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Spotlight: Gravitating to health care

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John Ricchini never saw himself working in a health care setting. In fact, the LaSalle University alum earned a bachelor's in accounting and finance and took his first job as an accountant at KPMG LLP. Fate took over, though, when he wound up working with a number of health care clients through KPMG.

Since that time, he has naturally taken a path that led toward health care administration. In August, he left his position as CEO of Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons in Austin, Texas, to take on the position of executive director at the Jacksonville Orthopaedic Institute.

As executive director, he said he is responsible for giving direction to the organization as it moves forward. Some of his goals moving forward include improving some of the internal processes for the rehabilitation provider, such as practice management and electronic medical records, which will go live in April 2013.

He said another goal is to continue JOI's reputation as the most respected orthopedic care provider in the area and to continue to work on the partnership between JOI and Baptist Health Care.

Naturally, one of his biggest challenges revolves around the many changes to health care and health care reform, changes that he said make him glad for the partnership with Baptist.

When asked what he enjoys the most about his work, Ricchini said he likes the entrepreneurial aspects of the job.

"It's a small business, so you can push in the direction you want," he said. "I enjoy the challenge because health care changes daily."

He also said he enjoys working with surgeons.

In addition to his work, Ricchini, who earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Florida in 1999, said he also enjoys continuing education and learning. That much is evident from the long string of acronyms after his name on his business card. He is a certified public accountant, a fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, a certified health care financial professional and a certified member of the American College of Medical Practice Executives.

When he's not studying or working, he said most of his free time revolves around his kids and his wife. He has a 7-year-old daughter and a 4-year-old son.

And, as any faithful University of Florida graduate would, he enjoys any and all Gator sports: baseball, basketball, football — any sport.

"I love them all," he said.

Lisa Lenda
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