



Walk this way

New research provides insight into heart healthy exercise regimen

Thirty minutes of brisk walking a day is a step in the right direction toward improved heart health, according to research by college investigator Michael Perri, Ph.D. The findings were published in *Archives of Internal Medicine*, and received coverage from hundreds of news outlets including the Washington Post, Boston Globe, San Francisco Chronicle and Chicago Tribune.

Study participants who were prescribed an exercise regimen of walking for 30 minutes five or more days a week at either a moderate or hard intensity, or at a hard intensity three to four days a week, showed significant long-term improvements in cardiorespiratory fitness. Fast-paced, frequent walking offered the largest fitness benefits and also led to modest, short-term improvements in cholesterol levels.

A half hour of moderate-intensity walking most days of the week has been associated with significant health benefits and is in line with recommendations from the American Heart Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the U.S. Surgeon General. But instead of evaluating weight loss, the UF study focused specifically on exercise's effects on heart health and addressed the wide variability in people's adherence to exercise regimens, which health providers must take into account when counseling patients.

"National guidelines for exercise are based largely on studies conducted in laboratory settings with close supervision of how much exercise is completed by the study participants," said Perri, associate dean and a professor in the department of clinical and health psychology. "In our research, we were very interested in learning about the ways people respond to different exercise prescriptions when they are asked to complete the exercise on their own, in their home or work environments."

Exercise at either high frequency or hard intensity seems to be the key, the researchers discovered.

"When exercising on their own, people generally complete only about 60 percent of the amount prescribed," Perri said. "As a result, an exercise prescription for moderate-intensity walking on three to four days a week may not generate a large enough amount of exercise to produce a change in fitness."

In the two-year study, researchers evaluated nearly 500 sedentary

men and women who were randomly assigned to one of four exercise groups or to a comparison group that only received group counseling by a physician. The duration and type of exercise prescribed were the same for each of the exercise groups — 30 minutes of walking a day — but the intensity and frequency varied.

Measurements of cardiorespiratory fitness, HDL cholesterol (the "good" form) and the ratio of total cholesterol to HDL were taken at baseline, at six months and at two years.

At six months, participants in high-frequency or high-intensity exercise groups showed a significant increase in cardiorespiratory fitness, but only those who walked at a fast pace five to seven days a week had significant improvements in HDL or the ratio of total cholesterol to HDL.

At two-year follow-up, 21 percent of the participants who walked five or more days a week or three to four days a week at a fast pace had a 10 percent or greater improvement in cardiorespiratory fitness, compared with 14 percent of the participants in the low-frequency exercise or comparison group. While the changes may appear modest, previous studies have shown that a 10 percent increase in cardiorespiratory fitness may result in a 15 percent reduction in mortality.

Improvements in cholesterol profiles were not sustained at the two-year mark, however, perhaps due to diminished adherence to the regimen, Perri said.

The UF study provides valuable information that health practitioners can use when counseling their patients on exercise plans, wrote Steven Blair and Michael LaMonte of the health research center, the Cooper Institute, in an editorial accompanying the journal article.

"This study makes important contributions to our understanding of how much exercise is necessary to produce important physiological adaptations," Blair said. "The bottom line is that 30 minutes of walking on five to seven days a week provides substantial health benefits." ●



Dr. Michael Perri

PHHP co-hosts public health institute, establishes advisory committee

How can we prevent the spread of avian flu from animals to humans? What is the psychological impact of disasters?

These concerns and more were addressed at the 2006 Winter Public Health Institute held in Gainesville in January. The institute was sponsored by PHHP and the University of Minnesota School of Public Health, in collaboration with both universities' colleges of veterinary medicine.

"We are very excited about our first joint venture with the School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota," said Mary Peoples-Sheps, Dr.P.H., director of UF's public health programs. "This was an opportunity to build on Minnesota's experience with the institute concept in order to offer timely and important courses to public health practitioners."

Course topics included avian influenza; behavioral health in disasters; risk communication and food safety; and field investigation response.

Critical public health issues were among the topics discussed at the first meeting of the college's Public Health External Advisory Committee in January. The 15-member group of public health leaders will provide guidance to the PHHP program on the skills required of public health graduates, opportunities for community involvement, evaluation of the program's effectiveness and professional continuing education.

The meeting also featured a public lecture by Harrison Spencer, M.D., M.P.H., president and CEO of the Association of Schools of Public Health.

"As UF's public health program is developed the university and its faculty and students will certainly be enriched," Spencer said. ●

The recent bestseller *The World is Flat*, by New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman, describes how changes brought about by access to the Internet, dwindling of international tensions accompanying the fall of the Berlin Wall, and increasing educational achieve-

ment abroad are changing how we do business and prepare individuals in the educational system.

The fodder for many of the changes Friedman describes has been created by international students educated in the United States who have returned to their homes and established businesses. The American higher education system has long been



Dr. Robert G. Frank

recognized as the premier educational system in the world — a patchwork of state and private universities which simply has no peer. The desire of international students to earn an American degree does more than benefit their home countries. International students bring more than \$13 billion in tuition, fees and housing revenue to the United States. In Florida alone, about 26,000 students from other countries bring more than \$625 million into communities like Gainesville.

Colleges providing degrees in the health disciplines have traditionally had a greater number of U.S. student applicants than they can possibly accept and consequently, such colleges have been slower to focus on opportunities in other countries. But as the world flattens and new technology continues to emerge, it is clear that American universities are uniquely positioned to award coveted degrees to international students in the United States or in their own communities abroad.

At the University of Florida, there has been growing recognition of the importance of international education. PHHP has always been willing to host international scholars, establishing exchange agreements with La Trobe University in Australia, Oxford University and the University of Jordan.

New opportunities are on the horizon with the recent establishment of a UF center in Beijing, China to explore relationships with Chinese businesses and universities. As China has moved toward a more open society, there has been a major emphasis on the need to develop educational opportunities for the country's 1.2 billion citizens. American universities can clearly play a role in this endeavor — about 360 million people from China speak English, more than there are people in the United States.

Working with the Beijing office, PHHP has explored the possibility of collaboration with a number of Chinese universities who have expressed interest in several of our programs including public health, health administration and physical therapy. Talks on these proposed programs continue to progress and we hope we can report on successful outcomes in the future.

The idea that more people than ever can collaborate and communicate across the world is exciting. As Friedman writes: "we are now connecting all the knowledge centers on the planet together into a single global network, which — if politics and terrorism do not get in the way — could usher in an amazing era of prosperity and innovation." ●



Medicaid reform

PHHP investigators to study effects of Florida's sweeping Medicaid reform

Researchers in the College of Public Health and Health Professions have received a \$2.5 million contract to evaluate the outcome of Florida's new high-profile plan to reform Medicaid.

During the five-year study, investigators will conduct an organizational analysis of the reform; determine its fiscal impact; and measure the satisfaction, quality of care and outcomes experienced by enrollees and health-care providers as the reform is implemented.

Considered one of the most aggressive state Medicaid reform initiatives, Florida's plan will attempt to address challenges associated with the rapidly growing program, which currently provides medical coverage for more than 2 million of the state's families with low income, elderly and people with disabilities, at a cost of \$15 billion a year.

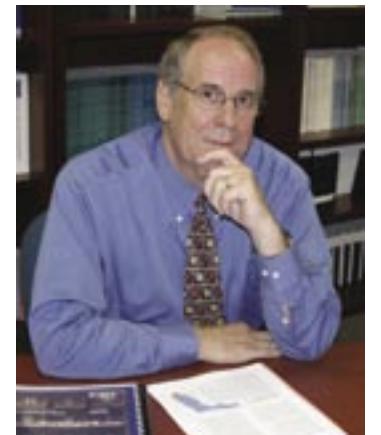
"The proposed Medicaid reform program is very interesting," said R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., the study's principal investigator and chair of the department of health services research, management and policy.

"Medicaid is a huge, expensive and important program, and every state struggles to manage it effectively. Florida's reform plan is very ambitious. What happens in Florida will be watched by 49 other states."

Florida's Medicaid reform is modeled on private sector managed care plans. Lawmakers hope that under the new program, Medicaid participants will have more flexibility in choosing their health-care providers. In addition, the reform program is intended to foster competition among providers — who will bid on contracts to offer services and be accountable for the enrollees' care — saving the state money without compromising the quality of care.

"The aim of transforming Medicaid is to measurably improve the system of care delivery for Medicaid consumers," said Alan Levine, secretary of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. "This long-term study will provide us with a thoughtful, independent review of the important indicators critical for success, and our progress toward achieving them."

The research team, which also includes department faculty members Allyson Hall, Ph.D.,



Dr. R. Paul Duncan

Christy Lemak, Ph.D., and Niccie McKay, Ph.D., will provide six-month progress reports on the research to the Agency for Health Care Administration.

They will begin work in Broward and Duval counties, where the reform program will first be implemented. Research will extend to Baker, Clay, Nassau and possibly other counties as the reform demonstration expands.

"Broward and Duval are urban counties while the counties in the second wave are more sparsely populated," Duncan said. "One of the questions we'll need to answer is 'will this program work differently in urban and rural settings?'" ●

New department chair named

Leading public health psychologist Barbara Curbow, Ph.D., has been named chair of the department of rehabilitation counseling.

She succeeds former Chair Horace Sawyer, Ed.D., who is retiring.

Curbow most recently served as an associate professor in the department of health, behavior and society at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She is currently dividing her time between the two universities until she begins her full-time appointment at UF on March 1.

One of Curbow's first challenges in her UF post will be guiding the department through the transition of a new name and the addition of two areas of study. Pending approval from university administration, the department will take the name community and behavioral health sciences to reflect the addition of public health divisions in environ-

mental health and social and behavioral sciences to the existing program in rehabilitation counseling.

"A major goal of mine is to find a way to integrate the interests of the faculty and students so this is a single working group instead of three separate divisions," Curbow said.

"There are many ways in which these disciplines can overlap."

Other goals include promoting junior faculty research and developing doctoral programs in social and behavioral health and environmental health.

Curbow's research interests include cancer prevention and control, occupational health psychology and risk communications, with projects focusing on issues such as adolescent girls and smoking, mam-

mography screening, quality of life issues for patients with cancer, and job-related stress.

Curbow ranks involvement in graduate education high on her list of achievements.



Dr. Barbara Curbow

"I am proudest of the fact that I have mentored 25 doctoral students who are now scattered all over the country," said Curbow, who has also served on 75 doctoral dissertation committees. "I take great personal satisfaction in having a hand in training them in the psychology of public health."

Curbow received her Ph.D. in social/personality psychology from the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her family includes husband Bruce Carlberg, an environmental manager at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, daughter Caitlin, a freshman at Johns Hopkins, and daughter Oksana, a high school junior at Garrison Forest School. ●

Vonetta Dotson (department of clinical and health psychology) received a Neuroscience Scholars Fellowship from the Society for Neuroscience.

Harrison Jones (rehabilitation science) was awarded the Larry Director Graduate Student Scholarship from the Florida Association of Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists. He also received a Graduate Student Scholarship from the UF Women's Club.

A research poster by **Lindsey Kirsch** (department of clinical and health psychology) was selected as one of the top posters at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Neurology.

Emily Kuhl (department of clinical and health psychology) received a travel grant to attend the Annual Scientific Meeting of the Heart Failure Society of America. She also received a research award from the Council of Graduate Departments of Psychology and the American Psychological Foundation.

Kimberly Miller (department of clinical and health psychology) received a National Research Service Award from the National Institutes of Health. She is also the recipient of the Manfred Meier Neuropsychology Scholarship, given by the American Psychological Foundation.

Laura Williams (department of clinical and health psychology) is one of 10 students nationally to be named to the Student Advisory Board of the Society of Pediatric Psychology.

The three-member team of **Terika Haynes, Krystal Rajkumar and Donna Thompson** (department of health services research, management and policy) reached the finals of the annual student case competition sponsored by the National Association of Health Services Executives. ●

faculty NOTES & staff

Russell Bauer, Ph.D., a professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named president of the American Psychological Association's division of Clinical Neuropsychology.

Michael Crary, Ph.D., a professor in the department of communicative disorders and director of the Florida Dysphagia Institute, received Ohio University's Medal of Merit at the homecoming alumni awards gala held last fall.

Brian Dodge, Ph.D., an assistant professor in public health programs, received the annual award to a fellow or junior investigator for excellence in a research article, from the Columbia University/New York State Psychiatric Institute HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies.

Vera Hemphill, senior clerk in the department of clinical and health psychology, and **Jessie Runge**, office manager in the department of communicative disorders, were recognized as Employees of the Year at the annual PHHP Faculty/Staff appreciation dinner. ●



Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D., (center), a distinguished professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, is seen in this photo from the mid '80s discussing Parent-Child Interaction Therapy with a family. Eyberg developed the therapy 30 years ago to modify the behavior of children with severe conduct problems. Parent-Child Interaction Therapy is now used in clinics across the country and a national panel of experts recently recognized PCIT as a best practice for helping children heal from the impact of abuse. UF hosted the Sixth National Parent-Child Interaction Therapy Conference in January.



Photos courtesy of Alberta

Swamp thing

PHHP student charms Gator fans as Alberta

She has one of the most recognizable faces in the Gator Nation. She can be seen delighting crowds at hundreds of events. But you may be surprised to know she is also one of the college's own. Yes, UF's sweet-natured Swamp Queen, Alberta, leads a double life as a student in the PHHP bachelor's in health science degree program.

Alberta — whose true identity cannot be revealed here in keeping with UF Spirit Team policy — came to mascotting as a way to channel her energy and enthusiasm.

"In high school, I tried out for cheerleading," said Alberta, who grew up in Seminole, Fla. "The judges said I was the most spirited person they'd seen, but because I couldn't do the flips and jumps, they couldn't take me for the team."

The role of Alberta seemed like the perfect fit. After a two-day tryout during her freshman year, "our" Alberta was selected for the team, joining four other female students who share the position.

There were a few hurdles Alberta needed to overcome before feeling comfortable in her reptilian skin.

"I had to learn how to make huge movements so people know what I'm doing and I had to get used to the huge feet," said Alberta who is a petite five-foot-one-inch in her other life. "I also had to learn to walk slowly and always look down in case there are small children at my feet."

She has since perfected signature gestures such as blowing kisses and performing dainty curtses, and now serves as captain of the Alberta mascot team.

"I'm in love with the whole idea of being a mascot," Alberta said. "Even when I'm having a bad day, getting in to the costume just puts a smile on my face."

But here is another surprise: Alberta spent most of her childhood being terrified of mascots and anyone in a costume, which can probably be attributed to an older brother who enjoyed scaring the daylight out of her while he wore a Spiderman mask. Alberta believes that her former fear of costumed figures helps her relate to children who are hesitant and shy around her. Alberta puts

out her hand for the child to touch and usually when they feel her furry costume, the fear goes away.

An air of mystery surrounds Alberta, however, as only her closest friends and family know who is behind the mask. But the secret will be revealed at graduation this spring. Following mascot tradition, Alberta will accept her diploma wearing the standard cap and gown along with the costume's distinctive hands and feet.

Alberta, who plans to begin classes in the master's of occupational therapy program at the University of St. Augustine on the same day as her UF graduation ceremony,

admits that she will probably miss the thrill of entertaining Gator fans.

"It's been so surprising to me that at away games the other team's fans love you as much as their own mascot," she said. "Albert and Alberta are so well known, even in other team's territories. I'm very proud of our reputation." ●



DID YOU KNOW?

- UF's costumed mascot, Albert, was created in the 1960s. Alberta joined him in 1986.
- There is some confusion about the nature of Albert and Alberta's relationship, according to "our" Alberta. Originally, they were thought to be boyfriend and girlfriend. Now they are rumored to be "just friends."
- The height requirement to fit in to Alberta's costume is five-feet-five-inches or shorter.
- Alberta's costume weighs about 25 pounds.
- Alberta attends about 300 events a year (with her responsibilities shared among five students). In addition to sporting events, she appears at charity functions, birthday parties and weddings.
- Students who serve as mascots receive partial scholarships.
- The temperature inside the mascot suit is an estimated 20 degrees warmer than the current outside temperature.

Someone's at the door

Beloved instructor gets helping hand from students

Robert Garrigues, Ph.D., isn't much of a cook, a self-described master of only "scrambled eggs, sandwiches and heating soup." So when his students learned that Garrigues, the college's associate dean emeritus and a lecturer for the health science bachelor's degree program, was struggling in the kitchen while his wife Margaret is in a wheelchair following an illness, they hatched a plan to help the couple.

Organized by teaching assistant Maria Rattray, the students established a "hit and run" evening meal delivery service, nicknamed the "Dinner Bell Bandits," last fall. The crafty students worked in small groups to prepare meals and deliver them in disguise to the Garrigues' home on most nights of the week. They left home-cooked dishes and heartwarming poems on the front step, knocked on the door and sprinted back to their getaway vehicles.

"I honestly think the bandits enjoyed the thrill of keeping me in the dark and the sneaking around in costume and just participating in the joy of giving, especially in secret," Garrigues said. "I learned to stay away from the front door between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. and wait for the doorbell or a banging on the door. I never tried to look and see who it was, though on occasion I would catch a fleeting glimpse of two or three folks

running down the street often in straw hats, masks or their faces covered. I knew it was my class, but there are 160 of them and I never knew the ringleaders or the gang members."

It turns out that nearly the entire health science senior class worked together to cook for the popular instructor, preparing dishes like chicken and dumplings, country fried steak, chili and cornbread, and plenty of desserts, a total of 38 dinners in all.

"The senior class has come together to provide a really special service for a professor," Rattray said. "This has been a truly amazing thing to witness!" ●



The Dinner Bell Bandits revealed their identities in an elaborate presentation honoring Garrigues in December. The costumed students performed songs, read poetry and shared photos of the meal preparations and "hit and run" deliveries.



Dr. Garrigues (in crown) and his wife Margaret are surrounded by members of the health science senior class. "I cannot begin to tell how meaningful and wonderful the work of the Bandits has been to Margaret and myself," Garrigues said. "I love my students, each and every one. They have lived up to the spiritual admonition that it is more blessed to give than to receive. I continue to be honored to be a small part of their preparation and education." Photos by Denise Trunk.

Lemak awarded Bice Professorship

Christy Lemak, Ph.D., is the first recipient of the Bice Professorship in Health Services Research, Management and Policy.

Michael O. and Barbara Bice established the UF health services administration professorship fund in 1999. As a challenge endowment, the Bices' \$100,000 commitment helped to raise another \$100,000 in new gifts. Major contributors included Munroe Regional Healthcare System, Martin Memorial Healthcare Systems, Lakeland Regional Health System, Health First and Shands at the University of Florida. A matching gift from the state of Florida brings the total gift to \$300,000.

"Barbara and I could not be happier that Christy Lemak is the first recipient of the professorship," said Bice, interim director of the Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Fla. "We hold her in the highest esteem and believe she represents the best on every level."

Lemak, an associate professor and associate chair in the college's department of health services research, management and policy, is the director of the master's in health administration degree program. A department faculty member since 1998, Lemak's primary areas of teaching include health-care management and strategic management of health-care organizations. Her research focuses on the study of organizations providing health care to underserved populations.

"Christy is the perfect choice for this appointment because of her effectiveness across all three areas of academic endeavor — teaching, research and professional service," said department chair R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D.

Michael Bice, a former senior vice president and health care practice leader for Marsh, a global insurance broker, has a longstanding relationship with the department of health services research, management and policy. He has been an adjunct faculty member since 1994 and also served terms as the department's acting chair and as director of the executive master's in health administration degree program.

"The department is very, very good on almost every level," Bice said. "But most top 10 health administration programs in the United States have endowed professorships. We wanted to create a fund that would help the department move into top 10 status and attract and retain high quality faculty." ●



Dr. Christy Lemak

A capital idea

Alumnus directs multi-million dollar real estate deals

As a top real estate investment executive, Fred Berliner, rehabilitation counseling '75, oversees multi-million dollar transactions with some of the world's largest corporations. The senior vice president of United Trust Fund in Miami, Berliner has supervised more than 200 projects in 33 states with transactions exceeding \$2 billion.

A career in high finance would appear to have little in common with Berliner's UF training in rehabilitation counseling. Not so, said Berliner, one of the college's 2005 Outstanding Alumni of the Year.

"Many aspects of my career over the past 30 years have been connected to previous experiences," he said, noting that professionals in both careers are frequently faced with challenges and setbacks.

"Until you reach a point in which both parties are in agreement in a real estate transaction, there are plenty of challenges," Berliner said. "In this job you need to be a good listener and problem solver and also have a great amount of patience. There's no better program for honing those skills than rehabilitation counseling."

Following graduation from the UF rehabilitation counseling program, Berliner was employed by

Florida's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and also worked in residential treatment centers for two years.

"I realized at some point I wanted to make a career change, but I didn't know what I wanted to do," Berliner said.

A job in medical equipment sales piqued his interest in finance and Berliner joined United Trust Fund as vice president of finance in 1982 and was named senior vice president in 1987. He oversees all aspects of the acquisition process including investigation of a potential investment, financial analysis, lease negotiations and the entire closing process.

United Trust Fund specializes in sale-leasebacks — they buy property from companies and immediately lease the property back to the corporation so it can maintain operations at the same site.

"Companies want to do sale-leasebacks because it takes the capital they have locked up in real estate

and frees it for something else," Berliner said. "For example, one of our clients, Bank of America, has 8,000 branches. If they owned the property at all those locations they wouldn't have money available to loan to customers."

Working in this field is challenging, competitive and requires you to stay up-to-date on the rapidly changing laws and regulations, Berliner said. But he sets aside personal time to spend with his wife of 25 years, Muffie, and their two children, ages 22 and 17. Berliner, a Long Island native, is also an outdoor enthusiast who enjoys traveling, hiking, scuba diving and skiing.

Berliner recently added one more outside activity to his list: membership on the College of Public Health and Health Professions' advisory board.

"I've always been a UF supporter and even though I've chosen a different career, I still have a great deal of respect for rehabilitation counselors and the department of rehabilitation counseling," he said. "That's why I've chosen to support this particular department in this particular college." ●



Fred Berliner

Ahead of her time

Graduate's innovative approach to rehabilitation practice influences industry standards

With a combination of physical therapy training, business smarts and inspiration from a former instructor, Donna Rodriguez, physical therapy '72, developed one of the most successful rehabilitation corporations in the country.

Following graduation from UF, Rodriguez began her career as an acute care therapist working in Florida and Chicago. She entered private practice in 1978 with the intention of providing orthopedic care only. But Rodriguez was motivated by the classroom teachings of former UF physical therapy instructor Teddy Holmes, who emphasized not only serving the needs of patients, but the entire health-care community as well.

Rodriguez, one of the college's 2005 Outstanding Alumni of the Year, began responding to requests for services from several health-care agencies, skilled nursing facilities and public school systems,

and in the process developed some of the first multidisciplinary teams used by a physical therapist in private practice. She also added a successful rehabilitation home-care component to her expanding business. Her practice, RehabWorks, grew to become the second largest privately held company providing therapy in the United States, with clinics and contracts in 26 states and more than 2,000 employees.

After merging RehabWorks with Continental Medical Systems in 1989, Rodriguez lobbied in Washington on behalf of rehabilitation and private practice for the next five years and became active in organizations such as the National Association for the Support of Long-Term Care, the National Association of Rehabilitation Agencies and the American Physical Therapy Association.

Today Rodriguez is the president and CEO of Florida-based Rehab Rx, which provides comprehensive rehabilitation, consulting and management services. Rehab Rx follows Rodri-

guez's multidisciplinary approach to care, offering physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech-language pathology and audiology services.

A recipient of the YWCA's Tribute to Women in Industry, Rodriguez is known for her innovative ideas and business practices that have become a model for "best practices" in rehabilitation care.

Rodriguez lives in Clearwater, Fla. with son Christopher, a 2003 UF graduate, and daughter Jennifer. ●



Donna Rodriguez

Laurel (Corman) Baxla, occupational therapy '97, has been owner/therapist of KIDS POT THERAPY, a pediatric occupational therapy, sensory integration-based clinic in Ocala, since 2001. Laurel writes, "I'm looking for a pediatric occupational therapist to share my niche and my kids with. Come check out beautiful Ocala!"

Marie Bernstein, master's in health administration '05, began work at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in Lakeland, Fla. as an operations analyst in the decision support services department in May. Her co-workers include UF M.H.A. alumni **Nadia Castaing**, Class of '03, and **Carlton Inniss**, Class of '02. "My new role has afforded me an opportunity to become more intimately involved with operations and play a larger part in making positive changes at LPMC," Marie said. "For this reason, as well as the camaraderie and support from my teammates, this job is more than I could have hoped for from my first job."

Jenny (dePadua) Bolduc, occupational therapy '93, is the lead occupational therapist at Life Care Center of Sarasota. She has two children, Ryan, 4, and Jamie, 3 months. Husband Norm is a UF graduate in exercise physiology and has a master's in physical therapy from the University of St. Augustine.

Becky Braun, doctor of audiology '03, manages the newborn hearing screening program at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She also sees primarily pediatric patients for assessments and treatment. Becky and her family live in Peoria, Ill.

Aubrey Daniels, master's and doctorate in clinical and health psychology '63 and '65, is the co-author of *Measure of a Leader*, published last year. Aubrey is the founder and chairman of Aubrey Daniels International, an Atlanta-based management consulting firm. He is also the author of the award-winning best-seller *Bringing Out the Best in People*, and two other management classics.

Jennifer Esse, doctor of audiology '03, opened a private practice, Daniel Island Hearing Center. Jennifer and her husband and infant daughter live in Mt. Pleasant, S.C.

Staci Ferguson-Schonbrun, rehabilitation counseling '96, is the owner of Labor Market Consulting Service in Tucson, Ariz. She completed her Ph.D. in rehabilitation counseling and education from the University of Arizona.

Brianna Fieglund Nipper, B.S. in occupational therapy '96 and M.H.S. '01, found her experience as an occupational therapist invaluable when her twin girls were born 9 weeks premature in January 2005. Kayla Faith and Ellie Grace are doing well and 4-year-old Ainslee is enjoying being a big sister. These three girls have kept Brianna and her husband Nathan busy in Melbourne, Fla. So for now, Brianna is "practicing home health" in her own home.

Diane Finnerty, doctor of audiology '01, opened a private practice in January 2003, Family Hearing Center in Rochester, NY. Diane has been married for almost 19 years and has three children, ages 16, 13 and 10.

Thomas Summerill, master's in health administration '84, was named CEO of AmeriChoice, a business unit of UnitedHealth Group, which serves more than 1.2 million beneficiaries of government health-care programs in 13 states. He is also the author of *Managed Murders*, a murder mystery set in a health-care backdrop and featuring a physician-turned-detective. ●

News from the alumni and development office



Marie Emmerson



Carlee Thomas

The college is pleased to announce that Marie Emmerson and Carlee Thomas have moved into new roles in the alumni and development office. Emmerson, who joined the office in 2003 as a program assistant, is now responsible for alumni affairs. She will be spearheading PPHP alumni events, including new projects like Career Day and the Outstanding Alumni of the Year Awards.

Thomas joined the office in 2004 as assistant director of alumni affairs and was recently appointed the college's chief development officer. Thomas is working closely with faculty and advisory board members to establish fundraising goals in anticipation of UF's upcoming capital campaign.

Emmerson and Thomas welcome your questions and feedback regarding alumni and development projects. They can be reached at emmerson@ufl.edu and carleeth@ufl.edu. ●



WHAT'S NEW

Share your news with classmates!

Submissions will be published in the Alumni Updates section of a future issue of PPHP News

NAME (INCLUDING MAIDEN)

MAJOR/YEAR

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

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