

New Food Product Development Team Created at UF

Six Food Science students have created the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences' first organized Product Development Team. Developed as a committee in the FSHN Club back in May, the team is led by its founder, **Lauren O'Kelley**. A senior, Lauren says: "The purpose of creating this team was to get FOS students together to gain hands on experience in research and development, to create new products for FPD competitions, and most of all to have fun!"

Other active members of the team are: **Kristina Garner** (graduate student), **Michael Madden** (senior), **Meghan Meller** (senior), **Morgan Phares** (junior), and **Nancy Sego** (senior). The team's advisors are **Dr. Hordur Kristinsson** (FSHN Assistant Professor), **Dr. Renée R. Goodrich** (FSHN Assistant Professor), and **Janna Underhill** (FSHN Club Co-Advisor and Editor of this newsletter).

The FPD team has a great variety of interests, ranging from product development and food safety to nutrition and marketing. Each member is encouraged to develop new and innovative food products and submit a patent for their ideas. (A special thank you to **Bruce Clary**, Assistant Director of the UF Office of Technology Licensing, for his assistance with the patent process.)

The team was determined to succeed from the start, but after members attended the Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting and Food Expo and the IFTSA Product Development Competition last summer in Anaheim, they became even more motivated to enter the competition next year in Chicago. They have been working hard on an IFT Product Development submission and are in the process of

applying for a patent. They are confident it is just the type of creative thinking the judges will be looking for next year.

Dr. Kristinsson says, "I am very pleased to have been involved in the creation and running of the new FPD

to be won, plus national recognition. This will be the first product entered into a competition since the team's development. The team is also currently working on and developing ideas for the NASA Space Food Competition and Dairy Management Inc.'s

"Discoveries in Dairy Ingredients Competition", both of which also provide cash prizes and national recognition to winners.

The FPD team would like to officially thank all the students and faculty who have given them positive input and support while they work hard to gain recognition and contacts in the food industry. Most especially, they would like to thank the Food Science and Human Nutrition Club officers for their generous donation to help get the team started. The team was established with a small budget and limited supplies, so encourages alumni to become involved and support their efforts. "This is not just a small group interested in making new food products, it is a mission to put UF Food Science on the map and become involved with the food industry and alumni across the nation," says Mike Madden.

Cont. on page 3



Back row, L-R: Nancy Sego, Lauren O'Kelley, Meghan Meller, Dr. Hordur Kristinsson; front row, L-R: Michael Madden, Kristina Garner, Morgan Phares.

team at UF. I have seen the team grow tremendously in the past five months and we have some excellent ideas and products under development that in my mind will have great chances not only in product development competitions but also in the real world. The students have done a first class job, and I will make sure, with the help of our excellent students, that this team is here to stay."

While working hard for the IFT competition, Nancy Sego and other team members have also prepared an entry for the California Almond Board competition for a new confectionary or savory snack. The product, ready for patent application, is a new type of confectionary with an innovative design and lots of almonds. There is over \$10,000 in cash and prizes

In this issue:

Alumni Updates	2
Shireman Retires	3
Schreiber Foods Connection.....	3
Bates to Retire	3
FSHN Achievements.....	4
In Other News	4

FSHN Alumni Newsletter produced bi-annually

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Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
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Please notify the UF Foundation
<http://www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/interact/>
(choose "Bio Update")

Casey Marion (BS, 2002) plans to pursue MS work in Agricultural and Biological Engineering here at UF, to complement his Food Science background.

2002 BS graduates in FSHN accepted to dental schools include: **Casey Born** (UF), **Rosa Bueno** (UF), **Justin Chisari** (UF), **Michael Derakhshan** (UF), **Julia Kasper** (University of North Carolina), **Kelly Klair** (UF), **Jeffrey "Dean" Lankford** (Boston University), **Katia Lemke** (UF), **Oliver Mayoral** (UF), **Daniel Rooke** (UF), **Tia "Shea" Sammons** (UF), **Arvind Shanadi** (UF), **Callie Shand** (Meharry Medical College), **Elham Sharaf-Eldee** (UF), **Shilpa Shivashankar** (New York University), and **James Trantham** (UF). **Melanie Kemmerer** (BS, 2000; MS, 2002) and **Jay Skipper** (BS, 2000) are also in Dental School here at UF.

Several FSHN graduates are currently pursuing law degrees. They include **Alison Frieder** (BS, 2002), who was accepted to Cardozo School of Law in NY, **Michelle Marks** (BS, 2002), who was accepted to Emory University, and **Geovanny Rojas** (BS, 2002), now attending law school in Michigan.

Martin Beringer (BS, 2002, dual major in Food Science and Microbiology) accepted a position with Schreiber Foods Inc. (see page 3) in quality assurance.

The following 2002 BS graduates are currently attending UF's College of Pharmacy: **Justin Arrendale**, **Amy Barnett**, **Michael Bazley**, **Lauren Burt**, **Sonia Cherian** (see page 4), **Thomas Krisek**, **Russell McKelvey**, **Bambi Nelson**, **Dipti Patel**, **Kimberly Slater**, **Christina Stefopoulos**. Also accepted to UF's College of Pharmacy for fall 2002: **Susan Gerry** (BS, 2001), **Ira Schatten** (BS, 2001), and **Benjamin O'Neal** (BS, 2000). **Amber Pagano** (BS, 2002) is attending pharmacy school at Nova Southeastern University.

Joanna Nelson (BS, 2002 with a dual specialization in Dietetics and Food Science) has been accepted into UF's Master of Public Health program. **Kirsten Herbes** (BS, 2001) is also in the MPH program at UF.

Eve Weiss (BS, 2000; MS, 2002) is now employed at Firmenich, Inc. in Safety Harbor, FL (see page 4).

Kristina Carter (BS, 2002) and **Crystal Coker** (BS, 2002) are pursuing MS degrees in Public Health at the University of South Florida.

Paul Grotheer (BS, 2001), **Minh Lam** (BS, 2002), **Matthew Lecky** (BS, 2002), **Holly Petty** (BS, 2002) are pursuing master's degrees in Food Science at UF.

In 2002, BS graduates in Dietetics were very successful. They were accepted to many different Dietetic Internships across the country, including: **Laura Allman** (NY Presbyterian Hospital), **Katherine Butler** (Emory University), **Cassandra Chamis** (Mayo Medical Center), **Leah Decker** (US Army), **Melissa del Campo** (NY Presbyterian Hospital), **Anthony DiValentin** (Andrews University), **Lisa Fish** (UF), **Elizabeth Haire** (UF), **Lauren Hirschfeld** (Rush Presbyterian Hospital), **Michelle Hulls** (Texas Tech), **Inger Hustrulid** (Brigham & Women's Hospital), **Carolina Lima** (UF), **Alison McIntire** (UNF), **Melissa Myers** (UF), **Emily Roe** (University of Southern Mississippi), **Rebecca Russell** (UF), **Andrea Skowronek** (Tampa VA Hospital), **Andrea Soares** (Andrews University), **Shirley Tejada** (Augusta Area), **Tara Tibbets** (Andrews University), and **Jaimie Vaughn** (UF).

Taraja Williams (BS, 2002) was accepted into the Food Science MS program at Rutgers University.

Brent Van Gemert (BS, 2002) is pursuing a master's degree in Physical Therapy here at UF.

Marie Dajuste (BS, 2002) and **Adam Denker** (BS, 2002) are now working for AmeriCorps in Boston and Gainesville, respectively. AmeriCorps serves communities in areas like public safety, health, education, and the environment and works in conjunction with other non-profit agencies.

Lilah Harmeling (BS, 2002) was accepted to chiropractic school at Life University in Atlanta, Georgia. **Brett Compton** (BS, 2002) is attending Palmer Chiropractic College in Port Orange, Florida.

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

Shireman Retires

Dr. Rachel Shireman retired this year after 28 years of dedicated service to FSHN and UF. Dr. Shireman received her PhD in Biochemistry from UF in 1978 with a dissertation entitled "LDL: A Study of the Role of the Apolipoprotein" (under **Dr. Waldo Fisher**). Dr. Shireman's research focused primarily on lipids, and she has published extensively.

She also taught undergraduate and graduate biochemistry courses, both of which she developed, as well as a graduate course in lipid metabolism. Many of you probably relied on her for in-depth academic and career advising, and in the mid-1980s she was responsible for developing the Nutritional Sciences track, laying the foundation for the strong and successful pre-professional curriculum it is today. From 1997 to 1999, Dr. Shireman served as Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dr. Shireman also served on the committees of more than 80 graduate students, and chaired or co-chaired 22 of those committees.

One of her students, **Dr. Dawn Johnson O'Byrne**, received her PhD from FSHN in 1995. Her research focused on the effects of a low fat-high oleic diet on cholesterol metabolism in post-menopausal women who were at high risk for heart disease



because of elevated cholesterol levels. Results indicated the diet had the potential to decrease that risk by lowering LDL cholesterol levels, improving LDL:HDL ratio, and making LDL composition more resistant to damage by free radicals.

The dietary oleic acid used was derived from a high oleic acid peanut (developed at UF) that has a fatty acid composition similar to heart-healthy olive oil. The research garnered national and international attention because the public seemed surprised that peanuts could be part of a heart-healthy diet. Dr.

O'Byrne and Dr. Shireman were surprised by the phone calls from would-be participants and interviewers; they were even contacted by a major broadcasting network in Canada!

Dr. O'Byrne says, "Rachel has a unique combination of intellect, integrity, dedication, generosity of heart, and a love for her students that endeared her to many. She invested herself in others' lives and always had a listening ear and a willingness to help. I have tremendous respect and gratitude for her not only as a scientist and educator but also as a wonderful person." We couldn't agree more!

If you would like to send a note to Dr. Shireman, mail it in care of the Editor (see page 2) and we will forward it to her.

FSHN Alumnus is Big Cheese



Dr. Richard Dargan graduated with his BS degree in Food Science from FSHN in 1979, and went on to receive a PhD in Food Science from Utah State University in 1992. He became interested in Food Microbiology after taking Man's Food in 1975 with the late **Dr. Howard Appledorf**. Dr. Dargan has been with Schreiber Foods Inc., the world's largest privately held cheese company, since 1980, working in locations such as Arizona, Pennsylvania, Utah, Missouri, and Wisconsin, and holding various titles, including Production Manager, Project Manager, Plant Manager, Director of Purchasing, and currently, Purchasing Manager. He is responsible, among many other things, for supervising milk and cream buying for recently acquired Raskas Foods and for recruiting at UF. Schreiber has hired several recent FSHN graduates, and Dr. Dargan visited UF again this fall to speak to more prospective hires. Dr. Dargan very much enjoys his career with Schreiber Foods, and says it's a progressive, community oriented company with a lot of benefits. He adds that he was willing to relocate anywhere or take on any new responsibility over the years save one: he told Schreiber he "will not, under any circumstances, recruit at Florida State."

FPD Team, *cont. from page 1*

"The benefits of the UF Product Development Team are whatever you make of the given opportunities. It has allowed me to utilize, apply, and expand my food science knowledge in many creative and tasty ways," says Meghan Meller. Kristina Garner adds: "I joined the product development team to expand my knowledge in product development and to get hands on experience in this area. Being a part of this team has been a great learning experience."

If you are interested in becoming involved with the FPD Team, they are seeking industry and alumni speakers and companies interested in accommodating student field trips. They are also seeking out food companies interested in producing a "Gator" food product. If you would like more information, or if your company would like to donate equipment or provide other support, please contact Lauren O'Kelley (rosemelon@juno.com) for more information. Be on the lookout for the Food Product Development Team website, which will be launched soon (*Editor's note: we will provide this in the spring 2003 alumni newsletter.*)

If the UF FPD Team makes the finals for the 2003 IFT competition, and we're all confident they will, we urge alumni and faculty to come out to the competition in Chicago and support these outstanding students. Please join FSHN in wishing them the best in all these competitions, and come watch UF Food Science make headlines!

The Bates Bash is Coming...

Dr. Robert P. Bates will be retiring in 2003 after more than 35 years in FSHN. We invite you to send us your best Bob Bates photos and stories (see Editor address, page 2) for the spring alumni newsletter. Also, FSHN is planning the Bates Technical Seminar in his honor on March 27, 2003, in conjunction with FL Section IFT's Student Recognition Night. All alumni are encouraged to attend! If you want to participate in the seminar or need further information, contact **Dr. Ron Schmidt** at rschmidt@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.



FSHN Achievements

This year, **Dr. Robert Cousins**, FSHN Professor, presented invited lectures at the 11th Symposium on Trace Elements in Man and Animals in Berkeley, CA and the 6th Conference of the International Society for Trace Element Research in Humans in Quebec City, Canada. He was also appointed to UF President Charles Young's Task Force to Plan the Future of the University of Florida, and is a candidate for Council of the National Academy of Sciences.

Also, as of December 2002 Dr. Cousins has completed service on the Institute of Medicine's Food and Nutrition Board. This 15-member Board was created by the National Academy of Sciences in 1940 to study issues of national importance pertaining to adequacy of the nation's food supply and to establish principles and guidelines for adequate nutrition as related to health. The Food and Nutrition Board has identified three critical areas for its work: food, nutrition, and health; food safety, quality, and adequacy; and international food and nutrition. At the present time, the Board is a division of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, which includes the National Academy of Science. During Dr. Cousins' two terms on the Board, this group undertook the establishment of new dietary guidelines, called the Dietary Reference Intakes for nutrients (DRIs). These replace the recommended daily allowance (RDA) values, which were in place, but at regularly adjusted amounts, for over half a century.

Sasha Minor, FSHN senior, was instrumental in founding a UF student chapter of the American Student Dental Association last year. Currently, Sasha serves as President of UF ASDA, and through her dedication and hard work has increased membership from around five students to over fifty. Under Sasha's leadership, ASDA holds monthly meetings, invites guest speakers, has organized committees, has established a volunteer program with the UF College of Dentistry, and maintains a close relationship with the UF Predoctoral ASDA (comprised of current dental students). Interested parties can reach Sasha at majorsjminor4879@aol.com.

Claire Edgemon, a post-bac student in Dietetics and current FSHN Club Treasurer, received scholarships from both the American Dietetic Association Foundation and the Florida Dietetic Association.

In related news, the FSHN Department received an award from the Florida Dietetic Association, "in recognition of overall excellence within a facility" during National Nutrition Month in spring 2002.

During the summer 2002 graduation ceremony, graduating FSHN senior **Sonia Cherian** had the honor of presenting an alumni donation of more than \$4000 to UF Provost **Dr. David Colburn**. Sonia was given this honor as a member of the Florida Cicerones, UF's official student ambassadors. Cicerones host events on campus such as VIP tours and commencement ceremonies. Also, Cicerones solicit donations from graduating seniors each semester so that a class gift may be presented to UF during graduation. This money is traditionally used to enhance campus activities and organizations. Sonia received her BS from FSHN in August, and is now studying to become a pharmacist (see page 2).

Three FSHN undergraduates received national Institute of Food Technologists Scholarships for the 2002-2003 academic year. Join us in congratulating **Taylor Cookingham**, **Christopher Duncan**, and **Jessica Pellen**.

FSHN Assistant Professor **Dr. Renee Goodrich** coordinated a food safety training program for juice processors this past summer at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred. Dr. Goodrich also served as an instructor at the workshop, as did **Dr. Mickey Parish**, FSHN Professor. The program attracted participants from other institutions as well as from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the Florida Citrus Processors Association.

Eve Weiss, a graduate student working with **Dr. Bob Braddock** (FSHN Professor) was a finalist for the American Chemical Society's Agricultural & Food Chemistry Division Graduate Research Award at their Orlando meeting in spring. She also received the IFT Citrus Products Division Outstanding Graduate Student Award this year. Her research project was in flavor chemistry, entitled: "Identification and Formation of Terpene Chlorohydrins in Cold-Pressed Citrus Oils." Eve has since graduated (see page 2).

Dr. Jess Gregory, FSHN Professor, was the 2002 recipient of the Gamma Sigma Delta Senior Faculty Award of Merit. Gamma Sigma Delta is the honor society for agriculture, and its members contribute significantly to research in their fields.

Dr. Russell Rouseff, FSHN Professor, presented his research on sulfur compounds and their effect on citrus juice flavor and aroma this past summer in Beaune, France as an invited speaker for the 10th Weurman Flavor Research Symposium.

FSHN, with the assistance of the UF Division of Continuing Education (DOCE), formed a partnership with General Nutrition Company (GNC) to provide nutrition education to GNC employees.

Currently, there are 900 GNC employees enrolled in a basic nutrition course developed by **Dr. Elaine Turner** (FSHN Associate Professor) and **Dr. Sue Percival** (FSHN Professor). There are three course sections, divided up into eight modules each: one section on nutrients, the second on physiology, and the third about special populations. To manage enrollment, FSHN hired **Britton McPherson**, an MHSE graduate in Health Science Education here at UF. Britton has done an outstanding job, and is rapidly becoming a real expert in the area of distance education. FSHN looks forward to a continued relationship with GNC.



In Other News...

FSHN is grateful to the donors who made the Eugene Woodward Memorial Scholarship a reality. **Eugene "Gene" Woodward** (BS, 1999, with a dual major in Microbiology and Cell Science) had just completed his first year of medical school at the University of South Florida when he was killed in an auto accident. The new scholarship is available to pre-professional students who demonstrate strong professional potential. To find out more, contact **Melda Bassett**, Assistant Vice President for the SHARE private support program, at mlba@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.