

UF Voices

Retirement questions? LifePlans can help

The University of Florida has so many retirement options that it may be difficult for faculty and staff to keep up with them all.

One way to stay informed is to attend a LifePlans Series workshop on retirement sponsored by the Office of Human Resource Services. Created to provide retirement-related information in small-group settings, the LifePlans Series equips faculty and staff with the necessary tools to make informed and thoughtful decisions about their retirement and financial futures.

The LifePlans Series features seminars on a variety of topics ranging from personal budgeting and saving to advanced directives. Upcoming courses include:

- "What You Don't Know About DROP." (Course no. GET 138) Rick Fabiani of Sagemark Consulting will focus on the benefits and advantages of joining DROP and how to make your DROP money grow; 1 to 3 p.m., Feb. 21, Reitz Student Union, Room 285
- "Florida Pension Plan and DROP Program Overview." (Course no. GET 573) John Martin, UF retirement coordinator, will take the mystery out of the pension plan with a discussion of available benefits and options, and how to apply; 9 to 11 a.m., March 15, Reitz Student Union, Room 285
- "The Basics of Social Security and Medicare." (Course no. 598) Cliff Copeland of the Social Security Administration will discuss benefit coverage, what benefits are available to employees and their families, qualifying for benefits, and Medicare costs and benefits; 9 to 11 a.m., March 27, Reitz Student Union, Room 346

To register for one of these free courses or to learn more about upcoming seminars, visit the Web at www.hr.ufl.edu/training or sign on to my.ufl.edu, My Self Service, Training and Development, Request Training Enrollment. If you have questions, send an e-mail to retirement@ufl.edu.

Sissy Brennan
Assistant Director for University Retirement



Sissy Brennan

Top Stories

UF's Black History Month events celebrate culture

Notable concert performances coupled with issue-oriented programs highlight February's Black History Month at the University of Florida. "Our Cultural Anthology: The Missing Chapters" is the theme for the 29th annual event sponsored by the Black Student Union.

"Everybody wants their black history month to be the best it has ever been," BSU faculty adviser Betty Stewart-Dowdell said. "They strive to improve every year."

The celebration continues this week when comedians Damon Williams and Darren "DS" Sanders headline the Black History Month Annual Comedy Show on Thursday. The two have appeared on Black Entertainment Television's "Comic View,"

Comedy Central's "Premium Blend" and HBO's "Russell Simmons Def Comedy Jam." The show is free and open to the public and begins at 8 p.m. at the MSB Auditorium of Shands Stetson Medical Sciences building.

On Saturday, UF hosts the 18th Annual Florida Invitational Step Show. As one of the largest step shows in the Southeast, the event draws thousands of people. The nine historically black Greek organizations will be represented from throughout the southern and southeastern United States. The show kicks off at 7 p.m. in the O'Connell Center.

Tickets are \$15 for UF students and \$19 for the general public. The cost is \$23 on the day of the show.

In a serious discussion Feb. 22 about race in the U.S., Brian Sparks and Bruno Marcotulli will share their experiences with racial stereotypes as part of the FX television series "Black. White." The two men explored racial discrimination on the reality series as their families traded races with the help of cutting-edge makeup techniques.

The discussion begins at 7 p.m. in the Reitz Union Grand Ballroom.

Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley, son of the legendary Bob Marley, will perform at 8 p.m. Feb. 23 in the O'Connell Center in a concert co-sponsored by Student Government Productions and the Caribbean Student Association. Tickets are \$12 for UF students and \$25 for the general public. Doors open at 7 p.m.

The Black Student Union, established in 1968, is the fourth-largest student organization at the University of Florida and is funded by Student Government. Black History Month is an ad-hoc committee of the Black Student Union that handles more than \$50,000 for the month's events.

"There are definitely more activities and more programs than when we first began," said Stewart-Dowdell, who has been faculty adviser of BSU for 28 years. "It is more widely recognized as a university program not just a BSU program."

To view a complete listing of the Black History Month 2007 events, visit the Web at www.celebrateblack.com.

By Panagiota Papakos



Damon Williams



Darren "DS" Sanders



Damian "Jr. Gong" Marley

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In Focus

Collaboration is key to UF lawyer's success in academia

Equipped with the skills of a senior academic, government and private-firm lawyer, Jamie Lewis Keith comes to the University of Florida's general counsel's office experienced in leading a major university's law team.

"Working in government was a great transition to working in a university setting," Keith said. "You learn to assess the many stakeholders' different interests and to collaborate with them to bridge differences and solve problems before they arise."

After graduating magna cum laude from Boston University School of Law in 1984, Keith served as law clerk to a federal judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals in Boston and then as an associate and later as a junior partner in the Boston law firm Hale and Dorr. At the law firm, she honed her legal skills and paid attention to client service. In 1993, she joined Gov. William F. Weld's administration as general counsel and assistant commissioner for the Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management.

During her five years with Weld's

administration, Keith said she learned to recognize that each stakeholder comes to the table with a different perspective, and collaboration is needed to achieve overall



Jamie Lewis Keith oversees the 11 other lawyers in the University of Florida general counsel's office.

Kristen Bartlett

By Mindy Morris

Seen & Heard

Water expert to speak at community council breakfast

Florida's abundance of water resources has played a large part in its economic development in the past several decades. In recent years, however, the tide has turned and water shortages have become a pressing issue for residents.

Wendy Graham, director of the University of Florida's Water Institute, will address plans to combat both natural and man-made threats to Florida's water resources at the Community Campus Council breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday in the Arredondo Room of the Reitz Student Union.

Tickets are \$5. For more information or reservations, contact Florida Bridgewater-Alford at 352-392-3903 or bridgeff@ufl.edu.

Trial team advances to national competition

The Black Law Student Association Trial Team placed first runner-up at the Southern Regional Black Law Student Association convention in Miami in January. The team

defeated 28 southeastern teams, including Vanderbilt, Duke, Tulane, Emory and the University of Miami, to advance to the competition at the National Black Law Student Association convention in March in Atlanta. Georgia State University was the first-place winner in the regional competition.

UF team members are Camille Warren, Michael Bolden, Alicia Philip and Jessica Anderson.

Broadway actor to give master class

Broadway actor Manoel Felciano will hold a free master class for all interested University of Florida students at 3 p.m. Friday in the Constans Mainstage Theatre.

Felciano, internationally known for his 2006 Tony Award-nominated performance in the revival of "Sweeney Todd," will discuss theater both as an art form and as a career using his own performance experiences on and off Broadway, on national tours and regionally. His other Broadway credits include "Brooklyn," "Jesus Christ Superstar" and "Cabaret."

The master class is sponsored by the student-run theater company, Florida Players. Members of Florida Players will have a chance to perform for Felciano, who will critique their work and offer suggestions for improvement. A question-and-answer

session will follow the critiques. Florida Players is open to students of all majors wanting to explore the art of theater. For more information on Florida Players, visit the Web at www.floridaplayers.org.

Engineers stage fair, extravaganza

The University of Florida's College of Engineering hopes to give new meaning to the phrase "Engineering The Gator Nation" at the upcoming Engineering Extravaganza and 62nd annual Engineering and Science Fair.

The Engineering Extravaganza will take place on Feb. 19 and will feature interactive displays designed to demonstrate the important role engineering plays in the daily lives of faculty, staff and students. The displays will be set up on the North Lawn and in the Reitz Student Union Colonnade.

The Engineering and Science Fair will be held Feb. 20 and 21 in the Grand Ballroom of the Reitz Student Union. The fair will include exhibits that highlight UF research projects. More than 30 engineering societies, organizations and centers are scheduled to attend.

The fair takes place from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 and from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Feb. 21.

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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. To submit an event online, send an e-mail to 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. Events, dates, times and programs are subject to change.

Feb. 14
7:30 a.m., Community Campus Council Breakfast, Reitz Student Union, Arredondo Room
2:15 p.m., Center for European Studies presents "A Current Perspective of Entangled Alliances: Greece, Turkey and Cyprus" with guest speaker Harriet L. Elam-Thomas, ambassador in residence, University of Central Florida, Anderson Hall, Room 216

Feb. 17
10 a.m.-3 p.m., Undergraduate Research Symposium, Anderson Hall

Feb. 18
1 p.m., Celebration of Wine 2007, benefit for public radio station WUFT-FM/WJUF-FM, Reitz Student Union, Rion Ballroom

3 p.m., Carillon recital, Century Tower
Feb. 19
Engineering Extravaganza, North Lawn and Colonnade, Reitz Student Union

University Auditorium

Feb. 15
7:30 p.m., Orchestra concert

Feb. 16
12:50 p.m., School of Music convocation

Florida Museum of Natural History
"In the Open: Sandhill Crane Studies," 19-piece photographic exhibit, through March 18

Galleries
"My Bags Are Packed," suitcase installation showcase by Frank Curtis through Feb. 16, The Gallery, Reitz Student Union

"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

Feb. 15
6 p.m., "IMAGINING TOBIA," Harn Eminent Scholar Lecture

Theater

Feb. 16
3 p.m., Florida Players presents master class by Broadway actor Manoel Felciano, Constans Mainstage Theatre

Phillips Center

Feb. 13
7:30 p.m., Gyuto Monks Tibetan Tantric Choir

Feb. 14
7:30 p.m., Academy of St. Martin in the Fields with Jonathan Biss

Feb. 16
7:30 p.m., Dayton Contemporary Dance Com-

pany, The Dances of Jacob Lawrence

Feb. 17
7:30 p.m., The Peking Acrobats

Feb. 19
7 p.m., Miss UF/Miss Florida Gator Scholarship Competition

O'Connell Center

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

Feb. 17
7 p.m., Florida Invitational Step Show "Stompin' on the Yard"

Note This

Workshops promote healthy lifestyles

Living Well has joined with Healthy Gators 2010 to co-sponsor workshops on the importance of adopting a healthy lifestyle.

The "Healthy Living Lunch and Learn" program is open to all University of Florida faculty, staff and students and covers a wide range of topics from weight loss and fad diets to heart health and skin cancer.

The lunchtime workshops are facilitated by members of the Healthy Gators 2010 coalition and may be customized to fit a particular need or objective of a group or organization. For example, a recent student senate presentation focused on health tips for the upcoming campaign, such as drinking plenty of water and wearing sunscreen.

Groups or individuals interested in scheduling a program should contact Living Well Director Cassie Howard at 392-8740, ext. 1, or choward@hhp.ufl.edu.

Women's club taking scholarship applications

The University Women's Club awards scholarships each spring to juniors and seniors to recognize leadership and service to the university and/or community.

Requirements include: full-time enrollment at the University of Florida, current junior or senior status, a minimum 3.6 GPA, and participation in campus and/or community activities. This year, each award will be \$1,000.

Scholarship applications may be downloaded from the Web at www.dso.ufl.edu/scholarships/uwc. Hard copies of the application are available in 202 Peabody Hall.

The deadline to apply is 4:30 p.m. Feb. 23. For questions, contact the Dean of Students Office by e-mail at jackiem@dsoufl.edu or phone at 392-1261, ext. 236.

Tell us your story

InsideUF welcomes submissions of short news announcements and features stories for publication consideration in both print and online editions. Examples of announcements include awards, honors and professional activity notices. Submissions are subject to editing for length, clarity and content. Send submissions at least two weeks in advance to insideuf@ufl.edu.