

the space only for life science, research companies, or other "high quality tenants;" having buildings certified by the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership Energy and Environmental Design Program; and leaving 60 percent of the land as open space.

Other unique qualities of Madden's development may be dictated by the buildings tenants and their employees. An estimated 800 positions for PhD qualified candidates at the research park will add some new faces to Lee County's still growing population of over 600,000, the largest in the region.

"Our tenants are not looking for cookie cutter," Brown said. "The scientific community is different. They want some unique things, like reading nooks in their buildings."

## FGCU scientists on biotech's cutting edge

FLORIDA WEEKLY STAFF REPORT  
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Florida Gulf Coast University received a \$1.5 million grant in the Spring to continue research that will help develop the United States' biodefense potential and provide new technologies with civilian applications.

It could also spell the cure for Dengue fever, influenza and a variety of other infectious diseases.

Professor Jose Barreto, and associate professors of biotechnology Sharon Isern and Scott Michael are researching ways to keep viruses from attaching themselves to human cells.

Isern and Michael have already applied for one patent - FGCU's first in its brief history. It could, after years of testing and government approvals, be the basis of a new drug.

The scientists work with low risk viruses - parts of infectious viruses that won't make you sick - out of the university's biosafety level-2 labs. When they need to have tests done on the real virus, a safe lab - where scientists don space suits in highly secure facilities, similar to the labs in the film "Outbreak" - does the work. Most of it goes to the University of Texas at Galveston, which houses one of the four level-4 labs in North America.

FGCU has established the capability to develop and test new biocides, platform sensor technologies, and binding/inactivating complexes that can be utilized both individually, and as combined technologies. These new technologies can be used to develop new pathogen detection, capture and destruction instruments. The Biotechnology Research Group at Florida Gulf Coast University has assembled a team of chemists, molecular biologists, and virologists to address these questions.

FGCU scientists believe their work will further develop research opportunities for students, contribute to meeting the national need for the pursuit of quantitative sciences and math, increase technologies that improve public health around the nation, enhance understanding of issues that will affect life for the rest of the century, and contribute to developing an informed public. ■

There might be libraries built into the lobby, for example. And the location is out of the way, at the end of meandering Chamberlain Road off Daniels Parkway. The millions of dollars worth of research equipment that will be kept there - Brown called the numbers "staggering" - will be kept secure by Port Authority and Lee County law enforcement.

BioFlorida Chairman Knab predicts the development will take off quickly.

"Once you light the match, things really go," he said

But although the project has practically unanimous support among public officials, it still must contend with Florida's tough development regulations. Brown said the project's momentum has gone through ups and downs as it waits to pass inspection by agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Bureau and U.S. Army Core of Engineers.

"Because of the process (in Florida), we have lost tenants," he said. "With water and environmental impacts it's a huge issue."

And since it's built at the airport, the company must pass inspection by at least one more level of bureaucracy, the Federal Aviation Administration, on its way to laying the first brick.

The first tenant, yet to be announced, is already waiting to move into the first 60,000 square foot building, Brown said.

### Madden's credits

The John Madden Company, which was founded in the mid-1960s in Omaha, Neb., has developed nearly 10 million square feet of office and related space in Colorado, Nebraska, Arizona, California, Michigan, Wyoming and Iowa. Past clients include Prudential, Information Handling Services, Chevron USA, Rockwell Automotive, Allstate Insurance, Equitable Real Estate and Eastdil Advisors. The company offers integrated real estate development services including land acquisition, construction management, brokerage and leasing, asset management and property management.

The company has been headquartered in Denver's Greenwood Plaza since 1970, and has received national attention for the plaza's innovative approach to master planning and development and its mix of art, architecture and landscaping. Other award-winning projects developed by John Madden Company include the Harlequin Plaza in Denver, which is included in the architectural book "Plazas of the 20th Century;" Plaza Tower One, the tallest building in Southeast Denver and the winner of the Building Owners and Managers Association's Building of the Year Award; and the 150 West Jefferson building in Detroit, which has won several awards for its distinctive architectural character.

And Madden is no stranger to Southwest Florida. His team often invokes the spirit of Fort Myer's most famous historic researcher and entrepreneur, Thomas Edison.

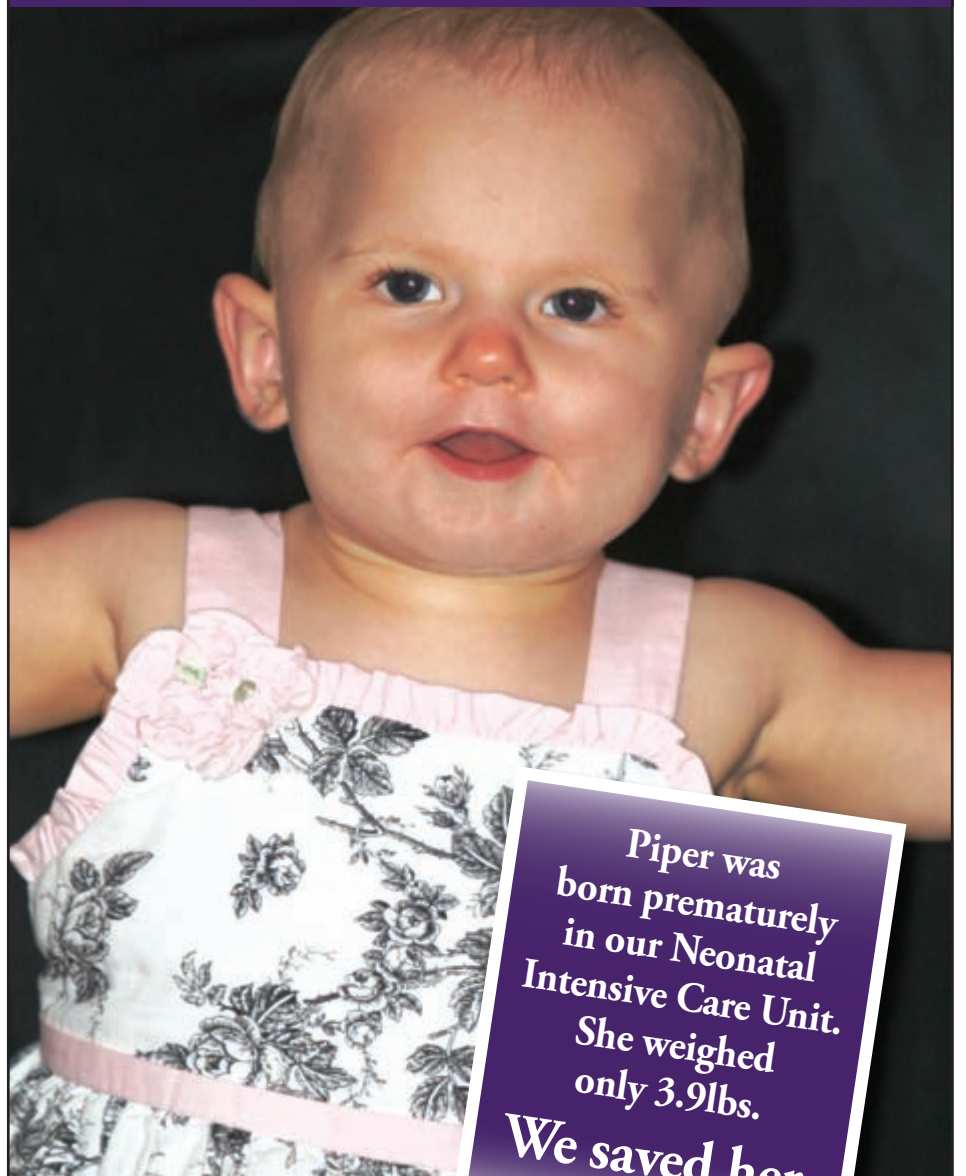
For example, when Madden described the research park project to 33 members of Leadership Lee County's 2008 class this spring, who were in Denver attending the Community Leadership Association's annual conference.

"It will be a phenomenal success right from the start," he said. "Southwest Florida has always had an innovative spirit. Thomas Edison came here to think, not to get away."

But Madden's company went further than just conjuring up old, local scientists. They hired Lee County companies to see the development through, rather than simply bringing in Madden's established teams from Colorado. Owen-Ames-Kimball/Steve Shimp is handling construction, for example, and Parker-Mudgett Smith will serve as architects.

"It'd be very easy for me to bring my Colorado crew, but they're not vested in this," Brown said. ■

# I was saved.



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