

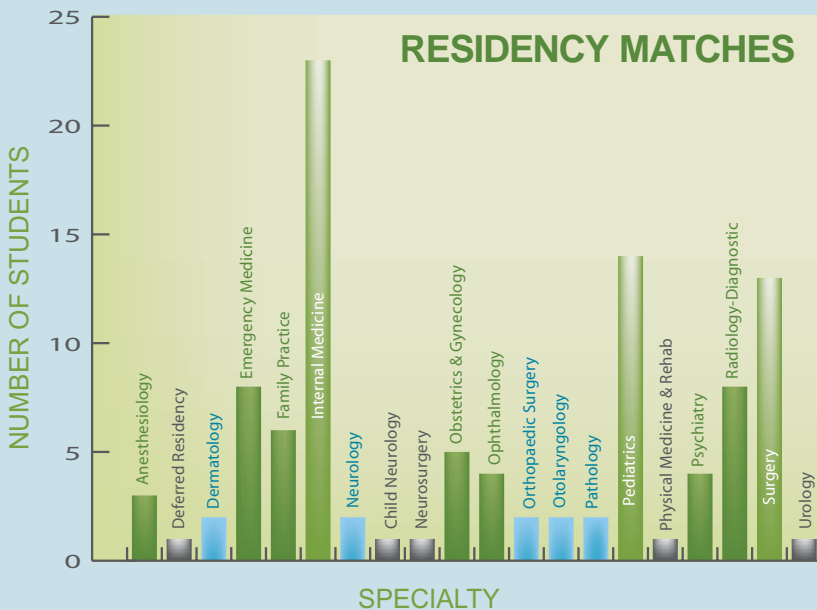


NOW

Fired up for Match Day



Rainy skies this St. Patrick's Day didn't put a damper on the Match Day excitement! The right of passage shared by medical students across the country fell on March 17 this year and the class of 2005 was fired up! The "high-fives" and celebratory yells were heard way beyond the tin walls of Skipper's Smokehouse in Tampa. Of the 103 College of Medicine graduates, 40 are staying at USF for their medical residency programs. The placements included Georgetown University in Washington DC, Emory University in Atlanta, Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, and Brown University in Providence, RI. Forty-three percent of this year's group will perform their residency programs in primary care, with the majority specializing in internal medicine. **See more photos and stories on pages 2 and 3.**



Speed Collaborating

for Researchers

The first Synergy Social Hour was a hit with researchers who gathered at the Alumni Center March 23 for the event hosted by Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for Health Sciences.

The goal of the program is to spur interdisciplinary research proposals that will lead to pilot projects funded by the HSC vice president and USF provost. The format is similar to the "speed dating" trend. Researchers paired up at tables to share information



Phillip Marty, PhD, HSC associate vice president for research.



Brian Schulz, PhD, left, of the VA Patient Safety Research Center, chats with David Morgan, PhD, director of the Alzheimer's Research Laboratory.

about their research projects, identify prospects for collaboration, jot down notes and swap business cards. Every three minutes, HSC Associate Vice President for Research Phillip Marty, PhD, blew a whistle signaling it

was time for half the researchers to move to the next table.

It wasn't exactly dating and a typical opening line was "what's your specialty?" not "what's your sign?" The opportunity to explore common research interests in the field of biomedical engineering drew more than 80 scientists and clinicians from the Colleges of Medicine, Engineering, Nursing and Public Health, as well as at the VA and Shriners hospitals. The next Synergy Social Hour, later this spring, will focus on sports medicine.

Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA, left, host of the Synergy Social Hour, with John Tsibris, PhD, professor of obstetrics and gynecology and biochemistry.



Meet THE physician Vegas Brown



Photo by Eric Youngblood

Vegas Brown

By Lissette Campos

He's the president for this year's graduating class from the USF College of Medicine; the former president of the Student National Medical Association; and a voting member of the Medical Student Selection Committee here at USF. He is 26-year-old Vegas Brown. While the aforementioned titles are impressive, they paint only part of the picture that is Brown.

When the other 6-year-old boys in his Sarasota neighborhood were pretending to be superheroes, Brown was the "doctor."

In high school, though, he began to wonder if the dream would become a reality for him. Brown is one of eight children. His family is not rich. His divorced parents and his grandmothers were already making sacrifices to provide the basics. "I began to think about pursuing a degree as a physician's assistant. It was shorter. I needed to graduate and start making a living as soon as possible," recalled Brown. But during his junior year in high school, he was challenged by a counselor: "Why be the assistant to the physician when you can be THE physician!"

One-hundred thousand dollars in loans later, Brown will become Dr. Brown this May. He's packing his bags for Detroit to begin his residency in emergency medicine at Wayne State University. He'll miss the Florida sunshine, his mother, and especially his grandmother Inez' chitlins! His advice to other students: "Study a little bit harder, and take preparatory classes. We have a saying in my old neighborhood. It's 'step your game up!' and that means work harder than you already are."

Matching medicine with politics

By Anne DeLotto Baier

The Tuesday before the Match Day, David Winchester was in Washington DC, walking the halls of the U.S. Capitol and waiting to speak with Sen. Bill Nelson about federal student loan programs.

Winchester, 26, spent the last year as chair of the 50,000-member American Medical Association Medical Student Section (AMA-MSS), the country's largest organization of medical students. He's answered thousands of e-mails, traveled nearly every other weekend, and recently published a letter to the editor in *U.S. News & World Reports* commenting on physicians' critical role in health care teamwork. He has met with legislators, legislative aides, boards of medical examiners and fellow students to discuss issues impacting physician education and practice.

The first USF medical student to hold a national office, Winchester engaged in political discourse since his first year at the USF College of Medicine, when he was elected president of his freshman class. As president of the USF chapter of the AMA-MSS, he testified at hearings before Florida legislators studying the issue of medical malpractice reform.

"I've learned so much about how government works," Winchester said. "Many people don't realize that state and federal government, through law and regulation, determines how physicians get a license, set up a



David Winchester & Erin Mulert

Photo by Eric Youngblood

practice, create charts, and even see patients," Winchester said.

"Understanding government's impact on the practice of medicine before I go out on my own empowers me to advocate for change sooner and more effectively."

Winchester's interest in organized medicine and politics is not without precedent. His father Gary Winchester, MD, a Tallahassee family practitioner, is former chair of the Florida Board of Medicine and served as board liaison to the Florida Medical Association's Board of Governors in the 1990s. His father is also a member of the USF medical school's charter class (Class of 1974).

Fiancée Erin Mulert, who is finishing up a master's degree in creative writing at the University of Tennessee, came to Match Day. The couple plans to marry in June and move to Charlottesville, VA, where he'll begin an internal medicine residency at the University of Virginia — his top choice for residency.

(((In the News)))

USF Health Sciences Center experts were called upon by national, regional and local media to comment on legal, medical and ethical aspects of the Terri Schiavo case in late February and March.

Jay Wolfson, DrPH, JD, distinguished service professor of public health and medicine, was appointed Mrs. Schiavo's independent guardian ad litem in 2003 and prepared a report on her for Gov. Jeb Bush. Dr. Wolfson was interviewed by dozens of news outlets including local stations, *ABC Action News Ch. 28*, *Bay News 9*, *Fox 13 News*, *News Channel 8*, *Tampa Bay's 10 and WUSF-FM 89.7*.



National and international coverage included Fox Morning News in San Francisco, March 29; *CNN's Larry King Live*, CBS Radio News, *New York Times*, and *Chicago Tribune*, March 28; *New York Post online edition* and *Los Angeles Times*, March 27; *CNN "Anderson Cooper Show," Washington Times, Newsweek, Canadian Radio's David Rutherford Show, KTAR Radio (Phoenix, AZ); MSNBC's Keith Oberman Show, WashingtonPost.com* interview online and *Alan Colmes Radio Show (syndicated to 60 stations nationwide)*, March 23; *CNN Morning News, CNN Evening News "Lou Dobbs Show," FOX Network News, The Australian*, and *TurkishPress.com*, March 22; *ABC News "Nightline," ABC World News Tonight with Peter Jennings*, and *NPR Radio "All Things Considered,"* March 21; *Newsday.com* and the *Associated Press*, Feb. 25; *Catholic World News*, Feb. 11.

The New York Times

washingtonpost.com

npr

AP Associated Press

Dr. Wolfson was also quoted in the *Palm Beach Post* and *Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Ky), March 28; *St. Petersburg Times* and *Orlando Sentinel*, March 26; *ContraCostaTimes.com*, March 25; *South Florida Sun-Sentinel* and *Kansas City Star.com*, March 23; and *Augusta Free Press*, March 22.

Staying local with her twin



Peter Dunne, MD, professor and chair of neurology, commented on the difference between a coma and persistent vegetative state March 23 in *The Lakeland Ledger*.

Michael Hoffmann, MD, professor of neurology and neurosurgery, was credited as a source for the graphic of a brain used to explain Terri Schiavo's condition in the March 23 *St. Petersburg Times*.

Susan McMillan, PhD, professor of nursing and a founder of the Center for Hospice, Palliative Care and End-of-Life Studies at USF, shared the story of making end-of-life decisions for her mother in a March 24 *NPR Radio* segment.

Leon Prockop, MD, professor of neurology, commented on the medical findings of brain damage from his review of Terri Schiavo's CAT scans for the March 25 *Fox-13 News*, the March 26 *Associated Press* and *ABC News online*, and March 29 *Toronto Star*.

Robert Walker, MD, director of Medical Ethics and Humanities, was a guest on the Feb. 22 *Fox 13 News "Your Turn Show."*



The celebration of national **Match Day** at USF was covered March 17 by several area TV stations. **Stephen Klasko, MD, MBA**, dean of the College of Medicine and vice president for Health Sciences, was interviewed by *WB-38 News Central* about Match Day, when senior medical students across the country find out where they will conduct their specialty training. *Bay New 9, ABC Action News Ch. 28* and *Sarasota ABC News Ch. 7* also aired segments. **Maria Afanador, Vegas Brown, Nicolas Biro, Wil Harris, Tiffany Fontaine, and Jessica Salansky** were among students appearing in the broadcasts.

In addition, the *Weekly Planet* is scheduled to run a major story this week on **Vegas Brown**, who overcame several obstacles to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.



A special candle lighting ceremony celebrating the designation of USF's Huntington's Disease Clinic as a Huntington's Disease Society of America "Center of Excellence" was covered March 14 by several local TV stations. USF neurologist **Juan Sanchez-Ramos, MD**, clinic director, was interviewed by *News Channel 8, WB-38 News Central, ABC Action News Ch. 28, Fox 13 News* and *Univision*.

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Photo by Eric Youngmans

Solimar Afanador (left) & Maria Afanador (right)

"Which one is Maria again?" asked a handful of photographers, unable to tell them apart.

The 25-year-old twins were facing the possibility of being apart for the next four years. Solimar is a third-year medical student at USF's College of Medicine.

"We were preparing for that, to deal with that possibility in case it happened. But it's nice she will still be around!" said Solimar

of her sister soon-to-be

Dr. Maria Afanador.

Maria Afanador took one look at the white piece of paper handed to her on Match Day, yelled in delight and whipped out her USF cap! The fourth year medical student will be doing her residency in pediatrics at the University of South Florida College of Medicine. Afanador couldn't be happier! While other med students will be off to wintry places like New York, Philadelphia, and Michigan, Afanador will be enjoying the Florida sunshine and the company of her twin sister Solimar. Maria and Solimar both dressed in green for Match Day, confusing plenty of the camera crews covering the event.

The twins' parents, Enid and Gilberto Afanador live in Orlando, and are ecstatic! Mom Enid is well known at the College of Medicine Office of Diversity...a mom so proud of her "niñas" she's been known to write in and ask about the twins. The Afanadors were born in Puerto Rico, growing up near San Juan. "Mom is very proud of the twins and is not ashamed to show it!" said Vanessa Travieso in COM Diversity. "Mom sends us pictures and letters. Once she apologized for being so overzealous, but she's so excited for them!"

USF names state virologist Lillian Stark Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health

Lillian, M. Stark, PhD, director of the Virology Department of the Tampa Branch Laboratory, Florida Department of Health, has been named the 2005 Outstanding Woman in Public Health by the USF College of Public Health. Dr. Stark will be honored at the Public Health Week Awards Ceremony beginning 1 pm, Tuesday, April 5, at the COPH auditorium.

Dr. Stark has been a longstanding advocate for water quality standards and sentinel surveillance programs for arboviral diseases. She is recognized nationally and internationally for her laboratory-based surveillance of arboviruses, which are carried primarily by mosquitoes and can cause illnesses such as encephalitis and West Nile virus.

Dr. Stark is an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Global Health. She mentors students who apply their academic training in epidemiology and environmental and occupational health at the regional state laboratory. She earned both a PhD in biology and an MPH in public health from USF, and was a charter class member of the USF Public Health Leadership Institute.

The annual Florida Outstanding Woman in Public Health Award was started by the USF College of Public Health in 1988. The award honors women who have made significant contributions to the field of public health. Nominations are solicited from public health practitioners across the state.



Photos by Gill Williams

Lillian, M. Stark, PhD



In memoriam: Daniel “Bo” Smith, MD

USF COM alum and faculty member Daniel “Bo” Smith died March 22 after a prolonged battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 46. He is survived by his wife, Jill Smith, three sons and a daughter.

Dr. Smith, an associate professor in the Department of Anesthesiology, graduated from the USF College of Medicine in 1984 and completed a residency in anesthesiology and a fellowship in cardiothoracic anesthesiology at USF. He joined the faculty in 1988. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to LifePath Hospice.

Call for nominations:

New award promotes Florida’s top health programs

Nominations are being sought for the Sapphire Award Recognizing Community Health Excellence, a new award sponsored by the Blue Foundation for a Healthy Florida to honor programs that provide health care access to Florida’s underserved and uninsured and seek to improve the health care of Florida’s at-risk communities.

The Blue Foundation will select up to three nonprofit recipients annually. Each recipient will receive a financial award of up to \$120,000 toward its community health objectives. This year’s selection committee is chaired by Charles Mahan, MD, professor and former COPH dean.

Deadline for submitting nominations is June 29 and winners will be announced this fall. For nomination materials or to submit inquiries about the Sapphire Award, please contact TheSapphireAward@bcbsfl.com or call 1-800-477-3736, ext. 63215, option 2.

Fund raiser to support PT

The School of Physical Therapy has organized a fund raiser to support several school activities, including an induction ceremony for the incoming Doctor of Physical Therapy class and donations to help patients unable to pay for physical therapy.

Students are selling tickets for a \$10 meal, dine-in or take-out, at Carabba’s Italian Grill (Fowler Ave.), noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 17. The restaurant will be open only to ticket holders at that time.

Tickets can be purchased at the COM Student Affairs Office or by contacting Angie Giordano at agiordan@hsc.usf.edu or 294-0280. The deadline for purchase is April 8.

Addiction

Announcing new USF Services through the Division of Addiction Medicine

The USF Division of Addiction Medicine offers a wide range of services including specialized substance abuse and psychiatric evaluations, on-site drug testing, psychological testing, and consultation. These sessions are led by USF faculty specialized in addiction psychiatry, licensed clinical psychologists and mental health counselors. USF is pleased to introduce the following new services for the community:

Intensive Outpatient Treatment - The Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program (IOP) is an 8-week program that assists patients in remaining substance free. The IOP meets three to four days per week from 4 to 7 p.m. and includes six months of aftercare services. The IOP consists of a specialized comprehensive evaluation, substance abuse education, individual and group therapy, and an introduction to the 12-step model.

Relapse Prevention Track - This 12-week program is for patients with substance abuse or dependency problems who are seeking additional information to help manage high-risk situations while remaining substance-free. The Relapse Prevention Track meets once per week on Wednesday from 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Substance Abuse Educational Series - The Substance Abuse Educational Series is a 6-week program for anyone who is interested in understanding the effects of alcohol and drugs. The series is offered twice a week during the lunch-time hour and allows for both lectures and discussion.

Co-Dependency Treatment Track - The program is designed to provide the participant with a basic understanding of how substance abuse and dependency affects family members. The program meets once a week on Fridays from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Open Discussion AA meeting – Every Wednesday 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 3515 E. Fletcher Ave.

To learn more about the content or to schedule an appointment, please call 813-974-8900. For additional information contact the Division of Addiction Medicine at 813-396-9217. The USF Addiction Treatment Center participates with most health plans in the Tampa Bay area.

COPH Celebrates

The USF College of Public Health will celebrate National Public Health Week, April 4 to 10, with two community events. For more information on National Public Health Week events at USF, please contact Martin Wortman at (813) 974-1120, or visit <http://publichealth.usf.edu/phw2005>

College of Public Health Awards Ceremony — Tuesday April 5, 1 to 3:30 p.m., COPH Auditorium

The ceremony will feature a keynote address by Dr. Darwin Labarthe, associate director for cardiovascular health policy and research in the Division of Adult and Community Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: “Living Stronger, Longer: A Public Health Strategy for Preventing Cardiovascular Disease and other Chronic Conditions.”

Health Fair – Saturday, April 9, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., University Mall

Eighty information tables, screenings and demonstrations take center court at this comprehensive health fair in the mall. Health demonstrations will include Tai Chi, fire safety, a look inside a Hazmat Suit, yoga, and Rhythm Kidz, an exercise dance program.

