

## A Message from the Chair's Office



Dear FSHN Alumni & Friends,

After waiting months for the search process to unfold, I was delighted to hear in August from **Dr. Jimmy Cheek**, the Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources, that he was offering me the opportunity to lead FSHN. It was a big honor just to be invited to apply, so I am both humbled and thrilled to be offered the task of guiding Food Science and Human Nutrition into the future.

My official start date was September 30, and starting was complicated by the fact that I was still living in Michigan. I began working from home and for about a month commuted back and forth between Gainesville and Michigan. My wife **Sue** and I officially became residents of Gainesville in November just before Thanksgiving. We're glad to be settled in!

At the present time, there are many challenges to face and opportunities to contribute within our state, the nation, and the world in the areas of food science and human nutrition. Our food supply has been threatened by contamination with pathogenic bacteria. We have seen unprecedented numbers of our children and adolescents diagnosed with type 2 diabetes, and tragic increases in obesity rates. Advances in molecular biology and nutrigenomics suggest that "personalized nutrition" plans based on our genetic composition is possible. We need to be able to successfully educate our FSHN undergraduates and graduate students to not only fully understand these problems, but also to lead the nation in finding

innovative solutions. The IFAS slogan "IFAS/Solutions for Your Life" fits perfectly with our goals as a Department.

In our own backyard, we have several issues and opportunities to address. FSHN undergraduate numbers are among the highest of any department at UF, and thus our teaching capacity is very close to being "maxed out." Our facilities are on the whole quite good – with renovated space in the former Dairy Products Lab, the recently-constructed Aquatic Food Products Lab, the state-of-the-art Dietetics Lab, and the renovated Food Safety Laboratory on Newell Drive, we have excellent facilities to work with students in many areas of food science and nutritional sciences. However, in the main FSHN building, we are overdue for upgrades to our facilities. Of particular note is our pilot plant on the first floor. We are exploring options and plans for renovation; however, we're limited right now by the availability of financial resources to upgrade this critically-important research and teaching space. This will be one main focus of mine as Chair of FSHN.

We are lucky to have so many great faculty, staff members, and students in FSHN – it has been a pleasure to come on board and begin to work with everyone. I urge all of our alumni and friends to stay in touch and please feel free to stop in and say hello the next time you are in Gainesville. Go Gators!

Neil F. Shay, PhD  
 Professor and Chair, FSHN



**Dr. Neil Shay and Sue Shay** at Dr. Shay's welcome party, held November 27 at the Keene Faculty Center on campus.

## Thank you!



Please join us in thanking our outgoing Chair, **Dr. Charlie Sims** (Professor), for everything he has done for FSHN. Dr. Sims became Interim Chair in 2001 and then was

officially selected as FSHN Chair in 2002. He was honored for his many years of service at a reception at the Camelia Court Café in the Harn Museum of Art on October 17, where he received many gifts from FSHN faculty and staff.

In the future, Dr. Sims will focus his research programs on food quality, and primarily the sensory characteristics of food. He also plans to expand his teaching and advising roles, including returning as an undergraduate advisor in the food science curriculum. Dr. Sims currently has three MS students: **Lorenzo Puentes** (BS, 2002; FSHN Staff), who is researching the quality of strawberries; **Jaclyn Kalva** (BS, 2007), who will study scaling techniques to measure the consumer acceptability of foods; and **Renee Applebaum** (BS, 2007), who will study ways to measure and predict the quality of fresh mangoes. Dr. Sims will also continue his ongoing research on the quality and characteristics of Florida wines, his sensory testing for the food industry, and his collaborative research with other IFAS scientists.

....Dr. Sims, cont. on page 3

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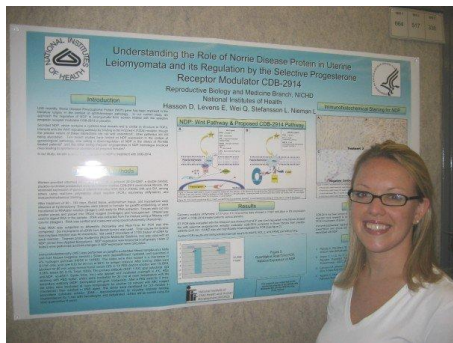
### We Welcome Your Input!

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### Change of Address

Moving, but still want to receive this  
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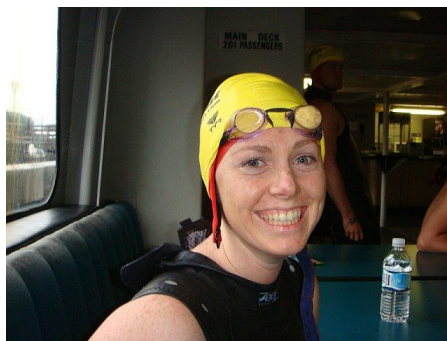
## Alumni Updates



**Danielle "Dani" Hasson** (BS, 2005), pictured above displaying her research poster at the 2007 National Institutes of Health fellow's poster presentation, is in her second year of medical school at Florida State Univ. She spent this past summer serving as a clinical research fellow at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland.

**Divya Arora** (BS, 2007) is working on a master's degree at the Univ. of South Florida.

**Michael Appelblatt** (BS, 2007) is pursuing an MS in Biomedical Sciences at Florida Atlantic University.



**Morgan Phares** (BS, 2004) participated in a group swim near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco this fall.

2007 BS graduates accepted to medical schools this year include: **Jennifer Brown**, Florida State Univ; **Jacqueline Endaya**, Univ. of South Florida; **Nandini Kalakota**, West Virginia School of Medicine; **Tessa Landa**, Univ. of Florida; **Eugene Liu**, Univ. of Maryland; **Pritesh Nathoo**, Tufts Univ.; **Daniel Sacks**, Vanderbilt Univ.; **Andrea Salazar**, Univ. of Miami; **David Snipelisky**, Florida State Univ.; **Phillip Varnadore**, Florida State Univ.

2007 BS graduates accepted to dental schools this year include: **Gary Benjamin**, Univ. of Florida; **Catherine Delatorre**, Univ. of Florida; **Cassandra Dorsey**, Univ. of Florida; **Alisha Motl**, Univ. of Maryland; **Ricky Rasmussen**, Nova Southeastern Univ.; **Nima Rohani**, Columbia Univ.; **Faye Tran**, Univ. of Florida; **Chelsea Tucker**, Univ. of Florida; **Jennifer Vampuybrouck**, Univ. of Florida.

2007 BS graduates accepted to pharmacy schools this year include: **Scott Hochmuth**, Univ. of Florida; **Laura Kania**, Mercer Univ.; **Phillip Kern**, Univ. of Florida; **Roshni Patel**, Univ. of Florida; **Heather Petrie**, Univ. of Florida; **Gina Pettineo**, Nova Southeastern Univ.; **Jessica Pollock**, Nova Southeastern Univ.; **Corinne Sundstrom**, Univ. of Florida; **Laetitia Tokwaulu**, Univ. of Florida; **Jessica Vargas**, Nova Southeastern Univ.; **Christina Prades**, Univ. of Florida.

**Dr. Steve Davis** (PhD, 2000) has moved from his faculty position at the University of Connecticut to the Ross Products Division of Abbott Laboratories in Columbus, Ohio.

**Oanh Hoang** (BS, 2007) and **David Overholt** (BS, 2007) were accepted to optometry school at Nova Southeastern Univ.

**Melissa Stewart** (BS, 2005) completed her dietetic internship with the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville this October, and is now working there as a dietitian.

2007 BS graduates accepted into Dietetic Internships include: **Stephanie Allen**, Virginia Tech; **Ericka Borrero**, Life University; **Jessica Burge**, Univ. of Georgia; **Heather Campbell**, Tampa VA Hospital; **Ana Cleves**, Pasco County WIC; **Mariagrazia Cunto**, Southern Regional Med. Center; **Kelly Drawdy**, Univ. of Alabama Birmingham; **Mariel Glenn**, Univ. of North Florida; **Vanessa Guillent**, Pasco County WIC; **Doretta Ho**, UF; **Hallie Holko**, ARAMARK Kansas City; **Brianna Mahoney**, Univ. of Delaware; **Sarin McKenna**, UF; **Margaret Murphy**, Univ. of Kentucky; **Christine Pasecky**, Bronx VA Hospital; **Mariel Regencia**, Pasco County WIC; **Jessica Rubin**, Tampa VA Hospital; **Margarita Torres**, Univ. of North Florida; **Valerie Weyenberg**, UF; **Kelly Wright**, Southern Regional Med. Center.

2007 BS graduates accepted into the MS program in Food Science at UF include: **Renee Applebaum**, **Lilibeth Dagulo**, **Huy Huynh**, and **Yun-Pai "Paul" Lai**. 2007 BS graduates accepted into the MS program in Nutritional Sciences at UF include: **Kevin Dunphy**, **Emily Padgett**, and **Robert Perlstein**.

## Congratulations!

**Dr. Frank Lozano** (BS, 2002), who attended the UF College of Dentistry as part of the Early Admission Dental Program, completed a three-year prosthodontics residency at Baylor College in Texas. He recently joined a dental practice here in Gainesville and will teach part-time at UF. Dr. Lozano and his wife **Melody** also just had their first child this fall, a boy named **Asher**.



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



# Please Help Welcome Our Newest Faculty Member!



**Dr. Wendy Dahl** (Assistant Professor) comes to us most recently from the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, where she received her PhD in Nutrition in 2005. She also received her master's degree in Nutrition and both of her bachelor's degrees (one in Education and one in Nutrition and Dietetics) from the University of Saskatchewan. Before she starts here in

January, Dr. Dahl will continue to work with the dietetic interns and other graduate students she supervises, and will return to assist them for a few days next spring or summer. This fall, she will also continue to teach in the College of Pharmacy and Nutrition and serve on the University of Saskatchewan's Behavioural Ethics Committee.

Dr. Dahl's research areas are long-term care nutrition, dysphagic foods, fibre, and pre- and probiotics in GI disease. Her current research projects include a study on inulin and pouchitis,

and another on inulin/pea hull fibre and childhood constipation. She is also collaborating on a chickpea/prebiotic study in adults and an antibiotic-associated diarrhea and probiotic study in adults. She has recently submitted a paper on pediatric ulcerative colitis and is working on a review paper on clinical applications of dietary fibre, as well as assisting one of her graduate students with a manuscript on the micronutrient fortification of pureed foods for dysphagic long-term care residents. Additionally, Dr. Dahl is now working on getting a pureed food cookbook into print.

Dr. Dahl says she and her two children, **Mason** and **Maisie** (pictured at right), are looking forward to their arrival here in Gainesville.



## Alumni Success Story



**Asha Hadley** (BS, 2003) is a clinical dietitian at Mt. Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. She performs nutritional assessments, educates people on various nutrition-related topics, and deals with enteral and parenteral nutrition. She recently received her certification in Adult Weight Management from the Commission on Dietetic Registration, and has even been contracted to create a menu for a catering and weight management company. Asha says that honing one's

bedside manner with patients helps with both assessment and education, and that building relationships with doctors, nurses, managers, dining associates, and kitchen staff is key. She especially enjoys working with other RDs from many different career and cultural backgrounds.

An avid runner and sports enthusiast, Asha participates in as many local races as she can. For two years she has run the ING Miami Half Marathon, and starts training for the full marathon in January. She also enjoys her drive to work, watching the sun come up over the Miami causeway.

Asha says that the strong academic foundation she received from FSHN is the perfect complement to her professional experience. "In the past three years I feel as though I have become a seasoned RD. I've done just about everything, from general low sodium diet to diets complicated by the presence of multiple co-morbidities like renal disease, diabetes, wounds, and low albumin. Some of the instances are enough to make my head spin, but whenever I sit down with a patient's chart that has so many contradicting health issues for some reason I always seem to flash back to my classes at UF and it seems to clear my head and get my thinking straight." In the future, Asha sees herself branching out into other areas of healthcare and nutrition. She says she is working on her entrepreneurial skills in order to integrate nutrition and fitness in a way that will contribute significantly to her community.

## Dr. Sims, cont. from page 1



The Sims Family. L-R, back row: **June Sims** and **Dr. Charlie Sims**; L-R, front row: **Mackenzie**, **Molly** (BS Student in FSHN), and **Jonathan**.

Dr. Sims says, "I was honored to have been chair and I'm extremely proud of the achievements that our faculty, students and staff have made. We really do have an outstanding department with a bright future. I welcome Neil as our new chair and look forward to working with him."

## Give a gift to the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition!

Your donation to FSHN can be used to support student scholarships, assistantships, and student travel to conferences; to support the purchase of new equipment to keep us up-to-date; and to provide important resources to support other facilities within the FSHN building, including our Pilot Plant and clinical nutrition facilities.

You can give online at: <https://www.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/Campaign/FundDetail.asp?FundCode=001075>

Or if you prefer, you can send us a check (made out to "U of FL-SHARE") to:

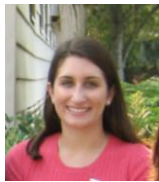
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# FSHN Achievements



L-R: Erica Kukulka, Dr. Gail Kauwell, Megan Diaz, and Sonia Garza.

**Erica Kukulka** (BS, 2006; MS/DI student), **Megan Diaz** (MS/DI student), and **Sonia Garza** (MS/DI student), pictured here with **Dr. Gail Kauwell** (FSHN Professor), presented a poster at the 2007 Florida Dietetic Assoc. Symposium held on Marco Island this past July.



Congratulations to **Valerie Weyenberg** (BS, 2007; MS/DI student) for receiving an American Dietetic Association Foundation scholarship, which was made possible by a generous donation from the MBNA Marketing Systems Corporate Scholarship fund.

The 2007 FSHN Dairy Judging Team placed 13th nationally, competing in Las Vegas in October under Head Coach **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (FSHN Professor) and Assistant Coach **Renee Applebaum** (BS, 2007; MS student). Individually, **Laura Strawn** (MS Student) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in butter, and **Diana Seminario** (MS Student) placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in cheddar cheese.



2007 FSHN Dairy Judging Team, L-R: **Brad Chastain** (Senior), **Sonia Hudson** (Junior), **Renee Applebaum** (BS, 2007; MS Student and Asst. Coach), **Yael Spektor** (Senior), **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (FSHN Professor and Coach), **Diana Seminario** (MS Student), **Laura Strawn** (MS Student), **Eric Dreyer** (Senior), **Jaelyn Kalva** (BS, 2007; MS Student), **Yun-Pai "Paul" Lai** (BS, 2007; MS Student), **Christine Wang** (Senior).



"The Just Right Boys" – a local band featuring **Walter Jones** (FSHN Staff, left) and **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (FSHN Professor, right) – were recently caught performing at The Yearling Restaurant in Cross Creek, Florida.

For the third year, FSHN and Florida Section Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) organized a successful social hour at the IFT Annual Meeting. Held in July at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company in Chicago, the event brought together FSHN alumni, IFT members, and others who work in food industry in the state of Florida. Event organizers **Dr. Gillian Dagan** (ABC Research; BS, 2000; PhD, 2004) and **Janna Underhill** (FSHN News & Views Editor) would like to thank all of the sponsors (listed below) for their generous support. Enjoy the following event pictures, and see you in New Orleans in 2008!



At left, L-R: **Dr. Holly Petty** (BS, 2002; PhD, 2007), **Dr. Alexandra Oliveira** (PhD, 2001).



Above, L-R: **Lilibeth Dagulo** (BS, 2007; MS student), **Pranav Patel** (BS, 2007), **Sean Hoo** (BS, 2006; MS student).



Above, L-R: **Luis Martinez** (BS, 2005; MS, 2007), **Lorenzo Puentes** (BS, 2002; MS student and FSHN Staff).



A special thanks to our sponsors, pictured above: BioSun, Imperial Brands, Florida Bulk Foods, FL Section IFT, ABC Research Inc, FSHN, and Tropical Paradise Beverages.



Above: **Dr. Doug Archer** (FSHN Professor and IFAS Assoc. Dean for Research).



At right, L-R: **Jaelyn Kalva** (BS, 2007; MS student), **Flor Nunez** (MS, 2005), **Dr. Suzanne Talcott** (PhD, 2004).



Above, L-R: **Dr. Charlie Sims** (FSHN Professor) and **Dr. Mark McLellan** (IFAS Dean for Research).

Below, L-R: **Jorge Cardona Ponce** (MS student), **Trevor Gentry** (BS, 1996; MS, 1999), **Dr. Jose Reyes** (FSHN Assistant Professor).

