

## UF Voices

### Staying Optimistic

The start of the school year is always as exciting as it is hectic. I hope all students, faculty and staff were able to take some time off during the summer, and that you are refreshed, reenergized and ready to make the most of the months ahead.



J. Bernard Machen

As many of you are aware, we face some unique financial challenges. Budget cuts affecting every state institution have forced us to seek reductions of at least \$30 million to UF's budget. We have already implemented a universitywide hiring freeze. A task force I appointed early this month is looking at many other options, including streamlining current processes, cutting UF functions and increasing revenue streams.

Whatever belt-tightening lies ahead, our priority is to maintain high standards in our core missions of teaching, research and service.

With that in mind, I think we do have some reasons for optimism.

Last year's twin national championships meant a banner year for the University Athletic Association, and the UAA has donated \$6 million to the university to help cover our budget shortfall. We will use the money in part to continue the Florida Opportunity Scholars program, an important scholarship that targets students who are the first in their families to attend college. We anticipate 400 new students in the program this year.

Also, Florida lawmakers approved the state's first-ever tuition differential bill last spring. Starting in 2008-09, UF can raise its tuition as much as 40 percent, at a maximum rate of 15 percent per year above whatever the statewide increase is. With lean economic times likely extending beyond this year, the tuition differential will guarantee we can continue to hire new faculty and student advisers, which in turn will give students the top-tier educational experience they truly deserve.

There's other important good news. Our faculty research awards for the most recent fiscal year are up to \$583 million, an impressive 12.5 percent more than last year. In fundraising, our 3-year-old Faculty Challenge Initiative has netted \$207 million, far eclipsing the original goal of \$150 million. And UF this past year was Florida's only university to receive two statewide Center of Excellence grants, as well as \$20 million for a pilot plant for the production of cellulosic ethanol.

There's no question we would prefer a sunnier budget situation, but I have full faith we will continue to improve and grow despite the challenges. Let's make the coming academic year a productive and memorable one.

J. Bernard Machen

## Top Stories

### Memorial service is somber reminder of bicycle/vehicle safety

All it takes is just a moment to answer a cell phone call, change the radio station, turn to face a passenger or let your mind wander.

All it takes is just a moment to end a life while behind the wheel of a car.

UF graduate student Welch McNair Bostick III was a semester away from receiving his doctoral degree from the agricultural and biological engineering department when he was struck by a car while riding his bicycle along Williston Road on Aug. 27. Bostick died on Aug. 28, leaving behind his wife, Carmen, and a 10-month-old son, Luca.

An informal memorial service for Bostick will be held today at 9 a.m., near the west entrance of Rogers Hall. His family, including his wife, son, father, mother and sister, will attend.

Bostick's death has prompted increased

awareness of bicycle safety for those who knew him.

"It has helped make everyone in the department more aware of the reality of dangers that we face when we ride bicycles," said James Jones, a distinguished professor in agricultural and biological engineering, and a teacher of Bostick.

Jawoo Koo, a fellow student and friend of Bostick, said the accident has changed his view on bike safety.

"I saw a car driving through bike lanes and I wanted to call a cop right away to ticket it," Koo said.

James Leary, a member of Bostick's department, has been involved in two vehicle-bicycle crashes. The undergraduate adviser says both resulted in broken bones, surgery and extensive rehabilitation.

Leary is convinced the first driver who hit him just didn't see him.

Leary is a lucky one. In the past year, Bostick was not the only student bicyclist killed. Henry Crane, 21, died after being struck by a vehicle at the intersection of Archer Road and SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Jon Lizaso, a post-doctoral associate in agricultural and biological engineering, and friend of Bostick's family, said he thinks people just don't see bicyclists, even in the daylight.

"The cruise control of your brain is looking for cars, trucks, buses," he said.

Lizaso is the coordinator of today's memorial service, and has been instrumental in promoting bicycle safety in Gainesville.

Laura Hallam, executive director of the Florida Bicycle Association, said most students are not aware that bicycles are considered vehicles.

"As a bicyclist on a roadway, you are the driver of a vehicle



Hwan Hee Han

A Ginkgo tree was previously planted as a living memorial for McNair, at Rogers Hall.

and are responsible for complying with all traffic laws," she said.

The University Police Web site reports that in 2003, 17 bicycle accidents were reported on campus - 11 of those involved injury. This number was up from 2002, which saw 11 accidents reported, with nine injuries.

UPD Lt. Robert Wagner said the most important information he can give to bicyclists is to be aware of the Florida traffic laws for bicyclists. He also urged them not to assume that a car will see them, to always use bike lanes and wear helmets.

"They can make a huge difference," he said.

As for motorists, Wagner cautioned them to be extra watchful for bicyclists.

A complete list of Florida's traffic laws for bicyclists can be found on the Florida Department of Transportation's Web site, [http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/ped\\_bike/brochures/pdf/intro.htm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/ped_bike/brochures/pdf/intro.htm)

By Colleen Bennett

## In Focus

### Buckman and Thomas Halls home to cool students

Sophomore Erika Manion of Kissimmee thought she could survive a school year without air conditioning. After all, she accepted a position as resident adviser in Buckman Hall with full knowledge of the building's lack of air conditioning.

"I was surprised to arrive at school (this year) and hear portable air conditioners were allowed," said Manion. "I thought I could make it without, but my mom stayed in here one night without it and said she couldn't survive."

Manion said her mom made a quick trip to Target the next day, and paid more than \$500 for the portable machine.

"I'm glad my mom did it," the resident adviser admitted. "I've always had air conditioning."

Sharon Blansett, assistant director of Housing, said that UF has been exploring AC options for the historic Buckman and Thomas Halls for years. They are the only residence halls without air conditioning provided.

By Susan Stewart

The two buildings are listed on the National Historic Register, and in 1906, housed the entire campus.

"We have addressed previous roadblocks," said Blansett. "Electrical service to these buildings has been upgraded and portable air conditioners are available that will not compromise the historic architecture of the buildings."

To participate in the program, residents provide their own portable unit that must meet or exceed health and safety specifications. No additional utility charges will be assessed this year, but housing staff anticipates additional charges to residents participating in the program in the future.

According to Manion, about 50 percent of the residents in her building have purchased AC units.

"I told one of the residents that she can come watch TV with me, since she doesn't have air conditioning."



Kristen Bartlett Grace

Erika Manion, proud owner of a portable air conditioner.

## Seen & Heard

### UAA gives \$6 million to academic programs

The University of Florida Athletic Association donated \$6 million to the university to support several academic programs threatened by state budget cuts. President Bernie Machen made the announcement at the Joint Civic Club Luncheon at the Hilton University Conference Center on Aug. 15.

The money will be used in part to pay for the continuation of the Florida Opportunity Scholars program. Offered for the second year, the scholarships pay tuition and room and board for qualified students who are the first in their family to attend a four-year university and have family income less than \$40,000.

UAA has given nearly \$40 million back to the university since 1990.

### New George Steinbrenner Band Building

President Bernie Machen recently joined the College of Fine Arts in celebrating the construction of the new state-of-the-art George Steinbrenner Band Building. President Machen, along with members of the UF Gator Band, sports officials, and College of Fine Arts and School of Music deans and directors, helped raise the roof by laying bricks in the wall of the new building at the construction site on Newell



Simulated photograph of the band building to be completed in 2008.

Road. The ceremony was held on Aug. 21.

The new 19,000-square-foot band facility, located adjacent to the School of Music, will provide a 5,600-square-foot rehearsal space for 10 to 12 band ensembles, a band library, instrument and uniform storage, administrative offices, a conference room and two large lobby areas.

The building — constructed with generous donations from New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, Stephen Stills of Crosby, Stills and Nash, the University Athletic Association and numerous friends of music — represents the first phase of an ongoing project to install state-of-the-art facilities at the School of Music to serve UF students, faculty and local community.

### Nursing researcher to study depression in Latin women

University of Florida College of Nursing assistant professor Jeanne Marie Stacciarini has received a \$202,113 supplementary

grant from the National Institutes of Health to study depression in Latinas and promote diversity in health-related research.

The supplement was awarded under the NIH study which associate professor Shawn Kneipp is conducting to determine ways of reducing women's health disparities through an approach called community-based participatory research.

A goal of the study is to determine cultural barriers to treatment and examine possible community-based approaches to intervention.

### L'Oreal fellowships offered

L'Oreal USA recently announced that applications are being accepted for the L'Oreal USA Fellowships for Women in Science program. The national program annually recognizes, rewards and supports five female postdoctoral researchers who are pursuing careers in the life and physical/material sciences, as well as mathematics, engineering and computer science. Each recipient is awarded \$40,000 to advance her postdoctoral research.

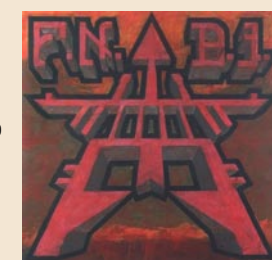
Interested candidates are encouraged to visit <http://www.lorealusa.com/forwomeninscience> for more information. The application deadline is Oct. 31, 2007.

Fall fees due, 3:30 p.m.

### Sept. 9

**Bridal Expo** presented by Jay's Dress Shop, Phillips Center, 1 p.m.

**Kerry Oliver-Smith Gallery Talk on Cuba Avant-Garde**, free and open to the public, Harn Museum of Art, 3 p.m.



### Aug. 31

**The Wedding Singer** presented by UFPA, Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m.



### Sept. 3

**Labor Day** (no classes)

### Sept. 4

**Resume Writing for Engineers Workshop**, free and open to the public, CRC Classroom, 4-5:30 p.m.



### Sept. 6

**Showcase Essentials Workshop** (employers offer tips for a successful internship/job) presented by the Career Resource Center, free and open to the public, CRC Classroom, 2-3:30 p.m.

### Sept. 7

**43<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## 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.

### Aug. 28

**Fall add/drop; late registration** (continues)

**Part-Time Job Fair** hosted by Career Resource Center and Student Financial Affairs, North Terrace and North Lawn of Reitz Student Union, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**Chemical biology of the Ic1R one-component system: one regulator, two native ligands, seminar** by Graciela Lorca, free and open to the public, CGRC 101, 2-3 p.m.

**Tot Time** presented by the Harn Museum of Art, free and open to the public (ages 2-5 and their parents), 3:30-4:30 p.m.

Display of four of award-winning artist **Gary Borse's colorful Florida landscape paintings**, Florida Museum of Natural History, through Nov. 25

### Aug. 29

**Deadline for fall add/drop and late registration**

### Aug. 30

**WCBA Business Bash**, free admission and food for students, Emerson Hall Courtyard, 5-7 p.m.

## Note This

### Reitz Union renovation prompts office relocations

Renovations will soon begin on the first floor of Reitz Student Union. When complete, the changes will include expanded open-lounge space, new furnishings throughout the first floor lobby, new restrooms and updated administrative space.

The first floor 101 administrative offices have been temporarily relocated to the third floor during the renovation. Phone numbers will remain the same, and the temporary room assignments are listed below.

Business Office – Room 361  
Classic Fare Catering – Room 362  
Event Services – Room 363  
Director's Office – Room 355  
Administration – Room 347

### "Fill The Swamp" - with laundry?

A total renovation of 25 laundry facilities in residence halls and graduate and family housing now provides students with new energy-efficient and lower-water-use machines, as well as folding tables, study areas, fresh paint and new flooring. In addition, students earn a chance to obtain scholarship monies through a promotion, "Fill The Swamp."

Gator Wash Campus Laundry Program, sponsor of the Fill The Swamp promotion, will donate scholarship monies to UF if campus residents save at least 8 million gallons of water per year, through use of the new machines.

"The new machines support the university's sustainability goals by using 15 gallons of water per load versus the 30 gallons previously used," said Sharon Blansett, assistant director of housing.

Gator Wash Campus Laundry named the promotion "Fill The Swamp" after estimating that 40 million gallons of water would fill The Swamp. Saving 8 million gallons of water per year for five years theoretically would be enough to "fill The Swamp" — or more appropriately, provide scholarship money to the university.

"The bottom line is to save water by doing laundry on campus with the new machines, and the university can earn scholarship money in the process," said Blansett.

Beginning in September, a Web site will report the status of the water savings for the Fill The Swamp program: [www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/resfac\\_laundry.html](http://www.housing.ufl.edu/housing/resfac_laundry.html).

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InsideUF

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