

## Physical therapy team teaches updated techniques in Nicaragua

Although a group of College of Health Professions physical therapy department members spent less than a week in Nicaragua, the impact of their visit on that country's physical therapy education and patient care will be felt for years to come.

The group of two faculty members and two graduate students recently provided instruction to the entire faculty of the only physical therapy education program in Nicaragua.

Gloria Miller, M.A., M.H.S., a program director and lecturer, Jennifer Stevens, Ph.D., M.P.T., a postdoctoral fellow, and master's-degree students Rajani Mukalel and Heather Scott presented an intensive four-day course to physical therapy professors at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Nicaragua in Managua, the nation's capital.

"We were able to carry over techniques to professors who will make a permanent change in the practice of physical therapy in Nicaragua," Mukalel said. "It was a rewarding experience that not only helps professors within our profession but also patients."



From left: Nicaraguan faculty members look on while Rajani Mukalel (with wheelchair), Heather Scott and Gloria Miller demonstrate treatment techniques with the help of a local woman who had sustained a stroke.

therapists in Nicaragua are unaware of the advances reviewed at the international Two-Step conference, held in 1990, which form the cornerstone of current physical therapy treatment.

"We felt our efforts would be more effective in the long term by teaching instructors who will be passing on the knowledge to others, rather than just treating patients," Stevens said.

Miller presented instruction on principles of motor control in English while Stevens, who is fluent in Spanish, translated. During laboratory sessions, Scott and Mukalel demonstrated therapy techniques.

The UF group completed their stay with a visit to Leon, near Managua, where they toured a nursing home, hospital, pediatric clinic and prosthetics clinic.

Although the treatment facilities lacked much of the physical therapy equipment used in the United States, the group was impressed by the quality of care offered by the Nicaraguan therapists.

"It reminded me that as a physical therapist you don't need high-tech equipment to provide excellent care," Miller said.

The group's trip was supported by donations from Gainesville's Grace Methodist Church, Option Care, Hygenic Corp., Kids on the Move and the College of Health Professions.

One of the poorest nations in the hemisphere, Nicaragua is slowly rebuilding after the devastation caused by U.S.-sponsored guerrilla attacks on the Sandinista government and trade embargoes in the 1980s, as well as Hurricane Mitch in 1998. Half of the nation's 5 million citizens live below the poverty line.

Nicaraguan physical therapy education and clinical practices have not been updated in 12 to 15 years, Miller said. Most

## Audiologists serve rural children in Yucatan, Mexico



Providing hearing services to children in underserved Mayan communities was the primary goal of a recent mission trip by a group of UF audiologists.

Alice Holmes, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of communicative disorders at the College of Health Professions and doctor of audiology students Jennifer Bai Rossi, Christi Barbee, Christa Coore-Powell, Myriam De La Asuncion and Lori White traveled to the Mexican state of Yucatan this spring.

The group observed audiologic care practices in schools serving children with hearing impairments in Yucatan's capital, Merida, and tested the hearing of more than 80 children in special education schools in small Mayan villages. They also donated audiologic equipment to local clinics and 1,000 hearing aid batteries to children who needed them.

The trip was coordinated by the local chapter of the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology, the UF Office of Global Health and AYPRODA, a foundation serving children with hearing impairments in the Yucatan.

"I learned how to perform audiology tests in difficult testing situations and that has given me more confidence in the skills I possess," said Barbee, also the president of the UF chapter of the National Association of Future Doctors of Audiology. "This trip has made me more aware of the need to experience the ways other countries perform my profession and to gain new insights and ideas that can be applied in my practice of audiology."

The group found that among the children in the Mayan communities, there was a very high incidence of hearing impairment due to maternal exposure to rubella, which affects development of the fetus' inner ear during the first trimester.

"Because of the availability of vaccinations in the United States, I haven't seen a case of rubella in clinic in 20 years," Holmes said.

With an average household monthly income of \$125, the cost of a \$200 rubella vaccination is an unreasonable expense for most families, Holmes said.

The UF group plans to make the trip to the Yucatan an annual event and hopes to include another faculty member and twice as many students so that two teams can provide services.



Residents of Motul, a small village in the Yucatan, await hearing evaluations.



## Student News



Robert G. Frank,  
Dean

### Opportunities for Change

Over the last seven years, our college faculty has radically altered our educational programs, ensuring that the College of Health Professions stays at the forefront of health education as we adapt to trends in the health field and the educational needs of our students.

These changes include the modification of our physical therapy and occupational therapy curricula so that professional training now occurs at the graduate rather than undergraduate level. To prepare students for these master's level programs we established a new health science track in our bachelor of health science program.

For practicing occupational therapists who have a bachelor's degree and are interested in obtaining a professional master's degree, our occupational therapy faculty developed a non-traditional program that allows students to obtain the degree while continuing to work.

Our audiology faculty has developed one of the most renowned non-traditional education programs leading to the doctorate of audiology.

Our health services administration faculty created a non-traditional master's program for working professionals and a doctorate in health services research.

Recognizing the need to train more faculty and researchers interested in rehabilitation, we developed the doctorate in rehabilitation science, an interdisciplinary program.

Our faculty has diversified our programs in response to changes in professional educational standards and opportunities. In each case, the decision to modify our curriculum or offer a new degree recognized the evolving nature of the disciplines we train. Over time, the changes in our educational models have transformed the college. We now offer more than 14 programs, up from eight programs in 1996. During the same period the number of students enrolled in the college has increased from 868 in 1996 to more than 1,400 in 2002.

The evolutionary nature of the changes within the college over the last seven years has made each step less noticeable. During the next six to twelve months, however, our faculty is undertaking the development of a curriculum in public health that will significantly alter the size and scope of the college.

Last summer, a faculty workgroup began assessing the feasibility of expanding the college to include core programs in public health in response to a need for a public health program identified by UF's strategic plan. The five core areas in public health include epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, social and behavioral sciences, and health services administration. Two of the areas, health services administration and social and behavioral sciences, already exist in the college. The workgroup formed last summer concluded the college's existing faculty could largely cover the requirements for these two areas and that the college could develop an epidemiology program.

Biostatistics and environmental health exist on campus as well. Biostatistics is part of the department of statistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and environmental health is part of the curriculum in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Preliminary discussions with the leaders in these programs indicate both colleges are interested in collaborating in the development of a public health program housed in the College of Health Professions.

Through these types of partnerships, we envision creating an accredited public health program. Eventually the program will add another 400 students to the college and three new departments.

Although the scope of this change is larger than the evolutionary steps that have characterized our recent growth, we believe the addition of these programs will complement our longstanding and fundamental commitment to the health professions.

Gretchen Ames, a doctoral student in the department of clinical and health psychology, received a National Research Service Award from the National Institute of Mental Health. Ames will receive an annual award of \$26,000 for two years to support her educational expenses. In her research, Ames will conduct a randomized clinical trial to examine the effectiveness of a new behavioral weight loss treatment for women that is designed to address primary goals for weight loss, including improving mood, body image and self-esteem.

Rebecca Jump, a doctoral student in the department of clinical and health psychology, won awards for best overall graduate student poster and best poster in the health behavior category at the Women's Health Research Day poster competition held at the UF Health Science Center. Her research focuses on causes of fatigue in women with lupus.

More than 35 students presented research in the areas of behavioral science and rehabilitation at the College of Health Professions' 2003 Research Day. The six students awarded top honors received \$1,200 to use toward travel expenses to a professional or scientific conference. Winners included clinical and health psychology doctoral students Adam Lewin, Paul Seignourel and Eva Serber and rehabilitation science doctoral students Toni Chiara, Tiffany Frimel and Michelle Woodbury.

## Looking back

*Former UF President John Lombardi, College of Nursing Dean Kathleen Long, College of Health Professions Dean Robert Frank, College of Pharmacy Dean William Riffie and former Vice President for Health Affairs Kenneth Berns break ground for the Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex in September 1999. Completed this spring, the complex was dedicated in April. For photos of the dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting, turn to page 4.*



## Teaching award winners recognized

The College of Health Professions recently honored two outstanding faculty members for their teaching contributions: Mark Bishop, Ph.D., a lecturer in physical therapy and Patricia Dasler, M.S., O.T.R./L., an adjunct lecturer and project research associate in occupational therapy.



Dr. Mark Bishop



Ms. Patricia Dasler

Recognized after just one year of full-time teaching, Bishop has been selected for the college's Teaching Excellence Award. Bishop teaches courses in biomechanics and orthopedics to entry-level master's degree students. He is the first physical therapy faculty member to use Web enhancement in the classroom and has arranged for multiple visits by local health-care practitioners and patients with disabilities to the classroom.

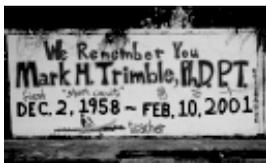
"My philosophy is to provide a variety of different lesson plans and teaching styles so that students with different learning styles can participate fully as learners," Bishop said. "The more involved the students become in the material, the more likely they will be to use the content."

Dasler has been recognized as the college's Teacher of the Year for her enthusiastic approach to teaching, compassion for her students and sense of humor in the classroom.

Dasler teaches a series of three courses related to psychosocial dysfunction, evaluation and treatment in the department's entry-level master's program. This is her second Teacher of the Year award.

An experienced practitioner, Dasler is known for providing insight into real-life clinical situations for her students. She also incorporates her own love of acting into her classroom approach.

"I believe in role play and getting my students involved in it as well," Dasler said. "Also, there is nothing like a good clinical story to illustrate points or to operationalize a concept. It makes material come alive. When students come back after graduation, they often tell me how well prepared they felt for psychosocial clinical placements. It tickles me when they say, 'Ms. Dasler, it's just the way you said it would be.' What do they think? That I sit at home making this stuff up?"



## Remembering Mark Trimble



Faculty members Gloria Miller, M.A., M.H.S., a program director and lecturer (top), Andrea Behrman, Ph.D., an associate professor and Gwen Creel, a lecturer, paint a memorial in honor of Mark Trimble.

Physical therapy department faculty members recently gathered to honor Mark H. Trimble, Ph.D., by painting a memorial on the 34<sup>th</sup> Street Wall. Trimble, an assistant professor of physical therapy, died in February 2001.

Trimble joined the UF faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor with a concentration in orthopedics. A 1999 recipient of the College of Health Professions Teaching Excellence Award, Trimble established an orthopedics program that incorporates a problem solving approach to case studies and a student peer review system for class assignments.

A scholarship fund has been established in Trimble's honor. Contributions may be made payable to the UF Foundation and mailed to: Dr. Mark H. Trimble Memorial Scholarships Fund, P.O. Box 100185, Gainesville FL 32610.

## Blue Cross and Blue Shield funds Health Professions effort to improve access to health care

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida and the College of Health Professions have joined forces to improve access to affordable health care for all Florida residents.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida recently presented a \$1.2 million gift to the college to create a professorship in health-care policy. The gift, eligible for state matching funds, establishes the first full professorship for the college.

"No family should worry about health care for a loved one, and this gift allows us to join with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida to look at pragmatic solutions to this problem," said Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported in September 2002 that the number of uninsured Americans in 2001 had risen to 41.2 million, an increase of 1.4 million over the previous year. Nearly 18 percent of Florida's residents do not have health insurance.

"Our support is one way we fulfill our mission to advance the health and well-being of Florida's citizens, especially the uninsured and underserved," said Michael Cascone Jr., chairman and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida. "We believe programs aimed at health-care awareness and training, health education, research and policy initiatives, and workforce preparation can make a positive difference in our communities."

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida Professorship in Health Services Administration will support the appointment of a nationally known scholar of health policy to establish a network of programs and activities dedicated to finding solutions to the widespread lack of affordable health coverage.

"As studies by our faculty have demonstrated, health-care access is an increasing problem in Florida that has economic and social justice implications," said Niccie McKay, Ph.D., an associate professor and chair of the department of health services administration.

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## Faculty and Staff Notes

Sheila Eyberg, Ph.D., a professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named a UF Research Foundation professor for her distinguished research record and strong research agenda. The three-year award includes a \$5,000 annual salary supplement and a \$3,000 grant.

Alice Holmes, Ph.D., an associate professor of communicative disorders, is the recipient of the Professional Achievement Award, given by Idaho State University. Holmes, who received her master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from ISU in 1978, was honored last month at the university's commencement ceremony.

Lynn Jernigan, coordinator of administrative services in the physical therapy department, and Craig Velozo, Ph.D., an associate professor of occupational therapy, were among 35 UF Health Science Center employees who received Superior Accomplishment Awards for outstanding contributions to the university. They each received \$200.

Christopher Johnson, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of health services administration, is a recipient of a Department of Veterans Affairs' Health Services Research and Development Service Merit Review Entry award. The career development award funds his salary for three years as a health researcher within the Rehabilitation Outcomes Center of Excellence at Gainesville's Malcom Randall VA Medical Center.

# A space of our own

Photos by Jeff Knee

The College of Health Professions celebrated the opening of its new home, the Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex, with a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting in April. The day's events also included an open house of the facility and an evening gala.

UF President Charles Young leads the dedication ceremony.



Audience members gather around the sculpture entitled "Balance," located in the HPNP Complex courtyard.

Engraved at the base of "Balance:"

*"Scientific and humanist approaches are not competitive but supportive, and both are ultimately necessary."*

-- Robert C. Wood

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*"The six departments in the college are finally together in one place and we are so proud to call this building, with its remarkable classrooms and resources, our new home."*

-- student Natalie Blevins



President Young, student Natalie Blevins, Kay Walker, Ph.D., a professor of occupational therapy, Dean Robert Frank and Douglas Barrett, M.D., UF vice president for health affairs, prepare to cut the ribbon at the Health Professions entrance.



Gerold Schiebler, M.D., Ph.D., an adjunct distinguished service professor (standing), was instrumental in maintaining state funding for the facility in his role as former associate vice president for health affairs for external relations.

*"Today, we celebrate our new home where faculty can work together to educate, to do research, and to serve... in one academy. It is with sizable gratitude, a measure of pride and a sense of excitement and promise that I accept this building for the 90-plus faculty of the College of Health Professions."*

-- faculty member Kay Walker

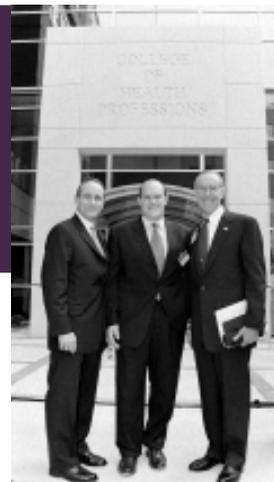


Richard Gutekunst, Ph.D., Health Professions dean emeritus, Cheryl May, former assistant to Dr. Gutekunst and Linda Stallings, the college's associate director for administration, tour the rehabilitation counseling department area during the complex open house.



President Young, College of Pharmacy Dean William Riffie, College of Nursing Dean Kathleen Long and Dean Frank toast the opening of the HPNP Complex at the evening gala.

Dr. Barrett, Dean Frank and David Challoner, M.D., a former vice president for health affairs.



2003

# Convocation and Commencement

The following awards were given to outstanding academic achievers at the College of Health Professions' 2003 spring convocation and commencement ceremony on May 3.

## Dean's Office Awards

### Dean's Scholar

*Undergraduate* – William Eastburn, occupational therapy

*Graduate* – Erin Floyd, clinical and health psychology

*Judson A. Clements Jr. Memorial Scholarship* – Karla Wooten, rehabilitation counseling

*UF Distinguished Achievement Award* – J. Brooks Brown, M.D.

*Health Professions Alumna of the Year* – Eileen Fennell, Ph.D.

*UF Outstanding Leader Award* – Stephanie Ducheine, health science and rehabilitative services

*Teaching Excellence* – Mark Bishop, Ph.D.

## Bachelor of Health Science Program

*Outstanding Leadership* – Bryan Harper and Shannon Stewart

*Academic Excellence* – Rebecca Pooley

*Appreciation Award from Students* – Julie Porembescu

## Shands Hospital Auxiliary Scholarships

Li Cai, health services administration

Melissa Crowley, occupational therapy

Marcelo Miranda, physical therapy

Young Son, physical therapy

Christina Wierenga, clinical and health psychology

## Clinical and Health Psychology

*Florence Shafer Memorial Award* – Christina Wierenga

*Molly Harrower Award* – Gregg Selke

*Department Research Award* – Elizabeth Leritz

*Scientist-Practitioner Award* – Lisa McTeague

*Robert and Phyllis Levitt Research Award* – Elizabeth Leritz

*Geoffrey Clark-Ryan Memorial Award* – Amy Baughcum

*Department Classroom Teaching Award* – Sam Sears, Ph.D.

*Department Research Mentor Award* – Sam Sears, Ph.D.

*Hugh C. Davis Award for Excellence in Psychotherapy Supervision* – Lori Waxenburg, Ph.D.

## Communicative Disorders

*Kenneth R. Bzoch Speech-Language-Hearing Award for Excellence in Research* – Neila Donovan

*Lowell C. Hammer Outstanding Clinical Speech-Language Pathology Award* – Alison Ungaro

*Kenneth C. Pollock Outstanding Clinical Audiology Award* – Lori White

## Health Services Administration

*Master of Health Administration Faculty Award for Excellence* – Sarah Molinari

*Master of Health Administration Alumni Award for Service* – Sarah Diehl and Cristy McKillop

*Master of Health Administration Excellence in Teaching Award* – Christy Harris Lemak, Ph.D.

## Occupational Therapy

*Alice C. Jantzen Award for Academic Excellence* – Sarah Dougherty, Angela Kalman, Shannon Locher and Erin McGowan

*Ann Sirmyer Ballard Memorial Award* – Lisa Newton

*Jane Slaymaker Memorial Award* – Nicole Chipy and Devon Kinard

*Lela A. Llorens Award for Excellence in Research* – Roxanna Bendixen and Catherine Llanes

*Outstanding Teaching Assistance Award* – Alicia Oreste

## Physical Therapy

*Claudette Finley Scholarship Award* – Victor Pereira

*Frederick Family Scholarship (entry-level student)* – Brent Van Gemert

*Frederick Family Scholarship (advanced-level student)* – Toni Chiara

*Julia Conrad Trojanowski Scholarship* – Elizabeth Howard

*Dr. Mark H. Trimble Memorial Scholarship* – Carrie Ullmann

## Rehabilitation Counseling

*Graduate Leadership Award* – Brooke Braman

*Undergraduate Leadership Award* – Jenny Stein

*Scholarship Award* – Wendy Marsh

*Bruce Thomason Memorial Award* – Dan Pekich

*Clinical Excellence Award* – Sandra Anglin

*John Muthard Research Award* – Elizabeth (Lisa) Hannold

## Profiles in Leadership

# Physical therapy leader sets bar for excellence in education, research

As the new chair of the department of physical therapy, Krista Vandeborne, Ph.D., P.T., is working to create a nationally recognized department that boasts innovative teaching, top-notch research and strong partnerships with community clinicians.

"Dr. Vandeborne possesses incredible leadership and vision," said Andrea Behrman, Ph.D., P.T., an associate professor of physical therapy. "We needed someone to set the bar of excellence for the department. Faculty, staff and students are inspired and excited by the new environment she has created."

Since she joined the department in July 2001 research funding has nearly doubled, new educational programs have been established and affiliations with UF researchers and clinicians have been formed.

"With nationally known faculty in spinal cord injury, stroke and respiratory training research, this department was primed for success," said Vandeborne. "Since April 2002 when I became chair, my job has been to create an infrastructure that will take the department to the next level of excellence in education and research."

To that end, mentorship in research and grant procurement is being provided to master's and doctoral students, postdoctoral researchers and junior faculty. In conjunction with Shands Rehabilitation Services, Vandeborne has implemented a series of campus seminars by national experts who present new outcomes of physical therapy research and clinical treatments.

With department research funding escalating, the result of these programs can already be seen. In the current fiscal year, the department has received \$1.6 million in grants from agencies such as the National Institutes of Health, the Christopher Reeve Paralysis Foundation and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Efforts are under way to offer additional clinical experience to the entry-level students. Community clinicians frequently provide guest lectures and demonstrations of treatment techniques. Students also benefit from classroom visits by pediatric patients and patients with physical disabilities caused by polio, spinal cord injury or stroke.

"Not only does this provide hands-on experience for our students and help to put a human face on the disease, but the patients feel they've had an opportunity to contribute to the training of future health-care providers," Vandeborne said.

Vandeborne has been actively contributing to research in skeletal muscle plasticity and rehabilitation, with published expertise in magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and spectroscopy, skeletal muscle atrophy and muscle metabolism. In her own research, she studies the adaptations in skeletal muscle during disuse, disease and therapeutic interventions.

"Muscle wasting occurs within days of disuse," said Vandeborne, a principal investigator on two NIH-RO1 grants and co-principal investigator on two other RO1s. "A muscle will lose 15 percent of its size and 30-40 percent of its strength after only two weeks of disuse. Patients suffering from cancer, AIDS, or other illnesses that may confine them to bed for extended periods of time are especially at risk of experiencing muscle weakness."

In collaboration with her husband, Glenn Walter, Ph.D., an assistant professor of physiology and functional genomics in the College of Medicine, Vandeborne also studies the potential of gene therapy and stem cell incorporation to guard muscles from the impacts of disuse and disease and to speed up muscle regeneration.



Dr. Krista Vandeborne

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# Alumni updates

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1960s

**Dyer T. Michell**, health services administration '67, is president and CEO of Munroe Regional Medical Center in Ocala. Dyer received the Senior-Level Healthcare Executive Award for Northern Florida from the American College of Healthcare Executives.

1970s

**Jerry Hermanson**, health services administration '73, recently co-authored a book published by AMA Press entitled "Cutting Costs in the Physician Practice." Jerry founded a consulting company, Healthcare Integration Consultants Inc., five years ago that specializes in physician practice management, group practice development, and hospital/physician relationship issues. He and his wife Cathy, also a '73 UF graduate, are proud to announce an addition to the Gator alumni family with the graduation of their daughter, Carly, this past May, with a bachelor's degree in history and a minor in criminology.

1980s

**Bob Swanson**, rehabilitation counseling '74, has served as a vocational rehabilitation counselor with the Division of Disability, Aging and Rehabilitative Services in Richmond, Ind. for the past 28 years. He also has worked as a licensed clinical social worker at Richmond's Lutheran Counseling Center for the past six years. He sends greetings to his former classmates and professors.

**Mark Norrell**, health services administration '87, was appointed executive vice president and chief operating officer for Hutchinson Hospital in Hutchinson, Kansas.

1990s

**Steve Kelley**, health services administration '94, lives in St. Louis, Missouri, and works for Mercy Health Plans as manager of operations consulting, an internal consulting department.

**Kristen Sands, Ph.D.**, clinical and health psychology internship program '97, was awarded board certification in clinical neuropsychology. Kristen is a staff neuropsychologist at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Mo.

**Bob Swoap, Ph.D.**, clinical and health psychology '92, and his wife Christine are the proud parents of Sofia and Julien LaRocque Swoap, born in March 2002. Bob and Christine are both on the faculty at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, N.C.

**Sumner Sydeman, Ph.D.**, clinical and health psychology internship program '98, is an assistant professor in the department of psychology at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff. He has been appointed coordinator of the applied health psychology graduate program.

## Brooks Health System chairman awarded UF honor



Dr. J. Brooks Brown

J. Brooks Brown, M.D., Chairman of Brooks Health System, was honored with the University of Florida Distinguished Achievement Award at the College of Health Professions' graduation ceremony May 3. The award is given to individuals who have demonstrated leadership and exceptional achievement that merit special recognition from the university.

A retired cardiothoracic and general surgeon, Brown founded the Jacksonville-based Brooks Health System more than 30 years ago. The system consists of the 127-bed Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital in Jacksonville and 19 outpatient therapy clinics in Florida and South Georgia. Brown also co-founded Memorial Hospital of Jacksonville, which he led for more than 25 years.

"Dr. Brown is most noted in Jacksonville for his fearless advocacy for the construction of a new hospital when there were long waiting periods for hospital admissions," said UF Trustee and former president of Alliance Mortgage Company W.A. "Mac" McGriff III. "Many changes have occurred in health-care delivery, and Brooks Brown has been the quiet leader in our community of this change."

Under Brown's leadership, the Brooks Health Foundation gave a \$4.5 million gift to the College of Health Professions to establish the Brooks Center for Rehabilitation Studies, an interdisciplinary rehabilitation research entity. Last year, the Brooks system contributed another \$1.2 million dollars to secure a clinical research lab for the Brooks Center.

"It is not simply what Dr. Brown has done as an individual that qualifies him for a Distinguished Achievement Award; it is what he has inspired from others," said Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D. "He is an individual of remarkable spirit and character who possesses an extraordinary capacity to influence, motivate and lead. Throughout his life, Dr. Brown has nurtured kindness, understanding, knowledge, and unity among people."

## Cycling team to raise money for student scholarships

Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D. and the College of Health Professions are assembling a team of cyclists to ride in the Horse Farm Hundred on Sunday, Sept. 28. The Horse Farm Hundred is a 100-mile bike ride sponsored by the Gainesville Cycling Club, which winds through the beautiful horse country surrounding Ocala, Fla.

The Health Professions Team is looking for riders to complete a leg of the tour and sponsors who wish to make a donation to the team. All contributions will be used to establish the first endowed scholarship fund for Health Professions students. Those interested in participating are encouraged to e-mail [horsefarm100@hp.ufl.edu](mailto:horsefarm100@hp.ufl.edu).



College of Health Professions  
University of Florida

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news online

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# Alumni spotlights

## Neuropsychology researcher and educator named college's alumna of the year



Photo by Jeff Kneeb

Dr. Eileen Fennell

The College of Health Professions' 2003 Alumna of the Year is known for her innovative research and professional leadership in the field of clinical neuropsychology. And as a Health Professions faculty member, Eileen Fennell, Ph.D., clinical and health psychology '78, has been contributing to the college's success for nearly 30 years.

Fennell entered UF's doctoral program in clinical and health psychology in 1974 and joined the faculty in 1978.

"Whatever professional success I have had I owe in large measure to the University of Florida," Fennell told the audience at the college's convocation and commencement ceremony.

Throughout her career Fennell has focused on pediatric neuropsychology, the study of brain function in children and adolescents and its effect on behavior, emotion and learning. She has conducted several studies involving children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, epilepsy or brain injuries.



Dr. Fennell as a UF graduate student.

Fennell has authored or co-authored more than 50 research papers and 10 book chapters on pediatric neuropsychology, and co-authored the book *Pediatric Neuropsychology in a Medical Setting*.

Fennell lists among her professional highlights her election to the post of president of the Neuropsychology Division of the American Psychological Association. She is a member of the APA's Council of Representatives and has served on the American Board of Clinical Neuropsychology and the governing board of the International Neuropsychological Society.

"It's truly a privilege to have Eileen Fennell recognized as our Alumna of the Year," said Dean Robert Frank, Ph.D. "All of our alumni of the year have made significant contributions, and in Eileen's case her contributions have been made to her alma mater. Eileen is loved by students, respected by the faculty and appreciated by all."

## First UF health services administration graduate has long history of leadership in Catholic health-care systems

For a man who describes himself as an "educational guinea pig," Ronald Aldrich, health services administration '66, has enjoyed an enormously successful career.

A former health system CEO, Aldrich claims the guinea pig title because of his membership in the University of South Florida's charter graduating class in 1964 and the University of Florida's first master's degree in health administration class in 1966. And by virtue of having a last name that begins with the letter "A," Aldrich believes he was actually the first graduate of UF's program.

Aldrich's 37 years of experience in health-care leadership includes serving as president and CEO of three Catholic multi-hospital systems: ServantCor in Urbana, Ill., Franciscan Health System in Aston, Penn., and Catholic Health Services of Long Island in New York.

"Ron has a distinguished record of achievement as a health-care leader," said Michael O. Bice, the senior vice president and international health-care practice leader for insurance brokerage Marsh. "His contributions to the strength and vitality of Catholic health-care services are especially noteworthy."

Aldrich believes his most significant health-care contribution was his role in the largest not-for-profit health-care merger in the United States. During his tenure at Franciscan Health System, Aldrich helped lead the effort to integrate three large Catholic health systems to form Catholic Health Initiatives in 1996, which included 126 health-care facilities in 21 states.

"The experience was a very meaningful part of my ministry in Catholic health care," Aldrich said. "I had the opportunity to take all my health administration experience and education and make the best possible contribution to the merger."

He also has served on the boards of directors of six Catholic health systems and was chair of the Catholic Health Association of the United States.

Aldrich and wife Mary Lynne live in Dubois, Wyo., and Sante Fe, N.M. He currently is an executive in residence and a visiting professor in the graduate programs in health administration at the University of Colorado-Denver. He also provides health-care consulting through Limberpine Associates Inc., the company he founded.

"I feel the goal of my remaining work in health care is to raise consciousness about injustices in the health-care system and to stay involved in the education of future health administrators," Aldrich said.



Ron Aldrich

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## What's New?



## What's New?

Share your news with classmates! Submissions will be published in the Alumni Updates section of a future issue.

Name (including maiden name) \_\_\_\_\_

Major/Year \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home address (city, state, zip) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Current position (Title, company - or enclose a business card) \_\_\_\_\_

News to share \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to HP News, News and Communications, Health Science Center, P.O. Box 100253, Gainesville, FL 32610-0253; fax (352) 392-9220; e-mail [jpease@vpha.health.ufl.edu](mailto:jpease@vpha.health.ufl.edu) or post your news online at [www.hp.ufl.edu/alumni](http://www.hp.ufl.edu/alumni)