

PHHP

SUMMER 2010

NEWS

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS



Photo by Andrew Kane



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Hope and help for Haiti

PHHP leads relief trip following the earthquake

By Jill Pease

In a matter of days after the January 12 earthquake, a team of medical and public health professionals, led by PHHP Dean Michael G. Perri, was in a military helicopter on the way to Haiti.

As soon as they arrived, team members began seeing patients at Double Harvest, a medical clinic turned hospital outside Port-au-Prince. Team member Slande Celeste, the college's public health internship coordinator and a native of Haiti, translated nearly non-stop for patients and English-speaking health providers. Staying busy helped to keep her mind off the fact that she had received no news about her Haitian family members.

"Following the earthquake I, like so many others, started calling family madly and couldn't get through," said Celeste, a 2003 UF master's program in public health graduate.

At Double Harvest, Celeste was moved by the stories of the patients, some of whom had barely escaped with their lives. Many spent hours waiting in line to be treated for injuries ranging from shock and uncontrolled diabetes and hypertension to dehydration and infections.

"The most challenging part of the trip for me as well as for the patients and relief workers was the large number of amputations," Celeste said.

Some people who came to the clinic for earthquake-related injuries also received care for other urgent conditions, including children who began treatment for malaria and a woman whose undiagnosed breast cancer mass was removed, Celeste said.

"Lives were saved, suffering was relieved and human connections were made," she said.

After two days, the UF team split into groups. The surgical team stayed at Double Harvest while the public health group went on to Gressier and Leogane, the site of a UF project established in 2009 to serve the public health needs of the local population. Along the way the team stopped in Carrefour, the quake's epicenter, where Celeste had an emotional reunion with her mother. Celeste's family members' homes had sustained severe damage, but everyone was alive.

In Gressier and Leogane, the clinics, high school and nearly all the buildings in the school's compound had collapsed or were damaged beyond repair.

“For that night and several others, we slept outdoors,” Perri said. “Each night we experienced multiple aftershocks. Following each shock, we invariably heard the crying and wailing of people in the community.”

The UF team provided care for 50 community members a day and worked with local leaders to identify the short and long-term public health needs and potential projects.

The team’s efforts in Haiti will continue long after their 10-day trip last January, Perri said. Plans include re-building the school using hurricane and earthquake-resistant construction, protecting the health of the schoolchildren and their families through vaccinations and regular health assessments, providing sources of clean water, and preventing infectious disease.

“We are very grateful for the opportunity to be a small part of the relief effort,” Perri said. “We are all determined to make this effort the start of a continued collaboration to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters in Haiti.” ●



Left page: Driving into Port-au-Prince, the UF team members saw severe damage to the lavish presidential palace. “I thought that if anything in Haiti could stand, the palace would be it,” Slande Celeste said. “When I saw it I wondered what the rest of the country looked like.”

Top: Families set up makeshift tents of bed sheets on the school grounds of Academie Chretienne de Macombre.

Middle: Sally Bethart, a nurse practitioner at the UF College of Nursing, examines a woman’s leg while Dr. John Gaines looks on.



Bottom: The team waits for a flight out of Tampa on the way to Haiti. From left, Cindy Nelly, a nurse at Shands; Edsel Redden, an IFAS extension agent; Sally Bethart from the College of Nursing; PPHP Dean Michael G. Perri; Dr. David Meurer of the College of Medicine; physician Dr. David Risch; Slande Celeste, PPHP public health internship coordinator; and physician Dr. John Gaines. Not pictured: physicians Dr. Robert de la Torre and Dr. Robert Melosh.

dean's MESSAGE

In spring 2009, the College of Public Health and Health Professions, along with partners in IFAS and the UF College of Medicine, established its first public health initiative in Haiti. Working with schools in Leogane and Gressier, Haiti, our team identified several public health projects for the local community.

At that time, the people of Haiti faced several serious health issues rooted in the country's extreme poverty, insufficient health care systems and lack of arable farmland. One in 10 children die before the age of 5, with malnutrition the leading cause of death. The average life expectancy is less than 60 years. Infectious diseases like bacterial and protozoal diarrhea, hepatitis A and E, typhoid fever, dengue and malaria are common.

On January 12, 2010 the situation in Haiti became much, much worse.

More than 200,000 people died as a result of the earthquake and 700,000 people in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area have been displaced. The Haitian government estimates that the earthquake has affected 3 million citizens. On top of their already very difficult living conditions, today Haitians also struggle with issues of housing, food shortages, long-term health needs of people with disabilities, increased risk of infectious disease, and psychological effects of the disaster.

PHHP and IFAS, with support from the Sunrise Rotary Club of Palatka, and in partnership with Haitian organizations, FISH Ministries and the Academie Chretienne de Macombre, have founded "A Better Tomorrow for Haiti." Working within the school system, this community-based program will integrate public health, agriculture and economic best practices.

The public health component of these efforts includes developing a vaccination program and a Family Wellness Center;



Dean Michael G. Perri with children in Leogane, Haiti

initiating hygiene promotion programs; and establishing an infectious disease field laboratory. Agricultural projects led by IFAS personnel will seek to develop sustainable agriculture for Haitian farmers such as fish and poultry farming. Helping farmers establish and expand these operations could aid them in taking the first steps out of poverty. Not only will these programs provide important services to the community, they also offer opportunities for UF research and education.

The resilience of the Haitian people has impressed us immensely. Despite the massive amount of devastation and the difficulties of life in Haiti, the people are eager to begin re-building their lives. We look forward to helping them build a better tomorrow. ●

To support the college's PHHP Haiti Education and Research Program (fund #016591), please make checks payable to the UF Foundation and mail to Marie Emmerson, University of Florida, P.O. Box 103565, Gainesville FL 32610. Thank you for your support.

Vandenborne named PHHP associate dean for research and planning

Photo by Maria Belen Farias



Dr. Krista Vandenborne

Krista Vandenborne, Ph.D., P.T., has been named the College of Public Health and Health Professions' associate dean for research and planning.

Vandenborne has served as a professor and chair of the college's department of physical therapy since 2002. During her tenure, the department has achieved a

dramatic increase in research funding and received support for clinical fellowships and National Institutes of Health-funded predoctoral and junior faculty training programs. The department has also expanded research collaborations and developed a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program and successful research forums.

"Dr. Vandenborne is an outstanding scholar, teacher, and academic leader who has an extraordinary record of success in attracting external support for research and training," said Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., dean of the college.

Vandenborne studies muscle degeneration and regeneration and leads multisite studies funded by the NIH. Vandenborne investigates noninvasive techniques, such as MRI, to evaluate muscle tissue, and the use of gene transfer, exercise training and hormonal supplements to enhance muscle function. She also examines the physiological processes involved in repair of skeletal muscle and return of functional ability.

"Dr. Vandenborne's energy, enthusiasm, creativity and wealth of experience as a researcher, teacher, clinician and administrator make her the ideal person to spearhead PHHP's research activities and to contribute to the planning for the growth of our academic enterprise," Perri said.

For more information on Vandenborne's research, see page 8. ●

student NEWS

Meryl Alappattu, a student in the rehabilitation science Ph.D. program, received one of four Florence P. Kendall Doctoral Scholarships from the Foundation for Physical Therapy Board of Trustees.

Latarsha Chisholm, a student in the health services research Ph.D. program, received a dissertation grant from the NIH's National Center on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

Lisa D'Oyley, an undergraduate student majoring in communication sciences and disorders and psychology, received UF's Judith Ann Young Scholarship.

Lisa LaGorio, a joint degree student in the rehabilitation science doctoral and master's in public health degree programs, received UF's Leighton E. Cluff Award for Aging Research and a Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Research Award from the NIH to support her dissertation research.

Laura Zahodne, a doctoral student in the department of clinical and health psychology received a Young Investigator award from the American Neuropsychiatric Association.

The department of speech, language and hearing sciences (formerly communicative disorders) recognized three students at the annual G. Paul Moore Symposium. **Brian Orr**, a bachelor's student in communication sciences and disorders, received the Povey Award, and **Megan Gerhart**, a Doctor of Audiology student, and **Kristen Lewandowski**, a master's student in speech-language pathology, received Abbott Awards. ●

faculty NOTES & staff

David Barber, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the PHHP department of environmental and global health and in the College of Veterinary Medicine, received the Pfizer Award for Research Excellence in biomedical research.

Sherrilene Classen, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the department of occupational therapy, received an Excellence Award for Assistant Professors from the UF Office of the Provost.

Jeffrey Harman, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of health services research, management and policy, is one of 33 UF faculty members to receive a UF Research Foundation professorship for 2010-2013.

Michael Marsiske, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of clinical and health psychology, is the 2010 recipient of the Outstanding Research Mentor in Aging Award from the Institute of



LOOKING BACK



Physical therapy students receive instruction on using a surfboard for rescue as part of a senior life saving course in 1968. Completing the course qualified the students to work with patients in the VA Hospital pool therapy program.

Learning in Retirement in partnership with the UF Age Network.

Debra Shimon, Au.D., an assistant clinical professor and audiologist in the department of speech, language and hearing sciences, was named the president of the Florida Academy of Audiology for 2010.

Michael Tuccelli, Ed.D., a senior lecturer in the department of speech, language and hearing sciences, was named the college's 2010 Teacher of the Year.

Three college employees received UF Superior Accomplishment Awards: **Paulette Chaplin**, administrative assistant in the dean's office; **Carol Mills**, accountant in the department of speech, language and hearing sciences; and **Jianyi Zhang**, coordinator of statistical research in the department of health services research, management and policy.

The PHHP Information Technology team, with **Philip Chase**, director, **Geof Gowen**, security administrator, and **Andrea Burne**, the college's information security administrator, received the 2009 Health Science Center Security Shining Star Award. ●

UF veterinarian begins MPH studies

By Sarah Carey

Ramiro Isaza, D.V.M., an associate professor of small animal clinical sciences at the College of Veterinary Medicine, is one of the College of Public Health and Health Professions' newest master's in public health students. Isaza is among six UF faculty members to receive KL2 Scholarships to support faculty members who are pursuing a graduate-level degree in a multidisciplinary area of clinical research. The program is part of the much broader and highly competitive Clinical and Translational Science Award the university received from the National Institutes of Health in 2009.

Isaza, who currently is chief of the zoological medicine service, plans to focus his public health studies on the occupational risks faced by people such as zookeepers, wildlife professionals and even pet owners who work with non-domestic species.

"I'm pretty well versed in the diseases these animals have, but I want to communicate effectively with the human health professionals about how these animal diseases can impact human health," he said. "Ultimately I want to teach (veterinary) students the importance of an M.P.H. degree and how to communicate with human health professionals as well as with clients. This scholarship gives me the opportunity to bridge that gap." ●



Dr. Ramiro Isaza conducts a routine physical exam of a female Asian elephant.

PHHP appoints founding chair of environmental and global health department



Dr. Gregory Gray

The College of Public Health and Health Professions appointed Gregory C. Gray, M.D., M.P.H., founding chair of the college's new department of environmental and global health.

Gray comes to UF from the University of Iowa, where he established and directed the Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases.

"We are thrilled to have an internationally renowned researcher like Dr. Gray as chair of our new environmental and global health department," said Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., dean of the College of Public Health and Health Professions. "Dr. Gray's expertise in emerging infectious diseases will be a major asset toward advancing our research and teaching efforts in global and environmental health."

Gray's research interests include the epidemiology of animal-to-human and human-to-animal disease transmission, often in rural geographical areas. He leads research projects in Cambodia, Mongolia, Nigeria, Romania and Thailand and has frequently trained international professionals in emerging infectious disease research.

At UF, Gray directs the newly established department of environmental and global health, where faculty members educate public health students and conduct research in areas such as toxicology, chemical and exposure risk assessment, air pollution, veterinary public health, water biology and molecular biology. Gray plans to establish a Ph.D. program in environmental and global health, and will work closely with the UF Emerging Pathogens Institute to develop a virology research program.



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

“We’re very excited about bringing Dr. Gray on board to head a virology arm of the Emerging Pathogens Institute,” said institute Director J. Glenn Morris, M.D., M.P.H. “His international research surveying zoonotic influenza encompasses the type of research EPI fosters because it crosses geographic borders as well as academic fields such as public health, virology and agricultural sciences.”

Gray has published more than 150 manuscripts in the peer-reviewed literature. He currently serves on the board of the International Society of Influenza and Other Respiratory Viruses, is an associate editor for the journal *Infection and Public Health* and is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Clinical Virology*.

In 2009, Gray received Mongolia’s highest honor for a non-citizen, the Peace Medal, for his research collaborations in communicable diseases. ●

Prescribed erectile dysfunction drugs don’t lead to risky sexual behavior

Despite studies suggesting that erectile dysfunction drugs promote irresponsible sexual behavior, men who receive prescriptions for them are no more likely to engage in risky sex acts than men who do not receive prescriptions for the medications, according to a UF study.

“For this study we took the perspective of a doctor who may worry that prescribing erectile dysfunction drugs to patients could contribute to the spread of HIV,” said lead researcher Robert Cook, M.D., M.P.H. “The findings from this study should provide some reassurance to health-care providers that erectile dysfunction drugs appear to be prescribed responsibly and used responsibly.”

The study appeared in the February issue of the *Journal of General Internal Medicine*.

“Previous studies have linked erectile dysfunction drugs to risky sexual behavior, but nearly all of those studies have evaluated the behavior of men who obtained erectile dysfunction drugs without a prescription or were already known to be at high risk, such as men who have sex with men, or men who have substance abuse problems,” said Cook, an associate professor in the college’s department of epidemiology and biostatistics. “In this study we looked at erectile dysfunction drugs and sexual behavior in the context of routine health care for a group of men who are more representative of the general population.”

The researchers defined risky sexual behavior as having unprotected sex with a partner who has a different or unknown HIV status.

For the UF study, researchers examined medical records, participant surveys and pharmacy data for a subset of men participating in the Veterans Aging Cohort Study, an ongoing national study of health outcomes for HIV-positive and HIV-negative veterans sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and the Veterans Health Administration.

The men involved in the erectile dysfunction drug use study included 2,787 sexually active men receiving care from Veterans Health Affairs outpatient clinics between 2005 and 2007. Among the men in the sample, 53 percent were HIV-infected and the other 47 percent did not have HIV infection. The mean age of participants was 52.

The researchers found that 28 percent of the men received prescriptions for erectile dysfunction drugs over a one-year period. About 10 percent of men in both groups — those who used erectile dysfunction drugs and those who did not — reported engaging in risky sexual behavior. ●



Dr. Robert Cook

UF receives \$7.5 million for Duchenne muscular dystrophy research



Photos by Casey Brooke Lawson

Dale Ginder, 8, with mother Lelia, prepares for an MRI scan with the help of Dr. Donovan Lott, right, a research assistant professor in the department of physical therapy.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy research at the University of Florida got a major boost with the award of \$7.5 million in National Institutes of Health funding to study the use of magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, in determining the natural progression of the disease.

Scientists in the College of Public Health and Health Professions will seek to determine whether MRI technology can be used as a precise, noninvasive measure of muscle tissue in children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Understanding how the disease affects muscle tissue could help facilitate the testing of new therapies in clinical trials, researchers say.

Duchenne muscular dystrophy affects about one of every 3,500 to 5,000 boys born in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The disease causes the muscles that control movement to progressively weaken and lose the ability to regenerate after an injury, eventually replacing critical muscle tissue with fat and collagen. By age 12, many patients need a wheelchair. As the disease advances, the heart and respiratory systems are affected and patients often die of cardiorespiratory failure in their 20s.

“The lack of a reliable assessment tool for measuring muscle function in patients with Duchenne inhibits the transfer of new therapies from the lab to clinical trials,” said the study’s lead investigator Krista Vandeborne, Ph.D., the college’s associate dean for research and planning and chair of the department of physical therapy. “MRI allows you to look at the structure of muscle tissue in a very objective way with a large amount of detail. Our goal is to develop MRI as a tool to see the progression of the disease, but more importantly, to determine if a new treatment is effective or not, giving researchers rapid feed-

back about potential new drugs.”

The study is funded by the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke and will include researchers at Oregon Health and Science University, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia and the University of Pennsylvania. Researchers at the four sites will conduct MRI measurements of muscle in 100 boys with Duchenne, ages 5 through 14, over a five-year period.

Preliminary studies, funded by Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy and the Muscular Dystrophy Association, involved about 30 boys and demonstrated that MRI had many advantages over traditional muscle biopsies, Vandeborne said. Biopsies are invasive and do not give researchers a complete view of all the muscle tissue.

“We are confident that by the end of the study we will be able to provide clear guidelines for how MRIs should be performed in Duchenne muscular dystrophy and that MRIs will be a valuable tool in clinical trials and drug tests targeting potential Duchenne treatments,” Vandeborne said. ●



Researchers measure Dale’s muscle function.

New therapy is easy to swallow

By Jill Pease

By the time he began an experimental swallowing therapy at UF last fall, Ben Shuckburgh, 42, of West Sussex, England, had been relying exclusively on tube feeding for nine months.

In 2008, surgeons removed a fist-sized tumor from Shuckburgh's throat and used tissue from his left forearm to build a new throat during a 23-hour surgery. After weeks of radiation and chemotherapy he lost the ability to swallow food. When his local therapist told him about a new swallowing treatment offered at UF, Shuckburgh decided to travel to Gainesville to see if the program could work for him.

"Here was an opportunity that I had to accept," said Shuckburgh, an investment manager and personal development trainer. "I knew that I may be tube fed for the rest of my life. I thought 'I'll try it and if it doesn't work at least I know I've done all that I can to get well and improve my quality of life with my family.'"

The McNeill Dysphagia Therapy Program, named in honor of the first person to receive it, is the brainchild of College of Public Health and Health Professions researchers Michael Crary, Ph.D., a professor in the department of speech, language and hearing sciences, and Giselle Mann, Ph.D., M.P.H., an associate professor in the department of behavioral science and community health. The new therapy strengthens muscles involved in swallowing through frequent and intense exercise, and it could give people with swallowing disorders — a common side effect of head and neck cancer treatment or stroke — hope of restoring lost swallowing function.

"Traditionally, swallowing treatment has taken a very conservative, hands-off approach. Therapists modified food or used compensatory measures so it was safer for patients to swallow. Consequently, the muscles involved in swallowing were never progressively strengthened, and people would plateau in their rehab. We were protecting the airway but not allowing muscle change," said Mann, a speech-language pathologist.

So far Crary and Mann have tested the treatment in nearly 30 patients, most of whom had no ability to eat food before treatment. During the three-week program patients start with food they can manage safely, such as pudding and bananas, and move on to more challenging foods like meat and vegetables. The training is intense — working on a progressive maximum interval system, patients swallow 80 to 90 times a session compared to 20 to 30 times in traditional treatment sessions. Researchers closely monitor the patients' eating and train participants to keep their airways clear.



Photo by Sarah Kiewel

Ben Shuckburgh traveled to UF from England last year for an experimental swallowing disorders treatment.

By the end of Shuckburgh's first week of therapy, he could eat chicken alfredo and went on to experience several American classics including Easy Mac, meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, and what Shuckburgh calls "the pinnacle of the American culinary arts," the Twinkie.

Throughout his treatment Shuckburgh posted video diaries of his experiences on YouTube so his friends and family, including wife Emma and children Sam, 14, and Rose, 12, could follow his progress from England.

"After the first week, I have a feeling of real optimism," said Shuckburgh in a YouTube post. "I'm astonished by the progress I've made. I'm actually eating substantial amounts of food. For the first time I've allowed myself to actually believe that I'm going to eat relatively normally, and it's an amazing feeling."

Like Shuckburgh, the other patients in the pilot study have made impressive gains in their swallowing abilities and maintained their improvements in the weeks following the treatment's end, Mann said. The researchers are currently conducting an NIH-funded randomized, controlled trial to test the therapy in a larger group of patients.

Back home in England, Shuckburgh reports that he is eating normally and has had his feeding tube removed. He successfully met his pre-treatment goal of eating a Sunday dinner of lamb and roasted potatoes with his family.

"Going through this experience, the emotional aspects of eating have become very clear to me," he said. "We eat to celebrate, commiserate, comfort and refresh. We create food, give it and share it. Stepping outside of that world has been the hardest part. That's why Sunday dinner with my family is so special to me." ●

With help from mom, PPHP student becomes first-generation college graduate

By April Frawley Birdwell



Yahaira Roman, PPHP class of 2010, with her mother Rosa Reveron.

When Yahaira Roman was in her freshman year of high school, her cousin got in a car accident. His recovery included physical therapy, and

Roman visited him often during the sessions.

“Ever since then I knew I wanted to go into health,” said Roman, who recently became the first in her family to graduate from college when she earned her bachelor’s degree in health science from the College of Public Health and Health Professions. “I have just always wanted to help people. I felt like this was my route.”

But Roman’s course toward college and chiropractic school — she starts at Palmer Chiropractic School this fall — actually was set much earlier, by her mother. Roman’s mother, Rosa Reveron, brought her children from Puerto Rico to the United States when Roman was a toddler in hopes of giving them a better future.

“When you have children, you want what is best for them,” said Reveron, who lives in Port Orange, Fla. “Puerto Rico is wonderful, but I just don’t know if I could have done it there.”

Although she was a single mother and worked full-time, Reveron always stayed up late to help Roman with her homework when she was a child. And she never missed an open house, Roman said.

“My mom has always encouraged me to go to school,” Roman said. “I always knew I wanted to go to college, but you never really know if you can afford it. My mom was like money is not an option, you are doing it no matter what, don’t let things stand in your way. I wouldn’t be the person I am if it wasn’t for her.”

Roman, who grew up in Daytona Beach, knew she was UF-bound from a young age. When she was a teen, her mother brought her to Gainesville so they could take her stepfather to the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Roman pointed UF out to her mother as they drove by.

“She said, ‘Ma, you see that school? One day I am going to graduate from there with honors.’ And she did,” Reveron said.

“When she wants something she works hard for it. I am just so proud of her.” ●



PHHP alumni reunion

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the PPHP 2010 alumni reunion on Saturday, Oct. 16! Join us for the outstanding alumni awards ceremony, a pre-game barbecue and an opportunity to catch up with former classmates before UF’s game against Mississippi State. The reunion will take place three hours before kick-off. Watch your mailbox for more details or visit www.pphp.ufl.edu/alumni/registration.htm.

PHHP's outstanding alumni 2009



Alumnus of the Year

Alan Levine, M.H.A., M.B.A.
Health Administration/ Business Administration master's '93

Last November the college recognized six graduates as Outstanding Alumni for 2009. Of those six honorees, Alan Levine was

selected as the college's Alumnus of the Year. He was recognized at the college's commencement ceremony May 2.

Levine is Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals. He manages a budget of \$7.8 billion and provides oversight and services in mental health, public health, emergency preparedness, Medicaid, health information technology, addictive disorders and aging services.

Previously, Levine served as president and CEO of Florida's Broward Health, one of the largest non-profit public hospital systems in America. In 2004, Levine was appointed by Governor Jeb Bush to serve as secretary of the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration. He led Florida's health delivery system through recovery from eight hurricanes and developed initiatives to crack down on fraud, waste and abuse. In 2006, Modern Healthcare magazine named Levine one of 30 leaders nationwide likely to have a powerful impact on the future of health care.

My favorite UF memory: Losing an election for student body president because someone ran their cat on the ballot (yes, the cat got enough votes that it threw the race into a runoff and I lost in the runoff) was one that, to this day, people don't believe. Probably the one memory that had the most consequential outcome was when I was applying to get into PHHP for graduate school, but because of my extracurricular activities and general laziness in the classroom, I wasn't a terribly competitive applicant. And back then, you also had to get admitted to the business school for an MBA. I remember Dr. (Paul) Duncan, Dr. (Gerald) Schiebler and Dr. (Richard) Gutekunst giving me a lot of advice. About a week before decisions were made about enrollment, Dr. Gutekunst called me and said, "I have a little fatherly advice for you, Alan. Quit calling everyone!" A week later, I was admitted. They shared with me that they saw something in me beyond grades, and they wanted to see what I could do. I worked so hard in graduate school not to let them down, and to a certain degree, I carry that same determination today. These guys really took a chance with me, and it was a life-changer for me. Frankly, it's helped me become a better mentor, because I look for the same things in the people I hire that they saw in me.



Irene Davis, Ph.D., P.T., F.A.C.S.M.
Physical Therapy bachelor's '78

Davis is a professor of physical therapy and director of the Running Injury Lab at the University of Delaware. She also serves as the director of research for Drayer Physical Therapy Institute. Davis has been studying the relationship between lower extremity

structure, mechanics and injury in runners for the past 20 years. Current areas of study include mechanical factors in tibial stress fractures and patellofemoral disorders along with the effect of physical therapy interventions such as foot orthotic treatment and gait retraining. Her work has been supported by the Department of Defense, Army Research Office and the National Institutes of Health. Davis is a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine and past-president of the American Society of Biomechanics. She has been featured on ABC World News Tonight, ABC Good Morning America, the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal.

My favorite UF memory: Studying with my lab partners Jerry Krugh and Jon Nordgaard

Best lesson learned at UF: That physical therapy was truly the right profession for me

UF faculty member who influenced me the most: I loved the entire faculty, but I must say that I will never forget the way Martha Wroe laughed at herself. She taught me not to take myself so seriously!

Advice for current UF students: Take your education to heart — it provides an incredible opportunity, which will open many doors for you in the future. Enjoy this time in your life — there are few times in your life that you are so unconstrained in your choices.

People would be surprised to

know: I originally wanted to be an FBI agent, like Agent 99 on the show, "Get Smart." At 15, I wrote J. Edgar Hoover a letter inquiring about doing an internship with the FBI. However, he told me that females weren't allowed in the FBI. With my dreams of being a secret agent dashed, I chose my current profession of physical therapy ... and have never looked back!





Leslie J. Gonzalez Rothi, Ph.D.
Speech Pathology Ph.D. '78

Gonzalez Rothi is a research career scientist and program director of the Veterans Affairs Office of Rehabilitation Research and Development's Brain Rehabilitation Research Center of Excellence, located at the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville.

She is also the Bob Paul Family Professor of Neurology in the UF College of Medicine. She has served as president of the International Neuropsychological Society, the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders and Sciences, and the Neurologic Communication Disorders Division of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. In 2007 she received the Paul B. Magnuson Award, the highest recognition given by the Department of Veterans Affairs for outstanding rehabilitation research.

For the last 25 years, Gonzalez Rothi's research has focused on understanding and treating disorders of spoken language, reading, spelling, memory, attention/intention, gesture and tool use.

My favorite UF memory: Joining my fellow doctoral students and professors each day for lunch at the Rathskeller, next to Dauer Hall. It burned down in 1987 and was not replaced, but the comradery built there during those moments lives on within each of us.

UF faculty member who influenced me the most: Ed Hutchinson (department of communication sciences and disorders) who taught me that I could finish anything I started if I just persevered; Ira Fischler

(department of psychology) who taught me to consider what might be within the "black box"; Paul Satz (department of clinical and health psychology) who taught me that truth is found in the convergence of disparate perspectives; Ken Heilman (department of neurology) who taught me that creativity does NOT occur in a vacuum but instead occurs when ideas are generously shared.

Advice for current UF students: My evolution as a professional has continuously evolved through a series of iterations — but each iteration represented simply circumstances that I fell into. I hope that UF students will be strategic in choices about education and career, including in these decisions not only professional considerations not the least of which is that it captures one's interest, but also consider life goals such as family/self and lifestyle. Don't rely on luck, as I did, but instead be strategic and explicit.

People would be surprised to know: That I was a cheerleader throughout my undergraduate years and my stated life goal at that time was to complete college, be a flight attendant and see the world.



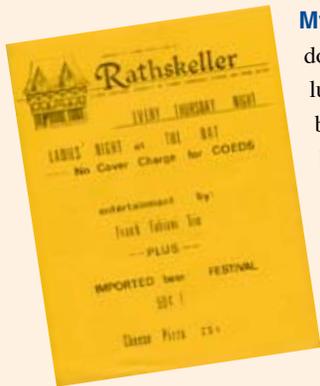
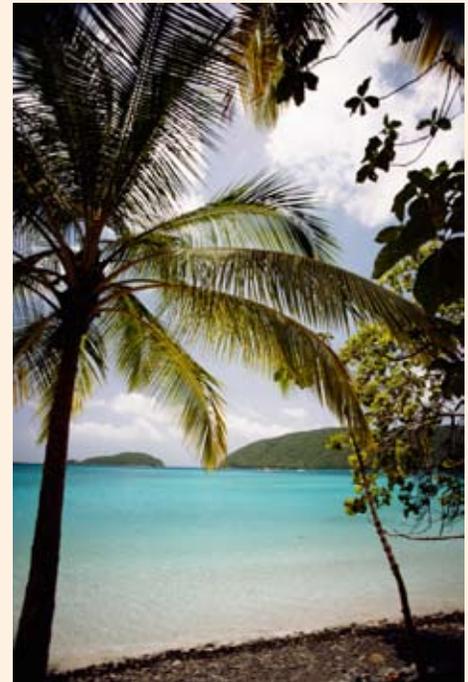
Robert Hosford, Ph.D.
**Rehabilitation Counseling
master's '79**

Hosford and his wife Paula Lovett, Ph.D., co-own Counseling & Rehabilitation Associates Inc., with offices in Gainesville and Ocala. He received his undergraduate degree from Parsons College in Fairfield, Iowa and

after working as a counselor in Clearwater, Fla. for five years, he earned his master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from UF in 1979. Hosford completed his doctorate in the UF counselor education program, focusing his studies on levels of hope and depression in clients with chronic pain.

Hosford is a licensed mental health counselor in the State of Florida and is board certified by the National Board for Certified Counselors. He has served on the governing boards of both the American Mental Health Counselor Association and the American Counseling Association.

In his leisure time he enjoys reading, international travel, cooking, and listening to world music. Over the years, he and his wife have had the privilege of mentoring numerous graduates from the college's department of behavioral science and community health, formerly the department of rehabilitation counseling.





**Barbara A. Schell, Ph.D., O.T.,
F.A.O.T.A.**
**Occupational Therapy
bachelor's '72**

Schell is a professor and chair of occupational therapy at Brenau University in Gainesville, Ga. She has written numerous publications related to occupational therapy management, professional development and clinical reasoning and has served on the editorial boards of both the American Journal of Occupational Therapy and Occupational Therapy in Health Care. Schell is co-editor (with her husband John) of *Clinical and Professional Reasoning in Occupational Therapy* and is also a co-editor of *Willard and Spackman's Occupational Therapy*, 10th and 11th editions, a core foundations text for the field.

Schell has held several leadership positions in the American Occupational Therapy Association, including founding member and past chair of the Administrative and Management Special Interest Section, past chair of the Special Interest Sections Steering Committee and member of the Executive Board. A Fellow of the association, Schell currently serves as chair of the AOTA Commission on Continuing Competence and Professional Development.

My favorite UF memory: The faculty lining up along the path to allow safe passage of students who had staged a sit-in at one of the classroom lecture halls ... can't remember which building, but it got a bit tense. Father Gannon talked to the students about options and we all agreed to leave the building, but those were tense times and there were police around.

Another favorite is the interdisciplinary student conference we arranged. Many of us from different disciplines thought it would be good if we knew more about each other's fields, so we talked the departments into suspending classes for a day, so we could all meet. It was great!

Best lesson learned at UF: From Alice Jantzen ... before you go spouting off your opinion, be sure you are informed about what you are talking about.

UF faculty member who influenced me the most: There were many in the occupational therapy faculty ... Alice Jantzen, the chair, who was a great role model for intellectual integrity, Lela Llorens who was a gracious and generous scholar and therapist, Gladys Masagatani who made you think about power, Nancy Nashiro who showed me the power of small group reflection.

Advice for current UF students: Make the most of your time, not only in studies, but in taking in all there is to do.

People would be surprised to know: Hmmmm ... I became a pretty good golfer, but didn't really start playing until my 40s ... need to get back to the course!



Daniel Shapiro, Ph.D.
**Clinical and Health Psychology
Ph.D. '94**

Shapiro is the Arnold P. Gold Foundation Professor of Medical Humanism and the chair of the department of humanities at Penn State College of Medicine. His writings about the patient experience and physician-patient relationships have appeared in the New York Times, JAMA, Salon.com and Academic Medicine. He has been featured on the Today Show, NPR's Talk of the Nation, ABC News.com, AARP Magazine and Salon.com and he is a regular weekly consultant to the television shows "Grey's Anatomy" and "Private Practice." Shapiro has written two books, *Mom's Marijuana*, about his personal cancer experience, and a second memoir, *Delivering Doctor Amelia*, which focused on his psychological treatment of a physician. Both books are in wide use at universities and colleges and are required reading at a number of medical schools.

My favorite UF memory:

For a number of years, I celebrated Thanksgiving with three other grad students by canoeing down the Suwannee River over three days. We only swamped once. I'm just drying out now. I still blame David York ('93).



Best lesson learned at UF: I can't reduce five years of graduate training, including a cancer experience, a marriage, and seeing my first patients, to a pithy, one sentence recollection. In general, we were very well trained — I didn't realize how well until I went to Harvard for an internship and post-doc and met graduate students from other institutions.

UF faculty member who influenced me the most: I was influenced by many of the faculty at the University of Florida. Steve Boggs, Hugh Davis, Harry Grater, and the late Jacque Goldman all had a major influence on my development. But I was equally influenced by a number of smart graduate students: especially Jeff Musick, Adam Fuller, Angel Seibring and Sandy Slater.

Advice for current UF students: Mostly, don't take the advice of out of touch alumni. I do have one nugget. For the clinical psychology students: schedule your dissertation defense for 4:00 on a Friday, preferably the first day of spring.

People would be surprised to know: I'm not interesting enough to have kept any secrets.

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Julia Ackerman and **Erin DeFries Bouldin**, both 2006 graduates of the master's in public health program, are the PHHP recipients of UF's Outstanding Young Alumni Award. Julia is the director of WellFlorida Council's Healthy Start program. Erin is a lecturer in the college's department of epidemiology and biostatistics.

Aubrey Daniels, Ph.D., doctorate in psychology '65, founder of the business management consulting firm ADI, recently published his fifth book, *OOPS! 13 Management Practices That Waste Time & Money (and what to do instead)*.

Marnie Levin Danielson, bachelor's in occupational therapy '96, is the co-founder and star of the DVD series "The TV Teacher," which helps young children develop handwriting skills.

Alexandra Linares Ehrlich, master's in public health '08, is a biostatistician with Northrop Grumman, assisting researchers who are using restricted NCHS data.

Marvieann Garcia-Rodriguez, bachelor's in occupational therapy '84, received her M.H.S. in occupational therapy from UF's distance learning master's program in August 2009. She is a clinical specialist in Miami.

Eileen (Martin) Graessle, bachelor's in occupational therapy '94, is an adjunct faculty member at St. Louis University in the occupational therapy/occupational science department, in addition to her PRN therapy work.

Dr. Mack Hicks, doctorate in psychology '64, has authored *The Digital Pandemic: Reestablishing Face-to-Face Contact in the Electronic Age*, published by New Horizons Press.

Doree Justiss, master's in health administration '04, lives in St. Louis with her husband John and children Jaxon, Morgan and Reagan Presley. Doree is an account manager with Health Business Navigators.

Leanne Kaye, master's in public health '09, is a second year doctoral student

in nutrition/public health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Julie (Yedlicka) Kenny, occupational therapy '94, became a certified hand therapist in 2001 and married her husband Phil in 2004. Their first child, son Jonahkai, was born in 2008 and a second child is on the way. The family lives in Phoenix.

Janet Mazurek Losey, bachelor's in physical therapy '69, works in the acute rehabilitation unit at St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard, Calif.

Karen Menning, bachelor's in occupational therapy '80, received her master's degree at Duke University as a physician assistant in 2000. She helps manage inpatient rehabilitation at Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio.

Judith Pink-Goldin, bachelor's in occupational therapy '76, has worked as an OTR/L with the Veterans Health Administration for 32 years. She lives in Lutz, Fla. Judith's daughter Erica was accepted into the college's master's in occupational therapy program.

Jenni Fried Shaffren, master's in speech-language pathology '06, and her husband Ricky welcomed daughter Ella Sophia on March 30, 2009.

Joyce Graham Shahboz, bachelor's in physical therapy '97, provided treatment to National Team athletes at a USA Swimming Grand Prix Series meet in Charlotte, N.C. in May.

Ronald Simon, bachelor's in physical therapy '94, was named director of North Cypress Sports Medicine Center in Cypress, Texas.

Claudia Tamayo, master's in public health '09, is now program manager for the Florida Office on Disability and Health, located in the college's department of epidemiology and biostatistics.



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

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