

## FSHN Students & Alumni Take Top Awards



Dr. Gillian Folkes Dagan



Christopher Duncan



Carolina Lima



Carmelo "CJ" Nieves

FSHN students have always been top-notch. But this year, a record number of FSHN students won prestigious awards and scholarships.

### Food Science

At the IFT (Institute of Food Technologists) Annual Meeting in Las Vegas this summer, FSHN students took both top awards in the IFT Student Association (IFTSA) Research Paper Competitions. Both competitions required submission of an abstract and, after selection as one of the six finalists, a presentation to a panel of judges.

**Dr. Gillian Folkes Dagan** (BS, 2000; PhD, 2004), working with **Dr. Murat Balaban**, won first place in the national Graduate Student Research Paper Competition with: "Pasteurization of beer by a continuous dense-phase CO<sub>2</sub> system." She also won first place in the IFT Non Thermal Processing Division Poster Competition. Dr. Dagan is now working for the ABC Research Corporation here in Gainesville.

**Christopher Duncan** (Food Science junior), working in **Dr. Steve Talcott's** lab, won first place in the national Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition with: "Ripening associated antioxidant changes to mango (*Mangifera*

*indica*) phytochemicals." Specific components measured by Chris included antioxidant activity, ascorbic acid, gallic acid, total carotenoids, total soluble phenolics, and tannins.

Many other FSHN students also won awards at IFT. **Dr. Susanne Mertens-Talcott** (PhD, 2004), working with **Dr. Sue Percival**, won first place in the IFT Nutrition Division Poster Competition. **Kristina Garner** (MS, 2004) and **Nineveh Ludlow** (BS, 2001; MS, 2004), both from **Dr. Hordur Kristinsson's** lab, won second and third place, respectively, in the IFT Aquatic Food Products Division Poster Competition.

### Nutritional Sciences

MS/DI student **Carolina Lima** (BS, 2002) won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the American Society for Nutritional Sciences (ASNS) Vitamin and Mineral RIS Poster Competition with her research: "Sensitivity of Hepatic Cystathionine b-Synthase and Cystathionine g-Lyase to Graded Levels of Vitamin B6 Intake in Rats." She also won a Supplemental Retention Program Award from the UF Office of Graduate Minority Programs.

**Carmelo "CJ" Nieves** (BS, 2000; MS, 2004) was awarded a 2004 Davidson and Graduate Student Council Travel

Grant to present his research at the 2004 Experimental Biology Conference in DC. He was also honored as an Outstanding Graduate Student by the University of Florida in 2004.

Two current MS/DI students were also honored this year. **Melissa (Myers) Metz** (BS, 2002) won the 2004 Beechnut Dietetic Intern/Pre-Professional Practice Program Scholarship, from the American Dietetic Association Pediatric Nutrition Practice Group. And **Jaimie Vaughn** (BS, 2002) won the Outstanding Dietetic Student Award (in a DI) from the Florida Dietetic Association. She also won a University Women's Club Graduate Student Scholarship

Please join us in congratulating all of these outstanding FSHN students and alumni.

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Food Science & Human Nutrition Dept.  
College of Agricultural & Life Sciences  
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University of Florida  
<http://fshn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Editor: Janna L. Underhill  
Coordinator, Academic Support Services  
352/392-1991, ext. 220  
[janna@ufl.edu](mailto:janna@ufl.edu)

### We Welcome Your Input!

Send all correspondence, articles,  
pictures, updates and comments to:  
Alumni Newsletter  
PO Box 110370, 359 FSHN  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, FL 32611-0370

### Change of Address

Moving, but still want to receive this  
newsletter and other UF publications?  
Please notify the UF Foundation  
<http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/interact/>  
(choose "Bio Update")

## Alumni Updates

Another Dietetics graduate, **Virginia (Braddock) Gray** (BS, 2001) writes: "I am still at Mississippi State. This past year I taught a few nutrition courses and am working on research related to coordinated school health and prevention of excess weight in childhood, towards a PhD. I am glad to have been so well prepared by the University of Florida."

The following 2004 BS graduates have been accepted into graduate programs: **Lanier Fender** (MS program in Food Science, UF), **Marc Grasley** (MS in Health Education and Behavior, UF), **Karin Hsiao** (Master of Science in Management program, UF), **Kapila Kalakota** (MS in Arts in Medicine, Loyola University), **Tracey Ryan** (MS in Nutrition, FSU), **Joseph Standley** (MS in Biomedical Sciences, Barry University).

**Maria Chatzidaki** (PhD, 2004) is now a postdoctoral researcher in **Dr. Anita Wright's** lab here on campus. Maria's parents came all the way from Greece to see her walk across the stage this summer!

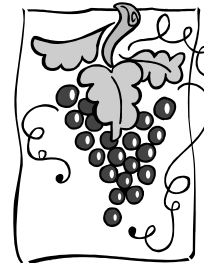
Once again, this year's BS Dietetics graduates were very successful with internship matching. Placements include: **Corrie Anderson** (Pasco County Health Department DI), **Rosabelle Campos** (Brigham & Women's Hospital DI, Boston), **Kathryn Cary** (University of North Florida MS/DI), **Shannon Delucia** (UF MS/DI), **Mary Hennessy** (Southern Regional Medical Center DI, Atlanta), **Melissa Hetzel** (Miami Valley DI, Ohio), **Mychi Huynh** (University of North Florida MS/DI), **Katherine Ingerson** (Mayo Clinic DI, Jacksonville), **Suaad Mami** (Southern Regional Medical Center DI, Atlanta), **Adee Rasabi** (Aramark DI, NYC), **Marcia Torres** (UF MS/DI)

The following 2004 BS graduates have been accepted into the UF College of Dentistry: **Richard Ballentine**, **Angela Barlow**, **Monica Bontrager**, **Jennifer Burke**, **Joshua Cahoon**, **Kelly Connaughton** (*see story, page 3*), **Deanna Fernandes**, **Lacy Holzinger**, **Jennifer Jones**, **Ryan McAlpin**, **Elana Oliver**, **Yahaira Serrano**, **Mari Takeda**, **Van Vu**. Other 2004 graduates accepted into dental school include: **Zameera Fida** (Harvard School of Dental Medicine), **John Green II** (University of Maryland-Baltimore College of Dental Surgery), **Leslie Little** (Boston University School of Dental Medicine), **Brittany Maynord** (University of Tennessee College of Dentistry), **Forrest Raymon** (University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry), and **Lesley Tenn** (Nova Southeastern University College of Dental Medicine).

2004 BS graduates accepted into medical school this year include: **Tara Bates** (University of South Florida), **Adrienne Buckman** (University of South Florida), **Allison Dodge** (UF), **Kristina Fiedler** (Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine, Missouri), **Robyn Gartner** (Albert Einstein College of Medicine, NY), **Patrick Hawkins** (FSU), **Alexandra Menchise** (USF), **Kimberly Merkel** (UF), **Mohan Punja** (University of Virginia School of Medicine), **Ethan Taub** (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, Bradenton). Previous FSHN BS graduates accepted into UF medical school this year include: **Negan Ahadi** (2003), **Ilicia Shugarman** (2002), **Sarah Smith-Vaniz** (2003). William Howarth (BS, 1997) started medical school this fall at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.

**Janeen Andrews** (BS, 2004) was accepted to the Florida A&M University College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, **Katie Driscoll** (BS, 2004) was accepted into UF's College of Pharmacy, and **Lea Schilit** (BS, 2000) will attend Nova Southeastern University's pharmacy school this next year.

**Nineveh Ludlow** (BS, 2001; MS, 2004) is working for Beaulieu Vineyards in Napa Valley, California.



**Christine Walker** (BS, 2003) is a Registered Dietitian at Cleveland Clinic in Naples, FL.

**Lisa Fish** (BS, 2002; MS, 2004) has accepted a job as a clinical dietitian at Winter Haven/Lake Wales Hospital.

**Ana Calero** (MS, 2003) is currently employed at the Florida Public Health Laboratory in Tampa, FL on a CDC Fellowship for post-graduate training.

**Mark Campbell** (MS, 2003) is a research microbiologist at Science and Technology Corporation in Edgewood, Maryland.

**Artesia Sanders** (BS, 2004) plans to spend a year teaching science in the Florida public school system before she applies to medical school.

**Monique Riviere** (BS, 1998) is a clinical dietitian at Mercy Hospital in Miami, FL. She is also currently studying to become a Certified Diabetes Educator.

**Erin Tobin** (BS, 2004) is a Nutrition Educator with the Hernando County Health Department.

**Lavin Joseph** (BS, 2002) is a research scientist at Advanced Biosystems in Washington, DC.

**Brennan Bulp** (BS, 2004) has been commissioned in the US Air Force, Space and Missile Systems Division.

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

# Alumni Success Stories

**Kelly Connaughton** (BS, 2004 in Dietetics) was honored at the UF graduation ceremony on August 7.



She was named an Outstanding Female Leader for her numerous accomplishments such as participation in the CHAMPS service organization, the UF Spirit Program, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) Ambassador program, the CALs upper division honors program,

the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, and the Florida Cicerones (UF's official student ambassadors). She also served as Vice President of the National Residence Hall Honorary. Kelly was honored for her inclusion in the President's Honor Roll from 2000-2004, the UF Hall of Fame, and the prestigious University Scholars Program. As a University Scholar, Kelly completed a research project under **Dr. Harry Sitren's** guidance, measuring the effect of dietary supplementation with RNA on the recovery of intestinal function following administration of methotrexate. She later presented her research at the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) national meeting and was published in the FASEB Journal. As an Outstanding Leader, Kelly was chosen to address the audience at graduation as a representative of her graduating class. And as a Cicerone, she presented an alumni donation of more than \$900 to UF during the graduation ceremony. A secret she kept right up until graduation, Kelly was also one of the women behind our beloved mascot Alberta since 2001, performing at numerous UF events. Kelly started dental school here at UF this fall, and we wish her continued success!

**Dr. Marci Levine** (BS, 1999 in Nutritional Sciences) recently graduated with her PhD in Foods and Nutrition from Purdue University.



After completion of her BS degree (with honors) and a business minor, Dr. Levine was accepted to Purdue's Interdepartmental Nutrition Program on a fellowship, to study with **Dr. Dorothy Teegarden**. She studied Vitamin D regulation of cell signaling

events involved with cancer progression; specifically, she focused on exploring the signal transduction pathways involved in 1,25-dihydroxyvitamin D3 regulation of the pro-angiogenic factor Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor in a cell model of multi-stage carcinogenesis. While a PhD student, Dr. Levine attended FASEB's Experimental Biology meeting each year, and presented several posters. At the 2003 meeting, she was a finalist in the Proctor & Gamble American Society for Nutritional Sciences (ASNS) Student Competition and gave an oral presentation of her research. She was also involved with her graduate student organization, served as student liaison to the faculty, and helped judge the local Greater Lafayette Science Fair. When Dr. Levine was here at UF, she was an active member of **Dr. Peggy Borum's** lab, working with the KetoGator Club to create educational materials. In 2001, Dr. Levine married **Dr. Garry Morefield, Jr.**, who graduated from UF with a BS in Chemistry and from Purdue with a PhD in Industrial Physical Pharmacy. They have since relocated to Bethesda, Maryland, where Dr. Morefield was awarded a National Research Council (National Academies of Science)

Postdoctoral Research Fellowship to conduct research at the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Levine began her post-doctoral fellowship at the International Life Sciences Institute, North America Branch (ILSI-NA).

**Jason Williams** (BS, 2003 in Dietetics) is now working as a Marketing Associate for Sysco in Jacksonville.



After graduation, Jason spent some time teaching at-risk high school students in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida. After his contract expired, he decided to send a resume to Sysco. Jason said he was familiar with Sysco already, both from his extensive experience managing restaurants as well as from information about their

role in the healthcare industry gained in **Dr. Pam McMahon's** Food Systems Management class. After several interviews – two in Tallahassee, one in Gainesville, and a final interview with the Vice President of Sales in Jacksonville, Jason was hired. After relocation to Jacksonville, Jason started a month-long training period. During his second week of training, he somehow found time to get married and spent his honeymoon in Jacksonville while training. Jason says the training was “top notch,” as are the Sysco people. Once assigned a geographical territory in Jacksonville, Jason began servicing restaurants, nursing homes, healthcare facilities, day care centers, catering operations, and any other type of business that utilizes the products and services that Sysco provides. Along with customer sales, Jason is also given the task of helping customers market their products and manage their food costs. He also keeps them informed about current market trends and fad diets that might change the way they need to conduct their businesses. Jason says: “It is my mission to help customers succeed and be profitable. It is a symbiotic relationship, for if they are successful we will be successful. The job is thrilling, the benefits are great, and most of all the people that work at Sysco are first class. This is definitely a great career path.”

## Join Us in Congratulating...

**Dr. Steve Talcott** (Assistant Professor) and **Dr. Susanne Mertens-Talcott** (PhD, 2004) are the proud parents of a little girl named Sarah, born September 17, 2004. Read more about Dr. Mertens-Talcott on page 1.

**Erin (Costello) Nilon** (BS, 2003) married **Michael Nilon** earlier this year. Erin and Mike both joined the Peace Corps, and will serve as Community Health Educators in Cameroon.

**Virginia (Braddock) Gray** (BS, 2001) married **Stanley Gray** this year. Read more about Virginia on page 2.

**Gillian (Folkes) Dagan** (BS, 2000; PhD, 2004) married **Roi Dagan**, a current UF medical student, this May in Gainesville.



**Elizabeth “Liz” Haire** (BS, 2002; MS, 2004) married **Bart Citro** (also a UF alumnus) this fall in Tampa, barely escaping Hurricane Frances.

Liz and Bart Citro

# FSHN Achievements



**Janna Underhill**, FSHN academic advisor and alumni newsletter editor, was named College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Academic Advisor of the Year for 2003-2004. She was also named the University of Florida Advisor of the Year for 2003-2004, chosen from among the college-level winners on campus. She was

honored at a reception hosted by UF's new president, **Dr. Bernie Machen**, and awarded CALS and UF commemorative plaques and bonuses totaling \$4000.

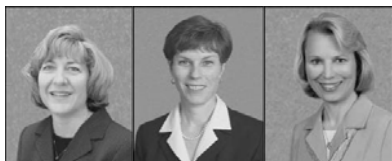
**Dr. Bob Cousins**, Professor, has just completed a six-month sabbatical. In June, he was invited to be a Visiting Professor for a week at the Center for Molecular Biosciences of the University of Ulster in Coleraine, Northern Ireland, and then gave two invited lectures at the Zinc Signals 2004 meeting at the University of Aarhus, Denmark. He presented a keynote address at the FASEB (Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology) Summer Research Conference on Trace Element Metabolism at Snowmass, Colorado. He was also appointed by the Annual Reviews Board as the next Editor of the *Annual Review of Nutrition*.

L-R: **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (Professor) and **Dr. Bob Bates** (Professor Emeritus) just completed three years of continuous service on the Institute of Food Technologists Executive Committee.



FSHN has been chosen to judge this year's National Ice Cream and Yogurt Retailers Association ice cream competition. The Department will receive samples from ice cream parlors and small manufacturers from all over the United States for judging. The coach of the FSHN Dairy Judging Team, **Dr. Ron Schmidt**, Professor, says the Team will enjoy the extra opportunities for training.

L-R: **Gail Rampersaud** (BS, 1997; MS, 1999), **Dr. Gail Kauwell**, Professor (PhD, 1993), and **Dr. Lynn Bailey**,



Professor, received the UF/IFAS Gold Image Award and the Outstanding Professional Skill Award from the Association for

Communication Excellence for the development of a 4-H curriculum entitled "Nutrition and Folate Now!" The curriculum kit includes a videotape, an interactive CD-ROM, project books for two age categories, and a helper's guide.

FSHN was well-represented in poster presentations at the 2004 Experimental Biology Conference in Washington DC this past April. Faculty presenters included: **Dr. Lynn Bailey**, **Dr. Jess Gregory**, and **Dr. Gail Kauwell** (PhD, 1993). Graduate student and alumni presenters included: **Dr. Steven Davis** (PhD, 2000), **Carolina Lima** (BS, 2002), **Dr. Amy Mackey** (PhD, 2002), **Dr. Karla (Pagan) Shelnett** (BS, 1997; PhD, 2003), **Jaimie Vaughn** (BS, 2002), and **Kristina Voncastel-Dunwoody**. And FSHN staff members **David Maneval** and **Eoin Quinlivan** were also presenters.

**Elizabeth Beasley** (MS, 2003), **Ellen Bowser** (MS, 1989), and **Dr. Gail Kauwell**, Professor (PhD, 1993) presented a poster at the American Society for Parenteral & Enteral Nutrition (ASPEN) Conference this year.

**Dr. Steve Otwell** (Professor) won the Myron Solberg Award at the IFT Annual Meeting this summer. This is in recognition of his leadership in establishing and coordinating the National Seafood HACCP Alliance for Training and Education (SHA). Because of his efforts, SHA has a national training program for the seafood industry and for seafood inspectors. **Dr. Otwell** was honored at both the opening session and at a special banquet for award winners, and was given an honorarium and a commemorative plaque from the Myron Solberg Endowment Fund.



FSHN people who presented at the Annual Meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists this summer include: faculty members **Dr. Doug Archer**, **Dr. Murat Balaban**, **Dr. Hordur Kristinsson**, **Dr. Steve Otwell**, **Dr. Marty Marshall**, **Dr. Sue Percival**, **Dr. Russ Rouseff**, and **Dr. Steve Talcott**; staff member **Laura Garrido**; graduate students **Bryan Boynton** (BS, 1996; MS, 1999), **Sibel Damar**, **Matt Davenport**, **David del Pozo-Insfran**, **April Elston**, **Bergros Ingadottir**, **Matt Lecky** (BS, 2002), **Joonhee Lee** (MS, 2001), **Swapna Momy** (BS, 2003), **Holly Petty** (BS, 2002), **Ann Theodore** (BS, 2003), and **Yavuz Yagiz**; and alumni **Dr. Gillian Folkes Dagan** (BS, 2000; PhD, 2004), **Necla Demir** (PhD, 2002), **Kristina Garner** (MS, 2004), **Nineveh Ludlow** (BS, 2001; MS, 2004), **Norm Matella** (BS, 1999; MS, 2003), **Susanne Mertens-Talcott** (PhD, 2004), **Alexandra Oliveira** (PhD, 2001), **Morgan Phares** (BS, 2004), and **Ruhiye Yoruk** (PhD, 2003).

**Dr. Lynn Bailey**, Professor, was chosen by the American Society of Nutritional Sciences (ASNS) for the prestigious Centrum Center for Nutrition Science Award. She was presented with the award at the ASNS annual meeting in Washington DC this past spring.

FSHN and the Florida Dairy Products Association hosted a very successful golf outing this fall to raise money for student scholarships. The first place team was: **Dr. George Baker** from ABC Research, Inc., **Jim Gauger** from Indian River Transport, Inc., and **Herb Dunlap** from Limpert Ingredients; second place team was: **Gene Bennett** from Danisco USA, Inc., **Dr. Bill Brown** from ABC Research, Inc., **Frank Johns** from Dairy Farmers of America, and **Gary Carlin** from Ecolab Food and Beverage; and the third place team was: **Gene Smith** from Southeast Marketing, Inc., **Nick Arnold** from T.G. Lee Foods, **Richard Ellis** from Trans-Market Sales, Inc., and **Kevin Griffin** from Liquibox, Inc. Also awarded prizes: **Dr. George Baker** for Longest Drive; **Herb Dunlap** for Closest to the Line; **Barbara Gross** from Mastertaste, Inc. for Closest to the Pin; and **Kevin Griffin** for Longest Putt. Thanks to all participants!

FSHN Folks riding the new Las Vegas monorail at the IFT Annual Meeting in July 2004. L-R: academic advisor and newsletter editor **Janna Underhill**, recent MS graduate in Nutritional Sciences **Alicia Ally**, current PhD candidate in Food Science **David del Pozo-Insfran**, recent MS graduate in Food Science **Rena Schonbrun**, and current Food Science undergraduates **Rob Bent** and **Chris Duncan**. Go Gators!

