



OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARDS

Saturday, April 12, 2014 - 9 AM | Emerson Alumni Hall

A Letter From

Danita Nias and Rahul Patel

On behalf of the University of Florida Alumni Association, thank you for joining us to honor the tremendous talents highlighted by the Outstanding Young Alumni Awards. Among our many excellent alumni, this small group stands out for embodying our university's tradition of achievement.

As the University of Florida continues rising, so too will the caliber of Gators who enter and exit our lovely vine-clad halls. We are excited to recognize the achievements of these exceptional Gator alumni today, and confident that they will continue to represent the best qualities of our university in the future.

Once again, we appreciate you joining us in fellowship to honor the truly great Gators among us.



*Danita D. Nias, Life Member
Executive Director & Sr. Associate Vice President*



*Rahul Patel, Life Member
UIFAA President*



Jacob Raburn

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, BSA '07

State Representative Jake Raburn is a native of Hillsborough County. While in college Jake worked for the Florida FFA Association, the UF Athletic Association and the National FFA organization. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity and Florida Blue Key and was inducted into the UF Hall of Fame as an undergraduate. After graduation, Jake worked for the Florida Department of Citrus for two years before going to work for his wife's family farming operation, Hinton Farms Produce. He was elected to the Florida House of Representatives for district 57 in 2012. Jake received the Florida Farm Bureau Champion for Agriculture Award in 2013. Jake and his wife Melissa, a fellow UF College of Agricultural and Life Sciences graduate, are avid supporters of UF and its Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.



Mindy Hall

College of Dentistry, BSHSE '01, DMD '05

Mindy Hall was born and raised on a farm in Burke, SD. In 2007, Mindy opened Seaside Smiles Pediatric Dentistry in Vero Beach, Fla. She and her husband, Andy, have three children with another one on the way. Mindy's passion for service is shown through her focus on patient care, support for the College of Dentistry, and involvement in community service projects. She is a member of the alumni group, PedoGators, which supports the Pediatric Dental Residency Program. Within her community, Mindy is the Project Dentist Care Coordinator for the Treasure Coast Dental Society, which provides dental care for low income patients. She is also active in preventive dental education programs within Vero Beach elementary schools and participates in community events such as Project Christmas Smile and Give a Kid a Smile.



Rafael Urbino

College of Dentistry, DMD '04

Rafael Urbino is a South Florida native and after graduating from high school, he honorably served four years in the United States Marine Corps. Since receiving his dental degree from the University of Florida College of Dentistry in 2004, Rafael completed a post-doctoral residency focused on special needs and hospital dentistry at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville. He also completed training on Moderate Sedation Anesthesia from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently, Rafael maintains a private practice and is also on the medical staff at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, is an adjunct professor at Nova Southeastern University-College of Dental Medicine, and volunteers as a courtesy faculty member at the UF College of Dentistry.



Dara Huang

College of Design, Construction and Planning, BDES '04

Dara Huang, the daughter of a NASA scientist who emigrated from Taiwan to the United States, grew up in multi-cultural surroundings. Dara received her BA in Design from the University of Florida and her Masters Degree in Architecture at Harvard University. Dara gained invaluable experience at Pritzker Prize winning firms, Herzog de Meuron, Basel; Asymptote Architects, New York City and Foster + Partners, London. She received various awards including: The Clifford Wong Prize, The KPF Traveling Fellowship, UF's Young Architects Award, First Place in The AIAS National Design Review and 2nd place in the 2013 RIBA Forgotten Spaces Competition. Her work has been exhibited at the Venice Biennale, Somerset House, London, The Art Club Gallery, Seoul and was recently showcased on the BBC. Dara contributed to the new Tribeca skyscraper, 56 Leonard Street, New York City; The New Tate Modern Museum, London; Manolo Blahnik stores worldwide and was personally invited to design the Samsung Pavilion for the London Olympics 2012. A life-long student across disciplines, today Dara's designs reflect a cross between contemporary art, materiality, and modern architecture. In November 2012, she created DH Liberty Ltd, which is now an award winning practice with international projects across various scales and programs.



Carlos Perez

College of Design, Construction and Planning, BLAE '04

Carlos Perez received a Bachelor's Degree in Landscape Architecture from the University of Florida in 2004. Professionally, he has developed an expertise in parks and open space system planning and design, working with local governments to leverage municipal resources and provide residents with high-performance public spaces. Carlos is a Board Member of the Atlanta non-profit, parks advocacy organization Park Pride; a Founding Board Member of the Atlanta Chapter of Young Professionals in Transportation; a Founding Member of the Gateway Partnership, a non-profit organization in Atlanta looking to revitalize the Martin Luther King Corridor; and a member of the Urban Land Institutes Center for Leadership Class of 2014. Carlos has spoken regularly at conferences including the Florida Recreation and Parks Association, Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Park Pride, National Recreation and Parks Association, and this year will be speaking at the American Planning Association National Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. Carlos is fluent in spoken and written Spanish and is an avid runner and golf enthusiast. He is currently finalizing a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning and a Master's Degree in Urban Design from the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Jason Gallant

College of Education, MED '07, PhD '11

Jason Gallant is the current chief psychologist at the Boys Town Central Florida Behavioral Health Clinic located in Oviedo, Florida. The focus of Jason's practice is on improving the emotional and behavioral functioning of youth by the early identification of common behavioral problems. This model of treatment can only be successful by integrating with community leaders, pediatricians, and school personnel who can facilitate identification of foundational concerns. By adhering to this model of care, Jason has more than tripled his families served in just one year. His vision is to be a beacon of high quality empirically supported behavioral health treatments in the Central Florida area. Jason was born and raised in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. He earned his B.S. from Florida State University in 2004, followed by his Ph.D. in School Psychology with a specialization in behavioral pediatrics from the University of Florida in 2011. Jason completed his pre-doctoral and post-doctoral fellowships in behavioral pediatrics at the Boys Town Center for Behavioral Health in Omaha, Nebraska. In his free time, Jason enjoys fitness, traveling, reading, watching FSU football, and spending time with his Jack Russell named Lola.



Amir Rubin

College of Engineering, BSCEN '03

Amir Rubin co-founded Prioria Robotics, a company that is dedicated to managing unmanned air vehicles as they perform surveillance and security. Prioria was one of Gainesville's first tech startups and is now one of the city's main tech employers. At Prioria, Amir worked on embedded systems projects. He left to do solo work, and in that time patented a method for weighing cows, among other things. In 2011 he was recruited to be the lead developer and development team trainer for a groundbreaking 3D nursing simulator for Gainesville startup Shadow Health, a learning management system. Shadow Health was UF Innovation Hub's first graduate and currently employs over 40 people. Amir currently serves as founder and "chief parakeet" at Paracosm, a team of engineers and scientists who are working to create accurate and intelligent 3D maps using mobile phones and other devices. Paracosm is gaining national attention through its partnerships with Google, NASA, the Institute for Commercialization of Public Research and ESRI, an international geodatabase software supplier. Amir graduated from UF with a bachelor's degree in ECE in 2003.



Matthew Wardell

College of Fine Arts, MM '10

Matthew Wardell received his Bachelor of Music at the University of North Florida. Matthew continued his education by completing graduate studies at the University of Florida with Raymond Chobaz. During his tenure at UF, he served as Graduate Assistant and Associate Conductor of the University of Florida Symphony Orchestra and was highly involved throughout the school's fine arts programs. Matthew has spent five summers at the prestigious Pierre Monteux School for Conductors and Orchestra Musicians in Hancock, Maine studying with his mentor Michael Jinbo. Matthew began his tenure as Music Director and Conductor of the Ocala Symphony Orchestra in 2009 after having completed studies at the University of North Florida, University of Florida, and the prestigious Pierre Monteux School for Conductors in Hancock, Maine. Since his appointment, the Ocala Symphony Orchestra's ticket revenue has nearly doubled on an annual basis, concert attendance is up, and the orchestra's profile in the community has greatly risen. In June of 2011 he was selected to be on the cover of Ocala Magazine's "40 under 40" issue.



Michael Carroll

College of Health and Human Performance, MESS '04 PhD '09

Michael Carroll is an Assistant Professor in the Sport & Fitness Management (SFM) Program at Troy University. He received an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina in 2001 and a Master's degree in Exercise & Sport Sciences from the College of Health and Human Performance (HHP) at UF in 2004. He returned to UF in 2005 as a Presidential Fellow to pursue a PhD in Human Performance, graduating in 2009 and spending his first two years at the University of Southern Mississippi prior to joining Troy University. His research has investigated sport-related hazing and bullying, the use of recreational user and other limited-liability statutes, and legal issues regarding the NCAA and student-athletes. Michael's research has been published in journals such as the American Journal of Preventative Medicine and Sport Management Review and he has delivered over 50 presentations at national and international conferences. In 2011, he was awarded the Young Professional Award by the Sport and Recreation Law Association and in 2013 he was awarded the Exemplary Course Award by Troy University. Michael currently resides in Orlando with his wife and is actively involved in his church and mentors youth through the Big Brothers & Big Sisters program.



Annette González-Malkin

College of Journalism and Communications, BSPR '03

Annette González-Malkin graduated from the University of Florida with a BS in Public Relations and minored in Art History. Annette is the Vice President, Hispanic Strategies and Solutions at Hunter Public Relations. A public relations and communications strategist with more than 10 years of experience servicing lifestyle brands including Altoids, Tazo Tea, Turning Leaf, Zyrtec and Maxwell House. For more than six years, she managed several Diageo brands including Tequila Don Julio, Zacapa Rum, the Classic Malts Selection and Ketel One. Based out of Hunter PR's Miami office, Annette oversees and manages the agency's Hispanic Strategies and Solutions Department. Through her work in this department she's worked with clients like Sears, 3M, Zyrtec and Tequila Don Julio to develop campaigns that reach the U.S. Hispanic consumer and that have secured placements in outlets like Maxim En Español, People en Español, Al Rojo Vivo, La Opinión, to name a few. One of Annette's career highlights was the creation and development of Don Julio's Colección Nuevo Arte. This campaign showcased the contemporary works of Mexican and Mexican-American artists via a national traveling exhibition and leveraged the brand's heritage and authenticity in a modern way. In addition to her expertise in spirits, lifestyle and the arts, Annette is fluent in both Spanish and conversational Italian. Outside of work, Annette is an avid traveler and has visited six of the seven continents. She recently returned from a trip to Africa and has been to such destinations as Japan, New Zealand and Iceland.



Justin Crepp

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, MS '05, PhD '08

Justin Crepp is an astrophysicist working in the field of exoplanet detection at the University of Notre Dame. As the Freimann Assistant Professor of Physics, with an Early Career Fellowship, Justin is the only awardee in the nation to receive the fellowship in the Origins of Solar Systems program. His research focuses on the search for gas giant planets and habitable terrestrial worlds that orbit nearby stars other than the Sun. Through his use of the world's largest optical and infrared telescopes, such as the Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona and the twin Keck Telescopes in Hawaii, Justin is conducting new types of observations and developing technologies that will improve the sensitivity of ground-based instruments. Justin is the co-discoverer of more than 30 extrasolar planets. With funding from NASA, Justin will build the world's first diffraction-limited Doppler spectrometer that will detect Earth-like planets orbiting in the habitable zone of the closest and lowest-mass stars in the galaxy: the M-dwarfs.



Akshata Marballi-Hopkins

College of Medicine, BS '04, MD '07

Akshata Marballi-Hopkins completed a combined undergraduate and medical school junior honors program in 7 years, graduating from the UF College of Medicine in 2007. She met her husband in Gainesville, whom she married after medical school. Akshata and her husband then ventured to Jacksonville to complete their respective residency programs at the University of Florida Jacksonville COM campus. They are both active faculty members in Jacksonville with UF Health, and Akshata is a UF pediatric hospitalist at Wolfson Children's Hospital. Akshata's academic interests focus on resident education and curriculum development. When not at the hospital, she is learning the joys of parenthood with her 15-month-old son, Evan.



Ravi Patel

College of Medicine, MD '02, HS '06

Ravi Patel opened his own ophthalmology practice in Jacksonville. He focuses on cornea, cataract, and comprehensive eye care. He received his medical degree in 2002 as well as completed his residency in 2006 in Ophthalmology from the University of Florida. Following his training in Gainesville, he went to the University of California- San Diego to do a fellowship in cornea and refractive surgery. While there, he served as a Clinical Instructor providing academic and clinical care. Ravi has also worked with NY Laser Group and taught residents surgery at Cornell University. Ravi has a strong passion for medical students and ophthalmology residents at UF.



Jennifer Romer

College of Nursing, BSN '01

Jennifer Romer graduated with her bachelor's degree in nursing and moved to California where she began her career as a staff nurse at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford, in Palo Alto. She practiced in high acuity and intermediate intensive care of pediatric post-surgical and medical patients became the assistant patient care manager of her department in 2006 before moving on to hospital project management. In 2007, she joined the Hospital Transformation Operations team working with IT staff to team to implement a customized hospital wide electronic health record. After the project's successful implementation, Jennifer was charged with integrating new technology into the clinical setting. In 2008 she was named the Lead Senior Project Manager for the design, construction and activation of Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford 521,000 square foot expansion project. While at UF, she was inducted into the Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society.



Katelyn Dervay

College of Pharmacy, DPH '05

Katelyn Dervay graduated in 2005 with her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Florida. Currently, she is the pharmacotherapy specialist in emergency medicine as well as the PGY2 Emergency Medicine Pharmacy Residency program director at Tampa General Hospital. Katelyn has served on state, local, and hospital bioterrorism preparedness teams and has conducted team drills for events such as pandemic flu and mass casualty events. She has a place in her heart for providing humanitarian relief in addition to disaster management and has been involved with medical mission trips to Haiti for the past 4 years. During this time she has worked with a local hospital in Port-au-Prince to develop their pharmacy services including expansion of clinical practices. She is currently working on her Masters in Public Health for Global Disaster Management and Humanitarian Relief. Katelyn serves as a Faculty Mentor with the University of Florida College of Pharmacy and as Assistant Professor at the University of South Florida College of Pharmacy.



Michael Larson

College of Public Health and Health Professions, MS' 04, PhD '08

Michael Larson received his PhD in Clinical and Health Psychology from the University of Florida in 2008 and that same year joined the faculty of Brigham Young University in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Center. Michael's research focuses on topics including cognitive control, traumatic brain injury, and affective and social processes such as empathy or satisfaction with life. Since joining the faculty at BYU, Michael has published more than 45 research articles, two book chapters and has given many conference presentations. Michael is active in the BYU clinical psychology doctoral program where he is the dissertation committee chair for six students and actively involves undergraduate students in his research. He attributes his mentoring and clinical philosophies to skills he learned at the University of Florida. Michael is an avid Florida and BYU sports fan and he and his wife, Jennifer, recently adopted two children.



Michael Moorhouse

*College of Public Health and Health Professions
BHS '00, MHS '01, PhD '08*

Michael Moorhouse has a joint appointment in the College of Public Health and Health Professions as the Director of the Bachelor of Health Science program and as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Behavioral Science and Community Health (BSCH). Following several years working in the addiction field, Mike received his PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University of Florida (2008) and completed a 2 year post-doctoral fellowship (2008-2010) within the BSCH department. Mike has a broad range of research interests which can be categorized across two general areas - instrument development and hazardous substance abuse behavior among 18-25 year olds. His primary research focuses on validating innovative health science instruments for research and clinical use. In addition, Mike has continued his work in substance abuse as he is a co-investigator on a National Institute of Health project titled "Developing a Better Assessment of Hookah Use among Young Adults (PI - Tracey Barnett, PhD). Additionally, he has recently expanded his research agenda by examining how we conceptualize hazardous college drinking behavior.



Andy Roark

College of Veterinary Medicine, MS '03, DVM '08

While you can't teach an old dog new tricks, Andy Roark has discovered "10 things dogs can teach us about relationships." After becoming a veterinarian, he claims to be a much better husband and partner. Andy practices veterinary medicine in Greenville, South Carolina. He promotes the business aspect of veterinary medicine through his many speaking engagements at veterinary colleges and veterinary related associations. In 2013, Andy was named one of the "25 veterinarians to watch in 2013" by Veterinary Practice News. Andy shares his veterinary experiences in DVM360 magazine, the Veterinary Practice News, VetStreet, his website and blog, and other publications. In his spare time, Andy does stand-up comedy at various local clubs. His wife is a college professor and they have two beautiful girls who give him plenty material to write about. According to his nominator, "...he makes us all proud to be Gators."



Melanie King

Levin College of Law, JD '08

Melanie King is an international policy advisor for the Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Fisheries in Washington, D.C. She graduated from UF Law in 2008, with a certificate in environmental and land use law. While at the College, she joined the Conservation Clinic, working closely with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on reforms to Florida's boating laws, an experience that helped prepare her for her work at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Her work at NOAA promotes international cooperation to achieve effective and responsible marine stewardship and ensure sustainable fisheries management globally, focusing on tuna, swordfish, sharks, and issues related to illegal fishing. Melanie has represented the United States at regional fisheries organizations and in other international fora. She has won an Administrator's Award for contributions to the US delegation to the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas and a Bronze Medal Award for collaborating across NOAA to prevent loss of data and damage to data buoys by fishing vessels. Her work with NOAA has taken her throughout the world, including Brazil, Uruguay, France, Spain, Italy, Turkey, Japan, China, Taiwan, Morocco, South Africa, and Australia. Melanie was born and raised in Unionville, North Carolina.



Kristen Soltis-Anderson

Division of Student Affairs

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, BA '05

Kristen Soltis Anderson is a pollster and columnist for The Daily Beast. Previously, she served as the Vice President of the The Winston Group, a Washington DC based opinion research and political communications firm. She also served as the communications advisor to Crossroads Generation, a Republican organization focused on winning the youth vote. Kristen appears regularly on CNN and Fox News. She writes a column for U.S. News and World Report and is a contributor at Huffington Post Pollster where she writes about elections and trends in public opinion. She is the author of the forthcoming book *The New Vote* (HarperCollins, 2015), and of a chapter on polling in *Margin of Victory: How Technologists Help Politicians Win Elections* (Praeger, 2012). Kristen currently serves on the Board of Directors for America's Future Foundation and the Junior League of Washington.



Andrew Comiter

Division of Student Affairs

Levin College of Law, BSAC '03, JD '08, LLMT '09

After graduating from UF, Andy returned to Palm Beach County to join Comiter, Singer, Baseman & Braun, LLP. His practice is focused on Income and Estate Planning, Business Law, Probate, Guardianship and Tax Exempt Organizations. Andy is very involved with the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County where he is currently a member of the Board of Directors. He served as the Chair of the Emerging Leadership Project from 2011-2013. Andy is also very involved with the Palm Beach County Estate Planning Council and the Florida Bar. Andy continues to give back to the University of Florida by serving as an active member of the Student Affairs Development Board, the O'Connell Society and Levin College of Law Alumni Council.



Bridget Stomberg

Warrington College of Business Administration

Fisher School of Accounting, BSAC '00, MACC '02

Bridget Stomberg came to the University of Florida in 1998 and chose Accounting as her major after taking Introduction to Financial Accounting with Professor Doug Snowball. While at the Fisher School of Accounting, she served as a teaching assistant for Professor Snowball and Professor John Simmons and was recognized as an Outstanding Teaching Assistant. She was also selected as the recipient of a Fisher Full Fellowship and was voted Most Outstanding Graduate Student by the Fisher School faculty. After graduation, Bridget worked in the tax department for PricewaterhouseCoopers in Phoenix, Arizona for five years. She also worked as Director of Tax for PF Chang's and Insight Enterprises, both Fortune 1000 companies. In 2009, Bridget was one of the first 30 recipients of an Accounting Doctoral Scholarship, awarded by the AICPA Foundation to encourage experienced professionals to pursue a career in academia. She earned her PhD from the University of Texas in 2013 and is now an Assistant Professor at the University of Georgia. Bridget has been married for 9 years to Derrick, who she met at the University of Florida. They have a two-month older daughter, Blake, and a six year old black Labrador named Lito, after fellow Gator Lito Sheppard.



Kimberly Kaupe

Warrington College of Business Administration

Heavener School of Business, BSBA '08

Kim Kaupe graduated with a BA in marketing from the University of Florida in 2008 and since then she has co-founded ZinePak, a custom publication company that creates engaging fan packages for entertainers, brands, and celebrities. Since starting the company in January 2011 with co-founder Brittany Hodak, ZinePak has grown into a 10-person team churning out packages for A-list entertainers such as Katy Perry, KISS, Taylor Swift, Duck Dynasty and The Beach Boys. Kim has been named to Advertising Age's 40 Under 40 and Forbes 30 Under 30 in Music list while ZinePak was hailed as a Top 30 Startup to Watch by Entrepreneur, and dubbed an "overnight success" by Inc. Magazine. Kim's articles have also appeared in numerous media outlets such as Forbes, The Wall Street Journal and Forbes Woman. When not building upon her dream of ZinePak with Brittany, Kim enjoys good music, witty banter, and time with her friends and family. If you don't interrupt her during one of her beloved Florida Gator games, she is always up for a conversation, laugh, or figuring out a master plan on how she can meet and hug one of her idols, Harrison Ford.



Steven DeRose

Warrington College of Business Administration

Hough Graduate School of Business, BA '03, BSBA '03, MS '04

Steven DeRose is a Vice President at Starwood Mortgage Capital (SMC), which is one of the most active Commercial Mortgage Backed Security platforms in the country, where he is responsible for originating, structuring and closing loans on all commercial property types. Prior to joining SMC, Mr. DeRose served as a Director in Wells Fargo Securities' Special Situations Group, where he was responsible for the workout and restructuring of principal investments in structured commercial real estate debt. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing an approximately \$1.3 Billion loan portfolio. Prior to working in the Special Situations Group, Mr. DeRose held various positions within the bank's predecessor, Wachovia Securities' Real Estate Capital Markets and Investment Banking platform, where much of his time was spent in the firm's Structured Finance Group originating bridge loans, mezzanine loans, and equity investments. Steven serves as guest lecturer and mentor to students enrolled in the University of Florida's MBA, Master of Science in Finance and Master of Science in Real Estate programs. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in both Economics and Business Management, as well as a Master of Science in Finance from the University of Florida.



Congratulations

Outstanding Young Alumni

Program

Welcome

State of the University

Breakfast

Awards Ceremony

Closing

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