



Marine Medicine

Whitney's waterfront
lab gains ground

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UF | Health
Science
Center
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Miss America,
patient

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ON THE COVER: At UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, HSC neurologist Leonid Moroz holds an *Aplysia californica*, a sea slug useful as a model for brain cell communication. The Atlantic Coast lab is beginning a multi-phase expansion with the August completion of its new Center for Marine Studies. The story starts on page 14.

Health education campaign takes oral cancer prevention to the streets

Members of the "Oral Cancer: It Spreads Faster Than You Think" campaign team, an innovative health education effort launched June 1 in Jacksonville, know a bus wrap is worth a thousand words in the fight against oral cancer.

"Oral Cancer: It Spreads Faster Than You Think" aims to raise public awareness of this deadly disease — its signs, causes and prevention — and to encourage regular oral cancer exams to increase early detection. The \$1.5-million, National Institutes of Health-funded campaign is sponsored by UF's College of Dentistry and the Duval County Health Department.

Oral cancer is the fourth most common cancer in black men and the seventh most common in white men. It strikes nearly 30,000 Americans each year and proves fatal for more than 7,000 people annually. Yet nearly 90 percent of those whose oral cancer is detected early will survive.

The campaign, which targets Jacksonville-area residents because of Northeast Florida's disproportionate burden of new oral cancer cases and deaths, will include public service announcements on Jacksonville radio stations WSOL-FM and WJBT-FM. The early diagnosis message is also advertised on billboards, buses and informational materials, including posters and brochures, disseminated to communities throughout the Jacksonville area.

— Lindy McCollum-Brounley



One of three Jacksonville Regional Transit buses bearing the Oral Cancer campaign's signature message is parked in the terminal.

PHOTO BY LINDY MCCOLLUM-BROUNLEY

Women in Medicine exhibit travels to HSC library

"Changing The Face Of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians," a new traveling exhibition focusing on American women's centuries long struggle to gain access to medical education and to work in the medical specialty of their choice, opens Aug. 30 at the UF HSC Library in Gainesville. Although the exhibit focuses on women physicians, the HSC Libraries invite viewers to discover the many ways that women have influenced and enhanced all areas of health science and health care.

The exhibition arrives Aug. 23 amid the 50th anniversary celebrations for the HSC Libraries, the colleges of Medicine and Nursing, and the Office of the Senior Vice President for Health Affairs. During the exhibition period, the library has planned several events celebrating the increasing diversity of the health professions and involving participants from all six HSC colleges. All events listed below are free and open to the public.

Aug. 30: Opening celebration:

- Ribbon-cutting, welcoming remarks from Faith Meakin and Rebecca Pauly, M.D., honored as a 'Local Legend' within the exhibition, 3 p.m. (Tours available from 3 to 8 p.m.)
- Reception, food and drinks on library's first floor, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- Deans' Roundtable, PHHP Auditorium, theme: The Changing Face of Health Science – Deans on Diversity in their Professions," 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Sept. 8: Keynote speech

Regina Morantz-Sanchez, Ph.D., a professor of history at the University of Michigan, speaks on "Gynecological Surgery and Public Controversy: Dr. Mary Dixon-Jones on Trial, 1892" at 3 p.m. at the MSB Auditorium, followed by a light reception at the library.

Sept. 12: Gainesville Women's Health Center Panel Discussion

Mary Ann Burg, director of UF's Women's Health Research Center, will moderate a panel discussion on "Whatever Happened to the Women's Health Movement?" with speakers drawn from the original founders of the Gainesville Women's Health Center, including Byllye Avery, Betsy Randall-David, Randi Cameon, Marilyn Mesh and others.

- Avery and Randall-David will speak at noon, offering historical and sociopolitical perspectives on women's influence on health care. Lunch will be provided.
- Panel discussion, Reitz Union, Room 361, and a reception, 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The National Library of Medicine and the American Library Association organized the exhibition with support from the NLM, the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health and the American Medical Women's Association. The traveling exhibition is based on a larger exhibition that was displayed at the NLM from 2003-05.

Additional fall events will be listed in the September *POST*. Visit the Libraries' Web site at <http://www.50years.health.ufl.edu/library/> for more information and to preregister for lectures and events.

HSC Libraries' journal cancellations!

The HSC Libraries need your input by Aug. 1 on titles they must consider canceling. In an effort to minimize the impact on your work, research and studies, they ask you to go to their Web site, find a spreadsheet listing the titles for possible cancellation, and complete a form by listing up to five titles from the spreadsheet you think must be retained. The HSC Libraries considers this input to be a critical component of their decisions. Visit <http://www.library.health.ufl.edu/>

College of Veterinary Medicine Deriso Hall dedication



Cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony for Deriso Hall at the College of Veterinary Medicine are, from right: UF Provost Dr. Janie Fouke, left; professor emeritus Dr. Paul Nicoletti; FARMS Chief Dr. Owen Rae; Senior Vice President for Food and Agricultural Sciences Dr. Jimmy Cheek, and large animal clinical sciences department Chair Dr. Eleanor Green.

"Tea Party" celebrating World Breastfeeding Week

All faculty and staff of Shands Children's Hospital and Shands at UF are invited to attend the Second Annual Tea Party held in celebration of World Breastfeeding Week. The party will be from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Aug. 25 in the neonatal intensive care unit conference room. Traditional English tea fare and desserts will be served and raffle prizes will be awarded.

The first tea party was held Aug. 19, 2005. More than 68 staff members came together to enjoy the Red Rose tea, scrumptious finger sandwiches and delicious desserts provided by neonatal developmental specialist Judy Angley. Activities included a hat contest, raffles and a door prize. Participants, including physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, lactation consultants, occupational therapists, respiratory therapists, clerks and ancillary staff, were invited to show off their fanciest and most unique hats.

To make the Second Annual Tea Party an even bigger success than the first, bring your appetite. A hat is optional.

If you are interested in sponsoring, donating prizes or helping wash all those teacups, contact Sandra Sullivan, M.D., at sullise@peds.ufl.edu.

Florida Genetics 2006 invites abstracts

Researcher are encouraged to submit poster abstracts covering any aspect of genetics research for sessions of Florida Genetics 2006, a symposium scheduled for Nov. 1-2 in the Reitz Union.

The event is sponsored by the University of Florida Genetics Institute, the graduate program in Plant Cell and Molecular Biology, the McKnight Brain Institute, the College of Engineering and the Health Science Center Libraries.

UF faculty members, postdoctoral associates and students can learn more about registering for the symposium or can submit an abstract by visiting the "seminars and events" section of the UFGI Web site at www.ufgi.ufl.edu beginning Aug. 1.

Nursing students break new ground in Poland

By Tracy Brown

Each spring semester, College of Nursing seniors in the bachelor's of nursing program complete an intensive clinical practicum as the culmination of their studies. This spring, for the first time, a group of students had the chance to complete their practicum in a completely different country.

Senior students Rani Ridenour, Laura Chime Swetland, Sara Wilson and Lori Yontz traveled to Gdansk, Poland as part of a formal exchange between UF and the Medical University of Gdansk. They completed a six-week practicum in March and April. Two faculty members, Veronica Feeg, Ph.D.,

"I feel that my education has expanded because I am able to have more of an open mind to new and different ideas."

— Lori Yontz

R.N., a professor and department chair, and Joan Castleman, M.S., R.N., a clinical associate professor, accompanied the students.

"It was an amazing experience for our students to be able to connect with other nursing students and learn both similarities and differences in nursing and health care," Castleman said. "They met with not only faculty and students, but patients and their families, to gain a better understanding of the Polish culture and health-care system."

The students underwent extensive preparation in Gainesville before they traveled to Poland. At the Alachua County Health Department, they observed



Nursing students and faculty from UF and the Medical University of Gdansk took time out from their clinical training in Poland for a photo. Members of the UF contingent are Lori Yontz (left), Sara Wilson (third from left), Laura Chime Swetland (fourth from right), Rani Ridenour (third from right) and UF College of Nursing faculty member Joan Castleman (second from right).

how services were provided locally and compared them with services they would observe overseas.

"We were able to compare the similarities and differences in nursing practice and education between the two countries in areas like community home health nursing, nursing student rotations and the care that nurses provide in the hospital," said student Lori Yontz. "I feel that my education has expanded because I am able to have more of an open mind to new and different ideas."

Once in Poland, the students collaborated with health professionals in Gdansk on a variety of health promotion, disease prevention and community assessment activities and were able to experience how culture and politics can influence the health profession. A national physician's strike was actually occurring while the group was in Poland.

"Our students had the opportunity to observe and fully appreciate how the context of the health-care system drives the services that are provided and how nurses and physicians are challenged when the political structure shifts," Feeg said.

The Polish health-care system has undergone major changes in the past 50 years. The transition from communist rule and a state-provided system to

a combination of public and private services in health care has affected nursing education as well.

The students and faculty were able to share insights with the Polish faculty and students in nursing education at the baccalaureate and graduate levels.

While language barriers certainly existed, the UF faculty and students found ways to communicate with their counterparts. Feeg said observing clinical situations also provided a common language for both the Polish and UF students who found that the language of nursing was universal.

For students like Sara Wilson, who plans to pursue a Master of Public Health in global health, an experience like this is professionally beneficial as well as personally gratifying. She believes international experiences make students more well-rounded, understanding and compassionate and allow them to understand the worldwide issue of health care.

"I think having an international practicum is extremely important to our college, especially in the world community we live in today," Wilson said. "It gives students an opportunity to branch out into a new culture of living and of practicing nursing. It was a great experience for my future career goals." 

Full steam ahead

Boyd Robinson, former dentist to two U.S. presidents, is dentistry's new associate dean for clinical affairs

By Lindy McCollum-Brounley

Boyd Robinson, D.D.S., M.Ed., is a man on a mission. Recently appointed as dentistry's associate dean for clinical affairs, Robinson now captains the college's clinical enterprise statewide, in Gainesville and at community-based UF dental programs located in Hialeah, Apopka, Seminole and Jacksonville.

His first assignment is working with dental administration and faculty to streamline the student dental program's clinical processes to improve patient care and student learning — a goal with no easy answers and many operational complexities.

Robinson, a retired Navy captain, has extensive clinical and administrative expertise gained from a 26-year military career that provided a rich and varied professional experience at the highest levels of executive leadership in Naval dentistry. In the Navy, he served as director of clinics, centers and programs; managed annual budgets in excess of \$4 million; was responsible for dental services for nearly 30,000 active-duty Navy personnel; advised the Surgeon General of the Navy on dental affairs and was dentist to U.S. presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush Sr.

Robinson is no Pogy Bait (Navy slang for an inexperienced sailor) when it comes to clinical administration.

During the college's nationwide search for clinical dean, his vision of what dentistry's comprehensive patient-care goal should be resulted in college faculty selecting him, a dark horse internal candidate, as the landslide choice.

"Screening and treatment planning are important areas because they're the first contact patients have with our school," Robinson said. "We're going to standardize treatment planning so that all the faculty are calibrated, and



Boyd Robinson is poised to take on an administrative role.

specialty faculty will also rotate in the clinic so that treatment planning is more thorough and uniform. This will be good for the patient, but it will also be good for our students, who rely on treatment planning to provide them with the patients they need to navigate our curriculum."

Fully embracing the recommendations of the college's Multidisciplinary Treatment Planning Clinic Workgroup, Robinson will be a catalyst for change in every aspect of the college's student clinic operations. He not only will oversee reorganization of the treatment planning and screening clinics for the D.M.D.

program but also will develop a new interim care clinic to treat comprehensive care patients suffering from immediate dental problems. He's considering installation of innovative

self-screening measures which include an incoming call screening system, a pre-screening kiosk placed in the West Entrance dental lobby for online walk-in patient pre-screening, and a patient screening "Web wizard" to provide online access and submission of computerized screening forms. He has his own ideas about improving student learning experiences.

"The big plan I have, and this will take some time, is to drive the clinical experience for students down so that freshmen dental students begin their clinical experience by the second semester of dental school," Robinson said.

Early introduction of clinical experience in dental education is a nationwide trend dentistry Dean Teresa Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., would

like to see at UF.

"Many leading dental schools are modifying their curriculums to introduce clinical experiences in the first two semesters of dental school," Dolan said. "I strongly endorse Dr. Robinson's efforts to lead the faculty to create a contemporary, clinically relevant dental curriculum, with one of the goals being earlier introduction of clinical experience."

Robinson is convinced early clinical experience will dramatically improve student learning and retention.

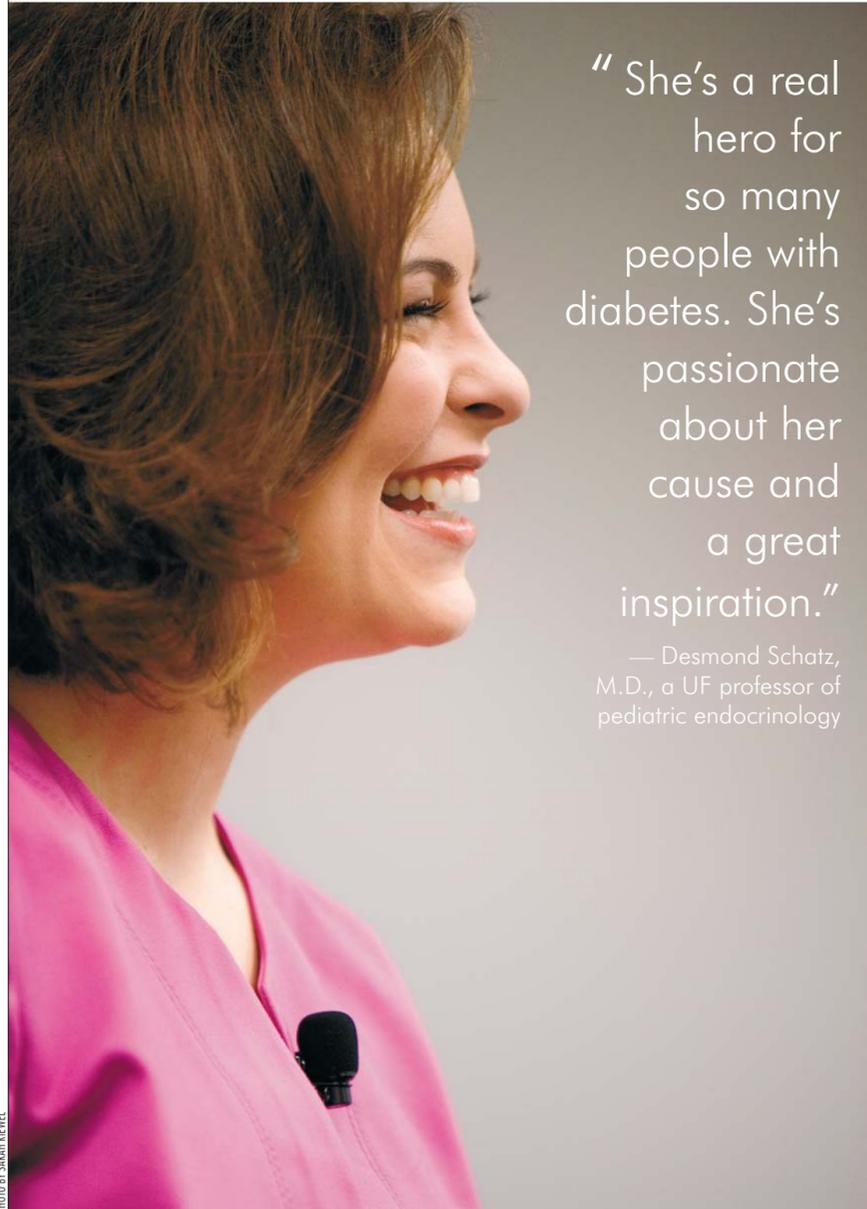
"Much of the didactic pre-teaching we give students during the first and second year of dental school is so far removed from the actual clinical experience that they just don't remember it by the time they get into the clinics," Robinson said. "I would like to see first-year students in the screening clinic taking patient histories. They may not understand all of the history; for instance, they may not understand all of the pharmacology because they haven't been taught that yet. But it will at least plant questions in their minds so that they can make those connections when they are taught it."

Robinson's hands-on style will help with these necessary transitions, but he's quick to acknowledge the importance of staff and faculty involvement.

"I don't do anything in a vacuum; this is nothing I can do by myself," said Robinson. "I'm not autocratic, I'm more of a democratic coach. I have to empower people, set up teams that work and say to people, 'I want you to teach me your business, and I want you to define what your role is in the school.'"

"Through that definition, I think we're going to find a lot of good stuff, because people are trying to do a good job." 

Former Miss America highlights importance of patient communication



“She’s a real hero for so many people with diabetes. She’s passionate about her cause and a great inspiration.”

— Desmond Schatz, M.D., a UF professor of pediatric endocrinology

By April Frawley Birdwell

Something just didn’t feel right. The doctor at her university’s health services office told Nicole Johnson Baker she was probably iron deficient. It happens to a lot of girls in college. The next time, it was the Beijing flu. Then, after she fell on stage during a performance, doctors thought her appendix was about to burst. She was being prepped for surgery when it happened: Someone checked her blood sugar.

Baker, 32, who was crowned Miss America in 1999, didn’t have the flu, a bursting appendix or an iron problem. She has type 1 diabetes.

“We had no idea what lay before us,” Baker told a roomful of College of Medicine faculty during a pediatrics Grand Rounds presentation in June.

Now an advocate for diabetes research and care, Baker came to UF to share the story of her own 13-year struggle with the disease and spread the message about the importance of fostering better communication with patients, something she said proved to be a key factor in her own treatment.

Doctors at the hospital had told her that she may never have children, graduate from college or pursue her dream of becoming Miss America. It wasn’t until five years into her treatment for the disease that her perspective began to change. Her doctor at the time sat down with her and told her he had diabetes, too. That moment helped her see that the disease didn’t have to stop her from pursuing her own passions. Her doctor had achieved his goals. She could too.

“I suddenly realized, ‘Maybe (the other doctors were) not right.’ Because there was this health-care professional who was so accomplished who was being real with me,” she said. “I really think it all comes back to that one moment.”

Baker went on to win the Miss America Pageant and earlier this year gave birth to her first child, a girl named Ava.

“She’s a real hero for so many people with diabetes,” said Desmond Schatz, M.D., a UF professor of pediatric endocrinology. “She’s passionate about her cause and a great inspiration.”

While doctors may not be able to share diseases with all their patients, taking the time to listen, believing them and not treating patients like numbers can make a big difference, Baker said.

“The thing that is missing from my standpoint is a psychological, emotional level of care,” she said.

“That kind of care can come from you.”

Nicole Johnson Baker came to UF to share the story of her battle with type 1 diabetes and to encourage doctors to foster better patient communication.

Toast honors memory of physical therapy professor

By Jill Pease

Members of the physical therapy department at the College of Public Health and Health Professions remembered a well-loved colleague on June 1 with a special toast to him and a piece of his research equipment.

The Kin-Com dynamometer was used by Mark Trimble, Ph.D., an assistant professor of physical therapy who died in 2001 at the age of 42 from a ruptured brain aneurysm.

The Kin-Com, which tests muscle strength and spasticity, is being moved from its location to make room for another machine with newer technology.



Friends, family and colleagues gather around the Kin-Com and toast the memory of Mark Trimble with cans of his favorite beverage, Mountain Dew. The group included, from left, Trimble’s daughter, Jessica; his parents, William and Barbara Trimble, of Middletown, Ohio; and faculty, students and staff from the physical therapy and neuroscience departments. Trimble is also survived by his wife, Shelley, and son, Lucas. In honor of Trimble, the Mark H. Trimble Memorial scholarship is awarded annually to a physical therapy student who demonstrates excellence in orthopedics. For more information on the scholarship fund call Carlee Thomas at 273-6542 or e-mail carleeth@ufl.edu.

“Mark Trimble and I acquired that Kin-Com with funds from the PPHP Dean’s Fund many moons ago and got a great deal on it when we bought it,” said Andrea Behrman, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of physical therapy. “It was a wonderful team effort and partnership to acquire it. The Kin-Com has sentimental value, and with its departure, we thought it would be appropriate to gather round and remember Mark for a few minutes.”

The group shared memories of Trimble against the backdrop of a CD from his music collection.

“Many of us can still see Mark standing by this unit in the old PT building, collecting data, posting data on the wall and listening to rock music,” Behrman said. “Whether you knew him personally or not, his memory lives on as a friend and colleague and his contributions to the program persist today. For instance, it was Mark’s idea to have video cameras in the teaching labs recording and simultaneously projecting images to the monitors for students to have a better view of technique demonstrations.”

UF to begin master’s program in public health nursing

By Tracy Brown Wright

The University of Florida College of Nursing has been awarded a three-year grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to offer a master of science in public health nursing degree.

The program will be one of two public health nursing master’s programs in Florida, and the college will admit students for the upcoming fall semester.

“We are excited to be able to offer this program in Florida, where public health nursing is an integral part of the health of our communities and our citizens,” said Nancy Tigar, Dr.P.H., R.N., a clinical assistant professor who will serve as coordinator of the program.

The HRSA will provide \$270,000 in the first year, with similar funding levels expected for the second and third year, bringing the expected total to more than \$800,000.

Graduates of this program will be prepared to work in a variety of public and private settings. They will be well-versed in the core

“We are excited to be able to offer this program in Florida, where public health nursing is an integral part of the health of our communities and our citizens.”

— Nancy Tigar, Dr.P.H., R.N.

functions of public health and able to participate in assessment, policy development and assurance as needed. The program will focus primarily on the health of populations and on community-oriented nursing practice.

“Public health nurses often work at the grassroots level, helping to plan and implement programs, and also work toward policy change,” Tigar said. “Their careers are exciting and very gratifying. They are able to be involved at so many levels in our health-care system.”

Students may enroll in part- or full-time study. Approximately 80 percent of the classes will be taught online and clinical rotations will be arranged with practice partners in the students’ local areas. Program graduates will be qualified to take the Community Health Nursing certification examination.

It is anticipated that in the second year, the College of Nursing will offer a joint M.S.N. and master of public health degree in conjunction with the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions.

2006 Research Day Ceremonies

College of Dentistry April 7

Invited Speakers

Linda Bartoshuk, Ph.D., visiting professor, department of clinical and health psychology, College of Public Health and Health Professions: "Are You a Supertaster? How Do We Know? What Does it Mean for Your Health?"

Kenneth I. Berns, M.D., Ph.D., professor, department of pediatrics; director, UF Genetics Institute: "Gene Therapy." Keynote Speaker, **Mary MacDougall**, Ph.D., professor, department of oral maxillofacial surgery, University of Alabama at Birmingham: "Discovering your Future with a Smile: Dental Research Opportunities."



Dentistry Research Day keynote speaker Mary MacDougall spoke on research opportunities available to dental faculty and students. MacDougall is a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, the James R. Rosen chair of dental research and associate dean for research at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry.

D.M.D. Division Poster Presentation Awards

First place

Anna Pyatigorskayam, department of oral biology
"Mapping of Antibody Specificity Using an Overlapping Peptide Epitope Array"

Second place

Vincent Yeung, department of oral biology
"A Role for LuxS Signaling in Porphyromonas gingivalis"

Third place (Tie):

Amy Luce, department of dental biomaterials
"The Effects of Polyethylene Glycol on Surface Contact Angle Measurements"

Robert Weaver, department of oral biology
"LuxS-Mediated Signaling by Streptococcus mutans in Dual Species Biofilms"

M.S./Resident Division Poster Presentation Awards

First place

Rita Hurst, department of orthodontics
"Cytoskeletal Dynamics and the Ruffled Plasma Membranes of Osteoclasts"

Second place

Anzir M. Moopen, department of orthodontics
"The Role of Pax7 and Pax3 in the Repair and Regeneration of Mouse Jaw and Somatic Muscle"

Third place

Valerie Minor, department of orthodontics
"Effects of Preoperative Ibuprofen, Anxiety and Gender on Post-separator Placement Pain"

Ph.D./Postdoc Division Poster Presentation Awards

First place

Lin Zeng, department of oral biology
"Identification of a Fructose/Mannose-specific Sugar: Phosphotransferase System in Streptococcus mutans"

Second place

Marcelle Matos Nascimento, department of oral biology
"The Effect of the Alarmonone (p)ppGpp on the Transcriptome of Streptococcus mutans"

Third place

Song Mao, department of oral biology
"Apoptotic Pathways of Gingival Epithelial Cells Modulated by Porphyromonas gingivalis"

College of Medicine

Twenty awards were handed out during the college's annual Research Day, held April 11. Among the honors, six students



Medical Guild Award winners are, from left, Valerie Crusselle Davis, Christina Pacak, Michael Godney, Amar Singh, Nicole Tester and Bei Wang.

were recognized by the UF Medical Guild for their research, and a special Lifetime Achievement Award was given posthumously to Hugh M. Hill, M.D., a retired UF professor of obstetrics and gynecology and former dean of student affairs who passed away in 2005. Also receiving a special award was C. Craig Tisher, M.D., who, in recognition of the college's 50th anniversary, was honored for his vision and leadership as dean of the College of Medicine.

Medical Guild Awards

Gold Medal Finalist

Valerie Crusselle Davis, biochemistry and molecular biology,
"Antagonistic Regulation of b Globin Gene Expression by Helix-Loop-Helix Proteins TFII-I and USF"

Silver Medal Finalists

Christina Pacak, genetics,
"Muscle-Specific Delivery of the Alpha Sarcoglycan Gene Provides Functional and Morphological Correction of Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy Type 2D"

Bei Wang, immunology and microbiology advanced concentration,
"An Effective Cancer Vaccine Modality: Lentiviral Modification of Dendritic Cells Expressing Multiple Cancer-Associated Antigens"

Bronze Medal Finalists

Nicole Tester, neuroscience,
"Use of Chondroitinase to Enhance Motor Recovery Following Spinal Cord Injury"

Michael Godney, physiology and pharmacology,
"ERK 1/2 Dually Influence c-fos Transcription and Cell Proliferation through Cytoplasmic Phosphorylation of RSK2 and Nuclear Phosphorylation of elk 1 in Response to Angiotensin II"

Amar Singh, molecular cell biology,
"The Wnt/b-catenin Antagonist, Chibby, Facilitates Cardiomyocyte Differentiation of Embryonic Stem Cell"

Basic Science Award

Dietmar Siemann, Ph.D.
Department of Radiation Oncology

Clinical Science Award

John Wingard, M.D.
Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology

Lifetime Achievement Award

William F. Enneking, M.D.
Department of Orthopaedics and Rehabilitation
Hugh M. Hill, M.D. (special award)
department of obstetrics and gynecology

Outstanding Basic Poster Presentation Award Winners

Tamara D. Warner, Ph.D.
Wendy B. London, Ph.D.

Outstanding Clinical Poster Presentation Award Winners

Ben Sutter
Bruce Vogel, Ph.D.

Medical Guild Research Incentive Awards

Shayam Daya
Deborah Herbstman
Dacia Kwiatkowski
Katherine Laughlin
Jacqueline Sayyah

College of Medicine – Jacksonville



The three recipients of College of Medicine-Jacksonville Research Day awards, (from left) poster winners Erik Lowman, Linda Di Teodoro and platform presentation winner Samvel Charukhchian.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

The College of Nursing's Annual Research Day, held March 31 in conjunction with its Distinguished Malasanos Lectureship, honored the college's 50th anniversary by celebrating a heritage of nursing science at UF. The Malasanos Lectureship featured Anna Schwartz, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., noted researcher in exercise and cancer treatment and faculty member at the Arizona State University School of Nursing. Schwartz spoke to faculty, students, consumers and other health professionals about her scientifically based program for physical activity and symptom management in cancer patients and its implications on nursing research and practice.

Top Graduate Honors

Melissa Dodd Ingles, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.
"The Pain Experience in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder: New Caregiver Insights." Faculty mentor: Department Chair and Associate Professor Jennifer Elder, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.



Senior nursing student Jessica Casselberry (left) with her faculty mentor Dr. Ann Horgas in front of her winning poster presentation.

Top Undergraduate Honors

Meghan Bullard, "A Secondary Analysis of Parent-Child Play Behaviors in Children with Autism." Faculty mentor: Department Chair and Associate Professor Jennifer Elder, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.

Jessica Casselberry, "Facial Expressions of Pain." Faculty mentor: Associate Dean for Research Ann Horgas, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.

College of Pharmacy

The College of Pharmacy 19th Annual Research Showcase, held in February, had four poster and three oral competition winners. Three finalists were selected for each division. In each division, the first prize award was \$600, and the other two finalists received \$300. All finalists received a commemorative plaque.

Poster Competition Winners

Postdoctoral: **Yasmeen Khan**,
"Relative Amount of Fluticasone Delivered by HFA-MDI to Children of Different Ages"

Graduate student: **Whocely Victor de Castro**,
pharmaceutics, "Evaluation of the Effect of Grapefruit Juice and its Components on P-glycoprotein Activity"

Pharmacy student: **Cristin Hogan**, pharmacy health care administration, "Weight-based Heparin Protocols are Efficacious...But Are They Effective?"

Pharmacy student: **Jillian Stewart**, pharmacodynamics,
"Cardiac Myocyte and Fibroblast ACE2 Activity and Modulation by Estrogens"

Oral Competition Winners

The Dr. Robert A. and Phyllis Levitt Research Award is granted to a graduate student who has performed meritorious research in the areas of health outcomes research or related translational research in the clinical sciences.

Levitt Award Winner:

Tobias Gerhard, department of pharmacy/
health care administration, "Association between Cardiovascular Outcomes, Diuretic Therapy and the α -adducin

Polymorphism: Results from the International Verapamil SR-Trandolapril Study GENetic Substudy (INVEST GENES)"

Junior Award:

Wouter Driessen, department of pharmaceuticals,
"Peptide Targeted Lipid Based Gene Delivery"

Senior Award:

Justin Grobe, Department of pharmacodynamics,
"Prevention of Hypertension-induced Cardiac Remodeling by Angiotensin-(1-7)"

The College of Public Health and Health Professions

The College of Public Health and Health Professions held its 19th Annual Research Fair for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows March 20. Ten winning research posters were chosen from 41 entries. The winners each received \$500 to use toward travel expenses to a scientific or professional conference.



Yasmeen Khan, Ph.D., winner of the postdoctoral competition, stands by her research poster.

Behavioral Science Category

Lauren Gibbons

"Length of Treatment and Successful Outcome in the Management of Obesity"

Adam Hirsh

"Sex Differences in the Pain-Mood-Disability Nexus"

Sally Jensen

"Coping Predicts Surgical Recovery Among Women with Endometrial Cancer"

Emily Kuhl

"Psychological adjustment to congenital heart disease: Do sex differences still exist?"

Kimberly Miller

"Depression symptoms in Parkinson's disease, dystonia and Essential Tremor"

Vanessa Milsom

"What is successful weight loss outcome? The impact of 5 percent and 10 percent body weight reductions on metabolic risk factors for disease"

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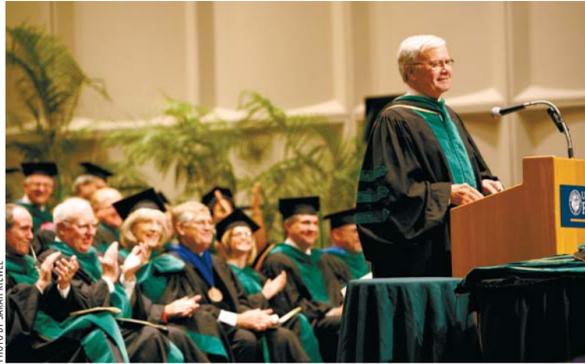
Scenes from Commencement 2006

Brokaw brings dose of reality to medical school graduation

By April Frawley Birdwell

It's not the big names Tom Brokaw remembers most, the Nelson Mandelas, Mikhail Gorbachevs or Lance Armstrongs.

It's the protestors and students who fought for civil rights, the soldiers who served their country in Vietnam and the young surgeon who worked through the night in a tent in Somalia to save victims of a bloody unrest.



Tom Brokaw, one of the country's most well-known television journalists and former anchor of "NBC Nightly News," spoke in May at the UF College of Medicine graduation.

After 40 years as one of the country's most recognized and lauded television journalists and former anchor of "NBC Nightly News," Brokaw remembers them, the people who gave of themselves tirelessly for no fame and glory, the most.

Speaking to graduating students at the UF College of Medicine's commencement ceremony May 20, Brokaw highlighted the need for more people like them, who act as agents for change in a world that desperately needs it.

"You won't halt an epidemic by hitting the backspace button," he said. "We live at the apogee of Western civilization and in despair that ancient sectarian rivalries are now lethal alternatives to reason and modernity."

Brokaw, who hails from the same South Dakota town as College of Medicine Dean C. Craig Tisher, also told of his own familial ties to medicine — there are seven doctors in his family. In his 40-year career he has also covered medical breakthroughs and reported and produced documentaries on renal transplant, health-care costs and medical training.

"I've scrubbed for surgery," Brokaw said. "I've made rounds in rural clinics and in world-class teaching hospitals. I've seen in the third, fourth and fifth worlds the miracles of medicine take place, so I arrive today as your speaker in awe of what you know and what you do. And I am impressed by your commitment to a demanding and often thankless profession."

Shechtman claims top PPHP teaching awards

By Jill Pease

Orit Shechtman, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of occupational therapy, has been named the College of Public Health and Health Professions' Teacher of the Year.

Shechtman also received the Outstanding Faculty Member Award from seniors in the college's Bachelor of Health Science program, and the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Occupational Therapy Education from the UF Student Occupational Therapy Association. The awards are particularly notable achievements considering the fact that Shechtman teaches some of the programs' toughest courses — anatomy, pathophysiology and neuroscience.

"She takes an extremely complex subject or concept and explains it in such a simple and understanding way," said Amanda Summer Mosrie, a student in the Master of Occupational Therapy program. "Her students look forward to going to her classes because they know they will leave with the highest level of knowledge and expertise in that discipline."

It is important for students to truly understand the material, not just memorize it for a test, Shechtman said.

"Therapists and physicians need a solid understanding of the human body in health and disease to be able to base clinical reasoning of therapeutic interventions on scientific facts," said Shechtman, who was named UF's Teacher of the Year in 1998.

Occupational Therapy Master's Student Jeremy Eminhizer said, "Dr. Shechtman is at the top of the food chain for university professors and is going to need much more wall space for all the awards that she will claim over her career. She is truly a valuable asset to the University of Florida."



ORIT SHECHTMAN

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE-JACKSONVILLE

The College of Medicine-Jacksonville celebrated the graduation of 102 medical, dental and pharmacy students at its annual Resident Graduation Ceremony, held June 14 in the Learning Resource Center Auditorium. Also recognized was Ann Harwood-Nuss, M.D., for whom a new award — the Ann Harwood-Nuss Resident Advocate Award — was named in honor of the retiring associate dean for educational affairs. The award will be given for the first time at next year's graduation ceremony. In addition, as part of the ceremony, the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville presented the following four prestigious awards to residents, fellows and faculty members.

Excellence in Student Education

The resident winner receives a plaque and \$500, and the faculty winner receives a professional expense account for \$500.

Resident winner:

Bianci Jasani, M.D., pediatrics

Faculty winner:

Andrew Kerwin, M.D., surgery

Edward Jelks Outstanding Resident Clinician

The winner receives \$500 as well as his or her name engraved on a plaque permanently displayed in the Learning Resource Center.

Chris Goll, M.D., orthopaedic surgery

Rosilie Saffos Outstanding Resident Teacher

Presented annually to the resident considered the most outstanding resident teacher on the Jacksonville campus, the award includes \$1,000, a plaque and the inclusion of the awardee's name on a permanent plaque displayed in the Learning Resource Center.

Bianca Jasani, M.D., pediatrics

Louis S. Russo Award for Outstanding Professionalism in Medicine

The resident award includes \$1,000, a plaque and the inclusion of the awardee's name on a permanent plaque displayed in the Learning Resource Center. The faculty award includes a professional expense account for \$3,000, a plaque and inclusion of the awardee's name on a permanent plaque displayed in the Learning Resource Center.

Resident winner:

Darren Peterson, M.D., surgery

Faculty winner:

David Caro, M.D., emergency medicine



College of Dentistry

Commencement for the College of Dentistry was held in the Phillips Center May 26, when degrees and certificates were conferred on 78 D.M.D. students, 47 advanced and graduate education students and 12 internationally educated dentists. After Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Douglas Barrett conferred their degrees, dental D.M.D. graduates read the Dentists' Pledge, promising to uphold the professional ethics of dentistry and to deliver excellence in patient care.

College of Nursing honors the Class of 2006



Honorary doctorate recipient Linda Aiken, (left), receives her diploma from UF Provost Dr. Janie Fouke.

This year's College of Nursing commencement ceremony, which took place May 5, was particularly special because it celebrated the 50th anniversary of the college.

The College of Nursing presented an honorary doctorate degree to Linda Aiken, Ph.D., R.N., one of the college's most renowned alumna. Aiken received both her bachelor of science in nursing and master's of nursing from UF, and is now director of the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania.

Aiken is known worldwide for advancing quality patient care through research and health policy work. She has been an influential leader in the field of nursing outcomes research for the past two decades. She has been awarded more than \$12 million in extramural funding for her research programs, and results of her groundbreaking studies have been reported nationally and internationally.

The Alumnus of the Year award was given to Audrey Nelson (Ph.D. 1990) a nationally recognized leader in clinical practice and research who has magnified the scope of practice for patient safety and is a tireless advocate for those with disabilities. Nelson is the director of Patient Safety Center of Inquiry and associate director of Nursing Service for Research at James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa.

2006 College of Nursing Spring Commencement (Includes Fall 2005, Spring and Summer 2006)

244 total graduates / 161 bachelor of science graduates (includes accelerated degree students) / 75 master of science graduates / 8 doctorate of nursing science graduates

College of Pharmacy



Announcing "Dr. Alberta," a.k.a. Kourtney Long, Pharm.D. A four-year member of UF's Spirit Mascot program, Long graduated this spring at the College of Pharmacy commencement. May 2006 marked a milestone for the UF Pharm.D. program. The Pharmacy class of 2006 graduated a record 203 Pharm.D. students from four campuses across Florida: Gainesville, St. Petersburg, Jacksonville and Orlando.

Service dog speeds toward recovery after surgery at UF's Veterinary Medical Center

By Sarah Carey

A service dog named Eagle, whose unusual orthopedic problem threatened his ability to help his disabled owner, is speeding toward recovery after successful surgery in June partly funded by NASCAR champion Tony Stewart.

The Tony Stewart Foundation supplemented efforts already under way by the Orange City-based animal assistance group H.E.L.P. Animals Inc. to fund the cost of Eagle's operation, which was performed at the UF Veterinary Medical Center, and the travel expenses of a visiting veterinary surgeon from Missouri.

The 3-year-old golden retriever is owned by Michael Ray, of Deltona, who was paralyzed in a road-rage incident when he was 27 years old. Ray said the dog was a godsend, moving in with him more than three years ago, a few years after his wife died of cancer.

"I am in a wheelchair and I'd never had a service dog," said Ray. "I knew my shoulders were going bad, as I'd been pushing a chair since 1978. I decided a service dog might be right up my alley."

Now it was Eagle who needed Ray's help.

The dog began showing signs of weight-bearing lameness of the front left leg last year. Although hind leg lameness is commonly seen and treated by veterinary orthopedic specialists, front leg lameness is rarer and frequently difficult to definitively diagnose and treat.

The problem persisted despite a regimen of exercise and rest, so UF veterinarians recommended surgery. Daniel Lewis, D.V.M., a professor of small animal surgery at UF, and Jennifer Fick, D.V.M., a veterinary surgery instructor who was part of Eagle's care team, noted that they could move Eagle's left shoulder to a markedly greater degree than his right shoulder.

"This was a finding that suggested possible medial shoulder instability, which can cause front leg lameness," Fick said.

UF veterinarians discussed their assessment with Ray and mentioned that James "Jimi" Cook, D.V.M., Ph.D., had recently published an article on medial shoulder instability. Cook, the William C. Allen endowed scholar for orthopaedic research and director of the Comparative Orthopaedic Laboratory at the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, pioneered the procedure to treat this problem. He flew to Gainesville to perform the surgery and train UF veterinarians in the technique.

"I'm very happy with the end result," said Cook,



PHOTO BY SARAH REVEL



Michael Ray, top, greets Eagle, his 3-year-old service dog, after the golden retriever underwent surgery at the UF Veterinary Medical Center for an unusual problem in his left front leg. The Tony Stewart Foundation and the animal assistance group H.E.L.P. Animals Inc., joined forces to provide funding for the surgery. Vet Tech Stephanie Holloway, below, assists with Eagle's post-surgery therapy.

who repaired two small tears in Eagle's shoulder and removed a small chip of bone from the dog's elbow. "The shoulder was the primary problem but I'm glad we got the elbow taken care of before it grew worse. We have now addressed all of the problems that would be making Eagle's limb lame."

Cook said Eagle's prognosis is very good.

"Time will tell, but he's a motivated patient," Cook said.

The surgery was made possible thanks to the generosity of many. Ray, whose sole income is from Medicare, had been concerned about finances. Surgery alone was estimated to cost approximately \$2,500. Then there would be the additional costs associated with traveling to Gainesville and Eagle's postoperative care. Ray shared his dilemma with several friends — including an assistant manager at a supermarket where Eagle had become very popular.

One day when Ray and Eagle were at the store, the assistant manager approached them and told Ray her mother volunteered for an organization called H.E.L.P. Animals.

"Next thing I knew, the H.E.L.P. Animals group contacted me and said they would try to fund Eagle's surgery," Ray said.

The group posted Ray's story and a plea for financial assistance on its Web site, www.helpanimalsinc.org.

Soon an anonymous donor gave \$1,800 to Eagle's cause. Other funds were raised through a motorcycle run. Then a call came from the Tony Stewart Foundation.

"Someone had sent something to us soliciting our help," said Pam Boas, Stewart's mother, who helps manage the organization. "Knowing Tony's heart, I called them. He loves animals and that's why our foundation was formed, so we could actually do a better job of donating money to the things that really touched Tony and also touched kids and animals."

At that point, Ray contacted Cook and asked if there were any way he could assist in Eagle's case. Cook e-mailed right away and a plan was hatched to bring him to Gainesville. He agreed to donate his services and H.E.L.P. Animals covered the surgeon's additional travel costs.

"This was the best possible scenario for everyone," Fick said. "Eagle got the best treatment and we benefited from learning the procedure from Dr. Cook. Everybody wins."

Research team to measure outcomes of muscular dystrophy treatments

By Jill Pease

Researchers at the University of Florida College of Public Health and Health Professions and the McKnight Brain Institute will use a powerful new magnet to assess the effectiveness of muscular dystrophy therapies.

UF is a research site for the new Sen. Paul D. Wellstone Muscular Dystrophy Cooperative Research Center, one of six in the United States. Research partners include the University of Pennsylvania, Johns Hopkins University and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

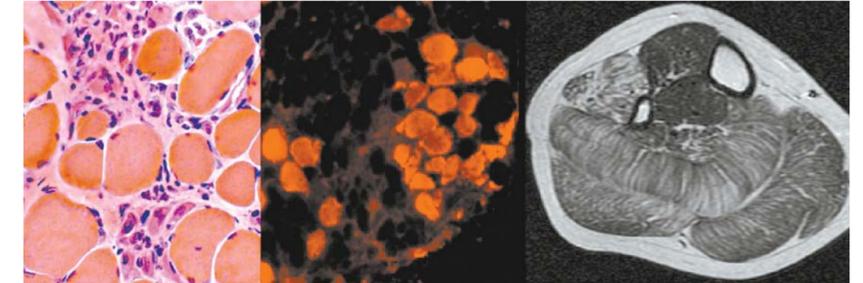
Magnetic resonance imaging provides precise, noninvasive assessments of muscle tissue quality that allow researchers to determine the natural progression of the disease throughout the body, which muscles should be targeted for therapy and the efficacy of therapeutic interventions. The team will use a powerful new magnet for outcome measurements — the 3 Tesla MR whole body scanner, scheduled for installation in the McKnight Brain Institute this summer.

The UF research is led by Krista Vandeborne, Ph.D., principal investigator and chair of the department of physical therapy, and Glenn Walter, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Medicine.

Muscular dystrophy is a group of inherited diseases that affect 50,000 Americans. The disease causes the muscles that control movement to progressively weaken and lose the ability to regenerate after an injury, eventually turning the muscle tissue into fat.

The most common form of muscular dystrophy in children — Duchenne muscular dystrophy — only affects boys and by age 12, many need a wheelchair, said Vandeborne. As the disease advances, the heart and respiratory system are affected and patients often die in their late teens or 20s of cardiorespiratory failure.

"Muscular dystrophy is a devastating disease and it's about time it gets cured," Vandeborne said.



The image on the left shows a histological section of dystrophic muscle, showing extensive macrophage infiltration. In the middle image, damaged muscle cells are visualized under immunofluorescence using a histological dye. The figure on the right shows an MRI of the lower leg of a boy with muscular dystrophy.

Typically, patients' muscles are tested by removing a small amount of tissue for a biopsy. But this method does not give a complete picture of all the muscles and is impractical, especially because the children have progressive muscle loss, Vandeborne said.

"Our work is setting the stage for the evaluation of clinical studies of drug interventions and gene transfer currently in development for muscular dystrophy," said Vandeborne, whose research team will fly in children with muscular dystrophy from all over the United States for assessments.

"Magnetic resonance imaging has many advantages for the study of muscular dystrophy," Vandeborne said. "We can provide insight into the condition of affected muscles and provide immediate feedback during clinical trials. MR technology really has the potential to make a major contribution to muscular dystrophy research."

Elders with anemia face increased health risks

Elderly patients who develop anemia risk serious health problems that increase the odds they will be hospitalized and nearly double the chance they will die, according to findings from a long-term study by a multi-institute research team.

Anemia, a reduction in the oxygen-carrying capacity of the blood that can cause fatigue, weakness and dizziness, is more common in old age. Because its signs are often subtle, doctors should carefully consider it as they evaluate older patients, say study authors, writing recently in *The Journals of Gerontology Series A: Biological Sciences and Medical Sciences*.

"Considering anemia should be part of an overall patient's risk assessment even if the person is without symptoms or apparent clinical disease," said Marco Pahor, director of the University of Florida's Institute on Aging and the study's co-investigator.

The study revealed that even a mild case of anemia increases an elderly person's risk, indicating that treatment recommendations may need to be adjusted for older patients, Pahor said. Researchers found an association between late-life anemia and heart conditions, cancer, infectious diseases and diabetes.

The World Health Organization defines anemia as a concentration of the oxygen-ferrying molecule hemoglobin that is below 12 grams per deciliter in women, and below 13 grams per deciliter in men.

"Those older patients having mild anemia have not been considered at higher risk, but our data show that even those patients with low or even close to normal range do have higher risk for death and hospitalization and they should be considered for more in-depth screening for other conditions," Pahor said. — Denise Trunk

"Considering anemia should be part of an overall patient's risk assessment even if the person is without symptoms or apparent clinical disease."

— Marco Pahor, M.D.

Making space for **MARINE SCIENCE** in human health

UF's Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience

By Denise Trunk

Charismatic megafauna they are not, but a few strange and bizarre looking creatures that inhabit the ocean, like sea slugs, horseshoe crabs and spiny lobsters, hold an attraction for scientists — they can supply a wealth of insight into human health.

In fact, for researchers at the UF Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience, which is situated on a spit of land between the Atlantic Ocean and the Intracoastal Waterway about 12 miles south of St. Augustine, crustaceans and other marine animals offer “model” behavior for smell, sight and other human systems.

The research animals thrive on the natural light and clean seawater the Whitney Lab has in spades. Now, at long last, the lab's 32-year-old facilities and the researchers who rely on them are soon to benefit from a material upgrade that will augment the surrounding natural abundance.

This August, a completed 17,000-square-foot building, the Center for Marine Studies, will anchor the west end of Whitney Lab's campus, giving researchers who use simple marine animals in basic biological research a new facility to further their explorations and to educate future scientists.

Peter Anderson, Ph.D., is the lab's director and a professor of physiology and functional genomics, neuroscience, and zoology. He said the new building, outfitted with wet labs, classrooms and 272-seat auditorium, allows the Whitney to expand its upper level educational offerings, and to recruit talented undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students. And, he said, it offers a taste of things to come for the growth of the Whitney.

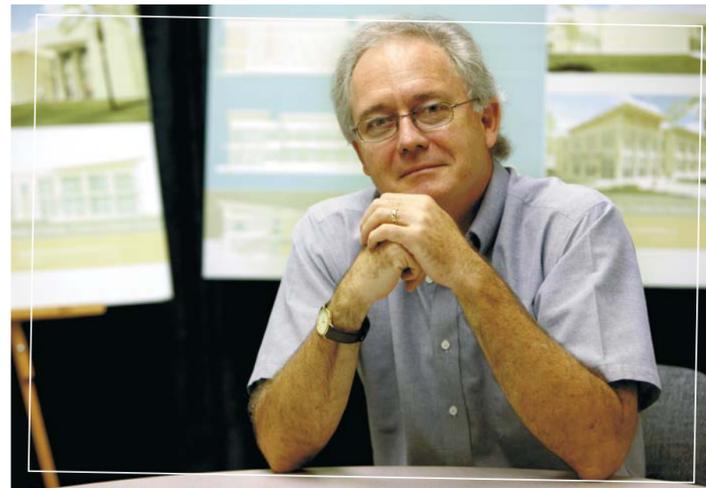
“This is phase one of a coordinated expansion,” Anderson said. “While upgraded research labs may be the most important thing for our facilities, by offering courses and expanding our educational options, this will help raise our profile and raise awareness of our work.”

In addition to being able to hold undergraduate and graduate courses, the new building will allow the Whitney Lab to hold two- and three-week research-intensive resident courses in the Center for Marine Studies that will draw students from across the country and be taught by both UF researchers and invited scientists, Anderson said.

The Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience's growth spurt has resulted, in part, from the shrinking of its next-door neighbor, the old Florida attraction Marineland. When bankruptcy forced the aging facility to restructure about eight years ago, it offered



PHOTOS BY SARAH NEWEL



Peter Anderson, the Whitney Lab's director, sits in front of the architectural plans for the new Center for Marine Studies, which is in final stages of construction. The Whitney's holding pond, above, provides a temporary home for marine animals under study.

and home to world-renowned researchers, the UF's Whitney Lab is perfectly situated to become just what Peter Anderson envisions — a Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory of the South.

Education today

As the finishing touches are added to the Center for Marine Studies building, the Whitney Lab is preparing to add to its current educational offerings.

In addition to its pre-collegiate, science teacher education courses and a Latin American exchange program, the Whitney Lab offers docent-led courses for children in fourth through eighth grade called “A Day at the Whitney,” where the grade-school students get hands-on lessons about some of the animals, equipment and scientific approaches used to study marine animals.

The labs also host a regular lecture series, “Evenings at the Whitney Lab,” which covers a range of marine topics and is open to the public.

Barbara-Ann Battelle, Ph.D., a professor of neuroscience and zoology who conducts research on circadian rhythm and visual function in horseshoe crabs, was the founder of the educational outreach programs.

“I think it is important to have an easy connection between scientists and the community, not build fences around the laboratory,” Battelle said. “The programs get people excited about science and the scientific enterprise, and it helps kids appreciate how cool the animals are!”

Battelle should know. She has a complete appreciation for the horseshoe crab — its eyes in particular. The horseshoe crab can see a million times better at night than in the daytime. The animals make perfect models of what night vision could be.

“We are particularly interested in understanding the mechanisms that permit these cells to change their sensitivity to light in response to changes in background illumination and to signals from an internal 24-hour circadian clock,” she said. “These changes in sensitivity are critical for normal vision, allowing animals to see in both bright and dim light.”

She and the two postdoctoral research associates (or postdocs) who work with her in her lab want to learn how the crab's eyes adjust, and how that ability could relate to the more subtle changes that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 21



land for sale that bordered the Whitney campus. The UF institute bought up the precious elbowroom and has been plotting a new future ever since.

The next stages of construction include new 72-bed dorms to house the soon-to-be-increasing number of students, new research lab space and a new Center for Marine Animal Health, a sort of vet school for marine mammals — all part of Anderson's five-year plan for the coastal campus, which is modeled, in part, on an existing facility.

Founded in 1888 in Massachusetts, Woods Hole marine biological lab is a national center for marine-based biological research, where researchers also use marine animals as models and its graduate education programs have trained scientists from all over the world.

Surrounded by 30,000 acres of protected lands

The eyes of horseshoe crabs, top right, become a million times more sensitive at night and, because of this trait, they offer neuroscientist Barbara-Ann Battelle an excellent model for human vision.

Medium is the message for stem cells in search of identities

By John Pastor

Embryonic stem cells, prized for their astonishing ability to apparently transform into any kind of cell in the body, acquire their identities in part by interacting with their surroundings — even when they are outside of the body in a laboratory dish, University of Florida scientists report.

Using an animal model of embryonic stem cell development, researchers with UF's McKnight Brain Institute have begun to answer one of the most fundamental questions in science — how does a batch of immature cells give rise to an organ as extraordinarily complex as the human brain?

The findings, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, may one day help scientists create laboratory environments to grow specialized cells that can be transplanted into patients to treat epilepsy, Parkinson's, Huntington's and Alzheimer's diseases or other brain disorders.

Scientists observed that when embryonic stem cells from mice were plated on four different surfaces in cell culture dishes, specific types of cells would arise.

"The medium and the molecular environment influence the fate of the cell," said Dennis Steindler, Ph.D., executive director of the McKnight Brain Institute. "We simulated some events that occur while the brain is developing and challenged them with different environments, and the effects are profound. Ultimately both nature and nurture influence the final identity of a stem cell, but in early stages it seems nurture is very important."

In experiments, scientists confirmed a cell culture surface molecule called laminin activates a common developmental pathway that is crucial for the generation and survival of particular types of brain cells.

The laminin-influenced stem cells are a kind that goes on to generate a brain structure called the medial ganglionic eminence, which in turn is believed to give rise to a population of early neurons in the developing cerebral cortex, a structure that helps coordinate sensory, motor and cognitive function.

"This is significant because this molecule is frequently used to secure cells onto culture dishes in stem cell labs all over the world," said Bjorn Scheffler, M.D., a neuroscientist with UF's College of Medicine. "Everyone believes this molecule is purely growth supportive, but now we've shown it changes the fate of cells it is working with. When



PHOTO BY SARAH HEWEL

DENNIS STEINDLER

"Ultimately both nature and nurture influence the final identity of a stem cell, but in early stages it seems nurture is very important." — Dennis Steindler, Ph.D.

you grow the cells in a culture dish you are actually educating them to become something very special."

In that respect, the discovery sheds light on how embryonic stem cells diversify to form various neural structures, one of the fundamental mysteries of brain development, the researchers say.

Since the 1980s, Steindler has studied the effect of certain molecules in the extracellular matrix, a mixture that surrounds developing brain cells. Transiently appearing and disappearing, these molecules apparently cordon the brain into different regions.

If molecules from the matrix activate genes in stem cells responsible for generating neural components, potentially any of the molecules can be tested to find its specific role during development of the brain, according to UF neuroscientist Katrin Goetz, M.D., first author of the paper.

In addition, the discovery reinforces a notion that rodent embryonic stem cell biology can be used to understand basic brain mechanisms, potentially leading to treatments where adult stem cells are taken from patients, cultured and transplanted into damaged brain environments to restore functions lost to disease or injury. P

Founding chair of UF's department of urology is appointed

By Melanie Fridl Ross

Johannes W. Vieweg, M.D., has been named the founding chair of the College of Medicine's new department of urology.

Vieweg, a professor of urology, arrived July 1 from Duke University, where he served as associate professor of urology and immunology and vice chief of research in the division of urology. He is affiliated with the UF Shands Cancer Center.

Much of Vieweg's research has focused on the development and early clinical testing of new immunotherapies and other novel treatments for cancers of the genitourinary tract, including prostate cancer.

Recently he led the first study of a new vaccine that uses the patients' own dendritic cells, a type of white blood cell, to slow prostate cancer growth by priming the immune system to recognize malignant cells and then target them for destruction, without toxic side effects. The vaccine, currently undergoing additional testing, is intended for patients who have not responded to standard treatments.

Vieweg is eager to infuse renewed energy into urologic research and work toward developing novel clinical services that will provide a comprehensive approach to the treatment of urologic disease.

"UF urology has a long history of providing quality clinical care," he said. "My goal is to broaden and strengthen the existing effort, providing high-quality clinical care in all areas of adult and pediatric urology. In addition, our research program will help to move new therapies into the clinic as quickly as possible."

Robert C. Newman, M.D., the Rudolph Acosta-Rua Jr. professor of urology, led the division since 2001 and oversaw its transition from within the department of surgery to a freestanding department within the College of Medicine in 2004. Newman retired in June after 31 years on the faculty.

The College of Medicine Executive Committee's decision to establish a separate department of urology was in line with the approach top programs in urology take elsewhere. The move also was designed to supplement efforts to strengthen the cancer program, as urology is a key player in translational research and clinical oncology, of prime importance in Florida with its substantial number of elderly patients.

Vieweg said the field of urology is currently undergoing a major transformation of its own.

"New basic scientific discoveries and the emergence of new technologies are providing unprecedented opportunities to improve the diagnosis and treatment of patients with urologic disease," Vieweg said. "Those who are able to master and quickly implement these new discoveries into clinical practice will offer the very best in

patient care and, thereby, will become the new leaders in urologic health care. The UF department of urology will strive to become a national leader in urology patient care, education and scientific discovery."

He cited several unique opportunities for clinical research, including projects involving the development and testing of "targeted therapeutics" as well as improved prediction models for therapeutic success, an effort to better identify which patients will respond to treatment and which won't.

A cadre of 10 scientists and administrative staff made the move to UF with Vieweg, joining five other existing faculty members. He said he plans to recruit additional faculty, with the goal of achieving "a critical mass of experts in all key areas of urology."

"Developing synergies with other UF programs or institutes is critical to our future success," he added. "Silos' are inefficient; I like to build programmatic matrices that ultimately will strengthen and benefit the entire medical center."

Vieweg received his medical degree from the University of Munich in Germany and began his residency training in the department of urology at the University of Ulm in Germany. After coming to the United States, he completed three years of postdoctoral training at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York before finishing his urology training at Duke. P

"Developing synergies with other UF programs or institutes is critical to our future success."

— Johannes W. Vieweg, M.D.



PHOTO BY SARAH HEWEL

JOHANNES W. VIEWEG

Years of service recognized

Service Pin Awards

On June 7, HSC employees were recognized for their long-term commitment and dedication to the University of Florida. The 5-, 10- and 15-year recipients received a service pin, as did the 20- and 25-year recipients, who were also given a Gator hat and paperweight. The 30-year recipients received the same mementos and a \$100 check, and the 35-year employees were awarded the same awards and a \$150 check.

Douglas Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs, noted that the honorees reached their service milestones during a milestone year for the HSC, its 50th anniversary. "It's your contributions and those of the people who preceded you," said Barrett, "that have built our success."



PHOTO BY DENISE TRINK

<p>Animal Care Services</p> <p>5 Years Robert Hodge Latanya Lovett Roseanne Luxton Luis Zorrilla</p> <p>20 Years Ricky Horton</p>	<p>College of Dentistry</p> <p>5 Years June Crews-Sonntag Tanya Gill Toni Glover Pamela Goff Mary Hemingway Anita Leverett Lindy McCollum-Brounley</p>	<p>Gregg Pelfrey Mariaelena Rodriguez Lucinda Wilson Carrie Woody</p> <p>10 Years Brenda Brown Terry Jax Theresa Pendray Rachel Pisano</p>	<p>Dawn Smith Jennifer Sullivan Jean Sweitzer Maureen Travers Susan Tuten</p> <p>15 Years Jodi Geiger Debra Hatfield Tracy Laird</p>	<p>Charles Lesch Dianne McReynolds Pamela Scott</p> <p>20 Years Jacob Burks Debra Johnson Rosa McDavid Marta Miller Sharon Pelfrey</p>
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20-year recipients:

Back row, from left: Debra Johnson, Gregory Valcante, Sharon Pelfrey, June Masters, Marta Miller, Delores Foreman, Jeanie Payne, James Van Gilder, Mark Beveridge, Barbara O'steen, Janice Ogwada, Tammie Esheverria, Joan Thompson, Kimberly Seitz, Jacob Burks, Ricky Horton and Gary Goff. Front row, left: Robin Smith, Melanie Davis, Linda Kilgore, Virginia Leap, Doretha Barry, Sylvia Hoover, Annette Zaytour, Fran Johnson, Audrey Duke and Kathy Pipkins.

Robin Smith

25 Years
Harriet Hayes
Shirley Lauritzen
Johnny Martin

30 Years
Diana Little

College of Medicine

5 Years
Suzanne Abernethy
Caroline Adams
Anthony Agatep
Amanda Asplicueta
Mary Bancroft
Barbara Barbour
Debra Barnes
Kari Bastow
Diane Biernacki
Laura Blanton
Lori Boggs
Karen Brezner
John Brooks
Lisa Brown
Trudence Brown
Christopher Bumgarner
Elizabeth Byrd
Tina Calton
Eric Carr
Eraina Carter
Kristi Cromwell-Cain
Stuart Clarry
Nicole Darrow
Rajeeb Das
Sandra Dean
Candice Dennis
Min Ding
Rhonda Douglas
Yue Du
Lisa Feindt

Jason Fife
Joyce Francis
Patricia Gardner
Susan Gardner
John Glasheen
Samantha Greene
Di-Hua He
Keith Herndon
Jennifer Hinson
Robert Hoffmann
Robin Hull-Kress
Zhihua Jiang
Chante Jones
Marda Jorgensen
Catherine Lawson
Sarah Legault
Defang Luo
Dawn Maillart
Angela Martin
William Marena
Kenneth Marx
Thawana McDougald
Kathryn McEwen
Lorraine McKenna
Amy Meacham
Ronald Middleton
Christopher Morris
Debra Mulberry
Juanita Newell
Diana Nolte
Matthew Obal
Karen Owens
Katherine Peck
Lucretia Priest
Stacy Porvasnik
Michele Ramsey
Freddie Robinson
Jamey Sadler
Theresa Sanchez
Deena Sanders
Michele Scavone Stone
Suzanne Scheraga



30-year recipients:

Back row, from left: Robert Godwin, Dan Crenshaw, Avery Jones, Rufus Hutchinson, Mark Hoffenberg, Paula Edge, Elaine Allen, James Thomas, Regina Corns and Ann Groves. Front row from left: Mary Ann Bass, Shirley Henry, Cindy Weinbrecht, Maxine Rushin, Cindy Jackson, Juliann Berger and Diana Little.

Stephanie Schulz
Patricia Shambaugh
Jingda Shi
Michele Silver
Carol Stanaland
Nancy Staples
Janice Then
Kenneth Van Doren
Jennifer Vinson
Dennis Watson
Yiling Xu
Lisa Zhao

10 Years
Catherine Bills
Rhonda Blair
Renee Boyette
Marjorie Bradley
Andrea Bruno
Revonda Burke
June Cassala
Martha Cheatham
Kerri Elfvin
Crystal Erdman
Deborah Floyd
John Gelnow
Carol Gordon
Linda Guenther
Margaret Humphries
Beverly Jones
Melinda Morrison
Claire Noegel
Christopher Paschall
Audrey Perry
Debra Phillips
Jian Pu
Kristie Richardson
Charles Shelamer
Barbara Smith
Robert Thompson
Mitzi Tucker
Nell Wade
Mary Walker
Teresa Welch
Victoria White

15 Years
Donna Caldwell
Valerie Crawford
Gene Cornwall
Daniel Deluca
Donna Gilles
Brenda Hamby
Cathy Hoover
Nancy Jacobs
Karen Janicki

Deborah Johnson
Maria Lopez
Glenda Martin
Nelda McNeill
Bradley Moore
Connie Nixon
Susan Nobles
Julide Ozan
William Pfeifer
Cindy Pomar
Barbara Pons
Bobbi Reynolds
Mary Spaulding
Nancy Stuart
Kathleen Thrasher
Sharon Valley
Anita Weathers

20 Years
Kim Ahrens
Maria Baldwin
Doretha Barry
Mark Beveridge
Sharon Bowers
Patricia Bullard
Miriam Cintron
Lynn Combee
Tammie Echeverria
Kevin Fortin
Nyla Norris Fowler
Sylvia Hoover
Dianna Hunt
Christine Hunter
Fran Johnson
Linda Kilgore
Virginia Leap
Theresa Medrano
Esperanza Olivo
Barbara O'Steen
Lugenia Payne
Anna Pipkins
Wilma Shalcosky
Carol Smith



25-year recipients:

From left: Sherry Williams, Lillian Mitchell, Debbie Phelps, Lora Taylor, Karen Smith, Dina Willis, Shirley Lauritzen and Deanna Knight.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

Priscilla Spence
Gregory Valcante
Mary Washington
Barbara Young
Annette Zaytoun

25 Years

Paul Gales
Debra Jackson
Deanna Knight
Debbie Phelps
Pamela Simmons
Dina Willis

30 Years

Margaret Allen
Mary Ann Bass
Regina Corns
Paula Edge
Cynthia Jackson
Michael Nyland
Cynthia Peterson
Maxine Rushing
James Thomas
Cynthia Weinbrecht

35 Years

Angela Choate
Thelma Elaine Harden
Martha Stewart

40 Years

Kelly Campbell



35-year recipients

Louise Stewart, left, and Elaine Hayden were awarded June 7 with a \$150 check and other prizes in recognition of their dedicated service.

Billy Sommer
Cheryl Urban
Ann Van Doren
Kathy Wilkerson
Kemal Yozgatlioglu

10 Years

Avi Baumstein
Brenda Bourie
Sandra Gooding
Ginek Medyk

15 Years

Diane Gatsche
Robert Nelson
Patricia Perry
Regina Richmond

20 Years

William Brand
Audrey Duke
Alexander Murray
Danelle Towater

25 Years

Lora Taylor

30 Years

Ann Groves
William Smith

Student Health Care Center

5 Years

Tina Baker
Jennifer Durrance
Lynne Goldman
Gloria Gould
Alvin Lawrence
Lourdes Lebron
Hao Nguyen
James Probert
Toni Ratliff
Locky-Jo Rowe
Roy Sherouse
Monica Towns
Sarah Williams

10 Years

Karen Brennan
Patricia Carter
Bach-Lien Duong
Linda House
Kelly Mitchell
Kenneth Mize
James Rowe
Susan Ryals
Patricia Sencer
Kimberly Stokes
Patricia Tice
Samuel Thornton
Karen Williams
Elizabeth Wright

15 Years

Julie Abrams
Glenda Carroll
Jeannie Latimer
Maricelly Rodriguez

20 Years

Jane Cullen
Cynthia Ragan

Jeffrey Loomis
Margaret Odom
Irma Riley
Kimberly Rovanseck

10 Years

Bonnie Pomeroy
Michael Wrenne

20 Years

Janice Ogwada
Francina Thomas

25 Years

Karen Smith

Dorothy McColskey
Josephine Pilkinton
Cynthia Warner

20 Years

Glenda Briel
Barbara Crenshaw
Melanie Davis
Delores Foreman
Kimberly Seitz
Joan Thompson
James Van Gilder

25 Years

Diane Heaton-Jones
Dorothy Holland
Marsha Swilley
Sherry Williams

30 Years

Mark Hoffenberg
Ronald Parmer

Physical Plant Division

5 Years

Hanson Cohens
Jerome Cooksley
Joseph Moore
Tiffany Wright

10 Years

Bernice Baker
Horace Brown
Lorenza Hammond
Jeffrey Haynes
Paul Mattox
Adrian McCray
Marie Robinson
Debbie Sanchez

James Thompson
Lue Webb

15 Years

Sidney Gordon

20 Years

Gary Goff
Rosemary Heagles
Gordon White

25 Years

Gloria Brown
Sally Danzy
Lillian Mitchell

30 Years

Madine Cobb
Daniel Crenshaw
Robert Godwin
John Graham
Shirley Henry
Rufus Hutchinson
Avery Jones
Johnny Richardson

35 Years

Rubin Lovett

Senior Vice President, Health Affairs

5 Years

Dwight Bennett
Donna Davis
Randy Graff
Nathaniel Kimble
Geraldine Kohn
Charles Parks
Clifford Richmond

College of Nursing

5 Years

Iris Campbell
Mary Lamantia

10 Years

Charlotte Monroe

15 Years

Beverly Coleman

25 Years

Virginia Lee

College of Pharmacy

5 Years

Michele Lawson
Tanaya Lindstrom
Omaya Cruz Mercado
Brenda Minier

15 Years

Elizabeth Boe
Patricia Miller

20 Years

June Masters

30 Years

Juliann Berger
Edward Phillips

College of Public Health and Health Professions

5 Years

Anastasia Knight

College of Veterinary Medicine

5 Years

Katherine Childress
Lavonne Gray-Williams
James Holloway
Dahlonga Peck
Melanie Rose
Maxine Lampert Sacher
Carol Steege

10 Years

Lisa Bessent
Christine Best
Gail Crawford
Elizabeth Kish
Arlene Lee
Richard Smith
Joyce Stewart
Carlos Sulsona

15 Years

Sarah Carey

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PHOTOS BY SARAH REVELE



The Center for Marine Studies rises on the edge of the Intracoastal Waterway south of St. Augustine. The new state-of-the-art building, the first construction at the Whitney Lab campus in 32 years, has classrooms, labs and a large auditorium and will be the site of expanded educational offerings. Dirk Bucher, right, studies a central mechanism of lobsters and crabs that controls the functions of walking, swimming and breathing. Because the lobster has a simpler neural system, Bucher can more easily trace its neural network.

take place in the human eye.

With its new educational potential, Battelle can see more possibilities for the Whitney Lab's scientists to interact with the public and students.

"It is very exciting," she said.

Graduate education

In the past decade, six or seven students have completed doctoral programs at the Whitney Lab, Anderson said.

The graduate offerings will be based on the current model, which is coordinated primarily for students through the HSC College of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences.

"In the future, we'll recruit students through the IDP program and elsewhere, and teach courses ourselves," Anderson said.

Whitney Lab faculty members based in the College of Medicine's departments of anatomy and cell biology, neuroscience, pharmacology and therapeutics, and physiology and functional genomics, as well as from the College of Agriculture's fisheries and aquatic sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences' zoology department, would teach the courses.

The way it works now, students first take up residence at the main campus in Gainesville where, for one or two years, they complete their course requirements and qualify for dissertation research.

During this period, students maintain contact with the lab and their major professors through a program

of periodic meetings, progress reports, seminars and summer research. After qualifying, students move to the Whitney Lab and carry out research. Having the new facilities will enable more students to participate in the program, and more students to live and take classes at the lab.

One of those students currently based at the Whitney is Thomas Ha, a Ph.D. student working with Leonid Moroz, Ph.D., a professor of neuroscience and zoology, on cellular communication in the sea slug, *Aplysia californica*.

The species of sea slug provides an excellent model of what happens in the human brain when neurons communicate. The large gastropod has unusually large brain cells, making it easier for Moroz and his team to identify specific neurons and track their roles in neural networks and behavior.

With Moroz, Ha aims to learn why individual neurons are so different from each other, how they maintain such precise connections between each other, how their fixed wiring results in such enormous neuronal plasticity and how this contributes to learning and memory mechanisms.

His faculty adviser, Moroz, and committee, made up of faculty both from the Whitney Laboratory and from the UF department with which the faculty advisor is affiliated, have guided and directed his course work and dissertation research.

Ha, working with Moroz's gene sequencing project, is conducting transcriptional profiling of some of the slug's 20,000 neurons. Because of the cells' large size, he said, he is able to get enough mRNA from one cell

to sequence and analyze its transcriptome and compare it with other single cells.

Ha, who is originally from South Korea, has lived at Whitney's graduate student housing for three years and he is four months from finishing his degree. He said he enjoys the beautiful, if somewhat isolated, environment.

"A big advantage of the new setup is that it will allow graduate students to teach courses," Ha said. "Teaching skills are important for an academic career and this will provide that opportunity, which is missing now."

In fact, the new center will allow Whitney faculty, postdocs and graduate students to participate in teaching undergraduate and graduate course offerings, many of which are now taught on UF's campus.

Staff will begin to occupy the building in January 2007, as long as necessary water piping, held up by the approval of a residential development project in the area, can be put in place. In the meantime, Anderson is busy raising funds for the new dorms and the Center for Marine Animal Health.

With the addition of the planned Center for Marine Animal Health, the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience will become one of the first facilities dedicated to the treatment of marine animal diseases affecting aquaculture stocks, sea turtles and other animals. Combined with its research and educational activities, the marine labs will be on the forefront of marine biomedical science.

Perhaps in the process, as Anderson envisions, the campus will become known to the world as something of a Woods Hole of the South. **P**

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

HENRY A. GREMILLION, D.D.S., an associate professor of orthodontics and director of the Parker E. Mahan Facial Pain Center, received the Florida Dental Association's Annual Dental Educator Award. Gremillion was presented with the award during the association's Florida National Dental Congress held in June in Orlando. Gremillion was nominated for the award by dental students in recognition of the excellence of his academic contributions, and his support of and commitment to his students.



Gremillion

RICHARD LAMONT, Ph.D., and **ANN PROGULSKE-FOX**, Ph.D., both professors of oral biology, were honored with Distinguished Scientist awards by the International Association for Dental Research during the association's 84th General Session & Exhibition, held in July in Brisbane, Australia. The prestigious awards are bestowed on internationally renowned basic science researchers for their significant contributions to specific IADR research areas. Lamont received the Distinguished Scientist for Basic Research in Oral Biology Award, and Progulske-Fox was honored with the Distinguished Scientist for Basic Research in Periodontal Disease Award.



Lamont



Progulske-Fox

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

EDWARD COPELAND, M.D., the Edward R. Woodward professor in the division of surgical oncology and endocrine surgery of the department of surgery, was awarded the 2006 Raymond H. Alexander, M.D. Award for outstanding dedication and service to the medical profession in the field of surgery by the Florida chapter of the American College of Surgeons at its 2006 Annual meeting, in May in Boca Grande, Fla.



Copeland

DANIEL J. DRISCOLL, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of pediatrics and of molecular genetics and microbiology and the John T. and Winifred M. Hayward professor of genetics research, was recently inducted into the Johns Hopkins

University Society of Scholars.

The Society of Scholars was created at Johns Hopkins to honor former postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty and visiting faculty who have achieved success in their fields. A committee selects the honorees from faculty nominations.

Driscoll completed his pediatric residency training and a medical genetics postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins. He has been at UF since 1989 and is considered a leading researcher of Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes.



Driscoll

STEPHEN R. GROBMYER, M.D., an assistant professor in the division of surgical oncology and endocrine surgery in the department of surgery, was recently awarded the James and Esther King Biomedical Research grant. The \$427,500 three-year award will support research into methods of targeting cancer cells using nanotechnology.



Grobmyer

BENZI KLUGER, M.D., a fellow in the department of neurology at the College of Medicine, was selected to receive a clinical research training fellowship from the American Academy of Neurology Foundation. He was honored this spring during the AAN's 58th annual meeting in San Diego.



Kluger

He will receive a grant of \$55,000 per year for two years for research exploring the components of fatigue in healthy subjects and stroke patients.

"Fatigue is a significant problem for many patients but our understanding of this symptom is very limited," he said. "The goal of my research is to classify different types of fatigue and to see if these different types of fatigue have different causes."

VIKAS R. DHARNIDHARKA, M.D., an associate professor of pediatrics in the division of pediatric nephrology, is the 2006 recipient of the American Society of Transplantation Achievement Award for Assistant Professors in Clinical Science. The AST achievement awards



Dharnidharka

are peer-nominated and are the highest honors that the American Society of Transplantation community. The awards are to be presented July 24 at the first World Transplant Congress in Boston, a joint meeting of the American Society of Transplantation, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and The Transplantation Society. Dharnidharka is considered to be one of the world's experts in post-transplant lymphoproliferative disease. This rare condition is an unusual malignancy in transplant recipients that in most cases is caused by a virus infection.

JACKSONVILLE

ASHLEY E. BOOTH, M.D., an assistant professor of emergency medicine in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, received the American Medical Association Foundation's 2006 Leadership Award.



Booth

The honor, extended to 55 individuals from across the nation, recognizes outstanding nonclinical leadership skills in advocacy, community service and/or education and provides medical students, residents and fellows, young physicians and international medical graduate physicians special training to develop their skills as future leaders in organized medicine.

THOMAS CHIU, M.D., M.B.A., associate chair of the pediatrics department at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, was appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to its



Chiu

Committee on Child Health Financing. Chiu will serve a two-year term.

PHYLIS HENDRY, M.D., an associate professor of emergency medicine and pediatrics at UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, was featured in "A Long Journey," a one-hour documentary that aired June 21-22 on WJCT Channel 7 in Jacksonville.



Hendry

Filmed on the First Coast, the documentary explores emerging services and aggressive life-prolonging, curative and palliative treatments in Northeast Florida for children with cancer or other life-limiting illnesses.

Hendry, a consultant to Community PedsCare — a pediatric palliative and hospice program of Community Hospice of Northeast Florida in collaboration with UF, Nemours Children's Clinic

and Wolfson Children's Hospital — was among the Community PedsCare staff interviewed in the documentary.

YVETTE MCCARTER, Ph.D., has been appointed to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee.



McCarter

A federal advisory committee comprising 14 infection control experts, HICPAC advises the CDC and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services on infection control, surveillance, and prevention and control of health-care-associated infections in health-care facilities. McCarter, director of the clinical microbiology laboratory in UF's pathology department in Jacksonville, will serve a four-year term on the committee.

MOBEEN RATHORE, M.D., a professor and chief of the division of pediatric infectious diseases and immunology, and assistant chairman for research and academic affairs in the department of pediatrics, received this year's Healing Hearts/Helping Hands Award at the fifth annual Florida HIV/AIDS Red Ribbon Excellence Awards ceremony. Presented by the Florida Department of Health Bureau of HIV/AIDS in conjunction with The AIDS Institute, the awards recognize the best-of-the-best in the HIV/AIDS field in Florida.



Rathore

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

ASHLEY BUTLER, a graduate student in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named an Atlantic Coast Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Alliance scholar. She will receive travel awards, a \$3,000 research stipend and an opportunity to participate in summer programs.



Butler

Know someone who has earned a distinction? Please let us know. E-mail dtrunk@ufl.edu

Tisher to step down as medical dean next year

By Tom Fortner

The dean of the University of Florida College of Medicine, Dr. C. Craig Tisher, has announced that he plans to step down from his position during the next academic year.

A search committee charged with identifying Tisher's successor should be in place in July, according to Dr. Douglas J. Barrett, UF senior vice president for health affairs. Tisher will continue to serve until a new dean comes on board, most likely next summer.

Plans call for Tisher to lead the college through an exhaustive review and reaccreditation of its educational programs, an activity that occurs once every seven years and concludes next February.

"Dr. Tisher has been a superb dean, and we're fortunate we will continue to benefit from his steady leadership for the accreditation process and other ongoing critical activities," Barrett said. "The timing of his transition also gives us the opportunity to conduct an orderly, thoughtful and extensive search to find the next dean."

Tisher, an internationally recognized authority on renal physiology and pathology, has been on the UF faculty for 26 years. He was appointed senior associate dean in 1998 and became dean in 2002. As dean, he oversees an expansive organization that encompasses 1,200 faculty and 2,600 staff on medical campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville and an operating budget that exceeds \$630 million.

Tisher's list of achievements as dean includes the establishment of the UF Proton Therapy Institute, which is slated to begin treating cancer patients next month on the UF Health Science Center campus in Jacksonville. One of only five facilities in the country offering this type of radiation therapy, "Florida Proton" has been a complex, multimillion-dollar undertaking that Tisher has pursued with steely determination.

Within the Health Science Center, said Barrett, Tisher is recognized for his exceptional leadership and solid management skills. He has proved adept at recruiting top talent from other institutions and retaining faculty considered vital to the strategic plans of the college. Those plans include enhancing the research profile of UF in areas like cancer, aging, diabetes, child health, neuroscience and genetics. Barrett also credited Tisher with substantially improving the college's financial health amid a turbulent economic environment for academic medical centers nationally.

Raised in South Dakota, Tisher graduated from Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. After residencies in St. Louis and Seattle, he completed a fellowship in nephrology at the University of Washington. For the 10 years prior to joining UF, he was on the faculty of Duke University School of Medicine.

At UF, he served as chief of the division of nephrology, hypertension and transplantation from 1980 to 1997. In 1999, he was named the Folke H. Peterson Dean's Distinguished Professor of Medicine. P



DR. C. CRAIG TISHER

PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

RESEARCH DAY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Health Services Category

Christina Posse
"Assessment of Driving-related Skills: Pilot Study of Interrater Reliability"

Jingbo Yu
"Health Insurance Coverage of Young Adults Aged 22 to 29 in Florida"

Rehabilitation Science Category

Min Liu
"Training Effects on Soleus Muscle Function and Gene Expression Following Spinal Cord Injury"

Michelle Woodbury
"A Fugl-Meyer Upper Extremity "Recovery Map" to Inform the Treatment Planning Process"

In addition, the college awarded four \$1,000 research grants to graduate students who submitted winning grant proposals. They include: Neha Dixit, Chetan Phadke, Christina Posse and Bonnie Sachs.

College of Veterinary Medicine

Several faculty members and graduate students from the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine were honored for their scientific achievements during Phi Zeta Research Emphasis Day on June 9. Jacobson Estrada, Farese and Nollens all Womble, DeRuisseau, Kirkby and McNally. Bonilla and Jacks each received plaques and a check for \$1,000.

The award winners were as follows:

Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence:

Each received a plaque and \$1,000.
Cynda Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D.

FVMA Clinical Investigator Award:

Dr. Elliott Jacobson, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Florida Association of Kennel Clubs Clinical Investigator:

Each received a plaque and \$500.
Amara Estrada, D.V.M.

C.E. Cornelius Young Investigator Award

James Farese, D.V.M.

Charles F. Simpson Memorial Scholarship

Hendrik Nollens, D.V.M., Ph.D.

Excellence in Master's Studies:

Each received a plaque and \$100.
Ariel Womble

Excellence in Doctoral Studies

Lara DeRuisseau, M.S.

Excellence in Clinical Science Research

Kristin Kirkby, D.V.M.

Excellence in Basic Science Research

Alex McNally, M.S.

Veterinary Auxiliary Achievement Award in Graduate Studies: Each received plaques and a check for \$1,000.
Alfredo Bonilla, Ph.D. and Stephanie Jacks, D.V.M. 

Students globe trot during international trips

College of Dentistry

The College of Dentistry sponsored four student humanitarian trips involving more than 100 dental students, faculty members, assistants and private dentists who delivered free dental care to impoverished populations in Latin America during the 2005-06 academic year. Dentistry's International Education Program sponsored student trips to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Yucatan, Mexico during holiday and spring breaks.



Third-year dental student, Josh Belof, performs an extraction on a Honduran woman with assistance from his wife, Elizabeth Belof, a registered nurse. Patients were treated in remote villages using makeshift operatories in churches, schools and an orphanage.

Honduras is the newest addition to the college's lineup of sponsored international aid trips. More than 700 patients were treated, 565 teeth were extracted and about 250 were filled. The Dominican Republic expedition, the oldest of the college's four student trips, provided extractions and basic preventive treatments in remote mountain villages lacking running water and electricity. One mountain village the UF dental students traveled four hours to reach had not had access to dental care for more than five years.

Project HEAL in Quito, Ecuador was a multidisciplinary effort between dentistry, pharmacy, medicine, nursing and veterinary medicine. During the first week of Project HEAL,

18 dental students partnered with dental students from sister institution Universidad San Francisco de Quito to provide free dental care to more than 250 pediatric and adult patients. Medical, nursing, pharmacy and veterinary medicine students joined three of the dental students and a dental faculty member during the second week to provide much-needed care to people living in remote Amazonian villages. Many of these people, because they live so close to their livestock, suffered from severe parasitic infections, but also had outbreaks of tuberculosis.

The UF dental trip to Yucatan, Mexico is based on a partnership with the sister dental school at Universidad Autonoma de Yucatan. UF and UADY dental students worked together to provide free dental care to about 400 low-income school children in several villages.

College of Medicine

During Spring Break, students and faculty from the College of Medicine trekked to Mexico, Ecuador and several locations in the Dominican Republic to help patients in areas where people lack access to quality health care. Students and faculty taking part in Project Haiti, Project Yucatan, Project Heal, Dr. Help and Dr. Salud helped thousands of patients in just one week, also bringing needed supplies to the regions.



This year Project Haiti went to Jimani, a city in the Dominican Republic near the Haitian border because of unrest in Haiti. Students are shown here on the grounds of a prison, where they treated soldiers and prisoners.

College of Pharmacy



Mala D. Desai, a UF Pharm.D. candidate, traveled to rural communities in Ecuador for 10 days during spring break. Desai, with College of Pharmacy students Sonia Sosa and Leidi Páez, joined College of Medicine students and Project HEAL to assist in providing desperately needed basic health services in Ecuador. Desai said Project HEAL was the only source of health care each year to many of the communities they visited and that she hopes to return again next spring. Other pharmacy classmates traveled to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and to the Yucatan.

Public Health and Health Professions

Audiology

Faculty and students from the Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.) program at the College of Public Health and Health Professions made their fourth annual trip to Yucatan, Mexico. As members of Project Yucatan, the students performed screening tests that assessed the function of the middle ear system, measured levels of hearing sensitivity and assisted UF medical students in the cleaning and health care of the outer ear. The UF Au.D. program also donated hearing aids, hearing aid batteries, cleaning supplies and portable equipment that can be used by local, trained health-care professionals to continue long-term audiologic care in rural clinics. More than 500 children and 100

GRANTS

\$5 million gift creates brain tumor therapy center

By Chris Brazda

The University of Florida's McKnight Brain Institute is a step closer to being one of the world's best centers for brain tumor treatment and research after receiving a \$5 million gift from the Fort Lauderdale-based Lillian S. Wells Foundation Inc.

The gift, which is eligible to be matched from the state of Florida's Major Gifts Trust Fund, will enable the university to recruit world-class doctors and scientists and conduct research that could lead to a cure for brain and spinal cord tumors.

"The University of Florida is absolutely the best-positioned research university for this new Brain Tumor Therapy Center. I have no doubt that it will yield amazing results in the years to come." — Barbara Wells

"We want to be one of the top five brain tumor centers in the world, and we're not that far from being there," said Dr. William Friedman, chairman of the department of neurosurgery in the College of Medicine. "This gift will bring us much closer to our goal, which is to find a cure

for brain tumors."

In recognition of the gift, the McKnight Brain Institute's brain tumor therapy center will be named the Preston A. Wells, Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy at the University of Florida in honor of the Wells' family's patriarch.

"This is a fantastic opportunity to apply the expertise of the researchers at the McKnight Brain Institute to tackle brain cancer," said Dennis Steindler, Ph.D., the Brain Institute's executive director. "This new center will aid scientists and clinicians with neurosurgery and other departments to make discoveries and create new therapeutics."

"My family's relationship with Dr. Friedman and the University of Florida goes back 20 years," said Barbara Wells, president of the Wells Foundation. "The University of Florida is absolutely the best-positioned research university for this new Brain Tumor Therapy Center. I have no doubt that it will yield amazing results in the years to come."

One of the first orders of business from the new endowment created by the Lillian S. Wells Foundation's contribution is to enhance the center's adult neuro-oncology support. Plans are under way to recruit leading medical neuro-oncology experts to make it possible for the university to provide comprehensive care of brain tumor patients and their families.

According to Friedman, a more comprehensive brain tumor therapy center will allow the university to conduct research leading to a cure of brain and spinal cord tumors and establish and implement educational opportunities for medical professionals, scientists, patients and their families. 



Audiology student Andrea Pierce (right), tests a local child at a hearing screening site in Yucatan, Mexico.

department of large animal clinical sciences.

The first level offered by the OIP includes Seminars in International Veterinary Medicine, an elective course taught on campus that was implemented in 2002. Students in all years of their veterinary curriculum can enroll for credit and many have. During 2002-06, some 204 students signed up for credit, including a record of 56 students in the spring 2006 semester.

The second level consists of study abroad programs in Bosnia, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Uganda.

Offered during spring break and/or summer semester, the study abroad program's main objective is to "develop an awareness of the impact that veterinary medicine has on the health and well-



Blanca is a working dog who received a spay surgery from the UF group. Because of a complication Blanca experienced during the procedure, the group continued to monitor the dog during home visits. Now the UF team has received word that Blanca has recovered thoroughly and is back at work guarding family crops against vermin. Shown with Blanca during a home visit are Dr. Sheilah Robertson, (left), student Wendy Davies, Blanca's owner, Dr. Natalie Isaza (kneeling) and Nelson Avila, a Mexican veterinary student.

being of people and animals in foreign countries," Hernandez said.

Lastly, the third level of international exposure is designed for the most demanding student in global veterinary education. The OIP offers the International Veterinary Medicine Certificate, a 15-credit program that can be completed parallel to the DVM curriculum over a four-year period.

Currently 25 students are enrolled in the certificate program with ongoing international education or research projects in Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Uganda under the supervision of faculty from the UF veterinary college, the UF zoology department and scholars from participating institutions abroad. **P**

adults received care from members of the UF audiology group, who collaborated with Asociacion Yucateca Pro-Deficiente Auditivo, a local organization established by parents of children who are deaf to provide hearing services and rehabilitation.



Nicaragua Project members included (back row, left to right) Dr. Mark Bishop, Dr. Jen Stevens, Charlotte Bargar, Alison Ligmanowski and Emily Friedman. Front row Aaron Homan, Ashley Mayer, Doug Buethe, Ivo Solis and Trevor Lentz.

Physical Therapy

Members of the College of Public Health and Health Professions' physical therapy department presented information on the management of patients with low back pain to faculty and local clinicians at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua in Managua, the nation's capital, and to staff at a rehabilitation hospital in Leon. This is the UF group's fourth visit to Nicaragua to provide information on current physical therapy techniques and treatments. Limited access to continuing education and Spanish language textbooks has put the Nicaraguan physical therapy curriculum 10 to 15 years out of date.

College of Veterinary Medicine

The College of Veterinary Medicine offers comprehensive international learning opportunities through course electives, externships and hands-on activities made possible through its Office of International Studies and Programs.

"Today, students can be exposed to global health issues of veterinary importance at three different levels," said Jorge Hernandez, D.V.M., Ph.D., an associate professor of clinical epidemiology in the

Pure medicine

Kevin Ferguson: Emergency Medicine's resident educator

By April Frawley Birdwell

The woman could barely breathe. Her heart was racing. And she was in pain.

There were no X-ray machines or labs to run bloodwork in the jungle village deep in Northern Thailand where the Akha tribes live. Kevin Ferguson, M.D., a UF assistant professor of emergency medicine in the College of Medicine, could rely only on his clinical instinct.

It was pure medicine.

"We treated her based on our clinical impression and she got better," said Ferguson, who organized a trip for UF doctors and nurses to vaccinate Akha children for Japanese encephalitis in April. "For doctors who are so used to having to order a bunch of tests and scans to confirm what we already know, that kind of pure practice of medicine was what most doctors would call clinical heaven, even though we were in a bamboo hut with a thatched roof.

"There was nothing between me and my patient."

But perhaps even more satisfying for Ferguson is UF's new emergency medicine residency program, the goal he's been working toward since he came to Gainesville five years ago. With eight new emergency medicine residents now at Shands at UF, the program finally came to fruition, officially, July 1.

"It's the only primary specialty the University of

Florida (in Gainesville) did not teach," Ferguson said. "My goal is in five years it is going to be one of the flagship emergency medicine residency programs, at least in the Southeast."

The new program is a huge step forward for emergency medicine in the area, said David Seaberg, M.D., a UF professor of emergency medicine and acting chair of the department of emergency medicine.

"This will help increase the pool of board-certified emergency medicine physicians in North Central Florida," he said. "Kevin has done an incredible amount of work, and now we're starting to see the fruits of our labor."

Raised in Ann Arbor, Mich., where he also attended college and medical school at the University of Michigan, Ferguson was one of those kids who always knew he wanted to be a doctor. But his passion for emergency medicine didn't emerge until medical school. Because UM didn't have an emergency medicine residency at the time, he had to go to Los Angeles to complete his training.

He came to UF five years ago when Seaberg called him and told him about his plan to start an emergency medicine residency in Gainesville. There is an existing emergency medicine residency on the Jacksonville campus.



Dr. Kevin Ferguson (right) discusses the residency program with new emergency medicine residents Dr. Patrick Agdamag, Dr. Arada Rongkavilit and Dr. Kelly Singh-Biles during their orientation in June. Ferguson has incorporated new technology into the residency, including requiring residents to demonstrate new skills on human patient simulators, like those in the background.

"Kevin's very creative and has designed a very innovative program for our new residents. He's a real hard worker."

— David Seaberg, M.D

"Kevin's very creative and has designed a very innovative program for our new residents," Seaberg said. "He's a real hard worker. He really cares about the people he's working with."

One of the goals of the emergency medicine faculty is to give back to the community, a quality Seaberg said Ferguson exemplifies through his trips to help people in Thailand.

Ferguson first went to Thailand with Terence Flotte, M.D., chair of the pediatrics department, and nurses Loraine and Judy Oetter after the tsunami in 2004.

"(The destruction) was everywhere you looked as far as you could see," Ferguson said. "I've never been around anything like that."

While they were there helping in the disaster zone, they learned of the plight of Akha children at an orphanage in northern Thailand, which had not been affected by the tsunami. There were more than 300 children who hadn't seen a doctor in a year, so Flotte went to the area to help the children while Ferguson stayed at the disaster zone.

Ferguson's second trip to Thailand in April was specifically to vaccinate the Akha children for Japanese encephalitis. Although there had been massive campaigns in Thailand and neighboring countries to vaccinate children for the disease, the Akha tribes live on the borders of several countries and slipped through the cracks.

After seeing the children, the team would also see adults. That's how they found the woman who couldn't breathe. She had double pneumonia, Ferguson said. They took her by truck to the Children of the Golden Triangle Training Center. She was given IV fluids, antibiotics and breathing treatments.

"She would have died on the side of mountain if we hadn't brought her back," he said.

But now, Ferguson's focus is squarely on his new residents.

"We have a lot of work to do, but we're real excited about it," he said. **P**

Beloved former staff member dies

By April Frawley Birdwell

When the bathroom door wouldn't budge, Hazel Donegan unlocked it. When a graduating student lost his place in line, Donegan nudged him back in the right order like a mama duck.

For more than two decades, Donegan was the person UF medical students went to if they had a question. As director of the student affairs office, Donegan guided medical students from application to graduation until she retired in 1984.

Donegan passed away June 15 at the E.T. York Hospice Care Center. She was 87.

"She was 'mother' to all the medical students," said Robert T. Watson, M.D., senior associate dean of educational affairs and a member of the 1969 class. "She was the epitome of the Southern lady."

A Waldo native, Donegan initially wanted to be an interpreter. She studied languages in college and earned a master's degree in Spanish at the University of North Carolina. But a few career turns led her back to Florida.

Donegan took a job working for T.Z. Cason, M.D., a Jacksonville doctor who ran a state continuing medical education program and was a key supporter of the medical school being built at UF. In 1957, one year after the UF College of Medicine opened, Donegan came to Gainesville to work on a continuing medical education program for UF doctors.

"She was 'mother' to all the medical students. She was the epitome of the Southern lady." — Robert T. Watson, M.D.

In 1962, she switched gears and began working in the student affairs office, spending most of her 22 years there working for Dr. Hugh M. "Smiley" Hill. There, she won over students and faculty.

Students gave her Waterford crystal, a cruise and even a scholarship named in her honor to thank her. Two classes also dedicated the yearbook to her.

"The [students] were wonderful to me and they were just as lovely as they could be," Donegan said in a 2001 interview for the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program. "I couldn't have chosen a nicer group of people." 



Published by

UF Health Science Center
Office of News & Communications

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The POST is the monthly internal newsletter for the University of Florida Health Science Center, the most comprehensive academic health center in the Southeast, with campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville and affiliations throughout Florida. Articles feature news of interest for and about HSC faculty, staff and students. Content may be reprinted with appropriate credit. Ideas for stories are welcome. The deadline for submitting items to be considered for each month's issue is the 15th of the previous month. Submit to the editor at dtrunk@ufl.edu or deliver to the Office of News & Communications in the Communicore Building, Room C3-025.

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