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Different People, **ONE GATOR NATION**

Diversity a top priority for HSC leaders

UF Health Science Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Remembering
Dr. Gatorade **4**

Testing gene
therapy **7**

The road
less traveled **23**

On the Cover

HSC leaders hope to build a more diverse faculty and student body. Photo by Sarah Kiewel.

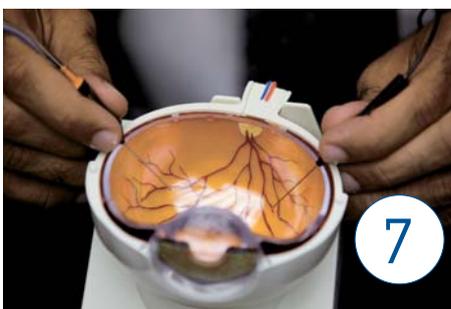


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UP FRONT

Happy anniversary PHHP!

The College of Public Health and Health Professions will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2008. When the college opened it was the first of its kind located within a health center and it became a prototype for health professions education. The college's impressive beginnings are largely credited to founding dean Darrel Mase, Ph.D., (right) who served as dean from 1958 to 1971.



Post it

Car talk

Lynn Edgar, left, gets a vehicle check from occupational therapy graduate students Emily Brown, Eugenia Rodriguez and Kate Shaffer at CarFit on Nov. 15. CarFit is a free program that gives older adults the opportunity to check how their personal vehicles "fit" them. Students and faculty from the College of Public Health and Health Professions department of occupational therapy led senior drivers through a 12-point checklist with their vehicles, recommended personal vehicle adjustments and adaptations to enhance their safety and offered community resources and activities. CarFit's national sponsors include the American Society on Aging, AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association.



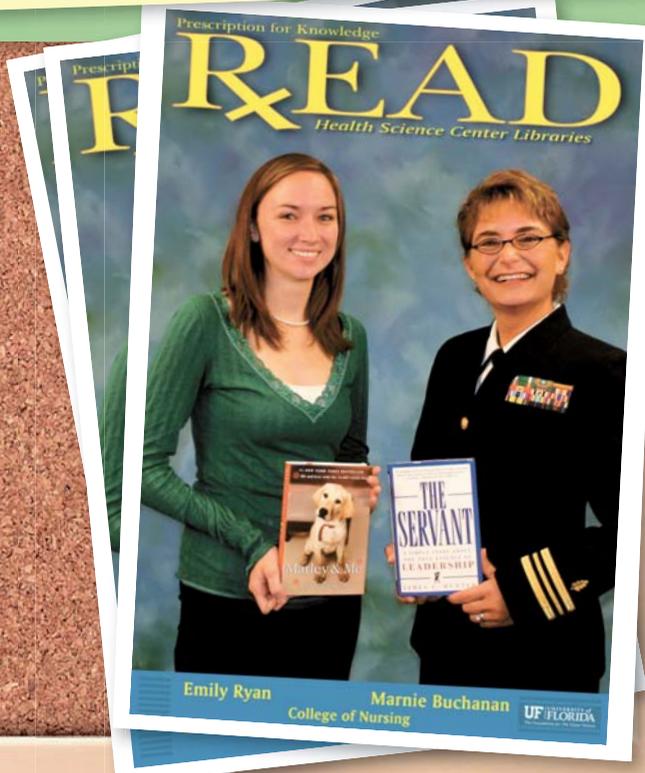
Book club

Some of the HSC's finest raided their bookshelves recently to promote reading in these posters produced for the HSC Libraries. New UF nursing grad Lt. Cmdr. Marnie Buchanan (right) selected *The Servant: A Simple Story About Leadership* for her portrait with fellow nursing student Emily Ryan. "Not only did I identify with several characters in this engaging story, but I found the principles of servant leadership deeply resonant," said Buchanan. "I feel as though I have incorporated the message of this book into my own leadership style as I continue to serve as a Navy Nurse Corps officer." To see all the posters, visit the HSC Libraries' Web site, www.library.health.ufl.edu.



Still going strong

The department of otolaryngology turns 80 ... or at least its founding member did, on Dec. 13. Ear, nose and throat personnel threw a surprise luncheon in honor of George T. Singleton, M.D., a professor and surgeon who was appointed the first chief of otolaryngology in 1961. Singleton, currently chair emeritus of the department, continues to see patients on a daily basis. Before stopping by his surprise birthday celebration, he examined Michael Tkac, right, a physical plant employee in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Photo by Sarah Kiewel.



Get (un)wired

Click. Send. Repeat. Click. Send. Repeat. That's about as in-depth as most of us want to get with a wireless network. Luckily, there's a branch of the HSC charged with handling anything related to networking, wireless Internet, IP phones and just about anything else that has to do with connecting you to the people you need. So if you have a network problem, need a network or have other connection woes, don't despair, just call the folks at HealthNet. For more information, visit www.healthnet.ufl.edu, call 352-273-5300 or contact your designated IT person.



A little glucose,
a little sodium, one

GIANT *Legend*



Saying goodbye to the man whose
invention put UF on the map

By April Frawley Birdwell

They gathered in the basement lab, Dr. J. Robert Cade and the three research fellows. It was nighttime, and the four scientists worked quickly, mixing the sodium and glucose.

According to Cade's calculations, the basement-brewed concoction would restore electrolytes the body loses during sports and exercise. Naming the drink was easy — they called it Gatorade. Tasting it was not.

"We clinked our glasses together, took a swallow and we all got nauseated," Cade said in 2005 of the first batch of Gatorade. "My fellows were standing right by the sink and they spit in there. I swallowed mine and vomited.

"We went over to the Thirsty Gator, which was the local watering hole at the time, and got a pitcher of beer. If you ever have nausea from drinking glucose and salt water, beer is the perfect cure for it. It just takes one glass. We drank a whole pitcher."

Cade, who passed away Nov. 27 at the age of 80, liked to tell stories like these. He had a sense of humor, a quirky one at that, friends and colleagues say of the man who led the team that invented Gatorade and whose research, philanthropy and leadership helped countless people during his more than 40 years at the UF College of Medicine.

"Today, with his passing, the University of Florida lost a legend, lost one of its best friends and lost a creative genius," said Edward Block, M.D., chairman of the department of medicine in the College of Medicine, on Nov. 27. "Losing any one of those is huge. When you lose all three in one person, it's something you cannot recoup."

Gatorade obviously worked out for Cade, his fellows and the university. But the sports drink was just one of many inventions brewed in Cade's lab. His imagination worked sort of like Pandora's box. Once opened, the ideas never stopped coming. He invented a nutritional ice pop for sick children, a high-protein milk drink called Gator Go!, a hydraulic football helmet, a round shoe polish can and a beer called Hop'n Gator, which was on the market for about 10 years. An old newspaper article describes how he tested the durability of the hydraulic helmet he invented by hitting an assistant in the head. She was wearing the helmet, and it, of course, worked brilliantly.

A nephrologist, he also studied and treated kidney diseases and spent years studying the use of dialysis as a cure for schizophrenia as well as the links between diet and autism in children.

"He continued to do research until he was 79," said Richard Johnson, M.D., the J. Robert Cade professor of nephrology and division chief of nephrology. "I had the pleasure of writing a paper with him a few years ago.

"He thought outside of the box. He was a maverick in his time."

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Cade attended medical school at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. He came to UF in 1961 as an assistant professor for the College of Medicine's renal division. He was UF's first kidney specialist and one of the university's first true clinical and translational researchers, said Bruce Kone,

M.D., dean of the UF College of Medicine.

“He had a wide range of research interests,” Kone said. “He was a very creative scientist. He was the perfect blend of imagination and practicality.”

Cade and the research fellows working in his lab began experimenting with Gatorade in 1965. They wanted to create a drink that would help keep UF football players hydrated on the field. The mixture of glucose and sodium formed the perfect combination to increase the body’s ability to absorb liquids.

But there was still the problem of taste, something that had to be resolved before they could test it on the team. Cade’s wife, Mary, suggested they add lemon juice to the mix.

“We got lemon squeezers’ cramp after five lemons,” Cade joked in 2005. “We liked the taste of it though no one else did. Then we made it sweet and we thought it tasted very good.”

After a sports reporter exposed how the invention was helping the football team with the headline, “One Lil’ Swig of That Kickapoo Juice and Biff, Bam, Sock — It’s Gators, 8-2,” Gatorade was no longer a secret.

“Never in a million years did we think much was going to happen with it,” said Jim Free, M.D., one of the fellows who co-invented Gatorade with Cade. “We were just doing this to help the Gator team.”

Gatorade bred a multibillion-dollar sports drink industry and has brought in more than \$150 million in royalties to UF since its invention 40 years ago. The money has funded numerous projects and programs in the UF College of Medicine. Cade also used some of his share of the royalties to fund scholarships and an endowed chair in the college.

“Without that funding, the College of Medicine would not be where it stands today,” Kone said.

Despite Gatorade’s success on the football field, Cade often said he was more proud of its success in homes and doctors’ offices, particularly that it has helped sick children stay hydrated.

“(After it became public) we started getting letters from mothers asking if we thought it would help with their children,” Cade said.

Cade is known for Gatorade, but former students remember him a little differently — as a good teacher and a researcher who took on any problem that intrigued him, whether it had to do with medicine or not.

In 1980, he received the Hippocratic Award, the highest honor a graduating medical class bestows on one of its teachers each year.

“I feel fortunate to have been with Dr. Cade,” Free said. “If you needed anything, he was always there and willing to do it.”

Block also describes Cade — a man who collected Studebakers, quoted Wordsworth and Tennyson and doted on his six children and numerous grandchildren — as a role model for how to behave like a gentleman.

“We talk about the Gator Nation, Gatorade put the Gator Nation on the map,” Block said. “Everybody knows who we are because of that.”

Dr. Cade is survived by his wife, Mary Strasburger Cade, of Gainesville; two sons, Michael, of Texas and Stephen, of Gainesville; four daughters, Martha, of Gainesville, Celia Cade Johnson, of Oregon, Emily Morrison, of Boston, and Phoebe Miles, of Washington, D.C.; 20 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. **P**

History lesson

UF celebrates invention of Gatorade

By Lauren Edwards

It was 102 degrees at kickoff when UF played Louisiana State University on Oct. 2, 1965, and by halftime, the game was tied. That kind of heat can be unbearable for athletes, but the Gators had a secret weapon up their sleeves for the second half: Gatorade.

“Florida absolutely dominated and LSU wilted in the heat,” said Norm Carlson, the UF Athletic Association’s official historian, to a crowd gathered in front of the Stephen C. O’Connell Center in November. “Our faculty and staff truly believed Gatorade was a magic elixir.”

Two weeks before Dr. J. Robert Cade passed away, UF unveiled its first historical marker, a plaque celebrating the invention of Gatorade at UF more than 40 years ago. Sitting in his wheelchair, Cade listened as UF leaders and others regaled the crowd with tales about the drink he and three research fellows invented in a lab more than 40 years ago.

“Who would have thought that an assistant professor and three research fellows would create something which will soon be a \$400 billion product worldwide?” said Jim Free, M.D., who co-invented the drink along with Cade, Dana Shires, M.D., and A.M. de Quesada, M.D.

Aside from being the first, Gatorade is unlike any other sports drink on the market, said Winfred Phillips, UF’s vice president for research.

“Buckeye juice didn’t have it,” he joked to the crowd.

Cade’s team realized the need for a product like Gatorade when it was brought to their attention back in 1965 how the Florida heat was taking a serious toll on the UF football team. They asked then-coach Ray Graves if they could use some of his players for research purposes, and he agreed to let them use the freshmen, saying that if it would help the Gators win football games, he would allow it.

In return for their time, Free says players were awarded free dinners at General Gaines Steakhouse, where Free joked they probably each ordered enough for two people.

Gatorade got its name when Free put a sign on the door of Cade’s lab reading, “Dr. Cade’s lab, home of Gatorade — handmade by licensed physicians.” The name stuck, and Free loves the fact that “Gator” is everywhere because of the drink.

Dr. Bruce Kone, dean of the College of Medicine, said Cade is known not only for his research contributions, but also for his large heart. Among other things, Cade has endowed two professorships and a number of lectureships at UF.

“I’m enormously grateful to the Cades,” Kone said.

After everyone had spoken, the Gatorade marker was unveiled. Cade, in a maroon beret cocked to the side, sat quietly beside it in his wheelchair as photos were snapped. His wife, Mary, stood beside him, smiling for the cameras.

After the pictures were taken, Cade sipped orange Gatorade — his favorite flavor. His wife’s best friend, Toni Bocardy, who has known the Cades for 20 years, handed him a chocolate chip cookie.

“Were you happy, Bob?” Bocardy asked.

Cade smiled and shook his head yes. **P**

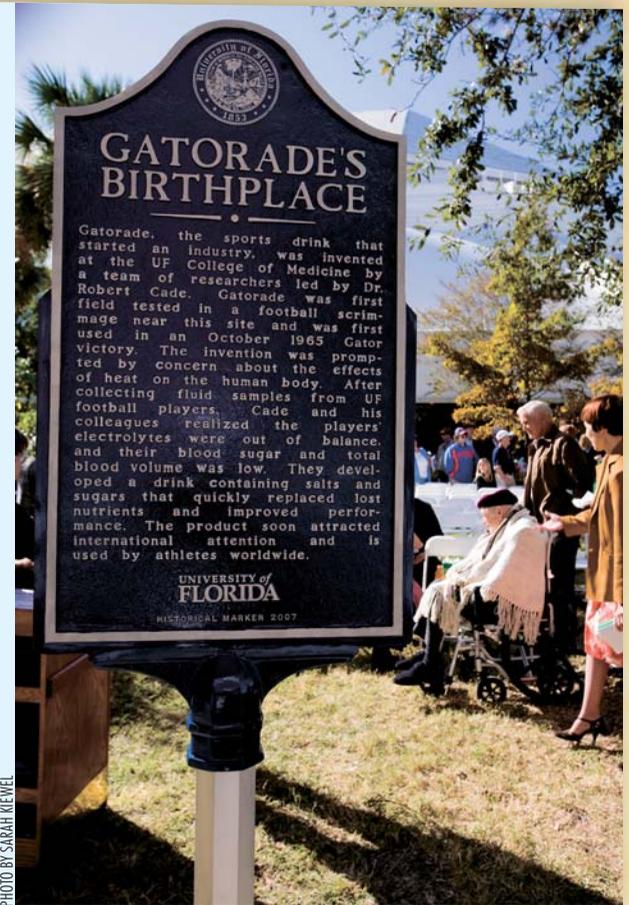


PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Dr. Robert Cade, who led the College of Medicine team that invented Gatorade, was honored Nov. 16 at the dedication of a historical marker celebrating the creation of the sports drink. Dr. Cade is pictured in the wheelchair at right.

A world away

Fund helps family travel from Pakistan to UF for care



Noreen Naveed and her son, Taha, 4, traveled from Pakistan to UF this fall to see Dr. David Weinstein, a UF pediatric endocrinologist and expert on glycogen storage disease. Taha has a form of the disease.

By April Frawley Birdwell

Noreen Naveed kept three alarms by her bed. Every two hours, day or night, they rang. She's lived this way since her 4-year-old son, Taha, was a baby.

"If I don't get up, Taha has seizures," Naveed said, glancing at her son scampering across the room in his Spiderman sneakers. "He's had 20 seizures."

Her husband lost jobs. His employers didn't understand their son's health problems and why he needed to leave work to go to the hospital. Taha couldn't go to school, either. No school wanted to take responsibility for him, Naveed said. And even worse, no doctors had ever been able to properly diagnose or treat Taha's condition. Naveed knew her son had a form of glycogen storage disease, a genetic condition that prevents those who have it from properly storing and processing glucose, but she didn't know what type.

After e-mailing David Weinstein, M.D., a UF pediatric endocrinologist who leads the world's largest glycogen storage disease program, Naveed knew what she needed to do. She needed to bring Taha to Gainesville for treatment. The question was how? Their home in Pakistan was more than 7,000 miles away, and the family didn't have enough to cover the costs of the trip or the treatment.

Luckily, there was Alyssa's Angel Fund. Because GSD is rare, many doctors are not familiar with it or how to treat it, even in the United

States. But not all patients can afford to travel to UF to see Weinstein, an expert on the disease. Established by the family of one of Weinstein's patients, Alyssa's Angel Fund helps these families get to UF. Once the families are here, Weinstein contributes his services for free.

"We couldn't imagine someone slipping through the cracks because of a dollar amount," said Gayle Temkin, whose family started the fund this year. "We gain so much from him, shouldn't other families have that benefit?"

So far, five patients have been helped, including Taha.

"When we created the GSD program (at UF), we wanted to make sure all children get taken care of," said Weinstein, who transferred his practice and research program to UF from Children's Hospital Boston in 2005. "Without this fund, these children would have suffered. Some of them probably would have died."

With help from Alyssa's Angel Fund at UF and from the Glycogen Storage Disease Foundation, Naveed and Taha trekked from Pakistan to UF this fall. But Naveed had to face a few other challenges, too. She didn't know anyone in the United States, and women in Pakistan do not typically travel without their families or husbands, she said. Her husband could not make the trip because his passport was delayed, so they decided Naveed would take Taha by herself. Her family questioned the decision, she said.

"They said you can't go," said Naveed, a former college English instructor. "I said I'm no more a sister, I'm a mother now. I have to do this."

Naveed and Taha spent two days with Weinstein and his staff at UF in November. Weinstein was able to pinpoint what type of glycogen storage disease Taha has and figure out the best treatment.

Patients with glycogen storage disease are treated with precise doses of cornstarch, generally mixed in with food or drink, given at specific times during the day. Naveed was already giving Taha cornstarch, but realized at UF that she had been giving about twice as much as what he actually needed, causing his blood sugar to fluctuate.

"I had a lot of misunderstandings about GSD," Naveed said. "I had no information."

She also learned more about what Taha should eat. Because of his condition, Taha has never eaten sugar. But at UF, Naveed learned he can have some things, such as milk.

"He doesn't know the taste of sweet," she said. "He's never had a birthday cake."

Most of Weinstein's patients travel to Gainesville once a year for a check-up. For patients coming to UF through Alyssa's Angel Fund, Weinstein works with their doctors at home to make sure these patients are staying on track.

"I feel really fortunate that this fund was created," Weinstein said. "That's why I got into medicine, to help children. Children shouldn't suffer because they don't have the resources."

For Naveed, who, along with her husband, spent years searching for information and doctors for their son, the trip was the end of a long journey. She will still have to set her alarms to give Taha his cornstarch every four hours, but the condition seems manageable now, she said.

"Dr. Weinstein is the answer to my prayers," she said. "Many doctors do this for prestige, but he's very dedicated and he really cares. And to the people who started Alyssa's (Angel) Fund, I just want to say thank you." **P**

Sight for sore eyes?

Gene therapy trial for childhood blindness under way

Using a model of an eye, Dr. Shalesh Kaushal describes a medical technique used to transfer genes.



PHOTO BY SARAH NEVEL

By John Pastor

Three decades have passed since gene therapy pioneer William W. Hauswirth, Ph.D., and his UF colleagues began work on a virus that could safely deliver corrective genes into living animals.

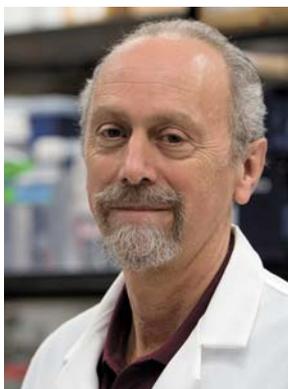
It's been six years since a multi-university team used gene therapy to give sight to puppies born with a defect that causes blindness.

Now the gene-transfer technique is being tested for safety in people in a phase 1 clinical research study conducted by the University of Pennsylvania and UF with support from the National Eye Institute of the National Institutes of Health.

A young adult with a form of hereditary blindness called Leber congenital amaurosis type 2, or LCA2, received an injection of trillions of replacement genes into the retina of one eye in November, making the volunteer one of the first people in the world to undergo the procedure. Shalesh Kaushal, M.D., Ph.D., an assistant professor of ophthalmology at UF, performed the gene transfer.

In all, six adults and then three children between the ages of 8 and 17 will undergo the gene-transfer procedure at UF over the next year or more before safety data are fully evaluated. Names are not being disclosed for privacy reasons. Potential risks are discussed with prospective participants as part of an extensive screening and informed consent process.

"This is the first study of its kind to investigate inherited blindness," said Barry J. Byrne, M.D., Ph.D., a professor of molecular genetics and microbiology and director of UF's Powell Gene Therapy Center. "The accomplishment reflects a great deal of work and dedication on the part of Dr. Hauswirth, as well as many other scientists and physicians, including Samuel G. Jacobson, M.D., Ph.D., professor of ophthalmology of the University of Pennsylvania, and literally dozens of people who were involved in manufacturing and safety testing the gene transfer



WILLIAM W. HAUSWIRTH, Ph.D.

agent here at UF."

Hauswirth and Jacobson — the trial's principal investigator — were among a multicenter team of NEI-supported clinicians and scientists that first established proof-of-concept for gene transfer for LCA in rodent models of the disease and in a breed of vision-impaired dogs called Briards. Restoration of visual function in dogs occurred in 2001 and has been described as remarkable and long-lasting.

Six years have gone by since the Briard puppies — "Lancelot" was the breakout star, going on to shake paws with lawmakers on Capitol Hill — acquired sight.

"The idea of the therapy is simple," said Hauswirth, UF's Rybaczki-Bullard professor of ophthalmic molecular genetics. "If cells are missing a gene for a vital function, such as vision, the therapy is to replace that gene."

In LCA-type diseases, photoreceptor cells are unable to respond to light. Researchers have found that LCA2 is caused by mutations in the RPE65 gene, which produces a protein with the same name that is vital for vision. This trial will evaluate the use of a modified adeno-associated virus — an apparently harmless virus that already exists in most people — to deliver RPE65 to the retina.

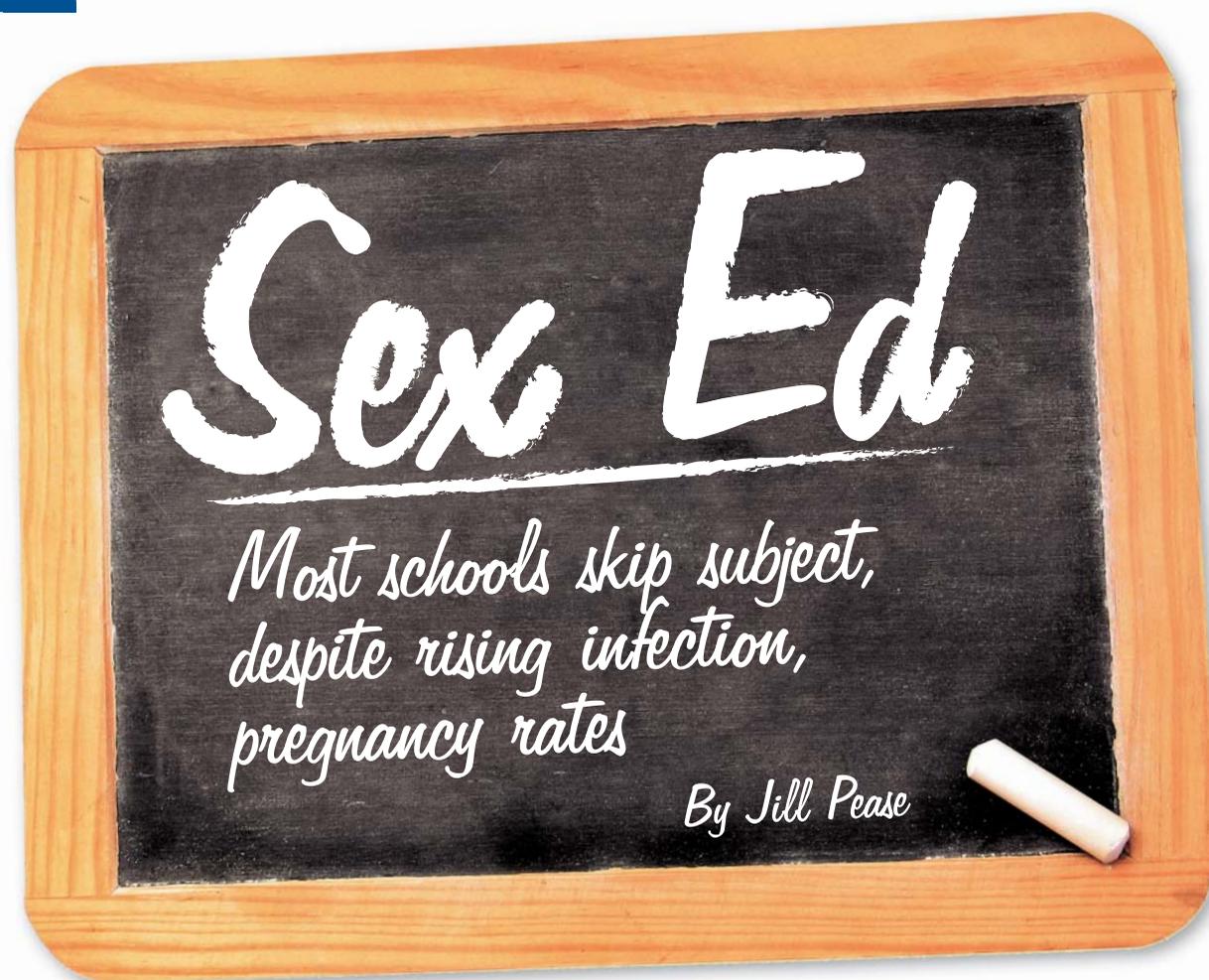
"Viruses have evolved a way to get into cells very efficiently, more efficiently than anything else we know to deliver a piece of genetic material to a cell," Hauswirth said. "So all we're doing is using evolution to our advantage — in this case, to deliver our therapeutic gene."

The actual medical technique used to transfer the gene is not unusual, said Kaushal, who directs the vitreoretinal service in the UF College of Medicine.

"The procedure involves two incisions that give the surgeon access to the surface of the retina," Kaushal said. "Then, fluid containing the virus is injected with a syringe and it creates a bubble. The virus will then be taken up by the photoreceptor cells and the retinal pigment epithelial cells and will theoretically produce the protein that these patients are missing."

LCA2 affects about 2,000 people in the United States and is one of several incurable forms of blindness collectively known as retinitis pigmentosa, which in turn affects about 200,000 Americans.

Children with LCA2 experience major visual disability that can lead to total vision loss in adulthood. Although vision loss is severe, the structure of the retina — including its connection to the brain — can remain relatively intact for decades before the photoreceptor cells degenerate. **P**



A UF study reveals sex education programs in Florida's public schools vary widely in content and often are afforded little class time — and many students miss out altogether.

The findings were presented at the American Public Health Association's annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in November.

"What we found was quite concerning, particularly in light of the fact that levels of sexually transmitted infections and unintended pregnancies continue to rise in Florida and the state ranks second in the nation in terms of annual incident HIV infections," said lead investigator Brian Dodge, Ph.D., formerly of the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

Florida's rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia and syphilis have risen from 307 cases per 100,000 residents in 1997 to 399 in 2006, a 23 percent increase, according to the Florida Department of Health.

Although Florida is technically one of 23 states that require schools to teach sex education and HIV prevention classes, it is unclear whether scientifically accurate and comprehensive information regarding the risks and benefits of sexuality is being offered to students, said Dodge, who is now associate director of the Center for Sexual Health Promotion at Indiana University Bloomington. There are no requirements or standards for the course content and, until the study, little was known about what topics are typically covered.

To find out, in 2006 the research team performed the first statewide assessment of sex education in Florida's public middle and high schools, funded by The Picower Foundation. Data were collected from surveys completed by instructors who are most commonly responsible for sex education — those teaching health, science, physical education or family and consumer sciences.



BRIAN DODGE, Ph.D.

The survey was developed with input from a scientific advisory committee and a community advisory committee that included teachers, public health workers, nurses, doctors and school administrators from across the state.

"Given the sensitive nature of this topic, it was essential that the study had guidance from the people who really understood how Florida school systems work, and how state and local policies impact the teachers' ability to educate their students," said researcher Ellen Lopez, Ph.D., an assistant professor in PHHP's department of behavioral science and community health.

The results of the study, based on 479 responses from participants, showed that 87 percent of the teachers surveyed acknowledged that sex education, in some form, took place in their schools in the 2005-2006 school year. However, sex education was a requirement for all students in only 16 percent of the respondents' schools, and most teachers reported that parents or caregivers were able to control whether their children participated in the classes. In a third of the schools, parents need to opt in, rather than opt out, for their child to receive sex education.

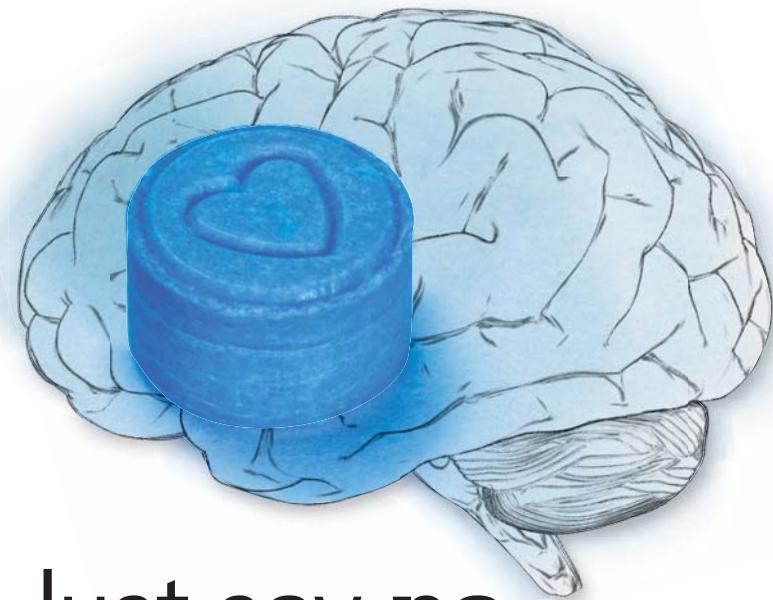
The sex education course content overwhelmingly fell in line with the state of Florida's official "abstinence-only until marriage" policy. Nearly every respondent stated they taught abstinence from sexual activity as the only way to avoid unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

In addition, teachers in North Florida were twice as likely as teachers in Central Florida and three times as likely as those in South Florida to teach an abstinence-only curriculum, which typically does not cover the risks and benefits of contraceptives, said research team member Frank Bandiera, a graduate of UF's Master of Public Health program and a doctoral student at the University of Miami.

"Most people are aware that there are major cultural differences between, say, Miami and Tallahassee," Bandiera said. "What we found in terms of sex education, though, is that these places may as well be on different planets."

The investigators also discovered many differences in the source of curriculum.

"Respondents reported using everything from formal state guidelines to random Internet information and outdated county curricula," Dodge said. "In short, there appears to be no uniformity in terms of underlying value systems or philosophical foundations for sex education in Florida." **P**



Just say **no**

Club drugs inflict damage similar to traumatic brain injury

By April Frawley Birdwell

What do suffering a traumatic brain injury and using club drugs have in common? UF researchers say both may trigger a similar chemical chain reaction in the brain, leading to cell death, memory loss and potentially irreversible brain damage.

A series of studies at UF over the past five years has shown using the popular club drug Ecstasy, also called MDMA, and other forms of methamphetamine lead to the same type of brain changes, cell loss and protein fluctuations in the brain that occur after a person endures a sharp blow to the head, according to findings a UF researcher presented at a Society for Neuroscience conference held in November in San Diego.

“Using methamphetamine is like inflicting a traumatic brain injury on yourself,” said Firas Kobeissy, Ph.D., a postdoctoral associate in the College of Medicine department of psychiatry. “We found that a lot of brain cells are being injured by these drugs. That’s alarming to society now. People don’t seem to take club drugs as seriously as drugs such as heroin or cocaine.”

Working with UF researchers Mark Gold, M.D., chief of the division of addiction medicine at UF’s McKnight Brain Institute and one of the country’s leading experts on addiction medicine, and Kevin Wang, Ph.D., director of the UF Center for Neuroproteomics and Biomarkers Research, Kobeissy compared what happened in the brains of rats given large doses of methamphetamine with what happened to those that had suffered a traumatic brain injury.

Kobeissy and other researchers in Gold’s lab used novel protein analysis methods to decipher how drug abuse alters the brain. They discovered that methamphetamine seems to set off a chain of events that injures brain cells. Protein damage in the brain led to brain cell death, a similar problem the researchers had already seen while studying traumatic brain injury in rats.

About 1.3 million people over the age of 12 reported using methamphetamine in the previous month, according to the 2006 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. People who use drugs of abuse often think the effects wear off in the body the same way the effects of common medications do, but that may not be the case, Gold said.

“These data and the previous four years of data suggest some drugs, especially methamphetamine, cause changes that are not readily reversible,” Gold said. “Future research is necessary for us to determine when or if methamphetamine-related brain changes reverse themselves.” **P**



FIRAS KOBEISSY, Ph.D.

Risky business?

UF study examines risks of ADHD medication



ALMUT WINTERSTEIN, Ph.D.

By Linda Homewood

Stimulant medications used to treat children with attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder may be responsible for an increased number of visits to the emergency room or doctor’s office because of cardiac symptoms, but deaths or serious heart complications are rare, reveals a new UF study published Dec. 1 in the journal *Pediatrics*.

“Treatment decisions are always a risk-benefit assessment for doctors,” said Almut Winterstein, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmacy health care administration at the UF College of Pharmacy. “We know about the benefits of central nervous system stimulants. There are a lot of advantages to the patient — improved concentration, the improved ability to interact socially — but the risks have been very poorly defined.”

Despite concerns about the risks of taking medications such as Adderall and Ritalin for the treatment of ADHD — the drugs are known to raise blood pressure and heart rate, and other members of this drug class, such as methamphetamine, are associated with serious adverse effects — use of the drugs has steadily risen over the past decade.

Winterstein, a pharmacoepidemiologist, led a team of researchers in pharmacy, pediatric medicine and psychiatry who analyzed records from 55,000 children ages 3 to 20 who were undergoing treatment for ADHD between 1994 to 2004. The UF study, which sought to assess the effects of these drugs on the risk for heart disease, relied on the Florida Medicaid database of more than 2 million youth, cross-matched with vital statistics records. It’s the first study of this magnitude in ADHD safety research.

Children who used central nervous system stimulants were 20 percent more likely to visit an emergency clinic or doctor’s office with cardiac-related symptoms, such as a racing heartbeat, than children who had never used or discontinued treatment, the findings show. The researchers also reported that the rates of death or hospital admission for serious heart conditions were no different than the national rates among the general population, but the total number of events was too small to allow definite conclusions.

Since 1995, the number of patients newly diagnosed with ADHD has grown at a fairly constant rate, Winterstein said. Today, nearly one-third of these patients — more than 5 percent of American children — chronically take stimulant medications.

Approximately 3 million to 4 million youngsters in the U.S. are prescribed stimulant medications for ADHD, said Daniel Safer, M.D., an associate professor in psychiatry and pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

“In fact,” Safer added, “more parents than previously are requesting such treatment if their child is having serious problems in school.”

The UF research team’s recent findings raise several important issues that warrant further investigation, Winterstein said. Critical concerns include stimulant safety in populations with cardiac risk factors and in those who use the drugs for several years. **P**

Sirus' surgery

UF has offered unique brain surgery for animals for seven years

By Sarah Carey

Thanks to UF veterinarians, Tennessean Marc Mandeville will again celebrate Christmas with his beloved boxer, Sirus, who is recuperating at home in Knoxville after successful treatment this fall for a brain tumor.

“Sirus loves Christmas,” said Mandeville, who plans to give his 6-year-old boxer plenty of Frisbees and other favorite toys and treats this year. “The night before, he is always restless because he knows there will be presents under the tree for him.”

So far Sirus is doing well and is seizure-free, Mandeville said.

“His medication has him hungry and thirsty, but beyond that, there are no recurring issues,” Mandeville said.

The procedure Sirus received in Gainesville at UF’s Veterinary Medical Center — known as stereotactic radiosurgery, or SRS — is not available

oligodendrocytoma of the left forebrain, an aggressive tumor common in boxers.

Mandeville searched the Internet to learn more about treatment options and discovered an article about an advanced method of obliterating tumors and lesions with a single session of potent and pinpointed radiation that UF veterinarians are using to help animals through a unique relationship the veterinary school has with UF’s McKnight Brain Institute.

“In a nutshell, the 25 or so dogs I kept track of for the UF study seemed to do about as well or better than those that received conventional radiation therapy, but SRS has several important advantages over conventional radiation,” said Chris Mariani, D.V.M., a former UF veterinary neurologist who studied SRS as a treatment for dogs with brain tumors while at UF. “It’s a single treatment, which means one anesthesia, and it’s potentially an outpatient procedure or one overnight stay as compared to weeks of treatment and multiple anesthetics.”

The side effects associated with SRS are almost nonexistent, particularly when compared with conventional treatment, UF veterinarians say.

Almost 20 years after Dr. Frank Bova and Dr. William Friedman, professors in the UF College of Medicine’s department of neurosurgery, initiated radiosurgery treatments in people using their patented system known as the LINAC Scalpel, SRS has evolved to become the treatment of choice for people with certain types of intracranial tumors. In the past seven years, UF veterinarians, working in close collaboration with Bova and his staff, have treated nearly 100 cases, including animals with tumors located within the brain, nose and mouth and certain tumors of the limbs.

“We will irradiate any tumor within the cranial vault regardless of what type we think it is,” said Dr. Tom Schubert, chief of the UF veterinary college’s neurology service.

Neurology cases receiving SRS have CT and MRI images taken. Those images then are merged and analyzed with special software, so veterinarians can pinpoint the tumor and determine the proper dose of radiation to be administered.

In the early days, a head frame was used to help veterinary radiologists obtain accurate targeting images. The process was cumbersome, however, and a new method was devised that makes use of a dental mechanism known as a biteplate. The method was developed at UF for human use and then readapted at the McKnight Brain Institute for use in veterinary radiosurgery cases. The biteplate is custom molded to the animal’s upper teeth and a set of reference markers are then attached. During treatment, these markers are tracked by a stereoscopic infrared camera and software developed at UF.

“The combined system allows the delivery of small high-intensity radiation beams to the tumor, with an accuracy of approximately .25 millimeters,” Bova said. “This system also allows normal tissues to be avoided with the same precision.”

Mandeville and his wife, who do not have children, said they view Sirus as a family member.

“He is, in a sense, our child,” Mandeville said. “He is a very loving dog and has always been the neighborhood’s favorite dog, both in Tennessee and when we lived in Florida. In fact, it’s not unusual for kids to come by and knock on the door to ask if Sirus can play, even when most of the kids have their own dogs.

“In our minds, the cost was a small price to pay for a member of our family,” he added. “What we do know is that we did everything that we could have possibly done to help him, and that we feel good about. When it comes right down to it, we weren’t ready to give up.” **P**



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Sirus the boxer gets checked out at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine on Oct. 25, the day before he underwent a stereotactic radiosurgery procedure to treat a brain tumor. Standing with him (from left) are Steve Tutela, a junior veterinary student and Marc Mandeville, Sirus’ owner.

anywhere else in the Southeast.

Sirus’ problems first became apparent when Mandeville returned home with him after their morning walk. Sirus typically would lie down on the tile kitchen floor while Mandeville began working from his home office. But that day, he came over and leaned against Mandeville, giving him a strange look. Almost immediately, the dog collapsed on his side and went into a seizure.

When the seizures continued, Mandeville took Sirus to the University of Tennessee’s College of Veterinary Medicine. A CT scan of Sirus’ brain revealed a mass, which a biopsy and an ultrasound identified as an

JUST WEAR IT

Student takes spay-neuter message to T-shirts

By Sarah Carey

Got style? UF veterinary senior Allison Montague, also known as “Top Dog” of aWEARness Clothing, not only has it, she can also tell you where to get it and help animals at the same time.

Montague, a former advertising account executive, started the business two years ago. Through her Web site, www.aWEARness-clothing.com, she sells T-shirts and other clothing to promote the responsible spaying and neutering of pets. Montague recently decided to donate all profits from her clothing sales to the UF College of Veterinary Medicine’s shelter program. The program, through which veterinary students gain surgical experience by spaying and neutering animals from the Alachua County animal shelter, has been threatened by recent county budget cuts.

“After getting into veterinary school, I learned that a small percentage of pet owners actually spay and neuter their pets,” Montague said. “In school, we learn the benefits of these types of programs.”

Three million to 4 million dogs and cats enter animal shelters each year in the United States, and roughly half of those animals are euthanized, according to the Humane Society of the United States.

As school unfolded, Montague discovered the shelter medicine program didn’t just help animals — it also enabled her to hone surgical skills and better prepare for private practice.

“I’ve done a few externships where the doctors were impressed with the surgical skills I know I would not have had were it not for the shelter program,” Montague said. “My first day in the shelter medicine rotation, it took me an hour and a half to do a spay, but on my last it took me 20 minutes. Everything improved tremendously, and my confidence did, too. Everyone’s nervous the first time they perform surgery.”

Montague developed her Web site with help from her brother, Matt Montague, and classmate Crystal Hmielewski.

“Crystal and I did our senior projects together, and in our free time, we sketched ideas about what we wanted the Web site to look like and who we wanted to reach,” Montague said, adding that she wanted to create a “look” for her clothing that was stylish, contemporary and “wasn’t cheesy.”

So she came up with catchy slogans such as “Neutering makes dogs less nuts” and “Cats can’t add, but they’re great at multiplying” to include on her shirts. Meanwhile, Hmielewski established the Web site, capturing visuals that include photos of some of Montague’s classmates modeling various items. Then she went to Premier Productions in Gainesville, a



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Veterinary student Allison Montague (front) sells T-shirts and clothing to raise awareness about spaying and neutering animals. Modeling a few of her T-shirts are fellow veterinary students (from left) Tiffany Holcomb, Katie Horne and Heather Baginski.

custom design and printing company.

“We worked together on some of my ideas and came up with some layouts,” Montague said. “We ended up with between 600 and 700 items in multiple designs, sizes and colors.”

Shirts start at \$15 a piece, and are available on her Web site.

Just a week after Montague sent a collegewide e-mail about her plan to donate proceeds from sales to the shelter program, she already had raised \$100.

“What Allison did by donating all the profits from the sale of her spay/neuter aWEARness T-shirts is phenomenal,” said Dr. Natalie Isaza, the shelter program coordinator. “The program received so much support from our students, both current and former, when they learned the program might lose funding, and Allison’s generosity illustrates how much the students appreciate this clinical elective.”

Staff members in the Office for Students and Instruction were impressed enough with Montague’s efforts that each of its members wore an aWEARness T-shirt on Nov. 1.

“When we received Allison’s e-mail about her company donating proceeds from the T-shirt sales to the shelter medicine program, we thought, ‘what better way to support our students?’” said Erin Sanetz, program assistant. “The phrases on these T-shirts are very amusing, and certainly grab peoples’ attention. We were so impressed with Allison’s initiative and generosity that we decided that, as an office, we would show our support for her product, for shelter medicine and for our students.” P



Why diversity **MATTERS**

Look around. Diversity is an issue for UF, but it's a problem HSC leaders are trying to solve.

By April Frawley Birdwell

The grandmother, a black woman in her 70s, seemed surprised when Donna Parker, M.D., walked into the room at the Alachua County Health Department. It was 14 years ago, but Parker still remembers the woman's exact words:

"You're the first black doctor I have ever met."

"Not first black female doctor, but first black doctor," recalls Parker, now an assistant dean of minority affairs in the UF College of Medicine. "That was in Gainesville, with Shands right here."

In a perfect world, this sentence would say a conversation like that doesn't happen anymore.

Times certainly have changed. More black and Hispanic students are entering medicine and other health-care fields today than in prior years. Health care, in general, is more diverse, especially in fields such as public health.

But, "more diverse" is relative. Only 6 percent of the country's practicing physicians are Hispanic, black or Native American, while these groups comprise 26 percent of the population, according to an Association of American Medical Colleges report.

Within the UF Health Science Center, the number of underrepresented minorities in the student body is encouraging — in the College of Nursing, for example, the number of black, Hispanic and Native American students is above the national average for nursing professionals. But when HSC students walk into a classroom, the chances of

"If our graduates don't reflect the diversity of the overall population, then we aren't doing our job."

— Douglas Barrett, M.D.,



finding a minority professor are slim. There is only one black professor in each of the colleges of Nursing and Dentistry, and out of the 973 faculty members in the College of Medicine, only 15 are black and 44 are Hispanic.

Why? The answers aren't simple. The number of minority students entering academia is small, and institutions are competing for these recruits. Retaining minority faculty poses unique challenges, too. And faculty members say some potential recruits may shy away from UF because of the low numbers of minority faculty members or because of Gainesville's small size.

The problem is complex, but it's one HSC leaders aim to solve. Last April, the HSC established a new office geared toward increasing the number of underrepresented minorities in the faculty.

"If our graduates don't reflect the diversity of the overall population, then we aren't doing our job," said Douglas Barrett, M.D., senior vice president for health affairs. "We're taking this seriously. Talking about it is nice, but measuring it at the end of the day is what's important."

Diversity matters, not only because it adds to the value of education, bringing in different points of view, but because studies have shown it goes a long way toward improving health disparities, says Rebecca Rainer Pauly, M.D., the associate vice president for diversity and equity in the Health Science Center.



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

HSC leaders hope to promote more events similar to the AAMC Minority Faculty Career Development Seminar several UF College of Medicine faculty members attended earlier this year. The faculty members who went included (from left) Dr. Winston T. Richards, Dr. Donna Parker, Dr. Mildred Maldonado-Molina, Dr. Kendall Campbell, Dr. Michelle Jacobs-Elliott and Dr. Albert Robinson.

"We want students to be able to look up to faculty with whom they can identify," Pauly says of diversity's impact. "Also all faculty should have equal opportunity, and with cultural competence and consciousness, better outcomes are seen in health care. Patients are more compliant. There's better preventive medicine."

Already, strides are being made. Pauly has established an advisory board of UF and Gainesville community leaders charged with tackling issues related to diversity. She's investigating programs that work and has already started a program with UF's P.K. Yonge School to encourage middle schoolers from different backgrounds to enter science.

"Once students are in the pipeline, then hopefully we will be able to encourage them to stay in academics," Pauly says. "We want to build a culture that is accepting and promoting of all."

An inescapable **PROBLEM**

Pauly has always been tuned in to issues related to diversity, but the problem became achingly apparent to her last year while working on the College of Medicine's accreditation.

"That's when it really hit me that we are deficient in our diversity as a faculty," Pauly said. "I took those numbers to Dr. Barrett and we discussed this real need."

For Gloria McWhirter, the problem is inescapable. As the only black faculty member in the College of Nursing and the college's director of minority retention and recruiting, McWhirter sees the need for more diversity every time a student knocks on her door asking for help. And they do, all the time.

It's important for students to be able to see faculty who look like them, especially for minority students who are often the first in their families to go to college, McWhirter says. Because there are fewer black and Hispanic faculty members than there are students, many minority faculty members become "overburdened with mentorship," says Parker. The students McWhirter mentors aren't always from her college, but she says she can't turn anyone who needs help away.

"I seek out the students of color and make sure they're doing what they need to do," McWhirter says. "I know how to get to them."

Allyson Hall, Ph.D., an associate professor of health services research, management and policy in the College of Public Health Professions, says minority students tend to seek out mentors they can relate to more. It allows them to see how they can achieve the same things.

"They know intuitively that I really want them to succeed," Hall says. "I feel a real sense of responsibility to mentor them."

Mentorship also makes a big difference in student achievement, Parker says. The College of Medicine Office of Minority Affairs, which was established in the 1980s by HSC students, sends e-mails to students before exams to encourage them.



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Gloria McWhirter, a UF professor of nursing, helps recruit minority students to the college and keeps them on track when they're here.

Continued on **PAGE 14**





PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

“If (diversity is) not out there as a target, then no one is going to think of coming together.”
 — Rebecca Rainer Pauly, M.D.

Continued from **PAGE 13**

“Research has shown students will do better just by knowing there is someone expecting them to do well,” Parker says. “We know they have the ability, otherwise they wouldn’t have been accepted here. But there are other factors that can lead to success or a lack of success.

“We still have students who are told they are only here because of affirmative action. These are bright students who have sometimes come through the junior honors medical program. They get downhearted, which is another reason why the (minority affairs) office needs to be here so they have a place to voice these kinds of actions that take place.”

Part of the problem, faculty and administrators say, is the mindset some people have about diversity, seeing it as a numbers game — meeting quotas to check off a box — and not understanding the value differences add to education and to the workforce.

“Excellence and diversity go hand-in-hand,” says Bruce Kone, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine. “You can’t teach students to be effective doctors without diversity.”

Planting **SEEDS**

When it comes to increasing diversity in academia and health-care, what happens before a student even starts college matters more than many realize. Students whose parents didn’t go to college or who live in poor areas may not even think of college or the health professions as an option.

“We have to go to the middle schools and show kids there is more to life than basketball and cars,” McWhirter says. “We have to reach for bigger stars.”

Because P.K. Yonge is a model for other schools in the state — and because it has a racially and economically diverse student body — Pauly hopes the program she is



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Dr. Rebecca Rainer Pauly was appointed associate vice president of the new HSC Office of Equity and Diversity in April. Pauly is focused on improving diversity in the HSC’s faculty.



The number of minority students is improving in the six health colleges. Second-year medical student Nicole Nicophene listens to a guest lecturer in Dr. Paul Gulig's class.

Diversity in ACTION



UF holds first "Diversity Dialogue"

By Lauren Edwards

Martha Barnett, J.D., grew up in a segregated neighborhood. Her father, a doctor, was "colorblind," but he was forced to keep separate waiting rooms for his patients. Many of them did not feel the way he did about race.

When she started her own career in law, Barnett, an advocate for survivors of the racially charged Rosewood Massacre, says she realized how much of a problem diversity was in her own professions too, she explained to a roomful of HSC leaders Nov. 14 at the McKnight Brain Institute.

"Diversity is beginning to permeate all aspects of our society," said Barnett, a partner at the Holland & Knight law firm. "It's the smart thing to do."

Barnett's talk was part of the first "Diversity Dialogue," a series of workshops that are being held at the HSC to raise awareness about issues related to diversity and equity. The HSC's new Office of Equity and Diversity is sponsoring the series.

establishing with the school will help nurture students' interests in science.

The UF College of Medicine Office of Minority Affairs also brings in high school students for programs that expose them to research, medicine and other health professions.

"Some students don't even have the ability to dream that this is something they can do," Parker says. "I encourage my patients to dream about other things than just what they see in their communities."

Minority students are also more likely to need help learning tools to get into college, like test-taking skills, McWhirter says.

Abi Adewumi, a UF assistant professor of dentistry who hails from Nigeria and advises the group for dental students focused on multicultural issues, says, "I empathize with kids who haven't had that upbringing. If you have no hope you have nothing to hold onto."

Admissions based solely on race have not been allowed in Florida since the One Florida law was passed in 1999. But Pauly says UF should try to attract qualified minority students who may have skills that sometimes go unnoticed. The goal is to give these students more tools to achieve.

Financial reasons could keep some students and faculty from UF, too. More money for scholarships, salaries and bonuses could help, faculty members say.

UF also has to battle misconceptions. McWhirter plants seeds about UF when she attends national conferences, but because of the university's lagging numbers in minority faculty, some people have doubts about UF. Parker has noticed this too. Some, they say, have referred to UF as "a racist school."

Then there's the Gainesville factor. Gainesville isn't a sprawling metropolis, and some recruits don't get to see what's available while they're here. Pauly has been working with the minority community to change these perceptions.

Hall agrees, saying, "Gainesville has a wealth of opportunities. I do salsa dancing here. Once I found that group I was fine. Once you start digging deeper, you will find what you're looking for."

Nurturing GROWTH

In November, the HSC held its first "Diversity Dialogue," an event Pauly designed to help bring diversity to the forefront. Faculty members say talking about the university's diversity needs is an important first step. It's a topic people often avoid or "dance around," McWhirter says.

"What's wrong with race? Put it out on the table and talk about it," she says.

The discussions also allow colleges and faculty to learn from each other and from the community, Pauly says.

"A lot of people have been thinking about diversity and not saying it," Pauly says. "To me, a real concrete accomplishment in response to the November diversity dialogue is Dean Kone's desire to highlight diversity as a core value in the missions statement of the College of Medicine."

McWhirter says she also hopes more programs will be developed to nurture minority faculty and students. Because minority faculty members spend so much time mentoring and working on committees, they often get behind on tenure goals.

Becoming more diverse may take awhile, Pauly says. But the ball is rolling, especially now that an office is in place to focus on these issues across the health center.

"If it's not out there as a target, then no one is going to think of coming together ... it's sort of that consciousness. The next step is to put it into practice." 



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

After the November "Diversity Dialogue," several HSC and community leaders spoke during a panel discussion, including (from left) Dr. Doug Barrett, Cynthia Moore Chestnut, Eric Conde and Dr. Rebecca Rainer Pauly.

"(These workshops) bring the issue of diversity to the forefront," said Rebecca Rainer Pauly, M.D., the associate vice president of equity and diversity. "The diversity dialogue lets us know our support network and allows us to learn from each other's experiences."

Pauly says she chose Barnett, a UF alumna and the second woman to be president of the American Bar Association, because she "leads by example" as an advocate for recruiting and retaining women and minorities.

As U.S. demographics change, diversity in education and the workplace is more important than ever, Barnett said. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, minority groups will make up 50 percent of the population by 2050.

"We have to reflect the communities we want to serve," Pauly says. "It's easy to talk about it ... it's very hard, institutionally, to do it."

College of Medicine Dean Bruce Kone, M.D., who spoke at the event during a panel discussion, said cultivating a climate of acceptance in the medical field is crucial. He's working to make this a reality at UF.

"In health professions, diversity is really a core value," he says.

The next diversity dialogue will address mentoring and will be held at 11 a.m. March 12.



WHEN faith AND MEDICINE MEET

UF students raise TB awareness in churches



Hilda Salisbury and Atiba Nelson (top, from left) send the message that covering a cough can help prevent the transmission of disease. Milton Persons, John Faryna, Evelyn Meece and Lottie Elliott (bottom, from left) chat about the role of spirituality in medicine.

By Ann Griswold

Last summer, John Faryna needed something to do. So Faryna, a second-year medical and public health student, perused a few Web sites, searching for a worthy cause. Finally, a UF Area Health Education Centers posting caught his eye: Two students were needed to conduct summer research on spirituality and tuberculosis in the black community.

Faryna, who describes himself as “a fairly spiritual guy,” thought it would be fun to learn about religion and promote community health. Little did he know that across the HSC complex, a second-year public health student named Atiba Nelson was reading the posting and thinking the same thing.

Faryna and Nelson met for the first time in May when they were paired up on the summer project, a joint effort between the Rural Women’s Health Project, the Alachua County Health Department and the Suwannee River AHEC.

On first glance, the pair share a lot in common: both are 20-something, energetic, outgoing and pursuing careers in the health sciences.

But on Sundays, Faryna — a white guy from Umatilla, Fla. — heads to Catholic Mass, while Nelson — a black guy from Toronto — settles into a pew at the Baptist church. Their differences made for an interesting summer.

The project’s goal was enticing but vague: Determine what role, if any, spirituality plays in the health of black people in the Gainesville community.

Getting started was the hard part. They needed a motto. They needed accessories. They needed a plan.

Once they decided on “Think TB” as their logo, Nelson says things started falling into place.

“We designed a sticker that showed a stick figure coughing,” Nelson said. “Basically, we want people to pass on knowledge. The caption was ‘spread the word, not the disease.’”

The duo also emblazoned their logo and a list of tuberculosis symptoms on packets of facial tissue, hoping it would encourage people to pass on information in addition to, well, Kleenex.

The next challenge was deciding whom to visit and what to say. They decided on two churches, the Williams Temple Church of God and the Springhill Missionary Baptist Church. For good measure, they also visited the Thelma Boltin Community Center, which hosts a daily elderly care luncheon.

“It was a little unnerving to figure what to say and how to say it,” Nelson said. “But I think being sensitive to the issue when we first went in there and saying, ‘Look, we don’t want to offend anybody, we just want to hear what you have to say,’ eased our transition into the churches.”

Each visit began with a 30-minute presentation on tuberculosis. After the talk, Nelson and Faryna gathered information from the audience via a question-and-answer session about the role of prayer in health. That exchange was usually followed by a nice meal, interspersed with informal discussions and tales of church members’ experiences with tuberculosis.

The pair found that most people strike a balance between health and faith.

“It’s not like, ‘I believe only God can heal me and I won’t go to the doctor,’ or, ‘I only believe the doctor can heal me, so I won’t pray,’” said Nelson. “It’s a mixture of both. People go to the doctor and have faith that a higher power will help their doctor know the best course of action to take.”

Once they’d been around the block a few times, it became apparent that the churches are the gateways to the people who live in those neighborhoods.

“Leaders of African-American churches are often leaders of the community. It’s a very effective way to disseminate information to this population,” Faryna says. “The churches are phenomenal tools to address different concerns.”

Especially health.

“A lot of African-American churches in the community incorporate their spirituality into all aspects of their members’ lives, including things like health care and finances,” Faryna says. “So a lot of them have health ministries that bring in people on a regular basis to address these kinds of issues.”

The pair says their eight-week foray into medicine and spirituality taught them at least as much about the power of faith as they taught the people in these communities about the power of passing along information to prevent the spread of disease.

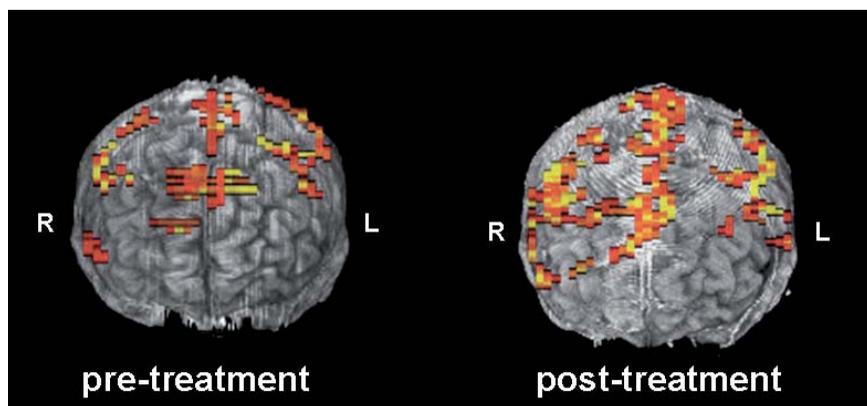
“Everybody wants information,” Faryna says. “Once you empower yourself, you’re no longer reliant on someone else. That’s one of the coolest things I learned.” **P**

UF to study new therapy for language problems caused by stroke

By Jill Pease

UF researchers have received a \$900,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to study a new treatment for language problems that commonly occur after a stroke.

Led by Bruce Crosson, Ph.D., a professor of clinical and health



These fMRI images, taken before and after a pilot study of the aphasia treatment, demonstrate that the right side of the patient's brain became more active following therapy and the patient's language skills improved.

psychology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, the research team will investigate the effectiveness of a new therapy for the language disorder known as nonfluent aphasia. Patients with nonfluent aphasia have trouble finding the right words to communicate their meaning, speaking in sentences, or saying more than one or two words without stopping.

About 750,000 Americans experience a stroke annually, according to the National Stroke Association.

"Approximately 25 percent of strokes are associated with aphasia and only 21 percent of these patients eventually recover normal language function," Crosson said. "Thus, it is estimated that more than 1 million Americans experience chronic aphasia that substantially limits their ability to work, affects relationships with friends and family and degrades quality of life for survivors."

Researchers will employ the concept of neuroplasticity — the idea that the brain can be reorganized so that other parts of it can take over lost functions. Because the left side of the brain is responsible for language in right-handed individuals, a stroke on the brain's left side can damage its language production centers. In the UF study, investigators will attempt to shift language production to the right side of the brain in patients with stroke by having research participants complete a series of verbal exercises.

To measure changes in right brain function, participants will undergo functional magnetic resonance imaging scans before therapy begins, at the end of the treatment period and three months after treatment is completed.

To participate in the aphasia research study, participants must have been right-handed prior to their stroke and be native English speakers. For more information, call 352-376-1611, ext. 5395. **P**



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

This fall, entrepreneur Edward T. Quinn (center) donated \$2 million to the UF College of Dentistry to establish the M. Franklin Dolwick University Chair in honor of Dolwick (left), a UF professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. UF Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Doug Barrett is at right.

Early holiday gift for College of Dentistry

By Lindy McCollum-Brounley

Longwood, Fla., entrepreneur Edward T. Quinn has made a \$2 million gift to the UF College of Dentistry in honor of M. Franklin Dolwick, a UF professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery.

The gift will create the M. Franklin Dolwick University Chair and is eligible to receive dollar-for-dollar matching funds from the state of Florida Trust Fund for Major Gifts. The permanently endowed chair is the largest ever established within the college, and is one of a handful funded at this level universitywide.

"Dr. Dolwick has dedicated his life to this profession and to his patients," Quinn said. "I was his patient also, and how he treated me, and all of his patients, became the driving force behind my desire to honor him in this way. It is important to me."

The M. Franklin Dolwick University Chair will support a permanent faculty position held by an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, appointed by the dean of the College of Dentistry, with an academic rank of associate or full professor.

M. Franklin Dolwick is a pioneering surgeon in the development of temporomandibular joint diagnostic and surgical procedures. His research on TMJ disorders garnered the prestigious Research Recognition Award from the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in 1993. Dolwick is internationally recognized as an outstanding educator, scientist and clinician. The gift honors his 35-year career as an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, 22 years of which have been invested in resident education and patient care at the University of Florida.

"I am honored but at the same time humbled by Mr. Quinn's generosity," Dolwick said. "His gift will assure oral and maxillofacial surgery at the University of Florida remains a leader in resident education and patient care." **P**

**UF
"HEROES"
HONORED AT
JAX EVENT**
BY PATRICIA BATES MCGHEE



SEVERAL UF COLLEGE OF MEDICINE-JACKSONVILLE FACULTY MEMBERS AND SHANDS JACKSONVILLE STAFF MEMBERS WERE HONORED AS HEALTH "HEROES" RECENTLY. THEY INCLUDE (FROM LEFT) WILLIE ROBERTS, JULIA PAUL, KAMELA SCOTT, DR. ROBERT NUSS, DR. MIREN SCHINCO, AND DR. ERIC STEWART. ALTHOUGH NOT PICTURED HERE, STEVE GOODISON AND DR. NANCY PRICE MENDENHALL WERE ALSO NAMED HEROES.

IT'S OFFICIAL:

There are heroes among us, and six of them are at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville.

Six UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville faculty members were honored as heroes at the *Jacksonville Business Journal's* annual Health Care Heroes awards program Nov. 2. In its fourth 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 publication.

This year's "heroes" were selected from 10 categories: lifetime achievement, scientist, physician, nursing, community service, dentistry, emergency medicine, mental health, oncology and pediatrics. All 27 heroes were honored at a breakfast Nov. 2 at the Marriott-Southpoint. Keep reading to find out more about each of them:

ROBERT NUSS

Robert Nuss, M.D., dean of the regional campus in Jacksonville and the UF associate vice president for health affairs, earned the Lifetime Achievement Award — the program's highest recognition reserved for only one hero.

In June, after devoting 35 years to developing, funding, promoting and supporting the growth of the UF Health Science Center in Jacksonville, Nuss was named UF's first dean of the regional campus. The journal recognized him for "putting Jacksonville on the map in terms of providing leading academic, clinical and research facilities for those who live in Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia" and for "working diligently to ensure that the UF Health Science Center-Jacksonville continues to grow in order to meet Florida's need for additional physicians, nurses, pharmacists and dentists."

**MIREN SCHINCO,
KAMELA SCOTT
AND JULIA PAUL**

UF's Miren Schinco, M.D., and Kamela Scott, Ph.D., along with Shands Jacksonville's Julia Paul, R.N., were recognized in the emergency medicine category as a team of emergency medical providers who made a difference by speaking out on behalf of Jacksonville crime victims. The three organized "Youth and Domestic Violence: A Community Epidemic," a daylong forum that brought Jacksonville leaders together to discuss the issue. Schinco is an associate professor and division chief of trauma and critical care surgery. Scott is an associate professor of surgery and program director of psychological services/acute care. Paul is Shands Jacksonville's trauma program manager.

STEVEN GOODISON

Described as "a scientist with a mission: to improve the lives of cancer patients, especially those with breast, prostate and bladder cancer," Steven Goodison, Ph.D., was named the scientist "hero." An associate professor in the department of surgery whose grant funding tops \$4.2 million, Goodison is the inventor on two issued patents and two patents pending and the author of 72 peer-reviewed research articles. He was recognized for "helping scientists worldwide better understand tumor biology, use genes to help detect and diagnose cancer, examine the role infection plays in cancer and analyze specific genes in tumor progression."

ERIC STEWART

When patients don't know where to turn, UF's Eric Stewart, M.D. is there, according to the *Jacksonville Business Journal*. Stewart, an assistant professor of family medicine who also serves as vice president of community affairs and community clinics for Shands Jacksonville, "practices and demonstrates a zeal and passion for the little people, those who silently suffer or fill up emergency rooms because without a primary care physician, they are unable to determine if the symptoms they have are life-threatening or just another pain." A "hero" in the physician category, "he opens his office at 5:30 a.m., and it is not uncommon to visit his office at 6 a.m. and find the waiting room full."

NANCY PRICE MENDENHALL

Another "hero," Nancy Price Mendenhall, M.D., is a practicing radiation oncologist who saw the need to improve the odds for cancer patients treated with external beam radiation. She saw proton beam therapy as a promising treatment tool. And "based upon her recommendation in 1998 and her ongoing leadership and persistence through the 2003 groundbreaking and 2006 opening, Jacksonville is now home to the University of Florida Proton Therapy Institute — the only proton therapy facility in the Southeast and currently one of only five in the nation." 

Targeting bladder cancer

Researchers hope to improve detection, monitoring

By Patricia Bates McGhee

UF researcher Steve Goodison, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of surgery in the College of Medicine–Jacksonville, recently received \$1.1 million from the National Cancer Institute for a study aimed at improving early detection and monitoring of bladder cancer.

During the four-year study, Goodison and colleagues Charles Rosser, M.D., an assistant professor in the department of urology in Gainesville, and Virginia Urquidi, Ph.D., a research associate professor in the department of medicine in Jacksonville, will use proteomics — or analysis of the protein profile in a cell or tissue — to identify proteins specifically associated with the disease.

“We will use comparative glycoprotein and phosphoprotein analyses to determine which factors in the bladder may indicate the presence of bladder cancer,” Goodison said. “Being able to identify these cancer biomarkers could really assist clinically because it would help us screen both asymptomatic people for early detection and people with a history of bladder cancer for recurrence — all with the hope of helping the patient in a tangible timeframe.”

The new grant extends Goodison and Rosser’s ongoing Florida Department of Health-funded studies on bladder cancer, which aim to identify the genetic characteristics of bladder cancer tissues. The project will also involve collaborators at the University of Michigan and the core facilities of UF’s Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research.

In the United States, bladder cancer is the third leading tobacco-related disease — after lung cancer and heart disease. Bladder cancer is a predominantly male disease, with women accounting for only 20 percent of



STEVE GOODISON, Ph.D.

diagnosed cases.

“The general public knows how smoking can affect the lungs and the heart but probably knows little about its effects on the bladder,” Goodison said. “But the same toxins produced by smoking that hurt the lung also get into the bloodstream, are excreted into the urine and then sit in the bladder, sometimes for extended periods of time.”

Goodison believes there is a definitive pattern of protein expression in tumor cells that can be defined.

“Because new techniques allow relatively large-scale screening of cellular proteins, it’s now feasible to compare the protein complement of cells from different disease states,” he said. “Furthermore, if we identify specific proteins that are associated with bladder cancer, we can gain insight into the tumor biology and start to understand the molecular basis of tumorigenesis and progression, which, in turn, could open up other avenues of basic research.” 

Fighting a global killer

For the second year in a row, UF’s Rainbow Center for Women, Adolescents, Children and Families hosted Jacksonville’s citywide kickoff event for World AIDS Week. “A Celebration of Life, a Lifetime of Hope,” was held Nov. 26 at Shands Jacksonville to raise HIV/AIDS awareness among women and children affected by the disease in Northeast Florida. Jacksonville is one of the few communities in the nation that hosts awareness events for the entire week.

The Rainbow Center serves about 1,400 people with HIV/AIDS. Each year, center staff help about 150 children under the age of 2 exposed to HIV. Pictured from left are Rainbow Center volunteers Sheila Mathew, chair of the center’s community advisory board; event speaker Gloria Coon; and Jessica Joyce Long, UF Rainbow Center executive director.

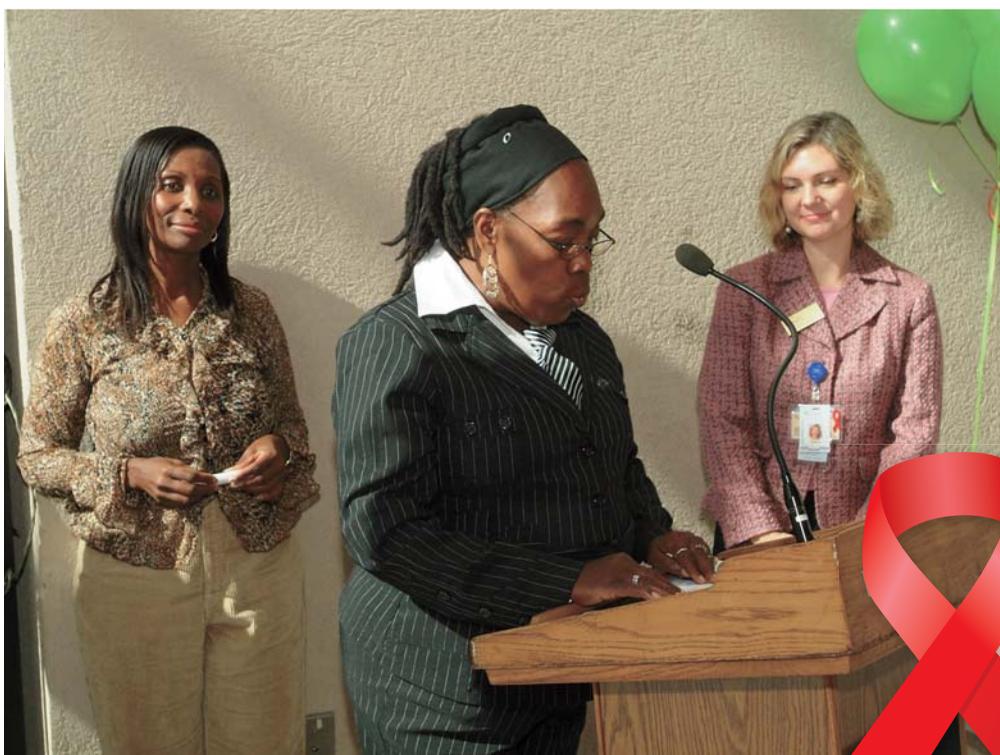


PHOTO BY NELSON KEEFER

JACKSONVILLE

JAMES MCLAMB, M.D., a retired associate professor of community health and family medicine and senior vice president for planning and development, was recently recognized for his years of distinguished service to UF. The UF College of Medicine–Jacksonville Executive Committee honored McLamb with a special resolution celebrating his achievements. McLamb joined the UF faculty in 1986. He was instrumental in establishing the UF Primary Care Physicians Advisory Board and served as medical director of the UF Primary Care Network. He also served as senior vice president for planning and development for Shands Jacksonville and the UF Health Science Center–Jacksonville; as chairman of the Planning and Development Committee of Shands Jacksonville and University of Florida Jacksonville Healthcare, Incorporated; and as a member of SJ/UFJHI Managed Care.



James McLamb

students and also serves as the coordinator of academic student services in the college. She also developed a preparation program for the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. McWhirter devotes much of her time to the recruitment, mentoring and retention of students from minority groups or disadvantaged backgrounds. McWhirter also acts as the liaison between the college and the Bethune-Cookman College of Nursing in a pipeline program that is focused on developing opportunities for nursing students from BCC to pursue graduate study at UF.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

NAMI S. YU, a rehabilitation science doctoral student, received the Annual Student Paper Award from the Foundation for Life Care Planning Research. Yu was awarded \$500 and free registration and travel expenses to present her paper at the 2007 International Symposium on Life Care Planning. Her article will be also published in the *Journal of Life Care Planning*.



Nami S. Yu

TODD FRASER, the coordinator of administrative services in the department of occupational therapy, was named the college's 2007 Employee of the Year at the annual faculty/staff appreciation dinner Oct. 26. Fraser, who is considered the "go-to" person in his department, was recognized for his problem-solving ability, his dedication and his willingness to assist employees and students, even in difficult situations. Wrote one nominee, "Todd is a pleasure to work with and his positive attitude, humor and openness promote a feeling of 'family' within the department."



Todd Fraser

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

ROBERT MCKENNA, Ph.D., an associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, received the Howard Hughes Medical Institute Distinguished Mentor Award in honor of his continued work in mentoring outstanding undergraduate students in research. Past recipients of the award include faculty members Michael Bubbs, M.D., Barbara Battelle, Ph.D., and Mavis Agbandje-McKenna, Ph.D., all professors in the College of Medicine.



Robert McKenna

CURTIS TRIBBLE, M.D., the vice chair of the department of surgery and chief of the division of cardiothoracic surgery, was recently elected to be a director of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery. There are 12 directors at any given time, and Tribble is only the second director ever elected from Florida. The board's purpose is to ensure that new surgeons entering the field of thoracic surgery meet the high standards expected of professionals in this specialty.



Curtis Tribble

COLLEGE OF NURSING

GLORIA MCWHIRTER, M.S.N., R.N., a clinical assistant professor of nursing, was recently elected to the National Black Nurses Association Board of Directors. McWhirter teaches nursing courses to undergraduate



Gloria McWhirter

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

ALASTAIR COOMER, B.V.Sc., a second-year resident in small animal surgery, won first prize in the research category of the Resident's Forum at the annual American College of Veterinary Surgeons meeting, held Oct. 17-21 in Chicago. Coomer, who also is pursuing a master's degree at the college, was honored for a presentation titled, "Intramuscular Murine Model for Radiation Therapy of Canine Osteosarcoma."



Alastair Coomer

ISKE LARKIN, Ph.D., an assistant scientist with the Aquatic Animal Health program, will chair the Manatee Rehabilitation Partnership. The partnership consists of a consortium of scientists, educators, government agencies, wildlife organizations, zoos and aquariums, all of which are involved in rehabilitating and monitoring released Florida manatees. The group's goal is to monitor released manatees to ensure their survival in the wild, to provide new data to improve rehabilitated manatee survivorship and to continue to learn about manatee natural history.



Iske Larkin

VICE PRESIDENT, HEALTH AFFAIRS

REBECCA RAINER PAULY, M.D., the associate vice president for equity and diversity, was recently selected as co-chair of the Florida Alliance, an organization that was established to increase diversity in the health professions and reduce disparities in health care. The Florida Alliance consists of health-care and university leaders, including those from the state's other major research universities.



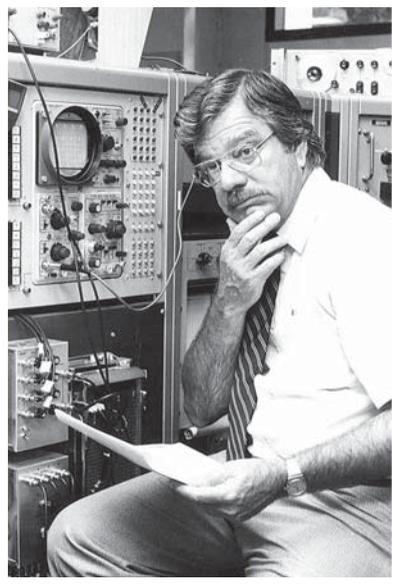
Rebecca Rainer Pauly



JOHN HARVEY, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor and chair of the UF College of Veterinary Medicine's department of physiological sciences, has received the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology's lifetime achievement award. The award was presented during the group's annual meeting, held Nov. 10 in Savannah, Ga. A Kansas native, Harvey earned both his bachelor's and D.V.M. degrees from Kansas State University and his doctorate from the University of California-Davis. He is board-certified in clinical pathology by the American College of Veterinary Pathologists. A former president of the American Society for Veterinary Clinical Pathology, Harvey also served as president of the International Society for Animal Clinical Pathology. He has published more than 140 journal articles and book chapters concerning comparative hematology and has presented more than 210 scientific and continuing education talks and seminars. He has been a member of UF's veterinary faculty since 1974.

Saying goodbye

HSC remembers several former faculty members who passed away recently



Nathan W. Perry

Nathan W. Perry, Ph.D., who served as chair of the department of clinical and health psychology at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions for more than 20 years, died Dec. 1 in Tallahassee. He was 75.

“Nate Perry was a major force for the advancement of psychology at the University of Florida and throughout the nation,” said Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., interim dean of the College of Public Health and Health Professions. “His leadership blazed a trail that

enabled others to make important clinical and research contributions in health psychology. The success of our department of clinical and health psychology stands as a lasting legacy of Nate Perry’s pioneering efforts.”

Perry received his doctorate in psychology from Florida State University in 1963 and joined the UF faculty that same year. He was chairman of the department of clinical and health psychology from 1977 until his retirement in 1998. Perry was a leading advocate at the national level for the “scientist-practitioner” model, which called for psychologists to be trained in both the underlying science of the profession as well as in clinical practice.

In his own research, Perry focused on vision and cognition and he was considered an expert on measurement of brain function and cognition using visual evoked potentials to measure electrical activity in the brain in response to visual stimuli.

“Nate was truly a giant in the field of clinical psychology; he was not only a crackerjack administrator and department chair, but he was also a first-rate scientist, performing some key early work on brain electrophysiological responses to complex visual stimuli,” said Russell M. Bauer, Ph.D., chair of the department of clinical and health psychology.

Perry served as president of the Florida Psychological Association, the Southeastern Psychological Association and the Society of Clinical Psychology, and was a member of the American Psychological Association’s board of directors. He received the Florida Psychological Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 1998.

Perry is survived by his wife, Suzanne Bennett Johnson, of Tallahassee, Fla.; his brother, Kenneth Eugene Perry, of Maryville, Tenn.; six children, Kathy Lynn Hope, of Lilburn, Ga., Warren Keith Perry, of Gainesville, Kevin Lee Perry, of Camden, S.C., Karol Hanson Tutton, of Lone Tree, Colo., Erika Marion Perry, of Hoboken, N.J., and Marissa Clara Perry of New York, N.Y.; and six grandchildren.

A scholarship fund has been established in Perry’s honor. Please make checks payable to the UF Foundation, attention: Nate Perry Memorial Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 14425, Gainesville, FL 32604 or call Marie Emmerson at 352-273-6540 for more information.

— *Jill Pease*



Franklin L. Debusk

Dr. Franklin L. DeBusk, who spent nearly 30 years at UF as a professor of pediatrics, passed away Nov. 27 in Brevard County. He was 84.

DeBusk, a Gainesville native, graduated from UF in 1943 and went on to earn his medical degree from Johns Hopkins University.

After serving as a chief of pediatrics in the U.S. Army and spending several years in private practice in Pensacola, Fla., DeBusk came back to UF in 1966, where he was named an assistant professor of pediatrics in the College of Medicine.

He served as division chief of general pediatrics for nearly 20 years, from 1966 until 1985. He also held a variety of positions, including director of the UF birth defects center.

DeBusk spent significant time working with students and residents. In 1982, he received the Hippocratic Award, considered the highest honor senior medical students give one of their teachers.

As a researcher, DeBusk was best known for his studies on progeria. The genetic disease leads to premature aging in children. He also worked in and ran rural clinics in North Florida until his retirement in 1994.

DeBusk was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Anne Tisdale DeBusk. He is survived by daughter Lynn DeBusk; sons William F. DeBusk and Thomas A. DeBusk; grandchildren Monique D. DeBusk and Kathryn A. DeBusk; and step-brother Aden K. Sowell. — *Lauren Edwards*

George E. Gifford

Dr. George E. Gifford, a distinguished former professor at the UF College of Medicine, passed away Nov. 16 in Gainesville. He was 83.

Born in Minneapolis, Gifford received his doctorate in microbiology in 1955 from the University of Minnesota, where he began his teaching career. Soon afterward, Gifford came to Florida, where he was one of the founding faculty members in the UF College of Medicine.

Gifford served as a professor in the department of microbiology and held other positions within the college, including acting chair of the department of microbiology and associate dean for graduate education.

Gifford, known best for his research with the cancer-fighting agents interferon and tumor necrosis factor, took his work around the world as a visiting professor in Jerusalem and as a fellow in London. He also received grants from the American Cancer Society and the National Institutes of Health.

Gifford retired from UF as a professor emeritus in 1991.

He was preceded in death by his wife, June, and is survived by a son, Charles, a daughter, Sheryl, and grandchildren Kyle, Nicholas and Tiffany Byrne and their families. — *Lauren Edwards* 



*Come on Gators,
get up and go!*
Jan. 1, 1 p.m.

Florida Gators vs. Michigan Wolverines in the Capital One Bowl, Orlando. For ticket information, visit www.gatorzone.com.

Writing 101
Jan. 17, 4 p.m.

"Making a Mint at Medical Writing: Strategies for Ph.D. Students and PostDocs," a career development lecture by Emma Hitt, Ph.D., DeWeese Auditorium, Room LG-101A, McKnight Brain Institute. For more information, e-mail Wayne McCormack, Ph.D., at mccormac@pathology.ufl.edu.

The future of nursing
Jan. 17-18

"2020 Vision for the Future of Health Care," the 3rd Dorothy M. Smith Nursing Leadership Conference. UF Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex. For more information, visit <http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/nur/default.aspx?page=419>.

Explore Pharmacy
Jan. 17, 9 a.m.

UF College of Pharmacy Career Day 2008. Grand Ballroom, Reitz Union, UF. For more information e-mail Christy Popwell at popwell@cop.ufl.edu or call 352-273-6605.

Notes from the inside
Jan. 23, noon

"Lessons Learned at the NIH: What You Need To Know." A College of Dentistry Deans Seminar Series lecture by Dr. Bruce Pihlstrom. Dental Building, Room D8-46

For additional information and more **HSC events**, visit the HSC News calendar of events: www.news.health.ufl.edu/calendar.asp. To contribute to the calendar, e-mail Anney Doucette at anneyd@ufl.edu, or call 352-273-5772.

GIFT

Gift will promote drug discovery at UF

By Linda Homewood

An internationally recognized scientist and graduate research professor whose career in drug design and delivery spans 40 years is giving a \$600,000 gift to promote drug research at the UF College of Pharmacy. Dr. Nicholas Bodor, Ph.D., executive director of UF's Center for Drug Discovery, and his wife Sheryl, wish to create a professorship in drug discovery to continue the area of teaching and research that he enjoyed for nearly 25 years at UF's College of Pharmacy. The Bodors' gift will allow the college to apply for state matching funds that will result in something even bigger — a \$1 million endowment.

During his tenure at UF, Bodor supervised the training of more than 150 graduate students and postdoctoral associates.

"Today, my students are working in all parts of the world — including Europe, Asia and even Iceland," Bodor said. "It's like seeing your children grow and become successful in their own careers."

One former graduate student, Marcus Brewster, Ph.D., now a distinguished research fellow at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development in Belgium, recalls his professor's mentoring back in the 1980s at UF.

"I learned so much working with Dr. Bodor," Brewster said. "The science was the most important, but he provided

the full package for a future scientist, including how to present your work and influence people on your points of view. I learned networking, and how to problem-solve."

In 2000, Bodor took a leave of absence from his academic posts to accept a position as senior vice president of basic research and drug discovery at the IVAX Corporation. He served as chief scientific officer of the IVAX Corporation for four years.

Bodor's main research interests include design of drugs with improved therapeutic index, design of new chemical delivery systems, computer-assisted drug design, drug transport and metabolism, and theoretical and mechanistic organic chemistry. He has published more than 500 research articles, has more than 180 patents and serves on the editorial boards of several international scientific journals.

In 2004, Bodor was awarded the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic — the country's highest state honor. The following year, he received an honorary doctorate from UF. This November, Bodor accepted the Distinguished Pharmaceutical Scientist Award from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists. The AAPS research award recognizes researchers whose accomplishments influenced pharmaceutical sciences and technologies. **P**

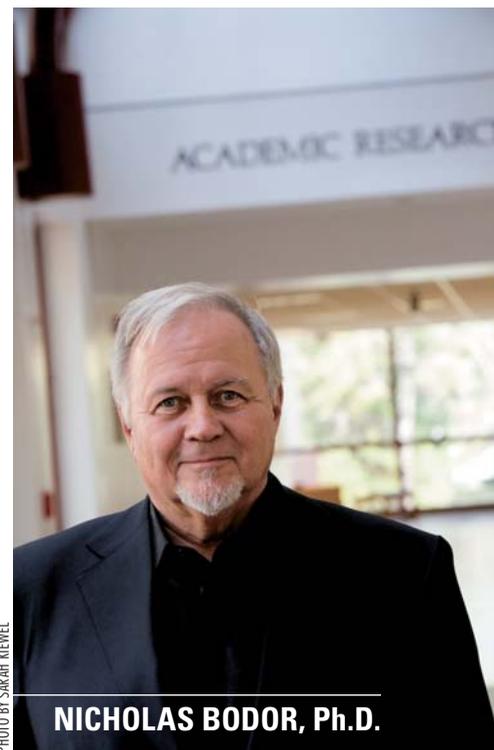


PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

NICHOLAS BODOR, Ph.D.



The scenic route

Christy Carter found her own path to success ... it just took awhile

PHOTO BY SARAH KIEVEL

Christy Carter and husband Drake Morgan, an assistant professor of psychiatry in the College of Medicine, met on their first day of graduate school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. They've since gone from being classmates to colleagues, often collaborating on similar research projects.

By Ann Griswold

If there's one thing Christy Carter, Ph.D., has learned, it's that you never know where you're headed. When she first walked the halls of Louisiana State University as a college freshman, she wanted to study medicine and become a neurosurgeon.

"My dad was so excited because he was thinking, 'OK, she's going to buy me a Porsche when she becomes a brain surgeon,'" recalled Carter, now an assistant professor of aging and geriatrics and the associate director of research for the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center.

So much has happened since then.

Carter eventually did surprise her father with a Porsche when he turned 50 ... but by then, her dream of becoming a neurosurgeon had become something of an inside joke. The virtual Porsche she sent was bright red and rolled smoothly into her father's inbox.

But if her choices elicited raised eyebrows at any point during her younger years, most would agree those decisions make perfect sense in hindsight.

"Memorizing stuff for the premed classes wasn't appealing," Carter said. "I was working to put myself through college and I had a car payment,

and I just didn't want to study anymore. I wanted to have fun."

So she dropped out of college and retreated about as far as one can retreat from the medical field, at least in Shreveport, La.: to an upscale fabric store, where Carter spent long days helping wealthy clientele select fabric for their spring wardrobes.

"It's really the best move I ever made because I had a lot of fun that year. I'd go out on weekends and sometimes during the week, because all I had to do was get up and work," she said. "It was nice not having that pressure."

But after a year, she'd had enough.

"I couldn't see myself working at a fabric store for the rest of my life," Carter says.

After trying her hand as a biology major at Northeast Louisiana State University and as an English major at Louisiana Tech University, she finally packed up and moved to Colorado, where she enrolled in college for the fourth time in three years, this time as a psychology major.

"The rest of the time during college, I was really focused — nose to the grindstone, studying all the time. I needed to make up for those bad grades I'd gotten. But for me, (settling down) was a relief; it was actually pushing me forward."

Her early experiences taught her to keep one eye on the path ahead and to take a step back every now and then to make sure she was still headed in the right direction.

"Sometimes I didn't like where I was going and I needed to come up with a new path that would make me happy," she says. "A huge part is just being in a particular place at a particular time. You have to take advantage of opportunities that come your way, and those don't just happen every day."

Today, Carter says she's pleased with where her decisions have led her, although the path often seemed daunting and unpredictable. Now a researcher who studies aging, she seeks to understand why even the most physically fit people lose muscle and gain fat as they age. She still gets to perform brain surgery, but for now she's restricted to operating on rats.

"I wouldn't have imagined myself in this position, even 10 years ago," Carter says.

Maybe not, but according to her long-term mentor Marco Pahor, Ph.D., the director of UF's Institute on Aging, Carter is a perfect fit for the job.

"Dr. Carter's enthusiasm and passion for research impressed me the first time she interviewed in September 1999 for a postdoc position at the Sticht Center on Aging at Wake Forest University," Pahor said. "Since then she has continued to pursue her keen interests in scientific discovery with zest and wit. I am extremely proud of her achievements." 



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

UF Master of Public Health students Cuc Tran and Carmen Glotfelty won the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of HIV/AIDS Condom Art Competition held in honor of World AIDS Day. The contest was open to all Florida colleges and universities. Each participating school was given 2,000 condoms, and students were required to use all of them in their art projects. UF's winning entry, "United We Test," depicts Albert and Alberta getting tested for HIV. The umbrella they are holding signifies protection.



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Staff members from the College of Dentistry and HSC said goodbye to one of their favorite coworkers in November when Lindy McCollum-Brounley (center), director of communications for the college, left for a position at the UF College of Law. Posing for this shot with Brounley are (from left) Emel Ozdora, Tom Fortner, Catherine Jenkins and Dr. Teresa Dolan.



PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

The College of Nursing gets festive for the holidays by adorning a Santa Claus hat atop the bust of founding Dean Dorothy M. Smith.

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