

## PAWS program offers veterinary care, support to seriously ill pet owners

Many people who suffer from debilitating illnesses such as cancer and AIDS struggle emotionally, physically and financially to care for themselves, let alone their four-legged family members.

Enter the Pets Are Wonderful Support group, or PAWS, at the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine.

“We generally have 20 to 30 clients, and each of them can have a limit of three pets that we’ll treat,” said Jenna Ashton, class of 2007, who since 2001 has played a key role in running PAWS and currently serves as its vice president of surgery.

Richard Martin, a retired Pacific Bell employee whose income is a monthly disability check, said he first heard about PAWS through the Ryan White program at the public health department. Martin said he has been bringing Rip – his 13-year-old Rhodesian ridgeback crossbred dog – to PAWS for routine physical examinations for five or six years.

“It has really been a blessing for us,” said Martin, who acquired Rip as a puppy from his nephew. “I probably couldn’t afford to have a pet if I had to pay all the costs my-

self, after rent, utilities and insurance.” PAWS works with representatives of community organizations that serve individuals with special health needs to identify potential clients. Participants must certify that they have a terminal or debilitating illness, and that they meet low-income criteria.

“The program was patterned after one in California that was set up specifically to help AIDS patients at a time when they were considered pariahs and often had no one for emotional support, except their pets,” said veterinarian Jack Gaskin, who along with veterinarian Amy Stone, serves as PAWS’ clinical instructor and adviser. Veterinarian Natalie Isaza is the group’s surgery supervisor.

Gaskin added that PAWS volunteers are compassionate, community-minded and dedicated to the true calling for many veterinarians: the human-animal bond.

“Our clients are needy and very grateful that these young professionals-to-be take time from their busy schedules to assist them and their pets,” Gaskin said. “It’s very much a mutually beneficial relationship.”

By Sarah Carey



Sarah Carey  
Hope Jankunas, a University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine junior, sits with PAWS program client Richard Martin and his dog, Rip, outside UF’s Veterinary Medical Center. Martin brought Rip to the center for a rabies shot.

## UF Voices

### UF grabs headlines before holiday break

Greetings, students, faculty and staff! I hope you had a wonderful holiday, and that you return to campus refreshed and excited about the new year.

Many of you were away in the final week before the break. In case you missed it, I want to bring to your attention some remarkable press coverage the University of Florida received that week.

On Dec. 20, The New York Times ran a front page story headlined “Public universities chase excellence, at a price.” The story discussed many public universities’ efforts to rise in the rankings while remaining affordable and accessible – and it used the University of Florida as its centerpiece.

One paragraph in the article said, “At some of the best public universities, selectivity is up: at the University of Florida, the average student high school grade point average now exceeds 4.0, a feat achievable only with high grades in honors or Advanced Placement classes. And student interest in these institutions is soaring.”

On the same day, The Washington Post ran a story – on its front page – about new findings on mental exercise and aging, findings that were, in part, the work of a University of Florida researcher. UF’s Michael Marsiske, a clinical and health psychologist, and colleagues at other universities concluded that mental exercise staved off mental decline in middle-aged and elderly people, the Post reported.

Here at UF, we sometimes take our progress as one of the nation’s best research universities for granted. But in the outside world, our story is steadily becoming better known. That’s what makes these articles in prominent venues so exciting.

With your hard work, support and enthusiasm, I know we will continue to make major strides this spring.

*J. Bernard Machen*

J. Bernard Machen  
President



J. Bernard Machen

## Top Stories

### Awareness key to bicycle-pedestrian safety

With more than 50,000 faculty, staff and students at the University of Florida sharing campus sidewalks and roadways with the more than 30,000 bicycles registered at the UF Police Department, pedestrian-bicycle run-ins are bound to happen on occasion.

UPD’s Lt. Robert Wagner says most pedestrian-bicyclist collisions can be avoided if all parties would be more aware of their surroundings.

Students often talk on cell phones while they walk or eat their lunches as they ride their bikes. These activities may be an efficient use of time, but they are far from safe.

“The easiest way to avoid a bike accident is to give a warning when you are coming up behind a pedestrian,” Wagner said. “I can count on one hand the number of bike bells I have ever seen. The easiest thing to do is to give a verbal warning



Kristen Bartlett

The tunnel under Southwest 13th Street on the University of Florida campus provides designated bike lanes on either side of the path and a pedestrian lane in the center.

when you are coming up behind a pedestrian. It is also something that is required by law.”

Pedestrians often don’t see a bicycle approaching from behind, Wagner said. He encourages bicyclists to plan ahead, just in case someone walks in front of them.

Additionally, Wagner advises pedestrians and bicyclists to stay in their designated lanes. The bike lanes are for bicycles, not for foot traffic. Likewise, cyclists should try to skirt areas of heavy pedestrian congestion, such as the Hub and the Turlington Plaza area, as much as possible.

UPD offers a safety class for bicyclists who have received citations. The class is held weekly at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays and at 9 a.m. on Saturdays. Wagner said the 90-minute class is a great way to become familiar with bicycle laws, safety tips, safety equipment and theft protection, as well as learn how to be a defensive bike rider.

Pedestrians also share responsibilities with bicyclists for keeping sidewalks and roadways safe. To learn more about bicycle laws and other safety tips, visit the UPD Web site at [www.police.ufl.edu/](http://www.police.ufl.edu/).

By Cory Frederick

### Bicycle-pedestrian traffic rules to live by

According to the Department of Safety and Motor Vehicles Web site, Florida has ranked in the top five states for bicycle-related fatalities and injuries in the past five years. The following information from the University of Florida Police Department bicycle course outline is valuable to both pedestrians and bicyclists:

- A bicycle is defined as any vehicle operated solely by human power or an electric “helper” motor.
- Traffic lanes and bicycle lanes travel in the same direction as motor vehicles.
- Bicycle paths and sidewalks may travel in either direction.
- Bicyclists should yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, sidewalks or in roadways.
- Bicyclists must give warnings when passing pedestrians. Warnings may be verbal.
- All bicycles must have a white front lamp that is visible from 500 feet and a rear red lamp visible from 600 feet.
- If riding on a one-way road with two or more lanes, a bicyclist may ride as close to the left-hand curb or edge of roadway as practical.
- According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, wearing a helmet reduces the chance of head injury by 85 percent. In 2005, 86 percent of all bicyclists who were killed in bicycle accidents were not wearing a helmet.

Compiled by Cory Frederick

## Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida compiled from entries listed in 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: event date; event name, brief description and sponsor; time; location; costs; and contact information to include name, phone number and e-mail. Events, dates, times and programs are subject to change.

**Jan. 10**  
7:30 a.m., Community Campus Council Breakfast, Reitz Student Union, Arredondo Room

**Jan. 12-13**  
8:30 a.m., Department of Statistics winter workshop, “Environmental and Environmental Health Statistics,” Reitz Student Union

**Jan. 14**  
4 p.m., Interpreti Veneziani, University Auditorium

**Galleries**  
“Ten Plus Ten: Revisiting Pattern & Decoration (P&D),” sampling of works by 10 prominent artists, through Jan. 12, University Gallery

“Photographing Paris,” selection of photos by UF Honors students, through Jan. 12, Focus Gallery



“Visual Communication with the Gods: Hindu Art in Context,” an exhibition curated by Jeremy Underwood for his museum studies thesis project, through Jan. 12, Grinter Gallery

**Harn Museum of Art**  
“Spinach Green and Mutton-fat White: Chinese Jades of the Qing Dynasty” through January

## Seen & Heard

### Shared governance topic of faculty meeting

The second session in the faculty development conversation on shared governance is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Jan. 11 at Emerson Alumni Hall. The daylong workshop and discussion will feature Bernice Durand, vice provost for diversity and climate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Frank Cerra, senior vice president, health science center at the University of Minnesota. Contact Debra Walker King at [dwking@aa.ufl.edu](mailto:dwking@aa.ufl.edu) or 392-6004 for more information and registration details.

### Business professor tackles global warming on TV special

Professor Joel Cohen, distinguished service professor of marketing at the Warrington College of Business, will appear on a special Weather Channel program devoted to global climate change at 5 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 14.

Cohen’s interview emphasizes the parallel between global warming and tobacco, in both public attitudes over time, and industry behavior for companies that could suffer negative economic consequences, as well as how to better communicate action-oriented climate change/global warming messages to the general public.

Cohen’s research focuses on consumer behavior with an emphasis on the psychol-

ogy of attitude formation and change and the role played by mood and emotions.

### Black student group hosts award-winning writer

The Black Graduate Student Organization will hold its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Awards Celebration at 6 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 13, in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Student Union. Award-winning poet and author Amiri Baraka is the special guest at the event, which includes a dinner banquet and performances.

### Nursing educator honored for excellence

University of Florida College of Nursing leader Ann Horgas has received the Rose and George Doval Award for Excellence in Nursing Education.

Horgas, associate dean for research, was recognized by New York University College of Nursing for her progressive efforts in nursing education. Horgas, who has been at UF since 2000, is one of the country’s leading nurse researchers on pain and aging. She is currently conducting a National Institutes of Health-funded



Ann Horgas

“Contemporary Complexities: Photography Gifts from Martin Z. Margulies” through Feb. 25

“International Contemporary Art from the Harn Museum Collection” through July 22

### Phillips Center

**Jan. 11**  
7:30 p.m., Bulgarian State Opera’s “The Marriage of Figaro”

**Jan. 12**  
7:30 p.m., State Ballet Theatre of Russia’s “One Thousand and One Nights”



**Jan. 21**  
7:30 p.m., The Aquila Theatre Company in William Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”

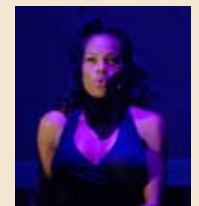


**Jan. 23**  
6 p.m., BBC National Orchestra of Wales with Joan Kwuon

**Jan. 27**  
7:30 p.m., The Royal Ballet



**Jan. 28**  
7:30 p.m., “I Can’t Stop Loving You – The Music of Ray Charles”



### Academic Calendar

**Jan. 15**  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no classes)

**Jan. 16**  
Deadline for drop/add

**Jan. 19**  
Deadline for fee payments

### Deadline extended for drop/add period

Because of the Tostitos BCS National Championship game in Arizona, the drop/add period for spring semester has been extended to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 16. This will give students more time to make decisions about their courses.

### Leisure class program opens registration

Registration for the University of Florida’s Leisure Course Program begins at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 17, with classes getting under way the week of Jan. 22. Classes are open to all faculty, staff and students. UF students receive a discounted price. To browse class offerings or register for a class, visit the Web at [www.union.ufl.edu/leisure](http://www.union.ufl.edu/leisure). For more information, call 392-2378.

### Nominations due for UF teaching scholars

The deadline to submit faculty nominations to the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars is Tuesday, Jan. 16. The lifetime honor recognizes University of Florida faculty who have excelled as teaching scholars throughout their careers. Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars serve for three years as part of an advisory panel to the Provost’s Office for Faculty Development and receive a \$5,000-a-year honorarium for their three years of active service. Members retain their Distinguished Teaching Scholar title at the end of their active service.

Nomination forms and information on other required materials are available on the Web at [www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/career/academyscholars/](http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/career/academyscholars/). Questions may be directed to Isabel Silver at [isilver@ufl.edu](mailto:isilver@ufl.edu). E-mail nominations will not be accepted.

### UF announces holidays for 2007

The University of Florida will observe the following holidays in 2007:

- Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday, Monday, Jan. 15
- Memorial Day, Monday, May 28
- Independence Day, Wednesday, July 4
- Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3
- UF Homecoming, Friday, Nov. 2
- Veterans Day (observed), Monday, Nov. 12
- Thanksgiving, Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23
- Christmas, Tuesday, Dec. 25
- Holiday closing period, Wednesday, Dec. 26, to Friday, Dec. 28, and Monday, Dec. 31