

## Hard-To-Master-Language requires critical thinking

There's no Hemingway, Transcendentalists, Melville or Lawrence in English Professor Gregory Ulmer's course, but there is HTML.

Ulmer's entry-level class, Hypermedia, a course on basic Web design, is one of the more challenging in the English department. Not only are many of the concepts foreign to a majority of students, but his teaching methods are different from the average English instructor.

As with the other UF faculty members recently inducted into the Academy of Distinguished Teaching Scholars, it is Ulmer's insistence on getting students to really use their minds – to think critically – that helped him gain acclaim as an educator.

"Problems in real life are not so neatly broken down," he said. "They are all entangled. We want to get students and teachers thinking in a holistic way in regard to learning."



Kristen Bartlett

**English Professor Gregory Ulmer uses his basic course in Hypermedia to help students develop critical-thinking skills.**

But Ulmer doesn't see his course as just a way of equipping his students with valuable knowledge for the digital age. He is getting them to think creatively by first figuring out and then mastering two dimensions of his class: the content and the methodology.

"Over the 16 weeks of the semester,

students go from 'What is this?' to 'Oh, I see,'" Ulmer said.

At the end of the term, Ulmer said his students feel a sense of accomplishment in realizing they have solved the problems using his methodology of working in groups and using models to guide them. And they completed the difficult challenge of creating a Web site.

"The course is really about you, the student," he said. "It offers self-knowledge, which is the essence of discovery. Once you know yourself, you can be valuable in a lot of different fields professionally."

More than anything, Ulmer said he wants to instill in his students the ability to work out any problem they encounter.

"It doesn't matter what the topic is," he said. "There is a method of creatively solving the problem. My course is an opportunity to practice creative thinking."

By Cory Frederick

## Seen & Heard

### Research complex opens with visit from governor

The Cancer and Genetics Research Complex, the largest research structure on the University of Florida campus, will celebrate its grand opening Wednesday that will include a visit from Gov. Jeb Bush.

The \$84.5 million complex is west of the Health Science Center at the intersection of Archer Road and Gale Lemerand Drive, next to the Jerry and Judith Davis Cancer Center, an outpatient facility of the UF Shands Cancer Center.

The location was chosen so that scientists who are exploring cancer at the cellular, molecular and genetics levels will be able to collaborate directly with health professionals caring for patients.

The 280,000-square-foot complex houses major research and educational programs of the UF Genetics Institute, the UF Shands Cancer Center and the UF-based Interdisciplinary Center for Biotechnology Research, a statewide resource serving more than 800 scientists.

### Exhibit to showcase international programs

As part of International Education Week, the University of Florida School of Architecture will host an exhibit of faculty research and student work relating

to international programs and projects. The exhibit will run through Friday in the gallery at the Architecture Building and is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The School of Architecture and the College of Design, Construction and Planning have a strong history of international programs and research, reaching from Brazil to Hong Kong and China and from Germany to Australia. This semester, students are studying abroad with college faculty in Pune, India; Vicenza, Italy; and Paris. The exhibit will provide a visual interpretation of selected projects and programs, including projects from architecture professors Charles Hailey, Shivjit Sidhu and Hui Zou.

### Machen visiting Asia to promote higher ed

University of Florida President Bernie Machen is in Asia this week, as part of a U.S. delegation of higher education leaders who are meeting with students, university administrators, business leaders and government officials in Japan, Korea and China.

The trip, which coincides with International Education Week, follows from a commitment made at the U.S. University Presidents Summit on International Education in January 2006. The State Department is organizing high-level delegations of

college and university presidents, each led by a senior government official, to key regions of the world to promote U.S. higher education and to talk about the importance of international education.

The Asia delegation includes Assistant Secretary of State Dina Habib Powell, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings, and the presidents or leaders of 11 other universities, including Johns Hopkins, Ohio State and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

UF enrolls students from more than 100 foreign countries and maintains offices in Paris and Beijing.

### Conversation to focus on faculty diversity

The third discussion in the 2006 Faculty Development "Conversations About..." series will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, in Emerson Alumni Hall. The conversation will focus on faculty diversity and recruitment. For additional information, contact faculty development at 392-6004 or visit the Web at [www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/conversations/](http://www.aa.ufl.edu/aa/facdev/conversations/).

**Nov. 17**  
7:30 p.m., Maria Schneider Orchestra

**Nov. 19**  
8 p.m., Monchy & Alexander

**Nov. 21**  
7:30 p.m., Bayanihan Philippine National Dance Company

**Nov. 24**  
7:30 p.m., "Jesus Christ Superstar"

### Academic Calendar

**Nov. 20**  
Deadline to drop or add course by college petition  
Deadline to withdraw from UF with "W"

### InsideUF to take break for holiday

There will be no print edition of InsideUF on Nov. 21 because of the Thanksgiving holiday. The Nov. 28 issue will be the last print edition for the year. Publication will resume in January. In the meantime, look for InsideUF online at [news.ufl.edu/insideuf](http://news.ufl.edu/insideuf).

### Florida minimum wage to increase in January

Effective Jan. 1, the state of Florida's minimum wage will increase to \$6.67 an hour. At the University of Florida, the new minimum wage will affect OPS employees, student assistants and federal work study students. Departments do not need to take action to raise the pay of current employees who are below this new minimum, but are asked to enter terminations that will take place in December as early as possible. This minimum wage increase does not affect TEAMS or USPS employees.

### Gator Dining offers meal memberships

Faculty and staff dining memberships are now available through Gator Dining Services. Membership entails 30 meals plus \$25 in Flex Bucks at the Fresh Food Company (Broward Dining Hall) and Gator Corner Dining Center (behind the O'Connell Center). Meal memberships also may be used at the new café in the Cancer and Genetics Research Complex. For additional details on the membership, visit the Web at [www.gatordining.com/FacultyStaff](http://www.gatordining.com/FacultyStaff).

### Don't forget ...

To update your addresses (postal and e-mail) in the UF directory to ensure you don't miss important mailings on any number of topics, including benefits changes. Details on how to keep this information current are available online at [www.bridges.ufl.edu/advisory/advisory70.shtml](http://www.bridges.ufl.edu/advisory/advisory70.shtml).

### Did you know

UF Physical Plant employees provide service to 403 campus buildings totaling more than 10 million square feet of space?

Send submissions for publication consideration at least two weeks in advance to [insideuf@ufl.edu](mailto:insideuf@ufl.edu).

## Top of Page

# UF proposal aims to boost undergraduate education

*Academic Enhancement Program would pay for additional faculty, advisers*

The University of Florida has proposed a new Academic Enhancement Program for undergraduate students that if approved will enable the university to hire 200 new faculty members and 100 new academic advisers, resulting in smaller classes, a higher four-year graduation rate and a more rewarding college experience.

The program would apply to incoming freshmen and transfer students in fall 2007 and would be phased in over four years. The program, which must be approved by the state Board of Governors and the Florida Legislature, would add \$500 per semester to the tuition approved by the Florida Legislature for the 2007-08 academic year.

"The University of Florida is the highest ranked university in the state, yet, with one exception, charges the lowest tuition and fees," UF President Bernie Machen said. "Our tuition is also considerably less than every other major public university nationally. This greatly impedes our ongoing efforts to reduce our high student-to-faculty ratio and take other steps necessary to make UF a leading national public university."

The hiring of new faculty members and advisers would lower student-teacher ratios, reduce class sizes and enable the university to add more sections of required and popular classes making it easier for students to complete required courses and potentially improving graduation rates.

"The bottom line is, we will use the program to enrich the educational experience of the students who are paying for it," Machen said. "In addition, the region and the state stand to gain considerably from a more competitive, more vibrant University of Florida."

UF currently charges the lowest in-state

tuition and fees (\$3,206 per academic year) of all but one state university in Florida – New College of Florida in Sarasota. It also ranked last in USA Today's 2006 survey of tuition at 75 public flagship universities nationwide.

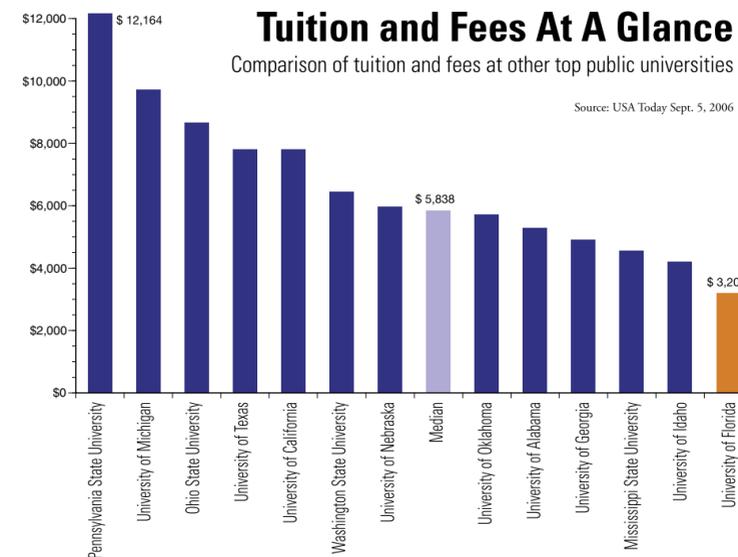
When combined with other measures being pursued by UF such as boosting the endowment, the Academic Enhancement Program will help reduce these disparities with the nation's best public universities, Machen said. "It's one ingredient in our campaign to make sure that Florida, which will soon be the third largest state in the nation, has a top-ranked research university," he said.

The Academic Enhancement Program will not be covered by the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship program. It also will not be covered under the Florida Prepaid College Plan, which does not cover all fees

currently. That said, UF officials do not expect the program to pose a burden to most students, since nearly 96 percent of all in-state UF undergraduates receive Bright Futures scholarships. For students on financial aid, aid packages will be adjusted to cover the cost of the program. UF scholarships that pay for tuition and college costs, such as the Florida Opportunity Scholarship, also will cover the added cost.

"If the benefits of the Academic Enhancement Program didn't far outweigh the costs, we would never pursue it," Machen said. "We think the program will provide our students a much richer, much more memorable undergraduate experience, not to mention a more valuable degree."

For full story, visit the Web at <http://news.ufl.edu/2006/11/07/academic-enhancement/>



**Today**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music wind symphony concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 15**  
8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., "Faculty Diversity and Recruitment" faculty development conversation, Emerson Alumni Hall

**Nov. 17**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music guest piano recital, University Auditorium

**Nov. 16**  
4 p.m., Center for Exercise Science seminar, "Exercise and the Aging Brain: From Genes to Cognition" with Brad Hatfield, University of Maryland, Florida Gym Room 1

4 p.m., Food Science and Human Nutrition Department talk, "Vitamin B6 Dependent Pathways of One Carbon Metabolism Quantified in Human Subjects," Yvonne Lamers, Florida Gym Room 270

**Nov. 17**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music choir concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 17**  
11 a.m., Food Science and Human Nutrition graduate student open house, Aquatics Food Products Laboratory

**Nov. 17**  
12:50 p.m., School of Music convocation, University Auditorium  
7:30 p.m., School of Music steel band and percussion ensemble concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 19**  
4 p.m., Anonymous 4 with Darol Anger and Scott Nygaard, University Auditorium

**Nov. 20**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music symphonic band concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 21**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music jazz band concert, University Auditorium

**Nov. 28**  
7:30 p.m., School of Music flute ensemble concert, University Auditorium

**Theater**  
**Nov. 16-17, 19**  
Florida Players presents "Bent," Black Box Theatre, Nadine McGuire Theatre and Dance Pavilion; Thursday-Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2:30 p.m., 7 p.m.

**Harn Museum of Art**  
"Resonance and Inspiration: New Works by Magdalene Odundo" through Dec. 31

### Phillips Center

**Nov. 16**  
7:30 p.m., Orquestra de Sao Paulo with Antonio Meneses

## The Blog

### Senate Policy Councils work for all of UF

Although the semester just began for many of us, the Senate Policy Councils have been active for months and soon will bring recommendations to the Senate. It is through the Policy Councils that the Senate takes a proactive role in policy changes and guards the academic mission of the University of Florida.



Danaya Wright

Currently, the Academic Policy Council is considering the adoption of minus grades for UF and looking into policies for recognition of three-year baccalaureate degrees from European universities. Soon, the council will create procedures for updating and revising the University Strategic Work Plan. The Welfare Council is revising the faculty climate survey and considering ways to implement the Sloan Foundation grant application career flexibility report. The council will recommend hiring a dispute resolution officer to help faculty deal with grievances and other work-related issues.

The Budget Council is reviewing college and center program review documents for consistency with various legislative budget requests and allocations, and the University Strategic Plan. The Infrastructure Council is investigating deferred maintenance on university buildings and is working with the Future of the Libraries Committee. The Council on Research and Scholarship is reviewing evaluation processes for university centers and institutes, and policies concerning indirect cost determinations.

The chairs of the University Senate and Joint Committees sit on a relevant Senate Policy Council so there is a synergy between the committees and councils. We hope that if you have recommendations for new policies or questions regarding pending items, you will contact the relevant council, committee or Senate chair for further guidance and input.

It is only with the participation of the entire university community that we define the academic and working environment in which we live.

Danaya Wright  
Faculty Senate Chair

## Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida compiled from the full calendar that appears on the Web at [calendar.ufl.edu](http://calendar.ufl.edu). To submit an event online, send an e-mail to [calndar@nersp.osg.ufl.edu](mailto:calndar@nersp.osg.ufl.edu) with the following information in this order: event date; event name, brief description and sponsor; time; location; costs; and contact information to include name, phone number and e-mail.