

DOCTOR

GATOR

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI NEWS

UF
UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

FALL 2013



WHERE'S
YOUR
CLASS?

Don't let your medical school class year be left out of the new George T. Harrell, MD, Medical Education Building.

You and your former classmates have a unique opportunity to help lay the foundation for the future of medical education at the College of Medicine and to influence generations of medical and physician assistant students and their training. Join the Alumni Challenge as a class. Go to HowWeLearn.med.ufl.edu.

The Alumni Class Challenge

The Alumni Challenge effort, which was spearheaded by a group of dedicated UF medical alumni in 2008, aimed to raise \$2.5 million for the new Medical Education Building through 100 gifts of \$25,000 each. The Alumni Challenge will close soon, but there there is still time for you and your classmates to make a difference.

By joining together, those classes that reach the \$25,000 Alumni Challenge level will be listed with the other Alumni Challenge members in a special area of the donor recognition wall in the new building.

Individual gifts of \$500 or more will help your class reach its goal fast. A class that surpasses the \$25,000 Alumni Challenge mark could potentially reach a gift level that would allow a naming opportunity in the new Medical Education Building, an even greater honor and tribute to the impact your alma mater has had upon your career.

The class that achieves the highest participation by Dec. 31 will receive special recognition from the Medical Alumni Association.



WAYS TO GIVE:



Online:
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Foundation Inc.
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Gainesville, FL 32604
(please include class
year in memo)



By phone:
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By email:
drgator@health.ufl.edu



Giving to the Alumni Class Challenge is more than just a monetary contribution; it is an opportunity for you to shape the future of medicine for generations to come.

THE ALUMNI CLASS CHALLENGE

10

83

72

85

89

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NEWS CLIPS

CELEBRATING J. HILLIS MILLER

UF leaders and the family members of late UF President J. Hillis Miller gathered in April to celebrate a historical marker dedicated to Miller. Miller's vision during his time as UF president ultimately led to the creation of the UF Health Science Center and its teaching hospital (now UF Health Shands Hospital), which were founded in 1956, three years after Miller's death. ■

TRAINING YOUNG DOCTORS

Students from kindergarten through 12th grade became doctors for a day in July, thanks to the UF College of Medicine. About 125 students participated in interactive demonstrations of medical procedures and learned from UF medical students and UF Health doctors and nurses. The event served as the finale to the Medical Professional Career Outreach Program, a five-week educational summer program for children in the community. ■

UF business alumnus gives back to dermatology department

BY STYLIANA RESVANIS

After visiting five doctors over the course of four months with no luck, Joe Blanton had reached the end of his rope — and then he met Christina L. Mitchell, MD '04.

The UF Health dermatologist gave Blanton what the others — a pain management specialist, an immunologist, two dermatologists and a tropical disease specialist — couldn't: a simple diagnosis and treatment for a skin infection likely contracted while vacationing in Brazil.

"Most of the doctors I saw, all they wanted to do was prescribe some medicine and get rid of me," said Blanton, vice president of investments at Mustard Seed Advisors of Raymond James in St. Petersburg and a 1965 graduate of the UF Warrington College of Business Administration. "[Dr. Mitchell] cared, she took time. She wanted to get to the root cause."

To show appreciation for the care he received and to address the need for well-trained dermatologists, Blanton also went to the root cause: education.

He decided to fund textbooks for dermatology residents at his alma mater and signed a \$100,000 bequest in June to continue the annual gifts long after his lifetime. Through the creation of the Joseph and Nancy Blanton Dermatology Education Fund, the Florida native hopes to improve dermatology in the state.

And as for finding a dermatologist closer to home, he said he doesn't need to — he plans to continue seeing Mitchell in Gainesville.

"I have tremendous confidence in her and in the whole staff," he said. "It's a 160-mile drive so it's not convenient, but I'm more concerned about my health than convenience."



PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS

Nancy and Joe Blanton (standing center) and Christina L. Mitchell, MD '04 (standing, third from right), pictured with residents holding copies of textbooks purchased through the Blantons' contribution to the department of dermatology.

COM alum named UF trustee



PHOTO BY PRISCILLA SANTOS

In June, Florida Gov. Rick Scott appointed two new members of the UF Board of Trustees, including the board's first UF College of Medicine graduate.

Jason Rosenberg, MD '95, will serve a term on the board that ends Jan. 6, 2016. Scott also appointed James W. "Bill" Heavener, of Winter Park. UF President Bernie Machen praised the appointment of Rosenberg.

"Jason has a deep appreciation for the unique opportunities afforded by a college education. In fact, he has been one of the most vocal and visible champions of the Machen Florida Opportunity Scholars program," Machen said.

Rosenberg, of Gainesville, is a board-certified plastic and reconstructive surgeon who specializes in microsurgical breast reconstruction for women with breast cancer. He is chairman of the Florida Board of Medicine and president of the UF Alumni Association Board of Directors, and he is past president of the UF Medical Alumni Association.

Both appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

PROTECTING FLORIDA’S FUTURE

Starting July 1, the department of pediatrics at the UF College of Medicine–Jacksonville will begin offering the first Child Abuse Pediatrics Fellowship Program in the state. Child abuse pediatrics is a relatively recent area of subspecialization within the pediatric field. UF Health at Jacksonville will become only the 23rd academic health center offering this training nationally. The three-year fellowship will train pediatricians to effectively evaluate abused children; make recommendations for their care;

lead community, regional and national advocacy; and function as medical experts within a collaborative child protection system that includes child welfare, law enforcement and judicial components. The fellowship will be a cooperative operation of the UF College of Medicine–Jacksonville, Wolfson Children’s Hospital and UF Health Jacksonville, and will function clinically as part of the Florida Department of Health’s Child Protection Team. ■

A GRAND OPENING

UF celebrated the opening of the Clinical and Translational Research Building Aug. 12. The \$45 million, 120,000-square-foot complex is the new home for research that will spur medical advances by bringing together research teams from a range of scientific disciplines, helping to speed scientific discoveries to patients.

The building, which overlooks UF’s historic Wilmot Gardens, houses the UF Institute on Aging, the Clinical and Translational Science Institute, or CTSI, and an array of other academic departments and clinical research programs, as well as flexible conference, training and collaboration areas.

“THIS NEW FACILITY IS **A KEY ADDITION** TO THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA CAMPUS. IT WILL HELP US CLOSE THE GAP BETWEEN MEDICAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL CARE, WITH GREAT BENEFITS FOR PATIENTS. AND BY PROVIDING STATE-OF-THE-ART FACILITIES FOR HUNDREDS OF UF RESEARCHERS, THE CTRB WILL HELP THE UNIVERSITY ATTRACT GRANTS AND OTHER EXTERNAL FUNDING, POSITIVELY IMPACTING OUR REGIONAL AND STATE ECONOMY.”

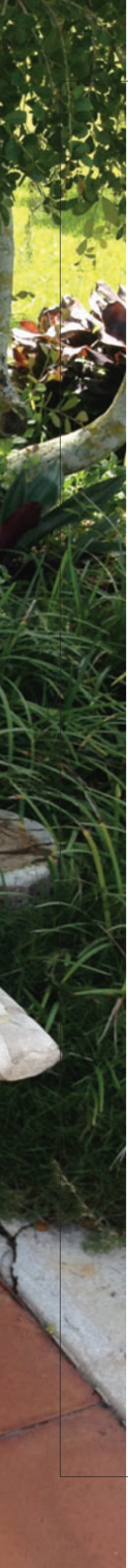
- UF PRESIDENT BERNIE MACHEN

(Left to right) Carol Walker; David R. Nelson, MD; David S. Guzick, MD, PhD; U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, Marco Pahor, MD; Michael L. Good, MD; and Michael G. Perri, PhD, during the CTRB ribbon-cutting ceremony.



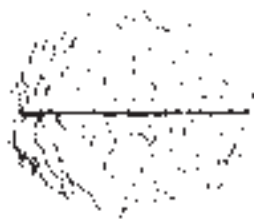
PHOTO BY MARIA BELEN FARIAS





DESPERATE

for a



DIAGNOSIS

BY REBECCA BURTON

STEPHANIE HERMAN TRAVELED FIVE HOURS TO GAINESVILLE FROM MIAMI LAST MAY IN DESPERATION. SHE NEEDED A CORRECT DIAGNOSIS THAT OTHER HOSPITALS COULDN'T GIVE HER. A YEAR LATER, THE 67-YEAR-OLD RETIREE SAYS SHE STILL USES THE WORD "MIRACLE" TO DESCRIBE HER EXPERIENCE AT UF HEALTH.

James Johnson, MD, an assistant clinical professor of neuroradiology at the UF College of Medicine and also one of the physicians who treated Herman, described his patient as an energetic woman who just loves to live. But for almost a year, Herman was showing symptoms of Parkinson's disease, memory loss and severe headaches and was confined to her recliner.

"Literally the lights were on and nobody was home," Herman said. "My husband was leading me around by the hand."

After seeing a number of specialists and having several MRIs but with no concrete answers, Herman's primary physician in Miami referred her to Johnson at UF Health.

Johnson and his colleagues in the department of radiology, Sharatchandra Bidari, MD; Jeff Bennett, MD; and Ron Quisling, MD, examined all of Herman's prior MRIs. Immediately, they knew what was wrong.

"We all looked at the images, and we could tell very quickly

that she had intracranial hypotension, which is reduced pressure within the brain," Johnson said.

Bidari and Johnson said that this uncommon problem is often misdiagnosed. It is caused by leaking cerebral spinal fluid, usually from the spine, as with Herman's case. Bidari said the symptoms can range from mild to severe and can vary among patients. Some may just experience headaches when they stand up, some suffer from memory loss and speech problems, and the most extreme cases can cause seizures or a coma.

Herman was unique because she expressed so many symptoms and set the record at UF for the number of potential leaks she had — 26.

"I had gotten to the point where I couldn't even carry on a rational conversation," Herman said. "Dr. Johnson and Dr. Bidari brainstormed, and I was literally on the table the next day."

Herman underwent a procedure called dynamic

CT myelography, an imaging technique to identify the location of the leaks. After that, multiple small blood patches were performed with her own blood using a procedure called fluoroscopically guided CT.

The changes were sudden and drastic. Within three days Herman's energy was back up, and she seemed to be her normal self again.

"It really brought her back to living," Johnson said.

Herman agreed.

"It was nothing short of miraculous," she said.


UF Health has become a regional reference center for intracranial hypotension in the Southeast. The neuroradiology team has treated patients similar to Herman from Alabama, Georgia and all over Florida, including some they have brought back to life from a coma. Herman said after her experience at UF Health, she wouldn't go anywhere else.

"The care is phenomenal, I couldn't ask for better," Herman said.





Students from the class of 2017 proudly display their new stethoscopes, gifts made possible through the support of UF College of Medicine alumni.


Students from Junior Honors: 12


Out-of-state students: 12


Students with grad degrees: 10


Students from the Rural & Urban Underserved Medicine program: 4


Students from UF undergrad: 62

New med students flood The Swamp

BY STYLIANA RESVANIS

On July 31, 135 eager students took the first step toward becoming Gator doctors.

The UF College of Medicine welcomed the class of 2017 to Gainesville with its first-year orientation activities, which kicked off with a casual gathering at The Swamp Restaurant and culminated with the dean’s reception at Emerson Alumni Hall, Aug. 7.

“It makes you feel like you’re at home,” said Rachel Pierce, 26, a first-year medical student who earned her undergraduate degree at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles.

Aside from the meet-and-greet and dean’s reception, the college offered other orientation activities throughout the week, including CPR training, small group workshops, faculty lectures and socials, like an informal gathering at Lake Wauburg.

One of the more surprising events for new students was the special presentation by the UF Medical Alumni Association, where they each received the quintessential doctor’s tool: a stethoscope.

“Not only is the stethoscope a symbol of the science of medicine, but it’s a huge part of the art,” said Medical Alumni Association President Sunil Joshi, MD ‘98. “When we’re listening to (a patient’s) body, we’re also touching them in a way that hopefully makes them feel comfortable with us. The patient-physician relationship is such an important bond.”

Denis Balaban, a graduate of Washington University in St. Louis, decided he wanted an electronic stethoscope after listening to a professor speak of its cutting-edge features but thought he would

have to wait until he became a doctor to afford one.

So when he and his fellow first-years walked into the auditorium to find 3M Littmann electronic stethoscopes resting on their desks, he couldn’t believe his eyes.

Aside from surprise, the instruments (which were supported by the celebrating classes of Alumni Weekend 2012) elicited gratitude from the new doctors-in-training.

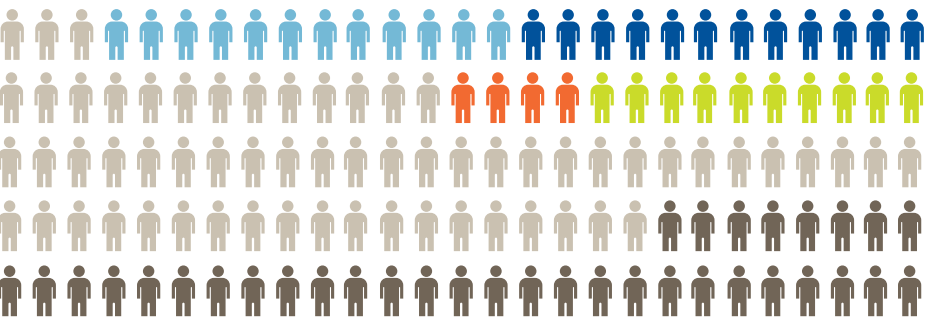
“It’s incredibly generous for alumni to come back and support their school,” said Kathleen Parker, one of 12 first-years admitted through the Junior Honors Medical Program. “I’m very thankful.”

Although the class of 2017 is diverse — 62 students were undergraduate Gators, four came from the Rural & Urban Underserved Medicine Program and 22 are over age 25 — these first-years all have something in common: They chose to dedicate their lives to medicine, and they chose to learn and grow at UF.

For Pauline Jackson-Thompson, 40, UF may be more than 2,500 miles from her undergraduate alma mater of Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., but it brings her closer to family.

Because of positive feedback from her niece (who is currently a medical student at UF) and the college’s credentials, Jackson-Thompson felt inspired to join The Gator Nation and the UF College of Medicine.

“It’s the best program in the state of Florida in my opinion,” she said. “It’s hard to compete with UF.”



Admitted: 135

Females: 64

Males: 71

MS1ST IMPRESSIONS

BY AMELIA ROOKS, UF COM CLASS OF 2016

***Editor's note:* This is an excerpt from an essay written in late 2012 for HYTQ, a publication produced by UF College of Medicine first-year students for incoming students.**

Last weekend, I visited my parents for the first time since starting medical school. As I unpacked and recapped my initial adventures in anatomy lab, my mother eyed me with increasing suspicion. "You look so ... happy," she finally blurted out. "Is something wrong?" Many words are readily associated with medical school, but "relaxed," "helpful" and even "happy"

**"YOU LOOK SO ... HAPPY,"
SHE FINALLY BLURTED OUT.
"IS SOMETHING WRONG?"**

are probably not on the top of that list; the word "hard" comes much more easily to mind. And while medical school is hard, it is also enjoyable. From my understanding, UF has always fostered this experience for its students, but I believe the new curriculum enhances our feeling of fulfillment even more. By designing highly integrated courses, the material becomes much more manageable. Take anatomy, for example. When taught on its own, the subject can seem intimidating and overwhelming. For us, however, the course is taught alongside clinical skills and population health. The multiple

perspectives help to make the material more familiar and understandable.

Another aspect of UF's curriculum that I love is just how patient-oriented it is. This is something you've already seen first-hand with the patients who were kind enough to come to our interview days, and it hasn't stopped there. Almost every week a patient will come speak to our class and give

us their personal perspectives on certain conditions. Sometimes happy, sometimes sad, these discussions have been some of the most important parts of my medical education so far. I believe that these experiences serve to humble us and make us more empathetic and kind physicians.

UF is also expanding its early preceptorship program. Starting after our white coat ceremony in early December, first-year students spend several weeks working with a primary care physician. These preceptorships aren't just shadowing; under the guidance of an experienced

physician, students get the chance to see their own patients. Learning how to interact with real patients is something that is highly valued and emphasized throughout the entire four years of medical school and isn't just isolated to the final two years. UF has a clear focus on building compassionate physicians for the modern world.

Everyone is looking for something different in a medical school, but my personal experience is that I have found a home here. I can honestly say that I love coming to UF every day. And apparently it shows!



Gator doc is 137th FMA President

The Florida Medical Association installed Jacksonville physician and 1976 graduate of the UF College of Medicine W. Alan Harmon, MD, FACP, as its 137th president during the 2013 FMA Annual Meeting this July in Orlando. Harmon is known among his colleagues as a dedicated physician leader who has made many contributions to organized medicine.

“Dr. Harmon has served the medical profession at the county, state and national levels, and he is committed to making Florida a better place for physicians to practice medicine,” said FMA Executive Vice President Timothy J. Stapleton. “His knowledge of the many complex issues facing doctors today is a great asset to the FMA.”

Board-certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology, Harmon practices with the Borland-Groover Clinic in Jacksonville. He graduated with honors from the UF College of Medicine, and he completed his residency in internal medicine and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Harmon has served on numerous FMA committees as well as the FMA Board of Governors and the FMA PAC Board of Governors. He has been a delegate from the FMA to the American Medical Association, and he also served as FMA treasurer from 2007 to 2011. He is a past president of the Duval County Medical Society, the Florida Society of Internal Medicine and the Florida Gastroenterological Society. Harmon is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and was elected last year to the AMA Council on Medical Service.

A great Floridian

BY STYLIANA RESVANIS

When then-UF president John J. Tigert asked Charlotte Maguire, MD, to help create the university’s College of Medicine, she was baffled.

“I said, ‘Dr. Tigert, I’m just out of school — I don’t know anything about how to start a medical school,’” recalled Maguire, the only woman on the college’s Founders Committee.

Despite her uncertainty, Tigert believed she could update the group on the latest curriculum and hospital-school relations. Maguire, the lone woman in her graduating class from the University of Arkansas medical school in 1944, had returned to Florida in recent years to open a pediatric practice.

“Orlando’s first girl doctor,” as newspapers called her, went on to work in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare in one of the highest positions held by a woman under the Nixon administration and helped create the Florida

Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services under Florida Gov. Claude Kirk.

Maguire, the wife of late UF law alumnus Raymer F. Maguire Sr. and a friend of the UF College of Medicine over the years, served on the department of pediatrics clinical staff in the 1980s. She later helped form the medical school at Florida State University.

In June, the 95-year-old received the Great Floridian Award from Gov. Rick Scott for her contributions to the state.

Despite her long and accomplished career, she still recalls some of those early days on the UF Founders Committee, like the time the group presented its plan to Sen. William A. Shands and asked him to help convince the Legislature to buy in.

“He thanked us for all the information,” Maguire recollected. “And as he walked out the door he said, ‘It shall be done.’”



Charlotte Maguire, MD, presents to fellow members of the UF College of Medicine founders committee, circa 1950.

Distinguished alum

BY FIONA HARRISON

One of UF’s leading experts on drug addiction has been appointed Distinguished Alumni Professor by the University of Florida Alumni Association. The honor is awarded to professors who are exceptional educators and leaders and who have brought distinction to the

university on a local, state and national level.

UFAA selected Mark S. Gold, MD ’75, chair of the UF College of Medicine department of psychiatry and Donald Dizney Eminent Scholar, to be Distinguished Alumni Professor for

the term of 2013-2015 because of his proven record as an educator and leader in his field. The award marks Gold’s second term as a Distinguished Alumni Professor and grants him a seat on the UFAA Board of Directors.

If you missed Alumni Weekend or simply want to reminisce about the fun you had, view photos at facebook.com/ufdrgator. Spot a familiar face? Tag away!

Dr. Gator is produced by UF Health Communications for alumni, faculty and friends of the UF College of Medicine.

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