



Florida Tomorrow | Public Health and Health Professions



UF | FLORIDA
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



From the Dean

We're all familiar with the health concerns facing Florida and the nation today: escalating levels of chronic disease and disability and a rapidly growing number of people without health insurance or proper access to care. For the first time in our nation's history, experts believe that today's children may have a lower life expectancy than their parents.

At the College of Public Health and Health Professions, our work is driven by a vision of *Florida Tomorrow*. It is our hope that our research, teaching and service will build a healthier future for individuals and communities. One in which research advances improve the quality of life for people with disabilities and chronic illness, all Americans receive the health care they need, and prevention programs change the current course of spiraling rates of disease.

To accomplish these goals, our college has introduced a unique model that focuses on the integration of our longstanding programs in individual patient care with public health problem-solving. We believe this perspective is essential, especially given the challenges facing the American health care system.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions is deeply committed to our mission of preserving, promoting and improving the health and well-being of populations, communities and individuals. Our faculty and students will lead the way in this effort and private support through endowed professorships and scholarships will ensure that the college can attract the best in our fields. With your help, we can offer our children a healthier future. I invite you to support the College of Public Health and Health Professions as we shape a healthy *Florida Tomorrow*.

Sincerely,

Michael G. Perri, Ph.D.

Interim Dean, College of Public Health and Health Professions

Florida Tomorrow

... and the College of Public Health and Health Professions

The Promise of Tomorrow

The University of Florida holds the promise of the future: *Florida Tomorrow* — a place, a belief, a day. *Florida Tomorrow* is filled with possibilities. *Florida Tomorrow* is for dreamers and doers, for optimists and pragmatists, for scholars and entrepreneurs, all of whom are nurtured at Florida's flagship university: the University of Florida, the foundation of the Gator Nation.

What is *Florida Tomorrow*? Here at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, we believe it's an opportunity, one filled with promise and hope. It's that belief that feeds the university's capital campaign to raise more than \$1 billion.

The *Florida Tomorrow* campaign will shape the university, certainly. But its ripple effect will also touch the state of Florida, the nation and the entire world. *Florida Tomorrow* is pioneering research and spirited academic programs. It's a fertile environment for inquiry, teaching and learning. It's being at the forefront to address the challenges facing all of us, both today and tomorrow.

College of Public Health and Health Professions *Florida Tomorrow Campaign Goals*

Faculty Support	\$6 million
Student Support	\$2 million
Programs and Research	\$5 million
TOTAL	\$13 million



Paul Schauble





Florida Tomorrow is a place ...

where we foster healthy populations, healthy communities and healthy lives.

One Step at a Time

One moment Paul Schauble was enjoying a bicycle ride; the next he was staring at the sky.

Schauble, a professor and licensed psychologist at the University of Florida's Counseling Center, was riding his bicycle in his Gainesville neighborhood in March 2001 when a dog darted into his path. Schauble's feet were strapped into the pedals and he flew over the handlebars.

"I lay there stunned and kept trying to move and when I couldn't, I realized that I was paralyzed," Schauble says.

Initially unable to move anything but his lips to speak, Schauble slowly regained some degree of motor function during weeks of hospitalization and rehabilitation, but his ability to walk was severely limited.

A research program on UF's campus helped Schauble get moving again.

Led by Andrea Behrman, an associate professor of physical therapy at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the locomotor training program helps retrain the legs of patients who still have some function below the level of their spinal cord injury.

As they walk on the treadmill, patients are partially supported by a specially designed harness. Therapists guide patients' legs and ensure proper gait.

The intensive training helped Schauble go from a shuffling gait with the assistance of a walker to independent walking with the help of a cane for longer distances.

"The therapists basically retrained me to walk," he says.

Schauble is now back doing many of the things he enjoyed before the injury, including spending time with his grandchildren, even getting up and down from the floor unassisted to join them in play.

"My wife and I often talk about what a lucky break this has been for me," he says. "If I had experienced this injury 20 years ago or I lived in a place where the therapy wasn't available, I would have a much different quality of life than I do now."



Florida Tomorrow is a day ...

when all individuals have equal access to health care.

Women and Health

Women with physical disabilities have the same or greater risk of developing breast cancer as other women, but behavioral and environmental barriers can contribute to lower rates of breast cancer screening for women with disabilities.

To overcome those challenges, Ellen Lopez, an assistant professor in the University of Florida's College of Public Health and Health Professions' Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health, has partnered with the Center for Independent Living of North Central Florida in researching the facilitators and barriers to recommended breast cancer screening for women with physical disabilities. The study is named WITH-USS: Women's Independence Through Health-Universal Screening Solutions.

"Personal attitudes and beliefs, along with environmental obstacles such as inaccessible transportation, health care facilities and medical coverage issues put women with disabilities at risk for late breast cancer diagnosis and poor health outcomes," Lopez says. "In addition, the disability itself can pose a barrier when it becomes the sole focus of a woman's interaction with her health care provider."

Lopez and her research team conduct in-depth interviews with women with disabilities and health care providers to learn their perspective on cancer screening facilitators and barriers.

Additionally, several women are trained and given digital cameras to take photographs during a health care visit. The goal is to

create narrated slideshows that allow women to literally "show and tell" their breast health care experiences.

"We are assessing the feasibility and benefits of using photography as another way for women with disabilities to voice their perspectives to others," Lopez says. "We are interested in knowing how empowering and useful this method is as a research and educational tool, and its capacity to enable women with disabilities to take control of how their lives are shown, discussed and relayed to others."

Lopez is leading a statewide public education campaign to disseminate health promotion materials and messages about the importance of breast health screening for women with physical disabilities through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Right to Know campaign.

"The lack of breast cancer screening for women with physical disabilities is a significant public health concern for Florida as nearly one in five women in our state are living with at least one disability," Lopez says. "To our knowledge, Right to Know is one of the few campaigns specifically designed for women with physical disabilities.

"Ultimately," she says, "we are striving to create more opportunities for women with disabilities to not only better understand the importance of their own health behaviors, but to advocate for environmental changes that impact their lives and well-being."







Florida Tomorrow is a belief ...

that collaboration between health professions and public health disciplines will solve complex problems and serve as a model for education, research and service.

Older Drivers

Priscilla Milliman considers herself an experienced driver. A Southern California native, she learned to drive as a teenager by navigating the Los Angeles-area freeways and has driven in urban areas most her life.

But at 75, Milliman, of Gainesville, had been reluctant to drive outside of the city limits, feeling insecure on the interstate and in heavy traffic. And as an avid tennis player, she also recognized that her physical reaction time had slowed in recent years.

So she turned to the University of Florida's National Older Driver Research and Training Center at the College of Public Health and Health Professions for help in making a decision about her driving abilities.

The National Older Driver Research and Training Center is the nation's leading research and service center dedicated exclusively to older drivers. Directed by William Mann, chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, the center aims to keep seniors independent within the community by prolonging safe driving abilities and, for those unable to continue driving safely, the center offers alternatives to driving.

Center researchers are also working to determine which methods are best for evaluating seniors' driving abilities. And the center's assessment program, Independence Drive, offers physical, vision and cognitive testing, as well as assessments of on-road driving skills.

An assessment demonstrated that Milliman is a safe driver, but the results confirmed her suspicion that she was too cautious in her driving at times so she scheduled a training session at Independence Drive to brush up on some driving tips.

The assessment and training has helped Milliman feel more secure in her driving skills and given her hope that as a socially active senior who loves to travel, she can return to driving on the interstate.

"I feel like I'm a better driver than I thought I was and that gives me more confidence," she says. "My goal is to drive to Jacksonville International Airport and St. Augustine with confidence. This would be an achievement for me."



Our Vision of Tomorrow

Fifty years ago the College of Public Health and Health Professions was formed to provide an educational model missing in the United States, and today our college has again introduced a unique model that focuses on the integration of public health problem-solving and individual patient care in an effort to solve today's complex health issues.

As a fully developed college of public health with a legacy as a top college of health professions, the issues and challenges of chronic diseases and disabilities are a natural fit. Within this complicated set of health problems, we must also address such critical public health challenges as disparities in health status and health care, the effects of natural and human-made disasters on people with these health concerns, and many other factors.

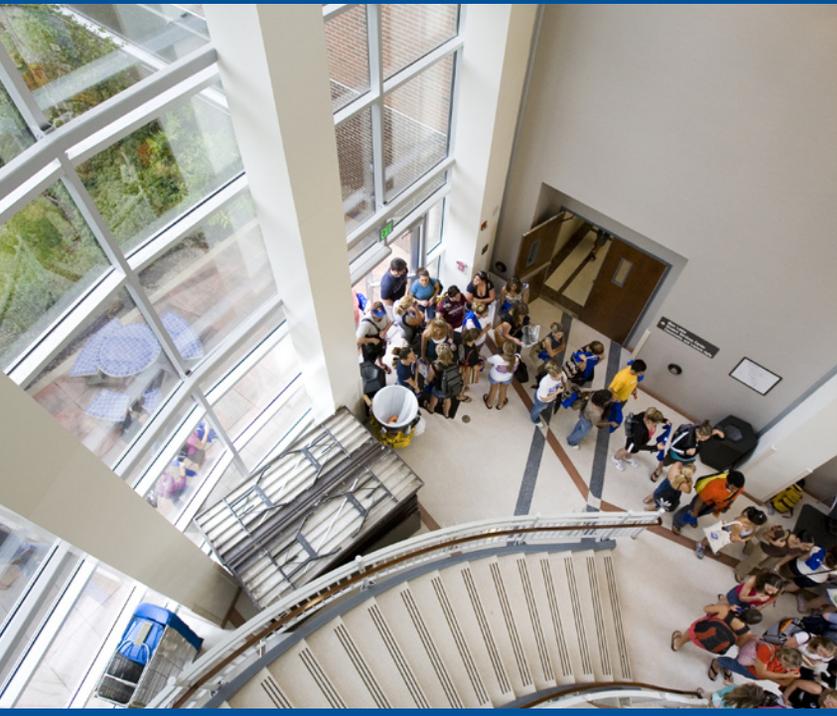
The college will achieve our mission of preserving, promoting and improving the health and well-being of populations, communities and individuals through collaborations among our experts

in public health and health professions on education, research and service.

To achieve this mission, the college's goals include:

- Provide excellent educational programs that prepare graduates to address the multifaceted health needs of populations, communities and individuals.
- Conduct research and disseminate findings that are responsive to the nation's priority health needs.
- Serve as leaders in the public health, health practice and health service communities through our innovative, collaborative approaches to intervention, professional practice and policy.

To support these goals, the college has established a \$13 million fundraising goal, which would fund professorships and scholarships that will help us recruit and retain the best and brightest, bringing us closer to our vision of a tomorrow with healthy populations, healthy communities and healthy lives.





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