

UF Voices

The Giving Nation

The Gator Nation really is a Giving Nation! Last year, University of Florida employees contributed more than \$1 million to support the 80 agencies eligible for the Community Campaign (UFCC). These agencies provide a wide variety of services to the greater Gainesville community. The services include medical assistance, legal help, environmental protection, counseling, recreational opportunities and ensuring that children start school ready to learn. Many of these organizations count on your generous annual donations to fulfill their mission and meet the needs of their target population.



Steve Dorman

The campaign steering committee and the university leadership have already been engaged in planning this year's campaign. There will be a variety of activities around the university, and many of the area lead coordinators are planning fun activities to engage your participation in the campaign.

We are counting on your generous contributions! You can pledge online at ufcc.ufl.edu or you can complete the pledge card that your area lead coordinator will provide to you during the campaign. You may contribute by payroll deduction, check/cash or direct bill.

This year's campaign goal is \$1,234,567. We can meet this goal if we all work together. Won't you help make our community an even better place to live and work? Please join me in making a contribution to this year's community campaign, Sept. 24- Oct. 5. Visit www.ufcc.ufl.edu for more details.

As the 2007 chair for the UFCC, I thank you for your contribution, and for making The Gator Nation a Giving Nation!

Steve Dorman
Professor and Dean
College of Health and Human
Performance

Top Stories

Biofuel Research brings Gov. Crist to UF

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist's initiatives to combat climate change brought him to the University of Florida campus Aug. 31 to learn more about how researchers are creating alternative fuels.

The governor met with Lonnie Ingram, a microbiology professor who has spent more than two decades developing a technique for creating ethanol from plant waste. Ethanol, a gasoline alternative, may be a key to helping the governor reach his goal of reducing Florida's vehicle emissions by 30 percent over the next eight years.

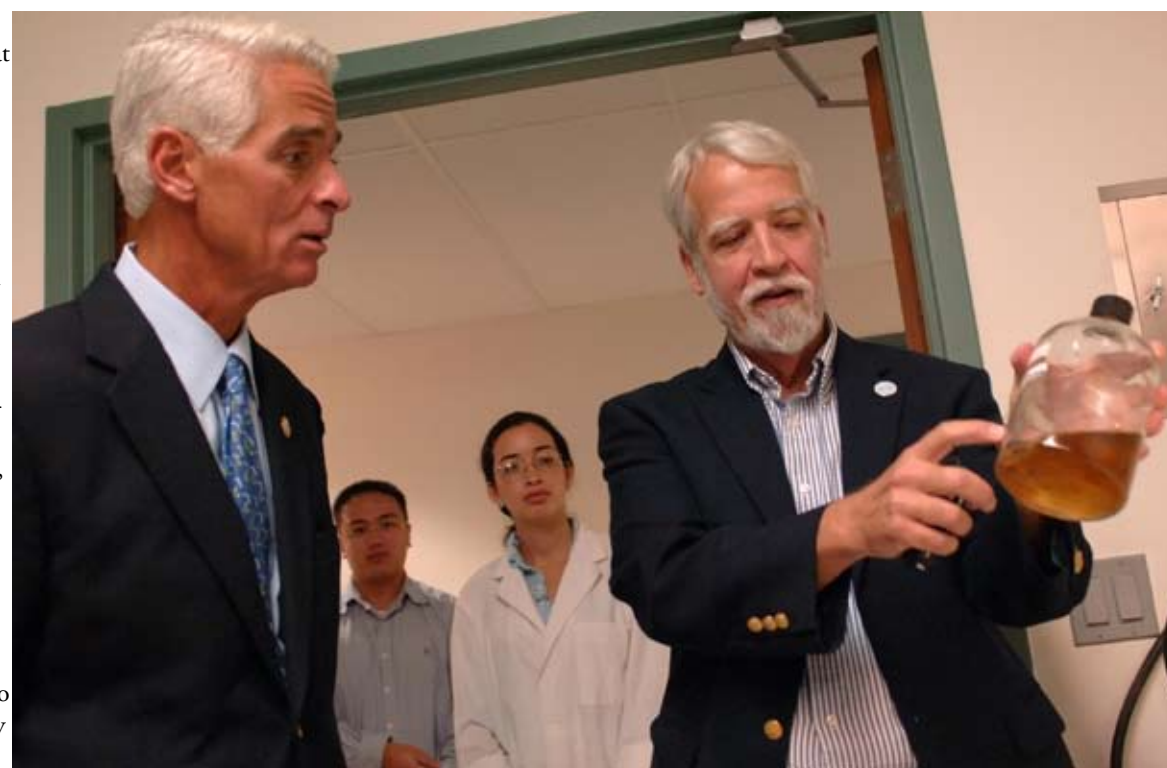
In what many believe to be a more environmentally sensitive and cost-effective alternative to using corn for ethanol production, Ingram's technology allows genetically engineered *E. coli* bacteria to convert sugars found in plant fibers into the fuel.

"I'm very proud of the work being done at the University of Florida," Crist said. "It's important for us to shine a light on this."

Ingram's work resulted in the university's first royalty check for the patented technology, based on the conversion of cellulosic biomass (inedible parts, such as stems and leaves) to ethanol.

Currently, a biofuel developer in Osaka, Japan, is using construction waste to make ethanol based on Ingram's method.

"We began our work after the first and second oil crises to look at alternatives," Ingram said. "We have a unique leadership position in Florida with ethanol technology, but we need to bring it back home and



Lonnie Ingram shows sugar cane material to Gov. Crist.

Kristen Bartlett Grace

make Florida the hub of the technology."

Last spring, the state Legislature awarded \$20 million to UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences to establish a research plant to help bring commercial cellulosic ethanol to Florida.

"We have to do these kinds of things to move us toward the future in a smart way," said Crist, who recognized state Agriculture

Florida leads the nation in tons of biomass grown each year, making the state a potential leader in the production of renewable fuels.

Commissioner Charles Bronson for pushing the grant forward. "It's also a national security issue. It's not only an environmental issue."

The grant will allow UF, in partnership with the Florida Crystals sugar company, to build a new ethanol research and demonstration plant in Palm Beach County – if negotiations between the university and the company are successful.

"He's a pioneer," Crist said. "It's amazing what's being done. There's so much opportunity for Florida to be a great leader."

Crist also toured Ingram's lab and met with graduate students who are currently conducting research. In addition, he congratulated UF for its widespread efforts toward campus sustainability and conservation of resources.

"My word is 'thank you,'" Crist said.

By Panagiota Papakos

In Focus

Breast Cancer event planned

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 24, the O'Connell Center parking lot will be more than just a place to park cars. It will be a place to educate and raise awareness of breast cancer.

Komen on the Go, housed in a colorful pink cruiser, is a mobile community education and outreach program. The event will feature various activities designed to teach visitors about breast cancer. Survivors of the disease, as well as medical professionals, will be on hand to share their experiences. Event visitors can sign a graffiti wall to either pledge support for the cause or share their memories of a loved one's experiences with breast cancer. Students, faculty and staff are all encouraged to attend.

UF's first lady, Chris Machen, is one of the organizers of the event.

"The more women we can reach with the information they give out, the better," she said. "Breast cancer is a very treatable disease, and early detection is key."

The Student Health Care Center and Healthy Gators 2010 are co-sponsors of this event.

Seen & Heard

Summit encourages alternative energy advancements

University of Florida faculty members recently participated in the Alternative Energy Summit at the Jupiter Beach Resort, Jupiter Beach, Fla. On Aug. 27, Eric Wachsman, director of the Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy (<http://www.mae.ufl.edu/Energy>), gave a presentation titled "Why Florida Should Lead in Sustainable Energy." Lonnie Ingram, director of the Florida Center for Renewable Chemicals and Fuels, and Aliriza Haghghat, chairman of the Nuclear and Radiological Engineering department, were the other speakers from UF. U.S. Rep. Tim Mahoney was the honorary summit chair.

The summit brought together academic, industrial, business, and public-sector energy leaders to explore the future role that Florida will play in alternative energy. Summit discussions included how to establish Florida as the center of alternative energy-source development in the southeastern U.S., and ways to attract, retain and grow targeted businesses in the alternative energy field.

Law professor to speak on government surveillance

Levin College of Law Professor Chris Slobogin will speak on "The Constitution and Surveillance by the Government" from noon to 1 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 19 at the law school's Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom.

The speech will address efforts by the U.S. government to obtain large amounts of information about everyday transactions of both American citizens and foreign nationals during the post-Sept. 11 era. Observation by digital cameras and other surveillance devices will be discussed, and Slobogin will explore how this surveillance should be governed by the Constitution.

The speech is part of the University of Florida's commemoration of Constitution Day. In 2004, President Bush signed a bill into law which mandates that educational institutions receiving federal funding hold

a commemorative event to recognize Constitution Day. The official designation of Constitution Day is Sept. 17.

Professor Slobogin occupies the Stephen C. O'Connell chair at the Levin College of Law. He is an accomplished author on both law enforcement issues and the Constitution. His book, "Privacy at Risk: The New Government Surveillance and the Fourth Amendment," will soon be published by the University of Chicago Press.

By Alex Stern



Chris Slobogin

Top scholar chosen for \$1.5 million endowed chair

The brand-new David Lawrence Jr. Endowed Chair of Early Childhood Studies at the University of Florida's College of Education has its first occupant. UF created the \$1.5 million endowed chair last year, in an effort to attract a world-class scholar.

Patricia Snyder is that world-class scholar, and brings to UF nearly 30 years of experience in linking public and private sectors on behalf of early childhood education and care.

Lawrence, the namesake of Snyder's new professorship, retired in 1999 as publisher of The Miami Herald. The 1963 UF graduate of the College of Journalism and Communications joined the UF faculty in 2001 as the University Scholar for Early Childhood Development and Readiness.



Patricia Snyder

Bob Graham Center advocates civic education

The FCAT (state test for primary and secondary students) does not include social studies curriculum. Some teachers think it should.

Staff members of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service at the University of Florida agree with those teachers, and are working hard to promote civic education in schools.

In August, the Graham Center and the UF College of Education worked together to host a professional development workshop for local middle school teachers. Speakers at the event taught the attendees a set of curricula called "We the People" and "Project Citizen."

Currently, there are no specific requirements for schools to teach civics or social studies.

Committee organized for dean search

Provost Janie Fouke has announced that Pramod Khargonekar, dean of the College of Engineering, will chair a 10-person search committee for a new dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The committee will formulate a position description, advertise and solicit nominations. Select candidates will visit campus in early spring.

Race, free and open to the public, Harn Museum of Art, 7 p.m.

Sept. 22
Dance Alive presents "Cleopatra: A Rock Ballet," \$12 for students, \$15-\$30 for the general public, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 24
Komen On the Go (Breast Cancer Awareness event), free and open to the public, O'Connell Center parking lot, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

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. To submit an event online, send an e-mail to calendar@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.

Sept. 11
43rd Annual School of Art & Art History Faculty Exhibitions, free and open to the public, University Gallery (exhibit runs weekdays through Sept. 14), 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Sept. 13
How to Become Employable Workshop, free and open to the public, CRC Classroom, 1-5 p.m.

Sept. 14
Degree Applications Deadline

Employer Mock Interviews, free and open to the public, CRC interview module B, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

LGBTQ Welcome Assembly presented by LGBT Affairs/Pride Student Union, free and open to the public, Reitz Student Union Grand Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Sept. 16
Homecoming Carnival, free and open to the public, Reitz Student Union North Lawn, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

"From Durer to Renoir: European Prints from the Harn Collection," free and open to the public, Harn Museum of Art, 2 p.m.

Sept. 18
Fall Career Showcase, free and open to UF students and alumni, O'Connell Center (runs through Sept. 19), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sept. 19
Constitution Day Commemoration, Levin College of Law Professor Chris Slobogin speaks on "The Constitution and Surveillance by the Government," Chesterfield Smith Ceremonial Classroom, noon-1 p.m.

Sept. 20
Employer-Led How to Interview Workshop, free and open to the public, CRC Classroom, 6 p.m.

MUSE Interactive Experience: Amazing Art

Note This

Posters sought for Genetics Symposium

The University of Florida Genetic Institute invites all faculty, graduate students and research associates to submit abstracts of their latest genetics research for poster sessions at Florida Genetics 2007, a symposium scheduled for Nov. 7-8 at the UF Cancer & Genetics Research Complex.

Complimentary online registration and abstract submission is available at the UFGI Web site at www.ufgi.ufl.edu. Participants are encouraged to submit entries as soon as possible.

Share the ride

The Carpool Program encourages eligible faculty and staff of the University of Florida and Shands to share the ride to and from campus. Carpooling helps improve air quality, conserve energy and save money on commuting costs. It also helps reduce traffic and parking congestion, as well as wear and tear on individual vehicles.

Current parking areas include several high-demand areas of campus, such as Criser Hall, HSC Garage 3, Chemistry Lab Lot, 1329 Garage, McCarty Drive, PPD Area, Infirmary South Lot, Orthopedics Lot and East Hall. Campus carpooling spaces will continue to be added, as the demand increases.

Need more encouragement? The nominal decal fee (about one-quarter the cost of an orange or blue decal) is a great bonus, and an emergency ride home provided by TAPS or UPD offers assurance that you won't be stranded in case of emergency. For more detail, visit: <http://www.parking.ufl.edu/pages/alcar.htm>

GoGatorNation.com keeps Gators connected

The Gator Nation knows no boundaries, and gogatornation.com provides Gator everywhere with an opportunity to stay in touch.

The site allows visitors to view videos and pictures submitted by Gators from all around the globe, and provides an opportunity for the uploading of new photos and videos. Visitors also can learn information about the university and view interesting photos of campus learning environments and scenic locations.

When visiting the site, be sure to sign up for the weekly prize drawing. Last week's prize was a Men's Pro II 2006 Football National Champions Watch. This week's prize is the official 2007 "Final Four" DVD.

InsideUF

Send submissions for publication consideration at least two weeks in advance to insideuf@ufl.edu.