



Florida Tomorrow | College of Liberal
Arts and Sciences



UF | FLORIDA
TOMORROW
THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA



Heart of the Gator Nation

While many outstanding units at the University of Florida contribute to our excellence as an institution of higher education, perhaps none has quite the impact on students as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

As the university's largest college, we are home to the humanities, the social and behavioral sciences, and the physical, natural and mathematical sciences — housing key disciplines such as English, history, mathematics, philosophy, chemistry, sociology and political science. We are therefore charged with the responsibility of teaching the majority of the university's core curriculum to more than 35,000 students each year.

Nearly every UF undergraduate takes at least one class in our college. We also have more than 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students pursuing their degrees from among 42 disciplines. From astronomy to women's studies, we offer the largest selection of majors on campus. Our alumni, in turn, come from all walks of life and are making an impact in diverse fields, including literature, politics, journalism, education and science.

But educating tomorrow's leaders is not the only task keeping our 800 faculty busy. Whether discovering new planets, serving on presidential taskforces or writing bestselling novels, they have achieved international acclaim for their contributions to society.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is, in short, the heart of the University of Florida and the Gator Nation. As UF continues its rise to become one of the top public institutions in the nation, it is more important than ever to invest in its core.

When you reflect on your time as a student — whether in college or high school — remember the impact your science, social science and humanities courses had on your educational development. The university is only as strong as its College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Florida Tomorrow

... and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Promise of Tomorrow

The University of Florida holds the promise of the future: *Florida Tomorrow* — a place, a belief, a day. *Florida Tomorrow* is filled with possibilities. *Florida Tomorrow* is for dreamers and doers, for optimists and pragmatists, for scholars and entrepreneurs, all of whom are nurtured at Florida's flagship university: the University of Florida, the foundation of the Gator Nation.

What is *Florida Tomorrow*? Here at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we believe it's an opportunity, one filled with promise and hope. It's that belief that feeds the university's capital campaign to raise \$1.5 billion.

The *Florida Tomorrow* campaign will shape the university, certainly. But its ripple effect will also touch the state of Florida, the nation and the entire world. *Florida Tomorrow* is pioneering research and spirited academic programs. It's a fertile environment for inquiry, teaching and learning. It's being at the forefront to address the challenges facing all of us, both today and tomorrow.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences *Florida Tomorrow Campaign Goals*

Faculty Support	\$15.6 million
Student Support	\$3.9 million
Programs and Research	\$26 million
Campus Enhancement	\$19.5 million
TOTAL	\$65 million





mission

subtropics

Kurt Armer Chris Buchhalter John Barth Ingrid Bloom
Anne Carlson Alan Dorfman Carol Frost Rob Hock Lawrence Joseph
David Kirby David Lehman Randall Mann Judith M. Montgomery
Lee Murray Lucia Perillo Eleanor Poole Priscilla Roberts Joanna Scott
Ben Sussman Mark Sui



Florida Tomorrow is a place ...

where students begin their exploration of the world.

To Build a Better Writer

As co-director of the Creative Writing Program at the University of Florida, David Leavitt has fielded the question before: “Can writing be taught?”

The answer is complicated, both “yes” and “no.”

“That’s the question we wrestle with all the time,” Leavitt says. “Can you take someone with no capacity for writing and teach that person how to write? Only a little bit. But if someone has talent, can you teach the craft? Yes.”

The supply of talent for the UF program is overflowing. Leavitt says 220 students submitted the writing samples required for admission to the fiction writing program in 2006. Only nine were offered a slot. The program’s professors, all prominent poets and writers, evaluate the samples and go on a gut feeling in accepting students.

“It’s very intuitive,” Leavitt says. “We’re looking for a sense not just of their abilities but of a connection. We’re looking for people we think we can teach.”

Once students are enrolled, professors work on creating a community of writers, almost like a writer’s colony on campus. Unlike some creative writing programs, UF supports all its students, which contributes to the sense of community, Leavitt says.

Community spirit also grows out of the regular workshops designed to coax the best writing out of each student. The workshops formalize the counsel writers like Ernest Hemingway received from fellow writers like Gertrude Stein or Ezra Pound. Leavitt says the workshop is the step between the private and public moments in writing, and while students are encouraged to offer criticism, they learn to do so constructively and diplomatically.

The program is one of the oldest in the nation, dating back to 1948. In 2006, it added a literary magazine, *Subtropics*, which has been able to attract stories and poems from renowned writers.

“We felt there was a shortfall of literary magazines, and most MFA programs have magazines attached to them because this enhances their reputation nationally and internationally,” says Leavitt, who edits *Subtropics*.

The magazine does not publish current students, but students gain experience reading manuscripts, editing, working with distributors, handling subscriptions and helping on the business side.

The long-term goal, Leavitt says, is an endowment that makes the Creative Writing Program and *Subtropics* self-supporting.

“A literary magazine is fairly inexpensive compared to starting up a laboratory,” he says. “But the UF support has been key.”



Florida Tomorrow is a day ...

when we advance our understanding of the universe and our place within it.

A Truly Fantastic Voyage

When a miniaturized medical team was sent into a comatose scientist's bloodstream in the 1966 film "Fantastic Voyage," the concept of impossibly tiny, life-saving particles was science fiction.

Today, in work at UF's Center for Research at the Bio/Nano Interface, development of smart, nanoscopic particles is on the frontier of science.

Director Charles Martin formed the center in 2000 to bring together scientists at UF's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, doctors at the College of Medicine and researchers in the College of Engineering. The interdisciplinary team is investigating new ways to detect and treat disease.

"It would have been difficult to do nanoscience 30 years ago," Martin says, "because critical ultramodern microscopy tools had not yet been invented."

A nanometer is incredibly small — one-millionth of a millimeter. That's 50,000 times smaller in diameter than a human hair. Much of the basic biochemistry of life is done at the nanoscopic scale, offering the promise of new ways to deliver medical treatment.

UF researchers are working on developing biosensors that would radically change disease detection methods. Patients who get blood tests today could wait weeks for results. Biosensors being developed at UF would deliver results the same day and detect biomarkers for disease more quickly, Martin says.

"There are biomarkers, for instance, for breast cancer, but they are at such low concentrations in the blood that it is difficult to

detect them. With better sensing devices, we could detect these biomarkers and diagnose diseases such as cancer or viral diseases at an earlier stage," he says. "This has the potential to completely revolutionize diagnosis of disease."

Researchers also are working on devices called nanotubes to deliver medicine. For example, to treat a tumor, doctors might one day use a nanotube filled with a drug, capped and sent into the body. When the nanotube encountered the tumor, the tumor cells would bind to the nanotube and take it in. Then the cap would come off, the drug would spill out and the tumor would be killed. The nanotubes offer more precision than current treatments, like chemotherapy and radiation, which harm healthy and diseased cells.

Researchers already have "biofunctionalized" the tube, which causes the tumor to recognize it and take it in. They are now working on the chemistry that will cause the cap to come off.

"I've been doing research now for 30 years. I see this bio/nano interface as technology that really could make a difference in people's lives, more so than anything else in my career," Martin says. "There's an opportunity to make an impact on human health and expand fundamental knowledge that is amazing. This is literally a 21st century technology."





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Florida Tomorrow is a belief ...

that we can solve humankind's greatest concerns through inquiry and action to create a better society.

Crime and Punishment

Children who commit crimes present a prickly problem. Should they be treated as children, befitting their age, or adults, befitting their crime? Should they be sent to boot camps, or to treatment programs? How can society punish them, yet turn them into law-abiding adults?

"Over the years, we've gone back and forth about how we think about kids who commit crimes," UF researcher Lonnie Lanza-Kaduce says. "The 1990s saw every state broaden ways to bring kids into the adult system in order to hold kids accountable for their actions and deter other kids from crime. But this was done without research."

As studies began to show popular get-tough policies were backfiring, Lanza-Kaduce and his colleagues in UF's Department of Criminology, Law and Society saw the need for a larger, more detailed study. They matched 475 pairs of juvenile offenders precisely on several points — gender, race, age and seriousness of offense. For a subset, they used additional details from court files, such as gang involvement, if the crime was committed alone or with accomplices, use of weapon and whether victims were injured.

For each pair, one child was selected from the juvenile justice system and the other from the adult system, and researchers tracked their paths. A clear pattern emerged: Youths released

from the adult system re-offended more quickly, more often and more violently after turning 18.

"Adolescence is a time of testing rules," Lanza-Kaduce says. "Some kids engage in delinquency but mature out of it. If they are still delinquent after 18, that's serious."

It was important to compare the matched pairs after the age of 18, Lanza-Kaduce says, because both sets of offenders entered the adult system at that time, telling researchers more about whether a criminal career might be developing. Children who had experienced both the juvenile and adult justice systems remarked on the brutalizing effects of being in the adult system.

Still, being "soft" on juvenile crime is not the answer, Lanza-Kaduce says. "A slap on the wrist is not the way, either, because it doesn't provide accountability."

Screening and assessment can help match the offender with the appropriate treatment, although it's challenging and expensive, he says, adding that Florida's juvenile justice system has improved and is offering a better continuum of services that provide for both accountability and treatment.

"This is self-protective. We want them holding jobs and paying taxes," Lanza-Kaduce says. "We need to get better at figuring out how to intervene."



Our Vision of Tomorrow

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is unique among UF's 16 colleges. Through basic research in the humanities, social sciences and the natural, physical and mathematical sciences, CLAS advances our fundamental understanding of the universe and of humankind's place in it. Through the multiple perspectives afforded by these disciplines, we equip students with the communication and critical thinking skills they need to resolve the challenges of the 21st century.

The college is charged with guiding the intellectual growth of virtually all UF undergraduates in their first two years. Thousands of them continue on to pursue CLAS majors in their upper division years. Graduate students pursuing advanced degrees partner with some of the world's most accomplished faculty to address the fundamental questions facing society.

The college captures the brightest ideals of intellectual inquiry and human values mirrored in society. We remain ever conscious

that we must represent and reflect all segments to maintain our honored place as the heart of the Gator Nation.

Tomorrow's students will need to learn about new things in new ways. Science and technology continue to advance and humankind's social structures continue to evolve. We welcome new opportunities and face new challenges.

Tomorrow's college will always bring students face-to-face with a talented faculty that is actively engaged in meeting these challenges. By designing innovative curricula, by using the latest technology and teaching techniques to engage students in individual learning experiences, through fundamental research to advance our understanding of their disciplines, and through their service to the community, the state and the nation, faculty members will create an environment that fosters learning and independent inquiry.

The focus of the college will shift to address evolving issues. These include the scientific, ethical, economic and philosophical questions emerging from major new insights into the structure of the human genome. Questions about the availability of resources and the changing nature of our environment will drive significant scientific, social and economic concerns. We must accelerate our investigations into the consequences of climate change and the roles of renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. Nanotechnology promises a new platform for technology innovation with substantial economic and sociological implications. The age-old problems of poverty, disease and social unrest have developed new faces even as some former Third World countries make large strides into the 21st century. Security has become a major concern in many parts of the world.

Tomorrow's college will bring the nation's best minds together to address these challenges using techniques from a multiplicity of disciplines. Tomorrow's students will be engaged in this research shoulder-to-shoulder with faculty members. These experiences, along with the broad exposure to many academic disciplines and the CLAS challenge to understand the world, will prepare students to meet the challenges of the world.





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University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences • Office of Development • (352) 392-5474

University of Florida Foundation, Inc. | P.O. Box 14425 | Gainesville, FL 32604 | (352) 392-1691 | www.FloridaTomorrow.ufl.edu