

TWENTYUNDER 30

These Young Alumni Are the Ones to Watch

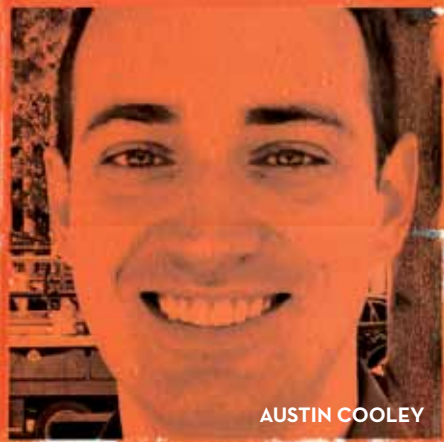
Every so often there are people who make impressions from an early age. These up and comers are usually the ones who make a difference in the lives of many. They are the ones who make discoveries, change lives and often change the world. We gave each college a strict age cutoff and as a result, some alumni who were barely over 30 didn't make the cut even though their efforts are certainly noteworthy. Meet 20 exceptional alumni, 30 years of age or younger, who are making an impact on the world through innovation, volunteerism and entrepreneurship. Ready to be impressed?

Art by Ian Niklas

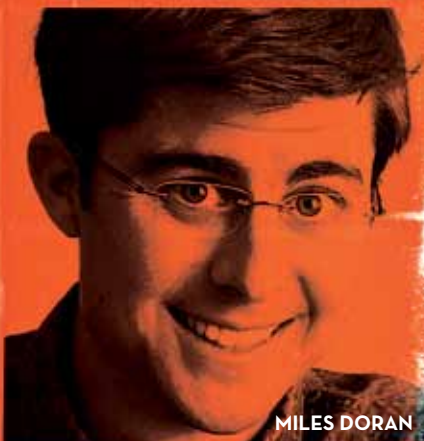




ANDRES BARRETO



AUSTIN COOLEY



MILES DORAN

ANDRES BARRETO (BS '09)

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
Angel investor, founder of Onswipe, Grooveshark, PulsoSocial and Socialatom Group

Andres Barreto launched his first Internet business at 18 years old and continues to be an entrepreneur, while also working for a higher purpose – to aid economic development in emerging countries.

Born in Colombia, Barreto moved to Miami when he was 12. At UF, his desire to listen to Latin music before it landed on iTunes led to the creation of music streaming service Grooveshark, of which he is one of three founders.

While researching the topic of entrepreneurship in Latin America, Barreto discovered a lack of information on the subject, spawning his decision to launch the technology and public relations agency Socialatom Group, which promotes entrepreneurship in Latin America. In 2008, he founded PulsoSocial, an entrepreneurship and technology blog.

“I noticed that most entrepreneurs [in Latin America] had a really hard time getting covered in the media, whether they were large companies or small startups,” says 25-year-old Barreto.

When Apple’s iPad was released in 2010, Barreto had another entrepreneurial inspiration, which led to the launch of Onswipe, a software platform for tablet publishing and advertising. Barreto launched the company from Guadalajara, Mexico to prove he could build a global technology product from anywhere in the

world. The company currently employs nearly 50 and is one of the largest ad networks for tablet devices.

Today, Barreto makes his home in various cities, paying rent in New York City, Mexico City and Bogota, Colombia. He travels a six-week circuit from Boston to Buenos Aires – stopping in two to three cities a week – investing in technology companies.

“I’m definitely having a lot of fun with what I do everyday and that is because I turned my passion and my hobby into my day-to-day work,” Barreto says.

A frequent speaker on entrepreneurship at conferences in the U.S. and Latin America, Barreto was selected one of the Top 30 Young Entrepreneurs under 30 by Inc. magazine in 2011. As a founding fellow of the nonprofit Coderise, Barreto also takes time to teach kids age 14 to 18 in developing nations how to build web applications.

“I enjoy being able to work with other ambitious entrepreneurs who are trying to change the world,” he says.

– Giannina Smith Bedford

AUSTIN COOLEY (BS '08)

College of Engineering
Computer software engineer, co-founder and vice president of product at Tripstr

Austin Cooley likes to think that he predicted the success of Google in his fifth-grade science project.

“For my science fair project, I did an analysis of the then-emerging Internet search engines,” says Tampa native Cooley. “Google was prominent throughout my analysis, and my project won first place. I like to say that I predicted Google’s success.”

Cooley, whose father, Dan, is a computer programmer, grew up “playing educational games on Macintosh computers.” At UF, Cooley developed a passion for integrating useful computer technology into people’s lives.

“Dr. Karl Gugel is such an excellent teacher,” says Cooley. “He got me very excited about digital design – something I hadn’t considered to pursue. And Dr. Doug Dankel showed me how artificial intelligence is the future. They were instrumental in setting me on my technology path.”

After graduating, Cooley was a software engineer at Lockheed Martin in Orlando. During that time, he co-founded Yutorial, an educational software training program that allowed access to experts around the world.

While attending the Kauffman Labs Education Ventures program for entrepreneurs in 2010, Cooley planted the seed for his next project. With the help of the Kauffman Foundation, he relocated to San Francisco and co-founded Quilt, a mobile social-sharing application. This led him back to UF in 2012 for a Quilt marketing campaign where he worked with **Jamie Kraft** at the Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

“We used UF interns in our market research,” says Cooley. “What we discovered was a game changer. We found out that Quilt wasn’t really for the college market but was more suited for families and people traveling.”

The result was TripQuilt, a travel social network that led to Quilt being acquired in July 2013 by Recommendation Engines Inc. (Tripstr). Cooley is currently the co-founder and vice president of product for Tripstr. Fellow UF grad **Adlai Holler** (BS '13) serves as lead iOS developer.

Another UF connection is the Engineering Innovation Institute where Cooley speaks with aspiring engineers at Entrepreneur in Residence **David Whitney’s** “Spotlight on Innovation.”

“David Whitney has been an invaluable mentor, having served as both an investor and advisor in my endeavors,” says Cooley.

“What I love about what I do is that innovation via technology isn’t static,” says Cooley. “Every day is a new and exciting journey.”

– JoAnn Guildry

MILES DORAN (BSTEL '10)

College of Journalism and Communications
Digital journalist, CBS News

“All you have to do is ask,” should be Miles Doran’s motto. After all, it’s a phrase that’s served him well. Doran is one of the few lucky enough to know what he wanted early in life and then smart enough to go get it.

Born in Puerto Rico, Doran moved to Palm Harbor, Fla., when he was 10 years old and found himself giving weather reports on his new school’s morning televised announcements. When he entered high school and found that there was only a PA system, Doran asked if he could start a televised morning news program. He launched the program, paving the way for other young TV journalists.

Entering UF as a telecommunication student, Doran found plenty of resources to help him succeed.

“It was great to be able to just jump into it and start reporting, writing, broadcasting,” he recalls. “The resources at UF are incredible, and it really comes down to taking advantage of them.”

And take advantage he did. Doran was actively involved in several news organizations on campus such as WRUF radio and WUFT-TV. And, when he wanted something more – again – he simply asked. As a result, Doran ended up covering at least a half-dozen shuttle launches from the Kennedy Space Center, the hunger crisis in Guatemala and became the youngest journalist to visit the detention camps in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

After two CBS News internships and numerous journalism awards, Doran graduated and promptly became an associate producer at CBS News in New York. He traveled the country with correspondent Steve Hartman producing the “On The Road” human interest stories for “CBS Evening News” and “CBS Sunday Morning.” This past summer, he moved to the CBS News Atlanta bureau as a digital journalist, a position that requires him to do a little of everything including camera

work, producing, editing and reporting throughout the Southeast.

“I love what I do; I like the traveling,” says Doran. “It’s been quite an adventure.”

That adventure includes recently winning a national Emmy Award for the “On The Road” series. In addition, Doran’s work in radio and television news has been honored by the Florida Associated Press Broadcasters and the Society of Professional Journalists, and he’s garnered two national Edward R. Murrow Awards. Stay tuned for more.

– Renee Houston Zemanski

Austin Cooley likes to think that he predicted the success of Google in his fifth-grade science project.



KRISTEN HADEED

STEPHANIE KANE

DIANA E. KELLY

DAVE KERNER

KRISTEN HADEED (BSBA '10)

Warrington College of Business Administration
Founder of Student Maid

As a kid, Kristen Hadeed sold lemonade on the street corner and fake nails to classmates in the first grade. As a junior, she needed money for a pricey pair of jeans so she put on her entrepreneur hat once again. She posted an ad on Craigslist to clean houses and hasn't taken off that hat ever since.

"I would clean houses after class and made enough to buy the jeans and thought 'this isn't that bad,'" says the 25-year-old founder of Student Maid, a Gainesville-based cleaning and concierge service.

As Hadeed's client numbers grew, she hired friends. The real turning point, however, took place in the spring of 2009, when an apartment conglomerate approached her with a large cleaning contract — it needed thousands of apartments cleaned during a three-week period in the summer. "It wasn't until that moment that I thought, 'Oh, maybe I can make this into a business,'" Hadeed recalls.

Hadeed launched Student Maid in May 2009 and later used skills from her entrepreneurship class in the Warrington College of Business Administration to write the business plan that secured her company a bank loan.

Today, Student Maid employs 50 to 75 students during the school year and up to 350 during the summer peak season. Employees are required to maintain a 3.5 GPA and in return are given opportunities to participate in leadership

and personal development activities such as goal-setting workshops.

"The thing that motivates me the most is when I see my employees succeed," says Hadeed, who recently opened a second company location in Pensacola. Hadeed's vision is to one day be in college towns across the country, but she doesn't want to grow too fast.

"Our culture is so unique and that is what I think sets us apart from other cleaning companies," she says. "If you grow too fast you jeopardize losing that culture, and we just want to make sure that stays intact."

While this business-savvy entrepreneur sees growth ahead, she sees an even bigger impact for Student Maid to inspire. Hadeed travels to colleges sharing her story and is writing a book about her experience.

"I see Student Maid as a symbol of young people not being afraid to take a risk," Hadeed says.

— Giannina Smith Bedford

STEPHANIE KANE (BSA '08, DVM '12)

College of Veterinary Medicine
Associate Veterinarian,
Care Animal Hospital

Growing up there was never a doubt in Stephanie Kane's mind what she would do or where she would go to college. "I was born orange and blue," she laughs. "I didn't want to go anywhere else but UF."

Standing by her dad's side at his veterinary hospital as a young girl, Kane set her sights on becoming just like him. Through hard work and a lot of determination, her dreams came true. Kane is again standing by **Dr. Rich Kane's** (DVM '84) side — this

time as an associate veterinarian at his practice, Care Animal Hospital. After completing a competitive and "all-consuming" yearlong internship at the BluePearl Veterinary Partners this past summer, she joined the practice.

Kane says she feels right at home. "I feel that everything I worked toward my whole life is finally here," she says. "It's crazy to have my own clients now. When I walk in the rooms of dad's clients and introduce myself as Dr. Kane, I usually start off the conversation with 'Sorry I am not the short New York Jewish man you were expecting; I am his daughter.'"

Kane was very active during her vet school years in many student veterinary chapters and even went to Zambia with the Christian Veterinary Mission.

"It was truly a great experience. I never thought I could combine veterinary medicine, my faith and mission work," she says.

Kane currently serves on the College of Veterinary Medicine Alumni Council. A true Gator, she has made it to at least one Gator home football game for the past 26 years. She plans to continue that streak and spend time with her new husband, Wes Suiter, a Tennessee Volunteer fan.

Kane hopes to someday run her father's practice, but that's a dream for now. Until then, she's content to offer advice and learn under the guiding hand of her Gator dad.

"I can't wait to take the practice to a new level and incorporate the things I've learned," says Kane. "And, of course, it's awesome to work with my dad. It's kind of cool when he actually asks me for advice."

— Renee Houston Zemanski

DIANA E. KELLY (BABA '08)

Warrington College of Business Administration
Owner, Diana E. Kelly Inc.

While other little kids doodled dinosaurs, unicorns and happy face suns, Diana E. Kelly filled her Hello Kitty notebook with sketches of shoes, hats and dresses.

"I just remember drawing everything matching," Kelly says. "They were not amazingly detailed sketches, but I had all the outlines."

From the age of 4, Kelly loved fashion and putting her ideas to paper. But art and design always seemed like more of a hobby to her. Her parents had been in the medical field, and when she entered UF as an undergrad, she was prepared to follow in their footsteps. Helping people seemed like the ultimate way to spend her life.

Her plans changed during an organic chemistry class. She wasn't doing well in the course, and she realized that although she wanted to help people, medicine wasn't meant for her. She switched to business and interior design. Inspiration struck about midway through her master's degree program in interior design.

"I had always dreamed of designing shoes, but it wasn't until I was in my master's program that I decided to go for it," she says.

Kelly took time off and returned to her hometown, Sarasota, where she logged serious hours talking to business owners and manufacturers and devising a plan. By 2010, the stars aligned, and the Diana E. Kelly brand of shoes and accessories was born.

A brooch her grandmother had given her inspired her first design. Her second design? A Gator gameday shoe. To date, Kelly has designed 50 pairs of shoes and 50 other accessories.

"Our shoes are for the woman who needs a shoe to take her from day to night that is versatile and comfortable," she says. "You want people to stop and say, 'Where did you get those?'"

But the brand isn't solely about selling shoes. Kelly also weaves philanthropy into her business. The company has donated more than \$30,000 to charity, and through her Flats for Philanthropy program, a portion of the sales of specially designed shoes goes to support charities.

"It goes back to always wanting to help people," she says. "There is nothing more rewarding to me."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

DAVE KERNER (BA '06, JD '10)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences/Levin College of Law
Florida state representative, Lawyer

By night, State Rep. Dave Kerner patrolled the rural town of Alachua as a police officer. By day, he sat in lecture halls at the University of Florida, earning his degree in political science and criminology.

There are likely few — if any — 19-year-old UF sophomores who have entered the police academy while earning their bachelor's degrees. But Kerner had wanted to be a cop like his father since he was a kid. So he figured — why not get a head start?

He committed fully to being a police officer and a full-time student. He served as a union rep, got to know the citizens in the city, and in 2006, he earned the distinction as Alachua's Police Officer of the Year — all while studying for the LSAT.

At first, he wasn't sure if he wanted to go to law school. But he started studying to learn more about the law, and eventually, he decided that if he could get in to UF's Levin College of Law, he would go. He got in, and in 2010, he graduated, taking a job as a plaintiff's attorney in his native Palm Beach County. He spent the first six months of his professional career working as a special prosecutor on complex DUI issues, combining his experience as both a lawyer and law enforcement officer. In 2012, he decided he wanted to add a new title to his resume — state representative.

Being a citizen legislator has been an adjustment for Kerner, balancing his political life with his professional life, but he enjoys serving the people in his district and being a part of the Gator caucus. He's already sponsored four bills that have passed, too.

"I was told I was too young, but I learned at UF that that if you are passionate about something, it doesn't matter what people say," he says. "If you put your heart into it, it can be done. UF instilled in me that spirit of service, and for that, I am very thankful."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

When then UF junior Carla Kontax needed some career decision-making inspiration, she surprisingly found it in her hometown.

MATTHEW KIRCHOFF

(BS '05, PHARMD '09, MSPHARM '11)
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, College of Pharmacy
Lieutenant commander, the United States Public Health Service

Matthew Kirchoff looks at life as an adventure — one that he isn't sure where it will take him.

For example, during his last undergraduate semester, he studied at the University of Otago in New Zealand and thought if he didn't get accepted into UF's College of Pharmacy — a career that interested him since freshman year — he'd just continue his global explorations. However, he was accepted, and he excelled.

As graduation approached, he cautiously pondered his next move. As friends signed

commitments with drugstores and hospitals, Kirchoff was again thinking about a new direction. A trained pilot, Kirchoff considered joining the U.S. Air Force and continuing his family's military history.

Then he learned about a unique UF partnership with the United States Public Health Service and the Food & Drug Administration. The program was recruiting students to join the uniformed service, while earning a master's degree in pharmaceutical outcomes and policy. Funded through a scholarship, upon completion, graduates serve a four-year commitment in a duty station at the FDA. Kirchoff signed up.

A lieutenant commander with the USPHS, Kirchoff works as a program management officer in the FDA's Office of Medical Policy. He is also part of a team charged with maintaining the nation's public health, ready for deployment should a natural disaster or terrorist incident occur — the aspect of his job that Kirchoff enjoys the most. Driven to continue learning, he recently began working on his MBA at the University of North Carolina. He also serves on the UF College of Pharmacy National Advisory Board, serves as a preceptor for UF pharmacy students and gives back to veterans through the Honor Flight Network.

With about a year left on his USPHS commitment, Kirchoff is contemplating his next move and is particularly interested in health information technology. He says if he decides to leave the USPHS he'll likely join the reserves of another service. "I love wearing the uniform of this great country," he says.

Down the road, however, Kirchoff also wouldn't mind doing something a little more unconventional.

"My 10-year goal is to be sailing around the world on a catamaran — not necessarily rich, but happy," Kirchoff says.

— Giannina Smith Bedford

TRAVIS J. KOLBJORNSEN*

(BS '07)
Rinker School of Building Construction
Project scheduler,
Walt Disney World Co.
Facility Asset Management

Can't see the forest through the trees? Travis Kolbjornsen can probably help you. As a project scheduler for Walt Disney World Co. Facility Asset Management (FAM), Kolbjornsen first envisions "the forest" of a project and then meticulously directs each detail along the way, tree by tree. And keep in mind that he can be responsible for nearly 500 concurrent projects during a fiscal year.

"Construction management involves a lot of analytical thinking. You have to coordinate everything from financials to design to actual building construction," says Kolbjornsen. "If you can't hold on to the culminating vision of a project, you'll become overwhelmed by the details. But there is nothing more gratifying than to see a project go from design to existence."

For Orlando native Kolbjornsen, construction was the family business and he initially wanted to be an architect.

"The artistic aspect of construction always interested me," he says. "But I kept being drawn to the business management of construction, to being involved in a project from start to finish. Halfway through my sophomore year, I switched majors."

Kolbjornsen says his UF Rinker School of Building Construction mentors were motivating. "Dr. Richard Smailes and professor Mike Cook inspired, encouraged and challenged me every day," he says.

Kolbjornsen spent summers interning at both Walt Disney Imagineering and FAM, and upon graduation, he accepted a project engineer position with James A. Cummings Inc. in Fort Lauderdale. He returned to Gainesville with Cummings to construct the UF Southwest Parking Garage Complex with a project team led by Rob Maphis (BS '93). "Rob continues

to be an influential mentor to me — he personifies a true leader," says Kolbjornsen.

Kolbjornsen is the 2013 president of the Central Florida Gator BCN Club where he headed the chapter's main fundraiser golf tournament that raised a record \$53,000 for the Rinker School.

He's also involved in the ACE (architecture, construction and engineering) Mentor Program, which provides scholarships and assists high school students in getting real-world exposure to those disciplines.

"I was fortunate to have several wonderful mentors at UF and during my career," says Kolbjornsen, who also participates in FAM's professional internship recruitment at UF. "I feel it's imperative that I give back what was given to me."

— JoAnn Guildry

CARLA I. KONTAX

(BS '06, DMD '10)
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences,
College of Dentistry
Dentist, Edward M. Kennedy
Community Health Center

When then UF junior Carla Kontax needed some career decision-making inspiration, she surprisingly found it in her hometown.

After a tireless search through various health or science-related fields, the inspiration finally struck. During her junior year summer, Kontax worked in her dentist's office in Weston, Fla.

"Dr. Michael Eggatz was my dentist, and I always liked him," says Kontax. "Spending that summer in his office, I saw how he changed people's lives. That's when I decided I wanted to be a dentist, specifically a community health dentist. I wanted to help people who were unable to afford private dental care."

Kontax also credits her parents for inspiring her to help others. "I first learned the importance of helping the less fortunate from my parents; they have been my inspiration," she says.

When Kontax enrolled in the UF College

of Dentistry, she found a special mentor in one of her professors, Dr. Abi Adewumi.

"Most people didn't understand why I didn't want to go into the more lucrative private sector," she says. "Dr. Adewumi understood my passion for helping others. She always encouraged me not to give up, especially in pursuing community health."

Also while a UF student, Kontax went on two summer missions to the Dominican Republic. The experience only deepened her passion.

"We were in mountain villages that were hours away from any kind of civilization," says Kontax. "We had no electricity, no running water and no dental facilities. We brought in our equipment and did our procedures, outdoors. The people we treated were so grateful for something so simple."

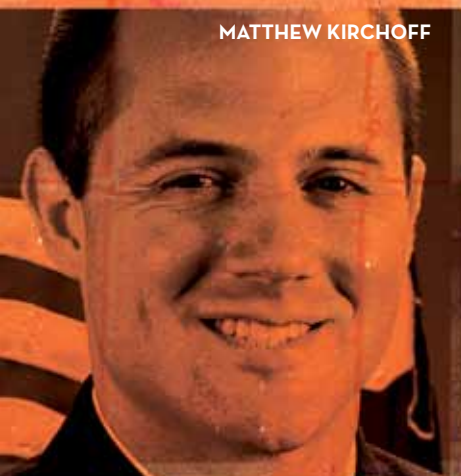
After graduating, Kontax accepted a position as the general dentist and community health center dental provider at the Edward M. Kennedy Community Health Center branch in Framingham, Mass.

"The main reason I accepted that particular position was because the dental clinic offered comprehensive dentistry," says Kontax. "This allows me to do more of a variety of dental work for people in need."

Outside the dental clinic, Kontax enjoys the changing seasons of the New England area while camping, biking and hiking.

But her favorite thing to do? Making people smile — literally.

— JoAnn Guildry



MATTHEW KIRCHOFF



TRAVIS J. KOLBJORNSEN



CARLA I. KONTAX



LIZ LAFOE

LIZ LAFOE (BSN '09)

College of Nursing
Registered nurse, University of Missouri Health Care

Liz LaFoe doesn't sing opera. And that's about the only thing she doesn't do. The UF nursing alumna currently resides in Missouri working part time as a registered nurse in the emergency room and as a sexual assault nurse examiner (SANE) at University of Missouri Health Care. She also happens to be in law school at the University of Missouri (on the deans' list), is writing her second novel, volunteers as a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters of America and is volunteering her (limited) time to helping set up a shelter for human trafficking victims. She admits that it is a lot for one person.

"Right now, I'm working on trying to find a balance and still keep doing what I'm doing," she laughs.

LaFoe wasn't planning on attending law school after she graduated from UF and took a job as a nurse in the burn intensive care unit at UMHC. She was planning to work as a nurse and write "the next great American romance novel."

"I spent a year writing, and my manuscript — thankfully — was never published although I learned a lot about myself and became a much better writer because of the experience," she recalls. "During that year, I joined the fencing club at the University of Missouri, and I met some law school students, and it got me thinking about my love of debate."

Earlier that same year, LaFoe was transferred to the emergency room and continued with the fencing club, becoming its vice president in 2011. She also became nationally certified as a fencing director (referee) in foil and épée. As if that wasn't enough, LaFoe applied to law school in 2011 and started in 2012. This past fall, she was selected to be on the Missouri Law Review.

But through it all, LaFoe, whose dad is a doctor and mom a nurse, still has her roots in health care. She says the most important

part of her job is working as a SANE, when she counsels rape victims.

"I would not be where I am today if it wasn't for UF," she says. "I was around all of these interesting, smart, diverse groups of people that helped me grow academically and professionally. I can't imagine going to a better nursing school."

— Renee Houston Zemanski

ABHI LOKESH (BS '09)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Entrepreneur, Co-owner, Fracture

As a UF undergrad, Abhi Lokesh majored in integrative biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and also worked on an engineering project related to the Mars lunar rover mission. But it was **Kristin Joos** (BS '98, MS '99, PhD '03) class on social entrepreneurship that changed his life.

"If there was one main takeaway it was that we as students still had the ability to make an impact," Lokesh says. "We didn't have to wait to get a degree or pass a test. That is in stark contrast to most scientific jobs. If you are really passionate, you should go forward and do it. That empowerment was really encouraging. All you needed was passion and the curiosity to figure it out."

The class also introduced Lokesh to one of his biggest inspirations — UF's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation — and also entwined him with the person who would eventually become his business partner.

As part of the class, Lokesh and classmates **Alex Theodore** (BSCHE '08) and **Ed Lin** (BS '07) developed a nonprofit organization to raise money for Swaziland, which has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world. They began selling art and photographs contributed by artists, with the proceeds benefitting Swaziland.

During a trip to Africa as part of the project, Lokesh and Theodore noticed a problem with selling artwork: People bought art but never framed it to hang on their walls.

"There is a gap between how easy it is to take and post pictures and printing and framing, which is still kind of a pain," Lokesh says. "We thought there has to be an easy affordable product to do this."

That's how Fracture was born.

Through Fracture, based in Gainesville, Lokesh and Theodore are aiming to create the next generation of products for the plethora of digital photos people take. The company's first and signature products are photographs printed directly on glass — turning a photo into art that comes ready to display. No framing necessary.

The company is currently focusing on its signature product, and plans to expand in coming years.

"Our ambition is to be the de facto brand when you take a picture," he says. "We want people to say, 'I want to "fracture" that picture.' In a day and age when everything is digitized, we put something real in your hands."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

MICHELLE MARTIN (BSHED '12)

College of Health & Human Performance
Graduate student, Pennsylvania State University

Michelle Martin is on a mission to eradicate childhood obesity through community empowerment. The 2012 alumna is currently in her second year of graduate school at Penn State University, where she is pursuing her PhD in biobehavioral health. Martin was recently awarded a 2013 Graduate Research Fellowship from the National Science Foundation and is also a trainee within the Penn State Clinical & Translational Science Institute Predoctoral Training Program funded by the National Institutes of Health. Her research interests center on children of Latino immigrant families in the U.S. and their role in family functioning related to diet. It's a subject she's been fervent about since her days at UF.

"I decided that I wanted to reach kids before they were sick," says Martin, a UF McNair Scholar. "I wanted to have the opportunity to empower children to make positive choices for their health."

Upon entering UF, Martin was planning on being a pediatrician, but she changed her mind when she discovered the health education and behavior major.

"It was a combination of opportunities that I had at UF that helped me make my decision," she says, and she credits UF's College of Health & Human Performance associate professor **Delores James** (MS '90, PhD '93) for helping her. "Dr. James really helped me get the most out of my undergraduate experience."

Martin was always passionate about children — she interned at the Boys and Girls Club and Girls Place in Gainesville during her years at UF, helping children to make smart nutritional and lifestyle choices. This internship reaffirmed her decision to pursue her career path.

"Kids are very bright, especially if we nurture them," says Martin, who infused theatrical elements such as improvisation with nutrition education so the children would more readily remember the information she presented.

While at UF, Martin also found time to serve as president of Women Raising Awareness in People and participate in HIV/AIDS awareness organizations. Currently, she is involved in the Perkins Educational Opportunities Foundation, a U.S. nonprofit that provides community enrichment through education in El Salvador.

Her goal upon graduation is to conduct transnational research centered on dietary intake, a decision made after spending time in El Salvador.

"Childhood obesity is not limited to the United States," she explains. "Unfortunately, it's spreading because of changing diets and globalization."

— Renee Houston Zemanski

ADAM MECCA

(BS '05, PhD '10, MD '12)
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Medicine
Physician (medical resident at Yale University)

At first, the impact of what UF College of Medicine students were doing in the college's Equal Access Clinic didn't really register with Adam Mecca, MD, PhD. But as he became more involved in the weekly free health clinics, first as an undergrad, then as a medical student and then as a student director, he began to see just how necessary and crucial its services were for patients.

"Over those years, it became much more clear that there are people in our communities who are marginalized and have very few resources," says Mecca, who is now completing his medical residency in psychiatry at Yale University. "Students learn how people with very little socioeconomic resources get health care. It can be shocking to realize that access to health care is not that simple and there are barriers, even when they want the most basic health care."

As an undergraduate and then a student in UF's MD-PhD Training Program, Mecca knew he wanted to be a clinician-scientist, working to solve health problems through research. But the hours he spent in the Equal Access Clinic, caring for patients who often suffered from mental illness in addition to physical ailments, changed his ideas about the type of physician he wanted to be.

"We gathered data about what types of things people were coming in for, and one of the things at the top was mental illness," he says. "According to our statistics, 60 percent of our patients had self-reported mental illness."

During his time as a medical and graduate student, Mecca helped lead an overhaul of the clinic's operations, which fostered an

expansion of its services. The Equal Access Clinic went from offering a once-a-week clinic to holding clinics several times a week at multiple locations and offering new services, such as physical therapy and women's services.

But his involvement with the Equal Access Clinic wasn't the only thing at UF that shaped Mecca. His training through the MD-PhD program also gave him the tools he needed.

"I want to be a clinician-scientist and help discover some of the neurophysiology of why people have mental illness and hopefully treat it better," he says. "Through the MD-PhD program, you develop a great understanding of what it takes to solve a research problem."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

State Rep. Jake Raburn didn't know he was the youngest member of the Florida Legislature until a reporter asked him how he felt about it.

MATT MEYER (BLAE '10)

College of Design,
Construction and Planning
Landscape designer,
Walt Disney Imagineering

Behind the magic of Disney, there is a world of Imagineers — people who create the ultimate Disney experience. One of those people is Matt Meyer, a UF alumnus who joined Walt Disney Imagineering, the creative design and development arm of Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, in Glendale, Calif., after graduation. As a landscape designer, Meyer helps to design exotic settings and spaces that transform stories into authentic immersive environments.

Meyer knew he wanted to work in the entertainment industry after he worked a summer internship with an Orlando entertainment company. Meyer started at UF as an architecture student but an introduction to landscape architecture course changed his major.

"I had always enjoyed the design of outdoor spaces, and that course showed me how the profession extends far beyond just planting design. It's an exciting blend of art, science and design," says the 2010 University Olmsted Scholar.

While at UF, Meyer spent a summer with Imagineering as an intern. He also won several awards for his designs, including the College of Design, Construction and Planning Undergraduate Student Academic Achievement Award and the American Society of Landscape Architects UF Award of Honor. He was awarded a Joshua Lepp Memorial traveling scholarship to study in Paris and a scholarship from the University Scholars Program to study in Bali.

Today, he continues to travel, developing future projects for Disney's Animal Kingdom in Florida with research trips

to Asia and other parts of the world. His projects demand frequent coordination between the park's operators, animal science and environment department and horticulture team.

"We have a lot of collaboration between different disciplines here — from architects to civil engineers to illustrators and everyone in between," he says. "The ability to work with all of these different disciplines and talented cast members to collectively create something special is what I enjoy the most."

"At Disney, our job is to create immersive experiences and stories," explains Meyer. "Authenticity is very important — we make sure every detail down to the rockwork and plant material is as convincing as possible."

It takes a lot of research and presents some challenges, according to Meyer. But those challenges are exactly what make the job interesting.

— Renee Houston Zemanski

JON M. PHILIPSON (JD '11)

UF Levin College of Law
Associate, Carlton Fields law firm

When 12-year-old Jon Philipson realized he was not going to make the cut as an NBA point guard, being an attorney "like the cool guys on 'L.A. Law'" was a second runner-up. As he got older, his interest in community service strengthened his passion for the legal field.

Philipson grew up in Lakeland, Fla., in a family that held community service in high regard. Embracing his family's altruism, Philipson started a mentoring program in high school for at-risk youth that continued long after he graduated. He considers this to be one of his proudest accomplishments, along with being selected a Rhodes Scholar national finalist.

Working on and off Capitol Hill during and after college, Philipson returned to his home state to attend UF's Levin College of Law. There, he served as editor-in-chief of the Florida Law Review, the first full-year chairman of the Honor Committee and Florida Blue Key's vice president of alumni affairs. One of his fondest memories is interviewing Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, with whom he talked about "barbecue and road trips rather than legal issues." Philipson was inducted into UF's Hall of Fame in 2011. The most important aspect of his time at UF, however, is the strong network of friends and advisers he developed.

"Dean [Robert] Jerry has been a great resource, and Professor [Dennis] Calfee is truly like a second dad," says Philipson. "I joke that he is my adviser, mentor and yenta."

Graduating first in his law school class and passing the 2011 Florida Bar exam with one of the top 10 scores, Philipson spent two years as law clerk to the Honorable Anne C. Conway (JD '75), Chief U.S. District Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Philipson says that Conway and former boss Congressman Jim Davis (JD '82) played pivotal roles in shaping his career. "They are two of the best bosses a young professional can have," he says.

Recently, Philipson started as an associate at the Tampa office of Carlton Fields in its business litigation and trade regulation group.

While he is dedicated to practicing law, he hopes to remain active in community service.

"Community service is a deep passion of mine," he says. "I've always felt that if you can give something back and have ideas, then get involved."

— Giannina Smith Bedford

JAKE RABURN (BSA '07)

College of Agriculture
and Life Sciences
Florida state representative;
Director of marketing,
Hinton Farms Produce

State Rep. Jake Raburn didn't know he was the youngest member of the Florida Legislature until a reporter asked him how he felt about it.

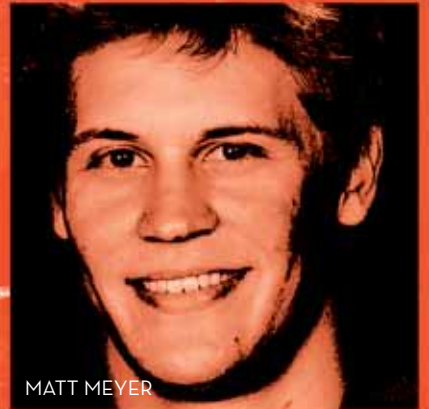
The 2007 UF alumnus was elected to the Florida House of Representatives last fall when he was just 27. It had always been the Plant City native's goal to run for a political office — just not this early in his life.

But the path was paved last year when a seat came open in his home base of Hillsborough County. Just five years out of college, Raburn had already been a part of both a government agency — his first job out of school was with the Florida Department of Citrus — and a family-owned business. He left the Department of Citrus to work for his wife's family's farm, and he was a member of his local Farm Bureau board. So he felt like he had a unique perspective not only on government but also on how its policies affect real people.

"Being in Tallahassee and being on the other side of the desk, there is this magnitude to it all," he says. "You feel a sense of responsibility to stand up for the people you represent and do what you think is right."

Growing up in the winter strawberry capital of the world, Raburn felt like agriculture was in his blood. When it was time to choose a college, UF, with its robust programs in agriculture, was his only choice. The decision to come to UF has paid off in more ways than one.

"At the end of the day, it's all about relationships," he says. "Those relationships I built at UF are relationships I have now. Learning that sense of community and pride and being part of The Gator Nation, I wouldn't trade that for anything."



MATT MEYER



JON M. PHILIPSON



JAKE RABURN



MEGHAN SCHUCK



MIKE SULKOWSKI



CHET UDELL

Moving forward, Raburn is thinking ahead to the next legislative session, to his next election in 2014 and to the future of his family's farm. His own family is growing, too. He and wife Melissa welcomed a son, Jackson, in 2011. As far as running for other offices, the future is wide open.

"We'll see what the future holds for my family," he says. "It's about the right opportunities at the right time."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

Chet Udell has been inventing and writing music since before he picked up his first instrument, using multicolored crayons and shapes to score his compositions.

MEGHAN SCHUCK

(BA '04, MPH '06)

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, College of Public Health and Health Professions
Environmental scientist

Meghan Schuck doesn't see patients, but her work saves lives and improves human health and the environment — one location at a time.

Schuck earned her master's degree from the UF College of Public Health and Health Professions with a concentration in environmental health in 2006 and now works as a lead project scientist for Geosyntec Consultants. Her projects involve investigation of contaminated sites — from old industrial complexes to the NASA launch complexes — and developing plans to clean up and rehabilitate the locations.

It wasn't a path she decided to take until she entered graduate school and met her UF mentor, **Steve Roberts**, PhD, an expert in contaminated site remediation and environmental health. While a graduate student, she worked on an environmental health study examining the people who lived around Lake Apopka. That experience allowed her to explore the issues associated with conducting environmental health research and also meet the people her work affected.

"Ultimately, our work leads to something that benefits the whole community," she says. "It is great to see projects progress and positive improvements made that restore critical habitat and provide safe conditions for residents and workers."

Schuck's projects have taken her across the country, and with each one, she learns something new. Her expertise has also slowly evolved from focusing solely on how contamination poses human health risks to understanding the impact on ecological risks as well.

As an environmental consultant, she was the technical lead and primary author on four multimillion-dollar ecological and human health assessments conducted under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Superfund program. She has also provided technical support for toxic tort litigation, cancer cluster investigations and environmental forensic investigations.

Although her work at this point has centered most on site investigation and remediation, eventually, she'd like to get involved with the redevelopment process, too.

Initially based in Tampa, Schuck moved in 2011 to Geosyntec's Chicago office. That same year, she was selected as one of the PHHP's Outstanding Young Alumna, an honor that still humbles her.

"It was a surprise," she says. "I was honored."

— April Frawley Birdwell (BSJ '02)

MIKE SULKOWSKI

(MED '07, PhD '11)

College of Education
Assistant professor,
School Psychology Program
at University of Arizona

Research for research's sake doesn't much appeal to Mike Sulkowski. What ignites his curiosity is school psychology research with real-world application. Take, for instance, his current research on cyberbullying.

"Cyberbullying is a particular form of peer victimization that happens via the forms of cyber technology that millions of youth use," says Sulkowski. "It can be just as harmful as on-site bullying at school. Kids aren't at school 24/7, but they can be connected to cyberspace almost 24/7, so cyberbullying isn't something that is easy to get away from. My research project helps youth cope with cyberbullying and uses the same technology they use every day."

Sulkowski is working with a team to develop a software application that will provide victims of cyberbullying with emotional and informational support as well as connect them with mental health professionals. He expects the research project to take place over the next four years.

"I'm very selective, very deliberate and very persistent about the research projects I decide to pursue," he says. "I love being able to explore a question or topic and challenge myself to find an answer."

His passionate persistence has garnered him much recognition, including the Melissa Institute Belfer-Aptman Dissertation Research Award for his study of qualities that impact campus safety at UF. He also won numerous other awards, including the 2013 UFAA Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

A native of Buffalo, N.Y., Sulkowski obtained his bachelor's in psychology and history from Canisius College. When he began interviewing at universities to pursue graduate degrees, one interview at UF made the decision easier.

"I had instant connection with **Dr. Tom Oakland**, who was then a professor of school psychology at UF," says Sulkowski. "Dr. Oakland became my adviser and really turned me on to the research. He inspired me to be the kind of teacher he was."

Now an assistant professor of school psychology at the University of Arizona, Sulkowski says, "The best part of teaching is the dialogue with the students and watching them develop. It's just as gratifying as my research."

Despite his physical distance from UF, Sulkowski maintains strong ties with the university. He is co-authoring a book on delivering cognitive behavior therapy to schools with **Dr. Diana Joyce** of the UF department of psychology.

— JoAnn Guildry

CHET UDELL

(MFA '08, PhD '12)

College of Fine Arts
Instructor of music technology
and intermedia at the University
of Oregon; chief inventor and chief
technology officer for eMotion
Technologies LLC

Chet Udell has been inventing and writing music since before he picked up his first instrument, using multicolored crayons and shapes to score his compositions. When he started playing trombone in middle school, his passion for music took off — one that has taken him down a trailblazing path.

Udell's self-taught trombone skills garnered him a scholarship to Stetson University, where he discovered his interest in music technology. "I was fascinated by the ability to engineer sound and create musical pieces," he says. "It was a really strange rabbit hole, but I was attracted to the strange."

Udell wasn't accepted into UF's music composition master's program the first time he applied, but he took that opportunity to bolster his portfolio and gained admission the following year. While working toward his doctorate in music composition, Udell

decided to take a different road and feed his curiosity for the technical by adding engineering classes.

Stimulating his analytical side ultimately led to the creation of a unique musical technology that became part of his dissertation. The ready-to-use system he created allows the augmenting of instruments and performance with sensing technology and electronics. Transmitters called "eMotes™" attach to an instrument allowing the musician to control elements like performance lighting and sound without cords, cables or pedals, instead using natural performance gestures.

"I had this fantastic piece of technology toward the end of my dissertation; a technology that could be easily marketed and sold," Udell says.

To commercialize the prototype technology, Udell founded eMotion Technologies LLC in 2012 and in January 2013 gained an exclusive license by the UF Office of Technology Licensing to begin producing the technology commercially.

While launching eMotion was a highlight in Udell's career, one of his proudest achievements is winning first prize in the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the U.S./American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Student Commission Competition in 2010, a first for a UF composer.

"The [award] opened many more opportunities, and my music was featured on subsequent SEAMUS albums for 2012 and 2013," he says.

"There are very few musicians who are composers that end up with a patent and a licensing agreement," says Udell, now a professor at the University of Oregon. "I feel very accomplished about crossing those borders." ●

— Giannina Smith Bedford