THE POST

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UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

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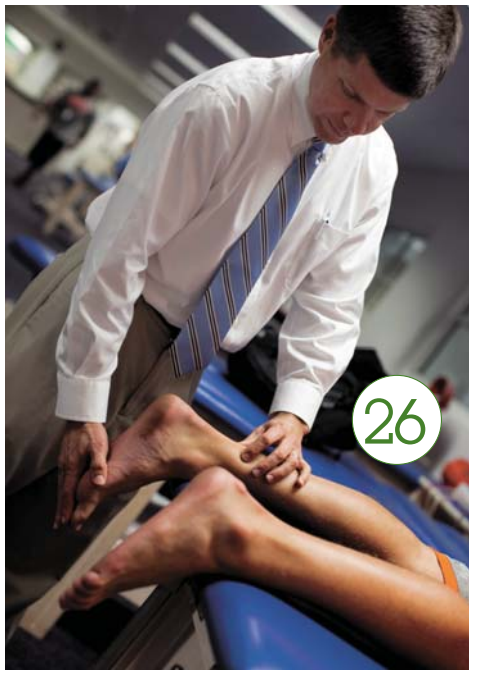
[Bricks] + [Scientists] = discovery

DENTISTRY • MEDICINE • NURSING • PHARMACY • PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS • VETERINARY MEDICINE

On the Cover

This year, UF has added two new research buildings to its arsenal at the Health Science Center. By removing the walls between labs and bringing different disciplines together, UF leaders are hoping these new facilities will create new collaborations and spark innovative discoveries.

Photo by Maria Belen Farias



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UP FRONT

Washed ashore

PHOTO BY CHRIS BILOWICH

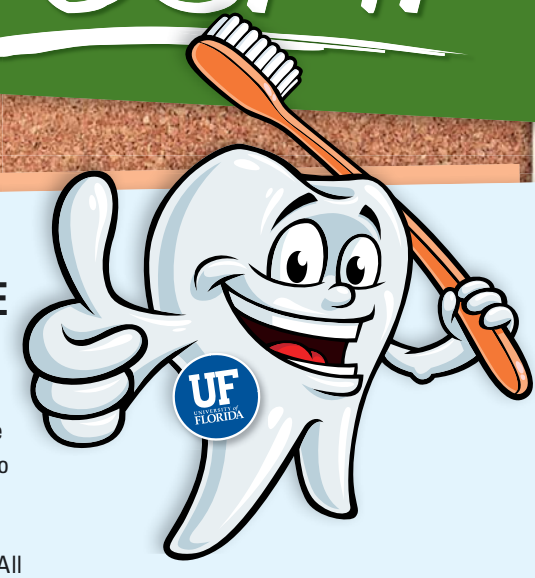
On June 24, experts at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine began looking for clues as to why a nearly 11-foot-long whale beached itself on Fernandina Beach. The pygmy sperm whale was found June 23 and died shortly after that. A few pygmy sperm whales are found each year on Florida beaches. Many of them die because they are often quite ill when they are found. "We have ... animals that die coming in from wild waters landing on the shore," said Mike Walsh, D.V.M., associate director of the UF Aquatic Animal Health program. "So what we have to do is to look at each one if at all possible and figure out what is really happening out in the environment, is it really things like oil or is it food toxins or is it illness. There are a lot of things that are unknown." As part of their examination of the whale, Aquatic Animal Health program graduate student Jennifer McGee, left, and staff member Heather Maness examined scarring patterns on the whale's tail.

Pathologists do not think the Gulf oil spill was a factor in the animal's death, since this species is commonly found stranded on Florida's coast.

Post it

WANT TO BE A RESEARCH COORDINATOR?

Managing a clinical research project is no small task. "It's very complicated," said Robert Kolb, R.N., research project manager at the UF Clinical Research Unit. "You have numerous interdisciplinary interactions and there's just a slew of regulatory hoops to jump through for compliance and ethics. To be a research coordinator just entails having a wide range of knowledge." That's why UF's Clinical and Translational Science Institute has teamed up with the College of Health and Human Performance to introduce the Research Coordinator Certificate Program. The program, which begins this summer, will give participants the knowledge they need to manage a clinical research project in academic, government and industry settings. It includes a traditional lecture class, two online courses and a laboratory practicum. The information participants learn in the program will "be generalizable enough so that even if you were at another institution somewhere else and you want to take this class, the principles would apply," Kolb said. The certificate program will be repeated next summer, or perhaps sooner, depending on how many people participate.

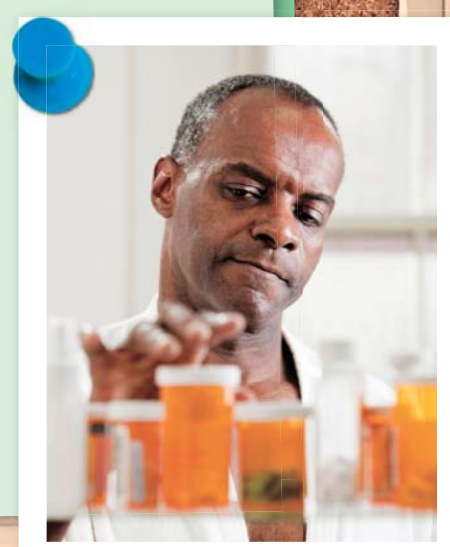


A PLAN FOR THOSE PEARLY WHITES

Paying for your dental care just got a little less painful. A new UF employee payroll deduction option allows you to pay for your dental care with interest-free payments over time at most UF College of Dentistry clinics. All TEAMS and USPS employees who work at least half-time are eligible for this benefit. The college offers a full range of dental services, including cleanings, fillings, crowns, bridges, root canals, braces and Invisalign, plus more specialized services including oral and maxillofacial surgery, as well as oral cancer screenings and treatment. Patients can choose to be seen by dental faculty, by residents or by students who are training for their D.M.D. degrees in clinics where work is overseen by college faculty members. For more information about the college's services, visit its website at www.dental.ufl.edu.

ENDING A DISPARITY

Black men are twice as likely to die from prostate cancer as white men. Why? That's what UF experts are trying to figure out. Leaders from the College of Medicine, the College of Pharmacy, Prostate Net and the 100 Black Men of Jacksonville Inc. will hold the first "The Science of Global Prostate Cancer Disparities in Black Men" conference Aug. 27-29 at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in Jacksonville. The disease is becoming a major public health concern in developing countries and dialogues are critical, said conference organizer Folakemi Odedina, Ph.D., a professor of pharmaceutical outcomes and policy with the College of Pharmacy and director of community outreach for the UF Prostate Disease Center. To register for the conference, please visit conferences.dce.ufl.edu/gpc/ or call 352-392-1701.



TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

TOBACCO-FREE EVERYWHERE

On Nov. 1, the Health Science Center and Shands at UF became tobacco-free. Now, as of July 1, every inch of UF's sprawling campus is a tobacco-free zone. Interested in quitting? There are tobacco resources available to help on the Tobacco-Free Together website at www.tobaccofree.health.ufl.edu and also on UF's tobacco-free page www.tobaccofree.ufl.edu.

Capt. Cindy Lewis, a scientist at the Keys Marine Laboratory in Long Key, takes UF pharmacy researcher Hendrik Luesch and four of his lab members to a reef collection site near Marathon on June 10.

PHOTO BY LINDA HOMEWOOD

DISCOVERY, while it lasts

Marine researchers collect samples before oil spill spreads

By Linda Homewood

In a race against time, UF marine researchers are hurrying to collect underwater marine algae samples in the Florida Keys while an ever-growing Gulf oil spill steadily migrates toward Florida, already reaching the Emerald Coast in the Panhandle.

Hendrik Luesch, Ph.D., an associate professor of medicinal chemistry at the UF College of Pharmacy, took his research team to Long Key in June in hopes of advancing early drug discoveries that may yield cancer-fighting properties hidden in marine algae. It's an expedition he has made annually for four years, but this year it seems there might be a limit on how long the ecosystem will yield its specimens.

According to federal and independent scientists, as much as 2.5 million gallons of oil per day are spewing from a pipe in the Gulf of Mexico that engineers have failed to seal.

"Cyanobacteria, or organisms that overgrow coral reefs, are shown to produce drug-like compounds that may be exploited for biomedical purposes such as anti-cancer drugs," Luesch said.

The warm waters and mild year-round temperatures allow marine life to flourish in the Keys, creating a predatory environment among these organisms, Luesch said. To survive, marine organisms develop defense systems, sort of like a chemical survival kit. Researchers use these toxic chemicals as the basis for creating drugs that can target and fight cancers.

"It's the biodiversity that makes the Florida Keys a hot spot for researchers," Luesch said.

At the same time, the coral reefs are also a very sensitive ecosystem, he said. For example, the extended chill in the tropical waters last January caused sea turtles to become cold-stunned and killed more than 85 percent of reefs in certain areas, according to Cynthia Lewis, a biological scientist at the Keys Marine Laboratory in Long Key, where the UF researchers collected specimens.

Scientists in Florida don't know what to expect, she said.

"We are concerned and watchful," she said. "We don't know how far the marine impact may go."

Only two weeks earlier, Lewis and nine other scientific teams under the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission took baseline samples on the Gulf and Atlantic coasts from Key Largo to Key West to establish pre-impact marine wildlife assessments, Lewis said.

One challenge with his research, Luesch said, is the randomness of finding an organism and the length of time it takes to isolate and test a compound for its specific drug-producing qualities. Environmental variables may change, which means the organism may change as well.

"We may find an interesting species, but it takes months of research just to isolate the active compound and analyze the properties in our lab," Luesch said. "Attempts to re-collect often fail because we do not always see the same organism again."

Two compounds from the oceans have been developed into drugs that are on the market today — one treats cancer, and the other is a pain reliever. Fourteen more are in clinical trials. Scientists simply don't know how many biological organisms are in the ocean, Luesch said, but marine organisms often produce multiple compounds, and he estimates that more than 90 percent have not yet been discovered.

What does the largest-ever oil spill disaster mean to Luesch and his research?

"I am thinking what everyone else in the United States and in the world is thinking — what a catastrophe this is for mankind and especially the area in the Gulf of Mexico," he said. "Secondly, I am concerned for the marine discovery efforts by our groups and other groups in this area."

A world under oil

UF veterinary pathologist studying animals affected by oil spill

Dr. Brian Stacy cleans an oiled Kemp's ridley turtle. (Courtesy of NOAA and Georgia Department of Natural Resources.)

By Sarah Carey

When an unprecedented cold snap in January caused two years' worth of turtle strandings in only 10 days, UF clinical assistant professor Brian Stacy helped lead federal efforts to treat and relocate large numbers of turtles back into the wild. Three months later, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill thrust Stacy, a veterinarian working under an agreement with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries' Service Office of Protected Resources, once again into crisis-management mode.

"It's like the cold stun protracted out over months, with no end in sight," said Stacy, a board-certified veterinary pathologist who has worked examining living and dead sea turtles offshore in Venice, La. — a hub for many of the clean-up operations — within miles of the Deepwater Horizon wreck, and in Gulfport, Miss., where he performed 67 sea turtle necropsies at the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.

Working at his side has been Jennifer Muller, a biological scientist who assists in conducting necropsies, handling live animals, and documenting evidence.

"My technician and I have worked consistent 18-hour days under hot field conditions, away from home for weeks at a time, living in temporary housing," said Stacy, speaking in Gainesville after three weeks of fieldwork. "It's hard work, to say the least, and I've been going at it for more than 60 days now."

Although the common assumption might be that all sea turtles collected after the spill have died because of oil-related causes, Stacy found that more than half of the turtles that have been examined had ocean-floor sediment in their lungs or airways, indicating that they may have died from drowning after being caught in fishing nets. His preliminary findings were reported June 25 in The New York Times, although additional test results are pending.

On June 25, approximately 300 dead turtles from Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana arrived at UF for necropsy in various stages of decomposition. Each turtle was logged in and placed inside a 20-foot storage freezer and the chain of custody was transferred to Stacy, in compliance with federal requirements.

Biological samples from the turtles are sent to laboratories designated by the Unified Command — which consists of federal and state government as well as private entities, including BP.

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Stacy working as the primary sea turtle vet for NOAA's marine animal health team," said Helen Golde, the deputy director of NOAA's Office of Protected Resources. "He is invaluable as we work through the Unified Command to respond to the Deepwater Horizon spill. Dr. Stacy's experience in veterinary medicine and sea turtle pathology are unique and he is leading these critical elements of the overall effort."

For Stacy, the two most distressing things so far have been experiencing the scale of the spill and seeing animals completely mired in hot oil.

"It's a terrible way for an animal to die," Stacy said.

There has been a bit of good news, though. Of approximately 60 sea turtles Stacy and his team were able to rescue, most survived.

"All are still in rehabilitation facilities and eventually will be released," Stacy said. "We're still in the learning process of determining how the oil will affect them, both in this key interval and longer term. There is a lot of ongoing effort to identify release sites that are biologically appropriate and that are out of harm's way."

As for Stacy, who knows his work will continue indefinitely, he is doing his best to stay focused on the job at hand.

"What keeps me going is helping animals, and the fact that the attention this situation is getting right now is an opportunity to shed light on some of the important concerns in the Gulf of Mexico for sea turtles," Stacy said. "You just try to find the hours here and there when you can compartmentalize and put it out of your mind. My wife and family are very supportive, and that is critical."

Masters of EDUCATION

Program helps faculty become more effective teachers

PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

Clinical pharmacy professor Ann Snyder was one of 17 participants who recently graduated from the Master Educator Fellowship program, which aims to help clinicians become better teachers.

By April Frawley Birdwell

They couldn't write notes. It was a problem Ann Snyder, Pharm.D., noticed in almost all her students.

The notes Snyder is talking about aren't the kind students take in a lecture hall or the kind sixth-graders pass to each other in class. Rather, many students —not just hers — struggled writing what is known as a "soap note," the type of note health professionals write to communicate to each other about patients.

Enrolled in a College of Medicine education fellowship geared toward helping clinicians become better teachers, Snyder took on note-writing as her project for the program. She surveyed students to assess their needs and developed a rubric to guide them on how to write better notes. She has also worked with other pharmacy faculty to include more about note-writing throughout the college's curriculum.

"Everyone struggles with it," said Snyder, coordinator of the College of Pharmacy's Working Professionals Pharm.D. program. "The written form of communication is poor and creates medication variations ... A lot of it is also teaching students what is pertinent and what is not."

Inspiring projects like these is one of the goals of the College of Medicine's Master Educator Fellowship program. Started in 2001, the program aims to improve education by enhancing clinicians' teaching skills and to help faculty advance in their own careers, says Kyle Rarey, Ph.D., a College of Medicine professor who co-pioneered the program.

As part of the program, faculty members meet twice a month for 18 months and work on individual research projects.

"The success of our education mission rests in part on the quality of teaching that is performed by our faculty, so in order for us to advance we need to help enhance their teaching," Rarey said. "There are a lot of teaching programs where you can learn in five months how to be a better teacher, but in order to also help our faculty advance their careers we wanted to have a scholarship component as well."

During training, clinicians are focused on learning to provide the best care to patients; they don't always get instruction on how to become the best teachers, says Felipe Urdaneta, M.D., a clinical associate profess of anesthesiology and director of the MEF program.

Fellows learn how to use new technology as tools in their teaching and also have sessions with UF leaders to hear about impending changes in educational policy. But perhaps most importantly, fellows get to learn from each other and establish a network across disciplines, Urdaneta says.

"One of the major issues we have, we wear many different hats," said Urdaneta, who was a fellow in the program's second class. "This program opened my eyes to new methods and techniques to make education a part of my everyday activities."

Although program participants primarily come from the College of Medicine in Gainesville and Jacksonville, four faculty members from other colleges have participated, including Snyder, Rarey says.

"Part of our educational mission is to promote interdisciplinary team learning," Rarey said.

A graduate of the fellowship's fifth class in May, Snyder feels like the program has made her a better clinician and, in turn, a better teacher.

"What the value really was for me is knowing I am not alone," Snyder said. "It helped me to see how other residency programs work and how others make decisions."

PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

Ben Dunn, right, leads the UF HHMI Science for Life program.

Teaching teamwork

By John Pastor

Imagine a chemistry professor and a neuroscientist working together to test a new drug to fight Alzheimer's disease, or a biomedical engineer working with an orthopedic surgeon to help patients walk again.

At UF, teamwork is often considered the shortest route toward solving human health problems. But more than that, novel collaborations can inspire students who are beginning their journey in the life sciences.

On May 20, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute awarded UF a $1.2 million grant to support this collaborative approach through a dual-mentorship initiative within the UF-HHMI Science for Life Program.

The new funding will give undergraduates the opportunity to learn how to scientifically approach human health problems by working with faculty members trained in different disciplines — often a basic scientist and a translational scientist rushing to speed therapies to the clinic, according to Ben Dunn, Ph.D., a distinguished professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the College of Medicine and director of the UF-HHMI Science for Life Program.

"Mentoring is an important part of our approach," Dunn said. "Basically, this started when we were trying to help freshmen identify research laboratories across campus. Three professors from diverse fields come into a class to give short presentations about their work. We want to present the students a smorgasbord of options. We want them to hear a talk, be inspired and get in touch with the professors."

Global health

Certificate program brings public health practitioners from all over the world to UF

Story by Jill Pease **Photos** by Gregory Gray

The new UF Certificate in Emerging Infectious Disease Research program brought 39 students from 13 countries, including Nepal, Egypt, Cambodia, Uganda, Romania and Georgia, to campus in May for an intensive two-week training program.

Hosted by the UF Global Pathogens Laboratory, the certificate program provides special graduate-level education for public health and veterinary professionals associated with U.S. international laboratories, such as the Department of Defense Global Emerging Infections Surveillance and Response System and the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"By making advanced training available to international public health and veterinary practitioners, the program helps to build sustainable epidemiological research capacity in infectious diseases and promote new collaborations between international U.S. laboratories and other countries," said Gregory Gray, M.D., M.P.H., Global Pathogens Laboratory director and chair of the PHHP department of environmental and global health.

The program included lectures, laboratory exercises and fieldwork in epidemiology, biostatistics, zoonotic diseases, entomology, microbiology, water quality assessments, scientific research and food safety. Outside of the classroom the students collected mosquito larvae at Austin Cary Memorial Forest and visited a dairy farm, a cattle confinement facility and a poultry production operation. The on-campus coursework is coupled with 12 months of Web-based curriculum. Upon completion, certificate students can apply the credits they've earned toward a UF master's in public health degree.

"It was a really very extensive course, but I have enjoyed gaining knowledge and also interacting with so many experienced people from different geographical regions of the world," said Zahida Fatima, a scientific officer at the National Reference Lab for Avian Influenza in Islamabad, Pakistan. "CEIDR has opened so many new avenues to explore in the world of science."

PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL

Dean Teresa Dolan, left, takes the helm with the College of Dentistry crew during filming of a video designed to train college staff how to use a new clinical management system.

BY SHAYNA BROUKER

WHERE NO COLLEGE HAS GONE BEFORE

Dentistry takes training to another galaxy

Captain's log, Star Date 2009, 11-28. The Denterprise has been sent to the ADEA (American Dental Education Association) system to explore opportunities for expanding enrollment in the D.M.D. program. We're on course to approach several other health professions and to investigate potential partnerships and promote interplanetary health sciences education.

So begins the script for the College of Dentistry's training video for its new patient clinical management system, called "Axium." They could have just typed up a humdrum PowerPoint presentation, but the inventive minds in the college's administrative office turned teaching a new software program into an Oscar-worthy performance — or at least the latest YouTube hit.

Dean Teresa Dolan charged her office with creating a communications plan to ease the major transition from the college's slow, archaic, and ironically named "Quick Recovery" system to the more sophisticated Axium. Axium's basic function is tracking patients and their clinical care. But unlike Quick Recovery, it also takes into account the progress of dental residents and students working under attendees, integrating the clinical and educational aspects of a Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

"Everyone kept calling it 'light-years ahead of where we are now,' so Julie Thompson (finance director) suggested a 'Star Trek' theme," said Stephen Kostewicz, manager of application supply and delivery. "Once we had the 'Star Trek' theme, people started playing the 'Star Trek' quote game and throwing out ideas. We stuck with the old 'Star Trek' because it was easiest and cheesiest and has so many recognizable clichés."

And so the "Project Denterprise" was born.

Kostewicz, who along with Thompson spearheaded the new software selection process, volunteered to write the script for the video, peppering it with "Star Trek" references geared toward the college's audience. The College of Dentistry is the "Starfleet Command;" training classes are part of the "Starfleet Academy;" and monthly updates from "Captain" Dolan regarding the software implementation are the "Captain's Log."

Costumes even feature *Dent*erprise badges, combining a molar and the *Enterprise* logo.

Filming was done mostly in secret, and it was not hard to find volunteers; so many are closet "Trekkies," Kostewicz said.

"We would say, 'Hey, we're doing this video,' show them a shirt, and their eyes would light up. They would respond, 'What do I have to do?'"

One of the college's large classrooms was transformed into a set resembling the show's memorable bridge crew scene with Captain Kirk by draping black plastic sheets on the walls. The cast, starring Kostewicz as Spock and Dolan filling in as Captain Kirk, filmed "Episode One: The Trouble with QR" in less than five hours.

This is not the first time the college has created a clever communications plan. "Catch the Wave," a surf-themed strategy, ushered in the overhaul of the D.M.D. education model with periodic "surf reports."

"There are a lot of creative and competitive people here — we try to do a little bit better than the previous plans," Kostewicz said.

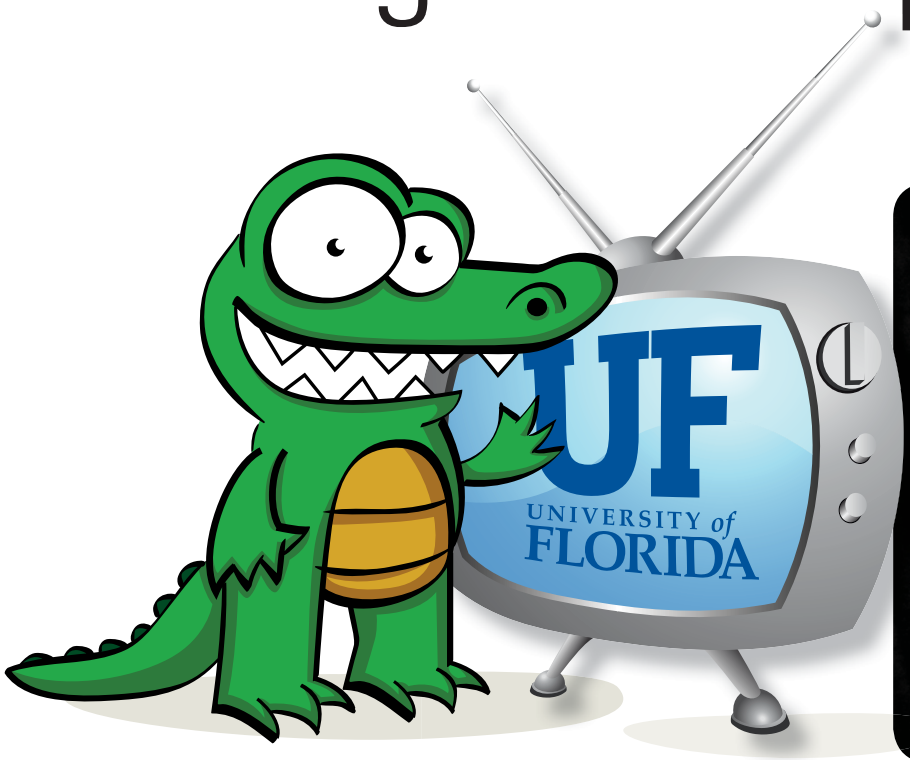
To promote the video's March 31 debut, volunteers dressed up in Star Trek costumes and walked around the office handing out the Denterprise logo badges.

Since the video's release, it has been viewed more than 1,000 times on YouTube. There are even rumors that the dental school at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale made a spoof, but no such video has surfaced.

The college plans to fully implement Axium by January 2011. In the meantime, Project Denterprise is helping to drum= up enthusiasm for the new system. Watch Episode One at www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5LqWAztU3Y and stay tuned for "Episode Two: Attack of the Freshmen," scheduled for release by the end of the summer. P

Taking a **chomp** out of **TV**

HSC, Shands commercial to be featured during football games



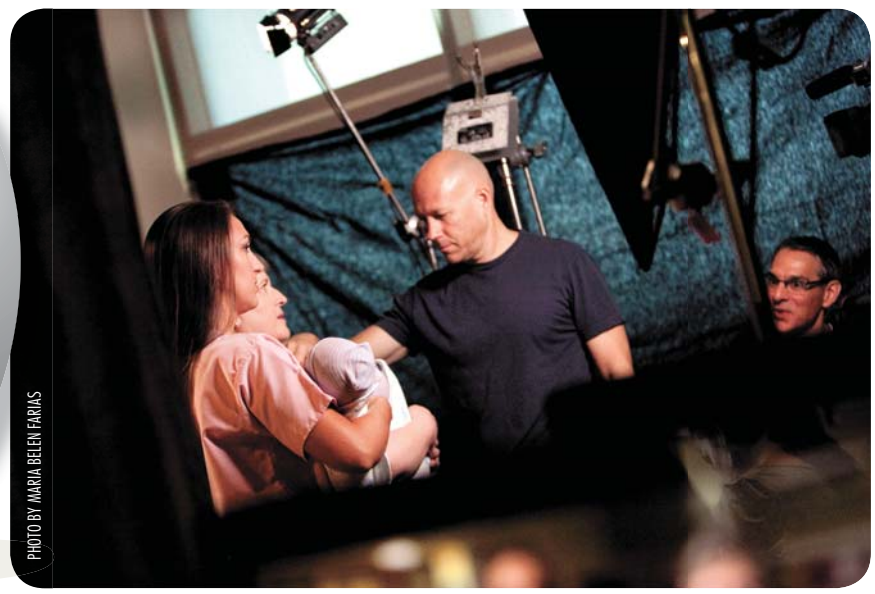


PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

UF employee April Thompson, left, took part in filming of a Shands and UF commercial in June. The commercial, produced by the Trickey Jennus Ad Agency and the Costa Creative Group, will be played during football games .

By Shayna Brouker

From the Shands at UF Radiology Lab to the College of Pharmacy, everybody's doing the chomp.

Doctors, nurses, pharmacists and researchers alike take on a starring role in a new marketing campaign to promote the close collaboration of Shands HealthCare and the UF Health Science Center. The television commercials, filmed throughout the Health Science Center and Shands at UF campus, feature employees lip-synching to a version of "We Are the Boys of Old Florida" and dancing to an original song called "Do the Gator Chomp."

"The idea is internally to create some synergy here, to create some excitement among our employees and staff and get them to have some fun with this," said Garrett Hall, manager of creative services and interactive media for Shands. "With Dr. (David) Guzick on board now we're integrating our clinical enterprise with the HSC. Research and education have become much more integrated. This is a visual representation of that integration."

The Shands marketing and public relations department hired Trickey Jennus Ad Agency and the Costa Creative Group, both of Tampa, to write and produce the commercials. Joe Costa, creative director of Costa Creative Group, worked with a musician to recreate "We Are the Old Boys of Florida" from a 60-second waltz to a peppier "rockapella" style sung by a barbershop quartet.

"It's the same lyrics, but it's tight and fun," Costa said. "It'll create some esprit de corps that people are looking for."

The video features scenes from around the hospital and other buildings, such as the Communicore and Biomedical Science buildings, to reflect the diverse areas where Shands and UF employees work. Each of the scenes represents a line from the song.

For example, the line "We are all strong for old Florida" shows two nurses holding newborn babies whispering, "We are all strong for old Florida."

The groups also worked with a songwriter to produce an original hip-hop song called "Do the Gator Chomp," as well as a choreographer to arrange a dance routine along with it. The choreographer taught the dance to employees, who will be supplemented by professional dancers in the commercials.

Like the "We Are the Boys of Old Florida" commercial, the "Do the Chomp" video also features different scenes from around the health complex.

"The idea is that we can go through the hospital and we can show education, research and health care," Costa said. "We can show the pharmacy, pediatrics, all the parts of the hospital. We can take doctors and nurses and show them doing the chomp."

The video will be shown on the Jumbotron at every home football game in the hope that it "goes viral." A voiceover at the end of the video asks, "Think you got a better chomp? Show us. Visit shands.org/chomp," prompting viewers to create and submit their own 30-second "Do the Chomp" dance as a contest.

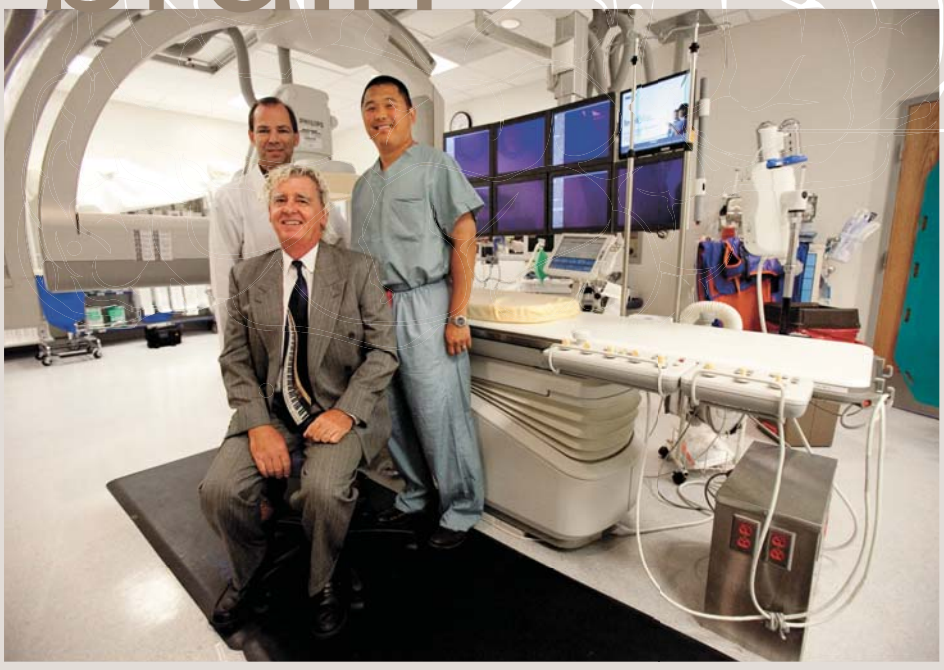
In addition to home games, the commercials will be aired on the statewide Sun Sports channel and with the Sunday rebroadcast of Gator football games on Fox Sports. Before the end of the fall season, Shands will choose the most impressive video to be shown at the last home football game.

Of the 100 people who auditioned for the commercials, the team chose 40 from both Shands and the HSC.

April Thompson, supervisor of UF pediatric specialties for UF Physicians, was cast as a nurse singing to a newborn in "We Are the Boys of Old Florida."

"I saw the e-mail (about auditions) and was like 'Oh, this is so awesome! I want to do this,'" she said.

WHEN TIME IS brain



Stroke program honored for top-notch care, rapid response

Story by Shayna Brouker **Photos** by Maria Belen Farias

A little more than three years ago, he was lying on the white table now in front of him.

He remembers hovering above his unconscious body, watching as doctors threaded a catheter through an artery from a puncture in his groin, all the way up to retrieve the blood clot in his brain that had landed him there.

Bruce Conway, then 57, had suffered a stroke. Coincidentally, he was driving his wife and two young children to Shands at UF for a doctor's appointment when it hit. Shortly thereafter, he fell into the hands of Brian Hoh, M.D., a trusted neurosurgeon on UF's Stroke Program dream team.

He stands now with Hoh and Michael Waters, M.D., Ph.D., medical director of the program, in an operating room equipped with the life-saving Merci device they used to remove the clot.

"I have to be honest — they were great," Conway said. "I owe them my life. I was very fortunate to be here at Shands with these doctors. They were marvelous."

Conway isn't the only one who has noticed the caliber of care at the Shands at UF Stroke Center. The program received the distinguished Gold award from the American Stroke Association May 19. The award recognizes compliance with the ASA's Get With the Guidelines – Stroke program, which measures quality of care across seven parameters proven to improve patient recovery before, during and after a stroke.

Only 47 of more than 1,500 participating hospitals nationally have accomplished this feat, which is "pretty hard to do," acknowledged Waters, also an assistant professor of neurology in the UF College of Medicine.

"Articles published in leading scientific journals have increasingly demonstrated the effectiveness of Get With the Guidelines – Stroke," Waters said. "The time is right for Shands at UF to continue its focus on providing high-quality, science-based stroke care."

Waters came to UF in November 2008 and brought with him extensive experience using the ASA's guidelines from both his alma maters, the University of California Los Angeles and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. He spearheaded the formal stroke program not long after his arrival at UF, assembling a multidisciplinary team of neurologists, neuroradiologists, neurosurgeons, vascular surgeons, critical care physicians, emergency department physicians, rehabilitation specialists, nurse specialists and pharmacists.

Their goal: Provide comprehensive care for every aspect of stroke prevention and treatment.

The team looked for areas to improve and implemented aggressive medication, anticoagulation therapy and smoking cessation protocols as part of its stroke treatment. They also bolstered the program's performance after comparing their outcomes with other hospitals on the ASA's database. It wasn't long before the team was recognized for its hard work.

In November 2009, just a year after adopting the guidelines, the Agency for Health Care Administration designated Shands at UF a comprehensive stroke center, one of only 17 in the state of Florida. The title recognized Shands at UF as a hospital operating in the full range of stroke care and basic and clinical research, including prevention, rehabilitation, education and community awareness. Among other innovative tools, the center offers brain imaging scans and has specialists available 24/7.

Along with adhering to the guidelines, the stroke program emphasizes rapid response time to strokes.

"In stroke treatment, we say, 'Time is brain,'" Waters said. "If a patient is treated within 30 minutes, there is a high likelihood of saving them. The brain is hungry for oxygen and glucose and consumes a disproportionate amount relative to its weight."

The longer the brain goes without oxygen, the more damage it incurs.

Drs. Michael Waters and Brian Hoh used the Merci device to save one-time stroke victim Bruce Conway, who fully recovered thanks to quick treatment. He praises the Shands at UF Stroke Program as "phenomenal."

The result is brain death, and ultimately, coma.

UF stroke specialists strive to halt this process by operating under the Stroke Alert System. Justine Abram, coordinator of the stroke program, conducted a research study that initiated the system, also known as "scoop and run." It teaches emergency medical service providers to recognize stroke symptoms when responding to a call and notify the hospital. Upon arrival, a team of doctors and nurses is ready at the receiving bay to swoop in and immediately begin advanced stroke treatment.

Abram said this focus on collaborative effort is what sets Shands apart.

"The key thing is that it's not just one department. It's EMS all the way to the ED — everyone is a piece of the pie, everyone's accountable and steps up to do their part," she said. "We strive for excellence. We want people to look at us as the gold standard of care."

This system has established the UF Stroke Program as a mecca for stroke patients in Alachua County, treating 800 strokes last year and spurring EMS to send more patients — and the worst cases — to them. Waters said he hopes to continue drawing patients from the community to ensure that everyone is getting the best care.

Waters' vision for the center lines up well with the current statistics on stroke. It is the third leading cause of death in the United States. According to the ASA, approximately 795,000 people each year experience a new or recurrent stroke, a number that is only expected to rise as the general population grows older.

Waters said he also would like to eventually join forces with other high-achieving institutions and expand the Alachua County model of stroke care to the rest of Florida.

"The most important thing is that patients get to the places they need, so that the populace of Florida benefits," he said.

Conway, now thriving while his 81-year-old father continues to recover from a stroke he had a year ago, can only agree.

"There are many other hospitals that are out there. I always advise them if they have a stroke issue — go straight to Shands," he asserted.

Conway turned to his doctors. "Thank you for saving my life," he said.

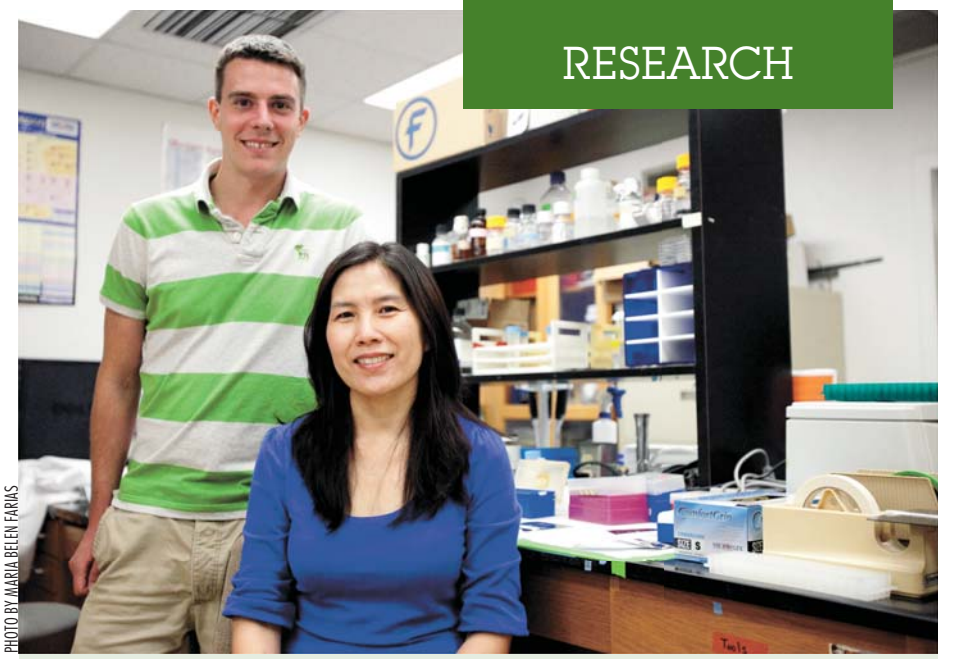


PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

Doctoral student William Donelan and Dr. Li-Jun Yang discovered a protein that could help doctors better screen for a disease called maturity onset diabetes of the young.

Diagnosing diabetes

Researchers pinpoint protein to help diagnose rare disease

By April Frawley Birdwell

UF researchers have identified a protein that affects how much insulin the body produces in people with a hereditary form of diabetes.

Called maturity onset diabetes of the young, or MODY, the disease can be difficult to detect and is sometimes misdiagnosed as the more common type 1 or type 2 forms of diabetes, in part because doctors have not been looking at the full genetic picture, said Li-Jun Yang, M.D., an associate professor of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine in the UF College of Medicine.

If the disease has not been diagnosed, children with MODY are often treated with insulin injections. But instead of receiving insulin injections — which can be dangerous if not administered precisely — many patients with MODY can take a pill that stimulates insulin production to treat their disease.

"The clinical treatment for MODY can be so simple if you diagnose the disease accurately," said Yang, the senior author of the study, published in the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. "People will treat this either as type 1 or type 2, but that is not the best approach for managing this condition. That is why we think what we have discovered is so important."

Nine forms of MODY have been identified, and each one is related to a mutation on a specific gene involved in insulin production. UF researchers studied MODY 3, the most common type, which affects about three-fourths of patients with the disease.

Scientists know that MODY 3 is related to a mutation on a gene called hepatic nuclear factor 1-alpha. But currently, tests only scan part of that gene for errors.

Researchers in Yang's lab began hunting for proteins that could affect the gene with no luck, says William Donelan, a doctoral student in the College of Medicine and the first author of the paper. They had one sample left to test, a key protein named NKx6.1. Further testing showed that this protein was what Yang describes as a "key controller" for HNF1-alpha.

"We had just about given up. We had tried lots of experiments looking for binding sites for these genes and nothing was working. This was the last one we tested out, and we had this huge spike in activity. We couldn't believe it," Donelan said. "I thought I did something wrong."

A new chapter for Pompe disease

By John Pastor

The first commercially available treatment in the United States for patients with late-onset Pompe disease was administered June 16 at UF.

Pompe disease is a rare form of muscular dystrophy and has been the focus of a research program at UF for more than 10 years. It is now part of expanded efforts in neuromuscular disease research.

People with Pompe disease cannot produce the enzyme acid alpha-glucosidase, or GAA. Without the enzyme, sugars and starches that are stored in the body as glycogen accumulate and destroy muscle cells, particularly those of the heart and respiratory muscles. Many patients need ventilators to breathe.

The therapy, developed by Genzyme Corp. and marketed under the name Lumizyme, involves intravenous infusions to replace the missing GAA enzyme in patients over 8 years of age.

"We are privileged to participate in the care of patients with Pompe disease and have a dedicated team in both clinical care and research for this form of muscular dystrophy," said Barry Byrne, M.D., Ph.D., the director of the Powell Gene Therapy Center and a member of the UF Genetics Institute. "The use of Lumizyme in the United States is the culmination of many years of work by basic science and clinical researchers around the world. Access to Lumizyme has been long-awaited by the patient community and this marks an important chapter as a specific therapy for this neuromuscular disease."

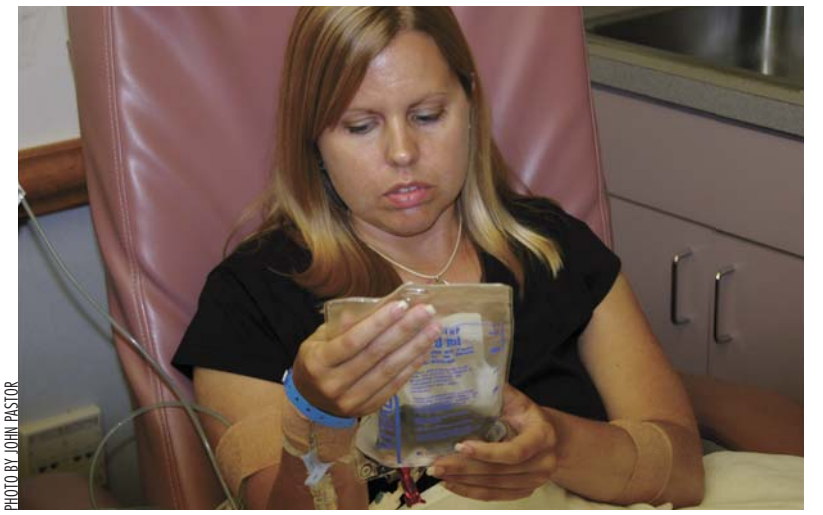


PHOTO BY JOHN PASTOR

Monique Griffin was the first patient to receive Lumizyme, the first commercially available treatment for late-onset Pompe disease.

Although rare, late-onset Pompe disease can occur in patients even in their 60s, who begin showing signs of muscle weakness and respiratory problems, often undiagnosed at an earlier age.

Monique Griffin, 35, of Orlando, was the first patient at UF to receive commercially available Lumizyme — technically known as alglucosidase alfa.

She was diagnosed with Pompe disease in January and has been receiving enzyme infusions on a study basis since March. She had formerly been employed as a communications specialist at a casino-resort in Las Vegas before being sidelined by the condition.

"I noticed some improvement in mobility right after the first few treatments," Griffin said. "This has been a very long process. I had symptoms for 10 years before I finally got a Pompe diagnosis, and I was in constant pain for most of 2009, so I have already felt some benefits of this treatment."

CHRISTOPHER COGLE, M.D.

Twice the **fight**

Therapy attacks leukemia from two sides

By Czerne M. Reid

A new therapy mounts a double-barreled attack on leukemia, targeting not just the cancer cells but also the environment in which those cells live and grow, UF researchers report.

Like striking an enemy camp directly as well as cutting off its source of food and other resources, the agent, called Oxi4503, poisons leukemia cells and destroys the blood vessels that supply them with oxygen and nutrients.

Use of the treatment in mouse models of acute myelogenous leukemia, or AML, is described online and in an upcoming print issue of the journal *Blood*. The researchers plan human tests of the drug at Shands at UF later this year.

"We've identified a new tool to dissect out the specifics of the relationship between leukemia cells and the blood vessels that supply them," said Christopher Cogle, M.D., the UF College of Medicine oncologist who is senior author of the paper and a member of the UF Shands Cancer Center. "What we are offering is a brand new treatment by a very different mechanism to people who desperately need something new."

Each year, more than 120,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a blood cancer, and about 80 percent of them die of the disease because there are no effective treatments, according to the National Cancer Institute. Some AMLs return after initially successful chemotherapy, while others do not respond at all. In addition, chemotherapy is too toxic for some elderly people, so they need an alternative.

Many treatments and studies focus on killing cancer cells, but very few target the microenvironment in which those cells grow. That means paying attention to blood vessels, bone marrow, growth factors and cell-to-cell interaction and binding.

Existing therapies that destroy blood vessels do so by targeting a growth factor called VEGF-A, but they are not effective long term at eliminating leukemia.

Tongue-*tied*

Why fixing a flaw could help babies breastfeed

By April Frawley Birdwell

Doctors advise new mothers to breastfeed for at least the first six months of a baby's life, but a simple yet often untreated problem can sabotage their efforts, UF researchers say.

Called a tongue tie, the problem occurs when the connective tissue under the tongue is too tight. A tongue tie can hinder some newborns from being able to breastfeed properly and painlessly, and this struggle can lead many new mothers to give up breastfeeding.

A simple snip can fix the problem, but many doctors still do not perform the procedure despite the effects a tongue tie can have on breastfeeding, writes UF neonatologist Sandra Sullivan, M.D., in an article published online in June in the journal *Pediatrics*.

"It is called a frenotomy, and it is far simpler than a circumcision, which we do fairly routinely," said Sullivan, an assistant professor of pediatrics and the lead author of the report. "It literally takes longer to fill out the consent form for the procedure than to do the actual procedure itself."

The problem is many practicing doctors were taught that the procedure is not medically necessary, Sullivan says.

But for babies to breastfeed effectively, their tiny tongues have to be able to perform a more complex type of sucking than what it takes to drink from a bottle. A tongue tie can hinder baby's efforts to move his tongue up, down and out, which he needs to do to nurse.

"If you take a bottle with an artificial nipple, there is not a lot a baby has to do to get milk," Sullivan said. "To get milk out of the breast, they have to make a vacuum and if they cannot get their tongue to the roof of their mouth, they cannot do this. They also need to use their jaw and tongue to move the milk along through the milk ducts in the breast.

"If they just bite on the nipple (like a bottle), first, it hurts (the baby's mother) a lot and second, it blocks off all those little tubes, which keeps the milk stuck in the breast."

Studies show about 2 percent to 5 percent of babies have constrictive tissue under the tongue and about half of those babies have problems with breastfeeding, said Isabella Knox, M.D., Ed.M., an associate professor of pediatrics at the University of Washington. About 4 million babies are born in the United States annually, meaning that between 40,000 and 100,000 babies are born each year with a tongue tie problem.

"That's a lot of babies," Knox said. "I don't think general pediatrics training gives us a lot of skills in supporting breastfeeding. A lot of pediatricians have lactation consultants, but we don't really know how to help somebody and for some people it is not always a priority."

In Sullivan's report in *Pediatrics*, she describes a patient who ended up in the hospital with feeding and growth problems, which could have been avoided if his tongue tie had been corrected as a newborn.

The baby's mother was following expert advice and exclusively breastfeeding. She had noticed the problem when her child was born, but doctors told her not to worry about it. Eventually, she was referred to an oral surgeon, but was told no one would operate on the baby until he was at least 6 months old.

To his parents, whose eldest child had been premature and small, the baby seemed to be growing. But by the time he was 6 months old, he weighed less than he did at birth, Sullivan says.

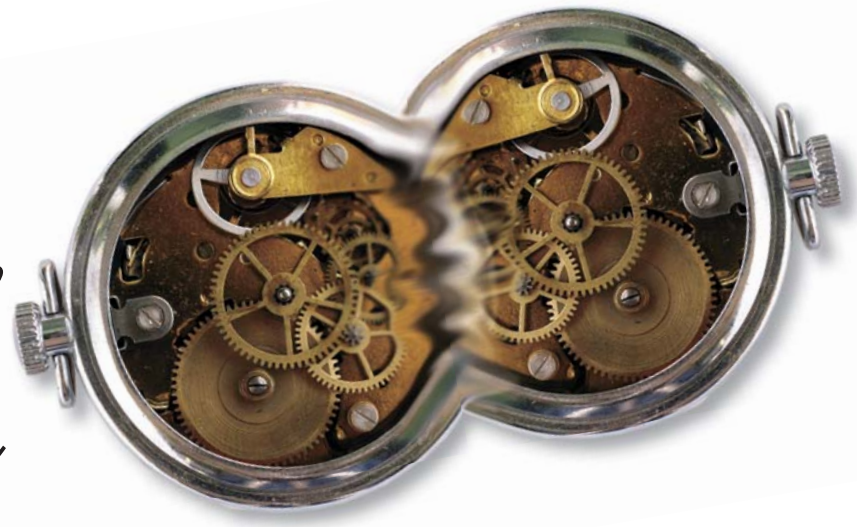
"He gained about 2 pounds in a matter of 36 hours in the hospital, and all we really did was fix his tongue," Sullivan said. "This is just one example, an extreme example, of what happens when you do not fix this problem."

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, breast milk is considered the optimal food for babies. Studies have shown that exclusive breastfeeding offers infants some protection against diseases and common childhood illnesses, such as ear infections.

Sullivan is part of an international organization focused on issues related to tongue ties. She and other members of the group's screening committee are working to develop a tool that would help nurses quickly screen for a tongue tie while assessing the baby after birth.

"There is not a lot of literature about frenotomy, and there are still a lot of doctors who say, 'Is this really necessary?'" Sullivan said. "Whether or not there is an epidemic or whether we ignored tongue ties and are looking for them now, this is something that is coming up more often in nurseries."

> "There is not a lot of literature about frenotomy, and there are still a lot of doctors who say, 'Is this really necessary?'" Whether or not there is an epidemic or whether we ignored tongue ties and are looking for them now, this is something that is coming up more often in nurseries." — Sandra Sullivan, M.D.



A cell's (little) timekeeper

Speed of cell division may be linked to genital defects

By John Pastor

Scientists have learned how a gene widely known for precisely positioning and sculpting various organs also controls the speed of cell division, a finding that could be useful for understanding the explosive growth of cancer cells or why increasing numbers of children are being born with genital and urinary tract malformations.

Writing in *Nature Communications*, UF researchers say a gene memorably named Sonic hedgehog controls genital development by regulating a process known as the cell cycle — a biological event that regulates when, and how fast, cells divide to form hearts, brains, limbs and all the other complex structures needed to build an individual.

The findings in mice provide insight into the molecular mechanisms that underlie growth of urinary and reproductive organs in both sexes. Abnormalities of the genitalia and urinary tract are among the most common birth defects, according to the March of Dimes. Similarly, the ability of Sonic hedgehog to alter the time it takes to complete the cell cycle might also influence tumor growth in a wide range of cancers, including the most common form of skin cancer.

"The role of Sonic hedgehog during embryonic development is to set up the positional addresses of cells in everything from limbs to the spinal cord, telling cells where they are located and what they will become — a process known as patterning," said senior author Martin Cohn, Ph.D., a Howard Hughes Medical Institute early career scientist and a member of the UF Genetics Institute and the College of Medicine. "We've shown Sonic hedgehog also controls organ growth by determining how long a cell spends preparing to replicate its DNA. The surprise is to find out how much patterning and growth are intertwined. An embryo has only a fixed amount of time to grow. Once we discovered that inactivation of Sonic hedgehog slowed down the cell cycle, it explained the big differences in growth and the structural defects we were finding in genitalia."

The knowledge may help scientists understand why an increasing number of boys are being born with birth defects called hypospadias, which involve incomplete formation of the urethral tube, resulting in an abnormally placed urethral opening on the underside of the penis. About one in 250 children has a urethral tube defect, more than double the frequency of 30 years ago.

MARTIN COHN, PH.D.

The cell cycle controls whether a cell continues to give rise to more cells or stop dividing and become specialized with a specific function to carry out. Humans begin life as a single fertilized egg cell that eventually gives rise to countless cells in an adult. As each cell divides it must proceed through a growth phase, replicate its DNA and divide again, or it can be instructed to stop dividing and perform a specific function.

When scientists deleted the Sonic hedgehog gene in specific tissues at different stages of external genital development, they discovered the cell cycle takes longer than it normally does — about 14.4 hours instead of the usual 8.5 hours for these cells. As a result, fewer cells are produced and genital growth is reduced by about 75 percent. The shape of the genitals is also altered.

"In this case, embryos wind up with underdeveloped, malformed genitalia, and the reason is that it takes nearly twice as long to complete the cell cycle, limiting the number of cells available to build the structure. What is surprising is that the number of cells seems to underlie the shape," said Ashley Seifert, Ph.D, a postdoctoral associate in the department of biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and first author of the paper. "We did not just see a miniaturized version of the genitals, we observed patterning defects, from subtle changes to severe malformations."

Researchers had thought malformations might be explained because important shaping genes that sculpt the genitalia would be controlled by Sonic and thus turned off in its absence, Seifert said. But instead, scientists found many of these key genes were still expressed in the right places, forcing the scientists to look elsewhere for the cause of the defects. The search led them to the cell cycle.

Employing a technique known as stereology, which is a way to accurately estimate the number of cells in a region by taking smaller samples — similar to opinion polling — scientists found decreased cell numbers in the Sonic hedgehog-depleted genitalia.

"When we began, the thought was that these cells may not be dividing at all, but the possibility existed that the cell cycle was just taking too long. This would mean that new cells could just be missing the next exquisitely timed signal required for further growth or patterning," said co-author Brandi Ormerod, Ph.D., a neuroscientist and biomedical engineer in the J. Crayton Pruitt Family department of biomedical engineering. "Essentially we used methods that we employ frequently in neuroscience to label dividing cells in the brain, determine how many of them there are within a structure, and figure out how long the cell cycle is taking — we just applied them to a different system during development."

Ormerod said the cells in developing genitalia may be missing time-sensitive signals that trigger completion of their division when Sonic hedgehog signaling is disrupted.

PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Mouse, a foal cloned at Texas A&M University and born at UF's Large Animal Hospital in May, is shown outside the hospital barns about a week after his birth.

No ordinary horse

UF, Texas A&M collaborate in birth of cloned foal

By Sarah Carey

The management of a high-risk pregnant mare and her foal's subsequent birth might be business as usual at the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, but the case of Minnie and Mouse was anything but routine. That's because Mouse, a spindly, dark brown Lipizzaner colt cloned from a Florida resident's beloved stallion, was the first test tube baby delivered at UF.

Nearly six weeks after Mouse's birth May 5 and a month after his discharge from UF's Large Animal Hospital, he is a happy, healthy, bucking foal enjoying the good life at his home in Cocoa, Fla.

"There have been several issues with cloned offspring, and while this isn't the first cloned foal, there are few in the world," said Margo Macpherson, D.V.M., an equine reproduction specialist and associate professor at UF. "So the fact this baby is alive and is currently thriving is a very good thing."

Since the technology was pioneered at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences in 2004, TAMU has produced 14 cloned foals, of which 12 survived and remain healthy, according to an article in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Association*.

Technically known as somatic cell nuclear transfer, the cloning process that resulted in Mouse's birth took place at Texas A&M. Mouse's owner, Kit Knotts, knew UF was experienced in the management of equine neonatal foals and had the expertise to carry Minnie and Mouse successfully through the latter part of Mouse's development from nuclear transfer-produced embryo to live horse. Teams from UF's equine reproduction, medicine and surgery services were all involved in that journey.

Knotts visited Gainesville in mid-March to meet with several members of UF's reproduction and medicine teams. Two weeks later, Minnie arrived, just shy of 300 days gestation.

Although veterinarians worried Minnie would give birth prematurely, a situation that would have meant almost certain death for the foal, the mare held on to carry Mouse to term.

"When we believed the mare was close to foaling, the reproduction, medicine and surgical clinicians communicated regularly," said Rob MacKay, B.V.Sc., Ph.D., a large animal medicine specialist at UF and part of the team of UF veterinarians who cared for Minnie and Mouse. "Taking into consideration the special needs previously cloned foals have had at the time of birth, a strategic plan was formed early that encompassed all possible supportive therapies and intervention needs that may be required at the time of foaling."

For example, UF veterinarians knew that for unknown reasons, many cloned foals have needed oxygen support at birth, so they planned ahead of time to start administering oxygen therapy immediately after the foal was born.

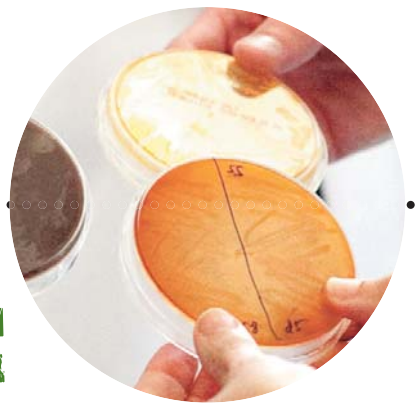
Mouse's birth proceeded without incident. Minnie passed her placenta within an hour of foaling, and the foal was sitting up and alert within five minutes — all good signs, veterinarians said. As time progressed, however, Mouse was unable to stand without assistance. At that point, veterinarians administered antibiotic therapy, supportive fluid therapy and regular feedings of the mare's milk. Within the next few days, additional problems were diagnosed, similar to those seen in premature foals. UF equine surgeons operated on Mouse to remove his umbilical remnants, eliminate a urinary problem and remove a blood clot from his bladder. In about a week, the infections had greatly improved.

"I think this foal helped demonstrate that we are good at what we do," said Stephanie Meyer, a third-year large animal medicine resident. "When challenged with new and unusual circumstances, we can have successful outcomes."

Meanwhile, Knotts could not be happier. After arriving home, Mouse quickly bonded with Marc, his healthy and sound 30-year-old DNA twin. Knotts has owned Marc, a Dressage champion, for 24 years. It was as a tribute to him — and after a futile nationwide hunt to find another horse she really wanted — that Knotts first embarked upon the odyssey of the cloning process.

She has no regrets. In fact, another surrogate mare pregnant with Marc's next cloned twin is expected to journey from Texas A&M to UF in mid-August for management by equine specialists.

"I think the whole team approach we have is so outstanding," Knotts said. "It's not just the doctors; it's the students and the nurses, even the stall cleaners. They're just the most amazing crew I have ever encountered. The team is just top-notch." P



[Bricks] [Scientists] (discovery)

How the HSC's latest batch of research buildings is sparking new research by bringing together scientists from different disciplines

Story by **Czerne M. Reid** *Photos by* **Maria Belen Farias**

Tooth discoloration is, understandably, a concern and a research area for dentists.

But grapefruit discoloration?

Ever since her recent move into the Emerging Pathogens Institute, Ozlem Yilmaz, D.D.S., Ph.D., a dentist and associate professor in the College of Dentistry, doesn't think it's all that strange. Talking with plant pathologists in her building, she found out that the mouth bacteria she studies belong to the same group as those that cause greening, a disease that discolors and deforms citrus fruits and foliage. So the researchers formed an unlikely team, pooling their expertise to tackle the problem.

That scenario is playing out over and over across the Health Science Center as researchers ramp up cross-disciplinary efforts to answer tough questions in science and medicine. And the campus infrastructure is expanding in a way that ignites and fuels that kind of collaboration. New buildings such as the Biomedical Sciences Building, the Emerging Pathogens Institute and their slightly older sibling, the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex, have literally removed the walls that existed between researchers.

As experts in different disciplines mingle and basic scientists connect with clinical researchers and physicians, they forge new paths to discoveries that can rapidly move from laboratories to the patient care arena.

Building new teams, *strengthening old ties*

In the last several years, UF and the Health Science Center have seen hundreds of thousands of new square feet of research space dedicated to interdisciplinary research — and more is on the way.

Adequate, well-appointed space is key to attracting talented faculty and students, and research dollars. Funding agencies pay attention to whether universities have suitable facilities for projects outlined in grant proposals. The work those facilities allow influences how universities and research programs are perceived nationally and internationally.

"Without new space, it would be impossible to grow the research program in any substantial way," said Win Phillips, D.Sc., UF's vice president for research. "Our grant programs, research dollars and the output of our researchers are vitally dependent on it."

In new facilities, Yilmaz and others like her have found room to expand the scope of their research. People who once were strangers now run into each other often, share ideas and frustrations, and end up as research partners.

"The 'Good morning, how are you today?' conversations can turn into really interesting ideas," Yilmaz said.

Like a new project with her office and laboratory neighbor, Volker Mai, Ph.D., an assistant professor of microbiology and cell science in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Mai studies how bacteria in the gut affect general health. Yilmaz studies bacteria in the mouth. The two teamed up to connect their knowledge of different parts of the digestive tract, and plan to apply for NIH funding to investigate how bacteria in the mouth might be associated with overall health.

"Before, I wouldn't even think about this," Mai said.

New digs have also helped stoke existing collaborations.

For Rosalind Sadleir, Ph.D., a research assistant scientist in the

College of Dentistry professor Ozlem Yilmaz (top, left) and UF microbiologist Volker Mai (bottom, left) have teamed on a project after meeting and discussing work in the new Emerging Pathogens Institute.

J. Crayton Pruitt Family department of biomedical engineering, a move into the Biomedical Sciences Building put her steps away from clinical suites of the Health Science Center. She has more chance meetings with collaborators such as Edward Ross, M.D., an associate professor of nephrology in the College of Medicine, with whom she's developing a device for detecting internal bleeding after blunt trauma, and an electrical method to tell when needles come loose during dialysis.

"There's no substitute for face-to-face interactions," Ross said.

The communication boost is not just among faculty, but also postdoctoral fellows and graduate students.

Aaron Tucker, M.Sc., one of Sadleir's students, has learned about how materials discarded after surgery can be used to engineer new tissues, simply because colleagues from a different research group work just a few benches away.

"As a student you learn more about other fields in a really informal way with your peers," said Tucker, an electrical and biomedical engineer.

With his electronics expertise he has also been able to help a nearby group fix malfunctioning equipment, saving them money that could be used for other purposes.

"If one person knows something, many people can benefit," he said.

Fueling the growth

UF and the Health Science Center have powered expansion by combining funds from a variety of sources, including federal and nonprofit foundation grants, private donations and stock sales. But state dollars top the list.

"The state of Florida has been visionary," Phillips said. "Some states don't build university buildings."

In constructing the Biomedical Sciences Building, for example, the state picked up almost $85 million of the $90.5 million tab.

UF also finds new ways to add onto new funding to multiply the effect.

Communicore gets fancy

By April Frawley Birdwell

Imagine a spacious lobby with warm wood accents and television screens built into the walls. The scent of brewing coffee draws you down the hall and into a bustling Starbucks underneath a dazzling diamond-shaped skylight …

Welcome to the Communicore Building. In 2011.

This summer, UF began a $4 million project to renovate the Communicore Building and the adjoining Sun Terrace. By early next year, there will be a new building with a Starbucks and a Panda Express restaurant that will serve as the portal to the Communicore Building. The first-floor lobby also is being remodeled, and the building's widely used lecture halls are being renovated. The building where the Chick-Fil-A and Einstein Bros. Bagels are currently housed also will be expanded to include more indoor seating and new restaurants Freshens and Croutons, says Dennis Hines, associate director for medical/health administration.

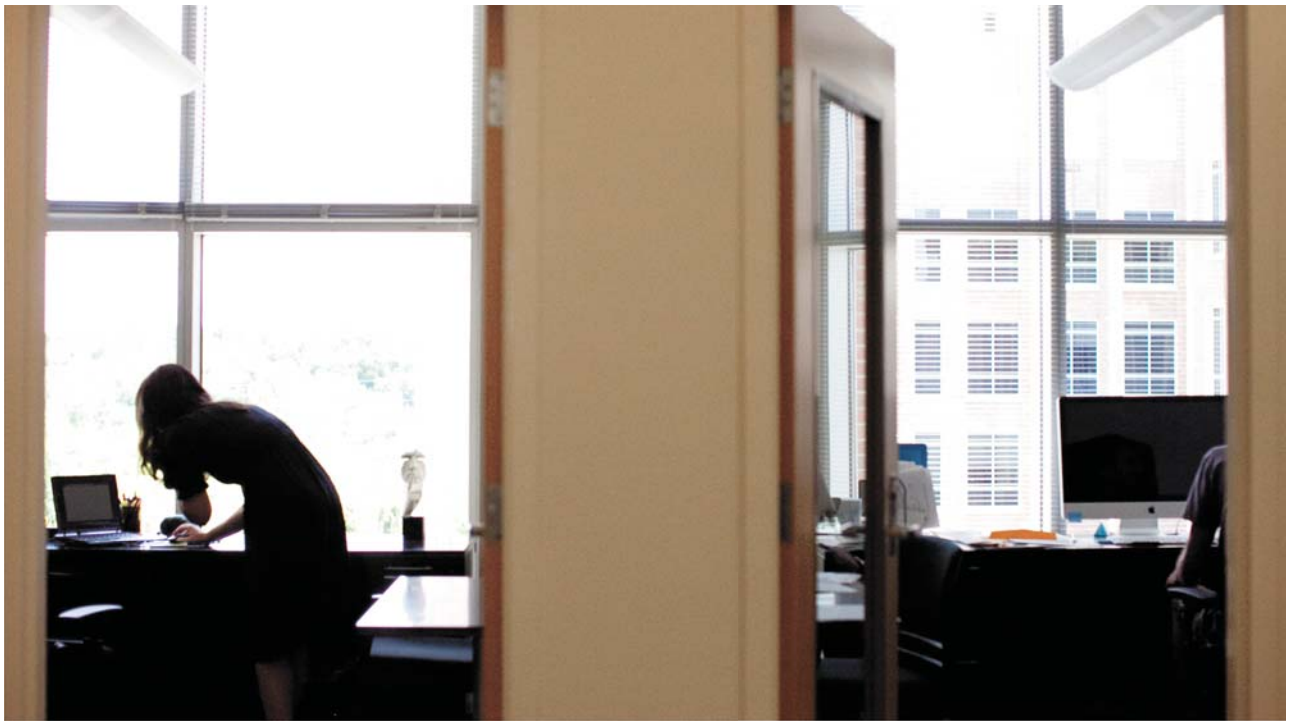
The two-phase renovation began in May with the Communicore Building lecture halls getting much-needed upgrades, such as new air handling units and lighting. Eventually, the lecture halls will be remodeled as well, with tables and seating being replaced, but leaders want to get suggestions from students and faculty first.

In addition, the first-floor restrooms in the Communicore are undergoing renovations and the lobby is being remodeled. The lobby renovation and lecture hall upgrades are slated to be complete by Aug. 23, when the bulk of classes resume. The new building that will serve as the Communicore's portal is expected to be finished in the spring.

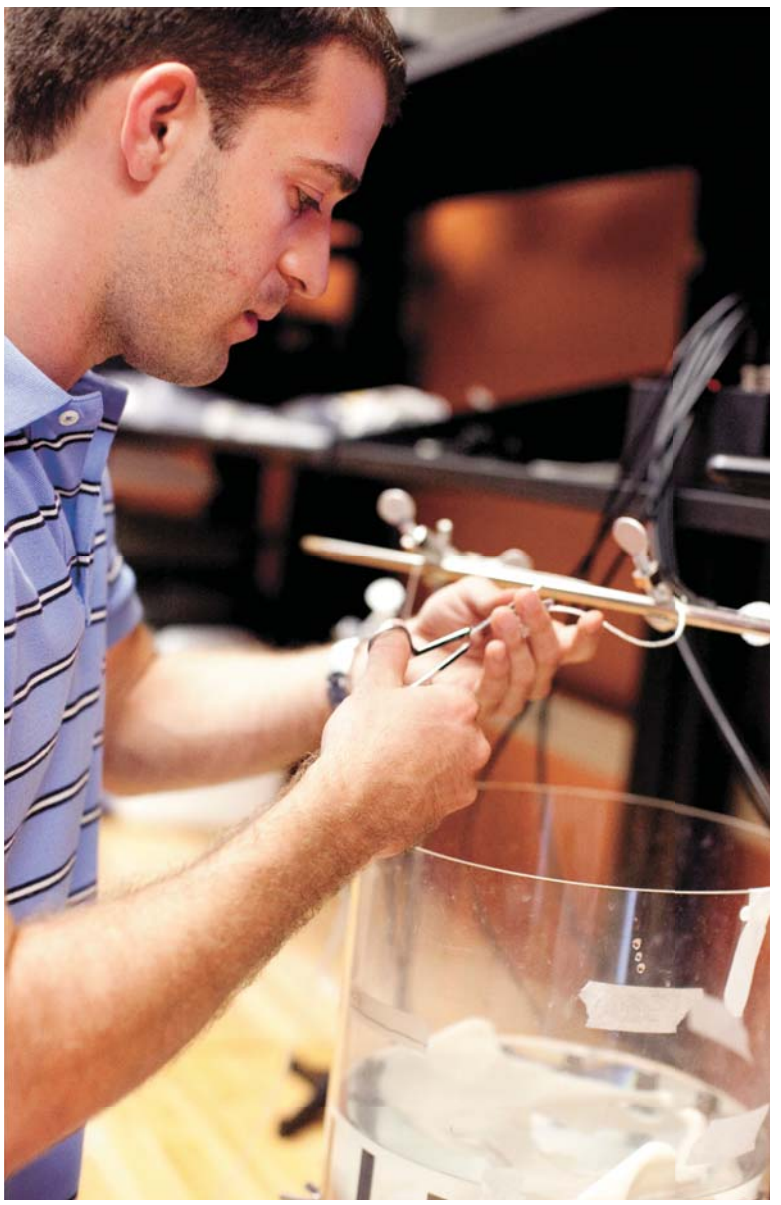
"It will be a whole new look," Hines said. "The design has a very contemporary feel."

The expansion of the Chick-Fil-A building should be complete by November, with much of the construction occurring in the afternoon and evening to ensure minimal disruption.

In addition, the area of the Medical Sciences Building where the Starbucks coffee cart is located now will eventually be remodeled as well. Planning is under way to turn the space into an official entryway for the College of Medicine.



Dentist Ozlem Yilmaz's office is next to microbiologist Volker Mai's in the Emerging Pathogens Institute. The lab neighbors are pooling their expertise to study how bacteria in the mouth can affect overall health.



Working in the multidisciplinary Biomedical Sciences Building has allowed engineering student Aaron Tucker to learn more about other fields.

Under its director, Marco Pahor, M.D., the UF Institute on Aging won a $15 million grant from the National Institutes of Health via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, for an almost 40,000-square-foot building to be completed in 2015. UF decided to pitch in $30 million to add an 80,000-square-foot wing to house the Clinical and Translational Science Institute; the UF Clinical Research Unit; diabetes, muscular dystrophy and other clinical research programs; biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology and clinical trial regulatory oversight headquarters; and a geriatric medicine multispecialty clinic.

"The complex will provide an academic home for clinical and translational science at UF," said David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System. "It will be an incubator of patient-centered ideas and innovations that can only result when investigators from various fields work together."

BUILDING UF *saving the planet*

As the campus grows, it's getting "greener" through the use of new materials and technologies that optimize energy and water use and reduce pollution.

The university is a signatory to the American College and University President's Climate Commitment and scored an A in "Green Building" this year from the Sustainable Endowment Institute, an organization that monitors "green" practices at university campuses.

UF also leads all other universities nationally in terms of the number of "green" projects registered with the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, program of the U.S. Green Building Council. LEED rankings range from certified to platinum plus, and UF requires that new projects go for gold, at a minimum.

Recently the Biomedical Sciences Building and the Shands Cancer Hospital earned LEED Gold. The hospital is the only one in the Southeast and one of four in the nation with that certification.

Some structures are being built with even higher ratings in mind. The Institute on Aging/Clinical and Translational Research Building complex is shooting for platinum plus, which means that the building has achieved "carbon neutrality" — no net gain in carbon use as a result of construction or occupancy.

These superior spaces translate to greater productivity for researchers and the university.

"We will continue to be at the forefront of scientific research and work hard to find space for our ever-growing endeavors," Phillips said. P

New building helps VA and UF

An artist's rendering shows what the new Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center bed tower will look like when it is complete. The building is scheduled to be finished in June 2011.

By April Frawley Birdwell

The Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center was starting to show its age.

Built in the 1960s, the hospital is part of the largest regional VA health system in the country. The North Florida/South Georgia VA Health System had 128,000 unique patients last year, and the growing number has created some problems. Wait times in the emergency room are too long and there are not enough beds, especially for patients in need of psychiatric services, said Bradley Bender, M.D., chief of staff for the health system.

"The current building is really antiquated," Bender said. "We have four or five patient wards with a single toilet for five people. And it's not unusual for us to send out three to five psychiatric patients a day that we cannot accommodate in our facility. That is an expense to us, and the service is fragmented."

To address these needs, the VA is building a new 245,000-square-foot bed tower next to the existing facility on Archer Road. The new space will feature an expanded emergency room and 226 private bedrooms with bathrooms and space for families, including 15 additional beds for psychiatric patients.

The new building and updated equipment will further improve patient care, of course, and it also will benefit the UF faculty, residents and students who work and train there.

For example, more space equals more patients. To handle the increase, the VA is adding new slots for medical residents. Beginning in July 2011, the medical center will take up to 24 additional residents in psychiatry, surgery, anesthesiology, neurology, dermatology, pathology and radiology, Bender says.

"This is a great training environment for students, residents and fellows," Bender said. "Some of the patients at Shands are too complicated (for students to handle). There is more bread and butter medicine at the VA."

With connections to all six Health Science Center colleges, the VA actually has more ties to UF than some may realize. About 100 College of Medicine faculty members work at the VA and every medical student rotates through the medical center, as do most students in the College of Nursing and students from the colleges of Pharmacy and Dentistry. Several College of Nursing faculty members work there in its VA Nursing Academy and College of Public Health and Health Professions researchers work in the VA's thriving rehabilitation research programs. The VA even has a veterinary medicine program, Bender said.

"The VA is a key strategic partner for the College of Medicine and the HSC," said College of Medicine Dean Michael L. Good, M.D., who served as chief of staff for the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System prior to Bender. "Both organizations share the same core missions: patient care, education and research. We work together to help each other achieve excellence in all three areas."

Another benefit of the VA-UF partnership is the VA's ability to acquire advanced diagnostic and therapeutic equipment and its longtime use of electronic medical records, Good said.

"They have the premier electronic medical record, and that has been a great educational tool for our students to be involved in that," said Maxine Hinze, Ph.D., R.N., chair of the College of Nursing department of adult and elderly nursing and co-director of the UF VA Nursing Academy.

The partnership with UF helps the VA, too, Bender says. Its affiliation with UF allows the VA get better quality physicians and helps the VA attract new health professionals who train there as students and decide to spend their careers there.

"It's like a marriage," Bender said. "We both make each other better."

HERE COME the scientists

PHOTOS BY CZERNE M. REID

Chandrakala Jadhao's 3-year-old daughter, Dhanashree, shows interest in her mother's work during the UF College of Medicine 2010 Celebration of Research poster session.

Roland Herzog, Ph.D., and his student, Babak Moghimi, M.D., presented their work on hemophilia during the poster session.

Each spring, the UF Health Science Center colleges honor the discoveries of their scientists and scientists-in-training during annual Research Day celebrations. And the winners are ...

College of Dentistry

D.M.D. Division:
First place: **Andrew Corsaro**
Second place: **Jordan Hester**
Third place: **Dennis Beliveau**

Graduate/Resident Division:
First place: **Joseph Richardson**
Second place: **David Mansour**
Third place: **Allison Harris**

Ph.D./Postdoctoral Division:
First place: **Andrea C. Knowlton**
Second place: **Dana Catalfamo**
Third place: **Edgardo Toro**

College of Medicine

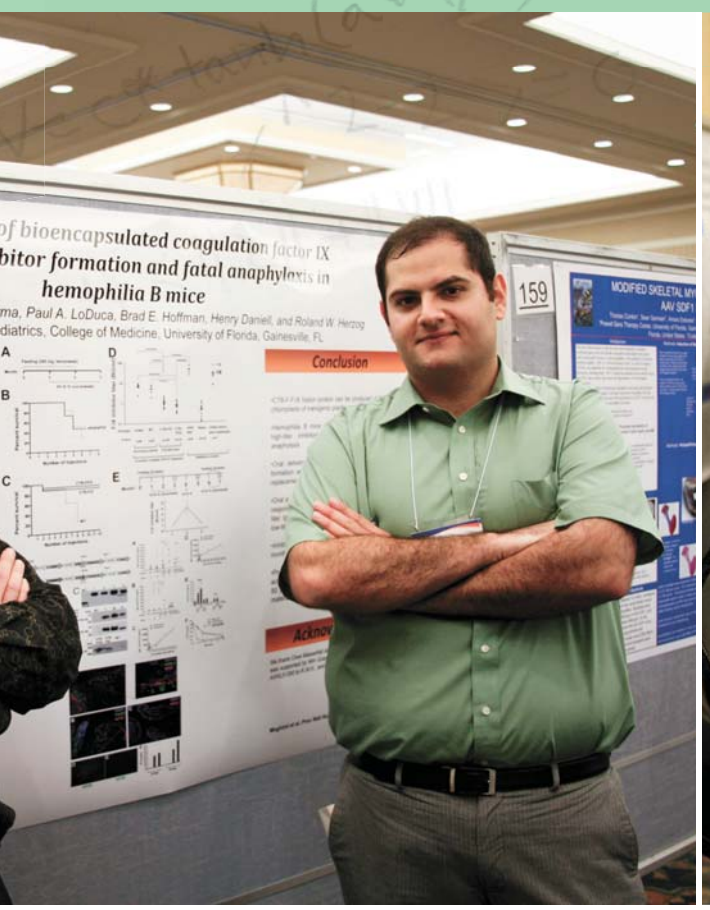
The Basic Science Research Award:
William Hauswirth

The Clinical Science Research Award:
Phillip P. Toskes

The Lifetime Achievement Awards:
Carl J. Pepine
James M. Seeger
Melvin Greer
Irvin F. Hawkins Jr.

Medical Guild Graduate Research Awards:
Gold medal finalist: **Emily Smith**
Silver medal finalists: **Sarah Szarowicz** and **Adam Mecca**
Bronze medal finalists: **Will Donelan, Travis Jackson** and **Katherine Sippel**

Medical Guild Research Incentive Awards:
Laura Adamson, Wendy Carcamo, Serena Gioviazzi, Judy Hwang, Daniela Hurtado, Igor Ignatovich, Stephen Jahn, Bo Lio, Kien Pham and **Robert Regenhardt**



Sarah Mondello, left, listens to a question about her work from fellow graduate student Zuha Warriach.

College of Medicine-Jacksonville

Faculty Researcher/Scholar Of The Year:
Robert L. Wears

Platform Presentation Winners:
First place: **Kalina Sanders**
Second place: **Kristen Shepherd**
Third place: **Cynthia Leaphart**
Fourth place: **Senan Sultan**
Fifth place: **Thomas Walsh**
Sixth place: **Tracy Ricke**

Poster Presentation Winners:
First place: **Sankarathi Balaiya**
Second place: **Aasita Patel**
Third place: **Nicole Scott**
Fourth place: **Erin Burnett**
Fifth place: **Abdul-Razzak Alamir**
Sixth place: **Christina Zeretzke**

College of Nursing

Undergraduate Research Award:
Laura Koepp, with faculty mentor **Sunny Yoon**

Graduate Research Award:
Craig Cunningham

College of Pharmacy

Oral Competition Winners:
Senior division: **Mohamed Eslam Mohamed**
Junior division: **Jay Schaub**
Levitt division: **Stephan Linden**

Poster Competition Winners:
Pharmacy student division: **Megan Hames, Yuan Gu, Benjamin Weber**
Postdoctoral fellow division: **Maximilian Lobmeyer** and **Anamika Singh**

College of Public Health and Health Professions

Undergraduate Student Poster Award Winners:
Alicia Anderson, Lisa Hayman, Mayra Klapetzky, Erika Manion, Jacob Shumac, Stephanie Wickham

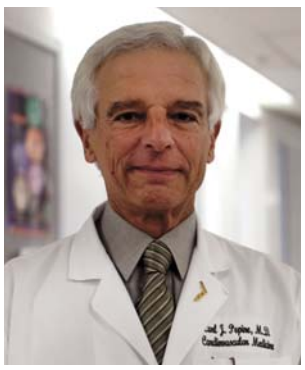
Graduate Student Poster Award Winners:
Jenna Dietz, Jose Dominguez, Joseph Dzierzewski, Luther Gill, Valerie Hoover, Xingdi Hu, Lisa Nackers, Kristen Newell, Milapjit Sandhu, Amit Sethi, Keva Thompson, Bethany Wangelin, Fan Ye

Graduate Student Research Grant Award Winners:
Matthew Cohen, Lisa LaGorio, Luther Gill, Amit Sethi

A lifetime of achievements

This year, the UF College of Medicine honored four faculty members with a Lifetime Achievement Award for their contributions to research. The awards were given out as part of the college's annual Research Day festivities.

The heart guy



Choosing just one of his proudest accomplishments is a little like selecting the smartest honors student.

Carl J. Pepine, M.D., a professor of cardiovascular medicine, said there have been many gratifying moments in his career and it was difficult to pick just one.

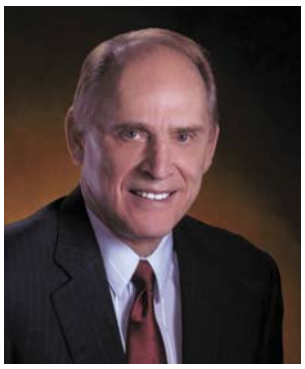
"They would include the award of my first NIH grant, being promoted to full professor at age 38, and being elected president of the American College of Cardiology (our 39,000-member professional society)," he said.

Pepine is an internationally recognized leader in both clinical and scientific cardiovascular medicine. He served as chief of the cardiovascular division at the UF College of Medicine and has mentored hundreds of faculty, fellows and students. His research focuses on the physiology of heart disease in women as well as developing and assessing new and traditional therapies for ischemic heart failure, heart disease and hypertension.

Some of his past studies investigated whether stem cells could improve the structure and function of the heart, while another found that the size and strength of social networks affect heart disease risk in women.

— Shayna Brouker

The innovator



Ever wonder how surgeons get those teeny tiny catheters into blood vessels, cleaning out harmful blockages? Irvin F. Hawkins, M.D., could tell you. Hawkins did a great deal of the research involved in those procedures, improving their safety and effectiveness.

For his work, he has been recognized internationally as a pioneer in interventional radiology. Recently, he received a 2010 Lifetime Achievement Award from the UF College of Medicine Faculty Council.

"I am totally ecstatic and almost speechless," Hawkins said after receiving the award. "This to me is particularly significant since this honor, usually, has been awarded to those with extraordinary leadership, service and innovation. My contributions primarily have been innovation, made possible by many who heard my dreams and later made them a reality."

Although best known for developing carbon dioxide angiography in interventional radiology, used to outline the anatomic appearance of blood vessels on X-rays, Hawkins' achievements do not stop there. He pioneered the use of a smaller catheter, showing that reduction in catheter size reduced complication rates and made accessible virtually every anatomic location. Hawkins developed the blunt needle system, which reduced patient bleeding, as well as more than 30 other new procedures and devices.

— Ben Guzick

A teacher and a surgeon

James M. Seeger, M.D., created, fostered and led the UF division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy for 20 years. Seeger, who died Oct. 21, was awarded the Special Lifetime Achievement Award by the UF Faculty Council.

Though passionate about all aspects of vascular surgery, Seeger's attention to detail and brilliant analytical mind enabled him to be a leader in the business of surgical practice. His work also led to many changes in surgical techniques and vital improvements in surgical outcomes for patients. His proudest achievement was building the vascular surgery fellowship program.

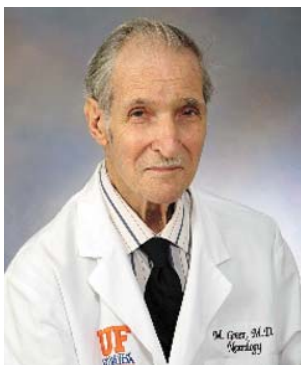
"Above all he was an educator," said UF vascular surgeon Robert Feezor, M.D., who trained under Seeger, during a memorial service held last fall in his honor. "For all his God-given intellect, he could distill concepts down to their core, attack them logically and provide a framework on which one can build future knowledge."

Devoting all but one year of his medical career to the UF College of Medicine, Seeger joined UF in 1982 as an assistant professor and rapidly rose through the academic ranks. In 1989 he established the division of vascular surgery and in 2008 was named the Cracchiolo professor.

An internationally recognized leader in his field, Seeger also served as president of the Southern Association for Vascular Surgery, the Florida Vascular Society and the Association of Program Directors in Vascular Surgery. *— Jennifer Brindise*

An awe-inspiring doctor

The young girl's case stymied doctor after doctor. After an exploratory abdominal surgery yielded no answers as to why the teen was so sick, she was referred to the neurology department. Doctors thought stress might be to blame, but Melvin Greer, M.D., had a different answer, remembers Robert Watson, M.D.



"I still remember him coming back from a meeting, and looking through her door. He stepped out, looked at us and said, 'She has a brain tumor,'" said Watson, a former senior associate dean for educational affairs in the College of Medicine and an alumnus of the college. "And of course it turned out she did have a brain tumor. When I asked him how he knew, he said, 'Watson, it was easy. Didn't you notice how her head was tilted? Children with brain tumors have pain in the back of their neck, so they have to tilt their head.' I thought, 'Oh brother, he makes this amazing diagnosis just by glancing through a door.' He was phenomenal."

Greer, the first chair of the department of neurology, came to the UF College of Medicine in 1961. For his years of service, the college honored him with a Lifetime Achievement Award, a distinction he received just weeks before his death May 19 at 80.

Greer, who stepped down as chair of neurology in 2000, served as a faculty member in the department of neurology until shortly before his passing. *— John Pastor*

Class acts

By Czerne M. Reid

At the start of pediatrics residency in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville last year, Sartaj Kadiwala, D.O., and Namita Sharma, M.D., M.P.H., and their classmates were welcomed, given a few printed pages about newborn care and set to work. They took night calls and tended to babies from high-risk pregnancies. By year-end they had learned a host of things they wished someone had told them at the start.

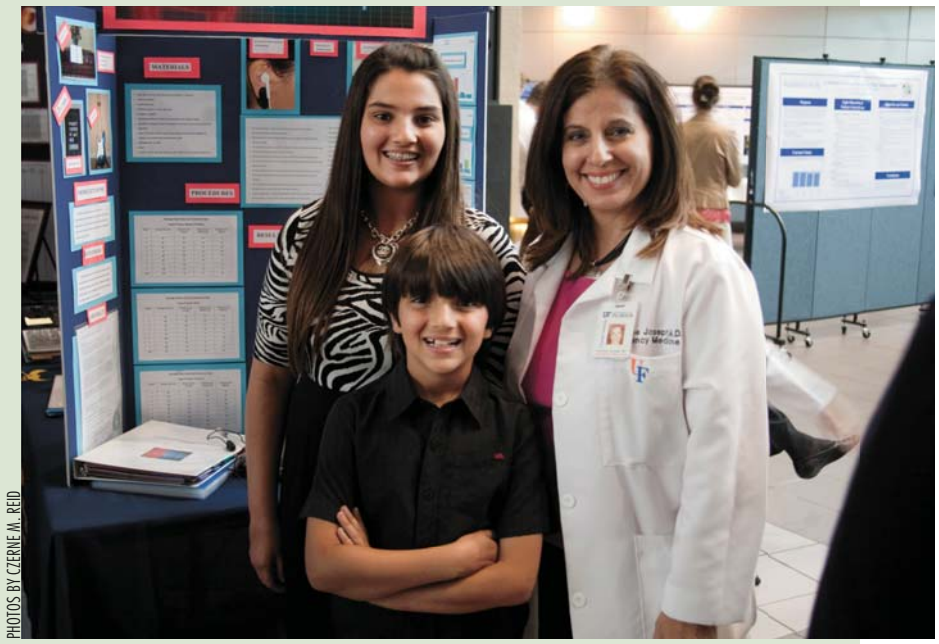
So they decided to become that "someone" for the classes after theirs, putting together a detailed guide about the experiences new residents will encounter and step-by-step instructions for various procedures.

Kadiwala and Sharma got the chance to present their work during the Advances in Medical Education 2010 event at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, along with many other residents, faculty and nursing and pharmacy trainees.

"The goal is to promote and share innovation in medical education," said Elisa Zenni, M.D., assistant dean for educational affairs at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville.

As part of the event, the college also showcased the work of the next generation of scientists. Ten students from the Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School of the Medical Arts showed off their projects in a range of disciplines, including behavioral and social science, biochemistry, forensic science, medicine and zoology. Twins Tony and Tyler Hansberry did research on measuring knee stress, and on how acidity affects decomposition of flesh, respectively.

Eight-year-old Matthew Joseph came to see his older sister Christine's poster on the effect of different types of music on variations in heart rhythm. Other students did work on age-related changes in memory, the effect of video games on reaction time and caffeine's effect on the heart rate of water fleas.



PHOTOS BY CZERNE M. REID

Christine Joseph, a seventh-grader at Darnell-Cookman Middle/High School, showed her poster to her brother, Matthew, and her mother, emergency medicine physician Dr. Madeline Joseph during the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville's Advances in Medical Education 2010 poster session.

The adults in the room were excited to have the seventh- to tenth-graders nearby and to talk with them about science and medicine.

"You see the spark in them, and you remember your own and want to nurture it," said Constance Haan, M.D., M.S., senior associate dean for educational affairs in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville. "This is the future of health care."

Shands Jax opens new imaging center

By Kandra Albury

Shands Jacksonville has opened a 10,000-square-foot outpatient imaging center on Jacksonville's Southside at Emerson Medical Plaza.

The Shands Jacksonville Outpatient Imaging Center, which features MRI, CT, ultrasound, fluoroscopy and plain-film services, opened April 1. The center is located on the first floor of the newly constructed Emerson Medical Plaza Building 2.

Richard White, M.D., a UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville professor and chair of radiology, said he is pleased with the spacious facility and all that it has to offer patients.

"The excellent imaging quality of our equipment provides unparalleled levels of diagnostic confidence that didn't exist 10 years ago," White said. "We are proud of the technology we have and how it will improve the level of care our patients receive."

The imaging center has a radiologist on site during all operating hours. In addition to daytime hours of operation, evening and Saturday appointments are available to better accommodate patients' needs.

Emerson Medical Plaza also houses other UF and Shands Jacksonville primary and specialty care practices. For more information, visit http://jax.shands.org/emerson.

A year of *milestones*

On May 12, the Health Science Center celebrated staff members who have given years of service to the University of Florida. In this month's *POST*, we celebrate them, too. For a full listing of honorees, **visit www.health.ufl.edu.**

PHOTOS BY J.R. HERMSDORFER

College of Dentistry

10 Years: Patricia Chesborough • Paula Colvin • Stacey Goodman • Joyce Hudson • Kathleen Leigh • Mindy Register • Pauline Roberts-Coleman • Julie Thompson **15 Years:** Elizebeth Apple • Karen Barfield • Amy Corbitt • Grace Gulecas • Jan Large • Carmelit Lucarelli • Jerri Wainer **20 Years:** Cynthia Bachus • Ronda C Breton • Jennifer Gollwitzer • Patricia Matthews **25 Years:** Judith Harrell • Beverly Mays • Rosa M Mcdavid • Lee Mintz **30 Years:** Jacqueline Hopkins • Gloria Pagington

College of Medicine

10 Years: Virginia Allen • Rosemary Asare • Daniel Ashton • Christine Baxley • Tina Bradshaw • Barbara Breeze • Gary Brown • Curtis Browne • Robin Byrd • Denise Caswell • Jenika Christmas • April Derfinyak • Sabrina Du Bois • Linda Ebbeling • Lawrence Ebersole • David Fleming • Wanda Frazier • Barbara Frentzen • Fengqin Gao • Margarita Garlin • Timothy Grzywa • Kimberly Hamm • Lisa Harvey • Debbie Hawkins • Ethel Holder • James Horne • Barbara Howe • Tammy Kegley • Melanie Kelley • Lynn Kennedy • Dianna Kish • Irina Korytov • Rachel Lepanto • Stephanie Lewis • Wei Li • Amanda Lowe • Brenda Martin • Craig Meyers • Amy Pazzalia • Louise Perras • Glenn Philipsberg • Christy Popp • Cynthia Schuhmacher • Elizabeth Shadden • Shanna Silcox • Karen Simpson • Sandra Smith • Lea-An Steiner • Keri Stone • Susan Tanner• Kathy Taylor • P Tyler • Geri Underhill • Matthew Walser • Heiman Wang • Martha Wester • Marylou Wilder • Isabelle Williams • Rhonda Yates • Meilan Zheng **15 Years:** Marilyn Barnes • Peggy Cissna • Valerie Cloud • Roberta Cook • Mary Courts • Nancy Dinwiddie • Janet Gilbert • Sally Harvin • Sharon Hennessy • Leonard Herring • Edra Ijames • Susan Link • Julie Ludlow • Michael Matheny • Debra McKeown • Annie McPherson • Victor Mercado • Linda Miller • Jane-Ann Norton • Connie Philebaum • Wilhelm Schwab • Marguerite Smith • Douglas Spinney • Stephanie Stevens • Diane Strong • Jeffrey Thinschmidt • Maryellen Toombs • Richard Vallance • Arthur Watson • Donna Wegener **20 Years:** Judith Allen • Patrick Anthony • Mary Blundell • Nigel Chichester • Vince Chiodo • Linda Curry • Donna Davis • Barbara Debarr • Margaret Dermott • Bridget Desue • Laura Dickinson • Margaret Dukes • Mary Eckert • Pamela Feaster • Candace Fossum • Nancy Hargrove • Shirley Hatch • Mary Hoffman • Mary Hoyt • Erin Jackson • Donna Johnson • Songa Jones • Kendra Kuck • Inez Lucas • Lesley Myers • Mary Newman • Glennice Peters • David Pittman • Glenda Railey • Rhoda Reed • Lori Robinson • Vicki Sabatella • Hazel Shaw • Robbie Stringfellow • Sherri Swilley • Wendy Walters • Rebecca Wichman • Naomi Williams • Charlotte Wood **25 Years:** Cathleen Burdette • Kristen Faircloth • Shirlene Harvey • Mary Heflin • Lettie Herman • Margo Kramer • Barbara A Lindsey • Patricia McKey • Catherine Moore • Deana Nance • Winston Poulton • Shirley Rushing • Mitchell Salisbury • Imogene Seeger • Patricia Siter • Beverly Watson • Shirley Williams **30 Years:** Faye Brown • Donna Desmond-Kuhn • Vicki Durrance • Valerie Holmes • Georgia Johnson • Lynn Raynor **35 Years:** Ruth Klockowski • Deborah Wetherington

College of Nursing

10 Years: Kenneth Foote **20 Years:** Cornelia Frazier

College of Pharmacy

10 Years: Dena Arnold • Susan Griffith
15 Years: Deborah Bambarola • Laura Faux • Janet True
20 Years: Yun-Ju He **25 Years:** Gladys Kallman
35 Years: Terry Whisenant

College of Public Health and Health Professions

10 Years: Vera Hemphill • Lorie Martin • Robin Shenk
15 Years: Tonia Lambert • Victoria Solt
25 Years: Jessie Runge

College of Veterinary Medicine

10 Years: Melissa Bass • Honore Busch • Karen Legato • Lila Pittman • Susan Starke • Lashand Williams • Brandy N Woodley **15 Years:** Alice Bliss-Dodd • Gary Geiger

• Karen Scott • Theresa Torres **20 Years:** Judy Chastain • Danielle Mauragis • Leonard McDonald • Mary Ring • Brenda Sigmon **25 Years:** Jay Gilbreath • Brett Rice • Anthony Ross • Ana Zometa **30 Years:** Debra Couch • Frances Edwards • Kathleen McCartin • Virginia Simmons

HSC Affiliated Units

(Includes Animal Care Services, Biotechnology, the Emerging Pathogens Institute, the HSC Library, Physical Plant Division, Student Health Care Center and the Whitney Laboratory for Marine Bioscience)

10 Years: Kevin Hanson • Elizabeth Holcomb • Kenneth Berry • Steven Craig • James Gibson • Marvin Harris • Gary Morrison • Anthony Kelly • Rhonda Larson • Bonnie Olson • Addie Pons • Mary Thorkildson **15 Years:** Patricia Carter • Rodney Rucker • Angela Slater • Donald Wood • Phillip Arnold • Barbara Cribbs • Glynda Harris • Melanie Harrison • Pamela Taylor **20 Years:** Angela Boykin • Joanne Gordon • Beree R Darby • Donald David • Leslie Becker • David Crabtree • Serena Neal • Ike Smith • Luis Vazquez • Allen Wade • Chari Holder **25 Years:** Alex Trapp • Robert Lockwood • James Collier • Jeffrey Fletcher • Keith Macdonald • Estelita Winkel • Drucilla Tulip-Valerio **30 Years:** Fred Grant • Earnestine Murphy • Mary Smith • Dorothy Strong • Victoria Sustana **35 Years:** William Privett • Joann Ryles

Senior Vice President, Health Affairs

(Includes McKnight Brain Institute)

10 Years: Richard Deason • Kimberley Smith • Felecia Milton • Lawrence Oshins • Joseph Schentrup **15 Years:** Vicki Crafton Zinn • Rita Jacques **20 Years:** William Peel • Dorothy Smith **25 Years:** Daniel Arrington • George Barnett • Cassandra Mack • Sharon Milton-Simmons • Lisa Vannocker • Katharyn Ward **30 Years:** Lisa Booher • William Silk


JAMES CLUGSTON, M.D.

PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

The M.V.P.

UF honors doctor for role in starting sports medicine fellowship

Superior Accomplishment Award winners

UNIVERSITYWIDE WINNER
James Jay Clugston,
UF Student Health Care Center

HSC winners

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY
Leona Gauthier, Jerri Wainer, Joyce A. Hudson, Christina Haskins, Aimee Worley, Jean Sweitzer

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
Tammy M. Kegley, Matthew S. Barnes, Carlos Morales III, Emil Kanji, Dorothy J. McCallister, Antonina Toni Juliano, Elizabeth Amdur, Elizabeth B. Brooks, Mu Yang, Ku-Lang Chang, Kaleeswari Arulselvam

COLLEGE OF NURSING
Cecile D. Kiley, Susan O. Donaldson

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY
Beverly Mayo

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS
Paulette Chaplin,
Carol Mills, Jianyi Zhang

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Glen Mapes, Megan Elliot, Hasuna Hines, Kelly Higgs-Rick, J. Elliot Williams, Michael S. Sapper, Barbara Dupont, Jessica Markham, Lisa L. Farina, Dana Zimmel, Jude Kaufmann

OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HEALTH AFFAIRS
Karen G. Tillman

UF STUDENT HEALTH CARE CENTER
Tammy Reno, Phillip Arnold

By Laura Mize

James Clugston, M.D., said he was surprised to be nominated for a Superior Accomplishment Award, and even more astounded to learn he'd won it at the university level.

Perhaps he shouldn't have been. Clugston, a staff physician at the UF Student Health Care Center, also serves as a clinical assistant professor in the department of community health and family medicine, the primary care team physician for the football team and for several other UF sports, and director of the UF Primary Care Sports Medicine Fellowship — a fellowship that didn't even exist until he took it upon himself to start one at the university.

"Dr. Clugston did what others talked about and dreamed of for years," wrote Ann Grooms, M.D., in her letter nominating Clugston for the award.

"Developing an entire fellowship program from the ground up is a huge undertaking and requires many hours of planning to ensure that the fellows get the best possible educational experience. Dr. Clugston has done a fantastic job of developing an extensive and interesting curriculum for the fellowship, in many cases working during his personal time to make sure each detail of the experience is as good as it can be."

Each year, the fellowship gives two young doctors the chance to work with and learn from Clugston and other faculty from the College of Medicine. The fellows serve sports teams from UF, Santa Fe College and local high schools, and work at area events, such as relays and the Gainesville Five Points of Life Marathon.

Clugston said he decided to start the fellowship for the "enjoyment of teaching and seeing fellows come through and learn, and then they go out and practice. And then, second, was just the feeling that 'Hey, we should have one. University of Florida has a great medical school, great athletics; it'd be a great place for a fellowship.'"

But Clugston said others also deserve credit for their work on the fellowship.

The department of community health and family medicine provides funding for the fellowship and was one of several groups on campus to help start it.

"The University Athletic Association, Student Health Care Center and the department of orthopaedics all provide a tremendous amount of clinical opportunities for the fellows," Clugston said. "SHCC also provides some funding and administrative support to the fellowship. Without them, we wouldn't have the fellowship."

Faculty members from various departments take the fellows for rotations and have helped make it a great experience for them, he said.

Clugston said he decided to be a physician "late in life." It wasn't until he was enrolled in a master's degree program in agroforestry at UF that he knew he wanted to be a doctor. He didn't waste any time pursuing that goal: Clugston began medical school at UF just a week after graduating with his master's degree.

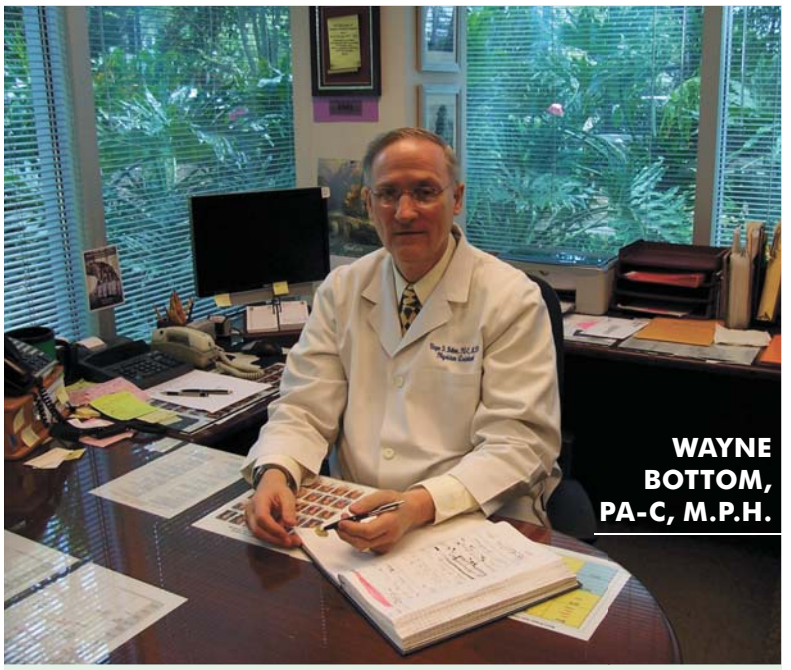
"I was kind of excited to get started," he recalled.

In addition to his work with the fellowship and UF athletic teams, Clugston said he also enjoys seeing student patients at the Student Health Care Center, where he works as a primary care physician twice a week.

"They're a pretty motivated population and they, a lot of times, have read and know things about their diagnosis, sometimes more than my other patients," he said. "They seem to have fewer preconceived ideas of what they want out of the visit. They're fun."

He has a few words of advice for young people considering careers as doctors.

"Medicine is a great profession," Clugston said. "It is very fulfilling and it's definitely worth doing. Whatever you do to prepare, try to do a really good job at it."



Going out on top

School of Physician Assistant Studies director retires

By April Frawley Birdwell

In 2009, the University of Florida's physician assistant program finally earned its stripes as its own school within the College of Medicine. For Wayne Bottom, PA-C, M.P.H., who has shepherded the program through every transition for 27 years, the upgrade was more than a name change; it was a major victory for physician assistant education.

"UF has been a trailblazer in moving the profession to the forefront, answering the growing demand for PAs as health care reform and spending became top national issues," said Bottom, associate dean and director of the School of Physician Assistant Studies.

The move was one of the program's most significant changes to date. Of course, it's just one example of how Bottom's influence has shaped the program and physician assistant education during the past two decades.

Bottom led the program through a period of flux in 1993 when it moved from the College of Allied Health Professions (now known as the College of Public Health and Health Professions) to its original home, the College of Medicine. And he oversaw a state-funded doubling in enrollment in the following years.

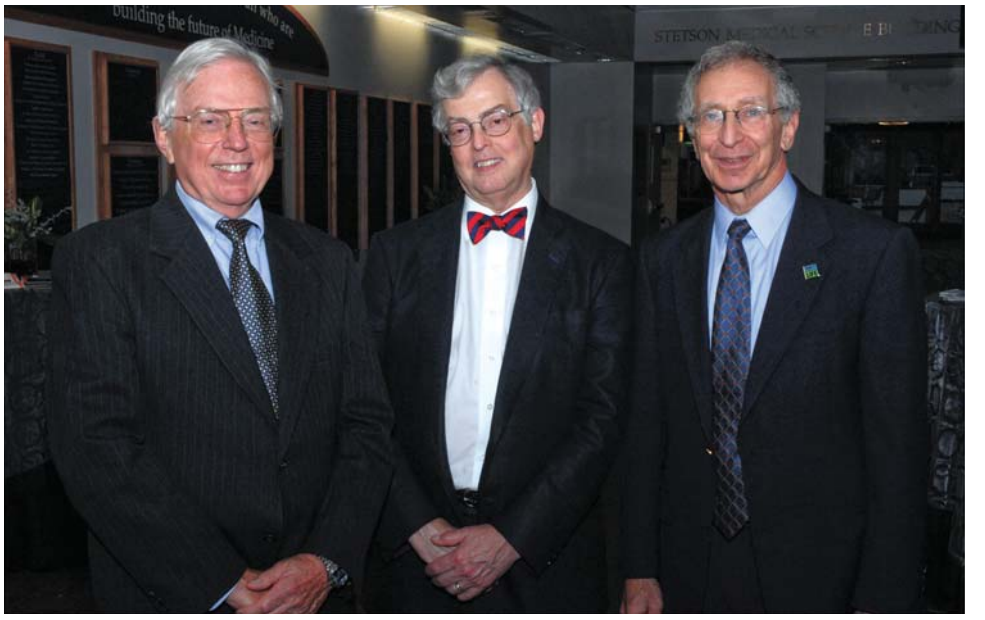
But in June, the School of Physician Assistant Studies said goodbye to the man who guided it for nearly three decades. Bottom retired after the college graduated its 2010 class June 19.

Bottom, whose career began in 1974, joined the UF faculty in 1983 after several years at the University Alabama-Birmingham.

"It's been an interesting and rewarding journey," Bottom said. "I am extremely proud of my students and graduates, the University of Florida PA educational program, and the entire PA profession."

Goodbye times three

Three UF surgeons retire



On June 16, the department of surgery celebrated the careers of Drs. M. Brent Seagle, W. Robert Rout and Richard J. Howard, who all recently retired.

By Jennifer Brindise

Celebrating what totals more than 85 years of service to the UF College of Medicine, the department of surgery honored three talented surgeons June 16.

"This is really immeasurable and unique," said Chair Kevin E. Behrns, M.D., of the contributions given and advances made throughout the years by Richard J. Howard, M.D., Ph.D.; W. Robert Rout, M.D.; and M. Brent Seagle, M.D.

During an afternoon retirement reception, Behrns recognized them as three of the best educators within the department.

"We will allow them some respite, but we will be calling on them for their expertise," he said.

College of Medicine Dean Michael L. Good, M.D., said he has had the honor to work with all three surgeons and each has helped to shape his life and clinical practice.

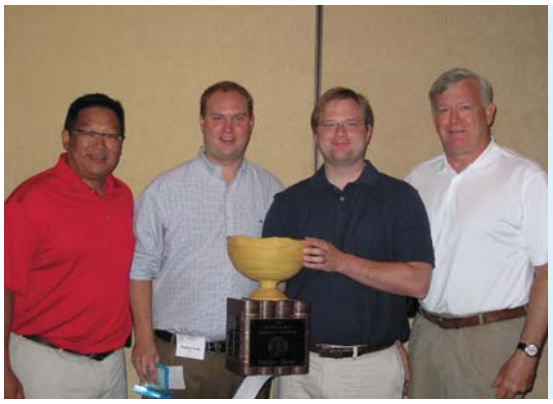
Howard, the Robert H. and Kathleen M. Axline professor of surgery, joined UF in 1979. He has held numerous leadership roles, including medical director of the UF Shands Transplant Center and chief of the division of transplantation. He is a leader in the field of surgical infections and an advocate for boosting organ donation rates.

Rout, an associate professor of surgery who joined UF in 1985, also served as chief of surgery at the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center during his tenure. He introduced laparoscopic abdominal surgery at the UF College of Medicine and Shands at UF. He was one of the first in Florida to perform a laparoscopic cholecystectomy and the first in the state to perform a transanal endoscopic microsurgical resection of a rectal tumor.

Seagle joined UF in 1986 and is currently an associate professor and chief of plastic and reconstructive surgery. He also has served as co-director of the UF Craniofacial Center for more than two decades. He has dedicated his time to helping children in medically underserved countries such as Russia, Angola and Honduras by providing much-needed surgical care for patients with disfiguring congenital birth defects, such as cleft lips and palates.

The day's events began with a special grand rounds lecture where each retiring surgeon offered a bit of insight and wisdom.

"Any successes that I have experienced in my career are due to a great number of teachers, friends, medical colleagues, students, house officers, nurses, operating room and hospital staff, and patients," Rout said.



An Ortho Bowl dynasty

For the fifth time since 1998, UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville orthopaedic surgery residents have claimed victory at the Ortho Bowl, an annual competition that tests the knowledge of orthopaedic residents. The event was held during the Florida Orthopaedic Society meeting in May in Fort Lauderdale. Fifth-year residents **Stephen R. Arndt, M.D.** and **Joel A. Tucker, M.D.**, defeated orthopaedic surgery residency teams from UF in Gainesville, the University of Miami, the University of South Florida and Orlando Regional Medical Center. In addition to serious bragging rights, each won $150 and brought home a trophy appropriately covered in casting material. The UFCOM-J team also won the right to nominate one of its residents for an all-expense-paid trip to attend the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. "Being the Ortho Bowl champions for three years in a row is unprecedented. Our residents have demonstrated consistently that they are top performers among their peers in the state of Florida. Together with the National Orthopaedic Leadership Conference scholarship that is being provided, I can also say that we are nurturing the future leaders of orthopedic surgery as well," said Michael Suk, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., associate program director of the orthopaedic surgery residency.

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

Roberta Pileggi

ROBERTA PILEGGI, D.D.S., M.S., an associate professor and chair of endodontics, received her diplomate status award from the American Board of Endodontics, which is the certifying board for the specialty, during its annual meeting in San Diego. Pileggi is the director of the Graduate Endodontic Program.

Timothy Garvey

TIMOTHY GARVEY, D.M.D., a clinical assistant professor in the department of pediatric dentistry, received the Florida Dental Health Foundation's 2010 Humanitarian Award and the 2010 Dr. E.A. Cosby Community Service Award from the Alachua County Dental Society for his outstanding service to the community. Garvey received the award plus a $1,000 contribution to the charity of his choice in recognition of his dedication to serving needy populations in Florida and in other countries.

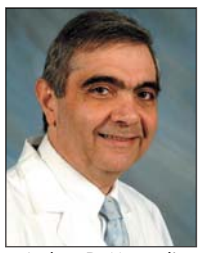
Dental honor society inducts new faculty

Two UF College of Dentistry faculty members and 10 graduating seniors were inducted into the Omicron Kappa Upsilon national dental honor society May 20 at the Hilton University of Florida Conference Center in Gainesville. Faculty members inducted into OKU were **Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S.**, and **Christopher Spencer, D.D.S.** Shown from left are OKU members Ron Watson, D.D.S.; Micaela Gibbs, D.D.S.; Christopher Spencer, D.D.S.; and Arthur Nimmo, D.D.S. Nimmo currently serves as president of the Xi Omicron chapter of OKU, and Watson is the secretary-treasurer.

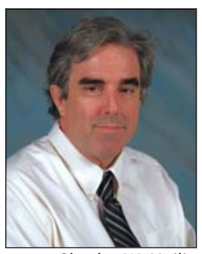
Henrietta L. Logan

HENRIETTA L. LOGAN, Ph.D., a professor in the department of community dentistry and behavioral science and director of the Southeast Center for Research to Reduce Disparities in Oral Health, was selected by the National Institutes of Health to participate in its Advanced Training Institute on Health Behavior this summer at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Logan is one of only 35 participants chosen from universities across the country to participate in this institute and one of two UF faculty.

JACKSONVILLE



Arshag D. Mooradian



Charles W. Heilig

ARSHAG D. MOORADIAN, M.D., a professor of medicine and chair of the department of medicine, and **CHARLES W. HEILIG,** M.D., a professor of medicine and interim chief of the division of nephrology and hypertension, were recently appointed as section editors for the *American Journal of Therapeutics*. Mooradian has been appointed as the editor for the Internal Medicine section and Heilig will be editor of the Renal Drugs section of the journal. The journal publishes information related to pharmacological developments in cardiology, infectious disease, oncology, anesthesiology, nephrology, toxicology and psychotropics. The journal features articles on the latest therapeutic approaches as well as critical articles on the drug approval process and therapeutic reviews.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Michael Conlon

MICHAEL CONLON, Ph.D., joined the UF Clinical Translational Science Institute as associate director and chief operating officer. Conlon has more than 30 years of experience at UF and has served in numerous capacities. Most recently, he served as associate chief information officer for IT architecture, creating and delivering information technology services for UF. He currently is principal investigator for the National Institutes of Health-funded VIVO grant, which aims to create a national network of scientists.

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Carrie Haskell-Luevano

CARRIE HASKELL-LUEVANO, Ph.D., a professor in pharmacodynamics, has been appointed to the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* through 2014. Advisory board members advocate for recruiting high-quality publications, particularly in emerging areas of medicinal chemistry.

Teresa Kauf

TERESA KAUF, Ph.D., an associate professor in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, has been appointed to a four-year term as co-editor and member of the editorial board of the journal *Value in Health*. Value in Health is the official journal of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research.

Hartmut C. Derendorf

HARTMUT C. DERENDORF, Ph.D., a distinguished professor and chair of the department of pharmaceutics, received the prestigious Volwiler Research Achievement Award during the Examining Excellence Awards Plenary at the 2010 American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy annual meeting in July. The AACP honored the UF pharmacy educator for his outstanding research and contributions to the field of pharmaceutical sciences. Derendorf joined UF in 1981 as the postdoctoral fellow of the 1980 Volwiler Award recipient Edward R. Garrett.

CHARLES (DOUG) HEPLER, PH.D., a distinguished professor emeritus in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy received

Head of the class

It came as a pleasant surprise for **Kenneth R. Kellner, M.D., Ph.D.**, a professor in the department of obstetrics and gynecology at the UF College of Medicine, when he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Education by the College of Medicine Society of Teaching Scholars. "I was totally shocked," said Kellner, who is the eighth faculty member to receive this award. "To be recognized by your peers is the highest honor I can ask for." The award-winning doctor has been the director of the third-year clinical clerkship for the department of obstetrics and gynecology for 25 years. "He has a passion for teaching and for creating an optimal learning environment," said Kyle Rarey, Ph.D., a professor of anatomy and cell biology who served as interim senior associate dean for educational affairs for more than two years. "He's an extraordinary medical educator who every day shows up with a passion for teaching." — *Priscilla Santos*

the 2010 American Society of Health-System Pharmacists Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award June 8. The most prestigious honor awarded in health-system pharmacy, the Harvey A.K. Whitney Lecture Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to health-system pharmacy practice.

Charles (Doug) Hepler

JASON FRAZIER, Ph.D., an assistant professor of pharmacodynamics, has been selected as one of the 10 recipients of the Jack Wessel Excellence Awards for Assistant Professors at UF for 2010-11. Mr. Jack Wessel, a friend of UF, wanted to recognize faculty early in their academic careers for their research productivity. Each award is a one-time allocation of $5,000 in support of research.

Jason Frazier

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

LISA D'OYLEY, an undergraduate student majoring in communicative disorders and psychology, received UF's Judith Ann Young Scholarship. The award recognizes juniors or seniors with a 3.6 G.P.A. or greater who demonstrate responsible leadership and provide service to the university or community. D'Oyley is a research and teaching assistant and volunteers at Horses Helping People. She is the symposium vice president for the UF chapter of the National Student Speech Language and Hearing Association.

Lisa D'Oyley

LISA LAGORIO, a student in the rehabilitation science doctoral and master's in public health degree programs, has received several awards this spring, including a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Research Award from the NIH to support her dissertation research. LaGorio also received UF's Leighton E. Cluff Award for Aging Research in recognition of research she conducted on a novel therapy to treat bowed vocal cords in older adults. The treatment incorporated neuromuscular electrical stimulation and exercise-based training of the muscles involved in phonation. She is also the recipient of the Sam and Connie Holloway Endowed Scholarship for professional leadership and promise, which was presented at the college's spring commencement ceremony.

Lisa LaGorio

SHILPA PATIL, a doctoral student in the rehabilitation science program, won the Neurology Section Graduate Student Research Award at the American Physical Therapy Association's combined sections meeting in February.

Shilpa Patil

No. 1 paper

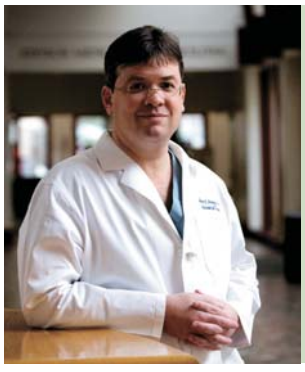
A multidisciplinary team of UF researchers was recently honored with the Excellence in Research Award by the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy*. The awardees included: **Joel E. Bialosky, P.T., Ph.D.**, a clinical assistant professor of physical therapy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions; **Mark D. Bishop, P.T., Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of physical therapy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions; **Don D. Price, Ph.D.**, a professor in the College of Dentistry; **Michael E. Robinson, Ph.D.**, a professor of clinical and health psychology in the College of Public Health and Health Professions; **Kevin R. Vincent, M.D., Ph.D.**, an assistant professor of orthopaedics and sports medicine in the College of Medicine; and **Steven Z. George, P.T., Ph.D.**, an associate professor of physical therapy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. The award honors the most outstanding research manuscript published in the journal within the calendar year.

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

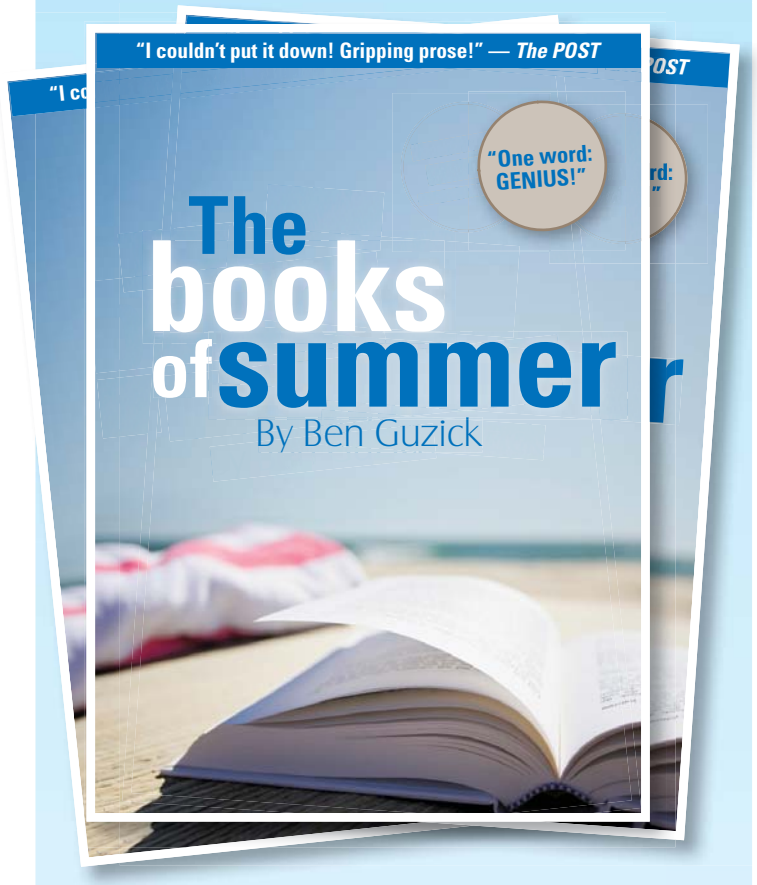
KIRI DUNN, a student in the college, received top honors for the best research poster presentation by a resident or student at the 13th Triennial Symposium of the American Heartworm Society in April. Dunn's research project, titled "Heartworm Testing, Treatment and Prevention Protocols for Cats in Animal Shelters," was conducted last summer during a research fellowship with Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program at UF and the Merck Merial Scholars Program.

Kiri Dunn

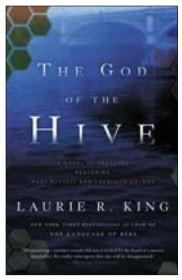
Small particles, big research



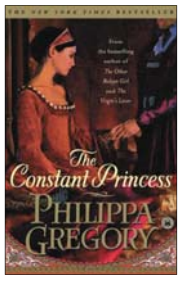
Cancer Nanotechnology: Methods and Protocols, a collaborative book edited by two researchers from the UF College of Medicine and College of Engineering, is now available, providing key information about how the flourishing field of nanotechnology can be applied in the detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. The book is written for a broad audience, including those new to and experienced in the field of cancer nanotechnology, which studies the use of nanoparticles, human-made materials that are 10,000 times smaller than the diameter a human hair. With contributions from around the globe, the text provides background information, details about how to engineer and use nanoparticles for cancer imaging and therapy, and specific examples of how the technology can be applied to human cancer. "I hope the book will excite cancer researchers and clinicians about the potential of nanotechnology to radically transform how we approach diagnosis, detection and treatment of cancer," said co-editor **Stephen Grobmyer, M.D.**, a UF assistant professor of surgical oncology, who is specifically looking at the use of nanotechnology in the area of breast cancer to image and treat more aggressive subtypes of the disease for which treatment options are currently very limited.



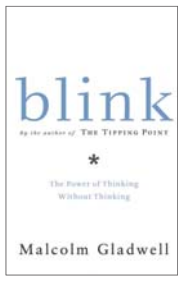
School's out! That can mean only one thing: summer reading. If you're looking for a few good books, check out what some people around the Health Science Center are reading this summer:



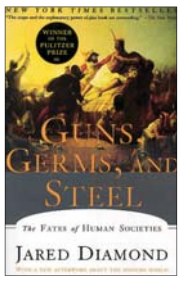
Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig, Ph.D., director of the medical humanities program and archivist for the College of Medicine, has been reading *God of the Hive* by Laurie R. King. In the mystery, Sherlock Holmes finds a long-lost son and an African-American young woman apprentice who soon becomes a lover. Favorite aspect: Sherlock Holmes is shown as a real person with real problems.



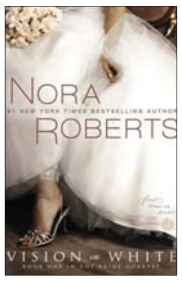
Jaclyn Hayner, a third-year graduate student studying biomedical sciences in the College of Medicine, has been reading *The Constant Princess* by Philippa Gregory. The historical nonfiction follows Katherine of Aragon, the first unfortunate wife of Henry VIII, as she tries to navigate life in the Tudor court. Favorite aspect: "Real life was like a soap opera back then!" Hayner says.



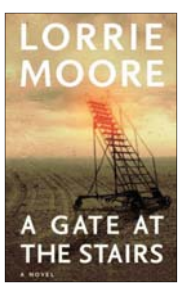
Joseph Adrian Tyndall, M.D., chair of emergency medicine in the College of Medicine, has been reading *Blink* by Malcolm Gladwell. *Blink* explores the first two seconds of looking at something or someone. Gladwell uncovers how profoundly those initial seconds influence our evaluation of anything, including people. Favorite aspect: "It is always good to add more perspectives and insight into the psychology of human interaction," Tyndall says.



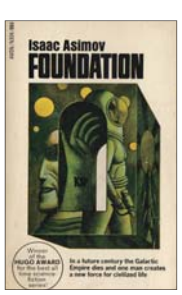
Donna Neff, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the College of Nursing, has been reading *Guns, Germs, and Steel* by Jared Diamond. The nonfiction explores the history of human development, with a particular emphasis on geographical location. Diamond makes the claim that the weapons, diseases and organizational prowess developed by those who would become Europeans, allowing them to colonize and/or destroy other nations, was largely a result of location. Favorite aspect: The "discussions of the influences of geography and agricultural development, and how culture and genetics play a key role in how societies/civilizations evolved," Neff says. "Why was there Euroasian dominance? Simple answer — geography!"



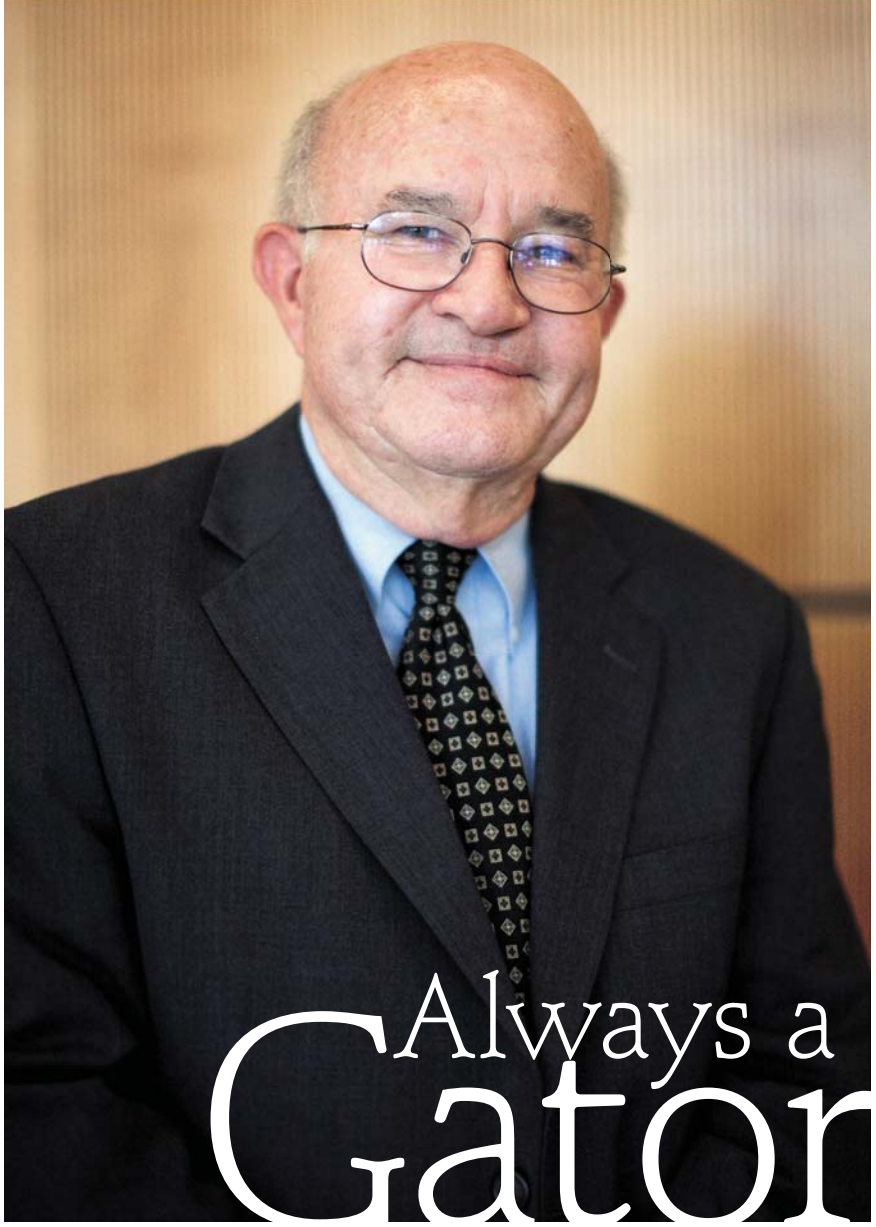
Melissa Liverman, assistant to the dean of the College of Medicine, has been reading the *Bride Quartet* series by Nora Roberts. Four friends plan pretend weddings when young and make it their joint vocation during adulthood, opening a wedding planning business with each friend tending a different part. Favorite aspect: "Roberts does a lot of research for her books," Liverman says. "For instance, when one of the friends is a glassblower, Roberts learns the ins and outs of glassblowing. It makes you want glassblowing to be one of your hobbies! She pulls you in from Page 1."



Ann Harwood-Nuss, M.D., a professor of emergency medicine in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, has been reading *A Gate at the Stairs* by Lorrie Moore. The story is set in the shadow of 9/11, featuring a young girl's first year of college at a Midwestern university. Favorite aspect: "It's full of gorgeous prose — very moving, often funny, emotional, with elements of politics, racial and class conflict."



David Twombley, assistant director for customer support for HSC IT, has been reading The *Foundation* series by Isaac Asimov. The science fiction series documents 500 years in the Galactic Empire. Mathematician Hari Seldon devises "psychohistory," a mathematical sociology that predicts the future of the empire, and anticipates its collapse. Favorite aspect: The parallel of the Galactic Empire to the empires we know, such as the Roman Empire. Twombley also says he finds it interesting to gain a different perspective on the books since originally reading them in high school.



Always a Gator

Longtime HSC leader Tom Harris retires

By April Frawley Birdwell

Tom Harris thought he would work at UF for two years when he signed on as an accountant for the Health Science Center in 1971. Having recently returned to his hometown and alma mater after serving in the U.S. Army, Harris had other ideas.

He wanted to be a banker.

It never happened. Instead, Harris moved up the administrative ranks, eventually becoming the HSC's associate vice president for administration, a position he held until his retirement June 30.

"It was a match made in heaven," said Harris of his 39 years at UF. "I like working with people, and I liked finance, so I got to do both. Plus, I got to stay at my alma mater."

Sitting in his temporary office in the Medical Sciences Building — just a few doors down from the office where he interviewed for that accounting job — Harris gives short answers when talking about his accomplishments. The reason? To Harris, the job has never been about him, but about how he can help other people, be it a vice president or a secretary.

About 11 years ago, when an organizational change left employees without jobs, Harris worked to make sure most staff members found work, remembers Dennis Hines, an associate director for medical/health administration.

"I was one of them," Hines said. "Tom was instrumental in helping place people and finding jobs for people. I ended up working directly for Tom.

"He is the quintessential diplomat and gentleman. He has helped so many people professionally at the HSC. I can think of a dozen off the top of my head."

In his leadership roles not only in the HSC, but also in the College of Medicine — he served as an assistant and then associate dean in the college from 1989 to 2007 — Harris has been involved in making many tough decisions. His reaction was almost always the same: People first, said Jerry Kidney, a former assistant vice president for health affairs.

"It's not to say he does not care about the institution, he does, but Tom always takes the extra step to make sure those people get taken care of, that they aren't left out on the street without a job," Kidney said. "Some people might say 'So long, have a good life.' Not Tom. He is people-conscious to the nth degree."

People-focused *and* modest. Last year, when he first met David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., Harris showed the new senior vice president for health affairs a binder filled with sections detailing all the people who reported to him.

"It basically comprised the whole administration of the Health Science Center," said Guzick at the celebration held to honor Harris in June. "That is a lot of responsibility. A lot of people at other places would puff out their chests … Tom's attitude is he is here to provide a service and advance the mission of UF and the HSC."

Harris also has coached people along the way. Hines, who came to UF after serving in the military, learned the art of diplomacy from Harris, a necessity to accomplish goals in the university.

They were lessons Harris learned from one of his earliest mentors — his mother, who worked for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences for 50 years.

"She taught me all the rules and regs and how to do everything," Harris said.

Of course, Harris' time as a Gator started long before he got the job in 1971. Born in Gainesville, Harris grew up two blocks north of the university. Back then, the HSC was an untouched field and UF's much smaller campus was his playground. By the time he was a teenager, he got his "real" start at UF, picking corn and peanuts on an IFAS farm.

After high school, he completed his undergraduate and graduate studies at UF, earning his master's of business administration in 1968.

"When I was in school here, there was only like 18,000 students and that was considered big," Harris said. "I remember walking to Gator Growl when it was free and football games cost $2."

Now, with his official career at UF coming to a close, Harris hopes to get more involved in local charities — specifically those supporting breast cancer, which his wife, Claudia, faced, and diabetes. But his association with the university is far from over. His son is still a student here and he might still teach — he had a business course in the College of Medicine. And after all, once a Gator, always a Gator.

"The institution has been very good to me and I have tried to be good to it in return … It all boils down to the people," Harris said. "That is what I will miss, the people."

PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

The HSC held a celebration to honor Tom Harris, center, for his 39 years of service to UF in June just before his retirement.

PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

Second-year dental students Myriam Jourdan, left, and Makom Powell learn techniques in the College of Dentistry's Dental Simulation Laboratory.

PHOTO BY PRISCILLA SANTOS

PHOTO BY PRISCILLA SANTOS

Dr. Albert R. Robinson, an assistant professor of anesthesiology for the College of Medicine, organized the medical session of the UF Professional Outreach Day on June 23 at UF's Pugh Hall. The event was held by the Young Achievers Foundation, a nonprofit organization that exposes disadvantaged children to different careers and educational options. Robinson brought a full-body skeleton model, along with brain, eye, ear and heart models that medical students use in their training.

Katrina Skoog, a new emergency medicine fellow, talks with Wilbur Holloway during the New Housestaff Open House in the Shands at UF atrium June 29. Skoog was one of 250 new residents and fellows whose training began July 1.

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Senior Vice President, Health Affairs; President, UF&Shands Health System
David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.

Director, News & Communications
Melanie Fridl Ross

Editor
April Frawley Birdwell
afrawley@ufl.edu

Senior Editors
Melanie Fridl Ross, John Pastor

Designer
Mickey Cuthbertson

Photo Intern
Maria Belen Farias

Staff Writers
April Frawley Birdwell, Jennifer Brindise, Tracy Brown Wright, Sarah Carey, Elizabeth Connor, Karen Dooley, Linda Homewood, Laura Mize, John Pastor, Jill Pease, Czerne M. Reid, Karen Rhodenizer, Melanie Fridl Ross, Priscilla Santos, Christine Velasquez

Contributing Writers
Shayna Brouker

Support Staff
Cassandra Mack, Beth Powers, Kim Smith

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