

Jeanette M Gould Traveling Theater 2022-2023 Report

Executive Summary

The Jeanette M Gould Traveling Theater experienced tremendous growth and impact during its 2022-2023 inaugural year. We successfully piloted at Nemours Children's Hospital in Fall 2022, navigating virtual-only programming due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions. In Spring 2023, we engaged in our first in-person programming as we expanded to all three major children's hospitals in the Orlando area, adding Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital and AdventHealth for Children.

UCF students engaged as teaching artists, directors, designers, performers, curriculum designers, and program managers, with UCF alumni assisting as playwrights, videographers, and designers. Our student engagement grew by 91.6%, from 10 undergraduate and 2 graduate students in Fall 2022 to 20 undergraduate students and 3 graduate students in Spring 2023.



In its pilot year, we are proud to have accomplished the following:

- Facilitating three sixty-minute virtual creative drama sessions, led by UCF undergraduate students.
- Developing a digital scavenger hunt and activities kit, with both asynchronous and in-person engagement options. Featured at UCF Celebrates the Arts with over 30 youth participants.
- Producing *Alice and the Wonderland Parties*, a new play, shared digitally, live-streamed, and in person at hospitals, with an additional performance for approximately 40 students of varying abilities at UCP Bailes Community Academy Charter School.
- Designing post-show activities, facilitated with both small groups and during 45-minute individual bedside visits, led by UCF Theatre and Nursing students.
- Engaging 25 undergraduate students in the UCF School of Performing Arts and the UCF College of Nursing in transdisciplinary learning through invited lectures, cross-discipline seminars, and guided reflections, facilitated by Theatre and Nursing faculty.

Goals for 2023-2024 include:

- Expanding programming to serve the wide age ranges in children’s hospitals:
 - Atlanta-based artists Nicole B. Adkins and Scottie Rowell will engage UCF students developing *Let’s Go Camping!* an interactive performance for 2 to 5-year-olds, specially designed for bedside visits.
 - Through their coursework, UCF Themed Experience MFA candidates will develop an immersive escape room designed for middle and high school students.
- Continuing to build and formalize transdisciplinary experiences for Theatre and Nursing students, working towards the future goal of a new transdisciplinary course.
- Sharing out about the development of the JMG Traveling Theater through publications and conference presentations.



We are immensely grateful to the Gould Family for their vision and support in establishing the Jeanette M Gould Traveling Theater. The following quotes and photographs demonstrate the value of this program at UCF and in our broader community.

In gratitude,

Elizabeth Brendel Horn, Jeanette M Gould Traveling Theater Program Director

Dr. Azizeh Sowan, Chair, Department of Nursing Practice

Dr. Michele Butts, Nursing

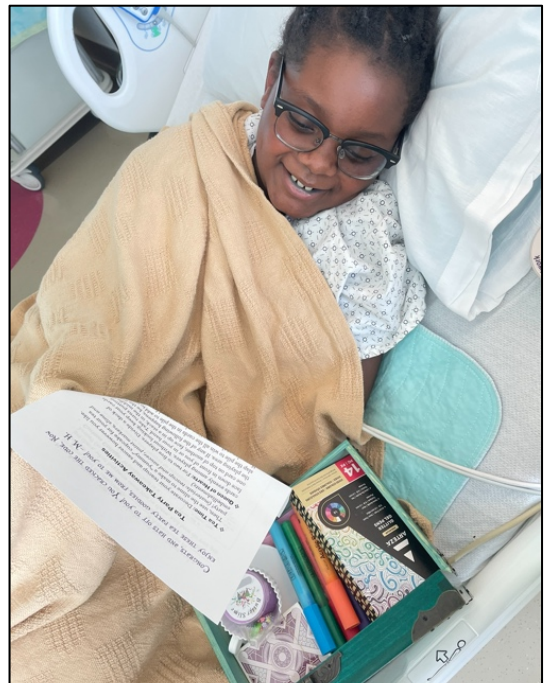
Dr. Maureen Covelli, Nursing



“Nothing could have prepared me for the absolute joy I would find in this course. I learned so much more than I expected to, and I am leaving with knowledge and hope for my future, as well as the future of this beautiful program.”

-UCF Theatre Student

Creative Drama Activities



Clockwise from top left: UCF student facilitates creative drama activity during a bedside visit; still image from digital component of scavenger hunt; patient at Nemours unlocks tea party activity box after completing scavenger hunt asynchronously; students present a “The Party Song” as part of the post-show activities.

The scavenger hunt, virtual workshops, and bedside visits have all given our patients opportunities to do something **fun** and **interactive** that helped **normalize** the hospital for them. **We are so grateful** and look forward to continuing to work with JMG in the future.

- Becca Scobee, Child Activity Coordinator, Nemours Children's Hospital

Performances



Clockwise from top left: UCF students in front of the green screen at The Seacrest Studio (Arnold Palmer) after their live-streamed performance; engaging patients in an interactive dance; an actor during our filmed performance; UCF students and children at UCP Bailes Community Academy Charter School.

“During the performance there was a little boy that came to watch in person. When the audience participation moments happened, he got so excited. He was **completely captivated** by the performance and **his face lit up** every time he got to participate. For the hour or so of the performance he was mesmerized. I don’t think I saw his eyes leave the performance once. I think **the impact these performances can have on patient outcomes are profound.**”

-UCF Nursing Student