

By Ashley Smith, Assistant Editor

It's not every day that someone goes out of their way to rent an apartment in

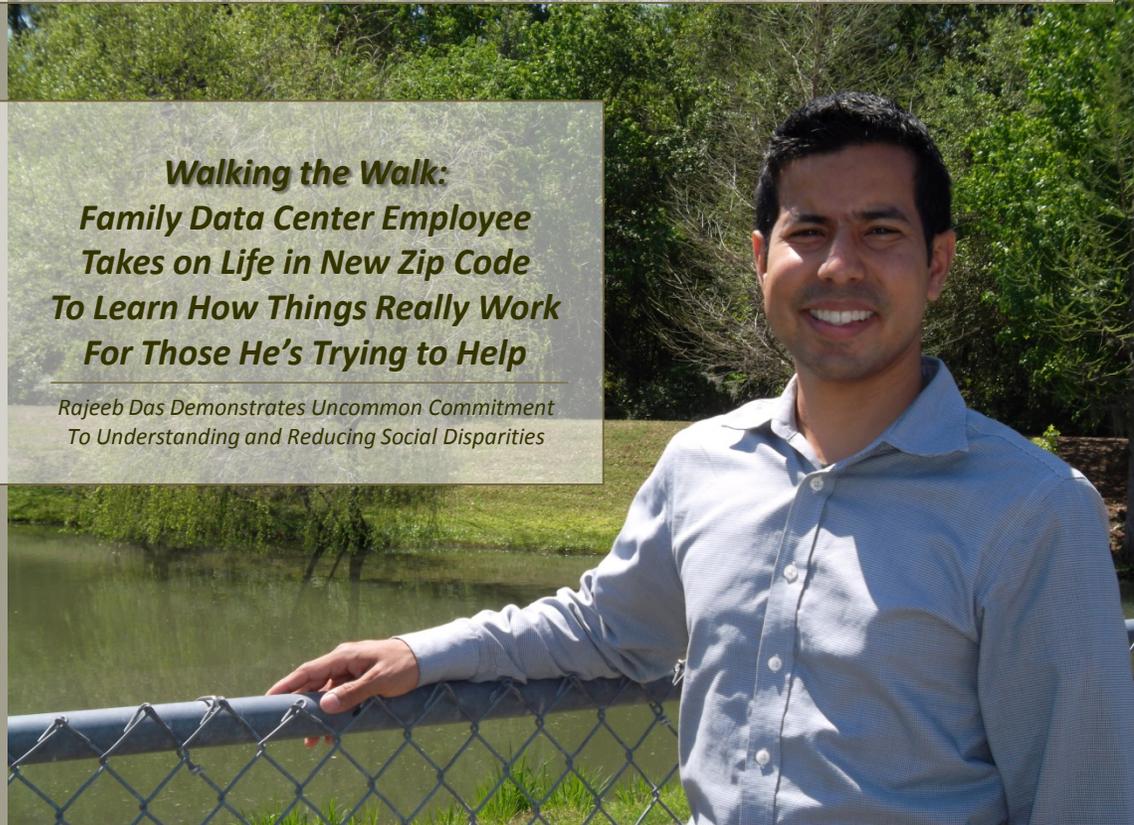
Good News for Kids

a different community to learn first-hand about the struggles of others. Rajeeb Das, an employee of UF's Family Data Center and doctoral student is someone who did, and his passion and volunteer work have had significant impacts in the community. He was honored with the Division's Superior Accomplishment Award for the community service category, and is in the running for the larger award given to UF Employees. What sparked all the interest in the work that he and others are doing?

*(Continued on page 11 as,
"Community Service")*

Walking the Walk: Family Data Center Employee Takes on Life in New Zip Code To Learn How Things Really Work For Those He's Trying to Help

*Rajeeb Das Demonstrates Uncommon Commitment
To Understanding and Reducing Social Disparities*



Welcome Readers



With the advent of spring and its wonderful newness comes growth and opportunity at many turns. This issue of *ON PAR*, our twelfth, will be the final issue in its current form. We are moving to a fully functional website platform in which articles will be uploaded on a regular basis. This means that information will reach readers in a more timely fashion, and invitations for upcoming scholarly and community activities will be available as they are announced. Our primary method of communication regarding these articles and announcements will be through our “*ON PAR Magazine*” Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ON-PAR-Magazine/257337410998680>. By ‘liking’ our page you’ll be automatically informed of updates to the magazine site as they’re completed.

This issue is also a special one due to the efforts of our Assistant Editor, Ashley Smith, who is completing an internship with us this semester. You can read her work throughout the magazine; feel free to drop us an email with your feedback. Thank you for your interest in our publication the last several years, and please continue to follow the wins of our Department through our new site, to be announced very soon.

*For the benefit of children,
Heidi Saliba*



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ON PAR Board Members:

Dr. Sanjeev Tuli

Dr. John Nackashi

Dr. Kathleen Ryan

Dr. Lindsay Thompson

ON PAR news magazine is edited by Heidi Saliba, Coordinator of Research Programs for Ped-I-Care and the Division of General Pediatrics at the University of Florida, College of Medicine.

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Calls for Abstracts, Papers and Case Reports

Journal or Organization	Web Link/Email Address	Deadline	Topics and Themes
39 th Annual Conference on Medical Student Education	http://www.stfm.org/stfmpresenter/submissionstart/start.cfm?confid=182	June 18	Conference tracks: Integrating competence and teacher evaluation; using digital tools to teach/assess students; new-faculty mentoring; recruiting, retaining and rewarding preceptors; interdisciplinary skills.
2012 HIV Diagnostics Conference	http://www.cvent.com/events/2012-hiv-diagnostic-conference/event-summary-7213a1d01a6341dbbf81115a21797240.aspx	September 21	Topics include 4 th Generation HIV-1/HIV-2 Immunoassay Screening, HIV Testing Algorithms in the Laboratory, HIV Testing Algorithms outside the Laboratory, HIV-1 Nucleic Acid Tests for Diagnosis and Prognosis, HIV-2 Testing, and Alternatives for Diagnostic Decision Making among others.
Pediatric Nursing 28 th Annual Conference	http://www.pedconference.net/abstracts	May 1	Call for research and clinical poster abstracts; research should identify a clinical problem; should describe, “practice-based projects related to pediatric nursing.”
13 th RCM International Symposium on Health Disparities	http://www.rcmibiennial.org/abstracts.html	May 4	Call for abstracts for oral and poster presentation: “Abstracts from all fields of biomedical research and others focused on issues related to minority health and health disparities are encouraged. Selected abstracts will be presented during poster sessions or oral presentations. Further, authors for selected abstracts will be invited to prepare an article for publication in <i>the Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved</i> .”
Society for Neuroscience	http://www.sfn.org/index.aspx?page=Name=FellowshipAndAwards&sea	June 1	Call for nominations for “...an outstanding neuroscientist who has made significant contributions to educating the public about neuroscience.”
<i>Academic Pediatrics</i>	Contact section editor Robert M. Jacobson at jacobson.robert@mayo.edu	Rolling	Call for submissions of “systematic reviews concerning health care delivery, public policy, education, and research methods. The new section creates a home for this form of scientific investigation.”
CHEST 2012	http://2012.accpmeeting.org/program/call-abstracts-and-case-reports	April 9	“...Submit an abstract of original investigative work for presentation as a slide or poster presentation during original investigation sessions. Accepted abstracts will appear online in a <i>CHEST</i> journal supplement featuring the CHEST 2012 abstracts and case reports.”

About the Assistant Editor



Ashley Smith is the new assistant editor of *ON PAR Magazine*. She is a senior at the University of Florida pursuing a degree in communication and leadership development with a minor in leadership.

She is originally from Jacksonville, Florida, and plans to pursue a career in public relations after graduation. She has prior experience with events

planning and campaigns as well as performing administrative duties in the Craniofacial Clinic. In her intern role she is responsible for writing, editing and helping plan the March and May issues.

Call for Submissions

Do you have a research celebration or announcement?
Is your not-for-profit children's organization holding a fundraiser?

Send the details to hsaliba@peds.ufl.edu to be considered for a listing in future editions of *ON PAR*.



UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Walk a Mile,
Protect a Child:
5K Walk/Run

Date: 04/21/2012

Time: 9:00 am

University of
Florida Child
Protection Team

"Walk a Mile, Protect a Child" is a 5k walk / run supporting the University of Florida Child Protection Team. When you register for Walk a Mile, Protect a Child you are helping to keep abused and neglected children in your community safe .

The Village at Haile Plantation
5100 SW 91st Terrace
Gainesville, FL 32608

7:30 am Registration
9:00 am Start

Register online at RaceIt.com, search Walk a Mile, Protect a Child
Call 352-334-1300 for more information or to become a sponsor

UF Craniofacial Center a Leader in Clinical Treatments, Patient Outreach and Scholarly Research

By Ashley Smith, Assistant Editor

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) nearly 5,000 of all the babies born every year in the US are born with a cleft palate. Here in Florida many parents and patients visit the University of Florida Craniofacial Center looking for answers. The Center was established in 1981 by The Florida Board of Regents, with the mission of helping those with facial differences so that their health concerns are addressed. The clinics take place every Thursday at the Medical Plaza.

Ginny Wood, Clinical Director and speech pathologist, has been with Center for more than 30 years and has seen first-hand the dedication that the staff has for their patients. “The UF Craniofacial Center uses a true interdisciplinary team approach in treating children with facial differences. This is the state-of-the-art approach but due to many factors, this is not always what is happening around the country. We are so fortunate at UF to have clinicians who make this clinic a priority in their weekly schedule and enjoy working and learning together,” she said.

Her involvement includes speech evaluations and therapy, clinical duties, administrative duties and the provision of counseling and feeding instructions for the parents of newborns.

Dr. Nackashi, Medical Director and Associate Professor, has contributed greatly to the success of the Center. He too has witnessed the dedication and success of the staff. “We have a great team of people who are mutually interested in taking care of children with various craniofacial malformations who along the way do research, teach and are involved nationally and internationally in many interesting venues,” he said.

(Continued on page 6 as, “Craniofacial Center”)



Above: *Ginny Dixon-Wood of the UF Craniofacial Center*

“The UF Craniofacial Center uses a true interdisciplinary team approach in treating children with facial differences... We are so fortunate at UF to have clinicians who make this clinic a priority in their weekly schedule and enjoy working and learning together,” said Wood.

Craniofacial Center, continued from page 5

In addition to its dedication to treating patients in clinic, the Center has proven itself through its advances in research. "Major achievements [include] conducting the largest funded craniofacial clinic trial in NIH history, one of the primary surgical procedures used to repair clefts worldwide was developed by a team member, five editions of a text on communicative disorders with cleft palate was initiated by a team member and involved much of the team and a long history of patient caring and teaching," said Nackashi. The Craniofacial program offers a family camp for patients and families to learn more and to meet with others who have similar challenges. A residential speech camp was developed by Ms. Dixon-Wood and includes training for UF speech students and practicing SLPs. The camps are funded by a grant from the Gooding Foundation. Henry Gooding and his wife, Lucy, established the foundation in 1988. The purpose of the foundation is to benefit children and provide relief services.

Team members have conducted work in Brazil and most recently in Kiev, Ukraine. Their international speech camp program offers four to six hours of therapy a day for four days. This program mirrors the UF Craniofacial Speech Camp Program. They were very successful in their previous trip and were asked to return in September with the help of a grant from the Smile Train.

The Craniofacial Center offers many services for their patients and families. "I encourage pediatricians to become aware of clinics in their area and refer to these professionals who support and use a true team approach," said Wood. For more than 20 years, patients have returned to the center because of the staff's dedication and consistently positive outcomes. For more information on the camps, visit http://www.cleft.ufl.edu/spec_prgs.html.

"We have a great team of people who are mutually interested in taking care of children with various craniofacial malformations who along the way do research, teach and are involved nationally and internationally in many interesting venues."

- Dr. John Nackashi



Center for Excellence in
Early Childhood Studies



Baby Gator Child Development and Research Center, The Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies & The Harn Museum present:



Guiding And Teaching
Our Remarkable Children
(G.A.T.O.R.)
A Conference for Parents
of Young Children



Parent workshops and presentations will provide you with information including topics such as:

- Early Childhood Education
- Child Growth and Development
- Parenting Strategies and many more!

Save the date
Saturday, April 28th, 2012
8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Harn Museum of Art
at the University of Florida,
Gainesville, Florida

Please join us for a full day of valuable information and resources for parents of young children, infancy through age five.



For more information visit www.babygator.ufl.edu,
or call (352) 273-8000.



Studio Percussion was founded in 2002 by Tobin Wagstaff and it is a 501-3c charitable music school. It was the subject of an Extreme Makeover Home Edition 2010 episode.

The school operates now out of a 2000-square foot facility and provides music education through percussion, piano and guitar. Studio Percussion's mission is to teach not only about music but life lessons through their services. Music and dance classes are available for all people.

(352) 338-8302 • www.studiopercussion.org
2512 NE 1st Blvd., Ste. 500, Gainesville, FL 32609

The Parents' Pages

By Ashley Smith, Assistant Editor

March is National Nutrition Month and the Month of Parenting. Visit <http://children.webmd.com/features/your-childs-nutrition-power-parents> to review tips on how to encourage kids to eat a healthy breakfast. The site also features ways to discuss good and bad habits and how to quickly make a healthy dinner. In addition to the site's own content, you'll find links to other articles relating to bedtime routines, help for upset tummies and other items.

Questions about Muscular Dystrophy or Other Diagnoses?

The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) has a direct link on their website to an informational sheet that discusses the different types of muscular dystrophy as well as the diagnosis and prognosis of the disease. This easy-to-understand, one-page printable document is available at <http://jama.ama-assn.org/content/306/22/2526.full.pdf+html?etoc>. The website also features other Patient Information Pages on topics such as child asthma and epilepsy surgery, available in both English and Spanish. The entire list of pages on various topics is available at http://jama.ama-assn.org/cgi/collection/patient_page.

Creative Rewards for Children

Best-selling author and leadership expert John Maxwell said that rather than earning an allowance by doing chores, his parents would pay him and his siblings to read books of their (parents') choosing. The result? The Maxwell children grew up well-versed in topics relating to life skills, money management, and personal and civic leadership. Maxwell recommends the practice as a tremendous investment for parents to make in their children's education.



Mikala W., age 4. Photo used with permission.

Remembering a Champion for Children

Congratulations to Norma Kerr, the 2012 winner of the Beverly Millard Award. Presented on Wednesday, March 7 before a crowd of co-workers, Kerr and others were recognized for their outstanding work on behalf of children. The award is given in remembrance of long-time Department of Pediatrics employee Beverly Millard, whose contributions still inspire those who worked closely with and were friends with her.



Above: Patti Flewelling, Ginny Wood, and Linda Carlson from the Division of General Pediatrics were among the nominees for the 2012 Beverly Millard Award.



Left: Bill Millard, husband of the late Beverly Millard and Norma Kerr, winner of this year's award, cut the cake at the celebration of Mrs. Millard and the award given in her honor.



Pediatrics Science Days 2012

College of Medicine Celebrates 30th Annual Event

Researchers, colleagues, friends, and passersby enjoyed the opportunity to share information regarding basic, clinical and translational research conducted in the Department of Pediatrics over the past year. The event, held March 8 and 9 at Founder's Hall in Shands, marked 30 years of research celebrations.



Above: Dr. Maria Kelly of the Division of General Pediatrics presents her research on tobacco education.



Below: Drs. Sharda Udassi and Becky Fudge discuss research conducted by pediatric hospitalists at UF & Shands.



Das, continued from page 1

While working on a mapping project designed to address the needs of the community, Das found an error in the system; much of the 32607 zip code of Gainesville was being left out of the atlas. Das made it his personal plan and mission to fix the error.

In making sure the 32607 area would be recognized and represented, he shocked many people by his next move. He rented out his apartment and moved into a different one in the area which needed help and attention. Dr. Nancy Hardt of UF Pathology and OB/GYN was impacted by Das' work and decision to move.

"I was astonished that he would make such a commitment to understand the challenges faced by the neighborhood," she said. "He came to work with stories of children wandering the neighborhood at all hours, police choppers circling overhead, random gunshots, and lack of infrastructure support for high numbers or vulnerable women and children."

By becoming part of the community he was able to be the voice that the neighborhoods needed. He attended SouthWest Advocacy Group (SWAG) meetings to find a solution to the problem. Das is also involved in many other community service projects that include participating in the Light up the Night program, attending Mentor Center Community Call to Action events, coordinating UF's School Health Interdisciplinary Program (SHIP), assigning volunteers to local elementary schools to teach in high-poverty areas, and leading the writing of grant applications to local, state, and federal agencies.

Das has affected not only those in his new neighborhood but also the communities and groups around him. City Commissioner Randy Wells was one of the people impressed by Das' volunteer work.

"When I think of community service, Rajeeb is the [prototypical] ideal citizen volunteer. His approach is to identify an important community need, organize a group of like-minded citizens who will cooperate to address the need, lay out a plan of action that draws on the entire group's ideas and abilities, and to demonstrate both absolute determination and flexibility to successfully implement that plan," he said.

Das' most recent involvement with community groups consisted of repairing and distributing bicycles for children in areas of need. Last Saturday, March 17, Das and volunteers from SWAG placed 28 bicycles and helmets into the hands of youths without vehicles and/or regular means of transportation.



Above: Dr. Nancy Hardt, Rajeeb Das, Dr. Jeffrey Roth, and Jill Bischoff of the Family Data Center celebrate Das' Superior Accomplishment Award.