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—Scott Michael, FGCU associate professor of biological science

## CUTTING EDGE CAMPUSES

FGCU, Edison College focus on research, teaching

BY MICHELLE START  
Florida Weekly Correspondent

The cure for the Dengue fever, influenza and a variety of other diseases may lie in the laboratories at Florida Gulf Coast University. There, three professor-scientists are using a nearly \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Defense to research ways to keep viruses from attaching themselves to human cells.

"We want to cure infectious diseases," said Scott Michael, associate professor of biological sciences. "HIV, flu in general, bird flu, Dengue fever, these are major pathogens that kill more people in a week than have died dur-

ing the entire Iraq war. I want to have an impact on some of these

things."

Along with Sharon Isern, associate professor of biological science, and Jose Barreto, professor of chemistry, Michael is spending more time researching than teaching.

Isern and Michael, the biology team, use makeshift labs — one is in a former FGCU animal kennel — to engineer

**Noteworthy:** Researchers applied for FGCU's first patent this year.

SEE FGCU A8 ►

FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO  
Virus cultures incubate in an FGCU lab.

## Edison producing top medical grads

BY ROGER WILLIAMS  
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Contrary to French wisdom, at Edison College, the more things change, the more they don't remain the same. Which is lucky for that vast talent pool of hard roaders: people born to parents who can't or won't pay for expensive higher educations; or people a little too wild to pin down high grade point averages or celestial SAT scores when they're 16 or 17, thus opening the doors at high-falutin' universities; or people who decide to retool their careers and rebuild their skills right in the middle of a Be-It-All, Do-It-All American hat trick —

SEE EDISON A6 ►



FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO

Edison College's cardiac catheterization lab was only the eighth in the nation to be accredited, and now numbers as one of 22 nationally.



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Artist Stephen Johnson creates masterpieces out of junk. C1 ►



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