

## Finding access to health care

By Patricia Bates McGhee and Jill Pease

The University of Florida is making numerous advances in health care, but for the many Americans who do not have proper access to care, those advances matter little if patients never make it through a health provider's door.

Health care inequalities can be linked to a number of factors such as race,

socioeconomic status, lack of health insurance and geographical location. And the consequences are serious.

According to the Centers for Population Health and Health Disparities, "The most striking health disparities result in shorter life expectancy, as well as higher rates of most cancers, some birth defects, infant mortality, asthma, diabetes, dementia, impaired functional and cognitive abilities, behavioral and affective disorders, and cardiovascular disease."

Researchers in the college's department of health services research, management and policy are looking at the complex issue of health disparities from a number of angles.

"Two things are germane to health disparities — health insurance coverage and health care," said R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D., chair of the department and the principal investigator of a series of studies focused on health insurance coverage in Florida. "Disparities in health insurance lead to disparities in access to health care, which lead to disparities in health. What we can do about health disparities and what a lot of people see as inequalities are really about access to insurance."

Duncan said even the employed struggle with obtaining health insurance coverage. Seventy-five percent of people without health insurance are either employed themselves or in a family unit where at least one person is employed.

"It's another disparity right in our face, and it's a double whammy!" he explained. "They have a connection to the work force that should allow them to get health insurance coverage, but they don't because employers don't offer it at all or the employee's share is so expensive that they can't afford to pick it up."

Robert Weech-Maldonado, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of health services research, management and policy, is examining health disparities from the perspective of

patients from different racial and ethnic minority groups.

"National studies have revealed that patients who are minorities rate their health care experiences less positively than do white patients, particularly with regard to communication with clinicians, staff responsiveness and receipt of treatment information," he said.

With a \$236,225 grant from the Commonwealth Fund, Weech-Maldonado will examine whether new, national standards on cultural competency for health care providers are actually improving patients' experiences and what organizational and market characteristics are associated with providers' adherence to the standards.

"If project findings demonstrate that adherence to standards for culturally and linguistically appropriate care makes a difference in patients'

experiences, they could spur hospitals across the country to adopt the practices of successful providers,"

Weech-Maldonado said.

Here in Florida we need to think about tackling health disparities from the local level and factor in regional sets of circumstances, said Allyson Hall, Ph.D., an associate professor of health services research, management and policy, and the research director of the college's Florida Center for Medicaid and the Uninsured.

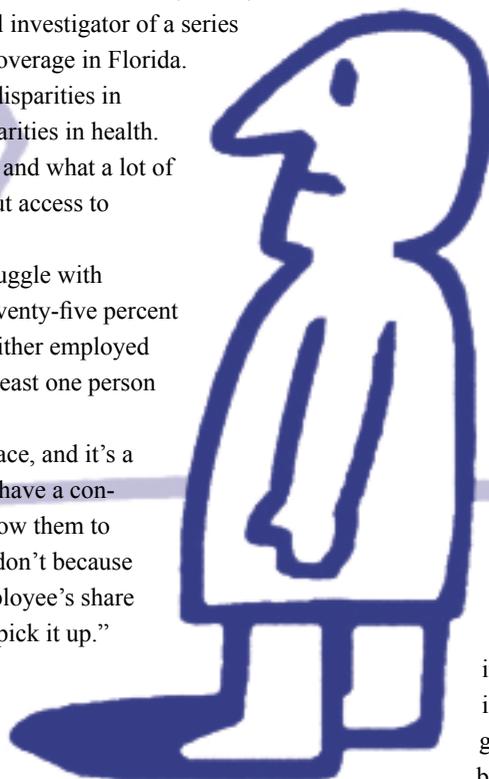
For example, immigrants to this country face particular challenges as they assimilate into the local culture, Hall said.

"After living in the U.S. for awhile, their health may start to deteriorate; for example, their cholesterol levels start creeping up — probably because they're eating more hamburgers," Hall said. "That means that we're not supporting the good health practices that these immigrants bring with them when they move here."

Hall said she doesn't look at disparities per se but rather access and the need for a strong community base.

"I'm fearful that as a nation we're not tackling this problem holistically," she said. "We're not really addressing day-to-day poverty, what it means and how it affects people. Poverty itself involves a myriad of issues like substandard housing, not having access to good food and being depressed. These problems are real, but we're not addressing them and how they, too, affect health." ●

"Disparities in health insurance lead to disparities in access to health care, which lead to disparities in health."



## PHHP hosts major conferences

Two of the college's programs have hosted prestigious scientific conferences on aging and child health psychology in 2006.

In February, the International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence brought together 600 experts on aging from 40 countries to discuss the use of technology to maintain independence and quality of life for seniors. Topics included assistive technology and workplace adaptations; home modification and universal design; injury prevention; robotics; smart homes; telehealth; and transportation.

Conference participants included a mix of people involved in research and development, professional practice, business, government and policy, as well as seniors who will benefit from the technology.

Held in St. Petersburg, Fla., the conference was hosted by the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, and the American Occupational Therapy Association.

More than 400 top researchers gathered to discuss emerging areas in child health psychology, family systems, health promotion, treatment outcome and HIV/AIDS at the 10<sup>th</sup> National Conference on Child Health Psychology, held in April in Gainesville.

The child health psychology conference was founded in 1988 by the department of clinical and health psychology and was co-sponsored by the American Psychological Association's Society of Pediatric Psychology.

The conference featured the latest research findings on psychological, behavioral and family factors related to child health problems. ●

## dean's MESSAGE

Over the past few years, the college has undertaken the substantial challenge of integrating public health with our existing programs. Foremost among the challenges is a college culture change. The focus of public health programs differs significantly from the individual

interventions common to health professions programs. Whereas health professions programs focus on treating one person at a time, public health focuses upon interventions affecting systems, communities, and populations. In order to change our culture, it is important that we understand the implications of the transformation we are undertaking.



Dr. Robert G. Frank

Throughout our almost 50-year history, the faculty members in our college have defined excellence in our respective disciplines. But despite our increased knowledge and expertise in treating individuals, the level of chronic illness and disability continues to rise. It is clear the model we have followed — focusing primarily on the individual — is incomplete to meet the need, and complementary approaches must be identified.

To have a significant impact on the health conditions facing Americans, and much of the world, we must expand our toolbox beyond treatment (secondary prevention) and rehabilitation (tertiary prevention) of existing conditions and embrace primary prevention of those conditions before they occur. Applying primary prevention methods requires that health systems address a continuum of issues including the physical and social environment, individual behavior, systems of care and national policy.

As was the case 50 years ago when the college was formed to provide an educational model missing in the United States, our college has introduced a unique model that focuses on the integration of public health problem-solving and individual patient care. In the same vein, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) has stated that the education of students in physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, and speech and language pathology would be “enhanced and perhaps maximized” when students are able to view an individual within the context of the health of the community.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions began moving to the type of model the IOM described more than a decade ago. Our commitment to the treatment and management of chronic health conditions has emphasized the need for a paradigm that recognizes health as a function of the broader community. To address these problems, our health professions students must understand public health as well as their disciplines, and our public health students must understand the problems of chronic disease and disability. Collaboration across disciplines is critical.

In 2001, the College of Public Health and Health Professions began a transformation that rivals the changes wrought with the establishment of the college. We believe, and have set out to demonstrate, that public health models are integral to disciplines we have nurtured for five decades. We look forward to your support as we establish a new model that will influence education practice and thinking. ●



## Helping patients with low back pain rest easy

**W**ith 80 percent of Americans experiencing low back pain at some time or another, it is little wonder that it is the leading cause of missed work and one of the most common neurological ailments, second only to headaches.

With two major studies under way, researcher Steven George, P.T., Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of physical therapy at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, is working to make a dent in those numbers by preventing and reducing the impact of low back pain.

George was recently awarded a four-year \$1 million grant to study low back pain prevention programs for U.S. soldiers. The funding came from the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program of the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs.

Low back pain affects 150,000 active-duty soldiers a year and is the second-most-common reason for soldiers to seek health care, with injuries typically sustained during physical training or sports, said George, adding that soldiers with low back pain have the highest risk of disability five years after injury.

Researchers spearheading the Prevention of Low Back in the Military, or POLM, trial plan to start recruiting participants early in 2007. George is collaborating with fellow UF investigators Samuel Wu, Ph.D., and Michael Robinson, Ph.D., and with Maj. John Childs, P.T., Ph.D., and Maj. Deydre Teyhen, P.T., Ph.D., of the Army Medical Department Center and School at Baylor University. The research team will test prevention programs for 2,700 soldiers.

“This study could have a wider impact on health outcomes, as the programs we are studying could also be used by the general public,” George said.

George is also the recipient of a \$150,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to test behavioral interventions for reducing chronic disability from low back pain. During the three-year study, he is examining

whether women receive more benefit from the interventions than men do.

“Chronic low back pain is one of the most common forms of chronic pain and is a significant source of disability and cost for society,” George said. “Not surprisingly, it is a common reason for health care utilization, and an effective treatment is a public health priority.” ●

## College launches distance certificate program

Working professionals are now able to earn a certificate in public health without ever having to visit the UF campus.

The college's 15-credit distance certificate was launched this fall and boasts 26 students who include dentists, physicians, researchers, nurses, lawyers, audiologists, and other health professionals. The program is designed for people who already have a bachelor's degree and would like additional training in public health.

“Enrollment in the certificate program has restored my sense of professionalism and reminds me that I serve a greater purpose in public health than just making a living, just muddling through or getting by day after day,” said student Robert Michael Jr., who works for the environmental health section at the Emanuel County (Ga.) Health Department. “The course work has given me a greater depth of understanding in an environmental health field that I have served in for the last nine years. I thought I knew a lot about it. I know what I know. I just never knew what I didn't know. This course is opening up to me those missing skills.”

For more information on the certificate in public health, visit [www.mph.ufl.edu](http://www.mph.ufl.edu), e-mail [ph@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:ph@phhp.ufl.edu) or call 1-866-62-UFMPH. ●

# Andresen named chair of epidemiology and biostatistics

**E**pidemiologists study the factors that affect the health of individuals and populations in an effort to influence preventive health care policy. But what happens after someone gets sick? What are the long-term consequences of disability and chronic illness? Those are questions that Elena Andresen, Ph.D., a professor and chair of the college's new department of epidemiology and biostatistics, hopes to answer.

"I care about why people get sick," Andresen said. "That's typical of epidemiologists, but I also find myself drawn to the question of what happens next, what are the health outcomes and quality of life, rather than the causes of illness."

Andresen is among a handful of epidemiologists who are studying disability and rehabilitation, and her expertise landed her a spot on the Institute of Medicine's prestigious Committee on Disability in America. The committee is examining the gaps in disability science and recommending actions to reduce the impact of disability on individuals and society.

Andresen, whose research is largely funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is also a member of the International Society for Quality of Life Research.

"Our group develops measurements for use in clinical trials and population research to predict quality of life outcomes in much more personal ways," she said. "So, for example, instead of saying that therapy has improved function in a patient's left knee, we look at it from the patient's perspective. Has the patient's quality of life improved? If not, then perhaps we should look at other therapies for the patient instead of focusing on the left knee."

In addition, Andresen is working on several

studies examining the challenges for people who provide home care for family members with disability. She also is a research health scientist at the Rehabilitation Outcomes Research Center of the North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System.

"Through my research, I'd like to determine how to intervene to make sure that quality of life and access to care are equal for everyone," Andresen said. "We're not there yet, but we are working on it."

Andresen's vision for the department of epidemiology and biostatistics is to meld the two disciplines' strengths in public health teaching and research with the work of the college's clinical specialists in disability and chronic conditions.

"The goal is to develop an increasing critical mass of faculty members who do what their disciplines do and do it very well, but also expand into the areas the rest of the college has to offer," Andresen said. "We can't limit ourselves to the classic teaching and research in epidemiology and biostatistics. We have a community of disability and aging experts here in the college to grow with. There isn't another public health program that has this opportunity anywhere in the United States." ●



Dr. Elena Andresen

**Ashley Butler** (department of clinical and health psychology) has been named an Atlantic Coast Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Alliance scholar.

**Vikas R. Dharnidharka, M.D.**, (master's in public health) received the 2006 American Society of Transplantation Achievement Award for Assistant Professors in Clinical Science.

**Neha Dixit** (department of clinical and health psychology) received a predoctoral fellowship from the American Heart Association's Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate Research Committee.

**Joe Dzierzewski** (department of clinical and health psychology) received the Retirement Research Foundation Master's Thesis Proposal Research Award from the American Psychological Association.

These College of Public Health and Health Professions doctoral students successfully defended their dissertations between September 2005 and August 2006:

Clinical and Health Psychology — **Daniel Bagner, Claudia Campbell, Karen Chung, Eleni Dimoulas, Vonetta Dotson, Michelle Harwood, Mary Murawski and Paul Seignourel.**

Health Services Research — **William Mkanta, Britta Neugaard, Gavin Putzer and Eric Schmacker.**

Rehabilitation Science — **Lori Burkhead, Christina Dillahunt, Michael Justiss, Man Soo Ko, Frank Lane, Min Liu, Dennis McCarthy, Chetan Phadke, Roberta Pineda, Claudia Senesac and Michelle Woodbury.** ●

## faculty NOTES & staff

**Ronald Rozensky, Ph.D.**, chair of the department of clinical and health psychology, has stepped down as department chair. Following a six-month sabbatical, he will spend five months working in the Fear and Anxiety Clinic with Dr. Peter Lang. In August 2007, Rozensky will take the position of associate dean for the college's international programs.

**Samuel Sears, Ph.D.**, an associate professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, has been named to the advisory council of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Foundation.

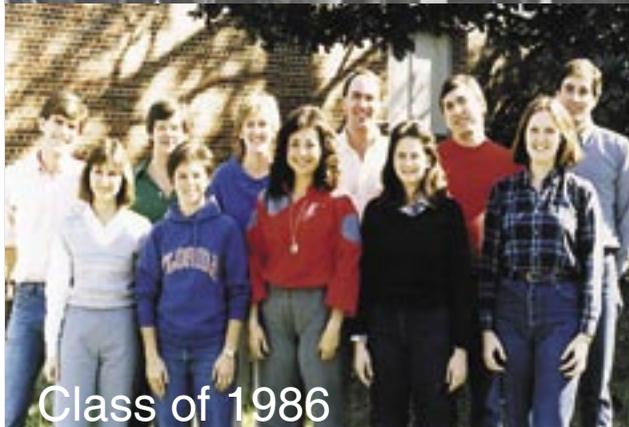
Associate professor **Linda Shaw, Ph.D.**, associate chair of the department of behavioral science and community health and director of the division of rehabilitation counseling, was elected president of the Council on Rehabilitation Education.

The UF Health Science Center honored several college staff members for reaching milestones in years of service. They include: **Stacie Knight, Jeff Loomis, Margaret Odom, Irma Riley and Kim Rovansek**, 5 years; **Bonnie Pomeroy and Mike Wrenne**, 10 years; **Janice Ogwada and Cina Thomas**, 20 years; and **Karen Smith**, 25 years. ●

### LOOKING BACK



Class of 1966



Class of 1986

## Happy Anniversary M.H.A.

The department of health services research, management and policy celebrated the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the graduate program in health administration with a special weekend of events September 8-9. Alumni and friends of the program gathered for a networking luncheon, a Gator Healthcare Forum, which featured several alumni speakers, an evening reception and the PHHP alumni reunion barbecue. ●

# Be true to your school

## Assistant professor Brian Dodge goes from Big 10 supporter to all-out Gator fan

It does not take long to figure out where Brian Dodge's loyalties lie once you step into his office.

Dodge, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of behavioral science and community health in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, has begun accenting his newly painted orange office with loads of Gator memorabilia. But the Michigan native has not stopped there. His school spirit extends to his extensive orange and blue wardrobe, his Gator-decorated Vespa motorcycle and his friends and family in the North, who consistently receive all manner of Gator paraphernalia as gifts.

Although Dodge moved to Gainesville only a little more than a year ago after completing post-doctoral work at Columbia University, he became a rabid fan the first time he attended a UF football game.

"The Gators chomped me up the first time I walked into the Swamp," he said.

So how did a man who was raised in Big 10 country and earned degrees from the University of Michigan and Indiana University become a member of the Gator Nation so effortlessly?

"When I visited UF I loved the campus, the orange and blue colors, and I hadn't seen school spirit to that extent before — it's infectious and seeing the size and scope of it, I jumped right in," Dodge explained. "It's refreshing to see so much pride in a university. There is something to be said for seeing the freshmen walk around campus in their Gator T-shirts, but also to be able to say to my department chair 'Go Gators' and know that she understands."

Dodge was also drawn to the college's new public health program, which offers freedom and flexibility for developing research projects.

"I never imagined myself living in Florida, but there is a lot of work to do since the state ranks in the top 3 in the nation in terms of incident HIV



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

Michigan native and new Florida resident, Dr. Brian Dodge, is a proud member of the Gator Nation.



infections and overall AIDS cases," said Dodge, whose research focus is on sexual health promotion and various social and behavioral aspects of sexual health and HIV/AIDS.

"I've experienced nothing but support from my colleagues," Dodge said. "That is the difference between a school like UF and the Ivy League. This is an environment of support, not competition. It's great to have pride in where you work, learn and spend your life."

And Florida also offers the irresistible attraction of Gator football, which is the highlight of Dodge and his wife, Eriko's, week during the season.

"My wife is from Japan and she had no previ-

ous exposure to football," said Dodge, adding that she is now as big a fan as anyone. "One of her favorite parts of the game is when penalty flags are thrown. She tries to figure out what happened."

Dodge has also experienced "the Gator Nation is Everywhere" phenomena during his frequent travels. On a recent trip to Chicago, he wore a Gator sweatshirt to walk around the city and during the course of the day passed 10 people who exchanged "Go Gators" greetings with Dodge or gave him high fives.

Back in Michigan, Dodge's friends and family don't hold a grudge against him for switching his team allegiance to UF and for the gifts they receive from him like Gator shirts, calendars, posters, bikinis and singing, stuffed Gators.

"My family is amused more than anything," Dodge said. "People above the Mason-Dixon Line realize that UF is a good school and is tops in research, but they don't know about the school spirit. There are so many things about UF that people don't know. It's my job to spread the word." ●

## Orit Shechtman claims top PPHP teaching awards



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

Dr. Orit Shechtman was recognized for her teaching contributions at the college's student welcome ceremony in August.

**O**rit Shechtman, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of occupational therapy and a 1995 UF occupational therapy graduate, was named the College of Public Health and Health Professions' Teacher of the Year.

Shechtman also received the Outstanding Faculty Member Award from seniors in the college's Bachelor of Health Science program, and the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Occupational Therapy Education from the UF Student Occupational Therapy Association. The awards are particularly notable achievements considering the fact that Shechtman teaches some of the programs' toughest courses — anatomy, pathophysiology and neuroscience.

"She takes an extremely complex subject or concept and explains it in such a simple and understanding way," said Amanda Summer Mosrie, a student in the Master of Occupational Therapy program. "Her students look forward to going to her classes because they know they will leave with the highest level of knowledge and expertise in that discipline. She lays the foundation of curriculum necessary to succeed in the master's of occupational therapy program and most importantly, as a professional."

It is important for students to truly understand the material, not just memorize it for a test, Shechtman said.

"Therapists and physicians need a solid understanding of the human body in health and disease to be able to base clinical reasoning of therapeutic interventions on scientific facts," said Shechtman, who was named UF's Teacher of the Year in 1998.

Shechtman, who currently studies measures of grip strength and is a member of the National Older Drivers Research and Training Center team, took an

unusual route to teaching. A former member of Israel's national volleyball team, Shechtman was drawn to the field of exercise physiology as a way to combine her interests in sports and exercise with her love of biology. After completing master's and doctoral degrees in exercise physiology from Indiana University, Shechtman worked as a researcher in UF's department of physiology for three years before serving as a visiting associate scientist in the Laboratory of Behavioral Sciences at the National Institute of Aging. That's when a friend and former faculty member in the department of occupational therapy, Rosalie Miller, asked Shechtman to return to Gainesville to teach the program's anatomy courses. But in order to teach in the occupational therapy department, Shechtman was required to earn a degree in occupational therapy.

In the end, earning that third graduate degree was a valuable experience, Shechtman said.

"It was good to learn about the occupational therapist's perspective and to understand how therapists interact with patients because my background had been working with athletes," Shechtman said.

And it has certainly paid off for her students.

"Dr. Shechtman not only grabs your attention by her extraordinary teaching style, but she also challenges students to succeed," said occupational therapy master's student Jeremy Eminhizer. "Without a doubt, she is an instrumental factor in preparing students in the OT program for clinical practice. Beyond her classroom demeanor, her accessibility and student-friendly personality motivates and encourages students to visit her at her office and expand on their classroom experience. Dr. Shechtman is at the top of the food chain for university professors and is going to need much more wall space for all the awards that she will claim over her career. She is truly a valuable asset to the University of Florida." ●

## Alumnus' student experience inspires scholarship gift



Thomas and Trudy Summerill

As a UF student Thomas Summerill, master's in health administration and M.B.A. '84, and his wife, Trudy, juggled family, school and work responsibilities that would have overwhelmed most. But the assistance the Summerills received from the university helped them get through that chaotic time, and now they are providing the same kind of support to current students.

At PPHP reunion weekend in September, the Summerills announced their \$30,000 gift to the college to establish the Thomas and Trudy Summerill Scholarship in Health Administration.

The Summerills were recent high school graduates and newlyweds from Virginia when they moved to Gainesville in 1978 so Thomas could complete UF bachelor's and master's degrees. Life became even busier when Trudy gave birth to twins Drew and Nichole, now 26, during Thomas's sophomore year. To make ends meet, Thomas worked campus jobs 25 hours a week in addition to his full-time studies, and Trudy worked full-time as a UF clerk/typist. An on-campus apartment in married housing, the convenience of Baby Gator day care, and flex time in their jobs helped to make it all possible.

"We were so fortunate to get the support we received from the university," said Thomas, who admits that his college years were a blur.

Since graduation, Thomas has held administrative positions in managed care companies, currently serving as CEO of Wellcare Florida. Trudy went on to earn a degree in interior design from Purdue University. When the kids left home, the couple moved from the Midwest back to Florida to be closer to family, and as an added benefit, closer to the university they once called home.

"We feel very blessed for the things we've been given and we decided to give back to the place where we had roots and help other students who may be in a similar kind of situation that we were in," Trudy said.

The Thomas and Trudy Summerill Scholarship in Health Administration is a needs-based scholarship that will be awarded annually to a second-year student in the master's in health administration program.

"The scholarship is for students who may have to drop out of school because of their financial situation," Thomas said. "They just need that help to stay in the program and focus on their studies." ●

# PHHP Alumni Reunion 2006

## By the numbers

**325** Alumni and guests attended this year's reunion, a record number!

**1,671** Miles traveled by alumnus who came the farthest to attend (from Santa Fe, N.M.)

**90,210** Fans were in the stands at the UF-UCF game

**11** States were represented by reunion attendees

**352** Passing yards by quarterback Chris Leak during the game, a career high

For more reunion photos, visit [www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni](http://www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni)



Ronald and Bonnie (occupational therapy '74) Braun.



Anne Harney Finlon (at right, master's in health administration '84) with husband Ken and daughter Suzy.

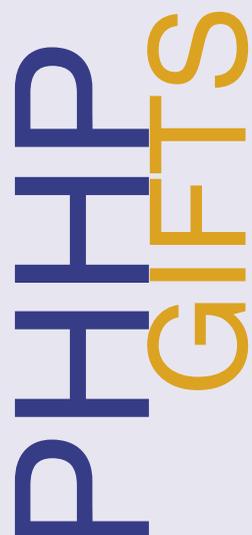


Chad Rubin (master's in health administration '98) with wife Missy and children Carly and Kyle.



Ryan and Elizabeth (occupational therapy '00) Coy with the raffle contest prize, a football signed by Urban Meyer.

The College of Public Health and Health Professions would like to express gratitude to the following supporters who made gifts to the college during 2005.



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Teresa R. Stepp  
Kim Streit  
Charles A. Stringer  
Laura E. Temple  
Tenet Healthcare Foundation  
Kathryn D. Torberntsson  
Herbert J. Towle III  
Mary Ann Towne  
Patricia A. Trama  
Michael A. Tuccelli  
Priscilla A. Tucker  
Twin Cities Hospital  
Valerie W. Uhr  
Siglinda M. Van Eldik  
Krista H. Vandenborne  
Lisa A. Von Seelen  
WCJB-TV 20  
Judith C. Welch  
David A. Whalen  
Sara M. Woolley  
Justin P. Wright  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles R. Young  
Vicky L. Zickmund

## Meet the alumni

The College of Public Health and Health Professions has launched "Meet the alumni," rotating spotlights on our graduates posted on our Web site. Check out the profile on **Deborah LoParco Smith**, occupational therapy '78, and learn her favorite UF memory and a little-known fact about Debbie. Visit [www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni](http://www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni) regularly for new alumni spotlights.

**Elissa (Boyd) Cashman**, occupational therapy '98, lives in Jersey City, N.J. She was promoted from staff therapist to assistant director and occupational therapy coordinator for Pediatric Therapy Resources. Elissa and her husband, Brian, recently celebrated their second wedding anniversary.

**Barbara H. Connolly, Ed.D.**, physical therapy '70, has been the chair of the department of physical therapy at the University of Tennessee for the past 20 years. In 2002 she was named a Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association. And in 2006 she was named an Alumni Distinguished Service

Professor on the UT Health Science Center campus, one of only four and the first ever from the university's College of Allied Health Sciences. Barbara has a 17-year-old daughter who hopes to attend UF next year.

**Laura Gomez, Melissa Harriott and Tabassum Khan**, 2006 graduates of the master's in health administration program, have been selected as the first fellows in the new Administrative Fellowship program at Miami-based Jackson Health System.

**George Hampton**, physical therapy '61, of Albita Springs, La., retired from teaching at the LSU Medical Center in 1995 and from part-time clinical practice in 2003. He writes, "Heidi and I, kids and grandchildren survived Katrina with everyone safe and our house intact (we live on the north side of Lake Pontchartrain). Hope to hear from some of my classmates." E-mail George at [georgehampton@charter.net](mailto:georgehampton@charter.net).

**Robert Hudson**, M.B.A. and master's in hospital administration '78, will retire in December from leadership positions at two major health care organizations. Hudson is the CEO of AvMed Health Plans, based in Miami, and president and CEO of SantaFe HealthCare, headquartered in Gainesville.

**Nicole Kobman (Diamond)**, occupational therapy '95, is a senior occupational therapist in a long-term care/skilled nursing facility setting in Ohio. She gave birth to son Roman Alexander in January 2006. She now works part time so she can spend more time with her son.

**Alan Levine**, master's in health services administration '92, has been named CEO of the North Broward Hospital District. He most recently served as secretary of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration. *Modern Healthcare* magazine named Alan one of "30 for the Future" in their August 7 issue featuring 30 leaders who could have a powerful impact on health care.

**Michelle (Ledsky) McLaughlin**, occupational therapy '97, is a pediatric occupational therapist. She lives in Orlando with husband J.P. and sons Sean, 5, Jake, 3, and Max, born in January 2006.

**Susan Acker Stallings Sahler, Ph.D.**, occupational therapy '76, and her husband, Hunter Sahler, have opened a private practice in the Augusta, Ga., area. Sensational Kids! Pediatric Rehabilitation and Counseling Center provides speech, physical therapy, occupational therapy and counseling to children with special needs.

**Jeremy Sibiski**, master's in health administration '01, was promoted to the position of director of radiation oncology at Memorial Health University Medical Center in Savannah, Ga. He and his wife, April, are expecting twins in February 2007.

**Theresa Smith**, occupational therapy '92, is a new faculty member in the occupational therapy department at Texas Woman's University. She successfully defended her dissertation to complete a Ph.D. in occupational therapy from Nova Southeastern University.

**Loretta (Dargan) Stanley**, medical technology '73, is the main lab supervisor at Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Fla. She has three children and five grandchildren.

**Joyce Greany Stewart**, occupational therapy '71, is employed by the Arizona State School for the Deaf and Blind in Tucson. She is interested in hearing from fellow classmates of the occupational therapy class of 1971. Let Joyce know what you're up to! E-mail her at [jgsotr@mac.com](mailto:jgsotr@mac.com). ●



## WHAT'S NEW

### Share your news with classmates!

Submissions will be published in the Alumni Updates section of a future issue of PHHP News.

NAME (INCLUDING MAIDEN)

MAJOR/YEAR

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS (CITY, STATE, ZIP)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

CURRENT POSITION

NEWS TO SHARE

Mail to PHHP News, Dean's Office, P.O. Box 100185, Gainesville, FL 32610; fax 352.273.6199; e-mail [jpease@phhp.ufl.edu](mailto:jpease@phhp.ufl.edu) or post your news online at [www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni](http://www.phhp.ufl.edu/alumni)

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