

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA  
**College of Health & Human Performance**

# **SPRING** *awards*

Friday, April 12, 2024

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## Doctoral Dissertation Mentor of the Year

### Stephen Coombes

Associate Professor and  
Graduate Coordinator

Applied Physiology & Kinesiology



Stephen Coombes, Ph.D., co-founded the Laboratory for Rehabilitation Neuroscience (Irnlab.org) at the University of Florida in 2011. His research focuses on brain structure and brain function in human models of neurodegeneration and other disorders that affect the sensorimotor system. His research group has been at the cutting-edge of developing novel neuroimaging paradigms to study pain physiology, motor systems physiology and diffusion MRI analysis approaches for understanding brain microstructure in disease.

Dr. Coombes' body of work is documented in 81 peer-reviewed publications in journals that include PAIN, Cerebral Cortex, Neurology, Lancet, Human Brain Mapping, Journal of Pain, Journal of Physiology, and Neuroimage. As PI, his laboratory has two active NIH R01 grants in the areas of chronic pain and Alzheimer's Disease. He is also co-I on three R01s that use his motor and pain paradigms to understand brain function in shoulder pain, stroke and autism. He is a Co-I and member of the 1FLORIDA Alzheimer's Disease Research Center Biomarker Core, co-mentor on a K23, and mentor on an NIH-T32 award in pain and aging.

## Teacher of the Year

### Anna Gardner

Instructional Assistant Professor  
Applied Physiology & Kinesiology



A native of Vassar, Michigan, Anna Gardner, Ph.D., attended Saginaw Valley State University (Saginaw, MI) where she graduated summa cum laude with a degree in exercise science. She then completed her M.S. in exercise physiology from Purdue University where she studied the effects of conjugated linoleic acid on resting metabolic rate. From there, Dr. Gardner transitioned to the University of Florida to complete her Ph.D. in health education and behavior.

Following her collegiate studies, she served as a faculty member with the UF Division of Acute Care & Trauma Surgery where her research focused on long-term health outcomes among sepsis survivors. Beginning in August 2019, Dr. Gardner joined the College of Health & Human Performance as a lecturer in the Department of Applied Physiology & Kinesiology. This career transition allowed her to fulfill her passion for teaching and mentoring university students.

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Gardner enjoys spending time with her family, traveling to the beach, and watching NCAA sports.

## Advisor of the Year

### Jenny Neelands

Graduate Program Academic Advisor

Health Education & Behavior



Jenny Neelands, MPH, MS, is a graduate advisor for the Department of Health Education and Behavior and the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management. Neelands has been with the College of Health and Human Performance since 2015 and is a graduate of the Master of Science in Sport Management program.

Neeland's advising philosophy centers around the idea that each student is unique with distinct aspirations, abilities and potential for growth. She aims to give personalized guidance and create an inclusive environment where everyone feels welcome in her office. She encourages students to embrace the opportunities and challenges that arise and helps to prepare them for success in their academic and future endeavors.

In her free time, Neelands enjoys playing tennis and getting outdoors with her new puppy Bentley.

## Charles S. Williams Service Award



### DeEtta Rhodes

Office Manager

Applied Physiology & Kinesiology

DeEtta Rhodes is a dedicated professional serving as the office manager for the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology (APK). With a tenure spanning more than three decades within the university community, she became a part of HHP in 1997. Throughout her tenure, she has held diverse roles, including secretary, program assistant, and academic advisor, where her dedication earned her recognition as the UF Professional Advisor of the Year.

As an alumna of HHP, she takes immense pride in serving the faculty, staff, and students, actively contributing to their success and fostering a vibrant community within the department. Beyond her professional endeavors, Rhodes finds joy in spending quality time with her family and friends, as well as indulging her passion for travel. Her multifaceted approach to life reflects her values of dedication, connection, and exploration, which she hopes serve as a source of inspiration to those around her. She is thankful to thank Dr. and Ms. Charles S. Williams for establishing this award to recognize outstanding service and accomplishments of HHP faculty and staff.

### ABOUT THE AWARD

*The Charles S. Williams Service Award was established to honor faculty and staff who have gone beyond the call of duty and demonstrated outstanding service. The award is named after Dr. Williams in recognition of his 38 years of service.*

## Wellspring Foundation Student Award

### Kelsey Garrison

**Ph.D. Student**  
Sport Management



Kelsey Garrison is a sport management Ph.D. student with an overarching goal of promoting inclusion in sport and physical activity. She earned a bachelor's degree in sport management with a minor in digital sports media at Belmont Abbey College and a master's degree in sport management at the University of Florida. Garrison is an includer, collaborator and life-long learner. As a member of the Laboratory for Diversity in Sport, she focuses her research on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) with a keen interest in gender and the LGBTQ+ community. More recently, Garrison has centered her research on the inclusion of transgender athletes in sport and physical activity. In 2024, she published a paper about transgender athletes in the *Journal of Sport Management* — the premier journal in the field.

Outside of academia, Garrison enjoys engaging in the community. On campus, she is involved in Changemakers' Dialogue, where she facilitates dialogues on topics such as perfectionism, imposter syndrome and more. In her free time, Garrison volunteers at the Pride Community Center of North Central Florida, where she can promote inclusion throughout Gainesville.

#### 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.*

## 40 Under 40

### Latia Hickerson

**BSHED '07**



While at UF, Latia Hickerson, Ph.D., served as a senator for HHP, president of the University Gospel Choir and was inducted into Florida Blue Key and UF Savant.

Dr. Hickerson's thirst for knowledge led her to Columbia University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She pursued dual master's degrees in public health and nursing, later earning her Ph.D. in research and becoming a certified nurse educator. During her doctoral training, she was selected to represent the inaugural cohort of the Robert Wood Johnson

Foundation Future of Nursing Scholars Program, a national program designed to cultivate nursing leaders. Dr. Hickerson's research coalesces around the multifaceted biobehavioral factors influencing women's health disparities. She is not merely an academic; but also a practicing women's health nurse practitioner with a special focus on providing care to pregnant and parenting teenagers. Dr. Hickerson is the coordinator of the BAMBI Advocacy Student Scholars Program, an initiative that trains nursing students in women's health advocacy, while offering labor support for justice-involved birthers.

In her unwavering commitment to patient-centered care, Dr. Hickerson founded an integrative gynecology and functional medicine clinic. This unique establishment fuses traditional and holistic options, maximizing outcomes. Her philosophy is rooted in empowering patients through education, lifestyle changes and accountability. Her pioneering approach is setting new standards for women's healthcare.

## 40 Under 40

### Colby Kash

BSAPK '17



Colby Kash, DC, is a co-founder & COO of Camelot BioCapital, a biotechnology venture studio that seeks to bring technologies to life that increase the human health span. Dr. Kash is author of Amazon bestseller, “The Autoimmune Plague: How to Regain Sovereignty Over Your Body and Life,” is a wellness and longevity functional medicine practitioner. A sought-after lecturer on healthcare-related topics as featured by Authority Magazine, Thrive Global, The Epoch Times, Chiropractic Economics Magazine, and Health Professional Radio. He is dedicated to improving the quality of health for all through the combination of modern health technologies and evolutionary biology.

Dr. Kash earned a Doctor of Chiropractic and Master of Science in Applied Clinical Nutrition (Northeast College of Health Sciences), and a Bachelor of Science in Applied Physiology and Kinesiology (University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance). He holds additional certifications, including: ADAPT Functional Medicine, American College of Sports Medicine-Certified Exercise Physiologist, and National Academy of Sports Medicine Certified Personal Training.

## Outstanding Young Alumni

### Yanna Pantelis Boutzoukas

BSSPM '16, BSBA '16, MBA '17



Yanna Pantelis Boutzoukas, a native of the Tampa Bay area, is a dynamic force in the sports marketing realm. Recently appointed as the director of marketing for the Tampa Bay Rays. In her new role, Boutzoukas oversees marketing and advertising efforts, bringing her wealth of experience and expertise to the Major League Baseball franchise.

Prior to her tenure with the Tampa Bay Rays, Boutzoukas served as a key figure in marketing and promotions with the University of Florida Athletic Association.

In that role, she played a pivotal role in promoting Florida Gators football, gymnastics, volleyball, lacrosse, tennis and more.

Having graduated from the University of Florida with a dual degree in marketing and sport management in 2016, Boutzoukas continued her educational journey by earning an MBA from UF in 2017. Her dedication to academia mirrors her commitment to her work within the sports industry.

For Boutzoukas, the best part of her career is the people—the talented colleagues, passionate fans and dedicated athletes she encounters. Beyond the professional realm, she finds joy as a dog mom to Marty and JoJo, enjoys beach outings, seeks inspiration during runs and cherishes time spent with loved ones.

## Outstanding Young Alumni

### Tyler (T.J.) Endebrock

BSSPM '15

Tyler (T.J.) Endebrock is the founder/CEO of Endebrock Talent Management (ETM), a sports agency specializing in the representation of coaches, front office personnel, and executives in college and professional sports. Since launching ETM in 2020, Endebrock has helped dozens of coaches and executives achieve life-changing opportunities, while negotiating millions of dollars in contracts.

Before founding ETM, Endebrock managed compliance for the State of Iowa's first legal sports wagering and fantasy sports programs. He also led marketing and public relations efforts to help grow Front Office Sports into the leading sports business media platform. Endebrock has served as an adjunct instructor at the University of North Texas and has been invited to speak on his career at schools including The Ohio State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Southern Methodist University and more. Endebrock's internship experience saw him working with college and NFL athletes and coaches at Select Sports Group, advising agents and athletes seeking financing from Sure Sports, and volunteering in many areas around UF.

After moving from his hometown of Omaha, Nebraska, Endebrock earned his BS in sport management and a minor in business administration from UF in 2015. He then graduated cum laude from the St. Thomas University School of Law in Miami with a dual JD/MBA in sports administration degree in 2018.



## Outstanding Young Alumni

### Kelsey Tainsh

BSR '13

By the age of 15 Kelsey Tainsh had survived two brain tumors and a crippling stroke. Her friends had disappeared, her right side didn't function and she became paralyzed with fear and self doubt. Despite her significant physical challenges, she worked hard to pull herself up and charged back into life graduating college and going on to work for one of the most recognized companies in the world — The Coca-Cola Company.

Today, this remarkable young woman has become a champion for the rest of us. An acclaimed professional speaker, philanthropist and para snowboarder, Tainsh travels the world speaking to students, organizations and corporations about the power of persistence, perspective and the ability to adapt. Her clients include the Hematology/Oncology Pharmacy Association, Society of Pediatric Nurses, Harvard Medical School, The Coca-Cola Company and hundreds of schools across the United States and Canada.

Tainsh gives back by working with nonprofits and helping them fundraise. Most recently she has partnered with Burton Snowboard's adaptive initiative which is making snowboarding more inclusive. She also speaks for and volunteers with Burton's nonprofit the Chill Foundation whose mission is to "inspire young people through boardsports." She has been featured on the cover of Speaker Magazine and in Pharmacy Times Magazine, Aspen Daily News and the Coca-Cola Journey.



## Alumni Hall of Fame

### Raquel Braun

BSSPM '06

Raquel Braun is the chief business officer of the Women's Sports Network (WSN), the first, and only, 24/7 sports network dedicated exclusively to women's sports. In this role, Braun oversees the network's strategy & operations, league partnerships, and distribution platforms. In addition to her role at WSN, Braun serves as an advisor to the all-female hosted Formula 1 podcast, F1R THE GIRLS, and is the co-founder of the North American Soccer Business & Media Awards.



Prior to joining the Women's Sports Network, Braun served as a senior business development executive at EA Sports where she built three new verticals within the organization, transforming media partnerships, talent engagements, and Esports operations across EA SPORTS' portfolio of brands. Before EA, Braun spent a decade at FOX Sports, most recently as vice president of business & legal affairs, where she managed high-profile talent negotiations, advised on production operations and strategy, worked on the acquisition of major sports rights, and provided support on the launches of various FOX Sports International networks and businesses.

An alumna of the University of Florida, Braun serves as chair of the university's Sport Management Industry Advisory Board. Additionally, Braun currently serves as an adjunct professor of law and alumni board member at Georgetown Law, where she earned her JD.

## Alumni Hall of Fame

### Trivel Cooper McKire

BSHE '82



Trivel Cooper McKire, MPH, is the regional coordinator for the Florida Breast & Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (FBCC) and CFO of Cooper Rentals, LLC. The FBCC Broward Region, under McKire's leadership saw a 116% increase over a 10-year period in women receiving needed cancer screenings and care for abnormal results. She successfully wrote and secured more than \$1 million in grant funds to increase staff, health education and services. She doubled the service sites to increase access to care and improve patient compliance.

Education is an important aspect in reaching the underserved. For more than 23 years, McKire presented to thousands on the importance of health screenings for breast, cervical, prostate and colorectal cancer. Additionally, she trained other professionals to provide meaningful outreach to encourage the underserved to participate in their own health care. Being an inducer, McKire initiated contracts with several federally qualified health centers and medical offices to specifically provide services and navigation to women enrolled in FBCC.

McKire served as past board of director for Susan G. Komen, Southeast Florida Cancer Control Collaborative co-chair, health and scholarship chair for Chi Psi Omega Chapter of AKA Sorority, overhead lead for RWCCI Church, American Legion Auxiliary District Girls State chair, and internship preceptor.



## Alumni Hall of Fame

### Michele Moore

BS '91, MSHSE '93, Ph.D. '97



Michele Johnson Moore, Ph.D., is dean of the Graduate School at the University of North Florida (UNF). Previously she served as professor and chair of the Department of Public Health. She earned her master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Florida College of Health & Human Performance.

During her 24 years at UNF, Moore has taught numerous undergraduate and graduate courses, served as the Master of Public Health program director, worked on federally funded grant projects, participated in community-based research and service, co-authored more than 40 peer reviewed articles and more than 100 national presentations, and served on many university committees. She has received the UNF Distinguished Professor Award, Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award and Outstanding Faculty Scholarship Award, and was recognized as a University of Florida Outstanding Young Alumni.

Her community work includes partnering with the Duval County Public Schools on a CDC funded grant to improve delivery of sexuality education and access to sexual health services for local youth. Currently, she is working with the Department of Health-Duval (DOH) on a CDC funded grant to place UNF public health students and alumni in DOH internship and fellowship positions to improve the local public health infrastructure and ultimately the health of the region.

## B.K. Stevens Service Award

### Brian Carwile

BSSS '96



Brian L. Carwile, a pioneering figure in the field of ancillary medical management solutions, is renowned for founding Orchid Medical in 2002 and leading the company to unparalleled success. Transitioning to the role of chairman of the board in October 2019, Carwile's visionary leadership as president and CEO since the company's inception propelled Orchid from its roots as a regional durable medical equipment provider to an industry leader. Under his guidance, Orchid expanded its reach to over 200 employees serving more than 200 clients, including major insurance

carriers and third-party administrators. Carwile's journey in the medical field began in 1991 as an emergency medical technician (EMT), followed by a tenure as an athletic trainer while pursuing his education at the University of Florida.

Education has been a cornerstone of Carwile's career, culminating in a Bachelor of Science degree in sports medicine from UF and a master's degree in business administration from Rollins College. His blend of medical expertise and business acumen continues to shape the landscape of ancillary medical services, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

#### 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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