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Dealing with H1N1 uncertainty

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service he opened McCarley and Company, a securities and investment banking company, in Asheville. It was the first North Carolina brokerage firm to become a member of the New York Stock Exchange, and by 1979 the company had grown to 17 offices in the Carolinas. McCarley and Company eventually joined forces with Interstate/Johnson Lane, which later joined Wachovia Securities. He retired from Wachovia Securities in 2003. He served as president of the Securities Dealers of the Carolinas and chairman of the Investment Bankers Association of the Mid-Atlantic States. Active with the Chamber of Commerce, United Way and YMCA, he was inducted into the Broker Hall of Fame in 1992.

Lillian Rainwater Glass '39, June 25, Florence, S.C. Her love of dance led her to study at the Schuster-Martin School of Drama in Cincinnati, Ohio, and with the corps de ballet of the Cincinnati Summer Opera Company. She also studied at The School of American Ballet and the Michael Fokine School of Ballet in New York. She returned to Florence and opened the Lillian Rainwater School of Dance. She was involved in local music, literary and garden clubs.

Mary Bolt Cole '40, June 6, Greenville.

Ruth League Traynham '40, June 11, Greenville. She worked at Halfacre-Osborne and Amy Pride clothing stores for many years until she retired at the age of 82. She was a member of the Greenville Historical Society.

Louise Gray '41, May 25, Columbia, S.C. She was employed by the Red Cross and the South Carolina State Forestry Commission. She also served as chief of social work at the South Carolina State Hospital. During the 1960s she led an effort for legal regulation of social workers in the state.

DEALING WITH H1N1 UNCERTAINTY

In higher education, few events have caused as much hand-wringing and hand-washing as H1N1.

As students flowed back to U.S. campuses this fall, college administrators mobilized emergency preparedness committees and began to pose questions that until recently were unthinkable:

- What happens if we close the campus?
- If we suspend classes, how are students going to make up the work?
- Should we quarantine infected students?

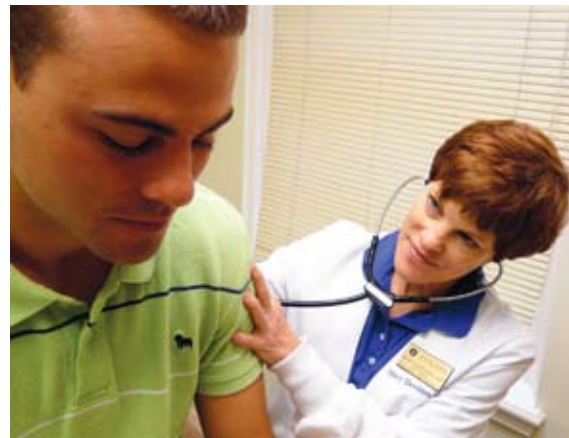
Through mid-October, Furman had experienced a moderate number of flu-like cases on campus, according to the university's student health services office. None of the cases reported had been confirmed as the H1N1 strain of the virus because of the way the state Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) does follow-up testing, concentrating on hospitalized patients.

The cases at Furman included students with Type A influenza and normal flu symptoms, such as a cough and fever.

While the H1N1 virus is milder than most strains of flu, college personnel, students and faculty are still concerned. Federal officials estimate that 30 percent to half of the U.S. population could catch the virus, with the potential for 30,000 to 90,000 deaths.

Still, many are skeptical about the disease's strength, and with reason. Nations in the southern hemisphere weathered the H1N1 flu season over the summer without much upheaval or calamity.

Connie Carson, vice president for student life at Furman, says intense media coverage — some of it sensational — often stokes public concern, particularly among parents.



JONATHAN BRITT

"There is nothing more important to someone than their children," says Carson. "Most people believe you should err on the side of caution. I think it's better to over-prepare and over-communicate to your community than the alternative."

No one can dispute that the virus is having an impact on some college campuses. At the University of Kansas, for example, some students infected with the strain were quarantined. Emory University isolated 50 students who had the H1N1 virus in a separate dormitory, where school workers brought them food. Closer to home, scores of students at South Carolina, Clemson and the College of Charleston have come down with flu-like symptoms.

Carson and her staff spent the fall emphasizing to students the importance of taking preventative measures. The university has also created a "Response to the H1N1 Virus" Web page, which is frequently updated, at www.furman.edu/influenza.

— JOHN ROBERTS

This article appeared in its original form in Inside Furman, the university's internal newsletter.