

FSHN Opens State-of-the-Art Clinical Research Lab

The FSHN Department is in the process of getting some much-needed building renovations. If you visited FSHN in the past few months, you may have seen the evidence: old equipment being carted out and new equipment arriving daily. These projects were negotiated by **Dr. Neil Shay** when he came on board as our new department Chair in 2007.

One of the new projects is a clinical research lab located on the second floor, which has just been completed. This lab will be used primarily to conduct clinical human trials, including physiological and metabolic testing, and provides a great deal of much-needed work space for collecting samples and feeding human subjects. There are three rooms in the lab, one of which will be the office of

Dr. Anne Mathews (Research Assistant Professor) and two that can be used for body composition measurements, blood draws, indirect calorimetry, or private conversations.

In addition, two other laboratories in the FSHN building now have new floors, ceilings, lighting, cabinets, and even reconditioned fume hoods, providing Assistant Professors **Dr. Liwei Gu** and **Dr. Jamie Collins** with new work spaces on the third and fourth floors, respectively. Pictures of Dr. Gu's....

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Above: the newly completed FSHN clinical research lab.

Reinventing the Most Expensive Coffee in the World

FSHN alumnus **Luis Martinez** (BS, 2005; MS, 2007) has developed an innovative method for processing coffee, aimed at recreating the flavor of the world's most expensive coffee.

The idea developed in Ecuador in 2005, after a family conversation about the small bag of "Kopi Luwak" a friend had brought back from Indonesia. Costing \$600/lb, this gourmet coffee is created by a small animal

called a luwak. Luwaks eat the coffee berries whole, and then the partially "processed" coffee beans are harvested from – you guessed it – the animals' droppings. It is believed that the acids

and enzymes present in the digestive tract of the luwak are what create the coffee's unique aroma and taste. Luis says, "After reading the story about this coffee and finding out how it's

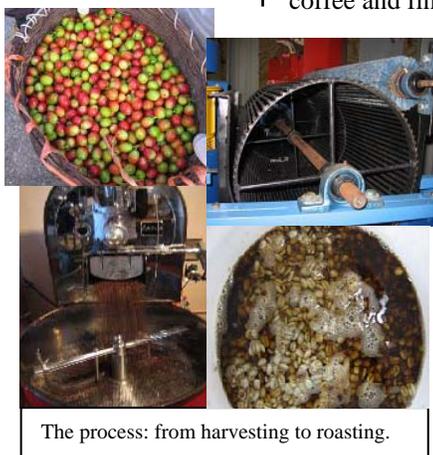
processed, we were amazed and honestly a little disgusted. But after trying it, we concluded that it's worth every penny."

Coffee is one of the most consumed beverages in the world, and is a global trade commodity. Recently there has been an increasing demand for specialty coffees, particularly those from

different origins or those that are roasted in some unique way. Luis realized that if the chemical and physical properties behind the transformation of the beans by the luwak could be understood, then

the process could be more controlled, consistent, and economical, not to mention much less unsavory. For his master's project here in FSHN, Luis therefore decided to investigate an alternative treatment for coffee beans, preferably something that....

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The process: from harvesting to roasting.

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College of Agricultural & Life Sciences
Institute of Food & Agricultural Sciences
University of Florida
<http://fshn.ifas.ufl.edu>

Editor: Janna L. Underhill
Coord., Academic Support Services
352/392-1991, ext. 220
janna@ufl.edu

We Welcome Your Input!

Send all correspondence, articles,
pictures, updates and comments to:
Alumni Newsletter
PO Box 110370, 359 FSHN
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-0370

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Alumni Updates



Suzanne Zagury (BS, 2008) is getting her master's degree in Health Administration at Tulane University. Also, she was just elected to a 4-year term as High Scribe on the Alpha Zeta High Council (see related story on page 5). Suzanne says she strongly encourages current students to get involved in campus organizations and utilize all the resources that UF has to offer.

Crystal Jackson, MS, RD (BS, 2003; MS, 2005) was recently selected as the Recognized Young Dietitian for the state of Florida. Crystal is a clinical dietitian at Shands UF, and serves as one of our site preceptors for the FSHN MS/DI program. She also successfully completed the test to become a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician.

Sonia Hudson (BS, 2009) was awarded a national Institute of Food Scientists Foundation Scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year. She has been accepted into the master's program here in FSHN.

2.



L-R: **Dr. Bobbi Langkamp-Henken** (FSHN Professor), **Dr. Amy (Klash) Pulido**.

Dr. Amy (Klash) Pulido (BS, 2001) was this year's University Scholars Program Symposium keynote banquet speaker. Also, the UF Journal of Undergraduate Research's 10-Year Anniversary Issue recognized Dr. Pulido's undergraduate thesis as being one of the ten best.

Amanda "Mandy" (Hammond) Layman (MS, 2004) was recently elected to a 2-year term as the Secretary of the Florida Dietetic Association, an organization with more than 3,300 members. Mandy works as an outpatient dietitian for Nemours Children's Clinic in Orlando, and has served as a site preceptor for students from our MS/DI program.

2009 BS graduates accepted to medical schools include: **Lauriel Bortnick** (St. Georges Univ.), **Brittany Burkhart** (Lake Erie College of Medicine), **Elizabeth Byrne** (Univ. of South Florida), **Stacy Lundstedt** (UF), **Andrew Migliaccio** (Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Medicine), **Danielle Muchnik** (Tel Aviv Univ. Sackler School of Medicine), and **Daniela Romero** (New York Univ.). Also, all of the following 2009 BS graduates will attend medical school at Florida State Univ.: **Umar Karaman**, **Jasmeet Kataria**, **Aleksandr Ostrovskaya**, **Jessica Simkins** (see related story, page 8), **Brett Thomas**, and **Zachary Tyser**. **Mary O'Meara** (BS, 2008) was also accepted into medical school at Florida State Univ. **Brad Jahnke** (BS, 2005; MS, 2007) will attend the Midwestern Univ. Arizona College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Sara Faulkenberry (BS, 2009) was accepted to the Southern College of Optometry.

Ashley Lowry (BS 2009) will attend Temple Univ. School of Podiatric Medicine.

Katie Grace (BS, 2009) was accepted into the accelerated nursing program at the Univ. of North Florida.

Jessica McIntire (BS, 2005; MS, 2007) is a pediatric dietitian and a Certified Nutrition Support Clinician at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Egleston. 2009 BS graduates accepted to pharmacy school include: **Harivadan Bhakta** (UF), **Charles Fletcher** (Mercer Univ.), **Kim Hoang** (UF), **Shawn Huss** (UF), **Ryan Janeway** (UF), **Dennison Lim** (UF), **Ta'Shae McKinnon** (FL A&M Univ.), **Arlen Mitrani** (Nova SE Univ.), **Chudi Onyiuke** (UF), **Analise Pavlisin** (UF), and **Kyle Tumbleston** (UF). **Courtney Hannah** (BS, 2006) was accepted into UF's graduate program for Rehabilitation Counseling.

The following 2009 BS graduates were accepted to dental school: **Blanche "Alexandra" Barton** (VA Commonwealth Univ.), **Nicole Campanaro** (Nova SE Univ.), **Laura Marin** (Temple Univ.), **Jocelynn Ortega** (UF), and **Cara Weldon** (UF).

2009 BS graduates matched to dietetic internships include: **Alexandra Black** (Johns Hopkins Univ.), **Rebecca Clinton** (UF), **Katie Faber** (Southern Regional Medical Center), **Gary Libretti** (Appalachian State Univ.), **Julie Martinez** (UF), **Anghela Paredes** (UF), **Lisette (Valladares) Quintana** (Andrews Univ.), **Nicole Reines** (Bowling Green Univ.), **Jamie Stolarz** (UF), and **Lucette Talamas** (Andrews Univ.).

Whitney Johnson (BS, 2009) was chosen for an internship with Tate & Lyle this summer, and **Jaclyn Kalva** (BS, 2007; MS, 2009) will be interning with Kraft General Foods.

Kathryn Saxby (BS, 2009) will pursue a master's in Public Health at the Univ. of Melbourne in Victoria, Australia.



Dr. George Baker (BS, 1997; PhD, 2002) is currently a Grants Specialist here in the FSHN Department.

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

FSHN Hosts Regional College Bowl Competition

On the weekend of March 27-29 this spring, FSHN hosted the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA) Southeast Region College Bowl competition. The last time the competition was held here at UF was back in 2001.



L-R: **Jennette Villeda** (MS student), **Laura Strawn** (MS student).

Laura Strawn, MS student, was the event organizer. Elected as the 2008-2009 IFTSA Southeast Area Student Representative, Laura worked hard to convince IFTSA to select

UF as the host institution; to organize all the hotel rooms, meals, and social events for visiting teams; to reserve and set up the venue; and to make sure that the competition ran smoothly. She even put together “goodie bags” for all the visiting coaches and teams; each contained a pen and notepad, Gator lip balm, a granola bar, some alligator gummy snacks, and a fresh Florida navel orange.

Visiting teams traveled to UF from the University of Georgia, Alabama A&M University, Louisiana State University, and Clemson University. The UF team consisted of Team Captain **Mike Eisenmenger** (PhD candidate), **Narsi Ponagandla** (MS student), **David Guderian** (BS, 2008; MS student), **Kaitlyn Burgess** (Nutritional Sciences Sophomore), **Abby Shoyeb** (Food Science Junior), **Jay Palacio** (BS, 2009), and **Anjani Vyas** (Food Science Junior). Team Coaches **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (Professor) and **Dr. Michelle Danyluk** (Assistant Professor) spent months helping the team get ready, lending their expertise to the bi-weekly practices.

Our distinguished College Bowl judges were **Dr. Kit Meyers** from Kraft General Foods, **Dr. Melissa Mundo** from A. Duda & Sons, and **David Mantilla** from Beaver Street Fisheries (BS, 2002; MS, 2005). A special thank you goes out to David – he was asked to judge at the last minute, and agreed to drive in from Jacksonville the night before (see page 7). Thank you also to our outstanding moderator, **Dr. Gillian Dagan** from ABC Research, Inc. (BS, 2000; PhD, 2004), who organized the event here in FSHN when we last hosted. **Dr. Mark McLellan** (UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences Dean for Research, and a past

IFT President) was our very inspirational keynote speaker.

Georgia took home the gold this year, with LSU coming in second and UF as a very close third. Although UF did not win,



L-R, above: **Morvarid Fallahzadeh** (Nutritional Sciences Senior, outgoing FSHN Club VP for Nutritional Sciences), **Lauren Hill** (Dietetics Junior), **Alissa Guarneri** (BS, 2009; outgoing FSHN Club President)



Above, front left: **Kaitlyn Burgess** (Nutritional Sciences Sophomore; College Bowl Team member); back row, L-R: **Anjani Vyas** (Food Science Junior), **Elyse Payne** (BS, 2009; outgoing FSHN Club Secretary), **Whitney Johnson** (BS, 2009), **Jaclyn Kalva** (BS, 2008; MS student)

our team did a great job and our hard-working event organizer, Laura Strawn, was praised by the other teams and coaches for being such a gracious host. Additionally, Laura was just recognized by IFTSA for her outstanding leadership skills; see story on page 8.

Congratulations to everyone involved with this very successful event, including all of our dedicated student and staff volunteers: **Rebecca Creasy** (PhD student), **Marianne Fatica** (MS student), **Eric Dreyer** (BS, 2008; MS student),



L-R, above: **Janna Underhill** (FSHN Staff), **Leann Manley** (MS, 2008), **Dr. Ron Schmidt** (FSHN Professor, College Bowl Coach)



Above, L-R: **Dr. Melissa Mundo** (College Bowl judge, A. Duda & Sons), **Dr. Michelle Danyluk** (FSHN Assistant Professor)



College Bowl onlookers prepare to cheer on their teams.

Pardeep Brar (MS student), **Lenin Interiano-Villeda** (MS student), **Sonia Hudson** (BS, 2009; outgoing FSHN Club VP for Food Science), **Nicole Young** (FSHN Staff), and **Janna Underhill** (FSHN Staff).



The FSHN College Bowl team preparing to compete against Alabama A&M, L-R: **Jay Palacio**, **Kaitlyn Burgess**, **Mike Eisenmenger**, and **Narsi Ponagandla**.

FSHN Faculty and Staff Recognized for Excellence.... Again!

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences has named **Dr. Pam McMahon** the Undergraduate Teacher of the Year. Dr.



McMahon is a Senior Lecturer in FSHN, and is also Director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. She earned her BS from Rutgers University and her MS from Framingham State College, both in Foods and Nutrition, and her PhD from the University of Maryland in Food Systems Management. Dr. McMahon teaches courses in food systems

management and community nutrition, and she also co-advises both the Food Science and Human Nutrition Club and UF Campus Kitchens. Students commented on her use of active learning in the classroom, her ability to develop teamwork and problem-solving skills, and her dedication to service learning as just a few of the reasons why she is such an exceptional teacher. Also Dr. McMahon and **Dr. Linda Bobroff** (Affiliate Professor) both earned the title "Miss Campus Kitchens" this spring in good-natured recognition of their dedication.

Dr. McMahon was also just elected to the board of the Food Service Management Education Council (FSMEC), which includes educators from around the country who teach food systems management.

Dr. Angeleah Browdy (Lecturer) has been named Undergraduate Advisor of the Year by the College of



Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dr. Browdy received her BS in Food Science & Technology from the University of Delaware, her MS in Food Science & Human Nutrition from Florida State University, and her PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of Rhode Island, Kingston campus. She teaches introductory level food science courses,

advises and mentors between 15 and 20 undergraduate food science students per semester, and serves as head advisor for UF's chapter of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS). Additionally, she advises incoming freshmen at summer Preview sessions. Her students note that Dr. Browdy is an excellent academic advisor and mentor, helping them to develop educational and career goals and providing them with the information and professional skills they need to meet those goals.

This spring, Dr. Browdy was also named 2008-2009 UF Faculty Advisor of the Year. This is a university-wide award recognizing Dr. Browdy as one of the most exceptional faculty advisors at the University of Florida.

Laura Garrido (MS, 1990; FSHN Senior Scientist) won one of only six "highest honor" UF Superior Accomplishment Awards this spring. She was chosen from among 22 competitors in the scientific/technical category, in recognition of her work with FSHN and the Florida Sea Grant Program. Her award includes a \$2000 cash prize, a commemorative plaque featuring a bronze gator, an invitation to the president's box during an upcoming UF football game, and best of all, a football signed by **Urban Meyer** and **Tim Tebow**.

Many know Laura as the coordinator of UF's Shrimp School, along with **Dr. Steve Otwell** (Professor). An extremely successful event, Shrimp School is co-sponsored by Florida Sea Grant and the Aquatic Food Products Program in FSHN. The technical program incorporates scientific lectures and hands-on training, and attracts scientists and educators from across the country and around the globe. It is considered by the FDA to be the leading training program for shrimp processors and regulators worldwide. Laura's skills have helped UF earn its reputation as an invaluable resource for shrimp and seafood processing, and her dedication to the advancement of shrimp product quality and safety are unsurpassed. She has even traveled to Central and South America to provide training and assistance to other countries.

Prior to earning her MS from FSHN, Laura completed a BS in Industrial and Food Chemistry from Universidad Nacional Pedro Henríquez Ureña in the Dominican Republic.

Maria Ralat, a Senior Chemist who works with **Dr. Jess Gregory** (Professor), won a \$200 divisional Superior Accomplishment Award in the scientific/technical category in the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. In addition to this award, Maria was also recognized with a Prudential Davis Productivity Award of \$200, rewarding her efforts to increase research laboratory output. This is especially notable because Dr. Gregory was recently on sabbatical in Boston, so Maria was

responsible for overseeing both research projects and students in his absence.

Maria's primary responsibilities include lab management, development and refinement of chemical analyses, preparation and analysis of research samples, maintenance of laboratory equipment, and supervision of undergraduate assistants. She was nominated for these awards because her organizational skills and analytical problem-solving abilities are exceptional. Hired by Dr. Gregory in 2007, she has already improved methods for data processing and analysis and helped to make the lab more



Front row, L-R: **Julie Barber** (Administrative Assistant), **Laura Garrido** (Senior Scientist), **Maria Ralat** (Senior Chemist), **Bridget Stokes** (Senior Technical Lab Specialist); back row, L-R: **Victor Garrido** (Coordinator, Research Programs), **Dr. Neil Shay** (Chair and Professor), **Dr. Jess Gregory** (Professor).

competitive for grant funding. Maria also assists graduate students with their research.

After transferring from the University of Puerto Rico, Maria received her Bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Florida. She has worked in IFAS for many years, assisting with quality assurance, analytical chemistry, statistical analysis, and even graphic design for research posters.

FSHN Undergraduates are Standout Leaders on Campus

FSHN students have always been actively involved in leadership on campus, and this spring is no exception.

Ronald E. McNair Scholars

The Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program was named in honor of **Dr. Ronald E. McNair**, an astronaut who died in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger explosion. Its mission is to provide



L-R: **Alexis Woods** (BS, 2009), and **Han Le** (Nutritional Sciences Junior)

support for UF undergraduates from first generation, low income, and under-represented backgrounds who intend to pursue doctoral degrees. Students who are chosen to participate receive research funding and mentoring, and attend informal meetings with faculty and graduate students to help them develop academic and professional skills. This year, two FSHN students were chosen to participate: **Han Le** and **Alexis Woods**.

Alexis worked with two mentors from FSHN, **Dr. Anne Mathews** (Assistant Professor) and **Dr. Neil Shay** (Chair and Professor). Her project was entitled, "Does Glucomannan Fiber Beneficially Affect Glycemic Response in Women at Risk for Type 2 Diabetes?" One goal of the project was to compare the glycemic response among several African American women at risk for Type 2 diabetes (T2D) to a commonly consumed food with and without the addition of two separate fibers: glucomannan and beta glucan. Alexis also evaluated the dietary intake of Vitamin D in women with a family history of T2D, as well as the knowledge and perceptions of behaviors and habits traditionally practiced by adults to prevent weight gain or maintain a weight loss among women at risk for T2D.

Alexis says, "The benefits of being a McNair Scholar were many. I have had the opportunity to travel to national conferences to present my research, and I was also given the chance to attend

graduate seminars and professional workshops."

Because she was concerned about the "Model Minority" concept, which implies that students of Asian descent do not engage in risk behaviors in college and thus creates misconceptions about Asians in general, Han Le decided to survey a sample of Asian students. Research concerning Asian college students' health has been limited. Noting this, Han's main goals were to describe risk behaviors regarding drug and tobacco-use, alcohol-use, and sexual activity and to determine the relationship between acculturation and risk behaviors.

Working under the supervision of **Dr. Virginia Dodd** from the College of Health and Human Performance, Han surveyed 64 University of Florida students using the National College Health Risk Behavior Survey to assess risk behaviors and the Suinn-Lew Asian Self-Identity Acculturation Scale to measure acculturation levels. She cautions that results should be interpreted with caution, given the small sample size, but hopes that her study will lead to more research in this area. Han says, "Knowledge acquired from this research will help identify areas of health concerns for Asian college students."

Alpha Zeta Pledges

Alpha Zeta is a professional co-ed organization for students in agricultural, natural resources, or life sciences majors. Since 1897, Alpha Zeta has been



L-R: **Leticia Polite** (Nutritional Sciences Senior), **Stacy Halse** (UF Alumna)

promoting the ideals of scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship on college campuses. Students who pledge Alpha Zeta are expected to commit themselves to community service, even after they graduate. FSHN students have a long history of involvement with Alpha Zeta, and this year they were once again a driving force in the success of UF's chapter, which was recently named national Chapter of the Year. Each semester, two Alpha Zeta pledges are

honored for being exceptional, and this spring both were FSHN majors. To encourage networking, pledges create personalized paddles and have faculty



L-R: **Stacy Halse** (UF Alumna), **Thao Nguyen** (Food Science Junior)

and staff who belong to Alpha Zeta sign those paddles. **Thao Nguyen** (Food Science Junior) was chosen for this year's Best Paddle Award. Thao was raised in Pass Christian, Mississippi, and attended the University of Texas in Dallas before transferring to UF. When she was invited to join Alpha Zeta, she says she quickly realized it was an organization that stood



L-R: **Mark Marcojos** (Alpha Zeta alumnus), **Kelsey Hughes-Calhoun** (BS, 2009)

for the very things she believed in. She added, "As a member, I hope to get some perspective, gain leadership skills, and make a difference in the local community." Thao intends to pursue a master's degree after she graduates.

Leticia Polite (Nutritional Sciences Senior) was named Most Outstanding Pledge in recognition of her contributions to all the Alpha Zeta service and social events. All new pledges are required to dedicate a large amount of time to the organization's community service activities, so to be named the most outstanding by one's peers is indeed an honor. Upon graduation, Leticia intends to pursue a career in pharmacy.

Other FSHN students who pledged this spring were **Clarisse Dewberry** (Nutritional Sciences Junior) and **Melinda Vinson** (Food Science Sophomore). **Kelsey Hughes-Calhoun** (BS, 2009) served as their Pledge Master this spring, so congratulations go out to Kelsey on mentoring such a successful pledge class.

Alumni Success Stories



Harry "Randy" Bringger (BS, 1976) is retiring this year after more than thirty years with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a Consumer Safety Officer. He began his career with the FDA in 1978, after working in quality control for Tropicana for two years. While he was with the FDA, he worked out of field offices in Nashville, TN, Montgomery, AL, and Jacksonville, FL.

In fact, Randy spent his federal career almost entirely in the field, performing a wide variety of inspections and investigations involving food, feed, drugs, devices, biologics, and bioresearch. Between 1989 and 1999 he was also with the FDA's foreign inspection group, performing inspections in Europe. In recognition of his outstanding service, Randy received several awards over the years. These include several Commissioner's Special Citations and the Commendable Service Award. He is also a graduate of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Criminal Investigator Class.

After retirement, Randy plans to stay in the St. Augustine area, staying active in charity and community service work and traveling when he can. A season ticket holder since 1986, we can expect to continue seeing him at all the Gator games, arriving in style in his blue Smart Car... with orange pin stripes. Join us in congratulating Randy on a very impressive career, and wishing him all the best for his retirement.



Adee Rasabi (BS, 2004) is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator in New York City, counseling a wide variety of people in an outpatient setting. Previously she worked as a clinical nutrition manager, but her current position allows her to do what she is truly passionate about: providing education to people about everything from gestational diabetes to high cholesterol; from celiac disease to pediatric obesity.

Adee says it's a very fulfilling job and added, "Nothing makes me happier at the end of a session than to hear from my patients that something I taught them was really helpful, or to have them come back for a follow up and tell me how much better they feel." Although she is not sure where her career might take her from here, Adee knows that she is just as passionate about nutrition and health/wellness as she was when she first walked through the doors of FSHN in 2000.

Outside of work, she says she thoroughly enjoys living in "the city that never sleeps" and traveling to foreign countries whenever the opportunity arises. She gives back to the community by regularly participating in walks and hikes to raise money for breast cancer research and leukemia/lymphoma research, including two 40-mile walks, one in New York and the other in Washington DC. And when she isn't raising money for charity, Adee can be found rock climbing, salsa dancing, and even sailing through the air on a trapeze.

University Mixer

FSHN again welcomed alumni at the University Mixer held during the Experimental Biology meeting in New Orleans this April. Thank you to everyone who attended, and we hope to see you again next year!



Left, L-R: **Dr. Mitch Knutson** (Assistant Professor), **Dr. Jamie Collins** (Assistant Professor)



Left, L-R: **Rebecca Creasy** (PhD Student), **Vanessa da Silva** (PhD Student), **Lauren Little Jones** (PhD Candidate)



Left, L-R: **Sue Shay** (wife of Dr. Neil Shay, Chair and Professor), **Dr. Anita Wright** (Professor)



Top, L-R: **Dr. Karla Shelnutt** (BS, 1997; PhD, 2003; FSHN Affiliate Faculty), **Dr. Steve Davis** (PhD, 2000), **Dr. Amy Mackey** (PhD, 2002)



Top, L-R: **Meri Nantz** (Biological Scientist), **Dr. Sue Percival** (Professor), **Dr. Cheryl Rowe** (Research Associate)



Top, L-R: **Dr. Marie-Louise Ricketts** (Research Assistant Scientist) and **Liang "Charles" Guo** (PhD Candidate)

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

Renovations

...cont. from page 1

...lab are shown on the right. Other new projects include the relocation of Undergraduate Student Services to offices in the Pilot Plant in order to make the advisors more accessible to students and provide increased building security. Also, the teaching labs on the third floor are being re-designed to provide improvements in both efficiency and safety. Since that space will be devoted solely to teaching with no administrative offices, the finished product will be a much larger laboratory space in which to teach both graduate



L-R: Before and after pictures for the newly renovated lab in Room 341, FSHN Building.

and undergraduate labs. A new office for our facilities manager, **Rob Pelick**, will also be located in the Pilot Plant. These next phases of construction are scheduled for completion by the fall of 2009.

Everyone in FSHN is very excited about the new renovations, and it's not over yet – Dr. Shay was promised \$500,000 per year until all the research and teaching labs in the FSHN Building have been modernized.

Gourmet Coffee

...cont. from page 1

...didn't involve small, arboreal mammals. He spoke to his major professor and eventual co-inventor, **Dr. Murat Balaban**, and they decided that the project had great potential. They received a Tropical & Subtropical Agricultural Research Grant in order to fund the project, and after many hours of experimentation they came up with an industrial-friendly process to enhance the quality of coffee beans prior to roasting using acids and enzymes, and to quantify the effects of the treatments.

The outcome of their process is a coffee with intense aroma development and flavor and almost no bitterness; this process can produce coffee of the highest quality and can be scaled for commercial applications, so has the

potential to enhance value-added agriculture here in the US. The technology they invented was patented in February of this year, and soon thereafter was licensed by a company called Coffee Primero LLC., a multi-level marketing company based in Gainesville, Florida. Coffee Primero is currently building the first production facility in Gainesville and plans to build more facilities throughout the US as the company grows.

Luis stated, "We as inventors are proud of this technology, and proud that this product has the potential to generate income for UF. As the main inventor, I feel that with this technology I am giving something back to the institution that gave me such a great education."

Luis was born in Riobamba, Ecuador. He studied food engineering at Escuela Superior Politecnica del Litoral "ESPOL" in Guayaquil, one of the best

universities in Ecuador. Later, he transferred to UF to pursue a BS and MS in Food Science, where he was very involved with FSHN, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), and UF. He served as a CALs Ambassador from 2004-2005, was a member of the Dairy Judging Team for three years, was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho professional fraternity, and was also an executive officer for the Ecuadorian Student Association. Luis received numerous scholarships and awards during his time in FSHN, placed in the top five in the national graduate student research competition at the 2006 Institute of Food Technologists Annual Meeting, and in 2007, FSHN determined his research project to be the best thesis in the department.

Luis currently works as a food scientist for Darifair Foods in Jacksonville, FL.

Caught in the Act

Send us your photos of FSHN alumni and friends at work or at play. Contact information is located on page 2.



Phillip Pierce (BS, 2004) was recently spotted swimming with dolphins in the Bahamas, alongside his daughter **Morgan** and wife **Amy**.



David Mantilla (BS, 2002; MS, 2005) shared pizza with current MS students **Sara Aldaous** (L) and **Diana Seminario** (R) before volunteering as a judge for College Bowl (see story p. 3).



Neha Patel (BS, 2006), who works for WIC here in Gainesville, brought her niece (and future Gator) **Diya** to the FSHN Club's end-of-year social at Lake Wauburg.

FSHN Achievements



Dr. Mitch Knutson (Assistant Professor) was named a 2009 ILSI North America Future Leader in Nutritional Sciences. This is one of the most important accomplishments a nutritional scientist can achieve in the early stages of their career. ILSI N.A. is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of nutrition and food safety, and

they recognized Dr. Knutson for his research accomplishments in the study of iron transport. Other FSHN faculty who have been recognized as Future Leaders include: **Dr. Bob Cousins**, **Dr. Jess Gregory**, **Dr. Peggy Borum**, **Dr. Sue Percival**, **Dr. Neil Shay**, and **Dr. Bobbi Langkamp-Henken**.



Dr. Gail Kauwell (PhD, 1993; Professor) is receiving a Teacher Fellow Award from the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) this summer. Only individuals who represent the highest caliber of agricultural education are eligible for the award. Dr. Kauwell will receive a plaque in honor of her numerous accomplishments.



Dr. Russell Rouseff (Professor) won the 2009 Advancement of Application of Agricultural and Food Chemistry Award from the American Chemical Society (ACS). He was chosen for this prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding application of and contributions to agricultural and food chemistry. Dr. Rouseff will receive a cash award, a plaque, and a travel allowance to the ACS meeting this year.



Huy Huynh (BS, 2007; MS student) was inducted into the UF Hall of Fame in honor of all his leadership accomplishments, including founding Pi Delta Psi Asian-American cultural fraternity and serving as a UF Cicerone. He has the honor of being inducted in the same year as **Tim Tebow**! Huy will start dental school at UF this fall.



Jessica Simkins (BS, 2009) was chosen to sing the national anthem at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences graduation ceremony. Jessica has a powerful singing voice and has even performed at a Florida Marlins game. A participant in the University Scholars Program, she designed a research project focusing on

medical resident recognition of childhood obesity, and graduated *cum laude*. Jessica will attend medical school at UF and intends to specialize in Family Practice.



Doretta Ho (BS, 2005; MS/DI student) received an Agricultural Women's Club Graduate Scholarship this year. Doretta will graduate this August, and plans to pursue a career as a Registered Dietitian with the long-term goal of helping improve the nutritional status and quality of life of children with chronic diseases.



Liang "Charles" Guo (PhD candidate) won first place in the Vitamin and Mineral Research Interest Section Poster Competition at the Experimental Biology meeting in New Orleans this spring. His research was entitled: "Zinc-regulated ZnT1 (SLC30A1) and glucocorticoid-regulated ZnT2 (SLC30A2) influence zinc efflux from

pancreatic acinar cells," and he received \$500 in recognition of his outstanding work. **Dr. Bob Cousins** (Professor) serves as his PhD mentor. Charles also received a FSHN travel grant to help defray the costs of attending the conference. Other graduate students who received travel grants from FSHN include:

Vanessa da Silva (PhD student), **Supak Jenkitkasemwong** (MS student), **Lauren Little Jones** (BS, 2005; PhD candidate), **Carmelo "CJ" Nieves** (BS, 2000; MS, 2004; PhD student), **Mei Zhao** (PhD student), and **Ningning Zhao** (PhD candidate).



Jamie Stolarz (BS, 2009) just received the American Dietetic Association Outstanding Student Award. She was chosen from among all the didactic program students in the state of Florida. Jamie will start the combined Master of Science/Dietetic Internship program here in FSHN in the fall.



Laura Strawn (MS Student) was just chosen to receive the Institute of Food Technologists Student Association (IFTSA) Campbell's Graduate Excellence in Leadership Award. Only one graduate student in the entire country is recognized annually. The award was given in recognition of Laura's

outstanding leadership skills as Southeast Area Representative to IFTSA, organizer of the regional College Bowl competition (see related story, page 3), Vice President of Phi Tau Sigma Food Science Honorary, Vice President of the Gator Chapter of the Florida Association for Food Protection, and member of the FSHN Product Development and Dairy Judging Teams.



Left, L-R: **Andrew Migliaccio**, **Stephanie Stopka**, **Dr. Neil Shay** (Chair and Professor), **Jocelynn Ortega**.

For the second year in a row, FSHN students won three of the four most prestigious College of Agricultural and Life Sciences undergraduate awards. **Jocelynn Ortega** (BS, 2009) won the Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence; Jocelynn was also given an Honorable Mention for UF's Outstanding Leadership Awards for graduating seniors. Nutritional Sciences junior **Stephanie Stopka** won the E. T. York, Jr. Medal of Excellence Outstanding Junior Award, and the two runners-up were also from FSHN: **Lauren Foster** (Nutritional Sciences Junior) and **Christine Nguyen** (Dietetics Junior). **Andrew Migliaccio** (BS, 2009) won the J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence Outstanding Senior Award, and the two runners-up for this award were also from FSHN: **Lauren Cooper** and **Stacy Lundstedt** (both BS, 2009). Additionally, two FSHN students were runners-up for the fourth award, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Alumni & Friends Leadership Award: **Brittany Burkhart** and **Brett Thomas** (both BS, 2009).