A new historical marker recognizes the College of Public Health and Health Professions as a health education pioneer. UF dedicated the College of Public Health and Health Professions historical marker at a ceremony Oct. 14. The marker recognizes the accomplishments of the college's founding dean Darrel Mase and the college's distinction as the first of its kind located within an academic health center. “Dean Mase dreamed big, set ambitious goals and challenged educators to see health education in new ways. I think he would be very impressed with the college today,” said Joseph Glover, Ph.D., UF provost and senior vice president for academic affairs. The marker is located by the PHHP entrance on the east side of the HPNP Complex. Shown here from left are: Kelly McKibben, president of the UF Alumni Association; Glover; Richard Gutekunst, Ph.D., dean emeritus; and Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., dean of the college.
DENTISTRY IS IN THE DETAILS

And to see the dental details, dentists need loupes. Each year the College of Dentistry holds a loupes fair so that students can try different vendors’ loupes and choose one that’s comfortable for them. On Oct. 13 these students, in their first year of dental school, had their chance to learn about the world of loupes and try various ones on while working with the equipment in the college’s simulation lab. Shown here are first-year dental students (from left) Blake Parker, Katelyn Pembroke, Erik Holz and Katherine Dorociak.

ON THE HEALTHSTREET

The UF Department of Epidemiology is working to get research, medical and social resources to the people who need it most. To do that, they’re hitting the streets. HealthStreet is a new community engagement initiative designed to reduce disparities in health care and research. Community Health Workers will talk to residents at grocery stores, health fairs and other places in Alachua County to find the best way to meet their needs. Additionally, residents can visit HealthStreet to receive health screenings, use computers, participate in community classes and access the clothing closet. HealthStreet will hold its first open house from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 21 at its Eastside Campus location, 2124 NE Waldo Road, Building 1628, Suite 1200. This event is open to students, faculty and staff who’d like to learn more about partnering with HealthStreet. For more information, please call 352-294-4884.

OPENING DOORS

From midwives to physicians, African-Americans have been medical trailblazers for decades, and the Health Science Center Library wants to celebrate that. The exhibit Opening Doors: Contemporary African-American Academic Surgeons is currently on display in the HSC Library until Dec. 2. The National Library of Medicine exhibit highlights four African-American surgeons and educators who paved the way for generations to come. Levi Watkins, M.D., the first African-American graduate of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine and a pioneer of cardiac surgery, will present a keynote address at 8 a.m. Nov. 17 in Room C1-17 of the Communicore Building. For more information and Opening Doors events, visit http://guides.uflib.ufl.edu/openingdoors.

ONE DISEASE, MANY EXPERTS

The Student American Veterinary Association and the Public Health and Service Club are sponsoring a panel discussion on vector-borne diseases at 6 p.m. Nov. 29 in the Banfield Conference room of the UF Small Animal Hospital. Professionals from the colleges of Medicine, Public Health and Health Professions and Veterinary Medicine will come together to educate UF students, faculty and staff during the panel discussion. The panel will focus on a disease that often crosses professional boundaries — Lyme disease — and each expert will present a short talk about their area of involvement. “We will have a veterinarian, a physician and two other scientists specializing in environmental and global health,” said Kyle Donnelly, a UF veterinary student and a junior delegate for SAVMA. “There will be an interactive demonstration following the talks with tick specimens and a dissecting scope.” Light refreshments will be served.
Around UF&Shands

Tasty Renovations

Changes are on the menu for the Shands at UF cafeteria and other food service areas.

Shands at UF’s Food and Nutrition Services team is renovating the Shands at UF north campus retail food court, the 1329 Building cafeteria, and the Shands Vista and Shands Rehab Hospital cafeteria.

Plans for the Shands at UF cafeteria include a revamped dining area; high-speed, credit-card-capable cash registers; a sushi station, where orders will be rolled fresh; an Austin Grill Tex Mex station; and an Italian station with a wood-burning oven. The cafeteria also will feature traditional hot entrees and comfort foods, with value pricing specials each day. The four-phase project is scheduled to be complete in December.

The 1329 Building cafeteria also is undergoing a retail rejuvenation that will feature a “chef’s case” concept as well as a deli case with made-to-order sandwiches. These changes are expected to be complete in January.

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Shands Vista and Shands Rehab Hospital cafeteria diners will see some renovations as well to improve dining options for staff, patients and visitors. These renovations also will be complete in December. — Allison Wilson

UF&Shands breaks ground on new multispecialty facility

By Lindsey Robertson

In October, UF&Shands leaders joined with Alachua County Commissioner Lee Pinkoson to break ground for UF&Shands at Springhill, which will house UF Physicians specialty practices in neurology, cardiology, psychiatry, dermatology and women’s health.

The new facility, located in Northwest Gainesville, is scheduled to open in January 2013. Clearing the site and constructing the new four-story, 111,600-square-foot facility represents a $35.5 million investment, officials said.

“This is another example of how UF&Shands is reinvesting in Alachua County,” said David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., UF senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System. “By grouping specialty practices here with existing facilities like Shands Vista and Shands Rehab Hospital, we are building a northwest campus of UF&Shands. We expect to add specialty services here as the campus develops, creating a medical hub that provides needed, quality health care while stimulating the area economy.”

“We are placing our primary care practices throughout Gainesville, close to where people live, and specialty care will be delivered on specialty campuses. This will be a principal campus offering more than a half dozen services in one of the fastest population growth areas of the county,” said Michael Good, M.D., dean of the UF College of Medicine. “For people who live in Alachua County, this is right along major east-west and north-south corridors. And for the growing numbers of patients from surrounding counties, it has convenient interstate access.”

Diagnostic services, including mammography, X-ray, ultrasound and clinical laboratory testing, will be on site to support the specialty practices.

“This will be a state of the art campus where individuals receive world-class, specialty medical care at a convenient and comfortable facility,” said Marvin Dewar, M.D., J.D., a senior associate dean and chief executive officer of UF Physicians with the College of Medicine.
Teams provide expert, compassionate care despite complicated injury

By Allison Wilson

Barbara Brandon Schwartz watches proudly as her mother, Nadya Brandon, walks the halls of her assisted living facility in Ocala. Aided just slightly by a walker, Brandon’s steps are confident and full of purpose as she heads to her morning bingo game. And each one is miraculous considering that less than five months ago, she nearly lost her left leg.

It was Friday, May 13. Brandon, 86, was out running errands when she became confused and opened the driver’s side door of her moving car, which then ran over her lower left leg.

“It caused a very, very serious injury,” said Schwartz, a retired nurse who worked in the Shands at UF Operating Room in the 1970s and ’80s. “Her wounds were so severe, our local emergency room (in Ocala) felt they could not adequately treat her. So she was transported to the ER at Shands at UF.”

Shands Critical Care Center teams stabilized Brandon, and she had surgery the following Monday. Kalia K. Sadasivan, M.D., the UF College of Medicine orthopaedic trauma chief, led the procedure, which was complicated by Brandon’s age, the severity of her injuries and her adverse reaction to anesthesia.

“It didn’t seem to phase them a bit,” Schwartz said. “I was surprised she didn’t lose her leg, but amputation wasn’t even mentioned as a possibility.”

In addition to the expert medical care that saved her mother’s leg, Schwartz said she was impressed with the team’s compassion and dedication in caring for Brandon.

“She got great care,” Schwartz said. “I was there for 10 hours a day, and the attitude of all the nurses, doctors, aides, technicians — everyone was very good and very attentive. They were right there for whatever we needed. They helped me make arrangements to get her back to Ocala and set up her rehab, and everything worked really well.”

Brandon’s rehab in Ocala has gone well, and physical therapists expect her to progress to a cane soon. Although Brandon remembers very little about the accident or her time at Shands, she said she knew she was getting the very best care she could possibly get and is overwhelmed with gratitude.

“Thank you,” she said with tears in her eyes. “Thanks with body, soul, my heart, my mind — my spirit is in that thanks, and I don’t know that they could read it. I will remember them always.”

Brandon’s story reflects what happens when our health care teams promise to provide the best quality health care and service, with a focus on patient safety and continued improvement. Watch a video of Brandon’s story and other I Promise patient success stories at ipromise.health.ufl.edu.

Have you seen or been a part of a similar example of excellent patient care? Want to share your story in our newsletters or on our website? Then please email ipromise@shands.ufl.edu.
The use of lasers in veterinary medicine is not new, but UF veterinarians say they are now using the procedure postoperatively with great success in dogs with paralysis caused by intervertebral disc disease.

“Dogs that receive low-level laser treatment after initial surgery are walking a full week earlier than patients that do not receive the treatment,” said Tom Schubert, D.V.M., a professor of small animal neurology at UF’s College of Veterinary Medicine. “This means less hospital time for the patients, and less stress for patients and their owners.

“The results were so profound that we’re doing this procedure now on all dogs that come to us with this condition.”

Clinicians at UF’s Small Animal Hospital began using the procedure routinely after results from a yearlong study showed the laser’s effectiveness in patients with intervertebral disc disease, which is the most common cause of endogenous spinal cord injury. Schubert and Bill Draper, D.V.M., a small animal neurology resident, presented their study results at the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine’s annual meeting in Denver.

The study is the first to compare dogs with intervertebral disc disease treated postoperatively with lasers to dogs not treated with lasers, Schubert said. He called the results “revolutionary.”

Thirty-four dogs were included in the study, with 17 in the treatment group and 17 in the control group. The overwhelming majority of the dogs — 75 percent — were dachshunds, a breed genetically prone to intervertebral disc disease.

All dogs included in the study came to the UF Small Animal Hospital unable to walk, and some had lost the ability to experience the sensation of deep pain in their back legs. In addition, all of the dogs had their diagnoses confirmed through either MRI or CT scanning, and all underwent decompressive surgery after their diagnoses, Schubert said.

After receiving training and becoming certified in the laser’s use, Schubert asked the laser manufacturer, Thor Photomedicine Ltd., to loan the equipment to the UF Veterinary Hospitals for the study’s duration. After the study was completed, UF purchased the equipment.

“We are currently seeing two to three patients a week with intervertebral disc disease and we are routinely treating all of them with the laser,” Schubert said.

The idea of studying the laser’s effectiveness to treat spinal injury came to Schubert after he heard a former colleague give a presentation on the laser’s effectiveness in treating spinal injuries in humans.

The laser used in the study was a Class 3B, of the near infrared range.

“In humans, this wavelength has been shown to speed healing of conditions such as muscle pain and superficial wounds,” Shubert said. “In animals, it has been shown to prevent nervous tissue scarring, to promote nerve sprouting and to help heal bruised spinal cords in rats.”

Go Gator veterinarians!
Small Animal Hospital recruits new ‘fans’

When UF basketball coach Billy Donovan’s dog has a problem, he rings the home team: veterinarians at the UF Small Animal Hospital. Billy and Christine Donovan’s 11-month-old white Labrador retriever Otie was treated for a painful joint condition known as osteochondritis dissecans. Antonio Pozzi, D.V.M., performed arthroscopic surgery to remove cartilage from Otie’s inflamed joints. The Donovans’ yorkiepoo, Charly, also was treated at UF after being hit by a car. Both dogs are recovering and doing well now. “The UF Small Animal Hospital is a wonderful place to bring a dog in an emergency situation,” said Christine Donovan. “Everyone was very nurturing and the staff was super about calling us and keeping us up to date.” — Sarah Carey
Veterinary medicine graduate student wins bodybuilding competition

By Sarah Carey

Veterinary graduate student Astrid Grosche, D.V.M., cuts an impressive figure — in more ways than one.

Since this past May, when Grosche wasn’t working on her dissertation — she expects to receive her Ph.D. in December in large animal clinical sciences — the college’s Deedie Wrigley Hancock fellow has concentrated her mental and physical discipline on competing in a professional bodybuilding event.

On Oct. 8, her efforts paid off. Grosche, a board-certified large animal internist, was named the winner in her division in the Figure Classic competition in Punta Gorda, Fla., part of the Fitness Universe international bodybuilding franchise.

“I used to compete in 5K, 10K, half-marathons and triathalons, but I got injured,” Grosche said. “I didn’t want to miss exercising and thought about doing something different.”

Although she has lifted weights since age 18, Grosche had never competed, but decided after her last triathlon to try building up her muscles.

“I wanted to see if I could build enough to compete,” she said. “Since then, I have lifted heavy weights six times a week for between one-and-a-half to two hours each session, and have done cardio on the treadmill and the bicycle for a half hour to an hour four to five times a week.”

The training regimen didn’t seem difficult to her since she was accustomed to twice-a-day workouts to prepare for triathalons. Even the diet restrictions — she could eat only complex carbohydrates and protein, no fat, no sugar, no dairy products, no fruits or juice — didn’t bother her, Grosche said.

“I’m not a foodie,” she confesses. “And by the way, you do have to weigh and calculate each meal.”

What made her new fitness program challenging, however, was the timing of her diet, Grosche said.

“You have to eat six meals a day, every two to three hours, and within a half hour after your workout, you have to get some carbs and protein,” she said. “If you miss or forget one meal, especially the one after a workout, your body burns off your muscles, and all that hard work at the gym was for nothing.”

Grosche said she had an advantage over some competitors in that she already had very little body fat.

She ate only oatmeal, sometimes grits, chicken, egg whites, protein power and green vegetables such as broccoli and asparagus, spinach, okra and green beans. One week prior to the contest, she decreased her salt intake to only 500 milligrams per day and took in very little water.

She said the Figure category, which doesn’t require competitors to be as muscular as some others, appealed to her because she thought she could train well enough over the five-month period to hold her own.

Grosche began her graduate program at the college in 2008. She has had primary responsibility for the day-to-day operations of the Island Whirl Colic Research Laboratory since 2007 and also has worked part-time in the College of Medicine’s department of surgery.
Rackley looks at 8-year-old Bruce Rushford as he rubs her golden fur and smiles. “Mommy, show her Shadow!” Bruce says. His mom picks up a stuffed dog. Rackley looks at it intently, perhaps wondering why another dog is there. She inches her head closer. The toy barks. Rackley looks at Bruce and wags her tail.

Rackley, a 5-year-old goldendoodle, is one of 22 therapy dogs that volunteers at Shands at UF. The therapy dog program, which started at Shands in 1995, gives patients the chance to enjoy a fuzzy comfort that is typically off-limits in the hospital setting, says Constance Keeton, director of volunteer services for Shands at UF.

“It takes people out of the hospital mode,” she says. “People are very stressed in a hospital, so it reminds them of their home and their pets, and it gives them something to think about other than their illness.”

Rackley and owner Cathy Gertner, who lives part-time in Georgia, come to Shands at UF at least once a week when they are in Gainesville. When Gertner ties on Rackley’s light blue Therapy Dogs Inc. bandana — her work “uniform,” which identifies her as a registered therapy dog — Rackley starts jumping like a puppy, Gertner says.

Gertner’s chin-length blond hair bobs as she leads Rackley on a four-foot leash through the hospital. Gertner wears a green polo with a paw sewn below the left collar. They both wear volunteer nametags.

Approaching an open door in the pediatrics unit, Gertner softly asks, “Does anybody want a visit from a fluffy puppy?” Rebekah Weichart, 15, invites the duo into her room. Setting her division homework aside for a bit, she smiles as Rackley walks up to her open hand. She pets Rackley while Gertner chats with her about school. When they leave, Gertner gives Rebekah a get-well card with Rackley’s picture and information on it. She usually gives out a coloring page, too, and a sticker that reads “Pet therapy bringing smiles and joy.”

Through the years, studies and case reports have shown benefits to spending time with a therapy dog. For example, a 2001 study in the *Journals of Gerontology: Series A* found that therapy dogs helped residents in long-term care facilities feel less lonely. In addition, a 2011 study published in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* found that patients with chronic heart failure were more apt to participate in a form of walking therapy if they were able to walk with a dog.

“I’ve seen some pretty remarkable changes in patients’ demeanor when Rackley enters the room,” Gertner says.

As a mother of four, Gertner knows children need affection. However, the dogs aren’t just “medicine” for kids. Adults stroke Rackley’s fur and talk about their own pets. When Rackley walks...
Students are finding more and more ways to use their smartphones in their profession, and College of Nursing students are no exception. They are pulling out their phones to help them succeed in school and during their clinicals. Here are some apps they are using:

**Epocrates**
- **Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, Blackberry, android
- **Cost:** Free

Epocrates is a drug reference app that provides drug information for more than 3,500 brand name and generic drugs. Users can learn a drug’s active ingredients, proper dose according to age, interactions with other medicines, similar products and more. Tahnee Guite uses Epocrates for homework assignments or in clinic when completing prep sheets on patients. “You don’t have to carry around a huge book,” Guite said. “(It) has all the same info and is very up to date.”

**Benoit’s Speed Bones lite**
- **Device:** iPhone
- **Cost:** Free

This app tests your knowledge of bones. It’s a game with dozens of images and labeled bones. You earn points for time, precision and answering multiple questions correctly in a row. Nathaniel Williams used this app to study for tests. “Benoit’s apps were particularly useful in anatomy and physiology,” Williams said. “Just sit on the bus and study for 20 minutes on the iPhone.”

**Micromedex Drug Information**
- **Devices:** iPhone, iPod Touch, iPad, android, Blackberry
- **Cost:** Free

This app provides drug information on more than 4,500 search terms, including generic names, common trade names, dosage, drug interactions, how a drug is supplied and more. “It is useful for looking up medications that I am responsible for administering to patients during my clinical rotations,” said Solange Colin.

**iTriage**
- **Device:** Android, iPhone
- **Cost:** Free

This app allows you to look up and learn about possible causes of symptoms and locate nearby hospitals, urgent care centers, pharmacies and outpatient clinics. “On iTriage you can look up signs and symptoms for each body part, and it gives you a list of possible health conditions,” said Paola Rodriguez.
Young boys are told to eat their vegetables so they can grow up to be big and strong. But boys with Duchenne muscular dystrophy don't get much of a chance to grow up — most don’t survive past their 20s. And most don’t get to be big and strong — their muscles start deteriorating between ages 2 and 6, putting most of them in wheelchairs by their 12th birthdays.

Duchenne is a degenerative disease that causes muscles to waste away. In the 25 years since the Duchenne gene was discovered, researchers have found almost every form of therapy to be ineffective against the disease, leaving many discouraged.

One UF researcher is hopeful he can help. Donovan Lott, Ph.D., P.T., is pioneering research to find the optimal level of exercise for children with Duchenne to improve their muscle pathology and gait. Physicians often err on the side of caution and discourage children with the disease from physical activity since their muscles are more susceptible to injury, said Lott, a research assistant professor of physical therapy in the College of Public Health and Health Professions. However, exercise might improve their cardiovascular health and decrease the rate of muscle deterioration, he said. For a young boy who wants more time to play ball with his dad, or at least stand on his own two feet, that’s a big deal.

“If a child is able to walk for one to two years longer before he gets into a wheelchair, that’s a huge thing,” he said.

Lott is carrying out his research through the Rehabilitation Research Career Development Program. He’s one of several occupational and physical therapy scholars at UF and the University of Texas Medical Branch who are in the program. They’re training to become independent investigators and leaders in rehabilitation research.

The National Institutes of Health jointly awarded a $4.6 million grant to UF and UTMB to establish the program. Krista Vandenborne, Ph.D., Lott’s mentor and chair of physical therapy, and William Mann, Ph.D., chair of occupational therapy, are leading efforts at UF.

The program has a lot to offer its scholars, including three years of protected research time, mentor guidance, grant-writing workshops and networking opportunities, specifically through an annual conference.

“These are all people that are go-getters, hard workers, and they’re ultimately going to make a huge impact in the field,” Vandenborne said.

Getting advice from leading experts through the program has been key to Lott’s research. At last year’s conference, Lott met Eric Hoffman, a world-renowned geneticist and neuromuscular disease expert, and got valuable feedback from him throughout the year.

Program scholar Stacey E. Reynolds, Ph.D., O.T.R./L., was excited to have met advisory panel member Mary Schneider at this year’s conference in Gainesville. Schneider, a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, is one of few occupational therapists in the world who does animal research like Reynolds.

Reynolds’ research is in identifying what triggers the spectrum of behavioral differences in children with autism.

“The program is a gift. It’s such a great opportunity to have the (protected research) time, the mentorship and the resources that are available at UF,” Reynolds said.
Florida Opportunity Scholar
Heather Loran overcomes challenges to get to UF

By Allyson Fox

The day Heather Loran received her acceptance into UF, like many incoming freshmen, her life took a big turn in the right direction.

But the road to get there was not easy. Growing up, her dad was in prison and her mom abandoned her and her siblings when she was 11.

Some would have thought, given the circumstances, that these obstacles were too big to overcome.

But she proved everyone wrong.

Loran, a student in the College of Public Health and Health Professions, became the first person in her family to go to college, and she hopes to become a physician assistant.

After she received her acceptance to UF, she became a Florida Opportunity Scholar, a scholarship program for first-generation students from low-income families.

“The scholarship has made a huge difference,” Loran said. “I don’t need to take out loans.”

Loran knew she wanted to become a physician assistant after shadowing and volunteering at different medical facilities. She loved being in the medical field and specifically appreciated the work of physician assistants.

“I like the flexibility of being a physician assistant,” she said. “The majority of people are (often) seen by PAs.”

Today she is following her dream, and Loran believes the struggles she faced growing up have helped her adjust to college.

Raised by her grandparents, she had a lot of freedom prior to college and learned how to use it wisely. She didn’t have people nagging her to do her work, but she knew it needed to get done to be successful.

She also balanced two jobs in high school, which taught her how to manage money. And with scholarships coming her way, she already knew exactly how to budget.

Although school takes up a lot of Loran’s time, she manages to stay active on campus.

She is the service chair for the Pre-physician Assistant Association, the public relations chair for Gator EMS, a Florida Opportunity Scholars mentor, a CPR instructor at RecSports and a member of Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health honor society.

“I really found my place, and I’m involved on campus,” she said.

Leslie Pendleton, director of the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program, said three key words describe the program’s students: independent, gracious and resilient.

Loran is no exception.

“She’s really done a good job integrating herself on campus,” Pendleton said. “She’s passionate about what she does, but it will also benefit her in her career.”

Loran became a Florida Opportunity Scholars mentor because she wanted to give back to the program that gave so much to her.

As a mentor, it is her job just to be there for first-year students who need advice or guidance. Sometimes it’s easier to approach a peer, she said. She recalls receiving a phone call from a mentee at 11 p.m., asking her how to get home from Best Buy.

“The friendships and meeting new people are the best part (of UF),” Loran said. “I met my best friend through my major.”

Visit us online @ http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
Phyllis Stephens doesn’t carry a stethoscope. She can’t draw blood or prescribe medications. But without the work she does, many of the patients at Archer Family Health Care wouldn’t get the care they need.

Stephens works as a financial assistance counselor at the practice, which is run by UF’s College of Nursing and primarily serves uninsured and underinsured people from Alachua, Levy, Gilchrist and Marion counties. She calls the patients who receive care at the practice “my patients,” and for a decade she has checked them in, scheduled their appointments, processed referrals for them and verified their incomes.

But many need even more help to ensure they get care.

“If they miss an appointment, I’ll say, ‘Why did you miss your appointment?’”

“They’ll say, ‘I didn’t have the money. I didn’t have the gas.’ I explain to them, ‘We can work something out.’ That’s what it’s all about, is taking care of their health needs.”

Providing extra guidance and encouragement for patients isn’t strictly a requirement of her job, but Stephens says doing so is part of her role in providing patient care.

“I love my patients,” she says. “I’ve been here for so long, I feel like I know

By Laura Mize
Administrative professionals are the front lines of health care, the first people patients speak to or see when they schedule appointments or come in for an office visit. This month The POST highlights the important role they play in patient care.

my patients inside and out. I have grown to know them, they have grown to know me and, basically, I care about their needs.”

Denise Schentrup, D.N.P., A.R.N.P., a family nurse practitioner working at the practice, says Stephens’ close relationships with patients allow for better, more individualized service.

Across the nation, administrative professionals such as Stephens are often the unsung heroes of patient-care facilities. An estimated 386,300 receptionists and so-called “information clerks” worked in American health care in 2008, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Another 39,600 people filled such roles in the category called “veterinary services.” The agency estimates that in 2018 there will be 448,600 of these employees working in health care, plus 54,900 staffing veterinary services.

Health-care receptionists’ duties go well beyond answering phones and checking in patients. Each practice offers its own set of challenges for these professionals, and requires a slightly different set of knowledge and skills.

In addition to giving patients their first impressions of the practice, Schentrup says a good receptionist at Archer Family Health Care needs “to know the ins and outs of what types of procedures we do, the types of cases we can see.”

Whether they’re called receptionists, secretaries, assistants or a myriad of other titles, the roles these people play in health care are vital.

“They are the gatekeepers, basically, to the practice,” Schentrup says.

Christi Sproule interacts with one of her patients at the UF Small Animal Hospital.
What do you get when you combine complex medical conditions and treatments; the rigmarole of health insurance, referrals, finances and jam-packed schedules; and the sensitive nature of health care? One word: stress. That’s why, for administrative professionals working in health care, communication is key.

“You have to like people, first of all, to work up there (at the front desk), because you get a lot of unhappy people that come in,” says Ryan Osborne, a clinical clerk at the Speech & Hearing Center at Shands at UF, run by the College of Public Health and Health Professions.

In addition to interacting with patients when they arrive for an appointment or call the center, he also is responsible for organizing a complex care schedule that involves the center’s regular patients and people receiving inpatient care at Shands at UF. Like many receptionists and secretaries, Osborne has not attended any of the formal certification programs offered for employees in this field. Instead, on-the-job training, experiences from previous health-care administrative work and common sense guide his work.

“You’re juggling a bunch of things at one time,” he says, “like dealing with the hospital. You don’t have just your patients, you have the ENT (ear, nose and throat) patients that come up and you have the inpatients off the floor that are trying to get in. You have to work that around the schedule that’s already set for the day, try to squeeze them in.”

All that juggling means he can’t always make everyone happy. When patients get upset, Osborne has a strategy for dealing with them.

“You’ve got to kill them with kindness. Then you go to your supervisor and try to further see if there’s anything else that you can do to make that appointment happen that day or if you can squeeze them in or try to make them happy some way.”

This exchange can be tough enough when both parties understand each other. But sometimes Osborne’s communication with patients is complicated by their speech or hearing disabilities.

“Most of them, they read lips. That’s a help,” he says. “(Otherwise,) just take your time and be patient with them. If you have to, get a pen and a paper and write it out and go through a conversation like that.”

Ida Thimann-Grantham also deals with special communication challenges in her role as an administrative associate for UF Pediatric Primary Care at the Gerold L. Schiebler Children’s Medical Services Center. She spends most of her time interacting with patients at the front desk, but also serves as a certified English-Spanish interpreter at the practice.

“We do try to schedule (Spanish-speaking) parents with Spanish-speaking doctors, but it depends on the availability of the doctor and the schedule of the parents,” she says. “I’m here most of the time, and I’m happy to help both parties communicate.”

The role of receptionists at UF Physicians practices is changing. The organization opened the Patient Access Center in August to provide a central number for patients to call when they want to reach a UF Physicians practice.

“The goal of the Patient Access Center is to improve access for our patients and referring physicians to all aspects of the patient’s care with one phone call,” says Kelly Kerr, M.B.A., senior director of operations for UF Physicians, “including appointment scheduling, prescriptions refills, test results, medical questions and other needs with a focus on patient-centered hospitality. We are in the process of rolling this program out to all of the practices.”

Access coordinators at the center answer calls that normally would have gone directly to individual practices. They schedule appointments, help with referrals and connect patients with nurses or physicians when necessary.

Thimann-Grantham still performs some of these duties from her desk at the Children’s Medical Services Center but says the opening of the center has lightened her load. The new system appears to work well for patients’ parents.

“Parents don’t seem to complain much when they come here, so I think they’re getting what they need when they’re calling them,” she says.

Ashley Pankey answers phones at the center from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every weekday. She’s assigned to the surgery “pod” and takes calls that come in for clinical personnel from the department of urology and from the department of surgery’s division of general surgery. A triage nurse accessible via cell phone speaks with patients who have urgent medical questions.

Pankey says the Access Center has reduced phone wait times for people who call UF Physicians practices.

“Most patients are so excited to be able to get a real person on the phone so quickly, and to be able to actually speak with someone that knows how to facilitate their needs.”
Chirsti Sproule has worked as a receptionist at a UF practice for about four years. Like Stephens, she takes great satisfaction in providing quality service to the people who depend on her for access to care. But the folks Sproule interacts with aren’t seeking remedies for their own health problems. Rather, they need help for their pets.

Sproule works at the check-in desk for primary and emergency care at the UF Small Animal Hospital. She says her job as an office assistant there fits perfectly with her love of people and animals.

Working with animal patients provides its own set of challenges for customer service. The hospital doesn’t offer ambulance transportation, so clients typically transport their own animals in emergencies, making these situations nerve-wracking from the start. Patients can’t talk to providers about what’s wrong and, in emergencies, pet owners have to stay in the lobby and speak with a veterinary medicine technician or student while their animals are evaluated in a treatment room.

Sproule says she tries to keep things in perspective when a client expresses frustration.

“The art of client service that we’ve learned here is not taking that personally,” she says, “and realizing the bigger picture — why that client could be upset — and having empathy (for) what a stressful situation they’ve been in.”

She says she strives to assure clients she’s there to help them through the experience and to communicate with providers on their behalf.

“Often times, that is all a client needs to hear — that they (have not lost) control, that we’re including them and that I am their advocate,” she says.

Clients, patients and providers aren’t the only ones who benefit from the work of health-care receptionists at UF&Shands.

Tara Taylor is a treatment coordinator in a College of Dentistry student clinic, where third- and fourth-year students provide general dental care to patients at a discounted fee. She has held a variety of administrative jobs in the college since 1996 and has worked in her current position for five years. Her enthusiasm for the patients and students she serves is contagious.

“The last five years working with the students and the patients have been the best ever,” she says. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything.”

One of those students is Kyume Yo, now in her fourth year of dental school. Yo says Taylor helps the students keep up with administrative tasks and makes everyone feel important.

“It gives me an idea of what to look for in the future when I hire a receptionist or secretary,” Yo says. “She’s kind of set the bar, in terms of who I want to fill that position, and it’s more than just being able to be good at your job. It’s more about being well-rounded and the fact that she can always smile.”

But Yo says Taylor’s example has taught her something else, too: to be more understanding with her patients.

“To not push them so much, but to guide them,” she says. “But also to be able to just sit back and listen and have patience with them.”

Stephens, too, says caring for patients is the most important part of her job.

“It’s all about love, and I give them that,” she says. “They give me that in return. They let me know that my job is not in vain.”
UF researchers, in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, report that a single dose of an immunocontraceptive vaccine controls fertility over multiple years in adult female cats.

The scientists hope their findings will aid in the registration and use of the vaccine, called GonaCon, to help manage overabundant feral cat populations humanely.

“Millions of free-roaming feral cats exist in the United States and in other countries around the world,” said Julie Levy, D.V.M., Ph.D., the lead researcher and director of the Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program at UF. “Unfortunately, their welfare is not always adequate, and they can have a negative impact on public health and the environment.

“We’re hoping this research will lead to a nonlethal method of control for feral cat populations that is less expensive, labor-intensive and invasive than current methods, such as surgical sterilization,” Levy said.

Funded by Morris Animal Foundation, a nonprofit organization that advances veterinary research to protect, treat and cure animals, the five-year study was published in the journal *Theriogenology*.

GonaCon was developed by researchers at the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service National Wildlife Research Center. The NWRC is the federal institution devoted to resolving problems caused by the interaction of wild animals and society.

In the study, 15 adult female cats received a single dose of the vaccine while five received a placebo. After the injections, the female cats were allowed access to a breeding male cat. All five placebo females became pregnant within seven to 28 days.

Cats injected with the vaccine, on the other hand, remained infertile from five months to more than five years. All of the cats were adopted at the end of the study.

“A total of 93 percent of the cats treated with GonaCon remained infertile for the first year,” Levy said. “In subsequent years, we saw a steady and expected decline in infertility as antibodies to the vaccine decreased. However, numbers were still quite high, with 73 percent of the cats remaining infertile during the second year, 53 percent in year three, 40 percent in year four, and 27 percent in year five, when we ended the study.”

Although permanent sterilization is ideal, the relatively short lifespan of many free-roaming feral cats suggests that a contraceptive that blocks fertility for several years may be successful in reducing the population.

The single-shot, multiyear vaccine stimulates the production of antibodies that bind to GnRH, a hormone in an animal’s body that signals the production of sex hormones, such as estrogen, progesterone and testosterone. By binding to GnRH, the antibodies reduce its ability to stimulate the release of these sex hormones. All sexual activity is inhibited, and animals remain in a nonreproductive state as long as a sufficient level of antibody activity is present.
**Germs, germs, germs**

Researchers find disease-causing bacteria in public restrooms

By Allyson Fox

All the rumors about germ-infested public restrooms may be true.

UF researchers tested bathrooms in airplanes, restaurants, hospitals and other busy locations and swabbed faucets, door handles and paper towel dispensers. They found that these areas were contaminated with illness-causing germs that could lead to infectious disease transmission. The findings were presented in October at the Infectious Diseases Society of America annual meeting.

“Basically you are re-contaminating your hands,” said Lennox

**A ‘voice’ for patients**

College of Nursing researcher receives $1 million for GatorVoice project

By Anna Suggs

UF College of Nursing assistant professor has received a $1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to develop a speech-generating device for patients who cannot speak.

Carmen Rodriguez, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., received funding from the NIH Phase 2 Small Business Innovation Research program to support the development of “GatorVoice,” a device to help suddenly speechless hospital patients communicate their needs.

“GatorVoice will provide reliable communication strategies to communicate safety, comfort and care needs, thus improving communication between suddenly speechless patients and health care staff,” Rodriguez said.

The idea for GatorVoice originated from Rodriguez’s dissertation project, which focused on identifying pain measurement strategies for head and neck cancer patients who had lost the ability to speak. Her research found that patients and nurses experienced significant frustration when they could not communicate effectively.

During the first phase of the project, the team developed GatorVoice as a unique software running on a tablet computer and examined its feasibility and usability in the hospital setting. The $1 million Phase 2 grant, which was awarded by the National Institute of Deafness and Communication Disorders, will last for two years. The Phase 2 team also includes Meredeth Rowe, Ph.D., R.N.; Lori Thomas, Ph.D., A.R.N.P.; and Brent Koeppel, M.S., SLP.

Rodriguez said for the next two years, the team will further develop GatorVoice as a stand-alone software program that embeds in hardware devices conducive to the hospital setting. They also will determine whether it improves communication between speechless patients and health care staff.

“We aim to develop technology that is reliable in facilitating communication between the hospitalized, suddenly speechless patient and health care staff, and consequently, prevent complications that may result from inability to summon staff in an emergency or patients’ inability to accurately communicate needs,” she said.

Visit us online @ [http://post.health.ufl.edu](http://post.health.ufl.edu) for the latest news and HSC events.
**HIV, women and alcohol**

UF researchers have received a $2.7 million grant from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism to evaluate whether the prescription medication naltrexone can help women with HIV reduce their alcohol consumption and improve their overall health. Alcohol consumption may affect a person’s ability to take medications on schedule, their immune system and decision-making, said the study’s lead investigator Robert Cook, M.D., M.P.H., an associate professor of epidemiology. Naltrexone has been found to decrease alcohol use in previous studies of men with severe drinking problems but has not been tested exclusively in women or in people with HIV infection.

**Good news for babies**

An article published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* reports that babies with the neonatal herpes simplex virus who were given acyclovir as a preventive medicine had improved brain development and were less likely to have the herpes infection come back. Mobeen H. Rathore, M.B.B.S., a pediatrics professor at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, was among the team of physicians involved in the 14-year study. The drug is also used to treat herpes, but this is the first definitive clinical trial that shows using acyclovir can prevent the recurrence of herpes infection in babies, Rathore said. “Neonatal herpes is a very devastating disease in children and recurrences make the outcome even worse. To have something that will help that child is very gratifying,” Rathore said.

**A STEP FORWARD FOR FLORIDA**

Surgeons establish study group to improve vascular care for patients

By Jennifer Brindise

The Florida Vascular Study Group, which fosters collaboration statewide among physicians and hospitals to collect and analyze clinical data from patients undergoing vascular procedures, held its first meeting Oct. 27 at Shands at UF.

Led by Adam W. Beck, M.D., a UF assistant professor of surgery, the group’s focus is to improve the care of vascular patients throughout the region. The group, which formed this spring, is currently composed of surgeons from five hospitals across Florida with more centers currently in the process of joining.

“Patients with vascular disease tend to have some of the most complicated and challenging medical problems that any physician must deal with,” Beck said. “The procedures performed and the conduct of the patients’ care can vary widely between surgeons, hospitals and regions, making identification of best practice difficult.”

Visiting surgeons were present from throughout the states of Florida and Georgia, and much of the discussion surrounded the potential of expanding the group to include Georgia medical centers.

There are a number of similar regional study groups, including the Vascular Study Group of New England. The New England group started in 2001, and ultimately led to an Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality-designated national patient safety organization.

“The idea of regionalized study groups is to identify variations in outcomes based on different demographics located in each region,” Beck said. “Combining Florida and Georgia into one region would rival the patient population present in New England and would improve our ability to identify best practice for our unique patient population in the southern United States.”

With oversight by the patient safety organization, regional groups collect procedural data, as well as information regarding pre- and postoperative care. This allows benchmarking of outcome variables so surgeons identify best practices and areas for quality improvement.

“Without measuring our outcomes, we cannot define quality,” Beck said. “The New England group has successfully demonstrated that quality improvement programs can change practice across a large region and improve the care of patients. My hope is that we will have similar successes in Florida and Georgia.”
A UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville associate professor of emergency medicine is leading a $1 million grant to develop an interactive video game teaching children what to do when a natural disaster hits.

Madeline M. Joseph, M.D., chief of the division of pediatric emergency medicine, is chairing the task force for an American College of Emergency Physicians grant to develop the web-based game and an accompanying website. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security funded the project.

“Disaster Hero” is in the final stages of development and scheduled for release in the next few months, Joseph said.

The game will emphasize getting an emergency kit together, having a disaster plan and being informed. It will be targeted to youth, parents and teachers with a focus on what to do before, during and after a hurricane, tornado or other type of disaster.

“In a household, if everybody’s injured, you may be relying on children to save themselves or take care of the adults,” Joseph said. “They need to know what to do.”

The core of every game is being prepared to teach children to recognize injuries common in specific types of disasters and use appropriate techniques for personal protection before, during and immediately after a disaster, Joseph said.

That used to be a role specifically for parents, but that mindset has changed, particularly after the tremendous losses in Hurricane Katrina in 2005, she said.

Now, people realize they’ll need all hands on deck — including the littlest hands in the family — if a major emergency strikes.

The game is designed for children ages 7 to 12 and will tailor scenarios geographically to prepare children for situations they are more likely to encounter. For example, students in Kansas would need tornado or flooding information but probably not hurricane preparedness.

Joseph’s interest in disaster preparedness began in 1994 when a tornado tore through Birmingham, Ala., where she was doing a fellowship. When she came to Jacksonville, she wanted to stay involved in disaster preparedness. She served as the Disaster Medical Officer at University Medical Center from 1996 to 1999.

The “Disaster Hero” project allows Joseph to combine her passions for children, emergency medicine and disaster training and she says she’s looking forward to integrating the game into what schools are already teaching.

“The children need to know how to protect themselves,” Joseph said. “And if the best way to get them that information and to overcome apathy related to disaster planning is to make a game that’s fun for them to play, that’s what we should do.”

Jax dorms get a new look

Attention College of Medicine students: Your digs in Jacksonville have been upgraded. UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville and Shands Jacksonville officials, staff and students recently celebrated renovations to the student dorm, marking the end of a project years in the making.

Structurally, the three-story brick building needed serious repairs to fix, among other things, the roof, the elevator, windows and the heating and air conditioning system. The $3.4 million project also adds modern touches with an exercise room, updated study areas and two student lounges — one with a flat-screen television on the wall.

“I was kind of expecting some new carpet and a fresh coat of paint, but they’ve completely transformed the place,” said Josh Arenth, a fourth-year medical student. “I’m very excited to come back after seeing what they’ve done.” — Matt Galnor

The College of Medicine-Jacksonville recently completed renovations on its campus dormitories. UF College of Medicine students stay in these dorms while completing clinical rotations at the Jax campus.
Beyond translation

UF pediatricians launch initiative to help Hispanic patients in Jacksonville

By Matt Galnor

Two UF College of Medicine–Jacksonville pediatricians are launching a Hispanic Healthcare Initiative to help the medical community better understand and care for Latino families.

The initiative includes a Jacksonville Hispanic Guide that will be published in English and Spanish this fall, listing contacts for everything from doctors and health insurance programs to food banks and churches.

Laura N. Beverley, M.D., and Patricia A. Solo-Josephson, M.D., both assistant professors of pediatrics, saw the complexity of the problem firsthand in their practice at the Beaches Family Health Center, where 40 percent of their patients are Hispanic.

Beverley, medical director of the center, Solo-Josephson, and fellow pediatrician Rachel Schare, M.D., would see families that wouldn’t come for follow-up appointments or meet with specialists. They’d see parents who never picked up prescriptions and others who wouldn’t bring children for routine appointments and shots.

And that’s if people went to the doctor at all.

Beverly and Solo-Josephson were awarded an $11,000 Community Access to Child Health planning grant from the American Academy of Pediatrics in 2009 to study the issue and develop a plan to fix it.

The doctors joined forces with the Duval County Health Department’s Hispanic Advisory Committee to get a better understanding of the issues facing Hispanic immigrants, especially when it comes to medical care.

Through those discussions, Beverly and Solo-Josephson identified some of the major barriers Hispanic families have to health care, including language, legal status, finances, and simply understanding the American medical system.

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“Part of how you make that connection is showing them you want to be able to communicate with them, even if they speak a different language.”

New professorship supports palliative care for kids

By Melanie Azam

The UF College of Medicine–Jacksonville and Community Hospice of Northeast Florida have established the nation’s first partnership between a nonprofit hospice organization and an academic institution to create an endowed professorship in pediatric palliative care.

Community Hospice, through a commitment from the Neviaser Family Foundation, donated $600,000 to the UF department of pediatrics in Jacksonville to create the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida/Neviaser Family Professorship in Pediatric Palliative Care. The professorship, which is among only a handful of endowed professorships of its kind in the nation, is expected to lead to the development of a new combined pediatric-adult palliative care fellowship in 2013 at the College of Medicine.

Palliative care is holistic care, including pain and symptom management, for patients with serious, complex medical conditions and their families. It is focused on preventing or relieving the physical and emotional distress of a serious illness or condition with a team that includes doctors, nurses, social workers, clergy and other specialists.

Jeffrey L. Goldhagen, M.D., MPH., a professor and chief of the division of community pediatrics at the College of Medicine–Jacksonville, has been appointed to the professorship.

“Pediatric palliative care is not about caring for kids with complex medical conditions in their last six months of life,” he said. “It’s about caring for these children and families along the full continuum of their life course.”

Dr. Jeff Goldhagen (shown with 10-year-old Taubri Jackson, his grandmother, Marian Williams, and Taubri’s guide dog, Fergie) was recently appointed to the Community Hospice of Northeast Florida/Neviaser Family Professorship in Pediatric Palliative Care at the College of Medicine.

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JOYCE STECHMILLER, Ph.D., A.C.N.P.-BC, an associate professor of nursing and chair of adult and elderly nursing, was invited to serve on the editorial board of the Wound Healing Society’s new serial publication, Advances in Wound Care. The Wound Healing Society is the premier scientific organization on adult and elderly nursing, was invited to serve as an associate professor of nursing and chair of the UF Institutional Review Board for the Gainesville Health Science Center beginning August 2011.

KATHERINE KARPINIA, D.M.D., M.S., an associate professor of periodontics, was recently appointed to a three-year term as a member of the UF Institutional Review Board for the Gainesville Health Science Center.

MICAELA GIBBS, D.D.S., and ULRICH FOERSTER, D.D.S., were inducted into the American College of Dentists during its annual meeting in October. Gibbs is a clinical assistant professor of community dentistry and behavioral sciences. Foerster is a clinical associate professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. They were two of 318 dentists inducted during the most recent ceremony of the oldest national honorary organization for dentists.

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JACKSONVILLE

JOSEPH J. TEPAS III, M.D., a professor of surgery, was named the 2011 Florida Surgical Care Initiative Champion by the Florida Hospital Association in October during the association’s annual meeting in Orlando. Tepas is statewide surgical director for the initiative, designed to improve surgical outcomes of patients while reducing the cost of health care. He has been instrumental in recruiting providers across the state.

KENNETH CUSI, M.D., has been named chief of the division of endocrinology, diabetes & metabolism in the department of medicine. As chief, Cusi will oversee all outpatient and inpatient endocrinology clinics and consultation activities, serve as a mentor for all clinical and laboratory endocrinology research efforts, and mentor faculty members and fellows in the division. Before joining UF, Cusi was a professor of medicine at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE-JACKSONVILLE

Linda Edwards, M.D.
Karl B. Hanson Sr., M.D., Professor of Internal Medicine
Jeffrey Goldhagen, M.D., M.P.H.
Community Hospice of Northeast Florida/Neviaser Family Professorship in Pediatric Palliative Care

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

William L. Allen, J.D., M.Div.
William A. Shands Professorship in Medical History and Ethics
David Feller, M.D.
Elizabeth Dell Scheveling Professorship in Integrative Medicine
C. Parker Gibbs, M.D.
Eugene L. Jewett Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
Anthony R. Gregg, M.D.
B.L. Stalnaker Professorship in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Steven J. Hughes, M.D.
Cracchiolo Family Professorship in Surgery
Nancy Price Mendenhall, M.D.
James E. Lockwood Jr. Professorship in Proton Therapy
William M. Miles, M.D.
Silverstein Chair for Cardiovascular Education
Michael Moser, M.D.
Huizenga Professorship in Sports Medicine
Susan Nayfield, M.D.
Ruth Jewett Professorship in Geriatrics
Paul Okunieff, M.D.
Marshall E. Rinker Sr. Foundation and David B. and Ruth Jewett Professorship in Geriatrics
Paul Okunieff, M.D.
Marshall E. Rinker Sr. Foundation and David B. and
Leighann R. Rinker Chair
Nicole M. Paradise Black, M.D.
Reed Bell Professorship in Pediatrics
Mark T. Scarborough, M.D.
William F. Enneking, William E. Anspach and Orthpaedic Alumni Endowed Chair
Nadeem I. Shafi, M.D.
Paul Okunieff, M.D.
Ruth Jewett Professorship in Geriatrics

And the honorees are:

COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

Richard Segal, Ph.D.
Dr. Robert and Barbara Crisafi Chair in Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy

COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTH PROFESSIONS

R. Paul Duncan, Ph.D.
Malcom and Christine Randall Professorship in Health Services Research, Management and Policy

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Mark T. Scarborough, M.D.
William F. Enneking, William E. Anspach and Orthpaedic Alumni Endowed Chair
Nadeem I. Shafi, M.D.
Paula Koch Professorship in Pediatric Critical Care

Start of a new tradition

Appointment to a professorship or chair is one of the highest honors an academic institution bestows on its faculty members. The UF Health Science Center honored 17 newly endowed professors during its inaugural Celebrating Distinction ceremony Oct. 12. Some of the professorships were brand new, while others were named during the past year. “Buildings are constructed a brick at a time, but great universities are built chair by chair,” said David S. Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., UF senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System, adding that endowed professorships and chairs create an enduring legacy that provides stability across generations in the academic pursuit of improving health care in our community and around the world. — Jessica Jinah Song
Gator nurses March for Babies

For the third year in a row, the UF College of Nursing’s student team ranked first in fundraising for Gators March for Babies— a 5K walk/run in support of the March of Dimes. As the UF Nursing Student Association Community Service chair, Elizabeth Macari represented all Gator nursing students in the Gators March for Babies public service announcement that was filmed in front of the college. Macari posed with the Collier Cup, for Babies will be held this year on Nov. 20.

DONNA NEFF, Ph.D., A.P.R.N.-BC, an assistant professor of nursing, was funded by the National Boards of Nursing for her study “Foreign Educated Nurses: Effects on Nurse, Quality of Care and Patient Safety Indicator Outcomes.” The study will look at the difference between foreign-educated nurses and U.S.-educated nurses in relation to nurse outcomes (burnout, job satisfaction, and intent to leave) and assessments of quality of care, and patient safety indicator outcomes. It will also study the effect per hospital. The outcome is critical to the regulatory body of the National Council of State Boards of Nursing and individual state nursing boards to assure that nurses from other countries are prepared to: care for patients with complex needs; communicate successfully with other nurses, physicians, patients and families; adapt to advanced technology in today’s acute care settings; and successfully transition to practice in the U.S.

BARBARA LUTZ, Ph.D., R.N., an associate professor of nursing, is the recipient of the 2011 Doctorate-prepared Researcher Role Award from the Association for Rehabilitation Nursing. The award is given to recognize a nurse in a research role who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care. Lutz will also have an article published in the November/December issue of Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation. The article is titled “The Crisis of Stroke: Experiences of Patients and Their Family Caregivers.”

KAREN REED, M.S.N., D.H.Sc., a clinical assistant professor of nursing, is the recipient of the 2011 Educator Role Award from the Association for Rehabilitation Nursing. The award recognizes a nurse in an educator role who has contributed to the advancement of rehabilitation nursing care. Reed also recently learned she won the Association for Rehabilitation Nursing National Writer’s Contest for her article “Bags and Blogs: Creating an Ostomy Experience for Undergraduate Nursing Students.”

An FBI honor

The team coordinator of the First Coast Child Protection Team was honored by the Jacksonville Division of the FBI in October. Valerie A. Stanley was presented the Director’s Community Leadership Award by James Casey, special agent in charge of the local FBI office. Stanley came to the Jacksonville-area team in 1999 as a case coordinator and was promoted to her current role in 2003. UF took over the contract to run the team in 2005. Stanley was nominated by the FBI Cyber Squad, which works closely with the Child Protection Team in investigating crimes with youth victims. “I am very honored and humbled to receive the award,” Stanley said. “CPT is grateful for our relationship with the FBI and their recognition of the benefit using our center when children were involved with their investigations.” — Matt Galnor

REGINALD FRYE, Ph.D., an associate professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research, was inducted as a fellow of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy in October at its annual meeting. Fellowship status recognizes the highest levels of excellence in the practice and science of clinical pharmacy and is the highest honor ACCP bestows upon its members.

CAROL MOTYCKA, Pharm.D., a clinical assistant professor and assistant dean and director of the UF College of Pharmacy Jacksonville campus, won first place for her poster at the Florida Medical Directors Association annual meeting in October. Motycka was the only pharmacist to exhibit her work, which was titled “Potential Benefits of Warfarin Monitoring by a Clinical Pharmacist in a Long Term Care Facility.”

New neurosurgery leader in Jax

Robert M. Levy, M.D., Ph.D., has joined the College of Medicine-Jacksonville as chair of the department of neurosurgery. Levy, formerly a professor at Northwestern University, is a preeminent researcher and neurosurgeon specializing in implanting devices to modify brain function and treat chronic pain. Levy hopes to develop the department into a regional and national leader and says the college’s commitment to those goals attracted him. He plans to double the staff to ten neurosurgeons within two years and envisions a neurosurgery residency program within five years. “The potential for building a regional and nationally recognized neuroscience center and neurosurgery department is unbelievable,” he said.
With a name like “Dr. House,” Jeffrey G. House, D.O., is always subject to ribbing about Dr. Gregory House, the irreverent physician with a questionable bedside manner and the lead character in the FOX television drama “House.”

Of course, the College of Medicine-Jacksonville’s Dr. House is known by many around campus as the “real” Dr. House. He was even mentioned by that nickname in a letter nominating him for the Florida chapter of the American College of Physicians’ Outstanding Teacher of the year award.

House, an assistant professor of medicine and program director of the college’s internal medicine residency, received the prestigious honor in September at the Florida chapter of the American College of Physicians’ conference in St. Petersburg.

House said he was completely surprised by the honor. In fact, he was just outside the room speaking with some of his residents before the presentation and nearly missed it.

“There are so many good professors here and in the state, I’m just surprised and honored to be considered in that group, to be honest,” House said.

Linda R. Edwards, M.D., the Karl B. Hanson M.D. professor of internal medicine on the Jacksonville campus, nominated House for the award. Edwards, the associate chair of the department of medicine and chief of the division of general internal medicine, worked with House when he began his residency in Jacksonville in 1998.

She praised his teaching and leadership skills in her letter, highlighting the monthly Morbidity and Mortality Conference House developed and said he discusses cases in a non-judgmental way that encourages open and frank discussion. She also commended House for pushing residents to be comprehensive in evaluating patients and to know the evidence in literature that supports the management of their patients.

“I can think of no one more deserving than the real Doctor House!” Edwards wrote.

House is a four-time recipient of the UF Exemplary Teacher Award and was named Internal Medicine Faculty Teacher of the Year in 2005.

And while House may have been surprised to receive the honor, it came as no shock to Arshag D. Mooradian, M.D., chair of the department of medicine.

“I was not surprised at all. He has a superb reputation of being a skilled teacher and a masterful clinician,” Mooradian said. “He is the ultimate in terms of a teacher, a scholar and a clinician.”

House received his doctorate of osteopathic medicine from Nova Southeastern University and did an osteopathic internship at Broward General Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. House completed his internal medicine residency at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville in 2001, and served a year as chief resident.

He worked in internal medicine in a private practice for three years before being hired as an assistant professor at UF in Jacksonville in 2004. House was named division director of hospital medicine in 2005, became associate program director in 2008 and was named program director in 2010.

The American College of Physicians is a national association of physicians who specialize in the prevention, detection and treatment of illness in adults. It is the second-largest physician group in the country with more than 132,000 members.

“(This award is) a big honor for the institution, not just the individual,” Mooradian said.
October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. In recognition, UF&Shands held a Pink Pumpkin Painting Party on the lawn of the Cancer/Genetics Research Complex. More than 500 people attended the event.

Xenia Polorotoff, a first-year student in the UF College of Medicine School of Physician Assistant Studies, thanked Shands at UF PAs for Physician Assistant Week in the Shands at UF Atrium.

Spectators watch the demolition of the Butler Building on the corner of Mowry Road and Gale Lemerand Drive. The site is the future home of the Clinical and Translational Research Building.