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Dr. J. Michael '78 and Ruth DiMaio Honor Dr. Bleiweis

Gainesville, FL, February 18, 2019 - Dr. DiMaio has a distinguished career as a cardio-thoracic surgeon, scientist and entrepreneur in the Dallas, TX area. While earning his Bachelor's degree from the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences in microbiology and cell science, Dr. DiMaio worked closely with microbiology professor, Dr. Arnold Bleiweis.

Dr. Bleiweis's approach to research and personal development promoted innovation in the sciences, offered guidance and gave Dr. DiMaio an encouraging faculty connection to pursue leadership roles. This influence carried with Dr. DiMaio through medical school, residency and into his early career.

As Dr. DiMaio's career developed, he combined his medical knowledge and interest in innovation to found Spectral MD. Spectral MD, a medical device company focused on DeepView Wound Imaging System, provides a non-invasive digital approach to deliver blood flow and tissue composition under the skins surface.

Dr. DiMaio and Ruth have honored Dr. Bleiweis's developmental influence by creating the Dr. Bleiweis Innovation Academy fund. This fund will support student programing and engagement opportunities within Innovation Academy, in hopes that more students will follow their interests, pursue their goals and find the support of faculty and staff within the University of Florida.

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The Innovation Academy (UF IA) is one of the nation's most forward-looking undergraduate programs – at one of its most dynamic research universities. UF IA gives motivated students a small-college experience focused on innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, ethics and leadership on a unique spring-summer schedule. UF IA enrolls and supports academically talented students focused on developing knowledge to grow new business opportunities, services and products through curricular and non-curricular experiences.

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