

FSHN PhD Graduates are Leaders in Industry and Academia

Dr. Dustin “Dusty” Dixon

Vice President, Quality Assurance
 DineEquity (Applebee’s and IHOP
 Brands) (pictured top left)

Dr. Dixon (MS, 1992; PhD, 1996) was named Vice President, Quality Assurance for DineEquity Inc. (Applebee’s and IHOP Brands) in November, 2007 after IHOP Corp. purchased Applebee’s restaurants. He says that of all his job responsibilities, he most loves being accountable for all of the food consumed by guests at 1300 IHOP and 2000 Applebee’s restaurants. With the recent acquisition of Applebee’s, the company is focused on the integration of the two brands and the challenges and opportunities surrounding such an undertaking. Dr. Dixon...

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Dr. Marie Caudill

Associate Professor of
 Nutritional Sciences and Genomics,
 Cornell University (pictured top right)

Dr. Caudill (PhD, 1997) joined the faculty at Cornell in the summer of 2007. Prior to that, she was on the faculty at Cal Poly Pomona University in California for ten years. Dr. Caudill investigates requirements for nutrients like folate and choline in human subjects. She also researches the influence of genetic variation on the metabolism and utilization of nutrients and is the first scientist to demonstrate that the folate recommended dietary allowance (RDA) may be inadequate for particular genetic subgroups. Dr. Caudill conducts controlled feeding experiments examining the response of

both functional and static blood status indicators to controlled intake levels. She has recently used stable isotopes to discern modulations in metabolic flux, and results of these studies will be used

to optimize choline and folate intake levels with the goal of



just to name a few. Up until very recently, he was President, CEO, and Director for a Hispanic food company in Los Angeles.

Then in the fall of 2007, after a national search, he was hired by Castro. Located in Houston, Castro is the second largest Hispanic...

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Dr. Lorraine Lanningham-Foster

Assistant Professor of Medicine, Mayo
 Clinic (pictured bottom right with
 her husband **Randy Foster** and her
 children, **Evan** and **Amelie**)

After completing two post-doctoral fellowships, one at Wake Forest

University School of Medicine and another at the Mayo Clinic, Dr. Lanningham-Foster (PhD, 1999) became an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Mayo. She is also currently an Associate Consultant in the Mayo Clinic’s Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, Diabetes, Metabolism and Nutrition. While at Wake Forest, Dr. Lanningham-Foster trained under Dr. John Parks, performing extensive studies on

lipoproteins and their distribution throughout the body using...

Continued on page 7

improving human health at both individual and population levels. Her use of state-of-the-art approaches to genetic...

Continued on page 7

Dr. Ricardo “Ric” Alvarez

President and CEO of Castro Cheese
 Company, Inc. and Castro Cheese
 Holdings, Inc. (pictured bottom left)

Dr. Alvarez (MS, 1978; PhD, 1981) has already had a long and distinguished career in the food industry, holding many high-ranking positions in a variety of companies and providing his technical and professional expertise to the beverage, fruit and produce, and frozen and prepared foods industries,

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pictures, updates and comments to:
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Change of Address

Moving, but still want to receive this
newsletter and other UF publications?
Please notify the UF Alumni Assoc.:
<http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu>
(choose "update your information")

Alumni Updates

Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia (MS, 2006)
has accepted a position as Scientific
Affairs Manager at Kemin Health in
Des Moines, Iowa where she will be
designing and monitoring clinical
studies. The FSHN Department threw
her a going-away party this spring,
where she received cards, gifts, and
best wishes. In addition to receiving



L-R: **Dr. Gail Kauwell** (Professor; PhD, 1993),
Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia, and **Dr. Bobbi
Langkamp-Henken** (Professor).

her MS in Nutritional Sciences at UF,
Kelli served as a Senior Biological
Scientist in FSHN for over 10 years.
She will be sorely missed by everyone.
2.

Lisa Rogers (MS, 1996) is a Technical
Officer with the Department of
Nutrition for Health and Development
in the World Health Organization in
Switzerland.

Jessica Lee (BS, 2005) accepted a job
in Atlanta as Manager of Nutrition
Communications for the Calorie
Control Council.

Paul Catcott (BS, 2008) will be
working for Frito Lay in San Antonio,
Texas in either production or operations
resource management.

Bradley Chastain (BS, 2008) accepted
a position as Team Leader with
Schreiber Cheese in Nashville,
Tennessee.

2008 BS graduates accepted to dental
school here at UF include: **Victor
Bond, Robert Capozza, Devin
Gapstur, Andrew Gooch, Kimberly
Howard, Christopher Kuhns, Evelyn
Ortiz, and Lindsay Place**. Other 2008
BS graduates who will attend dental
school include: **Farrah Beg** (VA
Commonwealth Univ.), **Bruna DaSilva**
(NYU), **Issa Issa** (Nova SE Univ.),
David Lee (Boston Univ.), **Nathaniel
Minter** (Case Western Reserve Univ.),
John Plumley (Tufts Univ.), **Matthew
Rasmussen** (Univ. of Alabama), **Jamie
Saltz** (Univ. of Pennsylvania), **Vernon
Smith** (Nova SE Univ.), and **Jamie
Zupnik** (Harvard Univ.).

Robert Perlstein (BS, 2007; MS
Student) has been accepted to dental
school at Howard University.

2008 BS graduates accepted to UF
medical school include: **Kristina
Bettters, Nicole Pasteur, Robert
Regenhardt, and Tiffany Taylor**.
Other 2008 BS graduates who will
attend medical school include: **Patrick
Buchanan** (Medical College of
Georgia), **Jeffrey Elveus** (Ross Univ.),
Valerie Ford (Lake Erie College of
Osteopathic Medicine), **Kristin
Johnson** (Wake Forest Univ.),
Christine Kirlew (Vanderbilt Univ.),
Kaitlin Kobaitri (Philadelphia College
of Osteopathic Medicine), **Joseph
Paonessa** (Univ. of South Florida),
Allison Poimboeuf (Florida State
Univ.), **Jennifer Stark** (Nova SE
Univ.), **Amanda Voehl** (Univ. of
Miami), **Adam Wulkan** (Univ. of
Miami), **Jacob Young** (Univ. of
Miami).

Congratulations!

Liv Bader-Shores (BS, 1997; MS,
2003) and **Bryan Shores** (pictured
below) got married last summer. Liv
works in product development for
Bacardi-Martini in Jacksonville.



Last October **Luis Martinez** (BS,
2005; MS, 2007) and his wife **Maria
Belen** had a baby boy named **Luis
Alejandro**, and the family is pictured
below. Luis works in R&D for Darifair
Foods in Jacksonville, Florida.



Congratulations also go out to **Minna
(Leibowitz) Schuster** (BS, 2001; MS,
2003) and **Simon Schuster** on the birth
of their son **Samuel Benjamin** this past
fall. Sam is pictured below with his
good friend Kiwi.



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

Dr. Lynn Bailey Wins UF's Most Prestigious Faculty Award



Dr. Lynn Bailey (Professor) has been named 2008 UF Teacher/Scholar of the Year. This is the oldest and the most prestigious faculty award

at the University of Florida, and is given to only one faculty member each year in recognition of outstanding teaching and scholarly achievements as well as visibility both on and off campus.

Dr. Bailey's teaching philosophy is best described as one that motivates her students to learn to solve problems in a "real world" setting. This approach is key as Dr. Bailey teaches and mentors undergraduate and graduate students in both classroom and research environments. During the past three decades, a large number of undergraduate students have conducted research under Dr. Bailey's direction. These students were given the unique opportunity to become part of a clinical nutrition research team, with many of them conducting independent research projects that resulted in honors theses and related publications. This activity not only enriched their college experience and education, it also served as a springboard for their successful application and admission to professional schools following graduation from UF. Also, many of the undergraduate students who conducted research under Dr. Bailey's supervision have completed professional graduate degrees and are pursuing their careers with first-hand knowledge of how to conduct research as well as the importance of translating new research findings into practice to benefit their patients, clients, and society.

Over the course of her 30 year tenure at UF, Dr. Bailey has provided academic and career advisement to numerous undergraduate students. These students benefited from the careful guidance and mentoring she provided, as well as the extra time she took to compose thoughtful letters of support for their professional/graduate school applications.

Graduate students working under Dr. Bailey's direction are involved in all aspects of the research process including designing research protocols, writing

grant proposals, obtaining institutional review board approval, conducting human research studies, training clinical staff and student volunteers, planning all aspects of experimental diets, preparing diets for human subjects, and developing and implementing methodologies required for analysis of vitamin levels and metabolites in blood and urine.

Dr. Bailey's teaching philosophy of "engaged learning" continues long after completion of every research project in that each student is involved in the analysis and interpretation of data, preparation of manuscripts for publication in peer-reviewed journals, and response to reviewer's critiques during the publication process.



L-R: **Dr. Lynn Bailey** receiving the UF Teacher/Scholar of the Year Award from **Dr. Bernie Machen** (UF President).

Dr. Bailey's devotion to mentoring her students to become independent scientists continues as she prepares them to present their research findings at national meetings, an experience that instills a sense of pride and personal responsibility, coupled with the realization of the potential scientific impact their work could have. Several of Dr. Bailey's former graduate students who are now faculty members at major universities have won prestigious national awards for the research they completed (see cover story and page 7).

Dr. Bailey's accomplishments in research focus on folate/folic acid, which is known to reduce the risk of birth defects. Dr. Bailey was involved in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of a large-scale folic acid intervention trial in China where folic acid-responsive birth defects are quite common. Her contributions to the field and expertise in this area were recognized by the FDA, and she was selected to serve as a member of the Folic Acid Advisory Committee that recommended

fortification of the US food supply with folic acid. This is now a federal law that has resulted in a significant reduction in folic-acid related birth defects in the US.

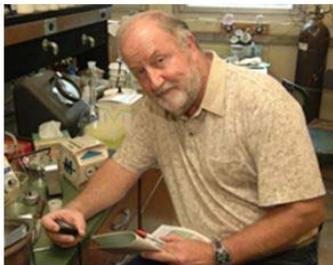
In addition, Dr. Bailey has conducted landmark human metabolic studies in which folate requirements were determined in human subjects across the lifespan. As a result, Dr. Bailey was selected to serve as a member of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee that revised the dietary intake recommendations for folate and the other B vitamins. This scholarly work resulted in major revisions to national dietary intake recommendations.

Dr. Bailey's superior research accomplishments, which generated the scientific basis for revised nutrient intake recommendations, have been recognized with many other prestigious awards. The USDA's Superior Achievement Award, the national March of Dimes Award for major accomplishments in the area of fetal and maternal medicine, and the American Society for Nutrition's Centrum Science Award for research in human nutrition have all been awarded to Dr. Bailey. The University of Florida has recognized Dr. Bailey for all of her accomplishments with a series of awards including the UF Professional Excellence Award, the UF Professional Merit Award, the UF Research Foundation Professorship Award, the Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Research Scientist Award, and the UF Blue Key Distinguished Faculty Award. Additionally, Dr. Bailey has received collaborative awards for the creation of folic acid creative works. These include the UF/IFAS Gold Image Award, the National Association for Communication Excellence Gold Award, and the Outstanding Professional Skill Award.



Standing, L-R: **Dr. Neil Shay** (FSHN Chair), **Dr. Ling Hao** (a research colleague from China), **Dr. Lynn Bailey**, **Dr. Gary Rodrick** (Professor), **Dr. Elaine Turner** (Associate Dean). Seated: **Nancy Bonnette** (Dr. Bailey's mother).

Dr. Ron Schmidt Honored



Dr. Ron Schmidt

(Professor) was named the recipient of the Bronson Lane Award for 2007 by the Florida Association for Food Protection (FAFP). Each year FAFP nominates one person they feel has exhibited the greatest knowledge, skill, commitment,

and dedication to food safety ideals throughout their career. Only those who have spent the majority of their life serving industry, government or academia are eligible for this award.

Dr. Schmidt has led successful teaching, research, and extension programs in FSHN since he started here in 1974, mentoring countless undergraduate and graduate students. Currently, he teaches courses in Food Regulations and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), and he also coaches the FSHN College Bowl and Dairy Judging Teams.

Dr. Schmidt was nominated by his peers in FAFP, and selected by their Board of Directors.

Dr. Pam McMahon Recognized



Dr. Pam McMahon (Senior

Lecturer) was voted "Outstanding Dietitian" by the membership of the Gainesville District Dietetic Association (GDDA). Dr. McMahon was recognized not only for her work here at the University of Florida but also for her collaborations with other registered dietitians in the community.

As one of the faculty advisors to the FSHN Club, Dr. McMahon has helped to increase dietetics student involvement in the Club and in GDDA, as well as in both the Florida Dietetic Association and the American Dietetic Association. As a faculty advisor in and Program Director for the Didactic Program in Dietetics, she is actively involved in the professional development of our dietetics students. (One of her recent advisees, **Nicole Burton**, is featured on page 8.) Additionally, she teaches courses and labs in Food Systems Management and Community Nutrition. Dr. McMahon has been with the FSHN Department for ten years.

Rebecca Matta Selected



Rebecca Matta (Program Assistant) won a 2008 UF/IFAS Superior Accomplishment Award in the Clerical/Office Support category. She was nominated by FSHN because of her outstanding service to our Food Science extension programs. Her job duties include but are not limited to: the support of six faculty with extension appointments (she is supervised by **Dr. Ron Schmidt**),

support and organization of extension events and activities, assistance with extension travel, serving as the front line for all outside inquiries and requests, and facilitating communication between extension professionals.

Rebecca originally attended North Carolina State University, but lived in St. Petersburg, Florida for most of her life. She worked as a social worker and a human services analyst for welfare reform before heading to culinary school when she was 38. She then moved around a great deal, working as an executive chef doing charters and company social events for a private corporation. Her husband, **Nuno**, is a motor yacht captain from Lisboa, Portugal and they traveled together for many years between the Bahamas, Florida, and the eastern seaboard. But she and Nuno eventually found Gainesville and made the decision to stay, and she now says she loves her job here in FSHN.

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni & Friends (CALSAF)

Did you know that as a graduate of FSHN you're already an official member of CALSAF, and that there are no dues?

Want more information on upcoming alumni events or volunteer opportunities? Contact your FSHN News & Views Editor, **Janna Underhill** (see page 2).

Dr. Jess Gregory Awarded

Dr. Jess Gregory (Professor) was just awarded a UF Research Foundation Professorship. These are competitive professorships given to tenured faculty who have outstanding current research accomplishments and who are likely to continue distinguishing themselves in their respective fields. Dr. Gregory



will hold this honorary professorship for three years. During that time, he will be given a salary supplement and additional research funding, and he will also participate in the Research Foundation seminar series and website. Dr. Gregory was nominated by the FSHN Chair, **Dr. Neil Shay**, and then chosen by the deans here in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

Dr. Gregory received his BS and MS in Food Science from Cornell University, and his PhD in Food Science from Michigan State University. He has been with FSHN since 1977, winning numerous awards as well as international recognition for his innovative research programs. His long-term research centers on the chemistry, physiological processing, and metabolic function of B-vitamins, with a particular focus on folate and vitamin B6 and their role in one-carbon metabolism. A major theme of his work has been the development and application of novel stable-isotopic methods to measure the absorption and metabolism of folate and B6 compounds and to assess nutritional and genetic factors affecting the in vivo rates of vitamin-dependent metabolic processes. This work has both scientific and public health significance in view of the association of vitamin nutrition and metabolism with risk of birth defects, coronary heart disease, stroke and other vascular disease, and certain cancers.

Dr. Gregory has also mentored many successful graduate and undergraduate students. And in 2007, he taught Advanced Food Chemistry here in FSHN for the twenty-fifth consecutive year. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Gregory on all his accomplishments.

Dr. Steve Otwell Chosen as UF/IFAS International Fellow

Dr. W. Steven Otwell (Professor and Florida Sea Grant seafood extension specialist) was named as the 2007



UF/IFAS International Fellow in recognition of his outstanding record of international research and service to the seafood industry,

both here in the US and across the globe.

Dr. Otwell received his BS in Biology from Virginia Military Institute, his MS in Marine Science from the University of Virginia, and his PhD in Food Science from North Carolina State University. When he first came to UF in 1979, Florida had a large seafood industry. However, political and social

environments in Florida underwent great change, and Florida's seafood industry eventually became more and more focused on the processing and retail marketing of imported seafood products. Dr. Otwell has been at the forefront of anticipating and adapting to these changes. His extension education programs, research projects, and graduate teaching are all designed to serve an ever-changing seafood industry, with the goal of saving money and resources wherever possible. His work has positively impacted the seafood industry in many other countries, and thus earned him a solid international reputation as a seafood expert.

Several years ago, Dr. Otwell utilized his extensive industry contacts to raise funds for the construction of the FSHN Aquatic Food Products Lab. This state of



L-R: **Dr. Neil Shay** (FSHN Chair and Professor), **Dr. Steve Otwell** (Professor), **Dr. David Sammons** (Director of the UF/IFAS International Programs Office), and **Dr. Jimmy Cheek** (Vice-President for Agriculture and Natural Resources)

the art facility allows Dr. Otwell and his graduate students to conduct cutting edge research that has practical applicability to the seafood industry.

We are fortunate to have Dr. Otwell and his internationally-respected programs here in FSHN.

Dixon, cont.

...finds it very rewarding whenever he sees a television commercial promoting food products that he has helped to develop. Although he is not a chef, as a food scientist he is able to influence product development in unique ways.

As VP of Quality Assurance, Dr. Dixon is responsible for two main areas: supply and restaurant. On the supply side, he and his team develop product specifications, certify suppliers and their facilities, audit products, and collaborate with purchasing and research and development on alternate sourcing, product optimization, and specification alignment. On the restaurant side, Dr. Dixon's team ensures that operators serve safe and wholesome food through recipe validation, adherence to HACCP principles and restaurant auditing. They also act as liaison to health departments across the US and deal with food risk management issues such as power outages, water main breaks and natural disasters.

Dr. Dixon says that recently his team has taken a leadership role in dealing with emerging issues like nutrition and obesity, trans fats, animal welfare, and global sources of raw ingredients. He expects sodium, caffeine, high fructose corn syrup, sugar, and cholesterol to be the next emerging issues.

Originally from Tampa, Dr. Dixon says, "I was born a Gator." After getting

his BS in Microbiology and Cell Science at UF, he completed his MS and PhD under the "expert tutelage" of **Dr. Gary Rodrick** (Professor), focusing on food microbiology. During that time he not only witnessed the Gators win their first national football championship, but he also gained hands-on experience at a local seafood processing plant, Northwest Seafood. He says that although his PhD helped to launch his career, he believes that it was literally his experience in cutting and gutting grouper that really helped him to impress employers and thus land his first professional industry job. Because of this, he strongly encourages current students to gain real-world work experience any way they can.

Dr. Dixon also says that communication skills are equally important. In his career he has found that, in particular, being able to articulate clearly both verbally and in writing, doing so in a manner that is not easily

misinterpreted, and being able to influence and persuade others are all critical skills. Specifically, when asked what advice he would give to recent graduates, Dr. Dixon said, "When you leave college, you will likely be very intelligent and have all of the book knowledge that you need. Very few people will be able to challenge your scientific acumen. But, what you may be lacking is the ability to effectively collaborate with others, who may have different agendas or needs. The interpersonal skills of great communication separate the highly successful individuals from the average ones."

Dr. Dixon and his wife **Emily** live in Valencia, California, and they recently got to watch the Gators win their second national championship. He says he enjoys traveling, playing golf, and watching various sports – including, of course, the Gators!

Cleaning the Pilot Plant

Caught in the act: **Rebecca Matta** (Program Assistant) and **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (Professor), trying to keep the FSHN Pilot Plant clean for future generations. It should be noted that this intrepid pair, after many hours of fruitless scrubbing and scraping, eventually called in a professional cleaning team to help finish the job. See page 4 for more on their accomplishments.



Help Us Welcome New Faculty



Dr. Liwei Gu joined the Food Science and Human Nutrition Department as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Gu obtained his doctorate in Food Science from Jiangnan University in China in 2000 and came to the Arkansas Children's Nutrition Center as a post-doc in 2001 under the direction of **Dr. Ronald L. Prior**. He was later promoted to Research Assistant Professor in 2004 with an

appointment in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.

Dr. Gu is interested in research on phytochemicals in foods, especially their chemistry, bioavailability, and health effects. His study contributed to the USDA database of procyanidins in foods and found procyanidins to be the major flavonoids ingested in the American diet. He also reported that the absorption of these phytochemicals was low and could be improved with food processing. Dr. Gu's most recent study explores the prevention of diet-induced metabolic syndrome by phytochemicals in cereals and fruits. He will be teaching courses and labs in food chemistry here in FSHN.

Dr. Gu and his wife **Jinlan Zhao** have two daughters, a one-year old named **Lindsey** and a four-year old named **Melody**.



Dr. Marie-Louise Ricketts (Research Assistant Scientist) obtained her PhD in Medicine, with a focus on Molecular Endocrinology, from the University of Birmingham, UK in 1999. She then undertook post-doctoral training at the CHUL Research Center, Laval University, Quebec City, Canada, and more recently in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

Dr. Ricketts has extensive research experience in the areas of glucocorticoid and mineralocorticoid hormone action. Recently, she has focused on nuclear hormone receptors, with particular reference to their role in metabolism and how dietary constituents and botanicals interact with these receptors to affect metabolic processes such as cholesterol homeostasis and diabetes. Her most recent work, which was featured on the front cover of the July 2007 edition of *Molecular Endocrinology*, involved elucidating the molecular mechanism behind the cholesterol-raising ability of a diterpene present in unfiltered coffee.

Dr. Ricketts has had numerous successful collaborations with international research groups. She also has several publications in the works, including a review of the regulation of genes associated with drug transport and metabolism by bioactive foods and their nutritional implications (in collaboration with **Dr. Neil Shay**, FSHN Chair).



Join us for the 4th annual Florida Party!

held in conjunction with the IFT Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA

Monday, June 30, 2008
6:30 – 9:30 PM

Tropical Isle

721 Bourbon Street
(on the second floor lounge and balcony)



Organized by the FSHN Department and Florida Section Institute of Food Technologists (IFT), the 4th annual Florida Party is held in conjunction with the 2008 IFT Annual Meeting & Food Expo. This event is a great opportunity to meet new people, catch up with old friends or former colleagues, and strengthen ties between academia and industry within the state of Florida.

University of Florida alumni/faculty/students, members of Florida/South Florida IFT Sections, and everyone who works in or has ties to the state of Florida are welcome to attend. No cover charge! Enjoy **free** beer, wine, appetizers (including crawfish bouchée and mini muffalattas), and the good company of colleagues.

Please take a moment to help us thank our sponsors, below, for their generosity and support. **If you would like to help sponsor this event, please contact Janna Underhill at janna@ufl.edu or 352-392-1991, ext. 220.**



FoodWise, Inc.

ABC Research Corporation



PhD Stories, cont.

Caudill, cont.

...research in controlled studies with humans makes her unique among scientists. Dr. Caudill's current projects include studies on the influence of common genetic variants on human metabolism of folate, choline, and homocysteine; how maternal choline intake during pregnancy affects maternal and fetal endpoints including neurocognitive function in infants; and how MTHFR deficiency influences expression of folate- and choline-related genes in both animals and humans.

Dr. Caudill received her PhD under the supervision of **Dr. Lynn Bailey** (see page 3). She says that, "Dr. Bailey nurtured and nourished a passion for research that I was unaware existed." Prior to that, she completed two bachelor's degrees and her MS at the University of North Florida, and is a Registered Dietitian. During her time at Cal Poly Pomona, she was recognized for her outstanding work with several awards, including Teacher of the Year, Excellence in Research, and Diversity Champion.

Most recently, Dr. Caudill was presented with the very prestigious American Society for Nutrition's 2008 Norman Kretchmer Memorial Award in Nutrition and Development. The awards ceremony took place during the Experimental Biology conference in San Diego this past spring.

Dr. Caudill and her husband **Tony Caudill** have two sons, **Bradley** and **Kyle**. Tony is also a Gator, having earned his MBA here at UF. She says that throughout her career, Dr. Bailey and **Dr. Jess Gregory** (see page 4) continue to be a source of inspiration, expertise, support, and encouragement.

Alvarez, cont.

...cheese company in the US, selling a full line of cheeses, cremas, and other traditional Hispanic refrigerated products.

Dr. Alvarez originally decided to make the switch from technology to general management because he wanted greater responsibility for company profit and loss. He credits his overall success and especially his ability to grow companies quickly to the fact that he can understand and communicate with both food science/technology and marketing

professionals. He tells us that bringing together the consumer and the research and development sides of business allows him to bring products to the market much faster, which translates into higher productivity, sales, profits, and growth.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in Microbiology (with a minor in Environmental Engineering) from the University of South Florida, Dr. Alvarez met **Dr. Jack Koburger** in 1976 and the two immediately hit it off. Dr. Alvarez completed his PhD under Dr. Koburger, and called him a "brilliant food microbiologist and mentor" who was instrumental in teaching him that food safety and environmental issues are especially critical to the food industry. Dr. Alvarez made it clear that he owes his graduate education to Dr. Koburger and the rest of his graduate committee.

When asked what advice he would give to current students, Dr. Alvarez first suggested that students try to work one-on-one with some of the great faculty here in FSHN, and most especially on a project that has applicability to industry. Although any research experience is valuable, projects considered of practical value to industry are particularly worth pursuing. And second, students should work hard to find summer internships, since hands-on experience can be invaluable during the job search.

Dr. Alvarez says he can be reached at ralvarez@castrocheese.com if anyone would like to contact him.

Lanningham-Foster, cont...

...mice and non-human primates. However, she really loves working with people directly and trying to help improve their lives through research. She says that she had her first experience

involving human research here in FSHN, with her PhD advisor **Dr. Robert Cousins** (Professor). She credits the beginning of her career in that field to the support of both Dr. Cousins and **Ms. Brenda Owens** (a Lactation Consultant at Shands Hospital). While at Wake Forest, she always tried to integrate her research with the needs and issues faced by everyday people so that she could apply that research in clinical settings.

Those experiences and interests meant that collaboration with **Dr. James Levine** at the Mayo Clinic was a perfect match for her. Dr. Lanningham-Foster has since loaned her expertise to several studies involving physical activity and obesity in children and adults, and that research resulted in a publication in the journal *Science*. She says that her immediate career goals include continued research into childhood obesity, since obesity rates continue to rise at an alarming rate and the dire consequences of this problem are now better known to both researchers and healthcare professionals.

The mother of both a son and a daughter, Dr. Lanningham-Foster says about her children: "They make my work in pediatric obesity even more rewarding. As I completed my BS, MS and PhD in the field of nutrition, I of course always learned and taught students about how children develop eating patterns and behaviors. I find it is fascinating to see these patterns develop in my own children. My husband and I are now all too aware of how you have to let your children try new foods at least ten times before they will like them (many, many more times for my daughter and green beans – still working on that one!). I am a busy working mom, but my family and my love of research keep me going."

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

Your donation to FSHN can be used to support student travel to conferences, scholarships, and assistantships; 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 a check (made out to "U of FL-SHARE") to:
Neil Shay, Chair
Food Science and Human Nutrition
PO Box 110370
Gainesville, FL 32611-0370

FSHN Achievements

FSHN students won three of the four prestigious College of Agricultural and Life Sciences undergraduate awards! Dietetics senior **Nicole Burton** won the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence. Nutritional Sciences junior **Andrew Migliaccio** won the E. T. York, Jr. Medal of Excellence Outstanding Junior Award. And **Robert Regenhardt**, a first-year medical student at UF as part of the Junior Honors Medical Program, won the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Outstanding Senior Award. Also, Nutritional Sciences students **Amanda Voehl** and **Jacob Young** were



L-R: Nicole Burton, Andrew Migliaccio, and Robert Regenhardt.

finalists. This is the second year in a row that FSHN had such an outstanding group of award nominees, and we're very proud of them all.



L-R: **Amanda Voehl** (BS, 2008), finalist for the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Outstanding Senior Award, and **Jacob Young** (BS, 2008), finalist for the Alumni and Friends Leadership Award.

Nicole Burton, pictured above, was also just awarded Outstanding Dietetics Student in Florida by the American Dietetic Association. She was chosen from among all current Dietetics students in the state of Florida.

Congratulations to the FSHN College Bowl Team, who earned third place at the 2008 Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA) competition, held in Starkville, Mississippi this past March. It was a very close match, and all of our students did an outstanding job. The team is pictured below, L-R: **Milena Ramirez-Rodrigues** (PhD Candidate and Team Captain), **Diana Seminario** (MS Student), **Eric Dreyer** (BS, 2008), and **David Guderian** (BS, 2008). Not pictured is the team alternate **Jaclyn Kalva** (BS, 2007; MS Student), **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (Professor and Team Coach), and **Janna Underhill** (Assistant Coach, and your faithful News & Views Editor).



On a related note, **Laura Strawn** (MS student) was recently elected as the 2008-2009 IFTSA Southeast Area Student Rep. The FSHN Department has volunteered to host the 2009 IFTSA College Bowl competition next spring, and if we are chosen as hosts Laura will be our main contact.



Dr. Hordur Kristinsson (Assistant Professor) received a Diploma of Recognition for Scientific Achievement by the President of The Agricultural University of Lublin, Poland after collaborating for several years on the chemistry and physical properties of food protein.

FSHN Dietetics students won all of the Florida Dietetic Association scholarships this spring: Sister Helen Marie Scholarship – **Jamie Stolarz** (Senior); Dietetic Internship Scholarship – **Nicole Burton** (Senior); Florida Dietetic Association Scholarship – **Doretta Ho** (BS, 2005; MS Student). Congratulations to these outstanding students!

This spring, FSHN again hosted a social during the University Mixer at the Experimental Biology conference, which was held in San Diego (photos below). Thank you to the faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends of FSHN who attended!



Left, L-R: Jenna Culp, Asha Balakrishnan, David McDonald, Anh-Thu Le, Sweny Shah, Wesley George. All are seniors in or recent grads of majors outside of FSHN, but all actively participate in Dr. Peggy Borum's InvestiGators Research Honor Society.

Right, L-R: **Dr. Sara (Rathman) Zwart** (PhD, 2003) and **Dr. Jess Gregory** (Professor; see page 4).



Left, L-R: **Sukru Gulec** (Biological Scientist) and **Joeva Hepburn** (BS, 2005; MS Student).

Right, L-R: **Dr. Marie-Louise Ricketts** (Research Assistant Scientist) and **Dr. Sue Percival** (Professor).



Left, L-R: **Joanna Meadors** (BS, 2008) and **Amanda Voehl** (BS, 2008).



Top left, L-R: **Mike Kelley** (Senior Principal Scientist, Wm. Wrigley Jr. Co.), **Dr. Bobbi Langkamp-Henken** (Professor), and **Kelli Herrlinger-Garcia** (MS, 2006). Top right, L-R: **Dr. Cheryl Rowe** (Research Associate), **Dr. Brandon Lewis** (BS, 1997; PhD, 2003), and **Meri Nantz** (Biological Scientist). Left: Another happy Gator.

