

FSHN Welcomes Alumni at Experimental Biology

FSHN has always had a strong professional presence at the annual Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Conference (EB). However, the department had never before hosted a formal alumni event at EB.



L-R: **Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia** (MS student and FSHN Senior Biological Scientist) and **Tolunay Beker Aydemir** (FSHN Biological Scientist).

With the generous support of both **Dr. Bob Cousins** (Professor and Eminent Chair) and the Center for Nutritional Sciences, FSHN was able to send **Janna Underhill**, FSHN staff and Editor of FSHN News & Views, to the this year's conference in San Francisco.



L-R: **Dr. Jess Gregory** (Professor) and **Dr. Yvonne Lamers**, a post-doc in Dr. Gregory's lab.

Turnout for the event, which was held in conjunction with the annual University Mixer (sponsored by EB), was great. Alumni mingled with FSHN faculty, staff, graduate

students, post-docs, undergraduates, and other friends and research colleagues.

Attendees enjoyed free goodies donated by FSHN and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and also some good food provided by the conference. A strong Gator presence was established, and in fact a student attendee from another school asked us why UF had such a "different looking table than the other schools." (We told them the Gators were just really cool.)



Marie Dajuste (MS student; BS, 2002).

A special thank you goes out to **Emily Sperling**, Executive Director for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni and Friends Foundation, for providing table tents, CALS brochures, and lots of Gator stickers for this event.

Justin Silvestre, a junior in Nutritional Sciences, traveled to EB to



Dr. Bobbi Langkamp-Henken (Associate Professor) enjoying a nice meal with Albert the Alligator at the fabulous Gator table.



Dr. Susanne M. Talcott (PhD, 2004), **Dr. Eoin Quinlivan** (former post-doc with **Dr. Jess Gregory**)

present a poster he co-authored with **Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia** (see page 4), **Dr. Mitch Knutson** (Assistant Professor), **Dr. Sally Litherland** (BS, 1981; MS, 1983), **Dr. Cousins**, and **Dr. Bobbi Langkamp Henken** (Associate Professor). See page 3 for more about undergraduates at EB.

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L-R: **Meri Nantz** (FSHN Biological Scientist), **Dr. Sue Percival** (Professor), and **Dr. Cheryl Rowe** (FSHN Research Associate).

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(choose "Bio Update")

Alumni Updates

Dr. Maria Chatzidaki-Livanis (PhD, 2004) is continuing research in **Dr. Anita Wright's** (Associate Professor) laboratory with a post-doctoral position, and was recently offered a second post-doc position with **Dr. Laurie Comstock's** group at Harvard University.

Dr. Neil Shay, former post-doc with **Dr. Bob Cousins** (Professor and Eminent Scholar), is now a Senior Nutrition Scientist with the Kellogg's company in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Dr. Rosemay Michel (BS, 1991) is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine and an Assistant Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

2006 BS graduates accepted into Physician Assistant programs: **Tiffany Hetmanek** and **Casey Higgins** will both attend Daemon College; **Katherine Trotter** will attend Nova Southeastern Univ.

Dr. Masoumeh Rajabi (MS, 1999; PhD, 2005) has accepted a research position at ABC Research Corporation here in Gainesville.

Dr. J. Bernadette Moore (PhD, 2002) is currently a Senior Marie Curie Transfer of Knowledge Fellow in the Department of Biology at the University of Ireland in Maynooth. This is a highly competitive fellowship, sponsored by the European Union.

Virginia (Braddock) Gray (BS, 2001) is a liaison between the Department of Health at Columbia University and FoodChange, an organization striving to improve the nutrition of low income children. She is part of a team helping to create a market for locally grown produce within schools, and is also developing a series of focus groups with parents to continue education outside the schools.

The following 2006 BS graduates have been accepted to dental school: **Sean Altenbach** (UF); **Kathryn Antony** (UF); **Anthony Carter** (Univ. of Maryland); **Lucia Chia** (UF); **Julianne Doyle** (Boston Univ.); **Anis Elkhechen** (UF); **Michael Gooch** (UF); **Colleen Hambrook** (Nova Southeastern Univ.); **Meredith Hoek** (Univ. of Maryland); **Meyleen Izquierdo** (UF); **Melissa Jaber** (Boston Univ.); **Latoya Jones** (UF); **Austin Mautner** (UF); **Darshan Naidu** (Harvard Univ.); **Kyle Pettersen** (UCLA); **Jodi Slootsky** (Univ. of Pennsylvania) **Dorothy Theogene** (Howard Univ.); **Bozena Zaleska** (UF).

The following 2006 BS graduates have been accepted to medical school: **Kelly Comerford** (UF); **Renee Gallo** (UF); **Arash Harzand** (Univ. of Miami); **Julia Henry** (UF); **Kirsten Madsen** (UF); **Nicole Nicophene** (UF); **Lateef Opabola** (Ross Univ.); **Shruti Shanker** (Nova Southeastern Univ.); **Anjali Shetty** (Univ. of South Florida); **Jennifer Tovey** (Virginia Commonwealth Univ.). **Brian Assent** (BS, 2003) was accepted to Medical University of the Americas.

The following 2006 BS graduates have been accepted to pharmacy school: **Jessica Cobian** (Nova Southeastern Univ.); **Mary Hall** (UF); **Julie Nguyen** (UF); **Grazia Nuccitelli** (UF); **Elizabeth Trang** (UF); **Shiheini Williams** (UF).

Lavin Joseph (MS, 2002) has accepted a research position at IOAMI Corp., a vaccine development company in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Mark Campbell (BS 2000; MS 2003) has accepted a research position with the USDA in Athens, Georgia.

The following 2006 graduates have been accepted into graduate programs here at UF: **Phuong Bui**, MS in Management; **Eric Catlin**, MS in Healthcare Administration; **Ashley Courtney**, Physician Assistant Program; **Juan Gonzalez**, MS in Management; **Shauna Vaughan**, MS in Nursing; **Andrew Vitale**, MS in Nutritional Sciences. Other 2006 BS graduates accepted into graduate programs include: **Erin Burge** (Florida Gulf Coast Univ. for Health Science); **Sabrina Khouri** (Boston Univ. for Public Health); **Alexander Moya** (Barry Univ. for Biomedical Sciences).

2006 BS graduates accepted into dietetic internships include: **Jennifer Asmus** (UF); **Ashritha Bhaskar** (Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center); **Bethany Bridgman** (Medical Univ. of SC); **Catherine Coccia** (UF); **Sarah Cruz** (Cornell Univ.); **Kelly Hunt** (Appalachian State Univ.); **Jennifer Landers** (Univ. North Florida); **Kinsey Lowrey** (Florida State Univ.); **Neha Patel** (Pasco County); **Amy Windover** (Univ. of North Florida).

Catherine Dau (BS, 2006) has been accepted into optometry school at Nova Southeastern Univ.

2006 BS graduates accepted into chiropractic schools: **Wesley Johnson** (Palmer Chiropractic) and **Steven Muscari** (Parker College of Chiropractic).

Joshua Trulock (BS, 2006) is a Second Lieutenant in the US Army's Officer Candidate School.

Troy Ayers (BS, 1997; MS, 1998) is the Director of Technical Services for ABC Research Corporation here in Gainesville.

Did we leave you out, or is our information outdated? Please drop us a line (see box, top left).

EB Alumni Social, Continued from Page 1



Gator fans celebrating in San Francisco just after UF beat George Mason University on their way to a national basketball championship. L-R: **Janna Underhill** (FSHN News & Views Editor), **Dr. J. Bernadette Moore** (PhD, 2002), **Louis Lichten** (PhD student in Nutritional Sciences; BS, 2002; MS, 2004), **Dr. Amy Mackey** (PhD, 2002), **Jeff Bobo** (BS, 2000; MS, 2004), **Dr. Steve Davis** (PhD, 2000).

It was simply a good week to be a Gator, since many of us got to watch the UF basketball team beat George Mason

University and then move on to the final game against UCLA. **Dr. Steve Davis** (PhD, 2000) helped gather everyone together at a local restaurant to watch the games and relax a little between presentations and sessions.



L-R: **Kristina Voncastel-Roberts** (PhD candidate in Nutritional Sciences), **Louis Lichten** (PhD student in Nutritional Sciences; BS, 2002; MS, 2004), and **Dr. Mitch Knutson** (Assistant Professor).



L-R: **Tolunay Beker Aydemir** and **Fikret Aydemir**, FSHN Biological Scientists.

Thank you to all alumni and other friends of FSHN who attended, and we hope to see everyone next year in Washington DC for the second annual Alumni Social at EB!

Undergraduate Research at EB

Several undergraduate students from **Dr. Peggy Borum's** (Professor) honors lab group, the Investigators, traveled to EB to present four posters on their research in clinical nutrition. Students who presented are: **Janeen Alidina** (Senior in Chemistry), **Laura Chan** (Senior in Psychology), **Candice Daibes** (Senior in Chemical Engineering), **Diego Gomez** (Senior in Nursing), **Sabrina Khouri** (Senior in Nutritional Sciences), and **Allen Pusateri** (Senior in Chemistry). Dr. Borum feels that giving undergraduates the opportunity to see and meet the authors of scientific papers they have read is an invaluable experience, especially when the students realize that those authors are often very interested in the students' own research. This is the third year that Dr. Borum has taken undergraduate students to EB to experience the "world of research outside UF."



Five of the UF undergraduates who presented posters at EB this year, having a good time at the first annual Alumni Social, L-R: **Allen Pusateri**, **Laura Chan**, **Candice Daibes**, **Janeen Alidina**, and **Diego Gomez**.

Welcome New FSHN Faculty



Join us in welcoming **Dr. José Ignacio Reyes De Corcuera**, FSHN's newest Assistant Professor. Dr. Reyes received his PhD in Engineering Science and his MS in Chemical Engineering from Washington State University, and his BS in Chemical Engineering from National Autonomous

University of Mexico. His research interests include technology development for the improvement of safety, quality, and efficiency in citrus processing to provide Florida processors with a competitive advantage worldwide; also, instrumentation and automation of food processes with emphasis on the development of biosensors and rapid enzyme methods for food safety and quality assurance. Dr. Reyes was also just elected Treasurer of the Florida Section Institute of Food Technologists.

Congratulations!

Benjamin Warren (PhD candidate in Food Science; BS, 1998; MS, 2003) and his wife **Nikki** are the proud parents of a healthy baby boy! **Zachary Ray Warren** was born on



Tuesday, May 2 at Shands Hospital in Gainesville. Mother and baby are doing well, and FSHN wishes Ben and his new family all the best.

FSHN Achievements

Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia (MS student and FSHN Senior



Biological Scientist, pictured top left) was chosen as one of twelve finalists for the American Society for Nutrition/Proctor & Gamble Graduate Student Research Award Oral Competition, which was held at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology Conference (EB) in San Francisco this March. Also, the winner of this year's competition was a FSHN alumna: **Alexia (Lundberg) Smith** (BS, 2003, pictured bottom left), who is now a nutrition doctoral student at the University of North Carolina. Congratulations go out to both of these exceptional researchers!



Melissa Kolsch Jones (BS, 2001; PhD, 2006) received the President's Award from the Southeastern American Society for Microbiology for the outstanding PhD oral presentation.

Dr. Bob Cousins (Professor and Eminent Chair) is now the Editor of *Annual Review of Nutrition*. This series continues to



have the highest citation index of any nutrition journal. The first volume under his leadership (vol. 25) was published last fall. He is also an editor, with four others, of the 10th Edition of *Modern Nutrition in Health and Disease*, which was published in August 2005. This 2000+ page textbook is a widely used reference in the scientific

and medical community worldwide. Dr. Cousins and **Dr. Juan Liuzzi** (who did most of his doctoral research in FSHN and is currently a post-doc research associate here) had a review article honored fall 2005 by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) as one of the most highly cited "Fast Breaking Papers" in the field of Agricultural Sciences.

Chris Duncan, who just graduated with his BS degree (Food Science), was selected over hundreds of other applicants for a one-year, full-time professional internship with Kellogg's in Battle Creek, Michigan. He will work on projects involving food formulations designed to eliminate trans-fatty acids. Chris, who originally arrived at UF while still in high school as a participant in the Student Science Training Program, has conducted extensive research analyses on phytochemical and antioxidant properties of various fruits and vegetables. He was also this year's recipient of the Glen Davis Juice Processing Scholarship.

Each year, FSHN chooses one 4th year undergraduate from each of its three academic specializations to receive an Outstanding Senior award. This year's Outstanding Food Science Senior is **Chris Duncan** (see paragraph above). The Outstanding Dietetics Senior is **Sarah Cruz**. Sarah is a successful student, has extensive professional and community service experience, and is a member of several professional organizations. The Outstanding Nutritional Sciences Senior is **Kelly Comerford**. Kelly is an outstanding scholar, has obtained a great deal of research and volunteer experience, and was also this year's winner of the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence, presented at fall 2005 CALS Convocation.

Please join us in congratulating our 2006 scholarship winners:

National Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) Scholarships
IFT Graduate Fellowship: **David del Pozo-Insfran, Ben Warren**
IFT Undergraduate Scholarship: **Chris Duncan**

Florida Section IFT Scholarships
Richard F. Matthews Graduate Scholarship: **Holly Petty**
Grady W. Chism, Jr. Memorial Scholarship: **Jaclyn Kalva**
IFT Undergraduate Scholarship: **Neha Patel**
Raymond A. Dennison Memorial Scholarship: **Laurin Thomas**

Corporate Scholarships
William L. and Agnes F. Brown Graduate Scholarship: **Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia, Lisbeth Pacheco**
Checkers Scholarship: **David del Pozo-Insfran, Ben Warren**
Florida Dairy Products Association Scholarship: **Chris Duncan**
Virginia Dare Scholarship: **Yael Spektor**

FSHN Scholarships
Howard Appledorf Memorial Scholarship: **Jacob Young**
Eugene E. Woodward Memorial Scholarship: **Benjamin Song**
Earl Wilmot Hartt Scholarships: **Sean Altenbach, Kristina Betters, Robert Regenhardt, Justin Silvestre, Laurin Thomas**
Robert P. Bates Scholarship: **Jaclyn Kalva**

This year, the Checkers restaurant chain chose a FSHN student for a full-time summer internship at their corporate offices in Tampa. **Jaclyn Kalva**, a senior in Food Science, was selected for this prestigious opportunity. Jaclyn was also just elected FSHN Club Vice President for Food Science for the upcoming academic year.

The Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) regional college bowl competition was held in Raleigh, NC this spring. Our FSHN team placed fourth overall in a very competitive double



2006 FSHN College Bowl Team, L-R: **Neha Patel** (Dietetics senior), **Tim Weathers** (Food Science senior), **Grace Kim** (Food Science senior), **Lyndsey Wells** (MS student, Food Science; BS, 2005), **Chris Duncan** (Food Science senior), **Danielle Bogan** (MS student, Food Science; BS, 2005), **Lisbeth Pacheco** (MS student, Food Science).

elimination event. The competition also featured a new problem solving event wherein participants competed on teams comprised of players from various schools. Participants are presented with a real life industry problem and a series of clues, and points are awarded based on how quickly the problem is solved. FSHN MS student **Lyndsey Wells** was a member of the winning problem solving team this year. Please join us in congratulating Lyndsey and all of our college bowl team members! Here are a few pictures from our journey to the competition:



Left: College Bowl Coach **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (Professor) makes a new friend. Below: **Tim Weathers** and **Chris Duncan** hard at work washing the state van.



Above: **Dr. Ron Schmidt's** favorite gas station.