



**COLLEGE of HEALTH &
HUMAN PERFORMANCE**

Spring awards

Friday, April 15, 2022



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Doctoral Dissertation Mentor of the Year



Chris Hass

Professor

Applied Physiology & Kinesiology

Chris Hass, Ph.D, is associate provost for academic and faculty affairs and professor in the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. Prior to returning to UF, he held academic positions at Columbia University and Georgia Institute of Technology. Currently, he conducts research in the areas of biomechanics and motor control.

Hass's research focuses on understanding the complex interplay between the nervous system and the musculoskeletal system during whole body movements such as walking and standing balance. Most of his work has strong clinical relevance with particular emphasis on movement disorders. He has held leadership positions in the American Society of Biomechanics and the American College of Sports Medicine. This work has been funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, Army Research Office, Michael J. Fox Foundation, Autism Speaks and Department of Veterans Affairs.

Teacher of the Year



Diba Mani

Instructional Assistant

Professor

Applied Physiology & Kinesiology

Diba Mani, Ph.D., teaches small- and large-enrollment undergraduate- and graduate-level courses in-person, hybrid and fully online. This broad range of course formats requires Dr. Mani to incorporate different types of activities in her classroom to provide her students with the most effective and efficient methods of learning.

Amid the changes in higher education due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mani completed many workshops and seminars offered by the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Center for Instructional Technology & Training, which offered an opportunity to learn and incorporate different teaching techniques and opportunities for her students. Mani is passionate about integrating internationalization in her courses, course accessibility and authentic assessments.

Mani serves as faculty advisor for several student organizations, including Gator Judo Club and UF Global Medical Brigades.

Undergraduate Faculty Mentor of the Year



Doug DeMichele

**Instructional Professor,
Internship Coordinator and
Associate Chair**
Sport Management

Douglas DeMichele, Ed.D., associate chair for undergraduate programs, is a faculty member in the Department of Sport Management

and has been teaching in the areas of facility management and design, leadership, special events, programming, campus recreation, and professional development (field experience and internships)

since 2001. He mentors more than 250 undergraduate sport management students each year and approves all internships for undergraduate majors.

Dr. DeMichele was recognized as the HHP Teacher of the Year on two occasions (in 2005-2006 and then again in 2009-2010) and in 2015 was promoted from a senior lecturer to master lecturer. In addition to teaching and serving as the associate chair, undergraduate coordinator and internship coordinator, he has remained an active member on several college and university committees. He also has written two books: *Softball Everyone* and *21st Century Dad*.

Beyond the campus, DeMichele is very active in the community as a youth coach and church volunteer.

Charles S. Williams Service Award

Michael Murphy

**Facility and
Operations Coordinator**
Dean's Office



Michael Murphy joined HHP in 2010 and serves as the college's facility and operations coordinator. He is responsible for HHP's facilities in a variety of ways, including coordinating construction and maintenance projects, managing event operations and logistics, handling building security and space accountability, and providing emergency operation guidance for the college.

As a history aficionado and alum of HHP, Murphy especially enjoys his responsibility of managing the historic Florida Gym building — except when the old character is accompanied with a new water leak. When he's not managing water intrusions, you might find him around HHP meeting with contractors to plan the next renovation, talking with students who hope to use the gym for their next event or searching architectural drawings to aid maintenance teams with the latest repair. Murphy strives to make HHP facilities the optimal environment for the great folks in HHP as they advance the college's mission. Outside of UF, Murphy enjoys spending life alongside his wife and best friend, Suzanne, as they frequently pursue fun travels, good tacos and peaceful nature.

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.

Wellspring Foundation Student Award



Montserrat Carrera Seoane

Ph.D. Student
Health Education & Behavior

Montserrat Carrera Seoane is a third-year doctoral student in health education and behavior (HEB). In 2017, she earned her master's degree in HEB from UF and is a Certified Health Education Specialist (CHES®).

Seoane's primary research goal is to support the Hispanic/Latinx community in achieving better health through improvements in diet, physical activity and weight management. Additional research interests include health communication, health disparities and digital health tools.

Seoane is highly motivated to promote inclusion and provide service to UF and the community. She has served as vice president of the HHP Graduate School Organization and is currently a mentor at UF GradConnect Project. Outside her activities at UF, Seoane volunteers at the Rural Health Project as a training facilitator.

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.

Outstanding Young Alumni



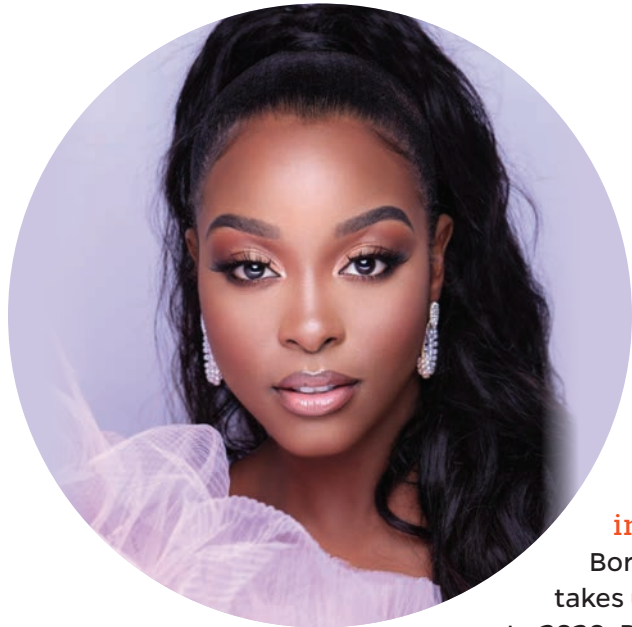
William "Will" Atkins BSR '09

Will Atkins serves as an assistant vice president in the Division of Student Life at UF.

He supports offices and departments committed to creating world-renowned student experiences that allow Gators to engage, transform and thrive in an evolving global society. He is passionate about cultivating affirming and inclusive environments on campus and supporting students' sense of belonging while in college. To that end, one of the most rewarding endeavors of his professional career was leading the nearly \$10 million reconstruction project of the historic Institute of Black Culture and Institute of Hispanic-Latino Cultures located on West University Avenue. This project united Gators from different generations to celebrate history, culture and community through the re-construction process.

Atkins is a member of the 2009 UF Hall of Fame and was recently recognized as a 2021 "40 Gators Under 40" recipient by the UF Alumni Association. He earned his BS in recreation, parks and tourism from UF, an MA in higher education administration from the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor and is graduating this semester with his Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from UF's College of Education.

Outstanding Young Alumni



Pascale Bélony

BSHE '15

Pascale Bélony is driven by her belief that quality healthcare is a fundamental human right. Bélony graduated from UF cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in Health Education and Nursing.

Born and raised in Cap-Haïtien, Bélony takes utmost pride in her heritage. From 2012 to 2020, Bélony served as the communications and publicity director for Projects for Haiti Global, a

nonprofit dedicated to eradicating poverty in Haiti through education. She led recruiting and training for more than 400 UF students on spring break trips to Haiti where more than 1,000 Haitians were served through health education workshops.

In 2021, Bélony made history as the first semi-finalist Haitian woman at the 12th edition of the Miss Supranational Pageant and earned Haiti's first crown at Miss Supranational Caribbean 2021.

Bélony utilizes her influence and platform to advocate for marginalized communities. She serves as a health education consultant for Hope for Haiti, as an ambassador for MamaBaby Haiti and as a panelist for the Haitian Community Alliance. Bélony also hosted UF's Club Creole Annual Pageant, Miss Haiti Florida 2020 Pageant, the first annual "A Night of Elegance," and was a guest of honor for UF's Black Alumni Homecoming.

Outstanding Young Alumni



Christopher Bucciarelli

BSESS '06

Christopher Bucciarelli, MD, MBA is the chief medical officer (CMO) of St. Joseph's Hospital South. As CMO, Dr. Bucciarelli assists doctors by providing clinical oversight to physicians, ensuring compliance and evaluating quality of services. He is a board-certified emergency medicine physician and a Fellow of the American College of Emergency Room Physicians.

Prior to his CMO position at St. Joseph's Hospital-South, Bucciarelli served as assistant CMO at Morton Plant Hospital in Clearwater where he was involved in creating efficiencies in operations. He served on numerous BayCare and Morton Plant committees with topics that include stroke, emergency department and hospital services, emergency department COVID-19 testing, hospital and health care policy, quality review and physician credentialing.

Bucciarelli earned his Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Medicine, and completed his residency in emergency medicine at UF. He also earned a Master of Business Administration from Duke University. In 2006, he was inducted into the UF Hall of Fame for involvement on campus and service to the community. As a medical student, Bucciarelli was heavily involved in the American Medical Association (AMA) and was elected as national chair of the AMA- Medical Student Section.

Outstanding Young Alumni



Chynna Clayton

BSREC '10

Chynna Clayton is currently the Office of Barack and Michelle Obama's director of travel and event operations and body woman to Michelle Obama. She

is essentially Michelle Obama's right-hand woman, helping Mrs. Obama connect with communities around the world. Clayton ensures every detail of Mrs. Obama's personal and

public-facing events are executed flawlessly, directing

teams that coordinate Mrs. Obama's domestic and international engagements.

Originally from Miami, Clayton is a Florida girl through and through. She was raised in a single parent household on the outskirts of Liberty City. Clayton attended UF where she earned degrees in event management and political science with a minor in business. As a senior, she landed a White House internship in 2010.

After a few years in government relations at the Walt Disney Company, she made her way back to the Obamas and has been with them ever since. Clayton has been featured in O Magazine, Essence Magazine, the Miami Herald, the UF Health and Human Performance Magazine, the Netflix Documentary "Becoming" and most recently the Michelle Obama Spotify Podcast. She strives every day to be an inspiration for young girls who look like her.

Outstanding Young Alumni



Ben Kennedy

BSSPM '14

Ben Kennedy serves as senior vice president for racing development strategy for NASCAR. Under his leadership, NASCAR has experienced tremendous growth, as Kennedy implemented strategic initiatives to evolve the sport for future generations.

Kennedy became a catalyst for change. He led the effort to reconstruct the schedule across all three national series, which included shifting and adding venues, implementing mid-week races and scheduling double-headers. As a result, NASCAR became the only sport to complete a full schedule of events in 2020. Since then, Kennedy has transformed the NASCAR Cup Series schedule, creating the most dynamic schedule in more than five decades.

Kennedy is regularly recognized for his leadership, most recently he was in Sports Business Journal's "New Voices Under 30" class. He etched his name in the record books in 2012 when he won the very first oval race in NASCAR Whelen Euro Series history at Tours Speedway. Kennedy was also awarded Most Popular Driver of the NASCAR K&N Series in 2013.

Kennedy is an active member and advocate for the NASCAR Foundation, a leading charity that works to improve the lives of children who need it most. The foundation has raised nearly \$40 million and has assisted more than 1.4 million children in need.

Alumni Hall of Fame



Bob Schalow

BSREC '94

UF is where Bob Schalow began his lifelong career in hospitality by working as a student manager at the Reitz Union Hotel and as the kitchen manager for his fraternity-ATO.

Schalow was very active on campus before graduating in 1994 with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Parks and Tourism and was recognized as an Outstanding Graduating

Student Leader. Upon finishing his internship, Schalow joined

Taco Bell/Yum! Brands where he spent 21 years leading restaurant teams in multiple regions across the country. Schalow then became the senior director of national franchise operations for Einstein Bros. Bagels, Bruegger's Bagels and the brand leader for the Manhattan Bagel Company.

Currently, Schalow is the vice president of franchise operations where he is responsible for leading a franchise division of Jack in the Box Restaurants which has locations in 22 states and Guam. He serves as the chair-elect on the Eric Friedheim Tourism Advisory Board and chairs the Engagement and Outreach Committee. Schalow and his family believe in the mission and direction of the Department of Tourism, Hospitality and Event Management (THEM) and are actively supporting its recruiting and engagement efforts, as well as endowing the Schalow Family Scholarship for students in THEM.

B.K. Stevens Service Award

Scott Powers



Scott K. Powers, Ph.D., Ed.D. joined the College of Health and Human Performance faculty in the Department of Exercise and Sports Sciences (now Applied Physiology and Kinesiology) in 1988. During his 33-year tenure at UF, Dr. Powers served as both department chair and director of the Center for Exercise Science. He taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in exercise physiology and mentored many graduate students and post-doctoral fellows that have faculty appointments at research universities around the world. In addition, Powers co-authored a widely used textbook in exercise physiology that has been published in eight languages.

His research concentrated upon the effects of both exercise and prolonged inactivity on the health of cardiac and skeletal muscles. This research was continuously funded from 1989-2021 by a variety of granting agencies including the National Institutes of Health, American Heart Association and American Lung Association. Collectively, Dr. Powers' research resulted in more than 260 peer-reviewed publications that are widely cited in the literature. UF recognized these accomplishments by identifying Powers as a UF Distinguished Professor and presenting him with UF's highest faculty honor, the Teacher/Scholar award.

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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