

MSAPK '08 Ph.D. '12



Janelle T. Garcia, Ph.D., is a two-time UF graduate, with more than seven years of experience in health promotion, serving as a university faculty member, researcher, program planner and evaluator, and most recently, clinical integration manager for Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital (JHACH). Her scholarly work includes childhood obesity, healthcare weight bias, food insecurity as well as school-based health education. Dr. Garcia is passionate about creating sustainable family-centered health and wellness programs as well as empowering youth to lead environmental and policy changes to create healthier communities.

As an advocate for health equity within her community, Dr. Garcia examines social and political barriers that impact health. As the principal investigator for JHACH's federal Healthy Start grant, Dr. Garcia along with JHACH, local and state leaders are working to create a community framework that promotes health equity through the reformation and creation of policies that promote equitable health and opportunities for productive and optimal living. Her other notable projects include the implementation of high school-based food pantries in Pinellas County, planning of a hospital-based food pharmacy program, co-authorship of a web-based clinical weight management toolkit, and co-authorship of a human growth and development booklet for Pinellas County Schools.

OUTSTANDING Young Alumni

..... (2020)



Brittany K. Marshall

BSHE '08

Dr. Brittany Marshall is a program manager at the National Foundation for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC Foundation) in Atlanta where she leads a landscape

analysis of the capacity of 20 state and local health departments to address the impacts of climate change on health within the CDC's National Center for Environmental Health. Broadly, Dr. Marshall's

practice and research interests include HIV prevention among vulnerable populations, program evaluation and implementation science. She has held several leadership positions in public health, most notably the American Public Health Association (APHA). Dr. Marshall is a past chair of the Student Assembly where she represented 7,500 public health students and was the first student to be a voting member of APHA's executive board. Recently, she was the youngest member elected to the APHA executive board for a four-year term in November 2019. She has been honored as an inaugural 40 Under 40 in Public Health by the de Beaumont Foundation and as one of the top 10 Outstanding Atlantans of 2019.

In addition to her B.S. in health education from the University of Florida, Dr. Marshall has a master's degree in public health from the University of South Florida and a doctorate in public health from the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

..... (2021)

Linda S. Caldwell

BSPE '76



Linda S. Caldwell was a member of the UF Student Health Advisory Committee and the first Lady Gator Volleyball Team.

Caldwell became certified to teach many subjects, everything from anatomy and physiology to health education and zoology. She was an editor for the first HIV/AIDS textbook series and contributed to Florida curriculum guides in several areas of health education and science.

Caldwell was runner-up for Health Educator of the Year and named one of Florida's Most Outstanding Secondary Science Teachers. She coached several sports, awarded thousands of first-aid and CPR training cards, and coached her school's biomedical academic team. While at the College of Health & Human Performance, Caldwell began donating blood. Her blood type, O-negative with CMV negative, is the only blood transfused in pediatrics. Caldwell has donated more than 100 units and UF Pediatrics receives her blood immediately following donation.

Other volunteer efforts include judging science fairs, Take Stock in Children, Therapy Dogs International, Marion County Tobacco-Free Partnership, and Department of Health and Human Services Senior Medicare Patrol. In 2020, Caldwell published "He Made Ice and Changed the World: the Story of Florida's John Gorrie." Dr. Gorrie (1803-1855) was Florida's first public health educator and his statue represents Florida in the U.S. Capitol. Dr. Gorrie is also the inspiration for the UF College of Medicine John Gorrie Award.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

..... (2021)



Christina Ramos

BSR '10

Christina M. Ramos began her career at the University of Florida interning with Gator Boosters Inc. and working as the assistant director of Gator Gala, which celebrated 100 Years of Gator Football.

Following her experiences at UF, Ramos went on to work for the Orange Bowl Committee in 2007. During her tenure at the Orange Bowl Committee,

Ramos served in many roles and was promoted to vice president of marketing in 2019. During her time in South Florida, Ramos founded the Women In Sports & Events South Florida Chapter.

Ramos was called upon to serve as an adjunct professor at Florida International University. Currently, she is an adjunct professor at the UF College of Health & Human Performance teaching sport marketing, which she is passionate about.

Ramos currently serves as vice president & community care advocate for Touching Hearts at Home, a company that her family owns and operates in North Central Florida. In her role, she enjoys giving back to community and being an advocate for seniors. Ramos was named chair of the 2021 Gainesville Walk to End Alzheimer's and serves on the development committee for ElderCare of Alachua County and the board for Catholic Charities. Her motivation to provide exceptional care and support for seniors is influenced by her grandmother with dementia.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

..... (2021)

Denise M. Seabert

Ph.D. '01



Denise M. Seabert, Ph.D., has been preparing health teachers and providing in-service training for teachers and other school personnel for more than 20 years. Her career has been dedicated

to professional preparation of health educators through service to state and national organizations and initiatives as well as textbook authorship. Dr. Seabert provided leadership in Indiana's obesity prevention efforts, HIV education for teachers, and academic standards for health and wellness.

Currently she serves on the Eta Sigma Gamma National Health Education Honorary executive board and national committee on the Future of School Health. She has served on the board of directors for the American School Health Association and the National Commission for Health Education Credentialing and was a member of a CDC school health national training cadre.

Prior to gaining professor emeritus status at Ball State University, Dr. Seabert served as chairperson for the Department of Physiology & Health Science and associate dean of the College of Health. She currently serves as the dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Fresno State. Denise received her BAEd in school health education from Western Washington University, MS in school and college health from Indiana University, and Ph.D. in health behavior with a minor in curriculum from the University of Florida.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

.... (2020)



Bob LeFavi

BSHE '83

Dr. Robert “Bob” LeFavi’s passion for lifelong learning began with examples set by the faculty of UF’s College of Health & Human Performance. LeFavi went on to receive

a Ph.D. (Auburn University), MBA, MDiv and DMin. Currently, LeFavi is dean of the

Beaufort Campus at the University of South

Carolina, Beaufort. Previously, he was professor and

head, Department of Health Sciences and Kinesiology at Georgia Southern University (Armstrong Campus), where he led 60 faculty and 2,000 students. With a belief in servant leadership, LeFavi created The Oasis Center — a nonprofit providing free counseling to persons in crisis.

LeFavi’s research and popular press articles have led to interviews on "CBS Evening News with Dan Rather," CNN with Paula Zahn, ESPN, and "Inside Edition," and quotes as an expert in the New York Times, San Francisco Chronicle, USA Today, Sports Illustrated and Parade. LeFavi’s interests in all dimensions of health are reflected in the variety of his research topics; LeFavi’s technical analysis of sport movements has been highlighted by National Geographic and the Washington Post, and his research on life review in the terminally ill has received critical acclaim. LeFavi has been married to the former Susan Sutherland (BBA '83) for 37 years. They have three children.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

.... (2020)

Sharon Drumheller Murray

MHSE '94



Sharon Drumheller Murray, MHSE, has led organizations, boards, and national task forces designed to enhance the health and well-being of children and adolescents in public schools. She was president of the American School Health Association and is currently co-chair of the National Committee on the Future of School Health Education. She has served as president/CEO of two national nonprofit organizations that have each made significant contributions to shaping a new model of school health, been an advocate for school-based approaches to promoting health and was selected to testify before the U.S. Congress on the importance of funding school health programs.

Murray has developed and delivered countless trainings on how to create better systems for student health, co-chaired the writing team for Colorado's first-ever K-12 health education curriculum standards, and authored a key peer-reviewed article on the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model (WSCC) – a framework currently transforming how schools promote student health and well-being. She has also been selected to serve on three separate expert panels convened by CDC to provide subject matter expertise on coordinated school health, adolescent reproductive and sexual health, and professional development. Murray is also dedicated to mentoring and coaching new and emerging health professionals.

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

.... (2020)



Robin Ramirez

BSPE '81

Robin “Rob” Ramirez is currently completing his 39th year working for the Alachua County School Board at the A. Quinn Jones Center in Gainesville, Florida. The

center is a Title I, alternative education school, which serves students with severe emotional disabilities. During his first 15

years at the center, Ramirez implemented the inaugural K-12 physical education program with an

adaptive PE endorsement. The past 23 years of his tenure

has been spent there as the dean of students. As the dean, his emphasis has been on reducing suspensions and referrals, increasing academic achievement and attendance, and implementing a restorative justice program.

Ramirez has a passion for teaching people of all ages to swim. For the last 45 years, he has been a swim instructor with Gainesville YMCA, High Tide Aquatics, Makos Swim Team and Swim America — and the past 34 years as the boys and girls swimming and diving coach at Gainesville High School (GHS). The 2020 swimming season at GHS has yielded his 25th top ten team finish.

Ramirez would like to thank the College of Health and Human Performance for the great honor! Go Gators!

ALUMNI Hall of Fame

.... (2020)

Janice Scarinci

BSRPT '91, MSRPT '94

Dr. Janice Scarinci earned her master's degree from UF in 1994 and her bachelor's degree in 1991. Inspired by her professors at UF, Dr. Scarinci pursued her Ph.D. in tourism at James Cook University (JCU) in North Queensland, Australia on a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship.



Dr. Scarinci has taught hospitality and tourism in five countries on three continents and has more than 20 years of academic experience as a department chair and director of a hospitality and tourism institute. Dr. Scarinci earned the Distinguished Educator Award in 2017 and the Faculty Excellence Award in 2004 and 2012. She was also awarded the Curriculum Innovative Grant for the advancement of international experiential education. Dr. Scarinci is currently developing tourism, hospitality and event degrees at JCU in North Queensland, Australia.

Dr. Scarinci has more than 11 years of hospitality and tourism industry experience in Florida, Sicily and Bermuda. She worked for the Breakers Resort, the City of Palm Beach Gardens and the U.S. Navy's Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) Department. Dr. Scarinci has been honored by the hospitality industry as the Allied Member of the Year from the Palm Beach County Hotel & Lodging Association, the Change Maker Award from Rotary International, and the Outstanding Citizen Award by the Mayor of West Palm Beach for outstanding service to the community and the university.

B.K. STEVENS Service Award

..... (2021)



Stephen Dodd

Stephen Dodd, Ph.D., came to UF in 1991 as an associate professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology (APK). He established the Muscle Physiology Lab where his research centered on determining the mechanisms controlling skeletal muscle mass in conditions of muscle wasting. The lab made major contributions in muscle physiology and how muscle atrophy may be attenuated.

Dr. Dodd has taught many physiology-related courses in APK. His undergraduate and graduate students always served as motivation and inspiration in his quest for pushing back the frontiers of the field. He attributes much of his lab's productivity to his talented doctoral students who spent long hours in the lab.

During his tenure at UF, Dr. Dodd served as chair of APK for two terms. His administrative focus was to increase the extramural funding of the department. In 2018, he served as interim chair of the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management. During that time, Dr. Dodd orchestrated the division of the department into two new departments, the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management (THEM) and the Department of Sport Management. In 2019, he served as THEM interim chair until his retirement in July.

B.K. STEVENS Service Award


.....(2020).....

Charles & Linda Williams

Charles S. Williams, Ed.D., is professor emeritus in the **College of Health and Human Performance.** He first came to UF in 1972 as an instructor. After earning his doctoral degree, he served as state 4-H camping director (IFAS), assistant chair in the Department of General Physical Education and director of Recreational Sports. In 1986, he was appointed as the first assistant dean for the college. Dr. Williams served in the dean's office for 20 years as assistant, associate and senior associate dean.



He has co-authored 27 books and developed commercial CDs and computer software programs. His high school textbook “Personal Fitness: Looking Good/Feeling Good” was used throughout the U.S. and received national awards. Dr. Williams served on numerous college and university committees and received a number of service awards from the Special Olympics, Florida 4-H Council, National Intramural Sports Council, and the Morton Wolfson Faculty Award for Outstanding Service to UF Students, presented by the UF Office of Student Affairs. In 2006, the college honored Dr. Williams’ contributions by establishing the Charles S. Williams Service Award. He is most proud of his efforts, along with Drs. Pigg, Varnes, Fagerberg, and Alexander, to save HHP.



Linda Williams taught in the public school system for 26 years and was twice honored with the Teacher of the Year Award at Fort Clarke Middle School. She set up one of the first technology-based family and consumer sciences labs in the state. Her program received state and national accolades. Linda served as department chair and team leader, and was the lead middle school for family and consumer sciences teachers in Alachua County. In addition to her leadership within the schools, she has served on the State Textbook Adoption Committee, president of the UF Women's Club and is currently serving as president of the Democratic Women's Club of Alachua County.

Both Linda and Charles have given presentations throughout the U.S., as well as Asia and Europe. They have helped to establish five student scholarships at three different universities. Currently, Linda and Charles are serving on the Real Rosewood Foundation Board of Directors.

Family is so important to Charles and Linda. They have a daughter, son, daughter-in law and two grandsons who fill their lives with joy every day.

ABOUT THE AWARD

B.K. Stevens was a member of the original faculty when the college was established in 1946. This award is given annually to those who exemplify the principles of leadership and service that he exhibited during his lifetime.

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and videos with the hashtag

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