

***MEDIA RELEASE***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**UF Student Health Care Center Receives AAAHC Accreditation**

GAINESVILLE, FL, July 28, 2008 – The University of Florida Student Health Care Center (SHCC) has achieved accreditation by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). Accreditation distinguishes the SHCC from many other health care facilities by providing a safe work environment and the highest quality of care to patients.

Status as an accredited organization means the UF SHCC has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care, set by the Accreditation Association. More than 3,600 ambulatory health care organizations across the United States are accredited by AAAHC. Not all ambulatory health care organizations seek accreditation; not all undergoing the on-site survey are granted accreditation. In fact, less than 15% of college health services are accredited.

“We believe our patients deserve the best,” stated Louise Okken, SHCC Quality Improvement Coordinator, who facilitated the accreditation. “When you see our certificate of accreditation, you will know that the AAAHC, an independent, not-for-profit organization, has closely examined our facility and procedures. It means that we as an organization care enough about our patients to strive for the highest care possible.”

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking accreditation by the AAAHC undergo an extensive self-assessment and on-site survey by the Accreditation Association’s expert surveyors – volunteer physicians, nurses and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory health care. The survey is consultative and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

“Going through the process challenges us to find better ways to serve our patients, and it is a constant reminder that our first responsibility is to our patients and the quality of care we provide,” said Dr. Phillip Barkley, Director of SHCC, “I commend our staff for working with such a high level of excellence and patience during our transition into a paperless world while keeping the focus on quality.”

**About the University of Florida Student Health Care Center**

The mission of the Student Health Care Center is to support the University of Florida's mission in becoming a national leader in research, education and service. The Student Health Care Center leads, collaborates and excels in the provision of comprehensive physical and mental health services through wellness promotion and compassionate and accessible care.

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## ACCREDITATION, PAGE TWO

### **About the University of Florida Student Health Care Center (cont'd)**

The UF SHCC holds accreditations from Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and College of American Pathologists (CAP). The SHCC is fully staffed with licensed and credentialed medical and mental health providers. For more information, visit their Web site at [shcc.ufl.edu](http://shcc.ufl.edu).

### **About the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC)**

Founded in 1979, the AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation with more than 3,600 organizations accredited nationwide. The AAAHC accredits a variety of ambulatory health care organizations, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery centers, endoscopy centers, college student health centers, and large medical and dental practices. The Accreditation Association serves as an advocate for the provision of high quality health care through the development of nationally recognized standards and through its survey and accreditation programs. AAAHC accreditation is recognized as a symbol of quality by third-party payers, medical organizations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies and the public.

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