

POST

THE

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Gifts

OF HEALING



UF
UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA
Health Science Center

Soccer
nurse

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50th finale

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Treating
Ismael

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On the Cover

Bertis Mackey, 18, has been dancing since she was 6. She loves the creativity of it, but mostly she loves how it makes her feel. Mackey, who has sickle cell anemia, uses dance to distract herself from the pain she feels because of her disease. She's now part of a new Shands Arts in Medicine dance group with other sickle cell patients. Hers is just one story of healing that unfold every year at the HSC. Full story on page 12.

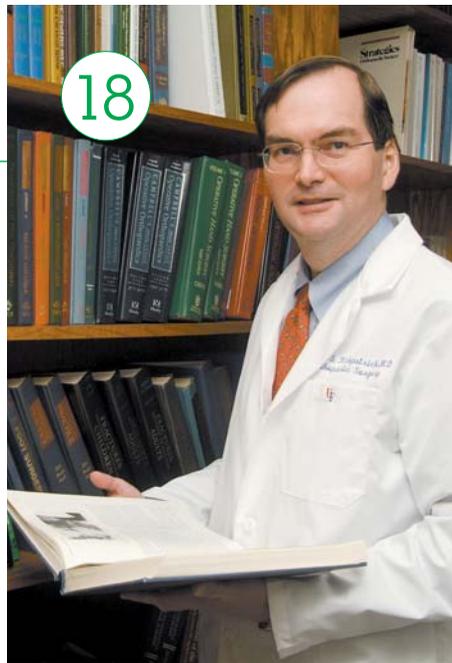


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See you in 50 years!

Health Science Center leaders put a wrap on a year's worth of 50th anniversary activities with the burial of a time capsule Nov. 9 in the Academic Research Building courtyard. The capsule, slated to be reopened in 2056, included the contents of the original time capsule from 1956, many items intended to depict contemporary life and letters from the six HSC deans and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Douglas Barrett.

The capsule is marked with a granite marker and plaque. Pictured (left to right) are College of Public Health and Health Professions Dean Robert Frank, College of Nursing Dean Kathleen Ann Long, College of Pharmacy Executive Associate Dean William Millard, College of Veterinary Medicine Associate Dean Charles Courtney, College of Dentistry Dean Teresa Dolan, HSC Library Director Faith Meakin, College of Medicine Dean Craig Tisher and Barrett.

UP FRONT



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Post it

Semester break parking

From Dec. 7 to Jan. 5 parking restrictions will be lifted for commuter, all decal and motorcycle zones. From Dec. 18 through Jan. 5, the red zone restrictions will also be lifted. Restrictions to lots designated as brown and gated will **not** be lifted.

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

Visit www.parking.ufl.edu for more info.



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

National consortium takes note of UF HSC distance degree programs

The American Distance Education Consortium is holding its national strategic committee meeting from Dec. 11 to Dec. 13 in Gainesville to showcase UF Health Science Center distance education degree programs to its members. The College of Pharmacy's forensic science master's program received the ADEC 2006 National Award for Excellence in Distance Education. William Riffie, Ph.D., dean of the College of Pharmacy, will welcome ADEC members to UF with a keynote address at the opening reception. At the meeting, UF educators from the colleges of Public Health and Health Professions and Pharmacy will present their distance programs and technologies used to offer UF professional and master's degrees worldwide. A tour of the HPNP Complex distance teaching facilities will also be given.

A nonprofit organization with membership representing more than 60 state universities and land-grant colleges, ADEC was developed to promote high-quality, economical distance education programs to diverse audiences through the most appropriate information technologies available.

For more information or to attend the UF presentation or reception/tour, call 273-6873 or e-mail homewood@ufl.edu.



The ASDA Mighty Molar field

Pre-dental American Student Dental Association member Cody Reynolds winds up his best shot to dunk A.E. "Buddy" Clark, a professor and chair of prosthodontics during the ASDA 2006 Mighty Molar field day, held at Lake Wauburg on Oct. 21. Clark, who fought back with squirts from a high-powered water cannon, was eventually unseated from his precarious perch for a wet splash into the dunk tank.

The ASDA Mighty Molar field day has been a dental school tradition for more than 32 years as a way for dental students, faculty and staff to have fun while competing in field games, including tug-of-war, wheelbarrow races and a balloon toss. Billed as "The Mightiest Molar Ever," this year's newest additions — the dunk tank, featuring dental professors and staff, and the hot dog eating contest — stole the show as students and faculty left their scrubs and textbooks at home to enjoy a day of food, games and fun in the sun.

Horse owners can still vaccinate animals against West Nile virus

By Sarah Carey

Although cooler temperatures have arrived in Florida, horses in the Sunshine State are still at risk for contracting potentially fatal mosquito-borne diseases, such as West Nile virus, UF veterinarians and state officials warn.

“The National Weather Service is projecting a warmer than normal winter, so horse owners should not become complacent and should make sure they vaccinate their horse,” said Michael Short, D.V.M., equine programs manager for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services’ Division of Animal Industry.

While state officials report no equine cases yet this year, a new single-dose vaccine recently tested in horses by a UF infectious disease specialist may reduce the overall occurrence of the cyclical virus because the product can be administered any time of year, with almost immediate protection. Known as PreveNile, the vaccine began reaching veterinarians in late September.

“Horse owners who have not vaccinated their animals already should do so as soon as possible,” said Maureen Long, D.V.M., an associate professor of equine medicine at UF’s College of Veterinary Medicine and a nationally recognized expert on West Nile virus. “We want horse owners to vaccinate if they haven’t, because since there is no cure for West Nile Virus, prevention is really the only tool we have for controlling this ongoing threat.”

As of Oct. 31, the disease has been reported in 3,752 people nationwide and in 939 horses this year. In its most serious manifestation, West Nile virus causes fatal inflammation of the brain, and it also occurs in a variety of domestic and wild birds, including crows. Nationwide, more than 23,000 cases have been reported in horses since its initial appearance in 1999, with more than a third of these animals dying, including more than 1,000 in Florida.

West Nile virus cycles between birds and mosquitoes, and mosquito bites are the only way a horse can become infected. Horses and humans infected with the disease cannot infect other horses and humans, experts say. Compared with most states, Florida has a year-round mosquito season, but the insects are most active in the summer and fall.

“Vaccination is a very important component of horses’ health, and the arboviruses — West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis — are two diseases we strongly urge horse owners to have their horses vaccinated for,” Short said. “Many horses die every year from these two diseases and those we report are just confirmed cases. There probably are a lot more out there that we don’t hear about.”

PreveNile is marketed by Intervet Inc. and received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for commercial use in July. Long and her staff provided immune protection studies for the product, the first live-virus vaccine to prevent West Nile virus in horses.

PreveNile provides 12 months of immunity and may be used even if other products have been administered within the past year. Other vaccines previously on the market required two doses before



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Dr. Maureen Long, an infectious disease specialist and equine veterinarian, examines a mare and foal at UF’s Veterinary Medical Center in 2005.

becoming effective.

“The other vaccines are labeled only for protection against viremia, or the presence of virus in the blood,” Long said. “This is the only market vaccine that is labeled for protection against disease itself because of the way in which we tested the product in horses.”

Some 19,000 humans have been infected with the virus, and nearly 800 people have died from it, according to the USDA’s animal and plant health industry surveillance program.

“There is intense interest in developing vaccination strategies for humans,” Long said. “A similar product is currently being tested in humans by Acambis Inc., the human vaccine company that constructed this product originally. Work in horses is invaluable for assessment of this type of vaccine for use in humans.”

Horse owners with questions about vaccination protocols and options should contact their veterinarian. **P**

Keeping her eye on the goal:

UF CON recognizes future Gator nurse and UF soccer player



PHOTO BY SARAH MEWEL

By Lori Spicer

As a goalkeeper on Florida's 15th-ranked soccer team and a UF College of Nursing BSN student, Brittini Goodwin juggles more than soccer balls in her very busy life.

Goodwin began her soccer and academic career at the University of Washington. Because she was so far from her family, the Fort Lauderdale native decided to move closer to home. In May, she received her bachelor of science in psychology from UF.

In her pursuit to gain some clinical experience and prepare for graduate school in psychology, Goodwin worked at Shands VISTA alongside the nurses. During her experience at Shands, Goodwin realized she was pursuing the wrong profession. She admired the dedication of the nursing staff so much that it inspired her to go into nursing.

"I fell in love with what they do, because there was so much compassion behind it," Goodwin said.

Goodwin enrolled in the prerequisites for the nursing program and this fall she was accepted into the college. She admits that a large factor in her decision to attend UF was the soccer team, but she was also very impressed with what the nursing program had to offer.

Currently enrolled in the accelerated BSN program, Goodwin confesses that her experience at the college has been difficult. The accelerated program requires her to learn a great deal of information in a short amount of time, and she also has to incorporate her rigorous soccer training schedule.

"I know that I have to make a temporary sacrifice for now, but in the end the payoff will be rewarding," Goodwin said.

"I have learned a lot about myself while being here, and I never cease to amaze myself in my capabilities," she added.

Goodwin credits the faculty for her academic achievement and for giving her the opportunity to

pursue nursing. Goodwin's classmates have also been a great help, as she has to miss a lot of class time due to her soccer schedule.

"My adviser, Sharon Bradley, has worked extremely hard to enable me to complete this journey," Goodwin said. "She is also an excellent professor and I enjoy her teaching style."

Her family also has been a big inspiration in her success, she said.

"My family places value on academics, but they never pressure me," Goodwin said. "They honor my efforts and are satisfied as long as I do the best that I can."

After graduation, Goodwin plans to work a year to develop a good platform in her field, hopefully enter a certified registered nurse anesthetist program and then work as a CRNA in a critical care unit. In addition, Goodwin said she would also love to coach soccer someday.

"Being a Gator nurse encompasses possibility, potential and growth," said Goodwin. "The nursing profession in itself is rewarding. It is a selfless profession." **P**



RHONDA COOPER-DEHOFF, PHARM.D.

Women with chest pain risk serious complications even in absence of blockages

By Melanie Fridl Ross

Women who have chest pain but no evidence of clogged arteries on conventional imaging tests are nonetheless four times more likely to eventually be hospitalized for heart failure, suffer a heart attack or stroke, or die than women without heart disease symptoms, University of Florida researchers report.

The findings, described recently at the American Heart Association's 2006 Scientific Sessions in Chicago, stem from the National Institutes of Health-sponsored Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation and the St. James Women Take Heart study and add to a growing body of evidence that suggests while heart disease is an equal opportunity killer, it frequently manifests itself much differently in women than in men.

"The message here is you do not want to tell a woman who comes to you and says 'I have chest pain' not to worry," said Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff, Pharm.D., a research assistant professor and associate director of the clinical research program in cardiovascular medicine at UF's College of Medicine. "Often when women present with chest pain or atypical signs of reduced blood flow to the heart they are told it's probably heartburn and they should go home and lie down and it'll go away. What our data show is that although women who present with different signs and symptoms don't always have obstructive

disease, they do have increased risk compared with women who do not have these signs and symptoms.

"Also, our data suggest that these women should be aggressively treated to manage diabetes and lower cholesterol and blood pressure, and should be told to exercise and lose weight when appropriate, because having these risk factors significantly increases the risk in these women," Cooper-DeHoff said.

The multicenter WISE study seeks to define the prevalence, extent, severity and complexity of heart disease in women and aims to identify ways to predict heart disease, which according to the American Heart Association kills nearly half a million women each year.

Researchers studied 564 women with chest pain who underwent coronary angiography to track blood flow through key arteries and were found to have no visible obstructive coronary artery disease. They compared them with 1,000 Chicago-area women of similar age and race who were free of documented heart disease and were participating in the St. James Women Take Heart Project.

Women enrolled in WISE had a four-fold increased risk of developing serious cardiac complications or dying within the study's five-year follow-up period, independent of the influence of age, race, history of hypertension or diabetes, and other factors. Nearly 12 percent experienced problems, compared with nearly 3 percent in the Women Take Heart study.

Physicians suspect smaller arteries become glazed with plaque, triggering symptoms. But because these vessels are much tinier than the heart's major arteries, the build-up is not detectable using standard coronary angiography. The phenomenon, coined coronary microvascular syndrome, is thought to be much more common in women than in men, and it is raising questions about how best to diagnose and treat these patients.

"You can't explain the differences (in the two study groups) by their baseline risk factors. Something else is going on that's increasing their risk and we think it's at the microvascular level," Cooper-DeHoff said. "Future studies are warranted to further assess what to do with these women." 



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

TERENCE FLOTTE, M.D.

Gene therapy shows promise against hereditary lung disease

By John Pastor

An experimental gene therapy to combat alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency, a common hereditary disorder that causes lung and liver disease, has caused no harmful effects in patients and shows signs of being effective, UF researchers say.

In a clinical trial, researchers evaluated the safety of using a so-called gene vector — in this case an adeno-associated virus — to deliver a corrective gene to 12 patients who are unable to produce a protein essential for health called alpha-1 antitrypsin.

“The primary end point in the trial was to see whether it was safe to give patients this gene transfer vector and then to try to begin to see if we could get the dose into a range where we would begin to replace the missing protein in the blood,” said Terence Flotte, M.D., a pediatrician, geneticist and microbiologist with UF’s College of Medicine and a member of the Powell Gene Therapy Center and the UF Genetics Institute. “We found that we can use this agent safely and we also saw evidence in the patients’ blood that the higher doses successfully introduced the vector DNA. In one patient we saw evidence for a very brief period that some of the alpha-1 protein was being produced, but not at a high enough level to be beneficial.”

The findings appeared in the journal *Human Gene Therapy*.

Physicians injected doses of the virus containing copies of the gene for alpha-1 antitrypsin into the patients’ upper arms. Essentially, the virus is intended to “infect” patients’ cells with replacement genes that will do the necessary work to produce alpha-1 protein. UF scientists have successfully developed the technique in animal models.

The next step is to test the therapy with a different and possibly more effective version of the adeno-associated virus; about 200 variations of the virus exist in nature.

The trial is funded by a National Institutes of Health grant, and the alpha-1 Foundation played a crucial role in helping to build the infrastructure to support the research, Flotte said. UF holds an equity interest in Applied Genetic Technologies Corp., a company formed by UF researchers to develop gene therapies. **P**

With exercise, elders can improve weakened physical abilities

By Denise Trunk

With a prescription of regular structured exercise, sedentary elderly are able to safely improve their physical function and may reduce the likelihood they will experience difficulty walking a quarter mile, according to findings from a multicenter pilot study led by the University of Florida Institute on Aging.

UF researchers announced the results of the Lifestyle Interventions and Independence For Elders pilot study, or LIFE, in November at the Gerontological Society of America’s annual meeting in Dallas. The study also appears in the November issue of the *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*.

The findings confirm the feasibility of a full-scale clinical trial using physical activity in older people, said Marco Pahor, director of the UF Institute on Aging and the study’s principal investigator.

“This pilot demonstrates that the physical activity was extremely safe for the study participants — elderly people at a high risk of becoming disabled,” Pahor said.

The pilot study was the first to gather evidence that physical activity can improve the score on a standardized test of lower extremity physical mobility called the Short Physical Performance Battery, or SPPB, the researchers said. Even a small improvement



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

of a half point on the test score’s scale of 0 to 12 translates as a major improvement in an elder person’s ability to perform activities of daily living, such as walking across a room, dressing, eating or bathing.

During the testing period, participants in the physical activity group increased their score from a baseline average of about 7.5 to about 8.5.

Previous research has found that the score on this performance test is highly predictive of future health problems. People with lower scores on the SPPB assessment are more likely than others to die earlier, have health problems, be institutionalized and become less able to get around.

“I think the result is promising for a full-scale study,” said Pahor, a professor and chairman of the department of aging and geriatric research in UF’s College of Medicine. “(Previously) we had no definitive empirical evidence that the score on the SPPB test could be modified.”

The LIFE study was conducted at four centers — the Cooper Institute, Stanford University, the University of Pittsburgh and Wake Forest University — and was funded by the National Institute on Aging. **P**



Dean Kathleen Ann Long and her husband David Soloman kick off the first dance with special guests Albert and Alberta at the College of Nursing 50th Anniversary Gala.

College of Nursing culminates its 50th anniversary with a weekend celebration

By Tracy Brown Wright

The College of Nursing recently capped off its 50th anniversary celebration with a Gala and Reunion Weekend.

Alumni and friends set off on student-led tours featuring demonstrations of the Nursing Resource Center, a trip to the College's History Alcove and a chance to view historical displays throughout the building.

Jodi Irving, an assistant professor and co-chair of the 50th Anniversary Committee who dedicated her time to preserving the college's heritage during its 50th year, led a "Remember When" session, and alumni and friends recounted memories of their time in school.

At the 50th Anniversary Gala, held in Emerson Alumni Hall's Presidential Ballroom, Dean Kathleen Ann Long spoke about the college's heritage, citing its long tradition of nursing leadership and pioneering spirit. Attendees also were able to view the premiere of the 50th anniversary video.

The next morning, Gator Nurses were up early for a tailgate brunch that helped everyone get ready to cheer on the Gators! Alberta the Alligator entertained the crowd, and guests bid on silent auction items, raising more than \$1,700 to benefit the Alumni Council Book Awards. Alumni Council Board President BarBee Geiger presented the following 2006 awardees with certificates: Katharine Book, Larissa Galante, Christy Givens, Jocelyn Kirk, Arminda Mathews, Mihn-Nguyet Nguyen, Nicholas Rodgers, Danielle Secor, Jacqueline Urquiaga and Megan Wester.

In addition to Irving's work on the college's History Alcove, she

also put together a College of Nursing time capsule, which was sealed during the reunion with the assistance of Dean Long and professor emeritus and committee Co-Chair Myrna Courage. The capsule will be kept in a wooden case on the fourth floor by the Dean's office. The hope is to open it on the college's 100th anniversary.

Mother and daughter legacy honored

The College of Nursing was able to honor two of its biggest supporters at the Alumni Council Board meeting held during Reunion Weekend.

Annette Argenti was a dear friend of the college who passed away in August. Argenti, the mother of Rita Kobb, an active alumna who served on the CON Alumni Council, spent countless hours handcrafting favors and gifts for alumni events. Donations to the Alumni Council Fund totaling \$5,500 were made on her behalf. A portion of these proceeds was designated for two students to receive the Annette Argenti Alumni Council Book Awards.

Kobb also was recognized for her dedication to the college and to the profession of nursing through her work in informatics and technology for the Veterans Affairs system and beyond. Her sister and brother-in-law, Patti and Bill Alcorn, made a tribute gift in her honor, establishing the Rita Kobb Nursing Informatics and Technology Lectureship. The lectureship is designed to attract visiting experts in nursing informatics and technology who will help UF faculty continue to explore and educate others on this very critical topic.

"Rita is a Gator Nurse in the truest sense of the word," said Dean Kathleen Ann Long. "She is a stellar example of the type of Gator Nurse that we hope each of our students will emulate." 

Revamped space gives students room to relax

By April Frawley Birdwell

The old student lounge wasn't exactly the place to be.

There was a tattered couch, a 10-inch TV and a microwave in the less-than-sparkling room on the ground floor of the Communicore Building. The only highlight was the pingpong table and even it was broken, propped up with two-by-fours so students could still use it.

Last year, students and faculty on the College of Medicine's Student Advocacy Committee devised a plan to turn the dingy lounge into a place Health Science Center students would want to be.

"People came in and trashed (the room) because it looked trashy," said Irving Zamora, a second-year medical student on the committee. "We really wanted to make it something nice."

Unveiled during a grand opening in October, the new student lounge boasts a fresh coat of paint, new floors, exercise equipment, a flat-screen TV, a new futon and a new pingpong table, sans two-by-fours.

"(Students) need a place where they can blow off steam if they have a few minutes," said Eloise Harman, M.D., a UF professor of medicine and chairwoman of the committee. "All the Health Science Center students are in very pressured programs."

Committee members spent months gathering donations from faculty members, UF departments and even themselves. Zamora donated the pingpong table, which has already been used for a tournament to raise money for the Dr. Salud medical mission trip, he said. Harman donated an elliptical machine.

"I think as a health center we should have (a place) for students to focus on their health," said Viviane Barry, a first-year student in the College of Pharmacy. "If this is successful, I hope we have more rooms like this."



Students in the Health Science Center's six colleges now have a revamped space to call their own. The new lounge, shown above, features a widescreen TV, a new pingpong table and exercise equipment, all donations from faculty, staff and students. The lounge is located on the ground floor of the Communicore Building in CG-18.

The exercise equipment is particularly important for students in demanding programs like medicine because they never feel "caught up" with their studies, which makes them feel guilty about doing anything but study, said Beverly Viddaureta, Ph.D., director of the College of Medicine student counseling program. Often, a trip to the Southwest Student Recreation and Fitness Center seems out of the question. Having exercise equipment nearby should help some students feel less guilty about taking a few minutes to exercise each day, she said.

Aside from being a place to take a breather, the space will also offer students from different Health Science Center colleges a chance to get to know each other, Zamora said.

"It's a place for all the HSC students to interact," he said. "That's one of the coolest parts about this." **P**



Dental Fall Weekend

Alessandra Ottley, 7, brother Christian, 5, and sister Gabrielle, 3, receive a crash course in using the dental mannequins in the College of Dentistry's Preclinical Simulation area from dentist dad Jeffrey C. Ottley ('98) during the college's Nov. 11 Dental Fall Weekend. Dental Fall Weekend was the college's annual homecoming for about 200 alumni and their families who returned to the college for continuing dental education, class reunions, college tours and a pre-game barbecue on Saturday. Ottley reports his eldest daughter, Alessandra, isn't interested in dental school; she wants to grow up to become a veterinarian. (Photo by Sam Brill) **P**

Governor urges UF cancer, genetics scientists to spread excitement

Story by John Pastor **Photos** by Sarah Kiewel

Urging researchers to communicate the excitement of their work to the people of Florida, Gov. Jeb Bush and university leaders cut a ribbon to officially open the \$84.5 million Cancer & Genetics Research Complex on the Health Science Center campus recently.

“The prospects of how our state will benefit from the great work being done here just blow me away,” Bush said. “I could never explain any of the science that is going on here. I urge the scientists, and the scientists-to-be who are gathered here today, that you describe what you do in plain-spoken English.

“You may think that is not important, but the work that you do here is so critical, so exciting, so mind-boggling, that I want the rest of the 18 million people in the state to understand it,” Bush continued. “I want them to buy into it, so that they can say to the senator-elect from this district, or their state House member, that we need to continue to fund research at our great



Gov. Jeb Bush is greeted by well-wishers at the official opening of the UF Cancer & Genetics Research Complex in November. More than two years ago, the governor was on hand to break ground for the 280,000-square-foot structure, currently the largest biotechnology research building in Florida.





universities. We need to lure the next generation of scientists to our state. We need to continue this progress so Florida becomes the envy of the rest of the world. That's my hope and dream."

About 350 people attended the opening, including a group of executives in Gainesville for the annual conference of BioFlorida, Florida's independent statewide bioscience organization. Bush noted the opening of the 280,000-square-foot Cancer & Genetics Research Complex marked not only the arrival of the largest research building on campus, but the largest research building currently in Florida.

"In many ways this research complex reflects the bold spirit and ambitious agenda the governor has set for the state of Florida," said Douglas Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs. "This is the focal point for our collective efforts to find cures for cancer, and to invent new genetic solutions to pressing human, plant, animal and biomedical problems facing Florida and facing the world. We fully expect this place to serve as an example to all of the way it ought to be done. And that way is the collaborative way."

A five-story research wing of the UF Shands Cancer Center and a six-story Genetics Institute wing are contained in the facility. Also included are the Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, which provides support services to scientists, and the C.A. Pound Human Identification Laboratory, a premiere forensic anthropology laboratory.

"We are truly in the midst of a renaissance of our research building infrastructure," said Win Phillips, UF's vice president for research, prior to the ribbon-cutting. Planning is under way for three buildings devoted to research in nanotechnology, biomedical sciences and emerging pathogens. "We expect that by around the summer 2009 we will have added about 600,000 square feet of research space to our campus."

Scientists began to occupy the building in June, working on practical problems in medicine, agriculture and environmental management.

"We're bringing together all kinds of scientists who work on plants and animals and people," said Kenneth Berns, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UF Genetics Institute. "Between the two sides of the building, we're going to have about 60 to 70 faculty. It is an incredible aggregation of intellectual firepower."

About \$30 million to help pay for the building came from the university's sale of stock that it owned in a biotechnology company called Regeneration Technologies Inc., which was spun off from UF research. UF officials tout the research complex as a tangible example of how money that is invested in research pays dividends.

W. Stratford May, M.D., director of the UF Shands Cancer Center, is counting on the research complex to fuel the momentum that has caused, for the first time since the 1930s, the death rate from all cancers to decrease in proportion to the growth and aging of the population.

"This building is bricks and mortar, but it's much more than that, because it really provides hope for cancer patients, who know that we're going to do the research, we're going to find the answers, we're going to help them," May said. "That is what I think this building means to our region and nationally. The UF Shands Cancer Center is a major player in the fight against cancer and this will help us synergize and amplify what we are doing." 

With the assistance of Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, UF Vice President for Research Win Phillips (second from right) prepares to cut the ribbon commemorating the new, \$84.5 million Cancer & Genetics Research Complex on the HSC campus on Nov. 15. Featured speakers at the event were (from left) UF Genetics Institute Director Kenneth Berns, UF Shands Cancer Center Director W. Stratford May, Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research Director Robert Ferl, Bush, Phillips and Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Douglas Barrett.

THE *Gifts* OF HEALING

BY HSC STAFF WRITERS



Helping people is what Health Science Center faculty, staff and students do best. It happens every day in the six HSC colleges and at Shands at UF, not only on holidays or at certain times of the year. But as the holidays approach and 2006 comes to a close, we're taking a look back at just a few of the inspiring ways HSC folks have made a difference, from helping a little boy walk again to using dance to change a girl's life.

PHHP PROGRAM HELPS BOY LEARN TO WALK — AGAIN

There was no way to know if it was going to work.

The boy was only 4, and he couldn't move. Not an inch. Kyle Bartolini hadn't been able to wiggle his toes or move his legs since 2003, when he found an unlocked gun in the bathroom at a Labor Day party and accidentally shot himself in the chest. Forget walking — Kyle's spinal cord was so damaged he almost didn't live.

In the 10 years assistant professor Andrea Behrman, Ph.D., had been researching locomotor training as a rehabilitation strategy, she and her staff and students in the department of physical therapy at the College of Public Health and Health Professions had never treated a patient so young, so severely injured. The therapy, which relies on an instinct in the spinal cord to learn patterns, over time helps people with spinal cord injuries re-learn how to walk but requires hours of walking with assistance on a treadmill and over ground. A 4-year-old might not be able to handle it.

But the risk was worth it. Now 6, Kyle can walk with the aid of a walker, a vast improvement for a boy who was never supposed to walk again.

"There was not a good reason not to attempt this with this child," said Behrman, sitting in her office, where pictures of Kyle and other patients are taped to the cabinets above her desk. "It's not 100 percent recovery, but it changes the trajectory of his life."

Jamie Bartolini said it wasn't just the locomotor training that helped her son, a quadriplegic. It was everything else Behrman did, too. For starters, Behrman was the only one who agreed to help Kyle. Other institutions Bartolini called had turned her away because her son was so young and his injuries were so severe.

"He couldn't move at all," Bartolini said. "He was like a noodle."

Behrman gathered a special team of physical therapists to work with Kyle, and together they devised creative ways to make his therapy fun.

"She took a chance on Kyle because of his age, and she gave him the chance of a lifetime," Bartolini said. "She just opened up her heart to him. It was so much more than just therapy. We feel so unbelievably fortunate."

Kyle Bartolini, shown during testing at the Brooks Rehabilitation Center, couldn't walk after he was accidentally shot and paralyzed. But after spending weeks in a locomotor training research program in the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions physical therapy department, Kyle made progress. Over time, the therapy can help people with spinal cord injuries relearn to walk by relying on the spinal cord's instinct to learn patterns. Now 6, Kyle can walk using a walker.

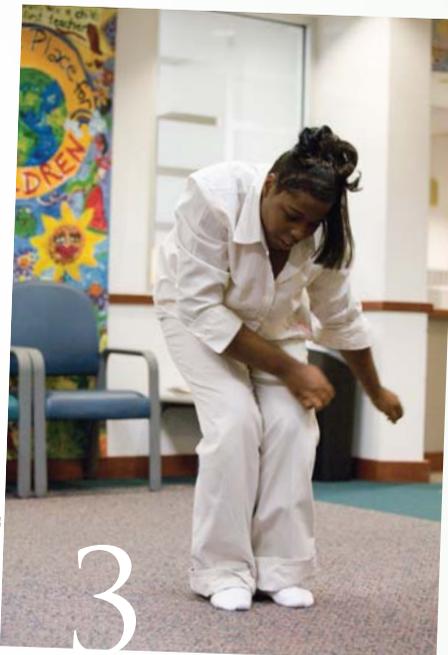


PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

Bertis Mackey, 18, has been dancing since she was 6. She loves the creativity of it, but mostly she loves how it makes her feel. Mackey, who has sickle cell anemia, uses dance to distract herself from the pain she feels because of her disease. She's now part of a new Shands Arts in Medicine dance group with other sickle cell patients.

DANCING THROUGH THE PAIN

Bertis Mackey never knows how long the stabbing pain pulsing through her legs and back will last. Sometimes it's gone in two days. Sometimes she's in the hospital for two weeks.

There's no way to stop the pain Mackey feels from sickle cell anemia, an inherited disease that causes blood cells to form into rigid, sickle shapes that can block tiny blood vessels and don't live as long as normal, round cells. But when she dances, Mackey, 18, isn't the teenager in pain anymore. Her mind takes her somewhere else, a place where all she can feel is the dance, at least for a little while.

"It helps me to concentrate, to get my mind off (the pain)," Mackey said. "It helps my legs too. I can feel the difference when I dance."

Mackey, a high school senior, discovered dancing when she was a patient at Shands at UF 12 years ago. Jill Sonke-Henderson, a dancer-in-residence with the Shands Arts in Medicine program, came to Mackey's hospital room armed with music and a bag of scarves.

Mackey stayed in bed watching while Sonke-Henderson danced. She was too shy to dance at first, but she liked the scarves and draped them over her head. Eventually, still under the scarves, Mackey began singing and swaying to the music, Sonke-Henderson remembers.

"It energized her," she said. "She went from just lying in bed to moving."

After that, Sonke-Henderson visited Mackey whenever she was in the hospital. At first, her dancing was mostly about movement. But as Mackey grew older, Sonke-Henderson taught her different types of dance, like modern and ballet, in her hospital room. But something changed four years ago when she brought a Chopin CD for Mackey to listen to in the hospital.

"She was so inspired (by the music) and connected that she went to this new place with her dancing, this creative space (in the mind) that artists strive to get to," Sonke-Henderson said. "Now, she has developed a really sophisticated way of dancing to relieve pain. She focuses on how good the dancing feels."

When she feels pain, Mackey dances in her room, sometimes gliding across the floor like a ballerina, other times bouncing to a hip-hop beat.

"It's like an art, you can have your own movements and be creative," Mackey said. "I try to do everything I can (to relieve pain) at home. I really don't want to go to the hospital. I just like to live a normal life like everyone else."

Sonke-Henderson was so inspired by Mackey she started the Traffic Art and Dance Exchange program, a group for teens and adults with sickle cell disease. On Fridays, Mackey and four other sickle cell patients meet with Sonke-Henderson and UF dance students and work on choreographed moves.

"I thought she was teasing," Mackey said of when Jill told her about the program. "I was so excited. I couldn't wait to go."

NURSING STUDENTS HELP PATIENT 'GET HER EYES BACK'

Kaye Eaddy is blind. She has a condition that sometimes causes her to have seizures, too. But she still holds a paying job, lives independently in her own apartment and takes a class to study for her GED.

Eaddy may need help with housework and daily chores from time to time, but she cherishes her independence. That's why students from UF's College of Nursing helped her get Sophie, a black Labrador retriever that now acts as Eaddy's eyes.

"I love her so much," said Eaddy, who finally got Sophie in September after months of waiting for her own guide dog. "She keeps me company and understands when I am upset. But the best part is that I feel like I have been given my eyes back. I am more free than I was before."

UF nursing students met Eaddy as a part of a clinical rotation. The students and faculty members seek to help people live in regular housing, socialize in the community and return to school or work.

A few years ago, one of the nursing students who worked with her applied for a grant to get Eaddy a guide dog. It took months of intensive training and waiting, but Eaddy and Sophie are finally together.

To celebrate and help Eaddy with the costs, the students also collected donations for dog supplies and threw Eaddy a "dog shower."

Now, Eaddy said she is even eating better and smoking less so she can be healthy for Sophie.

"It's been so rewarding to see how much joy and positivity that Sophie has brought to Kaye's life, and the fact that we have had a small part in it feels so good," said Carissa Stanley, one of the students who has visited Eaddy regularly. "It helps you to understand why nurses do what we do."



LEVELING THE FIELD FOR GAINESVILLE'S WORKING POOR

When was the last time you paid \$2 for a tooth filling? At Gainesville Community Ministry, private dentists and UF dental faculty and students volunteer their time to keep dental treatment costs low for Gainesville's working poor, providing dental services for \$2 per procedure.

"Our clinic targets people who would not otherwise be able to afford the services," said Cynthia Ramos, the clinic's office manager. "Seventy percent of our clientele are single parents or grandparents with jobs but no insurance and not enough income to afford dental services," she said.

Organizations like Gainesville Community Ministry serve as social safety nets for the 30 million working-poor Americans laboring harder for less ... Less in wages, less paid time off and less health insurance coverage. These workers, with annual incomes of \$18,800 or less, work full time in fields such as child care, elder care, the restaurant industry and retail but still have difficulty making ends meet — and often are forced to sacrifice health insurance and dental care to pay rent and buy groceries.

More than 700,000 Floridians are members of working poor families. Florida's Medicaid program covers the cost of dental care for the children in these families, but emergency extraction of painfully diseased teeth is the only coverage extended to adults. The Gainesville Community Ministry clinic offers an affordable alternative.

"We're here every Friday, usually all day," said Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S., an associate clinical professor and director of the college's Community Based

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Pictured with Lulu, a 4-month-old Miniature Jersey cow, on Oct. 11 prior to her release from UF's Veterinary Medical Center are her owners Tracy Petres and Peter Petres, visiting veterinary student Bill Crumley from Colorado State University, and UF veterinary ophthalmology resident Sarah Blackwood, D.V.M. Lulu had successful surgery at UF's VMC to remove cataracts in both eyes Oct. 10 and continues to recuperate well at home in Sarasota.

UF nursing students helped Kaye Eaddy get Sophie, a black Labrador retriever who now acts as Eaddy's guide dog. Now, not only does Eaddy have a canine companion, she's also able to be more independent.

Programs. "Our students have been rotating through the clinic under faculty supervision for the past year and a half. Just about everything you see here, all the equipment and supplies, has been donated and private dentists also volunteer. It's a real community effort."

Local dentist Randall B. Caton, D.D.S., was the catalyst behind establishing the dental clinic at Gainesville Community Ministry, a nondenominational outreach ministry that for 30 years has served Gainesville residents.

Gainesville Community Ministry also offers a food pantry, school supplies for children, utility assistance and a crisis management program that helps individuals and families who have fallen on hard times because of a crisis in their lives. For more information, visit www.betterday.org.

COW SEES CLEARLY AFTER CATARACT SURGERY AT UF'S VMC

Calves like Lulu usually aren't the pick of the herd.

Peter Petres had been looking for a Miniature Jersey cow for the ranchette he shares with his wife in Bradenton, Fla., for a while. He'd checked on breeders, kept track of prices and stockpiled other information on the breed, but when he saw the ad for Lulu, a calf born with cataracts, he knew he'd found his cow. The blinding defect is rare and lowers a calf's worth in the marketplace, which usually means it will be slaughtered.

"It tugged at my heartstrings, what the outlook might be for this calf, so before I even spoke to the breeder, I contacted UF's Veterinary Medical Center to see what might be done," Petres said.

In October, Petres brought his newly purchased cow Lulu to the UF VMC, where the ophthalmology team performed surgery to remove her cataracts, giving the 4-month-old calf a chance to see for the first time.

"We did cataract extraction by way of a procedure called phacoemulsification, which involves making a small incision in the cornea — the same procedure that we use to remove cataracts in dogs and that human ophthalmologists use to remove cataracts in humans," said Caryn

Plummer, D.V.M., an assistant professor of ophthalmology who served as the attending veterinarian on the case along with Maria Kallberg, D.V.M., Ph.D. "The cow's lens is much larger, though."

Lulu stayed at the veterinary medical center for a week. Each day, veterinary ophthalmology resident Sarah Blackwood, D.V.M., called the Petreses to update them on the calf's progress.

These days, Lulu is "doing great," Plummer said.

"She's healing beautifully," Plummer said. "Her vision will never be normal, because we do not have an intraocular lens available for use in cows, since there is no commercial market for such things. Even so, her vision will certainly be better than before the cataract removal."

Before surgery, Lulu's routine was limited when she was alone because of her sight, Petres said. He walked her on a halter, though, and no one could avoid paying attention to the cute calf.

"She was brushed and handled often and seemed to thrive," he said.

But the surgery at UF changed everything. Now, it's clear eyes and blue skies for Lulu.

"The next morning (after she returned home) when I brought Lulu out of the stall into the pasture, it was her turn to kick and run," Petres said. "She ran around in circles, stopped to sniff poles, sniff me, and then went back to running."

HALLOWEEN EVENT A TREAT FOR CHILDREN WITH DIABETES

Nico Ditota still trick-or-treats on Halloween. Unlike most 10-year-old children, he gives away most of the candy he collects.

He likes candy and usually keeps about 10 pieces. But Nico has diabetes, and eating just one Reese's peanut butter cup causes his blood sugar to skyrocket, said his mother, Kim Ditota.

"You want him to be a regular kid, but he can't eat all that candy," she said.

"Holidays like Easter and Halloween are really hard for a diabetic (child)."

At the Operation Diabetes October Bash held each year in Jacksonville, where the family lives, Nico doesn't have to worry about eating too much candy or fitting in with his peers. All the other kids there have diabetes too.

"They're like me," Nico said.

Each year, members of the Academy of Student Pharmacists at the UF College of Pharmacy in Jacksonville organize the event with the local chapter of the American Diabetes Association and volunteer there on the big day. The students paint pint-sized faces, organize games and raffles, pass out diabetes-friendly fare and give away glucose monitors. This year, the kids even had a bounce house and pony rides, one of many activities UF pharmacy student Jennifer Kim supervised.

"That was kind of scary because I'm not really good with ponies," she joked. "(But) it felt great to help children in the community."

Kim, who helped organize the event, had already met with parents to plan some of the activities. Listening to their struggles with managing blood sugar and even dealing with schools, Kim said she realized how much diabetes affects every facet of a child's life and how much she takes her own health for granted.

It also made helping the children have a great Halloween seem even more important, she said.

"That's their Halloween," she said. "That's what makes us happy about the event, seeing the kids have fun."

Nico, who has attended the bash the past three years, said he doesn't even miss all the candy at Halloween anymore. There are too many other things to do.

"It's fun," he said. "You get to be like any other kid." **P**



Treating Ismael

Photography by Sarah Kiewel



“No one knows what he’s feeling inside, not even me. I can just guess,” said Vanessa Rincon of her son Ismael Cardona, who received a bone marrow transplant at Shands at UF on his second birthday, Aug. 17. When she was pregnant with Ismael, Vanessa and her husband, Rafael Cardona, moved to Orlando, Fla., from Colombia. In March 2006 they took Ismael to Florida Hospital because of a skin rash. He was later diagnosed with leukemia.

“When we started the treatment, it was very hard for my family and me,” Vanessa said. “But we know that we have to do it, it’s the best way to save his life. It gives him another opportunity to live. The doctors are very special to him, they know what they are doing with my baby.”

Rafael asks Ismael if he wants to play soccer, his favorite sport. Rafael is the supervisor of a building construction crew and hopes he is able to keep his job even though he has taken time off for his son’s treatment for leukemia. “It’s something that we never expected to happen to us,” Rafael said. Later Ismael feels well enough to kick a soccer ball around the room, below right.



Vanessa asks nursing student Laura Swetland for advice about a rash that sometimes occurs on her son’s skin.





Relieved that her son's bone marrow transplant has finally taken place, Vanessa watches Ismael sleep. Recalling the moment she first found out about his condition, Vanessa said, "In that moment I was strong because everyone else was crying; I didn't want to let my baby see me cry. When he sees me cry, he cries too. But the day after, I was crying a lot. I felt very depressed. Then I cleaned my tears and continued praying and praying."



Rafael, Vanessa and her mother, Maria Mondragon, pray together during Ismael's bone marrow transplant. "It's very hard," Vanessa said. "We are praying, because for me, God is the only person that can help us. He gives us more faith to continue."





JOHN KIRKPATRICK, M.D.

ENGINEERING a department

By Patricia Bates McGhee

For John Kirkpatrick, M.D., being an orthopaedics resident was like being a kid in a candy store.

“Everything was absolutely fascinating, a lot of fun and just delightful,” said Kirkpatrick, the first chair of the department of orthopaedics & rehabilitation in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville. “Every subspecialty I did and everything I saw I really enjoyed.”

But just as when buying candy, he had to narrow his choices. He assessed his peers and mentors and decided he clicked best with spine surgeons.

“I combined that with the fact that the spine was then and to a great extent still is a poorly understood area of orthopaedics, with back pain being one of the most common problems of adult life,” he said.

Deciding on orthopaedics in the first place was an easy decision, Kirkpatrick said.

“I played football in ninth grade and broke my femur right at the area where the femur grows toward the knee, so my leg didn’t grow after I broke it,” Kirkpatrick said. “So now I had a 6-foot-2-inch frame on a 5-foot-11-inch leg.”

He saw Harlan Amstutz, M.D., then a pre-eminent orthopaedic surgeon at UCLA who became Kirkpatrick’s surgeon and mentor. Amstutz was doing some early experiments in leg length discrepancy and operated on Kirkpatrick’s right femur to lengthen it. But Amstutz did more than set the leg; he also helped set Kirkpatrick’s career path.

“Dr. Amstutz found out that I was interested in mathematics and how things work, so he had the engineers who helped him with the surgery come by and talk with me,” he said. After high school Kirkpatrick went to Duke University to study biomedical engineering. He wrote Amstutz to tell him how much he enjoyed his freshman engineering courses and asked if he could work with the UCLA

engineers during summer breaks.

“Dr. Amstutz hired me, and I started doing some orthopaedic research at Duke in concert with my engineering curriculum,” said Kirkpatrick, who had every intention of being an engineer until he noticed something about his engineering peers — they didn’t stay on the front lines as engineers but ended up in management.

“For me, the fun part of engineering was the fixing or problem solving, and I saw that the surgeons I worked with were solving problems every day,” he said. “So that’s how I ended up choosing medicine.”

Kirkpatrick graduated from Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University and completed his orthopaedic residency at Duke University Medical Center, followed by a spine fellowship at Case Western Reserve University. Board-certified, he was a professor of orthopaedic surgery at the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine before joining UF.

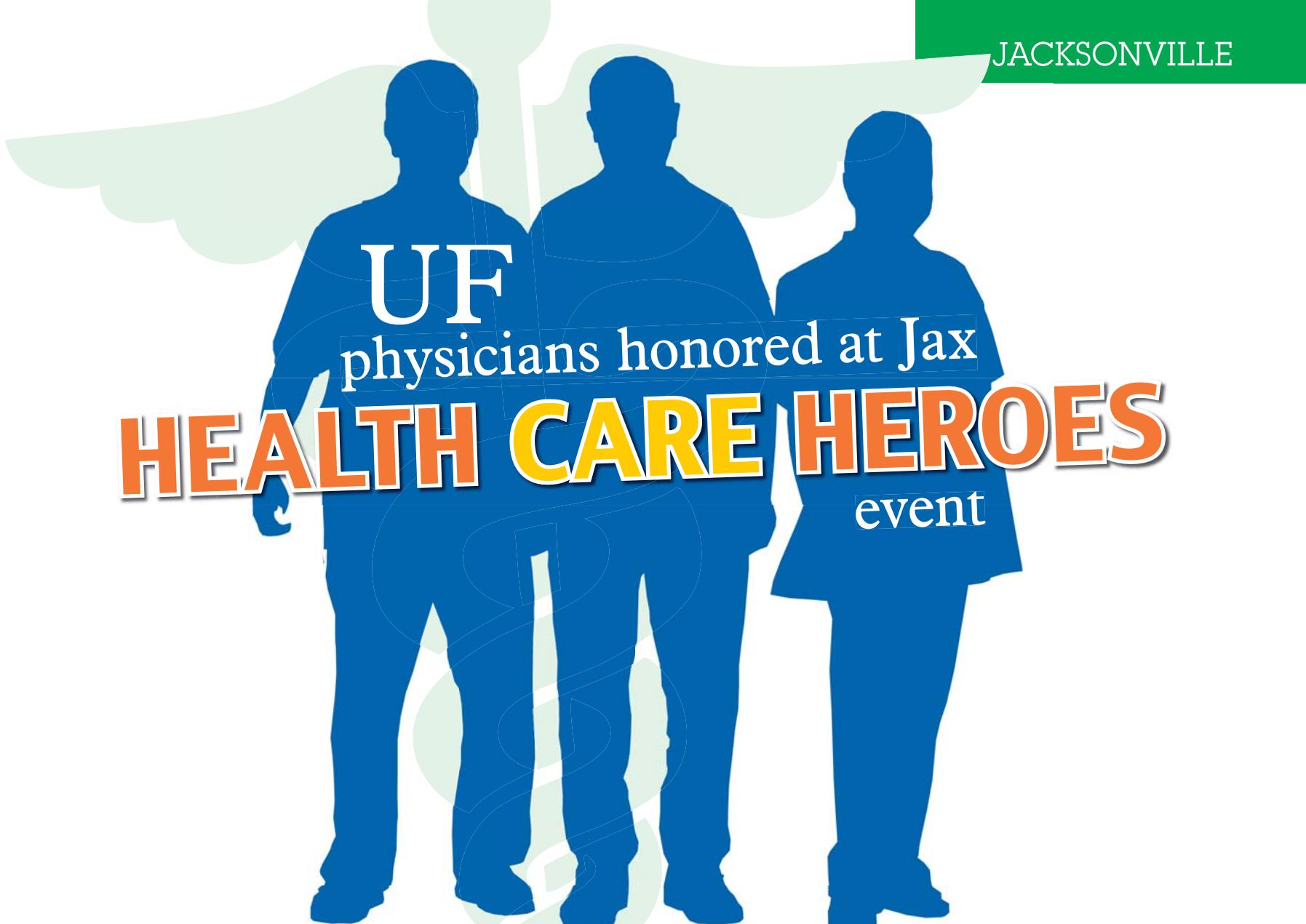
Kirkpatrick’s people and problem-solving skills also led him to medical education and administration, and to the new chairmanship in Jacksonville, which he assumed Nov. 1.

“I wanted to be in a place where they were taking themselves to the next level, and it sounds like not only the academic side is doing that here in Jacksonville but the hospital side is trying to do that, too,” he said.

Kirkpatrick said he sees a lot of potential growth in the next five to 10 years for new clinical and research programs in Jacksonville.

“The program has grown under Dr. Hud Berrey’s leadership quite well — grown in respect as well as in the number of residents — and just seeing all that come together at the same time is part of the reason I came here,” he said.

“Traditionally the orthopaedics program here has been trauma center-focused,” he added. “I think the vision for the university is to gain more of a community role and to perform more elective surgeries, which will transform our orthopaedic residency as well.” **P**



UF
physicians honored at Jax
HEALTH CARE HEROES
event

By Patricia Bates McGhee

Three UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville physicians were finalists — and one of them a winner — in the Jacksonville Business Journal's 2006 Health Care Heroes awards program.

In its third year, the program honors the professionals in Northeast Florida who improve health care and save lives — “the crusaders, lifesavers and ordinary people doing extraordinary work,” according to the weekly journal.

Since the program's inception in 2004, finalists have been selected from five categories: Lifetime Achievement, Super Physician, Super Scientist, Community Service and Super Nurse. This year a sixth category, Super Educator, was added. All 16 of this year's finalists were honored at a breakfast Nov. 2 at the Marriott-Southpoint.

Shahla Masood, M.D., a professor and associate chair of UF's department of pathology in Jacksonville, was named the program's first Super Educator for her “worldwide efforts to educate fellow physicians and patients about advances in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.”

Masood is founder and editor of *The Breast Journal* and founding president of the International Society of Breast Pathology. She also is a 2006 recipient of the Parker J. Palmer “Courage to Teach” award, given by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education for advances in the field of pathology education and for her efforts to advocate quality health care for all people.

For 24 years **Joseph Tepas III, M.D.**, a UF professor of surgery and pediatrics, has had two research passions — defining and improving care of injured children and investigating neonatal gastrointestinal physiology, especially the phenomenon of adaptive hypertrophy, a thickening of organ walls. Tepas was named a finalist in the Super Scientist category “for being a friend to sick and injured children and conducting tireless research on their behalf.”



SHAHLA MASOOD



JOSE ETTEGGUI



JOSEPH TEPAS III

Tepas helped establish a national trauma databank that tracks information about children's injuries and their outcomes, allowing users to conduct population-based studies on certain types of injuries. He also received a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant to study high-risk ZIP codes to see what types of interventions might be useful in preventing death and injury from traumas.

A nationally recognized congenital heart disease expert, **Jose Ettedgui, M.D.**, a UF professor and division chief of pediatric cardiology, was named a finalist in the Community Service category. He and his wife, Hilda, are the driving forces behind the Patrons of the Hearts Foundation — a partnership of the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, Wolfson Children's Hospital and the arts community that brings critically ill children to Jacksonville for lifesaving treatment.

In April the foundation brought the first six children to Jacksonville from Morocco, Afghanistan, Africa, Grenada and Ecuador for successful surgeries. Each operation costs about \$40,000 and requires four to five weeks for evaluation, pre-surgery preparation, surgery and recovery. Medical community partners provide donations of medical, surgical and hospital care, and Patrons of the Hearts pays for the family's living expenses and disposable medical supplies. **P**

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

KENNETH ANUSAVICE,

D.M.D., Ph.D., associate dean for research and a professor and chairman of the department of dental biomaterials, was honored as the 24th recipient of the Greater New York Academy of Prosthodontics Foundation Distinguished Lecturer Award. Given to Anusavice Dec. 6 during the academy's annual meeting, held at Lincoln Park Center in New York City, the award recognizes Anusavice for his exceptional didactic skills as a dental educator.



Anusavice

surgeon and researcher. His and co-investigator Richard Katzberg's pioneering report on their investigation of temporomandibular joint disorders using magnetic resonance imaging in the *American Journal of Roentgenology* has become one of the journal's top 100 most-cited articles of the past 100 years.

RICHARD LAMONT,

Ph.D., a professor of oral biology, is the editor of a new microbiology textbook, *Oral Microbiology and Immunology*, printed by ASM Press. The book is one of the first of its kind to focus primarily on the knowledge



Lamont

TIMOTHY C. FLYNN, M.D.,

the college's associate dean for graduate medical education and a professor of surgery, has been appointed to serve on the Department of Veterans Affairs Blue Ribbon Panel on VA-Medical School Affiliations.



Flynn

The 15-member panel was established to help government officials create a plan that will steer the VA's affiliations with medical schools and academic health centers across the country. The group will review the policies and principles that guide the VA's medical school affiliations and make recommendations to enhance these relationships.

Flynn is also the chairman of a panel responsible for distributing new VA-funded residency positions to institutions and is currently the vice chairman of the American Board of Surgery.

Science for Life

The UF Science for Life program recently honored six graduate students from the College of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy for their ability to mentor and collaborate with undergraduate students.

The six HSC students were among 11 UF graduate students to receive a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Graduate Student Award this year. The students, who each received \$500, will be honored at UF's fall commencement.

Among the six HSC award winners were Preeti Yadava, who studies pharmaceuticals in the College of Pharmacy; Vinayak Shenoy, who studies pharmacology in the College of Pharmacy; Laura Schroder, who studies molecular cell biology in the College of Medicine; Brittney Gurda-Whitaker, who studies biochemistry and molecular biology in the College of Medicine; Valerie J. Crusselle-Davis, who studies biochemistry and molecular biology in the College of Medicine; and Erika Eksioglu, who studies immunology and microbiology in the College of Medicine.

THE UF DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY PROGRAM

was one of two university programs to receive the Audiology Foundation of America's Award for Educational Excellence, its highest honor. The foundation recognized the Doctor of Audiology program for its world-class health-care facilities, which allow students to gain clinical experience in a wide range of areas, with a scope and complexity that consistently prepares them for their careers.

PAUL BLASER, D.D.S.,

M.S.D., a clinical professor of operative dentistry, has been appointed chair of operative dentistry after serving nearly two years in an interim capacity. Blaser earned a master's of science in dentistry from Indiana University School of Dentistry and a doctor of dental surgery degree from Case Western Reserve University Dental School. A retired U.S. Air Force colonel, Blaser has been a faculty member at the college since 1993 and brings notable expertise in operative dentistry and course development to the position.



Blaser

and understanding of the oral ecosystem and its unique role in human health and disease. Intended for dental students, dental practitioners and health-care professionals, it details the ecology, virulence, molecular biology and immunogenicity of oral bacteria, viruses and fungi and examines their interface with host cells and secretions.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

PATRICK ANTONELLI,

M.D., was named Otolaryngologist of the Year by the Network of Florida Otolaryngologists in recognition of his outstanding otolaryngology service. Antonelli, chair of the department of otolaryngology, assistant dean for clinical informatics and a professor of neurotology, was honored at the Florida Society of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery's annual meeting in November in Boca Raton. The two organizations of ear, nose and throat physicians promote the advancement of the practice of otolaryngology in Florida and provide educational meetings in the medical specialty.



Antonelli

M. FRANKLIN DOLWICK,

a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery, received the 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award from his dental alma mater, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry. Dolwick was tapped to receive the distinguished alumni award because of his international preeminence as an oral and maxillofacial



Dolwick



Communicative disorders faculty members Mary Anne Pinner, Au.D., and Debra Shimon, Au.D., accept the Award for Educational Excellence at the Academy of Doctors of Audiology convention held in October in Scottsdale, Ariz.

CARL J. PEPINE, M.D., has won an APEX Award of Excellence for a column he published recently in *Today in Cardiology*.



Pepine

His article, titled "From the Editor—Keeping Imaging Procedures In House: Why It Makes Sense," was selected from among hundreds of entries in the 18th Annual Awards for Publication Excellence competition, sponsored annually by Communications Concepts Inc. to recognize professional communicators.

Pepine is chief of cardiovascular medicine at UF's College of Medicine and chief medical editor of *Today in Cardiology*, a monthly publication designed to provide timely clinical news to practicing cardiologists.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

LESLIE HENDELES,

Pharm.D., a professor of pharmacy and pediatrics in the colleges of Pharmacy and Medicine, is the 2007 recipient of the Sumner J. Yaffe Lifetime Achievement Award. This national award is given annually by the Pediatric Pharmacy Advocacy Group in recognition of significant and sustained contributions toward the improvement of children's health through the expansion of the field of pediatric pharmacology and therapeutics.



Hendeles

JEFFREY HUGHES, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmaceuticals, has received a two-year Exploratory/Development award totaling \$344,510 from the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. Hughes will use the funding to develop new gene delivery systems based on infective microbes.



Hughes

L. DOUGLAS RIED, Ph.D., a professor of pharmacy health care administration and an associate dean for accreditation and assessment at the College of Pharmacy, has been named the 2007 president-elect of the Academy of Pharmaceutical Research and Sciences section of the American Pharmacists Association, the largest U.S. association of pharmacists.



Ried

After one year of service, Ried will assume the role of president and APhA board of trustees member for two years. Academy members are a source of authoritative information on key scientific issues.

The goal of APhA-APRS is to foster learning

and achievement in the pharmaceutical sciences and to stimulate the development and application of outcomes research related to pharmaceutical products and services.

JACKSONVILLE

SANDY BARATA,

administrative director of the pediatrics department in the College of Medicine—Jacksonville, has been elected chair of the city of Jacksonville Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, she has been appointed to a four-year term on the St. Johns County Health & Human Services Advisory Council, a county committee that reviews funding applications.



Barata

ERIC CONDE, M.S.A.,

assistant dean for administrative affairs in the College of Medicine—Jacksonville, has been named a diplomate of the American Academy of Medical Administrators. Open only to AAMA fellows, the honor is conferred to health-care leaders of local and national prominence who have superior credentials and have made major contributions to health-care delivery in North America.



Conde

With nearly 2,500 members in the United States and abroad, AAMA is the parent organization of seven specialty groups—the American colleges of Cardiovascular Administrators, Contingency Planners, Federal Healthcare Administrators, Healthcare Information Administrators, Managed Care Administrators, Oncology Administrators and Small or Rural Healthcare Administrators.



RUSSELL BAUER, PH.D.

a new clinical science program designed to produce academic researchers in clinical psychology, enhancing mentoring programs for junior faculty, and strengthening interdisciplinary relationships between clinical and health psychology and other academic and clinical units in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the Health Science Center and the UF campus," Bauer said.

MARK HUDAK, M.D., a pediatrics professor, and **DAVID WOOD, M.D., M.P.H.**, an associate professor, have been accepted for membership in the prestigious Society for Pediatric Research.



Hudak

The primary purpose of the 3,000-plus-member organization is to encourage young investigators—from all nations and all pediatric disciplines—who are engaged in research that benefits children. SPR provides a forum for exchanging ideas and an opportunity for investigators to share their work, sponsors a student research-training program and recognizes outstanding research in pediatrics through awards.



Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

CATHY DI LENA was named the college's 2006 Employee of the Year at the annual faculty/staff appreciation dinner Oct. 13.



Di Lena

Di Lena, a human resources specialist, received nominations from individuals in half the college's departments, a testament to her exemplary performance. She was recognized for her accuracy, attention to detail, patience, helpfulness and ability to go above and beyond to resolve issues. Those who nominated Di Lena commented that "she always makes the person coming through her door feel important" and "her positive attitude is contagious."

RUSSELL BAUER, Ph.D., an internationally known neuropsychologist, has been named chairman of the department of clinical and health psychology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. Bauer succeeds Ronald Rozensky Ph.D., who will serve as the associate dean for the college's international programs after a sabbatical.

A member of the department's faculty since 1980, Bauer is past president of the American Psychological Association's Division of Clinical Neuropsychology, and is board-certified in clinical neuropsychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology.

In his research, Bauer focuses on acquired and age-related memory and perceptual disorders. He is currently studying the role of the hippocampus and other memory-related structures in relational and spatial memory, and the detection of individuals at risk for developing Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia.

Bauer has also served as director of the department's doctoral program in clinical psychology and as associate chair for academic affairs, earning the UF Doctoral Dissertation Mentoring Award in 2003.

"My goals for the department include developing and implementing a

Continued from page 21

SHEILA EYBERG,

Ph.D., a distinguished professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named co-recipient of the 2007 American Psychological Association's Distinguished



Eyberg

Contributions to Education and Training Award. Eyberg is being recognized for the behavioral treatment program she designed, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, or PCIT. The step-by-step coached behavioral parent training model is designed to improve parenting skills, decrease child behavior problems and improve the quality of the parent-child relationship. PCIT is used in clinics all over the United States and in some foreign countries, and there are national conferences based on her work. Eyberg will be honored at the APA's annual convention next August in San Francisco.

DIANE JETT, a doctoral candidate in the doctor of physical therapy program, received the James W. Kynes Memorial Scholarship

at UF's homecoming game Oct. 7. The \$5,000 scholarship is awarded to five students with an excellent UF undergraduate academic record and outstanding performance and leadership as an athlete in an NCAA-sponsored sport. Jett was recognized for her 3.97 grade point average, community service and excellence in track and cross country.



Jett

HARRISON JONES, a doctoral candidate in the rehabilitation science program, received a New Century Scholars Program Doctoral Scholarship from the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The \$10,000 scholarships support doctoral candidates who plan to work in higher education in the field of communication sciences and disorders.



Jones

LISA MCTEAGUE, a doctoral student in the department of clinical and health psychology, won the Smadar Levin Award for best poster presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for Research in Psychopathology. McTeague's poster, "Fearful Imagery: Emotional Reflexes, Negative Affect and the Anxiety Disorder Spectrum," was selected from more than 100 entries. McTeague works with Peter Lang, Ph.D., a professor in the department and director of the National Institute of Mental Health's Center for the Study of Emotion and Attention.

The U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs has appointed associate professor **LINDA R. SHAW,** Ph.D., associate chair of the department of behavioral science and community health and director of the division of rehabilitation counseling, to serve on the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Rehabilitation. The committee provides advice and consultation on the administration of all programs related to the rehabilitation of veterans with disabilities.



Shaw

GIFTS

Gift to UF medicine looks to future

By Chris Brazda

A gift from the Thomas H. Maren Foundation to UF's College of Medicine will enable emerging scientists to conduct world-class research and provide for the development of new cancer treatments.

The gift, eligible for dollar-for-dollar state matching funds, is for two major endowments: the Thomas H. Maren, M.D., Junior Investigators Research Fund and the Thomas H. Maren, M.D., Eminent Scholar Chair in Pharmacology and Therapeutics.

The eminent scholar chair will provide financial support for a faculty member to facilitate research and development of new treatments in cancer. The other portion of the gift is designated for a research fund that provides medical students with research support and junior faculty with laboratory start-up funds and partially supports promising postdoctoral and clinical research fellows during their early years of advanced research training.

"The University of Florida afforded the environment in which my husband and his work were able to thrive," said Emily Sabah-Maren, Thomas Maren's widow. "The Maren Foundation strongly feels that these endowments shall strengthen that type of environment for scientists and students of all ages and in all stages of their careers."

Thomas Maren spent most of his career, much of it in basic scientific research, at the college, where he was a founding faculty member, chair of the department of pharmacology and therapeutics for 22 years, and a graduate research professor. He gained international recognition for his pioneering investigation of an enzyme called carbonic anhydrase and its role in fluid production and flow in the eyes, brain, spinal cord and lymph system. His research led to the development of Trusopt, an important drug for the treatment of glaucoma. 



THOMAS H. MAREN

As an infectious disease specialist with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Alba Amaya-Burns, M.D., directed a highly successful tuberculosis program in her home country of El Salvador that is recognized as an international model for prevention and treatment.

Now Amaya-Burns is bringing her expertise to the University of Florida, helping the colleges of Medicine and Public Health and Health Professions forge relationships with other Latin American countries to expand TB public health programs as an associate

Alba Amaya-Burns opens doors for TB treatment in Latin America

By Jill Pease

professor in the colleges and director of Latin American Training Programs for the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center, located in the College of Medicine. Directed by Michael Lauzardo, M.D., the center is one of four Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tuberculosis training centers in the United States.

During her five-year appointment with USAID, Amaya-Burns managed the agency's multimillion-dollar programs in HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis prevention.

"Through her wise counsel and effective teamwork, she ensured that USAID resources had an impact on all of El Salvador's health districts, working closely with the Pan American Health Association," said Connie Johnson, chief of USAID's human investment office. "As a result of Dr. Amaya-Burn's efforts, El Salvador's TB program became exemplary in Latin America."

Amaya-Burns' leadership also led to El Salvador receiving a \$27 million grant from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

"In two years we were able to expand the tuberculosis program to 100 percent participation with the country's ministers of health and we achieved an 85 percent curative rate, a critical criterion for the World Health Organization to say that a country is cutting its infection rate," Amaya-Burns said, adding that El Salvador currently has a 92 percent curative rate.

But tuberculosis remains a significant problem worldwide. One-third of the world's population is infected with tuberculosis, and there are 2 million tuberculosis-related deaths every year, according to the CDC. Tuberculosis is also the leading killer of people who are HIV positive.

With Amaya-Burns' experience and contacts, the Southeastern National Tuberculosis Center hopes to expand its efforts beyond U.S.



AMAYA-BURNS, M.D.

PHOTO BY SARAH NEVEL

borders to the countries that are among the hardest hit for TB.

"We have proposed the development of a Latin American Regional Center of Excellence for TB research and training in El Salvador to help other countries reach that level of success in prevention and treatment," Amaya-Burns said.

Plans call for collaboration between UF, the Pan American Health Organization, the University of El Salvador and El Salvador's Minister of Health to offer a TB regional diploma for health workers, advanced training for laboratory technicians and exchange programs for students and faculty, as well as implementation of new WHO tuberculosis strategies. The center of excellence will roll out programs in El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Haiti, with more Latin American countries to come.

El Salvador recently recognized Amaya-Burns' commitment to public health and her professional achievements by selecting her to attend the International Convention of Salvadorans in the World. As one of only a handful of conference attendees representing Salvadorans living in the United States, Amaya-Burns took part in discussions on the role of Salvadoran women in academia. She also received the key to her hometown, San Miguel. Years of civil war in the 1980s and natural disasters led to significant migration among Salvadorans — an estimated 30 percent of the population now lives abroad.

Amaya-Burns left El Salvador two years ago for an entirely different reason, namely her husband Allan Burns, Ph.D., associate dean for faculty affairs at UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The couple met in Merida in the Yucatan peninsula of Mexico, where Burns was conducting a summer program.

"My friends say, 'Oh, you met a gringo at the embassy in El Salvador,'" Amaya-Burns said, laughing. "I say, 'No, I met him in a third country.'" **P**



Clockwise from top: Pharmacy student Dan Jackson kicks an imaginary field goal using a water bottle on the lawn between classes.

Luis Vasquez has worked as a custodian for 16 years in the Physical Plant Division of the Health Science Center.

Co-workers honor Tom Jordan as he retires from the HSC as the assistant director of IT program development in the department of academic information systems and support.



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