

## The Blog

### APA another way to have campus say

The Academic and Professional Assembly is the University of Florida's advisory, networking and service group for professional staff. Formed in the spring of 2003, the APA consists of all TEAMS A employees and faculty members who are not included in the Faculty Senate for a total membership of about 2,100 employees.

Top university leaders and administrators increasingly are seeking out the APA for input on a number of campus issues, including:

- University committee appointments
- Staff opinion survey
- PeopleSoft improvements
- Shared governance
- Homecoming holiday

A recent major focus of APA has been to improve internal communications across campus and to increase learning opportunities for professional staff. This past summer, APA partnered with Human Resource Services to present seminars on nonreappointment and flexible work schedules. And in August, APA sponsored guided walking tours of the newly renovated Library West for campus staff.

On Oct. 12, APA will hold the first of several Lunch and Learn events designed to promote open and timely discussion of important campus issues. The first speaker in the series is Danaya Wright, chair of the Faculty Senate, who will speak on shared governance. APA members should look for registration details for this and other APA-sponsored events via e-mail.

APA meetings are held monthly and the standing APA committees are human resources, internal communications, survey and community service.

For more information about the APA, including the complete 2006-2007 meeting schedule and speakers, visit the APA Web site at [www.apassemblies.ufl.edu](http://www.apassemblies.ufl.edu).

Make a difference – get involved in the APA.

Diane Craig  
President, APA



Diane Craig

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### Homecoming steeped in 100 years of tradition

Encouraged to “Relive the Tradition,” members of the Gator Nation can celebrate Homecoming 2006 with festivities highlighting 100 years of Florida football and the 10-year anniversary of the Gators’ first national championship.

Most University of Florida offices will be closed Friday for the celebration, which will get under way at 11 a.m. with the annual Gator Gallop.

Gator Gallop, a two-mile run starting at the Percy Beard Track, is a chance for all members of the Gator Nation, including pets, to be a part of the official escort for the Homecoming parade. The race continues down Southwest Second Avenue onto University Avenue and finishes just before 13th Street. Awards will be given to both the male and female winners.

The 83rd annual Homecoming parade will follow at noon beginning at Gale Lemerand Drive and ending at Main Street. More than 100,000 people are expected to line the streets to show their

Gator spirit. For those who cannot attend, the parade will be broadcast live on WUFT-TV, in conjunction with Cox Communications. An estimated 300,000 people in north Central Florida tuned in last year to watch the festivities.

Later on Friday, Gator Growl, the largest student-run pep rally in the nation, will begin at 7 p.m. in Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. Comedians Jim Gaffigan and Gabriel Iglesias are scheduled to perform in what is billed as a family friendly event.

“We’re really trying to bring it back to its roots,” said Lauren Fackender, president of Florida Blue Key. “We want to take it back to the feel of a pep rally and charge it with Gator spirit.”

In a new addition to the event, student athletic teams will be introduced in an Olympic-style procession.

“We want to be able to celebrate and honor all of our NCAA teams,” said Eric White, producer of this year’s Gator Growl, adding that more than 500 student volunteers have been working for the past year to pull the event together.

For ticket information, visit the Web at [www.gatorgrowl.org](http://www.gatorgrowl.org).

After all those high-action events, Gator fans are invited



UF file photo

No Homecoming is complete without Albert and Alberta.

to relax the next day before the big game against Louisiana State University at the annual Alumni Homecoming Barbecue held in the O’Connell Center. Tickets are \$8 in advance and while attendees enjoy Hill’s Bar-B-Que & Catering, they will be treated to performances by the cheerleaders, the Dazzlers, and Albert and Alberta.

A tradition for more than 80 years, UF homecoming dates back to 1923 when President A.A. Murphree suggested the all-male students invite their fathers to campus to learn about the university.

Students organized into what is now known as Florida Blue Key and came together to plan a “Dad’s Day” in the fall with a football game as the main event. The day was a success and continued the following year with a new name and “Homecoming” was born.

By Panagiota Papakos



Jim Gaffigan



Gabriel Iglesias

## Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida compiled from the full calendar that appears on the Web at [calendar.ufl.edu](http://calendar.ufl.edu).

To submit an event online, send an e-mail to [calndar@nersp.osg.ufl.edu](mailto:calndar@nersp.osg.ufl.edu) with the following information in this order: date; name, brief description and sponsor; time; location; costs; and contact information to include name, phone number and e-mail.

**Oct. 5**  
4 p.m., Center for Exercise Science talk on “Thermokinetic Control of Mitochondrial Oxidative Phosphorylation: Functional Implications,” Wayne Willis, Arizona State University, Florida Gym, Room 1

**Oct. 6**  
11 a.m., Gator Gallop, two-mile race kicks off noon Homecoming parade, Percy Beard Track

**Oct. 9**  
7:30 p.m., College of Fine Arts recital with saxophonist Pat Meijhan, University Auditorium

**Oct. 10**  
7:30 p.m., UF International Center talk “War With Iran: Avoidable or Inevitable,” Sanam Vakil, McCarty Hall C, Room 100

**Oct. 11**  
7:30 a.m., Community Campus Council Breakfast, Reitz Student Union, Arredondo Room

7:30 p.m., Symphonic Band concert, University Auditorium

**Florida Museum of Natural History**  
“Biodiversity: A Biologist’s Perspective,” exhibit featuring scientific illustrations by UF botany doctoral student Camila Pizano, on display through Dec. 10

**Galleries**  
“Jim Roche’s Motorcycle Maps” on display through Nov. 9 at University Gallery, with talk at 7 p.m., Oct. 13

## In Focus

### UF researcher given prestigious professorship from Poland

Eva Czarnecka-Verner may have the most unusual academic bragging rights on the University of Florida campus.

She received her professorship from a head of state.

The UF microbiology researcher received Poland’s most prestigious professorship, called the Belvedere. It recognizes a lifetime dedicated to scientific research, education and society.

Czarnecka-Verner, who works for the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, went to Warsaw in June, where she was one of about 100 academic leaders to receive professorships at Polish universities from President Lech Kaczynski.

Poland is one of the few countries where elite professorial nominations come from the head of state.

The presidential palace ceremony included ornate decorations, elaborately designed food, historic 17th- to 19th-century paintings in rooms with gigantic columns and much pomp and circumstance, Czarnecka-Verner said.

“There was this humongous room, with a crystal chandelier.... A lush carpet ... just incredible,” she said.

As female professors received their congratulations, they were given three long-stemmed roses and a kiss on the hand from Kaczynski.

Czarnecka-Verner, whose research has focused on heat stress in plants, remembers a “burning drive” to be a scientist at age 16.

Her life’s work could eventually help scientists engineer plants that are more resistant to heat or cold. She and other UF scientists also have been working to create plants that could signal—by changing colors—the presence of explosives.

Czarnecka-Verner arrived in the United States from Poland in 1981, her suitcase filled with two pairs of jeans and stuffed with her doctoral thesis and scientific publications. Six months later, her home country was under martial law.

She’s proud of the achievement, but seems equally happy about the connection she’s established between UF and Adam



Eva Czarnecka-Verner, University of Florida microbiology researcher, accepts congratulations from Poland’s President Lech Kaczynski on receiving the Belvedere professorship.

Mickiewicz University in Poznan, where she’s agreed to teach an intensive molecular genetics course once a year and hopes to encourage students to follow her here to study.

By Mickie Anderson

## Seen & Heard

### Seminar focuses on Florida landscapes

Fred Gratto, a 21-year veteran landscaper at the University of Florida, will share some of his campus landscape techniques during a presentation at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 11, in Room 347 of the Reitz Student Union. In “The Campus Landscape and What It Means to You,” Gratto will show how some landscape techniques used on the UF campus may be translated to back yards across north Central Florida. The free program is sponsored by the Grounds Department of the UF Physical Plant. For additional information, contact Gratto at 392-1148 or [fgratto@ufl.edu](mailto:fgratto@ufl.edu).

The scholars program was founded in August 2004 as a way to reward and utilize the most effective educators. Selection is highly competitive and based solely on merit. Nominations for the next group are due by Jan. 16. No e-mail nominations will be accepted. Copies of the nomination form and required materials may be downloaded at <http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/career/awards.shtml>.

### UF teaching academy names five new members

Linda Behar-Horenstein, professor, College of Education; James W. Lynch, professor, College of Medicine; Gregory Ulmer, professor, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Rick Rudd, former associate professor, IFAS; and Paul Doering, distinguished service professor, College of Pharmacy, are the newest members of the University of Florida Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars.

This year’s awardees will serve for three years on the faculty development advisory

board, developing programs and workshops that enhance the professional careers and experiences of faculty. Members retain the title of Distinguished Teaching Scholar and continue to be a part of the academy upon completion of their terms.

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### Book brings UF history to life

Coinciding with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the University of Florida in Gainesville, Julian Pleasants, director of the Samuel Proctor Oral History Center, has written “Gator Tales: An Oral History of the University of Florida.” The new University Press of Florida book combines history with serious and humorous recollections from faculty, administra-



“Marsden Hartley: American Modern,” collection of work from 1908-1941, on display through Dec. 31

### Theater

**Oct. 15-22**  
School of Theatre and Dance presents “Waiting for Godot,” Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion; Sundays, 2 p.m.; weekdays, 8 p.m.

### Phillips Center

**Oct. 5**  
7:30 p.m., UF Symphony Orchestra presents “Carmina Burana”

tors, athletes and students, and weaves a tapestry of personalities and key participants in the evolution of UF from a small provincial campus to a major university.

### UF receives \$250,000 in faculty career grant

The University of Florida is among five universities to receive the 2006 Alfred P. Sloan Awards for Faculty Career Flexibility.

Each award includes a \$250,000 accelerator grant that will enable the universities to expand, promote and enhance flexible career paths for faculty. The awards recognize research universities for their leadership and accomplishments in implementing groundbreaking policies and practices supporting career flexibility for tenured and tenure-track faculty.

UF will use its award in part to introduce initiatives designed to establish additional policies, stimulate cross-campus discussions, standardize practices and encourage career flexibility choices.

The awards program was sponsored by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and conducted by the American Council on Education (ACE) with support from the Families and Work Institute. The other universities to receive awards are Duke University, Lehigh University, University of California (Berkeley and Davis campuses) and University of Washington.

**Oct. 11**  
7:30 p.m., Mikel Rouse “The End of Cinematics”

**Oct. 13-14**  
7:30 p.m., Dance Alive National Ballet presents “Carmina Burana”

### O’Connell Center

**Oct. 10-11**  
“Sesame Street Live: Super Grover! Ready for Action” performs three shows: 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., Oct. 10; and 7 p.m., Oct. 11

### Academic Calendar

**Oct. 6-7**  
Homecoming, no classes

## Note This

### Open enrollment begins for sick leave pool

Open enrollment for the University of Florida sick leave pool continues through Tuesday, Oct. 31, for qualifying employees who have accumulated at least 64 hours of sick leave. The minimum balance requirement is prorated for part-time employees. Members who have exhausted all of their leave hours for personal, catastrophic injury or illness may draw on the pool with approval from the sick leave pool committee. Applications are available online at [www.hr.ufl.edu/forms/benefits/slapplication.pdf](http://www.hr.ufl.edu/forms/benefits/slapplication.pdf) or at any Human Resources office. For more information, contact Central Leave Administration at [central-leave@ufl.edu](mailto:central-leave@ufl.edu) or 392-5732.

### Awards program taking nominations

The deadline to nominate an outstanding University of Florida employee for a Superior Accomplishment Award is Tuesday, Oct. 31. Now in its 17th year, the awards program recognizes academic personnel and TEAMS and USPS employees who make the extra effort to contribute to their fields of service. Nominations should consider work done from Aug. 1, 2005, to July 31, 2006.

For information on the program and the nomination criteria or to download nomination forms, visit the Web at [www.hr.ufl.edu/saa/default.htm](http://www.hr.ufl.edu/saa/default.htm). Self-nominations are not accepted.

### Nominations sought for international educator

The deadline for colleges to submit nominations for the International Educator of the Year Award is Tuesday, Oct. 31. The award recognizes outstanding international endeavors by University of Florida faculty. Most colleges may submit nominations for two awards – one for untenured or newly tenured faculty and one for senior faculty. The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Medicine may nominate two faculty members for each award. Direct questions and nominations to Dennis Jett at [djett@ufl.edu](mailto:djett@ufl.edu) or 392-5323, ext. 501.

### Don’t forget ...

Open enrollment runs through Oct. 18. Contact University Benefits at 392-1225 or [benefits@ufl.edu](mailto:benefits@ufl.edu) for more information.

The UF Community Campaign ends Oct. 6. Visit [www.ufcc.ufl.edu](http://www.ufcc.ufl.edu) for more information.