Spring Awards

Friday, April 13, 2018

FLORIDA GYM
THANK YOU to our generous sponsors

SIGNATURE SPONSOR
Chef Brothers Custom Catering

GOLD SPONSORS

Bob & Becky Allen
Steve Amos, Class of '80
Applied Physiology & Kinesiology
Dr. Tom Bell
Roy Benson MPE '83
Dr. Joan Carroll & Mr. Benny Vaughn
“Dr. T”
Maj. Gen. Maurice & Jane Edmonds
Health Education & Behavior
Robert W. Lundquist
Morgan & Nancy Pigg
Ron & Julia Pinnell
Laurel & Mike Reid
Chip & JoAnn Sharkey
Tim & Sue Stoops
Tourism, Recreation & Sport Management
Charles & Linda Williams
The Varnes Family

SILVER SPONSORS

Jane Bergman
Jack & Joy Masson
Robert L Stephens, BSPE ’72
Paula Welch
# Table of Contents

**UF & HHP ADVISOR OF THE YEAR**  
DeEtta Rhodes .................................................................................................................. 4

**UF & HHP TEACHER OF THE YEAR**  
Julia Rae Varnes ................................................................................................................ 5

**CHARLES S. WILLIAMS SERVICE AWARD**  
Susie Weldon ..................................................................................................................... 6

**SOBELMAN-WELLSPRING FOUNDATION AWARD**  
Adeyoola Adeniji ............................................................................................................... 7

**OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI**  
Gabrielle Darville ............................................................................................................. 8  
Joleen Cacciatore Miller .................................................................................................. 9  
Virginia Ralls .................................................................................................................. 10  
Addison Staples ............................................................................................................... 11

**ALUMNI HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2018**  
Paul Cash ......................................................................................................................... 12  
Alisa Bonnie Clearfield Cohen ....................................................................................... 13  
John Rohan .................................................................................................................... 14  
Janice Tucker .................................................................................................................. 15

**B.K. STEVENS SERVICE AWARD**  
Edith Hall Friedheim ........................................................................................................ 17

**AWARD OF DISTINCTION**  
Robert Allen, Owen Holyoak and Paul Varnes ............................................................. 18

---

Share your congratulations, photos and videos of tonight’s action with the hashtag **#HHPawards**.
An alumna of sport management and a 20-year veteran of HHP, DeEtta Rhodes is the undergraduate academic advisor for more than 950 students enrolled as applied physiology and kinesiology and athletic training majors. Rhodes also serves as an advocate for HHP study abroad programs, as well as assists Drs. Patricia and Brady Tripp in the execution of the Athletic Medicine in London Study Abroad Program. In addition to these roles, Rhodes also served as the department’s intern coordinator until 2016, supervising 50 to 150 interns per semester while also assisting future interns with pre-internship preparation and the application process.

Rhodes’s advising approach focuses on encouraging students while believing in the potential of each individual. She strives to actively engage students in their academic plans while helping them achieve their academic and professional goals. It is important to Rhodes that students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as take personal responsibility for their decision-making. She also encourages students to seek out meaningful extracurricular experiences including volunteering, shadowing, research and leadership opportunities, and to investigate and become familiar with what is required to reach their future goals. In serving her students, Rhodes enjoys assisting in the preparation of qualified, enthusiastic, confident, experienced and motivated professionals.
Dr. Julia Rae Varnes is a lecturer in Health Education and Behavior and an affiliate faculty member with the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women’s Studies Research. This semester, she is teaching emotional health, methods and materials in health education, health and medical terminology, and planning health education programs. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Varnes serves as faculty advisor to UF’s Eta Sigma Gamma Health Education Honorary and UF’s Inclusive Fitness and Unified Sport Program.

Varnes is the faculty member of UF’s Student Health Advisory Board and a member of the Anti-Hazing Coalition. In her profession, she plays an active role in an appointed position with the Coalition for National Health Education Organizations, Eta Sigma Gamma National Health Education Honorary and the Society for Public Health Education. She is a member of the Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers and a master certified health education specialist – the highest level of certification for practitioners in her field.

As an instructor for both graduate and undergraduate courses, Varnes’ teaching is focused on practice-based health education and promotion, and psychosocial health. In her teaching, advising and mentoring, she aims to instill concepts of empowerment, compassion, acceptance and cultural competency in future professionals.
Susie Weldon has been office manager for the Department of Applied Physiology & Kinesiology for 16 years. During that time, she has worked with four department chairs and been a model of excellence, rigor, goodwill and over-the-top service to the department and HHP. In her role, Weldon oversees five staff members, deals with budget and fiscal needs, schedules courses, makes teaching assignments, prepares faculty effort reports, and maintains announcements and deadlines for faculty, all in her efficient and courteous way. Weldon is a mentor to many within the college, helping new personnel navigate HHP and championing their career development. Outside of UF, Weldon is a member of the Church of God. She spends her time nurturing family. She is married to Mr. Curtis Weldon, an engineer within APK.

The Charles S. Williams Service Award was established in 2007 to honor faculty and staff who have gone beyond the call of duty and demonstrated outstanding service to the college. The award is named after Dr. Williams to honor his 38 years of service.
Adeniji maintains involvement in a diverse array of campus organizations. She serves as president of the Undergraduate Public Health Association and has held various leadership roles within the African Student Union. Adeniji has also served as an HHP ambassador and a resident assistant for UF’s Department of Housing and Residence Education. As a CDC Undergraduate Public Health Scholar, she hopes to address many societal and fiscal costs associated with health care through the promotion of prevention and accessibility.

ABOUT THE AWARD

The Sobelman-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 Sobelman Family and their foundation, the Wellspring Foundation, share the goal of bringing young people of diverse backgrounds together to learn from one another and understand worlds beyond their own.
Gabrielle Darville, Ph.D., MPH, CHES is a native of the Bahamas and a 2016 graduate of the Department of Health Education and Behavior. Prior to enrolling at UF, Dr. Darville completed her MPH at the University of Southern Mississippi and was formerly employed as a health communication fellow at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). She is currently employed as an instructor at the University of Georgia where she serves in an evaluation coordination role for the College of Public Health - Academic Affairs. To date, she also serves as editorial associate for Eta Sigma Gamma's journal — The Health Educator, health literacy subcommittee chair for the Society for Health Communication, and member of the Georgia Cancer Control Consortium — HPV Prevention and Education Workgroup.

Darville's research focuses on the use of health information technologies (e.g., mass media, digital gaming and mHealth) to impact HPV vaccine informed decision making among adolescents and young adults. She also has an interest in using new media in community-based participatory research and health promotion interventions designed for racial and ethnic minorities and underserved populations. In her spare time, she enjoys mentoring her students and reminds them daily of how great The Gator Nation truly is!
Joleen Cacciatore Miller is the executive director for the Gainesville Sports Commission (GSC) which is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to promote tourism through sporting events by hosting or helping others host events to create economic impact for Gainesville and Alachua County. In 2006, after graduating from Florida Southern College and playing on the women’s volleyball team, Miller combined her sports background and degree in communications at GSC as their communications manager. She was promoted to associate executive director in 2011.

In 2013, Miller was appointed by the GSC board members to become executive director, becoming the youngest and first female executive director for the organization. Miller’s daily responsibilities include bidding on and bringing in events, creating GSC’s own sports events, and supporting events for the community. Since becoming executive director, the GSC has hosted over 40 events each year, totaling over 200 events. These events have brought more than 250,000 attendees into the community with over $20 million dollars in direct local hotel impact. When she is not hosting events, Miller enjoys speaking to classes at the University of Florida, and traveling and playing golf with her husband, Gage Miller.
Virginia Ralls, J.D., is a senior associate and the first female director of the Trusts and Estates Department at Chase, Higdon & Ralls, PLC in Pensacola, Florida specializing in trusts, estate planning and family law. While at UF, she received the Danny Eggart Scholarship and was a member of LEAPS, Rho Phi Lambda fraternity and Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Ralls has had a winding and unique career path which has flourished throughout the years. She was inspired to complete her Master’s in Public Administration after working with nonprofit companies she interned with during her time at UF, abroad in London and Chile, and after graduation. In 2013, Ralls was accepted to and attended Drexel University School of Law in Philadelphia where she found a new way to advocate for those in her community. At graduation, she was awarded the Pro Bono Recognition Award and American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers Eric D. Turner Award.

Licensed to practice before the United States Tax Court, Ralls is a proud military spouse and member of the UF, UWF and Drexel University alumni associations. She is also a member of the Florida Bar Association, Northwest Florida Estate Planning Counsel, Inns of Court, and Fiesta Forces, where she leads over 400 volunteers.
Addison Staples was born and raised in Gainesville and now calls it home with his beautiful wife, Tracy, and two amazing children, Grace and Emeline. He enjoys spending time with family, surfing, sailing, and anything around water. He is a member of Greenhouse Church and is passionate about serving his community. Staples earned his bachelor’s degree from Methodist University where he played college tennis, and his master’s from the University of Florida's Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management.

Staples’s career as a professional tennis instructor has employed him at various private country clubs, resorts, public facilities and colleges. He founded Sports In Motion, a sport for development program in rural Guatemala for impoverished communities. Staples is currently the executive director of Aces In Motion, which empowers hundreds of Gainesville’s local underserved youth by providing academic assistance and life-skills through sport. Aces In Motion currently partners with UF by operating its after-school program on UF’s campus to expose and provide opportunities to more than 40 youth as well as provide research and volunteer opportunities for UF faculty and students. With a collaborative approach, Staples believes Gainesville can improve its issues surrounding racial disparities.
Paul Cash taught science, health, physical education, nutrition and exercise and coached numerous sports for 37 years. He wrote the proposals and developed the curriculum for the exercise and nutrition classes. As the junior high health & physical education department chairman, Cash implemented numerous student extracurricular fitness programs including “The Fitness Challenge,” “Open Gym” and an elementary fitness club. His volunteer work included coaching many little league sports, Boy Scout camps, Walk Against Drugs and community fundraisers. Cash won numerous volunteer community awards including American Lung Association Volunteer of the Year and the Community Builder Award.

When Cash took over the Prince George High School boys and girls tennis teams they had losing records and neither team had won a district title. He started a recreation tennis program with free lessons, clinics and open court instruction. His teams won more district titles than all other eight schools combined. Their combined record was 643-138 making him Virginia’s winningest tennis coach in career victories. Thirty-five of his players played collegiate tennis. He won numerous coach of the year awards including district, region, state, and Mid-Atlantic, and he was a finalist for National Coach of the Year. The new, eight-court tennis complex at Prince George High School is named and dedicated as “Cash’s Courts.”
Alisa Bonnie Clearfield Cohen has led an extraordinary, ordinary life. In spite of significant personal tragedies and a life altering accident, she lives her life with no excuses and pursues new adventures with relish.

Cohen lives by several mottos but the one that most represents her is the phrase, “Leave the room better than you found it.” She has dedicated her life to making the world healthier, wiser and kinder. Cohen started the first wellness fair in Richmond, Virginia, and became a UF mentor, team builder for Habitat for Humanity, and founder of the bereavement support group “Parent to Parent.”

A graduate of UF in health sciences education, Cohen was first in her class, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa. She fused two passions, art and science, and was a medical illustrator before marrying G. Richard Cohen. Alisa and Richard, an ophthalmologist, created the Cohen Laser & Vision Center in 1991. She also created Alisa Cohen Design, an interior design firm with a focus on residential and health care design. Her greatest achievement is being mother to two sons, Joshua, an ophthalmologist and Zachary, a Ph.D. candidate in biology and entomology (both Gator grads)!
John Rohan was born in Miami and moved to Gainesville when he started high school. Rohan has always been passionate about helping others and found that the College of Health & Human Performance would allow him to do just that in an area he loved, recreation! He wanted to be a Gator, following in his family’s footsteps, and was thrilled to realize that dream, earning his degree in 1993.

Rohan was thrilled to share his passion when he accepted a position right out of UF with The Villages, a master-planned retirement community just an hour south of Gainesville. He started as a recreation director when there was a staff of only 12.

He now oversees a staff of over 500 employees and manages a budget of over $22 million, which provides the 110,000 residents an active lifestyle second to none. As shared in a letter from Jennifer Parr on behalf of her family, the developers of The Villages, “No one has been more instrumental in the development of our national renowned ‘Villages lifestyle’ than John Rohan. His visionary, charismatic and yet humble leadership has helped countless residents of The Villages realize their ‘dreams’ for an active retirement.”
Janice E. Tucker earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health Education (1981) from the University of Florida and a Master of Science in Education Leadership (1999) from Nova Southeastern University. As a health educator, Tucker presented research at the Third Hispanic Medical Congress and co-authored and published, “Health Promotion and Disease Prevention among Minorities; The Role of the Office of Minority Health Resource Center.” Her work with the U.S. Army Summer Associateship Program for High School Science and Mathematics Educators at Patrick Air Force Base’s Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute resulted in the publication of several pamphlets celebrating African-American heritage and the establishment of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

During her 30 years in public education, Tucker has taught courses in health education and science. Tucker currently serves as a school-based administrator in Orange Park, Florida. She was recognized as Teacher of the Year at her school in Brevard County (1995), Assistant Principal of the Year for Clay County and the State of Florida (2012). Tucker has received numerous awards and recognitions related to community involvement and education, and services and opportunities for youth. She and her husband, Horace, have two sons and two grandchildren.
ABOUT THE AWARD

B.K. Stevens was a member of the original faculty when the College was established in 1946, and he was a Professional Curriculum faculty member until he retired in 1976. This award is given annually to those who exemplify the principles of leadership and service that B.K. Stevens exhibited during his lifetime.

PAST RECIPIENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>Hal Herman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Owen Holyoak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Jill &amp; Paul Varnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>Kevin Clair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>Mary Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Tom &amp; Susie Wasdin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Robert &amp; Rebecca Allen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Joel &amp; Shirley Wahlberg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Perry McGriff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Michelle Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Maury Edmonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Ruth Alexander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Jimmy Carnes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>Paula Welch</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
For the past three decades, Edith Hall Friedheim has provided generous, consistent leadership and service to the tourism industry through the Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute, HHP and the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management.

A successful travel journalist and editor since 1988, she has contributed to many of the industry’s most influential magazines and guidebooks. In 2005, to honor her late husband, Eric Friedheim, owner, publisher and editor in chief of Travel Agent Magazine, member of the President of the United States’ Advisory Board on Tourism, and above all, one of travel and tourism’s greatest leaders, she established the prestigious Eric Friedheim Travel Journalism Awards at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C.

Friedheim lives in Palm Beach and New York City. She has two daughters and four grandchildren from a previous marriage. Her family and her work as a founding member of the Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute gives special meaning to her life.
HHP bestows its greatest recognition to the following honorees for their years of service, dedication and philanthropy to the mission and students, faculty and staff. In 1998, these individuals established a scholarship to support undergraduate and graduate fellowships which has impacted more than 65 students over the past 20 years.

Owen Holyoak  Robert Allen  Paul Varnes
Robert Allen

Dr. Robert Allen graduated from the college in 1958 and again in 1959 with his master's degree in physical education. Upon completing his Doctorate in Education in 1969, he returned to the college as a faculty member. He is a founding member of the Center for Exercise Science, a member of HHP’s Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame, and in 2011 received the B.K. Stevens Award for his dedication and service to the college. Allen is the college’s original fundraiser, having written many grants, served on campaign steering committees, and even made strategic visits to Tigert Hall when the college’s funding needs required him to do so. Allen’s impact on the college and the university is substantial. Without Allen, his leadership and influence, HHP would not be the college it is today.

Owen Holyoak

Dr. Owen Holyoak came to UF from Utah State University in 1966 with his Ph.D. in physical education. He held many leadership positions in HHP and served as the first chair of the Department of Applied Physiology and Kinesiology. Holyoak received the B.K. Stevens Award in 2016. During his 30 years at HHP, he was known for many accomplishments, including bringing the first treadmill to our college and racquetball to UF. Holyoak’s thoughtful leadership and professionalism deeply influenced our college and the University of Florida.

Paul Varnes

Dr. Paul Varnes is a graduate of the college, Class of 1960, and served as chair of HHP’s Department of Recreation, Parks and Tourism (now Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management), having returned to the college from the UF’s Department of Recreational Sports (RecSports) program where he organized and grew the entirety of recreational sports offerings. He and his wife, Dr. Jill Varnes, are inaugural members of HHP’s Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame. Varne’s legacy at HHP is broad and deep. As a leader in the college for nearly 30 years, he made a profound impact, both at the college and university levels.
Share your congratulations, photos and videos of tonight's action with the hashtag #HHPawards.