

## UF Voices

### Time for UF to stand for higher education

Higher education was a big winner recently when the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation to slash the student loan interest rate in half after the rate was doubled last year.



John Boyles

This initiative marks the first in what House and Senate leaders promise will be great progress for students in higher education this session. A companion bill will be filed in the U.S. Senate that will include the landmark policy change of increasing the maximum award under the Pell Grant program to \$5,100.

This legislation arrives after the rather grim reality of higher education financial aid and accessibility was reported by the Commission on Higher Education, charged by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

Nationally, tuition rates are skyrocketing and financial aid pools are shrinking. In Florida, the Board of Governors just received a consultant's report, which cost \$200,000, that outlines the need for a priority-based tier system of public higher education, increased resources, and more need-based financial aid programs.

As the U.S. Congressional Session continues and our own state legislative session gears up to begin on March 1, it is important for the University of Florida community to come together to support important initiatives that will advance higher education in our society.

The future of our great state and nation will depend on the education of our children. If we do not stand up and demand that our leaders provide that education to all of our citizens, eventually our children will be the uneducated.

For as our own UF motto reads, "The welfare of the state depends upon the character of its people."

John Boyles  
University of Florida, Trustee  
Student Body President

## Top Stories

### UF car-sharing, car-pool programs promote green campus

The University of Florida kicked off 2007 by rolling out new programs to ease traffic and work toward the goal of a sustainable campus.

"We want to create a balance sheet of the carbon emissions that are caused by campus operations," said Dedee DeLongpré, director of the Office of Sustainability.

In January, UF teamed up with the Washington-based car-sharing service Flexcar to offer rental cars by the hour to faculty, staff and students.

"We needed a way to better utilize transportation services," said Allan Preston, coordinator of UF's quality office. "This really was the best service that we could find for car sharing."

Any student or employee over the age of 18 is eligible to join Flexcar for a one-time application fee of \$35 and an annual fee of \$40 at [www.flexcar.com](http://www.flexcar.com). The application fee is waived for UF departments using Flexcar for official business.

The introductory rate of \$5.50 an hour

includes gas, insurance, maintenance and roadside assistance. Flexcar members locate a vehicle and make reservations online.

The car-sharing program fits the

overall goal of campus sustainability by persuading drivers to use resources more wisely. Some university departments already have given up their vehicles in favor of using Flexcar.

"It goes beyond saying that we are going to be a green campus; it's a better use of taxpayer money," Preston said.

UF also now allows two-person car pools and has implemented an online

service to link commuters with other commuters who share specific routes.

Through the UF/GreenRide Program, employees create an account through their e-mail address to anonymously search for potential car pools in their area. Car poolers can even be matched by smoking and music preferences.

"It's a safe, secure way for people to find

car poolers," DeLongpré said, "Ultimately, I think it builds community because people get to know people they didn't know before."

To participate, each member of the car pool purchases an annual car pool parking decal for \$60, about one-quarter the cost of an orange or blue decal. Members of a car pool must be full-time UF or Shands employees. Students are encouraged to use the UF/GreenRide Program to share rides with other student commuters. More than 160 people have created a UF GreenRide account since its debut earlier this month.

"Every day we are seeing new car pools that are forming, so we are looking at different areas on campus to increase car-pool zones," said Ron Fuller, assistant director of transportation and parking services.

Last May, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency named the University of Florida one of the best workplaces in the country for commuters after looking at issues like air quality, energy conservation and reduction of traffic congestion. UF was the only university in Florida to make the list by offering commuter benefits meeting the EPA's National Standard of Excellence.

By Pota Panagiota

"It goes beyond saying that we are going to be a green campus."

Allan Preston  
Coordinator of UF's Quality Office



Nissa Benjamin

New car pools are forming every day at the University of Florida, due in part to campus sustainability efforts.

## Happenings

Listings in this section are a sampling of events at the University of Florida compiled from entries listed in 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 [calendar@nersp.osg.ufl.edu](mailto:calendar@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. Events, dates, times and programs are subject to change.

**Jan. 30**  
2 p.m., Genetics Institute 2007 Seminar Series lecture featuring Larkin C. Hannah, Cancer and Genetics Research Complex Auditorium, Room C/G 101

**Jan. 31**  
Noon, "Changing Family Structure in Turkey," lecture by Zeynep Copur, sponsored by the Center for European Studies and the Department of Sociology, Turlington Hall, Room 3102

**Feb. 5**  
4:05 p.m., "Food Toxicology Issues Involving Nutrition and the Food Industry," lecture by George Burdock, CSE E121 Building

### University Auditorium

**Jan. 31**  
3 p.m., College of Fine Arts Musicology Lecture Series, with David N. Goldblatt

**Feb. 2**  
7:30 p.m., Hungarian Symphony Orchestra with Paavali Jumppanen

**Feb. 4**  
7:30 p.m., Trombone quartet recital



## In Focus

### Memorial service to recognize life of longtime UF leader

A memorial service will be held today in Gainesville for Harry Sisler, 89, a former University of Florida administrator who died in December.

Sisler served in many leadership roles during his 29-year career at UF, including chairman of the Department of Chemistry, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, dean of the Graduate School and executive vice president under President Stephen C. O'Connell.

Despite Sisler's extensive experience in university administration, he never lost sight of the importance of students. Before agreeing to come to UF in 1956 as chairman of the Department of Chemistry, Sisler reportedly told President J. Wayne Reitz he must be allowed to teach at least one class each year. When Reitz tried to convey how difficult balancing administrative tasks with teaching can be, Sisler responded that Reitz also should be teaching.

"I think it is essential for administrators to have that kind of contact with students," Sisler said in a 2003 interview in the Col-

lege of Liberal Arts and Sciences publication Alumni CLASnotes. "The most important aspect of the university is the student body,



Harry Sisler held many leadership roles during his 29-year tenure at the University of Florida. A memorial service is set for today for Sisler, who died Dec. 23.

from the undergraduate to graduate level, and what all administrators should understand is their job at the top is to allow the students and faculty to be able to perform their functions."

Sisler retired in 1985 but continued to be an active part of the UF chemistry community until his death on Dec. 23.

"Harry Sisler was widely regarded as the 'father' of the modern UF Department of Chemistry," said chemistry professor and former chairman David Richardson. "He was responsible for setting high department expectations, which influenced the hiring of new faculty from the late 1950s through the present. Much of our current success as a department in research and teaching can be traced to the standards he set 50 years ago."

The memorial service is scheduled for 2 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 4000 N.W. 53<sup>rd</sup> Ave.

Sisler is survived by wife Hannelore Wass, a retired UF educational psychologist.

By Buffy Lockette

## Seen & Heard

### IFAS researchers honored for work

Four Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences researchers recently have been recognized for their work in international education.

Nicholas Comerford and Lawrence Datnoff earned the International Fellow Award and Edward "Gilly" Evans and Karen Kainer received the International Achievement Award for nontenured faculty.

Comerford, professor and graduate coordinator for the Soil and Water Science department, has been involved in international research since the mid-1980s and has taught soil science courses at three Brazilian universities.

Datnoff, a plant pathology professor, focuses on silicon's role in controlling plant disease. He has worked in Brazil, Zambia, Mexico, Colombia, Spain and Canada, among other places, and has set up collaborative research in many of those places.

Evans, an assistant professor in Food and Resource Economics, helps lead the effort to protect the Greater Caribbean Region, including Florida, from invasive species.

Kainer, an assistant professor of tropical forestry who holds a dual appointment with the School of Forest Resources and Conservation and the Center for Latin American Studies, focuses on the Amazonian rainforest.

### Florida Museum of Natural History

"In the Open: Sandhill Crane Studies," 19-piece photographic exhibit, through March 18

### Galleries

"The Legacy of A. Quinn Jones Sr.: All Negro Children Can Learn" exhibit through February, Smathers Library Special Collections Exhibition Gallery

### Harn Museum of Art

"Continuity and Change: Three Generations of Ethiopian Artists," gallery talk by Rebecca Martin Nagy, 3 p.m., Feb. 4



### Rawlings residents top UF energy savers

University of Florida students living in Rawlings Hall were the top energy savers in a contest among the 24 campus residence halls designed to cut energy usage.

The contest, initiated by the UF housing office, ran through the month of November. Students were encouraged to save energy by taking shorter showers and turning off lights when they left their rooms.

By the end of the contest on Nov. 29, Rawlings Hall had decreased its energy usage by 50 cents per resident. That is a total savings of \$5,104 for the month. When compared to readings from November 2005, 12 of the 24 residence halls had lowered their energy usage from the previous year.

Contest winners received \$250 for a pregame BCS National Championship party.

### Business college offers online degree program

University of Florida staff and faculty members interested in earning a bachelor's degree in business administration may want to check out a Web-based program offered by the Warrington College of Business.

The program consists of 15 four-credit classes all of which are offered through

online lectures. Students who take two to three classes a semester can finish their degree in two years, but the curriculum may be paced to fit individual lifestyles.

The program is open to all Florida residents with an Associate of Arts degree or 60 transferable undergraduate credits. To apply, potential students must have a GPA of 2.25 or better in seven preprofessional core business courses and must meet UF's foreign language requirement.

For more information, visit the Web at [www.cba.ufl.edu/onlinebsba](http://www.cba.ufl.edu/onlinebsba) or e-mail [online.business.degree@ufl.edu](mailto:online.business.degree@ufl.edu).

### University Press sponsors conference

The University Press of Florida is hosting the 2007 Southern University Presses conference Feb. 16 through 18 at the Crowne Plaza Jacksonville Riverfront in Jacksonville, Fla.

Through panels, roundtables and discussion groups, the conference will focus on alternative methods for book publishing as well as discuss challenges faced by publishers in today's digital age.

For more information and vendor registration, visit [www.upf.com/sup07](http://www.upf.com/sup07) on the Web. Details about the Association of American University Presses are available online at [www.aaupnet.org](http://www.aaupnet.org).

### Phillips Center

**Feb. 6**  
7:30 p.m., Bobby McFerrin's "Voicestra"

### O'Connell Center

**Feb. 10**  
7:30 p.m., Toby Keith

**Feb. 13**  
9:30 a.m., Rinker School of Building Construction, Career Fair

### Academic Calendar

**Feb. 2**  
Deadline for spring degree applications

## Note This

### UPD offers safety tips for students, employees

In light of recent events occurring near the University of Florida campus, the UF Police Department would like to remind students, faculty and staff of precautions that may be effective in maintaining personal safety:

- Be sure doors of residences are locked at all times.
- Use peepholes to identify people before opening doors.
- Make sure all windows are properly secured.
- Never indicate to anyone that you are alone.
- Never let strangers inside residences to use the phone. Offer to make the call for them.
- Use blinds or draperies for privacy.
- Avoid being alone in isolated areas such as laundries or parking areas, especially at night.
- List initials instead of first names on mailboxes and in telephone directories.
- Always have keys ready for quick entry.
- Have a telephone with a lighted keypad readily available near beds for quick use at night.
- If you find a door or window open or signs of forced entry upon arriving at your residence, don't enter. Go to the nearest phone and call the police.
- Keep cell phone handy to dial 911 if necessary.
- When headed home or to another location, tell a friend where you are going, and phone to let him or her know when you arrive.
- The University of Florida Police Department offers a free RAD (Rape Aggression Defense) course. The class is for women only and teaches self-defense techniques. This class is held several times each semester and may be available to groups. For more information or to sign up for a RAD class, contact the University of Florida Police Department's Community Services Division at (352) 392-1409.

For additional safety information, visit the UFPD Web site at [www.police.ufl.edu](http://www.police.ufl.edu).