On the Cover

Medical student Diana Narvaez, a native of Colombia, spends time with patient Cesar Hernandez, 3. As the country’s Hispanic and Latino population grows, more health-care providers from these communities are needed to help foster better understanding between patient and provider, yet few are entering these fields. Photo by Maria Belen Farias

One year ago, the UF Health Science Center and Shands at UF made a commitment to be tobacco-free together. On Nov. 1, leaders from the Alachua County Health Department recognized the anniversary of this milestone with two plaques they presented during a ceremony in the Founders Gallery. Steven B. Pokorny, Ph.D., director of health promotion at the Alachua County Health Department, and T.J. Harrington, vice chair of Tobacco Free Alachua, presented the award. Shown from left are Andrew Romero of the Alachua Department of Health; Irene Alexaitis, R.N., vice president of nursing and patient services at Shands at UF; Michael Good, M.D., dean of the College of Medicine; David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president for health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System; Harrington; and Pokorny.

Visit us online at http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
TRICK-OR-LEARN
Who can turn trick-or-treating into an impromptu and fun lesson on the skeletal system? Students from the UF College of Nursing, of course. Dressed in their Halloween best, nursing students Eleanor Girodo, Nicole Fuchs and Lauren Dawson (from left) designed a lesson on the skeletal system and presented it to little goblins and ghouls during a “Trunk or Treat” event at a Gainesville church Oct. 23. The lesson, which the students dubbed “The Boneyard,” included a bone game and fun facts about skeletons.

ROCK OUT FOR RECOVERY
Want to go to a concert … and support a good cause? Ken Block and Andrew Copeland of the Gainesville band Sister Hazel will perform an acoustic concert Nov. 19 in Gainesville to raise money for the Florida Recovery Center at Shands Vista. The concert will be held at 7 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 NW 53rd Ave. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit shands.org/frc. All proceeds benefit the center, which helps patients suffering from addiction.

NEED A DOCTOR?
UF Physicians clinics have medical providers in a range of specialties — from pediatrics to adult care — to meet the health-care needs of the UF community. Employees can find a doctor close to work or home at one of the 40 UF Physicians group practices throughout Gainesville. To find a provider who is right for you, view the directory at www.med.ufl.edu/patients/ufclinics/ufp_physician_directory.pdf. Call today to make your appointment.
David L. Bean graduated from the UF College of Pharmacy in 1952. Fifty years later, he pledged to support his alma mater’s efforts to teach pharmacy students in Orlando, his hometown.

Now a retired community pharmacist, Bean donated $1.2 million to establish a UF College of Pharmacy campus in Orlando. On Oct. 5, that goal came a few shovels of dirt closer to reality when UF broke ground on the new UF Research and Academic Center in Lake Nona.

In recognition of Bean’s gift, the pharmacy campus — located within the new Lake Nona facility — will be named the Helen and David Bean Campus of the University of Florida College of Pharmacy, Orlando.

In 2002, the UF College of Pharmacy established three Florida campuses — in Orlando, St. Petersburg and Jacksonville — to educate and train more student pharmacists in the state. The Orlando campus, temporarily housed at the UF IFAS Mid-Florida Research and Education Center in Apopka, supports more than 200 UF doctor of pharmacy students and more than 20 faculty and staff.

“At the UF Research and Academic Center, student pharmacists will learn from talented faculty members at a state-of-the-art complex to prepare for the challenges and opportunities they will face during their careers and lifetimes,” said William H. Riffe, Ph.D., dean of the UF College of Pharmacy.

In addition to teaching pharmacy students in Orlando, the college also will advance its translational research in drug discovery and development, and its medication therapy management service to patients receiving Medicare prescription benefits, Riffe said.

The Research and Academic Center will unite researchers from the UF colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy and Liberal Arts and Sciences with colleagues at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute at Lake Nona to identify, optimize and develop new therapies for the most devastating human diseases, including cancer, cardiovascular disease, brain disorders and aging.

The seed of Bean’s philanthropy to support UF pharmacy education grew from humble beginnings and a $10 commercial account.

“I worked for 14 years in Orlando pharmacies, saving my money for a day when I could buy my own pharmacy,” Bean said. “In 1966, I bought the Altamonte Pharmacy for $11,000, including the previous owner’s commercial bank account.”

After 11 years in Altamonte, Bean moved his business to the Longwood Professional Center at Palm Springs Drive and State Road 434. He operated under the new Palm Springs Pharmacy for 19 more years.

Through the course of his 30 years in business, the Beans acquired a five-acre parcel in Osceola County. After his wife Helen died in 2000, Bean donated the land to UF. In 2007, the sale of this parcel brought a $1.2 million gift to the College of Pharmacy to begin searching for a new campus home for its Orlando students and faculty.

“My education from the University of Florida gave me a great opportunity to pursue a business I loved,” Bean said. “There comes a time to give back to the university, which has been so influential in my life.”
By Elizabeth Behrman

Brian Krueger, Ph.D., is blogging the way for science education.

Krueger, a postdoctoral associate in molecular genetics and microbiology in the UF College of Medicine, created the science news and blog networking site LabSpaces. Together, he and his team of about 25 bloggers are participating in a donation drive to benefit DonorsChoose, an online charity for education, and are promoting teachers’ individual projects to help collect donations.

Teachers across the country can post their classroom needs and class project ideas to the DonorsChoose website, listing the necessary supplies, from fish aquariums and weather stations to white boards and bookbags. So far this year, DonorsChoose has raised $20 million for teachers across America, with more than $450,000 going to Florida teachers. DonorsChoose approached Krueger about helping promote the annual “donation drive” through the month of October, and Krueger immediately agreed, he said.

Ten of the LabSpaces bloggers each chose at least one project from DonorsChoose and are promoting them through their posts and linking to the donation pages. The rest of the writers, including Krueger, are trying to garner support for all of the other bloggers’ chosen projects.

“It doesn’t matter who gets the donation, it’s more the donation that’s important,” he said.

Some of the class projects chosen by LabSpaces writers include supporting a spring science fair and providing a class with equipment for experiments.

Krueger said he hopes to have raised $4,000 through LabSpaces by Nov. 10, when the drive finishes. He said by the end of October, about $30,000 had already been raised collectively by the science blogging community. Additionally, Hewlett-Packard is matching all donations made through the science blogging pages.

"It doesn’t matter who gets the donation, it’s more the donation that’s important."

- Brian Krueger, Ph.D.

After Krueger sent out an e-mail about the site to College of Medicine faculty and staff, LabSpaces’ selected projects garnered an additional $250 in donations.

Krueger started LabSpaces in 2005, when he was still an undergraduate student at Bradley University. He received his doctorate in December from the University of Iowa, and when he isn’t blogging, he’s in the lab, working on mutating herpes viruses to better understand how they function.

“Usually during my Christmas break I’d try to spend a week or two learning something new,” he said.

LabSpaces started as one of those Christmas projects.

He started actively recruiting bloggers just within the past several months, and the site has expanded to include blog posts about different science-related topics, from advising recent university graduates to performing general lab experiments.

When he started the website, Krueger began by posting science and research-related press releases and breaking them down to make them easier for readers to understand.

“The scientist may say one thing, but the press release source and the media sometimes misinterpret or overstate what the scientist has done,” Krueger said. “I’m trying to create a website for scientific outreach, basically so the public can see what scientists do, why we do it and why what we do is important.”

Visit us online @ http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
A grand opening
UF opens doors to new Small Animal Hospital

By Sarah Carey

UF President Bernie Machen makes a rule of not visiting UF buildings while they are under construction. So, standing inside the UF College of Veterinary Medicine’s new Small Animal Hospital for the first time at the facility’s official dedication Oct. 22 was “an incredible moment” for the UF leader.

The new $58-million facility “takes your breath away,” he said.

Machen said his “favorite vet,” 2009 UF veterinary college graduate Maggie Machen, told him she only wished the new facility had been completed in time for her clinical rotations.

“Sixty percent of American households have pets,” Machen said. “People think of their pets as families, and these facilities really are the nation’s best.

“We can take care of pets that no one else can take care of,” Machen said. “By allowing the college to expand enrollment and for all these other reasons, the new hospital is a wonderful addition to UF, but also to the county, the state and the nation.”

Well-wishers gathered inside the festively decorated atrium of the Small Animal Hospital for the dedication and ribbon-cutting, which also recognized donors for their help in bringing the project to fruition.

“The stars literally lined up,” said college dean Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M., alluding to the many years of hoping, dreaming, talking and planning that passed before the facility could open its doors. “This building we’re dedicating tonight was talked about by at least two deans before me. Over time, we’ll need more veterinarians, and the old hospital facility was a choke point for our growth. We now have the ability to better serve both students and clinical faculty, and most importantly, the animals we care for.”

He called the new hospital “the finest in the world” and thanked the many staff members, current and former administrators, architects, contractors, Florida’s state veterinarian, the college’s alumni council, the Florida Veterinary Medical Association and state legislators for their support.

Larry Cretul, outgoing Speaker of Florida’s House of Representatives, said the event was one of his last official duties.

“Others have called this building the best in the world, and I’ll second that,” he said. “Today we take a major step forward. It’s no secret people love their pets, and from the standpoint of care, there is no better place than here. This new hospital is good for UF, good for the state and good for pet owners.”

In his introduction of David Guzick, M.D., Ph.D., senior vice president of health affairs and president of the UF&Shands Health System, Hoffsis noted the uniqueness UF enjoyed by virtue of being a part of such a major health center, and said the veterinary college faculty, and ultimately, hospital patients, benefited from the collaborations this synergy makes possible.

“There truly is this ‘one health’ idea, and what better place to spearhead that idea on campus than right here,” Guzick said. “Dr. Michael Schaer said to me earlier this evening, ‘This is a shooting star.’ Grab hold of it, and congratulations.”

Photo by Maria belen farias
Inside the Small Animal Hospital

By Bridget Higginbotham

“Impressive,” “Remarkable,” “Amazing,” exclaimed the visitors as they explored the new UF Small Animal Hospital.

The new building, which opened for business Nov. 1, is anything but small. The three-story, 100,000-square-foot facility is triple the size of the previous hospital and houses more specialties under one roof than any other veterinary practice in Florida.

“There is no great opportunity to inspire people than a new building,” said Dana Zimmel, D.V.M., interim chief of staff for UF’s Veterinary Hospitals. “You really do feel like you’re on the cutting edge.”

The weeklong festivities showcasing the $58-million facility and celebrating its completion started with an internal dedication Oct. 19. The event for faculty, staff and students featured self-guided tours of the building, refreshments, a ribbon-cutting and speeches by Zimmel, Glen Hoffsis, D.V.M., dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine; Colin Burrows, B.Vet.Med., Ph.D., small animal medicine department chair; and class of 2011 student Jonathan Mathers.

“You don’t get to open one of these very often,” Hoffsis said from behind the lectern set up on the staircase of the spacious lobby. “This is really a historical event.”

After the speeches, guests were free to meander through the different labs, units, suites, departments, treatment areas and study rooms.

The north wall of the 140-person conference room overlooking Archer Road is made of huge windows that let in light but not heat. Windows like these are an example of the hospital’s green efforts. Some of the concrete and metal used in construction was recycled. Computers and sensors carefully control the lights and air conditioning.

The facility will be one of the first veterinary teaching hospitals in the country to receive a gold certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building rating, said John Haven, the College of Veterinary Medicine’s senior project coordinator.

The technology in the new facility is on par with neighboring institutions. The time-saving pneumatic tube device that sends samples directly to the clinical pathology laboratory is similar to the one at the Shands Cancer Hospital. The linear accelerator that can be used to deliver conventional fractionated radiation therapy when surgery cannot completely remove a tumor is like the one at the McKnight Brain Institute.

“We definitely have a Cadillac on our hands,” said Charles Courtney, D.V.M., Ph.D., associate dean for research and graduate studies, as he surveyed the Cardiology Catheterization Lab.

The lab’s new table moves up and down to accommodate doctors of all heights. The new machine arm moves 360 degrees so the team no longer has to move the patient and all the tubes for a new view, said Danielle Heatwall, a certified veterinary technician.

During his speech, Mathers excitedly talked about all the features for students and residents, such as the individual study rooms and cubicles on the second floor. They’ll be able to observe procedures from behind the glass of the 12 spacious surgical suites and the cath lab. And now that each specialty has its own rounds room, they won’t be fighting each other for space.

“What better way to get us excited about starting a brand new career than a facility as grand as this?” Mathers said.

Dr. Colin Burrows, Dr. John Harvey, College of Veterinary Medicine Dean Dr. Glen Hoffsis, Dr. Dana Zimmel and UF veterinary medicine student Jonathan Mathers cut the ribbon marking the opening of the new UF Small Animal Hospital. One of the hospital’s features is a linear accelerator (middle photo) in its new radiation therapy and oncology treatment area. The new hospital was built next to the old hospital on Southwest 16th Avenue.
UF scientists have identified a key cellular process involved in age-related damage to the liver — and ways to reverse that damage by manipulating genes or administering certain drugs. The findings could ultimately help shorten the national liver transplant waiting list by allowing the use of livers donated by older adults.

“If we can improve the function and health of livers, and increase donations from seniors, then we can significantly improve the success rate of transplantations,” said Jae-Sung Kim, Ph.D., an assistant professor of surgery in the UF College of Medicine and a member of the UF Institute on Aging who led the research team.

Kim presented the findings Oct. 31 during the American Association for the Studies of Liver Diseases.

UF researchers were interested in how the body removes damaged cellular components, which has a potential role in aging. In laboratory studies, Kim and colleagues found that disruption of this cellular cleanup is linked to the inability of aged livers to recover from surgery-related stress. They discovered an age-related decrease in levels of one of the main proteins, called Atg4B, that orchestrates the process.

The researchers used gene therapy to replenish the depleted protein. The approach reduced mitochondrial dysfunction and promoted recovery, boosting the performance of livers from old animals beyond that of normal middle-aged animals.

The researchers used gene therapy to replenish the depleted protein. The approach reduced mitochondrial dysfunction and promoted recovery, boosting the performance of livers from old animals beyond that of normal middle-aged animals.
College of Nursing changes its curriculum to meet changing health-care demands

By Tracy Brown Wright

College of Nursing student Candace Kuphal plays with a toddler boy at a day care center — the only one in Gainesville housed in a high school. The Loften Center is a magnet high school and home to ACCEPT, a program for teens who are pregnant or already have children.

After Kuphal and fellow B.S.N. students work with these children, conducting assessment screenings and engaging in constructive play, they walk over to the other side of the school to talk to the moms. They then assess the physiological and mental health issues these young mothers may be facing.

This semester, new UF nursing students are spending more time than ever before in situations like these. It’s all part of a new way the UF College of Nursing is educating the next generation of nurses. The college has revised its curriculum for B.S.N. students to incorporate more clinical learning at sites such as the Loften Center.

“We recognized that health care is increasingly occurring in so many sites outside of the traditional hospital, and those types of experiences would benefit our students as health care continues to evolve,” said Jodi Irving, M.S.N., A.R.N.P., an assistant professor of nursing and a member of the curriculum revision team.

The revision came after much work and discussion by the College’s faculty and was based on the recommendations of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

“Our curriculum will be strengthened by this update,” said Sharon Bradley, D.N.P., R.N., interim associate dean for academic and student affairs and curriculum coordinator during the B.S.N. curriculum revision. “Our faculty studied and applied recommendations from the AACN, the Institute on Medicine and the Joint Commission, among others, to create a curriculum that responds to our future health-care environment.”

While the previous curriculum focused more on specialty tracks as the basis for classes, the new curriculum focuses on the patient across the lifespan and incorporates more types of clinical sites outside of the traditional acute care setting.

In addition, the curriculum emphasizes areas of growing importance in health care: genetics, informatics, evidence-based practice and interprofessionalism. To gain a better understanding of how health care professions work together, students participate in the Interdisciplinary Family Health program. Students from different health-related college at UF form teams of three and are assigned a client in the community to assess their health care needs.

The nursing curriculum has always emphasized health promotion and prevention, a major tenet of the profession. But the new curriculum emphasizes health promotion from the very beginning of nursing education. This gives students a full-circle experience, showing them how early health promotion efforts can help prevent the high numbers of patients with complex illnesses they see at the end of their curriculum.

“In Florida, especially as the baby boomers age, our future nurses will see an increasingly older adult population with greater diversity and cultural variation,” Bradley said. “This type of curriculum helps to better prepare them for that future.”

Faculty members and students have responded positively to the overall curriculum change, Bradley said.

“We have had positive feedback from both faculty and students thus far,” Bradley said. “Change is never easy but often necessary. But if you have a high caliber of students and faculty, you always get better than what you expected.”
It’s 8 a.m. on the only day of the school week they can sleep in, but 10 of them gathered here to measure, mix and package a solution that will save lives.

As Haiti suffers a cholera epidemic, UF pharmacy students and faculty are lending a hand from abroad to counteract the outbreak. With the Emerging Pathogens Institute, they plan to send a total of 1,000 oral rehydration kits to Haiti.

Equipped with latex gloves and chipper attitudes despite the early hour, students labeled plastic bags and sorted the mixture for the first batch of 200 kits. The dry powder can be reconstituted on site with clean water.

“Essentially what we’re making is Pedialyte, but without flavor — and it costs pennies compared to other medicines,” said Paul Doering, M.S., a distinguished service pharmacy professor who supervised the students with clinical assistant professor Cary Mobley, Ph.D.

Cholera victims suffer severe diarrhea and vomiting, causing extreme dehydration within hours of infection. Early treatment with fluids is key to survival and has reportedly saved more than 90 percent of patients so far — even those on the brink of death. Forty percent of victims under the age of 5 die without rehydrants, but less than 1 percent die when treated.

Cholera is caused by an infection of microbes that thrive in unsanitary conditions, such as dirty, standing water contaminated with fecal matter. Asfar Ali, Ph.D., a UF associate professor of environmental and global health, predicted the outbreak when he visited Haiti in August and witnessed the squalid conditions in the refugee camps.

Since UF policy recently barred student travel to Haiti for safety reasons, the students want to help any way they can. After the kits were prepared, they were sent to Haiti in early November.

“I’ve been wanting to do stuff with Haiti through UF, so this is as close as I’m going to get,” said Alexia Leal, a third-year student. She is “super stoked” to go on a medical mission trip to El Salvador in March through the College of Pharmacy.

Julia Wittmann, also a third-year and membership vice president of the American Pharmacists Association — Academy of Student Pharmacists at UF, said it was most direct way she’s been able to contribute so far. The ASP previously organized a vitamin drive to send with the college’s health outreach trips.

For other future pharmacists, it was simply a call to duty.

“This is our profession. This is what we do,” said Lindsay Rogers, a third-year student. “This is what we do. When you see a whole country come down with a disease, why not help?”
In September the College of Public Health and Health Professions honored Lt. Gen. P. K. (Ken) Keen, the leader of the U.S. military’s operation in Haiti following the January earthquake.

Keen, who received a master’s degree in Latin American studies from UF in 1986, is the military deputy commander of U.S. Southern Command. At a lecture for PHHP students and faculty, Keen described his experience directing the largest and longest overseas U.S. military disaster response.

Factors that contributed to the success of the U.S. military’s response included close collaboration between the military and non-government agencies, and President Obama’s swift declaration of full support for the relief effort, Keen said.

“Our military immediately turned every asset we had available toward Haiti,” he said. “Literally we were turning aircraft carriers around overnight, within hours, heading them to Haiti.”

Keen has provided invaluable assistance to the college’s “Better Tomorrow for Haiti” team, said Dean Michael G. Perri. With Keen’s help, team members traveled to Haiti within a week of the earthquake to provide medical care and supplies.

Keen has supported the team’s ongoing efforts by helping to facilitate a vaccination program in Leogane, Haiti, and introducing team members to key government officials.

“From chaos you brought order,” Perri told the general when presenting him with a plaque on behalf of the college. “You brought relief to suffering. And probably most importantly, there was a lot of fear and despair and through your efforts and leadership you brought hope back to the people of Haiti.”

Visit us online @ http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
Diana Narvaez knows what it’s like to start over in a new country.

Now a third-year medical student at UF, Narvaez moved from Colombia to the United States in 2000. Though her family endured their share of hardships adjusting to their new life, Narvaez says she knows some people have it even tougher. She knew some English, for example, and the family immigrated legally. Narvaez says these experiences and her Hispanic heritage inform her interaction with patients, especially those who are Hispanic or are immigrants themselves.

“Right now I’m in the newborn nursery, and I have people (who), as soon as I come into the room, they say, ‘Oh, thank God you speak Spanish.’”
When Narvaez earns her medical degree in 2012, she will join the country’s small minority of Hispanic physicians; About 5 percent of U.S. doctors identify themselves as Hispanic, according to the American Medical Association.

The profession’s workforce does not reflect the diversity of the population it serves. The U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 15 percent of all Americans in 2006-2008 were Hispanic. In Florida, the discrepancy is even greater. The state’s population is about 17 to 18 percent Hispanic, but only about 3 percent of physicians are Hispanic, says Donna M. Parker, M.D., an assistant dean for minority affairs in the UF College of Medicine.

Aside from physicians, only about 4 percent of registered nurses are Latino or Hispanic, according to the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Health Workforce Information Center. Among the ranks of pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians and public health professionals, so few people report their ethnicity that accurate numbers are not available, and some professional organizations do not even attempt to collect it.

“One of the major underrepresented … and underserved groups in medicine is the Hispanic population,” Parker says.

Cultural understanding is key to effective patient care, says Jane L. Delgado, Ph.D., M.S., president and CEO of the National Alliance for Hispanic Health.

“We need people who understand the language and the culture of the patients, because that’s how you get behavioral change,” Delgado says. “(Otherwise), you’re not going to get patients who understand what’s being said and can follow what is recommended.”

The most obvious cultural obstacle to good care is a language barrier.

Health-care facilities use a variety of translation resources, including professional translators or language services accessible through telephone or video lines.

But these methods have their flaws and often are not used in favor of other, less official approaches.

Justin Israelsen, a senior in the UF College of Dentistry, once watched a health-care provider and patient communicate through a translator via telephone.

“The translation actually came back completely different (from what the patient meant),” he says. “They came down to the conclusion that it was a complete body language thing, and the person on the phone, of course, cannot see that.”

Israelsen says he prefers face-to-face translation, provided by someone familiar with health care. In a pinch, he uses patients’ family members as translators, though he says it’s not ideal.

“A lot of times a family member will try to downplay the severity of a case, so as not to offend or startle the (patient),” he says.

Abbe Degroat, who’s in her final year of veterinary school at UF, says language barriers are prevalent in large animal veterinary care, her area of interest.

“Most of the farm workers are Spanish, especially at dairies,” she says. “A veterinarian often does educational programs for the milkers. You either have to be bilingual, or you have to have somebody there to translate for you.

“Even with beef cattle and even with horses, all the grooms and everybody speaks Spanish. Most of them don’t speak English.”

Degroat, who is not bilingual, says she wants to enroll in a Spanish class after taking her board examinations.
crying.’ He was just trying to be tough.”

Ana Rosa, R.N., a student in UF’s nurse practitioner’s program, is a mental health nurse at Shands Vista. She recalled a situation in which a co-worker thought one patient’s rapid speech and hand gestures were disease symptoms. Rosa recognized them as characteristic of the man’s Cuban culture.

“This might just be normal behavior for him,” she told her colleague.

Allyson Hall, Ph.D., an associate professor in UF’s College of Public Health and Health Professions, says such misunderstandings can lead minority patients to feel they’ve been discriminated against, even if that was never intended.

“There’s no cultural broker between the two groups of people, and so people don’t understand how (others) are communicating messages to them, even if they speak the same language.”

For some, fears arising from cultural issues and financial woes influence whether they seek health care at all.

Rosa fled Honduras as a refugee with her mother and siblings when a hurricane struck the country in 1998. They moved in with her grandparents in Miami. Though her mother worked, Rosa says the family wrestled with decisions such as whether her younger brother would receive immunizations.

“It was like, ‘Do we take them? Do we not take them?’ They’re going to ask questions, and it’s going to be like $80 a shot. We can’t afford that.’”

Similar concerns moved her family to visit a friend, a U.S.-licensed dentist from Nicaragua, for care offered at a discount.

Rosa says the workforce of health-care providers should be diverse and experienced in working with various cultures.

“You need to at least have that exposure to say ‘This is what’s expected. This is maybe what their baseline normal is,’” she says. “That’s probably about the best you can do, which, I think, is why it’s important to have people of different cultures in different health professions.”
The shortage of Hispanic people working in health care is linked to low numbers of Hispanic students applying and being admitted to health education programs. “We constantly have immigration taking place from Hispanic nations, but the number of people applying and getting into med school (is) definitely not increasing accordingly,” Parker says.

There are many possible explanations for this, including educational costs, a lack of familiarity with the application process, the language barrier, improper legal status, reluctance to leave family to pursue education and lower numbers of Hispanic people completing college compared to other ethnicities. In 2007, just 11 percent of Hispanic 25- to 29-year olds had bachelor’s degrees, according to the American Council on Education. Only American Indians had a lower rate of college graduates.

Rosa said many of her friends simply preferred other careers.

In the fall of 2009, rates of Hispanic students in UF’s colleges of Veterinary Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing and Dentistry were higher than the rate of Hispanic students in such programs nationwide.

Randell Doty, Pharm.D., says it’s important for UF’s pharmacy students to reflect the state’s diversity but emphasizes that preparing them to work with a wide variety of patients is just as essential. “I think even if (students) come from another cultural background, by the time they leave us, they’re able to adapt to whatever environment they get into,” says Doty, the college’s associate dean for experiential education.

“If they go back and decide to open a pharmacy in their hometown, in their home cultural enclave, dealing with the kind of people they’ve known growing up their entire life and speaking in their native language, that’s cool. But if they decide not to do that, I want them to be just as prepared.”

For Narvaez, serving migrant farm workers through the Hispanic American Medical Student Association has reinforced her desire to serve this population when she becomes a doctor. She’s leaning toward a career in primary care.

She says her own family’s struggles have given her an appreciation for the migrant workers’ more difficult plight. “It’s just something that’s really dear to my heart,” she says.
Ancient art. Modern health

Tai chi can alleviate osteoarthritis symptoms

By Tracy Brown Wright

If forms of exercise were given awards, tai chi is contending for “best all-around,” according to researchers with the UF College of Nursing.

In addition to its known health benefits — including physical fitness, cardiovascular health and improving symptoms of diabetes — it can also improve muscle strength and bone mineral density, and decrease the fear of falling, according to a UF study featured in the The Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine.

Among older women with osteoarthritis, those who participated in a supervised tai chi exercise program once a week for six months significantly improved their bone muscle density and muscle strength and decreased their fear of falling.

All of these improvements combined can help to increase independence for older adults and reduce the risk of disability, researchers said.

“A loss in bone density and strength puts people at risk of fractures, which can lead to loss of independence and disability,” said Beverly Roberts, Ph.D., R.N., the Annabel Davis Jenks endowed professor at the College of Nursing. “Tai chi appears to have a similar affect on bone density as other exercises, but it is more accessible and attractive to older adults, making it easier for them to stick to this exercise routine.”

Her research, with Rhayun Song, Ph.D., R.N., of Chungnam National University, studied older Korean residents.

Tai chi is an ancient Chinese martial art and mostly performed now for its health benefits. This low-impact exercise uses slow, coordinated flowing movements and combines these with breathing, imagery and relaxation.

Osteoarthritis, which affects nearly 27 million Americans, involves the degradation of joints and is accompanied by pain and tenderness. It typically causes a decrease in movement, which may lead to muscle atrophy and bone breakage. Risk factors include genetic, metabolic, developmental and mechanical causes.

Eighty-two subjects, mostly Korean women, participated in the study. Half of this group participated in a three-week supervised training period three times a week. For the remainder of the six months, they attended a supervised training session once a week. The other half served as a control group.

Those who completed the sessions had significantly improved bone density, muscle strength and a decreased fear of falling. Comparatively, the control group actually showed decreased bone density and had no improvements in muscle strength and fear of falling.

“Not only did this study show improvements in muscle strength and bone density, both very important for older adults with osteoarthritis, it also decreased a fear of falling — a fear that can be crippling to those for which independence means so much,” Roberts said.

“Further, the greater the fear of falling the more likely older adults will become sedentary, which increases the risk of disability.”

Roberts says future studies should include larger sample sizes and extend the training period for at least a year to be able to monitor long-term progress in bone density.

“Research on tai chi is rapidly expanding, and the diversity of its health benefits is also increasing, which can benefit a number of health conditions,” Roberts said.
In type 1 diabetes, the pancreas fails to produce insulin, a hormone vital for regulating blood sugar levels. For decades, researchers have sought — with varying levels of success — a way to compensate for the loss of function and cure the disease.

Now, College of Medicine researcher Nicholas Simpson, Ph.D., and colleagues have taken the quest a step further by devising a cell-based artificial pancreas that ultimately could help improve quality of life for people who have diabetes.

“The main goal is to try to find a cure for type 1 diabetes,” Simpson said.

Type 1 diabetes causes a range of complications, including blindness, kidney damage and cardiovascular disease. People with the disease have to constantly monitor their blood glucose levels and receive frequent shots of insulin.

There has been promising research on digital devices that can sense blood glucose levels and deliver insulin when needed, but electronics glitches could lead to too-high doses of insulin, which could be fatal.

Other approaches involve transplanting the pancreas or insulin-producing beta cells, but that requires organ donors. In addition, transplant recipients require lifelong immunosuppression to improve the chances of success, and rejection continues to be a problem. It has become clear that transplanted cells must be shielded from the immune system in order to remain viable.

“If someone were to create a barrier technology in which the cells could be placed, that would be a way of potentially overcoming what has been a tremendously difficult task to achieve,” said Mark Atkinson, Ph.D., an eminent scholar in the College of Medicine department of pathology, immunology and laboratory medicine, and co-director of the UF Diabetes Center of Excellence.

That’s just what Simpson, a research associate professor in the College of Medicine division of endocrinology diabetes and metabolism, and his team have devised.

The bioartificial pancreas, a small, circular, see-through device for which the researchers have filed a patent, consists of insulin-secreting cells encased inside a nurturing biomaterial and surrounded by an inert polymeric material.

A coil incorporated into the device allows non-invasive monitoring using magnetic resonance imaging and spectroscopic techniques.

In laboratory studies, surgically implanting the device into the abdomens of diabetic mice reversed high blood sugar and prolonged survival. Animals who were not given the implant succumbed rapidly to the disease, dying within five to 15 days. Treated animals lived much longer — up to three months in some cases. One animal’s pancreas even showed evidence of regeneration of insulin-producing cells.

Since the bioartificial pancreas also can be used to sustain mice with elevated blood sugars, it could allow researchers to study the long-term effects of diabetes on various organs and systems such as the eyes, kidneys and cardiovascular system.

Over time and with many more studies, the technique could find application in humans, not only for type 1 diabetes, but perhaps for type 2, which affects more people.

“These things take time,” Atkinson said. “We’ve known about insulin for 90 years, we’ve been doing transplants for 30 years and none of these things is a cure yet, so this could, very well, be a worthwhile effort.”
Despite advances in lung cancer treatment, more than 1 million people a year worldwide still die from the disease. Some available drugs can’t safely be given in doses high enough to be effective because they are so poisonous.

To minimize drug toxicity complications, Eugene Goldberg, Ph.D., a professor in the colleges of Medicine and Engineering, and international clinical research colleagues are pioneering a new lung cancer treatment technique that changes the way cancer drugs are administered.

Called endobronchial intratumoral chemotherapy, it involves injecting drugs directly into lung tumors via a flexible tubular instrument called a bronchoscope, which is inserted through the mouth and into the airways. The procedure uniquely delivers extremely high drug doses to tumors with the goal of decreasing damage to healthy cells.

Early clinical results are promising, and Goldberg, an adjunct professor of pharmacology and therapeutics in the College of Medicine and a professor of biomedical engineering in the College of Engineering, hopes the technique will eventually be adopted for general clinical use.

“It’s primarily a question of conducting additional clinical studies and making the procedure more widely known,” said Goldberg, who also serves as the Genzyme professor of biomaterials, materials science and engineering.

Direct tumor injection is applicable to most solid tumors, especially breast, colorectal and prostate cancers. For now, the researchers are focusing on lung cancer, the leading cause of cancer deaths. Lung cancer kills more women each year than breast cancer, and more than 80 percent of patients die within five years of being diagnosed, according to the National Cancer Institute. Additionally, lung cancer claims more lives than the next three cancer killers combined.

In collaborative clinical studies of this new treatment with Firuz Celikoglu, M.D., and Seyhan Celikoglu, M.D., in Turkey, and Wolfgang Hohenforster-Schmidt, M.D., in Germany, the procedure rapidly destroyed tumor cells. Tumor-clogged airways were opened to allow easier breathing and re-inflation of collapsed lungs. And surgery was made possible in many cases thought to be inoperable. Results for the more than 500 patients treated to date in Germany, China, Switzerland and Turkey indicate significantly prolonged survival and greatly improved quality of life.

“The preliminary results are very good, the potential is there, but we need to see more data,” said David Feller-Kopman, M.D., director of bronchoscopy and interventional pulmonology, and an associate professor of pulmonary and critical care medicine at the Johns Hopkins University. “It’s definitely worth looking at from a clinical trial standpoint.”

As Goldberg and colleagues plan additional clinical trials, they are publishing papers on the procedure — including one this year in the *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology* — and making presentations at international meetings such as the PacifiChem2010 conference in Honolulu in December.

Goldberg is also investigating a gene therapy approach to cancer treatment, using tiny particles called nano-microspheres that can encapsulate drugs and disperse them throughout a tumor upon injection. In this work he is partnering with Nasreen Najmunnisa, Ph.D., in the division of pulmonary, critical care and sleep medicine. Najmunnisa has been instrumental in developing gene therapy concepts to better treat mesothelioma and non-small cell lung cancer. Animal studies are in progress, in which the nano-microspheres are loaded with genetically engineered hormone-like molecules that can be injected into tumors to stop their growth.
Antibacterial agent may pose problems for pregnancy

A chemical found in everything from antibacterial soaps to socks may disrupt an enzyme that plays an important role in pregnancy, UF researchers say.

Thought to be harmless, triclosan gives many soaps and lotions their antibacterial oomph and is found in hundreds of popular products. But a team of UF researchers led by Margaret O. James, Ph.D., has discovered that the chemical hinders an enzyme linked to the metabolism of estrogen. The researchers’ findings are reported in the November issue of Environment International.

In pregnancy, this enzyme, called estrogen sulfotransferase, helps metabolize estrogen and move it through the placenta into the developing fetus. There, the estrogen plays a crucial role in brain development and the regulation of genes.

“We suspect that makes this substance dangerous in pregnancy if enough of the triclosan gets through to the placenta to affect the enzyme,” said James, a professor and chair of medicinal chemistry in the UF College of Pharmacy. “We know for sure it is a very potent inhibitor. What we don’t know is the kinds of levels you would have to be exposed to to see a negative effect.

“We know it is a problem, but we don’t know how much of a problem. We need to move forward and do additional studies.”

In pregnancy, the placenta basically serves as a developing baby’s in-womb survival kit. Almost everything the fetus gets from its mother — namely food and oxygen — comes through the placenta. It also creates important hormones, such as progesterone and estrogen.

Aside from the role it plays in the fetus, estrogen also affects how much oxygen the baby gets from the mother, said Charles Wood, Ph.D., a professor and chairman of physiology and functional genomics in the UF College of Medicine and a co-author of the study. All of the oxygen a baby gets from its mother flows through the mother’s uterine artery. Without enough estrogen, this artery can constrict, decreasing blood flow.

“If you don’t make enough estrogen you can, we think, starve the baby of enough oxygen,” Wood said.

Estrogen is also involved in signaling the uterus to contract during labor. But maintaining the right levels of the hormone during pregnancy is a delicate balance, Wood says. Too much estrogen could send the mother’s body into premature labor. Too little could hinder the flow of oxygen. Both instances could affect how the baby’s brain develops.

This is one of the reasons scientists are concerned about the pregnancy-related effects of chemicals such as triclosan.

In April 2010, the Food and Drug Administration decided to take a closer look at triclosan after several studies found links to problems with hormone regulation and other possible negative health effects. Other studies have shown that the chemical, which cannot be broken down by bacteria, stays in the environment long after it is used.

“The triclosan is incorporated into household products because it inhibits bacterial growth,” James said. “But the bad thing is it has this unexpected side effect of inhibiting this important enzyme in the body. At this point we don’t know if the levels people are exposed to are high enough to cause an adverse effect.”
Sean Forbes, Ph.D., has received a $180,000 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association to study whether a drug that improves muscle blood flow could slow the progression of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

“Muscles in children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy are missing a key enzyme that normally increases blood flow and oxygen during and following muscle contractions,” said Forbes, a post-doctoral associate in the College of Public Health and Health Professions’ department of physical therapy. “This reduced blood flow puts additional stress on the muscle and may contribute to damage that cannot be adequately repaired. This ultimately leads to reduced strength and loss of function, such as the ability to walk.”

Duchenne muscular dystrophy causes muscles to progressively weaken and lose the ability to regenerate after an injury. By age 12, many patients need a wheelchair. The life expectancy for patients with Duchenne is the late teens or early 20s.

Forbes will test the effect of the drug sildenafil citrate, commonly known as Viagra, on blood flow in mouse muscle and its ability to prevent muscle damage. He uses magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, to produce precise, non-invasive images of the muscle.

“This study could provide support for using sildenafil citrate as a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy,” Forbes said. “We are hopeful that this treatment may improve strength, function and quality of life, and possibly extend life in individuals with Duchenne.”

Jennifer Sharp, associate director of the Foundation for Physical Therapy, recently spent a day in PHHP’s department of physical therapy. The national foundation has provided grants to several UF physical therapy graduate students and faculty over the years, and Sharp’s visit gave her the opportunity to see the department’s research firsthand.

Sharp spoke with faculty and students, toured research facilities and met with individual researchers to learn about their work.

“Respect, passion, enthusiasm and pride emerged as ongoing themes throughout the day,” Sharp said. “Each person I met demonstrated passion and pride for the work they do, as well as tremendous enthusiasm for their colleagues and mentors. There is no doubt that physical therapy research is indeed changing lives — in so many ways.”

PHHP researcher Sean Forbes, Ph.D., has received a $180,000 grant from the Muscular Dystrophy Association to study whether a drug that improves muscle blood flow could slow the progression of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

“Muscles in children with Duchenne muscular dystrophy are missing a key enzyme that normally increases blood flow and oxygen during and following muscle contractions,” said Forbes, a post-doctoral associate in the College of Public Health and Health Professions’ department of physical therapy. “This reduced blood flow puts additional stress on the muscle and may contribute to damage that cannot be adequately repaired. This ultimately leads to reduced strength and loss of function, such as the ability to walk.”

Duchenne muscular dystrophy causes muscles to progressively weaken and lose the ability to regenerate after an injury. By age 12, many patients need a wheelchair. The life expectancy for patients with Duchenne is the late teens or early 20s.

Forbes will test the effect of the drug sildenafil citrate, commonly known as Viagra, on blood flow in mouse muscle and its ability to prevent muscle damage. He uses magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, to produce precise, non-invasive images of the muscle.

“This study could provide support for using sildenafil citrate as a treatment for Duchenne muscular dystrophy,” Forbes said. “We are hopeful that this treatment may improve strength, function and quality of life, and possibly extend life in individuals with Duchenne.”

Jennifer Sharp, associate director of the Foundation for Physical Therapy, recently spent a day in PHHP’s department of physical therapy. The national foundation has provided grants to several UF physical therapy graduate students and faculty over the years, and Sharp’s visit gave her the opportunity to see the department’s research firsthand.

Sharp spoke with faculty and students, toured research facilities and met with individual researchers to learn about their work.

“Respect, passion, enthusiasm and pride emerged as ongoing themes throughout the day,” Sharp said. “Each person I met demonstrated passion and pride for the work they do, as well as tremendous enthusiasm for their colleagues and mentors. There is no doubt that physical therapy research is indeed changing lives — in so many ways.”
Who needs candy?
Student pharmacists prescribe sugar-free fun for kids with diabetes
By Linda Homewood

There was no trick, just treats for children with diabetes when the Jacksonville campus of the UF College of Pharmacy teamed up with the American Diabetes Association to hold the eighth annual October Bash last month.

UF members of the American Pharmacy Association’s Academy of Student Pharmacists volunteered to help kids with diabetes enjoy the Halloween holiday fun. Each year, more than 15,000 American children are affected with type 1 diabetes, while the incidence of type 2 diabetes continues to rise with the incidence of childhood obesity.

“Halloween is a difficult time for parents of children with diabetes. Our hope is to try to take the focus away from candy while making the holiday still enjoyable for the children,” said Carol Motycka, Pharm.D., assistant dean and Jacksonville campus director with the UF College of Pharmacy.

The free event each year helps ensure a happy and safe Halloween celebration for children and teens with diabetes and their families. This year’s activities included a Halloween costume contest, roller skating, carnival and arcade games with the UF College of Pharmacy students.

One busy doc

M**ichael Suk**, M.D., J.D., M.P.H., an associate professor and chief of orthopaedic trauma surgery and associate program director of the orthopaedic surgery residency program at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, was selected to serve as chair of the Orthopaedic Trauma Association Health Policy Committee. Suk has received a slew of other honors lately, as well. Suk recently was elected as secretary/treasurer of the Florida Orthopaedic Society for a two-year term. In addition, he was selected for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Leadership Fellows Program, a one-year program geared to help develop future AAOS leaders. Suk also has co-authored the second edition of the reference book *Outcomes Measures and Instruments*.

**ERIC H. CONDE**, M.S.A., an assistant dean for administrative affairs in the College of Medicine-Jacksonville, has been selected as the Region III director and board member for the American Academy of Medical Administrators. He will begin a two-year term Jan. 1. AAMA’s mission is to advance excellence in health-care leadership.

**ANN L. HARWOOD-NUSS**, M.D., a professor and assistant dean for program development at the College of Medicine-Jacksonville will serve a three-year appointment as a member of the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine’s new Medicine Alumni Advisory Board. Harwood-Nuss received her medical degree from the University of Iowa College of Medicine.
Major achievement

Patrick Monaghan, Ph.D., C.L.S., a research professor in the department of anesthesiology at the UF College of Medicine-Jacksonville, was chosen to receive the U.S. Department of Defense Armed Services Blood Program Lifetime Achievement Award. Monaghan received the award Oct. 9 at the American Association of Blood Banks' Cellular Therapy and Transfusion Medicine Expo in Baltimore. Lt. Gen. Eric Schoomaker, M.D., Ph.D., the surgeon general of the U.S. Army and commanding general of the U.S. Army Medical Command, presented the award. Monaghan began his military career in 1961 when he enlisted as a hospital corpsman. He completed his active military service 27 years later at the rank of commander and assistant dean for graduate and continuing education at the F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences.

Richard Davidson, CoLLEGE of MEDiCinE

RICHARD DAVIDSON, M.D., M.P.H., a professor of medicine and director of the Office of Generalist and Interdisciplinary Education, has been named associate vice president for health affairs for interprofessional education. In this role, Davidson will lead a committee that will develop an interdisciplinary curriculum for students across the Health Science Center.

Marvin A. Dewar, M.D., J.D., has been appointed senior associate dean, chief executive officer and chief medical officer of UF Physicians, the faculty group practice of the UF College of Medicine. Dewar, a long-time faculty member in the department of community health and family medicine, has helped guide UF’s faculty practice through several key initiatives designed to improve quality of care and patient safety.

Ralph Rice, DHSc, PA-C, has been appointed associate dean and director of the School of Physician Assistant Studies. Rice, who was recognized last year as a distinguished fellow by the American Academy of Physician Assistants, comes to UF from the department of physician assistant studies at the Wake Forest University School of Medicine, where he is an associate professor and associate program director. He was chosen to lead the UF physician assistant program following a national search to replace Wayne Bottom, M.P.H., PA-C, who retired in June after guiding the program for 27 years.

Robert Hromas, M.D., a professor and the chief of hematology-oncology at the University of New Mexico, has been named chair of the College of Medicine department of medicine, effective Feb. 14. A leading authority on blood cancers, Hromas also serves as deputy director of the UNM Cancer Center — the official cancer center of New Mexico and one of only 66 National Cancer Institute-designated centers in the United States. Hromas recently cloned and characterized a novel DNA repair protein that plays a crucial role in both chemotherapy resistance and in HIV integration. He has created new drugs that target this protein and is testing them for effectiveness in treating cancers resistant to chemotherapy. “He is a rare quadruple talent,” said Paul Okunieff, M.D., director of the UF Shands Cancer Center. “As an administrator, scientist, visionary leader, clinician — he does it all well and is well-regarded for it.” Hromas will replace Edward R. Block, M.D., who is retiring after serving more than eight years as chair of the department.

Katie Vogel Anderson, Pharm.D., a clinical assistant professor of pharmacotherapy and translational research, and Erin St. Onge, Pharm.D., an assistant dean and director of the college’s Orlando Campus, have been appointed as new board members for the Florida Society of Health-System Pharmacists. Anderson and St. Onge will serve this year as board-elect members.

A quadruple talent

Beginning in August 2011, they will serve two additional years as voting board members.

Sherrilene Classen, Ph.D., an associate professor in the department of occupational therapy, was appointed as an extraordinary professor by the University of Stellenbosch in South Africa for her expertise in the field. She will help the university design a curriculum for a Ph.D. in occupational therapy, facilitate a student exchange program and collaborate on road safety research.

Katie Vogel Anderson

Erin St. Onge

Rahul Shrivastav

Visit us online @ http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
A childhoood doctor inspired
Onyekachukwu “Onyeka” Osakwe, M.B., 30, to become an orthopedist, but his own experiences inspired him to go into public health. Now he hopes to combine the two.

As a 7-year old in southeastern Nigeria, Osakwe fell and broke his arm. Two years earlier, he had spilled a cup of scalding tea on his thigh. The same doctor treated his open fracture and second-degree burns. Dr. Eze was the only one who could change the child’s dressings painlessly.

“There was just something about him,” Osakwe said. “Something extra.”

So he decided, “I want to be Dr. Eze.”

Osakwe grew up and graduated with a degree in medicine from Nigeria's University of Benin in 2006. The Nigerian government requires graduates to spend one year in the National Youth Service Corps in an effort to create national unity among the country's diverse ethnic groups, so Osakwe, a southerner, was sent to Gombe in the north.

The experience opened his eyes to poverty and provided him with hands-on opportunities, from performing surgery to delivering babies — there were even several babies named after him.

Monthly, Osakwe led groups to remote communities to pass out mosquito nets, provide free health care, and educate villagers about diseases and school children about hygiene. He realized that preventive services go a long way in improving people’s quality of life.

Motivated to study public health, he applied to UF’s Master of Public Health Program. He had heard about the university’s reputation from across the Atlantic but coming to Gainesville, Osakwe knew no one. The Public Health Student Association was the first organization to welcome him, and he’s been an active member since then.

In addition, he volunteers with Alachua County Choices Health Services and is a teaching assistant for the course Principles of Epidemiology in Public Health — all the while maintaining a 4.0 grade point average.

Last year, the College of Public Health and Health Professions selected Osakwe for the Association of Schools of Public Health Leadership Institute. He was the first international student to participate in the annual workshop and networking session in Philadelphia.

Currently, he is interning and working on his research project with Children’s Medical Services studying methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, or MRSA, trends in children.

“Onyeka is excellent on every level — in his own class,” said Heidi Saliba, a coordinator of research programs for Children’s Medical Services. “He redefines excellence, and we are the fortunate ones.”

After he graduates in December, his sights are set on an orthopedic residency followed by a pediatric-orthopedic fellowship.

“People always ask me, ‘Orthopedics? Why are you getting your master’s in public health? How can you combine the two?’”

Osakwe’s ultimate goal is to contract with the World Health Organization to lead his own team of doctors and scientists into Nigeria and other developing nations to provide specialized services and do research on surgical site infections and malnutrition.

Osakwe’s success to date, as well as his mother’s encouragement, proves to him that he can accomplish anything if he works hard enough.

“I have my goals set, and though the odds may not always be in my favor, I believe strongly that with focus and consistent hard work, I will achieve these goals.”

By Bridget Higginbotham

Visit us online @ http://post.health.ufl.edu for the latest news and HSC events.
Dressed as a masked superhero, Bud Desforges “flew” to the United Way’s campaign kickoff event to talk about the importance of giving.

The crowd gathered at the United Way campaign kickoff event in the Shands at UF Atrium enjoyed listening to Bud Desforges.