Our graduates secure prestigious post-doctoral fellowships and tenure earning faculty positions at leading research intensive universities and federal agencies, as well as highly successful careers in the health, tourism, and management industries. As those of you who are returning to HHP know, and as those of you who are new will soon experience, you have selected an outstanding college and university to further your academic and professional endeavors.

The overarching mission of the College is to "provide recognized programs of excellence in teaching, research and service that focus on assisting individuals, families and communities to promote health and prevent disease while enhancing quality of life across the lifespan." The HHP community of scholars is united in our search for ways to improve human health and well-being.

Basic research in the college focuses on fundamental questions dealing with the mechanisms that underlie physical and psychosocial health. Basic knowledge is then integrated in applied research investigating the multiple roles of physical activity, health education, leisure, and events, in maximizing quality of life.

Our nationally ranked graduate programs are highly productive, as evidenced by HHP's publication rate and quality, as well as the procurement of federal and corporate funding to support the college's important work. Our graduate students contribute extensively to fulfillment of the college mission through scholarly research, publications, professional conference presentations, service, and outreach activities. Local, state, national, and global impacts are realized through the many talents and efforts of HHP students, faculty, and staff.

The Office of Academic Affairs is here to support your graduate education efforts in the college, and to ensure that your time here is resourceful, productive, and enjoyable. I strongly encourage you to embrace the many opportunities for professional and personal growth that will be presented to you during your graduate student career at UF. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the college staff to assist you during your graduate studies here in UF's College of Health and Human Performance.

Welcome to HHP and Go Gators!

Christopher Janelle, Ph.D.
Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs; Professor, Applied Physiology & Kinesiology

Dear HHP Graduate Students,
On behalf of the faculty and staff of the College of Health and Human Performance (HHP), welcome to the University of Florida. The selection of a graduate program is an important professional decision. You have chosen wisely! The renowned Master’s and Ph.D. programs in HHP have a long history of excellence in graduate student preparation.

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Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs; Professor, Applied Physiology & Kinesiology
The University of Florida College of Health and Human Performance is unlike most academic colleges. In fact, you would be hard pressed to find another college that can positively influence people in so many different ways.

The College’s three departments (Applied Physiology and Kinesiology, Health Education and Behavior, and Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management) as well as its two centers and one institute (The Center for Exercise Science, Center for Digital Health and Wellness, and The Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute) place the College in a position to influence and address an array of individual and societal challenges.

The world-class faculty in HHP perform groundbreaking research leading to improvements in adolescent and adult health behaviors, increased efficiency and impact of tourism, sports, and other community events, as well as beneficial interventions for individuals with Parkinson’s disease and cardiovascular disorders. HHP faculty are making an impact on people’s lives every day through their expertise and scholarship.

HHP prepares its graduate students with the tools, knowledge and confidence to fulfill their academic aspirations and become assets to their communities. Many of our alumni go on to positions at universities and research institutions as well as professional careers in exercise science, health education and promotion, recreation, events, tourism and sport management. Each helps to contribute to a healthier world for tomorrow.

Quick Facts

Established: 1946
Undergraduate Enrollment: 1,801
Graduate Enrollment: 257
Faculty: 50

DEPARTMENTS:
Applied Physiology and Kinesiology (APK)
Health Education and Behavior (HEB)
Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management (TRSM)

RESEARCH CENTERS:
Center for Exercise Science
Center for Digital Health & Wellness

RESEARCH INSTITUTE:
The Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute

DEPARTMENT CHAIRS:
Tom Clanton, Ph.D. — APK
Jalie Tucker, Ph.D. — HEB
Michael Sagas, Ed.D. — TRSM

About the College of Health & Human Performance

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Dr. Peter Adhihetty’s research focuses on the involvement of a cellular process known as programmed cell death in disease and old age-associated muscle loss.

Dr. Elisabeth Barton’s research focuses on the optimization of insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF-1), a key player in the muscle regeneration process. More recently, Dr. Barton has focused on how muscles sense load, and how these sensors become dysfunctional in muscle disease.

Dr. Paul Borsa’s recent research has focused on shoulder pain and the effectiveness of dietary supplements in aiding the recovery of muscle from exercise-induced muscle damage. He also studies the effectiveness of phototherapy treatment of musculoskeletal injuries.

Dr. Randy Braith has a long-standing research interest in the pathology of heart failure and how exercise helps the body recover following heart transplantation. In addition, his research examines the problem of bone loss that occurs following organ transplant as a result of drug therapies and how resistance exercise can offset this adverse effect on bone.

Dr. James Cauraugh’s research examines the mechanisms of motor behavior impairment and investigates the effects of exercise and other interventions in the recovery of motor control, particularly among stroke patients.

Dr. Demetra Christou’s research investigates how cardiovascular health is impaired with aging, obesity and type II diabetes, and how exercise training and diet-induced weight loss help to reverse this dysfunction.

Dr. Evangelos Christou’s research aims to understand how aging and other disorders change the central nervous system as well as the activity of the muscles, and how these alterations impair the ability to perform and learn new tasks with precision and accuracy.

Dr. Thomas Clanton’s research examines how various disease states and their resulting diminished blood flow to heart and skeletal muscle tissue compromises normal heart and muscle function. In addition, Dr. Clanton investigates the underlying causes of heat stroke and other ailments that result from high body temperatures.

Dr. Stephen Coomes uses classical behavioral tools and state-of-the-art structural and functional brain imaging technologies to examine how sensory information influences motor control. Particular interest is given to how pain processes and emotional processes influence the motor system to guide human behavior.

Dr. Stephen Dodd’s research examines the signaling pathways that direct protein breakdown with disease, and the role of heat shock proteins and other signaling molecules in attenuating muscle atrophy.

Dr. Leonardo Ferreira’s research uses new genetic and pharmacologic interventions to investigate cellular and molecular mechanisms of respiratory muscle weakness and fatigue with an aim to develop novel therapies to alleviate muscle weakness and fatigue.

Dr. Chris Hass investigates the biomechanics of lower limb function under conditions such as Parkinson’s disease and old age, and how various interventions improve limb function and quality of life.

Dr. Christopher Janelle studies how emotions affect the attentional and motor mechanisms that impact movement execution among high level performers as well as individuals who suffer from emotional and movement disorders.

Dr. Scott Powers’ research is focused upon exercise mediated changes in cardiac and skeletal muscle, and specifically the antioxidant systems that protect the heart and muscle against ischemia-reperfusion injury.

Dr. Brady L. Tripp’s research interests include kinematics and evidence-based assessment of the shoulder, overhead-throwers, golf biomechanics and kinetics, and sensorimotor system function. Ongoing clinical research examines concussion and exertional heat illness in athletes.

Dr. Patricia M. Tripp is a Clinical Associate Professor, Director and Clinical Education Coordinator of the CAATE Athletic Training Program. She teaches and conducts research in the fields of Athletic Training, Sports Medicine and Biomechanics. Area(s) of focus include gait and lower extremity injury mechanics (e.g., kinetic chain function and injury — knee, hip).

Dr. David Vaillancourt uses structural, functional, and electrophysiological neuroimaging techniques to understand how the human brain regulates voluntary and involuntary motor control. He cofounded the Laboratory of Rehabilitation Neuroscience with Dr. Stephen Coomes. The laboratory is particularly focused on the cortex, basal ganglia, and cerebellum in movement disorders.
Dr. JeeWon Cheong has expertise in mediation analysis and longitudinal data analysis. Her methodological research focuses on modeling and developing methods for testing longitudinal mediation and applying statistical methods to evaluation of prevention/intervention research. Her substantive research areas include drug prevention, behavioral economics applied to substance use and risky health behaviors, and social and psychological factors of HIV related risk behaviors among adolescents and young adults.

Dr. Delores James’ research areas include obesity and weight management, health literacy, health disparities (ethnic, gender, age, urban/rural), tailored health messages, entertainment education, and eHealth and mHealth programs and interventions. Dr. James has advanced training in mixed methods research and qualitative methodologies. She also is a certified focus group moderator.

Dr. Robert Leeman’s primary research interest is in relationships between various difficulties with self-control and addictive behaviors, particularly alcohol, with recent focus on cocaine/opioid co-use. He has particular interests in impaired control over alcohol use, disinhibition/impulsivity and cognitive biases. Much of Dr. Leeman’s research concerns young adult addictive behaviors and he has made use of human laboratory, survey and clinical trial methods.

Dr. Michael Stellefson’s research interests include Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) patient education, interactive health communication in chronic disease self-management, use of applied information and communication technologies to prevent behavioral risk factors associated with chronic disease, and eHealth literacy across the lifespan.

Dr. Julie Tucker does applied behavioral economic research on how people change established patterns of alcohol misuse and other harmful health behaviors. Her work is aimed at informing risk reduction and prevention strategies in community-dwelling populations. Recent projects include: (1) longitudinal studies of natural recovery from alcohol problems, a common pathway to problem resolution for a stigmatized disorder with low rates of help seeking; (2) peer-driven sampling studies of health risk and protective behaviors among African American emerging adults living in disadvantaged urban communities; and (3) research on health risk and protective behaviors among rural substance users living with HIV/AIDS. Several projects use IVR-based platforms for longitudinal behavioral assessment and intervention in natural environments. Her research has been supported by awards from NIAAA, NIDA, CDC, and SAMSHA.

Dr. Christine Stopka’s research examines how exercise and physical activity can help improve the quality of life of people of all ages with disabilities. Her research includes: exercise therapy, sports medical considerations, and adapted physical activities for people with disabilities; specializing in fitness programs for people with intellectual disabilities, peripheral arterial disease, and physical/medical conditions.
Dr. Dan Connaughton’s research is largely focused on the study of law and risk management in sport and physical activity programs. His research has specifically investigated (a) risk perception, (b) risk management policies and practices, (c) awareness of and compliance with statutes, standards, and guidelines; and (d) injury/death prevention in sport and physical activity.

Dr. Holly Donohoo’s research interests include critical examinations of contemporary environmental management and planning paradigms and their application within the parks and tourism domains.

Dr. Daniel Fesenmaier’s research interests include tourism marketing and destination research services to national, state, regional and local tourism organizations, especially in the fields of e-commerce marketing, mapping tourists’ experiences, evaluation and information technology applications in tourism.

Dr. Heather Gibson’s research interests include active sport tourism participation in mid and later life, the effects of event sport tourism on the community, the leisure, health and well-being in later-life women, and the resistance and empowerment of well-being in later-life women, and the community, the leisure, health and well-being in later-life women, and the resistance and empowerment of well-being in later-life women, and the community, the leisure, health and well-being in later-life women, and the resistance and empowerment of women through solo travel.

Dr. Stephen Holland’s research interests include water-based recreation and tourism activity participation and demand, especially coastal and marine fishing, teaching, boating and coastal parks, ecotourism, park management, economic impact studies and visitor behavior; sustainable tourism and tourism impacts.

Dr. Kiki Kaplanioudi’s research interests include consumer behavior within sport and sport tourism contexts, image of sport and sport events and their fit with destination and sponsor images, and national and international community development through sport initiatives.

Dr. Andrei Kirilenko’s research interests include sustainability issues, the impacts of climate change, analysis of mass media, social networks data, and big data analytics. Dr. Kirilenko was a Lead Author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 4th Report and is currently a Coordinating Lead Author for UNEP Global Environmental Outlook.

Dr. Tim Kellison’s research interests are organizational theory and public policy. Within these fields, his research has focused on human resources management, the politics of sport facility financing, urban and regional planning, and environmentally sustainable design.

Dr. Yong Joo Ko’s research focuses on sport consumer behavior and the sport event marketing, including consumer attitudes, perceptions and beliefs about sport organizations and their sport participation motivation/ involvement and commitment/ identification toward sports.

Dr. Brian Mills’ research encompasses managerial economic issues in sport, with a focus on a diverse range of quantitative methods in the field. Some of the topics he has researched in the context of sport include: labor economics and discrimination/ social influences; industrial organization topics; public policy and economic development; fantasy sport consumer behavior; athlete philanthropy and volunteerism.

Dr. Lori Pennington-Gray’s research interests include tourism crisis management, using a “systems approach” to understand both demand-side and supply-side issues related to tourism, consumer travel behavior on the demand side, and the decision-making process of destination marketing organizations on the supply-side.

Dr. Michael Sagas’ primary line of inquiry in the field of sport management has been focused on the continued underrepresentation and differential treatment of women and minorities in coaching and athletics administration at the intercollegiate athletics level.

Dr. Svetlana Stepchenkova’s research interests include destination image as a competitive factor in destination management, marketing and branding. She also studies the effects of media messages on tourism behavior and destination demand, as well as web sites and online communities (such as TripAdvisor.com) as marketing tools for Destination Marketing Organizations.

Dr. Brijesh Thapa’s research interests include ecotourism and cultural heritage tourism in developing countries, tourist behaviors and the socio-cultural, environmental and economic impacts, and outdoor recreation and tourism management in parks and protected areas.

Dr. Kelly M. Naugle, Ph.D. (2010) Assistant Professor, IU School of Physical Education and Tourism Management Indiana University - Purdue University Indianapolis Indianapolis, IN

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Dr. Michiko Shiga’s research has specifically investigated the continued underrepresentation and differential treatment of women and minorities in coaching and athletics administration at the intercollegiate athletics level.

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Dr. Matthew Buman, Ph.D. (2008) Post Doctoral Research Fellow School of Medicine Stanford University

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Select Graduate Alumni

Geoff Dover, Ph.D. (2005) Tenure Track Assistant Professor Department of Exercise Science Concordia University in Montreal

Aaron Duley, Ph.D. (2005) Computer Scientist and Human Factors Engineer National Aeronautics and Space Administration NASA Ames Research Center

Gary Pierce, Ph.D. (2005) Tenure Track Assistant Professor of Pediatrics Georgia Prevention Institute Medical College of Georgia

Joshua Selsby, Ph.D. (2005) Tenure Track Assistant Professor Department of Animal Science Iowa State University

Jenna Betters, Ph.D. (2007) Post Doctoral Fellow School of Medicine Wake Forest University

Darren Casey, Ph.D. (2007) Research Fellow Human Integrative Physiology Mayo Clinic

Eric Wikstrom, Ph.D. (2007) Tenure Track Assistant Professor Department of Kinesiology UNC – Chapel Hill

Matthew Buman, Ph.D. (2008) Post Doctoral Research Fellow School of Medicine Stanford University

Kimberly Fournier, Ph.D. (2008) Tenure Track Assistant Professor College of Education, Department of Health and Kinesiology University of Texas – Pan American


Monica Webb, Ph.D. (2011) Assistant Professor Department of Health Education & Promotion College of Health and Human Performance, East Carolina University

Anthony Delisie, Ph.D. (2012) Post Doctoral Associate VAMC, University of Florida Director, Center for Independent Living Gainesville, Florida

Janelle Garcia, Ph.D. (2012) Research Assistant III All Children’s Hospital Johns Hopkins Medicine, St. Petersburg, FL

Taryn Buckley, Ph.D. (2013) North Central Florida Coordinator Florida/Caribbean AIDS Education & Training Center Division of Infectious Diseases and Global Medicine College of Medicine, University of Florida

Peter Gryffin, Ph.D. (2013) Assistant Professor University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, Stevens Point, WI

Amanda Hall, Ph.D. (2013) National Library of Medicine Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Biomedical Informatics and Medical Education University of Washington School of Medicine

Bethany Tennant, Ph.D. (2013) Research and Communications Associate ICF International, Fairfax VA

Julia Varnes, Ph.D. (2013) Lecturer Department of Health Education and Behavior University of Florida
WHY PUBLISH IN REFEREED JOURNALS?

Disseminating knowledge is one of the primary goals of research. Submitting your articles to refereed journals is an effective way to disseminate knowledge. Referred journals have editorial boards who are experts in an area, and they determine the validity of your research. Once the scientific community evaluates and approves your research manuscript, you will join the list of published authors. When deciding on an appropriate journal, keep in mind that premier journals are the highest rated ones in an area of study, and not all journals are premier.

Currently, there are two rating systems for determining a journal’s impact on science and social sciences: (a) ISI Journal Citation Reports (JCR) and (b) Harzing’s H-index for journals. Both systems tabulate and calculate journals’ impact factors based on publications and citations. In 2014-15, HHP faculty published 159 refereed articles with 97 students. Impressively, most of the publications are in premier journals.

The Research Office can keep you on track toward publishing and receiving funding:
• Journals publish strong research. There are hundreds of academic publishing outlets; however, it is important to be discriminating and intentional in determining the best publishing outlet for your research. Use the ISI Web of Knowledge to discover the publications in your field that are impactful. Ms. Roebuck and Dr. Cauraugh, along with your major professor, are available to talk about journals and to help you identify the type of places you’d like to place your work.
• Federal agencies fund scientifically sound research projects. Follow the link below that describes funding opportunities. The College and your Department will help you apply. Once you have identified a potential agency, stop by and visit with Ms. Roebuck or Dr. Cauraugh for information and direction.
The College’s faculty conduct some of the most impactful research in the country in their respective fields, providing many opportunities for academic and applied research and scholarship. Research opportunities are available through individual faculty and through the College’s research centers and institute.

The Center for Digital Health & Wellness
Director: Dr. Jalie Tucker
The center conducts domestic and global research, evaluation, and training with diverse collaborators on the application of new information and communication technologies to health promotion, disease prevention, wellness, and epidemiological surveillance. Areas of emphasis include eHealth and mHealth, defined as the use of mobile and/or cellular phone technology in healthcare, health promotion, and health education.

The Center for Exercise Science (CES)
Director: Dr. David Vaillancourt
The researchers here are engaged in studies designed to improve our understanding of the basic mechanisms that underlie exercise-induced and rehabilitation-induced changes in the body at the organ, tissue, cellular and molecular level. The primary goal of scientists in CES is to improve human health by advancing knowledge through research, education, and technology in healthcare, with particular emphasis on the coordination of locomotion and balance. We apply biomechanical and neuropsychologic principles to understand aging, injury and disease processes (Movement Disorders) so that interventions (Behavioral: Exercise: Surgical: Deep Brain Stimulation; and Pharmacological) can be optimized to improve physical function and quality of life. Director: Dr. Chris Hass

Clinical Research — Established in 1995 and dedicated to research involving human clinical patients, the primary research focus of the Clinical Research Laboratory is heart disease, vascular disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus, and organ transplantation. Researchers study mechanisms of coronary disease, stroke, hypertension and heart failure. Patients are often studied before organ transplantation and tracked after transplantation to develop better therapeutic treatments. Director: Dr. Randy Brath

Integrative Muscle Biochemistry — The focus in this lab is on the prevention of skeletal muscle wasting. Five typical ways that individuals lose muscle are: (a) prolonged bed rest, (b) cancer, (c) congestive heart failure, (d) diabetes, and (e) ventilator machines to help breathing. Loss of muscle mass results in muscle weakness, fatigue, delayed recovery from illness and risk of disease. When respiratory muscles are affected, patients have an increased risk of lung complications requiring prolonged mechanical ventilation and extended stays in intensive care. Director: Dr. Scott Powers

Integrative Cardiovascular Physiology Laboratory
The research focus of this laboratory is in the area of clinical/translational cardiovascular physiology. It performs mechanistic biomedically-relevant human research from an integrative perspective using whole-body techniques (e.g. vascular and carotid ultrasound) complemented by cellular/molecular measures (protein levels in endothelial cells, mRNA levels in peripheral blood mononuclear cells, circulating blood markers and in vitro studies). Current research projects concentrate on humans at high risk for developing cardiovascular disease (i.e., aging, obesity, prediabetes/diabetes) and investigate:
- the changes in cardiovascular function (vascular endothelial function, arterial stiffness, and cardiac function) that occur with aging, obesity, prediabetes/diabetes
- the influence of physical activity and adiposity on these changes
- the mechanisms responsible for cardiovascular dysfunction (e.g., oxidative stress, inflammation, upregulation of the renin angiotensin aldosterone system)

• the efficacy of lifestyle and pharmacological interventions on improving cardiovascular function (e.g., exercise training, mineralocorticoid receptor blockade, angiotensin II type 1 receptor blockade)
Director: Dr. Demetra Christou

Laboratory of Basic and Clinical Muscle Biology
The main research focus of the laboratory is to understand mechanisms and develop new therapies for skeletal muscle weakness and atrophy in chronic diseases. Researchers in the lab also aim to understand mechanisms of muscle fatigue in health and disease states. We use an integrative approach with state-of-the-art techniques to study biochemistry and biophysics of contraction in intact muscles and single muscle fibers. Director: Dr. Leonardo Ferreira

The Laboratory of Rehabilitation Neuroscience
Our goal is to understand how the brain regulates movement and develop new tools for improving how the brain regulates movement. The laboratory studies human, rat, and mouse brain function and structure. We have numerous procedures that allow us to study upper and lower limb movements, perception of pain, longitudinal brain changes, and treatment interventions that include pharmacology, surgery, and exercise. Particular focus is on movement disorders, pain, and stroke. We use techniques that include functional magnetic resonance imaging, high density electroencephalography, diffusion imaging, fiber tractography, functional connectivity, electromyography, and kinetic and kinematic measurements. Co-Directors: Dr. David Vaillancourt, Dr. Stephen Coombs
Molecular Physiology of Skeletal Muscle Laboratory

Our goal is to understand the molecular basis of skeletal muscle adaptation and repair. These processes occur normally in response to activity or injury, but can be disrupted with the onset of neuromuscular disease. We routinely use viral gene delivery and transgenic mouse models to modulate key pathways of muscle regeneration, or to mimic clinical situations where muscle undergoes remodeling. These models can be evaluated at the cellular, whole muscle, and animal levels. We take advantage a wide variety of experimental tools, including muscle function testing, morphological examination by immunohistochemistry, gene expression changes, and post-translational alterations in critical signaling proteins. Ultimately this work will lead to improved quality of life in healthy individuals and those with disease. Director: Dr. Elisabeth Barton

Motor Behavior — This lab investigates people learning and controlling movements. Current research involves force modulation and variability, bimanual coordination theory, and coupled rehabilitation protocols for stroke motor recovery. Neuromuscular electrical stimulation combined with bilateral movements provides chronic stroke patients with improved motor capabilities as they try to execute movements required in daily living. Director: Dr. James Cauraugh

Muscle Physiology — This lab studies why and how muscle wasting occurs with disuse and other conditions that cause muscle loss. Specifically, the lab is trying to understand the mechanisms that control muscle wasting with the intent of developing nutritional and pharmacologic treatments for prevention. Director: Dr. Stephen Dodd

Neuromuscular Physiology Laboratory — This lab studies neuromuscular mechanisms that mediate acute perturbations (arousal, fatigue, and sleep) and chronic influences (aging, disease, training, and learning) to motor performance in humans. The clinical significance of this work relates to populations that have increased tremor and impaired accuracy, such as older adults and Parkinsonian patients. Director: Dr. Evangelos Christou

Performance Psychology — The mission of the Performance Psychology Laboratory is to understand how emotional reactions and emotion regulation influence motor performance. We study how emotions impact the attentional and motor mechanisms that underlie the actions of elite athletes and other performers. We also investigate the role of attention and emotion in anxiety and movement disorders. Director: Dr. Christopher Janelle

Sports Medicine — This lab investigates important clinical issues related to injury prevention and care for the physically active. Through research, the lab scientists strive to gain a better understanding of the neurological and mechanical behavior of articular structures, or joints, as it pertains to physical stress, bone or muscle injury, therapeutic intervention and clinical outcome. Director: Dr. Paul Borsa

Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute

Director: Dr. Daniel Fesenmaier

The Eric Friedheim Tourism Institute (EFTI) is a partner with the Tourism Crisis Management Institute, the National Laboratory for Tourism & eCommerce, and the International Laboratory for Sustainable Tourism Development, located at the University of Florida.

Under the leadership of EFTI, the research centers focus on a range of domain-specific issues vital to travel and tourism as they relate to the future of tourism. In particular, we offer a series of programs that will monitor trends related to tourism and include climate change and its impact on communities, tourism planning and development of resilient tourism communities, alternative strategies for crisis management, and the role of technology in shaping the tourism experience. EFTI is committed to supporting the initiatives of the UF College of Human and Health Performance, the Department of Tourism, Recreation and Sport Management through applied and academic research, EFTI learning centers and initiatives. The vision and mission of EFTI will be realized by becoming a leading voice in the Future of Tourism in Florida, the U. S. and internationally. EFTI will identify, discuss, conduct research, educate and train, and support the use of tourism as an agent of change caused by social, economic, technological and cultural forces in communities (and society at large) thereby improving the quality-of-life of its citizens.
The Graduate Student Advisory Council (GSAC)
The mission of GSAC is to support the academic needs and professional development of graduate students in the College of Health and Human Performance (HHP) and is composed of representatives from each department. GSAC depends on feedback to meet its mission and welcomes HHP graduate students to become active members, to attend meetings, and share feedback with GSAC representatives.

GSAC Initiatives
The following initiatives work to enhance the experiences of HHP graduate students:

- **GSAC hosts professional development series** throughout the year on topics related to academic and professional development. Each of the seminars involves faculty members from the College who discuss topics related to academics, research and/or professional development in higher education. Food and refreshments are provided for all attendees of the seminars. The following is a list of previous topics:
  - From One Graduate Student to Another: Tips for Academic, Professional, and Personal Success
  - Funding Scientific Research: Show Me the Money
  - Attending National Conferences: Tips on Presenting and Networking
  - The Three Publishable Paper Dissertation Option
  - You’re Hired! Obtaining Employment in Higher Education

- **GSAC provides representation** from all three departments at monthly Graduate Student Council meetings. Representation is required to be awarded GSC sponsored grants (i.e. Travel Grants and Mopp grants). Graduate students will not be awarded GSC funds if their respective department is not represented at monthly GSC meetings.
  - GSAC networks with HHP undergraduate student council on several joint initiatives including:
    - Involving undergraduates in the research process
    - Representation at BOCC meetings

- **GSAC collects and aggregates information and links to funding opportunities** available for graduate students. This information includes opportunities for research efforts and travel expenses to attend research conferences.

GSAC Representatives
Please contact any of the following GSAC members if you wish to get involved, have questions, comments or suggestions:

- Amanda Stone: stonaman@ufl.edu
- Mona Sayedul Huq: monahuq.ufl.edu
- Bingjie "Becky" Liu: icebecky@ufl.edu