

TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



SERVING CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

UF strives to help Florida's youngest residents.

It happens each spring at the start of the weekend camp. Children — ashamed of their misshaped or missing fingers, hands or arms — hide their deformities in pockets or behind their backs. By the time the Hands to Love camp ends, however, that initial embarrassment has disappeared. It's one of the wonders of the camp, a place where children with congenital hand disorders can blend in with the crowd and do what other kids at traditional camps do: shoot arrows, climb ropes, dabble in arts and crafts, swim.

Hands to Love — a product of UF & Shands' Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Institute and scores of volunteers — is just one example of how the University of Florida has made service to children and families a priority. All UF's 16 colleges, as well as numerous campus centers and institutes, have programs geared specifically for children and families.

In the Levin College of Law, for instance, the Center on Children and Families has been established to be an advocate for the nation's youngest citizens. The center helps ensure that the entire "system" — from health care to schools to the law — works together.

Another prime example is in the College of Education, where in addition to preparing future teachers for the classroom, professors are committed to finding ways to improve the learning experience for children and teenagers. The college's Lastinger Center for Learning works as a partner with under-performing public schools to jumpstart classroom instruction and instill confidence in teachers and students, alike.

Professors and students in the College of Dentistry routinely visit low-income and rural areas to treat children and poor adults who might not otherwise bother with oral health care. The college has even established permanent clinics in some of Florida's most under-served communities. Its latest outreach is the new Naples Pediatric Dental Clinic, where at-risk children in Collier County can be treated.

The list is long: the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' 4-H program; the College of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics; the College of Health and Human Performance's research in substance abuse prevention; the Whitney Laboratory's hands-on science experiments for schoolchildren; the Harn Museum of Art's Tot Time;

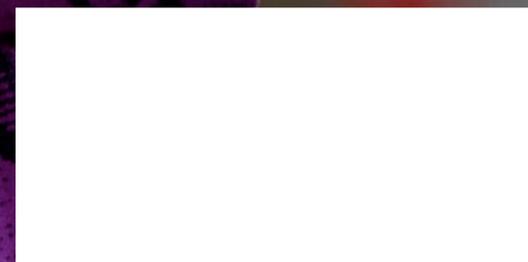
the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' pilot program to help obese families shed pounds through healthy lifestyle choices, to name just a few examples.

Through these and many other programs, the University of Florida is committed to a better, healthier, more prosperous Florida Tomorrow for all the state's residents.

— Bernie Machen, president, University of Florida

UF's Hands to Love camp for children with congenital upper limb disorders offers independent activities, including archery. The camp provides a fun setting where kids won't be stared at, teased or singled out. For information visit www.handstolove.org or call 352-273-7382. Photo by Sarah Kiewel (BSJ '05)

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THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
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NEW SCIENCE BUILDING TO PROMOTE CROSS-DISCIPLINE RESEARCH

An \$850,000 donation boosts construction of UF's Biomedical Sciences Building.

Some of the greatest works of human genius sprang from collaboration. Think Lewis and Clark, Watson and Crick, and McCartney and Lennon. The UF Biomedical Sciences Building now under construction will create an environment where collaboration between experts in the biosciences and medicine and biomedical engineering can flourish. The building will provide the synergistic setting needed to establish UF as a leader in interdisciplinary biomedical science, engineering, technology and technology transfer.

Located on Center Drive and slated for completion in summer 2009, the 160,000-square-foot building is intended to create the physical and intellectual infrastructure required to place UF among the top research institutions in the country.

One highlight of the building will be its atrium. The 3,400-square-foot open area — which was expanded thanks to a \$850,000 donation from the Shepard Broad Foundation — is intended to facilitate collaboration between UF's researchers in biomedical engineering, sciences and animal resources.

"From little seeds will grow big projects that will help the world," says Ann Bussel, a trustee of the Miami-based foundation co-founded by her late father and mother, Shepard and Ruth Broad. "I hope that many of the seeds are planted in the atrium."

In recognition of the gift, UF officials are requesting the atrium be renamed the Broad-Bussel Atrium. The gift is also eligible to be matched by the state's Alec P. Courtelis Facilities Enhancement Challenge Grant Program, which would increase the amount of the gift to \$1.7 million.

"This space will allow us to enhance creativity by building an exciting environment for our faculty and students, where they will create important new technologies that solve pressing biomedical problems," says Pramod Khargonekar, dean of the College of Engineering.

— Elizabeth Hillaker (BA '08, BSJ '08)

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUPPORT THE BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES PROGRAM VISIT [HTTP://IDP.MED.UFL.EDU](http://IDP.MED.UFL.EDU).



A gift from the Shepard Broad Foundation expanded the Biomedical Sciences Building's atrium by more than 200 percent in hopes that this space will encourage collaboration and communication among researchers. The building should be finished this summer. Illustration by Ellenzweig Associates

SCHOLARSHIP STUDENT GRATEFUL FOR CHANCE TO REINTERPRET HIS DREAMS

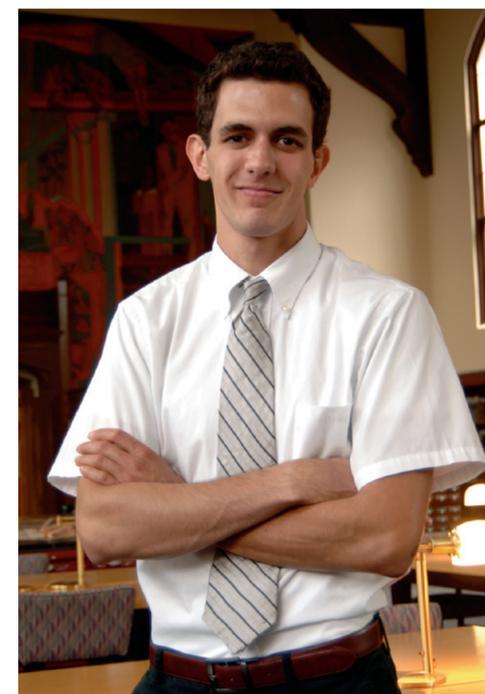
Florida Opportunity Scholar Austin Eklund plans to help the world find understanding through translation.

Austin Eklund doesn't just see the cup as half full. He sees it overflowing. "I grew up very, very poor," says sophomore Eklund, who studies linguistics at UF. "I think you have to be optimistic to maintain your sanity. At this point in my life, there's no reason not to be optimistic — I'm going to a wonderful university."

Eklund is optimistic he can bridge gaps between people by working with languages. He was a sign language interpreter for the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind in his hometown of St. Augustine before coming to UF to work for the English Language Institute, which helps foreign students acclimate to American life and language. Already fluent in Spanish, he is studying French this fall.

"I think there's a lot of disharmony on this planet," says Eklund, who would like to be either a foreign-language translator for the United Nations or a transnational company or an international relations lawyer. "I can't imagine any job more rewarding than one that helps people understand one another — whether through foreign-language translation or diplomacy."

The Florida Opportunity Scholars program, which provides full-funding for low-income, first-generation college students, gave Eklund yet another reason to be optimistic about his future. The scholarship allowed him to experience life



Thanks to the Florida Opportunity Scholars program, sophomore Austin Eklund says he can fulfill his dream of becoming either a United Nations translator or an international relations lawyer. Photo by Kristen Bartlett Grace (BSJ '03)

in a bigger town with more cultural and language resources than the local community college he had planned to attend.

"I wouldn't be at UF were it not for the Florida Opportunity Scholars program," Eklund says. "It's the most pragmatic scholarship. It's the one that helps me day-to-day."

The adjustment period at UF was difficult for Eklund because he frequently traveled home on the weekends to care for his ailing single mother.

After the first difficult months, Eklund says he fell in love with campus, the faculty, the other students and Gainesville's bustling atmosphere.

"Because it's such a large school, there is infinite potential for social interaction and academic pursuits," Eklund says. "There's a sense of endless possibility."

Eklund says he knows the only reason he has been able to take advantage of all these opportunities is the generosity of donors who fund the Florida Opportunity Scholars program.

"I think sometimes people give and they don't know where the money goes, but it goes to me and to people like me," Eklund says. "I can't imagine myself anywhere else."

— Elizabeth Hillaker (BSJ '08, BA '08)

TO FIND OUT HOW TO SUPPORT THE FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM VISIT WWW.UFF.UFL.EDU/FOS.

Florida TOMORROW

FALL 2008 • VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

UF

SCIENTIST INVESTS IN THE FUTURE OF DRUG DISCOVERY AT UF



A \$600,000 professorship gift from Professor Emeritus Nicholas Bodor will provide the College of Pharmacy the resources to hire a topnotch mentor for the next generation of drug researchers. Sarah Kiewel (BSJ '05)

Nicholas Bodor passes his research torch on to next generation by creating pharmacy professorship.

Nicholas Bodor, an internationally recognized scientist and UF professor emeritus whose 40-year career in drug design and delivery has resulted in numerous discoveries and current market medications, has once again furthered his field of expertise.

Bodor and his wife, Sheryl, have created a professorship in drug research at UF to continue the teaching and research that he enjoyed for nearly 25 years at UF's College of Pharmacy. Their \$600,000 gift is eligible for state matching funds that could result in a \$1 million endowment.

The potential of the Bodors' gift is immeasurable. "Dr. Bodor has enriched graduate student education in our college, mentoring so many young researchers who are now developing their own distinguished careers worldwide," William Riffie, dean of the College of Pharmacy, says. "His gift goes far beyond his contributions as an educator and researcher; it strengthens the future of the college to be among world leaders in drug discovery."

Although Bodor is retired from teaching, he continues to serve as director of UF's Center for Drug Discovery, which he founded in 1986. There, and in his other teaching duties, he supervised the training of

more than 150 graduate and post-doctoral students. Bodor contends that this mentoring is what keeps the future of drug discovery alive.

Marcus Brewster, a distinguished research fellow at Johnson & Johnson Pharmaceutical Research & Development in Belgium who was a graduate student under Bodor in the 1980s, says his experience at UF was invaluable.

"I learned so much working with Dr. Bodor. The science was the most important, but he provided the full package for a future scientist, including how to present your work and influencing people on your points of view," Brewster says. "I learned networking and how to problem solve."

The fruits of Bodor's labor and mentoring only begin with his students. He has published more than 500 research articles, has more than 180 patents and serves on the editorial boards of several international scientific journals.

Just a few of his awards include the Gold Cross of Merit of the Hungarian Republic, the country's highest state honor; the Distinguished Pharmaceutical Scientist Award from the American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists; and the creation of an annual international conference based on his research findings.

Bodor says establishing this professorship is particularly meaningful. He's grateful for being able to pass the torch on to the next generation of drug researchers.

— Linda Homewood (BSPR '93) and Liesl O'Dell (BSJ '92)

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUPPORT COLLEGE OF PHARMACY RESEARCH AND PROGRAMS VISIT WWW.COP.UFL.EDU/CENTERS/CDD/INDEX.HTM.

RESEARCHER FINDS HEALTH MAY BE MATTER OF TASTE

Linda Bartoshuk hopes to make healthy choices more palatable, especially for the sick.

It wasn't the hair loss, constant nausea or fatigue. It was those little pink buds buried in his tongue.

When Linda Bartoshuk's father was suffering through lung cancer, his most memorable complaint was that he didn't like the taste of food.

Back then, Bartoshuk was a baffled college student. Now, decades later as a presidential endowed professor in the College of Dentistry, she and her colleagues are engaged in research that would allow medicine to help cancer patients enjoy the taste of food again.

Bartoshuk, who is also the director of human research at the UF Center for Smell and Taste, is leading research to correct taste and olfactory dysfunction. Her work is paving the way for many answers that reach beyond taste, including obesity and colon cancer.

Through her work, Bartoshuk aims to solve the problems of people who are born with pesky palates. She performs tests to determine whether nature has destined her subjects to be supertasters — those who are strongly affected by things such as the bitterness of coffee and the spicy burn of hot peppers — medium tasters or non-tasters.

"Your taster status not only influences your food choices, but it also affects your health," says Bartoshuk, a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences and the first female academy member at UF.

No matter how healthy a food may be, if it's distasteful or painful to eat, it's not likely a person will consume it. Supertasters, who experience this intense tasting due to a higher number of taste buds, are at risk for colon cancer, for instance, because they are less drawn to bitter green vegetables.



College of Dentistry professor Linda Bartoshuk is leading research to correct taste and smell dysfunctions. Her results could directly impact those battling obesity, colon cancer and the side effects of cancer treatments. Sarah Kiewel (BSJ '05)

Bartoshuk is also interested in those who acquire a less-than-tasty existence. The 2 million Americans with chemosensory disorders — those who develop problems based on experiences such as ear infections or cancer treatment — could see changes in their lives because of Bartoshuk's research.

Bartoshuk's main goal, therefore, is to improve health through taste. Working with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, she is studying the taste properties of plants to make them more palatable.

"Improving the sense of taste can have an economic and nutritional effect," says Bartoshuk, adding that making a plant taste better can improve a person's health and combat starvation and poverty.

— Kelsey McNiel (4JM)

TO FIND MORE INFORMATION AND TO SUPPORT THE CENTER FOR SMELL AND TASTE VISIT WWW.UFBI.UFL.EDU/-UFCST.

CAMPAIGN Progress

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2008



SANIBEL COUPLE HOPES TO SPARK NEW IDEAS WITH \$6 MILLION GIFT

Jon and Beverly Thompson offer combined gifts to help students, faculty solve problems together.

Jon Thompson (BS '61, MS '62) graduated from UF with a focus in geology.

"I thought I wanted to be an engineer, and I took a course in geology, and a lightbulb went off," Thompson says. "Geology combined both fields I was interested in."

Thompson and his wife of 45 years, Beverly (MEd '62), have given almost \$6 million to UF to help first-generation students receiving Florida Opportunity Scholarships, researchers in the McKnight Brain Institute, and professors linking work in the Department of Geological Sciences and the Florida Museum of Natural History.

"It's amazing the continual discovery of things and the curiosity that these Florida Opportunity Scholar students have," he says. "They just continue to blossom and learn."

The Thompsons chose to contribute to a chair in the Department of Geological Sciences and a chair at the Florida Museum of Natural History to link the two in research.



"We were looking to move those two areas closer and encourage them to work together. I've had a long-standing interest in paleontology," Thompson says. "That was a natural fit."

The Thompsons also contributed to the Regeneration Project at the McKnight Brain Institute. Beverly, who has a family member diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, hopes the project's work with adult stem cells will eventually cure movement disorders.

It was the "natural fit" of the programs at UF that motivated the Thompsons to give — a calling that Thompson hopes other philanthropists will encounter.

"We love giving more young bright students the opportunity to come and get an education in whatever they want; that's a reward right there," Thompson says. "It gives you a really good feeling to be able to give back to the university, and really, the world."

— Kelsey McNiel (4JM)

TO SUPPORT UF SCHOLARSHIPS, PROFESSORSHIPS, AND RESEARCH VISIT WWW.UFF.UFL.EDU/HowToGive.

REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENT DATES

THE FLORIDA TOMORROW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS REACHING THROUGHOUT THE NATION WITH THESE REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENTS:

- Chicago Oct. 21
- Broward County Feb. 4
- Jacksonville April 23

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE REGIONAL CAMPAIGNS VISIT WWW.FLORIDATOMORROW.UFL.EDU/REGIONALS.



GO Figure

\$2 million Gift from Ellie and Bob McCabe to establish the Robert F. and Eleonora W. McCabe Eminent Scholar Chair in Psychiatry and Community Mental Health in the College of Medicine. The gift will be used to develop a satellite academic department in Vero Beach to enhance mental health care in Indian River County.

3 percent Return realized on the endowment pool for UF in the 2007-08 fiscal year.

\$298 million Amount raised to date for the Faculty Challenge initiative, which helps pay for competitive salaries to attract and retain faculty.

\$3.7 million Total Florida Opportunity Scholars monies awarded in the program's first two years. The program helps first-generation students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds attend UF.

1,100 Total UF students whose books, fees, meals, housing, transportation and miscellaneous expenses are paid through the Florida Opportunity Scholars program.

\$1 million Donation by Debbie and Robert Forbis in honor of their grandson, who has a blinding disease. The gift will establish the Taylor Forbis Optic Nerve Hypoplasia research fund in the College of Medicine's Department of Ophthalmology.