

FSHN News & Views

for alumni, students, associates, and friends of FSHN

Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida

Volume I, Issue 1, Spring 2001



Dr. Charlie Sims, Interim Chair

Welcome to the first issue of FSHN News & Views! Why a newsletter? To form closer partnerships with alumni and friends, expand our career resources, further improve our academic programs, stay on the cutting edge of innovations in science and industry, and inform you about FSHN's ongoing programs and projects.

FSHN is now the largest Department in the recently re-named College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. We have nearly 700 students in our diverse Food Science, Dietetics, and Nutritional Sciences curricula. To support these students, we have a full-time academic advising office and 12 faculty advisors in place. In addition, we offer MS and PhD degrees in Food Science and in Nutritional Sciences, as well as the combined MS/Dietetic Internship, and currently have more than 75 graduate students. FSHN occupies the original FSHN Building, but our faculty and students also work and study in the new Aquatic Food Products Laboratory, the newly-renovated Dairy Science Building next door, the Food and Environmental Toxicology Laboratory, the Citrus Research and Education Center at Lake Alfred, a Dietetics Program Office in McCarty Hall D, and a new Dietetics Laboratory under renovation near McCarty Hall.

FSHN is dedicated to quality research, teaching, extension and service programs. Food Science researchers are involved in many of the commodities important in Florida, including seafood and aquaculture products, citrus, fresh fruits and vegetables, and dairy products. Research in the area of human nutrition addresses basic and applied aspects of human nutrition in efforts to improve the health and wellness of Floridians. Members of the faculty are well recognized nationally

and internationally, as evidenced by the recent election of a faculty member to the National Academy of Sciences (see back page). The faculty has also been successful in generating grants from federal, state and industry sources, and grant expenditures last year totaled over \$2 million. The department publishes regularly in many national and international journals, including several popular publications. Research programs in FSHN offer many opportunities for the training of undergraduate and graduate students, and faculty with appointments in the Cooperative Extension Service effectively share research findings with clientele in Florida and around the world. Several faculty members participate in the Center for Nutritional Sciences, an interdisciplinary program encouraging comprehensive training and research in the science of nutrition.

Our FSHN Club (UF Student Chapter, Institute of Food Technologists) continues to be active, providing professional speakers and leadership opportunities for our students, and a new Student Chapter of the Florida Association for Food Protection has just been established. FSHN students have also helped found two campus-wide, preprofessional organizations: the Pre-Dental Society and the Minority Association for Pre-health Students.

Please keep in touch! We welcome submissions to and ideas for this newsletter, (see page 2 for more information). Any advice you wish to pass on to current students is also appreciated. We encourage you to visit our official website: **fshn.ifas.ufl.edu**.

We hope that you enjoy this newsletter, and we wish you all the best in your endeavors. Go Gators!

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FSHN Alumni Newsletter produced bi-annually

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

Alumni Updates

Scott King (BS, 2000) is now a food scientist with PIC USA in Franklin, Kentucky.

Jennifer (Braddock) Davis (BS, 1988; MS, 1994) is a food scientist with Firmenech.

Brad Krohn (PhD, 1991) is a food scientist with Monsanto.

Sally Williams (MS, 1977; PhD, 1993) is an Associate Professor of meat/poultry processing in the Animal Sciences Department at UF.

Bob Golaszewski (MS, 1997) is a food scientist with General Mills in Minnesota.

Michelle Kazmierski (BS, 2000) is in an MS program in Food Science at the University of Georgia.

Tracey Williams (BS, 2000) was accepted to the master's program in food science at Texas A&M University.

Several recent BS graduates were accepted into FSHN's MS and PhD programs, including: **Julie Hendrix, Eve Weiss, Gillian Folkes, Melanie Kemmerer, Mark Campbell, Lisa Vann** (all BS, 2000), and **Karli Schaeffer** and **Saad Sebbana** (both BS, 1999).

Carlton Innis (BS, 2000) and **Brooke Walden** (BS, 2000) were accepted into master's programs in UF's College of Health Professions.

Stephanie Leagle (BS, 2000) and **Matthew Stanton** (BS, 2000) are in master's programs in UF's Warrington College of Business.

Joseph "Jody" Thompson (BS, 2000) is getting his PhD in molecular biology at University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

Leila Sabet (BS, 2000), **Lisa Gallo** (BS, 2000) and **Jeanette Brown** (BS, 2000) were accepted to UF's College of Medicine. **Ronnie Bond Jr.** (BS, 2000) and **Jaime George** (BS, 2000) were both accepted to University of Miami's College of Medicine.

UF's College of Dentistry accepted several FSHN graduates this year: **Joshua Chapman, Neysa Coker, Pamela Cunningham, and Robert Parkinson** (all BS, 2000). **Anissa Admadi, Simon Amir, Nilofar Mujtaba** and **Stephanie Reeder** (all BS, 2000) are also in Dental School at UF, as part of our Early Admission Program. Other FSHN students accepted to Dental Schools this year: **Penelope Velasquez** (BS, 2000), University of Pennsylvania; **Dana Busciglio** (BS, 2000) and **Dina Pumariega** (BS, 2000), Tufts University; and **Duyen Tran** (BS, 2000), Case Western Reserve University.

Staci Auerbach (BS, 2000) was accepted to Optometry School at Nova University.

Makiko Hisamoto (BS, 2000), **Staci Ludwig** (BS, 2000), **Emily (Rich) Wilson** (BS, 2000) and **Long Lam** (BS, 1998) are in UF's College of Pharmacy. **Kristen Labarbera** (BS, 2000) was accepted to the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

Phizer Pharmaceuticals hired **Joy Nipper** (BS, 2000) as a sales representative here in Florida.

Raymond Polito (BS, 2000) is now in the MS program in UF's Exercise and Sports Science Department.

Kristofer Roberts (BS, 2000) is attending law school in San Diego.

Christine Andrisen (BS, 2000) and **Brian Thompson** (BS, 2000) were accepted into UF's Physician Assistant MS program.

Many year-2000 BS graduates in Dietetics were matched to internships and AP4s. They include: **Stacey Fontes** (Sarasota Memorial Hospital DI), **Lea Schilit** (FL International University MS/DI), **Carrie Abramchik** and **Maria Suarez** (UF MS/DI), **Donna Wilgus** and **Tennille (Shaw) Watson** (Andrews University DI), **Nicole Ceravolo** (Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas DI), **Brigid Foley** (Fairview University Medical DI), **Nicole McNutt** (University of Houston DI), **Gretchen Reinhardt** (Murray State University DI), **Deva Sackl** (Prairie View A&M DI), and **Najwa Worthen** (Southern University A&M Louisiana DI)

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

Alumni Survey

As many of you know, FSHN conducted an alumni survey in 1997. We were hoping to gather information to help us better teach and advise current undergraduate and graduate students, and many of you took the time to give us your comments, ideas and constructive criticism. Thanks for your input!

In this and upcoming alumni newsletters, we will give you a basic summary of our responses from the 1997 survey, and we'll ask for your help in designing our next survey (to be distributed in 2002). We plan to repeat our surveys every five years, each time contacting graduates from the previous ten years. That way, each graduate will have the opportunity to participate twice, and results will contain more recent job and salary information.

Our 1997 survey was mailed to an all-inclusive list of FSHN alumni from both undergraduate and graduate programs. This list went back as far as we could gather valid alumni addresses (for a total of about 750), from the late 1960s to fall 1996, and we received back 150 surveys.

We got responses across all FSHN disciplines and degree programs, from nearly every graduation year, 1975-1996. We received data on salary, job type, satisfaction levels with FSHN, and information on specific strategies for getting into graduate schools or job positions.

Selected 1997 Survey Results

On a Likert Scale, we asked alumni to rate the following statement from 1-5, with 1 = agree and 5 = disagree:

"I am satisfied with the education I received in FSHN."

The average for this question was a 1.54, indicating that participants were generally happy with their

FSHN education. There were a handful of very negative scores on this question; those participants specified that a lack of hands-on experience (Dietetics) and competition from microbiology and chemical engineering majors (Food Science) negatively impacted their marketability.



Also on a Likert Scale, we asked alumni to rate this statement from 1-5, with 1 = agree and 5 = disagree:

"If I could do it over, I would major in FSHN again."

The average response for this question was 1.93, indicating that the majority of participants would choose to major in FSHN again. Those BS graduates (Nutritional Sciences and Dietetics) who responded negatively to this question mentioned needing a higher degree to get a job, high

competition for jobs, lack of time to gain volunteer experience, change of interest and not enough career advising. One MS graduate in Food Science said that science was not given enough value in the world. And a graduate of our MS/DI program in Dietetics mentioned lower salaries as reason for not choosing this major again.

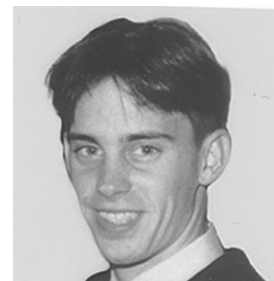
We have not made any assumptions about the opinions of our alumni as a whole, given the small data set. Obviously, it may be that only those alumni who are generally happy with FSHN responded. Rather, we are using this data to try and improve FSHN's academic programs.

For example, we have attempted to provide more related clinical experiences for Dietetics students (programs through the FSHN Club and curriculum revision) and to help Food Science students gain more laboratory and industry-related experiences (with internships and independent research). Overall, we are achieving better advising at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and our students seem to be better informed about career options.

More data from the 1997 survey will be provided in future newsletters. Thanks again to participants for all your support!

Loss of Alumnus

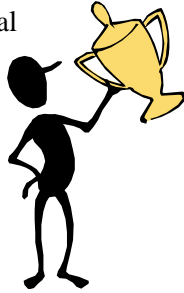
Eugene "Gene" Woodward (BS, 1999, with a Dual major in Microbiology and Cell Science) had just completed his first year of medical school at the University of South Florida when he was killed in an auto accident.



FSHN is working with Gene's brother **Edward Woodward** (BS, 2000) to establish a scholarship fund in Gene's name. This scholarship will be reserved for preprofessional students who demonstrate serious financial hardship. If you wish to contribute to the scholarship fund in Gene's name, please notify the editor of this newsletter (contact information on page 2) or **Melda Bassett**, assistant vice president for the SHARE private support program, at mlba@gnv.ifas.ufl.edu.

FSHN Achievements

Dr. Robert Cousins, Director of the Center for Nutritional Sciences and Boston Family Professor of Human Nutrition, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences last year in recognition of his distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Dr. Cousins' research interests include nutritional biochemistry, molecular and cell biology of zinc absorption, metabolism and function, nutritional regulation of gene expression, regulation of zinc metabolism by hormones and cytokines, isolation and characterization of zinc-finger proteins, transgenic and gene knockout animal models, and trace element status assessment technologies



Dr. Ronald Schmidt was honored in 1999 by the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) for his teaching, research, and extension work at UF, and for his ongoing service to IFT. In 2000, Dr. Schmidt was awarded the Roy Wilson Sparkle Award by Florida Section IFT, for exemplary efforts in food sanitation for food industry extension programs.

Dr. Chin Shu Chen, professor emeritus at the Lake Alfred Citrus Research and Education Center, was recognized this spring with a Florida Power award for excellence and innovation in citrus research.

FSHN undergraduates regularly participate in the prestigious University Scholars Program at UF. In this relatively new program, students work one-on-one with UF faculty on selected research projects, and both students and faculty receive financial support for the research. The following FSHN students took part in this program in 2000: **Virginia Braddock** (Dietetics, working with **Dr. Gail Kauwell**); **Carmelo Nieves** (Nutritional Sciences, working with **Dr. Bobbi Henken**); **Kara Sawyer** (Food Science, working with **Dr. Bob Bates** with assistance from **Dr. Steve Talcott**); and **Natalie Vincent** (Nutritional Sciences, working with **Dr. Gary Rodrick**).

Dr. Gail Kauwell was honored as Faculty of the Year by the UF in 1999, and was further honored for this achievement by the American Dietetic Association.

Ms. Joanna Nelson, an undergraduate with dual specializations in Food Science and Dietetics, was chosen as a participant in the Cornell University Institute of Food Science Summer Scholar Program last year, working with **Dr. Randy Worobo** of Cornell.

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Address Correction Requested

