

FSHN Student Breaks CALS Record



FSHN received a call in 2001 from someone who wanted to come back and complete her BS degree. That in itself wasn't really so unusual... but this student had last attended college in 1941!

Marguerite E. Crocker Shotwell, "Midge" as her friends call her, is originally from Fredonia, NY. She started college in 1938 at Michigan State University, majoring in Dietetics. But in 1941 her husband **Eldon**, a 2nd lieutenant in the ROTC, was called up for duty. His one-year commitment turned into more than five, and Marguerite never got to finish her degree.

During the years that followed, Eldon worked as an electrochemist for General Motors and Marguerite owned several businesses and dedicated countless hours to community service. They also raised three children – **Barbara, Steve, and Larry**.

Marguerite's first business was the result of a seven-dollar dress. When her daughter Barbara was young she was enrolled in dance classes. Unable to afford the expensive recital dress and having been told by the dance instructor that all the performers' dresses much match, Marguerite set out to personally sew dresses for all the girls using an old treadle sewing machine she found in an attic. From that humble beginning she established a business creating recital dresses and costumes, and even had orders from as far away as New York. After leaving that enterprise behind she created yet another business making draperies for furniture stores. After a time, Marguerite also sold this business. Whereas both had been financially successful, they left little time for family and friends.

In 1966, Marguerite became a real estate saleswoman in Michigan. Later, when Eldon retired in 1974 and they moved to Florida, she sold real estate in Ocala. She obtained her broker's license, purchased some land, had an office built, and started her own company. She also served as President of the Women's Auxiliary of Ocala Board of Realtors during

that time. In 1986, Marguerite and Eldon moved into the house in Timber Pines, FL they had been building for three years.

For most of her life Marguerite has been a dedicated volunteer. Since 1943, for example, she has baked countless thousands of Christmas cookies to raise money for her church. When she found out her daughter had breast cancer back in 1990 she began making pillows specially designed to fit under a woman's arm to provide extra comfort after cancer surgery. Made from various fabrics and donated nylons, and accompanied by a special note her husband Eldon authored, the pillows were a great success and used extensively by the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL. All in all she has made more than 1400 of them. And we are very happy to report that her daughter is now a cancer survivor!



Marguerite with her homemade Christmas trees.

Hope Hospice of Florida assisted Marguerite and her family when Eldon was ill back in 1997, and so after he passed away that year she decided to dedicate her time and boundless energies to Hospice. She continues to sew customized hospital gowns, "hug me" dolls, and "dammit" dolls for donation to Hospice. [Editor's note: dammit dolls, for the uninitiated among you, are small dolls you whack against a wall or table as an outlet for frustration.] Marguerite is also a member of the Philanthropic Education Organization (PEO), whose purpose is to raise money to send underprivileged women to college.

To raise money for both Hospice and the PEO, Marguerite creates small electric Christmas trees out of large safety pins, wire,

clear plastic beads, and light strings. The trees retail for \$35 and all proceeds go to charity. The first year she created them she raised \$1,300 for Hospice, and has thus far raised \$13,500 for the PEO. She also makes tiny Christmas angels out of the same materials. Volunteering is one of the greatest passions of Marguerite's life and she has spent a lifetime giving back to the community.

Getting Marguerite admitted to UF was a long process. Our persistent inquiries, at one point, forced some poor soul to dig through crumbling transcript storage boxes in the basement of a high school in NY. But with the assistance of **Dean Jane Luzar**, Associate Dean for Academic Programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS); **Dr. Sheila Dickison**, Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education; and **Dr. Pamela McMahon**, Dietetics Program Director, Marguerite was able to start taking classes in January, 2002. That unfinished degree had been weighing on her mind for sixty long years, especially since she was the only one in her family without a BS degree. Now Marguerite was ready to change the one thing in her life she had always regretted.

Marguerite finished her long-awaited degree this spring, and she received an impromptu standing ovation at the ceremony on May 2. She graduated at the same time as two of her grandchildren: **Matt**, receiving his law degree from Michigan State University, and **Corrie**, receiving a Master's in Theater Production from Wayne State University. Marguerite's 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren threw her an enormous party to celebrate.

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Bob Tales



Bob Bates, circa 1958.

In this issue of News & Views, alumni, faculty, staff and friends share stories about Dr. Robert P. "Bob" Bates. Dr. Bates is retiring this spring, and this is just one of many planned tributes (roasts?). (Also see page 3.)

Joan Rothenberg (BS, 1979), Associate Director for Food Science for the International Food Information Council, says with regard to the picture above: "That picture is classic. All that is missing is the sign with a long number under his chin." [Editor: the picture is from when Bates won the '58 IFT Gerber Scholarship... really.]

From **Arthur Peplow** (MS, 1975): "When in graduate school back in the early 1970s, the word going around was that Dr. Bates initially considered only getting a Master's degree. Dr. Bates decided to get his PhD after he realized what his title would have been had he only gotten his Master's degree."

A story from **Gillian Folkes** (BS, 2000), current PhD student: "Heading to Orlando for an IFT meeting, we had the department van filled to the brim with students and faculty. On the way we stopped at a brewpub in Lady Lake because when you travel with Bob Bates you will see any fermentation vessel that you pass within 50 miles of. After enjoying a sampler each, we piled back in the van and headed toward downtown O-town. Mind you, we would arrive near the outskirts in perfect timing for rush hour. As we approached I-4 Dr. Bates mentioned he needed to use the bathroom. The over-whelming response was that we all did (most of us being girls with small bladders) but that we'd prefer to hold it until we arrived at the Science Museum. Without any response we kept driving. About 5 minutes later the same request to stop was made and again ignored. However, this time a great ruckus followed. I believe it went something like... 'Stop this van now!!! Pull over!' So, we pulled the van over and out runs Bates in the largest cloverleaf in I-4 during rush hour, decked out in a red guayabera [Editor: aka, Mexican wedding shirt], which contrasted beautifully against the green of the median. To top it off, he returns, refreshed, with, 'I can hold my liquor, I just can't hold my water.' Classic..."

Dr. Ron Schmidt, FSHN faculty, and **Dr. Charlie Sims**, current FSHN Chair, remind us of the time not so long ago that Dr. Bates and Dr. Sims were making wine in the Pilot Plant. They crushed about 1000 pounds of muscadine grapes and stuffed all the skins into the garbage disposal... and clogged up the sewer system across several buildings. Dr. Sims says, "...when we came into the pilot plant the next day, there was about a foot of water all over the pilot plant, and I think most of the grape skins we had put down the disposal the previous day. What a mess. It took physical plant about a week to finally find the plug in the pipes, dig it up, and repair it." Dr. Schmidt figures the folks in McCarty Hall will likely never forget the day that stringy grape skins bubbled out of their toilets.

Dr. Doug Archer shares a story about a trip to an IFT meeting down near the old Cypress Gardens a few years ago. Dr. Bates rode with him, and at one point yelled at him to pull over into a shopping center with a grocery store. Dr. Bates went inside alone and emerged a little while later with two grocery bags full of snacks and beer. Upon arrival at the hotel, Dr. Bates made himself at home in Dr. Archers' room. After he finished the beer, he proceeded to throw the empties onto the hotel roof outside the balcony. Dr. Archer recalls that the room looked like a frat party, complete with orange footprints where Dr. Bates had stepped on Cheetos and ground them into the carpet. Says Archer: "The man is like Pig Pen, he really is."

In another **Dr. Archer** story, we find everyone on their way to the FSHN Club's International Dinner. On the way, Dr. Archer stopped for a bottle of wine and saw Dr. Bates sitting in the ABC Lounge having a beer... while his poor wife **Sally** sat in their car waiting for him.

Back in 1986 when **Dr. Charlie Sims** flew into Gainesville to interview for a faculty position, it was Dr. Bates who picked him up at the airport... late. When Bates finally arrived, he handed Dr. Sims a can of beer in the car. Upon arrival at his house, Bates asked Dr. Sims if he wanted another beer, and then proceeded to fill up the original beer can using a leftover party keg he had sitting around the house. Dr. Sims says, "I knew then Bob was a character."

This year's College Bowl practice, held after FL Section IFT's Student Recognition Night back in March, featured the following question: "Dr. Bates puts all the students in his classes into one of three categories; name those categories." The answer? Employable, unemployable, and waste matter. Our students got it right...



Bob, sans surfboard.

Editor: Here's a Bates story I'll personally never forget. It began on a sunny Saturday, when a large group of students, staff, and guests joined Dr. Bates and Dr. Ron Schmidt for a canoe and rafting trip down the Santa Fe River. Our fearless group began to notice, after just a short while, that the river had almost no current. But Dr. Bates encouraged us not to turn back, despite the fact that we only had two paddles for more than 20 people. (This may have had something to do with the fact that we were "chasing" the Hoggetowne Brewers, who were floating a keg of Guinness down the river somewhere ahead of us.) Later that day, after 7 hours of desperate paddling, kicking, and squabbling, our large group of hungry, grumpy, sunburned floaters compared notes and realized that Dr. Bates had told each and every one of us repeatedly that our destination was, "just up around the next bend". This, from a man who abandoned his own canoe and spent most of the trip sitting on a surfboard sipping homemade blueberry wine from a real glass stuffed in a foam coolie cup. A special thanks to Dr. Schmidt, who bravely dragged 16 waterlogged rafters behind his canoe, and a warning to the rest of you: never trust a food scientist with a surfboard.

Alumni Updates will return in
the Fall 2003 issue!

Dr. Bob Bates Retires after 35+ Years at UF

Dr. Robert P. “Bob” Bates received his BS in Food Technology from MIT in 1959, his MS in Food Science from the University of Hawaii in 1963, and his PhD in Food Science from MIT in 1966. During his more than 35 years at the University of Florida, Dr. Bates authored or co-authored more than 100 publications and served as FSHN Graduate Coordinator from 1977-1999. He served on and chaired or co-chaired many MS and PhD committees. Dr. Bates’ primary teaching assignments were courses in Food Product Development and Industrial Food Fermentations, at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Dr. Bates is known throughout the US for his extension programs in tropical fruit, grape, and vegetable processing; wine making; new product development; and food safety and sanitation. Dr. Bates is also a highly sought after speaker, having made countless presentations at professional and scientific meetings. He has been an ACS Circuit Tour Speaker for more than 25 years.

A member of IFT for more than 40 years, Dr. Bates served on many committees including the Executive Committee (currently) and was named an IFT Fellow in 1999. He has been very active in IFT’s International Division, providing technical assistance to more than a dozen foreign countries. Dr. Bates was one of the organizers and founders of the South Florida Section of IFT and has served Florida Section IFT in various capacities for many years. He is also a member of many other professional organizations, such as the American Society for Enology & Viticulture, the American Chemical Society, and the American Home Brewers Association (for which he is a Registered Beer Judge).



Dr. Bates in 1970, trying to convince FSHN staff members Mary Ann Avera and Brenda Mixson to try a disturbing concoction called “sourcelery”.

We’re going to miss Dr. Bates’ research expertise, his teaching skills, and his contributions to Florida Extension. But most of all, we’ll miss the man who once tried to serve grilled rat as an entrée. Our best wishes to Dr. Bates as he moves on to amateur beer brewing! (Please see page 2 for more on Dr. Bates.)

Alumni Success Stories



L-R (back): Dr. Susan Moyers, Dr. Brandon Lewis, Dr. Robert McMahon. L-R (front): Tracy Brockman, Sara Rathman, Dr. Amy Mackey, Dr. Jennifer Moore, Dr. Raymond Blanchard. (Experimental Biology, 2001)

FSHN alumna **Dr. Amy D. Mackey** (PhD, 2002 under **Dr. Jesse F. Gregory**) is currently in a post-doctoral program in the UF College of Medicine working with **Dr. Josef Neu, MD**. She’s currently investigating early predisposing events that might occur in the gut prior to the onset of Type I diabetes. She’s also examining potential nutrient substitutes for glutamine (since glutamine is unstable in solution) that adequately support cellular proliferation. Dr. Mackey has just accepted a position with Ross Products (Abbott Laboratories) in Columbus, OH as a member of their research and development team in the Pediatrics division. She’ll be working on innovations in infant formulas as well as improvements to existing products. Dr. Mackey says, “The FSHN department trained me well. In coming to a completely new research lab, I realized how well prepared I was – not only in lab work and writing, but also in communication and leadership skills. In addition, the group of students that I came through the department with [*Editor: see picture at left*] were not only great friends, but fantastic colleagues. We often worked together to solve someone’s research roadblock or to volunteer time to another student’s large study. We have some outstanding faculty members at UF and I certainly would not be where I am today if it wasn’t for their exceptional guidance and instruction.”

Originally from Avon Park, Florida, **Minaxi “Mona” Upadhyaya** graduated from UF in 2000 with a BS degree in FSHN (Dietetics) and a Business Administration minor. Mona then attended the Emory University Rollins School of Public Health in Atlanta and completed her Master of Public Health degree with an emphasis on Health Policy in December 2002. While at Rollins she served as Secretary for the Georgia Public Health Association, Treasurer for the American College of Health Executives, and was a member of the American Public Health Association. Also while in Atlanta, Mona had the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to appear on the game show *Wheel of Fortune*. Early in 2002 she was chosen out of a crowd of over 30,000 for a taping at Sony Studios in Culver City, California. Her episode taped on March 21, 2002 and aired nationwide, and Mona won over \$10,000 in cash and prizes. A long-time fan of broadcast media, she says, “It was the fastest 22 minutes of my life and also the most exciting thus far.” Mona is currently working for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials in Washington, D.C. in immunization policy issues, covering a range of topics from smallpox vaccination to children’s immunization scheduling. She plans to apply to law school this fall to pursue a career in health law.



Mona and her family. From left: Dr. Dipakkumar Upadhyaya (Dad), Dr. Cheerag Upadhyaya (brother and UF alumnus), Mona, and Mrs. Priyadarshini Upadhyaya (Mom).

(Record Breaking Student, continued from page 1)

To honor her achievements, Marguerite was presented with a special certificate at the annual Institute of Food Technologists Student Recognition Night back on March 27th. Dr. McMahon presented the award, and her words describe perfectly how we all feel about Marguerite: “Marguerite has told us that she doesn’t want to be different or receive any special attention, but she is special. Faculty have gotten to know her and admire and respect her courage, determination and dedication. Marguerite has not missed a class, she sits in the front row, contributes to discussions, and has worked very hard to achieve her goal. She will have a special place in our hearts as she graduates and fulfills a dream.”

Please join me in congratulating one of our newest FSHN alumni and the most senior graduate in the history of CALS: Marguerite Shotwell, BS.



New Faculty

Join us in welcoming **Dr. Angeleah Browdy** to the FSHN Department. Dr. Browdy received her PhD in Biological Sciences with a concentration in food biochemistry from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston campus. Her research focused on sphingolipid biosynthesis, a class

of lipids that has implications in both nutrition and food science. Dr. Browdy will be responsible for teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in food science and nutrition, and she looks forward to working closely with our students.

FSHN Achievements



At the CALS Scholarship and Leadership Convocation in December 2002, two FSHN students earned top honors. **Judy K. Wu** (Nutritional Sciences) won the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence, and **Nicole W. Sammons** (Nutritional Sciences) won the ET York Award of Merit. Both students were recognized for their outstanding academic and leadership accomplishments.

Dr. Elaine Turner, Associate Professor, was named CALS Teacher of the Year in recognition of her outstanding skills as an educator and mentor. This is especially impressive because she won Advisor of the Year in 2000, making her one of only a few UF faculty who have won both awards. Students in the UF-wide lower division honors program also just named Dr. Turner an Honors Program Professor of the Year.

This year's FSHN Outstanding Seniors have been named: **Lauren O'Kelley** (Food Science), **Justin Townsend** (Nutritional Sciences), and **Claire Edgemon** (Dietetics). Lauren is the coordinator for the very successful Food Product Development Team, which made the IFT national finals this year (see related blurb at right). Justin, with a perfect 4.00 GPA, has extensive research experience and is the recipient of a very competitive and prestigious national Phi Kappa Phi graduate scholarship; he will attend medical school next year. Claire, also with a perfect 4.00, taught English in Africa before she came to UF, and has been accepted in the UF combined MS/Dietetic Internship program.

Dr. Renee Goodrich, Assistant Professor, organized the 53rd Annual Citrus Processor's Day at the Citrus Research and Education Center (CREC) at Lake Alfred last fall. Over 100 industry and government citrus specialists attended the meeting.

Dr. Norm Nesheim, Professor and Pesticide Information Coordinator, co-presented at a symposium of the Entomological Society of America in Ft. Lauderdale last fall. Dr. Nesheim focused on revisions for the ornamental and turf pest control manual as part of a larger effort to develop educational materials for nontraditional audiences.

Sara Rathman, PhD student in Nutritional Sciences, was the winner of this year's top award in the poster presentation competition sponsored by the American Society for Nutritional Sciences, Vitamin-Mineral Research Interest Section. Aside from the nice recognition to both Sara and UF, Sara will also receive a cash award of \$500. FSHN has a very impressive record in this category, as two of our former PhD students in Nutritional Sciences, **Dr. Amy Mackey** (see page 3) and **Dr. Brandon Lewis**, were also winners the past two years.

FSHN was very well represented at the 2003 Experimental Biology Conference in San Diego this spring. The following current FSHN faculty, staff, and students had their research presented at the meeting. Faculty: **Drs. Lynn Bailey, Raymond Blanchard, Angeleah Browdy** (see page 3), **Robert Cousins, Jesse Gregory, Bobbi Langkamp-Henken, Gail Kauwell, Susan Percival, Harry Sitren, and Steve Talcott**. Post-docs: **Drs. Steve Davis and Eoin Quinlivan**. Professional and technical staff: **Juanita Bagnall, Lisa Gallo, Kelli Herlinger-Garcia, David Maneval, Meri Nantz, and Cheryl Rowe**. Fall 2002 PhD Graduates: **Dr. Brandon Lewis**. Graduate students: **Cindy De Neira, Susanne Mertens, Sara Rathman, and Karla Pagan Shelnett**. Undergraduates: **Kelly Connaughton, Toni Muzzonigro, Justin Townsend, Michelle Weiner, and Dorothy White**. We're sure many of our FSHN alumni also attended the conference, and we congratulate them on their successes.

Dr. Jess Gregory, Professor, led a workshop in January 2003 on priorities in folate research at the United Kingdom Food Standards Agency in London. Afterwards, Dr. Gregory traveled to Uppsala where he visited the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences' Department of Food Science to present an invited seminar and also lent his expertise to a doctoral dissertation defense.

Your faithful Editor and FSHN's Academic Advisor, **Janna Underhill**, received a Superior Accomplishment Award this year from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences in recognition of her academic advising as well as her work with the FSHN Club. [*Editor: special thanks to all the faculty, staff and students who supported me!*]

Dr. Lynn Bailey, Professor, was one of only four UF professors who received a Florida Blue Key Distinguished Faculty Award for 2002.

Taylor Cookingham, Christopher Duncan and Jessica Pellen (all Food Science undergrads) were recipients of National IFT scholarships this year. **Gillian Folkes**, PhD student in Food Science, was awarded the FL Section IFT Richard F. Matthews Graduate Scholarship, and **Judy K. Wu** was awarded the FL Section IFT Raymond A Dennison Memorial Scholarship.

The FSHN Club has an active member point system, with the most involved and dedicated members winning great prizes. This year, the winners were: First Place - **Ursula Umperovitch** (Senior), Second Place - **Melissa Pflugh** (Senior), and Third Place - **Nikki Heverling** (Sophomore). These students are part of the reason why the FSHN Club was so successful this year, attracting more than 125 members!

FPD Team in IFT Finals



UF's Food Product Development Team was named one of six finalists for the Institute of Food Technologists Food Product Development Competition. This is the first UF team to place in the finals in 14 years! Team leader **Lauren O'Kelley** (Food Science senior) thanked her team members at the FL Section IFT Student Recognition Night back in March, recognizing their many hours of hard work. Please join us to cheer them on in Chicago on Sunday July 13th, 9:00 AM in room N426-abc (McCormick Place). Go Gators!

In Other News...



A special thanks to alumna **Debby L. Newslow** (BS, 1973), former FSHN Club President, for her generous donation to the FSHN Club's Food Product Development Team. After winning the FL Section IFT Roy Sparkle Award this year for her outstanding contributions to the profession, Debby chose to donate her cash award to the Team. They will use the money to purchase an ice cream freezer for use in future food product development projects. The FPD Team presented Debby with a plaque and a Club t-shirt at the March 27 FL Section meeting to formally thank her for all her support.

Also, a special thank you goes out to all of you who completed our alumni survey! We are still receiving them here and there, but soon we'll start compiling the results to share with all of you in a future newsletter.

Party with IFT in July



As you may already know, IFT will no longer be hosting a cocktail party at their annual meetings. Instead, they have organized a new event called "The IFT Party", and they are encouraging academic departments and other organizations to participate. It's **free** (yes, we said FREE) to annual meeting registrants, and will take place on Tuesday June 15 from 7-9 PM at Chicago's Navy Pier. The Party will include great food, live music, and spectacular views of the Chicago skyline. Shuttle service from IFT hotels will be provided. Registrants will also receive 2 Party vouchers good for one cocktail each. Non-registrants may also attend; \$40 tickets will be available through Sunday at check-in. **Please come join FSHN at this brand new IFT event, and get reacquainted with FSHN faculty, staff, students, and alumni!**