

TOMORROW

THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

ON THE DOORSTEP OF LATIN AMERICA

UF center binds USA with neighbors in the South

The Amazon Rainforest, at first glance, appears eternal. Its size alone — well over a billion acres sprawling across nine South American nations — is almost beyond comprehension. From Earth's orbit, it looks like a dark green splash stretching from Brazil's Atlantic coast all the way to Peru on the Pacific side of the continent.

Impressive as the rainforest is, deforestation is chipping away at it so quickly that the World Wildlife Fund estimates 55 percent could be replaced with cattle ranches, soybean farms and new communities in 20 years. The WWF calls it a "looming disaster" — not just for the region's 40,000 plant species and 2,000 types of birds and mammals, but for humans around the globe. The Amazon — often called the planet's lungs — produces more than 20 percent of the world's oxygen and contains one-fifth its fresh water.

The University of Florida — spearheaded by the Center for Latin American Studies — is working to stop its destruction. Anthropology professor Marianne Schminck directs the center's Tropical Conservation and Development Program. Her students are taught to master the art of interdisciplinary cooperation to help preserve rainforests while balancing the needs of the people there.

The program's alumni have moved into influential positions in governments, organizations and wildlife conservation. Connie Campbell is one of those alumni; she directs an Amazon-basin initiative for the U.S. Agency for International Development. Another graduate is Claudio Padua — *TIME* magazine's 2002 conservation hero. Padua and his wife, Suzana, also an alumna, founded Brazil's Institute for Ecological Research.

Protecting the Amazon Rainforest is one example of the work being done at UF's Center for Latin American Studies. More than 50 UF academic departments — ranging from business to education, science to wildlife management, anthropology to medicine — come together through the center. The Levin College of Law, for instance, is focused on judicial reform, property rights and other topics. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is exploring the U.S. and Latin America's shared problems, such as crime. The College of Fine Arts is bringing Brazilian music and dance into the classroom.

On cover: The Amazon leaf frog (aka fringed leaf frog) *Cruziohyla craspedopus* is one of the thousands of animal species living in the Amazon Rainforest. This frog lives high in the tree canopy and only comes down to breed. It is rarely seen.

In 1930, then-UF President John Tigert championed a stronger relationship between UF and Latin America. He cited an ever-shrinking world, Florida's deep Spanish heritage and the rewards such a bond would bring. Now, eight decades later, Tigert's vision seems truer than ever.

— Bernie Machen, president, University of Florida

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OR SUPPORT THE UF CENTER FOR LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES, GO TO WWW.LATAM.UFL.EDU OR CALL 352-392-9418



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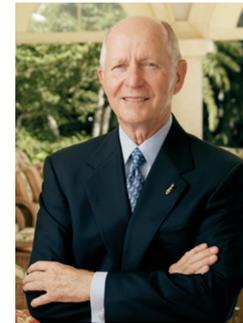


HALFWAY HOME AND ON TARGET

THE CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS



Beth McCague (BA '74)



Earl Powell (UF '57-'60)

Florida Tomorrow campaign chairs praise donors for generosity

"In all kinds of weather, we all stick together." Those words are more than a mantra for The Gator Nation; they are part of our core — nine words that capture our goodness, our dedication to one another and our university, our commitment to do all we can to ensure the greater good.

To see those words in action, we need look no farther than the University of Florida's *Florida Tomorrow* capital campaign. Despite a struggling economy, Gators — both alumni and friends, alike — from across the nation have reached into their pockets and into their hearts to contribute more than \$837 million to the campaign so far. With a goal of \$1.5 billion raised by fall 2012, we are on pace to meet that challenge because of you — caring people who believe in the university's mission and understand that a strong university benefits all of us for generations to come.

Especially heartwarming is that your philanthropy has continued during one of the worst economic downturns in the last 40 years. Your gifts support an array of programs and projects that touch practically every corner of our society: from agriculture to cancer, sustainable energy to space travel, human rights to independent living for senior citizens. Some recent contributions include \$2 million from Frank and Besty Karel for an endowed chair in the College of Journalism and Communications; \$100,000 from Troy and Julianne Davis to create a summer camp for children with dyslexia; \$1 million each from Jean Wittner, John and Mary Lou Dasburg, and Tom and Kathy Shannon for William R. Hough Hall, future home of the Hough Graduate School of Business. And there are many, many more equally generous contributions for equally noteworthy projects and programs.

This winter, the campaign crosses the midway point in its timeline. With half the goal reached, we need to keep our eyes on the prize. Your contributions enable the University of Florida to make it possible for our students, professors and alumni to make a real difference throughout the world, while working to solve many challenges we all face, whether health, social or economic. Together, we will achieve that goal. Because, as we all know, there's nothing quite as remarkable as The Gator Nation.

Thank you for all you have done for the university.

— Beth McCague and Earl Powell, co-chairs, Campaign Steering Council

Florida TOMORROW

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FLOWERS, FOSSILS AND ONE WOMAN'S CURIOSITY

Doctoral student's research in paleobotany made possible thanks to Britt Endowment

Flowers and rocks may not be a match made in heaven, but they're the match that has given Paula Mejia-Velasquez direction. As an undergraduate at the Universidad de Antioquia in her native Colombia, Mejia-Velasquez discovered how two opposites could be a perfect fit.

"We had this class where we had fossils, and we were trying to determine how plants evolved ... and that was it," she says. "I decided that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life."

Mejia-Velasquez, a UF doctoral student, is focusing on the evolution of flowering plants. After going through an evolution of her own — to U.S. resident and graduate student — she received funding from the R. Jerry Britt Jr. Endowment in 2007 to support her fieldwork. The endowment honors Jerry Britt Jr., who worked as a paleobotanist at the Florida Museum of Natural History.

"Without the endowment, I couldn't get my fossils. Without my fossils, of course, I cannot do my studies, I cannot do my research," Mejia-Velasquez says.

She hopes to return to Colombia as a professor and paleobotany researcher. Colombia's low altitude and tropical temperature make it difficult for fossils to survive, meaning less research has been conducted in the Southern Hemisphere.

"It's like we have a hole in the tropics. If we can get more studies in tropical areas, we can get the whole picture," Mejia-Velasquez says. "Worldwide, it will help to understand the evolutionary patterns of plants."

— Kelsey McNiel



Paula Mejia-Velasquez hopes to one day research fossils in Colombia. Photo by Chen Wang

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OR CONTRIBUTE TO THE R. JERRY BRITT JR. ENDOWMENT AND OTHER ENDOWMENTS, VISIT WWW.UFF.UFL.EDU.

THE BATTLE FOR HEALTHIER HUMANS, PLANTS AND ANIMALS



Glenn Morris (top right) will lead skilled researchers from across campus at the Emerging Pathogens Institute (rendering top left). Photo by Ray Carson

UF's Emerging Pathogens Institute targets some of nature's most-elusive disease agents

Disciplines that don't often share the same room will be moving in together this fall. The goal is to develop solutions to emerging pathogens — such as citrus canker, West Nile virus, black mold, avian flu, E. coli and salmonella — that threaten Florida's population, agriculture industries and ecosystems.

UF's Emerging Pathogens Institute is already fusing research programs, and a state-of-the-art facility is scheduled for completion in August. The \$55 million, 80,000-square-foot building will be shared by researchers from the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences and colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dentistry, Engineering, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medicine, Pharmacy, Public Health and Health Professions, and Veterinary Medicine so they can work more collaboratively and efficiently. Initiatives will focus not only on human diseases, but also on plant and animal pathogens that could impact human health, economies and the environment.

"Understanding why and how new pathogens emerge requires a multidisciplinary approach, with the ability to move from basic genetics to global public health," says Glenn Morris, EPI's director. "My goal is to bring faculty together to build a strong interdisciplinary spirit and to play on each other's strengths. If you put them all together in one room and close the door, it is amazing what can happen."

— Liesl O'Dell

FOR INFORMATION ON THE EMERGING PATHOGENS INSTITUTE, VISIT WWW.EPL.UFL.EDU/?Q=NODE/114.



THE WONDROUS POWER OF ZINC

Robert Cousins proves humankind's need for one often overlooked mineral

To most people zinc merely finishes the list of ingredients in their multivitamins; but UF professor Robert Cousins has devoted 40 years to studying how the body uses this essential compound, including for fighting infections.

When the body gets an infection, zinc is "shunted" to the liver, bone marrow and glands, he explains. Much like in a factory, the body delivers zinc — a raw material — to these organs in order to manufacture white blood cells.

"Those cells all need zinc, and they need it in a hurry," Cousins says. "The bone marrow and the immune organs are producing millions and millions of immune cells to fight that infection."

Zinc supplements have significantly cut mortality rates — especially among children and elderly — in developing nations over the past decade. *The Wall Street Journal* cited Vitamin A and zinc supplements as the No. 1 way to improve the condition of the world's poor.

Support from UF's Eminent Scholars program and the Boston Family Chair in Human Nutrition has allowed Cousins — one of 11 UF members of the National Academy of Sciences (like the National Baseball Hall of Fame for researchers) — to purchase technology required for tracking zinc in the body.

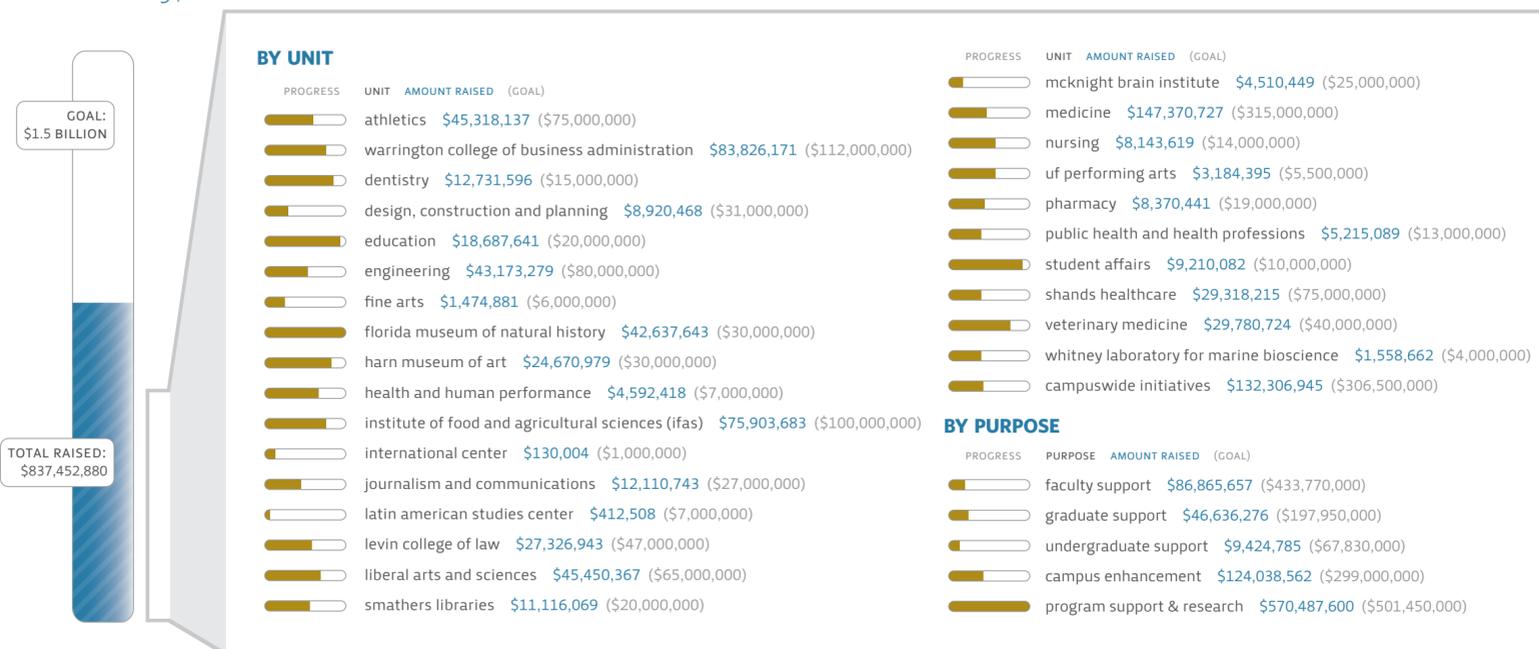
"It's provided me with the opportunity to work at a level that allows one to compete quite effectively at the national level," says Cousins. "I've tried in my 26 years here to certainly live up to that."

— Elizabeth Hillaker

FOR INFORMATION AND TO SUPPORT THE FOOD SCIENCE AND HUMAN NUTRITION DEPARTMENT, VISIT [HTTP://FSHN.IFAS.UFL.EDU/INDEX.SHTML](http://FSHN.IFAS.UFL.EDU/INDEX.SHTML).

CAMPAIGN Progress

AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2008



HOW WILL YOU CHANGE TOMORROW?

There are many ways to support the University of Florida's programs, research, faculty and students. To speak with a donations expert who could tailor a plan for you, contact Carter Boydston at 352-392-9826 or cboydstun@uff.ufl.edu. To explore some typical methods on your own, visit www.uff.ufl.edu/HowToGive.

GO Figure

\$2,000 Current annual threshold for being recognized through UF's President's Council.

\$5.7 million Cost of the Florida Opportunity Scholars program in 2008. With 1,600 first-generation, low-income students expected to participate in 2009 — an increase of 500 students — those costs are projected to rise.

\$50 million Amount basketball head coach Billy Donovan and football head coach Urban Meyer hope to raise for the Florida Opportunity Scholars program. The coaches co-chair the fundraising drive.

\$285,000 Amount UF President Bernie Machen and his wife, Chris, pledged for the Florida Opportunity Scholars program.

FINE ART OF SHARING, GAINING KNOWLEDGE

Retired professor lends hand to faculty, students

When graduate students or faculty members in UF's College of Fine Arts are invited to present their work on the national or international stage, they're faced with a dilemma: decline the invitation or pay for the travel out of their own pockets.

That bothers retired UF dean and professor Madelyn Lockhart — so much so that she donated \$110,000 for an endowment to help offset travel costs to professional conferences, seminars and workshops.

Lockhart's gift, Dean Lucinda Lavelli insists, comes at a critical time for her college.

"Without this funding, our ability to maintain a strong national and international presence is greatly challenged," she says. "Significant learning occurs outside [the university]; and this is



especially the case with the fine and performing arts, which are global by their very nature."

Lockhart joined the College of Business Administration faculty in 1960. As a professor and dean, she saw firsthand the need for doctoral students to broaden their education and become involved professionally, but there were no budgeted funds. Now, with budget cuts — especially in the fine arts — she sees an even greater need for such funding.

Her donation to the College of Fine Arts is her latest gift to the university. Others include establishing endowments in the Department of Economics, Center for Women's Studies, Center for African Studies, Harn Museum of Art and George A. Smathers Libraries.

"I've looked for where I thought there was a need and I can contribute," explains Lockhart, who retired in 1995. "I also look to where there have been budget cuts, and fine arts have taken a big cut."

— Tamekia Massaline

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO SUPPORT RESEARCH-RELATED TRAVEL, CONTACT THE COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS' OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AT 352-846-1211.

(left) Retired UF faculty member Madelyn Lockhart is still giving to the university. Photo by Kristen Hines

REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENT DATES

THE FLORIDA TOMORROW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS REACHING THROUGHOUT THE NATION WITH THESE REGIONAL KICKOFF EVENTS:

Broward County Feb. 4

Jacksonville April 23

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE REGIONAL CAMPAIGNS, VISIT WWW.FLORIDATOMORROW.UFL.EDU/REGIONALS.