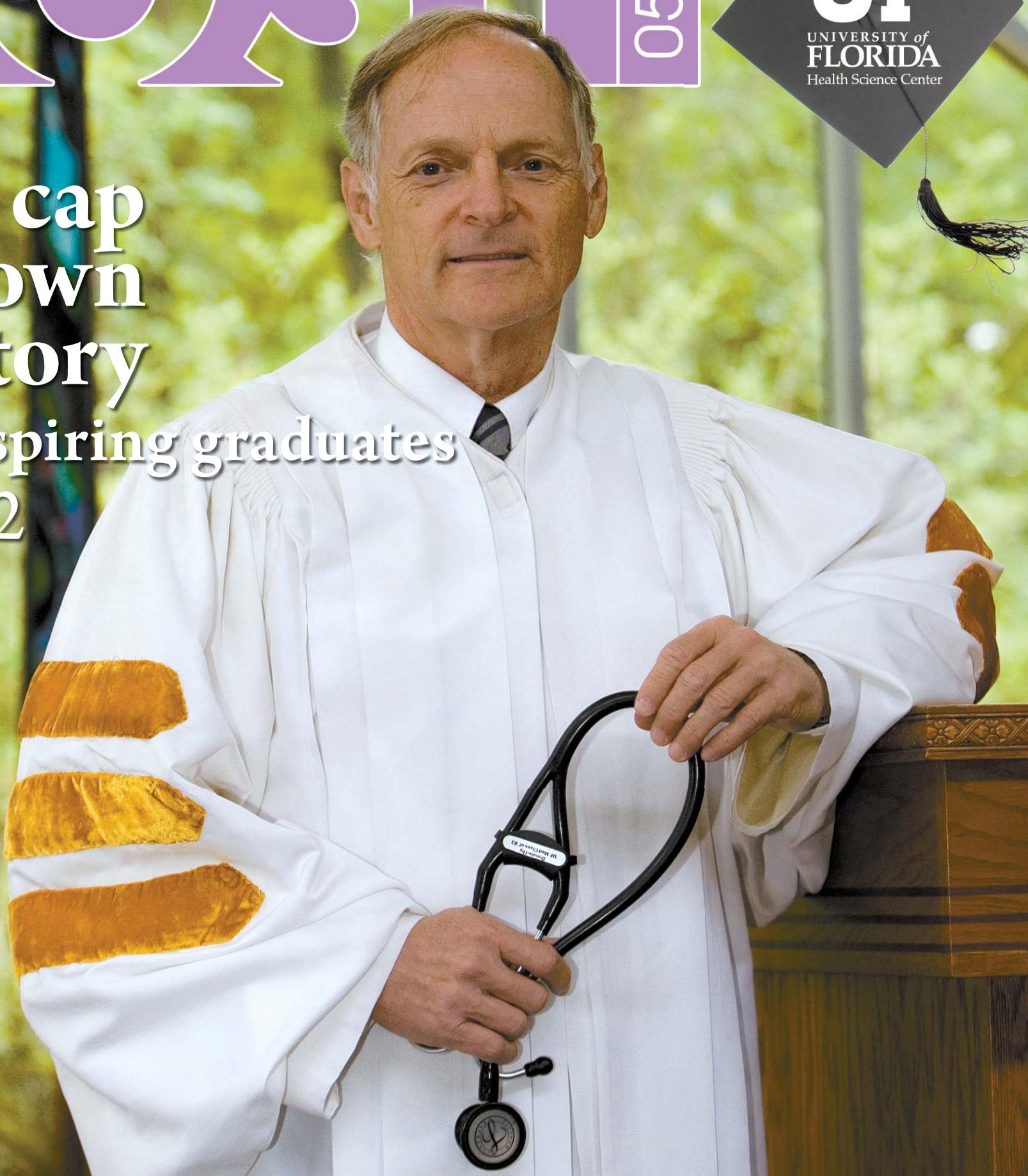


# THE POST

05•07

UF  
UNIVERSITY of  
FLORIDA  
Health Science Center

A cap  
A gown  
A story  
Six inspiring graduates  
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dean dies

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bugs

Peace corps **23**  
professor

## On the Cover

Dean Chapman, 56, will graduate this month from the UF College of Medicine. A former pastor who traded in a 20-year career for a white coat and scrubs, Chapman is one of many HSC students who inspired his classmates and professors during his time on campus. Photo by Sarah Kiewel.



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## Tuning in to the HSC's 'big picture'

By Tom Fortner

In biology, there's the anterior view, the posterior view and the lateral view. And then there's the view from the top.

Doug Barrett wants to make sure his view of the Health Science Center's strategic priorities are communicated to faculty and staff. So he's started a periodic column that's being published on the web. It's called "The View From Here," and the first installment can be seen at [www.health.ufl.edu/BarrettsView/](http://www.health.ufl.edu/BarrettsView/).

"The Health Science Center is both vast and diverse," said Barrett, senior vice president for health affairs. "I hope to use this column to focus on the things we have in common — the most important of which is our progress toward strategic goals."

The inaugural issue of the column was posted April 12. It covered the leadership transition at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the progress of the HSC toward having a diverse and equitable campus, and the need to diversify and strengthen HSC funding sources.

Barrett said he is aiming to write the column once a month, but may do the occasional special issue if circumstances warrant. He intends for it to complement other communication vehicles, including housewide e-mail announcements, management memos and (of course!) the POST.

He doesn't expect it to be strictly a one-way communication tool. A feature on the Web site allows readers to suggest a topic or just discuss whatever is on their minds.

"The feedback I get may turn out to be the most important part of it," Barrett said.

### UP FRONT

**DOUG BARRETT, M.D.**

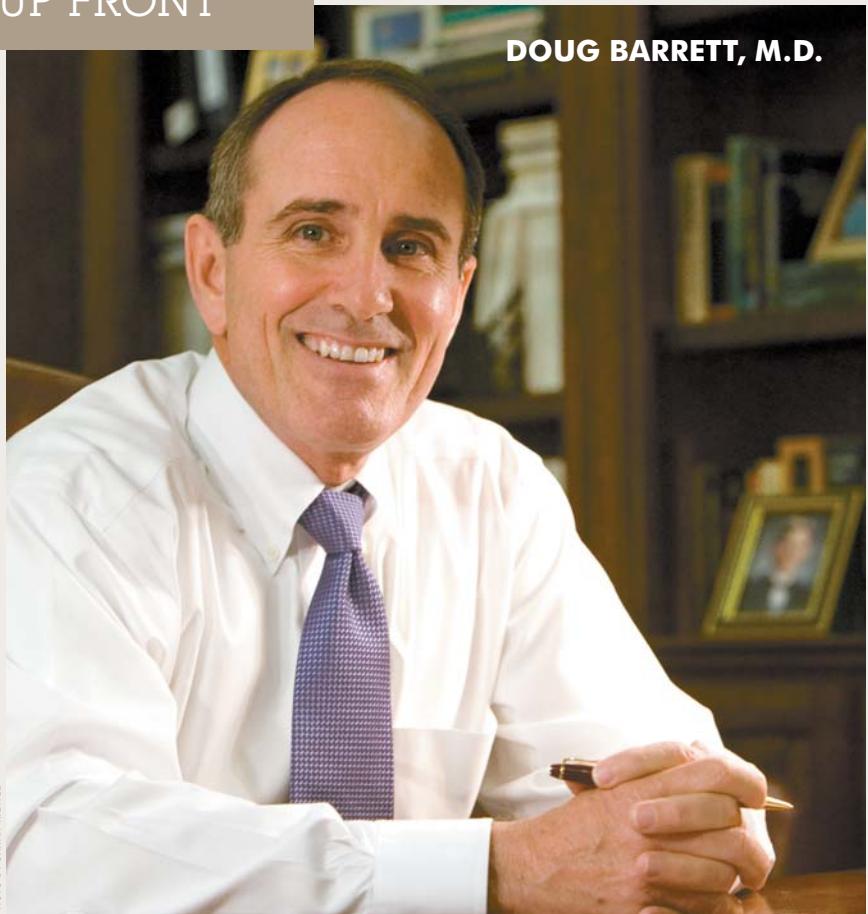


PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

# Post it

## Is there a pharmacist in the House?

Would you believe 60 were? On April 4, a committee hearing room in the Florida House of Representatives was transformed into a sea of white pharmacy coats when students from the College of Pharmacy's four campuses traveled there to support a bill authorizing pharmacists to administer flu shots. Currently, 44 states allow pharmacists to immunize patients.

UF graduating pharmacy students Todd Rosen and Suzy Ray testified to the House Healthcare Council along with a Nova Southeastern University student.

"In 10 years of advocacy, I have never seen such cohesion of the profession and interest by our young future practitioners," said Michael Jackson, R.Ph., executive vice president for the Florida Pharmacy Association. "Their skills at parrying very tough questions demonstrated their complete knowledge of the issue."

The bill calls for pharmacists to follow written protocols under a physician's supervision. The Florida Legislature is expected to vote on the issue this month.



## Expect BIG changes from small science

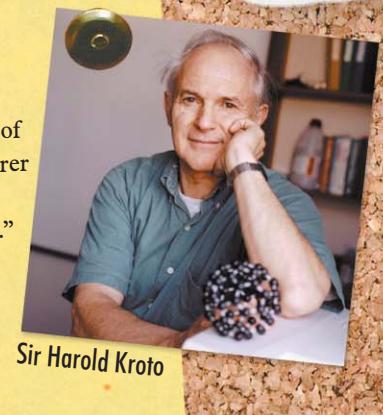
Nanotubes, nanotransporters, nanochips, nanoparticles, nano this, nano that ...

With nanometers at one billionth of a meter, nanotechnology is what some have labeled the science of small. But, to many, the probability of nanotechnology producing itty-bitty nanobots that help heal the body from the inside out seems even smaller. Have you heard the one about teeny-weeny nanogenerators that produce electricity from vibrations made as blood flows through vessels? How about the big-fish story of an inexpensive plastic solar sheet made of nanofibers that captures the sun's energy on virtually any surface?

It's no tall tale ... these developing nanotechnologies are already here. Hundreds more are coming soon. Now, it's up to scientists and engineers to put nanotechnology to work to improve the human condition and to create a sustainable society.

That was the message of Sir Harold Kroto, Nobel laureate, fellow of the Royal Society, Florida State University professor and co-discoverer of the carbon molecule that established the foundation for modern nanoscience — C<sub>60</sub> Buckminsterfullerene, known as the "Buckyball."

Kroto's was the keynote address of the College of Dentistry's 5th Annual Research Day April 13. Delivered to a standing-room-only audience in the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex, Kroto's presentation can be viewed online at [www.dental.ufl.edu](http://www.dental.ufl.edu).



Sir Harold Kroto



## Legwarmers for charity

No, you didn't miss a meeting of the Olivia Newton-John fan club. UF College of Nursing students donned their best 80s'-approved workout gear to raise money at this year's American Cancer Society Relay for Life. It worked; the students raised more than \$1,500 and were named "Most Spirited Team." Shown here, from top left are Jessica Fletcher, Kathleen Gribbon, Anne Svercek, Mari Zabaleta, Stephanie Byrd, Gabrielle LoFranco, Melissa Jacquelin, Emily Holtzclaw, Katie Buckey, Emily Ryan, Elida Benitez, Jessica Golden, Louisa Chen and Andrea PeBenito.

## Answer this...

Twelve teams were in pursuit of the trivia contest title at the second annual PHHP Trivia Night held April 11. Teams of faculty, staff and students representing the college's departments squared off to see who knows the most about Florida history, pop culture, science, sports and health. Ultimately, the dean's office team — with members Philip Chase, Cathy Di Lena, Geof Gowan, Jill Pease and Heather Steingraber — was declared the winner. Through entry fees, Trivia Night helped the college's graduating class of 2007 raise \$1,210 toward a class gift, which the students plan to present to the college at commencement on May 3.

Test your knowledge below:

FH

### FLORIDA HISTORY

Q: What is the official state beverage of Florida?

PC

### POP CULTURE

Q: Who sang "Things Go Better with Coke" in 1969 before switching to Pepsi in the 1980s?

SC

### SCIENCE

Q: An ounce of gold can be stretched into a wire how many miles long?

SP

### SPORTS

Q: Singer Frank Sinatra's nickname was "Chairman of the Board." What baseball player also had this nickname?

H

### HEALTH

Q: What is the name of a common over-the-counter medicine that is magnesium sulfate?



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEVEL

Dr. Philipp Dahm, a UF associate professor of urology (center), observes a prostatectomy on a monitor as Dr. Shawn West, a surgical resident (far right), guides the robot's suction arm. Dr. Sijo Parekattil (not shown) performed the surgery from a nearby console using the da Vinci robotic system.

# Paging Dr. Roboto?

## New robotic system helps UF surgeons perform less invasive operations

By Kimberly Jamerson

If you walk into an operating room at Shands at UF you'll typically find a team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and technicians. Now urology patients are the first to benefit from a new, high-tech set of hands — the robotic da Vinci surgical system.

Yep, it's a robot, although this \$1.4 million surgical system doesn't have much in common with R2D2 or C3PO from Star Wars.

Designed to enable complex, minimally invasive surgeries, the da Vinci system consists of three main components: a patient table with four interactive robotic arms, an endoscopic camera and video system that transmits 3-D images from inside the body, and a surgeon's console.

Sitting at this console, the surgeon views the procedure through binocular-style lenses and manipulates the robotic arms using stirrup-like controls that respond to finger and wrist movements. The robotic arms are equipped with miniature surgical tools

and cameras and are inserted into the patient through four small abdominal incisions. The surgeon's hands never enter the patient.

Laparoscopy, a standard form of minimally invasive surgery, uses similar small-scale tools the surgeon guides using long handles while viewing the procedure with a two-dimensional camera.

Sijo Parekattil, M.D., an assistant professor of urology in the College of Medicine, has performed both types of surgeries. The da Vinci provides several advantages over traditional laparoscopy, he said.

"This system gives us a more natural depth of field and higher magnification capabilities," said Parekattil, also a co-director of the UF robotic surgery program. "It also has jointed-wrist controls that mimic the human range of motion and a computer system that allows us to adjust the size of our hand movements. These features allow us to perform more complex procedures with increased precision."

Parekattil performed the first procedure using the da Vinci system at UF in March. Johannes Vieweg, M.D., the chairman of the department of urology, said urologists will use the robot to perform various prostate and kidney surgeries until Shands approves it for other uses.

Parekattil is fellowship-trained in robotic and minimally invasive surgical techniques. He said robots have been used to perform thousands of minimally

invasive procedures around the world and the trend is shifting toward robotic procedures. He has used the da Vinci to treat men with prostate cancer.

"Until 2006, the majority of prostatectomies were performed either through traditional or laparoscopic surgery," Parekattil said. "Now, more than 50 percent of all prostatectomies are being done robotically. This results in quicker recovery times, less pain and scarring, and virtually bloodless procedures for the patients."

At Shands at UF, surgeons are going a step further and are using the robotic-assisted technology to perform a nerve-sparing technique known as hydro-dissection. During hydro-dissection, surgeons use a tool that looks like a water pick to separate surrounding muscle and tissue from the prostate and tumors. This limits the number of incisions needed.

Parekattil said clinical studies suggest the da Vinci may help surgeons provide better outcomes for patients than conventional technologies allow, but none of them address the use of hydro-dissection.

"By combining hydro-dissection with the increased precision of the robot we think we will be more successful at preventing damage to the nerves surrounding the prostate and tumors," Parekattil said. "We hope to see better cancer control and a lower incidence of impotence and incontinence. We are excited to be able to offer this option to our patients." P



# A life to remember

## College of Nursing dean emeritus passes away



By Tracy Brown and Stephanie Fraiman

**L**ois J. Malasanos, Ph.D., R.N., always wanted her nursing professors to feel special. As the third dean of the UF College of Nursing, Malasanos spent much of her time caring about and helping each faculty member, remembered alumna Faye Medley, M.S.N., R.N.

"There are so many memories of Dr. Malasanos," said Medley, a UF clinical assistant professor of nursing since 1987. "I particularly remember that each year she would meet with every faculty member to tell us how much she appreciated all we did. She would always say 'What can I do for you?' She truly was an inspirational leader."

Malasanos, who served as dean of the college for 15 years, died April 22 after complications from surgery. She was 79.

After serving as dean from 1980 through 1995, Malasanos stepped down to devote herself to teaching and research and served on the college's faculty until 2003. According to professors in the college, she was extremely devoted to her students and to teaching.

"Another part of her legend was her tirelessness and driving to both the Jacksonville campus and the Orlando campus in the same day to teach, returning to Gainesville from Orlando about midnight," said Jodi Irving, M.S., A.R.N.P., an alumna and assistant professor of nursing. "She did this for several semesters. She loved to teach and students loved her."

Shortly after her retirement, Malasanos, who received her doctorate in physiology from the University of Illinois, was named a dean emeritus at UF.

"Dean Emeritus Malasanos was an extraordinary leader for the UF College of Nursing," said Kathleen Ann Long, current College of Nursing dean. "She initiated the College's Ph.D. program, the first such program in Florida, and had a significant role in advancing nursing research and science."

Malasanos was able to make many positive changes to the college from her first day. When she was interviewing for the dean's position, the College of Nursing was struggling financially. One part of the interview process was a brown bag lunch where faculty would have an informal meeting with the candidate.

"I was assigned to make the sandwiches for the candidates and bring their brown bags," Irving said. "After Dean Malasanos was hired, she assured me that we would have money in the future to order lunch for all, and I could be relieved of my lunch duties."

Malasanos was a leader in academic nursing with a rich background in education, research and service. She was the author of more than 100 articles in nursing literature, as well as a major textbook, *Health Assessment*. First published in 1977, it became widely known internationally and was reissued in four editions.

During Malasanos' tenure as dean, she strengthened faculty research, expanded the college's master's degree program from five to 13 specialties and implemented Florida's first doctoral program in nursing in 1984. At the time, doctoral programs were still very new, and only 24 programs existed in the country.

Malasanos led the college in establishing satellite campuses in Jacksonville and Orlando, and in increasing the number of faculty from 42 to more than 70.

Malasanos was a strong leader for nursing at the state and national levels. She chaired the National League for Nursing's Council of Baccalaureate and Higher Degree Programs from 1987 to 1989, and she was a fellow and past board member of the American Academy of Nursing and a board member of the Florida Nurses Association. She was appointed to the State Board of Nursing by former Gov. Bob Graham and chaired the board's education committee.

"Much will be said in the next days and weeks about Dean Malasanos and her many accomplishments and her legacy to the College of Nursing and to the profession at large. And all of that is very important, for she was indeed a leader and a visionary," said Sandra Fields Seymour, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., also an alumna and a UF associate professor of nursing. "I think we would be remiss if we did not also remember that she was a woman who had a great sense of humor and an uncanny ability to ferret out the best restaurants and outlet malls in any given city. Her legacy is large, but we should not forget the twinkle in her eye." **P**

# Parents open door to drinking for many teens

By April Frawley Birdwell

The gateway to drinking often swings open at home. Instead of keeping their kids locked out of the liquor cabinet, parents turn out to be the primary suppliers of alcohol to young adolescents, according to a new study from UF and the University of Minnesota.

Until now, many suspected older friends were the source of the booze the middle-school set imbibes. Although some young teens do discover beer or whiskey with friends or at parties, most kids get their first drink from mom and dad at home, the study states. The findings appeared in a recent online issue of the journal *Preventive Medicine*.

Researchers surveyed 4,000 12- to 14-year-olds in Chicago between 2002 and 2005. About 17 percent of 12-year-olds said they had consumed a full alcoholic drink within the past year — and 33 percent of them reported their parents gave them their last drink. That didn't include teens who just had sips of alcohol or the 4 percent of children who took it from home without their parents' knowledge, said Kelli Komro, Ph.D., M.P.H., a UF associate professor of epidemiology and health policy research and the paper's senior author.

"This study clearly shows it's very important to educate parents about the consequences of the early onset of drinking, to try to prevent them from being a source of alcohol for their children," Komro said. "There's a whole long list of alcohol-related problems that are related to young people drinking."

Alcohol is the most abused drug in the United States, and



PHOTO BY SARAH KIESEL

**KELLI KOMRO, Ph.D.**

drinking at a young age heightens the risk of being involved in car crashes, sexual assault and violence, UF researchers say. According to a 2007 U.S. Surgeon General report, adolescents who drink by the time they are 15 — about half of all teens — are more likely to have trouble in school, suffer from alcohol dependence later in life and smoke cigarettes and use other drugs than those who don't. Even worse, exposure to alcohol at a young age may damage the developing brain, the report states.

In most states, parents can legally provide alcohol to their children inside the home. Some parents may do this because of cultural or religious events, but Komro said she thinks parents should be cautious about the message this sends to teens.

Although parents are the primary source of alcohol for 12-year-olds, other adults over 21 are more likely to be a 14-year-old's main supplier. By the time adolescents reach 14, 33 percent reported having a drink within the past year, and the largest percentage of these teens said they got their last drink from another adult over 21.

Although prevention programs have significantly curbed smoking and drug use in adolescents, alcohol use among adolescents has dipped only slightly, Komro said.

"It's one of the toughest behaviors to change in our culture because it's so culturally accepted among adults," Komro said. "For prevention researchers such as myself, it's one of our challenges to try to get those rates reduced."

Education programs need to be designed to target both younger children and their parents, said Rhonda Jones-Webb, Dr.PH., an associate professor of epidemiology at the University of Minnesota who was not involved with the study.

"The perception has been that kids get alcohol from other kids or older adults," said Jones-Webb, also co-chairwoman of the health disparities work group at the university. "Perhaps some parents aren't even aware of the problem." P



# Two continents, one goal

## UF and Chinese leaders partner to improve pharmacy education



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Top administrators from China's Fudan University (left) observe an advanced pharmacotherapy class at UF, where students practice their patient interviewing skills during a role-playing session. Shown from left are: Zhiping Li, pharmacy division head at Children's Hospital; Deyong Ye, vice dean, School of Pharmacy; Yizhun Zhu, dean, School of Pharmacy; Shaode Qin, chancellor; Yinzhang Chen, director of foreign affairs; and Mingkang Zhong, pharmacy division head, Huashan Hospital.

Below, from left, Ken Hall, a video technology consultant to UF, joined College of Pharmacy educators Diane Beck, Sven Normann and Julie Henderson on a tour of Fudan University to investigate distance education opportunities in China.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

By Linda Homewood

This spring, East met West at UF as pharmacy educators bridged distance and cultural barriers to pursue a shared goal: advancing the pharmacy profession on a global scale through education.

UF College of Pharmacy Dean William Riffee, Ph.D., welcomed pharmacy educators from China in February and in turn, Fudan University School of Pharmacy Dean Yizhun Zhu, Ph.D., M.D., hosted UF pharmacy educators at his new campus facility in Shanghai the following month.

Continuing discussions that began last fall with the help of the UF Center for International Studies in Beijing, the meeting at UF focused on how the two institutions might partner to advance Chinese clinical pharmacy education while fostering graduate research opportunities between the two schools.

Nine Shanghai educators from Fudan University and its hospital pharmacies met with Riffee and College of Pharmacy faculty to learn more about UF pharmacy education. The group learned about the Doctor of Pharmacy program offered at four UF campuses. Graduate clinical research programs and master's degree programs also are taught worldwide on the Web. The group also toured Shands at UF, including its pharmacy operations and the Drug Information and Pharmacy Resource Center.

Pharmacists in China typically earn the equivalent of a baccalaureate degree in pharmacy. However, educators there see a need for more clinical education and training that would mirror U.S. programs in preparing pharmacists to provide patient-centered care. Diane Beck, Pharm.D., director of educational initiatives at the College of Pharmacy, said she believes an established UF pharmacy distance education program could meet this need, serving as a basis for development of a master's degree in clinical pharmacy at Fudan's School of Pharmacy.

The college already uses distance education and technology as a key tool in its program for working pharmacists. For more than 10 years, this program has offered the opportunity to earn a doctorate in pharmacy to U.S. pharmacists who already have bachelor's degrees in the field. Through online technology and the recruitment of area facilitators, pharmacists in any state can take the required courses and exams without leaving the workforce or having to relocate their families.

Currently, Fudan does not have clinical-trained faculty who can serve as mentors for pharmacy students in China, Beck said. Ideally, the first students in a joint UF-Fudan program should be individuals with a commitment to assume these future roles.

"We would consider a 'train-the-trainer' model during program evolution so that Fudan can grow their own faculty, who can serve as facilitators, preceptors and course coordinators," Beck said.

It also would be necessary to identify several pharmacists in China who have advanced clinical training and can serve as content experts and the first local facilitators to Fudan's pharmacy students, Beck said.

Beck, also a professor in the College of Pharmacy, was one of four UF pharmacy educators who traveled to Shanghai. While visiting the Fudan campus, group members toured an outpatient pharmacy and IV preparation center at the Fudan University Hospital, which provided insight about the culture and practice of pharmacy in China, Beck said. They also toured the university's distance-learning facilities, where they successfully tested the technology needed for access to UF pharmacy courses and videos.

Riffee, Fudan leaders and UF International Center Dean Dennis Jett, Ph.D., signed an agreement at the UF meeting to continue working together.

Let the collaboration between East and West begin. **P**

# Hokie Hope

## Virginia Tech alum inspires Gators to go orange and maroon for day

By April Frawley Birdwell

Tucked in a tiny town between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge mountains, Virginia Tech was probably known best for its football players — think NFL star Michael Vick — and engineering school.

When Kenneth Marx, M.B.A., thought of Virginia Tech, he remembered his on-a-whim camping trips with friends to the woods on the outskirts of town, the classes he took on religion and the Middle East crisis, and the studies he worked on with a psychology researcher.

Until April 16, when a disgruntled student shot and killed 32 students and faculty at the university.

"The numbers kept rising every time you refreshed the Web page," said Marx, an administrator for the department of emergency medicine in the UF College of Medicine. "That's when it was like, 'Oh, my God.' It was just shock."

Marx scanned the Internet, hoping to connect with other Virginia Tech alumni in the area. That's when he discovered alumni had already designated April 20 as "Hokie Hope Day," planning to wear their school colors to work and encouraging others to do so as well to show support for the university.



Kenneth Marx, an administrator in the department of emergency medicine and a Virginia Tech alumnus, dons his school colors on Hokie Hope Day. Virginia Tech alumni across the country chose April 20 to wear orange and maroon to show support for the school in the wake of the tragedy there.

"I just took it upon myself to start sending e-mails," said Marx, who e-mailed staff members, faculty and students in the Health Science Center about the day.

That day, Marx donned his Virginia Tech jersey and hat to work and noticed many Gators also wearing his school's colors, orange and maroon. Someone in his office even made orange and maroon ribbons and hung a sign by the door.

"It's easy to relate, especially when you work on a (university) campus," said Marx, sitting in his office, where he keeps a miniature Virginia Tech football perched on a shelf. "As an alum, you always have a sense of what it means to be part of a school. It's part of your story." P

## E-prayer? It helps some, study shows

**T**he Internet is often perceived as a cauldron of evil, brimming with scandalous content and devious scams. But for cancer patients and others suffering from terminal illness, the Web can be a source of hope.

Internet prayer groups have become increasingly popular in recent years, uniting strangers from around the world. The groups typically consist of a moderator, who supervises the discussion, and any number of participants — usually patients, survivors, family, friends and caregivers. The group members pray for each other and provide support through shared stories and words of wisdom.

A recent study by University of Wisconsin psychologists finds that participation in online support groups can drastically improve the mental health of cancer patients.

Why does online prayer help? The psychologists say belief in an afterlife may reduce fear of death and help patients cultivate a positive outlook on life. As a result, patients who place their fate in the hands of a higher power are less stressed about their illness and tend to experience a higher quality of life.

While many groups focus on a specific illness, others exist simply for the sake of prayer. God has even infiltrated MySpace, the social networking site popular with teens and young adults. MySpace junkies can choose to join any of 50 groups that specialize in online prayer.

To find an Internet prayer group, simply go to a search engine homepage and type in the word "pray," followed by keywords related to your topic of interest.

*This first appeared on the radio program Health in a Heartbeat.*

Health in a Heartbeat is a daily radio series that features consumer health information and the latest news on medical research, patient-care breakthroughs and health-care industry trends. A production of our staff and WUFT-FM Classic 89 and WJUF-FM Nature Coast 90, and supported by Shands HealthCare, Health in a Heartbeat airs on public radio stations in more than 55 markets in 14 states. If you have a script idea, comments or would like to subscribe to the Health in a Heartbeat weekly E-News, e-mail [smithkim@ufl.edu](mailto:smithkim@ufl.edu).



# Threat of jail time doesn't keep drunken drivers off roads

By April Frawley Birdwell

**A**ctor Mel Gibson avoided jail time after he was convicted of driving under the influence in California last year. Most people who take to the wheel after drinking don't think they'll wind up behind bars either — or even be caught, as the "Braveheart" and "Lethal Weapon" star was, UF researchers say.

Tougher mandatory minimum jail sentences for driving under the influence actually keep few drunken drivers off the road and don't significantly prevent fatal car crashes related to drunken driving, according to a new study published in the online edition of the journal *Accident Analysis and Prevention* in March.

Researchers looked at changes in laws and policies regarding mandatory minimum fines and jail sentences for drunken driving between 1976 and 2002 and studied rates of DUI arrests and alcohol-related fatal car crashes. They wanted to find out if the stricter regulations deterred people from drunken driving and if the number of accidents dropped in the population as a whole, said Alexander C. Wagenaar, Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology in UF's College of Medicine and the study's lead author.

"We found out that's not the case," Wagenaar said. "The key thing for a deterrence law like this to work is people have to believe if they engage in the behavior that they're actually going to experience the penalty. There are many in the general public who continue to drive after drinking because they don't really believe that they're going to be detected, pulled over, caught and go through the process to be convicted before a jail term would come into play."

More than 16,000 people died as a result of alcohol-related accidents in 2005, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and Department of Justice records show that more than 1.4 million people were arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol in the same year.

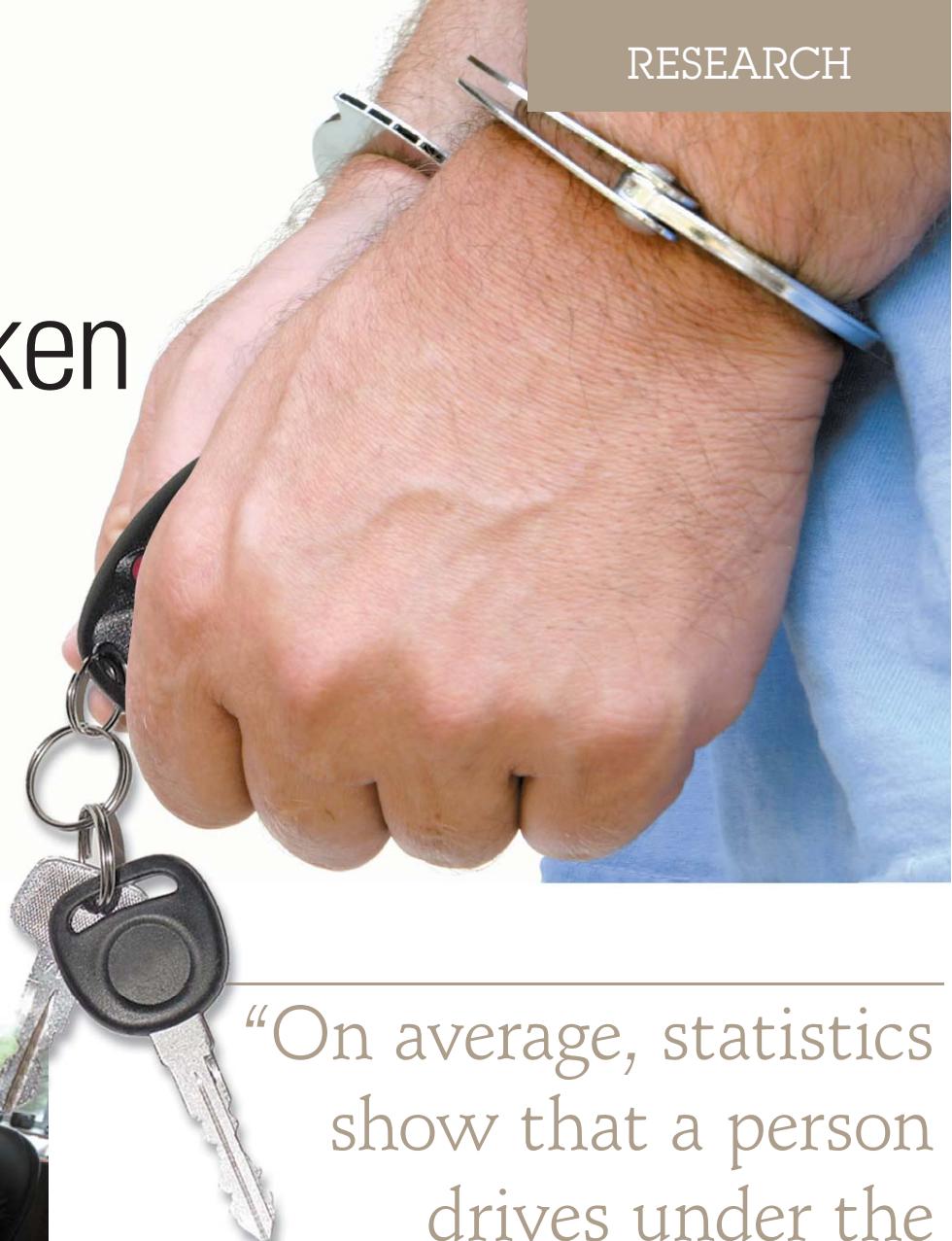
The UF study, which was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, shows that tougher fines had a slight effect on drunken driving rates in some states, but there wasn't a consistent pattern. For example, states with tougher fines didn't always have a greater decrease in DUI arrests, Wagenaar said.

Of the 48 states researchers studied, 18 established mandatory minimum jail terms and 26 instituted mandatory minimum fines. Of the states that established minimum jail sentences for first-time offenders, five actually showed a significant decrease in fatal car accidents after the changes were made, the study shows. But two of those states established other DUI policies at the time, so it's not known



**ALEXANDER C. WAGENAAR, Ph.D.**

PHOTO BY SARAH KIESEL



**"On average, statistics show that a person drives under the influence 50 to 200 times before they get caught or crash."**

— James C. Fell

whether jail time was actually a factor, Wagenaar said.

"People agree that drinking and driving is unacceptable," said James C. Fell, director of traffic safety and enforcement programs for the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation in Maryland. "But they do it because they don't get caught. On average, statistics show that a person drives under the influence 50 to 200 times before they get caught or crash."

Aside from the fact that most people don't think they'll get caught, Wagenaar said post-conviction penalties like fines and jail time don't happen fast enough for the consequence to be associated with the behavior in most people's minds. Generally, it takes six months to one year before a person convicted of DUI goes through the courts and has to pay a fine or go to jail, Wagenaar said.

"We know from psychological research and research in other areas that for a consequence to influence behavior, that consequence needs to happen close to the behavior," he said. "It's the same thing we do when we're disciplining our children."

Although mandatory jail sentences don't deter drunken drivers, Wagenaar said these findings shouldn't be misconstrued that jail time isn't useful as a punishment.

"It's clearly appropriate for someone who has been convicted two or three times who is not changing their behavior," Wagenaar said. "We get ultimately to a point where we have to take measures because they're such a threat to society." **P**



# Scientists hope to bridge 'regeneration gap'

By John Pastor

**U**FC scientists want to find ways to treat human diseases by plundering the secrets of regeneration from creatures with remarkable powers of self-renewal, such as salamanders, newts, starfish and flatworms.

Called "The Regeneration Project," the endeavor will connect scientists who work with adult human stem cells — the building blocks of self-renewal that exist within our brain, bone marrow and blood — with scientists who study how tissues and limbs develop in a variety of organisms.

"A salamander can be injured to the point that it loses its limbs or part of its spinal column, yet a few weeks later you'll see it scurrying across your lanai," said project leader Dennis A. Steindler, Ph.D., executive director of UF's Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute. "The Regeneration Project will focus on unlocking the mysteries in living, simple organisms that sustain successful tissue and organ regeneration following injury and disease, and applying this knowledge toward encouraging repair in the more complex human, where regeneration is not so simple."

The interdisciplinary effort is supported by about \$6 million in private donations, university support and state matching funds.

Funding from two private gifts — from Jon and Beverly Thompson of Sanibel, Fla., and from the Thomas H. Maren Foundation, based in Gainesville — and from the UF Office of Research initially will help establish fellowships for young researchers to

bridge the gaps between the different labs and investigators involved in regeneration research.

"The fellows will be the glue that holds this broad group of scientists together," said Steindler, a professor of neuroscience at the UF College of Medicine. "We will begin a process of sharing ideas and designing experiments to answer questions about growth in simple systems that can then be applied to more complex tissue reconstruction needed in human organisms."

Although in some instances a human liver is capable of regenerating after losing half of its mass, the brain has only a small quantity of adult stem cells to fight foes such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, cancer, multiple sclerosis and traumatic injury. Similarly, the body has limited capacity to repair injured limbs or spinal cords.

"We are bringing together the best of the developmental biology world with the best of the stem cell world and starting the conversation, with the focus on how to get regeneration to work in a mammal," said Edward Scott, Ph.D., a professor of molecular genetics and director of the Program in Stem Cell Biology at the College of Medicine. "Essentially, our body can heal itself, and that's why many of us live to be 80. But we can't do things like

UF researchers at the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience have analyzed the complete set of genes within a simple marine snail called Aplysia (left), finding 104 that play a role in human neurological disorders. The Regeneration Project hopes to unite researchers throughout UF and beyond in an effort to unlock the developmental secrets of lower organisms and find ways to treat human illnesses. Photos by Sarah Kiewel.



DENNIS A. STEINDLER, Ph.D.

grow an arm or finger as we did in the early stages of our development. We want to learn how to turn those systems back on in people."

The UF project is "bold" because it takes a comprehensive view of regenerative medicine, said Arlene Y. Chiu, Ph.D., director for scientific activities at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

"We are all excited by the great potential of stem cells to repair damage and return function," Chiu said. "It remains a great mystery, however, why some organisms are able to renew tissues, organs and even restore whole limbs while other related animals are not. Even within a single organism, we find that some tissues have a far more robust ability to replenish and replace cells than others. Yet we do not understand the bases for these differences."

The Regeneration Project will establish its think tank of international scientists soon, Steindler said.

The gift from the Maren Foundation, named for the late UF researcher Thomas H. Maren, will provide immediate funding. Maren spent most of his career at UF's College of Medicine and his research led to the development of Trusopt, an important drug for the treatment of glaucoma.

The Thompsons' gift creates the Jon L. and Beverly A. Thompson Research Endowment, which will provide ongoing income to support The Regeneration Project and other research at UF's McKnight Brain Institute. Jon Thompson is a retired executive with Exxon Mobil Corp. He earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in geology from UF. Beverly Thompson earned a master's degree in education from UF. P

# Study shows behavioral therapy best for OCD

By April Frawley Birdwell



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Exposure to bathroom germs isn't always a bad thing. For OCD patients with irrational germ fears, touching a bathroom doorknob or toilet seat could actually be a part of therapy, says Eric Storch, an assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics.

**I**magine scrubbing your hands for exactly three minutes every time you touched a doorknob. And then doing it again. And again.

People with obsessive-compulsive disorder often spend hours each day performing rituals like this to cope with irrational fears, often of germs or forgetting things. These behaviors — hand-washing, checking, counting and repeating are the most common — tend to take over their lives. It can take years before they get help, UF researchers say.

A UF study published online in the current issue of the *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology* shows that a treatment called cognitive behavioral therapy actually reduced symptoms of OCD by an average of 60 percent to 70 percent in 40 children. Yet few patients actually receive this therapy, said Eric Storch, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of psychiatry and pediatrics.

This treatment involves exposing patients to their fears at varying degrees without letting them indulge in the rituals they use to allay their anxiety. It is considered the best therapy for OCD, but not many psychologists offer it, making it difficult for patients to receive, Storch said.

"As a result, what's happening is people with OCD are really being treated incorrectly or they're not treated at all," he said.

Because patients often have to travel to health science centers such as UF for the treatment, researchers examined the effectiveness of offering cognitive behavioral therapy at a more intensive pace. Condensing the therapy into a few weeks rather than a few months should give out-of-town patients a better chance to receive the treatment they need, Storch said.

The researchers studied two groups of children — those who received weekly therapy and those who received daily doses over the course of a few weeks. Both options worked well, and researchers even found a few immediate benefits to the more intensive route, Storch said.

"We were better able to help parents not help children do rituals, which perpetuates symptoms," he said.

After three months, children who received both forms of therapy were doing equally well, Storch added.

Some psychologists might not offer the treatment because it can be a little gross depending on the patient's fears, Storch said. For example, an OCD patient who worries he will catch diseases from a public bathroom may have to touch a toilet seat without washing his hands or stick his hands in a toilet as part of therapy.

"You're exposing people to what makes them nervous but not letting them do the coping behaviors that screw up their lives," Storch said. "What ends up happening is that anxiety will eventually decrease." **P**

## Veterinarians studying skin cancer vaccine for dogs

By Sarah Carey

**U**F veterinarians are seeking dogs with melanoma to participate in an ongoing study of a new vaccine designed to fight the spread of the common skin cancer.

"We are currently looking at the effect of this vaccine in dogs that have the disease in all stages, from the least severe to the most advanced," said Rowan Milner, D.V.M., chief of the UF Veterinary Medical Center's oncology service. "The vaccine we have developed stimulates the natural killer cells in the body that act almost like Pac-men to destroy the tumors."

The UF-developed vaccine is one of three being studied in the United States. Milner and his UF colleagues published information about their study last year in *Veterinary Immunology and Immunopathology*.

Melanomas are formed when the pigment-producing cells of the skin known as melanocytes multiply in an uncontrolled fashion, eventually invading the tissues that surround them and, in the case of malignant melanoma, spreading to local lymph nodes and the lungs.

"Only between 5 percent and 7 percent of all skin tumors in dogs are melanomas, but melanoma is the most common oral tumor in dogs, making up 6 percent of all cancer cases," Milner said, adding that UF's melanoma vaccine does not make use of gene therapy but consists of a more traditional composition aimed at stimulating an immune reaction.

"The interesting thing about the reaction we get is that it includes antibodies, but also stimulates the natural killer cells," Milner said, adding that no significant adverse reactions have been seen so far in any of the 35 dogs participating in the study.

Veterinarians typically treat melanoma-afflicted dogs with surgery to remove the tumor, followed by radiation of the primary site. The biggest threat



Rowan Milner, chief of the UF Veterinary Medical Center's oncology service, inspects a cancerous lesion in the mouth of a golden retriever participating in a melanoma vaccine trial.

to a dog's survival, however, comes if and when the tumor spreads to the lymph nodes, then to the lungs.

Anyone seeking more information about the melanoma vaccine study should contact UF's Veterinary Medical Center at 352-392-4700, ext. 4700. **P**

# Six lives, six graduates

Photos by Sarah Kiewel

Hundreds of students will graduate this year from the Health Science Center's six colleges. Meet a few members of the Class of 2007 who have inspired us already ...



Aside from being an ordained minister and former pastor, graduating medical student Dean Chapman plays piano, too.

## Don Quixote in a white coat

By April Frawley Birdwell

**D**ean Chapman looks like a doctor. Not just any doctor either. With his starched white coat, wispy silver hair, lined face and twinkling hazel eyes, Chapman seems like the kind of doctor who's in charge.

Maybe one day he will be. But he has to finish medical school first.

In 2003, Chapman, an ordained Presbyterian minister, gave up the pulpit to enter medical school at UF. At 53, he was older than some of his professors, and his classmates were his children's ages. But Chapman felt compelled to pursue medicine. His parents had died months apart in 2000, and as they deteriorated he felt helpless, frustrated with his lack of medical knowledge. He realized maybe he was supposed to help people in a different way, especially seniors, who often slip through the medical cracks, he said.

"I decided instead of sitting around I'd go charge at a windmill," said Chapman, who will graduate this month, a few weeks shy of his 57th birthday.

Adjusting to her husband's decision to trade his 20-year career as a pastor for medical school wasn't easy at first for Chapman's wife, Susan, mostly because she stayed in their Orlando home while he moved to Gainesville. His children were surprised too. But they all supported his goal, Chapman said.

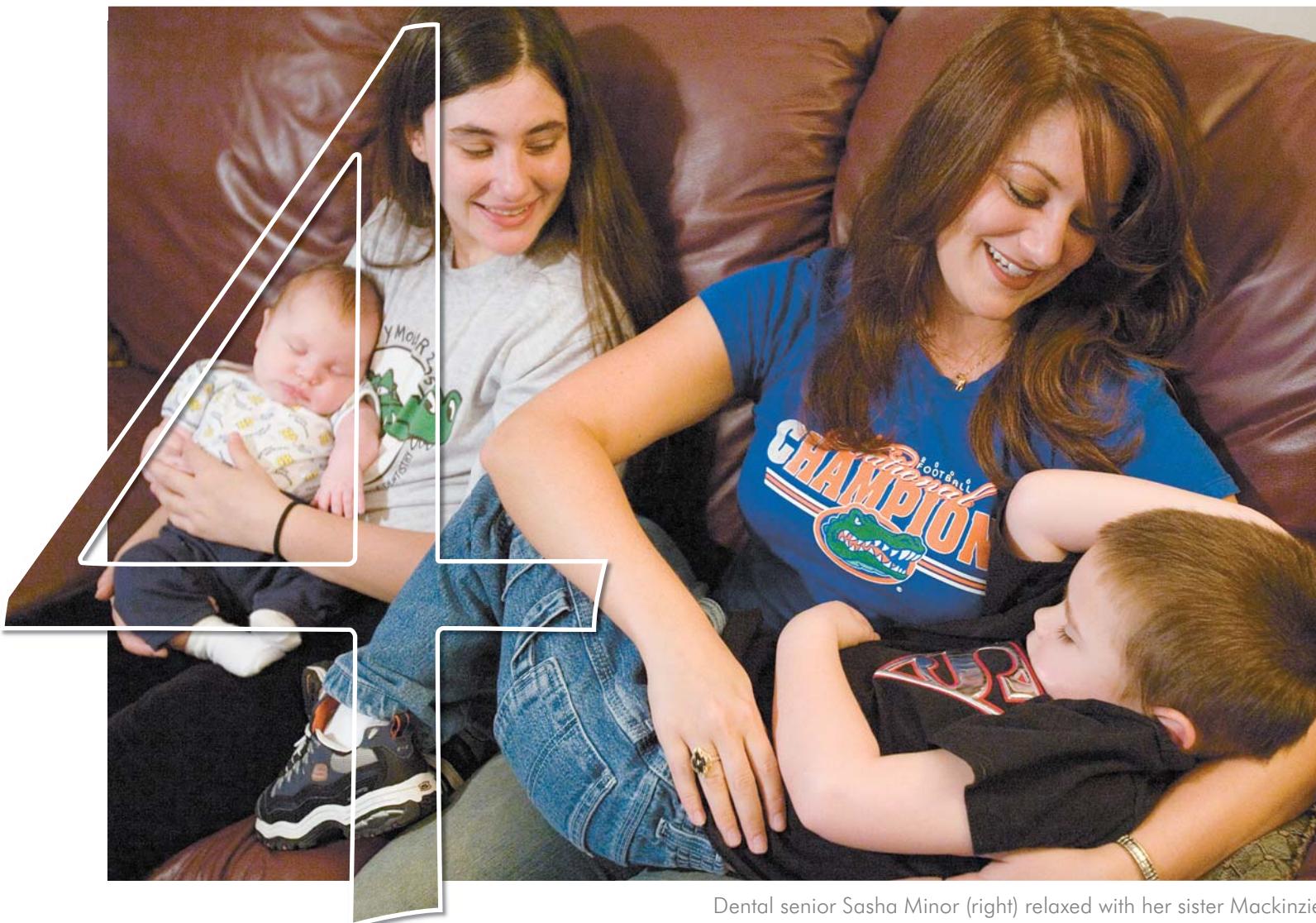
So have other UF medical students. Although in their 20s, his classmates accepted him as a peer, inviting him to play basketball, study and even go out drinking, Chapman said. In turn, he's performed a few of their wedding ceremonies.

It hasn't all been easy, though. He missed his first clinical rotation after undergoing surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm, and insomnia has affected his studies.

Despite the setbacks, Chapman will graduate with his class. A few weeks later he and his wife will move to Burlington, Vt., where he will complete his residency in internal medicine.

He'll be 60 when he finishes, but Chapman is OK with that.

"I'm living the dream, honest to God," Chapman said. "I'm going to graduate and get a medical degree in a month. I can't believe it ... if the word gets out, they may have 50-year-olds lining up down the street to get in."



Dental senior Sasha Minor (right) relaxed with her sister Mackenzie, nephew Von, 4, and his new baby brother, Aidan, during a recent visit.

## Toughin' it out

By Lindy McCollum-Brounley

**A**s dental senior Sasha Minor will tell you, family serves as an emotional compass for students as they navigate the complicated highways and byways of dental school. That compass always points to the heart, but the ties that bind are a two-way street.

"My sister and I are only 11 months apart," Minor said. "I'm the big sister, but we're basically like twins. We're tight."

Although they shared similar aspirations, after high school Minor and her sister, Mackenzie, chose different paths. Mackenzie married and became a mom, staying in Panama City. Minor went on to college, eventually becoming one of UF's top dental freshmen entering as the Class of 2007.

By her sophomore year, Minor had established a routine that helped her keep up the grades, participate in extracurricular activities with her class and serve in the UF chapter of the American Student Dental Association. She also mentored undergraduate students involved in UF's pre-dental ASDA chapter, which she helped establish.

As Minor hit her groove in dental school, Mackenzie stalled at a marital roadblock. Feeling the need to help her sister through a difficult time, Minor invited Mackenzie and her 4-year-old son to stay with her in her one-bedroom apartment in Gainesville.

"My little nephew, his name is Von, and he's the only man in my life," Minor said with a laugh. "He's the cutest thing ever!"

Coming home presented new challenges for Minor — dinosaurs in the bathtub, grocery shopping times three, cooking every night, finding time to study ... and finding time for herself. Minor developed a new and profound

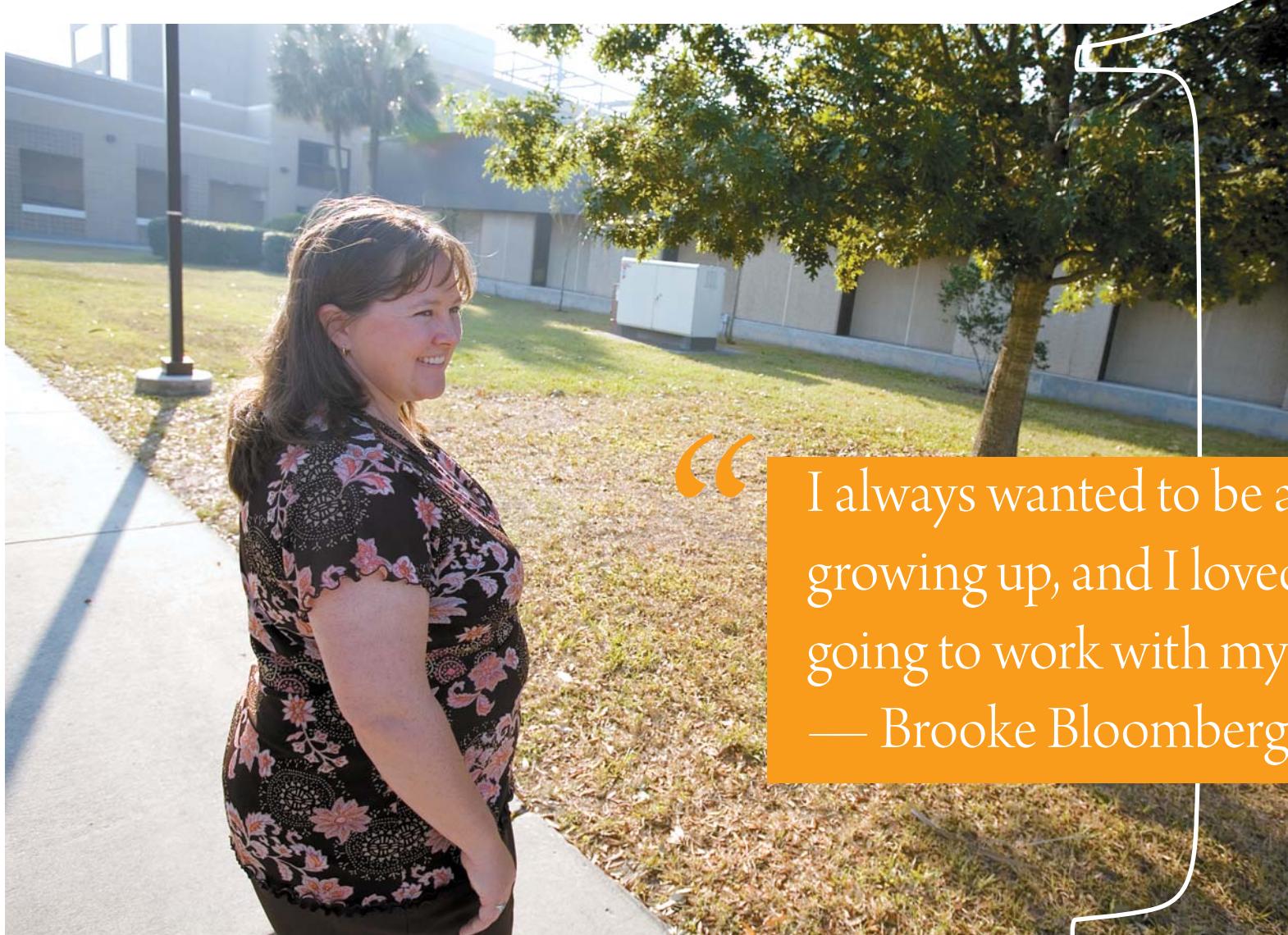
“ My sister and I are only 11 months apart. I’m the big sister, but we’re basically like twins. We’re tight.” — Sasha Minor

appreciation for her classmates with spouses and children.

"Our parents helped as much as they could, but money got tight," she said. "I was taking my boards around that time, and it was hard to find time to study. Because when I got home it was, 'Hey Aunt Sasha! Look at me! Let's play Hungry Hippos! Let's play dinosaurs!' And I did."

Things got better, and Mackenzie and Von returned home to Panama City after several months. Normalcy returned to Minor's life, but her perspective was forever changed.

"We stuck together," said Minor, who hopes to pursue a general practice residency after graduation. "It was fun, and it was tough, but we got through it. It made me a stronger person, and I'm doing great. I passed all my boards, got a license and graduation is right around the corner."



“

I always wanted to be a vet growing up, and I loved going to work with my dad.”

— Brooke Bloomberg

Graduating veterinary student Brooke Bloomberg stands near the tree dedicated to her late father at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

## Making dad proud

By Sarah Carey

**F**or Brooke Bloomberg, service to mankind and to animalkind is a way of life she grew up with as the daughter of a board-certified small animal orthopedic surgeon who helped form the backbone of what the UF College Of Veterinary Medicine is today.

It's hard not to see the late Dr. Mark Bloomberg, D.V.M., former chief of staff of UF's small animal hospital, in Brooke. There's the marked physical resemblance and the commitment to human and animal health she displays through outreach activities, just as he did.

But Brooke, 32, has always been her own person. She grew up in Gainesville and holds an undergraduate degree in animal sciences and a master's degree in public health, both from UF.

“I always wanted to be a vet growing up, and I loved going to work with my dad,” said Brooke, who will graduate from veterinary school this month. “After looking at all his patients, we would go out to the barn to take a look at the horses, which was my favorite part.”

“Being a veterinarian seemed to define so much of my dad’s life. I grew to greatly respect the profession from him and his colleagues I met from around the world.”

A huge Gator fan, Mark Bloomberg died of a heart attack in January 1996 while watching UF play Nebraska in the Fiesta Bowl. After his death, Brooke questioned her motives for pursuing the profession.

“I wanted to make sure I was going to vet school for the right reasons,” Brooke said.

While serving in the AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Brooke realized she was becoming a veterinarian for the right reasons. She also realized she could combine veterinary medicine with her other goal — improving animal and human health.

As a UF veterinary student, Brooke has experienced veterinary medicine on a global level. She has been to Chile to study the risk factors of *Mycobacterium bovis*, Ecuador to perform veterinary medical outreach and Honduras to participate in a zoo medicine class. In April, she headed to Indonesia for an avian influenza training workshop.

“Seeing how veterinary medicine is practiced in other countries and the resources that are available has been eye-opening,” she said. “I have such great respect for the veterinary profession and am honored to be a part of it.”

12



Bonny Reinhardt and daughter, Bonny, relax at home. Reinhardt has not let her visual disability prevent her from earning a pharmacy degree. She graduates this month.

“ There is nothing that I can’t do the same as any other pharmacist.”

— Bonny Reinhardt

## Legally blind, perfect vision

By Linda Homewood

**A**uthor Ayn Rand wrote, “Throughout the centuries there were men who took first steps, down new roads, armed with nothing but their own vision.”

Though legally blind, Bonny Reinhardt envisioned herself as a pharmacist. Reinhardt was studying science at the University of North Florida when she discovered the UF College of Pharmacy distance campus in Jacksonville. Not having to relocate to Gainesville helped make it possible for her to pursue a professional degree, she said.

Although not completely blind — she can see up to 20 feet while most people with normal sight can see to 100 feet — Reinhardt’s poor vision makes driving impossible and it takes her longer to read. Her vision cannot be corrected with glasses. Her vision trouble stems from albinism, a condition that affects the amount of melanin in a person’s skin, hair and eyes and often causes vision loss.

But her disability isn’t her biggest challenge. Misconceptions of it are, she said. Most people think blindness is a total loss of sight and don’t understand that she can still see.

Her biggest academic challenge came during her senior year when she changed clinical rotations. Each time she had to explain that taking longer to read a chart didn’t mean she couldn’t understand it.

“There is nothing that I can’t do the same as any other pharmacist,” Reinhardt said.

Reinhardt’s academic strength didn’t surprise her classmates, but she amazed them when she had a baby during her second year of pharmacy school. Her partner, David Bruzos, blinded during an accident when he was 12, took care of their daughter while Reinhardt continued her studies. The couple is expecting their second child in May.

The biggest limitation for their family is not being able to drive, Reinhardt said. During her four years of pharmacy school, classmate Jill McCoy helped a lot, as has Reinhardt’s family.

Reinhardt discovered her career niche during her community pharmacy rotations. After graduation, she hopes to work at a local pharmacy, where she feels she can make the biggest difference in patients’ lives.

“Counseling and explaining things to patients to help them understand their health and medications is where I feel like I have the most direct impact,” Reinhardt said. “And I really enjoy doing this.”

## Ready to give back

By Jill Pease

**U**niversal health care is shaping up to be one of the most important domestic issues for American voters in next year's presidential election and the timing couldn't be better, according to future health-care executive Will Jackson.

"Political attention on health care comes and goes," said Jackson, who will graduate this spring with a master's degree in health administration from the College of Public Health and Health Professions. "I want to jump in while it's vibrant and keep the energy alive. If a candidate who supports universal health care wins the election, it is up to those of us in health care to keep them to their word."

My goal is to stay excited, motivated and focused. Right now I'm a big sponge. I want to absorb as much as I can."

— Will Jackson

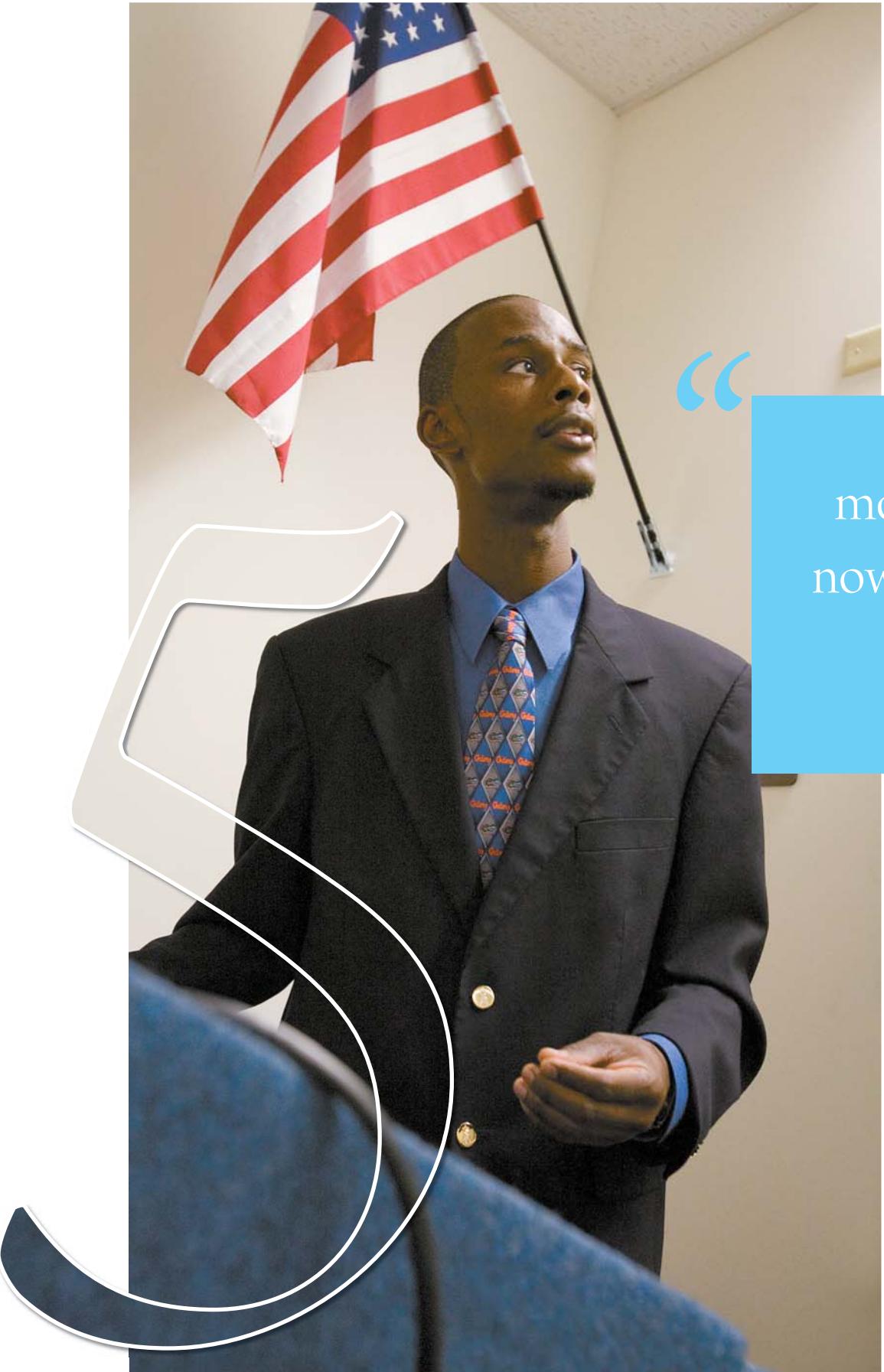
Raised in a single-parent family that did not have health insurance, Jackson is well aware of the need for affordable, accessible health care. It was his desire to give others an opportunity his family did not have that led him to choose health-care management as a career.

An internship last summer with CHOICES, the Alachua County health-care program for low-income workers who are uninsured, cemented Jackson's belief that such programs can be efficient and effective.

"For what works out to about \$15 to \$20 a year for taxpayers, we can give so many people health care," Jackson said. "After talking with just a few people who receive care through CHOICES, I could see how much it had made a difference in their lives and what a worthwhile program it is. It is satisfying to give back to the level of community that I grew up in."

After graduation, Jackson will begin a position as administrator-in-training at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center in Baton Rouge, La., a 760-bed nonprofit acute care hospital. A flagship facility for the region, Our Lady of the Lake has played a crucial role since Hurricane Katrina.

"My goal is to stay excited, motivated and focused," Jackson said. "Right now I'm a big sponge. I want to absorb as much as I can."



Will Jackson plans to work in hurricane-ravaged Louisiana after receiving his master's degree in health care administration this month.

# Taking the scenic route

By Katie Phelan

**L**ife is not the destination, but the journey. For Salvacion Powell, better known as Bunny to her nursing classmates, truer words have never been spoken.

Powell has spent the last year pursuing a dream she's now this close to achieving. She will graduate this summer with a bachelor's degree in nursing from a College of Nursing accelerated program, which allows students educated in other fields to earn nursing degrees in less time.

Like most people in this program, Powell is not the typical nursing student. A wife and mother of three sons, she spent most of her career in the retail industry. Born and raised in the Philippines, Powell earned a bachelor's degree in literature in 1982. A budding musician, she pursued a music career. But when her grandmother passed away, she wanted to learn more about the health-care system in the Phillipines so she volunteered as a candy striper in a hospital.

"Working as a volunteer opened my eyes to a new career in nursing," she said.

While most nurses receive their initial training in school, Powell's education began at her mother's bedside. Her mother was diagnosed with emphysema, and a family friend and doctor came to their home to care for her. It is customary in Filipino culture to use medical training to help friends and family.

This experience inspired Powell to pursue formal nursing education when she relocated to the United States in 2003.

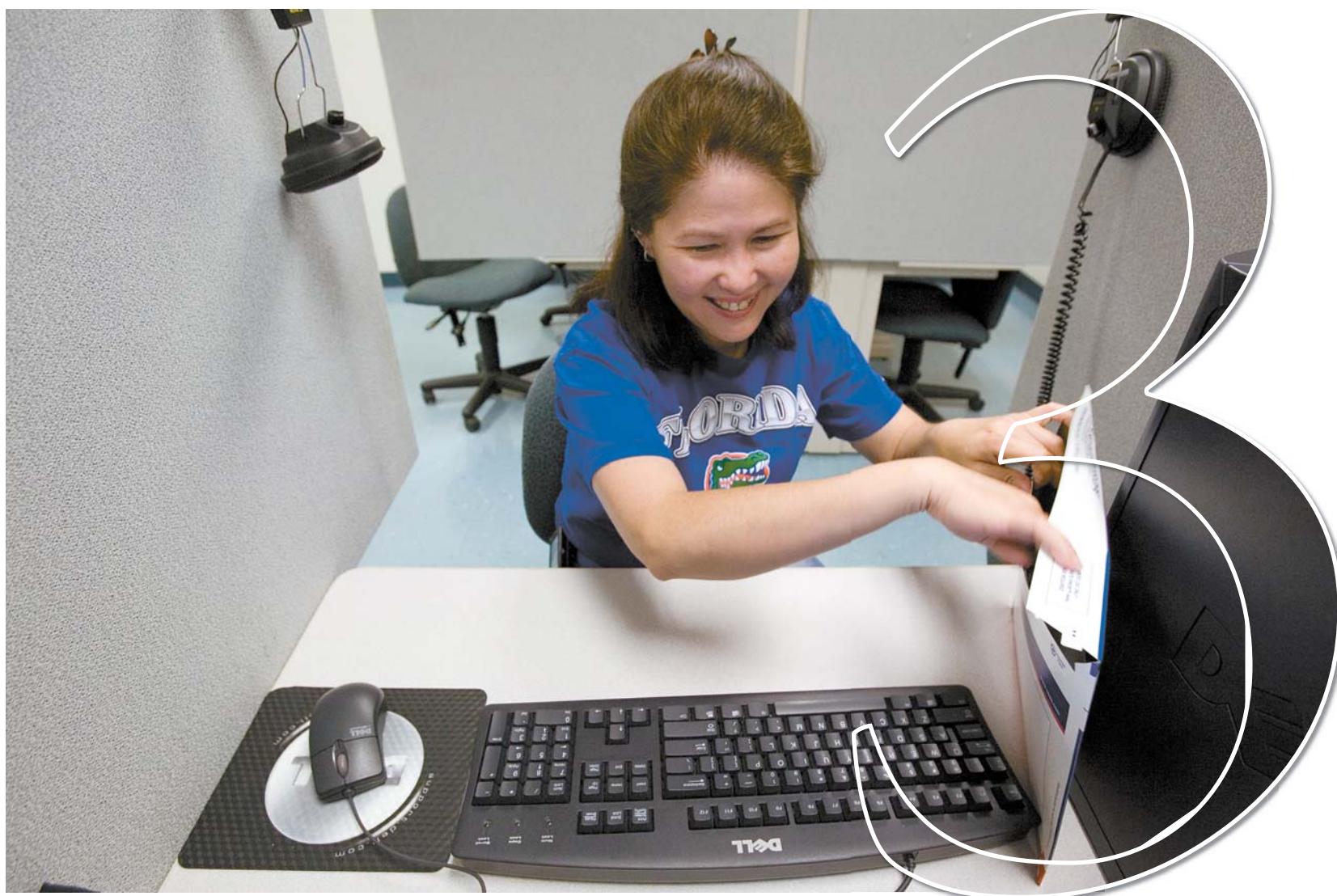
To focus on her studies, Powell had to leave her family in Miami and move to Gainesville. She quickly became a mother away from home to many of her fellow nursing students. Study groups at her house usually include a home-cooked-meal.

After graduation, Powell hopes to pursue a career in public health and psychiatric and mental health nursing. She will continue her education at UF in the psychiatric and mental health master's nursing program.

"I believe nursing is my calling," she said.

**A**s the academic year comes to a close in the Health Science Center, the focus for senior students is graduation. The dates vary for each college's ceremony, but most will feature special speakers to inspire the new crop of graduates. Here are the highlights:

- **Public Health and Health Professions:** Ronald Aldrich, M.H.A., PHHP Alumnus of the Year
- **Nursing:** Loretta C. Ford, Ph.D., University of Rochester School of Nursing professor emeritus and founder of the nurse practitioner movement
- **Medicine:** Jordan Cohen, M.D., former president of the American Association of Medical Colleges
- **Veterinary Medicine:** Cheryl Chrisman, D.V.M, a board-certified veterinary neurologist and professor in the college's department of small animal clinical sciences
- **Pharmacy:** Peter Vlasses, Pharm.D., executive director of the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education



Salvacion "Bunny" Powell has spent the past year studying to be a nurse at UF. Powell, whose family remained in Miami, will graduate this summer.



PHOTOS BY SARAH KEVEL

Thanks to completion of a \$3.2 million interior renovation of an existing building, UF Health Science Center–Jacksonville researchers now have their own dedicated research space. The 11,728-square-foot facility boasts individual investigator offices, research cubicles and pods as well as hoods, centrifuges and freezers.

# Research finds new home in Jacksonville

By Patricia Bates McGhee

The plain, stucco-like concrete block structure doesn't have an official name. It's listed simply as UF Building No. 3382 in UF's inventory system.

And it's never had one specific purpose. Tucked behind the bigger, flashier buildings at Shands Jacksonville, over the past 20-some years it's housed a children's crisis center, a medical technology school, and the library and offices of a nonprofit foundation.

In March the building's purpose changed. After a 10-month, \$3.2 million interior renovation, Building No. 3382 finally came into its own as the first consolidated, dedicated research space for the UF Health Science Center–Jacksonville campus.

"For a long time it's been part of our campus growth plan to have dedicated research space and to have it in a consolidated space," said Robert C. Nuss, M.D., associate vice president for health affairs and College of Medicine senior associate dean. "There are other research laboratory spaces scattered throughout the campus, but this is the first one that will be used specifically for that purpose."

Originally built by Shands to provide additional office space for the campus, the building was informally dubbed "the Child Crisis Center" because for years the center was the building's primary lessee. Even so, research is associated with the building's history.

"Over time other things were in there, but there was always a space in the building that was dedicated for a research lab — and that was on the second floor and probably about 1,000 square feet," Nuss said. UF leased the property from Shands, paid for the renovation and is paying the utilities.

Construction began in June 2006 and was completed in March. Pre-renovation, the building had 11,000 square feet; now, with the addition of an elevator, it boasts 11,728 square feet.

Post-renovation it has eight individual investigator office spaces, several cubicles for post doctoral associates and fellows, eight 40- by 30-foot research pods and the usual hoods, centrifuges and freezers. It does not have animal facilities, and there are no plans to place them there.

The building's renovation is part of the plan to develop an infrastructure on the

Jacksonville campus that supports UF's overall research goals, specifically the National Institutes of Health Clinical and Translational Science Award application process.

"It's essential for maintaining the accreditation of the residency program and providing the facilities necessary to support individual research grants, including NIH-funded research proposals," Nuss said. "And, of course, it's necessary to continue to recruit basic researchers, clinical researchers and Ph.D.s."

Building No. 3382 provides a special niche for researchers. Clinical trials and very basic research require research coordinators, statisticians, data personnel and patients — not lab equipment like a hood, centrifuge and freezer.

That's why Nuss envisions the new laboratory as a workplace for Jacksonville researchers who work on cell cultures and other hands-on lab procedures — such as Steve Goodison, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of surgery, and K.V. Chalam, M.D., Ph.D., a professor and interim chair in the department of ophthalmology.

"Goodison is studying metastatic breast cancer cells, and Chalam is working on one of the federally approved stem cell lines to see if he can convert them to retinal stem cells," Nuss said.

Having dedicated lab space and equipment for this type of work is something Jacksonville administrators and faculty have long sought.

"We've renovated and consolidated our 'new' research building to support our researchers in their important work and to attract new researchers to our campus — all with the goal of enhancing research at the University of Florida," Nuss said. **P**

## Research Day in Jacksonville

**When:** May 10, starting at 9 a.m.

**Events:** Oral presentations and awards ceremony until 12:30 p.m. in the LRC Auditorium; poster viewing and Q&A session from 1 p.m. until 2 p.m. in the LRC Atrium.

# Test scores predict odds of passing pediatrics boards

By Patricia Bates McGhee



**H**ow high medical students score on Step 1 of the U.S. Medical Licensing Exam could predict if they'll eventually pass pediatrics board certification tests, a new UF study suggests.

The idea for the study came during a pediatrics residency recruitment meeting in 2005 when faculty members casually debated whether USMLE scores had any bearing on a resident's eventual board performance.

"While we believed an 'anecdotal' positive relationship existed, we decided that a more scientific look ... was warranted," said Quimby McCaskill, M.D., M.P.H., an assistant professor of pediatrics and assistant division chief of community pediatrics at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville.

McCaskill and other pediatrics faculty in Jacksonville decided to study how test scores from the USMLE, which students typically begin taking after their second year of medical school, related to in-training exams and pediatrics board certification tests.

The study team reviewed individual residents' records dating back to the late 1990s. Older information was not available because test scores were not uniformly recorded in the files before then. Plus, the research team wanted to focus on the USMLE test, which wasn't available until the mid-1990s.

Their findings, published in the March issue of *Ambulatory Pediatrics*, showed an USMLE score of 202 was associated with about an 80 percent chance of passing the American Board of Pediatrics exam. Among residents who scored 220 or higher on the USMLE, about 95 percent later passed the pediatrics exam.

Recognizing the correlation between high USMLE Step 1 scores and passing the board exams allows residency programs — and residents — to roughly estimate the chances of passing pediatrics boards. By identifying up front who may be at risk for failing, educators can work toward developing individualized learning plans to assist residents with perceived weaknesses in study skills or standardized test taking.

"By addressing these issues at the initiation of training, it will be interesting to track over time whether use of more advanced learning plans eventually lead to better overall board passage rates — an outcome that would certainly have positive implications upon subsequent resident recruitment," McCaskill said. **P**

## Experts gather to help those who help crime victims

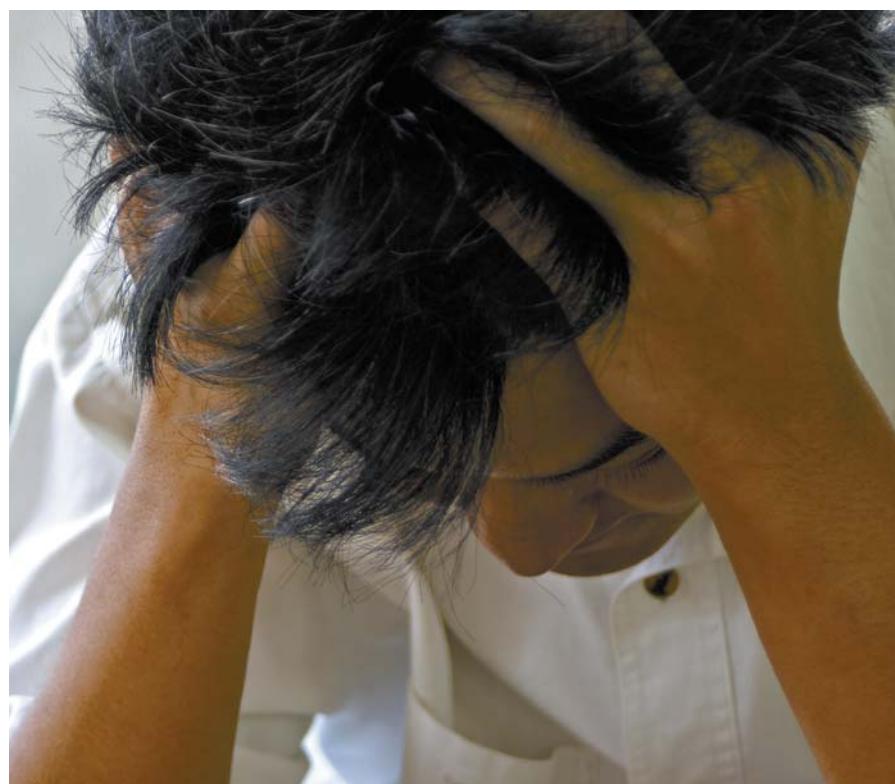
By Patricia Bates McGhee

**T**heir mission is to help crime victims. But sometimes the ones who help others need a little support too. That's the goal of the 30th annual Florida Network of Victim Witness Services training conference, set for June 13-15 in Jacksonville. With a theme of "Victimization: Connecting the Dots: Awareness... Prevention... Intervention," the conference will feature talks by national and state experts, educational workshops, group sessions and networking opportunities for professionals in the emerging field of victim assistance and witness management.

"Our goal is to deliver provocative and best-practices training for advocates, law enforcement professionals, prosecutors, mental health counselors, and children and family specialists," said Valerie Stanley, conference chairwoman and team coordinator for the UF Child Protection Team in Jacksonville. "Our speakers are renowned leaders in the field who offer 'the latest' on current ideas."

Some of these experts include R. Glen Mitchell, director of the Jeff Mitchell Foundation, Inc.; Randell Alexander, M.D., Ph.D., statewide medical director for the Child Protection Team and division chief of child protection and forensic pediatrics with the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville; Joseph Chiaro, M.D., deputy secretary of health with Children's Medical Services; and John Wright, medical director of the Broward County Child Protection Team.

The conference will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel-Jacksonville Riverfront. For registration and workshop information, contact Valerie Stanley at [valerie.stanley@jax.ufl.edu](mailto:valerie.stanley@jax.ufl.edu) or 904-633-0300, or visit [www.fnvws.org](http://www.fnvws.org). **P**



Helping crime victims cope isn't always easy. The Florida Network of Victims Services will hold a training conference for advocates and others who work with crime victims in June.

## DISTINCTIONS

### COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

#### JOHN H. ARMSTRONG, M.D.,

an assistant professor of surgery, has been appointed by the American Medical Association to serve on the 14-member executive committee of the National Disaster Life Support Educational Consortium. The consortium develops and distributes curricula for training health professionals to respond effectively to public health emergencies.



John H. Armstrong

Armstrong has also been elected by the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons to the six-member ACS delegation to the AMA and re-elected as chairman of the Surgical Caucus of the AMA. The caucus represents 33 specialty surgery and anesthesiology societies and presents professional issues relevant to the care of surgical patients to the AMA House of Delegates.

#### AIDA VEGA, M.D., an associate professor of internal medicine,

has been named interim chief of the department of medicine's division of internal medicine. Vega was promoted from her prior post as associate chief of the division. Vega replaced Rebecca Pauly, M.D., who assumed the position of associate vice president for equity and diversity in the Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Affairs.



Aida Vega



## College of Public Health and Health Professions

Doctor of physical therapy students Meryl Alappattu and Stacy Gorski led the first-ever Florida Physical Therapy Association Student Conference Feb. 2-3 in Gainesville. Nearly 175 students, faculty members and clinicians attended the conference, which featured presentations on research and the transition from student to professional.

Attendees included (first row, far right) conference co-organizer Meryl Alappattu and FPTA Northern Regional Director Margaret Nonnemacher, as well as (second row, from left) UF physical therapy students Zach Sutton and Lindsay Perry, and FPTA Board of Directors member Dr. Arie Van Duijn.

## Jax physicians elected to medical society board

Nine UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville physicians have been elected to the Duval County Medical Society 2007 board of directors.

B. Hudson Berrey, M.D., a professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation, and Deborah Lyon, M.D., an associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology and division chief of gynecology, will both serve as vice presidents.

Board representatives include Ashley Booth, M.D., an assistant professor of emergency medicine; Richard Crass, M.D., a professor of surgery and the department's interim chairman; Malcolm Foster, M.D., the Karl B. Hanson professor of medicine; Mark Hudak, M.D., a professor of pediatrics and division chief of neonatology; George Mayzell, M.D., senior medical director of patient management; and John Kilkenny III, M.D., an associate professor of general surgery. UF cardiology fellow Lyndon Box, M.D., serves as UF's resident representative to the board.

DCMS is a voluntary, nonprofit, professional association of nearly 2,000 physicians dedicated to promoting the delivery of and access to high-quality, ethical medical care for the community, and serving as an advocate for physician members and their patients.



B. Hudson Berrey



Deborah Lyon

### COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

#### Jaana Autio-Gold, D.D.S.,

Ph.D., an assistant professor of operative dentistry, has been appointed the college's coordinator for preventive dentistry. In this role, Autio-Gold will work with faculty to develop and implement evidence-based clinical curriculum in preventive dentistry, and to assure vertical integration of preventive dentistry through all four years of the D.M.D. curriculum.



Jaana Autio-Gold

**Robert A. Burne**, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of oral biology, was one of 52 UF faculty honored with the 2007 Faculty Achievement Recognition Award. Burne received his award April 4 during an awards reception at the Samuel L. Harn Museum of Art. The UF associate provost for faculty development sponsored the event.



Robert A. Burne

**Marc W. Heft**, D.M.D., Ph.D., a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery with joint appointments as professor of neuroscience and professor of clinical and health psychology, is president of the American Association of Dental Research. Heft will serve as the 36th president of the AADR during his 2007-08 term, which began at the conclusion of the association's annual meeting in March.



Marc W. Heft

**Lindsay Ringdahl**, a junior dental student, was one of two UF dental students to receive scholarships from the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society. As a Hinman Scholar, Ringdahl received a \$3,000



Lindsay Ringdahl

cash award in March during the Hinman Dental Society meeting in Atlanta.

**David Yates**, a junior dental student, was one of two UF dental students to receive scholarships from the Thomas P. Hinman Dental Society. As a Hinman Scholar, Yates received a \$3,000 cash award in March during the Hinman Dental Society meeting in Atlanta.



David Yates

**Sanjie Jackson**, a senior dental student, received a Multicultural Award from the UF Dean of Students Office during an April awards ceremony. Jackson was recognized with the award for her academic excellence and student leadership activities.



Sanjie Jackson

**Maggie Novy**, a senior dental student, received the 2007 American Dental Education Association/Listerine Preventive Dentistry Scholarship. The \$2,500 scholarship award was presented during the March ADEA annual meeting held in New Orleans.



Maggie Novy

**Yue Wang**, a freshman dental student, received a \$3,000 American Association of Dental Research fellowship, which is intended to encourage the recipient to consider a career in oral health research. The AADR awarded 19 research fellowships to dental students nationwide during its March meeting in New Orleans.



Yue Wang

# Pharmacy researcher helps hospitals fight antibiotic-resistant infections

By Lisa Emmerich

Once considered wonder drugs that could cure any infectious disease, antibiotics are now ineffective against certain strains of bacteria, leading scientists and government experts to label antibiotic resistance a public health crisis.

A big part of the problem lies in hospitals, where many infections are formed and transmitted.

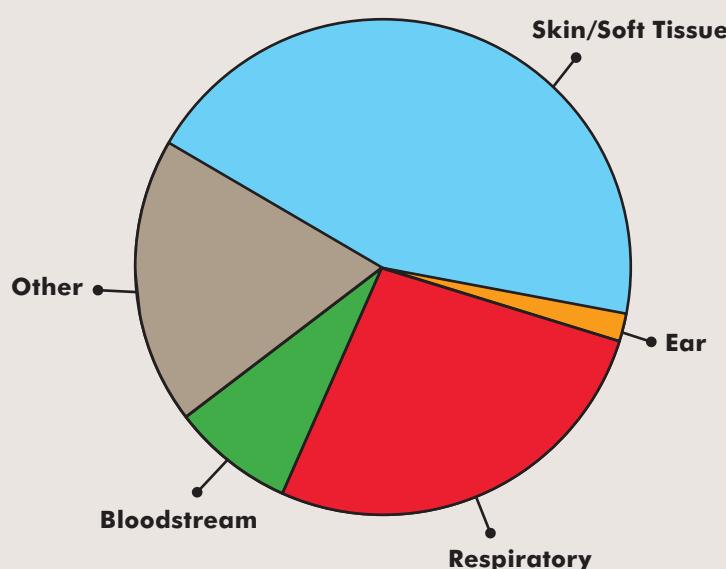
John G. Gums, Pharm.D., a UF professor of pharmacy and medicine, is tackling that problem. In 1997, Gums started the Antimicrobial Resistance Management program to help hospitals keep track of infectious diseases and their resistance to antibiotic drugs.

Hospitals enrolled in the free program provide Gums' team with laboratory data and receive periodic customized reports about drug resistance within their institution and around the country.

"Ideally, we would like hospitals to use the information we give them as the first step," Gums said. "We'd like them to realize they're not immune to this problem. They need to take ownership so they can do something about it."

Nearly 400 hospitals currently participate in ARM, and Gums said up to 2,000 more could join soon if an agreement with VHA Inc., a national network of not-for-profit hospitals, is finalized.

## WHERE MRSA INFECTIONS STRIKE



SOURCE: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.



**JOHN G. GUMS, PHARM.D.**

PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 2 million patients in the United States contract infections in hospitals each year. More than 70 percent of the bacteria that cause these infections are resistant to some antibiotics.

Across the country, an antibiotic-resistant strain of staph infection has become a growing problem in hospitals, where patients are often already weak and susceptible to infection. Named methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and commonly known as MRSA, this bacterium can cause severe skin infections that delve deeper or seep into the bloodstream, causing serious conditions such as pneumonia and even death. Gums' statistics show that 50 percent to 70 percent of the staph infections in many hospitals no longer respond to treatment with methicillin.

To treat drug-resistant bacteria, doctors must use stronger or more toxic drugs. But when those drugs stop working, what happens next?

According to the Infectious Diseases Society of America, another facet of the problem is the lack of new antibiotic drugs in development. Pharmaceutical companies have very few new antibiotics in research and production phases.

Gums said that shortage makes hospital management programs essential.

"We have seen examples of reversals," he said. "We have seen hospitals improve their resistance rates with effort. I don't see that there's an option not to combat the problem."

ARM distributes graphs that show the relationship between antibiotic use and disease resistance, allowing officials to see a direct relationship between growing antibiotic use and increased drug resistance. It's a graph Gums calls the "crystal ball," allowing ARM officials to predict future resistance at particular hospitals.

Gums said he hopes hospitals use the information ARM provides to help them make decisions in managing the problem.

"With antibiotics, hospitals have to think, 'Giving out these drugs will benefit me here, but how will it hurt me somewhere else?'" he said. **P**

# UF researchers to study behavioral treatment for ADHD

By Jill Pease

This spring, UF researchers will offer a no-cost behavioral treatment for young children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder and their families.

"ADHD often leads to serious problems for children such as struggling to pay attention in school, mastering basic skills and getting along with others," said Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D., a distinguished professor in the College of Public Health and Health Professions department of clinical and health psychology. "Many children with ADHD also develop other behavior problems that intensify as they grow older. The good news is that behavior problems can be treated successfully when children are still young."

ADHD affects an estimated 4.4 million children and families.

The UF treatment program will use Parent-Child Interaction Therapy, a step-by-step, live-coached behavioral parent training model developed by Eyberg and used in clinics across the country. Along with co-investigators Stephen Boggs, Ph.D., an associate professor in clinical and health psychology, and Regina Bussing, M.D., a professor of pediatric psychiatry in the College of Medicine, Eyberg and the UF team will offer PCIT to more than 120 families with children with ADHD in the Gainesville area. Their work is supported by a five-year \$2.9 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

"Our past research shows that PCIT can improve ADHD behaviors, delay the need for medication and prevent more serious behavior problems from developing," Eyberg said.

While PCIT has traditionally been offered as an individual treatment, the current treatment program will test the effectiveness of conducting PCIT in small groups.

"Our goal is to discover which approach works best," Eyberg said. "We know parents enjoy individual attention from their therapist, but perhaps parents would like sharing the time with two or three other families as well."

If PCIT group treatment is just as successful as individual treatment, the therapy could be offered to more children and families at a lower cost, Eyberg said.

Children who are eligible for the PCIT study should be between the ages of 4 and 6 and qualify for a diagnosis of ADHD during study assessment. For more information on the no-cost treatment program, call 352-273-5236. **P**



**SHEILA EYBERG, PH.D.**

# Grant to support children's psychological services

By Jill Pease

Families with children receiving treatment at the UF Pediatric Pulmonary Center will have improved access to psychological care, thanks to a grant from The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida.

The Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida, the philanthropic affiliate of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida, awarded the College of Public Health and Health Professions department of clinical and health psychology a \$99,797 grant to provide psychological services for children with asthma and cystic fibrosis.



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida representatives Gene Usner, Susan Towler and Maylene Moneypenny (far right) present Christina Adams (second from right) with a \$99,797 gift to support psychological services for pediatric patients with asthma and cystic fibrosis.

The UF Pediatric Pulmonary Center treats pediatric patients in Gainesville and at its outreach clinics in Panama City, Tallahassee and Daytona Beach. The addition of a psychologist will allow the center to provide individual and family therapy, with a particular focus on families who have no insurance or who have Medicaid.

Children with asthma or cystic fibrosis have a higher incidence of psychosocial concerns, such as anxiety, depression and lower self-esteem, than do healthy children, said Christina Adams, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of clinical and health psychology and a member of the Pediatric Pulmonary Center team.

"Many parents of children with cystic fibrosis also have psychological problems, which may precede or result from the stress of caring for a chronically ill child," she added.

Limited training for health-care providers and problems with access lead to many children with asthma and cystic fibrosis not receiving the psychological care they need, Adams said.

"In some rural areas, there are no community mental health centers or patients must travel extended distances to receive care," she said. "These disadvantages, coupled with the fact that psychologists outside of community mental health centers are not reimbursed by Florida Medicaid, prevent many of our patients from having access to quality psychological care." **P**

# Peace of her heart

UF nursing researcher was one of first in Peace Corps



Sharleen Simpson talks with a mother and child during a routine visit at hospital clinic in Montero, Bolivia in 1963. Simpson spent almost two years in Bolivia after joining the Peace Corps in 1962, its inaugural year. (Right) Simpson, now a UF associate professor of nursing, pages through her scrapbook of Peace Corps photos. Photo (right) taken by Sarah Kiewel.

By Stephanie Fraiman

In 1962, when Sharleen Simpson, Ph.D., was a young nurse fresh out of college, she joined the Peace Corps in its inaugural year.

She discovered fruit that didn't exist in the United States, met people who changed her life and explored parts of Bolivia and Puerto Rico. Simpson, now a women's health nurse practitioner and clinical researcher in the College of Nursing, will return to those now 40-year-old memories this summer when she reunites with other members of the Peace Corps at the group's biennial reunion.

"Coming out of the 1950s, a time of the Cold War and bomb shelters, I wanted to do something exciting," said Simpson, who has a doctorate in anthropology from UF. "I went because I wanted to see the world, which was also probably true for most of the Peace Corps volunteers at the time."

See the world she did. She began her training at an American Indian reservation in Arizona where she battled the heat and learned how to make tortillas. After Arizona, her group moved on to Puerto Rico, where it trained further and learned to speak Spanish.

"The training was like Outward Bound," Simpson said. "There were hikes from coast to coast of the island. I remember that to test our strength they would tie our hands, put us in the water and we would have to float for 45 minutes."

After the harsh training in Puerto Rico, Simpson and other members of her group were finally ready to travel to their destination — Bolivia. Upon arriving in Bolivia, there was a big ceremony with the president of the country and many ambassadors in attendance.

"Since I was the only one who spoke Spanish, I got to give a speech to give thanks to the president of Bolivia," Simpson said.

In Bolivia, she worked first as a nurse in a sugarmill clinic for four months. After that, she worked for various Ministry of Health hospitals until she left the country in 1964.

That same year, just before her time in the Peace Corps ended, she was

asked to train local nurses at a very small, poorly managed clinic. She developed programs to educate the local staff, which included a variety of people, from those who could not read to some who were already trained as nurses.

She did not think her programs helped much, but when she went back to visit in 1969, the employees told her they had been a huge success.

"I think that part of the reason they thought the programs were so successful was that because during my time I requested that they get new uniforms," Simpson said.

Simpson still thinks about the time she spent in the Peace Corps.

"You never forget what it's like not to have any resources," she said. "I find myself telling doctors here that they are really spoiled because of all the technology that they have at their disposal."

She has not lost her international focus, either. Simpson is trying to organize a program between UF's College of Nursing and the nursing program at the Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan, a university in Mexico's Yucatan state.

During spring break she traveled with colleagues and students in the nursing program to observe hospitals and clinics in the community.

"We want to establish a partnership where we can send students to study there and their students can come study here," she said.

Ashley Raum, one of the students who traveled with Simpson to the Yucatan, is trying to follow in her teacher's footsteps in another way too. She recently applied to the Peace Corps and is waiting to hear back on when and where she will go.

"It's something I was thinking about doing and she encouraged me throughout the trip," said Raum, a senior majoring in nursing. "Hearing about what she did definitely makes me want to go more."

Throughout their time in the Yucatan, Simpson and Raum grew close.

"She inspires me because she's done a lot of interesting things in her life and she still looks for new adventures," Raum said. "She has a genuine interest in other people and cultures and it's motivating to see that in another person." P



Marion Graham, an assistant professor in the College of Nursing, listens to a Sim Man's lungs at the Center for Simulation Education & Safety Research in Jacksonville, during a simulation test she created for a class.



Nursing student Charlotte Symonds spends a moment with newborn Kylee while the baby's mother, Melissa Hanna, watches from her hospital bed at Shands at AGH.

Abigail Dee, a third-year pharmacy student participates in a role-playing exercise during a class. Playing the part of the patient who overdosed is pharmacy professor Sven A. Normann.



### ANSWERS FROM PAGE 3

#### FLORIDA HISTORY

A: Orange juice

#### POP CULTURE

A: Ray Charles

#### SCIENCE

A: 50 miles long

#### SPORTS

A: Whitey Ford

#### HEALTH

A: Epsom Salt

# THE POST

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