

INVASION

The bacteria we hate
(and love)



UF Health Science Center
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

Global
Gators

6

Mind meets
machine

9

HSC Honor
Roll

15

On the Cover

Many bacteria flourish in the heat and humidity of a Florida summer. Should you worry? That depends on the bacterium. This month, writer Ann Griswold spoke with UF microbiology and infectious disease experts about the good, the bad and the ugly in the world of bacteria.

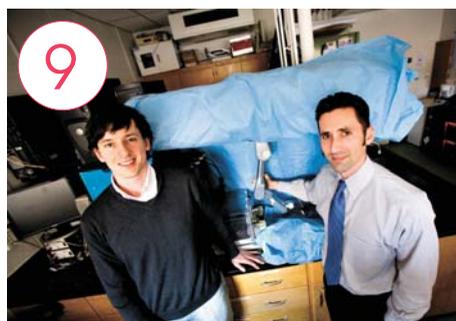


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UP FRONT

A promising partnership

UF joins German company to test prostate cancer vaccine

UF College of Medicine researchers are teaming with the German biopharmaceutical company CureVac to test an experimental therapy for advanced prostate cancer patients who no longer respond to traditional treatment. UF and CureVac leaders announced the collaboration in June at the UF Cancer & Genetics Research Complex (right). CureVac, which specializes in the therapeutic application of messenger RNA, is developing a stabilized mRNA-derived vaccine for treatment of prostate cancer. UF urology researchers will conduct clinical trials in American patients with metastatic prostate cancer who no longer respond to hormone therapy beginning in 2009. "Several studies support the therapeutic potential of mRNA for the treatment of cancer," said Johannes Vieweg, M.D., a professor and chairman of UF's department of urology who is a member of CureVac's scientific advisory board. "This, however, will be the first clinical trial in the U.S. to use the direct application route by injecting modified mRNA into the skin." — *Melissa M. Thompson*



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL



ART NOW, SANDWICHES LATER

In June, the temporary wall by the Shands at UF cafeteria became an art project for Luis Fuentes Jr., 6, (left). Volunteers from the Shands Arts in Medicine program recruited Fuentes and other children and adults waiting in the hospital to help them paint the wall, which shields the public from remodeling efforts under way in the hospital's food court. Workers are turning the former Hovan site into a Subway restaurant. The new Subway is expected to open in August. For now, check out the art. A highlight? Two words: winged broccoli. Photo by Sarah Kiewel

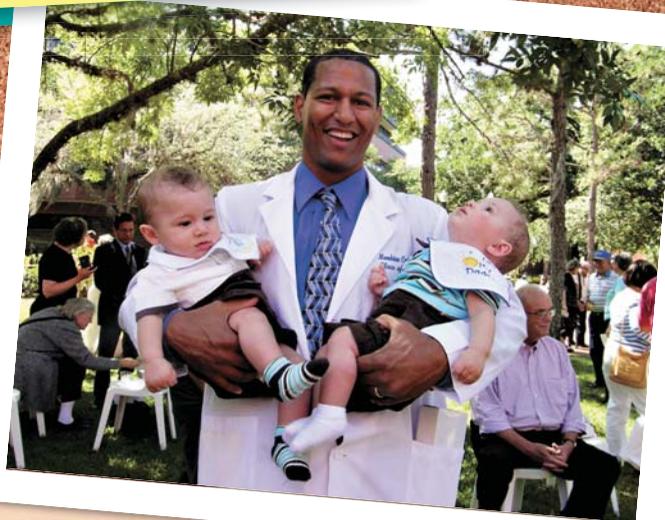
GIVE A LITTLE BIT

Budget cuts, rising gas prices and other economic crises have made times tough financially for many of us. But for the folks in Iowa, where severe flooding has washed away some towns, and for people in China's Sichuan province, where a May earthquake killed thousands, times are even tougher. Here are a couple ways you can help: UF's Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars has set up an account to aid rebuilding efforts in China. Visit www.ufsa.ufl.edu/news/cheq for details on how to donate. To help Iowans or aid in other disasters, visit the American Red Cross at www.redcross.org.



CELEBRATION TIMES TWO

UF College of Veterinary Medicine student Mondrian Contreras celebrates with his twin sons, Matisse (left) and Thomas, after he and classmates took part in the college's annual coating ceremony in May. Similar to several other UF health colleges, the veterinary school gives each outgoing sophomore a white coat to mark the transition to their junior year when the focus of their days switches from the classroom to the clinic. Photo by Sarah Carey



HEY, BIG LOSER!

Cavities aren't the only foe in the College of Dentistry these days. Staff members are taking on fat, too. In June, employees started a 12-week weight-loss challenge, competing against each other in teams. And it's working. So far, participants have lost a total of 200 pounds. It's not a pound-for-pound challenge, though. The "biggest loser" will be determined according to the percentage of body weight lost. The 65 participants each paid \$10 to enter the challenge. In the end, the individual biggest loser will receive 25 percent of the money collected, and the team that lost the most weight will receive 75 percent.

Not stepping down ... yet

Barrett to stay on as VP during search

DOUG BARRETT, M.D.



By Tom Fortner

Douglas J. Barrett, M.D., will stay on as UF's senior vice president of health affairs while the search for his successor is conducted. UF President Bernie Machen made the announcement at a board of trustees meeting June 13.

Barrett had been scheduled to step down June 30 and return to full-time service as a pediatrics faculty member in the College of Medicine. Machen asked Barrett to delay his plans until the search for a new senior vice president is completed or until June 30, 2009, whichever comes first.

Barrett said the change in plans is primarily due to the recent transition to interim leadership in the UF College of Medicine and related issues within the Health Science Center.

In addition to supporting interim medical dean Michael Good, M.D., Barrett is focused on advancing the recently announced partnership with the Moffitt Cancer Center and assisting Machen with adjustments to the roles of the university provost and the senior vice president for health affairs.

Barrett, who has held his current position for six years, announced his intention to resign March 14.

It's all Good

UF appoints interim dean for College of Medicine

By Tom Fortner

A 20-year veteran of the UF faculty who co-invented the Human Patient Simulator and served as chief of staff at Shands at UF has been named interim dean of the UF College of Medicine.

Michael L. Good, M.D., the college's senior associate dean for clinical affairs, was named interim dean in June after serving as acting dean since May 22.

Douglas J. Barrett, M.D., UF's senior vice president for health affairs, made the appointment after consulting with medical faculty members and UF President Bernie Machen.

"Mike is a proven leader who enjoys the respect and support of the faculty," Barrett said. "While he certainly has the experience to take on this assignment, he also has a personal management style that people respond to positively."

A professor of anesthesiology at UF who joined the faculty in 1988, Good, 48, is a Michigan native and a graduate of the University of Michigan and the UM School of Medicine. He completed his residency and a fellowship in anesthesiology at UF.

During his residency and later as a faculty member, Good teamed with UF colleagues to invent the Human Patient Simulator, a sophisticated computerized teaching tool that is now used in health-care education programs throughout the world.

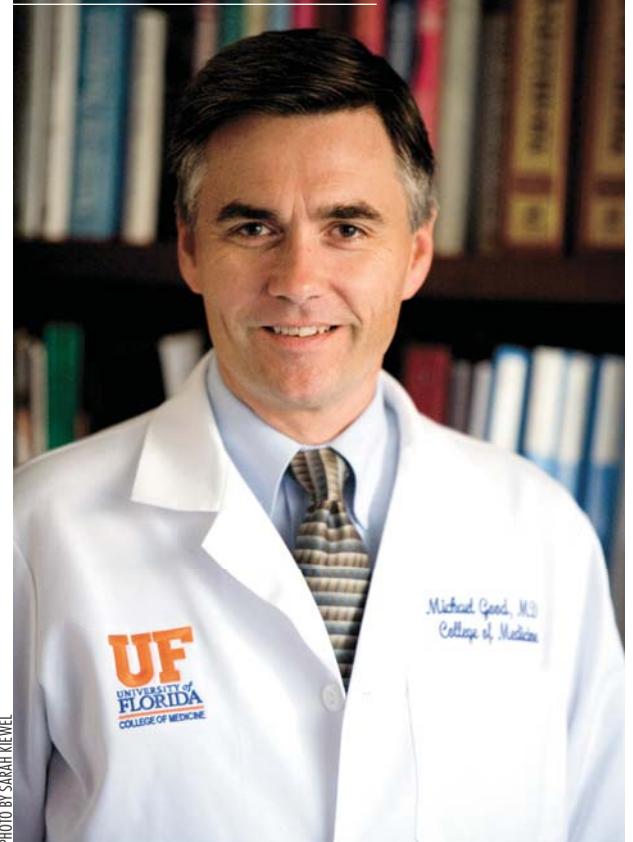
In 1994, Good became chief of anesthesiology at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Gainesville and two years later was named chief of staff at the VA. He returned to the Shands at UF medical staff in 2003 and in 2004 was appointed senior associate dean for VA affiliations. He became senior associate dean for clinical affairs in 2005.

Among other duties, Good has been responsible for implementing the College of Medicine's new quality and patient safety initiative and one of its chief components, an electronic patient medical record. Barrett said it will be important for Good and the college to maintain momentum on this and other crucial initiatives in the months ahead.

Good's assignment will also include filling several open chair positions for which searches are currently under way, as well as associate dean positions for the education and research programs.

"I look forward to working with the college's exceptional group of department chairs to ensure that our faculty and staff are supported in their work," Good said. "It's because of their efforts that patients seek out our medical services, the best and brightest students come here for their professional education, and the world looks to us for discoveries to cure disease and improve health." **P**

MICHAEL GOOD, M.D.



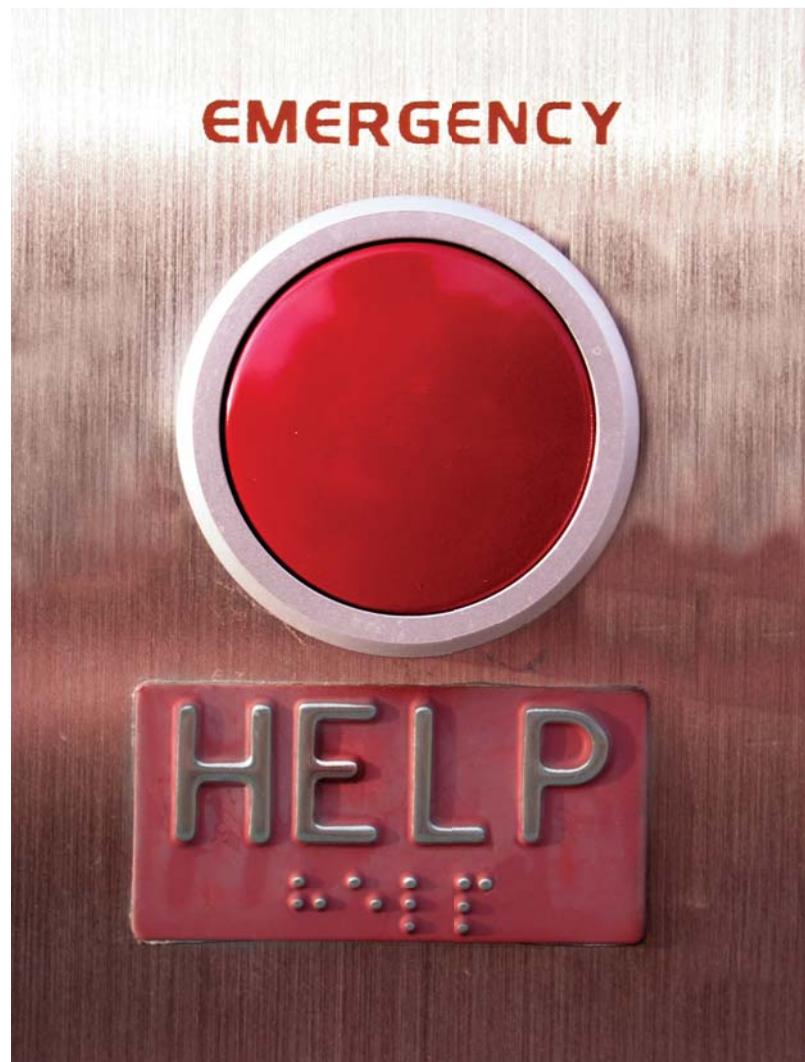
PLAYING IT SAFE

By Lauren Edwards

If you spend any time at the Health Science Center, chances are you know what a 24-hour operation it is. Doctors, nurses, students, patients and staff come and go at all hours, making safety an important concern.

During 2007, the University Police Department reported more than 240 thefts from buildings on the UF campus, and, though that number might seem small, staying safe takes work. That's why UF security officials are stressing the importance of being aware of your surroundings so you don't become a victim.

Dennis Hines, the HSC's assistant director of medical and health administration, says "being proactive" is key to keeping the HSC as safe as possible. Listed below are some of the security services the HSC offers, along with a few useful tips to help keep yourself — and your property — safe.



SERVICES:

ESCORT SERVICES

An after-hours escort service (from 6:30 p.m. until 7 a.m.) is offered at the East and West garages near the HSC. If you do not see an escort immediately, use the garage phone to arrange for someone to meet and walk with you. You can even call ahead! Call 265-0109. Also, remember that there are emergency phones located in or near the garages. Familiarize yourself with their locations in case of emergency.

SHANDS VAN

The van runs until midnight and is typically for those who park farther away from the HSC. At night, routes are condensed and the van will drop you off next to your car.

POLICE SERVICE TECHNICIANS

Can serve as "walking escorts" 24/7 to the garages and lots adjacent to the HSC. PST vehicle patrols are also available from 6:30 p.m. until 3 a.m. to drive you anywhere on campus. Call 392-1111.

THEFT: WAYS TO PROTECT YOURSELF.

Theft happens, even at the HSC. Here are some ways to hold on to your belongings.

- Don't bring it if you don't need it.
- Lock your office or desk when not there. "Crime is the result of opportunity," says UPD Officer Cilitia Brown.
- Don't talk about valuables or money you may have with you.
- Question unfamiliar people in work areas, especially those without an I.D. badge. If you feel uncomfortable, call UPD at 392-1111 or Shands security at 265-0109 (non-emergency) or 265-0911 (emergency line.)

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

BE PATIENT.

We must all do our part to keep ourselves safe, even if that means waiting a few extra minutes for an escort. "Take responsibility for your own safety, security and well-being," says Kurt Vahle, manager of Shands security.

PLAN AHEAD.

"When possible, try to plan your trips to and from the HSC ahead of time," UPD Capt. Eric Rice says.

BE AWARE.

Keep your eyes open and report anyone or anything that looks suspicious.

BUDDY UP.

Vahle says 98 percent of assaults happen to people who are alone, so walk with a co-worker.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES:

UPD COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

For more information on its programs, please visit <http://www.police.ufl.edu/csd/csad.asp>.

SECURITY COMMITTEE AT THE HSC

Chaired by Rice, the meetings are open to the public and occur at 10 a.m. the third Tuesday of every month in Room H-4.

For additional questions, please call UPD Capt. Eric Rice at 846-3852 or Kurt Vahle of Shands Security at 265-0070. 

One smile at a time

UF plastic surgeons perform reconstructive surgeries in Honduras



Plastic surgeons perform a reconstructive surgery during a recent humanitarian trip to Honduras.

By Melissa M. Thompson

M. Brent Seagle, M.D., has enhanced the human form at UF for more than two decades, but he really loves to build smiles.

In March, the UF chief of plastic surgery led 20 medical professionals to San Pedro Sula, Honduras, where the team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and a pediatrician operated on more than 50 patients with disfiguring congenital birth defects such as cleft lips and palates, helping some of them smile normally for the first time in their lives.

“I can tell you the reaction of parents can bring a tear to your eye,” Seagle said. “That’s probably part of what charges everybody up about it.”

The South Florida-based group Interplast South organized the weeklong humanitarian trip to Honduras, a place the group has been aiding since the 1970s. Few plastic surgeons practice in the country, leaving patients without resources for corrective or reconstructive surgeries, said Seagle.

Seagle hopes to organize regular trips to San Pedro Sula and invite UF residents to join him.

Wayne Lee, M.D., the only senior plastic surgery fellow from UF to participate in this year’s trip, learned to expect the unexpected while operating in a foreign country. On the first day of surgery, rolling power outages hindered the number of operations physicians could perform.

“Most places in America have backup generators but not at this hospital,” Lee said. “Luckily, we had brought some battery-operated headlights so we were able to finish the surgeries we started.”

Physicians set up shop in a hospital that, from the outside, resembled a run-down, stucco carriage house. A one-room surgical ward housed recovering patients while the adjoining operating suite provided two operating rooms, a recovery room and support spaces.

In the clinic, physicians examined nearly 100 patients who came from miles away by bus or on foot to have their surgeries.

This type of reconstructive surgery is standard in America. Children receive government-funded cleft lip surgeries as early as 3 months and palate operations at age 1.

“The kids who live down there would have lived with the stigma of having a cleft lip or palate for much longer than kids in America,” Lee said.

Many parents cried when they saw their children’s faces after the operation, Lee said.

“It reminded me of how rewarding medicine can be,” he said. “Sometimes we get so jaded by malpractice and liability that some (physicians) forget this is why we got into medicine.” **P**



Fantastic voyage

HSC students travel to countries such as Mexico, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic each year to help people who need care. Here, Lindsey Willis, a UF audiology student shows a boy how to signal that he hears a beep during his hearing test while fellow student Jason Schmitt looks on. Audiology students and faculty, along with a pharmacist and UF pharmacy student, made their fifth annual trip to Yucatan, Mexico to provide hearing health care to children and families in rural Mayan villages. On their trip to provide dental care to people in Costa Rica, UF dental students and faculty members pause to take a photo in front of the Arenal volcano. For more photos from this year’s international trips, visit www.news.health.ufl.edu and click on the featured slideshow.



Planting a seed

Private gift helps Guatemalan program sprout



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN CAMPBELL

UF researchers Allan Burns (from left) and Dr. Alba Amaya-Burns are starting a program to help cut infectious disease and maternal mortality rates in Guatemala. UF received a \$50,000 gift from donor Scott Adams to fund the work.

By Jill Pease

Sometimes all a great idea needs is a little seed money to help it grow into something big.

That's the hope of Scott Adams, who recently made a \$50,000 gift to UF to start an infectious disease prevention program in Guatemala. The funding has allowed UF professors Alba Amaya-Burns, M.D., and Allan Burns, Ph.D., to lay the groundwork for a program that seeks to cut infectious disease and maternal mortality rates among Guatemala's disadvantaged populations.

Adams knows the importance of nurturing innovative ideas. In 1995, he co-founded and served as president of Hiway Technologies Inc., which became the world's largest Web hosting company before being acquired by Verio in 1999.

Adams has several philanthropic interests, but as the son of a Guatemala native, the country holds a special place in his heart. A meeting last year with the Burnses — a husband and wife team — started the wheels turning on a project to address Guatemala's serious health issues while using a culturally sensitive approach. More than 60 percent of Guatemala's population is composed of indigenous Mayans who speak one of two dozen Mayan languages.

"To help people, you need hard work, integrity, values and to roll your sleeves up and understand the culture," Adams said. "That's what impressed me about the Burnses."

Alba Amaya-Burns, a clinical associate professor in the College of Public Health and Health Professions' department of behavioral science and community health and a former infectious disease manager specialist with the US Agency for International Development, helped implement a highly successful tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS prevention program in her home country of El Salvador. Allan Burns, a professor of anthropology and associate dean for faculty affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, is an expert in Mayan culture, a board member of the Universidad del Valle in Guatemala City and president of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

With Adams' financial support, the Burnses, along with anthropology and public health graduate students and Nabih Asal, Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology and biostatistics, have visited Guatemala twice to make assessments and develop partnerships with the country's Ministry of Health, international health agencies, non-government organizations and regional and local officials. The UF group plans to focus its initial efforts on the Izabal region, a remote area with high rates of maternal mortality and multidrug-resistant TB and HIV/AIDS, as well as several environmental and cultural barriers to health care.

"Treatment for multidrug-resistant TB requires 18 months in a Guatemala City hospital, which takes Mayan villagers far from their families to a place where they don't speak the language — Spanish — and they are unaccustomed to the culture," Amaya-Burns said. "So these patients may leave the hospital without finishing their treatment, which means they could spread the multidrug-resistant strain of TB to others or their own illness could develop into extreme drug-resistant TB, which is currently untreatable."

The UF team envisions a culturally friendly treatment facility in the Izabal region that would have some of the comforts of home. They also want to establish a community organization to control TB and HIV/AIDS, increase detection, reduce stigma and promote treatment.

Adams accompanied the UF group on a trip to Guatemala in February and was struck by the possibilities for using new technology to improve the country's weak public health surveillance system, which suffers from a lack of training and resources.

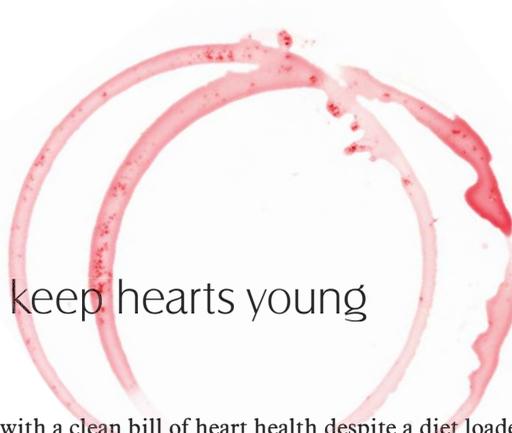
"We saw that disease reports were written down on pieces of paper or not written down at all," Adams said. "So the epidemiological data didn't get into a centralized system. But new wireless technology could tie all the health departments together into one system and new computers designed for a hardened environment can withstand the humidity and power fluctuations."

These ideas and more are part of proposals the UF team is developing to request additional funding from several international agencies.

"I gave the gift because I wanted to help this program get off the ground in the hope that the work will create a successful model for infectious disease prevention that could be used all over Central America and in developing countries around the world," Adams said. **P**

Red, red wine

Substance in red wine found to keep hearts young



By Ann Griswold

How do the French get away with a clean bill of heart health despite a diet loaded with saturated fats? Scientists have long suspected the answer to the so-called “French paradox” lies in red wine. Now, the results of a new study bring them closer to understanding why. Reporting in the journal *Public Library of Science (PLOS) ONE* in June, UF and University of Wisconsin-Madison researchers discovered that low doses of resveratrol — a natural constituent of grapes, pomegranates, red wine and other foods — can potentially boost the quality of life by improving heart health in old age.

The scientists included small amounts of resveratrol in the diets of middle-aged mice and found that the compound has a widespread influence on the genetic causes of aging. Specifically, the researchers found that low doses of resveratrol mimic the heart-healthy effects of what is known as caloric restriction, diets with 20 to 30 percent fewer calories than a typical diet. The new study is important because it suggests that resveratrol and caloric restriction, which has been widely studied in animals from spiders to humans, may govern the same master genetic pathways related to aging.

CHRISTIAAN LEEUWENBURGH, PH.D. “Caloric restriction is highly effective in extending life in many species. If you provide species with less food, the regulated cellular stress response of this healthy habit actually makes them live longer,” said study author Christiaan Leeuwenburgh, Ph.D., chief of the division of biology of aging at UF’s Institute on Aging and a professor of aging and geriatrics in the College of Medicine. “In this study, the effects of low doses of resveratrol (on genes) were comparable to caloric restriction, the hallmark for life extension.”

Resveratrol is currently sold over-the-counter as a nutritional supplement with supposed anti-cancer, anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and anti-aging benefits, although few scientific studies have verified these claims in humans. That may soon change: UF researchers hope to explore the effects of resveratrol on older people in a phase 1 clinical trial, set to begin this summer. **P**

GRANTS

Game on, Grandma!

Researchers to test whether video games improve seniors’ mental functioning

By Jill Pease

Move over, kids. You might need to make room on that couch for grandma and grandpa, as seniors gear up to join the video game craze.

UF researchers have received a \$100,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to explore whether interactive digital games can enhance the mental abilities of older adults. UF joins 11 other research teams supported in this first round of funding from Health Games Research, an RWJF program established to strengthen the evidence base related to the development and use of games to achieve desirable health outcomes.

Scientists in UF’s College of Public Health and Health Professions will study off-the-shelf video games to see whether older adults who play them can improve their mental functioning. The study will examine the effects of a popular action-adventure driving game on older adults’ ability to process visual information. While there has been a growing body of studies examining the positive effects of video games, the UF study is innovative because of its focus on the mental benefits of games, and because the target population is seniors, said Patricia Belchior, Ph.D., the study’s lead investigator.

“This study is based on pilot work we have conducted, as well as the work of others, that has shown that playing action video games, even for as little as 10 hours in total, can significantly improve visual attention and provide positive mental benefits for adults aged 65 and older,” said Belchior, a postdoctoral fellow in the department of occupational therapy.

The UF research team also includes co-principal investigator Michael Marsiske, Ph.D., an associate professor of clinical and health psychology, and co-investigator



Under the watchful eye of a UF undergraduate research assistant, older adults practice playing video games in a pilot study of the effects of the games on seniors’ mental functioning.

William Mann, Ph.D., a professor and chair of occupational therapy.

“There have now been several decades of positive findings regarding cognitive training in later life,” Marsiske said. “Our laboratory-based training studies have shown large improvements for older adults, with positive effects lasting as long as five years. However, we have often been unable to answer seniors’ questions about what they can do at home, to initiate their own mental exercise programs.”

The study will track changes in video game skill among players and will investigate whether extended play improves visual attention and functional activities of daily life, including simulated driving.

Another potential side benefit of the study is “fun,” Belchior said.

“In contrast to other training approaches, our preliminary work told us that older participants simply enjoyed playing these games more than laboratory-based mental training, and this enjoyment may help keep participants motivated to continue exercising mentally.” **P**



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

UF researchers Jack DiGiovanna (left) and Justin C. Sanchez worked with colleagues to develop and test a brain-machine interface system that adapts to changes in brain patterns over time.

When mind *meets* machine

Researchers develop neural implant that can learn with the brain

By April Frawley Birdwell

Devices known as brain-machine interfaces could someday be used routinely to help paralyzed patients and amputees control prosthetic limbs with just their thoughts. As futuristic as that sounds, UF researchers have taken the concept a step further, devising a way for computerized devices not only to translate brain signals into movement but also to evolve with the brain as it learns.

Instead of simply interpreting brain signals and routing them to a robotic hand or leg, this type of brain-machine interface would adapt to a person's behavior and use the knowledge to help complete a task more efficiently, say UF College of Medicine and College of Engineering researchers who developed a model system and tested it in rats.

Until now, brain-machine interfaces have been designed as one-way conversations between the brain and a computer, with the brain doing all the talking and the computer following commands. The system UF engineers created gives the computer a say in that conversation, according to findings published in the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers journal *IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering*.

"This idea opens up all kinds of possibilities for how we interact with devices," said Justin C. Sanchez, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of pediatric neurology and the study's senior author. "It's not just about giving instructions but about those devices assisting us in a common goal. You know the goal, the computer knows the goal and you work together to solve the task."

Scientists at UF and other institutions have been studying brain-machine interfaces for years, developing and testing variations of the technology with the goal of creating implantable, computer-chip-sized devices capable of controlling limbs or treating diseases.

The devices are programmed with complex algorithms that interpret thoughts. But the algorithms, or code, used in current brain-machine interfaces don't adapt to change, Sanchez said.

"We learn throughout our lives and come into different scenarios, so you need to develop a paradigm that allows interaction and growth," he said.

To develop and test this concept, Sanchez collaborated with engineering professors Jose Principe, Ph.D., and Jose Fortes, Ph.D., and engineering doctoral students Babak Mahmoudi and Jack DiGiovanna, the study's lead author.

The system the researchers developed is based on goals and rewards, Sanchez said.

Fitted with tiny electrodes in their brains to capture signals for the computer to unravel, three rats were taught to move a robotic arm toward a target with just their thoughts. Each time they succeeded, the rats were rewarded with a drop of water.

The computer had a goal, too — to earn as many points as possible, Sanchez said. The closer a rat moved the arm to the target, the more points the computer received, giving it incentive to determine which brain signals lead to the most rewards.

"We think this dialogue with a goal is how we can make these systems evolve over time," Sanchez said. "We want these devices to grow with the user." **P**



RESEARCH SNAPSHOTS

Revisiting development

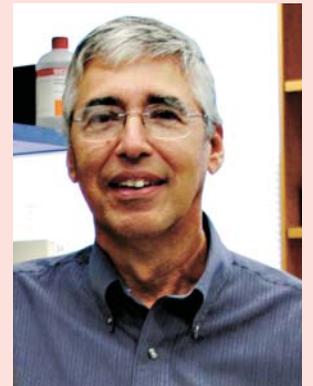
Researchers studying embryonic stem cells have explored the first fork in the developmental road, getting a new look at what happens when fertilized eggs differentiate to build either an embryo or a placenta. Writing in the journal *Nature Genetics*, UF neuroscientist Chi-Wei Lu, Ph.D., and Harvard researchers reveal a cellular signaling mechanism that causes embryonic stem cells to switch gears and form a placenta.



CHI-WEI LU, PH.D.

Reviving leptin

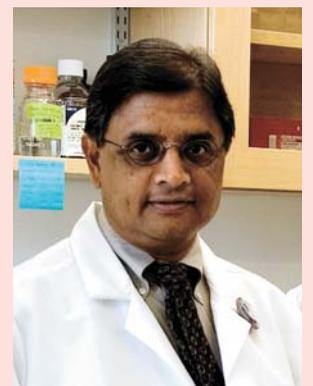
Once heralded as a promising obesity treatment, the hormone leptin lost its fat-fighting luster when scientists discovered overweight patients were resistant to its effects. But pairing leptin with just a minor amount of exercise seems to revive the hormone's ability to fight fat again, UF researcher Philip Scarpance, Ph.D., reports in *Diabetes*. The combination of leptin and a modest dose of wheel running prevented obese rats on a high-fat diet from gaining weight, even though neither tactic worked alone.



PHILIP SCARPANCE, PH.D.

Revamped vector

Replacing one amino acid on the surface of a virus that shepherds corrective genes into cells could be the breakthrough scientists have needed to make gene therapy a more viable option for treating genetic diseases such as hemophilia. Reporting in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in May, UF geneticists led by Arun Srivastava, Ph.D., say they have developed a new version of the adeno-associated virus used in gene therapy that works about 30 times more efficiently in mice than vectors scientists currently rely on.



ARUN SRIVASTAVA, PH.D.

A vaccine for AIDS?

This grant could bring U.S. researchers closer to developing one



MAUREEN M. GOODENOW, PH.D.

By Melanie Fridl Ross

UF AIDS researcher Maureen M. Goodenow, Ph.D., has been awarded a \$400,000 two-year developmental grant through a new federal program that aims to find ways to outsmart HIV by stimulating the immune system to produce protective antibodies that could neutralize the virus.

The \$15.6 million, five-year multicenter research effort is sponsored by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, part of the National Institutes of Health. Officials say it will strengthen and expand the scientific foundation of HIV vaccine research through a network of 10 research teams that will share resources, methods and data to accelerate progress.

The program will focus on B cells, which the immune system relies on to recognize key parts of microbes, called antigens. T cells, which kill cells infected by pathogens, spur B cells to produce antibodies, which can lock onto antigens and sweep them from the body.

But HIV can fool B cells, shielding itself from antibodies or changing its antigenic parts, so

antibodies can rarely rid the body of the virus.

Goodenow, the Stephany W. Holloway university chair for AIDS research at UF's College of Medicine and director of the Florida Center for AIDS Research, will lead basic immunology studies of B cells using innovative methods and will seek to identify subsets of these cells that produce antibodies capable of targeting various strains of HIV. She is collaborating with Li Yin, Ph.D., a UF assistant professor of pathology, Connie J. Mulligan, Ph.D., a UF professor of anthropology, and John Sleasman, M.D., a professor of pediatrics at the University of South Florida and All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg.

"The results will provide major advancements in understanding the immune response to HIV and will form a basis for developing novel vaccine strategies to induce an effective anti-HIV response," Goodenow said. **P**



Shelter medicine gets boost from grant

By Sarah Carey

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine has received a \$1.7 million grant to create a comprehensive shelter medicine program that will enhance support for local animal rescue operations, improve disease control and adoption rates among shelter animals and expand professional training to fill the current shortage of skilled providers in this area.

The three-year grant from Maddie's Fund, a national pet-rescue foundation, will establish the Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF and will build upon UF's existing shelter medicine program. Through that program, which was created in 2003, veterinary students gain clinical experience by providing spay/neuter surgeries to animals awaiting adoption at the local animal shelter.

"This is a transitional time for the animal welfare field as growing demand for animal-friendly solutions is challenging traditional sheltering paradigms," said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., who was a co-investigator on the grant and who will become the Maddie's professor of shelter medicine at UF.

"There is an international desire to shift from a reactive animal control model in which massive numbers of animals are processed through shelters with an overall high euthanasia rate to one in which proactive preventive measures reduce shelter admissions with individualized programs tailored to different types of animals to result in higher save rates," Levy added.

The college's existing shelter medicine program was founded by Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., UF's Merial clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine, and has grown in popularity among veterinary students in recent years.

UF scientist Cynda Crawford, D.V.M., Ph.D., will become the Maddie's clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine. A co-discoverer of the canine influenza virus, Crawford will work closely with Isaza and Levy to implement additional clinical and educational programs aimed at educating not only veterinary students but also technicians and others associated with shelter efforts.

Existing partnerships with Alachua County and local animal rescue groups will also be enhanced through the new grant. **P**



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

Dr. Natalie Isaza, the Merial clinical professor of shelter medicine at UF, checks on shelter animals being treated through UF's shelter medicine program.



A grad with a plan

Megan Briggs uses 'Army brat' experiences to shape career in occupational therapy

By Jill Pease

It was graduation day, and Megan Briggs' parents were bursting with pride.

They watched as Megan graduated summa cum laude from the College of Public Health and Health Professions' bachelor's in health science program and received the dean's undergraduate scholar award, one of the college's highest student honors.

Joined by a dozen extended family members also in attendance, Brenda and Steve Briggs had made a rare visit to the United States from their home in Garmisch, Germany for their daughter's big day.

"We are extremely proud, but not surprised by Megan's success," said U.S. Army Col. Steve Briggs, a director at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Germany. "She has always been able to balance her work and recreational activities. If you think of a person being made of several parts, like the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional, Megan has been able to find that sweet spot where she balances it all."

Megan's unique childhood experiences as the daughter of a U.S. Army colonel also may have played a role in her college achievements.

"Our family moved 10 times," Megan said. "I went to three high schools before graduating from Heidelberg American High School, but looking back, I wouldn't have changed anything. I met great people and had amazing experiences."

Megan believes the outgoing nature she developed to break the ice in new situations helped her make friends easily her freshman year at UF. But there were also some tough moments growing up. Steve was deployed during the first Gulf War when Megan was 6, and he served in Bosnia during Megan's entire junior year of high school.

"I didn't want to turn on the TV and see the news," she said.

Megan, who recently began the college's master's in occupational therapy program, started preparing for her career while she was in high school. A guest lecture at her school by an occupational therapist piqued Megan's interest in the field. She volunteered at Heidelberg Army Hospital's occupational therapy clinic to learn more.

"We had soldiers coming in who had been wounded in Iraq," Megan said. "I was exposed to some pretty serious stuff at a young age. But I was fortunate to know what I wanted to do when I started college."

As an undergraduate, Megan earned the opportunity to participate in the honors program, which requires students to complete a research project and write a thesis. Megan jumped at the chance to do her research at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where she worked under the direction of Michelle Woodbury, Ph.D., a research assistant professor in



PHOTO BY GREG WESTIVE

Megan Briggs (seated) and her parents, Col. Steve Briggs and Brenda Briggs (center behind Megan), toured the VA Rehabilitation Center during the Briggs' recent visit from Germany to celebrate Megan's graduation. Also shown here are PHHP student and lab volunteer Chelsea Stanley (from left), her boyfriend (and former Gator basketball star) Lee Humphrey, physical therapist Carolyn Hanson, associate investigator Michelle Woodbury and research physical therapist Sandy Davis.

PHHP's department of occupational therapy and an investigator in the VA Brain Rehabilitation Research Center.

There, researchers are studying constraint-induced movement therapy, which requires patients who have experienced a stroke to wear a hand mitt on the side of their bodies not affected by the stroke, forcing them to use their weaker hand to complete activities.

"Megan's results suggest an interaction between quantitative and qualitative measurements of arm recovery, important findings to help inform clinical rehabilitation practice," Woodbury said. "We are in the process of editing her thesis for publication and preparing her abstract for submission as a poster presentation at next year's American Occupational Therapy Association national conference."

Although she has proved to be a natural at research, Megan plans to do clinical work at a military hospital when she completes her master's degree.

"I've always had a soft spot in my heart for people who serve our country," she said. **P**



Our day at the beach!

Longest flight ever!

Hitched a ride to the pool

BY ANN GRISWOLD

THE BUGS OF SUMMER

SCARED OF BACTERIA? WE HAVE THE SCOOP ON YOUR MICROBIAL FRIENDS AND FOES



Take a moment to gaze at your reflection in the mirror. What do you see? The surface of your skin? The inside of your mouth? Take a closer look: Believe it or not, bacteria outnumber human cells 10 to one.

Where do they come from? Some hop on board during the birthing process. Others enter the mouth during infancy, when babies breastfeed and fend off kisses from Aunt Mildred. Many more are acquired from food and drink over the years.

But before you try to scour the 90 trillion or so bugs from your body, relax ... for the most part, there's nothing to fear. As disturbing as it sounds, bacteria make our bodies work. Sure, we could do without the body odor or stale morning breath our microbial guests leave behind, but we wouldn't necessarily want to live without bugs such as Lactobacilli, which stop yeast from infecting the female genital tract, or the intestine-dwelling bacteria that fend off the pathogens humans ingest.

"Americans tend to have an irrational fear of bacteria everywhere," says Paul Gulig, Ph.D., a professor of molecular genetics and microbiology in the College of Medicine.

That's ironic, considering that "many, if

not most, of the infectious diseases you become infected with are caused by microorganisms that you carry around with you all the time," says J. Glenn Morris, M.D., M.P.H., director of UF's Emerging Pathogens Institute.

For the most part, these bugs keep us healthy. But when they appear in the wrong place at the wrong time, illness can strike. Many women have experienced the painful burn of a urinary tract infection when E. coli takes a wrong turn up the urethra, and it's no news that Staph loves to cause skin infections.

"We're surrounded by this cloud of bacteria," Morris says. "Our body is built with a variety of defense mechanisms that keep those bacteria out and safely removed from where they're going to do harm. But if there are breakdowns in the body's defense mechanisms, those bacteria can get their revenge and infect us."

And revenge is apparently a dish best served warm, at least for bacteria, which tend to thrive in the summer months. That's why in this issue, the POST is taking a look at some of the top places bacteria lurk. So before you hit the beach or down those raw oysters this summer, you may want to check out the following words of advice UF experts had about our bacterial friends (and frenemies).

HAZARD NO. 1: THE BEACH

Sharks aren't the only things to worry about off Florida's Gulf Coast. Almost all oysters there are infected with a flesh-eating pathogen called *Vibrio vulnificus*. The good news? Fewer than 50 infections are reported each year. The bad news? Half those patients die within hours.

Even if you don't eat oysters, walking barefoot over oyster beds isn't a good idea either. A small cut can rapidly progress into a fulminating leg infection. Often, amputation is the best treatment.

Still, one of the biggest enigmas in the field is why so few people — mostly those with compromised immune systems — become infected, while most do not.

"Why can such a terrible, rapid, destructive disease process occur so rarely when so many people, particularly immunocompromised people, are exposed to the bacteria?" Gulig asks.

Gulig's group was among the first to show that some strains of the bacteria cause rapid and debilitating disease, while others aren't quite as threatening. This year, they plan to compare the genetics of the two strains to home in on genes important for causing disease.

HAZARD No. 2: THE COOKOUT

Unless you've been living in a cave, you've probably heard about the recent outbreak of illness associated with tomatoes. Researchers aren't sure whether tomatoes were actually to blame, but they do know what stowaway bacterium caused all the trouble: Salmonella, a foodborne pathogen that causes gastrointestinal distress.

"There is a striking increase in the amount of foodborne disease during the summer months," Morris says. "It's more difficult to follow the standard food-safety recommendations as far as keeping cold foods cold and hot foods hot."

Another often-overlooked pathogen is *Listeria monocytogenes*. Low levels of *Listeria* are present in many foods, including meat, produce and soft cheeses, and of the 2,500 people infected each year, few experience more than mild symptoms. But pregnant women beware: This bacterium is one of the most common bacterial causes of miscarriage and stillbirth.

"The woman usually gets a mild febrile illness, but it can pass through the placenta and kill the fetus," says Fred Southwick, M.D., division chief of infectious diseases at the UF College of Medicine, who studies the movements of *Listeria* inside cells to understand how the bacteria hijack human cells to sidestep antibiotics and the human immune response.

Unlike most bacteria, *Listeria* thrives at refrigeration temperatures, and infections can be difficult to trace because the incubation period ranges from two days to two months. Pregnant? Avoid foods that have been refrigerated for more than a few days and zap cold cuts in the microwave until steaming hot before layering them on your sandwich.

HAZARD No. 3: THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Floridians have worried about a lot of things through the years, but Lyme disease wasn't always one of them. Now, thanks to our RV-driving friends from the North, the tick-borne disease is here to stay.

Veterinarians noticed the first cases of Lyme disease in South Florida in the 1980s. It took several years before experts traced the influx of infections to Yankee snowbirds. They brought their dogs. The dogs brought the ticks. And the ticks brought the bacteria, *Borrelia burgdorferi*.

"For some time, the only animals we saw here in Florida with Lyme

were those that traveled back and forth," says Rick Alleman, D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of physiological sciences in the College of Veterinary Medicine. "Now it's here. There are dogs that have become Lyme positive that have never left the state."

The infection can be treated easily with antibiotics, but in some cases, the bacteria cause the human immune system to attack its own cells, resulting in recurrent arthritis.

"Some people and animals that develop Lyme arthritis have perpetual disease even once they're treated with antibiotics to kill the organisms," says Alleman, who studies *Anaplasma phagocytophyla*, a similar bacterium also transmitted by deer ticks. "In some areas of the country where Lyme is really prevalent there are even support groups that people will attend."

HAZARD No. 4: THE HOSPITAL

If you've been stricken with any of the first three hazards, chances are you've been admitted to a hospital. But don't rest too easy: If you're trying to avoid bacterial infections, the hospital isn't necessarily the best place to be.

"Antibiotic resistance is becoming a huge problem, particularly in the hospitals, and at the moment we don't seem to have a good handle on it," Morris says.

Historically, patients have been overtreated with antibiotics and then released into the community, where they unknowingly spread drug-resistant bacteria. One of them is *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the most common cause of infection in patients hospitalized for more than a week.

"*Pseudomonas* is an environmental bacterium," says Shouguang Jin, Ph.D., a professor of molecular genetics and microbiology in the College of Medicine. "It's distributed all over the soil, the water, the air. Wherever you go, it's there."

Like other pathogens, antibiotic resistance makes *Pseudomonas* infections difficult to treat, says Jin, who studies how the bacteria avoid being killed by antibiotics.

"One of the mechanisms that's really important is turning off the membrane permeability, like shutting off the door (to the cell) so that the antibiotics can't penetrate," says Jin, whose research has shown that this doorway opens and closes in response to signals in the external environment. Jin hopes his finding will pave the way for new therapies.

Richard Lamont, an assistant professor of oral biology, (left) and Martin Handfield, an associate professor of oral biology, recently made the cover of *Infection and Immunity* for their findings on *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, a bacterium linked to periodontal disease.

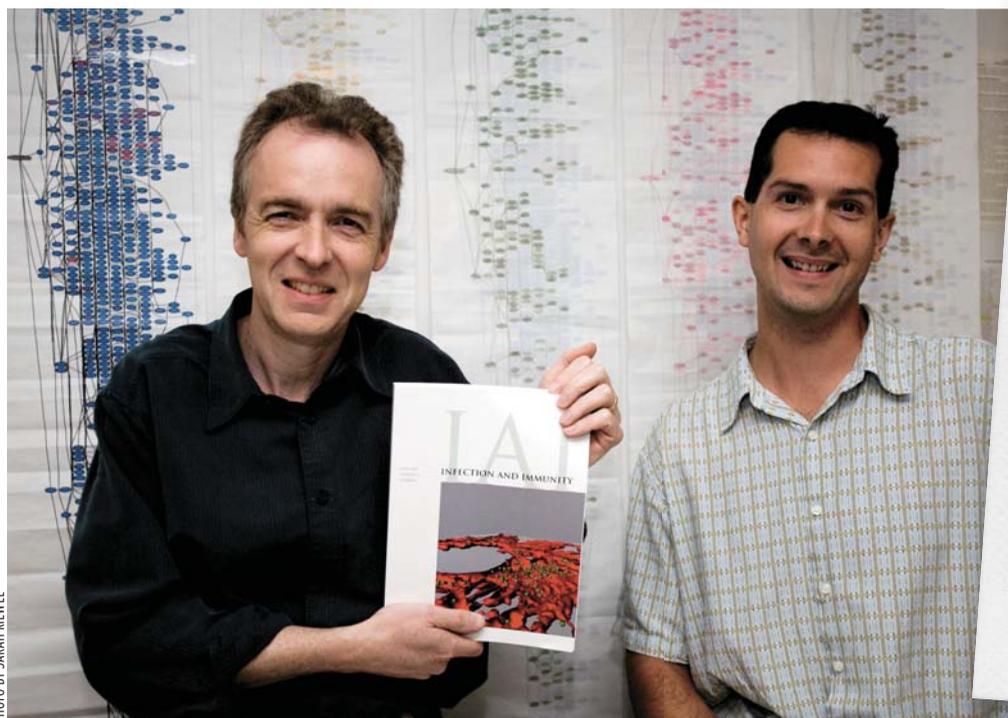
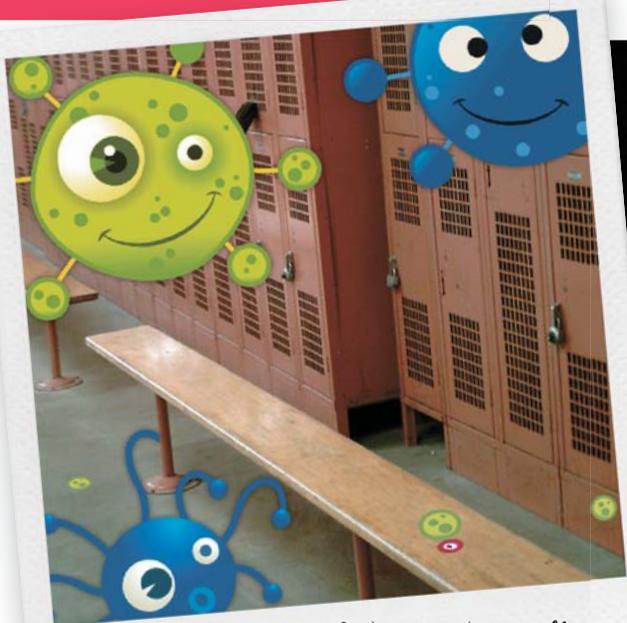


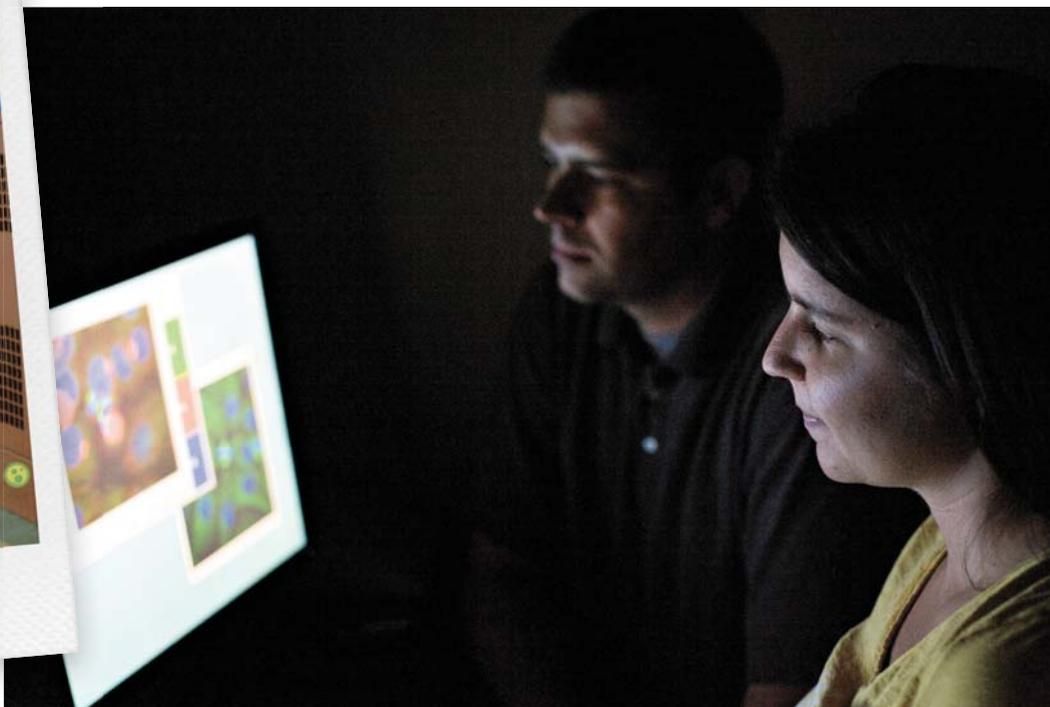
PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL





Getting buff(er) at the gym

Bacteria invade the Web!
Want to know more? To
read an extended version
of this story, visit
www.news.health.ufl.edu.



Stephen Anderson, a postdoctoral associate for UF researcher Scott Grieshaber, uses a high-powered microscope to create images like the one he and graduate student assistant Andrea Knowlton are viewing to help scientists better understand how Chlamydia cells invade human tissue. For more on Chlamydia, read the extended version of this story online at www.news.health.ufl.edu.

Until new drugs become available, experts are focusing on preventing the spread of drug resistance in the hospital. Southwick helped initiate a stewardship program at Shands at UF that monitors the use of antibiotics and encourages health-care workers to take precautions to stem the spread of drug-resistant pathogens.

“The majority of infections are viral and antibiotics don’t help,” says Southwick, who published a textbook to educate clinicians on the topic. “However, physicians use antibiotics even though the patient doesn’t have a bacterial infection. That’s one of the problems we have.”

HAZARD No. 5: THE LOCKER ROOM

About 30 percent of the population carries staph bacteria on their skin and in their noses, but only about 1 percent of us are colonized with the more lethal methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, also called MRSA.

“MRSA used to be found almost exclusively in the hospital environment, where you had very sick patients with staph infections who were being treated with lots of antibiotics, putting the selective pressure on those organisms to acquire resistance,” Gulig says.

But eventually those bacteria evolved and acquired the ability to move effectively outside of the hospital and throughout the community.

“All of a sudden, what we’re seeing is the local football team showing up with MRSA and your great-aunt showing up with MRSA,” Morris says.

The latest hubs for MRSA infection are fitness centers, where sweaty people share equipment ... and bacteria.

“I don’t go to the fitness centers, but I wouldn’t be surprised if people spent more time wiping equipment down with disinfectant solutions than actually working out,” Gulig says.

Infections are also common among athletes in contact sports, such as football.

“The problem with football players, in particular, is that it’s a contact sport and they get cuts and scrapes,” says Southwick, who helped track the source of an outbreak at UF. “If you carry MRSA on your skin and don’t get cuts and scrapes, it won’t cause a problem. But when you get a break in your skin, the bacteria can take hold and cause very serious problems.”

HAZARD No. 6: YOUR MOUTH

It’s been called the gateway to the body, and aptly so. Oral bacteria don’t always stay in the mouth. After a routine dental procedure, it takes less than a minute for these bugs to appear in the heart, lungs and other areas of the body.

“The interesting thing about the oral cavity is that there are probably 700 to 800 species that can be there,” says Martin Handfield, Ph.D., an associate professor of oral biology in the College of Dentistry. “In any given mouth, you probably have between 60 to 70 different species at a given time.”

But of all those bacteria, only a few are known agents of disease, Handfield says. And they don’t just cause diseases in the mouth. *Porphyromonas gingivalis*, the bug that causes periodontal disease, has been found in the wombs of women experiencing preterm labor and in the hearts of patients with cardiovascular disease.

That isn’t the only oral bacterium implicated in heart disease. Have a sweet tooth? Watch out. Researchers in UF’s department of oral biology were among the first to discover that certain strains of *Streptococcus mutans* — the same bacteria that love to eat sugar and spit out caries-causing acids — are capable of invading tissues in the heart.

“We performed a series of investigations that may change the image of *S. mutans* as an acid-puking bug that’s only good at eating away your tooth enamel,” says Lin Zeng, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the College of Dentistry.



The take-home lesson? Bacteria cause problems when they go renegade in the body. But unless you have another plan for breaking down certain vitamins and foods or any of the other functions our microbial tagalongs handle for us, we have to live with them. Germaphobes, this means you too.

“Maybe it’s time to stop treating organisms as if they are pathogenic or nonpathogenic,” Handfield says. “Maybe all organisms are part of a spectrum of pathogenicity where at one extreme they’re typically good and healthy and part of the good flora unless you’re putting them in a weird situation, and at the other extreme, they may be involved with disease most of the time.” **P**

A job well done

By Lauren Edwards

UF recently doled out its annual Superior Accomplishment Awards. Three of the HSC's own received universitywide honors. Why? Keep reading.

The nurse who helped stop an outbreak

Diane Pecora, R.N., does it for the students. Pecora, a nurse specialist at the UF Student Health Care Center, has been dedicated to keeping students and staff healthy since 1993. And during the past few whirlwind years that included battling a potential measles outbreak, that's been a pretty big job. Now, Pecora has been recognized for her efforts with UF's prestigious HRH Employee Recognition Award.

Perhaps the best example of Pecora's dedication occurred last May, when a UF student contracted measles. Pecora and the SHCC staff immediately coordinated a mass research effort, poring over staff and student records to determine those at risk. Pecora, whose background is in infectious diseases, also ran lab tests and gave MMR vaccines — which usually cost about \$70 — to UF students and staff for free.

Their hard work paid off. Only one other case appeared on campus and the SHCC was later honored with the Florida Department of Health Bureau of Epidemiology 2008 Golden Partnership Award.

"It could have been a mess ... but we had a plan in place and it worked," Pecora said.

For her part, Pecora says she is incredibly grateful for her award.

"It's the highest honor I've ever received," she said. "You give to the UF community, and you also get back."



A shelter animal's saint

To call Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., a friend to animals would be quite the understatement.

From working with shelter animals to starting clinics for the pets of people with low incomes, Isaza is a crusader for the health of Alachua County's furry friends.

"I just decided that this is what I was meant to do," said Isaza, who started practicing shelter medicine at UF in 2003. "It's extremely rewarding to me because you can take care of these animals (that no one else wants) and make a difference."

And making a difference she is. Because of her dedication to Alachua County's

animals, Isaza recently received a Superior Accomplishment Award at the universitywide level, the highest honor bestowed on faculty and staff during the UF Superior Accomplishment Awards.

"She's an excellent teacher and an all-around wonderful person," said Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med, Ph.D., chair of small animal clinical sciences at the college. Burrows recommended Isaza for the award. "I can think of no one more deserving."

A UF graduate, Isaza started a traveling clinic to care for pets of people with low incomes and takes her students to Gainesville's St. Francis House to treat the animals of shelter residents.

"I think it's good for the students to interact with a population of people they wouldn't normally interact with and to help these animals," Isaza says.

Michelangelo of the dental school

If you want something done, give it to the busiest guy in the room. If that guy is Robert Mann, this cliché couldn't be truer.

Mann, a medical artist who serves as coordinator of clinical programs in prosthodontics at the College of Dentistry, works in the field of anaplastology, or the practice of restoring human anatomy by sculpting, designing, painting and fitting head and neck prostheses made of silicone or acrylic to match surrounding skin. Mann has created ears for the 5-year-old son of an Olympic athlete, a new nose for a woman bitten by a dog and hundreds of other realistic prostheses. And to his patients, it's a life-changing experience.

For his work Mann was recently honored with UF's HRH Employee Recognition Award. And it's not just his work with patients that has garnered attention in recent years.

A former president of the American Anaplastology Association, he recently started the first journal for anaplastologists, putting the editorial board together himself and securing a friend to design the cover. After hours of unpaid work, Mann created the *International Journal of Anaplastology*, a compilation of trustworthy information relevant to the field.



UNIVERSITY WIDE WINNERS

Natalie Isaza, College of Veterinary Medicine
Robert Mann, College of Dentistry
Diane Pecora, Student Health Care Center

HSC WINNERS

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

Mark E. Davis
Edgar O'Neill
K. David Stillwell

Melissa M. Long
Robert M. Mann
Ruthie E. Hernandez
Mitchell C. Salisbury
David Flores
Elizabeth P. Apple
Karen S. Owens
Theresa Weber

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Chester B. Algood
Stephen C. Howard
Kenneth A. Marx

Cynthia Weinbrecht
Irma "Jeanette" Lynch
Wencui Zheng
Debra J. Beck
Christie L. Little
Shanna V. Silcox

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Jane M. Gannon

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

David V. Jenkins

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Lorie S. Martin
Kristy L. Radeker
Iris C. Campbell

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Natalie J. Isaza
Andrew J. Specht
Bobby Lee
Kathryn N. Vinzant
Marilyn M. Bryant

Patricia A. Lewis
Peter E. Nadeau
Michael P. O'Sullivan
Kelly A. Rick
Joyce E. Stewart
Nancy L. Meagher
Lynn E. Varner

STUDENT HEALTH CARE CENTER

Jane F. Emmeree
Diane E. Pecora

Selfless service

HSC honors longtime employees

The HSC and HSC-Jacksonville recently recognized staff members who have served UF's health colleges for 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and even 40 years. For a complete list of "Service Pin" honorees, visit www.health.ufl.edu and click on "employee recognition."



PHOTO BY J.R. HERNSDORFER

Celebrating 35 years at UF are (from left) Mary Bryan, Linda Luecking, Rebecca Lovely and Tonie Henry.

College of Dentistry

10 years

Solomon Abraham
Mary Bennett
Patricia Carpenter
Kristi Duncan
Nancy Harvell
Ruth Hernandez
Daisy Infante
Linda Kennan
Sandra Thomas

15 years

Tara Taylor
Connie White-Paulson

20 years

Peronia Brown
Susan Loffredo
Deborah Lynn
Sonia Nango-Henesy
Yvonne Trebilcock
Cassandra Williams

25 years

Joyce Lee
Robert Lee
Joan Whitlock

30 years

Janie Carnegie

40 years

Jane Moore

College of Medicine

10 years

Amer Abouhamze
Terry Beauchamp
Neil Boyle
Katrina Bradley
Michele Brooks
Denise Cloutier
Aundrea Corbit
Robert Cottey
Pedro Cruz
Judy Daugherty
Karen Dees
Tamara Edwards
Robbie Eller
Polly Glattli
Nancy Hendricks
Nancy Hodgson
Kevin Hollen
Christopher Hughes
Brenda Isaac
Rose Jesse

Joseph Larocca
Melissa Lewis
Angela Lovelock
Michael Mahoney
Christine Meyer
John Neeley
Angela Newsome
Christine Pampo
Leigh Perkins
Constance Pruitt
Kellie Ritari
Janet Romrell
Andrea Rugulo
Amy Smith
Warren Tanton
Douglas Theriaque
Kathleen Thompson
Brenda Tieden
Wendy VanOrder
Hazella White
Christina Williams
Lucy Williams
Sandra Williams
Irene Zolotukhin

15 years

Sheila Anderson
Kenneth Atkins
Shirley Bryant Smith
Patricia Butterfield
Ernestine Carroll
Christine Davis

Mary Dennis
Betty Douglas
Genia Dubose
Rachel Eastman
Jon Gregg
Lynda Hanssen
Cynthia Hartley
Herbert Houck
Zhi Huang
James Hunn
Evette Hutchinson
Kim Jacobs
Leann King
Allison Kleinfeldt
Pamela Lynn
Sherry Mann
Sheryl Montrowl
Renee Parks-James
Karen Pastos
Betty Poole
Susan Porterfield
Karen Reed
Theresa Rhodes
Michael Richards
Amy Roberson
Anita Simmons
Randy Zinnerman

20 years

Darlene Bailey
Judith Beckham
David Brumbaugh
Joyce Coleman
Vatsala Desai
Alison Edwards
Elizabeth Guillardmod
Marsha Harben
Dottie Howard
Theresa Huber
Sherry Hunt
Carol Katovich
Angela King
Dana King
Mary Latham
Ronald Lester
Melinda Millsaps
Debbie Neubauer
Roxane Nolen
Debbie Rafanan
Barbara Reichert
Donna Reinstra
Melba Rogers
Jill Sandersen
Tina Sporer
Betty Streetman

Janice Taylor
Clara Theus
Tearetha Thomas
Shirley Tomlinson

25 years

Roberta Anderson
Virginia Boone
Sergio Caballero
Susan Conway
Karen Hyde
Eduardo Mondragon
Julie Smith
Anita Yeager

30 years

Helen Booth
Thomas Connor
John David
Oran Hutchinson
Kay Lopez
Roberto Luchetta
Patricia Mutch
Kenneth Nelson

35 years

Mary Bryan
Frederick Congdon
Rebecca Lovely
Linda Luecking

40 years

Jean Kaufman

College of Nursing

10 years

Kelly Reid

15 years

Lynne Collis
George Kolb
Phyllis Stephens

College of Pharmacy

10 years

John Dew
Elizabeth Nelson
Rosemary Smith

20 years

Donna Walko

College of Public Health and Health Professions

10 years

Juanita Cooper
Sherri Garrett
Weihong Han
Eileen Phillips

25 years

Geraldine Lee

College of Veterinary Medicine

10 years

Mabelin Castellanos
Lauren Curry
Hasuna Hines
Kevin Kroll
Patrick Russell
David Tiffany
Margaret Wilding

15 years

Linda Lee
Lela Lynch
Ruiyu Pu
Sommer Sharp
Carolyn Whitford

20 years

Kelly Kirkendall-Merritt
Sally O'Connell
Katherine Rode

25 years

Linda Archer
Deborah Sundstrom

30 years

Lorene Jackson
Cecilia Yemma

30



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

Celebrating 30 years at UF are (front row, from left) Pansy Poppell, Linda Green, Janie Carnegie, Kay Lopez, Helen Booth (back row, from left) Roberto Luchetta, Peder Winkel, Kenneth Nelson, John David, Rick Lockwood, Roger Keroack and Howard Plumley.

35 years
Tonie Henry

Animal Care Services
10 years

Warren Tanton
Sandra Williams

15 years
Kenneth Atkins
Kim Jacobs

20 years
Alison Edwards

30 years
Oran Hutchinson
Roberto Luchetta
Kenneth Nelson

Physical Plant Division
10 years

Danny Buckland
Gregory Hughes
William Munden
Angelo Neal
Douglas Remmert
William Wall
Peder Winkel

15 years
Dewayne Barton
Kindra Hughes
Michael Pienkos
Charlie Seroki

20 years

Virgil Carter
John Dodd
Leroy Mobley

30 years
Aaron Munnerlyn
Peder Winkel

Student Health Care Center
10 years

Beverly Brady
Araceli Chiodo
Bonnie James
Soeun Miel
Carol Rhodes

15 years
Mickey Bath
Linda Lewis
Mary Mcglothlin
Jacques Roberts

20 years
Nancey Joyner
Mimi McClendon

25 years
Phylis Craig
Wanda Davis
Vanessa Humphrey

30 years
Roger Keroack

Senior Vice President, Health Affairs
10 years

Sharon Bauer
Mary Fenton
Truly Hardemon
Michael Mahoney
Sabrina McLaughlin
Shawn Petty
Regina Shaw
Linda Sheets

15 years
Gabrielle Dupre
Dennis Hines
Rebecca Johnson
Anita Smart
David Twombly

20 years
James Ferrer
Cheryl O'Quinn
Wanda Washington

25 years
Lorraine Douglass

30 years
Teresa Benton
Linda Green
Richard Lockwood
Hoyt Plumley
Pansy Poppell
Linda Roberson

HSC-Jacksonville
10 years

Salena Smothers
Sue Stack
Katherine Stephens
Tina Swanson
Maureen Turrall
Heidi Vetter
Lynda Vining
Geraldine Wade
Sherryl Watkins

15 years
Karen Albertson
Mari Beth Anderson
Maria-Corazon Calinao
Jan Campbell
Stacey Dingman
Sharon Flemmings
Traci Harrison
Cathy Hartley
Connie Jackson
Sabrina Jordan
Marla Murnahan
Jeanette Robinson
Pamela Schirkofsky
Nancy Thrun
Angelique Williams

20 years
Joyce Willis

25 years
Rita Carstens
Sylvia Gabbard
Patricia Garner
Katherine Isaacs
Sharon Omechevarria

30 years
Everlena Owens

AWARDS

40 Fabulous at



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

College of Dentistry Dean Teresa Dolan (right) pauses for a picture with longtime UF employee, Jane Moore.

Can you imagine getting a job application asking how tall you are and how much you weigh?

Fortunately, we don't have to answer those questions anymore, but Jane Moore did when she applied for a job at UF in 1968. Moore was one of two HSC staff members to reach the 40-year mark at UF this year. Jean Kaufman of the College of Medicine was also honored for her 40 years at UF.

Moore, an executive secretary at the College of Dentistry, started her career at UF in the College of Medicine. She moved to the College of Dentistry in 1973 when the Dental Sciences Building was little more than a sketch on paper and has worked in five different positions in the college.

Now an executive secretary in the Office of Research, Moore says she never expected to be at UF this long.

"It was a different era," she said. "Women in the area got married and had babies."

Moore's plan was to work as long as she could. She plans to retire in two and a half years but leaving will be bittersweet, she says.

"I love working in a university atmosphere because the students help you stay young," she said. "I'll miss it when I retire."

Kaufman, a research lab technician in the College of Dentistry, was a licensed practical nurse before she took at job training lab animals at UF. She spent most of her UF career working for retired neuroscientist Charles Vierck, Ph.D.

"I have been in the same building, and I worked for the same guy for 38 years," she said. "The people are friendly and kind. You couldn't ask for a better job."

For more Service Pin ceremony photos, see the back page.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Edward Copeland, M.D., and Kenneth Heilman, M.D.

Basic Science Award:

Gregory Schultz, Ph.D.

Clinical Science Award:

Mark L. Brantly, M.D., and W. Stratford May, M.D.

Special Appreciation Award:

Cynthia Weinbrecht

Medical Guild Awards:

Gold medal finalist: Allyn Spear

Silver medal finalists: Jason O'Rourke and Jeffrey Brower

Bronze medal finalists: Jason Weinstein, Stephanie Jefferson and Stephen Fernando

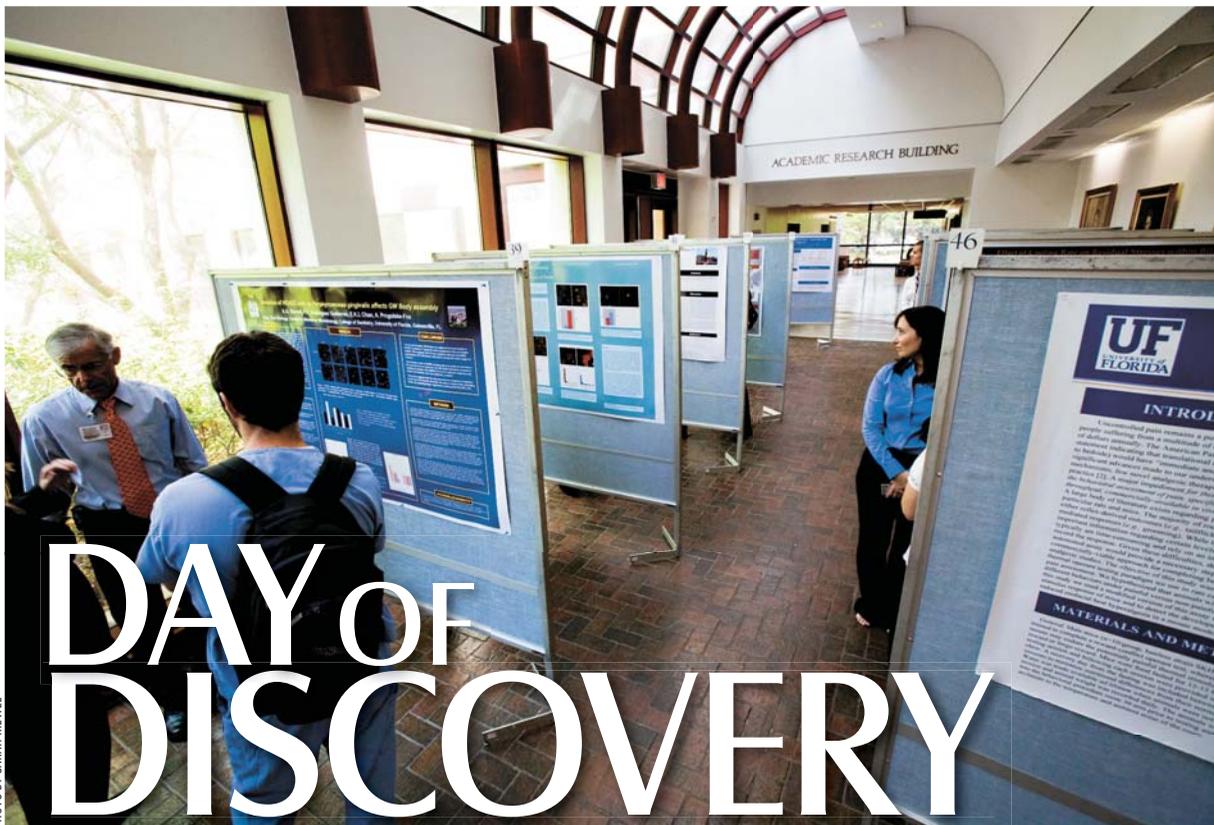


PHOTO BY SARAH NEWEL

Someday, somewhere a scientist will cradle the gold medal from a Nobel Prize and say, "It all goes back to that poster I presented at UF on Research Day, 2008." Check out this list and one day you can say you knew them when.

COLLEGE OF NURSING

Undergraduate awards:

First place: Brittany Dion, Leslie Parker and Charlene Krueger

Second place: Emily Holtzclaw, Kristen MacConnell and Veronica Feeg

Graduate awards:

First place: Salvacion Powell and Saunjoo Yoon

Second place: Melissa Dodd Inglese and Jennifer Elder, Ph.D.

Clinical Innovation awards:

First place: Maude Rittman and Melanie Hinojosa

Second place: Arlene Davis, Diane Johnson, Robin Odom, Carla Parker and Jerry Stephenson

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE-JACKSONVILLE

Faculty Researcher/Scholar of the Year Award:

Dominick J. Angiolillo, M.D., Ph.D.

Poster winners:

First place: Joe E. Khoury, M.D.

Second place: Ni Jin, M.D., Ph.D.

Third place: Patrick Aaronson, Pharm.D.

Fourth place: Marilyn Rosa, M.D.

Fifth place: Amitra Caines, M.D.

Sixth place: Geoffrey Gillen, M.D.

Oral/platform winners:

First place: Andrew Darlington, D.O.

Second place: Stuart A. Smalhesier, M.D.

Third place: Ivan E. Rascon-Aguilar, M.D.

Fourth place: Lemuel Aigbivbalu, M.D.

Fifth place: Todd J. Reuter, D.M.D., M.D.

Sixth place: Melissa Tucker, M.D.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Oral competition:

Senior division winner: Christian Grimstein

Senior division finalists: Zhimin Li and Anzeela Schentrup

Junior division winner: Jason Kwan

Junior division finalists: Huong Le and Zhaohua Wang

Levitt division winner: Michael Mueller

Levitt division finalist: Chienning Hsu

Poster competition:

Graduate student winners: April Barbour, Christian Hampp, Stephan Schmidt and Kanchan Taori

Pharmacy student winners: Samantha Barfield and Gregory Welder

Postdoctoral fellow division winner: Yanxia Liu, Ph.D.

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

D.M.D. Division awards:

First place: Christopher A. Bonesteel

Second place (tie): Jessica L. Wiedey

Second place (tie): Barbara I. Llanes

M.S./Resident Division awards:

First place: Melanie M. Wexel

Second place: James D. Jones

Third place: Kristin Cavanah

Ph.D./Postdoctoral Division awards:

First place: Sara R. Palmer

Second place: Arseima Y. Del Valle-Piñero

Third place: Amanda Barrett

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

Undergraduate poster presentation winners:

Urenna Acholonu, Iris Darst, Stephania Hayes, Samantha Justice, Karrie Parker, Trisha Sterlicchi, Amanda Sundholm, Amy Susskind and Kristin Wistedt

Graduate poster presentation winners:

Ashley Butler, Ryan Fussell, Tseng-Tien Huang, Daniel Kay, Ania Mikos, Lisa Nackers, Gila Reckess, Kathryn Ross, Lauren Stutts, Bethany Wangelin, Fan Ye and Laura Zahodne

Graduate research grants:

Jason Beneciuk, Joseph Dzierzewski, Wendy Gray and Timothy Sannes

TWO LIVES, TWO HUGE ACHIEVEMENTS

A father of behavioral neurology

The main course was clearly visible on the dinner tray, yet the patient wondered why the hospital only served vegetables.

The puzzle confronted Kenneth Heilman, M.D. — today a distinguished professor of neurology at the UF College of Medicine — during a clinical rotation while he was in medical school at the University of Virginia in the 1960s.

“The plate had a partition and the meat was on the left,” Heilman said. “He ate all of his vegetables on the right, and he asked

why there were never any servings of meat. I thought he must not be able to see on his left, even though tests showed he had full visual fields. He had suffered a stroke of the right hemisphere, and I realized, ‘Wow, this is telling us that there is a part of the brain that allows people to switch attention to one side, and this part of his brain is injured.’”

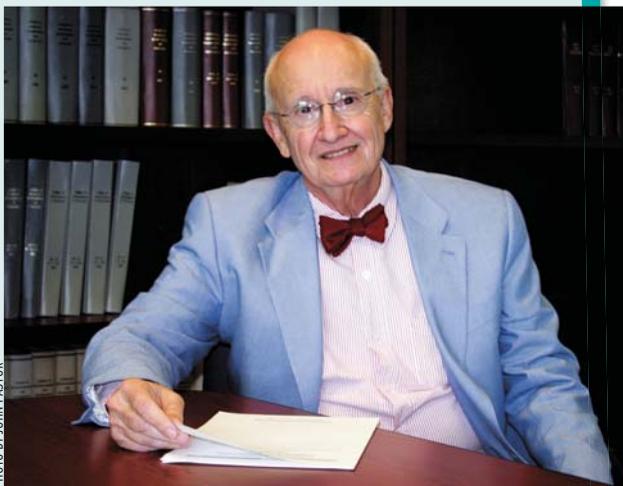
Experiences like that one edged Heilman toward a career in neurology — a career recognized recently through the College of Medicine’s 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Heilman’s work has played a part in revealing the areas of the brain that mediate attention, and he has helped define the roles of the right and left hemispheres of the brain, often toppling established paradigms of brain function along the way.

“He has inspired researchers and literally helped populate the world with experts in behavioral neurology,” said Leslie Gonzalez Rothi, Ph.D., the Bob Paul family professor of neurology who nominated Heilman for award. “Those who have been lucky enough to receive his mentorship have been cultivated and given truly the best academic preparation I know of.”

Heilman, who joined the faculty in 1970 and became the James E. Rooks Jr. professor of neurology in 1998, was a member of the first elite group of faculty to receive the title “distinguished professor.”

“People don’t enter medicine to receive recognition like this,” Heilman said. “We do it because we get joy out of people getting well, students learning things, or being involved in great research. But it is always nice to get a pat on the back. When people you have known for years and years let you know they think highly of you, it’s the greatest compliment.” — *By John Pastor*



KENNETH HEILMAN, M.D.

A surgeon, a teacher and a leader

As Edward M. Copeland III, M.D., sat back in his chair, he struggled to pinpoint his greatest accomplishment during his 25 years at UF.

“I’m most proud of the residents we’ve trained,” Copeland said before listing at least a half-dozen colleagues and moments that have shaped his experiences as a surgical oncologist at UF. “I clearly owe my career to this institution.”

It’s almost impossible to sum up a career as celebrated as Copeland’s in one moment. It’s not just the hundreds of hours he spent mentoring and recruiting some of the best physicians in the nation. It’s a montage of the moments he spent caring for cancer patients and the year he served as the College of Medicine’s interim dean, helping the institution overcome financial instability.

While it was difficult for Copeland to choose from the torrent of memories swirling in his psyche since he announced his retirement, effective July 3, it was easy for his colleagues to decide to honor the Edward R. Woodward distinguished professor of surgery with a 2008 Lifetime Achievement Award.

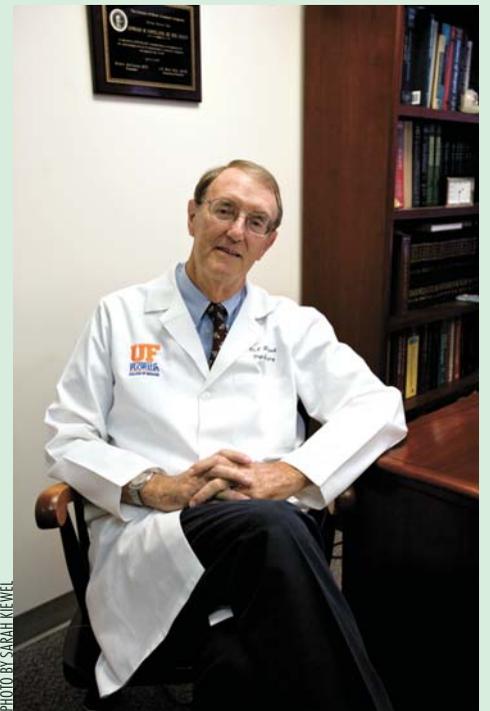
“You’re often never king or queen in your own castle,” said Copeland, who accepted the award at the Research Day awards dinner in April. “For your own institution to honor you is truly the greatest honor you can receive.”

Copeland’s career in Gainesville began in 1982 when he was named professor and chair of the department of surgery. He gained recognition for his contributions to breast cancer surgery and treatment, including for the development of a test that determines whether surgeons have removed an entire tumor before a patient leaves the hospital, reducing the need for additional procedures. He has been director of the UF Shands Cancer Center and president of UF Physicians. This year, he served as president of the American College of Surgeons.

“Dr. Copeland demonstrates the rare combination of excellent surgeon, teacher and administrator,” said Steven N. Hochwald, M.D., chief of surgical oncology. “The only reason that I looked at the job was because he was here and previous residents and faculty from the department had gone on to excellent academic positions around the country.”

Copeland, a decorated Vietnam veteran, will celebrate the culmination of his 45-year career by fishing and golfing, hobbies he put on hold as a practicing surgeon.

“I have a friend who says, ‘You better enjoy yourself now because you’re kind of in the fourth quarter of your life,’” Copeland joked, adding he’ll still be around if UF needs him. “I’m available to do anything the University of Florida would like me to do in my retirement.” — *By Melissa M. Thompson*



EDWARD M. COPELAND III, M.D.

Bad to the bone

Orthopedic residents claim 'Ortho Bowl' victory

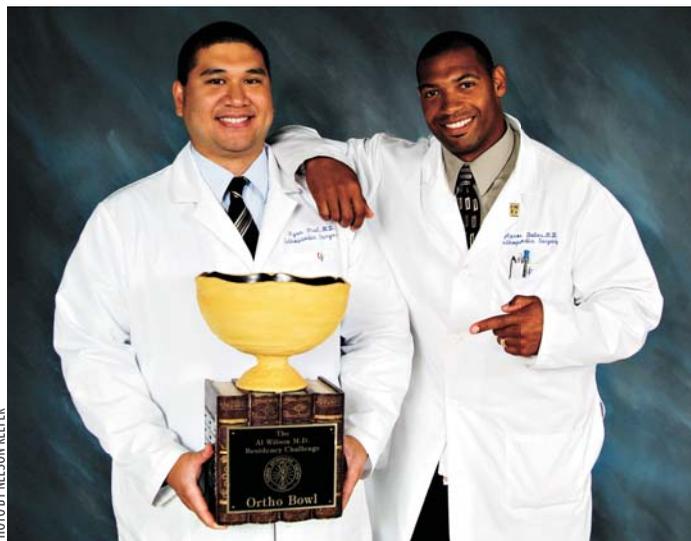


PHOTO BY NELSON KEEFER

Ryan Riel (left) and Aaron Bates, orthopedic medicine residents at the UF College of Medicine in Jacksonville, pose with the trophy they won at the Florida Orthopaedic Society's annual "Ortho Bowl."

By Lauren Edwards

Knowing your stuff can pay off. Just ask Ryan Riel and Aaron Bates, two residents from the UF College of Medicine in Jacksonville who recently won bragging rights — and a little cash, to boot — at the annual Ortho Bowl in May.

Put on by the Florida Orthopaedic Society at its annual meeting, the Ortho Bowl is a type of "brain bowl" that tests residents' knowledge of orthopedic medicine. Representing UF's Jacksonville campus, Riel and Bates competed against teams from across the state, ultimately going head-to-head in the final round with residents from the University of South Florida.

Riel, who has participated in the competition once before, was excited to get a second shot at Ortho Bowl victory.

"It was fun," the fourth-year resident said. "I did it several years ago (as a first-year resident) and didn't win, so I was happy to do it again. I wanted to get my name on the trophy at least once."

Riel and Bates, a fifth-year resident, earned the chance to compete by getting the top two scores among their peers on the Orthopaedic In-Training Examination.

The bowl included questions similar to those typically found on orthopedics board exams, with queries ranging from practical application — such as diagnosing a "patient" in a given scenario — to those regarding orthopedic medicine history.

The two men each took home \$300 and a somewhat-humorous trophy wrapped in fiberglass casting material, designed by UF's own Hudson Berrey, M.D., in 1998.

Bates, who also received the Florida Orthopaedic Resident Research Award, said that while the Ortho Bowl isn't necessarily taken too seriously, it was nice to represent his college in this way.

"We wanted to win," he said. "I think everyone who competes wants to win ... I felt proud and honored (to represent my college.)" **P**

Back to school

UF faculty members refine research skills in postgraduate program

By Melissa M. Thompson

Nearly 20 years after earning a doctor of pharmacy degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and six years after joining the UF faculty, Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff, Pharm.D., M.S., decided she wanted more.

The seasoned assistant research professor had more than 20 years of clinical research experience under her belt but decided to undergo additional training in the Advanced Postgraduate Program in Clinical Investigation, which further preps UF's faculty and fellows for careers in clinical investigation.

In the program, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health's K30 Clinical Research Curriculum Award, fellows take courses such as grant writing and biostatistics while simultaneously conducting an approved research project under the guidance of a senior faculty mentor. Funding covers the cost of tuition and fees for eight to 12 fellows each academic year.

"Participating in (the program) is supposed to give you protected time to perform research and take courses," Cooper-DeHoff said "You rarely, as a junior faculty member, have the opportunity to not only think about research but also the time to conduct it."

Cooper-DeHoff is one of nearly 40 UF faculty members since 1999 who have earned master's degrees or certificates from APPCI, which is designed to nurture fellows' research interests and help them learn how to secure funding for future projects.

"We want people to know how to conduct good research and how to present their research well," said Eve Johnson, the APPCI program assistant. "There are so many projects that are retracted or undone because of poor preparation."



PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

Rhonda Cooper-DeHoff is one of 40 UF faculty members who have earned master's degrees and certificates through the Advanced Postgraduate Program in Clinical Investigation.

Sherrilene Classen, Ph.D., M.P.H, OTR/L, an assistant professor of occupational therapy and public health, graduated from APPCI in 2004 and says the program gives fellows the tools to be competitive in the research field.

"It's pretty amazing to get a federal grant on your first submission," said Classen, who was awarded a \$500,000 grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in September 2004 to fund older driver safety research and has received five additional grants from various institutions since then. "It gave me a level of humble confidence because in research, there is always another question to ask." **P**

School's in ... for teachers

Florida science educators get their own lesson at UF

By Lauren Edwards

When you're a teacher, much of your time is spent in the role of leader: You plan the lessons, teach the material, give the tests and grade the homework. But for some of Florida's top science educators the tables were turned this summer as they became students themselves during a two-week UF program geared toward giving teachers a hands-on lesson in scientific research.

Presented by the UF Center for Precollegiate Education and Training and funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Interdisciplinary Center for Ongoing Research/Education Partnership program is an extended laboratory workshop that Mary Jo Koroly, Ph.D., describes as "research outreach" for science teachers.

"We are teaching them how to research and how to translate that into their classrooms and communities," said Koroly, director of CPET and an associate research scientist in the College of Medicine. "It's outreach ... to help improve science education throughout the state."

Chosen by their various school districts, these 26 teachers learned about the many emerging pathogens and related issues that threaten society today, from bird flu to bioterrorism.

"(Emerging pathogens) are an incredibly important scientific and social issue in Florida," Koroly said. "We're using (this) as a really cool 'hook' to get (students) interested in academic and industrial career opportunities."

At the end of the two weeks, the teachers presented a proposal to show how they will implement their chosen research in the classroom. As ICORE partners, these teachers will return to UF — with some of their students — to present their research results at the Florida Symposium in February.

Nancy Dunbar, a teacher at Park Vista High School in Palm Beach County, says this program made her feel like she was back at college.

"It's renewed my passion for things I don't get to do in the (high school) classroom," Dunbar said. "It's on a higher level for us ... I've really missed that."

Dunbar, who teaches biology, anatomy and physiology, and genetics, normally focuses her teaching on humans, but says that because of this program, has found plant pathogens "fascinating" and now plans to include them in her curriculum.

"I'm going to come back here every year if I can," she said. "This is feeding me." **P**



PHOTO BY SARAH MEWEL

Wendy Helmey-Hartman (left) and Amye Goff, teachers at Keystone Heights Junior/Senior High School, try out an experiment to adapt for use in their classrooms. Top high school science teachers from around Florida recently visited UF to get hands-on research experience as part of the Center for Precollegiate Education and Training's ICORE Partnership project.



PHOTO BY SARAH MEWEL

The next generation of students

Brittni Davis shares her name and favorite medical TV show with other high school students during orientation for the Health Care Summer Institute, a four-week program at UF's College of Medicine that provides minority students with a glimpse of opportunities in the medical field. High school students come to UF from across north Florida to participate in the camp, which is directed by Donna M. Parker, M.D., and Michelle Jacobs, M.D., both assistant deans for the College of Medicine Office of Minority Affairs. The goal of the camp is to expose students to different health careers and prepare them for the educational road ahead. The College of Medicine Office of Minority Affairs, Shands at UF and the UF Area Health Education Centers sponsor the program.



UF diabetes team earns national honors

There isn't a way to prevent or cure diabetes — yet. But that doesn't stop UF researchers from combining forces to discover therapies to treat the disease, a team effort that has recently drawn national recognition from the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International. The foundation honored UF researchers (shown from left) Desmond Schatz, M.D., Mark Atkinson, Ph.D., and Michael Haller, M.D., June 13 with the Mary Tyler Moore and S. Robert Levine, M.D., Excellence in Clinical Research Award at its annual meeting in Washington, D.C. Honorees are selected for their dedication and success in converting clinical diabetes discoveries into treatments for patients. Around-the-clock collaboration spurs the team's success as they make advances in clinical studies, from genetic testing that may help determine an infant's risk of developing the disease to umbilical cord-blood infusion therapies that help preserve insulin production in some newly diagnosed children.

PHOTO BY SARAH KEWEL

SIHONG SONG, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmaceuticals, has received a \$130,000 award from the Alpha-1 Foundation to support his project, "Development of AAT Deficient Mouse Models."



Sihong Song

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

MARK BOWDEN, M.S., P.T., a student in the rehabilitation science doctoral program and an affiliate faculty member in the department of physical therapy, received the American Physical Therapy Association Neurology Section Award to a post-professional student. Bowden received the award at the association's combined sections annual meeting in February in Nashville.



Mark Bowden

JAMES W. HALL III, Ph.D., a clinical professor and associate chair of the department of communicative disorders, has been named an extraordinary professor in the department of communication pathology at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. In this role, Hall will serve as a faculty and doctoral-student mentor and will participate in the department's research on hearing loss in mine workers. He is also helping to establish a universal newborn hearing screening program in South Africa.



James W. Hall III

JACKSONVILLE

MICHAEL S. NUSSBAUM,

M.D., has been named chair of the department of surgery at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville. Nussbaum has been on the faculty at the University of Cincinnati since 1986. At UC he was the assistant dean for hospital affairs, the vice chair for clinical affairs in the department of surgery and also the department's interim chair from 2006 to 2007.



Michael S. Nussbaum

DENNIS STEINDLER

Ph.D., executive director of the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute and co-director of the Regeneration Project, received the Atena Onlus Foundation Award for his research on adult stem cell biology and regenerative medicine at a June 4 ceremony with officials from the Catholic University in Rome, the university's teaching hospital — the Gemelli University Polyclinic — and the Italian government.



Dennis Steindler

MOEEN PANNI

M.D., Ph.D., has been named chair of the department of anesthesiology at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville. Prior to coming to UF, Panni served as an associate professor and director of obstetric anesthesia at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston. Panni's goals include recruiting new faculty, developing a research program and fostering an educational environment for students and residents.



Moeen Panni

COLLEGE OF NURSING

JOYCE STECHMILLER,

Ph.D., A.R.N.P., an associate professor in the college, has been named a fellow of the American Academy of Nursing. Stechmiller, a national expert in wound care, teaches didactic and clinical courses to master's degree students and mentors doctoral students. She also holds appointments at the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System as director of skin and wound education and research and as a member of the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center.



Joyce Stechmiller

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

TIMOTHY FLYNN

M.D., a professor of surgery and associate dean for graduate medical education, has been named the college's interim senior associate dean for clinical affairs. Flynn, who has been on the UF faculty for 24 years, has served as chair of the American Board of Surgery and as president of the Alachua County Medical Society and is currently a member of the board of directors of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.



Timothy Flynn

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

RAYMOND G. BOOTH

Ph.D., a professor of medicinal chemistry, received a \$1.5 million, 4-year grant from the National Institute of Drug Abuse for his research on cocaine addiction. He will investigate a new compound discovery that may, for the first time, target a receptor that diminishes the addiction cycle without cardiovascular side effects. He also received a \$1.8 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health for a discovery that may lead to development of an antipsychotic medication that doesn't cause weight gain.



Raymond G. Booth



College lauds professors, alums

The College of Veterinary Medicine recently honored four of its own with Distinguished Awards, honoring the accomplishments of a South Florida equine vet, a professor emeritus of small animal neurology, a small animal surgeon and the director of UF's mobile equine diagnostic service. **Michael Porter, D.V.M., Ph.D.**, a clinical assistant professor and director of the UF mobile equine diagnostic service, received the college's Outstanding Young Alumnus Award. The Distinguished Service Award went to **Cheryl Chrisman, D.V.M.**, a longtime veterinary neurologist at the college who retired in 2007. **Gary Ellison, D.V.M.**, a UF professor of small animal surgery, received the college's award for special service, and the Alumni Achievement Award was presented to **Robert Boswell, D.V.M.**, an alumnus who owns the Palm Beach Equine Clinic and helped found the Florida Association of Equine Practitioners. Shown here are Chrisman (from left), Ellison, Boswell and Porter.

Into the sunset

Longtime administrator Jerry Kidney retires

By Melissa M. Thompson

It's the middle of May and Jerry Kidney is so close to retirement he can almost smell it. But instead of dreaming about the brisk air surrounding his 20-acre surrogate home in Maine, Kidney's thoughts are focused solely on his son.

His adopted son Greg, an Army corporal, was wounded when a terrorist's bomb exploded near his Humvee in Baghdad. Just two weeks away from his June retirement, Kidney's office phone rings with updates from his wife and the hospital in Texas, where his son is recovering.

"We all look forward to retirement as a time to set aside usual responsibilities and pursue new experiences," said Kidney, who has since retired as assistant vice president for health affairs for administrative support. "But sometimes reality sets in and through no act of our own, priorities get reset. We are thankful that Greg is alive, that he did not receive worse injuries ... but that's little consolation to the family of Greg's buddy who lost his life in the explosion."

Even as the father of six grapples with life's speed bumps, he's forced to find time to prepare for the retiree lifestyle. And it shows.

Among collections of cardboard boxes and half-eaten, orange-and-blue candy gifts remain nearly a dozen framed photographs of his ever-expanding brood that will no doubt be fixtures in his office until he officially moves out.

But for now, the family photos remind him of his New England roots, and his journey to the South. Born and raised in Maine, Kidney was accustomed to small-town life. He was valedictorian of his graduating class of 72 students. After graduating from college, he taught high school math and later moved to a job in higher education to provide for his growing family. In 1982, the man who admits he had never been south of Boston before he was 24 decided to interview for a job at UF, where he has been ever since.

"I'll miss the good people I see around here every day," he said. "But I'm so looking forward to (retirement). I love change. I think after we come back from Maine, it won't be long before I look for something that gets me up in the morning."

Well-known for his good nature and large family (he proudly announces he will be the grandfather of eight by Christmas), Kidney said all he wanted to do was retire without fuss or fanfare while riding quietly off into the sunset. But for someone who touched so many lives at UF and in the Gainesville community, it was difficult for Kidney to make a quiet exit.

"Jerry is going to be someone who takes so much institutional knowledge with him that he's going to be hard to replace," said Tom Harris, associate vice president for health affairs and Kidney's longtime lunch buddy. "He'll do anything to help anybody and he never says, 'It's not in my job description.'"

Farewell festivities included a reception attended by four generations of Kidney's family as well as friends and colleagues who gathered to

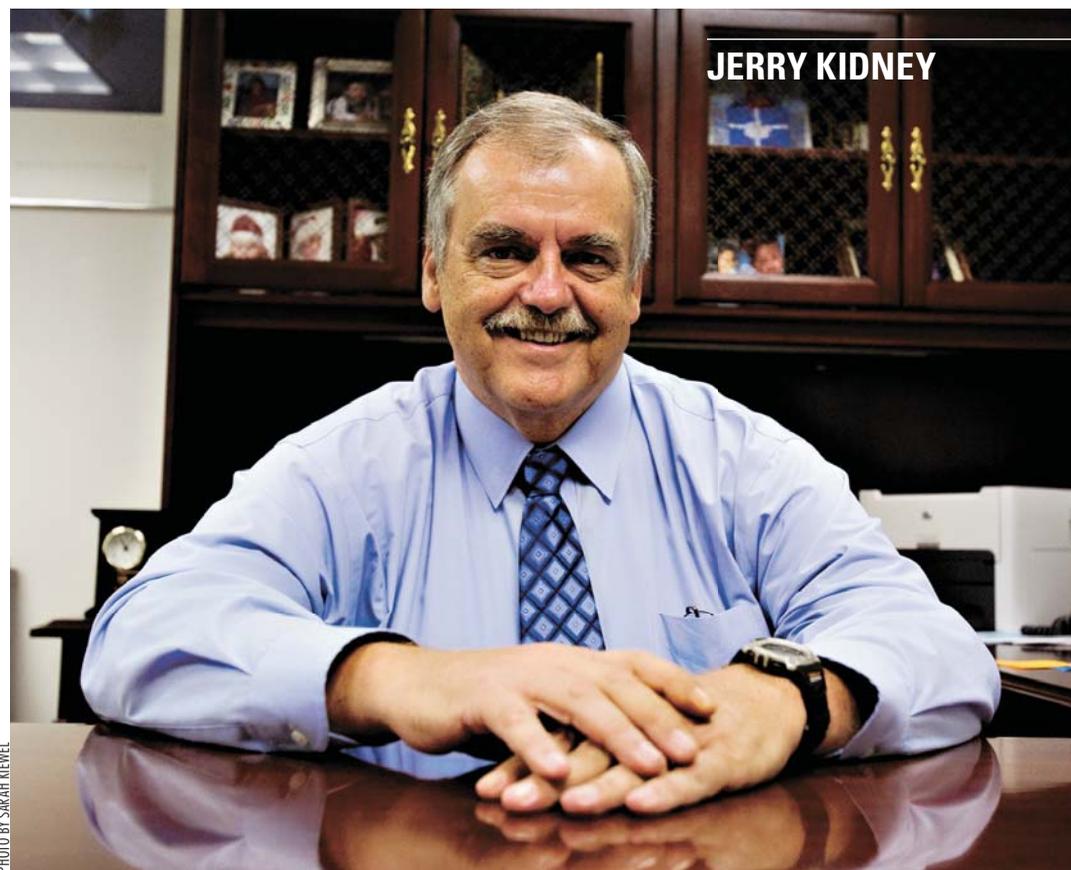


PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

reminisce. A hallway display pays tribute to the man of many talents with a montage of newspaper clippings and photographs. There's Kidney riding his cherry-red Honda motorcycle. Acting in the Gainesville Community Playhouse's production of "Guys and Dolls." Volunteering at the Ronald McDonald House. He does it all.

Kidney said he will remain active in the community because his family will stay in Gainesville for nine months of each year and travel to scenic Maine during the summer. It might be beautiful there, but he's not looking forward to footing the fuel bill.

"I bought a humongous fifth wheel (camper), and we'll haul it up there and stay for the summer," he said. "Down in the cafeteria, they have shrimp that's 50 cents a piece. I figure it will cost me one shrimp per mile all the way up to Maine." **P**



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

Peder Winkel, (left) and his son Peder Winkel, were both honored at the HSC Service Pin ceremony. The elder Winkel has worked in the Physical Plant Division for 30 years, while his son has worked in the same division for 10.



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

Celebrating 25 years at UF are (front row, from left) Robbie Anderson, Vanessa Humphrey, Laurie Douglass, Joyce Lee, Eduardo Mondragon, Virginia Boone, Linda Archer (back row, from left) Anita Yeager, Joan Whitlock, Robert Lee, Julie Smith, Phyllis Craig, Geraldine Lee and Karen Hyde.



PHOTO BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

Celebrating 20 years at UF are (front row, from left) Sonia Nango-Henesy, Debbie Streetman, Dottie Howard, Vatsala Desai, Debbie Neubauer, Katherine Rode, Susan Loffredo, Yvonne Trebilcock, Carol Katovich, Annie Guillarmod, Darlene Bailey, (back row, from left) Dana King, Mimi McClendon, Cassandra Williams, Ron Lester, Cheryl O'Quinn, Jim Ferrer, Donna Walko, Tearetha Thomas, Jill Sanderson, Peronia Brown, Mary Latham, Alison Edwards, Sally O'Connell and Roxane Nolen.

THE POST

07/08 • 08

Published by
UF Health Science Center
Office of News & Communications

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Health Affairs**
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The POST is the monthly internal newsletter for the University of Florida Health Science Center, the most comprehensive academic health center in the Southeast,

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