



PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES

Progress continues on the George T. Harrell, MD, Medical Education Building

BY CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT

The constant sights and sounds of construction surrounding the rising George T. Harrell, MD, Medical Education Building can mean only one thing — progress.

Having reached several milestones in the construction of the new building, such as the groundbreaking in November, a beam-signing event in May and builders raising the highest piece of structural steel in August, college leaders are now looking to next year when the building will open to students.

UF College of Medicine alumni and friends have generously supported the Medical Education Building to help shape how UF medical and physician assistant students learn, how they lead, how they discover and how they will impact the

future of health care. To date, the college has raised nearly \$30 million for the Medical Education Building.

Progress on the future hub of the medical school began with a November groundbreaking. Attended by alumni, medical students and friends, the groundbreaking ceremony set the foundation for the 94,000-square-foot, four-story facility named after the college’s visionary founding dean.

When planning the new medical school, George T. Harell, MD, envisioned it at the center of the health sciences campus. Harrell realized that collaborative, multidisciplinary education, as well as small group learning, provided the framework for future great physicians.

A beam signing celebration was held May 21 to acknowledge the continued progress of the facility. Attendees autographed an orange beam with blue ink before the construction crew lifted the last beam into its place atop the rising structure.

“It is a facility built upon a foundation of knowledge, skill and innovation. It brings those essential elements first conceived by Dr. Harrell together with the most technologically advanced teaching and

learning tools available today,” said UF College of Medicine Dean Michael L. Good, MD. “It is reinforced through our core values of humanism, compassion and patient-centric care.”

The celebration was held on the site of the new Medical Education Building, located on the north edge of the UF Health Science Center on Newell Drive across from the Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute.

► For more information on how to leave your mark on the Medical Education Building, visit HowWeLearn.med.ufl.edu.

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NEWS CLIPS

ANATOMIC PATHOLOGY DIVISION OPENS RENOVATED SPACE

UF College of Medicine faculty and staff welcomed the division of anatomic pathology to its new home with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in the Stetson Medical Sciences Building May 28. The renovated space, located in the N-wing of the building, will help consolidate the division and its services. Pictured below from left to right are Michael Clare-Salzler, MD, chair of the department of pathology; John D. Reith, MD, director of anatomic pathology; Jacquelyn Knapik, MD, director of surgical pathology; David S. Guzick, MD, PhD, senior vice president for health affairs at UF and president of UF Health; and Michael L. Good, MD, dean of the UF College of Medicine. ■

FAMILY MEDICINE ALUM RECEIVES LEADERSHIP AWARD

Patrick “P.J.” Lynn, MD ‘12, recently was named Family Medicine Resident of the Year by the Georgia Academy of Family Physicians. Lynn is a second-year resident in the Floyd Medical Center Family Medicine Residency Program. The award recognizes a resident’s leadership, academic achievement, professionalism and contribution to the community. Lynn will serve as the next chief resident of Floyd’s Family Medicine Residency Program. ■



PHOTO BY JESSE S. JONES



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Physician Assistant class of 2014 celebrates graduation

Members of the UF College of Medicine School of Physician Assistant Studies class of 2014 took their first steps as Gator PAs during a commencement ceremony June 21. About 500 friends and family members packed the University Auditorium on the UF campus to watch the ceremony, which marked the transition from student to professional for the 59 graduates. UF’s PA program has graduated nearly 1,700 students since it began as a collaboration with Santa Fe College (then called Santa Fe Community College) in 1972. Graduates and faculty received accolades for exceptional performance, and the event also included remarks from Michael L. Good, MD, UF College of Medicine dean; Ralph W. Rice, DHSc, PA-C, associate dean and director of the School of PA Studies; John Krogh III, president of the class of 2014; and Rick Morales, BHS, PA-C ‘84, past president of the Florida Academy of Physician Assistants. “To be truly happy, you have to have purpose,” Morales said as he congratulated his newest colleagues. “This profession will provide that.”

FLORIDA OPHTHALMOLOGY SOCIETY RECOGNIZES YOUNG ALUM

Ravi R. Patel, MD '02, received the Michael R. Redmond, MD, Outstanding Young Ophthalmologist Award from the Florida Society of Ophthalmology, the preeminent professional association for medical and osteopathic physicians who specialize in vision care. The annual award recognizes a Florida-based ophthalmologist younger than 40 years old who has demonstrated organizational leadership and service. Patel also was named the UF College of Medicine's Outstanding Young Alumnus for 2014. ■

BAILEY NAMED AS INFLUENTIAL LEADER

David J. Bailey, MD, HS '86, MBA, landed on Modern Healthcare magazine's list of the 50 most influential physician executives and leaders. As president and CEO of the Nemours Foundation, he has led Jacksonville's Nemours Children's Health System for the past eight years. A pediatric gastroenterologist by training, Bailey established a pediatric gastroenterology division at the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando before joining the Nemours system in 1997. ■

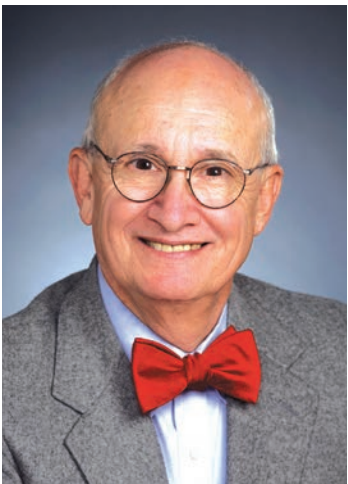
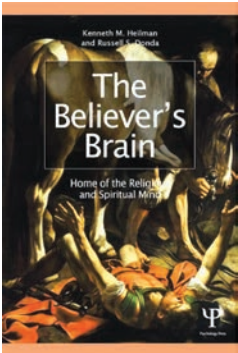


David J. Bailey, MD

'THE BELIEVER'S BRAIN'

UF neurologist seeks to unlock brain's spiritual connection

BY CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT



Kenneth Heilman, MD

Throughout his career, UF neurologist and health psychologist Kenneth Heilman, MD, has been intrigued by how the human brain mediates religious beliefs, practices and spirituality. In his new book, "The Believer's Brain: Home of the Religious and Spiritual Mind," he attempts to tackle some of his lifelong questions. Heilman, the James E. Rooks Jr. distinguished professor of neurology and health psychology, analyzed the brain as a neurologist and not from a religious aspect. According to Heilman, there is not one "God spot" in the brain that explains the connection, but rather complex networks distributed throughout the brain.

"If someone's been touched, how does the brain know he or she has been touched?" Heilman asked. "In the same way, what leads to strong religious feelings and spiritual experiences? Why do we have religious wars? Why do we have such strong belief states?" Other chapters range from religious intolerance and belief in immortality to how people become spiritual and the suspension of disbelief. Heilman said he tried to keep his writing neutral, not wishing to inject his personal beliefs. After he sent his book to one publisher, the editor released his writings for reviews. "They received two reviews. One review

said, 'It's obvious that Dr. Heilman is highly religious and is trying to convert people to his religiosity.' The other said the exact opposite," Heilman said with a laugh. Heilman wrote the book to encourage understanding and, ideally, tolerance among those with different belief systems. "In some way I was hoping that if people understand the brain and some of the biological bases of our religions and the differences in our religions, that this understanding may make them more tolerant of other people," Heilman said. "I think that was maybe a deeper motivation."

"THE BELIEVER'S BRAIN" WAS WRITTEN BY HEILMAN AND RUSSELL S. DONDA AND PUBLISHED BY PSYCHOLOGY PRESS IN JANUARY 2014. | COPIES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT AMAZON.COM.

BRINGING HOPE TO FUTURE ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS:

A son donates in honor of his mother's last wishes

BY CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT

Before Hope Stinger passed away, her son, Marty, promised her that he would donate his share of the sale of her Gainesville home. When he asked his mother where she would like the money to go, she immediately said "Alzheimer's research at the University of Florida." Stinger suffered from Alzheimer's disease before her death in 2010. Marty and his wife, Kathie, donated \$26,500 to UF Alzheimer's research after the house sold. "She would be extremely pleased that her wish was fulfilled, and that it will help desperately needed research," said Harriet LeChander, Stinger's sister. Stinger's connection with UF began in 1956 when she, a widowed mother of three, moved from Rochester, New York to Gainesville to work as a medical technician at the university. "The move to sunny Gainesville and the employment as a lab tech proved to be the determining factor for the rest of her life,"

LeChander said. "The technical work fit her personality perfectly as she was detail-oriented and meticulous. She remained living in Gainesville for the next 50 years." While working full time, Stinger earned her associate's degree from Santa Fe Community College, then, when she was in her early 60s, she acquired her bachelor of arts degree in anthropology from UF. She retired from UF Health Shands Hospital in June 1989. "My mother worked in research labs at Shands and retired from there. She always worked alongside students and made many friends among 'the kids,' as she would call them," Marty Stinger said. Stinger, an anthropologist at heart, traveled the world with a "research-oriented mind" and continually studied diverse civilizations, LeChander said of her sister. She traveled extensively in Europe, Mexico and across the United States. "Although all these places delighted her, Gainesville and the University of Florida always drew her back," LeChander said.



Hope Stinger, who loved cats, is pictured with her two Siamese cats.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTY STINGER

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visit drgator.ufl.edu/aw and keep up with the conversation on
Facebook and Twitter using the hashtag [#UFCOMaw14](https://twitter.com/UFCOMaw14).

Remembering the past and building the future

Alumni Weekend 2014 offers opportunities
for former classmates to reconnect

BY STYLIANA RESVANIS

The Gator Nation may be everywhere, but this November, hundreds of UF College of Medicine graduates will return to where it all began.

Alumni Weekend 2014 will give alumni an opportunity to reflect on their medical school days, reconnect with former classmates and celebrate the bright future in store for medical education at their alma mater.

The weekend's festivities, which run from Nov. 14 to Nov. 16, mark milestone reunions for the classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009.

Events will include a reunion dinner, campus tours — such as the Institute on Aging tour with interactive demonstrations — a student panel, a reunion dinner, an alumni tailgate and the opportunity to cheer on the Florida Gators against the South Carolina Gamecocks in The Swamp or at a football watch party.

Among the scheduled events is a notable alumnus lecture with Robert Phillips, MD '95, a family medicine advocate and health policy expert who

serves as vice president for research and health policy at the American Board of Family Medicine. Attendees can enjoy lunch and listen to Phillips discuss health system change while earning Continuing Medical Education credit.

A highlight of this year's Alumni Weekend will be the student-alumni speed networking event, which will offer alumni an opportunity to interact with students and share advice on what to know before graduation, how to get preceptorships, what life is like post-graduation and more.

But above all, the weekend will serve as a way to rekindle friendships and reinforce pride in the legacy of the UF College of Medicine.

"Reunion weekend allows us to celebrate you, our graduates," College of Medicine Dean Michael L. Good, MD, told alumni at last year's gathering. "What makes a great medical school is great faculty and great students. You are that legacy. You are the students who went out into the world. You are our ambassadors. You are our Gator Nation."



James "Jim" Duke, MD '85, and his wife, Pam, represent The Gator Nation on safari in Botswana in May. Duke is president-elect of the UF College of Medicine's medical alumni board and an orthopedic surgeon living in Ocala, Florida.



The UF College of Medicine's Interdisciplinary Program in Biomedical Sciences held its spring graduation ceremony April 25 in the UF Cancer & Genetics Research Complex. Newly graduated master's and doctoral students are pictured with their faculty and UF College of Medicine Dean Michael L. Good, MD, following the ceremony.



R. Donna M. Baytop, MD '76



Nancy Mendenhall, MD '80

Two influential leaders named to college's Wall of Fame

BY CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT

Two medical directors from vastly different medical fields recently were named to the UF College of Medicine Wall of Fame.

R. Donna M. Baytop, MD '76, and Nancy Mendenhall, MD '80, earned the honor through their contributions to medicine, as well as to the betterment of health in their communities. For Baytop, her community encompasses continents, whereas Mendenhall's is a little closer to home.

Baytop is the corporate medical director for Solar Turbines Inc., a subsidiary of Caterpillar Inc., and one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial gas turbines. While based in San Diego, California, Baytop works with medical teams globally to care for nearly 8,000 company employees.

"I am proud of having the opportunity to give back to others, to be in a setting where my training and experiences have been paramount to helping others in a global

environment and workforce," Baytop said.

When an employee is injured, Baytop is notified, and she finds the nearest center of excellence, oversees the transport of her patient and communicates with the physician to follow her patient's progress. According to Baytop, her main responsibility is to coordinate the highest degree of care possible.

Her training as a UF medical student laid the foundation for the career she would have, said Baytop, who specialized in urban family medicine.

"I left the program with a great deal of confidence that I was prepared to face the challenges of being a physician," Baytop said. "Most importantly, the program taught me to appreciate the gift of being a physician and provided me with the tools to effect significant changes in the lives and well-being of others."

Mendenhall has been the medical

director for the UF Proton Therapy Institute in Jacksonville, Florida since it opened in 2006. Her relentless pursuit for improved cancer treatments helped bring the new technology of proton therapy to UF. "It became a passion to get this technology for patients," she said. "We believed that proton treatments could reduce the negative effects on normal tissue, thus causing fewer future complications."

When she heard the news of her name being added to the Wall of Fame, Mendenhall thought it was a mistake.

"There are so many people in my (medical school) class that I know of who do incredible things, and I feel like it could have been any of the other graduates from my class," Mendenhall said. "I feel lucky and rather undeserving because of the incredible people who do such incredible things. I'm honored and humbled."

The Wall of Fame Award and Recognition Ceremony began in 1991, and 26 alumni names and photos fill the display in the Founders Gallery of the Academic Research Building. Baytop and Mendenhall will be honored for their contributions during UF College of Medicine Alumni Weekend Nov. 14-16.



Michael Okun, MD '96, communicates with the patient during DBS surgery.

“The number of leads implanted by Drs. Okun and Foote puts them in a small handful of centers with so much experience. Patients seek them out and will frequently travel from all over the world to Gainesville in order to have this specialty surgery performed here at UF Health.”

- William Friedman, MD
Chair of the department of neurosurgery



OKUN, FOOTE REACH 1,000TH DBS SURGERY

BY MORGAN SHERBURNE AND CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT

While a typical large deep brain stimulation center implants about 25 to 50 leads per year, the UF Health Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration has a dynamic neurosurgeon-and-neurologist team that implants about 150 leads per year. Recently, the team, led by neurologist Michael Okun, MD '96, and neurosurgeon Kelly Foote, MD, HS '02, reached an extraordinary milestone by performing more than 1,000 deep brain stimulation surgeries since beginning the procedure at UF in 2002.

"The number of leads implanted by Drs. Okun and Foote puts them in a small handful of centers with so much experience. Patients seek them out and will frequently travel from all over the world to Gainesville in order to have this specialty surgery performed here at UF Health," said William Friedman, MD, chair of neurosurgery at UF Health. "Additionally, UF has become the place to go if you are having trouble with your DBS device."

The doctors have helped advance deep brain stimulation at the UF Health Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration since founding the center in 2002. The two, with help from Frank Bova, PhD, a professor of neurosurgery, designed a computer software package on which they can plan the surgery, inputting the image of the patient's brain and the location of the problematic area.

Foote, who completed his general surgery internship and residency in neurological surgery at UF, first performs the operation virtually on the computer. Okun then uses a special tiny microelectrode to convert the nerve signals out of the brain and digitize those brain signals into sound. Okun, who completed his internship and neurology residency at UF and residency at Emory University, tracks the progress on the computer and discovers the target site by listening to the brain's noises and mapping the brain's structures.

Foote then implants electrodes deep within the patient's brain and later connects the electrodes to battery packs implanted in the patient's chest. The electrodes interrupt signals the patient's brain sends to the muscles, which allows the patient to reclaim certain physical abilities.

The 1,000th surgery involved implanting a lead into the brain of a 14-year-old boy who was diagnosed with dystonia, a neurologic movement disorder. The boy already has experienced physical improvements from the surgery.

"I've had patients with dystonia who have gone for three months with no apparent benefit, feeling that the surgery was a waste of time. Then, slowly the body starts responding and by six to nine months, the patient is virtually normal," Foote said. "It's extraordinarily gratifying."



Michael Okun, MD '96, (left) and Kelly Foote, MD.



Richard T. Smith, MD

"MY GREATEST RESPECT FOR HIM WAS HIS ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE WITH PARENTS."

— JEAN BENNETT, MD '60



Gerold Schiebler, MD, a distinguished service professor of pediatrics emeritus, attends Richard T. Smith's Celebration of Life on Aug. 2 at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

Pioneering scientist, physician and founding faculty member passes away

BY CHRISTINE BOATWRIGHT

The UF College of Medicine lost its first chair of pediatrics, Richard T. Smith, MD, in June. Smith, who treated countless numbers of critically ill children in his lifetime, had "an undeviating commitment to excellence," according to Gerold Schiebler, MD, who was hired by Smith to join the UF department of pediatrics faculty in 1960.

"I think at the very beginning he made a tradition of excellence," Schiebler said. "I think he always taught us that quality performance will be the prime component of any pediatric department."

Even after retirement in 2003, Smith continued to give back to the college. In the spring of 2013, Smith and his wife, Jean, made a \$1.2 million gift to create the Smith Family Scholarship, establishing a legacy at

the College of Medicine that will influence UF medical students for generations.

His legacy also continues in the medical students he mentored throughout his career.

"My greatest respect for him was his ability to communicate with parents," said pediatrician Jean Bennett, MD '60. "All of us learned from him how to talk to parents, especially when news was not good. That's the most outstanding thing we all remember."

Smith, 90, passed away in Gainesville. He is survived by his wife, Jean; his sons, Richard "Tom" Smith, a graduate of the UF College of Medicine, Joseph Smith and John Smith, also a UF College of Medicine graduate; and his daughter, Claudia Smith.



Friends and family attending the Celebration of Life for Richard T. Smith, MD, shared their memories and expressed sympathy in a unique guest book.



Richard T. Smith's family, including his wife, Jean; children, Richard "Tom" Smith Jr.; Joseph Smith; John Smith; and Claudia Smith; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren, are photographed during an evening celebrating his life.

PHOTO BY MINDY MILLER

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