

The exciting educational journey of UF nursing students

University of Florida undergraduate nursing students only have to wait 10 more days to receive their hard-earned degrees during the College of Nursing commencement ceremony at 11 a.m. on May 1 at the Phillips Center.

For many of these soon-to-be graduates, the undergraduate experience included the usual experiences of college life, as well as hectic schedules and life-changing experiences.

"The nursing program at the University of Florida is very intense," said Karen Miles, clinical associate professor and associate dean for academic and student affairs at the UF College of Nursing.

Unlike most undergraduate students who spend the first semester of their program in traditional classroom settings, BSN (bachelor of science in nursing) students begin their education with not only a regular course load of classes, but also clinical labs to develop basic skills, such as measuring blood pressure and body temperature.

Additionally, students complete a clinical nursing practicum during their final semester by working alongside a practicing nurse.

"The student works with the nurse during their regular shift, which may be eight or 12 hours," Miles said.

Holly Williamsen, a fourth-year nursing student, works from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., three to four days per week.

"This is my first time working a 12-hour shift," she said. "I've never pushed myself to work this long."

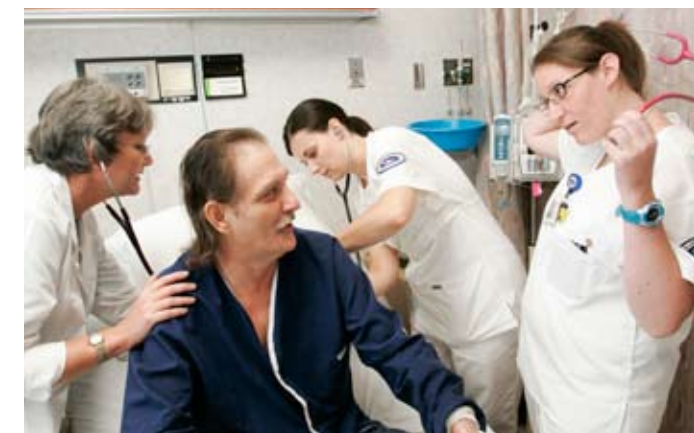
Williamsen said she believes it is necessary for students to experience life and death while learning about nursing.

"As nurses, we are going to see a lot of life and death," she said. "I feel like I'm ready, and I'm really excited to get started."

Her fondest memory occurred last semester when she saw a baby delivered at North Florida Regional Medical Center, Williamsen said.

"I just hope for more special moments like that," she said.

As a student at a college ranked in the top 10 percent of nursing schools in the U.S., Williamsen should have no trouble



Faculty member Carla Anderson (left) supervises nursing students at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

Kris Nichols, UF News Bureau

getting a job. The program is one of the state's largest providers of new baccalaureate-prepared nurses, and its graduates regularly achieve excellent pass rates on the NCLEX-RN licensing exam.

Although both her practicum and undergraduate experience end May 1, this Gator nurse is able to look forward to building many special moments during her nursing career. Just like 195 fellow UF nursing BSN graduates, she's just begun.

By Bridget Brennan

UF Voices

Orange, Blue and You!

The University of Florida has reached the mid-way point in the most ambitious capital campaign in its history. The goal of the "Florida Tomorrow" campaign is to raise \$1.5 billion in private funds by the fall of 2012. The campaign will assure that UF can achieve its vision: to define by example how a public university can best serve the global community.



Carter Boydston

This is especially relevant now, as we are experiencing a sharp downturn in the world's economy and, closer to home, steep cuts to our state budget. No public university today can rely on public appropriations alone to produce excellence and multiply its value to society.

The good news is that UF has raised \$870 million in private gifts and pledges since the beginning of the campaign in 2005.

Without the hard work and dedication of its faculty and staff, UF could not have achieved its current level of excellence. Faculty and staff participation in the campaign also helps to influence the gift decisions of corporations, foundations, alumni and friends. And finally, faculty and staff participation helps to motivate volunteers and potential donors in all areas of the campaign.

Gifts received during the "Orange, Blue and You!" faculty and staff annual campaign are counted as commitments in the "Florida Tomorrow" campaign. I encourage you to make your contribution to UF now. Your gift will directly benefit the students, faculty, staff and academic programs that you elect to support.

If you have already given, thank you. You are truly the foundation for The Gator Nation.

Carter Boydston
Senior Associate VP for Development
Director, "Florida Tomorrow"

Top Stories

Gators give back on International Gator Day

On May 16, Gator alumni will show their Gator spirit by volunteering in their hometowns for the 11th annual International Gator Day.

International Gator Day is an event associated with the Gator Club Network, a global system comprising all Gator Clubs. Every third Saturday of May, University of Florida alumni and friends volunteer time and effort to make a difference in their communities.

Danny Wuerffel, former UF quarterback and executive director of Desire Street Ministries, is chairman of this year's event.

"It is this mission of service and dedication that personally draws me to the cause of helping those less fortunate," Wuerffel said. "While we share a common bond of being part of the University of Florida family, we share an even greater commitment to the betterment of society."

Last year, 64 clubs partnered with 54 nonprofit organizations to perform community service. Projects ranged from the Lone Star Gator Club's house-building project with Habitat for Humanity to Northeast Ohio's cereal and snack drive held for residents of a local Ronald McDonald House Inc. Gator Clubs across the

globe, such as the Japan Gator Club, have participated in the past. The Houston Gator Club has hosted a "Gator Style Carnival" at the Texas Children's Cancer Center at Texas Children's Hospital for the past six years. This year, volunteers will join the patients for activities, including face painting and learning to juggle.

Laura Reddell, a club member, enjoys the event because of the spirit of young patients and volunteers. "I believe it is important to participate in International Gator Day because we make a difference — no matter how big or small," she said.

Lynn Watson, Music City Gator Club president, shares Reddell's enthusiasm. Watson said her club has participated in International Gator Day since it began.

Each year, the Music City Gator Club

volunteers with My Friends House Family and Children Services Inc., a nonprofit group home for 12- to 18-year-old males. Club members join the boys for a cookout, golf cart rides and sports activities, Watson said.

"This is our way of helping those who are less fortunate than us," she said. "The event also gets the Gator name out there in a positive way."

Virginia Horton, assistant director of Club Relations and Special Interest Groups, said she believes all International Gator Day projects are memorable because they serve a greater purpose of giving back.

"It is a great opportunity for Gators to participate in philanthropy and show the breadth of The Gator Nation," Horton said.

For more information about International Gator Day, visit <http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/gatorclubs/internationalgatorday>.

By Bridget Brennan



Houston Gator Club

Houston Gator Club members decorated cookies with patients at the Texas Children's Hospital Cancer Center last year.

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By Bridget Brennan



Lone Star Gator Club

Lone Star Gator Club volunteers constructed houses with Habitat for Humanity in 2008.

Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida, compiled from entries listed in the full calendar that appears on the Web at calendar.ufl.edu. To submit an event online, visit <http://calendar.ufl.edu/submit/>.

April 21
School of Music presents UF Flute Ensemble Concert. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-0207 or visit <http://www.arts.ufl.edu> music for more information.

April 22
Spring classes end.

UFAA presents "Grad Bash 2009." Emerson Alumni Hall, 6 - 8 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-7502 or visit <http://www.uflalumni.ufl.edu/events/gradbash> for more information.

UFAA presents Garrison Keillor: "Lake Wobegon Days." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating: \$40-75. Call 352-392-ARTS(2787) or visit <http://www.performingarts.ufl.edu> for more information.

School of Music presents UF Spring Orchestra Concert. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-0207 or visit <http://www.arts.ufl.edu> music for more information.

Seen & Heard

Day receives career services profession award

Farouk Day, senior associate director for employer relations in the Career Resource Center, has been given the 2009 NACE/SJC (Association of Colleges and Employers and the Spelman & Johnson Group) Rising Star Award.

The award recognizes an individual with strong leadership potential and contribu-



Farouk Day

tions to both the career services profession and the National Association of Colleges and Employers organization.

Documentary Institute wins top Emmy

For the second consecutive year, a Documentary Institute student thesis film earned the top Emmy honor. "Standard Deviation," <http://www.StandardDeviation-TheMovie.com>, co-directed by 2008 graduates Christopher Brannan and David Randag, was named the winner of the documentary category at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation's 30th College Television Awards black-tie gala in Los Angeles.

Wichman, IFAS win two audio awards

Florida Master Gardener Coordinator Tom Wichman recently was recognized with two awards for his role as host of "Gardening in a Minute," a radio program co-produced by UF/IFAS Extension and WUFT-FM.

Wichman received a silver media award for on-air talent from the national Garden Writers Association. In addition, "Gardening in a Minute" won first place in the audio recordings category from the Florida Association of County Agricultural Agents.



Tom Wichman

Amir named Truman Scholar recipient

The Honors Program has announced Adam Amir as a 2009 Harry S. Truman Scholar. The Truman Scholarship Foundation, http://www.truman.gov/scholar_listing/scholar_listing.htm, recognizes college juniors who are committed to careers in public service through government, education or nonprofit organizations.

Goodman receives national multicultural award

Rachael Goodman, assistant director for doctoral services in the Career Resource Center and doctoral candidate in counselor education, has received the 2009 Dr. Daya and Mrs. Usha K. Sandhu Multicultural Counseling/Diversity Student Research Award from the Association for Multicultural Counseling and Development (AMCD), a division of the American Counseling Association (ACA). The award recognizes students who have embarked on research in the area of multicultural counseling.



Rachael Goodman

UF leads Pitt, Michigan and Minnesota

The University of Florida currently leads participating universities in the percentage of surveys completed in the Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) survey. Other participating schools include the University of Pittsburgh, University of Michigan and University of Minnesota.

SERU is an online survey designed to broaden understanding of the undergraduate experience at selected research universities. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete and may be accessed through the ISIS system.

Each student who completes the survey receives a buy-one, get-one-free offer of admission to the Florida Museum of Natural History Butterfly Rainforest and is eligible for other rewards, including meal cards from Gator Dining, \$50 UF Bookstore coupons and personal training sessions at the Student Recreation and Fitness Center. Incentives are distributed daily.

More information about the survey is available at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/SERU/>.

Softball player seeks text votes for award

Senior softball player Stacy Nelson is one of 10 finalists for the Lowe's Senior CLASS (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) Award. The award is presented each year to the outstanding senior NCAA Division I Student-Athlete of the Year across nine sports.

Winners are determined by a combination selection process and public voting process.

Voting is currently open and will continue until May 7. To vote or obtain more information, visit <http://www.seniorclassaward.com>.

Production services offered on campus

Need to print a large poster, videotape a presentation, design a brochure or obtain digital pictures of artwork? University Relations provides a variety of production services for faculty, staff and students. Services include video, photography, print production, graphic design and Web design.

For more information, visit <http://www.urel.ufl.edu/production>.

Directories available

Additional copies of the printed UF Campus Directories are available at the Central Stores warehouse (Building 705) on Radio Road, 352-392-1116 or email officedirectory@ufl.edu.