Time Line

1862: Endowment Act of Congress of 1862, instituting military organization and training at the University of Maryland.

1887: Creation of the Military Department. “…While this department is administered to honestly meet the requirements of law and to benefit the individual and the College, it is not permitted to interfere with other educational interests and duties, or encroach upon reasonable periods of recreation.”

1892: The Department of Physical Culture first appeared in 1892, with H. M. Strickler serving as head. “Sana mens, in corpora sano,” as motto. The first building a two-story structure that would house a gymnasium on the ground floor and a library above it was constructed partially due to the embarrassment the administration felt at having lost the college’s first football matches (to St. John’s by a score of 50-0, and 62-0 to Johns Hopkins).

1898: Description of The Department of Physical Culture (UMD 1898 Course Catalog):

(Diamond Back Online, 10/12/05, Athletic Evolution)
"The physical culture of the students is provided by a regular course of instruction in the gymnasium, under the direction of a professor of athletics. The course is carefully planned, so as to develop gradually and scientifically the physical powers of each student. Beginning with the simplest calisthenic exercises, the instruction covers the whole field of light and heavy gymnastics and field and track athletics.... The equipment and arrangement of the gymnasium is very complete, and the interest manifested by the students is a sufficient proof of the success of this department. While desiring to make the work in the gymnasium of practical value to all students, the required work only extends to the Preparatory, Freshman, and Sophomore years."

1912: First courses offered.
- 330. Gymnasium Work – Scientific body building, with light gymnastics
- 331. Hygiene – The care of the person in its relation to physical well-being.
- 332. Gymnasium Work – Scientific body building, with heavier gymnastic work.

Campus wide fire that destroyed the barracks where the students were housed, all the school's records, and most of the academic buildings, leaving only Morrill Hall untouched. The loss was estimated at $250,000, despite no injuries or fatalities. The devastation was so great that many never expected the university to reopen. University President Richard Silvester resigned.

1914: Director of the program became Harry Clifton Byrd. He eventually became the president of the University of Maryland, sometimes referred to as the "Father of the University of Maryland." He also served as the Football Coach, starting in 1912).

1915: Harry Clifton “Curly” Byrd became the Athletic Director.

1916: Women are first admitted to the University.
1919: New mandatory courses were implemented. College Description (UMD 1919-1920 Course Catalog):

“Upon opening of College in the fall, athletics will be conducted under a plan of organization tending to give every student an opportunity to take part in some branch of competitive sports. The whole Department of Physical Training is being reorganized so that students will receive a comprehensive development along natural lines. The preliminary part of the work will consist of squad drills in calisthenics and a thorough examination by a competent physician. The squad drills are to be supplemented by intra-mural athletics, with class organizations as the units.”

1920: The department was re-titled “The Department of Physical Education and Recreation.”

1921: College Description (UMD 1921-22 Course Catalog):

"The Department of Physical Education and Recreation has been organized to control all physical training, recreation, intramural, and intercollegiate athletics. All work is closely co-ordinated and the ideal is to see that every man in the institution gets opportunities to take part in competitive sports.

For the present practically all general training, such as comes under the head of gymnastics and squad exercises, is conducted under the direction of the Military Department."

1922: New athletic facilities were built. The Women’s first rifle club was created by Adele H. Stamp.

1924: The, then new, gymnasium and stadium, now known as Old Byrd, were opened to use. Together they gave the University the most modern athletic facilities in the South.

1928: Course description for women first made its appearance. This program was under the direction of Miss Stamp and Miss Phillips. The facilities available to students were now broadened to include a “modern” gymnasium, two athletic fields, and additionally, tennis courts.

1929: First women's athletics director: Virginia Peasley.

1931: The department was re-titled “Department of Physical Education and Recreation.”
1930: The first women’s soccer team was created.

1932: The course description first appeared for men, four years after the first appearance of the program for women.

1933: The Department was renamed “Department of Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics.” (UMD 1933-34 Course Catalog):

"The purpose of the program of physical education at the University is broadly conceived as the development of the individual student. To accomplish this purpose, physical examination and classification tests are given the incoming students to determine the relative physical fitness of each student. Upon the basis of the needs disclosed by these tests, and individual preferences, students are assigned to the various activities of the program.

The University also maintains curricula designed to train men and women students to teach physical education and coach in the high schools of the State."

1949: The College of Military Science, Physical Education, and Recreation was created. (UMD 1949-1950 Course Catalog):

"The College of Military Science, Physical Education and Recreation, has been established to provide leaders for the Nation and State in the fields of Military Science, Physical Education, Recreation, and Health Education. Work is given in each of these four fields leading to a Bachelor’s Degree and students with majors in other colleges may elect to take minors in these subjects. The length of the normal curriculum for each area of study is four years."

1950: The College of Military Science, Physical Education, and Recreation was dissolved, and the Department of Physical Education was once again in the College of Physical Education, Recreation, and Health. Lester M. Fraley was Appointed by Dr. Harry C. "Curley" Byrd as the first Dean of the College. He served for 22 years in that position.

1944: the curriculum expanded to include coursework in therapeutics and kinesiology (now called biomechanics).

1951 and 1952: students earned the first M.A. and Ed.D. degrees, respectively.

1958: One course in Kinesiology offered for Advanced Undergraduates and Graduates:
“P.E. 100, Kinesiology (4)
First and second semesters and summer. Three lectures and two laboratory hours a week.
Prerequisite: Zool. 1, 14, and 15, or the equivalent. The study of human movement and the physical and physiological principles upon which it depends. Body mechanics, posture, motor efficiency, sorts, the performance of atypical individuals, and the influence of growth and development upon motor performance are studied.”

1962: the Ph.D. degree emerged.
1971: Marvin K. Eyeler was appointed the Dean of the College of Physical Education, Recreation, and Health. He served for 11 years.

1972: Title IX was passed.

1973: The University eliminated “required” physical education as a condition for graduation and in its place began an “elective” program.

1974: The Department had the first degree in “Kinesiology” in the United States.

“Kinesiological Sciences Curriculum: This program is designed for those students who are vitally interested in the fascinating realm of sport and the human activity sciences, but not necessarily interested in preparing for teaching in the public schools. The body of knowledge explored by this curriculum may be described briefly as follows:

- The history of sport, both ancient and contemporary, its philosophical foundations and the study of social factors as they relate to human behavior.
- Biomechanics, exercise physiology, the theoretical bases and effects of physical activity, neuromotor learning and the psychological factors inherent in physical performance.
- The quantification and description of performance and the relation of these factors to human development.

The program makes possible the broad use of elective credit so that various student interests may be combined on an interdisciplinary basis. With such possibilities available, graduates could reasonably set their sights on occupations in the paramedical fields, such as stress testing and human factors, athletic involvements such as trainers, scouts, sport publicists, or advance to further studies in therapies, as well as graduate work in physical educations and allied fields.”

Photo of the Faculty of the Department of Physical Education in 1974 (University Archives)
1982: George Kramer was appointed Dean of the College. He served for two years, however, he was affiliated with the University of Maryland and the College of Health and Human Performance from 1950 through 1998.

1985: John Burt was appointed Dean of the College. His tenure would last thirteen years and cover one of the most rapidly changing times in the College’s history.

1986: Description of Kinesiology Program:

“Kinesiological Sciences Program: This curriculum offers student the opportunity to study the body of knowledge of human movement and sport and to specifically choose programs of study which allow them to pursue a particular goal related to the discipline. There is no intent to orient all students toward a specialized interest or occupation. This program provides a hierarchical approach to the study of human movement. First, a core of knowledge recognized as being necessary for all students in the curriculum. These core courses are considered foundational to advanced and more specific courses. Secondly, at the “options” level, students may select from two sets of courses which they believe will provide the knowledge to pursue whatever goal they set for themselves in the future. To further strengthen specific areas of interest, students should carefully select related studies and course electives. Goals and Objectives: The primary goal of the Kinesiological Sciences Program is to provide a well-rounded, scholarly understanding of the body of knowledge related to human movement. The program core includes exploration of the scientific bases and philosophical and historical knowledge of movement. From this broad knowledge the program is to provide for flexibility so that a student may pursue a variety of areas related to physical activity and sport.”

1989: The Department changed its name to “Kinesiology,” though it still offered two undergraduate degree programs to satisfy different needs of students: Physical Education or Kinesiological Sciences.

The College also underwent a name change to the “College of Health and Human Performance.” This name change, though popularly supported, was opposed by the School of Medicine for containing the word “health,” despite the previous name of the college also containing the word health.

1999: Jerry P. Wrenn became Dean of the College. He would serve three years in the position before his retirement a year later.

2002: Robert S Gold was appointed Dean.

2005: One Hundredth and Fiftieth Anniversary of the College.

“Kinesiological Sciences Major (Description): This curriculum offers student the opportunity to study the interdisciplinary body of knowledge related to human physical activity and sport and to pursue specializations so that each individual can prepare for a particular career goal within the broad discipline. There is no intent to orient all students toward a specialized interest, orientation, or career. However, many currently enrolled students are pursuing careers in medically-related fields (i.e., physical therapy, physician, chiropractor) and in the fitness industry (i.e., corporate fitness, personal training, fitness club management) as well in the sport industry (sport management, sport
marketing, events management, equipment sales, athletic director). The program provides a hierarchical approach to the study of human movement. First, a broad core of knowledge is recognized as being necessary foundations to advanced and more specific courses. Secondly, at the “Options” level, students select from approved upper level KNES courses which they believe will provide the knowledge to pursue whatever goal they set for themselves in the future. To further strengthen specific areas of interest, students should carefully select electives.”

2008: The College was renamed the School of Public Health.

Home of the Department, today.