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They're
No. 1

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THE HSC'S FIRST-GENERATION
graduates**

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On the Cover

This month, *The POST* celebrates HSC students who started a new tradition in their families by being the first to graduate from college.

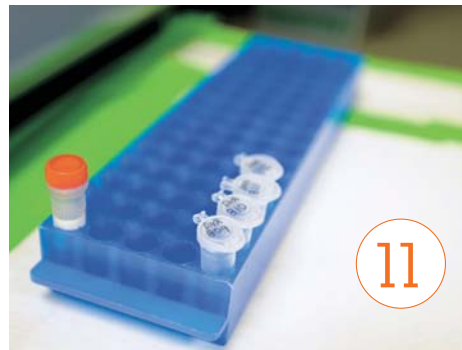


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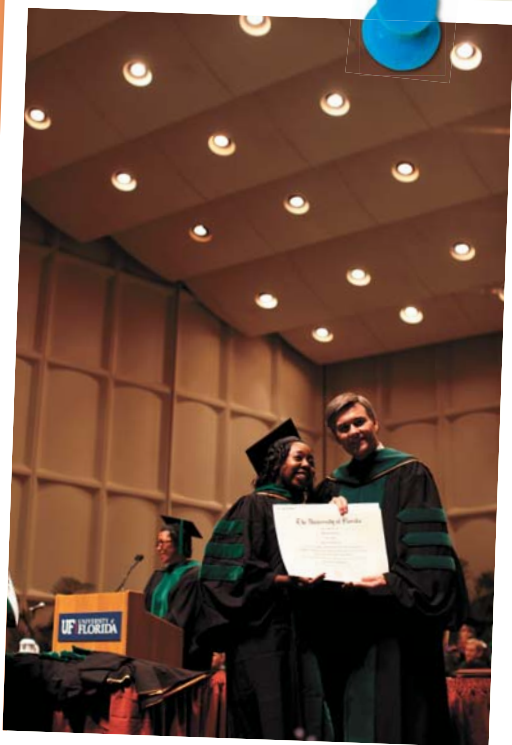
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Talking public health

Claude Earl Fox, M.D., the founding director of the Florida Public Health Institute, gave the keynote speech at the Second Annual Public Health Conference May 5 in the Health Professions/Nursing/Pharmacy Complex. The event was sponsored by the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions, the Area Health Education Centers Program and the Suwannee River Area Health Education Center. Fox has headed federal, state and local agencies and is a professor in the department of epidemiology and public health at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

GOLDEN GRADUATES



All 130 members of the UF College of Medicine class of 2010 received their degrees and took the Hippocratic Oath as new medical doctors in the college's 50th commencement ceremony, held May 22 at the Phillips Center for Performing Arts. To celebrate this milestone graduation, six members of the college's first class acted as Grand Marshals and led the procession of the college's 50th graduating class.

Photo By Priscilla Santos

U.S. News & WORLD REPORT

**BEST
MEDICAL
SCHOOLS**

2011

LUCKY NO. 42

After three years holding steady at No. 48, the UF College of Medicine climbed six spots in the 2011 *U.S. News & World Report's* annual rankings of elite medical schools. As part of the *U.S. News & World Report's* 2011 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools," these competitive rankings are based on everything from students' Medical College Admissions Test scores to the amount of funding researchers receive from the National Institutes of Health each year.



GET YOUR CARDS HERE

The spot to get your Gator 1 Card has moved again. The HSC Gator 1 Card office has moved back into its old digs on the third floor of the Communicore Building in Room C3-303. The office is open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. - noon and from 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. If you're up the hill, you can also stop by the UF Bookstore and Welcome Center and pick up your Gator 1 Card in Room G072. For more information about the HSC Gator 1 Card office, call 352-273-5044.



PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

You may see a few more hard hats around the Health Science Center this summer. The Communicore Building will be getting a much-needed facelift as part of a two-phase renovation. The building's entrance will be remodeled, and improvements will be made to the first-floor lobby, restrooms and floor. Improvements are also being made to the building's seven classrooms that should be complete by the time fall classes resume. The renovation is part of a larger project to improve the Sun Terrace. In the July/August issue of *The POST*, we will bring you more news about construction across the HSC.

PHOTO BY SARAH KIEWEL



The way forward

UF and Shands HealthCare announce new strategic plan

By Melanie Fridl Ross

The UF Health Science Center and Shands HealthCare have unveiled a \$580 million, five-year vision for the future that emphasizes close collaboration to ensure highest-quality, safest patient care, renewed engagement with the community and expansion of the research and educational missions.

The plan, titled “Forward Together,” outlines shared values — excellence, trust, accountability, innovation, teamwork, integrity and diversity — and a series of one- and five-year goals. It grew out of a nine-month process spearheaded by a 25-member cabinet of university and hospital leaders who met monthly.

“Patient safety and quality care are paramount in everything we do,” said David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of

the UF&Shands Health System. “All our decisions will be based on the overriding principle of what is best for the patient, and this principle will guide our research, teaching and clinical programs.”

Strategic investments will be made in facilities, information technology, equipment and personnel to help the academic health center achieve consistent and lasting growth across its research, patient care and educational missions. But UF and Shands will not go it alone.

“As part of our commitment to providing outstanding patient care, we seek to work closely with the community we serve and to engage area residents, community leaders and local agencies in our efforts to enhance access to health-care services,” said Tim Goldfarb, CEO of Shands HealthCare.

Health-care leaders also will seek to strengthen ties with the community, analyzing factors that impact the health of populations, strengthening research methods for studying the health of individuals and of populations, and working more closely than ever with area residents.

“UF and Shands plan to form a Community Advisory Council with broad representation that will help us continue to meet the health-care needs of area citizens,” Goldfarb said.

UF and Shands also will seek to enhance

existing affiliations with the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center, deemed critically important to efforts to develop the next generation of clinician-scientists and implement models of interdisciplinary education to prepare the next generation of health-care providers. Together they will form an Academic Partnership Council in conjunction with VA leadership.

Guzick said the plan also encourages and supports diversity across the academic health center. In-depth assessments will be conducted that will ultimately lead to a Summit on Diversity, after which additional goals will be established and specific programs developed to achieve them.

“In everything we do across our core missions, we will simply be more effective if our faculty, students, residents and staff reflect the gender, racial and cultural diversity of the populations we serve,” he said.

Strategic goals for the Jacksonville campus and other sites in the health system are still being refined and will be available soon.

“We want to optimize the state’s return on investment in the Health Science Center,” Guzick said. “In turn, we want to become a national model for education in the health science professions.”

New educational space will be needed. Renovation has begun of the Communicore Building to improve the learning environment. Longer term, a new education building for the Health Science Center designed and funded through philanthropy will emphasize small-group learning rooms as well as contemporary information, media and simulation technology.

In research, a key goal will be to achieve 10 top-10 research programs in specific fields, while generating broad-based, consistent and durable growth of National Institutes of Health and sponsored research funding across the entire portfolio of fundamental, translational and clinical research. Guzick said they will seek to recruit faculty investigators who are at the very top of their fields and build new research facilities in both laboratory research and in clinical and translational research.

UF has already made considerable investment to create the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, which will provide the new academic home for clinical and translational research, integrating and synergizing the scientific and educational activities of multiple UF colleges, two regional health-care systems (Shands and the Malcom Randall Veterans Affairs Medical Center), and the 67 counties of the state of Florida. One major goal of this collaboration will be to create new opportunities for clinical scientists and the citizens of Florida to participate in advancing patient-oriented research and to create the facilities necessary to support that.

Of the \$580 million projected cost of the plan, about \$230 million will be spent on new research, clinical and education facilities, \$200 million on new research programs, \$110 million on enhancement of clinical services and their quality, and \$40 million on enhanced education programs. Sources of revenue include transfers from the clinical enterprise, philanthropy, royalty streams, grant income and UF support.

These represent new dollars flowing into the Gainesville community that will have “multiplier” ripple effects throughout the local and regional economy.

“This is a significant investment, but it will have significant impact,” Guzick said.

Forward & Together



DAVID S. GUZICK, M.D., PH.D.

“Patient safety and quality care are paramount in everything we do.”

— David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D.



PHOTOS BY SARAH KIEWEL

TIM GOLDFARB

The Advances: (A partial list of initiatives)

- Implementation of the EPIC electronic medical record across the system to manage patient information.
- Opening of the Shands Cancer Hospital last November along with a new and expanded emergency room and trauma center means space at Shands at UF can be used to create the Shands Hospital for Children and Women, with its own lobby, emergency department and inpatient and outpatient units. Similarly, ground-floor entries and inpatient space in the core of Shands at UF will likely be reconfigured to address the distinct needs of neuromedicine and cardiovascular services. Consideration would still be given to creating the children’s hospital in a new tower depending on financial feasibility, including the ability of philanthropy to bring in the necessary dollars, which would be substantial.
- Primary care offices will be located at several sites throughout the community, close to where our patients live, with special attention to new ambulatory facilities for patients who reside in East Gainesville. The UF Family Practice at Southwest Fourth Avenue, for example, will be relocated in the coming months a little further east and north of its current location.
- Specialty offices, meanwhile, will be co-located at designated specialty campuses. These would include those currently on the Health Science Center campus, the specialty practices adjacent to the orthopaedics facility on Southwest 34th Street, and expansion on the northwest Health Park Campus.

Want to know more?

For more information about Forward Together and to view the strategic plan in its entirety, visit forwardtogether.health.ufl.edu. To view Senior Vice President for Health Affairs David Guzick’s “On the Same Page” column on the strategic plan, visit health.ufl.edu and click on “On the Same Page.”



PHOTO BY SARAH MEWEL

Nurse practitioner Hillary Morris (right) counsels patient Emelyn Palm at Archer Family Health Care.

The nurse will see **you** now

Nurse-managed care **thriving** at Archer clinic

By Laura Mize

For 13 years, Emelyn Palm has been without a full-time job. She holds two part-time jobs, but neither one provides her with health insurance.

Palm, who has an underactive thyroid, depends on Archer Family Health Care for her medication and regular blood tests. The nurse-managed health center is run by the UF College of Nursing and staffed by nurse practitioner faculty members. Like Palm, most of the patients lack health insurance. The clinic provides services to them on a sliding fee scale.

“It’s such a huge blessing for the people in the area,” Palm said of the clinic. “When I come here, they’re always busy — always plenty of people who need care. And I’m sure that there are a lot of people in this area who wouldn’t be able to afford it otherwise.”

The nurse practitioners who work at Archer Family Health Care provide a wide variety of services.

“That’s one reason that (the center) is unique,” said Dee Williams, Ph.D., an associate professor in the College of Nursing and the associate dean for clinical affairs. “We have family practice, pediatric practice and psychiatric practice. We have a physician and we have a clinical pharmacy on-site. We have community health.”

The clinic draws people from surrounding counties, and even areas as far away as Cedar Key and Jacksonville, Williams said. Affordable care is one draw, she said, and the high-quality care they receive from the nurses is another.

“I’ll tell you this, once patients have care that’s provided by a nurse practitioner they like it,” she said. “They really do.”

Hillary Morris, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., a family nurse practitioner who works at AFHC, decided to become a nurse practitioner after her own positive experiences receiving care from nurse practitioners.

“We do a lot of holistic care. We really look at the patients’ circumstances — socioeconomic, lifestyle situations, things like that — and try to get a picture of the person as a whole, and kind of center the care around that,” said Morris, who also is a clinical assistant professor at the College of Nursing. “We try to have patients be partners in their care — really get them to buy into it and give them tools to keep themselves healthy.”

Morris and her colleagues also work with patients to find programs to help them pay for specialty care or medications. Once in a while, a staff member at the clinic will offer to pick up a prescription for a patient who lacks transportation.

According to Florida law, nurse-managed health centers must have a physician on-call at all times. Shenary Cotter, M.D., is perfect for the job, because she understands the way nurses work. She used to be one.

Cotter, now a faculty member in the College of Medicine's department of community health and family medicine, works at the clinic one day a week.

Her role complements the nurse practitioners' work. She sees patients for things such as pain management, or other conditions that require special expertise. She also sees some of the clinic's new patients when the nurse practitioners' schedules are filled.

But Cotter agrees Archer Family Health Care is definitely the nurse practitioners' practice. She's just there to help when they need her. She said the success of AFHC shows nurse-managed health centers can help to address two major problems in America's health-care system: a lack of physicians in rural areas and a lack of access for uninsured people.

"This is an example of the fact that we have the tools to deliver health care to the uninsured without a government-mandated program," she said. "It does make me somewhat sad that others have not been as successful in developing a place like this one, so that that could be avoided entirely."

Advocates of nurse-managed health centers also say nurse practitioners can play a vital role in filling the country's growing need for primary care providers, and praise their holistic approach and focus on indigent patients.



PHOTO BY SARA KIEWEL

Dr. Shenary Cotter, a former nurse, serves as the physician on-call at the Archer clinic.

"We try to have patients be partners in their care – really get them to buy into it and give them tools to keep themselves healthy."

— Hillary Morris, M.S.N., A.R.N.P.

Some physicians object to nurse-managed health centers, saying nurse practitioners aren't qualified to run practices. However, Cotter said these centers don't face as much resistance from the medical field as they once did.

"One of the positive things for the future is everyone letting go of that argument, both physicians and nurse practitioners, because at some point you just have to go on," Cotter said. "Frankly, I think that's where most newer providers actually are right now. It's just not an issue."

Williams said nurse-managed health centers still struggle for recognition from health insurance companies.

For instance, it was not until October 2009 that Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida began to reimburse nurse practitioners directly for the health care services they provide. Before this, AFHC did not receive any reimbursement for treatment of patients with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida policies. Now they're receiving payments from the company. Still, some other companies require billing in a physician's name.

To make up for the large number of patients at AFHC who don't have insurance, plus inadequate insurance reimbursements, the clinic relies on what Williams called "a patchwork quilt of funding."


Since the clinic's inception in 2000, AFHC has depended on federal grant money, state appropriations, local funding and private donors to fill the gaps between expenses and income. It's an ever-evolving mixture: AFHC is in the fifth year of a six-year federal grant and has endured cuts to its state appropriation every year it has been open.

Williams and the clinic staff are exploring ways to bring in more money, including increasing their focus on patient education so they can qualify for a new federal grant. Williams said the clinic's growing patient base has helped AFHC become more independent than it was a few years ago.

But for the nurse practitioners working at AFHC, funding is a secondary consideration. Morris said she thinks the clinic's services have improved health in the Archer community. The patients, she said, have had their own effect on her and her colleagues.

"We have one patient who's an elderly gentleman who is here almost every day," Morris said. "The nurse fills his pill boxes for him, because he lives alone, and draws up his insulin for him. He calls us whenever he needs something or brings us goodies like Pepsi for Christmas. It's really rewarding."

Palm, the patient working two part-time jobs, began going to the clinic six or seven years ago because of the sliding fee scale. Now, she said, she keeps coming back because she likes the service.

"After I started coming here I liked the people so much and it was just so preferable to me, as opposed to most doctors' offices," she said. "They're just a wonderful group of people, and I just feel really comfortable coming here." 

Turning hurt into *hope*

Colleges of Law, Medicine team to help domestic violence victims



PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

College of Law professor Teresa Drake (right) and Dr. Nancy Hardt of the College of Medicine joined forces to establish UF's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic.

By Laura Mize

Starting June 1, a patient at the Shands at UF obstetrics clinic will be able to get prenatal care and legal advice all in one visit.

Thanks to a two-year, \$450,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, the College of Medicine and UF's Levin College of Law have teamed up to open the country's first law/medicine clinic dedicated to helping victims of domestic violence. The grant was awarded to the College of Law, and the College of Medicine and Shands at UF have agreed to dedicate clinic space to the Intimate Partner Violence

Assistance Clinic. In September, the clinic will begin offering services to patients in the Shands at UF pediatric clinic.

According to Nancy Hardt, M.D., senior associate dean for external affairs at the College of Medicine, this development is something of a breakthrough.

"Health providers just don't screen unless they have something to offer people, and this'll be a very unique situation," Hardt said. "I personally have never been able to work in an environment where I could screen for domestic violence and immediately say to the patient, 'I'm going to take you to speak to someone right now.' That's huge."

Health-care providers and medical students will screen patients by asking about their relationship history. Certified legal interns from the College of Law and social workers from Shands at UF and Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network will offer to help those with domestic violence problems with legal matters, such as obtaining protective injunctions against their abusers, or working out problems with landlords unhappy with violence at their properties.

In addition to serving patients at the obstetric and pediatric clinics, the law students working as certified legal interns and social workers in the legal clinic also will take client referrals from local courthouses, Peaceful Paths, other UF physician clinics and other parts of Shands at UF. Posters about the clinic also will be put up around the county.

The grant will provide resources to train students from both colleges to address the problem of domestic violence in homeless communities.

"We wrote that into the grant because we really thought that would be the icing on the cake," said Teresa Drake, J.D., director of the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Clinic. "Giving law students and medical students that experience, and even the experience of just the clinic, hopefully will instill in them ... how important it is to give back to your community. Even if it's just a few hours a week."

Hardt and Drake both said they hope the clinic will foster more positive relationships between doctors and lawyers — influential people who don't always have cozy relationships in the professional world.

And on the medical side, helping domestic violence victims escape abusive situations could prevent harmful physical side effects in children — even those who aren't direct victims.

"For a long time we just sort of thought that the children were silent witnesses and they weren't really participating or affected in any way," Hardt said. "Even when they're preverbal, we're finding ... their brain development can be affected, so we'd really like to avoid the childhood trauma."

As the first medicine/law clinic of its kind in the nation, the Intimate Partner Domestic Violence Assistance Clinic has a lot of people at other institutions waiting expectantly to see how well things work.

"People all over the country are watching this like 'Yes!'" Drake said. "They're looking to see how we put this together, because they want to do the same thing." **P**

Videos for vets

UF partners in national spay/neuter training videos

By Sarah Carey

The UF College of Veterinary Medicine Shelter Medicine Program has partnered with the country's leading spay/neuter training center to produce a series of videos aimed at educating greater numbers of veterinary professionals about best practices in high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter surgical techniques.

The first in a planned series of the surgical training videos details procedures for performing surgery on puppies and kittens as small as 2 pounds and as young as 6 to 8 weeks of age.

"Spaying and neutering animals prior to sexual maturity prevents unintended litters and ensures numerous well-established health benefits for them," explained Brenda Griffin, D.V.M., an adjunct associate professor of shelter medicine and UF's lead veterinarian in developing the new teaching tool.

Griffin, a board-certified internist, joined forces with Philip Bushby, D.V.M., of Mississippi State University, Mark Bohling, D.V.M., Ph.D., of the University of Tennessee, and Karla Brestle, D.V.M., of the Humane Alliance National Spay/Neuter Response Team. The video was filmed at the NSNRT's 13,000-square-foot surgical training center nestled in Asheville, N.C.'s Blue Ridge Mountains, where more than 23,000 sterilization surgeries are performed annually.

"Veterinarians and students already have the opportunity to participate in intensive hands-on surgical continuing education at the training center, but the new video series will make training available to veterinarians and students around the world," Griffin said.

"Students at Florida are already taught the skills illustrated in this video," said Natalie Isaza, D.V.M., the Merial clinical assistant professor of shelter medicine at UF and chief of the college's shelter medicine service. "Our goal is to make this



PHOTO BY SARAH CAREY

Dr. Brenda Griffin is working with a national training center to help develop a series of educational videos to instruct more vets on best practices in spay/neuter techniques.

information available to practitioners who want to learn these techniques as well."

Pediatric neutering was selected as the topic for the first training video because practitioners frequently lack confidence in the procedure and because neutering before puberty offers the best opportunity to prevent overpopulation caused by accidental litters.

The video, funded by PetSmart Charities, is available for free viewing and downloading at www.humanealliance.org. A DVD also will be mailed to veterinary students at all U.S. veterinary colleges. The group plans to create additional instructional videos focusing on spaying large breed dogs, trap-neuter-return of feral cats, and novel techniques for improving surgical efficiency, anesthetic technique, patient safety and postsurgical pain prevention. **P**



PHOTO BY CZERNE REID

RICHARD SNYDER, PH.D.

Setting the standard

New standard for vector to improve gene therapy research, safety

By Czerne M. Reid

The use of viruses as vehicles for delivering genes to replace malfunctioning or missing ones holds promise for treating many disorders. Adeno-associated viruses are one type of vector being used increasingly in human gene therapy clinical trials and laboratory studies. But differences in the way researchers determine the administered doses have made it difficult to accurately compare results from various studies.

Now a UF scientist has led the first successful international effort to create a reference standard for recombinant adeno-associated virus type 2 vectors called rAAV2, which have been used in the treatment of diseases such as hemophilia and a certain kind of blindness.

Researchers from around the world can now report their measurements relative to the reference standard so that others can gauge how effective a given virus preparation is at delivering a gene in an animal study or clinical trial.

"These vectors are powerful and have the potential to be used widely in humans, so being able to determine a dose reliably, and a dose that means something to other labs, is important," said Richard Snyder, Ph.D., an associate professor of molecular genetics and microbiology in the UF College of Medicine and director of UF's Center for Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology, who led the effort. "The more you understand the dose you're giving, the more confidence you have that the doses are safe."

Standardization of vector doses will help make regulatory policy more robust and help pharmaceutical manufacturers ensure their doses are prepared safely.

The rAAV2 system was pioneered by UF College of Medicine scientists Nicholas Muzyczka, Ph.D., founding director of the UF Powell Gene Therapy Center, and Kenneth Berns, M.D., Ph.D., director of the UF Genetics Institute. Over the past two decades, UF researchers have used the system successfully in treating animal models of disease and conducting initial work in humans. **P**

Unlikely addicts

Drug exposure threatens health of women, children in Afghanistan

By Czerne M. Reid

The health of many women and children in Afghanistan is at great risk because of passive exposure to heroin and other drugs, according to a new study commissioned by the U.S. Department of State and jointly led by two UF drug addiction experts.

The study is the first to demonstrate secondhand and thirdhand exposure to heroin and other opium products in Afghanistan. Bruce Goldberger, Ph.D., a professor of pathology and psychiatry with the UF College of Medicine and director of the William R. Maples Center for Forensic Medicine, presented preliminary findings of the two-year study April 28 during the 27th annual International Drug Enforcement Conference in Rio De Janeiro, Brazil.

Goldberger and Mark Gold, M.D., the Donald Dizney Eminent Scholar and chair of the department of psychiatry, two leading experts on drug abuse, were selected by the State Department to conduct the research. The resulting data will aid the effort to reduce demand for narcotics and prevent drug abuse in Afghanistan.

The researchers drew on their 10-year effort to develop laboratory models and protocols for measuring harmful exposure to tobacco smoke to estimate secondhand exposure to opium products through inhalation and thirdhand exposure through contact with contaminated surfaces.

“The research team has an interest in the health and welfare of the women and children of Afghanistan who are innocently exposed to opium and opium products,” Goldberger said. “We have demonstrated that second- and thirdhand exposure to opium and opium products can result in serious health consequences, including addiction.”

Afghanistan produces more than 90 percent of the world’s



illegal supply of opium, the drug from which heroin is made, according to the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime. But little is known about the abuse of opium and other drugs in the Afghan population.

To learn more, the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs bureau of the State Department funded the study as part of its drug abuse and trafficking prevention work with the Afghanistan Ministry of Counter Narcotics.

The researchers obtained samples of indoor air, surfaces and hair from women and children in homes where family members smoked opium and heroin.

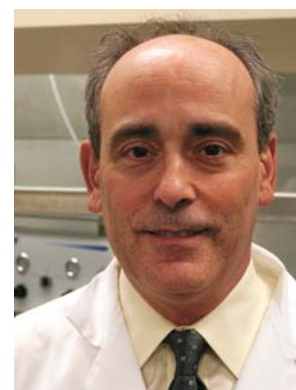
Hair samples from the women and children were positive for opium products, as well as several synthetic opioids. In addition, opium products were present in indoor air samples and on household surfaces such as floors, tables, toys and bedding with which children came into regular contact. The presence of synthetic opioid compounds suggests that the use of prescription drugs might also be a problem. Such exposure puts children at risk of abnormal development, including failure of the brain and lungs to grow properly. Such developmental delays can make it hard for children to pay attention and learn.

“There are critical periods in organ, body and brain development that can easily be hijacked by a toxic environment,” Gold said. “Our efforts are aimed at giving each child a chance to develop and grow to his or her potential.”

As has been proved for tobacco smoke, researchers suspect that adverse effects can also pop up in unexpected ways, such as in the development of bladder cancer.

Preliminary results show consistently that in more than 90 percent of study homes, indoor air, surfaces and residents’ hair contained opium and opium products.

The researchers will release more detailed results later and perform further analyses to get a clearer picture of the drug abuse problem in Afghanistan. To help address the issue, the study might expand to include culturally sensitive drug education and prevention programs. **P**



BRUCE GOLDBERGER, PH.D.



MARK GOLD, M.D.

Built for discovery

UF opens Biomedical Sciences Building



By Czerne M. Reid

Biomedical engineering has revolutionized medical research and practice in many ways, from providing sophisticated automated instrumentation and computation needed to sequence the human genome to developing devices that mimic normal delivery of insulin by the pancreas.

On May 11, UF dedicated a new research facility that will stimulate the kind of cross-disciplinary interactions that often lead to such innovations. The new Biomedical Sciences Building brings together scientists from different UF colleges and disciplines to advance medical discoveries and translate them into treatments for patients.

The \$90.5 million, 163,000-square-foot building houses researchers from the colleges of Medicine, Engineering, and Public Health and Health Professions, creating the potential for new collaborations.

“When medical science and biomedical engineering researchers share space and ideas, the door opens to new possibilities in translational science that improve health,” said David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System.

Research units include the UF Diabetes Center of Excellence, the UF Center for Translational Research in Neurodegenerative Disease, the J. Crayton Pruitt Family department of biomedical engineering and the Rehabilitation Research Program in the department of physical therapy. The Howard Hughes Medical Institute Science for Life laboratory, a cross-disciplinary training program for undergraduate students, also is in the eight-story building.

Researchers and students say the new building’s pleasing indoor environment, lit by large windows, helps them work and learn better. Designed and constructed by HuntonBrady Architects, Ellenzweig Consultants, Affiliated Engineers, Harris Engineering, Walter P. Moore Engineers, Schmidt Dell Associates and Whiting-Turner Construction Management, the building, commissioned by Moses & Associates, meets LEED Gold certification standards of the U.S. Green Building Council. Gold is the third of a four-tier rating system that aims to respond to environmental challenges such as responsible use of resources, pollution reduction and making indoor spaces conducive to good health and well-being. **P**

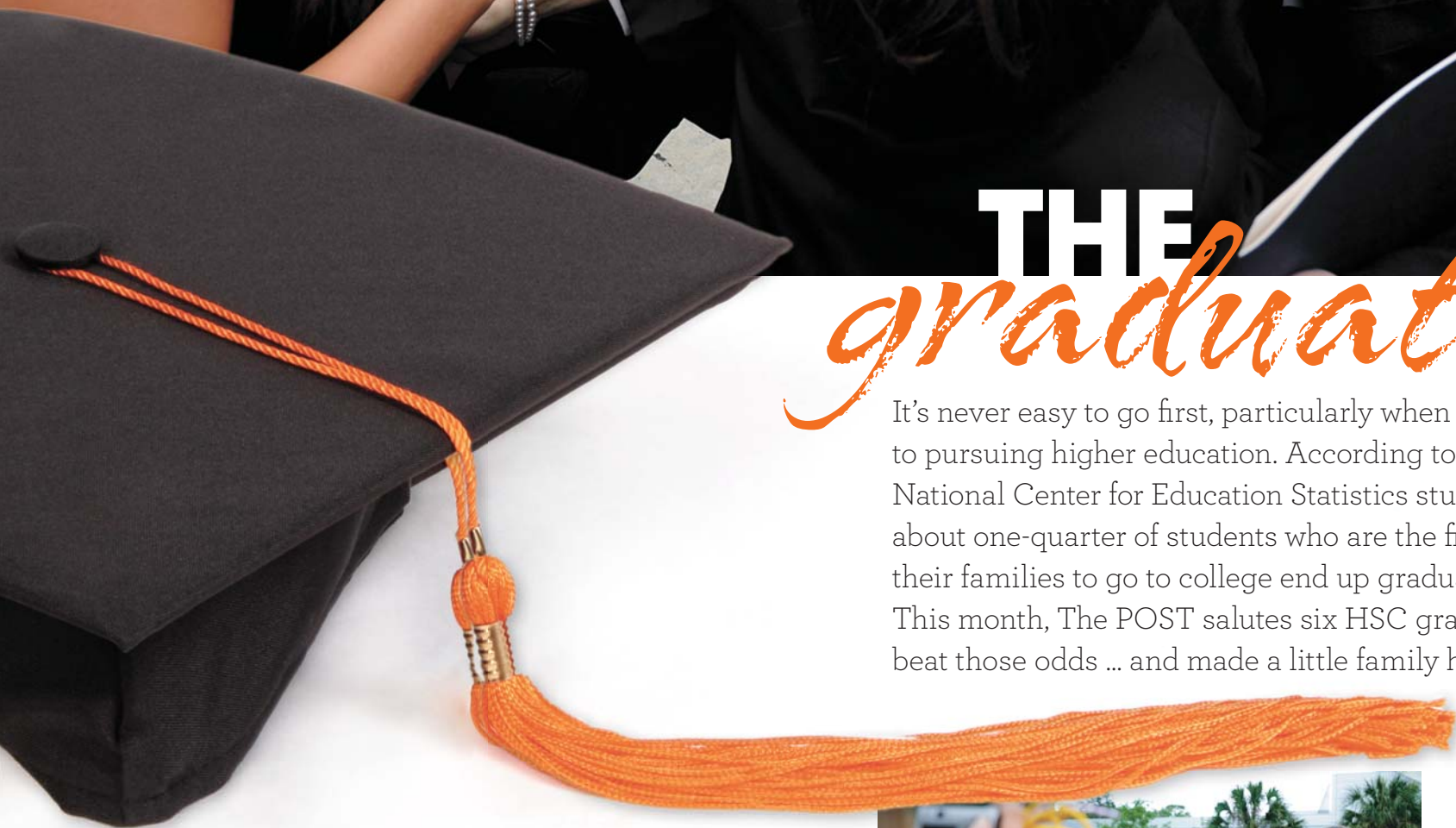
On May 11, UF leaders opened the new Biomedical Sciences Building. (Shown from left) College of Medicine Dean Dr. Michael Good, College of Engineering Dean Cammy R. Abernathy, UF President Bernie Machen and College of Public Health and Health Professions Dean Michael Perri cut the ceremonial ribbon at the dedication. Afterward, attendees were invited to tour the facility, where researchers gave talks about their work in labs throughout the building.



PHOTO BY CASEY BROOKE LAWSON

THE *graduate*

It's never easy to go first, particularly when it comes to pursuing higher education. According to a 2005 National Center for Education Statistics study, only about one-quarter of students who are the first in their families to go to college end up graduating. This month, The POST salutes six HSC grads who beat those odds ... and made a little family history.



To find out more about Jacqueline Salazar's journey and see photos from the big day, visit www.news.health.ufl.edu and click on multimedia.

PHOTO BY CASEY BROOKE LAWSON



Jacqueline Arencibia Salazar

In 1959 after Fidel Castro took over Cuba, newlyweds Luis and Luisa Arencibia fled the country, leaving everything behind but the clothes they were wearing.

They knew no one in the United States, but they hoped it was a place where they could build a better future. After landing at the airport in Miami, they asked around about jobs and hopped another plane to New Jersey, where work was more plentiful. Once there, they took whatever jobs they could to make ends meet.

“They did housekeeping, whatever jobs they could get,” says Jacqueline Arencibia Salazar, the couple’s only child. “They never got to go to college. I was born a year or two after they came here, and they always wanted me to go to school. It was not really an option. It was an expectation.”

The couple got their wish ... and then some. Salazar received her bachelor’s degree in 1984 from the UF College of Nursing and her master’s degree in nursing from the University of North Carolina in 1990. And on April 30, five decades after they first came to the United States, the Arencibias watched their only daughter receive her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, the highest degree for a practicing nurse.

“I didn’t need to get my doctorate for my career path or future because I pretty much have a wonderful job right now and I don’t plan on making any career moves,” says Salazar, a nurse practitioner for a thriving practice in Melbourne, Florida. “I am a forever learner, and that, plus a strong work ethic, was definitely instilled in me by my parents.”

With a busy practice and three children, Salazar’s schedule is so hectic she was not even planning to walk in the UF College of Nursing graduation ceremony — until she mentioned it to her parents.

“They were like, ‘What!’ she says. “I have three kids and everyone had to compromise so I could do (the D.N.P. program) so I am walking for them. They are proud of me.”

— April Frawley Birdwell



Chris Gauthier

Chris Gauthier wasn’t the kid who knew he wanted to be a veterinarian when he was 5 years old. He never knew what he wanted to be when he grew up.

“In my junior year of high school I sat down and made these lists of everything I enjoy, everything I am good at,” says Gauthier, who will graduate from the College of Veterinary Medicine May 29. “Everything kind of came to medicine, but human medicine didn’t interest me that much. I shadowed a vet and loved it. So I went for it.”

It wasn’t always easy. Gauthier, now 26, worked full-time while earning his bachelor’s degree at UF and while working on a one-year business management degree before entering veterinary school in 2006.

“It was a struggle at times but you do what you have to do,” he says. “If you are really interested in something and motivated, you can do it. Most people surprise themselves.”

For Gauthier, graduation from veterinary school is just another step along the way. After graduation he is headed to Massachusetts to complete a one-year internship at Tufts University. Then, he plans to pursue a residency in small animal surgery, hopefully at UF.

And although Gauthier is the first in his family to graduate from college, he may not be the only one for long.

“My sister is just now finishing high school, so hopefully that will be her aspiration, too.” — April Frawley Birdwell



Continued on page 14

Meyleen Izquierdo

After moving from Costa Rica to South Florida at the age of 3, Meyleen Izquierdo watched her parents struggle to provide for their four children. She knew she wanted a different future.

“I hated being poor,” she says, “and I knew that there was no other way to ever get ahead, other than go to college.”

Izquierdo was the first in her family to graduate from college in 2006 when she earned her bachelor’s degree in nutrition from UF. This month she donned a cap and gown again to mark another milestone: the completion of her Doctor of Dental Medicine degree.

Without financial support from her parents, Izquierdo relied on scholarships to pay for her bachelor’s degree and part-time jobs and loans to get her through dental school. She says she’s leaving dental school with “a lot less debt than everybody else.”

Her next step is to take the dental board exams in June and begin a one-year residency with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Tampa.

She says she wants to eventually work as an associate in a general dentistry practice. In the meantime, she has a bit of advice for other young people who could be first in their families to finish college.

“Look at the people around you,” she says. “If you don’t want to be like them, you have to go to college. Now, even a bachelor’s is not enough to get a job. Look around and sacrifice a few years now when you’re young and you’re able to and you’re not married, you don’t have kids ... rather than sacrifice your whole life later.” — *Laura Mize*



PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

David Lefkowitz

As he thumbed through an “A” encyclopedia, the entry caught then 5-year-old David Lefkowitz’s attention.

Anatomy.

“There were these transparent pages of anatomy,” remembers Lefkowitz. “I just thought it would be really cool to be a doctor. I was one of those people that always knew.”

On May 22, Lefkowitz realized the dream he has had for two decades when he graduated from the UF College of Medicine.

The youngest of three children, Lefkowitz became the first person in his family to graduate from college four years ago when he earned a degree in microbiology from UF. UF was also his top choice for medical school.

A recipient of the college’s Excellence in Family Medicine award, Lefkowitz’s next move will be to St. Petersburg, where he will enter a family medicine residency.

“(Graduation) is bittersweet because we are so used to being students the fact that it is ending, we don’t really know what to do,” he says. “We’re just used to it. We have been doing this college thing for at least eight years.”

Apart from starting his career in family medicine, Lefkowitz is looking forward to graduation for another reason, too. He and his wife will be reunited after living in different cities for their entire marriage. The couple, who met in a freshman chemistry class at UF, wed in 2008.

“She is graduating (from Nova Southeastern University) in May, too,” Lefkowitz says. “We’re looking forward to it.” — *April Frawley Birdwell*



PHOTO BY APRIL FRAWLEY BIRDWELL

Yahaira Roman

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,” says Roman, who recently 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 the Palmer College of Chiropractic 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.

“My mom has always encouraged me to go to school,” Roman says. “I don’t think she has ever missed an open house ... 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.’”

Roman, who grew up in Daytona Beach, Florida, 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 says.

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

— April Frawley Birdwell



Kelley Hawes

Three years ago when she was one semester into her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree, Kelley Hawes thought about quitting the UF College of Nursing program. Already a nurse practitioner and the mother of two teenage children, it was tough for Hawes to fit everything in.

“I said to my son, ‘I am really thinking about quitting what do you think?’” Hawes says. “He said, ‘I think you should just do it.’ So I just did it.”

Listening to her son was easy. After all, her children have influenced her education and career from the beginning.

After marrying at 17 and having her first child when she was 18, Hawes didn’t start college until her daughter was 2 and her son was 4. She chose nursing because it seemed like a solid career that would allow her to provide for her children.

“There were times I worked three jobs and went to school,” she says. “But I still had it worked out where I could take them to school and pick them up and do the homework and the baths and work at night or whatever.”

After becoming a registered nurse in 1997, Hawes went on to earn a bachelor’s, a master’s, and finally, a D.N.P. on April 30.

“Part of my reason for continuing with education was my kids,” Hawes says. “And I think because I was always in school when they were little, they picked up good habits. My son was valedictorian, and my daughter is in the top 1 percent of her class.

“My son is a student at Florida State and my daughter starts here in August. We’ll have the whole rivalry thing going on.”

— April Frawley Birdwell

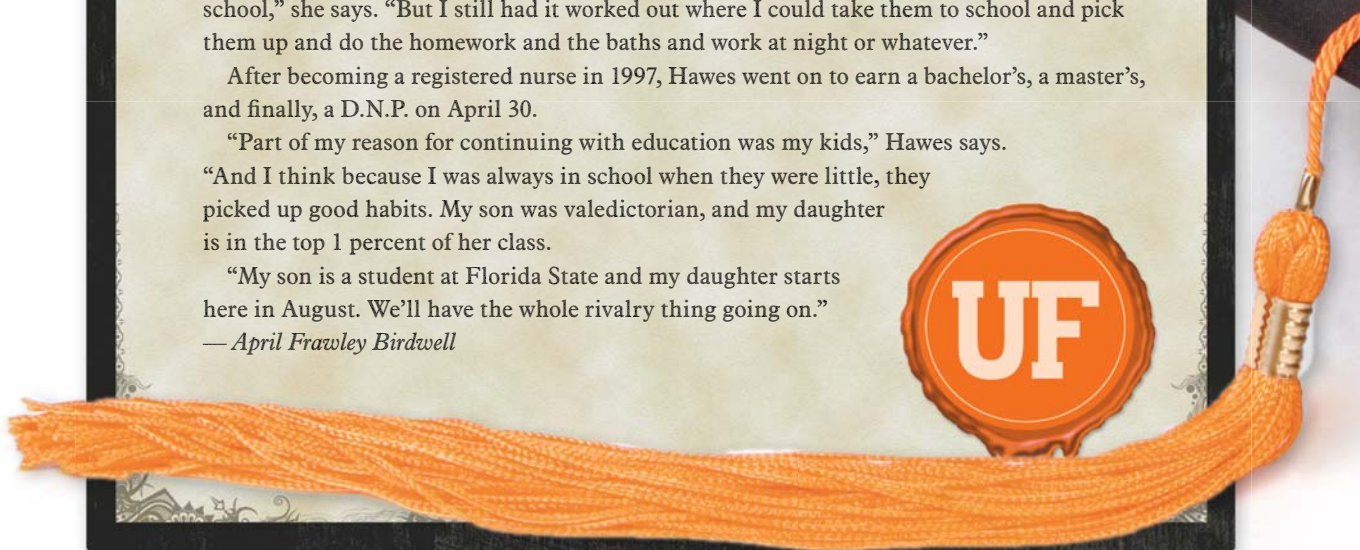


PHOTO BY CASEY BROOKE LAWSON

Dollars for Duchenne

PHHP researcher receives \$7.5 million for muscular dystrophy research

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

“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.”

— Krista Vandeborne, Ph.D.

By Jill Pease

Duchenne muscular dystrophy research at UF 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 in determining the natural progression of the disease.

UF scientists will assess 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 each year 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 system 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., an associate dean for research and planning at the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions and chair of the department of physical therapy. “MRI allows you to look at the structure of a 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 feedback 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.



KRISTA VANDENBORNE, PH.D.

“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.

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.

“NIH is excited to award this important research grant to Dr. Vandeborne,” said Glen Nuckolls, Ph.D., program director of the Muscle Disorders and Therapies Program at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases. “It is the type of thorough observational study that will collect data needed to design better clinical trials for DMD. Magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopy are powerful tools to look inside the muscles of patients and measure chemicals in the muscles, and this study has the potential to show that these would be very valuable tools in determining whether an experimental therapy is working to improve the muscles of boys with DMD.” 

The Wonderful World of *Disney*

Disney donation honors retiring CVM professor

By Sarah Carey

In honor of UF professor Ellis Greiner's longtime contributions to Disney's Animal Kingdom, the company has made a \$20,000 gift to the UF College of Veterinary Medicine that will fund advanced continuing education programs for the attraction's veterinary staff.

The Disney/UF Continuing Education Fund expands a 10-year partnership that Greiner helped establish between Disney's Animal Kingdom and the College of Veterinary Medicine. The fund will compensate UF veterinary faculty, residents, interns and staff who are willing to provide educational opportunities at Disney.

"One of the biggest comments from our veterinary staff has been that while we have all these wonderful opportunities with UF, we really need more continuing education for our technicians and veterinarians," said Scott Terrell, D.V.M., a veterinary pathologist and operations manager for Disney's department of animal health.

In addition, Terrell and his colleagues wanted to recognize Greiner, who will retire later this year and whose support has been germane to the UF-Disney partnership.

"Dr. Greiner has been involved in this collaboration from day one," Terrell said. "He has been supportive from a programming standpoint and has participated in every single joint UF/Disney lecture we have ever had."

Terrell said Greiner has served not only as Disney's parasitologist but also as a mentor, not only for himself, but for other Disney veterinarians as well.

"He's always been the guy we could call who would call us right back," Terrell said. "We knew he could help us administer the money, would be a good ally and



Disney's Animal Kingdom recently awarded the College of Veterinary Medicine a \$20,000 grant in honor of retiring professor Dr. Ellis Greiner (shown at front with Disney veterinarian Dr. Scott Terrell).

would help us figure out what needed to be done."

Greiner was modest about his role in the new endeavor.

"Scott is part of our department and we try to be collegial and help each other," he said. "Disney's program gives us access to unusual cases that we would not have available to our students and residents, not to mention faculty and staff."

Greiner said it was important to increase the understanding of animal care needs and diagnostic capabilities for non-traditional animal species that veterinarians care for.

"We also need those submitting samples to us to know how to prepare them properly so that they might be useful in the diagnosis of diseases," Greiner said. "It also allows us to help their staff understand that some of the etiological agents they may encounter might be zoonotic and thus a risk to their own health." **P**

A surgeon **AND** a scientist

Surgical resident receives unprecedented research award

By Danielle Sirianni

As the first surgical resident at UF to receive an individual postdoctoral fellowship award, Alex Cuenca, M.D., is now one step closer toward pursuing his dream of becoming an academic surgeon.

In February, Cuenca, a fourth-year surgical resident, was notified he received a one-year \$52,000 F32 grant given by the National Institutes of Health under the Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award Program. The F series of grants is the highest award someone can obtain as a postdoctoral trainee, Cuenca said. He is currently in his second year of research in the Laboratory of Inflammation Biology and Surgical Science under the leadership of Lyle Moldawer, Ph.D., a professor and vice chair of research in the UF department of surgery.

"This award will help establish a track record and show the NIH that I am motivated to become independently funded, which is the goal for most of us who are doing academic medicine," he said. "It's a step toward that goal."

Moldawer said, "Receiving this award is recognition of Dr. Cuenca's considerable talents, as well as his efforts to

compete at the highest academic levels. Indirectly, it also signals that the department of surgery and the College of Medicine are committed to providing the support and infrastructure for talented individuals like Dr. Cuenca to be successful."

Cuenca's research aims to better understand the signaling differences in a set of cell surface receptors, known as toll-like receptors, or TLRs, and how these differences impact neonatal and adult responses to infection. These TLRs are expressed on many different cell types in the immune system and are important for the recognition of bacteria or viruses. His other research project focuses on severe infection in cancer patients.

Cuenca says working in Moldawer's lab helped him get the grant.

"Dr. Moldawer has been integral in the mentorship of multiple surgical residents over the past 15 to 20 years," Cuenca said. "He trains us to develop better research questions, pushes us to constantly improve, and to never lose sight of the larger more important clinical picture." **P**



ALEX CUENCA, M.D.

30 years and counting

College of Nursing celebrates anniversary of Jacksonville campus

By Tracy Wright

The College of Nursing marked a milestone in 2010 with the 30th anniversary of its Jacksonville campus. In celebration of this landmark event, the college hosted a celebratory reception May 4 in Jacksonville. Campus alumni, UF faculty and administration and area health care leaders were in attendance.



“The Jacksonville campus of the UF College of Nursing symbolizes collegiality, partnership and the very best of innovation. Its heritage of producing nursing leaders follows the tradition set forth by the college as a whole, but it also retains its unique contributions to the Jacksonville area and its identity as an urban campus. The College of Nursing faculty and administration is proud of the role that its Jacksonville campus has had and will have in improving nursing and health care in Jacksonville and statewide,” said Dean Kathleen Ann Long, Ph.D., R.N.

David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System, and Robert Nuss, M.D., associate vice president of the UF regional campus in Jacksonville, were also in attendance and commended the College of Nursing Jacksonville campus for its heritage of quality education and leadership.

The UF College of Nursing’s Jacksonville campus opened in 1980 with the mission of providing access to graduate education in the urban Jacksonville area. Prior to this, UF sponsored a division known as the Jacksonville Health Education Program, which was a consortium of hospitals, educational institutions and health professional organizations in the area that provided information for area nurses on continuing education opportunities. The UF College of Nursing Jacksonville campus fulfilled a need for graduate education for nurses in the area, and JHEP symbolized the inception of this movement.


The mission behind the UF Jacksonville campus was to prepare professional nurses for leadership positions in clinical practice, education, administration and research.

Emphasis was placed on part-time study with classes at night to facilitate graduate study for employed nurses. Many faculty members who were housed on the Gainesville campus would travel weekly to teach classes to the students in Jacksonville, and Jacksonville-based faculty travelled to Gainesville to teach in their areas of expertise.

As distance technology advanced, so did the College of Nursing. Clinical specialty tracks that were previously based in Gainesville spread to the Jacksonville campus. Building on this successful distance delivery of graduate courses, the Ph.D. and then the D.N.P. degree programs were made accessible through the urban campus as well.

Today, the College of Nursing’s Jacksonville campus offers the same graduate programs that the Gainesville campus offers to its students. It is also home to the college’s nurse midwifery program, one of the top-rated programs in the country, whose graduates have gone onto leadership roles in women’s health in Florida and nationwide.

College of Nursing Jacksonville campus faculty are members of their respective college departments, interact with Gainesville colleagues regularly and participate actively in faculty governance. Course responsibilities are shared across campuses using distance delivery methods. The advent of distance delivery technology has allowed fluid methods for students to access their classes.

“We are proud of the contributions that nursing has made to the UF Health Science Center in Jacksonville and value the decades of collaboration with the colleges of Medicine, Dentistry and Pharmacy. I am very proud to be associated with such an excellent nursing education program, the Health Science Center here in Jacksonville and Gainesville, and with the University of Florida,” said Andrea Gregg, D.S.N., R.N., director of the Jacksonville campus. “Our campus’ past 30 years and my past 24 years on faculty have been rich and I eagerly look forward to our future.” 

On May 4, College of Nursing and HSC leaders gathered to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the college’s Jacksonville campus. Andrea Gregg (top right, with Dean Kathleen Long and Alice Poe, and bottom left with founding campus director Joanne Patray) directs the college’s Jacksonville campus.

Heaven

sent

UF surgeon puts pastor back on a divine mission



Johnny Blair (shown with wife, Ethel) recently received a kidney transplant at Shands Jacksonville.

By Kandra Albury

Johnny Blair has always considered himself healthy. After all, you have to be when you're a third-degree black belt.

In 2004, he went to see his primary care physician in Waycross, Ga., and was told there was a problem with his kidneys. Blair's doctor ordered lab tests that indicated abnormal creatinine levels in his blood. Creatinine is a byproduct of normal muscle contractions and is removed from the blood through the kidneys. When the kidneys malfunction for any reason, creatinine levels in the blood rise. High levels of creatinine warn of possible kidney failure.

"We've always followed through with our health-care providers," said Ethel, his wife of 35 years. "So when we learned that Johnny had kidney failure, we were in shock."

The two most common causes of kidney failure are high blood pressure and diabetes. In Blair's case, it was high blood pressure.

Blair began dialysis — three days a week, three hours a day for five years. Eventually, his name was placed on an organ donor waiting list along with hundreds of others in need of a kidney transplant. In the meantime, the retired CSX sheet metal worker continued to lead his congregation at First African

Missionary Baptist Church, where he has been the pastor for 15 years.

"I preached on Sundays and taught Bible study on Wednesday nights," said the 72-year-old minister. He would also spend time fishing and working on the church's newsletter.

Thomas Peters, M.D., a UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville professor of surgery, said kidney transplant operations are very common in the United States.

"There will be 15,000 to 20,000 kidney transplants in America this year," Peters said. "The problem is we don't have enough kidneys. We have about 250 patients at Shands Jacksonville waiting for kidneys so that they can have the very operation Mr. Blair had."

The Shands Jacksonville Transplant Center is the only transplant facility in north Florida specializing exclusively in kidney transplants and is recognized throughout the state and region for its comprehensive care of patients with renal disease.

On March 9, Blair's wait for a kidney ended. A nurse with the Shands Jacksonville Transplant Center informed him that a matching kidney was found and that he needed to prepare for surgery immediately. Peters performed the two-hour operation the next day.

During the operation, the new kidney is placed in the patient's lower abdomen and its blood vessels are attached to arteries and

veins, which allows the blood to flow through the kidney again. The final step is connecting the ureters (muscular tubes) that push urine from the kidneys to the urinary bladder. Shortly thereafter, the kidney should start producing urine.

Risks involved with transplant procedures include blood clots, rejection of the organ and urinary leaks.

Following the procedure, Blair said he was pleasantly surprised by not experiencing any pain. Peters said his patients experience less pain because he uses a long-acting anesthetic that lasts 24 to 48 hours. It is injected into the area as the site is closed.

"Usually after 48 hours, most patients have less pain because the body begins the healing process on its own," Peters said.

Blair will follow up with Peters indefinitely to make sure the kidney is functioning properly. So far his recovery is progressing nicely, Peters said.

"We haven't had any surprises yet but Mr. Blair came to us in pretty good shape, which helps with transplant operations," Peters said.

When Blair reflects on this chapter of his life, he describes it as another mission from God.


"I would spend much of my time on dialysis encouraging others who were also receiving treatments," Blair said. "I know that God sent us to Dr. Peters because he was excellent and he guided us throughout the entire process." 



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA SANTOS

Dr. Robert Hatch celebrates receiving the 2010 Hippocratic Award with his wife, Sue.

Second time around

Robert Hatch wins prestigious Hippocratic Award

By Kim Libby

It's safe to say Robert Hatch, M.D., M.P.H., has come a long way from his self-proclaimed "hopeless nerd" status. A former chess club member who admits he once had a hard time understanding people, he now has touched the lives of countless of students in UF's College of Medicine. And he has two awards to prove it.

Hatch won the College of Medicine's Hippocratic Award April 27 in a ceremony held at Wilmot Gardens. It was the second time he received the award. Considered the highest honor a graduating class of medical students can convey to a faculty member, the Hippocratic Award recognizes a teacher's professionalism, humanism and prowess. In the 41 years the award has been presented, only eight faculty members have won the award more than once.

"It's an incredible honor," said Hatch, a professor of community health and family medicine. "I owe it all to my wife, my office staff and my students. The work they have done is nothing short of amazing."

Mary Wood, a fourth-year medical student who spoke about Hatch at the event, said his ability to listen allowed him to shine. He took the extra time, listened to their diagnoses and thoughts, and took to heart their hopes and dreams, she said.

"I'm happy if an attending even remembers my name," said Andrew Romano, another fourth-year medical student. "But Dr. Hatch conducts himself in a way where he teaches us about life and medicine at the same time. You have to ask yourself just how he does it."

For Hatch, teaching doesn't just happen in a classroom or clinic, Romano said. As an avid triathlete, Hatch has taken students out on runs to discuss medicine, only to end up "schooling" them in the home stretch. Hatch even participated in their tackle football game during their first year of medical school.

"We all decided there was no way we were going to tackle this guy as our professor," Romano said. "It wasn't until he started tackling us that we understood he would be down on our level."

Plans to designate a specific section of the garden for the award's presentation are in the works. A plaque honoring the award's recipients is located in front of Shands at UF by a sycamore tree given to the College of Medicine by the minister of agriculture of Greece. It was a tree from the island of Cos under which Hippocrates taught medicine, according to legend. As the tree in front of Shands has grown rather large, it cannot be moved. But a sapling from the tree is now planted in the gardens to commemorate this special honor. **P**

In Memoriam

Oscar Araujo, Ph.D.

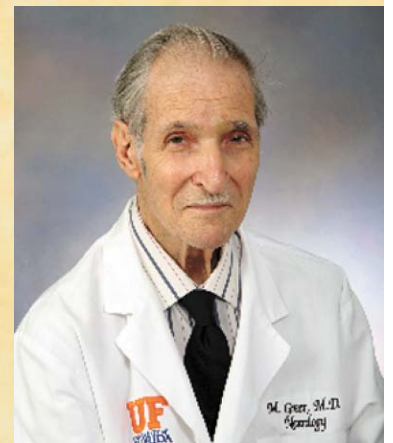


Oscar Araujo, Ph.D., a beloved professor emeritus and friend of the UF College of Pharmacy, passed away Feb. 20. He came to the United States in 1946 to attend Purdue University, where he obtained a doctorate in 1957. He taught for five years at Ohio Northern University before accepting a position at the UF College of Pharmacy in 1962. He retired after 38 years of service and was named professor emeritus of pharmacy practice and dermatology. Dr. Araujo loved teaching and had a special relationship with his stu-

dents, learning all their names and keeping in touch with many of them long after their graduations. He was selected as Teacher of the Year three times during his career and was the recipient of the College Distinguished Pharmacy Service Award in 2000. — *Linda Homewood*

Melvin Greer, M.D.

Swaggering but kind, direct but tactful, confident yet humble — Melvin Greer, M.D., embodied qualities that endeared him to his students and colleagues, according to his friends at the Health Science Center. He was the department chair who would go the extra mile for his faculty, the physician who would fill in for residents, and the father who considered students, faculty and residents as part of his own family.



Greer, the first chair of the department of neurology, died May 19. He was 80.

"We had the honor of bestowing Dr. Greer with a Lifetime Achievement Award just a few weeks ago for his 49 years of service to our college," said Michael Good, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine. "It was a welcome time for us to reflect on the great things he did for the college and the university — a moment that has been made bittersweet by his passing."

Greer joined the College of Medicine faculty in pediatrics and neurology in 1961.

He became the first chair of the department of neurology when it was created in 1974 and remained chair until 2000.

For many years, he was the area's only pediatric neurologist, colleagues say. He also was board-certified in adult neurology.

"Dr. Greer was working in the clinic until shortly before he died, and he left his white coat here. We want to keep it here, to symbolically preserve his presence," said Tetsuo Ashizawa, M.D., the chair of neurology and the Melvin Greer professor of neurology. "I am honored to hold the professorship that carries his name. When I first met him, I asked him for his advice. He smiled and said, 'I'm glad you're here, you're doing a good job.' That means a great deal to me."

Good offered condolences and heartfelt support on behalf of the College of Medicine to Greer's wife, Arline, their daughter, Allison Cohen, and their three sons, all COM graduates, Jonathan Greer, M.D., Richard Greer M.D., and David Greer, M.D. — *John Pastor*



Head of the class

Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., an associate professor of anatomy and neurobiology in the department of physiological sciences, has been named the college's 2010 College Council Teacher of the Year. This is the second time Anderson has been honored with the Teacher of the Year Award, the first being in 1990. A member of the UF veterinary faculty since 1988, Anderson has taught anatomy to every single class since then. UF veterinary students have chosen him several times to receive their top teaching awards, given by individual classes and also by the student chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "My philosophy of teaching is really quite simple," Anderson said. "I think the best teachers are the ones who provide the necessary guidance so the students can learn the materials on their own, with minimal input from the instructor."

COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY

ROBERT BURNE, Ph.D., a professor and chair of the department of oral biology, has been named the college's associate dean for research. "This is a natural progression for Dr. Burne who spearheaded a crucial funding effort that has positioned the college well to maintain our excellence in oral health-related basic science research and to further develop our expertise in clinical and translational science research," said Teresa A. Dolan, D.D.S., M.P.H., dean of the college.



Robert Burne

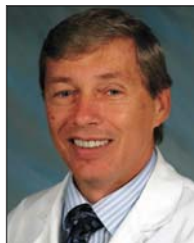
TERESA A. DOLAN, D.D.S., M.H.A., a professor and dean of the college, was confirmed a member of the state of Florida Correctional Medical Authority by the Florida State Senate April 27. Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Dolan to the nine-member volunteer board, which monitors and evaluates the quality of the physical and mental health care services provided to inmates in Florida's state and private correctional institutions.



Teresa A. Dolan

JACKSONVILLE

ERIC R. FRYKBERG, M.D., a professor of surgery and chief of the division of general surgery, and **JOSEPH J. TEPAS**, M.D., a professor of surgery and chief of the division of pediatric surgery, were elected to fellowship in the American Surgical Association April 9.



Eric R. Frykberg



Joseph J. Tepas

The American Surgical Association was founded in 1880 and provides a national forum for the further development of the standards and science of general and subspecialty surgery.

MICHAEL S. NUSSBAUM

M.D., a professor and chair of the department of surgery, assumed the role of president of the Central Surgery Association in March during the association's 2010 annual meeting in Chicago. The Central Surgery Association aims to further the practice of surgery and the study and investigation of surgical problems.



Michael S. Nussbaum

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

JOSEPH C. FANTONE, M.D.,

has been named the college's next senior associate dean for educational affairs, effective June 1. The appointment, announced by Dean Michael Good, M.D., follows an extensive national search and interview process. Building on early career achievements as a physician-scientist and clinical investigator funded by the National Institutes of Health, Fantone has emerged as a national leader in medical education. He brings to UF extensive experience in both undergraduate and graduate medical education within a large academic medical center.



Joseph C. Fantone

THOMAS S. HUBER, M.D.,

Ph.D., a professor of surgery who joined the UF College of Medicine more than 15 years ago, has been named the new chief of the department of surgery's division of vascular surgery and endovascular therapy. He has served as interim chief since October, assuming the leadership role after the death of James M. Seeger, M.D.



Thomas S. Huber

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

TAIMOUR LANGAEE, Ph.D., an associate research professor in the department of pharmacotherapy and translational research, received two Clinical and Translational Science

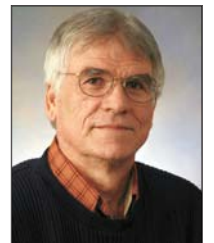
Institute grants totaling more than \$175,000 for the Center for Pharmacogenomics.

MICHAEL MELDRUM,

Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacodynamics, was honored as the 2010 Teacher of the Year at the college's May commencement ceremony. A 2006 award recipient, he has been nominated six times, reflecting the consistent respect and admiration he receives from his students for his dedication to excellence in teaching. He is chair of the college's curriculum committee and is serving for the second time as a faculty senator.



Taimour Langaee



Michael Meldrum

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

SHERRILENE CLASSEN,

Ph.D., M.P.H., an assistant professor in the department of occupational therapy, received a Jack Wessel Excellence Award from the UF Office of the Provost. The awards are given to junior faculty and recognize excellence in research. Classen combines public health and rehabilitation science to research driver safety and community mobility.



Sherrilene Classen

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

STANLEY KIM, B.V.Sc.,

a small animal surgery resident, has been named resident of the year by the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians. The award is presented annually to two residents who have demonstrated outstanding accomplishment and proficiency in the areas of clinical service, teaching and research. Kim, who will complete his UF residency in June, has received several awards in recent years from the Veterinary Orthopedic Society and the American College of Veterinary Surgeons.



Stanley Kim

The ALL-STARS of RESEARCH

By Shayna Brouker

Each year, the UF Research Foundation selects tenured faculty who have demonstrated a distinguished record of research for a prestigious (and competitive) three-year professorship. The honor recognizes these researchers' recent contributions and encourages future innovations with a \$5,000 salary supplement and \$3,000 research grant. Ten of this year's 33 UFRF professors are from the Health Science Center.

MAVIS AGBANDJE-MCKENNA

Ph.D., a professor of biochemistry and molecular biology in the College of Medicine and director of the Center for Structural Biology, seeks to examine events during viral infection. Her multidisciplinary approach employs X-ray crystallography and cryo-electron microscopy to clarify the roles of three-dimensional structures in viral life cycles. Agbandje-McKenna aims to apply such understanding to the treatment of viral and other diseases.



Mavis Agbandje-McKenna

research, management and policy, is a health services researcher with expertise in health economics and econometric models to study observational data. A recipient of a career development award from the National Institute of Mental Health, he has conducted research using secondary data such as Medicare and Medicaid claims and data from national surveys to examine utilization and costs of health services and disparities in care.



Jeffrey Harman

GREGORY SCHULTZ

Ph.D., a professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the College of Medicine, studies the molecular and cellular regulation of healing. His research focuses on the roles of growth factors, cytokines and proteases in normal and chronic wound healing in skin and the eye. Schultz founded the Institute for Wound Research, where he seeks to develop new therapies for wound healing. He also serves as a consultant to biotechnology companies.



Gregory Schultz

RICK ALLEMAN

D.V.M., Ph.D., a professor of clinical pathology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, concentrates his research on developing molecular methods of diagnosis and the persistence of infection from tick-borne pathogens, specifically Anaplasma and Ehrlichia. This work has resulted in the recognition of different antigens used in the serological diagnosis of infections with these pathogens, which commonly affect livestock in parts of the world but are also known to affect people and other animals, such as dogs.



Rick Alleman

ANN HORGAS

Ph.D., R.N., an associate professor and associate dean for research of adult and elderly nursing in the College of Nursing, focuses her research on aging and pain management in older patients. She is one of the leading nurse researchers in the country and is currently funded by the National Institute on Aging to investigate cognitive interventions for the elderly.



Ann Horgas

ALEXANDER WAGENAAR

Ph.D., a professor of epidemiology and health policy research in the College of Medicine, is a widely respected expert on how tweaks to public policy can affect the health of a population. He has studied everything from the effects of mandatory seatbelt use to changing the drinking age from 18 to 21. Currently, Wagenaar is leading the Public Health Law Research Program and continues to study the effects of alcohol tax policies. The Institute for Scientific Information has named him a Highly Cited Researcher, an honor bestowed on less than 1 percent of published scientists worldwide.



Alexander Wagenaar

CHRIS BAYLIS

Ph.D., a professor of physiology and functional genomics in the College of Medicine and director of the UF Hypertension Center, is committed to researching how nitric oxide deficiencies contribute to the progression of chronic renal disease. She has also made great gains in understanding pregnancy-induced changes in kidney function as well as the interaction between pregnancy and underlying conditions such as high blood pressure and chronic renal failure.



Chris Baylis

RICHARD LAMONT

Ph.D., a professor of oral biology in the College of Dentistry, studies the molecular dialogue between oral bacteria and host cells, leading to a new understanding of the bacterial lifestyle within humans. Lamont's study of the bacterium *P. gingivalis*' interaction with oral cells advanced appreciation for the role of bacteria in maintaining oral health and contributing to oral diseases.



Richard Lamont

ALMUT WINTERSTEIN

Ph.D., an associate professor in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy, is an expert on pharmacoepidemiology and patient safety. In addition to her UFRF honor, Winterstein recently received a two-year \$482,000 award from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to evaluate the risks associated with antidepressant or antipsychotic drugs used to treat ADHD. She will also compare the effectiveness of stimulants on driving-related outcomes such as traffic citations and crashes.



Almut Winterstein

JEFFREY HARMAN, Ph.D., an associate professor in the College of Public Health and Health Professions department of health services

HERWIG-ULF MEIER-KRIESCHE

Ph.D., a professor of nephrology in the College of Medicine, has devoted his research to studying how to best balance the risks and benefits of immunosuppressive regimes for kidney transplant patients. Recognized internationally, his work has proven invaluable in evaluating new immunosuppressive medications.

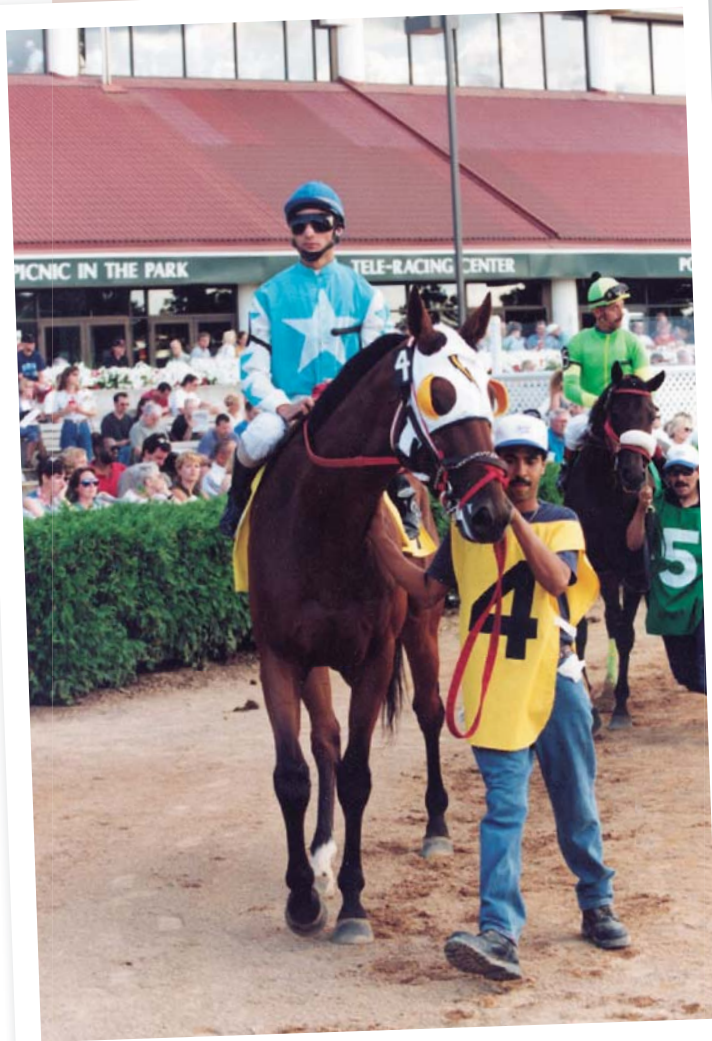


Herwig-Ulf Meier-Kriesche

The jockey



Veterinary student goes from riding horses to taking care of them



By Sarah Carey

When the TV series “Jockeys” ran on Animal Planet two years ago, senior UF veterinary student Ramon Perez was quite the hot commodity with his classmates. That’s because for a three-year window in the 1990s, Perez himself was one of the biggest names in Thoroughbred horse racing.

“My classmates usually ask me things like, ‘What’s it like?’ or ‘What’s this mean?’” said Perez, now 32. “If you see a TV show for one afternoon, it can be confusing.”

In 1995 alone, Perez raked in more than \$4.6 million in purses, competing on the tough New York circuit. That year, at 18, Perez received the prestigious Eclipse Award for best apprentice jockey.

The late John Harrell, a highly regarded columnist for the *Thoroughbred Times* and *Louisville Courier-Journal*, wrote that the Perez’ performance riding Northern Emerald in the 1995 Flower Bowl may have been Perez’s “defining moment of the season.”

“We were tough to beat,” Perez said. “(The stable) had great horses; we won Breeders Cups and even as a kid, before I could ride, I had access to some of the most well-bred horses in the world.”

Bill Mott, who is generally regarded as one of America’s best trainers, remembers escorting Perez on one of the first Thoroughbreds he got to gallop and taking him to the training tracks at Saratoga Race Course, where Perez rode well.

“It was satisfying for me to put somebody on a horse and go with them and have them do so well from the beginning,” Mott said.

Perez won his first two races at Churchill Downs on a filly named Alittle Grace and on a gelding named Brief the Chief. He raced and won at Aqueduct, Belmont Park and Saratoga Race Course while on the New York circuit.

Perez’s pink apprentice jockey certificate contains his handwritten record of wins, beginning with Alittle Grace in 1994. A 1997 New York Racing Association calendar shows Perez grinning in a group shot of some of the other best jockeys in the sport, including Hall of Famer Mike Smith.

Smith was Perez’s idol. The “Jockeys” star, who won the Kentucky Derby in 2005, said Perez was like a son to him in the jockey room.

“He had a very short, but great career,” Smith said. “He was just a great kid and (was) respected.”

Perez’s rise to the top ranks of Thoroughbred racing came at a price, however. He struggled to keep his weight down, but there was only so much he could do to stop his growth. After three years of intense riding, Perez retired and did something

he’d always wanted to do — he traveled, backpacking in Europe and working in Dubai and England. He rode briefly at a stable owned by Sheik Mohammed.

He returned to Florida and finished a year of college. His mother knew he wasn’t happy and told him he should return to riding if that’s where his passion was.

“So I started at Tampa Bay Downs and had an exceptional first season there,” Perez said. “My goal was never to go back to the big tracks but to stay at smaller tracks and have fun, to remember why I was riding and why I loved it.”

Perez rode for a few more months but was physically and emotionally drained due to extreme weight loss. Some days, he lost as much as eight pounds to make weight to compete.

Perez’s “a-ha moment” came March 26, 2001 at a small Arizona track. He won his first race but Perez, all 114 pounds of him, was miserable.

“I completely didn’t care,” he said. “I had to sit in the jock’s room and I couldn’t eat or drink because I had to make weight for the last race. I just wanted a sip of Gatorade. So I sat in my cubby, and I said, ‘I can’t do it. I’m done.’”

He went on to complete his bachelor’s degree in history at UF and took prerequisite courses to apply to veterinary school.

After he receives his D.V.M. degree May 29, Perez heads for Randwick Equine Center near Sydney, Australia. He performed an externship there and liked the opportunities he saw in surgery, lameness cases and even an ambulatory racetrack practice.

When Perez stopped riding, now a decade ago, it took three years before he could even go near a racetrack. He tries to remember his love for horses, focus on the fact that he won with his final mount, and remind himself he still has time to figure out the rest of his life.

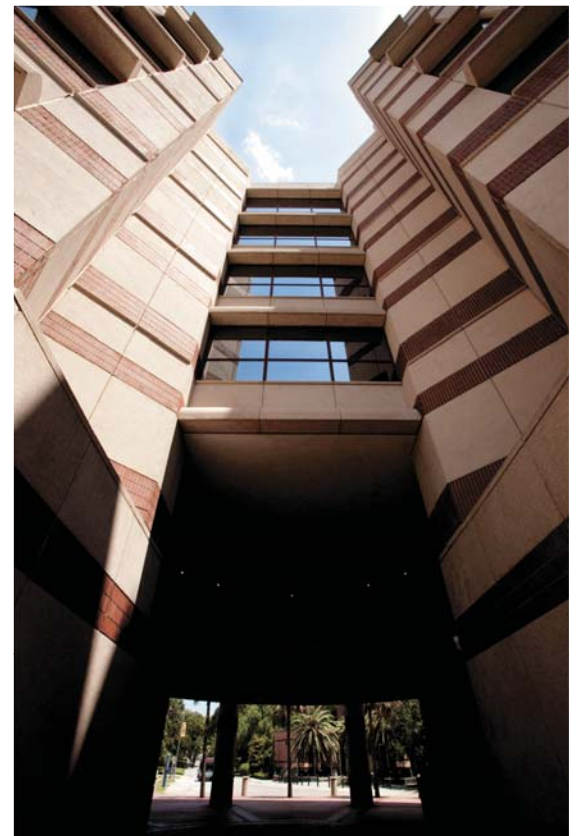
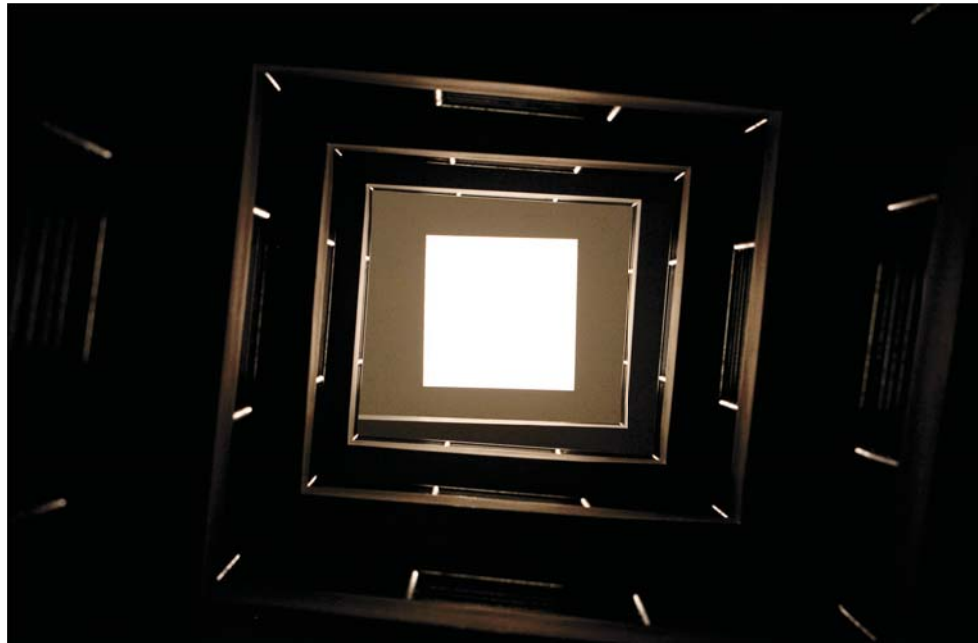
“When you boil it down, I rode for a year at small tracks for very little money and I loved basically everything from the gate to the wire,” Perez said. “All the other stuff, the political stuff, you have to jump through hoops. But once I got to the gate, it was me and the horse and my instincts ... That was what I loved about it.” **P**

Former Thoroughbred jockey Ramon Perez (shown riding Prado’s Mystique in 2000 and with classmate Drew Scarborough in April) will graduate from the UF College of Veterinary Medicine May 29.

SEE YA!

Chances are, when you walk past the HPNP Complex, you think bricks and classrooms and benches. This month, *The POST* shows you a new view of some of the buildings around you. Shown clockwise from right are the stairs in the Academic Research Building, a view of the ARB's façade and the sky-reflecting windows of the HPNP Complex.

Photos by Maria Belen Farias



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