



**This week for Thank-you Thursday we will highlight the amazing students of the UF HSC colleges!**

Throughout this pandemic, our trainees have stepped up in so many ways. They suited up to conducted hundreds (thousands?) of COVID-19 tests for Floridians, they offered to baby-sit and run errands for our frontline clinicians, they developed a system to spread gratitude throughout the American healthcare system, they have continued volunteer efforts in the community, they stayed (or moved back) home to help stop the spread of the virus, they adjusted to new a new format and new expectations for learning, they suspended research projects needed to complete their degrees for the greater good, they assisted with efforts to supply clinicians with hand sanitizer and PPE, they helped run support groups, and they have virtually celebrated one another through important milestones. It is apparent that our students represent a bright future for the Gator Nation!!!

This week, try to find some time to **reach out to your trainees to check in on how they are doing, remind them that you are proud of their efforts, thank them for their flexibility and responsiveness, and encourage them to keep doing their best in these trying times.** For inspiration, you can read the messages from some of our educators below:

- I continue to be inspired by our students who exemplify humility and flexibility in their willingness to step outside their normal role. They continue to assist patients connecting to zoom, babysit for faculty who need childcare, and in so many other ways to meet the needs of both UF COM and our local Gainesville community. ~ Kristy Smith, MD, Director of UFCOM Collaborative Learning Groups
- When it comes to COVID-19, we didn't have a plan. No one could have predicted how quickly this would transform our lives. And yet, in an unprecedented and unplannable situation, our PA students have really stepped up. You've stepped up by adapting to new learning environments and being leaders in community-based service opportunities. We are so proud of your resiliency and grateful to have selected you as future healthcare providers! ~ Nina Multak, PhD, MPAS, PA-C, Associate Dean & Director of PA Studies
- I have seen some of our students rise up and accept the challenges of this pandemic as direct attacks on their education. They have faced those attacks by volunteering their time, their money, even when they themselves were suffering from financial stress, and by facing their fears about their own health. This is courage—walking towards those who need us in spite of our fear. ~ Shelley Wells Collins, MD, FAAP, Assistant Dean for Medical Education

- Dear COM Graduate Students, It has certainly been challenging this past several months and I would like to thank all of you for playing your part in being safe and supporting each other through this crazy time. Continue to be resilient, resourceful, and above all, take care of yourselves. The faculty, staff, and I are looking forward to when we will be able to see you again in person! Take care, Thomas C. Rowe, PhD, Associate Dean for Graduate Education
- I had no idea how much I missed having students in my life. I have been fortunate to have 3 different cohorts so far of 3rd and 4th year students in a blended learning small group. We learn from each other, teach each other and really I think, nurture each other in this weird ever changing world of zoom and masks. These past 2 weeks, I have had an in person student in clinic, keeping me on my toes, learning and caring for the children of Gainesville. ~ Maureen Novak, MD, Past Associate Dean for Medical Education
- The PA students have been fabulous. They have been doing student outreach and COVID-19 testing in the community. They also have been amazingly flexible during this difficult and sometimes confusing time. We have the best students! ~ Liz Brownlee, Director of Didactic Education, School of PA Studies
- I am indebted to all the College of Medicine students that entrusted me with their innermost struggles for over 25 years. It takes courage for clinicians-in-training to seek assistance for their own mental and/or emotional health. Whatever support I've provided largely comes from my experiences helping previous students, and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all for your trust and confidence. Thank you! ~ Beverly Dede, Ph.D., Program Director, Office of Student Counseling and Development
- Dear Gator Nursing Students, Thank you for choosing UF College of Nursing. We hope you are having a great start to this unprecedented summer semester. So far, you've survived 100% of your worst days. I often reflect back on how wonderful each and every one of you were at orientation a few weeks ago, a few months or a few years ago and how much we look forward to getting to know you and how much we hope you will consider faculty as one of your mentors for the rest of your careers! As you launch your careers as bedside nurses, clinicians, nurse scientist and future academicians never feel alone, we are always cheering you on. Out of sight never means out of mind, we are an "inbox" away. ~ Versie Johnson-Mallard, PhD, ARNP, FAAN - College of Nursing Associate Dean for Students Affairs
- Thank you to all of our students for your flexibility during our quick transition to online learning in the spring semester. We are thankful for your graciousness in allowing the faculty and staff to also learn how to best serve you using online learning modalities. We are grateful for your feedback to help us quickly pivot to provide better learning experiences for you. I also want to thank the class of 2021 specifically – you have experienced the most significant shift in our curriculum during this time and all the faculty appreciate your patience while we work hard to provide you with valuable learning experiences. We know you each have unique challenges in your lives right now and we encourage your continued resilience during this difficult time. We are here to support you to ensure your success, so please let us know how we can serve you better. ~ Teresa Cavanaugh, Assistant Dean Student Affairs for the UF College of Pharmacy

- I have been so impressed with the resilience of our CHP graduate students and interns. They have become amazingly proficient in telehealth with little prep time and a steep learning curve, providing stellar ongoing care for our patients with little to no disruption. And all of this in an environment of uncertainty where we have had precious little information to share with them about what their own training will look like in the future. Thank you, thank you for your patience, service and good spirits! ~  
Lori Waxenberg, PhD, Clinical & Health Psychology Internship Program Director

Finally, as a reminder, you can help to spread gratitude by **nominating an essential worker to receive a “thank you” message, or signing up to send a short gratitude video to a nominee**, by visiting the 6FTCloser website (developed by medical students from UF COM and elsewhere) at: <https://www.6ftcloser.com/>

Thank you, students, and stay well!

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