



Simulation ¹⁰ at the center of health science education

UF Health Science
CENTER

Body Art

8

Florida's Uninsured

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R_x Learning

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ON THE COVER: Tammy Euliano, M.D. (right), assistant professor of anesthesiology, leads fourth-year medical students through their paces on the Human Patient Simulator. (Photo by Lisa Baltzer)



PHOTO BY WILLIAM CASTLEMAN

Veterinary Medicine

100 Horse Farm

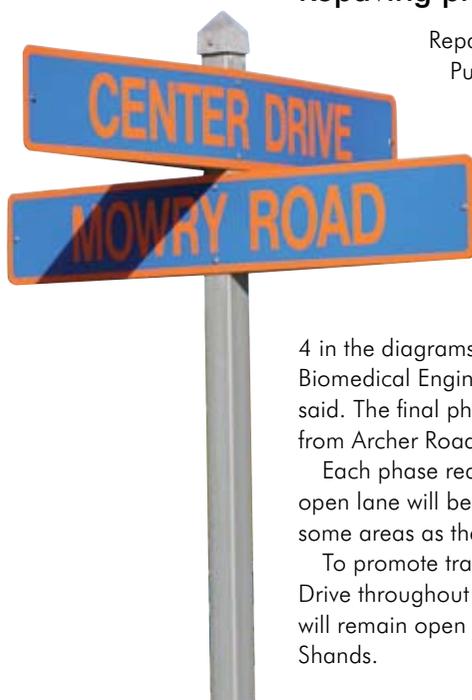


PHOTO BY MICHELE ROLLEN

Public Health and Health Professions

The Horse Farm 100, an annual noncompetitive bike fundraiser sponsored by the Gainesville Cycling Club, took place on Oct. 24. The Colleges of Veterinary Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions assembled large teams and were led by their deans, Joe DiPietro and Robert Frank, through the horse country surrounding Ocala. Before leaving for their optional 25-, 55- or 100-mile legs, the teams posed for group photos. Team PHHP, which is in its third year of raising funds for student scholarships through private and corporate sponsorships, collected nearly \$12,000.

Repaving project causes Center Drive lane closings



Repaving of Center Drive from Archer Road to an area just south of the Public Health and Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex began Nov. 29, affecting vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Commuters who use Center Drive may need to give themselves a few extra minutes in the mornings.

The project will proceed in four phases, each taking approximately 30 days, with completion planned for March 2005, said Jeff Bair, project manager for the Physical Plant Division.

The initial phases to be performed, labeled Phase 3 and Phase 4 in the diagrams, involve the area from Mowry Road to the parking lot entry for the Biomedical Engineering Building, which is located just south of the HPNP Complex, Bair said. The final phases to be performed, labeled Phase 1 and Phase 2, involve the area from Archer Road to Mowry Road.

Each phase requires the closure of one lane of Center Drive. During each phase, the open lane will be used for one-way vehicle traffic. Pedestrian traffic will be re-routed in some areas as the project proceeds, he said.

To promote traffic safety, vehicles will be allowed to exit Archer Road onto Center Drive throughout the project, he said. Similarly, service drives in the affected areas will remain open continuously, as will the handicapped parking lot on the west side of Shands.

West entrance reopens

After six months of closure, the HSC's West Entrance officially reopened in November to reveal the renovated lobby of the Dental Sciences Building. The \$820,000 renovation project included installation of a new fire sprinkler system, ceiling panels, light fixtures, carpet and wallpaper, as well as sliding double-entry doors. Although the West Entrance information desk has been returned to its sentinel position just inside the lobby, the dental clinic reception and waiting area is undergoing final touches, expected to be complete by mid-December. Perhaps the most anticipated and greatly appreciated feature of the reopened lobby is the Java City coffee kiosk — now open for business and pleasing staff and visitors alike with the wonderful aroma of fresh-brewed, steaming-hot joe.

Students prepare with college career fairs

With Gator Nurses in high demand, the College of Nursing is bringing the best hospitals and health-care companies in the Southeast to Gainesville to meet UF nursing students and graduates. On Jan. 14, the UF Nursing Career Fair will take place in the Public Health and Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex Atrium. Opportunities for one-on-one interviews also will be available. For more information on the event, contact Erika Borg Heeb at eheeb@vpha.ufl.edu or 265-8097.

The College of Pharmacy is holding its 2005 career fair Jan. 21–22. Pharmacy organizations will provide information on Jan. 21 and personal interviews can be scheduled for Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. Friday evening, there also will be a reception in the faculty dining room for students interested in internships at Shands at UF.

Second-year pharmacy student Aaron Hall said the 2004 fair allowed him to improve his interviewing skills and to find out firsthand what each company had to offer.

"It's a great convenience for the student looking for an internship or a job because everyone is under one roof."



PHOTO BY LINDA HONEWOOD
At the 2004 career fair, second-year pharmacy student Aaron Hall jokingly demonstrated that students like getting free stuff.

2004 pinning ceremony

HSC employees recognized for their years of service to UF at the June Service Pin Awards Ceremony can see photos from the event online at <http://news.health.ufl.edu/stories/2004/Nov/Pinning.shtml>.

Semester break parking

From Dec. 20 to Jan. 2, all lots except for those designated as brown and gated will be available for parking without a decal.

All reserved spaces, service drives, handicapped and no parking zones will be enforced at all times.

Parking restrictions will be enforced again beginning Jan. 3.

For more info visit: www.parking.ufl.edu

HSC Libraries holiday hours

Extended hours for finals:

Dec. 10 – 11 7:30 a.m. – midnight

Reduced hours pre-break:

Dec. 19 noon – 5 p.m.

Dec. 20 – 23 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Dec. 24 – Jan. 2 CLOSED

Bioinformatics events on campus

Free National Center for Biotechnology Information Classes

On Dec. 9–10, scientists from the National Center for Biotechnology Information will visit the UF campus to provide instruction in NCBI resources. Choose from two lectures (a three-hour general overview or a one-hour "What's New") and two types of hands-on computer sessions. The HSC Libraries and the UF Genetics Institute sponsored the free event. Registration is required.

www.library.health.ufl.edu/forms/classreg_NCBI_04_1.htm

Call for Posters and Participation: Florida Bioinformatics Workshop 2005

All aspects of bioinformatics, including functional genomics, proteomics, phylogenetics and systems biology, will be addressed at a Feb. 21–22 bioinformatics workshop in the Reitz Union. Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to participate. Abstracts for the poster session are due Dec. 15. Authors may submit new posters or those that have been presented at previous conferences. The workshop is sponsored by the Colleges of Engineering, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Medicine; IFAS — Florida Agricultural Experiment Station; the Office of Research and Graduate Programs; and the UF Genetics Institute. Registration is free, but pre-registration is required.

www.cise.ufl.edu/~suchen/fbw2005/

The Consummate Claus:

UF scientist develops knack for merrymaking

By Leah Cochran

He has a long, white beard, rosy cheeks and a jolly laugh, and he works right here in the Health Science Center.

When the time is right, Hugh McDowell, Ph.D., an associate research scientist in the department of ophthalmology, dons his homemade red velour suit and becomes Gainesville's own Santa Claus.

This holiday season is only his second as Santa, but McDowell is no amateur. He is a graduate of the Charles W. Howard Santa School in Midland, Mich., where he spent a week fine-tuning his Santa personality.

"My first appearance was at 'Christmas in July' at my church, where I did the children's sermon as Santa," he said.

Since then, McDowell has been Santa at the mall, in elementary schools and at several private parties and events.

The idea came from a clerk at the Sunflower Health Food store who said that McDowell could be Santa if he let his beard grow.

With that remark in mind, McDowell thought it might not be bad to have a back-up plan, especially since he worked in the Scroogelike world of grant applications and scientific funding.

"I thought, well, if grant money really becomes a problem, I'll have some extra income," he said. "So that was some motivation to start. In the meantime the grants came through."

But the scientific bounty did not spell an end to Santa.

McDowell realized how much fun it was to be the man in red, and he plans to continue his hobby well into retirement.

One of his favorite stories of his jolly work involves a little girl he met at the mall. After telling her to be sure to leave cookies for Santa, her reply was, "My Daddy says that by the time you get to my house, you'll need a beer."

He finds most of his work through the Center Stage costume shop, where he was recruited when its regular Santa was injured. He also works with a startup company in New York and a modeling agency called Florida Stars. His two children joke that their father is a male model.

When McDowell first started making the rounds as Santa, his wife held back.

"My first reaction was, 'Well that's kind of nice, good for you sweetie,'" Betty McDowell said. But when she saw all the parties she was missing, she started going as Mrs. Claus.

This year, not only have their bookings doubled between Thanksgiving and Christmas, they also have launched a new project aimed at getting adults to join in on the Santa Claus fun.

"We go to places where there are not as many children but a lot of adults," McDowell said. "They are usually kind of shy about having their picture taken, but in fact they have a good time with it."

Although his schedule is hectic around the holidays, McDowell said that it does not interfere with his work. In fact, he has used his image to his advantage.

"I had this huge pile of paperwork that I needed to take through several offices," he said. "So I went in my red shirt with candy canes and chocolate. They were all a big help."

Mrs. Claus — aka Betty McDowell — adds with a smile, "Yes, they were all on the good-girl list that year."

Perhaps that should serve as a reminder.

This holiday season, if you see a man who looks remarkably like Santa Claus walking along a Health Science Center hallway, you'd better watch out. You'd better not cry. Because he just might be making a list and checking it twice. **P**

Mrs. Claus, Betty McDowell, checks the accuracy of her husband's list. Madison Smith, daughter of Dr. W. Clay Smith, an assistant professor in the ophthalmology department, gets a kick out of Dr. McDowell's real beard.



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVERSOLE



PHOTO BY DANNY MCDOWELL



PHOTO BY CHRIS EVERSOLE

Children and antidepressants:

Wayne Goodman discusses “black box” warnings

Wayne Goodman, M.D., chairman of the psychiatry department at the College of Medicine, recently spoke to POST staff about his experience as chairman of a Food and Drug Administration advisory panel. In September the panel recommended all antidepressants used to treat children and adolescents should carry a “black box” warning on the label — bold type surrounded by a black border that warns of the antidepressants’ link to increased suicidal thoughts and actions, particularly in children. Black box warnings are designed to highlight special problems and to give health-care professionals a clear understanding of a potential medical complication associated with a drug. In October, the FDA adopted the panel’s recommendations.

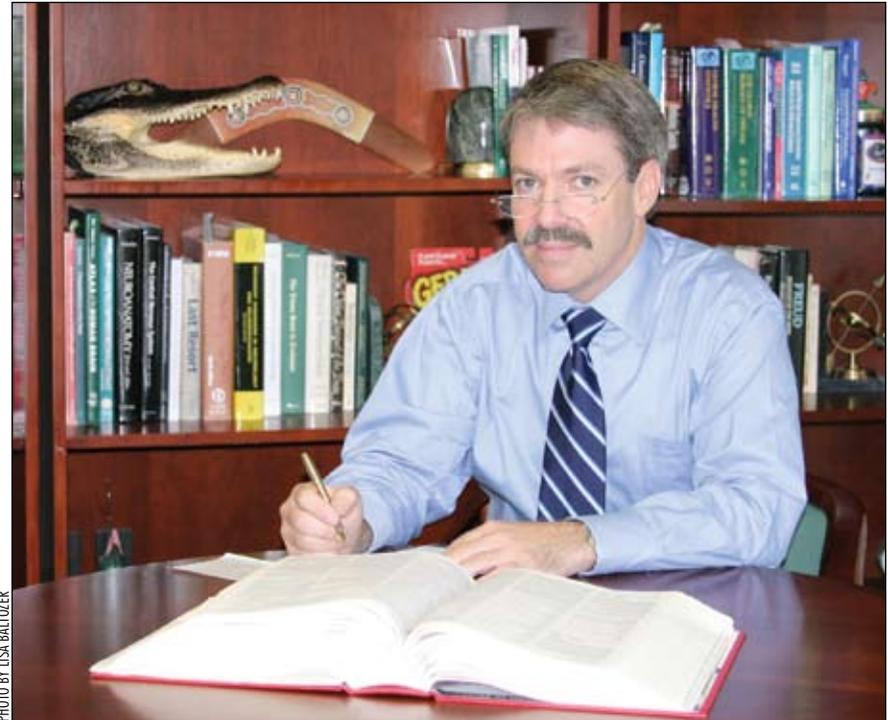


PHOTO BY LISA BALTZER

The black box warning garnered 15 supporters and eight dissenters among FDA advisers. What were the conflicting viewpoints?

A A black box warning may scare parents and have a chilling effect on prescribing. On the other hand, it forces a dialogue between the physician and patient about both risks and benefits. It corrects a past pattern of complacency about possible side effects that could evolve if not monitored adequately.

Your vote supported the warning. Is the panel chairman’s role to remain neutral in that kind of debate or is there an opportunity to express your individual point of view?

A Although the chair’s primary role is to facilitate exchange of ideas and summarize the discussion, I made my position known. At a public meeting, there are no secret votes.

News reports say pediatricians and family doctors are becoming more reluctant to prescribe antidepressants for children.

A The number of new prescriptions for antidepressants in children does seem to be decreasing since initial warnings were issued in March of this year. Whether this is a salutary development or not is too early to know. Fear of litigation may be an unintended consequence of these hearings.

Did all the media attention given to the black box warning overshadow other important actions taken by the panel?

A The relative risks and benefits need to be placed in perspective. The increased risk of suicidality associated with antidepressants in children is estimated to be about 2 percent more than those who receive placebo. The majority of children treated with fluoxetine (the only FDA-approved drug for pediatric depression) experience a reduction in suicidal thinking. The paradox may be explained by individual susceptibility to adverse behavioral effects induced by antidepressants in a small minority of kids, especially early in the course of therapy.

What would your advice be to colleagues who might find themselves in a similar role on a high-profile advisory committee?

A Prior experience in a NIH study section is an excellent training ground. As much as possible, let the data drive the discussion. However, the FDA hearing process differs in a fundamental way because of public input. Although anecdotal in nature, testimonies from bereaved parents of teenage suicide victims have an impact when they fit a pattern. You need to be open to this type of evidence, too.

What's cookin' at the College of Pharmacy?

By Linda Homewood

The College of Pharmacy skills lab is filled on random weekends with bustling pharmacists in lab coats, mixing, measuring and weighing ingredients — beakers and burners ready at hand. The state-of-the-art facility used to train beginning pharmacy students now is also a training facility for experienced pharmacists mixing up medical compounds.

The pharmacist's role of preparing drug mixtures and ointments and recording their own formulas, or compounding, dates back to early civilization, when a mortar and pestle was a primary tool of the trade. The Latin phrase *secundum artem* — “to make favorably with skill” — was used to describe the task of combining medicines to address a patient's particular needs. The familiar symbol Rx, still used today, comes from the Latin abbreviation for “recipe.”

But with the Industrial Revolution came the founding of pharmaceutical companies, which manufactured drugs in mass quantities. The modern pharmacist's role shifted from drug mixing to distributing. The number of pharmacists practicing compounding began to decline by the 1940s. Even so, 60 percent of prescriptions dispensed required skill in compounding to prepare pills, powders, ointments and medicated waters.

Today, the pharmacy profession is returning to its roots, with patients and doctors again realizing the need for specific doses and customized medications. By the turn of this century, with more than 40,000 compounded drugs being dispensed each day, there has been a renewed demand for this specialized skill.

The college, partnering with a pharmaceutical supplier, Medisca Network Inc., offers the comprehensive pharmacist training certificate program. The program curriculum begins with a self-study section for 26 hours of continuing education credit. Upon completion, the pharmacist attends a four-day live program at UF for an additional 30 hours of credit.

“Licensed pharmacists from anywhere in the world can benefit from continuing education in

compounding by studying from home and then traveling to UF for further hands-on interactive training,” said Art Wharton, M.S., director of continuing education and clinical associate professor in the College of Pharmacy.

Compounding, simply put, is customizing a prescription. The pharmacist creates — in consultation with the prescribing physician — a pharmaceutical alternative that is better suited to a

There are several important roles the compounding pharmacist plays in partnership with physicians, said Neil Cohen, director of technical operations at Medisca Network Inc.

The primary role is to assist the physician by reinforcing positive therapeutic outcomes. “Non-compliant behavior” is a phrase used by medical practitioners in describing a patient who does not adhere to a prescribed drug regimen. Compounding is often the solution to improving compliance by tailoring the medicine to the patient's needs or preferences, Cohen said. When the pharmacist becomes skilled at this, doctors will come to depend on him for compounding advice.

Besides being a consultant, the compounding pharmacist must also be a technical expert, researcher and business developer. The live CE program focuses on these varied topics. Led by Wharton, sessions are also taught by College of Pharmacy faculty Cary Mobley, Ph.D., Jeff Hughes, Pharm.D., and Paul Doering, M.S.

Offered periodically throughout the years, the class is limited to 15 students for optimal lab instruction. College of Pharmacy alumnus Eric Russo, Pharm.D., a pharmacist at Hobbs Pharmacy in Merritt Island, attended the CE program in September.

“It's tremendous that UF has worked with Medisca to build such an excellent program,” Russo said. “Compounding pharmacists — particularly in the Southeast — can really benefit from the education and technical support offered for the first time in this region.”

Tony Dos Santos, president of Medisca Inc., created the educational corporation Medisca Network to form alliances with reputable universities to provide compounding education, supplying formulas and technical support services. To further support academia, Dos Santos is donating \$500 to the college in the name of any UF alumni who register for the CE course or who refer another student.

Dos Santos views the baby boomers as a driving force in the rebirth of compounding.

“The generation of baby boomers has always changed the world,” Dos Santos said. “The idea of getting old is not easily accepted by them. They are placing a demand for customized medication.” **P**



PHOTO BY LINDA HOMEWOOD

Anthony J. Campbell, a compounding pharmacist for Franck's Pharmacy, Inc. in Ocala, mixes a topical gel while participating in UF's compounding course.

specific patient need. Routine compounding performed by pharmacists may include creating a topical cream to replace an analgesic tablet, preparing a liquid medicine alternative for patients who have difficulty swallowing, mixing a child-approved flavor to help a parent and even altering a medicinal form or flavor for improved veterinary use.

Genetics researchers win international award

By John Pastor

Two UF Genetics Institute researchers won first place in their respective categories at the annual American Society of Human Genetics meeting, topping competitors from schools such as the Johns Hopkins University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Case Western Reserve University.

Sara Rodriguez-Jato won the Postdoctoral Basic Research award and Ahmad Khalil won the Predoctoral Basic Research award in Toronto at the October meeting, often described as the largest annual genetics gathering in the world.

Rodriguez-Jato's research shed light on the mechanisms that regulate genomic imprinting, particularly in Prader-Willi and Angelman syndromes, which are neurological diseases that are caused by an irregularity in chromosome 15.

The difference is if the defect is passed through the father, the child has Prader-Willi syndrome, which is characterized by obesity and mild retardation. But if the defect is inherited from the mother, the child has Angelman syndrome, characterized by severe mental retardation and an inappropriately happy demeanor.

Rodriguez-Jato's research, conducted under the direction of biochemistry and molecular biology professor Thomas Yang, Ph.D., director of the Center for Mammalian Genetics at the College of Medicine, revealed insights in genomic imprinting, a process that plays a crucial role in fetal growth and development.

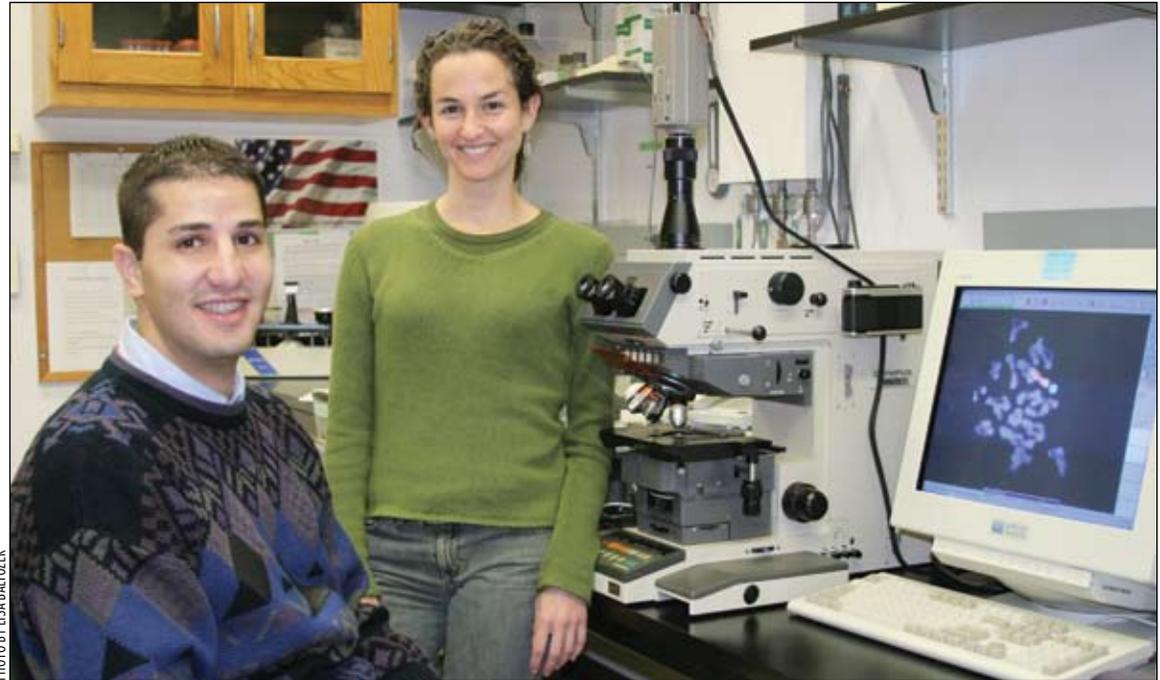


PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

Ahmad Khalil and Sara Rodriguez-Jato search for the underlying explanations of genetic diseases.

Khalil's research, which was conducted under professor Daniel J. Driscoll, Ph.D., M.D., in the department of pediatrics and the Center for Mammalian Genetics, sought to discover mechanisms of gene regulation by studying sex chromosome inactivation in mammals. Females inactivate one of their two X chromosomes in their somatic cells. By contrast, males inactivate and then reactivate both the X and Y chromosomes, but only during germ cell development.

Studying sex chromosome inactivation in male

and females has led to the "discovery of an epigenetic mark that tracks profiles of gene expression. This mark could help us identify abnormal parts of the genome in epigenetic diseases such as various birth defects, genetic conditions and cancers," Khalil said.

Also, studying X and Y inactivation in male germ cells has "provided a novel and unique system to monitor epigenetic changes as they unfold, providing us with valuable insights into mechanisms of gene regulation," Khalil said. **P**



PHOTO BY TOM NORDLIE

Lynn Romrell, associate dean for medical education, is inducted into the AOA.

Medical honor society AOA inducts Romrell, residents, students

UF medical education expert Lynn Romrell, Ph.D., has been elected to the national medical honorary society Alpha Omega Alpha, along with residents Donna Hill, M.D., and Javier Cartaya, M.D., and 12 senior medical students. They were inducted Oct. 25 at a banquet at the Reitz Union.

Romrell, the College of Medicine's associate dean for medical education and a professor of anatomy and cell biology, is a familiar face to medical students. Besides teaching, Romrell has helped the college implement technological advances in medical education, such as paperless exams and online class material.

"One of the stated goals of Alpha Omega Alpha is 'to recognize and perpetuate excellence in the medical profession,'" Romrell said. "I am extremely pleased to be considered worthy of this honor and look forward to working with our local chapter to promote scholarship and professionalism in medicine."

Hill, the chief resident in the department of neurology, is in her fourth and final year of residency. She plans to complete a one-year fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology at Emory University in Atlanta before pursuing a career in academic medicine. Cartaya, a third-year psychiatry resident, is considering a fellowship in child psychiatry or addiction psychiatry and hopes to pursue a career in academic medicine at UF.

Fourth-year medical students admitted to the society were Christopher Baker, Roxana Baratelli, Christopher Barker, Adam Brank, Karly Kaplan, Angela Kruger, Jonathan Palma, Maryam Rahman, Cheryl Slone, Damon Welch, Candice Whitney and Christina Wright.

— Tom Nordlie

Piercings are a girl's best friend?

Body art study shows gender preferences

By Tom Nordlie

For college students anxious to rebel against their parents' fashion sensibilities, getting a tattoo or piercing may be the modern-day equivalent of the 1960s-era fascination with long hair and love beads.

As with the hippie look, body art has caught on with both genders. But the motivations fueling a trip to the tattoo and piercing parlor can vary dramatically between men and women, and between individuals. Some may be thrill-seekers, said Eric Storch, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of pediatrics and psychiatry. Others might want to work through a traumatic life experience or just find romantic partners.

Storch co-authored a study published recently in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences* that examined gender differences and personality traits among college students who had at least one tattoo or "nontraditional" piercing — defined as located anywhere other than the earlobe. Popular nontraditional piercing sites include the eyebrows, nose, lips, tongue, chin, nipples, navel and genitals.

"Fifty years ago, generally Americans did not have tattoos or any alternative body modification," Storch said. "Times have really quite quickly changed."

But maybe they haven't changed that much. The new UF study, based on a written survey of about 280 UF undergraduates, suggests at least one gender stereotype — that tattoos are strictly for men — may still wield influence in the body-art community.

More than 80 percent of the 160 women surveyed were pierced, but less than 20 percent were tattooed, Storch said. In contrast, half the men in the study had piercings and half had tattoos.

"My initial interpretation is that this very much reflects societal points of view," he said. "That is, it is very acceptable for a woman to have piercings in multiple places and a bit less so for men."

Regardless of gender, he said, both men and women with multiple piercings, rather than multiple tattoos, reported greater incidence of stressful life experiences, such as serious illness or injury, abuse or the death of a loved one. Piercings might help some people work through past trauma by giving them a permanent

Tattoo artist Rob Barnes applies ink to the left ankle of UF soil and water science graduate student Sarah Chinault at BodyTech in Gainesville. Chinault, 23, already has 17 tattoos and more than 30 piercings. This new addition has the words "powered by tofu" and shows a smiling block of bean curd. Shown above, Sarah has a hoop earring replaced with a straight barbell.



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

reminder of a difficult event in their lives, he said.

"We were slightly surprised that it (a stressful experience) was not predictive of the number of tattoos people get," Storch said. Because tattoos can communicate more visual information than piercings, he said the researchers expected to find a correlation between multiple tattoos and stressful experiences.

But for many students, a tattoo or piercing is simply a way to show off their wild side.

The UF study found men had higher scores than women on parts of the survey measuring their sensation-seeking tendencies, Storch said. Sensation seeking, the drive to have new, unique and intense life experiences, is associated with participation in activities such as extreme sports, illicit drug use or dangerous driving.

When it comes to romance and long-term commitment, sensation seekers tend to seek each other out, said Marvin Zuckerman, Ph.D., a professor emeritus of clinical psychology

with the University of Delaware and a renowned authority on sensation seeking. Easily visible tattoos and piercings can help sensation seekers identify like-minded individuals and save time in the mating game, he said.

The important thing to remember, Storch said, is that there's more to a person than a tribal tat or facial piercing.

"Regardless of the meaning behind it," he said, "body modification is a way to express your individuality, to explore and to experiment with really being an adult for the first time." **P**

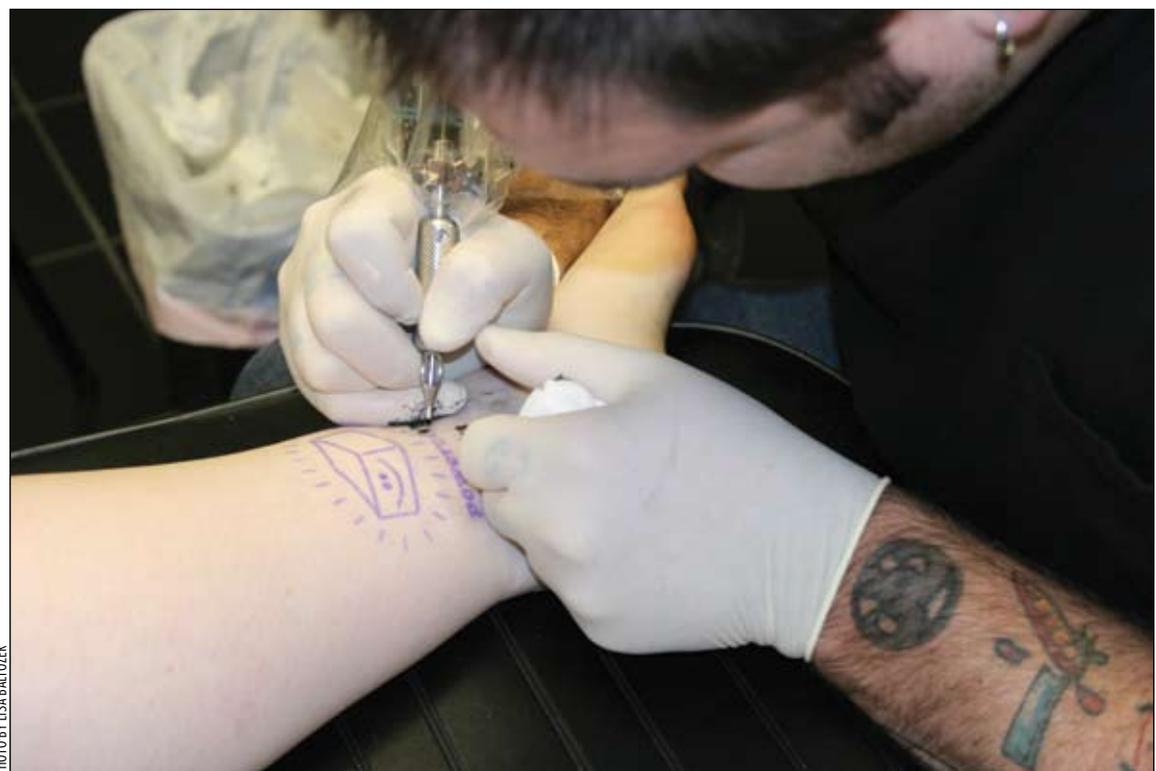


PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

UF researchers to study treatment for patients with swallowing disorders

By Jill Pease

A UF research team will evaluate the effectiveness of a new therapy for the treatment of swallowing disorders in a series of ongoing clinical trials.

Led by Michael Crary, Ph.D., a professor of communicative disorders at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the team will investigate how useful electrical stimulation is in treating patients who are unable to swallow food or drink following disease or illness.

The therapy involves placing electrodes on the patient's neck, which put out very low electrical currents, with the goal of stimulating inactive muscles.

Electrical stimulation has been used for years in physical therapy and other rehabilitation medicine fields, Crary said. And, although it has shown promise for the treatment of swallowing disorders, electrical stimulation has never been evaluated scientifically for its effectiveness with swallowing disorders.

"Electrical stimulation may be a good technique, and it certainly is supported by a lot of anecdotal evidence, but we need to systematically study the outcomes of the therapy and identify who might benefit most from this approach," Crary said.

An estimated 15 million Americans suffer from swallowing disorders. The condition can affect patients with stroke, Parkinson's disease, traumatic injury or head and neck cancer.

"Eating and drinking at gatherings with family and friends and business functions is so important in our culture," Crary said. "People who no longer have that ability are separated from others."

Researchers will test VitalStim, the only electrical stimulation device approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for this use, with funding from the Chattanooga Group, VitalStim's manufacturer.

Participants enrolled in the study will receive electrical stimulation therapy five days a week for up to three weeks. At the end of treatment, the patient's swallowing ability will be re-evaluated to measure his or her progress.



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

Clinical speech pathologist Cynthia DuBose works with Kurt Berry, a research participant in a study of electrical stimulation for treating swallowing disorders.

Researchers also will conduct two national surveys of swallowing therapists to gather information on how many practitioners are using electrical stimulation for their patients and the outcomes of the treatment.

Researchers are looking for participants in the study. To be eligible, subjects must be between the ages of 21 and 90 and have experienced swallowing difficulties for at least six months. Interested participants can contact Crary at 273-6159 or mcrary@phhp.ufl.edu. 

Gatorade inventor Cade retires after 43 years

Nephrologist **J. ROBERT CADE**, M.D., inventor of Gatorade and father of the sports-beverage industry, retired Nov. 1 after serving 43 years with UF's College of Medicine. At the time of his retirement Cade was a professor of medicine in the department of medicine's division of nephrology, hypertension and renal transplantation, and he will remain with the division as a professor emeritus.

Cade is pictured at his retirement dinner Nov. 16 at Mulberry Landing in Alachua, a favorite restaurant. At the dinner, speakers — including College of Medicine Dean Craig Tisher, M.D., department of medicine Chairman Edward Block, M.D., nephrology division Chairman Richard Johnson, M.D., and Cade's longtime assistant Malcolm Privette — hailed Cade's achievements and shared favorite anecdotes.

— Tom Nordlie



PHOTO BY TOM NORDLIE

Plans for simulation center will take HSC back to the future

By Tom Fortner

Like all medical students, Colin Brown will never forget the very first time his patient coded. It was during his third year of medical school.

The patient developed an unusual arrhythmia that Brown didn't recognize.

"What do you want to do?" asked his professor. Brown chose to give a certain medicine — only it was the wrong call, and the patient immediately started going downhill.

Brown felt overwhelmed by his confusion and, almost at the same time, enlightened.

"It's a wake-up feeling," recalled Brown, now a fourth-year student. "You see where you went wrong and it all makes sense."

His experience speaks volumes about the power of simulation as a teaching tool. Because in this case Brown's patient was not a person, but a 6-foot-long mass of plastic and wires — a fact that didn't seem to detract from the lesson.

"We're all good at studying and learning from books," Brown said of himself and his classmates. "How do we bridge the gap between the lecture hall and the patient? [Without the simulator] the jump would have been even longer and more unforgiving. It's a great stepping stone."

Today, simulation is in full flower at the HSC. Nursing students start IVs on "trainer" arms. Plastic

heads, their mouths agape, await the probes and drills of dental students. Emergency medicine and anesthesiology residents sharpen their critical thinking and resuscitation skills on mannequins in extremis. Surgical residents use virtual reality techniques to practice suturing.

Veterinary medicine students don't have a life-sized model of a horse yet, but they benefit from simulation as well, because the devices can be programmed to mimic animal physiology. And, on simulation's softer side, 1,000 health science students hone their history-taking and communication skills in work with standardized patients.

As pervasive as it is now, the technology's pedagogic potency is only expected to grow in importance at the HSC and other academic health centers because of the emergence of several interrelated imperatives:

- the recognition that medical errors represent a fundamental problem that demands an outside-the-box solution
- the need to train health science students as part of multidisciplinary teams
- the unevenness of the training experience, which makes it difficult to expose students to enough patients with the breadth of problems they will need to master before entering practice
- the growing ethical consensus that real-life patients are not merely a commodity for indiscriminate use to advance teaching objectives

Of course, simulated education — both mechanical and in the form of standardized patients — will never replace the "see one, do one, teach one" experience gained at the side of a seasoned faculty member. But with far more practice on a simulator under their belts, HSC students of every flavor will be that much better

Fourth-year medical student Sean Phillips prepares to defibrillate his simulated patient as part of the anesthesiology clerkship.

prepared when they finally encounter a patient.

"I think the future of learning, at every level of the continuum — medical student, resident, fellow, practicing physician — I honestly believe it's going to be simulator-based," said Robert Watson, M.D., senior associate dean for education in the College of Medicine. "I believe that the providers are going to have to be able to demonstrate that they have mastered a skill before they attempt it on a patient."

This conviction, coupled with major advances in computing, virtual reality and microengineering, has once again helped make simulation a new frontier for health education and research. Lined up along the edge of that frontier are many institutions ready to stake a leadership claim. And that has helped push an investment in simulation high up the to-do list of Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Douglas J. Barrett, M.D., and his academic leadership group.

"All six of our Health Center deans share my belief that after research space, this is our next greatest need — a high-tech, interdisciplinary teaching environment where the student, the patient and the evidence-based information are brought together for real-time learning," said Barrett.

The centerpiece of their vision is a leading-edge, interdisciplinary simulation center that will provide a high-tech home for many of the activities that are today scattered across the institution, often in cramped quarters and with too many students pursuing too few resources.

The price tag for such a center is estimated at \$20 million, with several million more for badly needed improvements that will keep current programs robust until a new facility comes on line. The money, for the most part, will need to be raised from private philanthropic sources.

"This has become a strategic priority that is consistent with our commitment to join the top 10 public universities," Barrett said. "If we don't take this step, it will be an opportunity missed. The best academic health centers of the next decade will all be using patient simulation to train physicians and all health-care providers in a more realistic, relevant, efficient and safe fashion."



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER



PHOTO BY RAY CARLSON

Second-year dental student Meenal Hilali works on the mouth of her mannequin in the Dental Sciences Preclinical Simulation Laboratory. First- and second-year dental students complete preclinical studies in the lab, which features multimedia instructional resources and 84 student work stations.

A PROUD HISTORY

In the mid-1980s, UF anesthesiology faculty J.S. Gravenstein, M.D., Michael Good, M.D., Samsun Lampotang, Ph.D., and others pioneered the development of the simulator that is today the most advanced and widely used whole-body device in the country. Their patented technology is in use at hundreds of hospitals, medical and nursing schools, community colleges and military bases worldwide.

On a similar track, the College of Medicine was the first in the Southeast to fully integrate standardized patients into teaching and testing. The two teaching methodologies — standardized patients and simulation — go hand-in-glove, Watson said.

As an educational tool, simulation's experiential approach is hard to beat, said Tammy Euliano, M.D., an anesthesiologist who handles most of the teaching duties involving the human patient simulator.

"I think it's a wonderful way to teach," she said. "And if you asked most medical students, the things that stick the best are the things they learned at the bedside. They remember that forever, and the disease next to it in the book they don't remember at all. And this gives us the opportunity to give them bedside teaching in a controlled way without risking anybody."

Keeping patients out of harm's way is a key driver of the recent interest in simulation. Five years ago this fall, the Institute of Medicine produced its seminal report, "To Err is Human," sounding the alarm on medical errors in health care. Since then, increased

College of Nursing undergraduate students run a patient scenario assessing cardiovascular response on "Sim Man," the college's simulated patient technology.

attention to drug labeling and analyzing process issues that contribute to errors have marginally improved rates.

But to really reduce errors, Watson believes, it's necessary to go upstream and provide better training to health professionals in basic skills and, just as important, to assess how well those skills have been learned. This is true not only for students but also for current practitioners.

"For any skill, I really think you ought to have done it at least 10 times on a simulator," he said. "Every one of the competencies I think you could help teach and more importantly you could objectively, reliably and validly evaluate."

Error reduction is also a product of teamwork, which is enhanced as students train together on the simulator. Confronting a patient in crisis, even a staged one, serves as a crucible that not only forges emotional bonds among students but also tends to burn away distinctions of gender, race and profession.

"We never educate professionals together," said Watson. "And then we wonder why they don't communicate well when we put them into the workplace together. [This is] a model that might make interprofessional learning actually possible."

That teamwork aspect also appeals to Maxine Hinze, Ph.D., R.N., who is involved with simulation at the College of Nursing. She likes the fact that simulation permits interdisciplinary teams to practice — much like a sports team — technical skills and cognitive abilities that put a premium on cohesiveness.

"It gives interdisciplinary health-care teams a venue to practice their interaction and skills in complicated situations that require repetition and coordination," Hinze said.

Finally, changing ethical standards are providing a further impetus toward the technology of simulation. Recent controversies have flared nationally over the practice of allowing trainees to perform pelvic exams on anesthetized patients or

permitting exams on the recently dead. More broadly, though, the traditional use of live patients on which students can "practice," juxtaposed against the obligation to "do no harm," is increasingly being questioned on the grounds of patient autonomy and informed consent.

An article in the August 2003 issue of *Academic Medicine* concluded: "The use of simulation wherever feasible conveys a critical educational and ethical message to all: Patients are protected whenever possible and are not commodities to be used as conveniences of training."

A VIRTUAL FUTURE

With all its possibilities, the technology still has limitations. Many are technical: the machines break down, "skin" can be punctured only so many times, the realism is not quite there. The limitation that a simulation center might best address, Euliano said, is inefficiency. She trains students in groups of three, with another nine looking on, waiting their turn. At that rate, it takes a long time to accommodate 100 students in a single medical class.

She and others envision a simulation center having a small auditorium where every student has a handheld device that reflects the mannequin's vital signs. That would help engage onlookers until it's their turn.

Another activity, tentatively called "Spot the Error," would have teams of health-care workers watch a real-time simulation in which critical mistakes are embedded. The teams would identify errors through a computer interface in a sort of competition.

"We have a bad outcome, and then we do a demonstration of a root-cause analysis," said Euliano. The exercise promotes communication and teamwork.

The crown jewel of a simulation center would be a large auditorium that is in reality a television studio. Projected on the background is any one of several

continued on p. 15

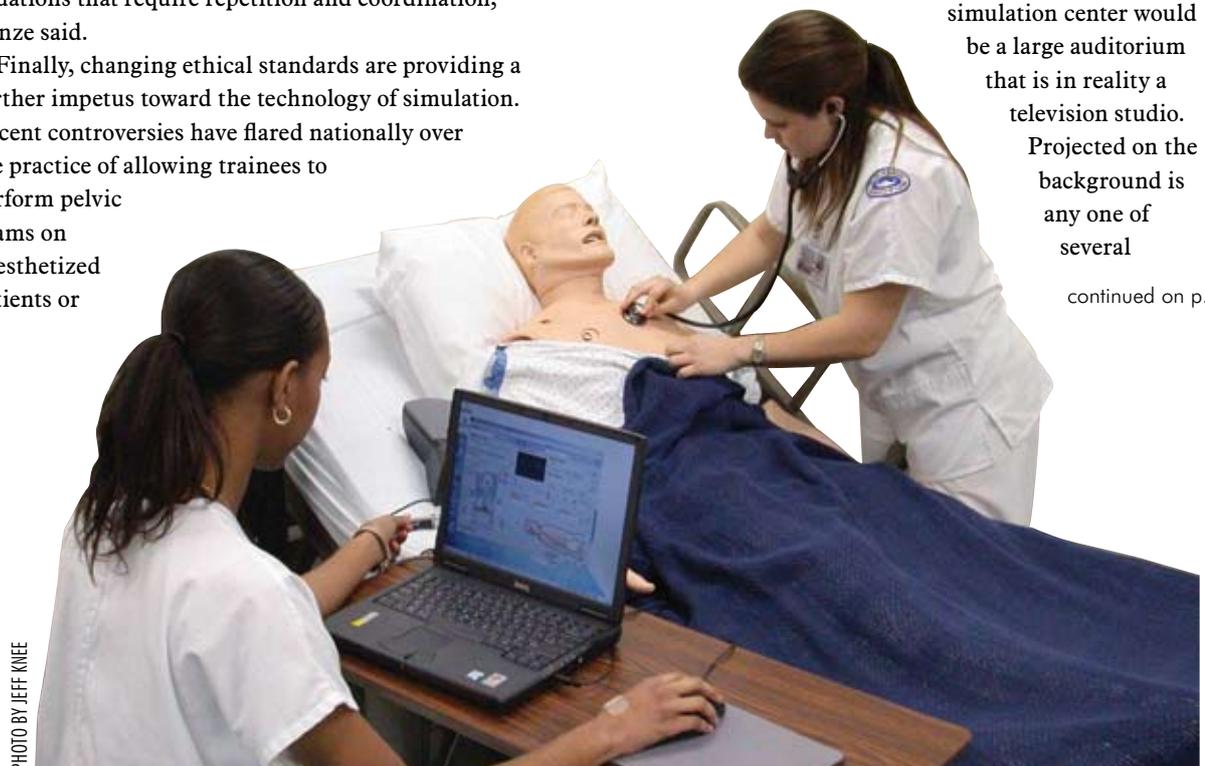


PHOTO BY JEFF KNEE

Number of uninsured Floridians on the rise

By Jill Pease

The rate of Floridians without health insurance is climbing, a new UF study finds, setting the stage for more serious illness and higher downstream health-care costs.

Researchers in the College of Public Health and Health Professions discovered that nearly 3 million residents, or more than 19 percent of the state's population under 65, lack health insurance, up from 16.8 percent when the study was last conducted in 1999.

Nationally, the uninsurance rate is 15.6 percent.

The study looked at Floridians under age 65, since virtually all Americans 65 or older have health coverage through Medicare.

"Health insurance coverage is an important issue nationally and in Florida, in part because insurance clearly has an impact on our health," said lead researcher R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., chairman of the department of health services research, management and policy.

"Many argue that the reason more people are uninsured in 2004 than in 1999 is an economic issue, citing the poor economy of recent years," said Duncan, the Louis C. and Jane Gapenski professor of health services administration. "But I believe more is going on. Employers repeatedly indicate that they want to offer health insurance, but they are increasingly skeptical of the value. On the other hand, employees, especially those with moderate incomes, simply cannot afford to buy health insurance unless the employer is bearing part of the cost."

The nature of Florida's economy also contributes to uninsured rates that are higher than the national average. Employers in the tourism, agriculture and service industries prevalent in the state frequently don't offer health insurance, Duncan said.

But the consequences of high rates of people without health insurance are serious.

"Health insurance is related to health care and health care is related to health," Duncan said. "They are all tied to each other. If Florida has low rates of insured people, we suffer lost productivity and wages because people don't have access to the health care they need.

"A second consequence is that when people without health insurance get sick, they are likely to delay care as long as possible and then go to a hospital emergency room," he added. "Typically, hospitals don't turn these patients away, they are all treated. The costs of treating patients who are uninsured are borne in the short run by other patients at that hospital. Since many hospitals are community-based organizations, those costs are ultimately borne by the entire community."

The UF study was funded by a contract from Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. Telephone interviews were conducted with 17,435 households, collecting data on 46,876 Floridians. **P**

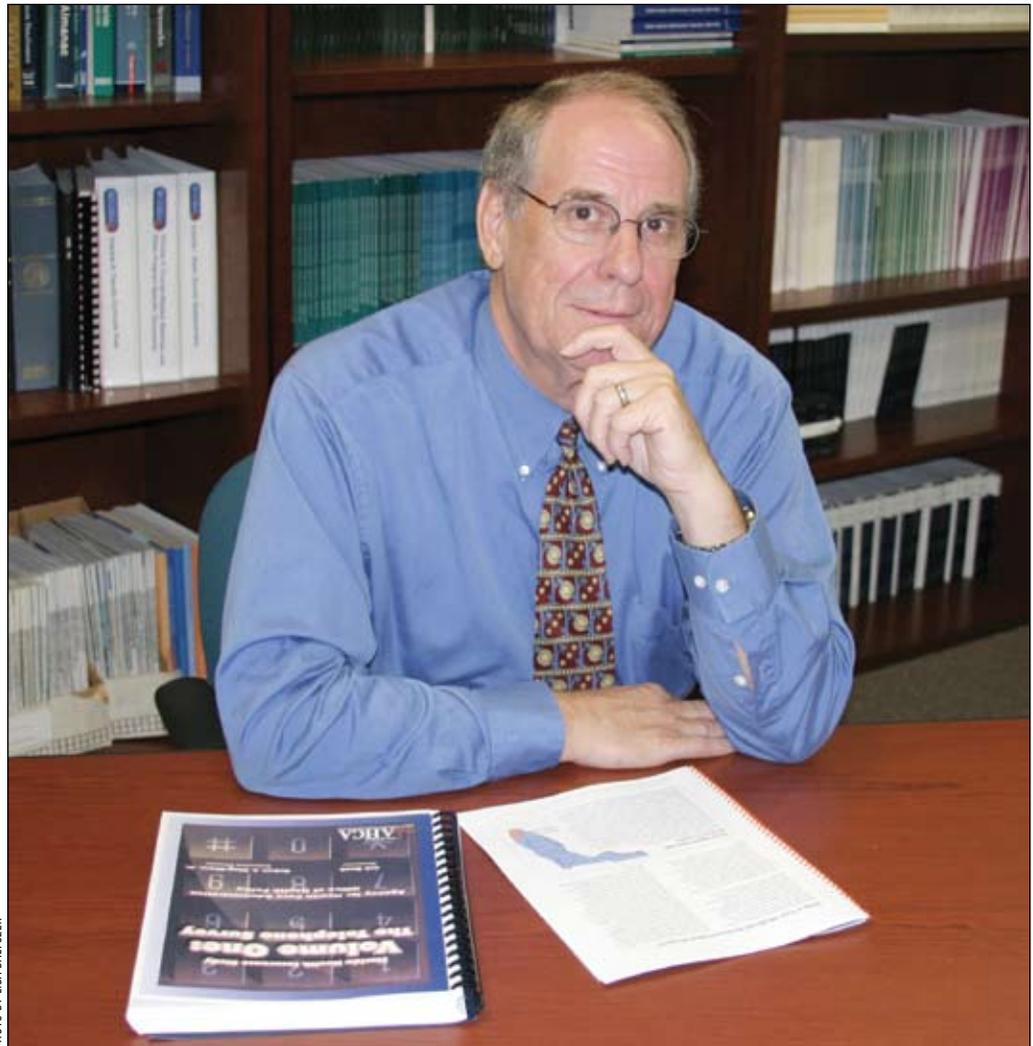


PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

Dr. R. Paul Duncan is a longtime researcher of access to medical and dental care and issues involving health insurance and the uninsured.

THE STUDY'S KEY FINDINGS INCLUDE:

The most severe rates of uninsurance were among families with annual incomes between \$15,000 and \$45,000. Rates among very low-income groups, who have access to Medicaid coverage, and those with incomes of \$95,000 or more, stayed the same.

Of ethnic groups, Hispanics have the highest rate of uninsurance, at 31.8 percent. African-Americans follow, with 22.6 percent. For white non-Hispanics, the percentage without health insurance is 14.3.

Uninsurance rates among young people ages 19 to 24 rose to 35 percent, up from 27 percent in 1999.

Among people who work for companies employing fewer than five people, nearly 40 percent are uninsured, compared with 5.2 percent of people working at companies that employ 1,000 or more.

Sixty-three percent of people without insurance cited cost as the main reason for not having health insurance. The next most common reason, cited by 9.6 percent, was that their employer doesn't offer insurance.

Among people without coverage, 42 percent reported delaying or not obtaining medical care in the past year, whereas 12.6 percent of people with insurance delayed care.

Florida has successfully tackled the problem of uninsurance in one group: children. A wide variety of new state programs aimed at providing health coverage for children have lowered uninsurance rates among that age category from nearly 12 percent of children birth to 4 years old in 1999 to 8 percent now.



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Dr. John Verstegen and Dr. Karine Onclin with a group of dachshund puppies brought to UF's Small Animal Hospital recently by a prospective client.

Good breeding means good planning: UF launches small animal reproduction service

By Sarah Carey

When it comes to making babies, the animal world is not so different from the human one — planning is everything. In an effort to help animal breeders better manage reproduction-associated diseases and improve pregnancy success rates, the College of Veterinary Medicine has launched a new service focused solely on small animal reproduction.

“We will offer cutting-edge methods to diagnose and treat both reproductive diseases and infertility cases in male and female animals, mostly dogs and cats,” said John Verstegen, D.V.M., Ph.D., who heads the service in partnership with his wife, Karine Onclin, D.V.M., Ph.D. Verstegen is a founding member of the European Society for Small Animal Reproduction and of the European College for Animal Reproduction. The couple moved to Gainesville last summer from Belgium, where they had worked at the University of Liege. Their UF clinic opened for business in early September.

Among the tools the couple plans to offer breeders are a variety of hormone tests, as well as vaginal smears, vaginoscopy, uterine endoscopy and endoscopic uterine drainage.

“We also will be able to provide sonography of the reproductive tract, including sonographic detection of follicular growth and ovulation to improve fertilization and artificial insemination success,” Verstegen said, adding that the service’s main activities will include pregnancy monitoring through Doppler ultrasonography, endocrine testing, parturition monitoring and neonatal care. **P**

New service seeks to improve postsurgery memory loss

A new UF&Shands service is the first in the nation to address the cognitive deficiencies older people may experience after major surgery.

Neuropsychologists in the College of Public Health and Health Professions’ department of clinical and health psychology are offering a monitoring and intervention program to reduce the impact of postsurgical memory, attention or mood disturbances.

“Older age is the greatest risk for cognitive decline after surgery,” said Catherine Price, Ph.D., a research assistant professor. “Unfortunately, older adults often do not report changes in memory or thinking until a problem or significant accident occurs. This is especially true for patients who already have memory or thinking problems prior to surgery or for patients who have limited family support.”

Research led by anesthesiologist Terri Monk, M.D., a former UF faculty member, showed that 40 percent of patients age 65 or older undergoing major surgery had cognitive deficits at the time of discharge. When the patients were tested again three months later, 15 percent still had problems.

Although theories abound, the cause of postoperative cognitive dysfunction is unknown, Price said.

With the help of College of Medicine faculty and staff in the departments of orthopedic surgery, anesthesiology and cardiology, at-risk patients who may benefit from the service are identified prior to surgery. The neuropsychologists perform baseline testing, make recommendations to the physicians, monitor patients’ abilities after surgery through additional testing and provide interventions for patients who experience difficulties.

— Jill Pease

For more information on the process call 352-265-0294

Shands Transplant Center and staff remain in national spotlight

The Shands Transplant Center at UF ranked in the top 20, 19th overall, in the United States for solid-organ transplants performed in 2003, according to transplant statistics gathered from the United Network for Organ Sharing. Two programs within the transplant center ranked in the top 10 nationally — the heart program and the lung program both ranked seventh.

“These rankings underscore the dedication that our transplant center has to the field of transplantation. To rank as high as seventh in more than one program is a testimony to our progress and to our outstanding physicians, surgeons, psychologists, nurses, coordinators and other support staff,” said Richard Howard, M.D., Ph.D., a professor in the College of Medicine and director of the Shands Transplant Center at UF.

The Shands Transplant Center at UF is the region’s leading referral center for heart, kidney, liver, pancreas and lung transplants for adult and pediatric patients. UF transplant surgeons performed 286 solid-organ transplants in 2003, up from 257 performed in 2002.

In addition to being one of the largest transplant centers in the country, the center’s physicians and surgeons often serve on national transplant committees and occupy leadership positions in national transplant organizations.

— Garrett Hall
Communications Coordinator for Shands HealthCare

Authors examine peptide pharmacotherapy

The challenges posed by the blood-brain barrier — a mechanism that blocks some substances, such as certain drugs, from entering brain tissue while other substances are allowed to enter freely — are examined in a book edited by Laszlo Prokai, Ph.D., of the College of Pharmacy, and Katalin Prokai-Tatrai, Ph. D., of the College of Medicine.

Peptide Transport and Delivery into the Central Nervous System, a theme-based volume in the prestigious Progress in Drug Research series, consists of eight reviews by internationally known experts, including the editors, on important aspects of an emerging field that examines ways to turn peptides into potential drugs to treat central nervous system maladies.

The book, which discusses the state of the art and future trends in the use of peptide pharmacotherapy involving the brain, is published by Birkhauser, Basel, an international academic publishing house.

— John Pastor

Visit www.cop.ufl.edu/prokai/ for more information



PHOTO BY LISA BAUTZNER

LIBRARY

BETH LAYTON, HSC

Libraries' deputy director, was named a 2004–05 Leadership Fellows Program fellow. Sponsored by the National Library of Medicine/Association of Academic Health Science Libraries, the Leadership Fellows Program, now in its third year, prepares emerging leaders for director positions in academic health center libraries. Layton, one of only five people chosen annually for this honor, will work during the next year with a mentor — William Garrity, (next to Layton), director of Biomedical Libraries at Dartmouth College/Dartmouth Medical School and Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center.



clinical scientists can interact, leading to a better understanding of epilepsy in children and adults, as well as to the discovery and implementation of new treatments.

STEVEN GHIVIZZANI, Ph.D.,

a UF associate professor of orthopaedics and rehabilitation and of molecular genetics and microbiology, is co-recipient of the 2004 Nicolas Andry Award from The Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons. Gene therapy expert Ghivizzani and collaborators Paul Robbins of the University of Pittsburgh and Chris Evans of Harvard University were honored for their research on gene therapy treatments for orthopaedic disorders.



W. STRATFORD MAY JR.,

M.D., Ph.D., director of the UF Shands Cancer Center, was elected to the governing body of the national board of trustees of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The newly elected 36-member board of directors replaces the society's board of trustees Jan. 1.



JOHN R. WINGARD, M.D.,

has been named deputy director for Gainesville at the UF Shands Cancer Center.

Wingard, a professor and the Price eminent scholar in the department of medicine, directs UF's Blood and Marrow



Transplant Program. In his new position, Wingard will oversee all Cancer Center research and clinical activities on the Gainesville campus.

NURSING

CAROL REED ASH, Ed.D.,

the Kirbo endowed chair in oncology nursing, professor and eminent scholar, was recognized recently for her efforts in cancer prevention and education and in the international community.



The Climb for Cancer Foundation awarded Ash a \$2,500 gift to be used in oncology nursing. The foundation supports a cancer researcher's exploration of new ideas that have potential to lead to important developments in cancer research, treatment and prevention.



LINDSAY SHERILL (left) and SAMANTHA REYNOLDS (right),

pictured with Florida Nursing Student Association chapter adviser Joan Castleman, recently were elected officers of the FNSA at the organization's annual convention. The FNSA is the student branch of the Florida Nurses Association and represents all nursing students throughout Florida. UF nursing senior Reynolds was elected FNSA treasurer and senior Sherill became the FNSA Region 2 director. They will serve yearlong terms.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HEALTH PROFESSIONS

HELENA CHAPMAN, a public

health student, received a student scholarship from the American Public Health Association's Environment Section. The award covers Chapman's registration and travel costs associated with attending the APHA's recent annual meeting in Washington, D.C. In addition, Chapman's entry in the UF Hispanic Graduate Student Association symposium was recognized as the best poster presentation.



JOANNE JACKSON FOSS, Ph.D., a clinical assistant professor and director of professional graduate programs in the department of occupational therapy, has been named the college's assistant dean for academic affairs.



RONALD ROZENSKY, Ph.D., chairman of the department of clinical and health psychology, has been elected to a three-year term on the American Psychological Association's board of directors. He is the former chairman of APA's Board of Professional Affairs and Board of Educational Affairs.



HORACE SAWYER, Ph.D., chairman of the department of rehabilitation, received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Life Care Planning.



Sawyer is considered a pioneer in the field and he is the co-author of the first textbook to include life-care planning, "Guide to Rehabilitation."

A life-care plan is prepared to project the future needs, services and equipment a person with a catastrophic injury or illness will need for the rest of his or her life. This can include medical care, rehabilitation, home care, medication, transportation and structural renovations to the home.

The award cites Sawyer's contributions to the innovation of life-care plans and his commitment to advocating for families affected by the many challenges of a family member with severe

disabilities. The association also recognized Sawyer as an outstanding role model for others as an educator and practitioner.

VETERINARY MEDICINE

DONALD FORRESTER, Ph.D., a professor emeritus in the department of pathobiology, received the Wildlife Disease Association's Emeritus Award.



The WDA is an international nonprofit organization whose mission is to acquire, disseminate and apply knowledge of the health and diseases of wild animals in relation to their biology, conservation and interactions with human and domestic animals. The Emeritus Award, established in 1969, grants an honorary category of membership in the association. Forrester is the 26th recipient of the semiannual award in 35 years.

simulation, continued from p. 11

environments — a hospital operating room, an emergency room, the site of a mass casualty accident or bioterrorist attack.

A team of learners — students or experienced practitioners — taking part in continuing medical education are present to deal with a critical event. The whole scene is televised to an audience of peers, who vote electronically on what to do as the next step in the resuscitation. The instructor tallies the vote and demonstrates the outcome for each course of action.

For all these learners, a virtual library of information will literally be at their fingertips. With one click on a laptop or palm device, relevant patient histories, scans, labs and evidence-based literature will be available for real-time consultation.

Computers can be expected to play an even larger role in the future through virtual reality simulations. UF medical college faculty members are working with the department of computer and information science and engineering in the College of Engineering to develop a virtual patient that students can interview.

Led by Benjamin Lok, Ph.D., computer scientists and physicians scripted a scenario involving a woman experiencing abdominal pain. "Diana" relies on voice recognition software and a database of likely questions and answers to carry on an amazingly lifelike conversation about her symptoms in a 10-minute interaction with a medical student.

The approach, which will be evaluated in December in comparison with student experiences with standardized patients, is still a decade away from routine use, Lok said. Yet as one of only a half-dozen people working on virtual characters internationally, he said he feels confident that UF can make a name for itself through this technology.

"This is how we can be different from every place that has standardized patients in the world," Lok said.

Lok symbolizes the collaborative energy

that's being directed toward simulation at UF. Nowhere is that more evident than in the department of surgery, whose chairman, William Cance, M.D., has championed the virtual character project and other collaborations with the College of Education, the department of biomedical engineering, the Digital Worlds Institute and the VA. The department, which has assigned a full-time faculty member, Sergei Kurenov, Ph.D., to conduct simulation research and education, is using the technology to train residents and nurses to do colonoscopies and bronchoscopies and is teaching medical students and residents suturing technique with a simulator it developed.

"I think that given the breadth of excellence at UF across its different colleges we can forge collaborative interactions that will allow us to move to a leadership role (in simulation), as Dr. Lok is already demonstrating with his virtual characters," Cance said. "The critical step is having the interdisciplinary collaboration that can advance the field much more quickly by virtue of the expertise we have in multiple different areas."

It's a grand vision that's not too wild a leap for an institution that, after all, was there at the beginning.

"We used to be light years ahead of everyone else," Euliano said. "Now everybody is catching up. If we got a simulation center soon we certainly have the critical mass here to move forward. I think we could really do amazing things to improve tomorrow's health care."

<http://simdot.org>, <http://www.mbi.ufl.edu/facilities/sims.php>

"Diana" is a virtual character designed to carry on a life-like dialogue with a medical student about her abdominal pain. She's the product of a collaboration between the Colleges of Medicine and Engineering.

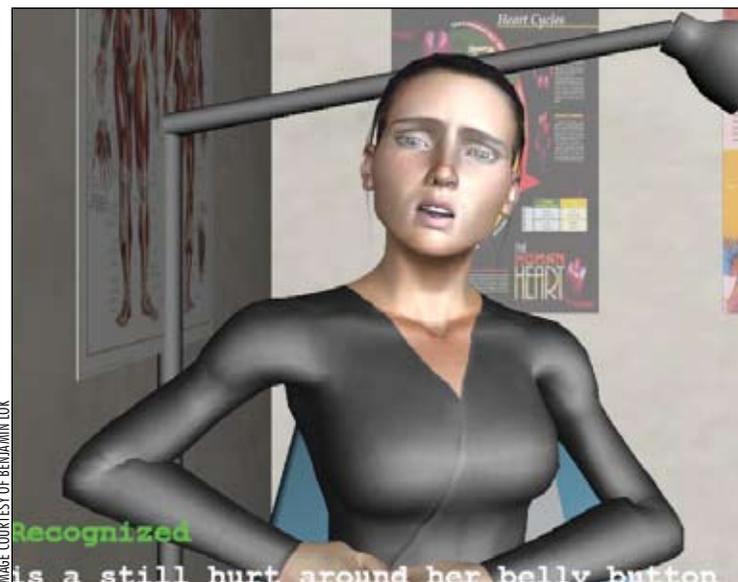


IMAGE COURTESY OF BENJAMIN LOK

New director outlines vision for McKnight Brain Institute

By John Pastor

People whose lives are affected by neurological diseases are prominent in the thoughts of Dennis Steindler, Ph.D., the new director of the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida.

In fact, his five-point plan for the direction of the Brain Institute is driven by the idea that researchers need to quickly develop new treatments and methods to help people with brain and central nervous system disorders.

“We are making progress in new genetic, molecular, cellular and rehabilitative therapies for neurological disease,” Steindler said. “People need to embrace the new field of regenerative medicine and be optimistic, because treatments are in the pipeline.”

A leading authority in adult stem cell research and a professor of neuroscience and neurosurgery at the College of Medicine, Steindler, 52, took the reins of the McKnight Brain Institute on Dec. 1, according to Douglas Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs at the UF Health Science Center.

“Trauma, degenerative diseases, stroke and cancer are unfortunate but not uncommon in Florida and throughout the world,” Steindler said. “But the McKnight Brain Institute can make a dent in these problems with its multidisciplinary approach that utilizes the incredible talents of the faculty at the University of Florida and the emerging technologies developed in the McKnight Brain Institute. Our goal is to become a world leader in neurodiagnostics and the development of novel neurotherapeutics.”

Steindler’s appointment comes after an 11-month search that involved about 30 applicants from the United States and around the world. He becomes the McKnight Brain Institute’s second permanent director, replacing neuroscientist William Luttge, Ph.D., who retired in February. Douglas Anderson, Ph.D., chairman of the department of neuroscience, served as interim director.

“I think Dennis will be able to lead the institute in new and exciting directions,” Luttge said. “The

terrific thing about him is he has an insightful understanding of stem cells, cancer and the brain, which will help him serve as glue for major projects under way at the University of Florida. I think he will strive to get more than the sum of the parts.”

The MBI director works to integrate the talents of more than 300 faculty members from 51 academic departments and 11 colleges to tackle all aspects of basic, clinical and translational neuroscience, Barrett said.

“I’m very pleased that Dennis has agreed to accept this post,” Barrett said. “He has a compelling and exciting vision that promises to move the McKnight Brain Institute further into world prominence. We were able to recruit from a pool of the most visionary and capable neuroscience leaders in the world. It was extremely gratifying that after such an extensive search, we found that Dr. Steindler was the clear leader.”

Steindler joined the UF faculty in March 2001 as an established authority in adult stem cell research, a field that looks at ways to tap the potential of chameleonlike cells to repair the body. He will continue to play a role in the Program of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine at the College of

Medicine and the UF Shands Cancer Center.

Before coming to UF, Steindler was a professor in the neuroscience program at the University of Tennessee-Memphis. He and colleagues broke scientific ground when they showed that they could isolate living

stem cells from adult cadaver brains, and they coined the term “brain marrow,” now commonly used in neuroscience circles to describe a substance in the brain that is rich in stem cells.

A native of Wisconsin, Steindler earned a Ph.D. in neurobiology and anatomy from the University of California-San Francisco and a bachelor of arts degree in zoology from the University of Wisconsin.

STEINDLER’S VISION FOR THE MBI IS GROUNDED IN FIVE CENTRAL AREAS:

- Age-related memory loss and cognition
- Nervous system injuries such as trauma and stroke
- Chronic neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease and epilepsy
- Neural regeneration and rehabilitation
- Neural behavioral science



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

DENNIS STEINDLER, Ph.D.

UF’s Brain Institute began in the early 1990s as a campuswide initiative to harness UF’s research, clinical-care and educational skills to confront brain disorders. It was named for Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight in 2000 to commemorate a \$15 million gift from the McKnight Brain Research Foundation to support research to find ways to alleviate memory loss associated with aging in people. **P**

Keeping It Real

Renato “Sal” Salazar presides over dentistry’s Preclinical Simulation Laboratory

By Lindy McCollum-Brounley

On any given day, visitors to the UF College of Dentistry Preclinical Simulation Laboratory will find it bustling with the activity of dental students engrossed in the work of learning. The sounds of quiet consultation between faculty and students, high-speed drills, water suction and the occasional ring of laughter are harmonious with the light-filled openness and cleanliness of the lab.

“Sim Lab gives us the ability to teach competencies to students, so by the third year they have the confidence and basic clinical skills they need to work on patients in the clinics,” said Teaching Lab Specialist Renato “Sal” Salazar.

Salazar is the staff person responsible for managing the college’s preclinical simulation, undergraduate prosthodontics and polishing labs. A retired Navy chief petty officer, he’s run a tight ship in the Sim Lab since 2000 — but he does it with humor and genuine concern for the students in his charge.

“Sim Lab is where our students interact the most,” said Salazar. “The open environment itself develops cohesiveness in the class. Each class has its own character, but if you allow them to share experiences — that’s what really makes them a team.”

It is in the Preclinical Simulation Laboratory where first- and second-year dental students bond while learning the skills that will become their future bread and butter. Students are assigned workstations in the lab for the two years of preclinical curriculum. Each of the 84 stations is equipped with a head-and-shoulders mannequin fitted with anatomically correct upper and lower jaws, a full array of handpieces, a computer monitor and laptop Ethernet connection for Internet access. If a student has a question, there’s even a button-activated red light to summon an instructor.

Students are issued instruments, restorative materials — such as amalgam, composites, impression material — and their own set of teeth. The replaceable plastic teeth screw into upper and lower ridges (gums) formed over a metal, spring-hinged jaw. This “mouth” rests inside the mannequin’s head and a flexible rubber skin stretches over it to simulate lips and cheeks.

Students devote the majority of their time in Sim Lab laboring over this facsimile of the human mouth — first learning how to hold instruments, position patients and “dress-out” for safety in gloves, protective eyewear and masks.

By the end of their second year in dental school, students will have drilled, filled, root-canaled, cast, crowned and discarded more than 200 teeth. These two years of Sim Lab instill in students the confidence and clinical competencies necessary for their transition to working on actual patients during the third year of dental school.

Salazar believes group cohesiveness developed during those first two years in the Sim Lab plays an important role in the success of a class. Class instruction may emphasize self-development through learning, but the support class members give each other helps everyone through the tough times.

“Achievements are shared and they may get through a stressful week by planning celebration of a class milestone,” Salazar said. “They learn from each other, the mentoring of senior students and faculty, and they have fun.”

Perhaps the best Sim Lab resource is Salazar himself. Students from every year of dental school trickle in and out of the lab to ask Sal’s advice on materials, techniques and instrument use. He reinforces what faculty wants them to learn and guides them in meeting their lab-work criteria.

After 22 years in the Navy, Salazar retired with an advanced rating for dental laboratory technician, as well as certification in dental radiology. His years in the



RENATO “SAL” SALAZAR

Navy are missed, but he sees parallels in his position as teaching laboratory specialist.

“My Navy experience taught me how to teach others. That’s what Chief Petty Officers do, they train others,” Salazar said. “But I’m learning as well. I see a lot of opportunities for growth here.”

For himself as well as the Sim Lab students. **P**

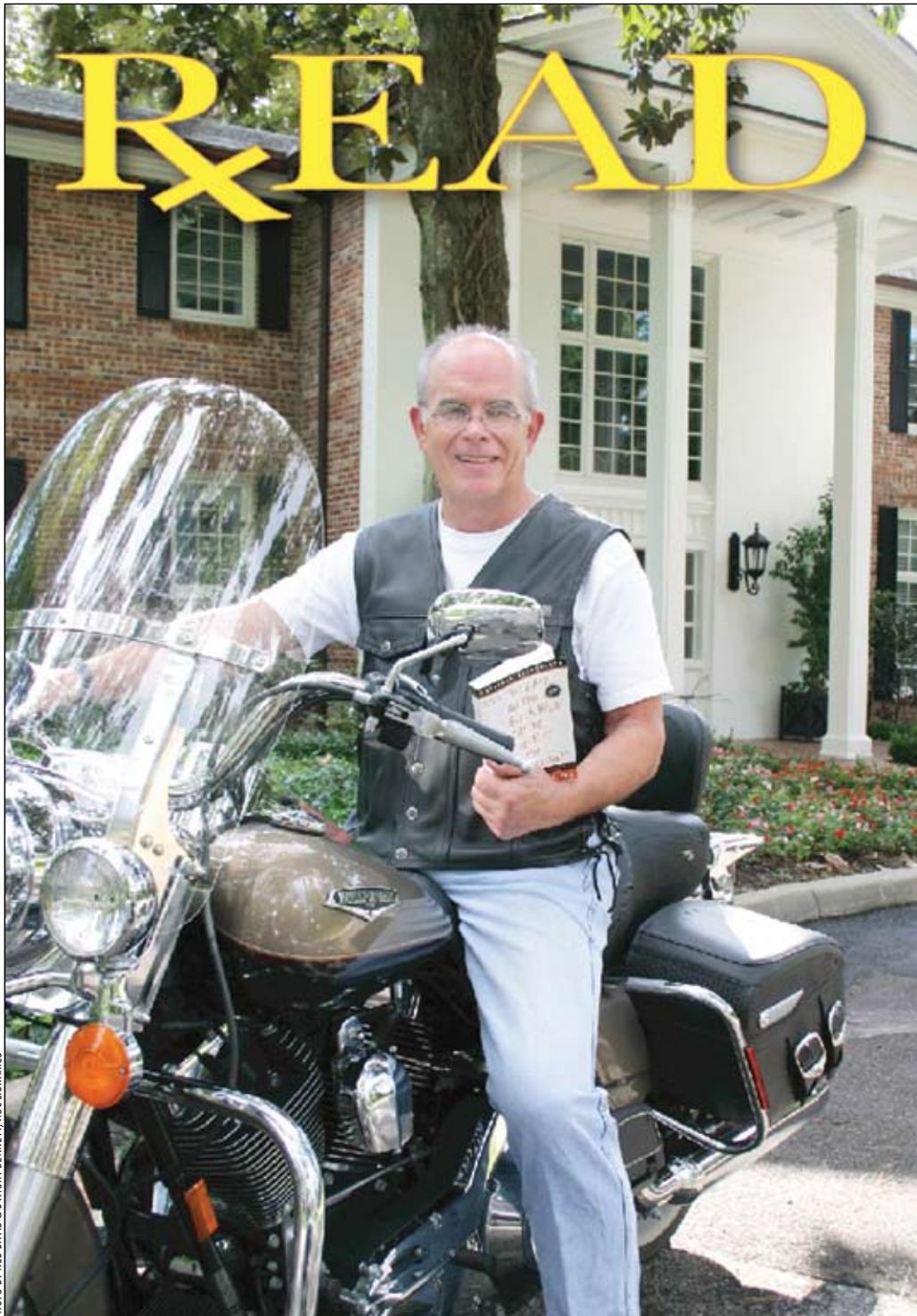


PHOTO BY NED DAVIS & DWIGHT BENNETT, HSC LIBRARIES

Bernie Machen

Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations About Race
by Beverly Daniel Tatum, Ph.D.

This is the inaugural book for President Machen's innovative Faculty Reading Initiative, specifically chosen to raise awareness of diversity issues. It examines the varieties of Americans' experience with race and racism in everyday life. The president has invited all faculty members to read this book and consider how it might be used to enhance their research, teaching and campus service.

The author is president of Spelman College in Atlanta and former professor of psychology and dean of Mount Holyoke College. She is an acknowledged expert on race relations in the classroom and the development of racial identity, and is a consultant to school systems and community groups on teaching and learning in a multicultural context.

Favorite books are a prescription for knowledge

By Denise Trunk

What is orange and blue and read all over? The HSC libraries' award-winning "RxEAD: Prescription for Knowledge" poster campaign.

The poster series was a brainchild of the HSC Libraries' Reference Department and Libraries' Director Faith Meakin, and is designed to promote ongoing positive relationships with HSC faculty, staff and students. The RxEAD poster itself was adapted from a successful American Library Association poster campaign that uses celebrities to endorse the idea of the "excellence of reading." The HSC Libraries' variation substituted UF President Bernie Machen, Doug Barrett, senior vice president for health affairs, and college deans as the celebrities, added the 'Rx' symbol and also inserted the "prescription for knowledge" slogan to bring the campaign home to the HSC.

Meakin said the campaign was one way to get HSC leaders to feel personally connected to the library — a bond that is essential for an academic health science center library.

The HSC Libraries enlisted the deans of all six Gainesville HSC colleges, as well as the program directors for the four colleges served by the Borland Library in Jacksonville, and asked each of them to sit for a photo to create personalized RxEAD posters and bookmarks.

The participants were asked to pose with a book that was important to them personally or professionally. All the deans and program heads were able to participate and the director and associate director of the HSC Libraries also participated.

Participants said they were glad to help the libraries and were honored to be asked. Positive comments increased once the 20" x 30" color posters were displayed throughout the libraries and copies were given to the colleges. Library patrons and students said they were glad to see their dean and college represented.

The program will continue to grow and introduce the students to HSC faculty and staff as well as the range of knowledge contained in the libraries, Meakin said.

"The RxEAD poster and bookmark campaign has been a wonderful way for our libraries to connect with the colleges we serve. It has won two awards from the national Medical Library Association and several other medical and health science center libraries have asked to use the idea at their own institutions," Meakin said. "We are certainly going to continue the campaign next year and the years to come. We hope to feature prominent staff and students, award-winning faculty members, directors of HSC centers and institutes and emeritus faculty ... Really, the possibilities are endless."

For 2005, Meakin said they are finalizing their choices for models and will be sending out invitations to participate.

See all the posters: www.library.health.ufl.edu/images_temp/READposters_thumbs1.html

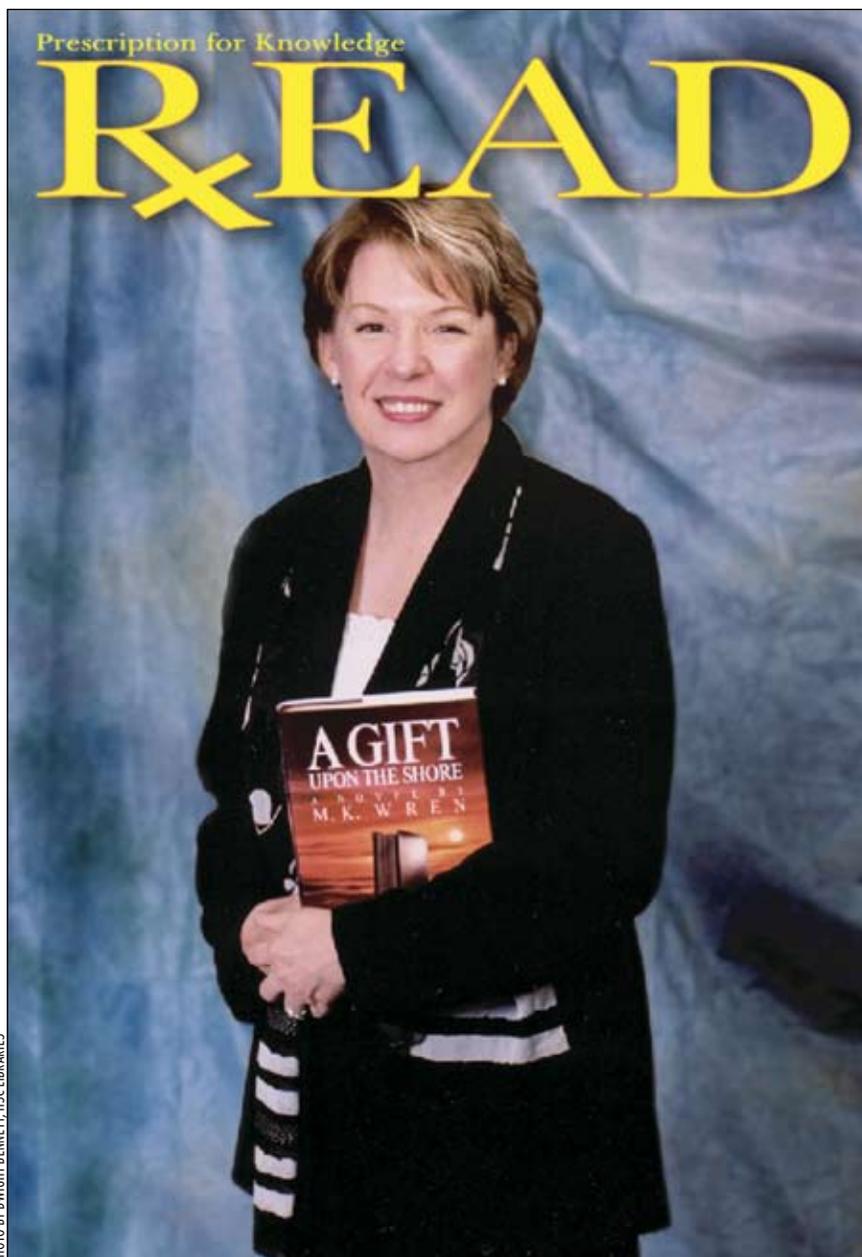


PHOTO BY DWIGHT BENNETT, HSC LIBRARIES

Faith Meakin

A Gift Upon The Shore by M.K. Wren

Faith Meakin picked *A Gift Upon The Shore* for many reasons. One of her interests is science fiction written by women about women. This book was written by M. K. Wren — a talented female science fiction writer. The book's focus is preservation of knowledge, which is a subject she said is especially important to her as a librarian.

Publishers Weekly wrote the following description: “Unsparring but ultimately hopeful, this elegiac novel, set in the near future, traces the first generations to survive nuclear war and ensuing plagues. Writer Mary Hope and Rachel Morrow, a painter, eke out a meager existence at a farm on the Oregon coast. As they struggle through the Long Winter following The End — as the nuclear disaster is simply called — their desolation is succeeded by a determination to collect and preserve for a new civilization the great books of Western culture.”

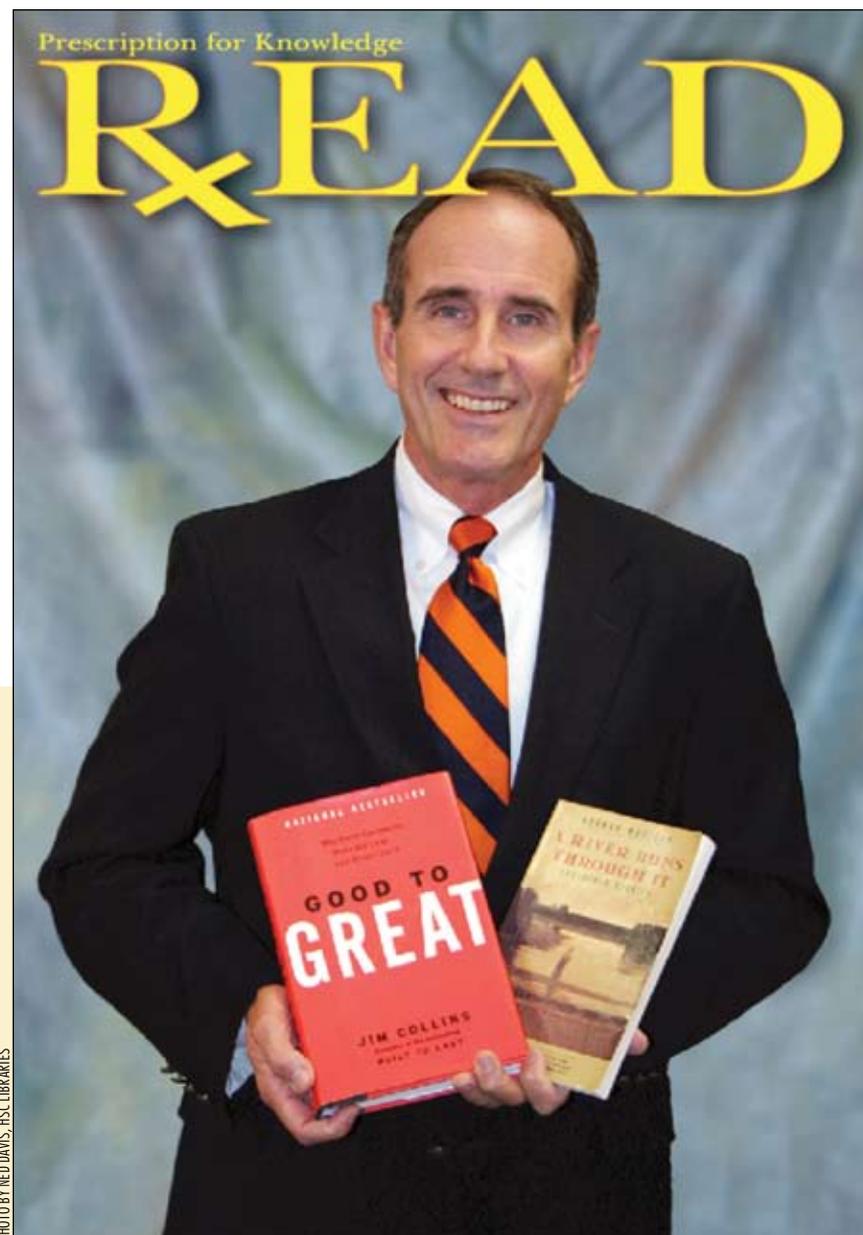


PHOTO BY NED DAVIS, HSC LIBRARIES

Doug Barrett

A River Runs Through It by Norman Maclean

Good To Great by Jim Collins

A River Runs Through It is a favorite personal book of mine that explores the complexity of family relationships, especially that of siblings. It describes the mystery of how we can come to respect and love each other, even when we don't fully understand each other.

Good to Great is a book about how really outstanding organizations — be they large companies or complex universities — often share certain common characteristics related to leadership, purpose and vision, cultural ethic, and strategy. To achieve lasting distinction, the great institutions have found unique ways to effectively and persistently integrate these characteristics into the day-to-day culture of their organizations.”



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Injured deer heads home for the holidays

Dr. Christine Fiorello, a second-year resident in the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's zoo medicine service, shares a close moment and says goodbye on Nov. 2 to Della, a white-tailed deer. Della went home to the Wildlife Rehabilitation of Hernando County organization in Brookville with her owner, rehabilitation specialist Linda Christian, after receiving four months of care at UF's Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital to repair a badly broken leg.



PHOTO BY LISA BALTOZER

Christmas Tree

Jim DaRoza, a facilities operations carpenter, puts tinsel on the Christmas tree in the UF&Shands atrium.

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www.news.health.ufl.edu

UF Health Science
CENTER



PHOTO BY TOM NORDLIE

Wild Art

Third-year medical student Samih Elchahal displays a photograph from his exhibit, "Worlds, Traveled," which can be seen in the Thomas H. Maren Medical Student Reading Room through the semester's end. The photo, "Prayers in Motion," shows Buddhist prayer wheels at a monastery in Nepal, where Elchahal spent a semester as an undergraduate.