



Florida Tomorrow | Division of Student Affairs





Florida Tomorrow ... and the Division of Student Affairs

From the Vice President

It's challenging to explain the powerful impact of the student experience at the University of Florida to those who haven't felt it themselves. Student Affairs prepares students outside the classroom to assume roles of leadership, involvement and service in a global community — and the wide range of opportunities that Student Affairs provides makes the difference in their future.

Our seven departments — Career Resource Center, Counseling Center, Dean of Students Office, Housing and Residence Education, J. Wayne Reitz Union, Recreational Sports and Student Financial Affairs — play a vital role in creating and maintaining a healthy campus environment through services, programs and innovative learning experiences beyond the classroom. Students are the life of the university, and we seek to engage and support them in their pursuit of discovery that will optimize their university experience.

Student Affairs provides students an opportunity to develop leadership skills in more than 700 student organizations on campus, 24 residence halls, 3,000 intramural teams in 41 sport clubs and so much more. We support students through personal counseling, career counseling, financial aid and a wide array of other programs and services.

To improve our abilities to challenge and support students at the University of Florida, Student Affairs is seeking your help in funding more first-generation college students from modest backgrounds in the Florida Opportunity Scholars Program. The true stories of our students who have benefited from this scholarship support are unparalleled — just read the real story of Angelica Rojas in this brochure to see one example.

Other goals for Student Affairs include building a leadership retreat center at Lake Wauburg and increasing leadership and service opportunities through the Center for Leadership and Service. Together, we are committed to providing opportunities for student engagement, learning and discovery in a diverse environment to optimize their university experience and prepare them to serve a global community. I invite you to join us in the campaign to help make the student experience an integral part of *Florida Tomorrow*.

Sincerely,
Patricia Telles-Irvin
Vice President for Student Affairs

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*? The Division of Student Affairs believes 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.

UF Division of Student Affairs *Florida Tomorrow Campaign Goals*

Undergraduate Student Support	\$7 million
Programs and Research	\$3 million
TOTAL	\$10 million





Florida Tomorrow is a place ...

where students develop ethical leadership skills in a diverse and challenging campus environment.

A Place to Think

For 90 years, UF's Lake Wauburg has been a place students go to leave the world behind. Soon, it could be where they go to learn to change the world.

There are plans for a lakeside retreat center to give students a place to gather without truly leaving UF. The escape from daily surroundings — even to a lake just eight miles from campus — can be important to the kind of critical and creative thinking the university encourages from student leaders.

"When students meet for retreats in the same rooms where they have business meetings, they're more 'tasky' and less visionary," says Mary Kay Carodine, senior associate dean of students. "Getting off campus brings with it a whole different level of reflection."

A UF-owned retreat center would also lower costs for campus organizations, she says.

The plan is that the retreat center would blend in with the area's natural beauty.

"The idea is for the retreat center to have a natural feel that doesn't infringe on the setting," says Nancy Chrystal-Green, associate director for programs in UF's Department of Recreational

Sports. "It would feel like going into the woods, but it would be a lot more comfortable than camping."

If all goes as hoped, overnight lodgings for up to 80 people would be available in two bunkhouses and cabin-style rooms, and a 200-person meeting room would offer more than double the space of the lake's historic Cypress Lodge. From training programs for resident assistants in the Department of Housing to workshops and seminars on a range of issues for student leaders from across campus, the center would allow groups to retreat from the everyday with the convenience of a location close to campus.

"Lake Wauburg is just eight miles south of campus, but it's a setting where you can really settle in and reflect on issues without distractions," Chrystal-Green says. "Out there, you're not as tethered to the cell phones, the computers. You're not so accessible to the daily grind."



Florida Tomorrow is a day ...

when UF graduates are known for their leadership skills, global awareness and environmental responsibility.

Life Lessons

Life-changing and eye-opening aren't words normally associate with spring break — unless it's one of UF's Florida Alternative Breaks trips. Each year, more than 300 University of Florida students and faculty devote their spring or winter breaks to service projects around the country and in Latin America.

"We talk about trying to educate leaders for a global community, and that's exactly what we're doing with FAB," says Mary Kay Carodine, senior associate dean of students. "The students learn about issues outside the university. They're connecting with causes and developing skills that will help them become better citizens."

The program was established at UF in 1993. The first service trip was a relief effort to south Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew, and the program has since expanded to 15 spring break trips and several winter and summer trips to locations from Nicaragua to New Orleans. Each focuses on a particular social issue — from homelessness to the environment — that students study in the months leading up to their trip.

Priya Palta went on her first FAB trip as a freshman in 2004. Like nearly half of FAB participants, she returned for another —

the second time as a site leader for a project in Miami focusing on the elderly.

"It was really a life-changing experience for me," she says of her first trip, working with low-income children in Kentucky. "The trips take you out of your comfort zone, and make you more aware of what's going on in society. You learn about yourself, your peers, your community. The skills you acquire can be taken with you in everything you do later in life."

Carodine hears similar comments from other students.

"Ultimately, the students find that they get more than they give," she says. "They come back with eyes wide open."

FAB is one of numerous initiatives offered through UF's Center for Leadership and Service to train up-and-coming leaders. Others include Gatorship, a leadership and diversity retreat, and LeaderShape, a national, ethics-based leadership development program. All the programs, Carodine says, help create global thinkers who will leave UF prepared to be leaders in their careers and in society.





Florida Tomorrow is a belief ...

that we are preparing students for careers still on the horizon and who are capable of solving problems that have not yet been identified.

A Family's First

Angelica Rojas didn't need to be told the difference education can make. She'd seen it firsthand in the struggles of her parents, Mexican immigrants who hadn't had the benefit of much schooling.

"My mom used to tell me about how she cried because she wanted to go to school, but her family couldn't send her," Rojas says. "Seeing my parents struggle made me appreciate education even more."

Nonetheless, even as one of her high school's best students — with a long list of academic honors and community-service activities to her name — Rojas wasn't sure college was in her future. Her father's job in an orange grove in her hometown of Immokalee didn't earn enough for tuition, much less the other costs for her to attend college.

"I'm the youngest of four, and my older siblings didn't have the opportunity to go to college," Rojas explains. "I didn't know if it would be an option for me."

Her chance to do something no one in her family had ever done — to enroll in college — came in the form of a Florida

Opportunity Scholarship. The scholarships are for students who are the first in their families to attend college and whose parents make less than \$40,000 a year. Hundreds of low-income students have received the awards since the program started in 2005, allowing recipients like Rojas to focus on their studies rather than the price of tuition, rent and meals.

Rojas recalls the day word came that a scholarship to the University of Florida was hers if she wanted it.

"When I read the letter, I was so shocked I made my best friend read it back to me. I thought I hadn't understood it correctly," Rojas says.

Now, she is considering a double-major in journalism and family, youth and community science. Rojas hopes to use her passion for writing to someday tell her story to students who may be in the same situation she once was.

"I really want to tell other students that hard work does pay off," she says. "No matter what challenges you have, if you're hard-working and determined, you really can be successful."



Our Vision of Tomorrow

Student Affairs is committed to providing students with opportunities for engagement, learning and discovery in a diverse environment that will optimize their university experience and prepare them to serve a global community. Tomorrow's Student Affairs supports all of our students in their endeavors outside of the classroom and prepares them for the next level of challenges in the real world.

Our students leave the university with the necessary skills for the next generation of leadership — and Student Affairs programs and services enhance their college experience. Building a new leadership retreat center, expanding programs in the Center for Leadership and Service, and supporting Florida Opportunity Scholars are all ways you can help make a difference for students. However, the full range of opportunities for you to support Student Affairs includes all of our seven departments that touch the lives of students on a daily basis.

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We invite you to join Student Affairs in making our shared vision of *Florida Tomorrow* a reality.



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