



# CALS Connection

Connecting our Students, Alumni, and Communities Worldwide

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences • IFAS at the University of Florida

Volume 3, May 2003

## Contents:

- 2** Dean's Message  
Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future
- 3** After a Half-Century Hiatus, 82-year-old Graduates  
CALs Students Awarded New Scholarship  
Alumni Profile: Dr. Fred Gainous
- 4** TailGATOR 2002  
Annual Open House Promotes CALs Opportunities  
CALs Spring BBQ
- 5** Internship Opportunities Highlighted at Career Day  
Fostering Minority Growth in Natural Resource Careers
- 6** Sesquicentennial Celebration
- 8** Recognized for Outstanding Achievement
- 10** Third Annual Teaching Enhancement Symposium  
Graduate Symposium Showcases Research  
Stringing It Together
- 11** AZ Student Leaders Meet at UF  
FRE Students Bring Home the Gold
- 12** New Agreement Will Send Students to France  
Crops Course Offers Tour of Midwestern Farms

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## CALS Hosts First Solo Graduation



Marguerite Shotwell, 82, is congratulated by College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Dean Jimmy Cheek and fellow members of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences during a special recognition held at graduation Friday May 2, 2003 in the O'Connell Center. (Photo by: Doug Finger/The Gainesville Sun)

BY CAROL CHURCH

This May, graduating agricultural education major Chris Vitelli got a chance to be a groundbreaker. Vitelli was the commencement speaker at the first-ever commencement held just for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) and the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE). Over 400 CALs and CNRE students received their diplomas at the O'Connell Center on May 2, 2003.

"This commencement was so much more personal, having just our colleges," Vitelli said. "We knew most of the faculty, most of the students. You don't lose the prestige of graduating from a place like UF, but you don't leave bored and tired. You leave thinking, 'Wow, that was a great experience.' My friends and family absolutely loved it."

Enrollment at UF has grown to the extent that not all graduates can be accommodated at one time in the O'Connell Center, said CALs Associate Dean E. Jane Luzar. In an effort to address this problem and to provide smaller, more personal commencement ceremonies, UF's various colleges held twelve separate graduation ceremonies this year.

In past university-wide graduation ceremonies, crowds were so large and the ceremony was so long that many guests and students tended to leave early, Luzar said.

"We felt this was more personal," Luzar said. "It was also a little shorter. The students were recognized individually, but there was enough pomp and circumstance, too. The families stayed till the end and were very respectful."

The use of a Jumbotron large-screen display allowed close-ups on the graduating students, and a special set-up at the O'Connell Center created a more intimate atmosphere that kept people from feeling dwarfed by its surroundings, Luzar said. The ceremony also included a formal recessional.

"The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences graduation was a great occasion for students and their families," said Provost David Colburn. "Dean Cheek handled the occasion with dignity and humor, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. And I believe Dean Jane Luzar hugged everyone who walked across the stage and some who did not."

The separate commencement also gave the colleges the opportunity to include some additional elements in the program, including the presentation of a number of awards by Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Jimmy Cheek and Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources Michael Martin. In addition, the commencement recognized 82-year-old Marguerite Shotwell, the most senior graduate CALs has ever seen.

(See related story on page 3)



# Message From the Dean



Jimmy G. Cheek, dean,  
College of Agricultural  
and Life Sciences

## Honoring the Past, Shaping the Future

The University of Florida is celebrating a great milestone in 2003 – its 150th anniversary. Since 1853, this institution has built an international reputation for excellence in education, research, and outreach. UF is now the fourth largest university in the nation and one of the world's finest. Our sesquicentennial year gives us an opportunity to reflect upon our accomplishments and plan for shaping the future.

In 1884, Florida Agricultural College, the state's first land-grant college, opened in Lake City with only 31

students registered. The college served a state with an agrarian society and economy. Florida's population was approximately 300,000 with an 85 - 15 percent rural-urban split. About 42 percent of the population was African American. They were not represented at the college. Neither were women.

Today, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) enrolls nearly 4,000 students who accurately reflect the state's population mix. Women outnumber men; minorities constitute 22 percent of the student body; more than 70 percent of the students are from urban areas, and eight percent are international students, adding a global perspective and enriching the college's cultural and intellectual atmosphere. CALs students are receiving an education that prepares them for their last job as well as their first. The fourth largest college at UF, we are the nation's sixth largest agricultural and life sciences college. Participation in international programs helps broaden and prepare students to be leaders in international issues. Employment opportunities are plentiful in most fields, and graduate and professional school opportunities are exceptional. CALs remains fully engaged and committed to vigorously pursuing our agenda of preparing society-ready graduates.

### UF Strategic Plan and the Future

The Plan UF has developed a strategic plan to guide its development over the coming years. It established a number of priorities that provide CALs and the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) the opportunity to play a central role in the university's further development. The plan emphasizes initiatives in genetics, biotechnology, aging, children and families, ecology and the environment, and internalization of the campus and the curriculum.

School of Natural Resources and Environment The strategic plan calls for the College of Natural Resources and Environment (CNRE) to transition to the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) within CALs. The SNRE will continue to offer campus-wide interdisciplinary degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, preparing students to understand the complex issues related to environmental quality, ecological restoration, and socio-economic stability, and to prepare them to participate in addressing these issues in the public arena and private sector.

Graduate Programs As part of UF's strategic plan, CALs has been targeted to increase its graduate enrollment by approximately 70 graduate students in 2003.

To accomplish this, CALs will initially focus on a core of existing but relatively new professional degree programs that show the capacity to increase enrollment rapidly with modest investment. These programs are the doctor of plant medicine, M.S. in family, youth and community sciences and the master of agribusiness. A graduate program is proposed in animal molecular and cellular biology. CALs has also developed 15 combined degree programs as a streamlined means of identifying and enrolling superior undergraduates in accelerated graduate programs.

I am pleased to report that our academic programs continue to improve and we are doing a stellar job preparing society-ready graduates. Our students are in high demand by business and industry, academia, and government. Our alumni become successful entrepreneurs and are entering career fields well prepared to meet the demands of today's increasingly complex job market and changing societal needs. CALs has a strong record placing students into graduate and professional school.

The 2002-2003 academic year has been another exceptionally productive year. Our faculty increased graduate student credit hours taught by over 6 percent and undergraduate student credit hours taught by almost 3 percent. Our undergraduate population increased and we enrolled 881 graduate students, our largest number ever. Private support continues to have a major impact. More than \$10 million of private funding a year helps IFAS provide quality facilities and equipment, support outstanding faculty, provide scholarships and fellowships to attract the best and brightest students, and provide funding to support specific programs in teaching, research, and extension.

  
Jimmy G. Cheek  
Dean

### College of Agricultural and Life Sciences 2002 Fall Term Enrollment

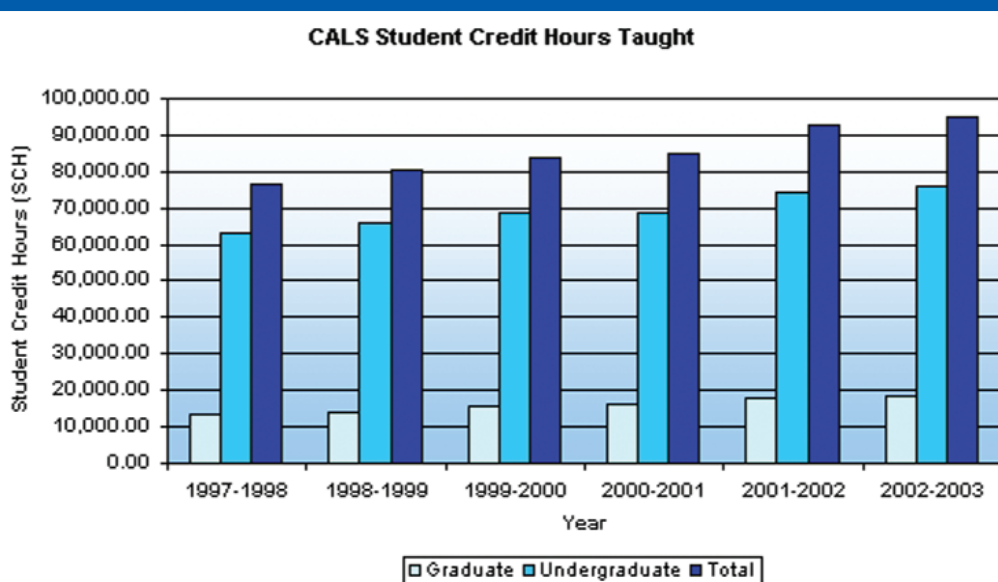
	Total	Men	Women
<b>Undergraduate</b>	2,986	1,173	1,813

	Undergraduate	Percentage
African American	242	08.10
Hispanic American	276	09.24
Native American	11	00.03
Asian American	227	07.60
Foreign Nationals	37	01.23
Other	2193	73.44

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Graduate</b>	875	482	393

	Graduate	Percentage
African American	24	02.74
Hispanic American	40	04.57
Native American	8	00.91
Asian American	21	02.40
Foreign Nationals	243	27.77
Other	539	61.60

### CALS Student Profile 2002



### College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Degrees Granted in 2002

#### Undergraduate Degree

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Bachelor's</b>	744	292	252
African American	56		
Hispanic American	75		
Native American	01		
Asian American	51		
Foreign Nationals	14		
Other	547		

#### Graduate Degree

	Total	Men	Women
<b>Master's</b>	169	75	94
<b>Doctoral</b>	50	30	20
African American	6		1
Hispanic American	9		1
Native American	1		1
Asian American	5		2
Foreign Nationals	25		26
Other	123		19

# After a Half-century Hiatus, 82-year-old Graduates

BY LAURA DAVIS

Marguerite Shotwell was a lot like any other senior at the University of Florida. She studied for tests, worried about her grades and looked forward to graduation.

There was one key difference, though – Shotwell is 82 years old. Her age earned the octogenarian the designation as oldest graduate ever from UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs), and she is believed to be one of the oldest graduates in the university's history.

Shotwell said she chose to leave college in 1941 after her junior year at Michigan State University to go with her husband, Eldon, a second lieutenant in the Army Air Corps who was called to Ft. Bliss in El Paso, Texas, to train for World War II. He was in the service for five and a half years, and although Shotwell always wanted to finish her degree, after having three children, something always came up, she said.

"When people get older they have regrets," she said. "This was one regret I could do something about – and I'm doing it."

Shotwell, of Spring Hill, credits part of her motivation for returning to school to her late aunt, who paid for her tuition and books when she first started college in 1938 at Michigan State. When her aunt died a few years ago and left Shotwell some money, she said she felt she owed it to herself and her aunt to finish school.

After a lot of digging through old transcripts to make sure at least some of the credits from three years at Michigan State would transfer, Shotwell enrolled at UF in January 2002. She graduated May 2 with a bachelor's degree in dietetics. Shotwell, who has volunteered helping hospice patients for more than five years including during her time as a UF student, plans to continue her work there.



Eighty-two-year-old CALs student Marguerite Shotwell at her studies.

Coincidentally, Shotwell, who has seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, graduated at the same time as two of her grandchildren: Matt, who received a law degree from Michigan State, and Corrie, who got a master's in theater production from Wayne State University.

The best part about coming back to school was the professors, Shotwell said. "I cannot praise them enough," she said. "They have been so eager to help me."

## CALS Students Awarded New Scholarship

BY AMANDA RUTH

A commitment to academic excellence, community service, leadership and public responsibility are all characteristics of two outstanding College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) students who are recipients of the first John V. Lombardi Scholarships.

The Lombardi Scholarship, a research and educational stipend, is awarded to eight University of Florida students who reflect the high standards that former UF President John Lombardi brought to the university. This year, two of the eight recipients, Jennifer Bonds and Robert Mack, are CALs students.



Robert Mack and Jennifer Bonds, recipients of the John V. Lombardi Scholarship.

"Having two of the eight recipients within CALs shows the quality of our students as well as the quality of our program," said Paul Willis, director of CALs' student and alumni services. "It is exciting, as well as an honor, to have 25 percent of the Lombardi scholars come from our programs."

High school teachers or counselors nominate graduating seniors for the Lombardi Scholarship program.

As entering freshmen, Lombardi scholars receive 10 semesters of paid tuition, a monetary stipend to offset costs associated with coursework and living expenses and an opportunity to participate in study abroad tours

and internships, all paid for by UF and designed to enhance their college education and experience. Scholars also are matched with a distinguished faculty member in their field to pursue academic interests and advanced research.

Jennifer Bonds is one of the two CALs students to receive this award. In her first year at UF, Bonds is a human nutrition major in the 3+4 academic program where her last year of bachelor's degree coursework doubles as her first year in the pharmacy graduate program.

"I want to become a lobbyist and possibly practice pharmaceutical law," Bonds said. "I plan to open a non-profit agency that researches and attempts to improve health care disparities among minorities through health care education, lobbying and community disease prevention."

Bonds said she feels the need to represent the college well, since she is one of the first Lombardi Scholarship recipients.

"Since we are the first scholars, the guinea pigs, we set the standard for future scholars," Bonds said.

Robert Mack was also awarded the Lombardi Scholarship. He is a freshman food and resource economics major from Williston, Fla. Mack said he has gained valuable experiences through extracurricular activities in high school and during his first year at UF.

Being selected as one of the eight Lombardi scholarship recipients was a surprise for Mack.

"Being a Lombardi scholar means being held to a higher standard. The university expects the utmost performance from us," he said. "It is an expectation that I will gladly try to achieve on behalf of the university and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences."

## Alumni Profile: Dr. Fred Gainous



BY AMANDA CHAMBLISS

It's been a long road to the top for Florida A&M President Dr. Fred Gainous, but the journey has been worth it.

After obtaining his bachelor's degree in agricultural education from Florida A&M, Gainous went on to earn a master's degree in the same field from UF.

On the last day of his master's examinations, Gainous was pulled aside and asked to stay on at UF for a doctorate degree. At the time, UF

required three years of teaching experience to obtain a doctorate, and Gainous only had two under his belt. He left UF to take care of this requirement and returned a year later for his doctorate.

While at UF as a doctoral student in education, Gainous was the dean's graduate assistant. Among his duties were the handling of recruitment packages and giving tours of UF to students from overseas. He also handled the evaluations of first-year teachers and taught one class per semester.

"UF offered me an opportunity to be exposed to outstanding faculty persons and also outstanding graduate students," Gainous said. "It was a good and positive experience and it gave me the opportunity to listen to the experiences of others."

After obtaining his doctorate, Gainous held positions at various institutions, including the Florida Department of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education. He spent 14 years as chancellor of the Alabama college system, but eventually returned to his home city of Tallahassee and to Florida A&M, where he resides as president today.

"This was a goal that I am absolutely humbled to have achieved. Having arrived at this level is something I take very seriously," Gainous said.



# TailGATOR 2002

BY LISA K. LUNDY

Food, fun and friends. It's become a tradition. More than 1,100 University of Florida (UF) alumni and friends of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) recently gathered to celebrate TailGATOR 2002.

This annual event, now in its sixth year on the main UF campus in Gainesville, provides participants an opportunity to visit displays on UF CALs programs and degrees. And, it allows UF CALs the opportunity to recognize individual alumni and friends with the Award of Distinction, an honor reserved for those who have served the ag industry and UF, and are dedicated to its success. In addition to the Award of Distinction, UF CALs also presents a \$1,000 student scholarship.



Hugh English and Doyle Conner accept Alumni Awards of Distinction from Dean Jimmy Cheek. Left to right: Scott Emerson, Hugh English, Doyle Conner, Dean Jimmy Cheek.

Hugh English and Doyle Conner were the recipients of the 2002 Alumni of Distinction Award. They were recognized for their contributions to the agricultural and natural resource industries, the University of Florida and Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

In response to being recognized, English said he represented "hope for C students." English is a fourth generation Florida citrus grower. Retired from A. Duda & Sons in 2001, he is the immediate past

chairman of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association and is a member of the governing board of the South Florida Water Management District. English is a 1996 recipient of the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award of Merit from Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture at the University of Florida.

Conner was the first commissioner of the reorganized Florida Department of Agriculture (1961) and has played an active role in encouraging Congress to enact favorable legislation for agriculture. As a past president of the Southern and National Associations of State Departments in Agriculture, Conner participated in over 50 trade missions to countries including Russia and China where he fostered goodwill and international relations. Conner has been a strong supporter for numerous youth organizations, including Future Farmers of America and 4-H. "Students today can say that they're proud to be majoring in agriculture and proud to look toward a future," Conner said.

One such student is Josh Brown, the recipient of the 2002 CALs Alumni and Friends student scholarship. Brown is a senior from Ocala, Fla., majoring in agricultural communications. He is actively involved in the Alpha Gamma Rho and Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow.

TailGATOR 2002 sponsors include Farm Credit of North Florida, Arrow Environmental Services, Inc., the Florida Agricultural Conference & Trade Show (FACTS), Hydro Agri North America Inc., Florida Farm Bureau, Blue Bell Creameries, The Plant Shoppe, John Deere, Everglades Equipment Co., Citrus & Vegetable Magazine, and Farm Credit of Central Florida.

Plans are already being made for TailGATOR 2003. The event will mark the 150th birthday of UF. The date for next year's event has not yet been set. For more information on TailGATOR, contact Paul Willis at 352-392-1963 or visit the Web site at [www.cals.ufl.edu](http://www.cals.ufl.edu).

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## Annual Open House Promotes CALS Opportunities

BY STEPHANIE STEIN

A record high attendance of approximately 600 prospective students and parents gathered in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' (CALs) annual open house, Gator Encounter.

The event educates community college students, high school students, teachers, advisors, parents and University of Florida freshmen about the academic and student enrichment opportunities available within the college.

"I felt the event was a great success," said Emily Sperling, director of student recruitment and retention. "Our departments did a great job of educating participants about our academic and career opportunities in agriculture and natural resources."

Prospective CALs students and parents learned about academic programs, admission standards, financial aid, housing and student life. Campus tours also were offered.

Many of the college's clubs and most departments hosted interactive exhibits. At the department of family, youth and community sciences' booth, students adopted eggs to take care of while they were at Gator Encounter. The dental school let participants try their hand at filling cavities on a fake tooth.

Georgia Pate, a high school senior from Belle Glade, enjoyed learning about the many opportunities offered by CALs.

"The hands-on activities were really cool," Pate said. "I actually had fun learning."

Also featured at Gator Encounter were tours, presentations about different majors, advising sessions with UF faculty and information sessions regarding pre-professional and graduate opportunities.

Leslie Guerry, a community college student from Moore Haven, said that by attending Gator Encounter, she now feels ready to attend UF.

"By going to Gator Encounter, I was able to meet with students and faculty in my major field of study," Guerry said. "The tour around campus and the different exhibits also were very helpful. My parents enjoyed the information on financial aid and housing."

"We are more committed than ever to educate people about our college's numerous opportunities and enhance our students' learning experiences," Sperling said.



A wildlife ecology and conservation student acquaints Gator Encounter participants with a baby alligator.

## CALS Spring BBQ

BY CHRISTINE PENKO

Approximately 500 people gathered April 11 at the O'Connell Center for the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences' annual barbecue, which provides an opportunity for students, faculty and staff to interact informally. It also allows students to see the many academic disciplines offered in the college.

In addition to informational departmental displays, the event featured a karaoke contest and an introduction to the 2003-2004 CALs Ambassadors.

Jerry Southwell, president of the CALs Alumni Association, and Dean Jimmy Cheek recognize graduating seniors.



Alpha Gamma Rho brothers compete for the Dean's Award in the annual karaoke contest.



# Internship Opportunities Highlighted at Career Day

BY AMANDA CHAMBLISS

Opportunity came knocking at the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) Career Day in February, and it was answered by many an eager CALs student, looking to get a jumpstart on a future career with an internship or land that first full-time job after college.

CALs Career Day is an annual event hosted by the college, designed to cater to the agricultural job market.

“We have a unique industry and there’s not really another venue on campus that fits our students well,” said Paul Willis, director of CALs’ student and alumni services.



Syngenta representative John Taylor discusses internship opportunities with a CALs student.

Carolyn Shrine, a food and resource economics major in CALs, was one of 10 students across the country to be recruited at Career Day by Oster Professional Products for their fledgling Tradeshow Associate (TSA) Program, a one- to two-year program that sends a chosen few to tradeshows across the country to pitch Oster products to distributors. In

“It’s great to collaborate on these things and share information, rather than each school doing its own thing,” Willis said.

Carolyn Shrine, a food and resource economics major in CALs, was one of 10 students across the country to be recruited at Career Day by Oster Professional Products for their fledgling Tradeshow Associate (TSA) Program, a one- to two-year program that sends a chosen few to tradeshows across the country to pitch Oster products to distributors. In

Internship opportunities abounded at CALs Career Day, supported by the unveiling this year of I-Center, a Web-based database that houses internship listings from a consortium of five universities: UF, University of Kentucky, University of Georgia, Clemson and North

the past, Oster sent salespeople to tradeshows to pitch their products, but the salespeople didn’t know much about the agriculture industry, Shrine said.

“They wanted young people who are excited and have industry experience,” Shrine said.

Oster’s tradeshows can last from two days to two weeks, but they work with class schedules by e-mailing TSA students a list of locations and dates, and the students respond with their availability, Shrine said. Shrine said the opportunity was perfectly suited to her needs.

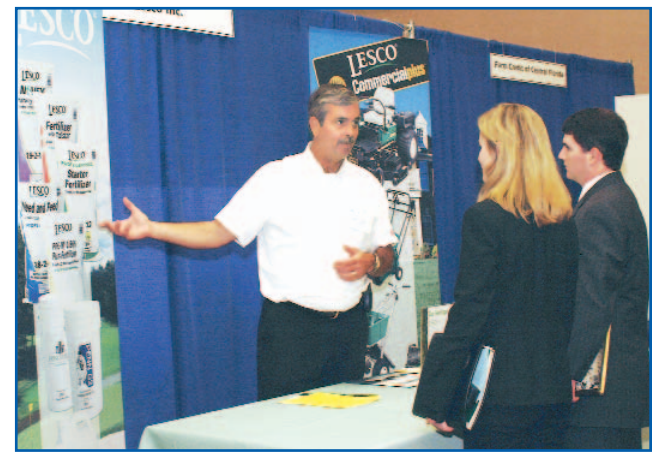
“It’s great because I’m not looking for a job right now, since I’ll be studying in Italy next year,” Shrine said.

CALs alumnus John Taylor, a technical support representative for Syngenta, was also on hand at Career Day, looking to train some students to be experts in the citrus grove products his company offers. Syngenta’s products require an above-average level of stewardship in the field, Taylor said.

“Syngenta is involved in a consultative role with our customers to help them with decision-making. Our interns are the cornerstone of this. They have more contact with the grower than the sales rep does,” Taylor said.

Last year, all of Taylor’s interns came from UF. This year, three are from UF, three are from Florida Southern.

“My recruiting effort has been successful at UF. I have all the support I need from faculty and deans. The interns have all been of higher quality,” Taylor said.



A LESCO Corporation representative shares information about his company with CALs students.

# Fostering Minority Growth in Natural Resource Careers

BY SCOTT SAGER

For many years, employers looking for minorities with an education in natural resources were out of luck.

“For many reasons, minorities have historically not been attracted to careers in natural resources,” said Dr. George Blakeslee, associate director of academic programs for UF’s School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC). In an attempt to remedy this situation, in 1991 SFRC, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and the U.S. Forest Service joined forces to encourage minority students to consider careers in fields such as forestry, wildlife management, botany, and ecology.

Students in the program begin at FAMU where they complete two years of foundation coursework.

“Our main goal is to prepare the students for the rigors of their natural resources coursework at UF,” said Dr. Oghenekome Onokpise. Dr. Onokpise is lead faculty for the program at FAMU, and has been involved since the partnership’s inception.

After successfully completing their lower-division courses at FAMU, students transfer to UF and major in one of the SFRC’s two majors: forest resources and conservation or natural resource conservation.

“Most students are a little intimidated by the size and complexity of UF,” said Terry Baker, a junior in the program who is completing coursework in forestry with a minor in botany. “But the students, faculty, and staff of SFRC are friendly and eager to help, which makes adjusting much easier.”

Throughout their academic careers the Forest Service provides financial support, internship opportunities, and guidance to the students.

“The Forest Service is trying to increase diversity, but beyond their own needs, [the Forest Service] is trying to increase diversity in the field,” said Ted Willis, Forest Service liaison to FAMU. Ted works to identify promising students and get them interested in the program, as well as match them up with employment opportunities.

Graduates of the program are required to work for the Forest Service after graduation. For every year of funding, the students must work a year, Willis said.

After this requirement is met, many graduates stay on, but others have gone on to employment with a wide variety of agencies — including the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

In celebration of the program’s success, a ten-year anniversary symposium was held last September at FAMU. It brought together representatives of the three collaborative units, current and former students, employers, and representatives of similar programs that have begun at Alabama A&M University and Tuskegee University.

“It’s taken a long time, but we’re finally where we want to be — the program is a success,” said Onokpise, referring to the years of program building.



U.S. Forest Service liaison Ted Willis introduces Florida A&M students to the University of Florida, where they will finish out their college careers before signing on to work with the Forest Service. The partnership between UF, FAMU and the Forest Service aims to attract more minorities to careers in natural resources



# Sesquicentennial Celebration

*Tracing its roots to 1853 when most of the state was an uninhabited wilderness, the University of Florida celebrates 150 years of progress in education and research in 2003. It's all part of a yearlong celebration: "Honoring the past, shaping the future."*

BY CHUCK WOODS

From 70 students 150 years ago to more than 47,000 students today, the history of the University of Florida is impressive by any standard.

The seeds of one of the nation's largest and most comprehensive state universities were planted in 1853 when Florida Governor Thomas Brown signed the first bill providing public support for establishment of the East Florida Seminary in Ocala.

After the Civil War, the seminary was moved to Gainesville in 1866. But it wasn't Florida's first college-level institution. That distinction belongs to the Florida Agricultural College, which opened its doors in Lake City in 1884.

Probably no federal act has contributed more to the development of higher education in the nation than the Morrill Act of 1862. Also known as the Land-Grant College Act, the Morrill Act provided funding for institutions of higher learning in each state "to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanical arts..."

The Florida Agricultural College was the first land-grant college in the state and the first school to offer a four-year post-secondary education. When the Lake City college was opened to women in 1894, 54 enrolled – many more than expected.

The Hatch Act of 1887 provided federal funds to establish agricultural experiment stations at each of the Morrill Act colleges. The Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the state's oldest research center, was established at the college in 1888.

In addition to the experiment station, the herbarium and other programs began at the Florida Agricultural College. Peter Henry Rolfs began the plant collection in 1891, including specimens from other herbariums. The herbarium is now a unit of the Florida Museum of Natural History at UF in Gainesville.

With growing competition between these and other state schools for limited public funds, it soon became apparent that Florida had more schools than it could afford. Without change, none would be able to achieve a national reputation for excellence, said Carl Van Ness, UF archivist.

"That's when Henry Buckman, a political ally of Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward, proposed consolidating the institutions under a single governing board," Van Ness said. "As a result, the Buckman Act was passed by the Florida Legislature in the spring of 1905, creating a Board of Control (later to become the Board of Regents). Members were appointed by the governor to oversee consolidation of the state's public institutions of higher education."

Van Ness said the act authorized four schools: one for men (now the University of Florida), one for women (now Florida State University), one for African-Americans (now Florida A&M University) and one for the

deaf and blind (now the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind at St. Augustine).

When all Florida communities were invited to submit proposals for hosting an institution, Gainesville and Lake City emerged as the top contenders for the men's school. Both communities made generous offers of cash, land, water and other concessions. In July 1905, the board selected Gainesville as the new home for the University of the State of Florida. In 1909, the name was shortened to University of Florida. The first woman enrolled in summer sessions at UF in 1909, and gender segregation officially ended in 1947. Integration came to UF in 1958.

Beginning in 1899, traveling exhibitions and lectures known as Farmers' Institutes facilitated the extension of information from the experiment station to farmers. With the passage of the federal Smith-Lever Act in 1914, the third component of the university's agricultural program, the Florida Agricultural Extension Service (now the Florida Cooperative Extension Service), was established as the outreach component of the land-grant university.

By the mid-1920s, virtually all of Florida's counties supported a county extension agent and women participated in extension work through the home demonstration program. Florida 4-H, extension's youth development program, began in 1909.

Among all UF programs, extension is unique because of its relationship

with the boards of county commissioners in Florida's 67 counties. In many respects, the extension service is the "front door" to the vast resources of UF in every county.

Recognizing the need for statewide agricultural research and education centers, the legislature established the Citrus Experiment Station (now the Citrus Research and Education Center) at Lake Alfred in 1917. The Everglades Experiment Station (now the Everglades Research and Education Center) at Belle Glade followed in 1925, and by the 1940s there were more than 13 stations throughout the

state. In 1939, the legislature authorized creation of the School of Forestry (now the School of Forest Resources and Conservation) as part of UF's College of Agriculture (now the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences).

In 1964, under the leadership of Provost for Agriculture E.T. York, Jr., creation of the UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) was approved by the Florida Board of Control.

The action consolidated into one overall program four previously separate units: the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station, the Florida Cooperative Extension Service and the School of Forest Resources and Conservation. Today, the UF/IFAS administrative umbrella also includes the Florida Sea Grant Extension Program and programs in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

In 1985, UF was added to the Association of American Universities, a prestigious higher-education organization comprising the top 63 public and private institutions in North America. UF's placement recognized outstanding research and education programs in agriculture and natural resources, engineering, medicine, business and law.



Newell Hall, the early Florida Agricultural Experiment Station.



“The growth and development of Florida agriculture into a \$54 billion industry has been due in large part to the success of statewide UF/IFAS teaching, research and extension programs over many decades,” said Mike Martin, UF vice president for agriculture and natural resources. “The progress has been truly impressive, and the challenges of the future range from feeding a growing world population to growing plants on a manned mission to the planet Mars.”

Martin said Florida has not always been a prolific agricultural producer. In 1821, at the end of some 250 years of Spanish rule, the colony was still importing food from Cuba. Even in 1880, 376 years after the first permanent settlement – and 58 years after statehood – Florida was still only a frontier state with 23,000 farms and more than 21,000 square miles of wilderness. The state’s subtropical climate, erratic rainfall, poor soils and numerous pest problems combined to defeat all but the hardest farm families.

In the 1920s, citrus growers were fortunate to get 84 boxes of fruit from each acre of grove land. Today, thanks largely to UF research and education programs, Florida citrus groves produce 294 boxes of oranges per acre, and the citrus industry contributes \$9 billion to the state’s economy.

Row crops and forages cover almost a third of Florida’s total land area, generating about \$1.5 billion in farm income. In the 1920s, farmers harvested a few hundred pounds of peanuts per acre compared to today’s average yield of 2,500 pounds per acre.

Developed in the 1920s, the 505,000-acre Everglades Agricultural Area now produces vegetables as well as rice, sugarcane and sod in one of the nation’s most unique and productive regions.

Florida tomato production now exceeds \$400 million annually, and strawberry production generates \$167 in farm income.

Spanish range cattle, imported more than 400 years ago, formed the genetic base for today’s cattle industry in Florida. Modern breeds developed by UF researchers have dramatically improved carcass quality and beef production efficiency. Florida’s livestock production of beef cattle, dairy cows and poultry now generates more than \$1.3 billion annually.

From the 1800s to the early 1900s, Florida forests were heavily exploited for construction, shipbuilding and railroad expansion, leaving the state with the challenge of restoring forests. Modern production and conservation practices are key to sustaining a forest products industry whose annual economic impact exceeds \$8 billion.

The history of Florida’s environmental horticulture industry dates back to 1881, when the first



The original College of Agriculture building, Floyd Griffin Hall.

ornamental plant nursery was established in Manatee County. Today’s statewide industry, which has grown rapidly since the late 1940s, includes landscape plants, flowers, foliage and turfgrass. Florida’s environmental horticulture industry is now the nation’s second largest.

Tropical fruit production in the Homestead area dates back to the 1800s, and the industry now covers 16,000 acres in nine south Florida counties. Avocado, banana, carambola, mamey sapote, lime, longan, lychee, mango and papaya production has a \$137 million economic impact.

Aquaculture, a relatively new industry, is another fast growing segment of Florida agriculture. Production of alligators, aquatic plants, catfish, clams, crawfish, eels, sturgeon, tilapia and tropical fish generates more than \$43 million in farm income annually. Other new enterprises such as hydroponic farming – growing plants in soil-less media – generate about \$20 million in farm income.

In 2002, agricultural and natural resource industries contributed more than \$54 billion to Florida’s economy. One out of every four jobs in the state is related to agriculture and natural resources – Florida’s second largest (after tourism) and most economically stable industries.

UF’s new strategic plan, unveiled by UF President Charles Young in August 2002, is to become one of the top 10 public research universities and one of top 20 universities overall in the nation. This will be accomplished by strengthening UF’s major core programs, including the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, and the colleges of medicine, engineering, and liberal arts and sciences.

“This is clearly a time when the University of Florida must develop increased capability to meet the changing needs of the state it serves,” the plan states. “To do so, it must realize its potential as a major player in American and international higher education and research.”

For more information on UF’s 150th anniversary, please visit the following Web site: [www.ufl.edu/150](http://www.ufl.edu/150).

## What’s New In Your Life?

### Tell us what is happening! Stay connected to CALS

Through the CALS Connection, we are reaching out to keep you informed about CALS news and activities. Now it’s your turn. We’d like to include current information about you in an upcoming issue of CALS Connection.

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Please let us know if you have any questions or if we may be of help. We welcome your calls and visits to McCarty Hall.



# Recognized for Outstanding Achievement

## Dean's Leadership Award



### R. Andres Ferreyra

R. Andres Ferreyra is a Ph.D. student in the agricultural and biological engineering department. He is also working on a master's degree in computer and information sciences engineering. He received his first master's degree in agro-meteorology from the National University of Cordoba in Argentina, and also possesses a degree in electric/electronic engineering from the National University of Cordoba.

Andres is currently an alumni graduate fellow and research assistant in the Crop Systems Modeling Laboratory at UF. His

research is on the simulation of spatial water movement at different scales, with emphasis on precision agriculture and the simulation of soil-plant-atmosphere interactions in crops.

Andres was awarded the Alumni Graduate Fellowship for 1999-2003 and a fellowship in the Remote Sensing Group of the Center of Excellence in Products and Processes of the Province of Cordoba for 1995-1998. He has been published in Geoderma, Agricultural Systems, Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, Ecological Modeling, and Biotronics.

## Alumni and Friends Leadership Award



### Miranda Jo Hardee

Miranda Jo Hardee is a junior from Chiefland, Fla. majoring in animal sciences with a specialization in animal biology. She plans to attend medical school and specialize in the field of pediatrics.

Randi Jo is a member of Block and Bridle, the UF Cattlewomen's Association, Golden Key Honor Society, and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society. She is an assistant researcher for Veterans Affairs in the North Florida/South Georgia VA Hospital System, where she conducts research on the detection of

melanoma, with special emphasis on screening techniques and specific trends present in older men. She has volunteered at the Shands Pediatric Center, where she provided care and compassion for young patients in the absence of their parents.

Randi Jo has received a number of scholarships, including the Florida Cattlewomen's Scholarship, the Groff Animal Science Scholarship, the Susan Brown Memorial Scholarship, and the Florida Allied Cattlemen's Scholarship.

## J. Wayne Reitz Medal of Excellence



### Krista Renner

Krista Aileen Renner is a senior from Ocala, Fla. majoring in animal science with a specialization in animal biology and a minor in chemistry. Krista is a member of Alpha Zeta and Phi Theta Kappa and secretary of Block and Bridle. As a participant in the University Scholars Program, Krista works in the medicinal chemistry department at UF as a research assistant.

As a 4-H volunteer, Krista administers vaccinations to lambs and instructs 4-H youth in learning to handle, groom and show livestock. She has worked at the University

of Florida Meat Science Lab, conducting research, and at Ocala Veterinary Hospital, where she assisted the veterinarians, among other duties. Krista has received numerous scholarships, including the Coca-Cola Scholarship, the Marion County Farm Bureau Scholarship, the Bellamy Brothers Manna Pro Scholarship, and the Susan Brown Memorial/Florida Beefmaster Scholarship.

## Dean's Leadership Award



### Carlos D. Messina

Carlos D. Messina is a Ph.D. student from Buenos Aires, Argentina majoring in agricultural and biological engineering. Carlos received a bachelor's of science in agronomy from the University of Buenos Aires in Argentina, followed by a master's degree in crop production from the University of Buenos Aires.

Carlos is a research assistant in the Crop Systems Modeling Laboratory at the University of Florida. His research interests include simulation of crop and agricultural

systems, climate forecast applications, crop eco-physiology, plant physiology and molecular biology. In 1998, he received a fellowship from the IAI (Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research) for six months of collaborative research at UF. Carlos also received a two-year scholarship for his master's program and a one-year fellowship granted by the Argentine Association of Agricultural Research Regional Consortia.

## Alumni and Friends Leadership Award



### John Hall

John Hall, from Odessa, completed a master's degree in agribusiness. John graduated in May of 2001 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture education and a minor in horticultural science. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society and of Gamma Sigma Delta, the Honor Society of Agriculture. John has also been an active member and officer in the Agriculture Education and Communication Society and Block and Bridle.

John has completed his master's degree and will be teaching agriculture at the high school level this fall.

"Agriculture is not just an industry," says John. "It is a way of life that I am proud to be a part of. I hope that I can give wisdom, advice, and encouragement to the lives of the young men and women that I have the opportunity to teach."

## E.T. York, Jr. Award of Merit



### Nicole Sammons

Nicole Sammons is a junior from Estero, Fla. majoring in food science and human nutrition. She is an active member of the Pre-professional Service Organization, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and Golden Key International Honor Society.

Nicole volunteers for the Arts in Medicine program at Shands, helping to paint auction items alongside the "Miracle Children" of the Children's Miracle Network. Nicole has also volunteered as a "cuddler" at Shands Hospital, working with sick infants. She helps raise

money for the March of Dimes and is a counselor and lifeguard for the Florida Diabetes Camp in Tallahassee during the summer.

Nicole participated in the UF Honors Program and is now participating in the UF Junior Honors Medical Program. She has consistently made the President's Honor Roll and the National Dean's List.



## Jack L. Fry Graduate Teaching Award



### Jennifer L. Gillett

Jennifer Gillett, a native of Alachua County, is a Ph.D. candidate in the department of plant pathology in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. A recipient of an alumni fellowship, she currently volunteers as a teaching assistant for PLP 3002 (Fundamentals of Plant Pathology), its graduate-level equivalent (PLP 5005), and two high-enrollment lower division courses (PLP 2000 and PLP 2060), and has given guest lectures in AGG 4921 (Honors

Colloquium). She has also been instrumental in designing and narrating PLP 3002 laboratories on CD-ROM. She is the recipient of the University of Florida Graduate School Graduate Student Teaching Award for 2002-03.

After receiving her bachelor's degree at UF in agricultural education and communication with a specialization in entomology, Jennifer interned as an educator at Trenton High School, where she taught agricultural mechanics and applied horticulture. She then joined the Peace Corps, and was stationed in rural Morocco for almost two years, where she taught local farmers techniques to prevent erosion and improve crop yields.

## Graduate Teacher/Advisor of the Year



### Dr. Peter J. Hansen

Dr. Peter J. Hansen is a professor in the animal sciences department in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. He received a bachelor's degree in agriculture from the University of Illinois and a master's degree and a doctorate in endocrinology and reproductive physiology from the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Hansen has worked as a post-doctoral research associate in the department of biochemistry and molecular biology at UF and taken sabbatical to work in the department of

biomedical sciences in the Ontario Veterinary College at the University of Guelph. During his tenure at the University of Florida, Dr. Hansen has created world-renowned research programs in environment physiology and reproductive immunology. His research programs have yielded approximately 150 publications. Dr. Hansen also directed the IFAS Outstanding Dissertation and was recognized by the graduate school as an Outstanding Graduate Mentor.

One of Dr. Hansen's objectives as a mentor is to ensure that his graduate students know how to frame a hypothesis and design an experiment to test the hypothesis, that they have the statistical tools to analyze the results of the experiment, and that they can interpret the results in an unbiased manner.

## Undergraduate Teacher of the Year



### Dr. Carol J. Lehtola

Carol J. Lehtola is an associate professor in the agricultural and biological engineering (ABE) department in CALS. She also serves as State Extension Agricultural Safety Specialist.

Lehtola has built a solid statewide safety program since coming to UF in 1996. She has been perfecting a course on Safety in Agriculture (AOM 3073) for several years, first at Iowa State University and then at Florida. She also team-teaches Agricultural Risk Management and the Law (ALS 4085) with Michael Olexa. She taught the CALS Honors Colloquium in Fall 2001 and works with students on Honors Contract projects.

Safety in Agriculture has become a popular elective for CALS students. Students often regard safety as a "common sense" subject when they begin the course; as they learn more, however, they begin to understand safety as a professional pursuit. Their newfound interest in the subject may inspire them to pursue independent study in safety or to sign up for the Risk Management course.

Department Chair Direlle Baird said, "I quite often receive comments and letters from students who have taken [Dr. Lehtola's] class indicating that it was one of the most beneficial classes they have taken."

## Larry J. Connor Medal of Excellence



### Judy Wu

Judy Wu is a junior from Longwood, Fla. majoring in nutritional sciences. She is currently the vice president of the Chinese American Student Association, director of the Asian Student Assembly, and a member of the Asian Student Union and Delta Zeta Sorority. Judy has volunteered in the Shands Hospital Burn Intensive Care Unit and the Shands HIV/AIDS Immunology Clinic. She is also the president of Tennis on Wheels, organizing and running wheelchair tennis clinics.

Judy was a charter member of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences-sponsored honors research society known as Investigators, where she is one of several students to make up the "Gator Team." The team prepares materials to teach pediatric and adolescent patients the basics of choosing a nutritious diet.

Judy is a member of the Golden Key National Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She received a Haart scholarship and is also an Anderson Scholar.

## Undergraduate Advisor of the Year



### Dr. R. Elaine Turner

Dr. R. Elaine Turner is an associate professor in the food science and human nutrition department (FSHN) in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. She advises students in the department's nutritional sciences curriculum and is currently responsible for approximately 130 advisees.

Advisors share students' achievements and their failures, and Dr. Turner recognizes the need for an advisor to wear many hats: mentor, coach, role model, and, sometimes, parent.

In addition to advising students in the nutritional sciences curriculum, Dr. Turner serves as the department's Honors coordinator and chair of the Undergraduate Committee. She has also served as a faculty advisor to the Agricultural and Life Sciences College Council. She has also been recognized by the University Honors Program as one of two Honors Professors of the Year.

Each year at Preview, Dr. Turner presents a session for incoming students that describes opportunities in CALS for students who are interested in the health professions. Since 2000, nearly 1200 students have attended her sessions, and over 800 of those students have chosen a major in CALS.

## CALS Mission

To provide a high-quality education to students statewide resulting in society-ready graduates in the areas of food, agriculture, natural resources, human and life sciences.

## CALS Core Values

To meet its requirements to the people of Florida and to serve its mission, CALS advances its core values:

Excellence is the standard for all CALS academic programs.

Through diversity, CALS can ensure gender, racial and social balance.

As part of a land grant university, CALS is responsive and accountable to Florida's citizens.

CALS is global in its perspective and develops world-class programs on behalf of all its students.

CALS accepts responsibility to expand the public's awareness of its programs and benefits.



# Third Annual Teaching Enhancement Symposium

BY CAROL CHURCH

The third annual Teaching Enhancement Symposium was a great opportunity for faculty to enhance their teaching skills and get invigorated for the upcoming school year, said CALS Associate Dean E. Jane Luzar.

All CALS faculty are invited to the symposium, including those based outside of Gainesville. Graduate students are also invited.



CALS Associate Dean Dr. E. Jane Luzar (left) and Dean Jimmy Cheek (far right) talk with keynote speaker Dr. R. Kirby Barrick, Associate Dean for Academic Programs at the University of Illinois College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

“This can be a great opportunity for grad students who want to go into teaching but have not yet served as a teaching assistant,” Luzar said.

The sessions at the symposium address issues that faculty face in striving to become more effective teachers.

Faculty are surveyed before the symposium to determine what types of topics they would like to see covered. This year’s sessions included “Testing What We Teach,” “Critical Thinking” and “Enhancing Learning With Technology,” among others.

Some sessions also deal with professional development and the role of the faculty advisor. For example, one session focused on the role of the sabbatical, and another dealt with the process of peer evaluation.

Most sessions are conducted by current UF faculty, drawing on local expertise and experience, Luzar said.

“Many departments do great things. This is an opportunity for faculty to get together and share resources, experience and talent,” Luzar said. The Academic Development Committee and the Teaching Resource Center help identify and recruit faculty to conduct the sessions.

Professor Mike Kane of the environmental horticulture department moderated a session on “Strategies for Facilitating Graduate Education at the Research Centers.” With the new requirements for all professors (even those outside of Gainesville) to serve on graduate student committees and as major advisers, as well as an increased emphasis on graduate student research at the research centers, it has become important for faculty to know more about graduate education there.

“There can sometimes be a disconnect between the centers and Gainesville, and there are a lot of rules and regulations to be followed. At some of the centers, graduate education is new to them,” Kane said.

Seeing a need, Kane organized a session on ways for faculty to understand and improve the graduate student experience at the centers. Graduate students who had obtained their degrees working with the centers also spoke about the process, Kane said.

“They talked about the positive things that happen, what to look for, what to look out for,” Kane said.

Approximately two hundred people attended the 2002 symposium, with the size of individual sessions ranging from 40 to 80 participants.

The 2003 Teaching Enhancement Symposium will be August 19th at the UF Hotel and Conference Center.

## Graduate Symposium Showcases Research

BY CAROL CHURCH

The third annual Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) graduate research symposium involved presentations and posters from the various departments of IFAS graduate study. The symposium is an opportunity for cross-education between the many different disciplines in the college, said CALS Associate Dean E. Jane Luzar.

Graduate coordinators in each department selected two students to give oral presentations and two to present posters at the symposium.

This year’s symposium was the first to set aside specific times for poster viewing, with the posters’ authors standing by to answer questions. This new addition to the program provided a more informal, less structured opportunity for cross-disciplinary discussion, Luzar said.

In addition to providing students with an opportunity to learn about the research efforts of other graduate students, the symposium serves as a showcase for the university, Luzar said.

“It’s a great opportunity for people to see locally the kind of work that’s being done,” Luzar said, since posters and presentations are usually given at distant locations such as meetings and conferences. Such conferences allow students to learn about research being done in their field, but do not give students and faculty a chance to gain perspective on the work being done in other departments at their own university, Luzar said.

The experience also hones graduate students’ research presentation skills.

“The nature of the symposium means that students have to find ways to communicate effectively across disciplines,” Luzar said.

Carlos Messina, a graduate student in agricultural and biological engineering who presented a poster dealing with his genetic research in soybeans, said he would recommend the experience to every grad student.

“It’s a great opportunity. Quite challenging,” Messina said. “Most of the time you go to meetings where most of the people are familiar with your field and the language you use,” he said. “But this experience is much broader – for example, explaining my work to someone who is in microbiology.”

Dr. H. Franklin Percival, associate professor of wildlife ecology, who moderated a presentation from the environmental horticulture department, said that he feels the symposium has great benefits to the students who present there.

“Since it has become competitive within a department to present at the symposium, it is an honor that might make one just feel good and certainly can be an important line on a developing resume.”

He noted that the symposium has benefits for faculty as well. “I personally made a connection with a student in animal science working on a subject of common interest. I met faculty who might result in future connections,” said Percival.



Maria Jose Castillo, a graduate student in food and resource economics, talks with professor Richard Beilock about her research.

## Stringing It Together

BY CAROL CHURCH AND AMANDA CHAMBLISS

Ehsan Sharaf-Eldeen is a talent on the double bass as well as a third-year senior majoring in nutritional sciences in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Sharaf-Eldeen, who is participating in UF’s seven-year combined BS/DMD (doctor of dental medicine) program, plans a career in dentistry and oral surgery, but he won’t be hanging up the bow when he picks up the drill.

“There were a few periods in my lifetime that I pondered a career in music,” Sharaf-Eldeen said. “I rationalized that I can be an oral surgeon and play in an orchestra as a hobby, but not pursue a

career in music and be an oral surgeon as a hobby. The latter would be slightly illegal.”

Sharaf-Eldeen has been playing the double bass for eight years. He has performed at Carnegie Hall as principal bassist in the National Festival Orchestra, and is currently minoring in music performance and plays in the UF orchestra.

Sharaf-Eldeen (left) practices double bass with fellow nutritional sciences major George Hardy.





# Alpha Zeta Student Leaders Meet at UF

BY ASHLEY CRAFT

Student leaders from across the country improved their leadership skills, learned about the University of Florida and still had time for a little fishing, as part of the 48th biennial Alpha Zeta National Leadership Conference and Conclave, held at UF.

Alpha Zeta is a national professional and honorary fraternity for graduate and undergraduate students in colleges of agriculture.

To be invited to join, students must be in the top 40 percent of their class and receive at least 85 percent of the active membership and faculty advisory committee vote from their university. Students also must be of good character and demonstrate leadership qualities.

Will Dukes, chancellor of the Florida chapter, said UF Alpha Zeta wanted to host Conclave so members from other schools could learn about the Florida chapter.

“We also wanted participants to see the University of Florida and all the facilities and programs that we have, in case they are interested in graduate school,” Dukes said.



Will Dukes, chancellor of the UF chapter of Alpha Zeta, speaks to members during Conclave.

During Conclave, the fraternity's high council and 60 delegates from attending chapters met to discuss the business of the fraternity.

“The goal of Conclave was for members of Alpha Zeta chapters all over the country to share their ideas and visions for the future of the fraternity,” said Jennifer Donze, Conclave committee co-chair.

Donze, a UF fisheries and aquatic sciences graduate student, said the conference also provided a chance for students to improve leadership skills through a workshop conducted by Rick Rudd, associate professor in agricultural education and communication.

Florida chapter member Jennifer Mobberley said she learned valuable information from the leadership workshop.

“It taught me what leadership skills I'm good at,” Mobberley said. “It is helpful to be able to see your strengths and weaknesses in that respect.”

Other workshops, taught mostly by UF Alpha Zeta alumni, were held for attendees to learn about research and projects being conducted at UF, such as horticultural biotechnology and international agriculture programs.

Alpha Zeta members toured the department of fisheries and aquatic sciences to learn about research being conducted with sturgeon and about the Fishing for Success program, which invites children to fish as a way to build self-esteem. They were able to try their hand at fishing as a part of the tour.

“Everyone got either a cane pole or a rod and reel and used hot dogs for bait and went fishing,” Donze said. “We caught catfish, bluegill, sunfish and sunshine bass.”

At the awards banquet UF's Elaine Turner, associate professor in food science and human nutrition, was elected Alpha Zeta's newest honorary member.

Dorothy White, a senior in food science and human nutrition, and Donze, co-chairs of the 2003 Conclave committee, began planning for the UF event soon after the 2001 Cornell University Conclave ended.

“I hope that the students took something back from everything that we did and can incorporate it into their chapters to build and improve them,” Donze said.



Dorothy White (right), former UF Alpha Zeta chancellor and organizer of Conclave, presents CALS Associate Dean Dr. E. Jane Luzar with a T-shirt and a plaque in recognition for her assistance with Conclave.

# FRE Students Bring Home the Gold

BY CHUCK WOODS AND CAROL CHURCH

Can you identify the only basic cattle breed that sweats? What type of legislation discourages the conversion of natural wetlands to cropland use? What do you call a market in which there is only one buyer of a good, service or resource?

Most of us probably have no idea. But if you happen to be part of UF's food and resource economics prize-winning Quiz Bowl team, odds are you know that the answers are “Brahma,” “swamp-busters,” and “monopsony.” Last July, three students in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) were North American champions in the 2002 Academic Quiz Bowl held at the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) in Long Beach, Ca. These students spent hours studying lists of questions and answers like those above, and their hard work paid off.

Staci Braswell, Tiffany Browning and Morgan Hughes, seniors majoring in food and resource economics at UF, were among 37 teams of students from universities and colleges in the United States and Canada competing in the triple-elimination tournament. A total of 114 students participated in the competition, two teams of which were from UF. Questions, which tested their knowledge on basic and advanced concepts, covered areas of economics, marketing, policy, quantitative methods and agribusiness management.

“Our team went through six rounds of competition without a loss, crowning their day by defeating a team from Texas A&M University,” said Dorothy Comer, an associate professor in the food and resource economics department who helped coach the two UF teams in the competition. Economists from the University of Minnesota and the U.S. Department of Agriculture served as judges for the final round.

The competition is a “Jeopardy”-style game, explained Al Wysocki, assistant professor of food and resource economics, who has served as a judge at previous quiz bowls. Contestants buzz in, and then have a

certain amount of time to answer the questions. The students may confer with each other before giving a final team response; judges then render a decision. If the students miss a question, points are deducted from their score.

“There's a lot of strategy, a lot of gamesmanship,” Wysocki said, adding that the 2002 win “came down to the last question.”

Members of the second UF team were Jared Adcock, Anthony Schreiber and Mark Vuckovic. Other UF faculty and staff in the food and resource economics department assisting Comer with the coaching were James Sterns, assistant professor, and David Barber, coordinator of training in the department. Barber also serves as national adviser to the student section of AAEA.

Through the support of their department, teams from UF will again travel to the AAEA annual meeting in Montreal this July, hoping to hold on to last year's title.

Participating in the quiz bowl is both academically valuable and personally broadening for students, said Sterns, who served as faculty advisor for this year's teams.

“Students take an avid interest in course material they might otherwise just rote memorize,” Sterns said.

The students who attend the Quiz Bowl enroll in a one-credit class focused on reviewing and studying for the competition, meeting at least once and often twice a week, Sterns said. Sterns believes that this arrangement has been instrumental to UF's success.

“A little more formality leads to a higher level of participation and dedication,” Sterns said.

Sterns and his colleagues actively recruit students for the class. “I'm always looking for my ace in the hole, my next champion,” he said.



Faculty adviser Dr. Dorothy Comer, Morgan Hughes, Staci Braswell and Tiffany Browning after winning the gold award at the 2002 Academic Quiz Bowl.



## New Agreement Will Send Students to France

BY PATRICK HUGHES

A new agreement between the University of Florida and a small agricultural college in southern France enables students to get credit for tasting different types of Roquefort cheese. Oh la la!

Cheese is not the only item on the curriculum, of course. It is just one small part of an eight-week program that includes a crash course in speaking French, an introduction to European agriculture and an internship at a French farm.

"Participating students will spend four weeks in classroom instruction and four weeks working at a family farm in the rural area outside Toulouse, France," said Mickie Swisher, an associate professor with UF's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

"These families make their living by agricultural means, and students will get to take part in a wide variety of activities by working with them."

The exchange program is the result of an agreement between UF's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) and France's Purpan Agricultural College. Swisher, who is the coordinator for CALS' Global Gator program, said participating in international exchange programs will help students after graduation.

"From a real hard-nosed, practical perspective, this kind of program gives students an edge when applying for jobs or to professional schools," Swisher said. "Big companies do business globally, and people working for them must handle cultural differences in a sophisticated way."



In addition to a cross-cultural experience, Swisher said the exchange agreement offers UF students a look at a different type of farming system than what is typically found in the United States.

"Here, if you grow tomatoes, they go off and you don't necessarily know what happens to them," she said. "With European farming systems, you're much more apt to produce the final product on the farm and sell it directly to consumers. For example, more than 300 different kinds of cheese are produced in France, and consumers often purchase a locally produced cheese that comes from a specific small region or even a specific farm."

Marie Lummerzheim, Purpan's international relations director, said there is no French-language requisite for participation. During the first four weeks of the program, French-language instruction is provided.

She said French students coming to UF likely will be students interested in tropical and subtropical agriculture, as well as animal sciences.

Lummerzheim said she hopes the agreement will foster collaboration between UF and Purpan. Exchanging students is often the first step to developing stronger international connections, she said.

"Staff exchange could occur after our professors come here to meet with our students and get to know American professors in the same field of expertise," she said.

UF students will start attending the Purpan program in summer 2003, while French students will start coming to UF in spring 2004. Because UF's semester is twice as long as the program for French students, Lummerzheim said Purpan will send one student to UF for every two that go to France.

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# CALS Connection

Connecting our Students, Alumni, and Communities Worldwide

College of Agricultural and Life Sciences • IFAS at the University of Florida

## Crops Course Offers Tour of Midwestern Farms

BY SARAH JOE CANNON

College of Agricultural and Life Science (CALS) students participating in the annual Crops Travel Course Tour found the 4,000-mile, nine-day trip to the corn belt of Iowa "eye-opening" and "adventurous."

Leaving on a June morning, the tour stopped at the North Florida Research and Education Center in northwest Florida and the Pioneer HiBred International Corn Research Station in Georgia before heading to the plains of Iowa. Students toured more than 25 agribusiness and production facilities and stayed on working farms with host families.

"Students not only gather a broad understanding of production agriculture from visiting farms, but they also get a look into the actual culture of Midwestern agriculture by staying with farm families," said Kenneth Buhr, assistant professor of agronomy and tour organizer.

Partially funded by a grant from the Monsanto Company, which produces agricultural products and consumer goods, the trip only requires students to purchase their food and incidentals. Although priority goes to students majoring in agronomy and plant

science, Buhr said all CALS students are eligible to register for the course and take the trip.

"Students who have taken agronomy courses are better prepared for the terminology and technological aspects of the plant sciences and will probably gain more from the trip," Buhr said.

During the tour, students observed product and research demonstrations, including gene transfer methods at the Pioneer HiBred International Headquarters and the use of wind as an alternative source of energy at the Cerro Gordo Wind Farm. Students also visited a facility that produces fuel-grade ethanol and a farm that grows specialized corn used in manufacturing pharmaceuticals for the treatment of cystic fibrosis.

Jessica Cain, a 21-year-old food and resource economics major, said the trip helped her learn more about agricultural technology and the careers available in agricultural industry.

"I was able to learn first-hand about biotechnology and the genetic modification of plants," Cain said. "I almost feel that I learned more in nine days on this trip than in three years of agriculture classes."



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