Dr. Linda Morgan Named to “The Nell Bryant Kibler Professorship in Ovarian Cancer Research”

The Department is pleased to announce that Dr. Linda Morgan has been named to the “Nell Bryant Kibler Professorship in Ovarian Cancer Research.” Dr. Morgan, Director of the Division of Gynecologic Oncology, is a nationally recognized leader in cancer research. This endowment will provide important resources for our research efforts for many years to come.

David Burke Kibler III, born in Lakeland, FL, and an alumnus of UF, served in the U.S. Army during WWII and received a Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster. After the war he enrolled in the University of Florida where he earned a Law Degree in 1949.

Mr. Kibler married Nell Bryant, the daughter of Thomas Bryant, a well-respected attorney. In 1964 Kibler joined a local law firm that would soon merge and become Holland & Knight. Mr. Kibler served as the chairman of the board of directors from 1983 to 1995 and is credited for helping to make Holland & Knight the success that it is today.

Mr. Kibler has been Past President of the UF Alumni Association, member of UFF Board of Directors, State University System Board of Regents, and Florida Blue Key, and recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1991.

Nell Bryant Kibler passed away in September 1996, following a long battle with cancer. Dr. Morgan diligently cared for Mrs. Kibler and was by her side throughout her struggle.

The couple was married for 51 years. Burke Kibler passed away in 2009 survived by his four children.

This fund was established in 2011 as a gift of Burke Kibler’s estate, in memory of his late wife Nell. For more information about making a planned gift, please contact Lee-Ann Humenik at 352-273-5427 or lhumenik@ufl.edu.

Notes from the Chair

It is hard for me to believe that this month marks the 5th year anniversary of being appointed as Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UF, with an additional 2 years prior to that appointment as Acting and then Interim Chair after Dr. Stone stepped down in 2007. My biggest challenge as Chair has been finding outstanding replacements for my friends and colleagues as they have retired or moved on to other endeavors. At a recent faculty meeting, I looked around the room and realized that there were only a few “original” faculty left from those that Dr. Masterson had recruited to build what I consider as the basis of the Department we have today. Of course that was 25 years ago! I can only hope that in another 25 years, current faculty who are with us now look back and remember the “good old days” when I and Dr. Stone had the privilege to serve as Chair.

If nothing else, I have learned over time that change is constant and no one is irreplaceable. The evolution and expansion of our faculty and our facilities has allowed us to maintain a stimulating environment and further our efforts to provide cutting edge, compassionate care to our patients while teaching the next generations of students and residents and pushing the envelope of medical science through research.

The faculty has just held a strategic retreat to discuss the current state of the Department and map out a vision for the next 5 years. We should never be complacent and stop evolving, but instead we should look for the next set of opportunities to enhance our three missions. I am honored to be your Chair and thank you for your continued support of the Department. I hope to see you next summer at our next Alumni meeting, Resident Research Day and Resident Graduation. Plan to attend to help us celebrate our successes and also to remember how we all started our careers at UF! Go Gators!

R. Stan Williams, M.D.
Harry Prystowsky Professor of Reproductive Medicine
Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
It was everything we had expected... and more! What an exciting weekend! On June 14-16, 2013, the Department hosted our Fourth Annual UF OB-GYN Alumni Society Meeting in conjunction with the annual Resident Research Day and Graduation... and it was held here in Gainesville for the very first time! The Alumni Weekend events were held at several locations that provided all the returning alumni with opportunities to revisit our campus and see the many changes and additions to our facilities.

Events began with Friday evening’s Alumni Welcome Reception in the UF Orthopaedics Institute, where everyone had their first opportunity to see friends, colleagues and former residents including Jennifer Alderman, Lisa Gorsuch, Niki Jarvis, Helen Rogers, Kelli Ross, and Dao Vuong. Drs. Jack Masterson and Wally McLean also returned.

Saturday morning began at the UF Brain Institute with a breakfast and opening statements from our Chair, Dr. Stan Williams, along with Dr. Pat Duff, outgoing Residency Director, Dr. John Davis, incoming Residency Director, and Dr. Ehab Sharawy, Alumni Society President. Following presentations by current and former faculty and residents, the Alumni Society Business Meeting was held, then everyone enjoyed the OB-GYN Family BBQ picnic on the grounds.

Saturday evening activities included a cocktail reception, followed by the Resident Graduation and Alumni Society Dinner with presentation of diplomas. Dr. Ken Kellner, Professor Emeritus, entertained everyone with a special and nostalgic presentation. Resident Research Day continued on Sunday morning, highlighted by Dr. Keith Stone’s view on “Lessons learned,” and concluded with the annual presentation of awards.

Message from Our Alumni Society President

I hope everyone had a great holiday season. We have recently sent out a “save the date” for our annual UF OBGYN Alumni meeting in June 2014. Those of you that attended last year’s meeting would agree that it was a great time. We had the opportunity to visit with old friends, interact and celebrate the Chief resident graduation, and see Gainesville again! We had the honor of recognizing Dr. Duff as he retired from the residency director role. We would all agree he was the best in the country in this role. We congratulated another phenomenal teacher and mentor, Dr. John Davis, as he succeeded Dr. Duff. I would like to challenge all my fellow alumni to make a special effort to attend the meeting in June. As we mature as an alumni society, we have a chance to make an impact on our future alumni. This will be the first year of the Dr. Duff OBGYN house staff impact fund. This fund will be from donations from alumni to help enrich the residents experience by funding medical mission trips, conferences, etc. I hope to see many of you at the meeting in June.

Resident Education Fund Initiated to Honor Dr. Pat Duff

For 22 years, Dr. Duff committed himself to the OB/GYN House Staff programs where he served as Residency Program Director, Director of Fellowship Research, and Associate Dean for Student Affairs. While he currently continues to see patients and focus his work as Associate Dean, we are planning for the future to ensure his legacy. To honor Dr. Duff, we are initiating a fund that will pay tribute to one of the most cherished mentors at UF. This will be made possible through the generous donations from our alumni to the OBGYN Resident Education Fund, aimed to advance resident education, research and humanitarian projects, and to allow residents to travel to conferences and association meetings outside the University. We can think of no better way to honor the legacy of a man who has dedicated his professional life to patient care, education and research. Therefore, after his retirement from UF, the fund will be renamed the Patrick Duff, M.D., Resident Education Fund.

To honor Dr. Duff by supporting this fund, please contact Lee-Ann Humenik at 352-273-5427 or by email at lhumenik@ufl.edu.

Resident and Alumni News

- Dr. Jona Bandyopadhyay ('12) started private practice in Atlanta.
- Dr. Lindsay (Malloch) Osleber ('12) started private practice in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Dr. Alejandro Rodriguez ('12) began a fellowship in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at the University of South Florida in Tampa.
- Dr. Ashley Walsh ('12) joined Dr. David Stewart’s practice, Gainesville ObGyn, here in Gainesville.
- Congratulations to Dr. Kickie Ward and her husband Price on the recent birth of their son, Price Stewart Ward, Jr., on Nov 12.
- Dr. Pam Snook ('09) and husband Chase Fawsett (UF COM alum) also welcomed a son, Charles Robinson Fawsett III, on Nov 1.

Faculty News

- Dr. Margaret Mulvihill and husband Joel Abraham welcomed their new baby daughter, Sive Abraham, on Nov 9. Sive joins big brother Luke. In Irish, the name Sive (rhymes with five) means “good/sweet.”
- Dr. Mulvihill will be starting a fellowship in Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis in May.
- Dr. John Davis returned to Haiti in Sept for his third medical mission trip with 3rd-Year residents Mike Kinson and Maurine Batson. Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Gainesville has sent a surgical team to St. Boniface Hospital in Fond des Blancs, Haiti, every six months for the last five years. Dr. Davis was pleased to rejoin Dr. Guerrier and the Haitian health care providers for another rewarding experience.

Awards and Recognitions

At the 2013 Resident Research Day held on June 14th, the annual awards for teaching and education were presented as follows:
- Dr. Sharon Byun received the 2013 APGO Excellence in Teaching Award, from the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics and the UF College of Medicine.
- Dr. Kay Roussos-Ross received the 2013 CREOG Excellence in Resident Teaching Award.
- Dr. Kickie Ward was named Most Outstanding Resident Teacher.
- Drs. Pat Duff, Alice Khotan-Vlasak, Kay Roussos-Ross, and Keith Stone were named as Exemplary Teachers for 2012-13 by the UF College of Medicine.
- Dr. Nash Moawad was awarded the 2013 J. Lee Dockery Excellence in Teaching Cup for his efforts to improve our simulation teaching labs for MIS and Robotics.
- Golden Apple Awards went to Residents and Faculty with outstanding teaching evaluations and active participation evaluating med students.
Renovations to L&D Brings Expansion of New Triage Unit

As many of you know, especially those of you who have heard of Dr. Kellner’s presentation on the history of the department (given at last year’s Resident Research Day), there have been several notable transformations of labor and delivery at Shands hospital. With the initial construction in 1956, Labor and Delivery was located on the third floor in the space that is now the Clinical Pathology laboratories. Labor and Delivery was moved in 1984 to its current location on the third floor adjacent to the East entrance elevators.

This relocation allowed the creation of a 4 “bed” triage unit. Our alumni remember this unit very well! Patient beds were separated by curtains and there was no television. Patients languished on a gurney with family members nearby (sometimes in chairs) hoping not to intrude on the couple feet of free space surrounding the gurney next door. There was a single bathroom, and privacy was sometimes visual (never auditory) as panels of curtains separated the gurney spaces. A speculum or transvaginal ultrasound exam required the physician to sit or stand at the foot of the gurney — in the aisle — with the curtain draped around their back, while the patient balanced on an inverted sometimes padded bed pan. Hopefully there were additional nurses, medical students, or residents nearby that could stand near the seams of the curtains, so that passersby wouldn’t get a “glimpse” of an obstetrician performing their duties. I think it’s fair to say the 1980s triage unit was due for an overhaul.

On February 14, 2013, this overhaul became a reality when our new triage unit opened. We are now five private rooms, each with their own sink and television, three have their own private bathroom (two rooms use a common restroom). There is at least 4 feet of space surrounding a real labor bed (I didn’t actually measure), which is capable of breaking down for vaginal procedures. There are parquet floors and a chair rail with wall covering above and paneling below. Adjustable lighting starts at the ceiling eliminating the need for a cumbersome gooseneck light on wheels. Every room has a station for fetal monitoring and electronic medical record charting. Esthetically hidden are supplies to care for mothers and babies. When families accompany our patients to the hospital they can now be comfortable as outstanding care is provided to their loved ones. Families of laboring patients also have a new waiting room, coffee is available, and there is a reception desk staffed by a volunteer available to provide directions and information to anyone in need.

One of our rooms is equipped with a GE Voluson ultrasound machine — we refer to this room as the procedure room. We use this room to perform higher-level imaging, fetal procedures, and amniocenteses. I’m sure many of you remember having to move an ultrasound machine around the hospital in an effort to “rule out ectopic pregnancy.” If you have no recollection of this you certainly recall having to “round-up” an ultrasound machine so that an amniocentesis could be performed in the pre-op holding area. The “procedure room” has many uses, all aimed at making the patient experience better. The side effect is that those memories will become a thing of the past.

In case you were wondering, we staff our triage unit with a designated clerk and at least 2 nurses 24/7. During the 2013 calendar year we had approximately 5000 triage visits. Next time you are in Gainesville stop by and see us - we’ll be happy to give you a tour and tell you about our next phases of renovation.

— Anthony R. Gregg, MD
Director, Maternal-Fetal Medicine

OBGYN Surgeon Holds Unique Position in Urogynecology

Urogynecology (Female Pelvic Medicine and Reconstructive Surgery) has become the newest recognized subspecialty, and we are pleased to note that our department has the only fellowship-trained and board-certified FPMRS surgeon in Gainesville, as well as in North Central Florida. Dr. Emily Weber LeBrun, Assistant Professor and Head of Urogynecology, leads a urogynecology team made up of highly trained urogynecologists, pelvic surgeons, gynecologists and nurses, all experienced in the diagnosis and management of female pelvic floor disorders.

Perhaps our most unique asset is our participation in the University of Florida Pelvic Floor Program (UFPF) in which we collaborate with a variety of pelvic floor experts in colorectal surgery, gastroenterology, urology, physical therapy, nutrition and nursing. Led by the UFPF nurses and coordinators, we schedule combined visits and surgical procedures to optimize safety, efficiency and patient satisfaction.

Emily Weber LeBrun, MD, MS
In Memorium

James W. Daly, MD, MPH, former Division Director of Gynecologic Oncology, passed away on June 10, 2013, at age 82, after an 18 year battle with Parkinson’s Disease. Dr. Daly was one of our Department’s earliest faculty and our first GYN Oncologist, joining the UF OB/GYN Department in 1968, pioneering cancer treatment and gynecological surgery. He is survived by his wife of almost sixty years, Geraldine Daly, three children, and five grandchildren.

SAVE THESE DATES!
The 5th Annual UF OB-GYN Alumni Society Meeting
June 20-22, 2014
Hilton University of Florida Conference Center

For further information on the UF OB-GYN Alumni Society, please visit: www.obgyn.ufl.edu or email hopped@ufl.edu.

MAKE A GIFT. Please support education, research and patient-care programs in the UF College of Medicine Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology by making a gift and/or pledge of $________ to:

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New Developments from Our Research Director

Dr. Gregory Schultz reports two recent developments in the clinical translational program in his lab. In 2012 Pfizer purchased Excaliardi, a biotech company that he helped to found, and is currently conducting final phase II clinical studies with an antisense oligonucleotide targeting connective tissue growth factor (CTGF) for reducing scarring in skin incisions and in surgical revisions of hypertrophic scars. Also, UF’s Office of Technology Licensing recently executed a provisional license with a major wound care company for the rapid, point-of-care detector developed in Dr. Schultz’s lab that measures activities of matrix metalloproteinases (MMPs) that have been shown to impair wound healing.

Respected OB-GYN Courtesy Faculty Knighted!

Highest honors go to Peng Khaw, PhD, recently chosen for Knighthood by the Queen of England. Peng has been one of our courtesy faculty since 1991, after he worked in Dr. Greg Schultz’s lab as a member of the Wound Healing Institute. Peng and Greg continue to collaborate, and Dr. Schultz gave us the following account:

Peng called me to say that he had received a letter from Buckingham Palace asking that he ‘make himself available’ for an investiture of knighthood by the Queen. Peng had received a letter a few months ago from Number 10 Downing Street (PM address) asking if he would like to be considered for this honor. He had to ‘check’ a YES or NO box and return the letter. He said Peggy (his wife) asked if he really wanted to do that, and Peng said he thought about it for about 10 nanoseconds then said ‘he did’. I think that was the correct choice!

Peng was selected for this highest UK honor for his tremendous research on molecular regulation of glaucoma scarring for improved treatments of high risk pediatric glaucoma patients. He also has directed the dramatic expansion of the Moorfields Eye Hospital and Institute of Ophthalmology and serves as Director. He also served as the President of the leading worldwide organization, Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO). Peng always graciously acknowledges that his research during the year he spent in my lab in 1990-1991 as a Welcomes Fellow formed the core content of his PhD degree and established the basis for his research career. We have coauthored 18 research papers, reviews and book chapters, and are co-inventors on three issued US patents on medical uses of MMP inhibitors, jointly assigned to UF and Univ of London. I like to think in some small way, I helped to launch Peng on his stellar career, but the reality is that Peng is so talented that he rapidly built his own career pathway using his research insights, leadership skills and clinical knowledge. It is a real pleasure to see Peng succeed so spectacularly.

— Gregory Schultz, Ph.D.

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