

## UF Voices

### UF helps students pursue biotech careers

Biology and chemistry are interesting disciplines, yet many high school students are unaware of the potential they have in making an impact on the discovery and development of new medicines, and the many career possibilities.

The availability of high school and college curricula that contain topics such as drug manufacturing, quality control and assurance, and regulatory affairs would undoubtedly help interest students in high-paying and rewarding careers making important medical discoveries and advancements.

UF's Center of Excellence for Regenerative Health Biotechnology (CERHB), funded by the National Science Foundation, is working to accomplish this by partnering with 43 educational entities, including the school boards of Alachua, Marion and Palm Beach counties, Santa Fe College, UF's Center for Precollegiate Education and Training (CPET), and the International Society for Pharmaceutical Engineering. The resulting rigorous high school program currently offers courses in Alachua, Marion, St. Johns, Brevard and Seminole counties.

As a result, Florida has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) as being at the forefront of modern biotechnology education.

A new grant from U.S. DOE will expand this innovative opportunity to more students over the next two years. Working with the Florida DOE, CERHB and its partners, CPET and Banner Center for Secondary Career Academies, will develop and promote its program and accompanying articulation into colleges and universities statewide, encouraging pursuit of high-growth and high-demand biotechnology and biomedical research jobs.

With increased emphasis on translational research (research that transforms basic science discoveries into new medicines) by the National Institute of Health, the new programs position UF to compete more effectively for federal biomedical research grants. In addition, the State of Florida has invested nearly \$1 billion to expand the biotechnology industry. CERHB's programs will provide a trained workforce to support this industry — keeping talent and jobs in the state, and ensuring a strong economic future.

Richard O. Snyder  
Director, CERHB



Richard O. Snyder

## Top Stories

### UF Marching Band battles for \$25,000 ESPN prize

Sweaty runners dashed up and down the stadium steps, uninterrupted by the oddly placed game-day scene at Florida Field on a Tuesday afternoon. The UF Marching Band, fully dressed in their new uniforms, blasted familiar notes that had everyone humming the tune of the Indiana Jones theme song and reminiscing of Harrison Ford wearing his famous brown fedora. Ten cheerleaders, as well as Albert and Alberta, cheered to nearly empty stands — enthusiastically doing Gator chomps and stunts. The Gatorettes twirled their batons in a synchronized fashion while the color guard waved their flags as one.

A six-man crew, armed with three cameras, filmed the entire scene while running in and out of the half-circle formation.

On Sept. 9 at Florida Field, ESPN filmed the Gator Marching Band performing the Indiana Jones theme song with traditional Gator melodies mixed in.

University of Florida's 325-member Gator Marching Band has been selected to compete in ESPN/Paramount Home Entertainment's Battle of the Bands.

"Honestly, we were very surprised and felt honored to be considered in this group of historically great college bands," John Watkins Jr., director of the Gator Band, said. The competition promotes the Oct. 14 DVD release of "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull."

Videos of the seven marching bands performing the theme song, "Raider's March" can be found on ESPN.com. The competition includes Auburn, Clemson, Georgia, Louisiana State, Southern California and Texas.

The contest began on Sept. 29 and will continue through Oct. 10. The band receiving the most votes will be announced during the Oct. 11 airing of ESPN's "College GameDay Built by the Home Depot." The grand prize is a \$25,000 donation from Paramount Home Entertainment and Lucas Films.

"If we are elected the winner by our



Kristen Grace

ESPN filmed the band's performance at The Swamp a few weeks ago.

fans, we would be elated and put the money toward our new instrument campaign," Watkins said. "Unfortunately, two-thirds of our band members have to use their personal instruments. We have long been in need of a matched set of instruments to improve our sound, appearance and overall performance."

The new instrument campaign must raise \$200,000 in order to buy new instruments.

"(Winning the Battle of the Bands competition) would be a great start," Watkins said.

This is the first time the Gator Marching Band has received national recognition, according to Watkins.

Students, fans and alumni are encouraged to vote for the favorite band. A prize sweepstakes for online voters includes two tickets to a championship-bowl game of choice and 25 copies of boxed DVDs, personally signed by the movie's lead actor, Harrison Ford.

According to ESPN, an ad featuring all seven bands will run in an issue of ESPN The Magazine. The bands also will be featured on "ESPN College Football Live" until Oct. 10.

To vote for the UF Marching Band, visit <http://promo.espn.go.com/espn/contests/indianajones>.

A UF slide show with photos and sound from the Sept. 9 band performance is available at <http://www.urel.ufl.edu/production/photography/multimedia.html>.

"The Gator Nation deserves to be recognized - a victory for any aspect of the school is a victory for UF," Watkins said. "The students in the Gator Band are some of the most hard-working students on campus and represent every college and major — they need UF's support!"

By Claibourne Smith

Show your Gator support.  
Help the UF band win \$25,000  
by voting online at  
<http://promo.espn.go.com/espn/contests/indianajones>.

**Oct. 10**  
UFPA presents U.S. Tour Premiere "The Wizard of Oz." Phillips Center, 7:30 p.m. Reserved seating: \$30-50. Open to the public. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for more information.

**Oct. 10**  
UFPA presents University of Florida Symphony Orchestra. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.



Featuring Conductor Steven Thomas and Pianist Xiayin Wang. Ticket prices \$20-30. Open to the public. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for ticket information.

**Oct. 10**  
School of Theatre and Dance presents "Cloud Nine." Nadine McGuire Black Box Theatre, 7:30 p.m. Admission free and open to the public. Call 352-392-1653 for more information.

## In Focus

### Professor's book provides insight to Florida politics, upcoming election

Since 1996, Florida voters have chosen to adorn the state in Republican red. With an election of firsts looming, Florida may see a first of its own in the 21st century — a democratic majority vote.

"It's going to be a close race," Dr. David Colburn, an emeritus professor of history and past provost for UF, said. "It will probably be comparable to the 2000 election."

Colburn believes the Republican Party has a more solid political base in Florida but that the Democrats have succeeded in registering many new voters this year. Whether these newly registered voters come out to vote could be the deciding factor, according to Colburn.

Colburn finished writing his 13th book, "From Yellow Dog Democrats to Red State Republicans: Florida and Its Politics since 1940," in November. The book, published by the University Press of Florida, explains how Florida changed from a strong Democratic state in the 1940s to a Republican state in the 21st century.

Three groups moving to Florida from 1970 to 2000 led state voters to switch from Democratic to Republican.

The first group moving to Florida was senior citizens. Seniors largely voted Demo-

cratic until the late 1970s after the rampant inflation of the President Carter years threatened their retirement incomes.

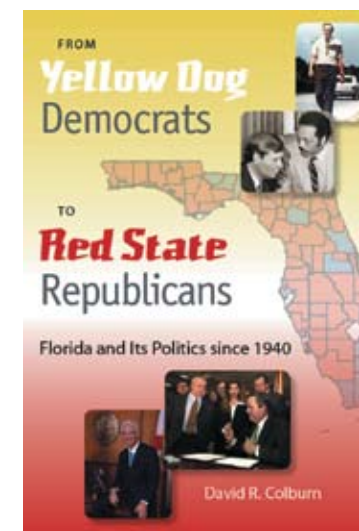
Following senior citizens, a Cuban population started to form in Florida in the 1960s. Cubans mostly voted Republican because they believed that the Republicans took a stronger stance against communism and, in particular, Fidel Castro.

Third, evangelicals helped initiate the change. In the late 1970s, large, fundamental churches provided a community setting for an ever-growing population. People flocked to the church to gain a sense of community that they had known growing up but could not find elsewhere in Florida. These new evangelicals favored Republicans because of their opposition of abortion and homosexuality.

By 1996, the collective weight of these three groups was obvious as the Republican Party took control of both houses of the state Legislature in Florida.

Although the Republican Party has dominated the polls in Florida for more than 10 years now, 2008 could be the year that Democrats become competitive once again.

Seeing the way Florida politics has



Colburn's book explains Florida's political history.

changed since 1940, and explaining it to Floridians, was Colburn's favorite part of writing the book.

More explanation may be necessary in November because Florida's political history may need a new chapter.

By Claibourne Smith

## Seen & Heard

### Lentz selected 'Adviser of the Year'

Laura Lentz, assistant director of membership and marketing for the UF Alumni Association, was selected National Adviser of the Year for her work with the Florida Cicerones and UF's Student Alumni Association. Lentz was chosen by her peers from other universities and colleges across the country, as announced at the Council for Advancement and Support of Education/Affiliated Student Advancement Programs' recent national conference.



Laura Lentz

### Perri receives psychology award

Michael G. Perri, Ph.D., interim dean and professor at the College of Public Health and Health Professions, received the Samuel M. Turner Clinical Research Award from the American Psychological Association's Society of Clinical Psychology, in recognition of his distinguished contributions in applied clinical research. Perri was honored in August at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in Boston.



Michael G. Perri

### Tigar named 'Public Health Nurse of the Year'

Nancy Tigar, a clinical assistant professor and coordinator of the College of Nursing's Master of Science in Nursing specialty track, was recently named the 2008 Florida Public Health Nurse of the Year by the Florida Association of Public Health Nursing. Tigar was presented with the award at the organization's annual meeting in July. Tigar was the lead faculty member in

### Long appointed associate provost

Kathleen Long, dean of the University of Florida College of Nursing, has been appointed to serve as associate provost. She

will continue to serve as dean of the College of Nursing while serving in the role of associate provost on a half-time basis.

Long's work will include addressing policy and practice in areas such as sabbaticals, professional accreditations, teaching requirements and clinical practice relationships. She will help develop approaches for a three-year, \$2 million program to expand faculty educational enhancement opportunities, as well as help provide an interface between UF's Academic Affairs office and the Health Science Center.

### Interior design student wins national competition

University of Florida interior design student Joo Youl Pae won first prize in the Retail Design Institute's 2008 National Student Design Competition. This year's competition asked students from interior design programs across the country to submit a prototype of a high-end jewelry store. Youl Pae's design, "Reveal," was selected from more than 90 entries.

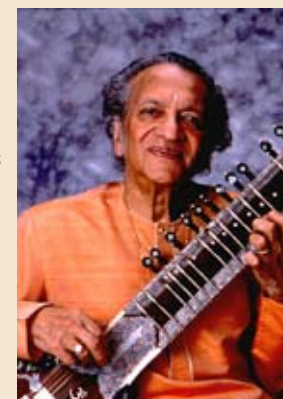
The Retail Design Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the international profession of retail store planning and design. The competition prize includes \$1,000 each for Youl Pae and the Department of Interior Design in the College Design, Construction and Planning.

## 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, visit <http://calendar.ufl.edu/submit/>.

**Oct. 15**  
Dean of Students Office, ACCENT presents Featured Speaker Series — Fred Pearce. Phillips Center, 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-1261 ext. 236 for more information.

**Oct. 16**  
Office of Sustainability presents "Alternative Transportation Fair." Reitz Student Union North Lawn, 11 a.m. — 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 352-392-7578 for more information.



**Oct. 14**  
UFPA presents Ravi Shankar. University Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices \$25-50. Open to the public. Call 352-392-ARTS (2787) for ticket information.

**Oct. 10**  
Last day to donate to the 2008 UF Community Campaign. UFCC raises money for charitable organizations in the region. Employees can give to one or more campaign charities through payroll deduction, cash, check or bank card. For more information, call 352-392-4567.

**Oct. 12**  
Student Government presents "Homecoming Carnival." Flavet Field, 11:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. Free and open to the public. Call 941-586-8235 for more information.

## Note This

### Student Financials to go 'live' on Oct. 13

The new myUFL PeopleSoft Student Financials system will go live on Oct. 13. The system will provide students, parents and university departments with real-time access to student financial information, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Users may pay student bills, access account information and view transaction history. The system also provides the university with enhanced ability to quickly respond to the complex fee structure currently managed by the university.

Training will be required for all staff members who post charges or view student financial information.

Registration for PeopleSoft Student Financials training is now open via the myUFL system.

For more information about the PeopleSoft Student Financials project, please visit <http://sfproject.erp.ufl.edu>.

### Benefits' open enrollment continues until Oct. 17

This year's benefits open enrollment period for University of Florida employees will end on Oct. 17.

Open enrollment is the only period in which changes to pre-tax employee benefits can be made — unless employees experience a qualifying event such as a change in marital status, birth or adoption. Any changes made to elections during open enrollment will be effective Jan. 1.

For more information, visit [www.hr.ufl.edu/benefits/openenrollment](http://www.hr.ufl.edu/benefits/openenrollment).

### Conference to showcase social science research

Marriage, family, health care, crime, the environment and education are among the many topics to be discussed at this year's fourth annual Conference of the Social Sciences on Saturday, Oct. 18, at Anderson Hall.

The free event is open to the public. It will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m., with lunch provided. Florida's Society of the Social Sciences, a student organization, is sponsoring the event.

The conference provides graduate and undergraduate social sciences students with an opportunity to showcase their research, receive constructive feedback and gain presentation experience. For more information, visit <http://grove.ufl.edu/~ssuf/CSS/> or e-mail Georgia Bianchi, [gbianchi@ufl.edu](mailto:gbianchi@ufl.edu).