

University of Florida

CALS Connection

Volume 12 • Fall 2009

Cooking for a **CAUSE**

Also Inside:

Achieving &
Attaining Excellence

CALS Alumna Becomes
DISEASE DETECTIVE



Table of Contents

Letter from the Dean.....	Page 3
CALS Students Attend USDA Conference.....	Page 4
CALS Alumna Becomes Disease Detective.....	Page 5
Achieving and Attaining Excellence.....	Page 6
Back in the Saddle.....	Page 6
Cooking for a Cause.....	Page 7
FYC Puts the Hands in Hands-On Learning.....	Page 8
In the Loop.....	Page 9
Student-Produced Videos Promote CALS Undergraduate Programs.....	Page 9
CALS Leadership and Scholarship Awards.....	Page 10
Alpha Zeta Takes Home Founders' Cup.....	Page 12

Service Learning Editor
Editor

CALS Connection

Adviser:
Director

Letter from the Dean

The legislation that created what is now the University of Florida includes the Morrill Act of 1862, the Hatch Act of 1887 and the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. These three acts of Congress set forth a system of public universities that have as a part of their mission to serve the people of the states. More recently, major universities have broadened that thinking to literally serve the entire world. The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, as a part of the UF Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, holds true to the mission of education for all, sound research and extending knowledge to and serving the public at-large.

Students in CALS have opportunities to earn degrees and start down a career pathway of service to humankind. Degree programs, minors and specializations in CALS can lead to professions, to social agencies, to politics, to leadership opportunities in a variety of fields. All students, however, are challenged and encouraged to develop skills that will be useful to society. Those competencies are identified by employers and graduate and professional schools as key factors for success. Developing and enhancing those skills can be achieved through formal courses and through programs



that are available in a wide variety of ways, including clubs, Solutions Seminars, internships and foreign study.

Many CALS graduates continue on the path of service through national programs that are designed to improve communities and lives throughout the world. Peace Corps, Teach for America and AmeriCorps are just three examples of how our graduates give back to society as they prepare for the next phase of their careers. Hopefully, every CALS graduate leaves the University with competencies to serve, as well as the desire to be a caring and concerned citizen of the global society.

R. Kirby Barnick

tion

or: Katelyn Crow Landrum

Cathy Carr
of Alumni & Career Services

CALS Students Attend **USDA** Conference

BY SHAY DAVIS



Jonathan Watson

Two College of Agricultural and Life Sciences students gained a more in-depth understanding of American agriculture by being selected to participate in an all-expenses-paid U.S. Department of Agriculture program.

Agricultural education and communication senior Kati McWaters and food and resource economics senior Jonathan Watson were two of 18 students selected from across the country to attend the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum's Student Diversity Program in February in Arlington, Va.

The Agricultural Outlook Forum, in existence for almost 90 years, brings together producers, policymakers and government agency representatives to exchange ideas and discuss issues related to the U.S. agricultural industry. The Student Diversity Program was created three years ago to increase the present and future diversity of participation in the forum. USDA

sponsors 15 to 18 juniors and seniors to attend the two-day forum.

Food and resource economics associate professor James Sterns attended the forum when the Student Diversity Program was first started and wondered why the University of Florida was not represented. He then led the effort to encourage CALS students to submit applications to the program.

Students write a one-page essay on the topic of agriculture as a career choice. Because of the exceptional quality of their essays, Sterns said, McWaters and Watson both were nominated by CALS to attend the conference, and both were selected to attend.

"The forum is a great opportunity for undergraduates," Sterns said. "It was a great experience for both Jonathan and Kati to learn about what is happening in agriculture at a national level."

McWaters' father is an agriculture teacher in Okeechobee, Fla. She said he influenced her passion to be an advocate for agriculture. The forum allowed her to network with agricultural producers and policymakers from around the country.

"Attending the forum opened many doors for me," she said. "I had the opportunity to meet and converse with many of the leaders in the agricultural industry."

Watson, the son of two veterinarians, said he found the forum's speakers to be educational. He even had the opportunity to share his opinions about the agricultural industry at the conference.

McWaters and Watson attended sessions on obstacles and opportunities to the agricultural industry and ways to improve the

U.S. agricultural system. Both students said events such as the Agricultural Outlook Forum are important for students to gain a better understanding of the industry.

"To me, agriculture is a very rewarding career, and I think that programs, such as the forum, are extremely important for policymaking," Watson said. "I was very interested to hear what the new Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack, planned to do for the future of domestic agriculture."

Essay submissions for the Student Diversity Program are usually due in October, with the forum taking place in February.

Students must submit their essays to the program's on-campus coordinator. In 2008, Sterns coordinated the UF portion of the event. Currently it is being coordinated by agricultural education and communication professor Ricky Telg.



Kati McWaters

CALS Alumna Becomes **DISEASE DETECTIVE**

BY RACHEL BERRY



Medical mystery TV programs such as “House” are popular with many people. Now one University of Florida graduate will be playing the role of a real-life medical detective.

Jen Foltz is helping the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention solve some of the world’s dangerous medical mysteries through the Epidemic Intelligence Service.

Foltz’s time at UF and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences introduced her to inspiring mentors who encouraged her to follow her passion for nutrition through the EIS.

A native of Gainesville, Fla., Foltz graduated from UF with two bachelor’s degrees in food science and human nutrition and in zoology in 1998. She then completed medical school and her residency at UF.

Foltz’s extensive studies weren’t the only things to help prepare her for the EIS and her current research in pediatrics and population health.

“The University of Florida has encouraged a lot of things other than just my classes and bookwork,” she said. “I also had wonderful mentors,

like Elaine Turner [CALS associate dean and professor] and Lynn Bailey [food science and human nutrition professor].”

“People [in CALS] are doing stuff to improve the world around us, so having mentors like that makes you follow your passions.”

Another CALS mentor was her father, John Foltz, an associate professor emeritus in the department of entomology and nematology.

Foltz conducted research in population dynamics of forest insects affecting trees, potentially influencing his daughter’s interest in population health.

“Her interest in community health and acting at the level of populations relates to my interests in forest entomology, what’s happening over the wider area and why do we see

“People [in CALS] are doing stuff to improve the world around us, so having mentors like that makes you follow your passions.”

- Jen Foltz, CALS Alumna

differences, and what we can do to manipulate it,” he said.

In July 2009, Foltz began a two-year assignment with the EIS. Prior to that she lived in Rochester, N.Y., working as an academic pediatric fellow.

The EIS was established in 1951 under the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention following the beginning of the Korean War when biological warfare and man-made epidemic threats were on the rise. Since then, EIS officers have helped combat major epidemics all over the world, including the

global eradication of smallpox and discovering how the AIDS virus was transmitted.

Today, EIS officers are fighting a wide range of medical problems, including bioterrorism, tobacco use and the obesity epidemic.

Although Foltz always planned on pursuing medicine, she said she didn’t want to do something that dealt with actual clinical practice.

“I liked the idea of the science of medicine and working with people, but I never pictured myself working in the clinic every day,” she said. “I went into pediatrics and realized I couldn’t take care of children in the 15 minutes that you spend with them in a clinic visit. There are things from the environment that they live in or from policies that affect their health at school.”

Foltz researched childhood obesity as part of her fellowship.

“A part of the reason I went into pediatrics is because a lot of it is preventive medicine,” Foltz said. “I can affect more of health besides just in the clinic, because I want to take

care of their health and lead them to have healthy lives.”

Certain diseases, once thought of as only adult diseases such as Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure, are being seen in children.

Most EIS officers are assigned to CDC headquarters, while some spend their two years in state or city departments of health.

“I hope to prevent chronic disease or just make a difference in our environment,” Foltz said.

Achieving & Attaining Excellence

BY KATI MCWATERS

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences is home to the only upper division honors program at the University of Florida.

The program is designed to help students work towards a higher level of excellence through a variety of classes and tasks, said the program's director, CALS Associate Dean Mark Rieger.

Rieger schedules challenging, cutting-edge classes designed to complement the coursework for students seeking CALS majors.

"We try to make this program work effectively," Rieger said.

The benefits for students who enter

the program include automatically qualifying for UF Latin honors upon successful completion of the program and gaining a competitive edge over other students going into post-graduate occupations or graduate school, Rieger said.

Participants in the program are also able to work one-on-one with UF professors and mentors, which allows them to build valuable contacts, he said.

Students must qualify to take part in the honors program by declaring a major, completing one semester in CALS, accumulate between 60 and 90 credit hours and have an overall

grade point average of 3.75.

Participants in the program are required to complete nine to 10 credit hours of both pre-determined and program-approved honors courses, maintain an upper division GPA of 3.75 and complete an honors thesis to graduate as a CALS Scholar.

Students who are invited into the program are considered to be "the cream of the crop" academically, Rieger said. Being a part of the CALS Honor Program allows them to make a valuable investment in their future, he said.

BACK IN THE SADDLE

BY DARA STRICKLAND



The 2009 Livestock Judging Team includes (from left) J.R. Richburg, Crystal Hale, Assistant Coach Brett Wheeler, Richelle Miller, Audra Colgan, Will Sapp and Coach Travis Arp.

The University of Florida's livestock judging team made its strongest showing in nine years when the team brought home sixth

place at the Dixie National Livestock Show in Jackson, Miss., in February.

"Although UF competed at the Dixie National Contest two years

ago, this is the first time in nine years that a full year of competition was planned," said assistant professor Chad Carr, the team's advisor.

Graduate student and team coach Travis Arp kept team members prepared with weekly practices. They traveled statewide to various county fairs and ranches to keep their eyes sharp, Arp said.

"We got to see some really high-end ranches," he said, "and we visited some of the really elite producers in the country."

Arp started working with the team at the end of the fall 2008 semester. The spring team consisted of five members including, Audra Colgan, Richelle Miller, Crystal Hale, J.R. Richburg and Will Sapp. Assisting Arp with the coaching was Brett Wheeler.

The team's season began in January and ran through the spring semester with Colgan and Miller (Continued on the next page) competing at one fall contest.

Both competed as individuals at the Keystone International Contest in Harrisburg, Pa., where Colgan was fifth highest individual overall and Miller placed 17th overall.

During the season, the team traveled to places such as San Antonio; Jackson, Miss.; Houston, and Harrisburg, Pa.

Arp said that the opportunity to travel was his favorite aspect of this experience.

“A lot of these kids don’t get the opportunity to travel to these places

that we got to see,” Arp said.

Colgan said she also enjoyed the travel, but that she really appreciated the experiences she gained through the team.

“After graduating, I plan on becoming a food animal veterinarian,” Colgan said. “A lot of the ailments that you see on these meat animals come from structure; so this experience helped me to evaluate structure and see where the animals might have lameness.”

Carr, who Arp credits for the

revival of the livestock judging team, elaborated on the helpful industry experience that team members’ gain.

“Regardless of whether you’re talking about livestock, horse or meat judging, those experiences are pretty unique in that you get such intense training,” Carr said.

“There is no other opportunity in any club or any class through which you would gain the understanding of our industry that you gain through participation on these teams.”

Cooking for a CAUSE

BY KATELYN CROW LANDRUM

One College of Agricultural and Life Sciences student organization is taking the phrase “waste not, want not” seriously by reclaiming food from the University of Florida to feed the mouths of some of Gainesville’s less fortunate.

The UF chapter of Campus Kitchens is helping feed the Gainesville community with recycled food.

“We take leftover food donated to us by a variety of sources around Gainesville, and redistribute it to the hungry,” said Nicole Johnson, president of UF’s Campus Kitchens chapter and management senior.

Campus Kitchens first came to UF in fall 2006. Two students from outside disciplines seeking a minor in family, youth and community sciences began the accreditation process and found that the mission of the organization best fit with that of CALS.

“We (in CALS) are about serving people who are hungry, and hunger is an issue that goes across all areas of agriculture, food and nutrition,” said Pamela McMahon, senior lecturer in the food science and human nutrition department and co-adviser of UF’s Campus Kitchens chapter.

Because of the legal issues surrounding the handling and redistribution of food, it was not until spring 2009 that the chapter became officially affiliated with the Campus Kitchens national organization.

Participating in the tedious start-up process taught Johnson valuable lessons about perseverance.

“Being able to start something, hearing the word ‘no’ and still making it happen has been an immense learning experience for me and has strengthened my professional goals,” Johnson said.

A reason for the delay is that hosting a Campus Kitchens chapter at a university requires kitchen space, a great deal of cooperation with the administration and a high level of trustworthiness, says Johnson. UF is currently the largest university housing a Campus Kitchens chapter.

The chapter goes to different organizations that have committed to participating and plans a menu based on what is available. The organization currently prepares and stores its food in the basement kitchen of the Reitz Union before it is redistributed. When the organization formed, it was using the

cafeteria at P.K. Yonge.

The chapter runs two cooking and two delivery shifts per week. Campus Kitchens is currently serving five community groups in the Gainesville area.

In addition, one goal of the organization is to offer unemployed men and women the opportunity to volunteer with the organization, become certified in ServSafe® protocol and gain a set of skills that can be used in the job market.

For students there are numerous ways to become involved in the organization, says McMahon.

“We need to be responsible stewards to reduce hunger in Alachua County,” said McMahon. “Just as CALS reaches out to the state, we are doing the same thing at a local level.”

According to Johnson, anyone who becomes involved with Campus Kitchens will not go away empty-handed.

“Being involved (with Campus Kitchens) has a tremendous impact,” Johnson said.

“It is great to know that with a little bit of time and effort, you can make a tremendous difference in a person’s life.”

FYC puts the Hands in Hands-on Learning

BY LINDSEY APUZZO

One family, youth and community sciences course has incorporated a learning activity that immerses students in local youth development work.

FYC assistant professor Kate Fogarty said she was inspired by a speech from a Louisiana State University professor who spoke at the 2008 College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' Teaching Enhancement Symposium about incorporating service learning activities into course curriculum. Fogarty took the presentation to heart.

"I work in Cooperative Extension and 4-H youth development, and I often keep my practice side of working with 4-H and youth directly separate from my teaching life because that's my extension life," Fogarty said. "But I realized putting those together makes a huge difference when you are talking about youth and hands-on work with them."

The service learning project in the FYC 3201: Foundations of Youth Development course required students to volunteer in two neighborhoods of Alachua County, where the highest rate of 911 phone calls are received.

"Leesha London, a police officer in Alachua County who works with these after-school programs,

contacted me. She has 80 youth, and they need structured activities," Fogarty said. "I thought that I

for everyone," said family, youth and community sciences senior Melissa Hurst.



One of the groups from FYC 3201 poses with some of the youth they interacted with for the day at the Tower Oaks Glenn Apartments. The goal of this group's project was to teach the youth about healthy eating.

could incorporate this into my class and provide a youth development experience."

Students were divided into groups of 10, and each group had to incorporate one life skill to focus on when volunteering with the kids.

"This wasn't my ideal experience; I would have preferred for my students to volunteer consistently with the same youth over time so they could build relationships with them," Fogarty said, "but the students ran with the assignment. They had to come up with their own curriculum and lesson plans, and they all did great."

The students were faced with several challenges while working with the youth, she said. One in particular was the age difference among the youth.

"The kids ranged from very young to much older, so it was difficult to find one activity that was appropriate

"But the children were very energetic so it was still a lot of fun," said Shelby Hicks, family, youth and community sciences undergraduate.

"Each group of students went on 14 different days to either the Majestic Oaks neighborhood on Wednesday evenings or the Tower Oaks neighborhood on Thursday evenings.

Fogarty said her students got something out of the service-learning project besides a grade.

"Once the students were there, even students who don't normally participate much were engaged. When they were with the youth, they were on," Fogarty said.

"The service learning project really helps the students to get experience putting together and designing a lesson that they actually get to try out and learn from," Hurst said.

"It helped me figure out what age groups I'm good at working with." While the students were making friends and teaching the youth, Fogarty was creating a memorable experience for her students.

The service-learning project in the Foundations of Youth Development course was an opportunity for students to apply what they learned in class to a real-world situation right in their own community, Fogarty said.

In the Loop

A local scholarship has given one student the opportunity to spend her fall semester aiding a U.S. Congressman at his district office.

Ashley Allen, an agricultural education and communication senior at the University of Florida Gulf Coast Research and Education Center in Plant City was chosen as the fall 2009 Carl B. Loop, Jr. Legislative Internship Program Scholarship recipient.

The scholarship was established by Florida Farm Bureau in honor of Carl B. Loop, Jr. who served as the Farm Bureau Federation president from 1983 to 2006. It provides undergraduate and graduate students in the College of Agricultural and

Life Sciences with financial resources to complete a legislative internship at the local, state or federal level.

Since May, Allen has been interning with Congressman Adam Putnam's District Office in Bartow, Fla., and will continue through December. Allen is currently gathering research.

"I am archiving every article, that mentions his (Putnam's) name since 2001," said Allen. "So far, I have filled 40 notebooks with over 600 articles."

In addition to her research, Allen answers the phone, talks to constituents and assists with legislative activities.

With the hopes of becoming an agricultural educator upon

BY KATELYN CROW LANDRUM

graduation, Allen says the internship has also shown her the importance of educating the public on legislative issues.

Allen has used her education background to help people understand what is happening in Washington, D.C., she says.

"Receiving the scholarship and taking the internship has allowed me to make sense of the world from a political standpoint versus only from the classroom," Allen said. "I believe the experience has made me a more well-rounded educator."

For more information on the application process, contact Cathy Herren Carr, Director of Alumni and Career Services.

Student-produced videos promote CALS undergraduate programs

BY EDWIN WINKE & DARA STRICKLAND

Twenty-eight students in an agricultural education and communication course produced promotional videos for undergraduate programs offered in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

The videos will be used as recruitment tools for CALS departments to promote their undergraduate programs to high school and community college students.

Students produced the videos in AEC professor Ricky Telg's Digital Media Production course in fall 2008. Telg approached CALS Director of Student Development and Recruitment Charlotte Emerson with the idea of producing the videos to reach a broader student audience.

"We did not have student-produced videos to recruit other students or to let people know what we do here in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences or in any of

the departments," Telg said, "so I met with Charlotte Emerson and mentioned to her the idea we had about the videos."

"(Recruitment) comes better from students, sometimes, than a parent or professor," Emerson said. "Any time you can get the perspective of current students, that always intrigues other students or potential students."

The initial group of undergraduate program videos included agricultural and biological engineering; agricultural education and communication; animal sciences; entomology and nematology; family, youth and community sciences; food science and human nutrition; horticultural sciences; landscape and nursery horticulture; agronomy; and soil and water sciences.

The video production process taught students how to obtain information, develop scripts and storyboards, and incorporate the

video production skills needed to shoot and edit a video, Telg said.

"I thought the hardest part of the process was the editing," said Dara Strickland, a student in the digital media course. "But I did like how Dr. Telg threw us into the process so we could learn as we went."

The major goal of the project was to promote undergraduate programs, Emerson said.

"We wanted to show what the college is about," she said.

Although the subject matter for each video was different, they shared common themes and graphics to give them a standard look, Telg said.

The departments featured already have made use of the videos.

"I think the students enjoyed making something that has real world use," Telg said.

The videos can be viewed at <http://cals.ufl.edu/prospective/>.

College of Agriculture



Amie Marie Taylor | Alumni and Friends Leadership Award

Amie Taylor graduated with a B.S. degree in animal sciences and agricultural education and communication in 2009. An Alachua County native, she is active with the Alachua County Cattleman's Association and the Alachua County Youth Fair and Livestock Show Association. Dr. Edward Osborne, chair of agricultural education and communication, said, "Amie is a joy to get to know and work with in any project. She's an initiator, doer and supporter of others – great leadership traits in any setting."



Jocelynn M. Ortega | Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence

Jocelynn Ortega, from Miami, is a dental student who completed her B.S. degree in food science and human nutrition in 2009. Jocelynn has been an active leader and volunteer with Friends for Life of America and Pre-Dental ASDA. She also has extensive research experience in the zoology laboratory of Dr. David Julian who says, "She is extremely bright, absolutely reliable, caring and compassionate, generous with her time and energy, modest about her (remarkable) accomplishments, and patient."



Stephanie S. Stopka | E.T. York, Jr. Medal of Excellence

Stephanie Stopka, from Gainesville, is a senior pre-medical student majoring in food science and human nutrition. Stephanie serves as a volunteer lifeguard for Camp Boggy Creek and Endeavor Sports: Adapted Aquatics and traveled to Peru on a medical mission with UF Heal the World. Also, she was selected to participate in the Summer Institute in Anatomy at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Susan Percival, professor of food science and human nutrition, describes Stephanie as, "...an amazing young woman ... selfless and completely dedicated to helping others live better lives."



Andrew James Migliaccio | J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence

Andrew Migliaccio received a B.S. degree in food science and human nutrition. He was president of Heal the World and volunteered with Interface Youth Program, where he spent time each week with runaway teens. Andrew is also an accomplished researcher, having worked in the laboratory with Dr. Susan Percival, professor of food science and human nutrition for more than two years. Dr. Percival cites his, "... global awareness, academic excellence and acceptance of diverse populations" as key elements of his personality and his success.



Karen J. Cannon | Jack L. Fry Graduate Student Teaching Award

Karen Cannon is seeking a Ph.D. in agricultural communication. Karen was chosen as lead instructor for AEE 3033C: Research and Business Writing. She taught more than 100 students and supervised three teaching assistants. Karen views her role as a teacher to be not only a guide in the process of learning, but also a facilitator of imbedding knowledge gained into the context of life. Drs. Ed Osborne and Tracy Irani of the department of agricultural education and communication wrote, "Although she's just beginning her college teaching career, Karen has demonstrated excellent potential as a future faculty member."



al and Life Sciences

Scholarship
Awards

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez | Jimmy G. Cheek Graduate Student Medal of Excellence

Sebastian Galindo-Gonzalez received a Ph.D. in extension education in 2009. Originally from Mexico, Sebastian is currently developing an undergraduate course titled Leading Personal and Organizational Change to teach spring 2010. According to Dr. David Sammons, director of IFAS International Programs, "It was evident that his leadership in that course has been met with enthusiasm from his students ... Sebastian's teaching style creates an open and inviting classroom."

Dr. Angeleah A. Browdy | Undergraduate Adviser of the Year

Dr. Angeleah Browdy is a lecturer in the food science and human nutrition department where she teaches a course in food science. Dr. Browdy has worked with students through advising, Preview orientation and serving in the UF Minority Mentor Program. Dr. Browdy's ultimate goal is "... to empower students to be self-directed in all aspects of decision-making that will be necessary to navigate a successful academic outcome."

Christine A. Holyoak | Undergraduate Adviser of the Year

Christine Holyoak is an undergraduate program administrator and academic adviser for the microbiology and cell science department, advising more than 800 undergraduate students. Ms. Holyoak strives to provide her students with "... a home base so they don't feel like small fish in a big sea." Students describe Ms. Holyoak as insightful, understanding, engaging, responsive and involved.

Dr. Pamela S. McMahon | Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

Dr. Pamela McMahon is a senior lecturer in the food science and human nutrition department and is director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics (DPD). Dr. McMahon teaches two key DPD courses: DIE 3310: Community Nutrition and DIE 4125/4125L: Foodservice Systems Management and Laboratory. Students value Dr. McMahon's patience, professionalism and tireless efforts to help them succeed.

Dr. Eboni J. Baugh | Undergraduate Teacher of the Year

Dr. Eboni Baugh is an assistant professor in the family, youth and community sciences department where she specializes in family life and exploring relationships between ethnic identity and eating disorders. Students describe Dr. Baugh as approachable, humorous, fair and enthusiastic. Dr. Baugh says she wants to "... plant the seeds that education cultivates, supports and nurtures."

Dr. James W. Jawitz | Graduate Teacher/Adviser of the Year

Dr. James Jawitz is an associate professor and graduate coordinator in the soil and water science department where he works in the area of environmental hydrology. Julie Padowski, one of his students, writes, "Dr. Jawitz invests himself wholeheartedly in his students; he always provides each student with guidance, encouragement and challenges they have needed to pursue and enjoys projects that push the boundaries of what they know."



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2009 Founders' Cup Award Winners



Representatives from the University of Florida Alpha Zeta chapter brought home the National Founders' Cup Award at the National Agricultural Leadership Conference in Raleigh, N.C., in March. The Founders' Cup is the highest honor a chapter can receive and is awarded to the university that best exemplifies scholarship, leadership, character and fellowship. Representatives from UF included: (top row) Kelly Cronje, Mark Marcojos, Suzanne Zagury, Hank Rieder, Erika Schwarz and (bottom row) Jean Saunders, Kelin Maciejewski, Kelly Evans, Stacey Halse and Bernarie Guzman.